**CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH**

 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

 **ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS**

 **2021**



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**1**

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Greetings to All!

 I know this letter comes to you after my final Sunday with Chestnut Hill Church. I know there is sadness and disappointment for what could have been in the future. Do not be sad and do not shed tears. Our time together brought about some much-needed changes and some much needed vitality.

 Over the last 5 years, we have worshiped, fellowshipped, and spent a considerable amount of time working together to bring about some peace here on Earth. Do not lose sight of all the good we achieved.

 As you move into the future, with a new pastor at some point, I continue to hold you in prayer, praying that God will provide you with wisdom, love, patience, tolerance, and some more vitality to continue to grow and become all that God has ordained for this church to be.

 May God continue to bless you!

Pastor Christian

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**Pastor Christian’s 2021 Time and Visitation Report** **Visitation Log:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Visit:**  | **Number of Occurrences:**  |
| In Office | 60 |
| Over phone or via email | 55 |
| Hospital Visits | 15 |
| Physical Home Visitations | 3 |
| Counseling Sessions | 2 |
| **Total visits, meetings, and counseling sessions:**  |   | 135 |

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**Task Report:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Task**  | **Time Invested**  |
| Services Prepared  | 274.00 |
| Sermons Prepared  | 207.00 |
| Services Conducted  | 160.75 |
| New Member & Pre-marital Prep  | 12.25 |
| Administrative Duties  | 136.50 |
| Bible Study Prep and Sessions  | 23.50 |
| Meeting Time & Report Preparation | 98.75 |
| Confirmation Classes and Preparation | 30.00 |
| Visitations  | 57.50 |
| Personal Study  | 3.75 |
| Holiday/Vacation/Sick Time Taken  | 150.00 |
| Compensated Time Off  | 59.50 |
| Other activities  | 20.50 |
| **Total Hours & Tasks Completed**  | 1,234.00 |
| **Average Hours per week (52 Weeks)**  | 25 |

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**CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH PASTOR’S REPORT OF WORSHIP SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

Please note that this table does not include all, or only statistics for Chestnut Hill Church members. For instance, there are activities conducted by our pastor for members outside of the church, but rather we participated in those services through the ministry of Pastor Christian.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TASK:**  | **DATE:**  | **NUMBER OF INSTANCES:**  |  |
|  |
| **WORSHIP SERVICES:**  |   |   |  |
| **SUNDAY SERVICES**  |   | 49 |  |
| **FUNERALS:**  |   |   |  |
| Palmer and Jean Dyer | August 2 |   |  |
| Robert Rothmund | April 10 |   |  |
| Earl King | April 11 |   |  |
| Patti Sager | June 20 |   |  |
| Louise HuhnBetteanne “Betsy” Freed | July 31November 13 |   |  |
| **WEDDINGS PERFORMED**  |   | 1 |  |
| Kristy Sager and Janie Neff  | November 27 |   |  |
| **ASH WEDNESDAY**  |   | 1 |  |
| **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  |   | 1 |  |
| **EASTER SUNDAY**  |   | 1 |  |
| **CHRISTMAS EVE**  |   | 1 |  |
| **NEW MEMBERS ADMITTED:**  |   | 0 |  |
| Grace Adams | April 4 |   |  |
| Michael Gane | April 4 |   |  |
| Trinh O’Rourke | April 4 |   |  |
| Michael Roeder | April 4 |   |  |
| Gloria Roeder | April 4 |   |  |
| Leigh Hansen | May 2 |   |  |
| Valerie Hansen | May 2 |   |  |
| Kayley Hansen | May 2 |   |  |
| Jason Brookhart | July 11 |   |  |
| Stephanie Brookhart | July 11 |   |  |
| Aydin Brookhart | July 11 |   |  |
| Avery Brookhart | July 11 |   |  |

 STATISTICAL DATA REPORT:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |  |   |   |
| **Deceased Members**  | Jean Dyer |   |   | 4 |
|   | Robert Rothmund |   |   |   |
|   | Earl King |   |   |   |
|   | Patti Sager |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **New Members**  | Grace AdamsMichael GaneTrinh O’RourkeMichael RoederGloria RoederLeigh HansenValerie HansenKayley HansenJason BrookhartStephanie BrookhartAydin BrookhartAvery Brookhart |   |   | 12 |
| **Confirmation**  | None this Year  |   |   |   |
| **Baptism**  | Trinh O’RourkeAydin BrookhartAvery BrookhartHolden LaponukeAvery Laponuke  |   |   | 5 |
| **Marriage**  | Neff/Sager |   |   | 1  |
| **Attendance**  |  |  **Summer Only** **9:00 AM**  |   | **10:00 AM**  |
|   | Overall Average Attendance  | 36  |   | 39  |
|   |   |  |   |  |
|   |   | **VIRTUAL**  |   | **PHYSICAL**  |
|   | Change in worship related to COVID-19  | 39  |   | 37  |
|   |   |   |   |   |

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**Membership:**  **As of December 31, 2020** **281**

Received by Affirmation of Faith 9

 Received by Baptism 5

Received by Confirmation 0

 Removed by Death 4

 Removed by Transfer 0

 Removed by Request 3

 Removed by Council 10

**Membership:**  **As of December 31, 2021** **278**

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

2021 Members: Robin Shedlauskas (President), Cindy Buchter (Vice President), Laura Held (Secretary), Craig Adams, Debbie Koder, Ken Debus, Harry Rupp, Joan Slota

Outgoing Members: Ken Debus, Harry Rupp, Laura Held, Joan Slota

This has been a busy, challenging year for sure.

We began 2021 holding our meetings via Zoom, as the church was still closed due to COVID. Through numerous discussions, plans were made to reopen the church and resume in person worship on Easter, in April following CDC guidelines. Mask wearing and social distancing was put into practice and no problems were encountered. By summer, COVID restrictions were relaxing in the community, so mask wearing became optional. We have recently gone back to recommending masks during indoor services, due to the latest COVID variant (omicron). With safety as a priority, we have done well with our efforts .

Most teams/committees did not resume meeting as they had prior to COVID. We received regular updates from our Trustees, Finance, Stewardship, Policies and Procedures, Personnel, WWW, the Hoff endowment and Pastor regarding their activities. A new committee, Visitation, was started during the summer, and is chaired by Becca Bogert. The Cemetery Committee was restructured, some new members came on board and they are currently updating their Constitution and Bylaws.

Town Hall meetings were held in May and August to update the members on all the building improvements/repairs and other activities. The 2022 budget was approved at the December congregational meeting.

It has also been the year of “The Great Resignation” for us. Jessica Yaich, our church secretary; Heather Lippincott, bell choir director and Sunday School volunteer; and Pastor Christian, all tendered their resignations. We are very blessed to have Robin Klobotsits as our secretary and Pastor Mark Stryjak as our supply pastor. A pastoral search committee has been formed to search for a half time, long-term pastor.

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We have had many challenges in 2021, but we are still open and moving forward. We have members working together in harmony now. We have many mission projects and the congregation is active. We are very blessed!

In summary, the council members are your governing body of Chestnut Hill Church, serving the members of the Congregation. We are all working together to continue the work of Jesus Christ in our church, in our community and in our world.

Thank you to everyone for your support, especially our leaders and volunteers, for all your time and efforts. We appreciate the donation of your time and talents.

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**Music Director Report**

We have enjoyed a wonderful year of music at Chestnut Hill Church. It has been so wonderful to be back in person together. This year, I began adding more contemporary elements into the service especially with the postlude which I think has been enjoyable for all. We also have explored many new and different hymns this year to add to our repertoire, as well as singing all the classic favorites. My favorite part of this year was the choir performance at our Christmas Eve service. We sang two hymns together and I think it added so much to the experience. I really appreciate everyone who participated! I look forward to putting together something similar for Easter.

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**Chestnut Hill Church Cemetery Board Annual Report – 2021**

**Members:**  **Sam Leh, President; Brett Koder, Vice-President; Joan Slota, Secretary; Cindy Buchter, Treasurer; Jeff Bogert, Sales, Member-at-Large; Terry Miller, Historian, Member-at-Large**

During this year, 2021, the Chestnut Hill Church Cemetery experienced several transitions which included the institution of new board members and change of banking institutions once the church’s EIN number was coordinated with all cemetery accounts. During these transitions, all cemetery business ran without interruption with funerals taking place along with purchase of plots and general upkeep of the cemetery grounds being maintained. A major undertaking this year was repaving of much of the cemetery roadways with new macadam and having the local Veterans’ Legion provide for American Flag placement at designated gravesites. For the second year in a row, Wreaths Across America took place, honoring the Veterans buried within the hallowed grounds of our Cemetery. We thank Heather Lippincott for spearheading this project so that it could come to fruition. A total of sixteen burials were recorded and 13 plots were sold over the course of this year. The Cemetery Board worked together and created a Ways of Work Document which outlines the Purpose and Goals of the Cemetery Board which are listed below:

**Purpose: To** provide for the perpetual care of the cemetery grounds through designated funding, along with managing and maintaining accurate records regarding purchasing of lots for individuals, families, and their given heirs, so appointed.

**Goals:** Continuing upkeep of the cemetery grounds to include mowing grass, weed whacking, biannual collection, and removal of leftover debris on the cemetery grounds, in addition to the sale of individual and family plots with maintenance of both current and historical records as currently in possession the date of this initial Ways of Work document (9/8/2021).

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**Year-end Financial Status - 2021**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Ameriprise Investment Portfolio** | **Year-end Balance** |
|  | **Checking** | **Savings** |  |  |
|  | **$50,368.52** | **$6,170.48** | **$64,670.28** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **17,335.95** | **$1.62** | **$8,527.73** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **36,340.72** |  | **($2,50l.83)** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **$31,363.75** | **$6,712.10** | **$70,696.18** | **$108,772.03** |

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**Personnel Team Report**

**Year-end 2021**

Members: Robin Shedlauskas, Cindy Buchter, Kim Burns

 **As stated in the Personnel Team Ways of Work Document created by this committee outlining our purpose and goals:**

* To ensure church business is conducted adequately and appropriately by all employed church staff, according to policies and procedures.
* To oversee the hiring and termination of employees of the church which includes advertising for open positions and conducting interviews with prospective applicants. In addition, all matters related to employee functions will be handled by this group such as maintenance and updating of job descriptions, 6 month and annual evaluations of all part-time employees (as deemed appropriate given staff start dates), as well as conducting an annual evaluation of the Pastor by soliciting input from the congregation. All matters related to conduction of employee matters will be handled through best practice policies and procedures as reviewed and in compliance with the personnel policy as outlined by the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

This was a very busy year. The team worked together to develop the above Ways of Work (mission statement) unique to this committee which functions within the Chestnut Hill Church United Church of Christ body. The team held 5 meetings throughout the year (solely with Team members), which does not include the several meetings when we also met with staff to conduct a six-month and annual review with Karen Billger, Treasurer; annual reviews with both Sandy Gerhardt, Sexton, and Erica Dickson, Music Director. Additionally, we met several times with Pastor Christian throughout the year, assisting him with suggestions so that he could maintain his 20-25 hours/week part-time status even though he chose to continue to go above and beyond especially during the COVID crisis, getting us established with a virtual worship. The result of these meetings culminated in this team updating the church’s organizational chart. A copy of this can be found on the bulletin board in the church entrance way and at the end of this report.

Meetings continued with Pastor Christian following his hospitalization as we all worked together to ease his transition back to his weekly schedule following his stroke. This included having meetings with Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister, of the Northeast Penn Conference, so that the committee maintained best practice regarding personal policy and human resource fidelity regarding Pastor’s return to work.

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We were saddened to receive the resignations of both Jessica Yaich, Secretary, and Heather Lippincott, Children’s Choir and Bell Choir Director. Heather also informed us she was unable to continue to provide coverage for in-person Sunday School so, at this time we are looking for anyone that is interested in assisting with Sunday School to please contact either Robin Shedlauskas or Cindy Buchter.

We were very pleased to accept Robin Klobosits as our new church Secretary. Interview meetings had been held with Robin prior to her joining us as the new church Secretary. Please give her a warm welcome!

We were also very saddened to have received Pastor Christian’s resignation which was effective December 31, 2021. This team asked that a Breeze announcement be sent out to inform congregational members along with Pastor making this announcement, himself during worship services which were still being streamed at the time. Additionally, all other members who do not receive announcements via Breeze, were informed via a letter being mailed to their address of record. The team reached out to Pastor Mark, who has agreed to conduct weekly worship services, beginning sometime in January 2022, in the interim, as we begin the Search process for a new Pastor. The members of this committee will serve on the Search Team, along with other members from the congregation who volunteered to participate so that the general congregation would have representation.

Prior to having received Pastor’s resignation, the committee began the process of Pastor Christian’s annual review, soliciting feedback from the congregation via Survey Monkey. We also sent out a mailing with “hard copy’ surveys for those individual members who either do not have an email address or did not have one listed in Breeze – the church electronic database. Due to Pastor’s resignation announcement, his part of this evaluation was not completed, and, because of this, his annual evaluation could not be finished in its entirety.

And finally, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Kim Burns as she assisted this team to complete all the tasks before us. She, herself, tended her resignation and will no longer be a part of this committee. We are looking for any individuals interested in serving on this team/committee to please contact Robin Shedlauskas or Cindy Buchter know.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Buchter 15

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Chestnut Hill Church UCC Organizational Chart



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**Stewardship and Fundraiser Committee 2021**

We would like to again, thank all our members and their family and friends for their support over the last year.

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October 2, annual Yard / Bake Sale and Free Recycling Program.

**We had a Total profit of $ 2636.95 !**, We were able to sell several items on Facebook Market Place. They were well worth more than what we could have gotten from our yard sale.

We donated $200.00 to the Lower Milford Fire House, for the use of their hall.

Since our first yard sale in 2003 we have earned approx. $35,000.00 for the church !!!

Thank you to all our volunteers this year and in the past years, without your help we would not have been able to keep it going for so long, 18 years!

Side Note: This was my last year for running our annual yard sale. If someone else would like to take this over, I have all the contact information you need. Thank you, Debbie

 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Our ink jet cartridge recycling program at Staples allowed us to recycle ALL types of cartridges. We earn $2.00 per cartridge. These cartridges would have normally gone to the landfills! Remember large or small cartridges will gladly be accepted, just put them in the box in the lower narthex. The money earned helps to pay for more office supplies and more printer cartridges. When you consider all the bulletins and the newsletters that are printed for the church services and newsletter mailings this past year, this was a big help. **A Total Profit around $ 100.00.** Keep em’ coming…

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

The Lower Milford Festival in September was a **Profit $1130.00** Thank you to Rodney Slota, Ken and Alice Debus, Carole Vasilik and Debbie Koder. We sold Cabbage and Noodles, which was sold out before lunch time! We had some pre-yard sale items available and some very delicious baked goods. Special thank you to Joan and Rodney for donating all the proceeds from the sales of the beautiful handmade copper ornaments. These are a huge attraction to our booth.

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Our Christmas gift card fundraiser sold in Gift Cards, which earned us a **Total Profit of $ 946.77 in Gift Card Sales**!!! This money will be used towards our fuel bill. **Thank you** to everyone who placed an order for the gift cards. This will return again in October 2022.

 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Thrivent Choice Program - Total Profit of $ 2331.00** Chestnut Hill United Church of Christ is now enrolled in Thrivent Choice®. Thrivent Choice is a member-advised program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach funds each year. When eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars to Chestnut Hill Church in a particular month, Thrivent Financial reviews the recommendation and makes an electronic deposit into our account. Those funds may be used to carry out religious, charitable or educational purposes without restriction. If you are a member of Thrivent Choice and would like to make your choice dollars work for the church, please make sure to select Chestnut Hill Church from the online catalog and help us to build up funds through this program.

For all our Amazon shoppers, if you register your Amazon account under Smile and list Chestnut Hill Church as your charity, we earn .05% of sales into our checking account, that is free money!

For 2020 we earned a **Total Profit of $ 217.12** from our Smile Account, so keep shopping and smile!!

Thank you to all our volunteers! And remember, we are always looking for more volunteers!!

We would love to see some new faces join us and make 2022 even better!

**Grand total profit for 2021 was = $ 7361.84 !!!!!**

Sincerely, Debbie Koder

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**Hoff Endowment Board of Trustees Annual Report**

**Year-end 2021**

**Members: Bill Hoff; Cindy Buchter; Marge Trinkle; Larry Endy**

**During 2021, The Board of Trustees developed a Ways of Work document outlining the purpose and goals of the Endowment which are as follows:**

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

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

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

**Betty Lou’s Pantry** **$2,000.00**

**Purchase of a Dryer to assist a family in need**   **497.46**

**Scholarship to allow Heather Lippincott to attend virtual**  **195.00**

**Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in July**

**Chestnut Hill Church Grief Group**  **291.43**

**Sponsorship of Wreaths Across America**   **1,500.00**

**(Chestnut Hill Church Cemetery)**

**Total funds dispersed 2021**  **$4,483.89**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cindy Buchter**

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**Chestnut Hill Church UCC Whine, Women & Worry Team Report**

**Due**: One Week before the next Council Meeting

**Send to**: Laura Held heldy2@ptd.net

**Name of Team: Whine, Women and Worry**

**Date of Report: December 18, 2021**

**Members of Committee or Team: Alice Debus, women from CHC congregation**

**Accomplishments Since Last Report:** [this is my first report on WWW, so I will try to encompass what we accomplished since I was named Leader]

* **Dan Schantz Monthly Maddness** cards: we sold 45 cards at $20 each (we paid $10 each). Five cards remain to be sold—see Alice Debus if interested in purchasing a card.
* **Soap Sacks:** we made 235 knitted/crocheted filled soap sacks and donated to *The Ripple Community*, Linden St, Allentown—they help homeless and disadvantaged. There were also several bags of miscellaneous hygiene items donated by the congregation.
* ***The Kindness Project*:** Janae, founder, spoke to WWW at the September meeting. TKP aids foster families and kids in foster care. Everything at their location has been donated and they allow foster families to come and take whatever they need (includes cribs, strollers, diapers, formula, clothing, etc.). Often foster parents are called at the last minute to come pick up a baby/child and they may not have anything in the house to take care of these children. TKP is a very necessary contact to help get them started.
* **Hoagie Sale/Bake Sale:** We held our first hoagie sale 10/23/21. Very successful: we made over $622. This group of women work so well together. No bosses—just total cooperation.

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**Decisions Made at Recent Meetings:**  *these are votes taken for actions that are reported above or decisions that have been made to accomplish the work/ministry of the team*

* **Gift cards:** we purchased $1,500 of gift cards from Debbie Koder’s Scrip Program.
	+ $550 gift cards to The Kindness Project
	+ $550 gift cards to Family Promise (Roslyn Kuba had spoken at church about their organization, which helps families stay together while they search for affordable housing and employment).
	+ $500 gift cards to a family within our home congregation in need of help
* **Hoagie Sales for 2022:** we plan to hold two (April and October?), and charge more than $6 each (maybe $8—we had advertised 6” hoagies, while in reality they were 10”). We have all received rave reviews on the quality of the hoagies and the promise to purchase more next time.
* **Christmas Cards were sent to Prayer List Members from WWW**

**Potential projects for 2022:**

* + **Name Change:** we would like to change our name to something more conducive of what we stand for—helping and caring for the community. We don’t want to be known as whining, worrying women. We’ve been trying to keep the acronym WWW, but it’s difficult to find positive “W” words. Any suggestions are welcome.
	+ **Jubilee Zion’s UCC:** volunteer to make and serve breakfast to the homeless
	+ **Easter Eggs:** Easton Children’s Home (we did this last year—filled plastic eggs w/ candy and toys)
	+ **Backpacks for school:** for children at BLP
	+ **Stockings for Soldiers:** Joan Slota has a contact
	+ **Shoeboxes:** potentially do what Sunday School used to do
	+ **Soap Sacks:** Ripple Community was very grateful; do we donate to them again or a different organization?
	+ **Special Gift Food Bags:** for BLP Patrons
	+ **Fundraiser’s:** we need to rebuild our bottom line so we can make more contributions to the community in need.

Submitted by: Alice Debus

Contact Information for Questions: adebus1@ptd.net / 610-967-2811

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**2021 ANNUAL REPORT bettylouspantry**

2021 ANNUAL REPORT bettylouspantry.com 610-282-2838 The food bank board met February 4, May 6, August 5, and November 4. The names of the 12 Southern Lehigh Area Churches (SLAC) and their representatives are as follows: Assumption BVM Church Linda Matyas Calvary Bible Fellowship Church Enos Martin Chestnut Hill Church Alice Debus Cornerstone Presbyterian Church Barry Hoffman Faith United Church of Christ Chuck Talboo Friedens Lutheran Church Kristin Nepomuceno MorningStar Moravian Church Audrey Green Saucon Mennonite Church Kathy Weitzel St. James Lutheran Church Preethy Jayant St. Joseph Church Peggy Patterson St. Johns UCC Martha Helverson St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Deb and Dean Stover Officers:

President: Chris Page Vice President: Chuck Talboo Secretary: Linda Matyas Treasurer: Pam Page Others: Restocking – Chuck and Karen Talboo, Tim Talaber, Bob Shelly Donation acknowledgements – Anne Nichols Application review – Chris Page HIGHLIGHTS

Due to Covid, we continued to serve patrons outside using prepacked boxes of food which are packed the week leading up to distribution. Approximately 33% of the families came twice a month.

Special holiday dinners: For Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, we gave out a meal which consisted of a turkey, ham or lasagna and a pie. We served 94 families for Easter, 83 families for Thanksgiving and 96 families for Christmas. We used community donations made at Giant to purchase most of the food. Thank you to Giant for delivering all the food in your Peapod truck. Girl Scout troop 637 provided many of the pies. Thank you girls and to Marcie Weaver for coordinating everything!

Betty Lou’s Pantry is the beneficiary of two large food drives – the Letter Carriers in May and the Boy Scouts in November. This year, the letter carrier food drive was replaced with a national GoFundMe campaign which raised $3740 from 66 donors. The scouts’ food drive yielded a whopping 24610 pounds. Special thanks to Matt Woodruff for coordinating all the scouts to staple 10,000 flyers to paper bags and sort, pack and stock all the food. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Because we are using the shed to store the prepacked boxes of food, we needed a place to store close to 600 banana boxes. Thank you to St. Paul’s Blue Church for letting us use one of the rooms in your church.

The last few years we have been blessed with churches, individuals and community groups who sponsor a family for Christmas. Instead of gifts, this year we asked for monetary donations and received $9993 which was used to purchase Walmart gift cards. Each child and senior received $50 while the other patrons received a $25 Giant card.

For several years, a small group of people, started by Jen Johnson and now led by Dave Fagerstorm, the president of the Greater Lehigh Valley YMCA have been working on building a YMCA in Southern Lehigh. This year, land was secured behind the Copperhead Grille, consultants were hired and a feasibility study was undertaken which we are still in the process of completing. Assuming all goes well, Betty Lou’s Pantry will be able to move out of our basement and into a ground level room that will house everything in one place including the food drives food, the 600 + empty boxes we store for food drives and our off premise freezers and refrigerators. The time frame is 3-5 years.

This year we had to find a new home for the 600+banana boxes we store for the food drives and the borough of Coopersburg offered to let us use one of the old police car garage bays which worked out perfect. Previously they were stored in the basement of St. Johns church. Thank you to both the borough for letting us use the space and for St. Johns for letting us use their basement for several years and for donating one of their refrigerators to us.

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We purchased two new freezers that are installed in the garage bay. Thank you Barry, for doing the wiring. We have had problems with the basement flooding over the years when we get a heavy rain storm so to help prevent that, an Eagle scout cut a trench in the floor and directed the water to the sump pump. We did not see any water make it onto the floor this year! Thank you Nate and all the other scouts who helped. To add further protection, a battery backup system was installed to keep the sump pump running. Thank you Barry for hooking everything up.

VOLUNTEERS Keeping the pantry stocked with food for over 300 people is an enormous job. After each distribution, the restocking crew takes inventory and then places orders at Second Harvest. Over 5000 pounds of food is loaded, unloaded and stocked on the shelves every two weeks. On the off weeks, special fill in purchases are made at various stores and stocked in the pantry. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the Second Harvest crew: Ken Bogle, Alice Debus, Laura Heldy, Cheryl Levy, Lesley Motruk, Frank Milcetich, Diane Neiermeier, Bob Shelly, Jeffery Stocker, Tim and Cindy Talaber, Chuck & Karen Talboo,and Susan Valasek. We could not do it without all of you. A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Chuck and Karen Talboo for managing the whole restocking process and for the countless hours they put in at the pantry and to Tim and Bob who go to Second Harvest to make the pickups!!!

On the Wednesday and Friday before distribution, volunteers prepack food for 60 families. Each family receives the same quantity of food which is comprised of 26 core items. The Wednesday crew packs for 30 families which goes in shed and the Friday crew packs for 30 families which stays in the pantry. Thank you to Erica and her family for packing on Wednesday’s and to Hilary, Jan2elle and Nell for packing on Fridays.

During the year, we added some new crews to help so thank you to Greg and Wendy for helping the Wednesday crew and thank you to Dottie and Dave and Preethy and her family for taking over the Friday packing. Thank you Hilary, Janelle and Nell for all the months that you packed boxes. There is no way that this can happen on distribution day so thank you to everyone who takes the time to pre-pack the food. We distribute on the second and fourth Saturday each month from 9-10:30. There are separate crews for each day. The day starts at 8am setting up outside. Thank you to Matt Woodruff for loaning us his portable carport tent. Also thank you to Bob Schubach for setting up tents when needed. 14 tables are removed from the shed – thank you to Faith UCC for loaning us the tables. All of the boxes of help yourself food are removed from the basement, sorted out onto the tables and then at the end of the day, repacked and returned to the basement. Sometimes there are 10 tables worth of help yourself food - food and non food items that do not fit our 26 core items. Cherie and Roy Raub pack meats on both days – thank you both. Peter Farrell handles the shed both days- thank you Peter. Bread is sorted and bagged. Patrons are checked in as they wait in line in their cars while the prepacked boxes of food are moved from the basement or shed to the patrons cars. Julia packs additional orders in the basement in case 60 is not enough and to make sure we have enough for our Wednesday night families. Thank you to all who either answered the call to help or reached out to the pantry to offer help. We could not do it without you. A special thank you to my counterpart, Christina Gettins who oversees the entire Saturday distribution 12 Saturdays out of the year. On distribution day, the “bread crew” makes a run to Giant and Fresh Market to pick up donations of bread and baked goods. Thank you to Steve and Mar Grimes and Donna and Keith Polizzano. Connie and Jon Kirsch did both runs for years until they moved to warmer weather. Thank you both for all your years of service.

We continue to pickup bread and baked goods at Giant on non distribution weeks and distribute it around Coopersburg. Thank you Deb and Dean Stover for handling this. A special thank you to Stephanie Shapiro who checks the

food pantry answering machine. While this may not sound like a big deal, she sometimes gets six or more calls a day about food assistance, donations or volunteering, all which needed to be addressed. Thank you Stephanie. Some families cannot make it on Saturday so we have a special pickup on Wednesday night. A big thank you to Tracy Zapach for handling all the Wednesday night pickups.

Anne Nichols is our “thank you” volunteer who sends out a personal thank you letters whenever the need arises. In 2021, Anne sent 138 letters. Thank you, Anne, for continuing to help with this. During this past year, we estimate over 150 volunteers have helped in one way or another. Thank you all!

DONATIONS Throughout the year, Betty Lou’s Pantry receives monetary donations from various individuals, organizations and the 12 covenant churches. Here is a recap of 2021. Organizations - $6404 Churches - $6440 Individuals - $59165 Businesses – $6877 Giant gift cards - $27047 Second Harvest grants - $13401 Fresh Market - $4409 With the huge outpouring of financial support we continue to receive from the community, each patron received a $25 Giant gift card each month. Thank you to Donna Martonik for picking up the donations at the Center Valley post office, to Marybeth O’Neill for picking up at the Coopersburg post office and to Kathie Parsons for pickup up donations at the Southern Lehigh Library. Thanks also to Tim Talaber for picking up prior to the Wednesday stocking day.

We receive an enormous amount of community food donations which sometimes requires trips 2-3 times per week. Thank you to the Southern Lehigh comm

unity for your faithful support and thanks also to the three different drop off locations for letting us use your facilities. Thank you to the Steeley family for donating 85 dozen eggs throughout the year. Fresh eggs are greatly appreciated by the patrons.

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Throughout the year, Betty Lou’s Pantry receives calls for help for all types of things. Even though we are technically a food pantry, for many people, we are their hope for help. Thank you to everyone who answered those calls of help.

STATISTICS – These numbers reflect families coming twice a month: Families 18-59 1-17 60+

Total New Individuals

January 110 155 115 65 335 3

February 112 174 107 70 351 1

March 132 202 145 83 430 4

April 91 138 78 52 268 1

May 106 166 97 62 325 1

June 106 158 92 61 311 1

 July 82 120 75 49 244 1

August 101 127 79 66 272 5

September 92 127 69 65 261 5

October 111 154 96 69 319 6

November 119 180 160 52 392 8

December 149 224 186 75 485 7

Annual Totals 1311 1925

1299 769 3933 43

Monthly Average 109 160 108 64 333 3

Thank you to everyone who donated his or her time, money or food to help support Betty Lou’s Pantry in 2021. For those I missed acknowledging, I apologize, but thank you too. It is truly a team effort!

With your support and prayers, we will continue to help our neighbors in need throughout 2022. God Bless you all,

Respectively submitted,

Chris Page

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**Chestnut Hill Church Memorial Garden Committee Report 2021**

The committee always looks forward to spring and new garden growth and

color from the many perennial flowers in our memorial garden.

Spring clean up participants were Marjorie Trinkle, Mike Gane, Karen Billger, Barb Leh, Debbie and Brett Koder. They also cleaned up around the fire pit.

Black Friday garden clean up participants were Mike Gane, Debbie and Brett Koder. They cut down the garden and overgrowth by the fence along the parking lot.

Debbie Koder sprayed the stone parking lot 2 times for weed growth during the summer.

In spring 2022 we plan to purchase triple ground mulch for which **we will** **need help spreading the mulch around**. The spreading date will be announced. We are always looking for volunteers to help throughout the growing season whether it is for weeding or for general clean up.

Our garden lawn mowing volunteer is Harry Rupp.

Thank you to all who volunteered this year.

**May God grant peace and serenity to those who enter our garden.**

Committee members: Brynn Clark, Heather Clark, Helene Endy, Diane Gehman, Kathy Kale, Brett and Debbie Koder, Heather Lippincott, Carol Vasilik, Harry Rupp.

We would be most grateful to have new members/volunteers to help keep our garden beautiful.

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**Finance Committee Report**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Checking / Savings Accounts:**  |   |   |   |
| *(as of 12/31/2021)*  |
|   | QNB General Savings |   |   |  $ 15,563.39  |
|   | Improvement Fund |   |   |  $ 9,115.87  |
|   | Special Savings |   |   |   |
|   |  Memorial Fund |   |   |  $ 10,937.08  |
|   |  Mission  |   |   |  $ 11,606.68  |
|   |  Garden/Landscapting |  |   |  $ 322.43  |
|   |  Sunday School |   |   |  $ 685.01  |
|   |  Steeple |   |   |  $ 729.39  |
|   |  WWW |   |   |  $ 952.21  |
|   |  New Church Sign |   |   |  $ 504.04  |
|   |  Fuel Oil |   |   |  $ 1,757.01  |
|   |  Cemetery Board |   |   |  $ 69.00  |
|   |  Audit |   |   |  $ 3,000.00  |
|   |  Other |   |   |  $ 116.10  |
|   | Total Special Savings |   |   |  $ 30,562.85  |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Investment Portfolio:** |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   | Miller Endownment |   |   | $465,571.93  |
|   | Hoff Endowment |   |   | $205,959.64  |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Cemetery Portfolio:** |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |  QNB Checking |   |   |  $ 31,363.75  |
|   |  QNB Savings |   |   |  $ 6,712.10  |
|   |  Ameriprise |   |   |  $ 70,696.18  |
|   | Total Cemetery |   |   |  $ 108,772.03  |
|   |   |   |   |  |

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Miller Endowment, investment held by Magellan Financial Inc., these funds are designated for income and all expenditures must be approved by the Council and the Congregation. The initial investment was 415,500; the end of year investment value (with accumulated earnings) is $465,571.93.

Vivian Hoff Endowment, investment now held by Magellan Financial Inc. (Fund transferred in December from SA Stone Investors, Inc.) These funds are restricted, and the interest earned has been designated for Music, Worship, Christian Education, and Community Outreach. All requests for funding are reviewed by the Hoff Endowment Board of Trustees and Council prior to disbursement., The initial investment was $150,000; the end of the year investment value (with accumulated earnings) is $205,959.64.

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STEWARDSHIP DONATION REPORT:

**Chestnut Hill Church Annual Giving Report**

**January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021**

In 2020, we had 90 giving units, where a giving unit is counted as each adult member who has an offering envelope. Married couples always count as one giving unit because they will share an envelope between them.

Here is the breakdown of giving, by giving units, as defined above:

Units giving between $1 and $99 17

Units giving between $100 and $499 32

Units giving between $500 and $999 15

Units giving between $1,000 and $1,999 13

Units giving between $2,000 and $3,999 8

Units giving more than $4,000 5

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