

# Morrisville Presbyterian Church



## Annual Report 2020 - March 2021

Morrisville Presbyterian Church

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## Pastor's Letter

*Grounded in the grace of God, we are a vibrant Christian community, disciples of all ages, gathered for worship and nurture, scattered to serve and to love.*

Dear Friends,

If anything has defined our life together from March 2020 through March 2021 it's that, "we've absolutely never done it this way before!" Over the course of my life, I've heard these words in countless churches when the carpet color was changing or when the hymnals were changing or when, God-forbid, the annual Rally Day potluck schedule was changing, but never in my life did I imagine saying them or hearing them over and over again in the midst of a global pandemic. It almost makes us yearn for those arguments about the color of the carpet years ago, doesn't it? Because unlike years past when these words may have been a blip on the radar, this year they have defined our life together. Over and over again I've found myself standing in front of you, or more regularly, in front of a video camera announcing, "well, we've never done it this way before."



And it's had me thinking about all the times when we, the church, have uttered these words in the past and in the present, and all that's been hidden underneath the uttering. In the past when hymnals have changed or schedules have changed, we've typically uttered these infamous words with anger, contempt, grief, and (when we're honest) a great fear of the unknown. After all, change is hard. Change makes the old way of doing things seem irrelevant or past its usefulness. Change makes us feel old and makes us wonder if we'll have to change with it. As Presbyterians, or if we're poking a bit of fun, as God's "frozen chosen," we're not known for our ability to welcome change or the unknown, or to bask in the movement of God's Spirit. We are known for doing things decently and in order, through committees, and with much thought, preparation, and prayer.

And while we certainly haven't abandoned these ways of doing things, this year has challenged us again and again to open ourselves to the truth that we have had no other option but to do things as they've never been done before. In some moments that openness has been easy: "We've never done it this way before and this new idea is exciting and life-giving and I can't believe we didn't do this sooner!" In other moments, that openness has been much harder: "We've never done it this way before and I hate it. I can't wait for this to be over." In this year we have known gratitude for new opportunities, new ideas, and for life-giving connection and ministry. And in this year we have also known incredible grief, as much about our life together as a church has changed and we're tired and weary and desperate for something that resembles life as we once knew it.

In mid-March 2021, a New Yorker cartoon showed two people in a room together, and the caption read: "I can't wait to forget everything I learned about myself during quarantine." It's easy to respond with a chuckle and move on quickly, but I think this cartoon speaks deep truth

that we ought to listen to. For one thing, it reminds us that this year has taught us a lot: what we value, what's important, what's not important, what we take for granted, where our deepest grief has been. Secondly, it reminds us that given the grief, frustration, anger, and fear that have defined this year, there will be an impulse to get things back to "the way they've always been" because we're afraid to live in a post-pandemic world. Even though we've found opportunities to reclaim the phrase, "we've never done it this way before," I believe that in 2020 and 2021, like any other time we've uttered those same words, underneath it all we've been afraid— afraid that we don't know how the next chapter begins, much less how it ends; but perhaps most afraid that we will change as a result of this new thing, that we have changed; and that we won't like or recognize what greets us on the other side. What will that change look like? Will I like it? Who will I be without the things I had before? Who will we be? Will our congregation look the same? Will people come back? What if they don't?

To be honest, I think my greatest fear as we begin making our way out of this strange season is that we will do everything we can to forget that we have been deeply changed by it; that we will become so consumed with "getting things back to normal" that we will conveniently forget to ask ourselves the harder questions: Who have we become as a church family in this year? What's important in our life together and what's not? How have we changed? How does that change make us feel? What have we learned about ourselves in this past year that we want to keep? What have we learned about ourselves this past year that we want to let go of? How can we continue to embrace "we've never done it this way before" with joy and openness to the Spirit's leading?

There are some days I wish I had answers to all of these questions. And there are other days I'm content and grateful that I don't. Because without all the answers, I find myself more open to the Spirit who is waiting to lead. Without all the answers I find myself more open to conversations about possibilities and new ideas. Without all the answers I find myself more reliant on the God in whom I am called to place my trust. Though I hope and pray that we will not have as many opportunities in the year to come to proclaim, "we've never done it this way before", it is also my hope and prayer that when we can proclaim it in a new way, we will— with joy, with thanksgiving, and always pointing toward the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

It has always been a privilege to be your pastor, but in this past year, it has been a particular privilege. In all the difficulty and challenge of this past year, over and over again you have remained steadfast and faithful in your commitment to our church and our life together, but especially to God's calling to love and serve the world. You have done so with tenderness and generosity and love and have proclaimed with the fullness of your life that even if the building is closed, the church is absolutely open. Thank you for being ambassadors of God's faithfulness, compassion, mercy, love, justice, generosity, and peace. We may never have done it this way before, but you, beloved church...you haven't missed a beat. Thank you for being the church. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our life together. It is one of the greatest gifts in my life to be your pastor.

With deep gratitude for each of you,  
Rachel

## **Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation & Mission**

### **Alex Lester-Abdalla**

Dear Priesthood of All Believers,

Being Easter People, it has been helpful for me to reflect on this past year through an Easter lens. Jesus traveled from Galilee to Jerusalem showing his followers, through teaching and action, what a life dedicated to God looked like. He stood up against evil and proclaimed what was good, he healed and forgave, he lived among imperfection and the challenges of daily life while being the hope and light of God. Then overnight he was gone. And his followers were left with the difficult task of putting Jesus's teaching into action. There was fear of their lives and doubt of their faith. Yet the belief of Jesus's resurrection proved to be the guiding hope in their lives, the catalyst for faithful action, and the resolve they needed to push ahead in a world of unknown.



I have a personal tendency to want to skip ahead to the resurrecting light of Easter in my life and not wallow in the darker lead up to it. I chalk that up to being a normal human and focusing on all the positives of this past year would not be the most honest reflection, let alone a helpful one. Like the disciples looking into an empty tomb, the beginning of this pandemic was one of fear and worry. I was concerned about the health and safety of myself, Elizabeth, as well as my family members, friends, and all of you. I did not know the next time I would see folks in the sanctuary. I did not know how people in Morrisville, Yardley, and Lower Bucks County would be able to cope with an economic downturn. I did not know what the church would look like in the coming weeks or months. And as the year moved on it became apparent that this year would be one of fear, of loss, of uncertainty. We had to cancel our Youth in Mission Trip. We had to grieve the death of loved ones without a crowded funeral service they deserved. We had to change the way Sunday School, Fellowship Hour, Youth Club, the Food Center, and the Clothing Center operated at the church (and that is just to name a few!). We grieved the killing of George Floyd and countless others as we confronted the need for racial reconciliation in our country. We all struggled through a painful presidential election. All while trying to figure out what masks matched our outfits, how safe was it to venture out in the world, and how long this thing would last.

Yet, like the disciples on Easter morning there was light amidst darkness, courage that pushed through fear, and resurrection that arose from grief and loss. Looking out into the unknown of our community's needs in the wake of this pandemic, our church was willing and ready to respond. This is a year where we raised over \$10,000 for Morrisville School District to buy much needed laptops for remote learning and over \$9,000 for emergency rent and utility relief in our community. This is a year where families gathered in their kitchens to make soups, peanut butter and jellies, cookies, and cards to help Ivins Outreach Center deliver meals to folks who needed them all across Lower Bucks County. This is a year where our Clothing Center



was the symbol of flexibility - moving from Tuesdays to Thursdays and inviting new volunteers into its operation. This is a year where our Food Center turned into a curbside pickup operation that did not miss a beat, providing much needed food to folks on both sides of the Delaware River. This is a year where our Deacons Food Baskets expanded amidst uncertain financial futures to exemplify an ethic of generosity amidst scarcity.

I will also look back on this year feeling indebted to the folks on Education and Youth committees, Sunday School teachers, Youth Club leaders, youth, and young people who met the challenge of pandemic learning with creativity and openness. They have maintained a sacred space for youth to connect to God and one another through our Youth Club which was demonstrated beautifully during Youth Sunday this year. They have created wonderful and popular Faith Formation Packets, delivered to children in their homes where the real faith formation thrives. They have navigated an all-Zoom Adult Education Sunday School hour that has seen participation not dwindle, but GROW during a pandemic!

Indeed, there is much from this year to mourn and much to celebrate. There are many instances where we can point to loss and many where we can point to new life. And like Paul looking out on the road to Damascus, scales fallen from his eyes and unsure what the future would hold, we too look out into the distance as changed people, not sure what the future will look like. But what we know is that we are a changed people, a transformed people, people who have walked through challenge and loss guided by blessing and faith: a resurrected people, an Easter People equipped for the journey ahead.

Grace and Peace,

Alex

## Minister of Visitation Reverend Jack McAnlis

“Practice social-distancing” is not normally listed as a duty in the job description for the Minister of Visitation. It is quite the opposite. Intimate face-to-face conversations, a friendly touch, and offering prayers at bedside are usually typical for me. So, what to do when members of the staff of MPC are restricted from visiting nursing homes, personal care or assisted living facilities, and hospitals during this pandemic?

After recognizing that ministry will be different, I accepted the fact that it is my responsibility, along with every member of the congregation, and nation for that matter, to do everything I can to slow the spread of COVID-19. With this acceptance and reflective prayer, I embarked on a mission, along with many MPC church members, to continue to be the servant I am called to be. This is done not only for the good of our community but also for the care of vulnerable populations entrusted to us. We are not going to abandon our friends and I will do my part.



So, during this pandemic, my ministry included:

- Continuing to keep in touch with many of the people with whom I had been visiting with telephone calls, emails, voicemail, Facetime, and sending cards and letters and being available to their family members.
- Supporting members of the Visitation Committee as needed.
- Attending the “Brown Bag Bible Study” every week via Zoom, providing leadership when called upon.
- Attending our weekly group following the bible study to pray for nearly 200 people of the congregation and community on our “MPC Prayer List” as maintained by Drew Hunger.
- Providing worship leadership and preaching when requested.
- Officiating at 3 graveside funerals.
- In the summer of 2020, providing leadership for Thursday evening prayer gatherings held outside of the church (even while it rained) attended by 8-15 members.
- Providing committees of the church and Deacons with a list of members and friends of MPC with whom we want to keep in contact.

I am amazed by the work of the Congregational Ministries Committee and the Deacons. Through their efforts, many church members who may have been forgotten, have had regular and tangible contact with MPC. Through their efforts, MPC has “visited” many people with care, concern, and compassion while keeping members of our church family and volunteers safe. May we continue to serve and love one another in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you all,

The Reverend Jack McAnlis

## Clerk's Report

The composition of the Congregation and the Session

<u>Race</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Session</u>
Asian	2	0
African-American	5	0
Hispanic	1	0
Native-American	0	0
White	374	15
All Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	382	15
<u>Age</u>		
25 & Under	15%	0%
26-40	7%	7%
41-55	11%	47%
56-70	33%	33%
Over 70	34%	13%
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	38%	47%
Female	62%	53%

### Report to the General Assembly

**Membership, January 1, 2020** **420**

#### Additions

Adult Profession of Faith	0
Reaffirmation & Restoration	0
Transfer from Other Churches	0
Confirmation Class	<u>0</u>
Total	0

#### Losses

By Deaths	12
By Transfer to Other Churches	0
Other Session Removals	26
Total	<u>38</u>

**Membership, December 31, 2020** **382**

Respectfully submitted by Ron Workman, Clerk of Session



## **COVID-19 Task Force**

MPC's Session, on March 12, 2020, acted to suspend indefinitely all church services and activities because of the rapidly spreading and deadly novel coronavirus. Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania issued a Stay-At-Home order in March that became effective on March 23, 2020. This order prohibited our church from holding worship services, and essentially all activities were suspended. On June 5, 2020, he designated Bucks County to be in the state's Yellow Phase, which permitted limited use of the church facilities, but prohibited gatherings of greater than 25 people and required proper use of masks and social distancing.

The Session decided to not reopen the building until after the state designated Bucks County to be in the Green Phase. Governor Wolf, on June 26, 2020, designated Bucks County to be in the state's Green Phase.

The Task Force developed a Plan to Address COVID-19 at MPC, and the Session approved it on July 13, 2020 and, based on improving trends in health metrics, set Sunday, September 13, 2020, for the beginning of limited attendance worship services in the sanctuary and outdoor services during the summer. Several outdoor services and other gatherings were held during the summer. The sanctuary was reopened as planned for indoor worship services.

The Task Force recommended to the Session a limited reopening of the sanctuary with permissible attendance of 25 in order to determine attendee's adherence to the wearing of masks, maintaining appropriate social distancing, and the adherence to signs and directions for the first four Sundays (September 13, 20, 27 & October 4). Sign-ups were established in an attempt to get all who wanted to come an opportunity to come to at least one of the four Sunday services. The Task Force determined that attendance at the following four Sunday worship services (October 11, 18, 25, & November 1) would be raised to 40, and that sign-ups would permit people to come to two services during these four Sundays.

After conducting worship services within the sanctuary beginning on September 13, 2020, the Session, on November 10, 2020, decided to stop indoor worship due to rapidly changing adverse health metrics used to measure the impact COVID-19 was having in the community.

The Task Force continued to monitor the adverse health metrics, and, on March 2, 2021, discussed the need to balance the tension between the social isolation of not attending worship in the sanctuary and the concern of public health officials of relaxing restrictions that would rekindle COVID-19 growth. The Task Force determined that the effective techniques proven to mitigate transmission of COVID-19, which are the wearing of masks, social distancing, washing hands, and avoiding indoor spaces with poor ventilation were adequate to consider reopening the sanctuary.

On March 2, 2021, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania revised its guidance for gathering indoors to 15% of maximum capacity. This equates to roughly 50 people in our sanctuary. The Task Force determined that our sanctuary can provide a safe place for worship services when masks are worn, people maintain acceptable social distancing, the windows and doors are kept open to provide sufficient air circulation, and attendance is kept at 50 or under.

On March 22, 2021, the Session approved a revision to the Plan to Address COVID-19 at MPC and the Task Force's recommendation to reopen the sanctuary on April 18, 2021.

## **Board of Trustees**

The Trustees were created by Session to serve as the directors of the MPC Corporation. All nine Trustees are directors and four of us are its officers.

We shoulder the daily responsibilities of overseeing the business side of the church. We focus on financial matters, help develop the annual budget and carefully monitor actual revenues and expenditures versus what are budgeted, attend to insurance matters and constantly oversee the care and maintenance of MPC's buildings and property. Our major committees are Building & Grounds (you'll see evidence of its work inside and out ) and Finance (balancing our Vanguard investment accounts and assisting with the budget).

In addition, our members serve on Session's Stewardship, Personnel, Memorial Fund and Church Nominating committees, and we have a representative attend all Session meetings in order to keep the Elders apprised of our activities.

The pandemic-induced closure of our church had its greatest impact on the way we conduct our meetings. Before COVID, our meetings basically were free-wheeling conversations around the table. Forget Roberts Rules of Order. Someone would report a matter, someone else would jump in with a remark, then another would remark and so forth. Then came Zoom meetings. When everyone talks at once, you have chaos. So now our meetings are more structured: one of us reports, everyone listens but doesn't speak until the report is finished.

COVID also interfered with our annual auditing process. We usually do the audits of a prior year in March, examining the records of previous year transactions that are kept in the Financial Secretary's office. But with the closure of the church in March last year, we thought we'd have to wait a few months before we could examine the files. After those "few months" became a whole year, we now had to audit both 2019 and 2020. Fortunately, Trustee Randy Curtiss developed a method to conduct the audits remotely and now we're up to date.

Other than these, COVID hasn't had that much an impact on our work. Building & Grounds accomplished a great deal in the past year, and Finance -- although initially concerned that pledges would diminish after the church was closed -- eventually realized that the congregation remained faithful and we could adhere to our building improvement plans.

Your Trustees chose a focused approach to our vast list of possible capital projects. Those targeted for 2020 were the replacement and repair of the Sanctuary ductwork, replacement of several sections of sidewalk and the driveway apron on Pennsylvania Avenue, toilet upgrades in the Education Building, Toddler and Nursery rooms, and the replacement of the concrete stairways to the Communication Center and the Education Building. We also upgraded the new audio/visual system in the Sanctuary so that worship services can be live-streamed. One item not anticipated was a costly repair of a sinkhole on Chapel Drive.

In 2021, our goals are to sealcoat all the asphalt areas on the property, upgrade the exterior lighting, and embellish the security system and WIFI network in the entire building. We are also investigating the feasibility of providing a more direct handicapped access to the Memorial Garden.

There were numerous upgrades and repairs throughout the facility performed by our Property Manager and volunteers:

- Maddie McCleskey, a member and Girl Scout, refreshed and redecorated the Toddler Room to earn a Silver Leadership medal.
- Head Start installed a new security system in the Education Building.
- All the outdoor nativity figures were repaired and repainted and look better than new.
- The entrance doors and framework to the Chapel have been painted and new closers installed.
- The exterior exit doors in the Chapel area have been painted and new closers installed.
- All the doors in the south narthex have been painted.
- The mobile Communion Table has been stained, painted and a new glass top installed.
- The half doors in the Toddler room have been repaired and painted.
- One of the welcome signs on Trenton Avenue has been replaced.
- A new Welcome/Main Entrance sign donated by the Presbyterian Women was installed.

These are just some highlights of the many tasks completed this past fiscal year. Our current board officers are Clark Martin, President; Suzanne Barletto, Vice President; Laurel Leonard, Secretary; and Seth McHenry, Treasurer. Rounding out the group are Erin Aronson, Randy Curtiss, Larry Low, Tom Evans and David Austin.

All of our work is done with the constant support of Senior Pastor Rachel Rhodes and our Property Manager, Rich Drabb. We thank them for attending our meetings, participating in our deliberations and assuring that work is accomplished throughout the year. We particularly want to thank Rich for all of his hard work and dedication throughout his lengthy term of service to MPC, and we wish him the best as he enters his well-deserved retirement.

## MPC Financial Summary

	<b><u>12 Months Ended December 31, 2020</u></b>	<b><u>12 Months Ended December 31, 2019</u></b>
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Pledges	\$457,763	\$433,899
Per Capita	4,190	4,113
Seasonal/Special Offerings	3,244	10,606
Investment Income	75,048	81,267
All Other	56,617	55,245
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b><u>596,862</u></b>	<b><u>585,130</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Ministry	197,185	166,919
Building and Grounds	150,159	164,190
Admin and Finance	69,735	75,748
Benevolence	55,288	54,412
Congregational Ministries	13,243	14,422
Music Ministry	46,917	61,505
Educational Ministry	2,170	3,462
Youth Ministry	3,761	4,513
All Other	24,335	25,139
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b><u>562,793</u></b>	<b><u>570,311</u></b>
<b>OPERATING EXCESS/ (SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>34,069</b>	<b>14,819</b>
<b>EXTRAORDINARY OTHER INCOME</b>		
Bequests	31,599	2,943
Garber Painting Proceeds	0	0
Paycheck Protection	73,125	0
Program Proceeds		
<b>EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE</b>		
Benevolences on	19,422	208
Extraordinary Income		
Major Capital Projects	<u>31,352</u>	<u>53,549</u>
<b>NET EXCESS/ (SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>\$88,019</b>	<b>(\$35,995)</b>

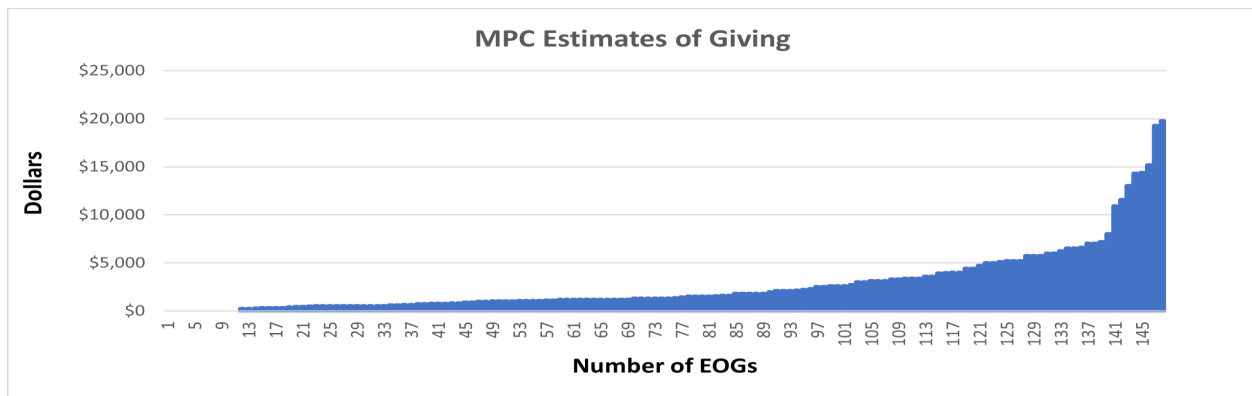
## Stewardship Committee

By the grace of God, even in the midst of a global pandemic and through a period of distress and uncertainty, MPC's congregation gave generously in 2020. Thank you!

Your gifts have allowed the expansion of our church's mission and ministry in new directions, and have enabled MPC to continue to proclaim the gospel of salvation, maintain spiritual fellowship, maintain worship, preserve the truth, promote social righteousness, and exhibit God's kingdom to others.

MPC's staff and lay leaders found new and creative ways to gather and worship and kept many of our programs up and running. We continued to feed our neighbors through the ministry and mission of the Food Center, and we gave over and above our expected financial giving to support our community through the Chromebook Fund (benefiting Morrisville School District) and the COVID-19 Relief Fund. We were able to maintain the salaries of all Weekday Nursery School employees during their school closure, and our savings grew. Though the positive financial picture in 2020 is due in large part to the lower costs of cleaning and maintaining our building in months when the building was mostly empty, it is also due to the generosity and faithfulness of your giving even in the midst of a difficult year. It is our deep hope that we will be able to continue this pattern of generous giving in our local community as we seek to love God and love our neighbor.

And our gratitude continues as we step into 2021! This year we are especially grateful for your participation in our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. The number of Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards returned has exceeded the number returned over each of the past few years. The total received is 178 estimates for a total of \$429,168.



As shown in the chart, EOGs ranged from \$0 to about \$20,000, and the average annual gift is \$2,411 per giving unit. Thank you very much for your generous financial giving!

During this past year, MPC has been overwhelmed by the possibilities in our family of faith to share the joy and the love we know with so many more people in many new ways. Our very youngest disciples all the way up through our oldest and longest serving members, along with the 8 new members who joined in early 2021, all benefit from your generosity as we seek to share the love of Jesus Christ with our local community and with the world.

Thank you for your incredible generosity in our life together at MPC. We could not share God's love so widely without your support.

Drew Hunger



## **Board of Deacons (BOD)**

### ***Commissioned to Serve and to Love***

*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

Throughout a year unlike any previously experienced, the Morrisville Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons continued its commitment to serve both our beloved church and its surrounding community.

In the early months of 2020, our regular responsibilities were in fully swing: Hospitality Hour, ushering at services, mentoring and grooming Junior Deacons, Monday night food packing for The Food Center, and visitation, to name a few. Additionally, the Deacons purchased critically needed medical supplies, first aid kits and video supplies which both updated and enhanced our church equipment.

Then the pandemic hit, the church building closed, and we all faced an unimaginable problem. However, with creativity and renewed resolve, we navigated through it.

- Early in the pandemic, Deacons placed calls to all church members in order to reassure, connect, and inquire about any needs or concerns.
- Deacons continued to participate in weekly food packing to support The Food Center.
- Deacons sponsored a backpack initiative for The Food Center, ultimately providing 150 backpacks filled with supplies for local students as they prepared for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Deacons underwent training to understand new responsibilities and protocols in order to provide ushers during our time of re-opening in September and October, helping to provide a safe environment for those who worshiped inside the building.
- Deacons maintained the delivery of flowers at Christmas to our shut-ins, and helped distribute Advent bags; both initiatives had wonderful impact in helping church members feel connected even when we were forced to be apart and were most appreciated by the recipients.
- In many ways, the continuation of our holiday food basket program presented our greatest challenge and, ultimately, our greatest source of pride. We were forced to cancel the Easter 2020 food baskets, but remained undaunted in our commitment to helping those in need. Pivoting quickly, we unanimously voted to reschedule this for August to address a surging demand for assistance.

With resolve and renewed commitment, we masked up and moved outside! Using the church parking lot as our staging, packing and distribution area, we successfully intertwined safety protocols into the task and joyfully welcomed Junior Deacons and other youth to our efforts. In fact, due to a greater need, we expanded our distribution to 96 bags - a significant 33% increase over past events – and maintained this level for the rest of the year.

At one point, the continuation of this work was at serious risk due to dwindling funds; however, a November article in Currents elicited tremendous response and support from the congregation and, thanks to this generosity, we were able to carry on with this important mission. Even a 17-degree December morning proved powerless in affecting the dedication of this group: it's amazing what wearing layers, a mask, and a smile can do! We even added an extra event in

February 2021, as the need in the community remains so great. We are extraordinarily grateful for the support from MPC members, which has empowered us to not only continue but also expand this important ministry.

In times of both normalcy and crisis, the Deacons will continue to support our congregation and broader community. In the words of one Deacon, "I am most proud of the Christian spirit of the Board of Deacons. The group is humble, kind and compassionate, always seeking to serve those in need and in the midst of life challenges."

We wish to thank all at MPC who have supported, led and joined us in our ministry throughout this tumultuous time, and look forward to both seeing you and resuming many of our other traditional responsibilities in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Yazujian, Moderator

... with Fran Akelewicz, Matt Bausher, Andy Beidler, Kym Bowser, Donna Damiani, John Damiani, Heidi Dous, Jim Gaston, Alice Garcia, Luisa Herrera, Helen Hill, Karen Hill, Beth Keys, Kathy Larkin, Jim Levan, Ruth Levan, Tracy Massey, Cindy Moskow, Lori Newman, Joy Rees, Patti Sheffer, Tom Smith, Tim Stover, Tim Yost, and Tony Zazzu

### **Memorial Fund Committee**

The mission of the Memorial Fund Committee is to receive donations made to the church in memory of church members and other friends of the church, and to evaluate and act upon requests made to disperse the funds from organizations within the church, primarily the Trustees or Session Committees. Members of the committee were Clerk of Session Ron Workman, Church Treasurer Seth McHenry and Trustee Larry Low.

Donations during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2020 were \$9,320 and disbursements were \$6,956, primarily to the music program. The balance in the Fund at the end of the period was \$40,353.

### **Presbyterian Women (PW)**

All women of MPC are considered members of Presbyterian Women. A core group of dedicated board members have met on an as needed basis to work toward the goals of the Churchwide Presbyterian Women: nurturing the faith of all women, supporting mission, working toward justice and peace, witnessing the promise of Christ. This is done through programming, raising money to distribute to missions in need and supporting circle meetings and activities.

This past year our meetings and activities were affected by the church shut-down, as were all groups within MPC. The yearly pledge drive was held in the fall, and due to the generosity of our members, \$2,600.00 was distributed to many worthy groups such as food pantries, Ivins Outreach Center, Covid Response, Snipes Farm and Education Center, Churchwide Presbyterian Women Mission Projects, and MPC memorials. The MPC Welcome/ Entrance sign was also purchased.

Deborah Circle has been meeting by Zoom on the second Monday of the month providing a connection among their members. Rebecca Circle also has met for a few months over Zoom welcoming new members and looking forward to future programming when we can meet in person safely.

PW Board members: Beth Curtiss, Nancy Kernan, Marion Rea, DeeAnn Martin, Carol Evans



## Deborah Circle

Our last meeting before Covid shutdown was in March. Molly Ramsey told us about her faith journey.

April to September - we did not meet.

In October and November we held a Zoom meeting where everyone got a chance to chat and catch up with each other. There was no planned program. Our December meeting was with Pastor Rachel who told us about Mary's Song in Luke.

Our January meeting was also on Zoom. In February we participated, along with the Today Show, in a Rom/Com bracket game. Pretty Woman won.

Carol Hernandez suggested our program for March 2021 and we met on Zoom with Melissa Robison, a Middletown Police Officer, who spoke to us about the dangers of the Granny Scam and also the Shop with a Cop program.

We donated money to the Food Center in May and January. We have also been reaching out to former members and friends by telephone and cards. Some of these folks do not have access to the internet.

It certainly has been an unusual year, but in many ways easier. During the cold, wet winter months, we could meet and not get out of our easy chairs—definitely a bonus!

Carol Evans,  
Deborah Circle Leader

## **Personnel Committee**

This past year has challenged us all to be flexible to change and adaptive to an ever-changing “new normal”. As a Personnel Committee, we are so proud of our MPC Pastoral and Support Staff and the many ways that they have led our community in new ways to Worship, new methods to provide Congregational Care, new forums to Learn and Grow in Faith, new outlets and procedures for Mission, and a myriad of other new ways to be Christ’s Church in the world. The phrase “we have never done it this way before” has never been uttered so frequently. We are especially appreciative of the work of the entire staff to develop and enhance our online worship service.

We supported our Staff as we closed the Office and the Sanctuary in March, to ensure that they had the means to remain connected with each other, the various boards and committees of the Church, and the Congregation. We worked closely with the COVID-19 Task Force to support our Staff’s safe return to in-person worship in the summer.

Other accomplishments over the past year include refinement of our annual Performance Review process, completion of a multi-church staff compensation benchmarking study and recruitment for a new Property Manager, in anticipation of Rich Drabb’s retirement in June.

We regret that we have been unable to hire a new full time organist. However, while the search continues, we are grateful and proud of the work that Tim Carpenter has done to work with a team of capable “pinch hitters” to keep the music alive in worship.

Looking forward, we hope and pray for continued returns to normalcy for our church and our staff as we reopen the Sanctuary for worship. We thank Seminary Intern, Molly Ramsey for her excellent work at MPC. She will surely be a blessing to her next church. Last, but not least, we also would like to thank Rich Drabb for his many years of outstanding service to our church as Property Manager, and wish him well in retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gilbride, Chair

On behalf of the Personnel Committee: Pastor Rachel Rhodes (Moderator), Erin Aronson, Beth Curtiss, Bill Hughes, and Tony Zazzu

## **Worship Committee**

Even as Morrisville Presbyterian Church has grappled with the fallout from COVID-19, including fear, anxiety, worry and despair, the scriptures reassure us that God is always with us to comfort and guide us. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1) and, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Knowing this, starting in March of 2020, MPC adaptively responded by creating exciting alternative ways to proclaim and spread God’s word.

Without missing a beat our pastors and staff tirelessly collaborated to move worship from the traditional venue of the MPC sanctuary to our socially (and literally) distant homes. To accomplish this they had to quickly master new technologies. We soon saw Pastors Rachel Rhodes, Alex Lester-Abdalla and Jack McAnlis and Seminary Intern Molly Ramsey appear on our computer screens during the spring and summer Sunday mornings with a prerecorded

worship service. They were ably assisted behind the scenes by Director of Music Tim Carpenter and by Damon Miller and his sound room assistants. Members of the congregation served as liturgists. This was all produced remotely, using videos, from the participants' homes. Maundy Thursday was our first pandemic observance of Holy Communion, through the use of Zoom technology.

Because of the warm weather during the summer months we were able to schedule more outdoor services and activities, including two more celebrations of Communion. These two services also marked the first time since the pandemic's beginning that we were able to sing hymns during worship, since the viral spread was too dangerous in an indoor setting. Another outdoor worship activity was the devotional time of scripture and prayer led by Pastor Jack each Thursday evening.

The decision was made to carefully reopen our sanctuary for Sunday worship in mid-September with COVID-19 restrictions in place. The format changed to live-streamed services from the sanctuary. The number of congregants was limited by governmental regulations, but those not able to attend in person were able to access the services at home on their computers. November brought about another closure of the sanctuary due to heightened concern over the resurgence of the virus, and we continued with the live-streamed services.

Four worship choices were available to the congregation on Christmas Eve: two identical short outdoor family services (at 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.) featured live singing of favorite Christmas carols; a 7:00 p.m. Zoom service featured musical leadership from some families of our congregation; a prerecorded service from our beautifully decorated sanctuary featured music from our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and organists. At all of the services the Christmas story was told through the reading of scripture, a Christmas message and sharing the Light of Christ.

We welcomed eight new adult members into MPC during worship on Sunday, January 31, 2021. Sunday, February 7, 2021 was Youth Sunday at which time we were blessed with a moving presentation (all virtual) by the MPC youth, and capably guided by Pastor Alex and Tim Carpenter. Maundy Thursday 2021 was again observed with a Zoom communion service.

The music of MPC was not silenced by the pandemic! In-person group singing of any kind (congregation or choirs) was deemed unacceptable due to the high degree of viral transmission it causes. Guided by the talent and hard work of Tim Carpenter, the choir members learned to record their individual choir parts at home and send them to him to be united into the normal sound of a choir, through the skillful use of special technology. Six members of our Bell Choir have continued to rehearse and have played at certain services during the year (all masked and socially distanced) from our sanctuary.

Brown Bag Bible Study has continued on most Wednesdays at noon with strong congregational participation. The Bible books of Samuel and Kings have been studied and discussed. Directly after the conclusion of the Bible Study the Prayer Group has met each week to ask for God's care and comfort for those in need. The Advent and Lenten Bags that were prepared by the Congregational Care Committee and distributed to the MPC membership provided further opportunities for worship and study.

So although our worship this year has been anything but "normal" it has been continuous, intentional and creative in the love and praise for our Lord God and his Son, Jesus Christ. We are indeed grateful for our truly competent and caring pastors and staff, who have made our worship experience meaningful throughout this pandemic year.



I would also like to thank the members of the Worship Committee for their help, support and expressions of Christian love. They are Carol Carpenter, Tim Carpenter, Greg Neiman, David Koch and Linda Smigelski.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Powers

## **Congregational Ministry Committee (CMC)**

The Congregational Ministry Committee continued its role as the caregiver of our congregation. Our members, J'Ann Ellis, Carol Hernandez, Helen Hill, Ann Clements, Kathy Larkin, Karin McAnlis, Nancy Kernan, Gail Hunger and Nancy McHenry, worked hard to find new ways to stay connected with our MPC family during this strange year.

### **October 5, 2020 – Older Adult gathering**

While it wasn't our usual fall van trip, we held a time for fellowship and catching up with church friends who hadn't seen each other in a while in the MPC parking lot. CMC prepared 60 care packages (including home-made soup, home-made baked goods, bible verses/prayers) that were distributed to those who attended and delivered to those who could not attend.

### **November 2, 2020 – Anniversary Celebration/Heritage Sunday**

All members celebrating anniversaries were honored during worship. Those who have been members 50 years or more received goody bags that were delivered by CMC members. We are hopeful that we can return to our annual luncheon in the coming year.

### **December 2020 - Advent Starter Kits**

As Advent rolled around, we created Advent Starter Kits for every family at MPC following the end of in person worship due to rising COVID cases.

These kits included an Advent devotional, a mission project for the Food Center, a candle to light during on-line worship, a ribbon to return to decorate our gratitude tree, a simple craft ornament of a church, and a Pen Pal postcard to help us all stay connected. CMC prepared baked goods for our older adults and the Youth Ministry and Young Adult Committees both added goodies for middle school through college students.

In all, 222 bags were delivered to MPC church families by 39 drivers.

Thank you to Beth Keys for creating the beautiful ornament craft and to all those who delivered bags.



### **February 2021 - Lenten Starter Kits**

After the success of the Advent Kits, we decided to create Lenten Kits. These kits included a 40-day devotional path, a "Lenten Journey" bag, devotional cards, a mission project for the Food Center, a colorful butterfly to be returned to decorate our Lenten tree and a Pen Pal postcard. CMC prepared baked goods for our older adults, Youth Ministry added goodies for the youth and the Education Committee filled Easter eggs that tell the story of Jesus for our young friends. In all, 226 bags were delivered to MPC church families with 39 drivers.

Thank you to Elizabeth Dugan for creating the 40-day devotional path, Beth Keys for the beautiful butterflies, and to all the drivers who delivered bags. CMC continues to provide care through cards and calls to those who are ill/recovering and those who are isolated especially during this past year. We also continue to coordinate meals for those undergoing treatments / recovering from illnesses. We truly miss our church family and are looking forward to the day when we can resume our normal activities and care for each other in person.

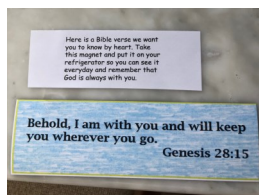
Lisa Zazzu,  
Congregational Ministry Committee Chair



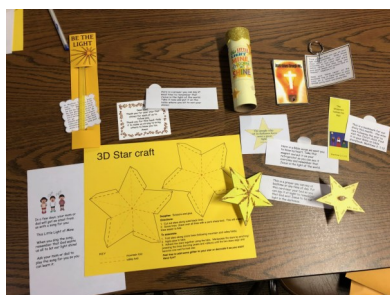
## Educational Ministry Committee (EMC)

In our MPC community, we are disciples of all ages, gathered for worship and nurture, scattered to serve and to love. The Educational Ministry Committee has always sought to provide nurture, love and spiritual development needed for Christian service through Sunday School and a variety of other learning opportunities. Because of the pandemic, EMC has had to discover and develop new ways to gather and new ways to nurture.

In the spring of 2020 when our separation from one another was new and, we thought, short-term, Pastor Alex supplied the parents of young children with emailed resources weekly so that faith formation could continue in the home. When our students were still homebound in the fall, the Sunday School teachers began to create faith formation packages with a new theme each month and deliver them to the homes of children from preschool to 5th grade. Packages included age-appropriate bibles, bible stories, scripture memory verses, prayers, and various original craft activities to emphasize the theme of the month. Our children sang and recorded faith formation songs which were then uploaded onto the MPC YouTube channel for all to learn and sing. Teachers participating in this undertaking were Emily Bausher, Gail Flesch, Kathy Foster, Luisa Herrera, Jen Jones, Nancy Kernan, Beth Keys, Lisa Kutch, and John Leonard.



**Monthly Faith Formation Packages**  
Teachers prepare materials, pack them up, and deliver to children's homes



## Music Ministry

When in-person gatherings were prohibited last March, most of the Music Ministry program abruptly came to a halt: the three singing choirs and two bell choirs were temporarily silenced. Singing, especially, was determined to be one of the highest risk activities and was designated as perhaps the last of the church's activities to be resumed. Music and drama plans for Children's Sunday and Pentecost went by the wayside. New ways of including music in the life of the church needed to be found.

Initially, we looked to transferring recordings of hymns and organ music from past services into our prerecorded worship. The Chancel Choir met via Zoom for fellowship, but the vagaries of Zoom made it a poor vehicle for making corporate music. When it became apparent that the pandemic would not be under control anytime soon, other means of "doing music" needed to be explored.

Our dependence on substitute organists for live-streamed worship is an ongoing concern even though we have been fortunate to be able to cultivate relationships with several. When Mark Shockey's Lutheran church moved its worship time an hour closer to ours we lost a reliable and skilled worship leader. Mark and Brit Montoro are both happy to help out with recording accompaniments for virtual choir, when it doesn't conflict with their other jobs.

In thinking about how to put together a virtual choir, I reacquainted myself with my Apple computer's music application, GarageBand. I had played around with it, but now needed to make a serious attempt to use it. The learning curve was steep, but a few projects in, my editing and repairing skills started to yield better results. I won't describe the processes of creating a virtual choir for you, but I can tell you that it is a lengthy and demanding process for everyone involved. Although the end product may be effective, there is not the sense of community and real joy that happens when singing together in the same space. What there is, though, is a sense of remembering community when listening to the finished anthem and knowing that you are part of it. And, importantly, recognizing that - although the process is different - God can still be revealed in our singing.

Hand bell choir, since singing wasn't involved, afforded a different solution. I discovered, over last summer, that there was a small body of hand bell music written for four to six ringers. By happy coincidence we could place six masked ringers six feet apart across the width of our sanctuary and rehearse and play for worship as a





group. I found six ringers who were eager to give it a try and it was, and continues to be, a joy for us all.

We have tentatively expanded into adding video, as evidenced by some of the youth shown singing on Youth Sunday and a quartet of adults on Palm Sunday (previous page). Now that we have been pushed to explore different ways of doing music and ministry, I'm sure that we will continue to look for ways to enhance and expand ministries. Nothing can replace corporate singing or in-person corporate worship, but, to God be the Glory, different forms and modes can sit comfortably next to one another.



### **Children and Family Committee**

The goal for the Children and Family committee is to support young families in our congregation. This support typically has included consistent childcare that allows parents to participate in the life of our church through adult education classes, weekly worship, chancel choir and other opportunities.

Through the fellowship events hosted prior to the pandemic we have provided opportunities for young families to begin new friendships and nurture long standing relationships within our congregation, which encourage greater involvement in church activities and leadership. We look forward to resuming these activities when normal operations have returned.

During the past year while our committee may have been dormant with regards to planned activities, its members have continued to serve the children and families of the congregation in their roles as Sunday School teachers and parents. We continue to send love and prayers to our families, teachers, and all of our church community.

### **Youth Ministry Committee**

It has been quite a year for all of us!! As the pandemic became very real, the Youth Ministry Committee quickly pivoted to create virtually distant programs for our youth. The priority became maintaining a connection with the Youth of MPC.

#### **Class of 2020 HS Seniors not forgotten**

The initial biggest effect was on our graduating High School Senior students who had already lost much in their senior year of High School with the pandemic. However, with Alex's creativity and technology, we were still able to recognize our seniors in (digital) worship. We also announced Scholarships for our college youth as they continue their education – probably needed more now than in years past. Following that, the Youth Ministry committee hand delivered small gifts/care packages to our seniors as they started preparing for next steps. Later in the summer, we also had an outdoor recognition (graduation) ceremony event for Youth Club. In a time when we couldn't hug as we normally would, we improvised with pool noodles to keep our social distances.

### **Mission trip missed by all**

Unfortunately, the much-anticipated mission trip to Pipestem, WV last summer was reluctantly canceled, with a lot of disappointment. It was a difficult decision, but a necessary one. Even though we cancelled for the summer of 2020 we kept the Folklife Center in WV in our thoughts and prayers as they too were struggling with the pandemic. A highlight of the trip is recognizing those graduating seniors, so we have made a promise that they will be included in our mission effort this upcoming summer. Whether in WV, or locally, we plan to have a program this summer that includes all who have completed 8th grade, are in high school, as well as last year's seniors.

### **New times, new Youth Club activities**

Back-to-school was looking different by September 2020, and so was our Youth Club. We kicked off a new season of Youth Club, initially by keeping virtually distant outside while the weather was warm. As the weather grew cold, we moved our meetings to Zoom and offered different types of activities. We have had a small but steady group attending online. Sunday school efforts for this age group (6th grade and up) were incorporated so that the first Wednesday of the month include Sunday school lessons that are taught by a few of our dedicated teachers.



*MPC Dog Walk at Tyler State Park with youth, puppies & their families*

Aware of “Zoom fatigue,” we have also offered outdoor opportunities throughout the year to remain connected to the youth and their families. We have had a few socially distant dog walks through Tyler Park that have been well attended. We also adopted a family in need at Christmas providing presents for the family with an added challenge to see who could wrap their gift in the most creative manner.

We have also helped with the Food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Lent. And during the cold, snowy winter we had a wonderful night of sledding, along with fire pit and hot chocolate, that was a very warming time for all that evening.

Also knowing the importance of connections outside of the digital world, and to let the youth know they are always in our thoughts, the committee has added items to the Advent and Lenten bags specifically for our youth. For Advent, our youth received a reversible face mask embroidered with MPC (special shout out to Carol Evans) and for Lent, the bags included some homemade, decorated Easter cookies (courtesy of Beth Becker).

### **Looking forward**

While this has been the most unusual year in all of our lifetimes, in many ways it has prompted Youth Ministry to create new and different programs to focus on the youth and their needs. In accepting this challenge, the committee does look forward to being back together in the future and to return to having more hands-on and interactive programs, as well as keeping some new events developed from this past year. MPC Dog Walk at Tyler State Park with youth, puppies & their families.



***To be able to see one another and work closely with the youth, to know and understand all that is going on in their world, for this is what we pray.***

We are grateful for our faithful and supportive committee and especially to Pastor Alex for his creative approach and commitment to making a cohesive program during this very unusual period in the life of the church and the lives of our youth.

Respectfully submitted by the Youth Ministry Committee,

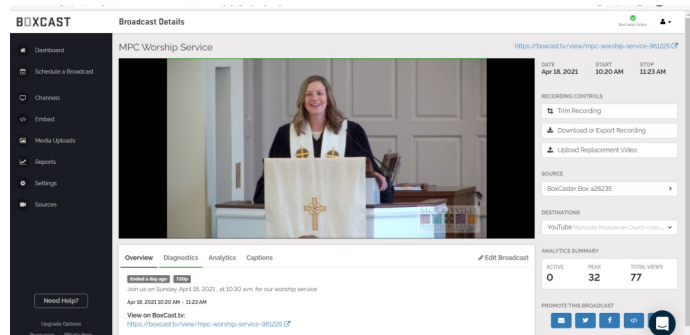
Sydney Flook, Lisa Zazzu, Nancy Stoner, Wes Gardner, Dan Jones, Travis Keys, Pastor Alex, Dawn Flook, and Beth Becker

## **Communication and Evangelism Committee**

During the past twelve months, the Communication and Evangelism Committee has sought to continue proclaiming Morrisville Presbyterian Church's mission and message, inviting the congregation and surrounding community to participate in our virtual worship, and educating people about the church's events and activities. Our connections to the congregation via U.S. mail, email, social media and video have been an especially important focus while we are not able to gather in-person on a regular basis.

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing partnership with Communication Coordinator, Damon Miller. Damon has led production of our newly revamped recorded worship services, and enabled our new live-stream worship, which we plan to continue long after we return to the sanctuary, welcoming worship attendees who are homebound or far away. Our video worship services are watched by well over 100 families, with most utilizing the live-stream service, while others take advantage of watching the recording service afterwards. We have had viewership from 15 states and US territories! Damon continues to engage the staff and other groups at MPC to collect the news, and leads production of the weekly worship bulletin. In addition, Damon also produces our Currents newsletter which has shifted to a quarterly publishing schedule.

One challenge that the committee had to overcome due to the pandemic, was trying to communicate consistent messages to the entire congregation through a wide variety of mediums. In order to make information available to all the Communications Committee maintains our website at [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org), provides the FYI emails, posts to the MPC Facebook page, and coordinates stories for the MPC Instagram account. The COVID-19 reopening plan and other updates from the MPC COVID-19 Task Force are available on the website. The ability to give online, through options on the website, was vital during this COVID time. This year, we have been pleased to have Pastor Rachel and Pastor Alex connecting directly with the



**facebook**

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Church

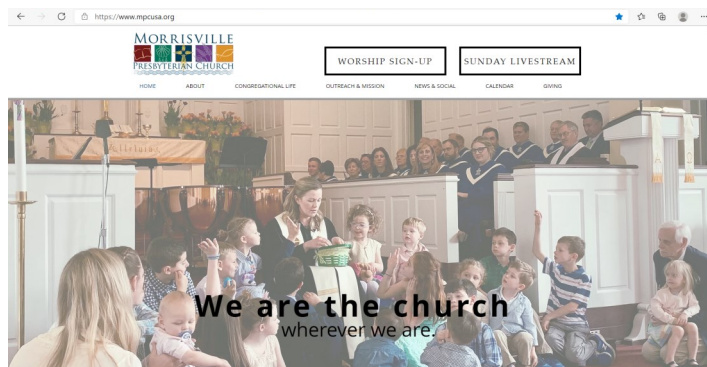


Instagram:  
@MorrisvillePresbyterian

congregation through social media video messages. Our Facebook page is followed by 400+ people and our Instagram account has 175 followers. And we continued the strategy of using Facebook advertising as a low-cost way to promote our Christmas and Easter services to 4500+ people in the surrounding community.

The Committee was disappointed to be unable to participate in community events since these events were not held due to COVID-19, but we look forward to finding opportunities for Morrisville Presbyterian Church to connect with the community in person when the time is appropriate.

Looking forward, the Committee has begun to draft a Communications plan, design guidelines and content tips to help us manage all our forms of communication more consistently, and to



ensure everyone knows the best options for promoting the missions and activities of the church while always keeping the MPC vision statement in mind. In addition, we have quickly realized that our congregation looks for and receives information and communications from MPC in a wide variety of platforms and mediums. With committee members such as Caroline Thompson, Curt Rimler,

along with Pastor Rachel and Damon, we have successfully managed our website and social media platforms to provide these outlets with as much information as possible in order to reach all of our members. When finalized, the new Communications Plan will help us improve upon the processes used to maintain and manage these platforms.

Respectfully submitted,

Communications and Evangelism Committee – Greg Neiman (Chair), Damon Miller (Communications Coordinator and Staff Liaison), Pastor Rachel Rhodes, Luisa Herrera, Curt Rimler, AK Rosenbaum, Derick Sumrall, Caroline Thompson

## Visitation Ministry

Members of this Committee thrive on face-to-face encounters. Even though our callers were not able to meet as we had done previously, we remained faithful in our service as best we could.

Following a well-attended meeting of the Visitation Ministry Committee in late February 2020, many callers continued to remain in touch with their visitees by writing notes and making phone calls as the Pandemic continued. Thanks to a plan to keep in touch with older members of the congregation, as devised by Rev. Jack McAnlis in anticipation of the shutdown, members of the Committee were paired with older members who were thought to be vulnerable to isolation.

Our work was also carried out through a variety of contacts made during the regular course of activities of MPC. Phone calls made to the entire congregation by the Board of Deacons in the spring added to the care of our church family. In the fall, four members of the Visitation Committee, who were also members of the Congregational Ministry committee, delivered gift

bags in honor of our 50 Year members, including baked goods. Some outdoor conversations happened during these deliveries. These same participants, augmented by many church members, delivered Christmas and Lenten bags to the MPC membership.

With the rotation of Ann Clements and Shellie Stoddard off the Board of Deacons after six years of service as the co-chairs of the Visitation Committee, Fran Akelewicz ably supervised the deacon flower deliveries to about 35 church members. The flowers received by members of the church are greatly appreciated. The Visitation Ministry Committee looks forward to making in-person calls in a post-Pandemic world.

Submitted by,

Ann Clements and Shellie Stoddard

### **Outreach Committee**

The following contributions were made possible by the funds from the MPC Clothing Center:

Disciple Makers - Tori Zbinden	\$500
Morrisville Presbyterian Towers (Giant gift cards)	\$1000
Salvation Army	\$500
Armstrong Organization	\$500
Morrisville Presbyterian Towers (Giant gift cards)	\$500
Habitat for Humanity	\$200
Snipes Farm & Education Center	\$1000
Solid Rock Youth Center	\$120
Disciple Makers - Tori Zbinden	\$500
Christ the King Orthodox Church (Father Andracchio)	\$100
Damon Miller (Thank you - Organ Recital)	\$100

*"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."*

Deuteronomy 15:10

The following contributions were made possible by MPC member pledges and Sunday plate giving and designated in the Outreach operating budget:

Presbyterian Outreach Foundation	\$1,500
General Assembly	\$1,237
Synod of Trinity	\$ 187
Presbytery	\$2,325
Presby's Inspired Life	\$1,000
Presby Children's Village	\$1,000

*"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it."*

Proverbs 3:27

The following Special Offerings were made possible by the generous offerings collected from the MPC congregation:

Peace & Global Witness	\$ 720
Christmas Joy	\$ 445
Hunger Relief (monthly Deacons)	\$ 124
Chromebooks for Morrisville School District	\$11,160
COVID-19 Relief Fund	\$ 2,577

*“But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*

Matthew 6:3-4

The following contribution was made possible by unrestricted gifts (Benevolence) to MPC.

Ivins Outreach Center	\$500
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The following contributions were made possible by additional Outreach Funds as approved by the Session.

Presbytery of Philadelphia	\$2,000
Ivins Outreach Outing	\$2,600
Advocates for the Homeless & Those in Need	\$2,600
Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County	\$2,600
Trenton Area Soup Kitchen	\$2,600
Philabundance	\$2,600

It truly has been a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic. And so, the Outreach Committee and many others have reached out to those in need. 100's of pots of soups, 100's of hand-made masks, 1000's of PB&J sandwiches, baked goods, boxes of cereal, crackers and mac & cheese along with clothing, toiletries, beds, school supplies, etc have all been donated and delivered to homes and the homeless in many surrounding areas. The Ivins Outreach Center and the leadership of Kathy Foster have been a blessing to the committee and to so many of those in need.

The Morrisville Presbyterian Church outreaches to those in need not only within the Morrisville area, but also nationally and worldwide! Thank you to everyone who made contributions that enabled this committee to make such generous donations! “MPC has always been a most generous church”!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Hendrickson

## The Ivins Outreach Center (IOC)

The Ivins Outreach Center is a community organization that provides quality of life programs for youth to older adults in Lower Bucks County.

- It enables seniors to age gracefully in their homes or apartments and remain engaged in their community through its Staying Put program;
- It helps people find and apply for existing services and programs offered by area social agencies through its Resource & Referral program;
- In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center, grants at The School District of Borough of Morrisville, Bensalem Township School District, Bucks County Technical High School, and the Bristol Borough School District, The Ivins Outreach Center manages after-school and summer academic and enrichment programs for youth in grades K through 12; parent education programs; and Social Emotional Learning as well as Drug/Opioid Prevention programs for our students and their families.



### Meeting Community Needs

**Staying Put in Lower Bucks Program:** Our Staying Put in Lower Bucks Program was launched in October 2015 to assist Bucks County residents who appreciate their community as well as its resources and history. Staying Put is driven by volunteers who provide services to give seniors and adults struggling with a serious illness the practical means and social support to live their lives to the fullest, safely and confidently in their own homes.

This allows our members continued support from the communities they love and familiar connections, including friends, church, doctors, hairdressers and more. Staying Put is a membership based program designed for adults 55 and older as well as adults of any age struggling with serious illness. Services are offered at a minimal cost of \$350 per individual per year or \$500 per couple per year. Our geographic area served is all townships and boroughs in Lower Bucks County.



In March of 2020, the Staying Put Program was suspended due to COVID-19. Our members are no longer paying for the services as we are unable to offer trips to restaurants, grocery shopping, salon visits, and in-home services such as home repairs, companion visits, technology assistance, and minor home repairs. We continue to drive members to essential medical appointments, fill grocery orders, pick up prescriptions, make weekly wellness calls and deliver food boxes and hot meals.

**The Ivins Outreach Center Opportunity Scholarship Fund:** The Ivins Outreach Center is an approved Opportunity Scholarship Organization for Pennsylvania Business Tax Credits. Contributions from PA businesses will be used to fund scholarships for students at low-performing schools in Lower Bucks County to attend other public schools outside of their districts or nonpublic schools. The business selects the Opportunity Scholarship Organizations to provide the tuition assistance. We encourage businesses to discuss with their tax consultants, and if you are eligible for these tax credits, please designate the Ivins Outreach Center as the opportunity scholarship organization.



**COVID 19 Response Program:** Through the help of so many supporters, volunteers, and generous grants received through the United Way of Bucks County the Ivins Outreach Center was able to provide food and services to help feed hungry children, families, and seniors during this very difficult year. We served 340 individuals in 2020. In addition to our 40 Staying Put members, 200 non-Staying Put members received hot meal deliveries and groceries weekly. We provided approximately 60 food boxes weekly to low-income families in Morrisville, Bensalem, Bristol Township, and Bristol Borough, plus the additional food requests we received daily. On Saturdays, left-over donated food was taken to area churches for distribution in their community. We received food donations from Morrisville and Bristol Giant Food Stores, R. J. Bagels, Princeton Junction Bagels, Princeton Schools, and Pepperidge Farm. With these donations, we served residents at Cornwell Heights Elderly Housing, Presbyterian Towers, Grundy Towers, and Grundy Gardens. Donated food is also given to assist Holy Trinity Pantry, Trenton Soup Kitchen, Woodside Presbyterian Church, Princeton Deliverance Church, Morrisville Presbyterian Church Food Center, and Morrisville United Methodist Church. An “angel team” of volunteers prepared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, soup, and baked goods for delivery to seniors and organizations that serve the homeless. We purchased 15 gallons of hand sanitizer, delivering 10 gallons to Jefferson Bucks Hospital and assisting area first responders with the remaining 5 gallons



**Referral Help:** The Ivins Outreach Center provides assistance with financial matters such as rent, utilities or credit card debt, free legal advice, counseling for parenting issues such as bullying, ADHD and supporting children in school for success, as well as counseling for teen issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, after-school programs and gangs. General information about the community and services for medical issues and health insurance for children and adults plus issues unique to seniors and the aging population are available also.

**Holiday Giving Tree:** We have so many to thank for the success of our 2020 Giving Tree. We would like to thank the School District of Borough of Morrisville who allowed our program full use of Grandview Elementary School’s multi-purpose room in Morrisville. We were so excited to have so much space. This additional space allowed the program to grow and we were able to serve 228 families with 615 children with holiday toys, gifts and gift cards. Special thanks to our volunteers, individual/business supporters, Toys for Tots, and the United Way of Bucks County, who donated gift cards for our teens.



**21st Century Grant Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC):** The 21st Century Grants are funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. 21st CCLC is a very impactful program in partnership with the Ivins Outreach Center and Bristol Borough School District, Bensalem Township School District, School District of Borough of Morrisville, and Bucks County Technical High School. The grants provide after-school enrichment programs and summer camps for youth and teens. In the 2019-20 school year, (July 2019 through June 2020),

2,500 students participated in after-school and summer programs. Students participated both in person and virtual due to COVID-19. Programs included academic tutoring, performing arts, academic success, credit recovery, career readiness, sports, truancy, drug and alcohol awareness, theater arts, and fine arts.



**Future Program:** Home Sharing: Our home sharing housing program would bring together a homeowner (provider) who has a room to spare and a person (seeker) who is looking for a place to

live. The provider and seeker each have a private bedroom; both have full use of the rest of the provider's home. There are many benefits derived from such a housing strategy and there are many types of participants – for example, senior citizens, working professionals, students, individuals who cannot find affordable housing, single parents, or people who have reduced income because of a loss of full-time work – or those who simply want to share their lives and home with others. Bucks County Agencies and the County Commissioners showed enthusiasm for this new program.



## Food Center (FC)



### Food Center's Mission

To provide supplemental food assistance to families in Lower Bucks County and the Trenton area. The Food Center has been doing this since 1997.

### Operations

The Food Center made significant changes in its operations in the past year to address COVID-19. Under the leadership of Carol Romano, the following changes were made to protect clients and volunteers.

The entire operation vacated Fellowship Hall and moved upstairs and outside. Bags of prepacked food were staged near the double doors under the portico.



On Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m., clients drove their cars on the circular driveway leading to the portico, were greeted and asked to verify their name and the number of people in their living unit. The FC continued to serve working families on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- Clients drove their cars under the portico, opened their car trunks, and the requisite number of bags were placed in the trunk.
- In the early days of the pandemic, anyone who came to the Food Center was given food, no questions asked. Many out of work people, who had never received food assistance in their lives, came to the Food Center for help.
- In 2021, a new tablet/iPad program replaced the old computer database. This allows FC volunteers to better track clients, while serving them outside....no more computers or wires.
- The storage closets in Room 4 in the basement were emptied by the Cub and Boy Scouts and were then renovated to permit the addition of shelving to store food.
- Food stored on the stage was relocated to the new storage shelves.

In the past 12 months, over 9,500 clients were fed. Over 550 new families were served. The number of individuals served, and the number of households served are all down from the previous year. But the number of new families increased greatly due to the pandemic. The FC serves an average of 60-70 families each week.

Volunteers come from several PA & NJ churches and synagogues and the general public. About 6 to 8 volunteers come on Wednesday, another 5 volunteers come every Monday evening to pack bags of food, and another 5 volunteers come during the day on Tuesday to receive produce deliveries from Philabundance. Also, about 6 volunteers rotate picking up donated food, primarily breads and desserts, at various businesses.

### **Food Supply**

Each week Philabundance provides fresh produce, free of charge. Pepperidge Farms breads are donated to the Food Center each week. Most of the canned goods and non-perishables are purchased from Philabundance and C&S Grocery Supply. Volunteers pick up a variety of bread, desserts and boxes of donated merchandise each week from Giant in Morrisville and McCaffrey's; frozen items most weeks from the Bucks County Opportunity Council in Doylestown (in conjunction with Applegate Farms); and during summer and fall months, fresh produce from Rolling Harvest Food Rescue. The Food Center also benefits from food drives run by other local congregations, scouting groups, schools, and other community organizations.

### **Donations & Expenses**

Total income from donations, grants and investment income for the past 12 months was \$85,345, which includes \$16,100 worth of food from Philabundance. Most of this money comes from a large number of individual donors, churches, social and service organizations and businesses. Shop Rite provides grants which allows occasional extra deliveries of purchased food. Total expense during the past 12 months for purchased food and nonfood items was \$60,654. The worth of the food given out, if it had to be purchased by the clients at grocery stores, would be about 4 times the money spent by the Food Center in obtaining the food.



The Executive Committee, that steers the FC, utilized some excess funds to give additional items to clients such as chicken and toiletries, donations to other area non-profit food operations, such as Trenton's First Presbyterian Church's lunch program, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, and Philabundance. Also, 25 bags were provided weekly during early 2021 to the Ivins Outreach Center for the duration of the pandemic for its distribution to the food insecure in the Morrisville community.

Carol Romano/Drew Hunger

## **The Lord's Tailor Shop**

Our Annual report will reflect operations from March 3, 2020 to March 25, 2021. As of these dates we have profited \$3,078.80 to support our Outreach Committee who in turn disburses these funds to needy organizations.

The Lord's Tailor Shop", AKA Clothing Center, was established in 1983. The shop is located in Room 4 in the church basement. It is open for business on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Please note this is a change).



These few months have been especially challenging for the Lord's Tailor Shop. Not only did we have to close on March 10, 2020, we were unable to open until October 8, 2020. To compound matters, 3 of our faithful volunteers, Ev Fletcher, Sarah Sunderland & Delores Morris retired. We thank them for all their years of hard work and devotion to the shop. However, we were blessed to have 3 new volunteers (Jane Detraz, Cheryl Palmer and Pam Cutchineal) join our staff. They have been life savers.

In August we were able to enter the center to clean, sanitize and change the clothing to reflect the coming fall/winter season. Due to the Food Center distribution constrictions because of COVID -19, it was best if we changed our selling day to Thursday from 10 to 2:00 p.m.. This was the biggest change for our customers and for us - to get the word out that we were now open on Thursdays. We had our grand re-opening on October 8, 2020 with masks, sanitizer and social distancing rules in place.



Although, we were unable to have our special sales events this past year, we are planning to be open Saturday May 8, 2021 during the Cub Scout yard sale. Please come and join us in the Lord's Tailor Shop and see the many things the shop has to offer. There is something for everyone.

We thank everyone who donated clothing and items to our inventory, making our efforts to help others a possibility. Our shop would not be able to operate without your help.

Again, thank you to our faithful volunteers, Betsy Jurey, Kathy Foster, Jane Detraz, Cheryl Palmer and Pam Cutchineal, who work together tirelessly and with a smile. We look forward to seeing you.

\*See Outreach Committee report for income and disbursements

***"Grounded in the grace of God, we are a vibrant Christian Community, disciples of all ages, gathered for worship and nurture, scattered to serve and love."***

## **Weekday Nursery School (WNS)**

March 13, 2020 was the day we all went into quarantine. None of us knew what that was going to look like and for how long. The school year ended abruptly in March of 2020, and we didn't reopen until January 4, 2021 with 25 students enrolled.

This school year has had its challenges, just as everyone has had to face. The pandemic has changed how we operate for now with social distancing, wearing masks, sanitizing hands regularly, and not having the ability to sing the songs we love to sing each year. We have learned that children are resilient and just love being together even if it is 3 feet apart. They wear their masks with pride and don't seem to be phased by them. Our philosophy of socialization and communication in order to build confidence in a safe and loving environment, can continue to be met; it just looks a little different. We thank Morrisville Presbyterian Church for your continued support, which allows us to provide our students with lifelong lessons that are so important today. As in Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

In the fall of 2021 Weekday Nursery School will celebrate 63 years of service to the community. Each member of our teaching staff has earned their bachelor's degree in education, and everyone is certified by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education.

Chris Borish, Director/Teacher, has taught Half-Pints and 3-year-old students for the past 20 years and has been Director for 13 years. This will be Chris' last year at Weekday Nursery School, as she is retiring.

Our teachers and Staff for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

- Kim Cooper, who has been with us for 15 years, taught the three/four day 4-year-old class. Mrs. Cooper is also retiring at the end of the current school year.
- Christina Alexy has not worked this current year due to the hybrid learning of her second grader at home. She has been with the Nursery School for 12 years and will serve as the new Director for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Jill Hay, who was our classroom aide, has been with us for 6 years in the classroom, and she has served on our board for many years.

Our efforts would not be successful without the support of MPC and the church staff, as well as the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors. All Board members are unpaid volunteers, with the exception of our Treasurer and Enrollment Secretary, who both receive a modest stipend for their efforts.

### **2020-2021 Board of Directors**

Chairperson	Jennifer Mizak	Member at Large	Emily Bausher
Enrollment Secretary	Joanie Layden	Member at Large	Jill Hay
Treasurer	Amy Kieley	Parent Representative	Rhonda D'Atamo
EMC Representative	Susan Light	Parent Representative	Caitrin McLean
Recording Secretary	Lauren Almond		

**Tuition by Class** - The tuitions rated reflect our abbreviated school year.

4-year-old Inventors

3 days/wk \$1373

4 days/wk \$1683

3-year-old Little Explorers

2 days/wk \$1035

3 days/wk \$1519

Half-Pints (2 yrs., 7 mos. old) attending

2 days/wk \$1272

**Enrollment by Class**

**2020-2021**

Half-Pints 2 days 4

2 days, 3-year-old A.M. 3

3 days, 3-year-old A.M. 4

Combo 3/4 & 4-year-old A.M. 14



Getting ready for Valentine's Day.



3-year-old students seeing the baby chicks.



Learning about teeth during  
Dental Health Month



## Cub Scouts/Pack 3 - Morrisville, PA

William C. Burgess/Charter Organization Representative



### Pack Leadership Team

<b>Cub Master</b>	Katherine Pargola	<b>Committee Chair</b>	Charles Cera
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sandra Jackson	<b>Committee Chair</b>	Stephanie Huston
<b>Webelo Den Leader</b>	Dustin Covert	<b>Wolf Den Leader</b>	Jeff Heiserman

Over the past year, 2020-2021, Pack 3, like many organizations, was affected by the pandemic. Beginning in mid-March 2020, the Pack stopped in-person meetings. Many events had to be canceled, due to statewide COVID-19 restrictions, including their annual Pinewood Derby event and the Mondo Yard Sale. Finding ways to meet and how to continue the cub scouting experience was left up to the discretion of the families and their den leaders. Some dens continued to meet and others chose not to. The Tiger Den continued scouting on their own. The Wolf Den and their families decided not to continue with scouting. The Bear den moved to virtual meetings and outings. The Webelo/AOL den continued toward their rank and requirements to move up to Troop 3.

In September 2020, Pack 3 resumed in-person meetings and pack meetings with social distancing protocols in place. The Pack's leadership changed over in September, as well. Mike Sheridan resigned as Cub Master, to follow his son to Troop 3. The Pack had a change in the Treasurer position as well. Sandra Jackson took over the role of Treasurer in November 2020.

Upon restarting meetings in the fall of 2020, Pack 3 had 8 active scouts that returned, and two new young cubs joined. Two new dens, Lions and Tigers, were formed. The returning boys also ranked up to their new ranks, Wolf and Webelos. Pack 3 had a busy schedule of events, recruitment, and fundraising plans to return to. They got outside and back to nature. In November, just in time for Thanksgiving, Pack 3 hosted a very successful Thanksgiving Pie fundraiser. The pies were supplied by A&M Farm & Garden Center in Robbinsville, NJ. They raised enough to pay for a portion of the 2021 re-chartering fee for the remaining boys. Pack 3 re-chartered in December 2020 with 10 active boys and 6 active adults.



Starting in the winter of 2021, Pack 3 began preparing to participate in the Tamanend District's Klondike Derby in February. The Pack met on two separate weekends to prepare and learn skills needed to compete. They learned skills from knot tying and fire safety, to survival first aide, as well as dog sled racing.

With full pack participation, Pack 3 entered 2 patrols in the competition and placed 2nd and 3rd among the other packs in attendance. The patrols ranked 7th & 9th overall, among all scout troops & packs in attendance.

In March 2021, Pack 3 met for an early spring hike at Silver Lake Nature Center in Bristol. They also hosted an in-person, socially distanced Pinewood Derby for the Pack. The boys were thrilled to be able to participate in this annual event again. Three new boys have also joined the troop between those two activities. It is our hope that we will once again be able to have in person meetings at MPC in the near future.



### **Boy Scout Troop 3 - Morrisville, PA**



William C. Burgess/Charter Organization Representative

#### **Leadership Members**

Scoutmaster: John Waslenko

Committee Chair: Stephanie Huston

Treasurer: Ken Brothers

Assistant Scoutmasters: Seamus Getty, Chris Newill, Denver Vancil, Don Bellamy, Pat McKeown, Shawn Meisels, Steve Huston

Troop Committee: Amy Baxter-Bellamy, Connor Scholl, Patricia McKeown, Scott De Lair, Steve Curran (Advancement Chair), Tom De Shields (Life-to-Eagle Coordinator)



Over Troop 3's 110 year history, no year has ever been quite like 2020. While the year started off strong with camping trips to Resica Falls (Jan 2020) & participation in the Mercer Area District Klondike (Feb 2020), things came to a sudden stop in March just one week after welcoming the new Scouts who crossed over from Pack 3.



While no one knew what the following months would hold, one thing was certain Troop 3 would carry on. From April through August, Troop 3 moved our meetings to a virtual platform. We continued to meet at least twice a month, held committee meetings, and tried to keep things business as usual for the Scouts. Merit badges were introduced during these virtual meetings, and Scouts finished First Aid Merit Badge and began Radio, Gardening, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, and Family Life. Scouts also continued to progress through the ranks with Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review going virtual.



While summer camp plans were put on hold, virtual summer camp programs were offered by our council and councils around the country. Members of our troop participated in a variety of programs, meeting scouts from around the country.

By fall, Troop 3 was able to resume in-person meetings outdoors with social distancing protocols in place. It was during those meetings that the bond between the Scouts shined brightest. Even though they had been apart, they were still a unit and functioned as such. They held a court of honor, flag retirement ceremony, held team building activities, and went on a day hike to Ricketts Glen. In November, we had 3 more Cubs from Pack 3 crossover and join Boy Scout Troop 3



Continuing with tradition, the annual Christmas tree sale took place starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving. For the first time in recent memory, we sold out every tree on the lot in only 2 weeks time! Even though the sale was shorter than it had been in past years, all Scouts participated in the set up of the tree lot, worked shifts, and helped break down the lot after the holidays.

During the holiday season and continuing through until February, the troop returned to a virtual format holding two meetings per month. Most of these meetings focused on team building, rank advancement, and planning for the future. The troop also began planning monthly outings that have included hiking at 5 Mile Woods, sledding at Maple Point, and hiking at Tyler State Park & having a campfire. The winter months also brought more virtual badge workshops from around the country.

In March, Troop 3 resumed in person meetings and were hosted by the Morrisville Fire Department. The troop got to learn about the department and the services they provide our community, in addition to working on rank, creating strong patrols, and planning for upcoming events like the district First Aid O Ree and Summer Camp.



### **Troop 3 Achievements**

- 2 Scouts earned the rank of Eagle - Seamus Getty & Connor Scholl
- 8 rank advancements
- More than 25 merit badges and other awards earned
- 7 new Scouts
- Over 110 hours of community service
- 1 Scout attend National Youth Leadership Training
- 3 Scouts were elected to the Order of the Arrow
- Both Scouts who earned Eagle returned to the troop - one as a Committee Member and the other as an Assistant Scoutmaster
- 2020 JTE GOLD

While 2020 will be remembered for its challenges, Troop 3 should proudly remember it for their accomplishments. In a time where many walked away, they persevered.

