

# 2023 Annual Report



## Lewinsville Presbyterian Church



**Mission Statement**

We are *Claimed* by God in Jesus Christ,  
*Called* to live as a community of faith,  
*Sent* to participate in the unfolding of God’s kingdom on earth.

*Approved by Session June 12, 2012*

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**Vision Statement**

As we reached our 175<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, the people of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church celebrate the gifts and opportunities given to us. We strive to build on our heritage of Christian discipleship to serve God and all creation.

We strengthen our congregation as we:

- ◇ Worship God in ways that engage the spirit, mind, heart and body.
- ◇ Educate and form disciples in Christian faith.
- ◇ Care for one another with the compassion of Jesus Christ.

We participate in Christ’s mission in the world – to redeem and transform all creation – as we:

- ◇ Extend our legacy of care to vulnerable older adults and their families.
- ◇ Reach out to the youth of northern Virginia, ushering them into a healthy, vibrant, productive adulthood.
- ◇ Provide a forum for civil public policy discourse and, as faithful Christians, address social justice issues.
- ◇ Become a recognized Christian presence in the emerging Tysons urban center.

Claimed,  
Called,  
Sent  
by Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the Church.

*Approved by Session April 9, 2013*

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## Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report from the Pastor

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted. – Psalm 34:18*

*Jesus said to them, "Follow me." – Mark 1:17*

**February 4, 2024**

Dear friends at Lewinsville,

As we pivot from our ministry and mission in 2023 into 2024, I want to welcome you to this Annual Report and commend it to you. The Annual Report is an astonishing document, representing the wide variety of ways that Lewinsville Presbyterian has been impacting our community and changing people's lives. These impacts can be easily taken for granted, especially if you have been part of Lewinsville for any significant length of time. This is "just what we do." But I would invite you to read this report with fresh eyes and to allow your breath to be taken away at the effort and the love that has been poured into this congregation's ministry, and to imagine and understand the ways that people's lives have been touched, changed, and healed because of this congregation's ministry.

I would draw your attention to the two Scripture texts at the top of this page. Psalm 34:18 teaches us a basic principle of how we understand the God of the Bible: "*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.*" When the church wants to know what God is up to in our neighborhood and in our world, we can ask ourselves, "Where are people's hearts being broken?" *That* is where the presence of the Lord is going to be discovered; *that* is where Jesus will be. Then, in Mark 1 (and in a whole lot of other places in the gospels) Jesus tells his disciples, "*Follow me.*" We put these two texts together to understand (a) that Jesus is close to the broken-hearted, and (b) that Jesus invites us to follow him, and to do the same.

This is precisely what Lewinsville has been doing for our 175+ year history. We have been "loving and serving God by responding to human need." We have been following Jesus into proximity to the brokenhearted, whether that is providing housing for older adults, being with youth in their times of difficulty, walking with people as Deacons/Stephen Ministers, supporting refugees in our community, welcoming people who have been outcast from other communities, working to unlearn patterns of personal and institutional racism, or seeking to participate in the healing of the environment. As we move into 2024, the Lord will continue to call this congregation into places where hearts are being broken, knowing that we will experience his presence and his life precisely there.

Below, I want to "look back" at 2023, to comment on a few significant aspects of the year past, and then I'd like to "look forward" to 2024, to anticipate some of the things that we will experience in the coming year.

## Looking Back at 2023

For me personally, 2023 was the year in which I was the grateful recipient of a 12-week sabbatical, made possible by this congregation. This is the first sabbatical I have taken in my 25 years of pastoral ministry, and it was a deeply meaningful, healing experience. The theme of my sabbatical was “Contemplative Friendship, Adventurous Friendship,” and it involves re-connecting with my wife, Laura, with our family, with God, and with my own soul. Trips to the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and to Italy were among the highlights, but the chief gift of this time was to “unplug” myself from the responsibilities of ministry. I am very grateful to the congregation, to the Session, and to the Personnel Committee for your support and provision of this time away. Pastors at Lewinsville are very blessed to serve a congregation that understands the need for this kind of time apart. I also want to express my gratitude to Associate Pastor Layne Brubaker, who served so effectively as Acting Head of Staff during the sabbatical, and to Stated Supply Pastor Jen Dunfee, who provided key pastoral support during this time.

While I was on sabbatical, a Staff Configuration Task Force did incredible work discerning a recommended shape for our staff upon the anticipated retirements of Sandy Albrecht and Allison Lineberger (more on those retirements below). Jerry Kohlenberger served as the chair of this group; Beverly Johnson, Bettie McElroy, Barbara Gibby, Bob Gaugler, Carol Kaffenberger, Phil Cooke, Bob Clark, and Layne Brubaker as acting Head of Staff, also participated. This group’s recommendations were affirmed by the Session this fall, and have created the staff configuration towards which we are currently moving (again, more on that below).

Partly due to the recommended Staff Configuration, but also due to the increased costs of ministry in our renovated facility, the anticipated budget for 2024 was meaningfully higher than in 2023. As always, Lewinsville responded to this need with generous and enthusiastic hearts during the 2024 Stewardship Campaign – “Where the Spirit Lives.” One of the characteristics of Lewinsville which I want to lift up again and again is that “stewardship” is not a dirty word at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. This congregation understands stewardship to be at the heart of our response to God’s call on our lives. Everything we have belongs to the Lord, and the Lord invites us to respond with joy and gratitude in our discipleship.

If one of the core messages of the gospel is that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted - and the Lord invites us to draw near to the brokenhearted in our own lives – we see this message being lived out in every aspect of our ministry as a congregation.

In our **Worship** this past year, we have lifted the needs of the world to God in prayer, song, and worshipful response. The **music ministry** at Lewinsville, under the leadership of John Nothaft, has uplifted our spirits in the midst of the world’s hurt, drawing us more deeply into the life of the world during the last year. We have seen this especially in the festivals of the Christian year – particularly Christmas and Easter – but we have also experienced it through the special music for Black History Month, through drawing on music from the LGBTQ community during Pride month, with the Duruflé requiem, and more. The Holy Happy Hour program continued to thrive, bringing special musicians to Lewinsville and drawing visitors from the wider community. Lewinsville’s handbell ministry continued to develop under John’s

leadership, and Evan Ayars provided strong direction for the different aspects of our children's music ministry.

The **Christian Education ministry for children and adults**, led by Allison Lineberger, continues to develop ways of gathering and forming our congregation in faith. The Messy Church program welcomed a variety of children and their families to monthly celebrations as well as weekly breakout classes. Special activities for children – from Trunk or Treat to the Easter Egg Hunt (reformulated for Holy Saturday, rather than Easter Sunday) to the puppet ministry and more exposed children to the joy of life in the church. Adult Education continued to offer challenging and comforting classes – from studies of the Bible to the Reformed tradition's influence on civil politics to 'aging and spirituality' and more. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi from Baylor University presented the annual Lenten study on what the church in North America can learn from churches in the global south.

Our **caring ministries** – through the Deacons/Stephen Ministers, Fellowship Ministry Group, ChristCare groups, Second Saturday Set, Older Adult Council, and others – led, coordinated, and facilitated in large part by Rev. Jen Dunfee, are an essential part of helping the congregation to share each other's burdens. This year, the "Single Seniors" group has transformed itself into "Rocks of Ages," providing regular fellowship for older adults. New, short-term small groups were started – a Young Adult small group that has continued meeting, a Lenten study on being an assertive Christian, and an ongoing study of the book of Acts called "Acts in the Alcove," for middle-aged folks. These short-term small group opportunities have been in addition to the ongoing Christ Care groups, some of which have been in existence for many years.

Our **Youth and Young Adult Ministry** – led by Rev. Layne Brubaker – attends to the yearnings, hopes, needs, and dreams of young leaders in our congregation. The weekly Youth Fellowship for youth in middle and high school is a high point of the week. Lewinsville once again took a group to the Montreat Youth Conference this past year. Members of the Youth Council played a leadership role in encouraging the Session and the church to be more up-front about our welcome to LGBTQ persons as a congregation. The youth essentially said, "We love that our church is a welcoming congregation. Let's don't keep this to ourselves!" The Young Adult Ministry is also building and growing in powerful ways. A recent Young Adult Retreat continued to provide ways for young adults to connect with each other, with the church, and with God.

The **Mission and Service Ministry** is another clear way that our congregation moves close to the brokenhearted in our world. This ministry has also grown and evolved over the year, including our ongoing involvement in the Afghan Refugee Resettlement ministry. As an expression of this church's commitment to those in need, sharing life generously with them, while fostering increasing independence on the part of the family, the Refugee Resettlement Team (RRT) continues to do amazing ministry.

You can read more about all of these ministries in the rest of this report.

During 2023, Lewinsville hired George Apostalacos as Property Manager, replacing Bob Clark, who retired in June. George has brought energy, humor, and clarity to this work, as has Cecil Allen, who has been serving as Evening Sexton. The entire church staff - including Sandy Albrecht, Steve Kirkland, and Jeanne Melone – serves with laughter, joy, commitment to the mission of this congregation, and a collaborative spirit. Many thanks to each and every one of them.

Two initiatives beyond Lewinsville that I want to mention are the re-organization of the McLean Interfaith Clergy group. This group, led by Pastor Sandy Kessinger of Redeemer Lutheran, meets every other month for fellowship. Also, the Wednesday Bible study has continued our relationship with our neighbors at Shiloh Baptist Church, with whom we meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship.

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### Looking Forward to 2024

As we move into 2024, there are a few items to which I'd like to call particular attention.

A significant part of Lewinsville's life in 2024 will involve *staff transitions*. Allison Lineberger and Sandy Albrecht will both be retiring this summer, at the end of this program year. Allison and Sandy have both served Lewinsville for many years, and they have been anchors for Lewinsville, providing stability and continuity to this congregation. They have provided faithful, steady, good-humored, creative leadership to Lewinsville, through multiple pastors, and across many changes in the life of the congregation. We will greatly miss their leadership, including in ways that we cannot even imagine! There will be opportunities this spring for us to express our gratitude, appreciation, and affection to these faithful servants of the church.

Search committees are at work to hire a Director of Communications and a Director of Christian Education. The Director of Communications will work with the pastors, staff, and congregation to shape our communications – both internally, within the congregation, and with the wider community. The Director of Christian Education will deepen and renew our commitment to Christian education and faith formation for children, families, and adults. Later this spring, a search for an Office Coordinator will begin. We look forward to bringing these new staff leaders on board.

Another priority that is already underway, and which I expect to continue, is the refining of the *governance* of our congregation, which will have several aspects.

Financial: As Lewinsville becomes a more complex congregation, with a more complex budget, we need to be sure that the pieces of our infrastructure – our policies, practices, and protocols – are shaped and structured the way we need them to be.

New Member Integration: As new members connect and affiliate with the congregation, we want to connect and integrate these new persons into the life and mission of the congregation in helpful, meaningful ways.

Relationship between Session and Ministry Groups: We want to ensure that the relationship between the Session and the Ministry Groups/committees is healthy and strong. I anticipate

that the Session will give good attention to this refining of the governance of the congregation throughout this year.

### Concluding Observations

This is the point in my report where I begin to feel a little bit like a broken record. I know that I have said before (and I almost feel like I say this all the time): *it is an enormous blessing to get to serve as one of your pastors*. Lewinsville Presbyterian is an astonishing congregation. The energy of this congregation is remarkable; the giftedness of this congregation is often mind-blowing; the generosity of this congregation is a marvel to behold; and the commitment of this church to God, to God's world, and to those who are suffering is simply beautiful. I am profoundly grateful to get to be one of your pastors. If you have any questions or concerns about the ministry and mission of LPC, please feel free to speak with me.

Many blessings,

Scott Ramsey

## **From The Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation**



Greetings Lewinsville Presbyterian Church,

It is with joy and gratitude that I write this annual report. Serving this vibrant and loving congregation is such an honor, and as I reflect on the events of 2023, I am reminded of the deep sense of fulfillment that comes from being a part of the Lewinsville family. I feel daily the support and genuine spirit of fellowship from this congregation. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the spiritual growth and development of our congregation, and I look forward to continuing this meaningful journey with Lewinsville in the years to come.

The year 2023 began with a Young Adult retreat in Leesburg, Virginia. The retreat was so successful that we are doing the retreat again in January 2024! Following the retreat we continued having monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. This young adult group is a collaboration with Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran. I am happy to report that a core group of Young Adults has been established.



Youth ministry at Lewinsville is going strong. The youth group is incredibly close, but is also growing and welcoming new members into the group continuously. We have a wonderful group of kids who are dedicated to our congregation and participate in various ways. In 2023 the establishment of the youth council was a success. The youth council was elected by the youth group and were leaders in the youth group and also within the congregation. In the spring of 2023, the youth council brought a proposal to the session asking for a banner to be placed on the Lewinsville lawn with the purpose of letting our community know that all people are welcome at Lewinsville. In April the youth led an all-congregation conversation about the banner and in May the banner was placed on the lawn. This Summer 12 youth attended Summer Mission Project and 10 youth attended Montreat Youth Conference.



Lewinsville Youth 2023

A new Confirmation Class began in 2023; we have 5 students participating in the class. I'm incredibly excited that Lewinsville is sending Jackie Hager to General Assembly in the Summer of 2024. She will be attending General Assembly as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) and not only representing Lewinsville, but also National Capital Presbytery. This is exciting for Jackie, but also shows that our congregation is empowering and supporting the youngest members of our congregation to be leaders in our denomination.

One reason our Youth Ministry is strong is because of our strong group of Youth Advisors. In 2023 it was my goal to empower our Youth Advisors to see themselves as youth ministers. They are my partners in youth ministry and critical to a healthy and sustained youth ministry. Evan Ayars, Siobhan Grayson, Nate Jones, and Madison Kloster are our current youth advisors. In May all four youth advisors, along with me, attended Princeton Seminary's Institute on Youth Ministry, which was a good time, but also gave us continuing education on how we can create a thriving and healthy youth ministry at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church.

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to act as head of staff while Scott was on Sabbatical. I felt that this was a time of learning more about the congregation and about my gifts of leadership. I really enjoyed the summer and felt a deepened sense of gratitude for being a pastor at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. I was so grateful to all the people who supported me throughout the summer.

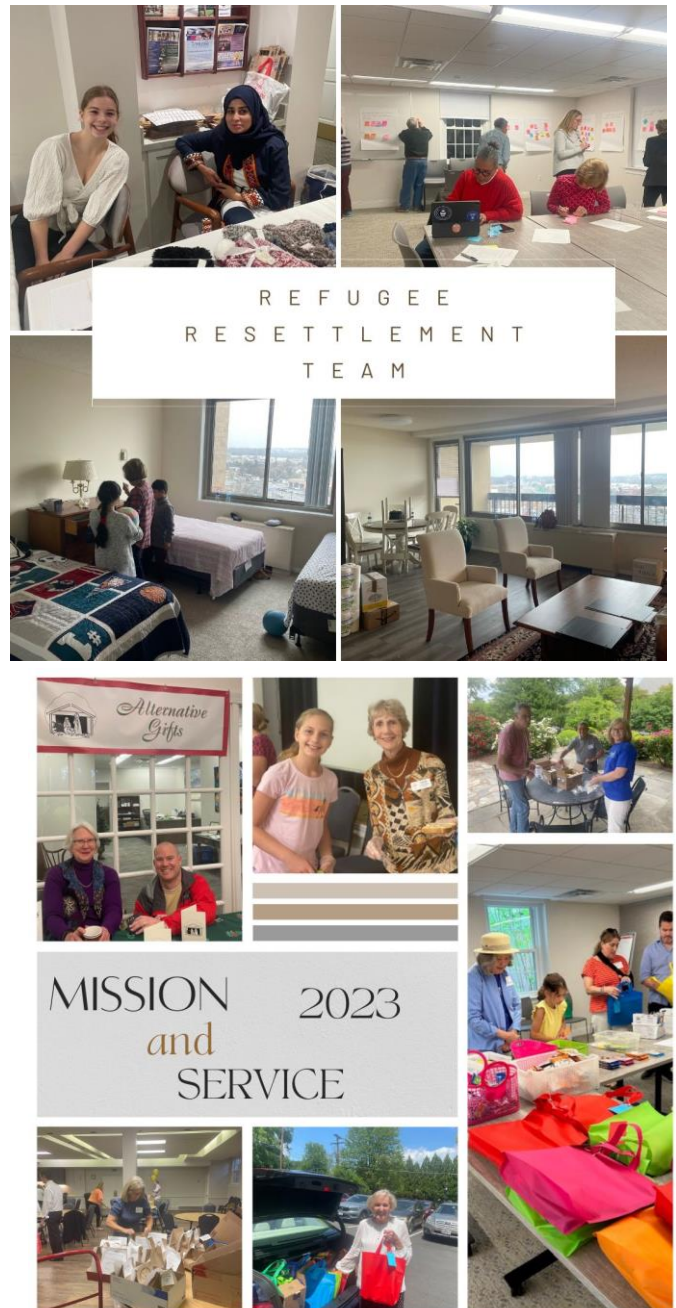
The Mission and Service Ministry group had a wonderful 2023. The past year was used by the ministry group to create a sense of deeper connection with one another in the ministry group and with our mission partners. In 2023 the Refugee Resettlement Team discerned that we felt called to continue partnering with Lutheran Social Services and in March of 2023 we were connected with the H-family for six months. During that time we helped them get acquainted with all aspects of life in Northern Virginia.

In 2023 Mission and Service also redesigned Good Samaritan Day. We moved our day of service from Saturday to Sunday following worship and we were intentional to make sure our service opportunities were inclusive to all age groups, specifically young children. These changes meant that families were able to serve together. At both our Good Samaritan Days in June and October we saw an increase in attendance! In Advent of 2023, every Sunday from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve had a different mission emphasis. The Alternative Gifts fundraiser raised over \$15,000 for our mission partners. The Fair-Trade Sale on December 10th was another success, promoting ethical and sustainable products and educating the congregation on why Fair Trade is important. Additionally, our commitment to community outreach was evident as we hosted the Falls Church McLean Children's Center for their staff Christmas Party. We also demonstrated our dedication to addressing food insecurities by collecting 54 bags of groceries for SHARE, supporting neighbors in need. Moreover, our congregation stepped up to make a significant difference by

adopting 11 Westgate school families, delivering over 100 gifts and 78 gift cards to provide meaningful support during the holiday season. After making new friends this summer on Summer Mission Project, Lewinsville hosted *Abundant Life* for their annual Christmas trip. We helped to coordinate housing and SMP treated them to a memorable Wizard's NBA game!

I'm incredibly excited for all that God is leading Lewinsville Presbyterian Church to do in the 2024. As the Apostle Paul states in Ephesians chapter 2 *"For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do."*

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Layne



## From the Stated Supply Minister for Pastoral Care



The letter to the Colossians begins with a prayer for the Christian Community, *“that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ.”* (English Standard Translation.) The Greek word translated here as “knit” can also be translated as “united” or “held together.” All of the images point to how we grow in faith and understanding as we grow closer together. I particularly like the image of being “knit” for the church community. If you drop a stitch, there is hole in your garment and the rest of the ties become less stable. This highlights how much we need each other, and how God designed us to grow our faith together.

I am blessed to work with this congregation in the knitting of our community of faith. This connection occurs in small groups, through the ongoing commitment of Chris Care leaders Jan Jacewicz, Carol Kaffenberger, Judy Herseth, Claire Grossi, Adrian Steel, Mary Frase and Lois Dokken and participants, the women’s circle which Joanne Theon leads, new short-term small groups such as the Lenten Book Study, Acts in the Alcove, Grief Sunday School class, and monthly youth parent dinners. Fellowship Events, such as Kick-Off, picnics with LRR, and new ideas like the March Madness Basketball Chili Cook-off, summer picnic and pizza and recent lunch after church. Through care ministry, including Stephen Ministry care relationships, Deacon outreach, Extended Communion visits, flower deliveries and visits, prayer shawl creation and delivery.

Our small group fellowship events and activities provide opportunities for us to enjoy being in each other’s company and our hospitality helps ensure we are not overlooking some of those who are part of our one body of Christ. We are also able to do this through the Deacon Fund which supports the wellbeing of our congregation and community.

We have much to be thankful for, and I would like to express my gratitude to God for all of the leaders I am blessed to serve with, the Deacon/Stephen Ministers and leadership team of David Jessee, Davi McDonald, Leslie Kohler, Karen Siple and Pat Matheson’s long leadership as a Stephen Leader, with thanks to God for her life, Extended Communion planning team and the twenty six people who are on the Extended Communion provider list, and for the Fellowship Ministry Group and chair Claire Grossi, and every person who serves in hospitality and fellowship, from coffee set-up and clean-up to flower visitation ministry to the greeters. Our church is abundantly blessed because of how each person is knit together into our community and grows together in love and faith.

The Rev. Jennifer Dunfee

**SESSION ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT**

Year Ending December 31, 2023

**MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE SUMMARY**

Membership:

Active Members 01/01/2023	555
Gains for Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation and Restoration Certificate	16
Certificate	13
Total Gains	<u>29</u>
Subtotal	584

Losses For:

Certificate	1
Death	12
All other losses	18
Total Losses	<u>31</u>

Total Active Membership 12/31/2023 553

Female Members 299

Other Participants 74

Total Adherents 627

Age Distribution of Active Members:

25 and under	104
Ages 26 – 45	119
Ages 46 – 55	121
Ages 56 – 64	71
65 and Over	138

Average Worship Attendance 141

Affiliate Members: 2

Christian Education Enrollment by Age:

Birth - Age 3	8	Grade 7	5
Age 4	6	Grade 8	3
K	5	Grade 9	7
Grade 1	5	Grade 10	3
Grade 2	8	Grade 11	7
Grade 3	6	Grade 12	2
Grade 4	5	College/Grad School:	4
Grade 5	11	Young Adults	32
Grade 6	2	Youth Advisors:	4
<b>Total Church School</b>	157	Teachers (2 Youth)	
Messy Church Average Attendance	35	Teachers (13 Adults)	
		Messy Church Adult Leaders –	6
		Messy Church Youth Leaders -	8
		Godly Play Leaders -	5

**Budget figures**

Potential Giving Units	405	<b>Receipts</b>	
Budgeted Income	1,390,378	Regular contributions	1,341,333
Budgeted Expenses	1,390,376	Investment Income	0
		Other Income	18,323

		<b>Expenditures</b>	
Local Program	1,175,236	Bequests	0
Capital Expend	223,700	Subsidy or Aid	0
Per Capita Apport	26,440	Local Mission	84,126
Theological Fund	0	Investment Expense	0
Capital Building Funds	0	Validated Mission	49,750

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Total Baptisms  
 Child baptisms – 3  
 Adult baptisms – 1

Active Officers  
 Session:     7 Men    5 Women   12 Total  
 Deacons:     3 Men    9 Women   12 Total

Racial/Ethnic Distribution  
 Asian               14  
 African             9  
 African American   8  
 Hispanic            3  
 Middle Eastern     7  
 White               512

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Age Distribution of Members

	Male	Female	Total
25 & under	47	57	104
26-45	51	68	119
46-55	49	72	121
56-65	38	33	71
Over 65	69	69	138

Persons with a Disability

Hearing – 5	Mobility – 22
Sight - 6	Others - 16

## Deacons

### *Class of 2023*

Andrew Borene  
Sharon Gamble,  
Secretary  
Suzanne Parisi  
Roberta Wolfe

### *Class of 2024*

Diane Alden  
Banafshe Aghvami  
Janet Kohlenberger

### *Class of 2025*

David Jessee  
Moderator  
Leslie Kohler  
Virginia McCormick  
Rachel Russell  
Sue Thomas



**Stephen Leaders:** Karen Siple and Pat Matheson

The Book of Order calls ordained Deacons to a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.” (G-2.0201).

The roles of the Deacons / Stephen Ministers at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church have included this year:

- Stephen Ministry. Provide Christian-based visitation to congregants experiencing any of life’s difficulties who need a one-on-one caregiver. (Deacon leadership.)
- Grief Ministry. Write personal letters to members of congregation experiencing loss of family member and afterwards send four Grief Books at appropriate times. Fifteen families received grief books in 2023. (Deacon leadership.)
- Deacons' Fund. Exercise monthly oversight of the use of the Fund and regularly participate in the collection of Fund contributions after worship the first Sunday of the month. The Deacon Fund received \$19,449 in donations in 2023. Those funds supported the needs of almost 20 individuals in the congregation and community, most commonly for housing, food, and medical expenses. Surplus funds of \$2,000 were also transferred to the Mission and Service Committee, where those funds are matched to short-term or emergency needs of community service partners. An additional \$1,500 was used to support picnic meals for LRR. (Deacon leadership.)
- Outreach. Offer calls, notes or texts, visitation, meals, and other care to congregants throughout the year, especially to those who are shut in/and or cannot attend worship and other activities at the church. (Deacon leadership.)
- Outreach. Organize outreach to Chesterbrook and Lewinsville Retirement Residences including participation in monthly worship services and other relevant activities. (Deacon leadership.)
- Duty Deacon. Participate in a rotation of Deacons to periodically serve as the Sunday morning Duty Deacon throughout the year. (Deacon leadership.)
- Communion Service. Participate in a rotation of members to periodically prepare and serve in-worship communion throughout the year. (Deacon assistance.)
- Hospitality for Funerals. Help as needed to handle food and beverage needs for funeral

- receptions. (Deacon assistance.)
- Training. Receive training (covering topics such as the art of listening, distinctly Christian caring, confidentiality, grief, depression, and boundaries in caring) prior to being ordained as Deacons and commissioned to serve as Stephen Ministers. Strengthen and maintain these skills through summer book reading (The Gift of Empathy) and ongoing discussion of the congregation's theme, Journey into the Heart of God.
  - Gather twice monthly, once for Deacons' business and once for Stephen Minister supervision, utilizing Zoom for a number of these meetings.
  - Extended communion. Participate in committee to discuss who should receive extended communion once a month, assist in preparing the bags in advance, and assist in taking communion to members. (Deacon assistance.)
  - Nominating Committee. Appoint a member of the church nominating committee to help present a slate of officers at the annual meeting. (Deacon assistance.)

Many thanks to all Deacons and Stephen Leaders and to the outgoing Class of 2023: Andrew Borene, Sharon Gamble, Suzanne Parisi, Roberta Wolfe

Many thanks to members of the congregation who have provided remarkable financial support for the Deacons Fund in 2023.

To learn more about the role of the Board of Deacons and the Stephen Ministers and/or to express your interest in becoming a Deacon / Stephen Minister, please contact Jen Dunfee, Stated Supply Pastor for Care Ministries. There is also a search for additional Stephen Minister Leaders who can assist with training. Congregants who have previously served as Stephen Ministers are especially encouraged to consider this role by contacting Jen Dunfee.

## Christian Education-Children, Families and Adults

### I. Children & Family Ministry

#### A. Sunday Morning Education-Messy Church Program: Messy Church Celebration & Break-out Groups

The second half of the 2022-23 Messy Church Program year continued as planned by the newly formed Messy Church Design Team. The monthly themes and activities for Messy Church Celebrations planned by this group were implemented by members of the team as well as members of the youth. Members of the Design team also assisted in the functioning of the Breakout Groups that followed the Messy Church Celebrations:

- **Joyful Noise/Godly Play** for children ages 3-5 which combined a musical rehearsal (Joyful Noise) and Biblical storytelling in the Godly Play style. Teaching team: Karen Hager, Michelle Stas, Emily Foster, Karen Steel, Yuko Takakusaki.
- **Mini Mess** for children in grades 1-6\* presented activities that extended the Messy Church theme. \*The sixth graders were allowed to either continue in the Mini Mess or to join the Youth.
- **Parent Group** followed a rotation of activities for the three Sundays following the Messy Church celebration. 1-Devotional led by Pastor Jen; 2-NOOMA film study led by Tim and Patty Dokken and 3-Fellowship/Service activities.



**Attendance at Messy Church 2023 Sessions**-January/32; February/36; March/29; April/41; May/28; June/24; September/No Record; October/25; November/39; December/61



### Messy Church Design Team & a 4-Year Scope & Sequence for Messy Church

At the conclusion of the 2022-23 Messy Church Program Year, the Messy Church Design Team met to create a 4-year Scope and Sequence after which they met to develop the activities for each of the monthly celebrations for Year 1 for the 2023-24 program year.

Month	2023-24 Year 1	2024-25 Year 2	2025-26 Year 3	2026-27 Year 4
September	<b>The Story:</b> Messy Beginnings Creation/Noah	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Fruit of the Spirit	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> Noah/Abraham/Jacob	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> God's Amazing Power/ Creation to Babel
October	<b>The Story:</b> Moses and the Great Escape	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> God's Commandments	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> To the Promised Land/ Wilderness Journey	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Abraham to Moses
November	<b>The Story:</b> Judges and the Story of Ruth	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Sermon on the Mount	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> Kings and Prophets King David	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Promises from the Prophets
December	<b>The Story:</b> Illuminating Advent/Christmas	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Christingle Light of the world	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> A New King/Blessing to the World-Names of Jesus	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Jesus comes to Earth
January	<b>The Story:</b> Fishing for People Disciples/followers	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Armor of God	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> Jesus begins his work/John the Baptist	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Jesus Calling
February	<b>The Story:</b> Messy Parables	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Prayer/The Lord's Prayer	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> Miracles	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Teachings, Preaching & Prayer
March	<b>The Story:</b> Messy Lent <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Emphasis</i>	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Holy Week <i>Emphasis Good</i> <i>Friday</i>	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> Transfiguration	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Holy Week <i>Emphasis Maundy</i> <i>Thursday</i>
April	<b>The Story:</b> Messy Easter Resurrection	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Resurrection/New Life	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> The Week that changed the world	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Seeing Jesus in a New Way
May	<b>The Story:</b> The Word Spreads	<b>Epic Teachings:</b> Spiritual Gifts	<b>Promises/Covenants:</b> Ascension/Great Commission	<b>God's Rescue Plan:</b> Holy Spirit

Two of the Messy Church Celebrations for the 2023-24 program (Year 1) were planned to have a more intergenerational element to the celebration. The first of the program year, Messy Beginnings, combined a module 1 Adult Education class with the Messy Church activities portion of the celebration and the 11:00 Worship. This presented the Messy Church interactive element of worship to the whole congregation.

The second intergenerational Messy Church was the Intergenerational Christmas Event (Illuminating Advent) held during Sunday School time for the entire congregation. This theme followed the Adult Education class by the same name and was followed by the regular worship time.

**Breakout Groups:** The Breakout Groups followed the same pattern as established during the 2022-23 season with Godly Play, Mini Mess and Parent Group. A curriculum from Group Publishing, *DIG IN/The Bible in One Year*, was purchased for the Mini Mess program that coordinated to expand the monthly Messy Church theme.

## B. Family Fellowship/Outreach

**1. ANNUAL MEETING KIDS ACTIVITIES** *The Bible Trivia Quest Challenge* This event was held in conjunction with the Congregational Annual Meeting. While parents met downstairs in Fellowship Hall, Children gathered in room 102A for three Bible review challenges/games for prizes and donuts.



**2. EASTER EGG HUNT** The massive response to the 2022 Egg Hunt guided a planning team of Kelly Sexton (Invitation and Connection), Claire Grossi (Congregational Care) and Allison Lineberger to develop a plan that would address the shortfalls of the previous year. For the month preceding the hunt we held a church wide egg collection/stuffing to boost the number of eggs we would have for the hunts. Then the hunt was divided into three hunts by age group. Each hunt began in the Pavilion with games and activities for the participants. While they were engaged in the activities, the eggs were “hidden” in the area around the Pavilion. Once the eggs were out the children were invited to line up and start the hunt at the same time so that all had a chance to find eggs.

This plan was highly successful and a very large group of children from the area along with our own children were able to participate and leave with bags full of eggs. This plan was also successful due to the help of the youth and volunteers who help with the Pavilion activities and hiding the eggs as well as the congregation who generously donated stuffed Easter eggs.

**3. FAMILY SUMMER MOVIES** Two movies were planned for the summer months which were held along with a light dinner. However, both movies planned for the summer of 2023 were not well attended. It was decided to disband this for the summer of 2024 and cancel the movie license.

**4. INVITATION FAIR** The Messy Church, Godly Play and Puppets programs were presented in a booth for the fair. A PowerPoint presentation about the Adult Education Program was also offered at a separate booth. Two silk screens were created (one for printing with dark ink and another for printing light colored ink) and T—shirts were screen printed during the fair with the Lewinsville Name for light colored and dark colored shirts provided by participants.



**5. ALL CHURCH MESSY CHURCH** The first Messy Church celebration of the 2023-24 program year was held in St. Andrews Hall, the Narthex and the Church Library. This was a Messy Church for the whole congregation to

take part in and the interactive worship was the worship for that morning held in the Sanctuary. The theme was Messy Beginnings and the activity stations held before the worship included the first Bible Project film for the Adult Education module 1-The Creation Series. This Messy Church also included a station focused on Earth Care.

**6. TRUNK OR TREAT** a group for planning family events such as Trunk or Treat was formed to lead this year's Trunk or Treat. A candy collection was initiated and recruitment for carnival game leaders and car hosts was covered by this group. This group also helped pull the games from storage and check them for repairs and batteries and helped with set up and break down of the event.



The event was held on the Saturday before Halloween and included 14 cars, 12 games and the Haunted Puppet Show in Fellowship Hall. We had participation from new members and Chesterbrook folk who ran the cake walk and hosted a car.

**7. HANGING OF THE GREENS/ORNAMENT MAKING PARTY** This event was held in conjunction with the Hanging of the Greens for the Christmas decorating. Grade School age children created several different Christmas ornaments and decorations working with parents and siblings.

**8. PRESCHOOL ANGEL BREAKFAST** This popular Christmas event for preschool children and their families was held on the first Sunday in December. The opening craft and games activities were run by the puppeteers who later performed the Christmas story through three puppet presentations. Star pancakes and the game A\*N\*G\*E\*L (like Bingo) have been features of this event.

**9. INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS EVENT: ILLUMINATING ADVENT**-this event was held during Sunday School as a special Intergenerational event for Christmas, but with a Messy Church flavor. The activities were similar to the Messy Church design and featured activities that led participants to learn the theme for each of the Advent Candles. For the Prophecy Candle, participants created ornaments for personal Jesse Trees; the Bethlehem Candle had them creating skyline cut outs of Bethlehem and the Star of Bethlehem with clothespins. For the Shepherd Candle, participants “shepherded” balloon sheep to their pen and for the Angel Candle clay candle holders in the shape of angels were molded. The event also included a station where participants could play Christmas Jeopardy and learn about the history of Christmas Carols. The event was enhanced by the music provided by John Nothafft and Evan Ayars who led singing while Pastors Scott and Layne lit each candle of Advent.

### **C. Puppet Ministry**

**1. WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL FLOWER MART**-5 performances of “Happily Ever After”, a series of fractured fairytales in Bethlehem Chapel in the Cathedral as part of the children’s area of the Flower Mart.

**2. YOUTH SUNDAY**-performed as the Prelude: “Turn It Around” from Cotton Patch Gospel

**3. PUPPET “GRADUATION”**-two of the puppeteers who started with the Lewinsville Puppeteers when it began “graduated” from puppetry to college. A celebration was held for them with past and present puppeteers in attendance along with family.

**4. MUSIC & ARTS CAMP-SUMMER FOLLIES- “A NIGHT WITH OSCAR AND TONY”**-learned and performed “Beautiful Land” from the play, *The Roar of the Greasepaint, and the Smell of the Crowd* and a spoof on “I Feel Pretty” from *West Side Story*.

**5. THE STORY OF CREATION-MESSY BEGINNINGS WORSHIP SERVICE**-performed the story of Creation using banners, puppets, flying birds and streamers

**6. TRUNK OR TREAT HAUNTED PUPPET SHOW**-performed two shows that featured ghosts, monsters, pumpkins, and skeletons for full houses in Fellowship Hall during Trunk or Treat.

**7. ANGEL BREAKFAST PUPPET SHOWS**-the puppeteers ran the craft and game activities for the Angel Breakfast then performed three puppet shows that told the story of Jesus' birth and the arrival of the three Magi (kings).



## **D. Children in Worship**

**1. Wiggle Worship Bags** which contain coloring pages that follow the liturgical year, sensory toys and manipulatives and quiet games for children to use during the service have proven a very popular way to welcome children to the church. The bags are updated every quarter with new items to keep the interest of the children.

**2. Sermon Stories** Sermon Stories started early in August of 2023 to coincide with the start of school and the Blessing of the Backpacks event in the service. Children in Sermon Stories created their own backpack tags. Continues to be a popular event for children in the service and grows with visiting children/families. The films used to tell the Biblical story: *Holy Moly*, tells the story non-verbally and is the most popular part of Sermon Stories along with the simple related activities.

**3. Narthex Center** continues to be updated with more manipulatives and toys with Biblical stories or themes targeting younger children.



## II. Adult Ministry

### A. Sunday Morning Education

Adult Education classes have continued to be hybrid by presenting the classes in-person and through ZOOM.

**Module 4 (Jan 4-29):** *A Reformed Perspective on Democracy's Current Crisis*/ Bruce Douglass (recorded).

*Journey into the Heart of God: Exploration into Loss & Grief*/Deacon, Stephen Ministers

**Special Session Feb 12:** *Welcoming the Stranger: Good Deeds & Lessons*

*Learned*/Refugee Resettlement Team (Panel)

**Special Session Feb 19:** *Sabbath & Sabbatical*/Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey

**Lent Study (Feb 26-28):** *SEEKING 'WHAT IS THE CHURCH?' IN TIMES OF TRANSITIONS AND NEW CHALLENGES*/Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, Baylor University

**Lent Module (March 5-26):** *The Sheep and the Goats and the Judgment of God: Matthew 25*/ Rob Hunter

**Special Session/Palm Sunday (April 2):** *The Passion in Art* /Sharon Gamble, Rachel Russell

**Module 5 (April 16, 23, 30):** *Spirituality and Aging*/Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey, Dorothy Linthicum from Virginia Theological Seminary and church member panel

*Christian Perspectives on Caring for our Common Home*/Lewinsville Earth Care Team

**Module 6 (May 7, 14, 21):** *A Bible Study with Storytelling Roots*/Biblical Storyteller, Rachel Russell

**FALL OF 2023** The leadership of Adult Education was divided between two chairs: Cathy Saunders handling the Salzman Lecture & Lent Study and Rachel Russell handling the Sunday morning classes. Adult Education continued to offer more than one class per module and continued offering classes in-person and online through ZOOM.

**Module 1 (Sept 17-Oct 22):** *The Bible Project: Creation Series*/Cathy Saunders & members of the Adult Education.

The first film in this series was shown during Messy Church: Messy Beginnings as part of the opening activities. The remainder of the films were shown and discussed as part of Module 1. *Lewinsville Forum*/Linton Brooks & David Morrison

**Special Session Sept 24:** *Non-violent Communication*/Rev. Layne Brubaker

**Reformation Sunday (Oct 29):** *A Tale of Two Worshipping Communities* /Rev. Layne Brubaker

**Module 2 (Nov 5-26):** *Old Testament 101*/Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey  
*Integrity*/Rob Hunter

**Advent Module 3(Dec 3 & 10):** *Illuminating Advent*/Dan Thomas This class dovetailed into the Intergenerational Christmas Event by the same name held on December 17

*Matthew 25 and Lewinsville: Continuing the Conversation*/Cathy Saunders organizer.



**C. Lenten Study for 2023** Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi returned for a second time for the 2023 Lenten Study held February 26-28. The study was entitled: SEEKING 'WHAT IS THE CHURCH?' IN TIMES OF TRANSITIONS AND NEW CHALLENGES. Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, the Frederick E. Roach Professor of World Christianity in Baylor's department of religion presented the 2022 Lent Study totally online and promised to come to Lewinsville for an in-person study the following year.

Dr. Cardoza-Orlandi is an interdisciplinary scholar and historian in the fields of world Christianity and mission studies, Dr. Cardoza research interpretations of the Christian movement around the

world on both institutional and popular levels, the socio-cultural interplay between Christians and other faiths and more.

This event was held as a hybrid offering each session in-person and online.

## Youth Ministry

### 2023 Youth Ministry Annual Report:

Youth Ministry at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church is a vital part of our congregation and 2023 was a year of growth and excitement. The youth are incredibly grateful to have such a welcoming and homing space to call their own. The Youth center is wonderful for youth ministry, and it has become a safe and loving space for our youth to take a breath each week as they process and debrief their busy lives.

Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00pm in the Youth Room. During youth fellowship we share a meal, have a spiritual formation conversation, and have fun together! Youth Fellowship is for youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Throughout 2023 Pastor Layne, along with Rachel Russell, began coordinating Youth Sunday School. Three Sundays a month youth would meet in the youth center at 9:30am to eat pancakes and learn about the Bible. We used curriculum from The Bible Project to facilitate our discussions.

In June the youth led all aspects of worship on Youth Sunday - Jackie Hager and Emma Staeger helped coordinate the service and delivered incredible thought-provoking sermons. Following worship was a youth led Good Samaritan Day and LRR picnic. It was a fun day to be at Lewinsville!

In June, 12 youth joined members of the congregation to go on Summer Mission Project to Charlottesville Virginia where we partnered with multiple missions and nonprofits. Our week was spent helping and volunteering in many ways. At the end of the week the group voted and



Lewinsville Youth 2023

elected our SMP 2024 planning committee. Those elected are planning our trip for June 2024 - we will be going to Rutland, Vermont.

In October, Confirmation classes began with five youth participating in the class - Annable Sharp, Walker Hartge, Catherine Howell, Susanna Foster, and Maeve McDonald. We are using the PCUSA Curriculum *Big God Big Questions*. We give thanks to Jerry Kolhenberger, Janet Kohlenberger, Virginia McCormick, Linda Bender, and Karen Siple who are mentors to the youth during their confirmation experience. On Pentecost Sunday in May 2024, all five youth who choose to, will be confirmed and become members of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church.

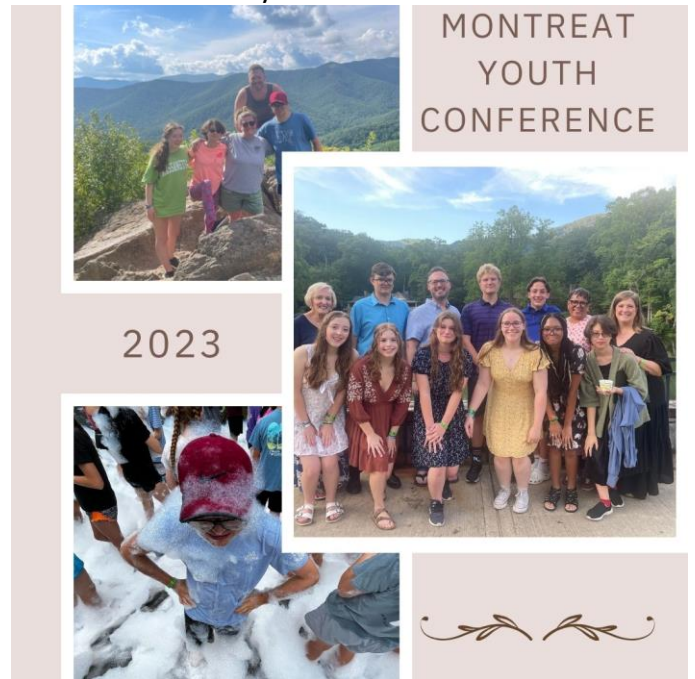
In August 10 youth attended Montreat Youth Conference which was an incredible week of spiritual growth! The youth were able to meet fellow Presbyterians from around the country and reflect on what it means to live your faith the rest of the year. A highlight was the youth leading worship following our Montreat trip.

In 2023 The youth elected a Youth Council which meets monthly and gives ideas and feedback to Pastor Layne, and the youth and young adult committee. The members of the 2022/ 2023 Youth Council were:

- Daniel Howell
- Leah Sexton
- Jackie Hager
- Emma Staeger
- Susannah Foster
- Manerah Malike

The members of the 2023/ 2024 Youth Council are:

- Eimi Tuttle
- Lars Sexton
- Leah Sexton
- Manerah Malike
- Paul Dokken
- Susanna Foster





One reason our Youth Ministry at Lewinsville is strong is because of our strong group of Youth Advisors. Youth Advisors are Pastor Layne's partners in youth ministry and are critical to a healthy and sustainable youth ministry. Evan Ayars, Siobhan Grayson, Nate Jones, and Madison Kloster are our current youth advisors. In May of 2023 all four youth advisors, along with Pastor Layne, attended Princeton Seminary Institute on Youth Ministry which was a good time, but also gave all a continuing education on how they can create a thriving and healthy youth ministry at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. They all plan to attend again in 2024.



## Young Adult Ministry

The year 2023 began with a Young Adult retreat in Leesburg, Virginia. Six young adults from Lewinsville were joined by young adults from Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church. The retreat was so successful that we are doing the retreat again in January 2024! Following the retreat, we continued having monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. This young adult group is a collaboration with Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran. At our gatherings we focus on fellowship, faith formation, service, and having fun together! To be a young adult means you are in a stage of life where you are still trying to figure it all out. This group hopes to be a space for you to process life while you are figuring it all out.



## Summer Mission Project

In June of 2023, 26 people, 12 of which were youth, went on Summer Mission Project. We traveled to Charlottesville, VA where we served several different nonprofits. Volunteers worked at Habitat for Humanity, Habitat Restore, Abundant life, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Georgia's Friends, and the Botanical Gardens. The work this year was diverse! Folks tested for water pollution, helped with new home construction, hosted a Vacation Bible School, and pulled many invasive weeds! The theme for the week was "journey into the heart of God." Each evening we reflected on a different scripture passage that connected with our work and helped us reflect on our journey into God's heart. At the end of the week the group reflected on our week together and elected the planning committee for next year (a new tradition we will do annually). The Group elected 7 individuals, 3 youth and 4 adults; Leah Sexton, Emma Staeger, Daniel Howell, Doug Smith, Siobhan Grayson, Linda Bender, and Evan Ayars.

In June of 2024 we will be going to Rutland, Vermont, in Partnership with Youthworks. Registration is open for our 2024 trip. Anyone who has completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade is welcome to join us on the trip.

## Administrative Ministry Group

The Administrative Ministry Group (AMG) is responsible for the overall management of the church's facilities, finances, and communications, and is composed of the chairs of those committees. The primary role of the Administrative Ministry is to contribute to the 2023 financial review and the development of the 2024 budget request. The Ministry Group is guided by the principles of fiduciary responsibility, stewardship of all resources, management transparency, confidentiality, and accountability. The Building Renovation was completed in the first half of 2022 and the work of the Task Force has transitioned back to the standing church ministries. Communications has played a big role in traditional areas of communication, in addition to the streaming of church worship, automation in classrooms, and other programs. The other committees continued their stewardship of the church's physical plant and finances successfully; Lewinsville Presbyterian is very fortunate to have such dedicated and able lay leadership.



**Report of the Church Administrator** – I want to report some of the accomplishments of the year and what we are hoping to tackle in 2024.

### **Facilities Ministry**

2023 was a transitional year, with the retirement of much-loved and respected Church Administrator, Bob Clark. George Apostolakas was hired to fill the role of Property Manager, and has jumped in with both feet. With the conclusion of the Building Project the Facilities Ministry has resumed responsibility for building maintenance and replacements for Lewinsville Church. Current Facilities Committee is comprised of Pattie Gunter (Chair,) Siobhan Grayson (Elder,) Phil Cooke (Elder,) Adrian Steel, Doug McGuire, Ed Sumner, Judy Herseith, Wendy Maiwurm, Craig Flemingloss, and Bill Gray. Staff participants include Scott Ramsey, George Apostolakas, and Steve Kirkland.

### **Notable Items in 2023:**

- Replacement of the rotten soffit and fascia trim all around the perimeter of the buildings. A rot-resistant material was selected to ensure long-term durability and to reduce maintenance requirements.
- The chapel roof was replaced.
- The commercial refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall kitchen was replaced.
- The lights in the chapel were replaced with LED fixtures, as the existing lights had defunct ballasts that were not cost effective to retrofit.
- Damaged ceiling tiles behind the sanctuary and in the narthex were replaced.
- Electrical repairs, such as replacement of aging GFI outlets, and repairs to fluorescent lights and wiring were conducted behind the sanctuary and on the exterior of the building.
- HVAC repairs and corrective adjustments were tackled with older equipment, as well as the new system. Several small projects were completed for HVAC work, including cleaning/updating the Heating unit adjacent to the music room, sealing vents/adding new blowers to roof above sanctuary to increase air flow near front of church.
- Work (to be completed January 2024) was started in the Fall to increase reliability of the HVAC/Heating above the offices and second level of the new areas.
- Two copiers in office were replaced with one new copier, which will help to reduce cost in 2024.
- Estimates for future project work were obtained, including upgrades to music room, insulation in the roof above the sanctuary, and building a handicapped accessible ramp/trim bushes by the emergency egress at the front of the sanctuary.
- Select trees in the cemetery and in the parking lot were fertilized, and treated. Trees that were in eminent danger of falling were removed. Gators were fitted during the drought on the trees in the parking lot. Gators are heavy duty bags that hold water that is slowly released.
- Additional new signage improvements were installed, in response to the need to provide better directional signs as well as labeling displays, artwork, and wall hangings.

- The Manse was vacated by The Counseling Center. Future plans may include demolition of the building as part of the landscape plan. The water line to the building was capped off in 2023, following a water main leak.
- In terms of Facilities expenses, 2023 continued to be a transitional year in terms of determining the impact of the building improvements upon line items in the budget.

**Cemetery** – In 2023, the Cemetery Board-- Pattie Gunter (Chair), Adrian Steel, Doug McGuire, Rob Hunter, and Ed Sumner-- embarked on a major overhaul of the cemetery records and grounds thanks to the generous gift of Virginia Stevens.

The major accomplishment in 2023 was the work on the Memorial Garden, which was initiated in 2022 and was continued into 2023.

- Realignment of Memorial Garden monument
- Leveling of the grounds
- Alignment of the markers
- The foundation for walkways and seating was laid, and stone masonry was installed in the Memorial Garden.

There are 5 components of the current cemetery improvement plan that are ongoing:

- Improved grounds maintenance including grass cutting, trimming, debris removal and cleanup. (Contracts reviewed as renewed).
- Straightening of markers and monuments.
- Major landscaping, sod, and leveling to enhance the aesthetics of the site.
- Update and computerize the mapping and record keeping of the cemetery.

**Landscaping-** During 2023, the exterior grounds work included landscaping the east entry to Heritage Hall, which included the Rotunda brick work and sodding of the lawn that incorporates the reconfigured sidewalk. Two large oak trees impacted by parking lot construction underwent extensive root restoration and watering plans in an effort to retain those two trees.

Working from the 2021 Landscape Master Plan developed by Moody Graham Landscape Architects, work began in 2023 on the Memorial Garden in the cemetery, including the removal of damaged boxwoods, re-grading the surface soil, realigning the Memorial Garden monuments, and sodding the entire garden area. This was all accomplished without disturbing any sites in the garden.

In 2023, Moody Graham further developed their design for Phase One, the area facing Chain Bridge Road, including green and hardscapes, including the front lawn and entry. Moody Graham is also preparing the design for the area moving from the rear parking lot, to the area around the currently-existing manse.

Landscape Committee members: Pam Deese: Chair, Lori Gray, Mary Frase, Janet Gale, Susan Bartram, Jan Jacewicz, Doug McGuire, and Pattie Gunter of Facilities. Consulting architect: Moody Graham Architects.

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee, chaired by Phil Cooke, includes members Bob Gaugler, Church Treasurer; Liz Stevens, Janet Gale, Connie Church, Robert Johnson (Arlington), Jerry Kohlenberger and Bill Gray. The committee provided reporting and oversight for the execution of the 2023 budget and aided in the development and review of the draft 2024 budget for approval by Session. Revenue for 2023 was \$1,382,031, which was 99% of budgeted income, \$11,197 less than target. Expenditures were \$1,387,913 and \$2,462 below budget. Overall, Expenses exceeded Income by \$5,882. Income included transfers from general funds (\$2,850) and the Administrative Fund (\$19,000 per approved plan). There were two notable items contributing to these actions; one was a shortfall of pledge receipts (\$15,116) and the second was underestimating 2023 administrative costs by a total of \$19,314 related to Computer Support, Internet/telecom services, utilities, heating & cooling, and insurance. These expenses were underestimated due to unexpected infrastructure needs, price increases and it being the first, full-year of operations in the expanded/upgraded building. The 2024 budget reflects these new 'run-rate' costs.

## **Stewardship Committee**

In a year that has echoed the powerful theme of "Where The Spirit Lives," our Lewinsville Presbyterian Church community has truly embodied this spirit through our 2024 Stewardship Campaign. This year, more than ever, we have seen how the Spirit of generosity and unity thrives within us, guiding and inspiring us to extend our support beyond mere financial contributions. As I address you today, it is with a deep sense of gratitude for the way our church has exemplified the living Spirit through unwavering commitment and heartfelt stewardship.

**Achievements of the Current Year** - Our campaign has been a profound expression of this living Spirit. To date, we have raised \$1,408,417.00 from 170 pledges, surpassing last year's total of \$1,260,208.00 from 177 pledges. This significant achievement, though just shy of our ambitious goal, is a testament to the Spirit's presence in our generous actions. Each pledge symbolizes more than a financial contribution; it represents a commitment to the values and missions of our church. These funds, vital for our church's growth, will not only sustain but also expand our ministries, allowing us to embody the Spirit in actions that reach far beyond our budget. It's in these acts that the Spirit truly lives, guiding us to make a lasting impact in our community and beyond.

**Looking Forward** - As we look towards the future, our journey remains guided by the theme "Where The Spirit Lives." The dedication shown this year lays a foundation for continued spiritual and communal growth. We step forward with gratitude for every contribution, recognizing each as a manifestation of the living Spirit among us. This collective effort, though not reaching our initial target, is a crucial step towards broader, more impactful goals. United in our purpose and driven by our shared Spirit, we are poised to forge a path that will see our church grow in faith, service, and community connection.

I would like to thank and highlight the work of the members of the Stewardship Committee: Tom Waldrop, Linda Bender, Abbey Conley, Mike Zolandz, and David Foster.

With Love,  
Spencer Deese, Chair of the Stewardship Committee

## **Mission and Service Ministry Group**

*The Mission and Service Ministry Group aspires to bring Lewinsville Presbyterian Church together to understand and act upon our call to live in service of others. Group members help to identify needs and worthy mission partners and work to connect the skills, gifts, and talents of Lewinsville to address these needs and facilitate relationships with these organizations both locally and abroad.*

We are grateful to the Lewinsville congregation for your willingness to give abundantly. Whether you gave time or furnishings to the Refugee Resettlement Team, picked up a hammer or mentored youth during the Summer Mission Project, prepared a weekend meal for our neighbors at The Lewinsville Retirement Residence, or purchased a grocery gift card for a Westgate family experiencing food insecurity; you made a difference, and we thank you.

There was a renewed enthusiasm this year for long standing programs such as Alternative Gifts and Good Samaritan Day as well as a positive response to efforts to expand our presence in the community, particularly through our extended partnership with Lutheran Social Services and new relationship with Jill's House. This year, we also became a financial sponsor of the Montreat Conference Center, where our Pastor now serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and our youth enjoy a weeklong retreat over the summer.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Mission and Service Ministry Group is to faithfully administer and distribute that portion (10%) of the church's annual budget dedicated to mission. This year, we thoughtfully allocated \$133,873 to mission partners and events supporting the following objectives: growing international missions, combating hunger and poverty, supporting housing needs, and providing social services. Our financial gifts are, however, only one measure of our contributions throughout the year.

### **National and International Missions**

*Mission partners include Church World Mission, which oversees the mission activities of the National Capital Presbytery and Presbyterian Church (USA); the United Orphanage and Academy, Kenya; and three missionaries abroad: Brian and Helen Chapaitis (Wycliffe Bible Translators), Frank Dimmock (Outreach Foundation), and Andy and Ellen Collins (Interserve USA).*

One of the highlights of our work this year was supporting Alan Stevens and Madison Kloster's trip to the United Orphanage and Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. Together with members of the UOA Steering Committee, Alan and Madison were able to assess facilities, work on budgetary guidelines, tour a middle school to explore curriculum changes, and participate in a retirement celebration for Reverend Chege. Upon their return, Lewinsville enjoyed a lively and educational slide presentation which generated discussion concerning how we can do more to support our partners in Kenya. If you missed this event, please go back and listen to the podcast recorded with Pastor Layne to hear more!



**Hunger and Poverty**

*The Hunger and Poverty mission actively supported SHARE, Miriam's Kitchen, Falls Church Homeless Shelter, and Christ House.*

Lewinsville has long supported *SHARE's* mission to positively impact the lives of neighbors in need. Their most visible program, the food pantry, relies primarily on donated goods. Their list of needed items was shared regularly in the weekly email update and LPC attendees are encouraged to bring donations on Sunday mornings. Special collections on Good Samaritan Day and at Thanksgiving resulted in more than 65 bags of groceries and personal effects to help stock the pantry shelves.



At our fall Good Samaritan Day, LPC volunteers prepared over 700 coffee packets to assist *Miriam's Kitchen's* work to end chronic and veteran homelessness in Washington, D.C.

We are grateful for those who gave shirts, pants, and socks to a summer clothing drive for *Christ House* residents. In November, two LPC volunteers additionally coordinated the purchase and delivery of 37 new heavy winter coats for residents at *Christ House*, a mission partner providing comprehensive care for people experiencing homelessness with acute medical needs.

**Housing**

*The Housing mission serves The Lewinsville Retirement Residence (LRR), Chesterbrook Residences, Fairfax Interfaith Coalition for Habitat (Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia), and Homestretch. We have supported these organizations financially and through leadership.*

The *LRR* Board was completely comprised of Lewinsville members and *Chesterbrook Residences* Board is chaired by our congregation and several members hold leadership positions. Our pastors also lead monthly communion worship services at *LRR* and *Chesterbrook*. Please see the individual report prepared for these two legacy partners for additional information.

In June, we hosted Good Samaritan Day in collaboration with the *LRR* Picnic (and Youth Sunday). GSD volunteers were invited to join *LRR* residents for an indoor picnic, fellowship, and singing, prior to serving in one of the family oriented, multigenerational service projects. One such service opportunity was a Youth led car wash for our *LRR* neighbors.

At the October GSD event, we made the decision to work with *LRR* again in response to the reduced weekend meal service. LPC volunteers prepared and delivered 120 individual meals to *LRR* residents. One such resident gave Pastor Scott a five-star rating for his “DoorDash Ministry.”

We also wish to recognize and congratulate Alan Stevens, who recently retired after 48 years in leadership roles at *LRR*. He was honored at the 2023 Annual Meeting with letters, resolutions, and heartfelt words of gratitude for his tireless efforts as a passionate advocate for affordable housing.



### **Social Services**

*The Social Services mission provided support to Westgate Elementary School, Falls Church McLean Children’s Center, L’Arche of Greater Washington DC, Second Story Shepherd’s Center, and the Refugee Resettlement Team (RRT).*

In partnership with *Westgate Elementary*, we continued to assist 32 student families by providing them grocery gift cards each month. At our spring Good Samaritan Day, volunteers created art supply packages for those students we support to enjoy throughout the summer. We also held a Holiday Gift Drive in December which collected over 100 gifts and 80 grocery cards.

We hosted the *Falls Church McLean Childrens Center* staff for their annual weeklong service training in July and their end-of-year celebration in December in our Youth Center. Such opportunities allow teachers and administrators to learn and rejuvenate so they may continue their work of providing a high-quality early childhood education to all, regardless of their family’s financial resources.

Dedicated Lewinsville volunteers have also continued to provide rides for *Shepherd’s Center of McLean, Arlington, Falls Church*, an organization dedicated to assisting older adults with aging in place through services, companionships, and community.

The Lewinsville congregation generously supported a virtual baby shower hosted by the *RRT* for the H Family, our Afghan refugee family, who learned they were expecting twins! As part of Good Samaritan Day, members delivered gifts and much needed supplies to the family’s



apartment. In total, more than 50 gifts were purchased through the online registry, valued at over \$2,700.

### **Additional Service Opportunities**

***Good Samaritan Day*** – As referenced throughout our report, *Good Samaritan Day* is a “hands-on” event traditionally held in the spring and fall when LPC volunteers of all ages and abilities work with or in support of our local mission partners. In 2023, these volunteer days were held on Sundays following the worship service, which is a change from prior years to increase attendance and interest.

More than 50 volunteers served together at the October *GSD*. Ten of these volunteers connected with a new organization, *Jill’s House*, that assists families raising children with profound intellectual disabilities through short-term, overnight respite care and holistic family support services. Service projects included cleaning “pods” and equipment used by the special needs guests over the weekend. We ended the evening by preparing and serving a meal to the weekend staff who were concluding their shifts.



***Fair Trade Sale*** – Held as part of our Advent celebration, the *Fair Trade Sale* provides an opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts from Ten Thousand Villages. Purchasing fair trade certified products helps reduce poverty, encourages environmentally friendly production methods, and safeguards humane working conditions. While we were concerned rain might keep shoppers away, sales exceeded \$2,500. We were also pleased to make space for Parasto, a member of our former Aghan refugee family, to sell beautiful knit goods she had made.



Each year, this holiday season event collects additional funds to support many of our mission partner organizations. If donors choose to honor a person with their donation, a card is provided to inform the person receiving the gift. Thirty-five individuals and families participated in our 2023 *Alternative Gifts* program and donated \$16,697 to our mission partners.

***Presbyterian Special Offerings*** – There are four special offerings held by the PC(USA) over the course of the year: *One Great Hour of Sharing*, *Pentecost*, *Peace and Global Witness*, and *Christmas Joy*. Collections at Lewinsville exceeded \$15,600 in 2023. A portion of the *Peace and*

*Global Witness* offering is retained by local congregations, and we allocated these funds to the Second Story family reunification program. There was an additional \$5,780 raised at Lewinsville for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the PC(USA).

**Summer Mission Project Bake Sale** – In a win-win exchange, donations are given for delicious homemade baked goods. Most importantly, \$1,850 was raised for SMP! Great work, Leah!

Lewinsville members and friends also generously support our mission partners in many other ways, including donations to our Board of Deacons, with ChristCare groups, and special designated gifts through our church.

We are always amazed by the generosity of this Church!

**Mission & Service Ministry Group members:** *Augusta Niday (Chair), Karen Siple, Alan Stevens, Connie Stewart, Betty Douglass (Session Liaison), and Rev. Layne Brubaker*

## Refugee Resettlement Ministry – 2023



In early 2023 the Refugee Resettlement Team (RRT) informed Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) that we were ready to sponsor another refugee family, having successfully “launched” the S Family in 2022.

While waiting to be matched with a new family we continued to communicate with the S Family, helping them become further adjusted to living in the U.S. In February, members of the family attended an adult education class one Sunday morning led by the RRT, at which Fawad, the oldest son, made a moving presentation, describing their lives in Afghanistan, hiding from the Taliban, their stay in Albania while awaiting clearance to enter the U.S., and finally their arrival at Dulles Airport the previous spring. Throughout 2023 we maintained occasional contact with this family, but they have become self-sufficient and no longer rely on our support.

In March the LSS assigned us the H Family, also from Afghanistan. They had spent the past two years hiding from the Taliban and in a refugee camp in Qatar. The family consisted of a young husband and wife and four children, all younger than eleven years old. Because of the generosity of this congregation, we were able immediately to furnish their apartment with basics, as well as additional items that they requested. We also provided them with two television sets, a sewing machine, cell phones, and a laptop computer. We helped them

purchase a used SUV. The children were provided toys, and the family was taken to a thrift store to purchase clothing.

Then in the summer we began the second phase of resettlement—assisting the family become connected to their community. This family was a challenge to help, and the second phase of our support was frustrating. Our difficulties stemmed primarily from the consistently poor advice they received from a brother living in the area (resulting in serious financial indebtedness) and the refusal of the husband to secure full-time employment which would enable him to support his family.

In November, about the time that our commitment to this family was due to end, the wife gave birth to twins, who, thankfully, were healthy. The congregation participated in a “virtual baby shower” and provided all the infant furniture, equipment, clothing, and supplies needed to initially care for these babies. We even purchased a small portable clothes dryer to help the wife manage laundering cloth diapers.

In a final attempt to provide assistance, the RRT offered to help with six months of rent if the husband would find full-time employment. We paid one month’s full rent; unfortunately, the husband elected not to seek full-time work, so we made the difficult decision to cease our support of this family, with the full endorsement of LSS.

We have learned many lessons during the two years of this ministry. Here are some of those lessons:

1. Provide only the basic furniture & furnishings. Do not give the family everything WE think they need. Anticipate that they will ask for specific things when they arrive.
2. Be continually mindful of two basic tasks and the fact that they are often in tension: (a) being their mentors, guides, educators and (b) respecting the family’s agency and wishes.
3. Recognize that the family will probably be more receptive to the advice of their Afghan community than our advice. Afghan men do not typically take advice, instruction, or information from women; only guidance from men is valued.
4. Do not directly give the family any money (cash or checks), with the exception of gift cards (e.g. Uber/Lyft, grocery stores). Whenever a purchase is required that the RRT will fund, make the purchase directly to the vendor.
5. If at least one person in the family does not speak English well, obtain the services of a translator when having interactions with the family, to minimize misunderstandings and mistakes.
6. If the adults do not speak English well, insist upon their enrolling in either in-person or on-line English classes immediately. The wage earner(s) will have difficulty finding solid employment without good communication skills.

7. Be mindful that our role is that of being good neighbors, not saviors, and that we should not expect to change the family's established behaviors, values or goals.

8. This work is hard, and it is life changing.

This congregation has been exceedingly generous with your gifts, money, time, and prayers. At least 80 separate individuals and families have contributed in some tangible way. Financial gifts and donations in 2023 are valued at almost \$50,000. Thank you!

In early 2024 the RRT will decide how to move forward in refugee resettlement, whether to continue our partnership with LSSNCA or whether to branch out in a new direction. The RRT is fully committed to continuing this ministry, with your help. Let us know if you are interested in joining our team!

**RRT Members: Layne Brubaker (staff), Jack Calhoun, Connie Church, Phil Church, Betty Douglass (team leader), David Foster, Siobhan Grayson, Harriet Hopkins, Rob Hunter, Don Lu, Pat Matheson, Augusta Niday, Doug Smith**

## **Invitation and Connection Ministry Group**

In 2023 the Invitation and Connection Ministry Group began to get our legs under us with an initial focus on keeping the core essentials running and building up our team. We ended 2023 with double the number of folks working on this important ministry as we started with!

At the heart of our work is welcoming new people to the Lewinsville community and, for those who choose to do so, integrating them through the Inquirers' membership process. We have all seen the pews filled with new faces and the pastoral staff, along with the Invitation & Connection Ministry Group, have been encouraging the congregation to join in helping these folks to feel welcome. A renewed focus on wearing name tags, extended Passing of the Peace, and our Minute for Invitation & Connection in December are all in support of this goal.

Beginning in 2024, Invitation & Connection will take over coordinating the Greeters ministry and welcomes any and all of you to join in, even if it's just once! Members of this Ministry Group also work with the Pastors to follow up with new regular visitors where appropriate, helping those visitors to have an additional point of connection.

Over the course of the year, we have had four Inquirers' classes - in January, February, April, and September - and welcomed 27 new members through the Inquirers' class. (There was not a Youth Confirmation Class in 2023.) As we started in 2022, we have continued to recognize new members with corsages and an extended Fellowship Hour reception on the Sunday that they are introduced to the congregation. Additionally, their pictures are featured on the digital signs throughout the building in the weeks following their introductions. We hope this has helped many of you get to know some of them better!

Additionally, Invitation & Connection has been working with the Children's Christian Ed program in support of our community outreach events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or

Treat. With the upcoming transitions in Christian Ed leadership, we will look to play a bigger role in these events in 2024.

Finally, Invitation & Connection sent out post cards to the local community, inviting them to our Christmas services, including the Longest Night service. While we do not have direct attribution, we suspect that the postcards were instrumental in the tremendous turnout we saw on Christmas Eve with over 600 people in attendance across the three services. The Invitation & Connection Ministry Group invites all of you to join us in our efforts to make Lewinsville a place where the stranger feels welcome, and a spirit of hospitality is evident to all who enter our doors. And you're certainly welcome to join us in our work should you feel called to do so!

For additional information on the Invitation & Connection Ministry Group please contact one of our members:

Kelly Sexton, Chair  
Pastor Scott Ramsey  
Pam Deese  
Karen Flagg  
Jenny Flemingloss  
Emily Foster  
Eve Jelstrom  
Erik Kloster  
Davi McDonald

## **The Fellowship Ministry Group**

The Fellowship Ministry Group is charged with sharing God's love by helping people feel cared-for and connected when they come to church. The group pays attention to how people come into the building for worship and how they connect with one other and our pastors after worship. Through 2023, we recruited greeters to welcome our members, friends, and guests as they enter the building. As of this January, The Invitation and Connection Ministry Group will oversee the greeters.

Our hospitality team prepares "coffee hour" with coffee, tea, (iced tea in the summer), and lemonade after worship in St. Andrews Hall.



To help us identify one another, a new photo directory is now available in both online and paper formats. We hope to update it over the summer to be available in fall 2024. If you don't have a picture in this directory, look for information on submitting photos.

Safe and reliable childcare is part of our mission. Parents can leave their children with trained caregivers on the lower level in the Nursery (Room L05). You can register your child just outside of the room.

Because God's love is made known to us through relationships, we want people to have opportunities to become connected to one other. Small groups offer an excellent opportunity for people to know others more deeply. There are currently 5 ChristCare groups; groups that focus on Community Building, Biblical Equipping, Prayer and Worship, and reaching out to others. There is also a Circle Bible Study Group.

Seniors can get to know one another better by joining our senior lunch group, "Rocks of Ages." (formerly Single Seniors and now including all Seniors) who meet on the last Friday of the month for lunch and a program. There are also short-term groups. This fall LPC offered a book study, and "Acts in the Alcove" for people who want to experience a small group for a brief time.

The Fellowship Ministry Group provides people with an opportunity for faith and fellowship beyond Sunday morning worship and Christian Education. This includes Second Saturday Set, groups for youth, young adults, and older folks. For something more physical, there is a Monday night Corn- Hole league.



We provide Hospitality and Fellowship. Events in 2023 included:  
 Breakfast for the Annual Meeting in February  
 Supper on the first night of the Lenten Study in March  
 Chili Cook-off /March Madness/St. Patrick's Day (with youth)



LPC and LRR Picnic /Lunch, indoors in air-conditioned, bug-free comfort in the Lewinsville Retirement Residence Dining Room.

Our group provided the main meal while LPC attendees brought desserts to share.

We began the 2023-24 program year with Kick-Off Sunday on September 10, with an Engagement Fair and lunch after worship, with sandwiches, chips, fruit, and ice cream from the "Inside Scoop" food truck.

**Anniversary Sunday** was held in October. This is a chance to recognize and celebrate people who have been members of LPC for 25 years, 50 years, and our Golden Members, more than 50 years. (front row)



*Our new 50-year members are: (front row) Ken Schafer, Roland McElroy, John Thomas, Jan Merritt, Joanne and John Theon. (back row) New 25-year members are: Anne Dimmett-Bell, Evan Ayers, Lindsey Cotten, and Patty Dokken.*

There are many opportunities to share your passion and provide a loving service to others.

**Lost Sheep Prayer Shawl Ministry – 2023:**

The Lost Sheep Prayer Shawl Ministry creates shawls and afghans to bring comfort to our frail and ill members and friends. Shawls and baby blankets also celebrate times of special joy. During 2023, Lost Sheep delivered 23 prayer shawls and lap robes and continued its Pocket Prayer Squares ministry, providing small squares that fit inside a pocket, purse, or backpack as a constant reminder of God's love and care.

**The Blood Drive** worked with INOVA Hospital staff to schedule four blood drives in 2023; the majority were held in Fellowship Hall. 108 units of blood products were donated by 103 donors. Deirdre and Ryan Ramsey coordinated the Blood Drives. We encourage you to spread the word about the blood drives and to donate to this life saving cause."

**Flower Delivery** - Flowers from the arrangements on the RE table in worship are taken apart and delivered to members of our church family who are homebound, hospitalized, in retirement homes, or those who could just use a visit to brighten their day. Bouquets have also been taken to members with special birthdays, anniversaries, and to new members. If flowers are placed in the sanctuary as a memorial or for a special occasion, the donor is free to take some home.

It is a delight to have our new building, our incredible staff, and the wonderful members and friends who make Lewinsville the amazing Church Community it is.

For additional information on the Fellowship Ministry Group please contact one of our members:

Claire Grossi, Chair

Pastor Jen Dunfee,

Coffee Hour – Laury Bender

Nursery Coordinator – Alison Staeger

Photo Directory – Bettie McElroy

ChristCare Groups – Jim Tenney

Blood Drives – Ryan and Deirdre Ramsey

Second Saturday Set – Cathy Gaugler

Single Seniors/Rocks of Ages-- Wendy Maiwurm

Lost Sheep Prayer Shawl Ministry – Carol Kaffenberger, Jan Jacewicz

Flower Delivery –Verna Chenault

Older Adult Council – Wendy Maiwurm

## Older Adult Council



Pictured: Beverly Johnson, Tom Waldrop, Claire Grossi, Dan Thomas, Pastor Jen Dunfee, Wendy Maiwurm and Alan Stevens.  
Absent: David Jesse, Betty Douglass, Harriet Hopkins, Bob Johnson and Pastor Scott Ramsey

**Mission:** The purposes of Older Adult Council are to communicate, coordinate, and advocate for older adult programs and services. We strive to maintain good communications with Lewinsville Retirement Residence and Chesterbrook Residences and have one of our meetings at each of these facilities every year, if possible. This is the eleventh year for this group, and it reports to the Fellowship Ministry Group.

**Activities:** The council publishes a booklet describing all relevant programs, services and activities for seniors in the congregation and

the community. The updated “Older Adult Ministry Booklet” will be coming out in February 2024 with the help of Allison Lineberger. This booklet is on the website, in the racks by the church office and sent out to those getting extended communion.



The council works with the pastors to offer monthly church services at LRR and CRI during the third week of each month. LRR's service is on Mondays at 2pm and CRI's is at 2pm on Wednesdays.

We have continued to meet every other month and have returned to in person meetings at the church. The council paid close attention to how LRR and CRI were coping with all the changes due to Covid. In March we hope to meet at Chesterbrook with their director, Bremda Riggs, who will give a report. In May we hope to meet at LRR with their director, Courtney Nuzzo, who will provide an update. We also worked with Chesterbrook when they provided ice cream sundaes and conversation after church on a Sunday this past July.

**Looking Ahead:** We are pleased to be able to offer an Adult Education Class again on "What you Need to Know about Dementia". This class will be offered on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Jen leading a panel discussion with church members. Our guest speaker, Dr. Dorothy Linthicum, will return again this year to talk about Dementia which is a specialty of hers. She has expertise as a professor emeritus from Virginia Theological Seminary.

We do continue to offer information and resources on the Older Adult Council's portion of the website (click on connect and drop down). Special thanks to Cathy Gaugler and Carol Kaffenberger who recently left the group after years of service.

## **Worship Ministry Group**

The Worship Ministry Group (WMG) plans and provides for congregational worship in many ways, such as music, flowers, banners, communion, prayer and the spoken word, and special events, plus enhanced audio/visual technology. Worship at Lewinsville depends on the efforts of our clergy and staff, plus the efforts of many participants from the congregation. Planning and coordination of our congregational participants are largely accomplished by WMG, with Pastor Scott Ramsey providing the spiritual tone at the top. The members of the WMG are Elaine Guth (Chair), Judy Herseth, John Baxley, Cathy Gaugler, Bob Johnson (McLean), Sally McKeown, John Nothhaft, Rob Ransom, Scott Schlegel (Session liaison), and Pastor Scott Ramsey (ex-officio member).

There are several committees (with teams) under the cognizance of the WMG which, together, fulfill many supporting worship needs. An overview of what these committees/teams do follows: (1) the Ushers (four rotating teams) welcome congregants into our sanctuary, distribute bulletins, help people find seats, provide special assistance as needed, collect the offering, take attendance and do light tidying of the sanctuary immediately before and after services; (2) the Lay Readers provide leadership during services through their prayers and reading of scriptures; (3) the Communion preparers plan and coordinate the preparation and cleanup of the elements; (4) the Flower committee (four rotating teams) create weekly floral arrangements for the Sanctuary, the Narthex, and St. Andrews hall, and also plan and create special arrangements throughout the church for Christmas and Easter, and other special occasions; (5) the Banner committee manages and curates the artistic banners that enhance the pulpit and lectern visuals and signify the liturgical colors and symbols of the seasons; (6) the

S.M.A.R.T. coordination teams provide all-over sanctuary cleanup and preparing for the next Worship services; (7) the Music committee provides counsel and support for the music program, which is led by John Nothaft, our Director of Music Ministries; (8) the Special Projects committee handles a variety of unique and often one-off requests to support worship needs; and (9) the Audio/Visual team operates the sound system during worship services and also supports our livestreaming of services.

In addition to the above, based on some specific queries posed over this past year, the leaders of two of these groups have provided further insights, shared below:

**\*\*Lay Readers--**“Lewinsville’s lay reading program has been in existence for over 40 years. Its goal is to involve congregants in the worship experience at church and to provide additional ‘voices’ into the service. Readers are given their scripture assignments the week before they are scheduled to read and generally serve every two or three months, depending on their individual schedules.” For more information or to be added to the lay reader list, contact Cathy Gaugler at [gauglerr@aol.com](mailto:gauglerr@aol.com).

**\*\*S.M.A.R.T.--**“Different S.M.A.R.T. (Sanctuary Management and Reorganization Team) groups have volunteered to prepare the Sanctuary for each Sunday service. They each accomplish this on their own schedule anytime during the week prior to their assigned Sunday.

Their basic responsibility is to restore the Sanctuary pew racks to an orderly condition, one unintentionally left by the previous raucous group of worshippers. This includes straightening Bibles and Hymnals to their proper locations, adding literature pieces as needed and sharpening or replacing pencils that seem to bear the scars of over or careless use by some congregants. Some Sundays, many pencils are missing from their assigned slots. Also, the name tag preparation locations in the foyer are made ready for use and the Hand of Greeting books [red books in pews] are checked for inserts.

This work is not rocket science and, maybe a little dull, but it is done by everyone with a neat and organized ‘pew environment’ for worshippers. And we have fun doing it. All members re-up each year and that’s a positive sign. There’s a place and time for a ‘Messy Church’, but not in the Sanctuary! Our motto is ‘No broken pencil will be left behind.’” For more information or to be added to this group, contact Bob Johnson at [mjcameron@aol.com](mailto:mjcameron@aol.com).

### **SPECIFIC WMG HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 –**

**\*\*Worship Attendance is Up!--**The big news to report about Worship Services is that Worship attendance and involvement is increasing and getting stronger. Comparing the 2022 Christmas Eve services vs. the 2023 Christmas Eve services, our Ushers reported the following:

<b>2022</b> Christmas Eve attendance (approx.) –	<b>2023</b> Christmas Eve attendance (approx.) --
4:30 pm Family Service – 210	11:00 am Family Service -- 203
7:00 pm Traditional Service – 240	7:00 pm Traditional Service -- 387
9:30 pm Jazz/Traditional Service – 55	9:30 pm Jazz/Traditional Serv. – 101
<b>Total = 505</b>	<b>Total = 691</b>



Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells at Christmas Eve



Lewinsville Choristers at Christmas Eve

Average in-person attendance numbers for 2023 across-the-year: Sunday 11 am services was 139, trending from 134 in the first quarter to 151 by the fourth quarter. Not included in these numbers but informally observed by WMG members has been a positive increase in the number of young children and youth participation in church activities.

**\*\*Audio/Visual (A/V) support demand has increased due to more events at LPC—**

- Our A/V team provided support for 52 Sunday morning services, PLUS—
- Other events at LPC (to include Concerts & Holy Happy Hour events, Memorial/Funeral services, events in Fellowship Hall, Easter/Holy Week services, special services( Christmas, Contemplative, Wedding, Longest Night, Lewinsville Follies and more)—a grand total of support for 109 events at LPC in 2023 by the A/V team

**\*\*Music Program Highlights—**Under the leadership of John Nothaft, Director of Music Ministries, our Music program continues to provide strong and exciting contributions to expand and strengthen LPC’s connections with our congregants and our church’s reach-out to the broader community at large. Our music programs are intentionally diverse to encourage greater interest and more involvement. Participants in our programs (church members and guests) are excited to be challenged, musically. Overall, regular participation numbers average at about 60 of our congregants in our Singing and Handbell Ringing programs (includes all ages). Representative highlights of our 2023 Music program are listed below (space limitations preclude a complete listing):

- **Spring--**Special Morning Worship services--featured violin and cello for Earth Day; Bluegrass music for Derby Sunday; music by African American composers in February; music by Women composers in March; Chancel Handbell Choir participated in a multi-choir “Ring in Spring Festival” in Herndon VA.



**Palm Sunday and Easter week** – Chancel Choir sang portions of Durufle’s Requiem; Chancel Choir with Brass/Tympani and Jazz Band for Easter Sunday (2 Worship Services—total attendance about 450)

— **Contemplative worship** services included gospel organ and jazz singer, piano, hammered dulcimer, choral evensong, and Taizé’

- **Monthly Holy Happy Hour concerts** featured U.S. Army chamber strings, Buster Keaton Silent Film “Go West” with renowned Guest Organist Tedde Gibson, Irish Brazilian Celtic Music, James River Handbell Ringers, and Inaugural J. Clark Young Artist recital which featured Irene Castillo, Guest Violinist and Graduating Senior from Indiana University with a B.A. major in violin performance.
- **Summer** -- Church-wide Summer Follies program, “A Night with Oscar and Tony,” in August; Handbell Boot Camp; Children and Youth Music and Puppet Camp; Weekly Summer Serenades in August.
- **Fall—Winter**--Special morning worship services featured cello, percussion, trumpets and tympani, music of Native American composers, members of our congregation, and a bagpiper; Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15 – Oct 15) featured music composed by LatinX and Spanish cultures.
- **Contemplative worship** services included harp and violin; Advent Antiphons with Lewinsville’s Cantorum group, and Taizé’;
- **Christmas Eve**—featured a children’s musical, “The Light Before Christmas,” presented in the 11:00 am Family Service; a Baroque music service at the 7:00 pm Traditional worship service with 8-piece Baroque Consort and performance of Bach’s “Wachet Auf Cantata”; and a “Cool Jazz” service at the 9:30 pm worship service with a 4-piece jazz band.
- **Holy Happy Hour Concerts** continued featuring “Bachtoberfest” with 3 separate guest performances of Bach works and a George Winston Piano celebration.
- **Community events in December** included Caroling at Lewinsville Retirement Residence and at residences of home-bound members of our congregation; hosting a 200-student piano festival; choir trips to local concerts; and a vocal workshop with Dr. Byron Jones.

**Other Brief Highlights**--Beyond the items listed above specific to subject groups within the WMG, this report will close out with brief mention of other key efforts provided by this Ministry in support of LPC Worship in 2023: (1) Sponsoring of Daily Devotionals during the Lenten season prepared by congregational members; (2) in May, a new Church Banner for outdoor display and approved by Session was added to our extensive collection—it affirms outwardly that we are a welcoming congregation and that “All Are Welcome”; and (3) the WMG actively

participated in the Sept. 10 “LPC Engagement Fair” endorsed by Session to inform people of our many group activities at LPC, with opportunities for everyone—we sponsored 6 tables with information about 7 areas of opportunities within WMG.

## **Congregational Nominating Committee**

The Congregational Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and calling the officers who will be nominated to serve as leaders of the congregation if elected at the Annual Meeting. These officers are Ruling Elders, Deacons/Stephen Minister, members of the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church Foundation Board, and members of the Congregational Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee also places in nomination, for election by the Session, the Clerk of Session and the Treasurer. This year the Nominating Committee held all but two of its meetings in person. Meetings not held in person were conducted via Zoom. Progress reports were shared with the Nominating Committee by email.

Serving on the Nominating Committee this year: Ruling Elder Grant Mann (Chair), Ruling Elder Betty Douglass (Vice Chair), Susan Bartram, Abbey Conley, James Foster, Barbara Gibby, Laura Jones, Libby McConnell, Bettie McElroy, Doug Smith, and Scott Ramsey, Ex Officio.

The Nominating Committee accepts suggestions from the congregation throughout the year and is grateful for those nominations. Nominations can be made by email, a handwritten note left in the Nominating Committee box in the mailroom, personal contact with a Nominating Committee member, or on the church website during the Fall months.

### **Nominated and Elected by the Session at its January 16, 2024 Meeting:**

**Treasurer** – Bob Gaugler effective May 2023 through April 2024.

**To be placed in nomination at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 4, 2024.**

### **Ruling Elders, Class of 2027**

Janet Gale, Lee-Lee Hunter, Jerry Kohlenberger, Alan Kohler

### **Deacons/Stephen Ministers, Class of 2027**

Michelle Gebhart, Rob Ransom, Corbin Rugh Rochedreux

### **Lewinsville Presbyterian Church Foundation Board Members, Class of 2026**

Bob Johnson (Arlington Bob Johnson), Sharon Gamble, and Jim Tenney

### **Members of the Congregational Nominating Committee, Class of 2026**

Linda Bender, Wendy Maiwurm, Kelly Sexton, and Tom Waldrop

## **The Lewinsville Retirement Residence**

### **Mission**

Provide an environment to improve the lives of older adults while contributing to their continued independence.

### **Background**

The Lewinsville Retirement Residence (LRR), an independent senior living facility, was formed as a non-profit corporation in 1975 by Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and opened in 1980. All active Lewinsville Presbyterian Church (LPC) members are also members of Lewinsville Retirement Residence, Inc., the corporation that owns and operates LRR.



### **LRR is the largest Mission Project ever undertaken by Lewinsville Presbyterian Church.**

That mission continues today – in the form of the Church’s ongoing financial support for services not funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) subsidy. The need for affordable housing in northern Virginia has grown every year. There is currently a 5 year wait list for individuals seeking to live at LRR. The Board of Directors are volunteers from the Church. Here is just a partial list of the ways the Church and its congregation have typically supported The Lewinsville:

- Driving residents to and from Sunday services
- Annual Luncheon
- Good Samaritan Day – twice each year
- ChristCare groups
- New Member teas
- Men’s and Women’s Breakfasts Bimonthly
- Gift Bags at Christmas time
- Church services with communion by LPC pastors
- Multicultural Thanksgiving Luncheon
- Special activities for residents and Church members, such as BINGO Night
- Bible study groups

Financial support by the Church includes quarterly gifts from the Mission and Service Ministry Group and designated United Way/Combined Federal Campaign. Contributions are also from a Deacons Fund offering each year and financial assistance to LRR individuals with special needs. In addition, a special Mother’s Day offering in May and individual pledges and contributions from Church members are given to LRR.

In July 2019, the LRR Board completed a refinancing. Funds received were used to pay off the existing loan, complete the purchase of the “Peter’s Property” from LPC, and obtain funds for a scheduled renovation. LRR was able to coordinate with the contractor during COVID restrictions to continue progress, without entering individual units. Extensive updates to the

LRR campus have included:

- Maintenance and repair of the parking lots and sidewalks
- Replacing the windows, heating and air conditioning units, and balcony railings
- Updating the interiors of the UFAS (Accessible) apartments
- Installing a sprinkler system throughout the building
- Upgrading the security system and providing keyed entrances
- Installation of a covered picnic pavilion structure on the patio at the Gardens at the Lewinsville, which has been a Godsend to LPC during Covid

LRR's resident population continues to become more diverse both ethnically and in terms of age. The Lewinsville's 161 apartments house approximately 173 residents. The residents come from 24 countries; the top five countries of origin are Korea, United States, Iran, Vietnam, and Peru. 90% of the residents are United States citizens. The residents ages range from 62 to 99; the average age is 78. The Staff and Board of Directors continue to focus on adapting The Lewinsville's programs and services in response to these trends.

All residents receive a rental subsidy from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 Housing Program, or from the Fairfax County Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program.

The LRR staff includes 16 full-time plus 5 part-time employees. In addition, the Board of Directors maintains a management contract with Goodwin House Community Services, Inc., an established, respected non-profit senior care organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.

LRR's strategic planning will focus on long-term capital planning, marketing, and community involvement.

### **Want to know more?**

Visit the LRR website to learn more. Feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors or Staff.

The Board of Directors for 2023-24 are: Sara Becker (President); Roy Siple (Vice President); Jane Edmonson (Secretary); Connie Church (Treasurer); Bill Chenault; and Erik Kloster.  
Staff: Courtney Nuzzo, Administrator 703-442-8300  
Website: [www.thelewinsville.org](http://www.thelewinsville.org)

## **Chesterbrook Residences, Inc. (CRI)**

### **Mission**

The mission at Chesterbrook Residences is to provide a caring Assisted Living community including many affordable housing units, offering solutions that enable us to serve residents with a range of incomes and for them to remain at the property even if personal resources diminish. Chesterbrook Residences blends a rewarding and vibrant lifestyle with a wide range of services, living options, amenities and convenience.



### **Quick Facts about CRI**

- CRI is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization. Its Board consists of three (3) directors from each of Temple Rodef Shalom (TRS), Immanuel Presbyterian Church (IPC) and Lewinsville Presbyterian Church (LPC), who are elected on a staggered basis at the Annual Meeting held in November of each year. One director is appointed by National Capital Presbytery (NCP) for a total of 10 Board Members.
- LPC nominations for Director representatives are approved by Session based on recommendations by the Older Adult Council of Lewinsville (OAC).
- CRI was developed by members of the three congregations and built on land leased from NCP for \$1 per year and financed with VHDA tax exempt bonds, loans/grants from Fairfax County, and \$1.065 million of gifts from TRS, IPC, LPC and the wider community.
- CRI opened its doors to residents November 1, 2007.
- It includes 97 units (85 one bedroom and 12 two bedrooms). Its occupancy rate was 95% or higher from 2008 until the last half of 2017 when it declined due to deaths and move-outs for various reasons, mostly the need for more intensive care than Chesterbrook could provide. Occupancy levels returned to nearly full occupancy (97%) for 2019, but declined in 2020 (88%) due to effects of the pandemic. Levels steadily increased since 2021 as the pandemic eased and marketing efforts resumed, averaging 91%, which is substantially higher than industry averages.
- CRI is a mixed-income community including 49 affordable units, 6 below market rate units, and 42 units at market rate (these rates are less than the comparable facilities in the for-profit sector).
- From its start the property has been skillfully managed by assisted living specialist Coordinated Services Management (CSM).
- A \$1 million Care Fund was established in 2008 to assure continued residency at Chesterbrook for those who could no longer afford to stay at Chesterbrook with Fairfax County providing \$500,000 in matching funds. That fund has grown substantially, even after applying funds to a significant number of residents.



## **2023 in Review for CRI**

- Resident and family activities fully resumed as pandemic restrictions eased. LPC volunteers returned to CRI and communion services resumed.
- There were very few COVID cases in residents and staff for the year, and all were relatively mild. Nearly all residents and staff received COVID booster vaccinations.
- CRI's 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for residents and volunteers took place in October at Chesterbrook.
- CRI's finances fared well in 2023 with a small budget surplus, although sharply rising wages and other costs have been challenging.
- CRI received an unqualified (which is excellent) auditor's opinion for its 2023 financial statements.
- CRI's financial reserves were essentially unchanged for the year. The Care Fund was \$2 million and the General Reserve \$3.3 million at the end of 2022, still at healthy levels.
- CRI's whole-building generator installation was completed in September. The project is the largest capital improvement in Chesterbrook's history with a cost of over \$600,000, part of which was funded by the bequest of an LPC member.
- Residents: 69% women and 31% men. The average age is 85 which has increased over the last several years so that residents are often not staying as long. A majority of the residents are from outside the local geographic area with many having family in this area.
- Transitional counseling has continued for new residents and their families, intended to ease the transition into Chesterbrook. This service is unique to Chesterbrook and is provided by our in-house Resident Services Coordinator/Social worker.
- Fundraising efforts continued with a letter campaign to families of current and former residents. Other fundraising events occurred supporting the Care Fund. CRI was the top seller at the McLean Chocolate Festival. CRI also utilizes a contract grant writer to expand its grant opportunities.
- Care Fund expenditures to support financially challenged residents was nearly \$130,000 for the year.
- The Board continued to support George Mason University's Health Administration program in Assisted Living/Senior Housing with a scholarship grant of \$10,000 over two years.
- Bremda Paredes continued as CRI's Executive Director.
- Scott Bartram served as President of the CRI Board and is succeeded by Jim Edmondson in that role for 2024. John Thomas is LPC's new member on the Board.
- Chesterbrook stands apart from other assisted living communities due to its strong connection with its three faith communities, its vibrant volunteer program, and its community service and social activities.

## **Looking Ahead**

- The Board of Directors continues to follow its Strategic Plan, meeting financial challenges and staying abreast of market changes.
- The quality of life at Chesterbrook Residences is greatly enhanced by the service and love of volunteers. Please contact Claire Grossi (LPC Chesterbrook Volunteer Coordinator) at [cbgrossi@gmail.com](mailto:cbgrossi@gmail.com) for information and volunteer opportunities once such activities are allowed again.

- We welcome anyone in the congregation who is interested in serving on the CRI Board or Board committees (Finance, Operations, Resident Services, Community Outreach and Fundraising) to contact one of the LPC Directors listed below for information.
- Please keep Chesterbrook Residences in mind for referrals of friends and family members looking for high quality assisted living in a caring community and also for charitable contributions.

*Submitted by 2023 Lewisville Presbyterian Church representatives on the Chesterbrook Board of Directors Scott Bartram, Jim Edmondson and Wendy Maiwurm.*

## **Lewisville Presbyterian Church Foundation**

There are many things to celebrate this new year.

Our church is many things to many people. The purpose of our facilities include fostering worship, both within the sanctuary and via modernized telecommunications and the many other activities that we engage in. We updated telecommunications to provide a platform for our many engaged and diverse members. The renovated facilities are not an end in themselves as much as they are a tool to foster and enable collaborative worship to take place in an attractive, comfortable and useful facility, or at home.

Some may wonder if the Foundation is a secret group of electronic currency traders who meet in a closet in the basement, hidden behind the summer project gear each week after the collections are received. Not so!!

The Foundation's Declaration of Trust states that the Trust's assets and income are to "perform and carryout the purposes of the Lewisville Presbyterian Church, to assist it by providing significant funds for major programs and charitable purposes outside of general operating budget and for additions to the church property".

Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has encouraged cash donations as well as planned giving to the Foundation, through wills, trusts, gifts, property, appreciated securities, IRA's and insurance policies. One important vehicle is The 1846 Covenant Society. See its detailed Report below. *Donations and bequests made directly to the Foundation have the same tax benefits as if made to the Church.*

In 2021 and 2022 the Foundation contributed approximately \$1.5 million toward the renovations. Yes, we need to replenish our Endowment to enable and foster continued support of the Church's mission.

In addition to the Foundation's Endowment, we continue to manage all memorial gifts made to the Church in its Memorials Fund, as well as other funds that have been donated for more specific uses. Relationship agreements (Memoranda of Understanding, or "MOUs") are in effect between the Foundation and the Church's Administrative Ministry Group, relative to the Church's Administrative Fund, Maintenance Reserve Fund and the Cemetery Fund, as well as

with the Church's Worship Ministry Group for the Music Fund. These MOUs authorize the Foundation Governing Board to invest monies available to those Ministry Groups. We also work with the Ramsey/Knoerr education and scholarship fund.

The Foundation's nine-member Governing Board, detailed below, is elected by and from the congregation. It utilizes an outside investment consultant to guide investment decisions and reports periodically to Session.

And now for the legal stuff. *The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code functioning pursuant to the terms of a Declaration of Trust created in 1985, as amended. It is charged with supporting Lewinsville Presbyterian Church by providing funds for major programs, charitable purposes, and additions to property that normally fall outside the general operating budget.*

**Submitted by Jim Maiwurm, Chair; Lori Gray, Treasurer; Covenant Society Recorders (Tanya Deyo and Sharon Gamble) & 1846 Covenant Society Administrator Mary Frase  
Other Trustees: Leslie Bumgarner (Secretary), David Foster, Bob Johnson and Jim Tenney**

**Memorials Dedication  
November 2022- November 2023**

The following memorial gifts are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving and faithful remembrance of those who have joined the Communion of Saints.

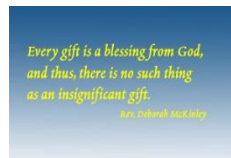
Anna Shaw	Music Fund (1846 Covenant Society Member)
George Ramsey	Montreat Conference Center; Youth and Young Adult Fund
Mary Ann Philipp	Memorial Fund; Children's Christian Education Fund (1846 Covenant Society Member)
Duane McKenna	Cemetery Fund
Elizabeth Stewart	Memorial Fund; Cemetery Fund
James Combs, Jr.	Memorial Fund
Mary Partridge	Memorial Fund
Gene Houser	Permanent Endowment
Jack Pearl	Memorial Fund (1846 Covenant Society Member)
Cynthia Nunez Rolfs	Permanent Endowment
Carl Klele	Memorial Fund

### Special Gifts and Bequests

Music Fund	Dr. Frank Nothaft
Permanent Endowment	Donald S. & Lora B. Watson (1846 Covenant Society member)
Permanent Endowment	Richard Eichhorn (1846 Covenant Society Member)
Permanent Endowment; Music Fund	Helen Martin (1846 Covenant Society Member)
Permanent Endowment	Gene Blanchard (1846 Covenant Society Member)
Permanent Endowment	Patsy Duke (1846 Covenant Society Member)
Permanent Endowment	Duane & Betty McKenna (1846 Covenant Society Members)

### 1846 Covenant Society

The 1846 Covenant Society, established in 2009 by The Lewinsville Presbyterian Church Foundation, *has one goal: build a spiritual legacy that will strengthen and extend the mission and ministry of Lewinsville Church for the benefit of future generations. To that end, all gifts and bequests to the Foundation are directed to the Endowment Fund. Members of the congregation and friends who notify the Foundation that they have included the Church and/or its Foundation in their estate planning automatically become members of The 1846 Covenant Society. The Governing Board gratefully acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to members of The 1846 Covenant Society.*



For more information about The 1846 Covenant Society and how to participate go to the website at <http://www.lewinsville.org/1846-covenant-society/>

Current members of The 1846 Covenant Society as of December 2023:

Anonymous Donor	Robert & Catherine Gaugler	Charlie & Reese Mendenhall
Anonymous Donor	Michael & Barbara Gibby	Roy Mitchell
Clay Ancell	Bob & Michelle Gottke	Marian O'Brien
Linda Bender	Bill & Lori Gray	Susan Pearl
Kristina Chereton	Jerry & Harriet Hopkins	Robert Philipp
Phil & Connie Church	Robert Hunter	Paul & Rosalind Phillips
John & Ionela Day	Charles & Mary Hutchison	Gary & Barbara Pinder
Michael Deese	Robert & Joyce Johnson	Ruth Riggins
Dan & Tonya Deyo	Carol Kaffenberger	Scott & Susan Schlegel
Lois Dokken	Kenneth & Anne Krieg	Adrian & Karen Steel
Bruce & Betty Douglass	James & Wendy Maiwurm	Alan & Liz Stevens
Jim & Jane Edmondson	Patricia McDonnell	John & Ruth Thomas
Linda Eichhorn	Roland & Bettie McElroy	Tom & Jane Waldrop
Vern & Janet Gale	Doug McGuire	

***Submitted by: Jim Maiwurm, Chairman; 1846 Covenant Society Recorders ( Tanya Deyo & Sharon Gamble); 1846 Convenient Society Administrator, Mary Frase and Lori Gray, Treasurer***



IN REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING  
OF CHURCH MEMBERS  
2023 DEATHS

<i>Dong Lee</i>	<i>January 2023</i>
<i>Margot Scheffey</i>	<i>February 13, 2023</i>
<i>Nance Kidwell</i>	<i>March 1, 2023</i>
<i>Dee Custer</i>	<i>April 11, 2023</i>
<i>Ruth Thomas</i>	<i>May 21, 2023</i>
<i>Frances Grimes</i>	<i>May 31, 2023</i>
<i>Earl Merritt</i>	<i>July 11, 2023</i>
<i>Steve Niemstra</i>	<i>July 13, 2023</i>
<i>Connie Schafer</i>	<i>July 26, 2023</i>
<i>William Richardson</i>	<i>November 15, 2023</i>
<i>Marian O'Brien</i>	<i>December 30, 2023</i>

*"O blest communion fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen."*