



744 Fair Oaks Avenue
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Annual Report
2024 – 2025

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Co-Pastors' Report

We co-pastors always find ourselves full of gratitude when reviewing the prior year, and perhaps this past year more than any other.

To begin, the two of us were able to enjoy the first sabbaticals of our careers. What an incredible gift from our church family! Approaching this time of rest and renewal in different ways, we each came back from our sabbaticals with an extra measure of vitality and inspiration.

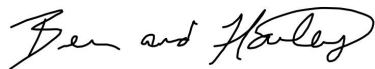
Which was good! Because the rest of this year was loaded with new projects, programs, and ministries, and lots of celebrations, the marking of our 100th year being a keystone, year-long event. During this busy centennial year, our church has also grown by leaps and bounds with new members and dozens of visitors and new friends. Not many churches right now can claim the amount of growth and activity that FOPC has experienced. It is a remarkable thing to be a part of, and we do not take it for granted.

On top of that is how generous of a church you are. Pledging increased by over 15% this past stewardship campaign, and that's in addition to all the other ways you give to the church and *through* the church!

Additionally, we are so grateful that as of this very week our growing church can celebrate a growing pastoral staff with the arrival of our new associate pastor, Rev. Kori Robbins. We are elated to have her join us along with the best church staff we have had the pleasure to work with in Linda, Rose, Monica, and Cathy.

Of course, the buzz and the growth are all for naught if it's all for us, but that could not be any further from the case at Fair Oaks. FOPC is a happening place, to be sure, but we are a congregation defined by love: how much we love each other and how much we love our local community, national community, and our global partners. As has been true in other recent years, this past year we as a church have demonstrably deepened our commitments to justice, equality, diversity, truth, and hospitality. Keep up the good work, friends. You are proclaiming none other than the very love of God in a world in ever-increasing need of it. Truly, we are so grateful to be with you as Fair Oaks begins our second 100 years.

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben and Hailey". The script is fluid and cursive, with the names written in a single line.

Ben and Hailey, co-pastors

Roster of Session and Board of Deacons

Elders and deacons are elected to office by the congregation. They serve three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms before rolling off for at least one term.

The Session

The Session is responsible for oversight of the mission and government of the local church. The Session consists of ordained elders who have been elected to office by the congregation.

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Carey Beck	Barb Mayer	Steve Perkins
Kathy Fox	Joe McIntyre	Wendy Toan
Wendy White	Rachel Tesch	Derek Inksetter
Greg Wolski	John Vishneski	Caroline Older

Clerk of Session: Cathryn Steeves

The Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons provides several ministries as they care for the congregation, as discussed on the following page.

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Nancy Carr	Julia Inksetter	Jim Haglund
Bill Green	Lisa Lewis	Lisa Johnson
Anette Nam	Gayle O'Carroll	Charlie Mayer
Phyllis Tresselt	Julia Schroeder	Doug Strubel

Board of Deacons

The Book of Order describes the role of deacon as providing “compassion, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ.” This past year has been full of stressors over the election, hurricanes, fires, and loved ones in pain or passing away. Fair Oaks also had lots to celebrate in its 100th year. Throughout it all, the deacons are there to lend a helping hand in service to the congregation of Fair Oaks.

The Deacons are organized around three areas of service to the Fair Oaks Community: *Immediate Care* provides help and prayer in times of crisis, such as illness, death of a loved one, or job loss. This team works on a rotating schedule to ensure one deacon is on call to reach out to those in crisis and to coordinate the church’s response to any needs. Confidentiality is maintained as requested by those seeking help. The Immediate Care team is headed by **Nancy Carr** and staffed by Jim Haglund, Lisa Johnson, and Charlie Mayer.

Member Care seeks to maintain contact with the broader Fair Oaks community by celebrating life events, maintaining relationships with all congregants, and connecting with visitors. This year, the Member Care team continued to provide gifts to newborns, care packages to college students around Valentine’s Day, Lenten booklets, flowers, and Nancy Van Der Griend’s special cookies at Easter. The Member Care team reaches out to visitors who provide the church with contact information to welcome and serve as a resource for discovering the programs and ministries of Fair Oaks. On the first Sunday of the month, the team took turns encouraging those arriving at Fair Oaks to participate in Name Tag Sunday. The Member Care team is headed by **Phyllis Tresselt** and staffed by Doug Strubel, Gayle O’Carroll, and Anette Nam (baby and college gifts).

Hospitality is an important ministry to foster community after service. The hospitality team supplies coffee, tea, water, the occasional apple cider mix in the winter, lemonade in the summer, and allergen-free food after worship and other church gatherings. This time allows members and visitors alike to build and nurture relationships. This year had some extra special events that the deacons were proud to be part of, including Fair Oaks’ 100th anniversary celebration. The Hospitality team is headed by **Bill Green** and staffed by Lisa Lewis and Julia Inksetter (laundry).

We would like to give thanks for the gifts of service and generosity of two deacons who are finishing their terms this year: **Phyllis Tresselt and Anette Nam**. Phyllis happily stayed connected with members of Fair Oaks, particularly those who have a more difficult time attending church in person. She led the initiatives to provide Lenten booklets, flowers, and more to these members and regularly checked in with many members. Anette Nam always made sure there were plenty of food and drinks for folks to enjoy after worship. She tapped in to her crafty skills to create newborn gifts, Christmas ornaments, and new deacon name tags. The deacons were lucky to have served with Phyllis and Anette. We would also like to thank Bill Green and Nancy Carr for answering the call to serve another term as deacons.

Julia Schroeder, clerk of the Board of Deacons

The Session of Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
2024 Statistical Report of the Clerk of Session

Starting membership: 332

Gains

Certificate gains 4

Youth by profession of faith 0

Professions or reaffirmations 13

Losses

Certificate losses 0

Deaths 2

Removed from Rolls 0

Membership as of 12/31/2024: 347

Baptisms

Presented by others 2

At confirmation 0

All other 0

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church - Oak Park, Illinois
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation – January 28, 2024

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch at 11:06 a.m. and opened with prayer. A quorum was present.
- II. **APNC Update:** Laura Baig reported on the search for an associate pastor. She said that because many people have left the ministry, there are few candidates available for part-time positions. As a result, the committee does not expect to fill the position very soon.
- III. **Financial Report and Budget:** John Vishneski presented a summary of results. Revenue came in as expected and total expenses were above budget – in part because of the July flood – resulting in a deficit for the year. Pledges received for 2024 were the highest of the last five years, and we have budgeted for an increase in expenses, in particular for the associate pastor position, resulting in a deficit for 2024. The Session views the new position as investment in the future. There was a short period of questions and comments from the congregation.
- IV. **Terms of Call:** Mr. Vishneski made a motion to change the co-pastors' terms of call. In particular, the 2022 terms of call included 2% raises and an increase of \$1,000 for entertaining/professional expenses. After discussion, the new terms of call were unanimously approved.
- V. **Adjournment and Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. and closed with the Benediction by Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, moderator

Cathryn Steeves, clerk

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church - Oak Park, Illinois
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation - May 19, 2024

- I. **Call To Order.** The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was called for the purpose of electing officers and receiving the Annual Report. It was called to order by Moderator Rev. Ben Lynch at 10:57 a.m., and opened with prayer.
- II. **Election of Officers.** Cheryl Hover, Session representative for the Nominating Committee, reviewed the members of the Nominating Committee.
 - a. Ms. Hover presented the committee's nominations for the office of Elder, Class of 2027 -- Wendy Toan, Caroline Older and Derek Inksetter and Steven Perkins for a second term. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and the candidates for office of Elder were elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - b. Ms. Hover then presented the following candidates for the office of Deacon - Class of 2027: Charlie Mayer and Doug Strubel and Jim Hagland and Lisa Johnson for a second consecutive term. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and the candidates for the office of Deacon were elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - c. Ms. Hover presented Greg Webster to serve as an at-large member on the Nominating Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and the candidate was elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - d. Ms. Hover presented Bill Kuehl, Julia Mattiace, and Kennedy O'Carroll for the APNC replacing Greg Meadors, Thomas Smith, Margo Eldred and Connor Kuehl. The candidates were elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - e. Rev. Lynch thanked the outgoing Elders and Deacons, APNC members, and Nominating Committee members for their service to Fair Oaks.
- III. **Presentation of the Annual Report.** 11:06am. Wendy White presented the Annual Report, a description of the church's activities for the 2023-2024 program year, financial reports for 2023, and statistical information on church membership and participation.
- IV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Ben Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Ben Lynch, moderator

Cathryn Steeves, clerk

Adult Education

Committee Members: Kathy Fox (Chair), Cheryl Hover, Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch

The Adult Education committee met bimonthly, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our plan for the year was to provide programs that will appeal to any of our members, at various times throughout the week in addition to Sunday mornings.

We started the church year with Rally Day, sharing our Adult Ed plans for the year. We have been fortunate to have some new leaders, Kristen Balzer, Nicole Scott, and Beth Potterveld, provide some wonderful Sunday morning education programs. Kristen led a program using Visio Divina, a visual approach to experiencing scripture, a class called “the Bible is Awesome”, and a series about Encountering God in Scripture. Nicole led an Advent Series on prayer, a Lenten Series on encountering God in scripture, and led us through an Annual Examen in January. Beth provided interesting information about the meaning of our sanctuary stained-glass windows and taught us about Pentecost. Cheryl Hover and I also led some Bible study and video discussions, including one about MLK’s letter from the Birmingham Jail. For World Communion Sunday Tracey Truesdale led us in cooking communion wafers.

The Fair Oaks Book Club met the fourth Tuesday of each month at members’ homes. We again alternated fiction and non-fiction books each month and are going to the theater again this year to see *The Iliad* at the Court Theatre. We had 6-12 people join us each month to read *No One Is Talking About This* by Patricia Lockwood, *What the Qur’an Meant And Why It Matters* by Garry Wills, *The Warden* by Anthony Trollope, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, *A Short Stay in Hell* by Steven Peck, *All My Knotted Up Life* by Beth Moore, *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle, and *Unapologetic* by Francis Spufford. Our books for the next year (starting in September) have been selected and we will be posting the list on the website soon.

The Thursday morning Bible study (9:30-10:30) led by Hailey continued this year with around 12 people participating. We have a variety of books that we read over 6-8 weeks and then discussed a few chapters each week. This year’s book included *The Great Divorce* by CS Lewis, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, *Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life* by Bob Lupton, *The First Advent in Palestine* by Kelley Nikondeha, *Small Victories* by Anne Lamott, and *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Crossan. We are currently reading *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles about her journey to become a Christian which has led us to prepare a meal together to deliver to Housing Forward.

The Thursday evening Bible study (6:00-7:00) led by Ben started up again with 6-10 members participating. This group read different scripture-based books including *The Bible Makes Sense* by Walter Brueggemann which led to interesting discussions. We are currently reading *Rehearsing Scripture* by Anna Carter Florence which is giving us a new way to experience the Bible.

A small group of parents of kids and teens met for ten weeks on Monday evenings led by Nicole to discuss the book *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn’t Have to Heal From* by Meredith Miller. The group created a safe space to reflect on experiences, learn about approaches that are harmful and helpful, and to dream about weaving webs of faith in their unique family settings.

I am finishing my term as an Elder on Session and will be turning over my responsibilities for Adult Ed to a new Session Member. Kristen Balzer and Nicole Scott joined Cheryl, Hailey, and me to discuss plans for the next program year and how best to meet our members' needs for learning. This summer we will be building the schedule for Sunday Adult Education programs and publishing them on the website in advance so everyone will be able to look at the list to know what is coming. We also plan to share the schedule monthly during Sunday worship so people don't miss the opportunity to participate in some of our special programs.

Thank you to all the leaders and the participants in all of our programs this year. Being in community with each other has brought a deeper understanding for me of what it means to be a Christian, and I hope it has for others, too.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Fox

Buildings and Grounds

Committee Members: Members: Carl Kreiter, Kent Bromley, Lamar Johnson, Rev. Ben Lynch (by force), John Beck, Joseph McIntyre, Dave Potterfield, Mike Balzer, Derek Inksetter

Buildings and Grounds is comprised of:

- The Property Committee: who works to meet monthly in person or updated via email
- Handy Service: a company that we call in monthly to work on task items at the Church and at the Manse
- AV Task Force
- Sub committees for: Manse, Interior, Exterior, and Kitchen Liaison
- The Church Body: who updates me on any issues that arise throughout the church

The Mission of Buildings and Grounds is to be good stewards for the building properties (Church and Manse) that are entrusted to the FOPC Church Body, to leave a legacy in a healthy, beautiful church building and home that has been here before we were and will be after we are, and to establish routine financial commitments to ensure long term viability of our church properties.

Notable events this year adding to the Buildings and Grounds is taking over the Memorial Garden as a part of our lawn and exterior maintenance.

Property Committee:

We continue to work through projects and add to our Task list. This list has items listed in sections titled "Ongoing Maintenance", "CAPEX", and "Special Projects". We code each "task" to a sub committee.

Our committee has reestablished a regular cadence of meetings, usually monthly, and our subcommittees work to make progress on their items between each meeting.

Each month we add to the list based on feedback from the congregation, our observations, and long-term needs that the church properties have. We organize them into the categories and prioritize them and get them completed through a Handy Service, or congregational support.

AV Task Force: We are working to understand if this is still needed.

Key Highlights:

- Drainage and Alleway – Lamar
- AV update installed (completed in August!) – Derek
- Manse Handy Services – Joe
- Church Handy Services – Joe
- Manse new AC – Ben
- Completed Boiler install at church – Carl
- Miscellaneous Church Needs (Squirrels, Carpet Cleaning, Electrical, etc...) – Kent, Monica
- Confirmed new Chimney for Manse
- Added maintenance program for Manse and Church boiler and AC equipment

- Boiler Vent Install
- Chimney Manse Repair
- Additional items in Church Handy Service

Still to Review:

- Ice Machine for Kitchen
- Work being undertaken at Manse
- Interior updates
- Exterior updates
- Lexon Update of Church
- Manse Interior Update

Approvals/FYI:

- Lexon for entryway – need to schedule

While these are just some key highlights and processes we have put in place, we have many items we are still working to schedule and set up for the long-term future of our church properties.

While we know that the physical property of our church is just a building, we must ensure we have a healthy physical property so that when we gather in his name, then he too will be amongst us.

May our property outlive us all!

Joseph McIntyre

Children and Youth

Committee Members: Rachel Tesch (moderator), Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, Marci Ko, Elizabeth McVey, Beth Potterveld, Jaden Wielhouwer (through June 2024)

The Children and Youth Committee met regularly this year with the goal of providing religious education, spiritual connection, and fun for the children and teens at Fair Oaks. Since this committee covers the ministry areas of focus of our previous youth ministry intern, Jaden, and our soon-to-be associate pastor, Kori, and the church did not have those positions filled this year the committee worked especially hard to bridge the gap for our church staff. The committee members additionally coordinated and led elementary Sunday School throughout the program year using curriculum from Sparkhouse Digital for multi-age classrooms to maintain a creative and welcoming space for the 4 to 7 children who regularly attended. In November and December the Sunday School hour was used to help the twenty elementary and preschool participants prepare for the Christmas pageant. The annual Christmas pageant was held during worship on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Middle School Sunday School was led again this year by the dynamic team of Lamar Johnson and Meghan Webster who used the Spirit and Truth Narrative Lectionary curriculum and always created a safe and inviting atmosphere for the middle school students to laugh, learn, and, of course, eat donuts each Sunday.

During the year, in addition to weekly Sunday School for elementary and middle school, FOPC held monthly events for Mid-High Youth Group and Senior-High Youth Group, including an overnight retreat, service opportunities, fun field trips to an escape room and Funtopia, lunches and study breaks at the manse, apple-picking, and white elephant gift Christmas parties. This program year Clara Bonnlander and Katherine Bromley provided an additional opportunity for 5th-8th grade girls to meet once a month and build deeper relationships of trust and care as they navigate the tween years. The Senior High Youth Group also planned, prepared, and preached two Youth Sunday services in July 2024 and April 2025. We have several fantastic youth group leaders:

- Mid-High: John Beck, Clara Bonnlander, Cheryl Hover and Greg Topel
- Senior-High: Kent Bromley, Steve Perkins, Elizabeth McVey and Elaine Johnson

The 2024 Senior High Mission Trip was to Pensacola, Florida where the group helped with efforts to restore healthy ecosystems in the gulf coast. The committee worked to prepare for the 2025 SHMT to Atlanta by overseeing numerous fundraising events including donut days, Fall Feast collection, March Mission Trip Madness, and directing the offering collected during Youth Sunday to the trip.

The second year of Logos Summer was held in June 2024 with 30 children attending the full day camp and over 30 adults and youth from the congregation volunteering to make the week possible. The children enjoyed activities including: worship arts (music), compassion, story, cooking, science, bible, recreation and drama. The committee has focused on coordinating the third year of Logos Summer in June 2025 with the help of our 2025 summer intern, Katelyn Paeth.

We look forward to welcoming our new associate pastor, Rev. Kori Robbins, and her leadership with the Mid-High and Senior-High students as our youth groups continue to grow!

Submitted by Rachel Tesch, moderator

Outreach and Community Engagement + FOPC100 Task Force

Committee Members: Anette Nam, Caroline Older, Christine Baumbach, Lindsay McIntyre, Derek Inksetter, Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, Wendy Owen, Grace Fox, Carey Beck (Chair)

Fair Oaks Celebrates 100 Years

We launched a Centennial FOPC100 Campaign during the 2024-2025 Program year at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. It kicked off on Rally Day with signage throughout the church building/grounds, and yard signs scattered across our local community in member's front yards. Our main message for the entire program year centered upon:

Honoring our Past - Celebrating our Present - Welcoming our Future

An article ran in the Wednesday Journal announcing the celebration of our 100th year, along with an ad promoting the upcoming Artisan Market hosted at Fair Oaks in October. Throughout the year, "Fair Oaks Flashback Fridays" drove engagement with our growing online community (now over 500 followers).

This was a very active 100th program year! Notable highlights included: the dedication and completion of the Memorial Garden and the Stewardship Committee's successful pledge campaign in November which exceeded its goals. Fittingly, the congregation actively "welcomed our future" by unanimously approving new Associate Pastor Kori Robbins who will start June 1. Led by other Church leaders, these milestone moments beautifully reflected the past/present/future Centennial messaging and helped round out a remarkable program year leading up to the official Centennial Celebration weekend.

An overflow crowd packed Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church on May 4 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. Co-pastors Ben and Hailey Braden Lynch were joined by former Fair Oaks pastors Rev. Al Butzer and Rev. Wayne Myers, former associate pastor Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill, and former children's education directors Julie Giegler and Jan Shoup in leading the congregation in the Centennial Worship Service. The Choir was led by Rose Guccione and the Adult Bell Choir was led by Linda Van Dyke. The service culminated in a singing of "Sanctuary" by FOPC Mission Trip Alumni.

Following the service, a Celebration Lunch was enjoyed by all in Fellowship Hall and under a tent on the south lawn. Pastor Ben emceed the program that featured games, a group activity, a letter from Jane Peterson and remarks from longtime member Karen Bromley. The Logos Dessert Crew & Friends baked special Centennial cookies for the whole crowd and commemorative crosses were handed out as mementos. The OPRF Jazz Quartet performed live music. Many happy reunions were shared and you could feel the love all around.

Special thanks to the Centennial Task Force (Carey Beck, Nancy Van Der Griend and Phyllis Tresselt) along with the army of church volunteers who helped make Centennial Celebration Events so magical.

Additionally, special thanks to the Outreach and Engagement Committee for their work over the past year planning the FOPC Centennial Campaign. Specific shout outs for: Grace Fox for lending her time and talents to design the centennial logo and signs, Lindsay McIntyre for writing the news article, and Anette Nam for her ongoing leadership to design all of our ads that run in the Wednesday Journal.

Link to Google Photos featured in Slide Show [HERE](#)

Additional links:

[FOPC100 Campaign Brand Guidelines, created by Grace Fox](#)

[Centennial Sunday Worship Bulletin](#)

[Historical Overview Bulletin Insert](#)

[Wednesday Journal article and ad \(September 18, 2024\)](#)

[Easter ads](#)

[Christmas ad](#)

Congregational Activities

Committee Members: Rev. Ben Lynch, Karen Bromley, Kristi Dahm, Wendy Owen, Steve Perkins (Moderator), Wendy White

The Congregational Activities Committee offered a full year of events to provide fun and strengthen the bonds of fellowship within the Fair Oaks community. Events held this program year include:

Rally Day (September 8) A sandwich buffet lunch was served following service. Representatives from all FOPC organizations presented posters and information to share with the congregation and new and old members curious about getting involved.

Fair Oaks Tailgate (September 13). A broad group of congregation members gathered at the Steeves/Perkins house for a cookout before a home OPRF football game. Fun was had by all!

Fall Feast (November 17) The delicious annual potluck dinner was a huge success!

Advent Luminaria (December 21). A small group assembled and installed luminaria along the 700 block of Fair Oaks and Thomas. This Light Up the Night-Oak Park event coincided with the Fair Oaks Longest Night Service, providing beautiful lights for those attending.

Parents' Time Out (January 31 and February 28) This is an event open to all parents with school age children. Big thank you to our hosts: the McIntyres and Kreiters. Both events drew a good crowd of parents for pizza while the children played in the basement with senior high babysitters.

Spring Breakaway to the Smokies (March 24 - March 28) The congregational activities committee sponsored a second Spring Break trip to Little Arrow Resort in Townsend, TN. We had over 50 members attend, enjoying daily hikes and other outdoor activities, games, great food, fellowship and devotional time. It was an amazing trip!

Chili and Pie Potluck (April 6) The Ford-White household hosted a spectacular potluck chili and pie dinner. The unusual warm weather allowed for an outdoor table.

Summer Celebration (upcoming – June 8) The taco truck will return! A bouncy house and lawn games will provide entertainment for all ages.

Submitted by Steve Perkins, moderator

Finance and Special Gifts

Committee Members: Kent Bromley (Treasurer), Martha Fluharty, Ken Van Der Griend, Lisa Johnson, Chris Marzec, Jeff Schroeder, Cathryn Steeves, Wendy White (Moderator), Greg Wolski (Financial Secretary)

This past year, the Finance Committee modernized our accounting system by moving bookkeeping online, changed banks, streamlined bookkeeping for greater transparency, consolidated accounts, and enhanced our audit procedures (see exec summary of report below).

In the fall of 2024, the Session approved the establishment of an Endowment Fund to celebrate our 100th year anniversary. This Fund complements our existing capital reserve fund, which addresses short-term emergencies, and our operating reserve fund, which manages uneven giving and spending throughout the year. The Endowment is designed to hold larger gifts, including legacy giving, to provide future leaders with security in navigating uncertainties while providing flexibility to meet challenges and take us securely through the next 100 years.

2024 Financial Audit Report

The FOPC Financial Policies, along with the PCUSA Book of Order, require an annual review of the records and internal controls of the church. The Finance Committee selected three of its members, Martha Fluharty, Cathryn Steeves and Ken Van Der Griend, as the Audit Committee to conduct the 2024 review. A draft version of the Audit Procedures, prepared by the Finance Committee, was used to guide the review and includes using audit techniques such as random sampling and transaction documentation inspection to review these areas: Balance Sheet, Revenue, Expense, Payroll, and the reconciliation between Realm (our giving portal), and QuickBooks (our accounting system). The goals of a financial audit are to ensure the accuracy, reliability and compliance of the accounting system and the financial statements.

Fiscal Year 2024 was not a typical year for accounting at Fair Oaks. A new Treasurer, Kent Bromley, started in the role in March. During the year we switched accounting systems from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online, which reduced our accounting costs but presented a large learning curve for the Treasurer and Office Manager. We also changed banks from US Bank to PNC. During the year, the finance committee documented finance policies and procedures and, in so doing, made several processing changes. The Finance Policies were approved by Session and the Finance Procedures are currently being tested and reviewed.

The Audit Committee, while finding several minor exceptions noted below, have concluded that, overall, transactions are accurately recorded and very well documented, financial controls are well executed, and the financial statements are accurate. This is due to the extraordinary amount of time put in by Kent Bromley, Monica Sheehan and the entire Finance Committee, especially Wendy White, Lisa Johnson and Jeff Schroder. All of this was to make the accounting function more efficient and accurate.

The Finance Committee is dedicated to ensuring that we operate on sound financial principles, enabling us to fulfill our mission within our congregation, our communities, and around the world, both now and in the future.

Submitted by Wendy White, moderator

LOGOS

LOGOS Board: Wendy Toan, Karen Bromley, Rose Guccione, Rev. Hailey Braden-Lynch, Beth Potterveld, Linda Van Dyke

Another successful year of LOGOS is in the books. We had twenty-three kids enrolled from grades 1-5, eighteen from middle school and twelve from high school for a grand total of 53 kids. Children, youth and adults gathered each Wednesday from September through March to experience the four parts of LOGOS: Bible Study, Worship Arts, Recreation & Play and Family Time. We experienced growth in enrollment from last year, and we expect that to continue as many new families have enrolled and have told their friends. We also had several children come on Shadow Night which is on the final night where kindergarteners and invited friends come to try out the program.

The LOGOS kitchen was staffed by some amazing chefs: FOPC members Karen Bromley, Jim Eldred, Wendy Owen, John Messina, Julia Inksetter, Kathy Fox, Lisa Johnson and Martha Fluharty. Our returning Dinner Dean was Steve Perkins and table parents, Bill Green, Tracey Truesdale and Sophie Eldred. Thank you one and all!! Current parents volunteered to prepare, set up, serve and clean up at Family Time. The delicious desserts provided by our wonderful baking team/ministry led by Nancy Van Der Griend were indeed the highlight each week. LOGOS Sunday was held on March 16th and all ages contributed to making the service splendid and meaningful. We look forward to another successful year building new relationships, spreading God's love each week, treating all as children of God and having fun!

Submitted by Wendy Toan, moderator

Faith in Action

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

Committee Members: Mike Balzer, Clara Bonnlander, Jerry Bramwell, Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, Carol Huck, Marci Ko, Linda Martens, Barbara Mayer (Chair), Beth Messina, Nancy Van Der Griend

The Faith in Action/Mission Committee of Fair Oaks is charged with coordinating ongoing church mission activities, seeking out and evaluating new opportunities locally, nationally and globally, and educating and informing our congregation about these opportunities. We seek to:

- Strengthen Fair Oaks' relationship with a small number of local agencies to increase the impact of our work.
- Pursue hands-on projects to support our monetary giving.
- Enhance focus and involvement in global mission.
- Coordinate and publicize FIA efforts throughout the church.

In response to Christ's call to serve God's children, Fair Oaks is committed to dedicate at least 13% of annual pledges to mission work, in collaboration with partner agencies and congregations.

Highlights of the 2024-25 year:

- Funded **Friends of TASAAGA**, an organization dedicated to improve the lives of disadvantaged youth and rural communities in Uganda affected by HIV/Aids and poverty, through supporting the construction of a secondary and vocational school.
- **The Third Fair Oaks Market** was held October 19, 2024. The proceeds were shared between the Senior High Mission Trip and our three Austin Partners, A House in Austin, Bethel New Life, and Austin Coming together.
- **Provided 25 clean-up bucket kits to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** in response to Hurricane Helene and Milton.
- **Continued supporting the migrant family** Juan Carlos and Jean Carlo Franco Herrera. We provided funds for food bi-weekly for Juan Carlos, funded and arranged summer activities for Jean Carlo, funded a pool pass and CRC membership for both of them. We provided an opportunity for Juan Carlos to participate in the Fair Oaks Market by selling Venezuelan desserts and to print drink cups for the 100th Anniversary.
- Funded **Working Water the Gambia**, a non-governmental organization, which built a solar powered water well in a rural village in the African country of The Gambia.
- Funded **Gambia Rising**, a small, committed team of Gambians and Americans working to make it possible for deserving Gambian students to stay in school.

We continued traditional initiatives such as:

- One Great Hour of Sharing which supports Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Night Ministry Christmas stockings for the unhoused.
- New Moms and Infant Welfare Society Christmas coat and gift drives.
- Housing Forward lunch preparation for emergency shelter, building small groups to cook for new emergency shelter, and ongoing food collections.
- Hepzibah hat/mitten drive, school supply drive, and Christmas Eve loose offering.
- Learning Edge Tutoring Program which completed its fourth successful year at FOPC. Stats for 2024-2025 can be found after Faith in Action budget details below.
- The list of organizations FOPC is supporting in 2025 follows below.

Faith in Action 2025 Budget

	Beneficiary	Vendor Name	Totals	% Of Pledges
Global Ministries	Gambia Rising Scholarship	Gambia Rising	\$1,000.00	
	Gambia Water Well	Water Charity	\$6,000.00	
	Presbyterian Cuba Partners Network	Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church	\$2,000.00	
	Thailand: McGilvary FOPC Scholarship Fund	McGilvary College of Theology	\$1,000.00	
	Thailand: Payap U. Scholarship Fund	Payap University	\$1,000.00	
	Thailand: Prince Royals Coll. Sch. Fund	Prince Royals College	\$1,000.00	
	Thailand: William Yoder Scholarship Fund	McGilvary College of Theology	\$1,000.00	
	Uganda High School -TASAAGA	Friends of TASAAGA	\$3000.00	
Total Global Ministries			\$16,000.00	2.90%
USA & Presbytery	One Great Hour of Sharing	Presbyterian Church USA Mission	*\$3,000	
	PCUSA - Basic Mission Support	Presbyterian World Mission	\$1,000.00	
	PCUSA - Theological Education	Presbyterian World Mission	\$500.00	
	PCUSA - YAV Direct Mission Support	Presbyterian World Mission	\$3,000.00	
	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	Presbyterian World Mission	\$1,000.00	
	Presbyterian Per Capita Expense		\$12,616.00	
	Shared Mission Support/Chgo Pres	Presbytery of Chicago	\$5,000.00	
Total USA & Presbytery			\$26,116.00	4.70%
Local	A House in Austin	A House in Austin	\$3,600.00	
	Austin Coming Together (ACT)	Austin Coming Together	\$2,000.00	
	Bethel New Life - Austin	Bethel New Life	\$3,600.00	
	Beyond Hunger	Beyond Hunger	\$2,500.00	
	Christmas Eve Gift	TBD	*\$2,000	
	Community of Congregations	Community of Congregations	\$500.00	
	Holiday Food Baskets	Holiday Food & Gift Baskets	\$1,000.00	
	Housing Forward (Have a Heart Gala)	Housing Forward	\$2,500.00	
	Housing Forward (Reimbursements)	Housing Forward		
	Infant Welfare Society	Infant Welfare Society	\$2,000.00	
	Interfaith Green Network	Interfaith Green Network	\$250.00	
	Learning Edge	Learning Edge Tutoring	\$2,000.00	
	More Light Foundation	TBD: More Light Foundation	\$1000.00	
	New Moms	New Moms	\$650.00	
	Night Ministry	Night Ministry	\$2000.00	
	Night Ministry - stockings	Night Ministry	\$1700.00	
	Refugee Support		\$4200.00	
	Sarah's Inn	Sarah's Inn	\$1000.00	
Total Local			\$32,500.00	5.8%
Miscellaneous and Reserves for emerging needs			\$3500.00	0.6%
Total Giving *Not incl. OGHS and Christmas Eve offering, which are estimated here and passed through			\$78,116.00	14%



**Report to Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
2024-2025**

Background

Learning Edge Tutoring was founded by a 'cluster' of churches with the intention of improving the Chicago Public Schools graduation rate in the Austin area. The program has grown from approximately 30 students to over 100 since its founding. Its mission is to strive for more equity in education by providing Chicago area students who live in underserved communities free one-to-one tutoring and academic enrichment opportunities enhanced by caring, mentoring relationships. For the 2024-2025 tutoring year, Learning Edge is proud to report the following mid-year results to Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. We are grateful for the use of your space and your financial support!

Outcomes

- Learning Edge is currently serving 112 students and anticipates taking on two more by the end of February.
- 90 students receive 90 minutes of one-to-one tutoring for up to 30 weeks during the school year. Sessions occur in-person and 22 of them attend Monday evening tutoring at Fair Oaks.
- 22 students receive 60 minutes of one-to-one tutoring St. Catherine-St. Lucy for 26 weeks during the school year.
- 27 families receive monthly fresh produce deliveries between October and May.
- The student retention rate for FY2024-2025 was 81% and the tutor retention rate was 80%.
- Learning Edge is hosting a summer reading program again in 2025. The number of students is to be determined but will not exceed 15.
- In addition to the summer reading program, Learning Edge is once again offering summer academic enrichment scholarships to our students. We had three students participate last year and hope to expand it this year.
- This year we have implemented a Tutor Mentor program that pairs new tutors with those who have at least 5 years of experience as an additional support resource for academic advice and guidance.
- This school year, Learning Edge has expanded programming to provide supplemental tutoring for select students, two Parent Café's, and revised its Project Next Step (high school) program to better fit the needs of students and their parents.
- Learning Edge hired a Math Specialist (Fair Oaks member, Barb Mayer) who conducts assessments on students in grades 1st through 3rd and provides support to tutors and

parents in an effort to assist students in identifying gaps in math knowledge and improving foundational math skills.

Program Leadership

Kara Kalnitz, Executive Director

Kara has been working for Learning Edge since September 2009, and she has been its Executive Director since 2015. Prior to serving as the Thursday Program Manager and now Executive Director, Kara was a volunteer tutor with Learning Edge for four years. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2022, she completed a 9-month Leadership Lab program offered by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.

Erin Agboola, Program Coordinator-Student Services

Erin Agboola has been working for Learning Edge since September 2018. She began as Learning Edge's Program Coordinator for the Project Next Step high school program, and she was promoted in 2021 to expand her services to include all of our students. Erin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Lawrence University, and she has experience working with the Head Start early childhood education program.

Bernadette Diaz, Reading Specialist

Bernadette is a longtime teacher who now specializes in helping students with reading issues. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Boston College and a Master of Education degree in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard University. She also holds a Reading Teacher endorsement from National Louis University.

Meg Loughran, Special Education Consultant

Meg Loughran has over 30 years of professional experience in learning disabilities, behavior disorders and ADHD, with expertise in diagnosis, remediation, report writing, goal setting and parent/teacher communication. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Learning Disabilities from Northwestern University and is a Special Education teacher at Willard/Lincoln Elementary School in River Forest, IL.

Volunteer Retention				
Day	Returning	%	New	%
Monday	9	47%	11	55%
Tuesday	16	76%	4	20%
Thursday	33	80%	13	28%
Virtual	2	40%	0	0%
SCSL	18	75%	4	18%
Combined	78	78%	32	29%

110

Average Volunteer Duration						
Years	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Virtual	SCSL	Combined
Yrs. w/Student	1	2	3	8		4
Yrs. w/LE	2	6	4	10	2	5

Occupation Status						
Status	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Virtual	SCSL	% of Total
Retired	10	9	21	0	18	53%
Working	8	10	25	2	4	45%
HS Student	2	1	2	0	0	5%

Years at Learning Edge						
Years	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Virtual	SCSL	% of Total
0-4	16	10	27	1	20	67%
5-9	4	6	15	0	1	23%
>10	0	4	6	1	0	10%

Years w/Student					
Years	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Virtual	% of Total
0-4	18	16	34	1	78%
5-9	2	4	11	0	19%
>10	0	0	2	2	4%

Address Location						
Location	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Virtual	SCSL	% of Total
Oak Park	16	13	36	2	18	77%
Forest Park	0	1	1	0	0	2%
River Forest	1	2	2	0	1	5%
Berwyn	0	0	2	0	0	2%
Chicago	1	2	5	0	0	7%

Music Ministries

Instrumental Music

It's been yet another wonderful year of instrumental music.....

- Three handbell choirs continue to contribute music to worship: Intermission Bells (middle school), Encore Bells (high school) and Fair Oaks Ringers (adult). Intermission's numbers continue to increase and while it was a challenge figuring out how to manage it, it was also invigorating looking for new ways to engage the youth. Encore says goodbye to Quinn Hover, Julia Mattiace, Linnea Nam, Jack Panichelli and Anna Topel as they graduate – we thank them for many years of beautiful playing. Fair Oaks Ringers has become the rock of the handbell program – many ringers have been in the group for almost 20 years and young adults who grew up in the program have come back to be in the adult group . Along with playing on many Sundays, the bell choirs also offered special music on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Easter and the 100th celebration. And as always, lovely fellowship has been had by all!
- The Fair Oaks Clarinet Choir remains a robust group. Many thanks to Shiloh Balance, Kathy Fox, Charlie Inksetter, Julia Inksetter, Ruth Kulkarni, Thomas Smith, John Vishneski, Susan Warner and Lily Yera.
- A small brass group has offered music a couple times this year. Many thanks to Linnea Nam, Carolyn Rainey, Beth Potterveld, Arabella Scott and Greg Webster.
- Thanks to Gretchen Burch for playing many times in worship and for assembling a flute quartet (Lisa Johnson, Julia Inksetter and Amy Kuehl).
- Tehra Hiolski and I continue to find great joy and peace in providing music for the Longest Night service.
- It has been a huge joy welcoming Cathy Dunn to the Fair Oaks family. Her musicianship, collaboration and joyful spirit have added much to the music here at Fair Oaks. Thank you Cathy!
- A word of thanks to Rose Guccione - I feel we are a wonderful team of creating a nice balance of vocal and instrumental music for our congregants and visitors. I'm also appreciative of her excellent organizational skills!

Engagement is a priority of my mission to provide instrumental music at Fair Oaks. If you have an interest or talent to share, please let me know. It's a wonderful blessing to be a part of the musical life here at Fair Oaks. I feel enormous gratitude

Linda Van Dyke, director of Instrumental Music

Vocal Music

Dear Members and Supporters,

This year has been a testament to the collegial collaboration among the Church Staff; the talent, dedication, and resilience of the Chancel Choir; and the energy and joy that comes from the singing of children in the LOGOS program.

Reflection

Church Staff

The search for a church organist concluded on September 8, 2024 with Cathy Dunn's appointment. She meets regularly with Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, Rev. Ben Lynch, Linda Van Dyke, and me to discuss church services and LOGOS. Monica Sheehan provides excellent support. I love my wonderful colleagues.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music for select worship services throughout the liturgical year. We rehearse once during the week most weeks and on Sunday mornings before the services in which we sing. We are composed of volunteers from the congregation, two professional singers, and the occasional ringer. The following are some highlights from the past year:

The Choir's 2024-2025 liturgical season ran from September 5, 2024, to June 8, 2025. Melinda Alberty and Henry Hunt continued as Soprano and Tenor section leaders.

Worship services have been enhanced with carefully chosen anthems and special music. Despite a small choir, we aim to make a joyful noise.

The Chancel Choir significantly contributed to music for Lessons & Carols, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Centennial (May 4, 2025). Additional professional singers Jess Koehn, Chris Sierra, Anthony Quaranta, Christine Steyer, and Mick Houlahan enhanced these services. New singers are always welcome.

Our music program continues to receive generous support from the church and donors allowing us to maintain keyboards, hire guest musicians, purchase music, and clean robes. The calendar year budget for our section leaders remains at \$10,000.

Despite an apparent decrease in respiratory infections, the Chancel Choir prioritizes the health and safety of its members. Mask-wearing is occasionally practiced by singers with symptoms or concerns about spreading or contracting illness.

LOGOS

The children of PB&J LOGOS and LOGOS Musical Notes provided vocal music and smiles on five occasions:

- The June 16th Service;
- The October 20th Service;
- The December 8th Christmas Pageant;
- The February 23rd Service; and
- The March 16th LOGOS Sunday

Looking Ahead

LOGOS

I look forward to working with the children in LOGOS Summer beginning June 9-13, and when we reconvene in September. I am grateful for the volunteers who shepherd the program.

Music Library

Katelyn Paeth (our Summer Intern and daughter to Amy Roberts-Paeth) has agreed to help in the further development of a searchable database of the church's music library. This will enable me and future directors to better program Chancel Choir music.

Christmas Caroling

I hope to bring a group of congregants to sing Christmas Carols at Belmont Village and The Sheridan. I will be reaching out to the Worship & Arts Committee for help in ministering to the elderly again.

Acknowledgments

My deepest thanks to the dedicated Chancel Choir members for their inspiring passion, service, and grace. I have a deep appreciation for the church staff, clergy, Worship and the Arts Committee, and volunteers for their invaluable support. Finally, I am grateful to the congregation and community for their continued encouragement and attendance, which fuels our musical ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Guccione, director of Vocal Music

Nominating

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

Committee Members: Steve Perkins (Moderator and Session representative), Derek Inksetter (Session representative), Greg Webster (Deacon representative), Kent Bromley, Beth Potterveld, Charlie Mayer, Rev. Ben Lynch (ex-officio)

The election of church officers is at the heart of what it means to be Presbyterian. To fulfill the mission of the Nominating Committee to call effective church leaders, the Nominating Committee seeks to present officers-elect who represent the congregation's diversity. We request and accept names submitted by congregants, as well as by committee members. We then prayerfully and carefully consider all names to ensure representation of all groups within the congregation. The committee's work is to develop a slate of candidates for the church offices of Elder, Deacon and Nominating that reflect the composition and diversity of the congregation. All candidates are presented to the congregation for election at a congregational meeting before their term begins.

The Nominating Committee membership currently consists of two Elders, one Deacon and three at-large members of the congregation who are elected at the prior annual meeting. We are grateful to those individuals serving on the Nominating Committee.

In gratitude,
Steve Perkins, moderator

Personnel

Committee Members: Greg Wolski (co-chair), John Vishneski (co-chair), Greg Topel, Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, Rev. Ben Lynch

The calling of the Personnel Committee is to lead the hiring of new church staff (as needed); conduct the annual reviews of the church staff; make recommendations to Session regarding church staff compensation and benefits, position roles and responsibilities and support the performance efforts of the church staff. The very nature and composition of the Personnel Committee is such that it must coordinate closely across all FOPC committees, especially Finance/Stewardship, Worship and Buildings and Grounds.

The Personnel Committee is pleased to report that the staff of Fair Oaks work together in a collegial and positive manner that keeps the church running smoothly and ably supports its mission. Rose Guccione, Director of Vocal Music, and Linda Van Dyke, Director of Instrumental Music, continue to provide excellent leadership in providing music for worship and church events. Monica Sheehan, Office Manager, as she has consistently for years, reliably managed the church office duties of Fair Oaks. In connection with and recognition of the additional hours required of Monica to assist with the transition of our accounting records and the updating of all accounting and finance procedures as recommended by the Personnel Committee, in addition to supplemental compensation, the Session further sent a specific note of gratitude to Monica for her assistance in the completion of this project. Our co-pastors, Hailey Braden Lynch & Ben Lynch, have worked tirelessly to lead our numerous volunteers and provide spiritual inspiration for the congregation. The Personnel Committee is grateful for the staff's hard work, talent, and dedication, and approved a modest raise for all staff members to send a clear message of appreciation and recognition, which was in turn approved by the congregation.

We are pleased that, after a thorough search process, the position of Organist/Pianist that was left vacant following Hannah Voight's retirement in June 2023, has been filled. The congregation warmly welcomed Cathy Dunn in October of 2024, and Cathy has been providing wonderful musical support for worship and other church events ever since. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with Cathy!

We are also pleased that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) consisting of Laura Baig, John Beck, Bill Kuehl, Julia Mattiace, Elizabeth McVey, Kennedy O'Carroll, and Erika Panichelli, after lengthy and thorough process, identified a wonderful candidate, the Reverend Kori Robbins, to be called as Associate Pastor for Fair Oaks. The congregation accepted Rev. Robbins Terms of Call on April 13, 2025, and she will begin on June 1, 2025.

We would also like to express our appreciation for our Youth Ministry Intern, Jaden Wielhouwer, who completed her year long internship with Fair Oaks in July 2024. Her ministry with the middle school and high school students and their families was vibrant and vital in a year when the youth groups continued to grow. We are pleased to welcome a new Summer 2025 Intern, Katelyn Paeth. Katelyn grew up at Fair Oaks and is returning to us following her first year of college to complete a specially coordinated internship funded by her college.

The Session has approved a recommendation from the Personnel Committee as to how certain benefits are provided to the pastoral staff. Previously, the FOPC policies, procedures and position descriptions for our Senior Pastors and any Associate Pastor did not define the medical (health, dental and vision) coverages that we offer. While the Presbytery mandates that the cost of health insurance (not dental and vision coverage) for the full-time ordained pastors be borne by the congregation, beginning in 2025 the cost sharing associated with spousal, child and family health insurance coverage is being left to the discretion of the congregation. Congregations may now choose to pay all, some or none of such additional costs. The Personnel Committee recommended, and the Session approved the following policy: "All benefits, including specifically those for medical (health, dental and vision) be made available to installed Pastors and Associate Pastors at FOPC, with the cost of each Pastor or Associate Pastor, as well as their spouse/partner and/or children being fully borne by FOPC."

The Personnel Committee, with great leadership and help from Kent Bromley and Lisa Johnson, recommended and Session approved, changes to personnel policies, including moving from monthly to bi-weekly payment for staff and adopting a FOPC credit card use policy.

The Personnel Committee would like to thank all our church staff and the many volunteers for their incredible leadership. There is no question that producing all aspects of being a church take an inordinate amount of time, talent, and technical skills. We greatly appreciate each of you who has assisted. We are blessed to have so many congregational members who are willing to work together. It is only because of each of your efforts that we were able to have another incredible year, continuing our worship and fellowship virtually and in person. The Personnel Committee appreciates everyone's time and effort and complete dedication to FOPC. We are especially blessed by the continued leadership of Hailey and Ben.

Thank you to the Personnel Committee members for their efforts in supporting the church staff and the ministry of the FOPC congregation. We offer a special thank you to Priscilla Bell, who is stepping down from the Personnel Committee, for her years of service.

Faithfully submitted,

Greg Wolski and John Vishneski for the Fair Oaks Personnel Committee

Stewardship

Committee Members: Derek Inksetter (Chair), Greg Wolski, Wendy White, Cheryl Hover (Chair Emeritus), Rev. Ben Lynch, Rev. Haily Braden Lynch



The Stewardship Committee completed the majority of work from October to December of 2024. The theme this year was “The Next 100 Years Starts Now”, as a reference to Fair Oaks’ 100th anniversary as a church, and called upon members to honor our past, look to the future, and maintain a firm grasp on the present needs of the church.

Much like last year, our primary focus was asking for a modest increase of 8% in members’ pledges to deal with the coming reality of a full-time associate pastor, in addition to the ongoing needs of the church. We were fortunate to hear from several church members, willing to share their experiences of the church, and why they pledge to Fair Oaks. This year, we heard from Derek Inksetter, Carol and Bruce Huck, and Nicole and Doug Scott.

Dedication Sunday was November 24, 2024. There was a big push in November and December and included following up with members to pledge (phone calls/individual emails/eWeekly distribution/Sunday service). The result was a successful campaign with an approximate increase of 16% over the previous year’s pledges. With the generosity of our members, the church was able to budget for our new full-time associate pastor without planning for a deficit.

With gratitude to the hard work of the committee and to the generosity of the members of Fair Oaks, all of whom give to the church in so many ways, not just financially.

Derek Inksetter, moderator

Worship and the Arts

Committee Members: Caroline Older (moderator), Nancy Van Der Griend, Doug Rainey, Christine Baumbach, Phyllis Tresselt, Martha Fluharty, Sheryl Martin, Doug Scott, Rose Guccione, Linda Van Dyke, Cathy Dunn, Rev. Ben Lynch

Background on Worship at FOPC

Worship is an essential part of our life together at Fair Oaks and is one of the primary means of living out our mission “to PROCLAIM by word and deed the good news of our savior Jesus Christ, to NURTURE children, youth and adults into Christian faith and discipleship, and to SERVE, in Christ’s name, the Oak Park community and beyond.”

We worship together each Sunday at 10:00am. Youth of all ages are invited to participate in worship in the sanctuary, while young children have the option of attending Bridges to Worship, which offers a style of worship tailored to their needs. Those with infants have the option of enjoying the service in the loft above the sanctuary. Those children who choose to participate in Bridges to Worship are invited to return to the sanctuary during the offering to finish the service with their parents.

During the summer months (June-August), our worship service shifts to be more personal, informal, and interactive with the congregation.

FOPC offers special services throughout the year that incorporate liturgical colors, visuals, instrumental, and vocal music, including:

- World Communion Sunday takes place in early October, highlighting global fellowship.
- All Saints Day takes place in early November and is a moment where we give thanks for those who have died in the past year.
- Longest Night service is scheduled for mid-December, acknowledging that Advent can be a painful time for those who may be suffering.
- Christmas Eve services include a family-oriented service at 4:30 pm, followed by another service at 11 pm.
- Ash Wednesday commemorates the beginning of Lent with an evening service at 7:30 pm.
- Maundy Thursday service takes place at 7:30 pm on the Thursday before Easter and commemorates Jesus’s last supper with his disciples.
- Easter service marks the resurrection of Christ and includes joyful traditions like the flowering of the cross.

Highlights for the 2024-25 program year include:

- Cathy Dunn began her role as FOPC’s new organist.
- Rose Guccione continued in her role as Director of Vocal Music (see her Annual Report in a separate document).
- Linda Van Dyke continued in the role of Director of Instrumental Music (see her Annual Report in a separate document).
- Worship in Fellowship Hall on November 9 kicked off the stewardship season and commemorated the founding of FOPC. The Worship and the Arts committee and many

volunteers ensured that instrumental and vocal music, visuals, chairs, pulpit, and other elements were in place for this special service.

- Celebrating FOPC's 100th year included special instrumental and vocal music for the service; visuals and flowers for the sanctuary; and communion for all. It was made possible by committee members and a host of volunteers assisting. It was a remarkable service and day!
- The congregation celebrated communion on the first Sunday of each month. Communion is served in a hybrid format, with congregants proceeding down the center aisle to receive a piece of pre-sliced bread and a cup of juice from the communion servers. The Committee secures communion preparers and servers and appreciates all who volunteer to assist.
- The Worship and the Arts Committee works together to provide specially designed visual communication elements for the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, as well as Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and other special services.
- The Worship and the Arts Committee secures liturgists and is grateful to all those who sign up and participate in FOPC's services.

Submitted by Caroline Older, moderator

FAIR OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Income Statement

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

	Jan - Dec 2024	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Revenue			
Offering	\$530,805.59	\$531,000.00	-\$194.41
Other Revenues	\$99,969.38	\$49,100.00	\$50,869.38
Total Revenue	\$630,774.97	\$580,100.00	\$50,674.97
Expenditures			
Buildings and Grounds	\$78,264.86	\$89,600.00	-\$11,335.14
Christian Education	\$6,848.40	\$4,800.00	\$2,048.40
Church Office	\$19,824.49	\$9,450.00	\$10,374.49
Congregational Activities	\$3,868.40	\$4,000.00	-\$131.60
Deacons	\$2,839.65	\$2,500.00	\$339.65
Mission/Faith in Action	\$90,704.01	\$81,221.00	\$9,483.01
Other	\$16,804.96	\$15,600.00	\$1,204.96
Outreach	\$2,149.54	\$1,900.00	\$249.54
Programs	\$43,276.25	\$46,500.00	-\$3,223.75
Staff Compensation	\$300,044.84	\$347,784.00	-\$47,739.16
Worship And Music	\$18,380.56	\$17,700.00	\$680.56
Total Expenditures	\$583,005.96	\$621,055.00	-\$38,049.04
Net Revenue	\$47,769.01	-\$40,955.00	\$88,724.01

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)
December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Cash and equivalents	\$	101,100
Investments - Edward Jones		377,775
Prepaid expenses		373
Total Assets	\$	479,248 (A)

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	7,624
Total Liabilities		7,624

NET ASSETS

With donor restrictions:		
Special Gifts and Memorials		6,284
Time restrictions - prepaid pledges for 2025		28,100
Total Net Assets with Donor Restrictions		34,384
Without donor restrictions:		
Memorial funds		5,856
Building reserve		64,416
Endowment fund		25,992
General operating reserve		340,976
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		437,240
Total Net Assets		471,624
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	479,248 (A)