

Annual Congregational Meeting Committee Reports

January 31, 2021

Hilton Presbyterian Church

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Book of Reports

Pastor.....	Rev. DeSarro-Raynal
Clerk of Session.....	Lisa McKean
Administration & Finance Committee.....	Paul Clear
Christian Education Committee.....	Megan Thornton
Congregational Care and Fellowship Committee.....	Kathryn Dabbs
Mission and Outreach Committee.....	Dawn Ramirez
Presbyterian Women.....	Beth Rivenbark
Property Committee.....	David Kluttz
Worship Committee.....	Francie Pearce & Barbara Savage
Director of Music.....	Lois Reese
Hilton Presbyterian Preschool.....	April Miller

Minister's Annual Report

It wasn't the year we wanted. The pandemic virus put a clamp upon nearly everything we do. The hardest part was having to suspend our in-person gatherings -- worship in the sanctuary, Christian education, fellowship events, committee meetings, and seasonal programs like VBS and Advent Workshop. It's been really hard. We are the church, but for now, there's no sitting side by side or holding hands. We miss the sound of our voices singing and praying together. We miss our chatting and laughing in the narthex. It seems an odd fit, but until the virus is gone, each of us must do our part to press it away in all the ways we can, by wearing our masks, washing our hands and keeping our distance.

The truth is, we're going to be okay. Now are days when we especially look to church for signs of God's love and care. We can't be here in person, but we're here in Spirit. We rise up for the Lord every day wherever we are, and our faith is strong. Read the ministry reports in this packet. See the good things that happen in spite of the pandemic. The Lord has blessed us well in that we were able to move many things in church to a virtual format. We've gotten pretty good at sharing videos and zoom calls. We read our church emails, make phone calls and text like never before. In many ways our witness is stronger. See the reach of our Congregational Care team. They keep up with everyone and tune their ears to all our needs. See what our Worship team has learned. We missed not a Sunday of worship, sharing God's Word through story, song, video slides and art. Moreover, you have been faithful in your giving. By the grace of God, we ended our budget year with a surplus. You've hope in all that's yet to come.

We're going to be okay. We are so grateful for the effective vaccines now being distributed, and we pray everyone receives their doses by this summer. We pray the dear Lord watch over the sick and protect us all. We pray we do all we can to help one another. We are one in Christ every day, and come this summer/early fall, we'll be back together, side by side, in every way.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Clark

Reverend Clark DeSarro-Raynal, Pastor

Membership Report for 2020

Total # of Active Members 01/01/20 173

ADDITIONS:

Profession of Faith 0

Letter of Transfer 0

Reaffirmation of Faith by Confession 0

TOTAL: 173

LOSSES:

Deaths 3

Letter of Transfer 4

Removal by Request 0

Removal due to Inactive Status 0

Active Membership as of December 31, 2020 **TOTAL:** 166

Names of Additions:

Marriages:

Park/Garihan

Baptisms:

Creighton Snyder

IN MEMORIAM – Necrology 2020:

Larry Knight

Margaret Lassiter

Mary Church

Average Weekly Attendance (Jan/Feb): 92

We are in good standing with both the PCUSA and The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

Lisa McKean, Clerk of Session

Administration & Finance Committee

The Administration and Finance Committee is responsible for two broad areas: financial management and human resources. It also maintains the information technology infrastructure of the church. It oversees the two volunteer treasurers and has three subcommittees: Personnel, Memorial Gifts and Stewardship. It also conducts the financial business of the Vision & Architecture committee.

The members are:

- ⊙ Paul Clear, Chair of A&F and Chair of Memorial Gifts
- ⊙ Pax Goodson, Chair of V&A and Co-Treasurer
- ⊙ Christine Maculley, Co-Treasurer
- ⊙ George Barber, Chair of Stewardship
- ⊙ Blythe Raines, Chair of Personnel Committee
- ⊙ Chip Shefelton, Suzy Baker, and Andy Grayson.

Treasurer's Report: We ended up with another good year. The budget for the year called for a \$2,738 surplus, yet we ended up with a surplus of \$66,245. There was an additional \$22,495 over budgeted revenue in non-pledged giving this year and \$33,000 in a forgiven GOV COVID loan. ⊙ Expenses were under budget by approx. \$12,000. \$10,000 of the year end surplus will be given to Community Missions committee for them to distribute as they see fit. \$26,245 will be held by the church for future use.

Vision and Architecture: The current balance of the V & A Loan is \$85,835. We expect to use \$30,000 of the 2020 budget years surplus against this loan.

Budget for 2021: The budget adopted by Session has several changes from 2020: ⊙ The staff received compensation increases at 2.5%. All committees prayerfully considered their request for budget and were given their request in full. As usual, this congregation and their leadership have done a great job in developing a budget that we together can achieve!!

Memorials: The Memorial committee started 2020 with \$5,785.35. There were \$650 in Memorial donations increasing the fund to \$6,435.35 There were no request for funds this year.

Personnel: Yearly reviews on all employees have begun. These employees include the Custodian, Office Manager, Organist, Music Director, and Pastor. We are so grateful for this group who continue to work so well together and serve our church with their love and support.

Elder Paul Clear

**Hilton Presbyterian Church 2021 Budget
with Comparison to Last Five Years**

	Actual Results					Budget
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Operating Revenue	278,726	287,450	277,894	273,027	324,900	276,660
V&A Capital Campaign Revenue	223,785	109,662	45,956	3,815	-	
Personnel Expenses:						
Pastor	87,419	86,335	87,966	87,108	89,626	92,468
Office Mgr	40,052	38,177	38,931	38,431	39,816	40,680
Choir Dir	20,999	22,412	22,845	22,095	23,287	23,849
Organist	10,910	11,118	11,204	10,831	11,547	11,823
Custodian	13,981	14,811	14,761	14,563	14,547	15,826
Childcare	1,298	794	756	836	271	1,184
Insurance, PNC, Misc	937	1,560	1,524	1,569	1,429	1,400
Subtotal	175,596	175,209	177,990	175,433	180,523	187,231
Committees:						
A&F (Supplies, Copier, Accounting)	16,561	14,593	18,562	14,883	15,184	14,884
Property (Maint, Utilities, Insurance)	42,775	44,768	48,556	46,325	42,985	45,325
Christian Education	3,977	3,649	3,300	2,223	1,278	3,575
Worship	4,701	5,558	5,589	6,230	3,651	6,650
Stewardship & Session	267	266	429	235	292	550
Missions	16,595	17,168	17,119	14,391	14,518	15,775
Cong Care	507	806	1,125	1,098	96	1,150
Total Expenses	261,249	262,898	272,911	261,316	258,684	275,140
Surplus/(Deficit)	17,476	24,552	4,983	11,712	66,215	1,520
Year-End Balance Sheet:						
Total Assets (*)	288,585	200,087	210,279	187,327	245,271	
Long-Term Debt		(155,273)	(149,366)	(95,152)	(85,835)	
Total Unrestricted Equity	20,826	26,426	30,591	42,302	37,080	
Total Restricted Equity	267,759	18,387	30,323	49,872	122,357	

(*) By tradition, we do not include the land and building in our assets.

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee (CE) serves the Session and members of the church by overseeing the education of all youth and adults in the Christian faith. The committee orders curriculum and supply materials, organizes and plans for camps, educational classes, intergenerational events, and activities. These include Rally Day in September, Sunday school, Bible study classes, Solomon's Porch, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Advent workshop, youth conferences at Presbyterian retreat centers, and opportunities for the youth to serve the community through service and fundraisers (yard sales, Chili Cook-off and Pancake Supper). The Christian Education committee also acts as a liaison to Hilton Presbyterian Preschool, which utilizes much of the first-floor building area during the school year. The preschool families are typically invited to participate in many of these church functions. Customarily, the church members are invited to and enthusiastically participate in reading time for the children and generously provide the preschool families with "Parents Nights Out" periodically during the school year.

In March of this year, the governor ordered restrictions on gatherings in enclosed spaces in response to the novel coronavirus, and Hilton Presbyterian Church began our journey into the virtual. As CE's activities, listed above, are all of the in-person variety, it has been a quiet year for CE. We are proud to report that, thanks to the hard work of director Susan Murphy and the preschool board, the preschool has been able to continue to hold classes in-person safely since September. We have been offering weekly "Faith Together at Home" activities on social media to try and fill the Sunday school gap, Clark has been offering Zoom Bible study sessions for adults, and Solomon's Porch has been meeting virtually. We hope to begin the return to our regular activities in 2021.

The CE committee includes Anna Chenoweth (co-chair), Megan Thornton (co-chair), Allison Hund (preschool liaison), Lisa McKean, Vicki Signorelli, and input from all of our Sunday school teachers listed below.

Sunday Classes

Children and Youth

Preschool- Kathryn Dabbs

Grades K-5- Lisa McKean, Anna Chenoweth, Megan Thornton, Doug Baker

Middle and High School- Dan Chenoweth, John Krikorian

Adults

The Margaret Lassiter Discussion Class - Barbara Savage, Jay Taylor

Faithlink - Sue Hogue, Lisa Schlickemeyer

Men's Bible - Charlie Slagle

Solomon's Porch - Doris Slagle

Elders Megan Thornton and Anna Chenoweth

Congregational Care and Fellowship Committee

Members of our dedicated group are: Izzy Drewer, Leslie Leser, Betty Blackburn, Charlie and Doris Slagle, Judi Riutort, Diane Clear, Linda Chapman, Jackie Connor and Carole and Jay Taylor. Co-chairs are Debbie Barber and Kathryn Dabbs. Amy Burgener is the Session Representative.

At the beginning of the year we continued to sponsor Lemonade Socials following in-person worship. Since the beginning of the Pandemic and the closing of the church building, we have been unable to host any Fellowship events. We really look forward to when we can be together again, and we welcome any recommendations for fellowship activities.

Due to the Pandemic, committee "Care" responsibilities have substantially increased. We have continued to maintain our "Care Chart". This consists of our committee members being assigned members of the congregation that are either dealing with an illness, a bereavement, other personal crisis, or are unable to easily leave their homes. The committee member contacts their assigned individuals via phone calls or cards (prior to the pandemic in person visits were also encouraged) with the assignments rotating every three months.

During the early stages of the Pandemic initial concerns focused on reducing the risk of contracting Covid for those over 65. Most people were pretty much staying in their homes and avoiding contact with others as much as possible. To address the isolation issues that some people might face, committee members were assigned to contact them on a weekly basis, preferably by phone. Due to the number of people involved, other volunteers have also helped with this outreach. This has been a blessing both to the caller and the person receiving the call. Special friendships have been formed. The committee continues this outreach, never dreaming it would still be necessary nearly a year later!

In a welcome return to normal, flowers have been added to our worship services and the Elder of the Week has been safely delivering them to church members and friends of our congregation.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of our vital church committee, please let Debbie or Kathryn know.

Debbie Barber and Kathryn Dabbs, co-chairs

Missions and Outreach Committee

The Mission and Outreach committee is called by God to love and serve others. We are the face and hands of the church in our community, offering up time, treasure and talents in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Although COVID-19 has prevented us from participating in some of our usual activities, our committee has remained active during the pandemic, participating in the PORT homeless shelter and joining in a socially-distanced CROP walk to end hunger.

Members include chair Dawn Simonds Ramirez, co-chair Jym Newton, Susan Banning, Clark DeSarro-Raynal, Mary Ellen Dreybus, Melissa Goodson, Patti Grayson, Sue Hogue, Lisa Schlickemeyer, Shelly Simonds, and Doris Slagle. Unofficial but working hard are Patti Caccavale, Kathryn Dabbs and Vicki Signorelli.

Things we do include

- Support LINK of Hampton Roads
- Assist the Backdoor Ministry soup kitchen at St. Vincent DePaul
- Coordinate Preschool Parents' Nights Out for our preschool parents twice a year
- Collect for Tori's Closet, the FoodBank and Thrive
- Provide support for the Rachs work in Mexico
- Coordinate the Halloween hospitality stop with hot chocolate, water and bathrooms
- Coordinate the Red Cross blood drive twice annually
- Provide exam snacks to hundreds of appreciative students at CNU in April and December
- Collect the Nickel A Meal (NAM) offering four times annually to support PEVA Hunger Action, THRIVE, and the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank
- Stock the Little Free Library and collect the community prayer pot
- Donate clothing, shoes, food, and household items and distribution to local mission partners
- Host PORT (People Offering Resources Together) in December and serve as a partner church in November and January.
- Donate thousands of dollars given by our congregation, over and above the mission/outreach budget, to PCUSA Special Offerings, NAM, and gifts given at Advent Workshop

Because of our work here at Hilton Presbyterian Church, we are designated an official Hunger Action Congregation. The dedication of our members as witnessed with the Backdoor Ministry and PORT, and our donations to local and regional organizations that address food insecurity has made us one of only 111 churches in the PCUSA that have this recognition.

Elder Dawn Ramirez

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian women stopped meeting once the lockdown was put in place. Circles collect two offerings each month; least coin and a love offering. The Least Coin collection was sent to Presbytery, and we decided to give the love offering to the food bank hoping to help families during the pandemic.

Beth Rivenbark

Property Committee

Hilton Presbyterian got through the year without any catastrophic building repairs, but there were some repairs that needed attention along with the usual building maintenance. The following bullet points highlight the general maintenance performed throughout the year.

- The O rings in all the preschool sinks were replaced and slow draining sinks were repaired.
- The toilet by Pastor Clark's office was repaired because it was leaking.
- The Main Water Shut off Valve in the boiler room was replaced with a lever shutoff valve because it was leaking.
- The runoff drain in the fellowship hall closet was unclogged and serviced as it could not process runoff from the icemaker.
- The ice maker is not refrigerating properly and needs to be serviced.
- The Boiler Maker received its annual startup maintenance.
- The preschool replaced the tile flooring in one classroom with a grant they received.
- The property committee replaced the carpet in another preschool classroom with matching vinyl tiles.
- The preschool laid down mulch in the front yard to make the playground safer. This was paid for with the grant the preschool received.
- A couple new soap dispensers were installed in the preschool.
- The rubber stair runners on some of the staircases were re-glued as they were coming loose.
- The property committee maintained the church grounds throughout the summer saving the church a good deal of money that was normally paid to a lawn service.
- The small air conditioning units in the main office and Pastor Clark's office were serviced and filled with Freon.
- The gate by the bell tower was repaired as it would not shut.
- The door in the Sanctuary leading to river road was serviced/repaired by Coffey's as it could no longer be secured.
- General maintenance included changing out a few smoke detectors, a carbon monoxide sensor and lights throughout the church as well as fire code inspections, pest control inspections and custodial supplies.

If anyone notices a repair that needs to be completed at the church, please bring that need to my attention.

David Kluttz - Elder

Worship Committee

Please don't misinterpret my failure to visit you, friends. You have no idea how many times I've made plans for Rome. I've been determined to get some personal enjoyment out of God's work among you, as I have in so many other non-Jewish towns and communities. But something has always come up and prevented it. Everyone I meet—it matters little whether they're mannered or rude, smart or simple—deepens my sense of interdependence and obligation. And that's why I can't wait to get to you in Rome, preaching this wonderful good news of God. ~ Romans 1:13-15, The Message

Like the apostle Paul, we long to be together again in person! God created us for relationship - not just with God but with each other. In early 2020, we had no idea that our "something {that came} up" would be a pandemic, and that, after March 7th, our worship relationship would move online. With thanks to God, we did so, equipped with gifts that made the transition easier than it might have been.

During Lent 2020, we began sharing daily devotions - "Words for the Wilderness" —on Facebook Live. What we learned doing this was immediately put to use for Sunday worship and weekly prayer services. These were soon available on the church website for those without Facebook accounts. Outgoing office manager Megan-Drew Tiller Benfield's knowledge of technology, including but not limited to OBS (Open Broadcasting System) and Canva (a graphic arts resource), was invaluable, as was that of incoming office manager Patti Grayson. Surely, music was the most challenged portion of the liturgy. But as you've read in her report, music director Lois Reese rose to that challenge with exceptional skill, creativity, patience, and love.

While we didn't need ushers or nursery attendants, we were as blessed as ever with volunteers who recorded welcomes, calls to worship, scripture and gospel readings, children's sermons, and prayers. Seeing each face and hearing each voice has been heartwarming. With a \$2,000 grant from the Presbytery, we were able to purchase a video camera to improve the quality of our live-streaming. Though we don't see their faces, we are especially grateful to our volunteer tech team, who are running the camera, the soundboard, and the laptop in the sanctuary.

We gathered together through our devices to celebrate Easter, to hear a Cantata, to share communion, and to have a front row seat for a Virtual Christmas Pageant and a Journey to Bethlehem. Each week, we heard the good news, we greeted each other, we shared joys and concerns, and we passed the peace by typing and clicking emojis. Our congregational worship, though changed, remains faithful - and still longing "to get to you."

Barbara Savage & Francie Pearce - Elders

Director of Music

Lois Reese – Music Director

Doris Slagle – Organist

Highlights for the year:

Well that's how this report usually starts. This year's list will be much shorter. Covid shut our program down, just as the Adult Choir was digging into rehearsals for our spring cantata entitled, "Gaudeamus" (Let Us Rejoice). Choirs had little to rejoice about this year. We look forward to presenting this program at a future date. We instead put together a virtual hymn sing, with choir members coming to the sanctuary to record, one at a time or in family groups to record. My knowledge of Canva for making slides and Audacity for audio editing began to grow.

Lois attended Montreat Music and Worship Conference virtually. The creativity flowed out of the presenters in new ways but, being in the mountains of NC and singing with 300 of your closest friends was the thing that was missed most. Lois was a presenter at the Handbell Musicians of America National Conference from the comfort of her living room. Classes in handbell weaving technique and African and Latin Rhythms were well received.

We met bi-weekly on Zoom to keep in touch and were able to get former members of the choir and friends far and wide to contribute musical offerings in worship.

While summer is usually a time of rest from rehearsals, the Hilton Ringers began to meet again in small groups. Many handbell composers jumped into the small ensemble pool with both feet. We were able to assemble again as a full choir for the fall and pre-recorded some special music for Christmas Eve and a mini-concert on Christmas Day via Facebook.

Lois spent many hours following the group Masks for Performers on Facebook and many more hours at her sewing machine making singer's masks for choir members to be able lead hymns live in worship.

In October, Lois and Doris premiered "Invocations" by Timothy Waugh, the piece that was commissioned for Doris' 20th Anniversary at HPC. It was a very different setting of the tune GREEN TYLER (Doris' favorite) and great fun to play for both of us.

For Advent we were able to feature each of our groups on one Sunday. The Adult Choir did their first virtual choir and the Youth Jam, Hilton Ringers and Ensemble all got to play live in worship. What a joy!

High Notes Music School continues to hold monthly drum circles and private lessons. We all have high hopes for the vaccine and its distribution so that we will be able to gather and sing to our hearts' content soon.

Lois Reese, Director of Music

Hilton Presbyterian Preschool

(Period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)

The board of directors met 5 times during the school year to plan and discuss preschool business, focusing on student and family needs, fiscal status, operations, and staffing. As always, the meetings were well attended. Members included: Matthew Cox (chair), Dawn Cole (vice chair) Andy Thornton (treasurer), Megan Thornton (Church Member at Large), Beverly Becker (secretary), Jillian Balay, Magen Lefkowicz, April Miller (parent rep), and Susan Murphy (Preschool Director and advisor to the board). The board of directors is committed to supporting the purpose of the preschool in fostering a Christian environment that nurtures the student's readiness for literacy and celebrates the individual child.

Hilton Presbyterian Preschool had another wonderful year with steady enrollment, even though we had to end the school year in March due to Covid-19. The board made the decision to offer payment to our wonderful teachers for April, even though no tuition was collected. A large number of families graciously donated some or all of their budgeted tuition payments, which helped to offset the loss.

We had the addition of one new staff member, Magen Lefkowicz, who will be one of Wednesday's Lunch Bunch teachers. Four teachers (Margaret Goggins, Kim McKnight, Jill Manning, and Jamie Cox became EMAT certified over the summer. This certification allows them to administer emergency medications such as Epi-pens and inhalers). Now six staff members have the certification.

In closing, 2020-2021 will begin the 56th year of Hilton Presbyterian Preschool. This is an exciting and special time for the preschool. This educational ministry of HPC provides a Christian foundation and love of learning for many of the children of Hilton and its surrounding communities. We are thankful to the church and session for its support and prayers for the years ahead.

Sincerely,

April Miller (Hilton Presbyterian Preschool Board Chair, 2020-2021)