

## STATISTICAL REPORT 2024

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP January 1, 2024   | 94  |
| New members added during 2024       | 15  |
| Members removed from rolls in 2024  | 1   |
| Other Participants                  | 88  |
| Baptized Members                    | 11  |
| ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP December 31, 2024 | 108 |
| Baptisms (children)                 | 1   |
| Baptisms (adults)                   | 1   |
| Weddings performed by pastor        | 1   |
| Funerals performed by pastor        | 2   |

### ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

| 2024                 | 2025              | 2026             | 2027              |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Faye Salomone        | Dian Poujade      | Christie Mistrot | Mark Hartrim-Lowe |
| Heather Hartrim-Lowe | Josh Krane        | Janet VanFleet   | Janet Lind        |
| Cordell Beck         | Seth Hartrim-Lowe | Faye Salomone    | Laura Livingston  |
|                      |                   |                  |                   |
|                      |                   |                  |                   |

### ORGANIZATION OF THE DEACONS

| 2024           | 2025            | 2026          | 2027            |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Deborah Shaner | Anne Wiley      | Lynda Wittren | Joan Detrick    |
| Nancy Bisbee   | Linda Beck      | Barbie Baker  | Karen Montovino |
| Mary Oswalt    | Sherry McKusick | Becky Hickok  | Sarah Ostrand   |
|                |                 |               |                 |

### SESSION MINISTRY CHAIRS

|                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Clerk of Session</b>    |  | Janet VanFleet  |
| <b>Christian Formation</b> | Worship Arts<br>Mission & Peace<br>Christian Education<br>Technology | Laura Livingston<br>Janet VanFleet<br>Janet Lind<br>Seth Hartrim-Lowe |
| <b>Connections</b>         | Community Life<br>Evangelism/Member Care                             | Christie Mistrot<br>Josh Krane  |
| <b>Stewardship</b>         | Stewardship/Finance<br>Bldgs. & Grounds<br>Personnel                 | Mark Hartrim-Lowe<br>Faye Salomone<br>Dian Poujade                    |

|                         |         |    |         |   |
|-------------------------|---------|----|---------|---|
| SESSION MEETINGS        | Regular | 11 | Special | 0 |
| CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS | Regular | 2  | Called  | 0 |

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." John 15:1-2

Pruning is no fun whether you are the branch being trimmed back or the laborer doing the work. It is hard work requiring great knowledge and skill. But once the dead weight and less fruitful branches are removed, the healthy branches can bear even more fruit.

When I look back upon 2024, fruitfulness comes to mind. It has been a year of great fruit. COVID helped us pare back ministry so that we could spend our efforts on those things that we do best... creating space for people to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and equipping people to find their place of service in the world.

Here are some ways that God added to us in 2024.

- This year we added sixteen new members to our church family increasing our membership by 13%. Praise God! These are wonderful folk who have added richness to our current church body.
- We added new ministry partners by supporting the Rev. Dr. Geordie and Sharon Ziegler through Imago Christi. Geordie and Sharon come alongside pastors, missionaries, and other Christian leaders to help ground them in their ministry in a life of abiding love of God and a deeper intimacy with Christ.
- We added a 1001 New Ministries Program called Eternally Beloved started by Youth Leader Sarah Ostrand aimed to reach out to seniors in local assisted living facilities.
- We increased stewardship giving which funds our ministry through your ongoing and very generous support, again ending the year in the black
- We grew in knowledge and wisdom not steering away from difficult conversations on the Israeli Palestinian conflict so that we could learn a more faithful response to this tragic situation.
- We added more people to our New Hope Opportunities mission team in San Pedro Sula Honduras, taking ten people to run Vacation Bible School for over 160 Honduran Youth.
- We added more children and volunteer staff to our own Vacation Bible School increasing VBS participation by 15%.
- We added two baptisms.
- We added youth to our annual Cascades Men's Texas Hold'em Tournament making this a true intergenerational event.
- We added a new Green Team Ministry championed by 8 year old Jethro Beck who picks up the church grounds before services on Sunday morning.
- We added several new voices to our incredible Cascades Choir.
- We added new staff to our team such as Josh Krane as our contemporary worship leader, Lisa Kupfer as our new office administrator/treasurer, and welcomed back Pam Boehning as our nursery childcare provider.
- We added to our Church Safety and Security Team by planning for medical emergencies.
- We added new church leaders, some of whom had never served in leadership before.
- We added new members to Cascades Benevolence Board and refined guidelines to help us faithfully steward resources to under-resourced families and nonprofits in Clark County.
- We added more crafters to the Helping Hands Ministry which meets on Thursday afternoons and provides prayer quilts and shawls, and hats to those in need.
- We added new ways of gathering together for fellowship and mission by hosting two separate Bunko nights.
- We brought back the Clark County Presbyterian Churches Thanksgiving Week Service.

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### **PASTOR'S REPORT Continued**

And all of this was done in addition to the many things we had already been doing and continue doing. WOW!

As one can see, Cascades is indeed a healthy branch of Jesus' body, growing and bearing much fruit. Jesus said, "This is to his Father's glory, that we bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be his disciples." So *Come, Be Fed, Be Sent*. Cascades is growing in Christ Jesus. Who are you inviting to be added onto our vine?

In Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Christian Education serves all ages of our church.

The first Sunday of every month families gather for fellowship at a pancake breakfast.

Birth to three attend the nursery where Natalya (January-August) and Pam Boehning (August-December) have provided a loving and nurturing experience.

Elementary students attend a class taught by Becky Hickok, Betty Scott and myself. They are being led through lessons from The Gospel Project for kids program which is now covering the old testament to help them understand the relationship they can have with Jesus.

Students grades 7-12 attend a class on Sunday mornings and youth group gathering on Wednesday nights. Sarah Ostrand is the youth leader.

Several members also share a children's sermon each week. Although it is geared toward the kids, I hear comments regularly from the adults that they also enjoy hearing these sermons. The topics typically coordinate with something the pastor might be preaching about.

As adults, it is so important for us to read, study, and process God's Word together. Regardless of where we might be on our faith journey, this practice helps us grow in discipleship and maturity in Christ. In the Spring, our Women's Group met in the evenings, learning about *The Miracles of Jesus*. Additionally, several women participated in a separate Bible Study Fellowship study of the Book of Revelation. About 10 Cascades' Men routinely gathered on Saturday mornings for bible study, fellowship, and breakfast. These gatherings have been rich times of getting to know one another better and growing more in Christ. And about three of Cascades' men gather twice a month with the Rev. Dr. Geordie Ziegler in a men's spiritual direction group which he leads in his home.

On Sunday mornings, our Adult Education class hosted a series on the *Israeli Palestinian Conflict* to help us understand the political, spiritual, and historical complexities occurring in the Middle East. In the Spring we hosted a New Member's Class immediately after Easter. In the Fall, we focused on the *Fruit of the Spirit*, mirroring Pastor Chris' Sunday sermon series. For Lent, Pastor Chris led us through a ZOOM Bible Study and video series by Francis Chan on *Jesus' Farewell Message*. And finally for Advent, we focused on *Four Promises of God: Truth, Compassion, Restoration, and Justice*. Thank you to everyone who participated and made these times so rich and meaningful!!!

Pastor Chris preached on several topics this past year. He began the year preaching through the Gospels focusing on the *Questions of Jesus* through Easter. In the summertime, Pastor Chris continued with the Cascades Members in the Spotlight sermon series where he interviewed members of the congregation who shared their faith journeys and how what we do at Cascades influences their lives outside of worship. These members also selected the scripture text for the week as well as worship songs for the congregation to sing. In the fall and up until Thanksgiving, he preached a sermon series on the *Fruit of the Spirit* based on Galatians 5:22.

### **2024 VBS Recap**

Life can feel like you're treading on shifting sand. Things are always changing, especially for our children. During Vacation Bible School this year, we shared that God is our rock in our everchanging world.

Each day we shared a new truth with our nearly 30 VBS attendees. On Monday, we shared that God's plan is best. God provided an opportunity to live out this truth when I found myself in the hospital with Sam on Monday rather than at VBS. All of our volunteers rallied to launch VBS without a hitch. On Tuesday, we talked about how everyone NEEDS Jesus. We are not responsible for our own salvation. Just as the rich man who seeks the kingdom of God learns in Mark 10, all things are possible with God. On Wednesday, we learned that Jesus is the only way. And on Thursday, we practiced speaking truth in love. By the last day of Vacation Bible School, this was a good reminder.

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Continued**

Each year, we assign a mission to our Vacation Bible School. It's important to teach our young people to think beyond themselves. This year in memory of Patsy Kneller, our Christian Education friend and benefactor, we chose to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Patsy worked for Habitat in Humanity in Texas for many years. Our VBS families, along with our church family, were so generous! We exceeded our goal of raising \$300 by Wednesday. All told, we raised \$869.16 for Habitat for Humanity. Wow! Thank you all for your support!

It is such a blessing to serve alongside such faithful volunteers. Each year, I'm reminded of what servants we have in our midst. Thank you to Dian Poujade, Doris Raspa, Joan Detrick, Janet Lind, Becky Hickok, Sandy Cox, Greg Beck, Cordell Beck, Nancy Bisbee, Laura Livingston, Debbie Engley, Linda Beck, Sherry McKusick, Bill Honey, Faye Salomone, Betty Scott, Michelle Drexler, Sofia Montovino, Catherine Hartrim-Lowe, Chloe Hartrim-Lowe and, as always, Pastor Chris for the many ways you loved on the youngest members of our community. An additional shout out to Lindsey Windsor, Taushia Wallschlaeger and Art & Claudia Derbyshire for feeding our new friends. And, last but certainly not least, to our 12 teen helpers who bring energy and joy to Vacation Bible School, I thank you.

This summer we had a unique opportunity for five adults and five youth to go to Honduras to share our VBS lessons with 160 students of New Hope school, ages pre-k - high school. I was fortunate to attend and must say it was a life changing experience. We were there to minister to them and came away growing in our own faith too.

Janet Lind  
Elder, Christian Education

## **MISSION AND PEACE**

With the passing of President Jimmy Carter, I can't help but reflect on his life accomplishments in relation to Mission and Peace. He had an unwavering commitment to peace, human rights, and democracy. His work during and after his presidency earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, recognizing his tireless efforts to advance global peace, promote social justice, and improve the lives of underserved communities. In President Carter's Nobel acceptance speech, he said, "God gives us the capacity for choice. We can choose to alleviate suffering. We can choose to work together for peace." He made that choice again and again over the course of his 100 years, and the world is better for it.

Anyone visiting or living in Plains, Georgia, had the blessing of learning first hand from Jimmy Carter. He faithfully taught Sunday School each week, urging people to "take care of each other, even the people we don't like." His humble, simple life, and never ceasing faith impacted many.

President Carter's legacy gives us all an opportunity to look at and revisit what choices we have made and ask ourselves, "Is this enough? What else is God putting on our hearts to do now or in the future?"

In 2024, at Cascades there were many choices to serve here:

- Giving Hands Ministry - knitting and crocheting quilts, hats, wraps to comfort others
- Sunday School, Vacation Bible School - minister to children
- Benevolence Board - direct donated funds to support families in need
- Youth group - minister to youth
- Prayer partners - an adult and child ministering to each other
- Deacons - care for our flock
- Elders - lead us and make management decisions
- Children's Sermon
- Lead worship
- Lighting the candles, offering prayers of the people, collecting offering.
- Choir and worship team music
- Sound system and technology support
- Sunday morning greeters
- Pancake breakfast - first Sunday of month
- Treats after church on Sundays
- Building and grounds maintenance
- Office support
- Nursery support
- Lead or attend a Bible Study
- Participate in special events

Or to serve out in the world:

- Friends of the Carpenter
- The Giving Closet
- Family Promise
- Silver Star Elementary School
- Heritage Farm - community garden
- W.H.O. - Extreme weather shelter at St. Andrews or St. Paul Lutheran Church
- New Hope Opportunities, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Let's take President Carter's legacy to heart and encourage each other to "embrace" his choice by committing to work together for peace, social justice, and improve the lives of underserved communities as well as the lives of our friends and family.

Janet Van Fleet  
Elder, Mission and Peace

## **WORSHIP ARTS**

Due to illness by the previous Worship Arts Elder, Pastor Chris was leading the Worship Arts committee assisted by Christie Mistrot, Community Life Elder, the first eight months of the 2024. I was asked to serve as the Worship Arts Elder in August and was installed in September 2024. In June, Pastor Chris was gone on a several week trip to Spain. Various elders helped to assist various visiting pastors in leading worship during his absence.

### **Music**

Cascades continues to provide joy and sustenance for the congregation through its music. Of note during 2024, Eric Suttan resigned as Worship Team leader to pursue other interests. Josh Krane, the Evangelism and Member Care Elder, applied for the open position as Worship Team leader. Session voted on his application for the position and unanimously approved hiring Josh for the position. Since his hiring, Josh has brought a new approach and style to the worship team. The biggest challenge for the Worship team currently is recruiting band members and soloists. Nancy Bisbee continues to lead the choir and she has done a wonderful job recruiting the singers necessary each week to ensure a full complement for the selected music. Sarah Shewbert continues as our pianist accompanist and soloist each week and has coached and encouraged other soloists within the congregation.

### **Services**

*Holy Week Services:* Once again we had a very lovely Maundy Thursday Taize service and Easter morning service with 131 people attending.

*Multi-Presbyterian Thanksgiving Service:* The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Cascades hosted a multi-church Thanksgiving Service with First Presbyterian, St John's Presbyterian and Eastwood Presbyterian churches. Each church provided choir members to sing with Cascades choir for the service. The worship team also provided music for the service. Pastors from each of the four churches lead worship during various parts of the service. New Thanksgiving decorations were purchased for this event to provide a festive décor to match the tone of the event. There were 63 attendees for this service.

*Hanging of the Greens Service:* Some new decorations were added for this service and Christmas such as a new communion tablecloth and pulpit banner made with the support of the members of the Helping Hands ministry. Of note, this year the Friends of the Carpenter, one of the missions supported by Cascades, made a beautiful new wooden Advent Candle Stand for the church.

*Longest Night Service:* The purpose of this candle light service was to provide members a special night to grieve and lament the loss of a loved one. Erin Suttan was responsible for the beautiful decorations and lighting in the sanctuary and Josh and Heather Krane provided lovely music for the service. We hope to do this service again next year.

*Christmas Eve Service:* We had a full house of 124 attendees for this service. In fact, we had so many people attend we temporarily ran out of candles holders and had to assemble a new batch to accommodate the large number.

### **Technology Support for Services**

Seth Hartrim-Lowe, Technology Elder, along with his team, managed the sound and provided livestream capabilities on Sunday mornings. Thank you to Cordell Beck, Jasper Suttan, Harrison Hartrim-Lowe, Sophie Hickok and Olivia Scott who provide much of the behind-the-scenes technology support. Our online presence continues to help us connect with those members who are not able to physically attend service in person as well as with new people checking us out for the first time.

In Christ's service,  
Laura Livingston  
Elder, Worship Arts

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

This past year has been busy for the youth group. We've discussed mental health, role models, prayer, and understanding elements of the Bible. The youth continue to show great thoughtfulness, compassion, and growth in their discussions and approaches to living out their faith. For me, one of the most important elements of youth group is providing a safe space for the kids to build their own faith. They can question, challenge, and develop their beliefs and practices. I hope this means that when they step out on their own, they feel confident in their faith.

Community is still a large focus of youth group. We continued our tradition of having our own Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas celebrations. These were nights of games, meals, and conversation. We began our fall semester with a youth retreat at the Menucha Retreat center. This was a weekend of relaxing, playing, and bonding. I hope that in 2025 we will continue to have a community building night once a month or once every other month.

We continue to seek service opportunities. This past year we called Bingo at Bonaventure of Salmon Creek, assembled kits for those experiencing houselessness, participated in the craft and plant sale, co-hosted our trunk or treat and harvest party, and served at Hanging of the Greens. Most of the youth also serve as part of the tech crew on Sunday mornings.

We meet Sundays from 9 to 10 am (except on Pancake Sunday) and Wednesday Nights 6:30-8:00 pm. Anyone from 6th to 12th grade is welcome to join. Thank you to Becky Hickok, Greg Beck, and Cordell Beck who serve as support, models, and teachers to our amazing youth.

Sarah Ostrand  
Youth Group Director



## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

While reflecting on serving as Elder of Community Life this past year, I looked up the definitions of the words “Community” and “Life”. From the online Oxford dictionary: Community is “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common” and Life includes “the capacity for growth and continual change”. What a wonderful way to describe this role! We definitely have a particular characteristic in common: A love and a passion for serving Christ. And through the sharing of stories while we engage in food and fellowship, we are also given opportunities to grow in our relationships with each other and Christ.

There are so many opportunities for us to get to know each other: cookies and treats each Sunday after church, pancake breakfasts and “Top of the Hill Potlucks” each month, Bible Study sessions, the new Annual Church “Bunco Night” the Youth group hosted last February, the annual Women’s Tea, Maundy Thursday Soup Potluck, Picnic at the Hartrim-Lowes, Harvest Festival and “Trunk-or-Treat”, Hanging of the Greens – something for everyone! Although I definitely enjoy serving, one of the best parts about each of those events: Watching how we all come together to serve each other. Whether you bring food to share or assist in setting up or cleaning up, each of us make these events possible. “God is good all the time; all the time God is good!” (And He has been especially good to me by allowing me to serve this wonderful church family with a glad and thankful heart).

Christie Mistrot  
Elder, Community Life

## **EVANGELISM AND MEMBER CARE**

Our wonderful Deacons continue to care for church members in their flocks. We also held a Saturday New Members Class that resulted in 16 people joining the church. We look forward to making this an annual event.

In April, we held a New Members Retreat on a Saturday. We began with breakfast with the elders and then spent the rest of our time sharing about the Mission, Vision, and Values and how people could find their place at Cascades. Sixteen people joined the church.

Another highlight was our “Longest Night” service. The service was held during the Advent season as an opportunity for us to acknowledge the grief we are holding, bring it to God, and to release it trusting in God’s care. It was a powerful time of contemplation with beautiful music, liturgy, and prayer. It was also great to see members from outside our regular church community attend the service.

Also in 2024 we continued our men’s bible study. We meet one Saturday per month for breakfast, fellowship, and to listen and reflect on both where God has moved, and is moving, in our lives. At each meeting this year, we have chosen a simple excerpt by author and pastor Frederick Buechner. I love Buechner because he encourages his readers to “listen to your life,” to see where God is in our stories and the seemingly ordinary experiences of the everyday. It has been very life-giving getting to listen to the stories of the men of our congregation.

Josh Krane  
Elder, Evangelism and Member Care

## **GIVING HANDS MINISTRY**

The Giving Hands ministry completed its second full year in its present form in 2024. It consists of persons who are skilled at quilting, knitting, crocheting, or other arts and crafts. There are now fourteen members in the group. We make prayer quilts and shawls to give to persons who are undergoing a difficult time. We also crochet or knit hats and scarves to give to children at Silver Star Elementary School or others where we identify a need. This year we gave away eight prayer quilts. Giving Hands also made or collected 72 hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens to give to area schools for distribution to their students. One pair of gloves or mittens counts as one item.

Members of the ministry are always working on an item for the group's ministry. As of this writing, we have four prayer quilts for children and seven for adults. We also have about six prayer shawls on hand.

The Giving Hands Ministry is open to anyone who is interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting, or doing other crafts. You do not need to be a member of the church. You do not even need to come to a meeting on a regular basis. Some persons bring their own craft projects to work on. If you are interested in joining this group, you are welcome to come on Thursday afternoons. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a prayer quilt or prayer shawl, please let one of the deacons know.

Mary Oswalt

## **PERSONNEL**

*“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his Glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*

2024 has been an opportunity to experience God's provision! He saw our needs, answered our prayers and thus enabled us to do the work He has called us to do. Though our talented staff work for far less than they could in other corporate settings, we were pleased to be able to offer them a 3% wage increase for 2024.

When Eric Suttan resigned as worship team leader in July, Josh Krane agreed to serve as interim until we were able to hire a replacement. Josh's thoughtful leadership created a rich environment for worship and led session to offer him the position permanently where he now serves ably as a member of the music team. We also give thanks to Nancy Bisbee (choir) and Sarah Shewbert (piano) for their continued excellence in connecting us to God through praise and worship.

Michelle Drexler announced her retirement in September after 22 years as our administrative assistant/treasurer effective December 5th. Her organizational skills, administrative knowledge, artistic talents and attention to detail have made her integral to the efficient running of our church body. While we were delighted that this retirement would allow Michelle to relocate to Montana to be closer to her family, we were aware of the magnitude of the task of replacing her. God heard our prayers and brought us a perfect replacement. Lisa Kupfer had just returned to Vancouver WA. Her experience of prior church administrative work gave her the wisdom and understanding of the job, as well as the temperament and requisite skills to manage the role. We are grateful for the time Michelle and Lisa have been able to work together to transition and look forward to working with Lisa in 2025. On December 5, we held a wonderful retirement party for Michelle immediately after worship and were able to gift her a few days stay on the Oregon Coast.

In November our childcare worker, Natalya Fassold, also resigned in order to have more time for school. The day we posted the position, Pam Boehning contacted us. She was our previous childcare worker, had taken some time off and had just decided to look for work when she saw our opening. God's timing again was perfect and we are delighted to have Pam's competent oversight and experience in our nursery again.

We express gratitude to the Rev Dr. Chris Montovino for his leadership for another year. His commitment to serving God faithfully and his many gifts and talents makes him an excellent mentor, teacher and leader and we give thanks for the gift he is to our body. Sarah Ostrand has continued most faithfully her service as leader and mentor for our youth. She has found creative ways to link her other passion, ministry to elders/seniors, with the youth and we appreciate her commitment to God and to her calling as she leads and shapes our youth.

I thank Mark Hartrim-Lowe, Mary Oswalt and Scott Wiley for their willingness to serve as support team for the Personnel Elder. Their ability to make decisions, read resumes, help with interviews and serve as prayer warriors has been so important to the hires we have made this year.

We gratefully acknowledge God's provisions and blessings this year, and look forward to what he calls us to in 2025.

Dian Poujade  
Elder, Personnel

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Advancing the quality of our Sunday services has continued to be one of our important missions. It is important to recognize the valuable contribution of our weekly technology team for their contributions that make our services possible. Sophie Hickok, Jasper Sutton, Olivia Scott, and Harrison Hartrim-Lowe, thank you for your support and work. Thank you to Cordell Beck for continuing the vision and providing insights as needed.

In 2024, after many years of faithful service, the community computer in the office reached a point where it could no longer keep up with modern software demands. While previous updates had extended its life and maintained functionality for essential tasks, the computer had finally reached the end of its operational capacity. It was replaced with a more powerful, upgradeable system designed to serve the community's needs for years to come. During the same period, the sanctuary projectors, which had been in place almost 11 years, were also upgraded to newer models to ensure continued reliable service.

Potential future technology projects:

- Replace the main camera in the sanctuary for better live streaming.
- Teleconferencing improvements that will allow hybrid Bible studies and meetings. This would provide the ability to use ZOOM in conjunction with in-person Bible studies.
- Research and implement software to support Deacon's ministry allowing a more efficient and simpler process for the Prayer Chain.
- Look into adding an additional monitor and software to create an easier method of handling slides and livestreaming during the worship service.
- Research and upgrade our church membership management software to a platform that will include online giving. This will replace all our current platforms.

Technology has continued to be a vital foundation for our church operations. Our worship services have been particularly transformed by these innovations. Beyond just serving our congregation, the streaming capabilities have opened new doors for sharing our message with the wider community. We carry on with our virtual platforms like Zoom, and they have become essential for connecting through Bible study and various gatherings. During quiet hours, electronic security stands watch over our sanctuary. These technological advances have strengthened our neighborhood presence, making our space more accessible and welcoming to those around us. Notably, our young people have found their ministry niche through the tech team, supporting our services with their digital expertise. While navigating technology's role presents challenges, thoughtful implementation of new tools help to streamline and enhance our church's functions.

Seth Hartrim-Lowe  
Elder, Technology

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

Buildings and Grounds is always moving. New things, new ideas, new relationships. We held our two works parties as usual and accomplished much, but there is still much to do. We were blessed to have two young men join us from the Philadelphia Ukrainian Church who cleaned gutters and power washed the sidewalks but there wasn't nearly enough time to get it all done. Fortunately spring will be here soon and we can continue to clean, polish, beautify and make safe our place of worship.

Most of the outdoor items were taken care of, things like raking leaves and picking up limbs and branches. We had a lot of things on the to-do list for inside the building, many of which got completed but the list for the spring cleaning will be pretty extensive. This work includes cleaning the walls, washing windows, removing scuff marks and minor repairs.

There have been a few very unexpected problems this year, one of which was neighbors using our parking lot for doing donuts. This spinning of their tires in tight circles was tearing up the asphalt so Session looked at a few options and decided that the best solution at this time was conservative and we installed curb blocks. They have solved the problem and with a little tweaking seem to have served their purpose.

We realized that groups we were renting space to had increased our use of cleaning products. We went back to them and they agreed to increase their rent to cover much of the additional cost which allowed us to come in 2% under budget for the year.

Looking forward to 2025. I remain respectfully yours,  
Faye Salomone  
Elder, Building and Grounds

## **FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP**

2024 was another great year for our church financially with revenues above budget and expenses under budget. God continues to provide for operational needs, budgeted improvements, and charitable outreach through the generosity of our congregation. In total, revenues exceeded expenses by \$8,980. Thank you to everyone!

At our monthly session meetings, we review a summary of year-to-date revenue and expenses and take action to address deviations against our planned annual budget. We continue to cultivate the beneficial relationships with the two churches that lease our building throughout the week. We also discuss the changing needs of our church personnel and look for opportunities to increase the impact of our mission programs locally and abroad, such as the Christmas Eve offering to benefit New Hope Opportunities in Honduras.

Looking forward to 2025, pledges received total \$224,236... which is a 7% increase over 2024. This increase was driven by adding several new families to our annual pledges as well as increases from last year's pledge families. Thank you again as this provides a stable foundation upon which build another balanced budget for 2025!

God blessed our church with 13 new members in 2024 and we continue to see new faces nearly every week. This is a testament to the welcoming and loving church community that we all cultivate and cherish. We will continue to share our beautiful sanctuary and facilities with two other congregations, the Junior Symphony of Vancouver, a couple of 4-H clubs, several recovery programs, and the Friends of Central Vancouver HOA. This enables our spaces to be utilized throughout each week for people in our community and provides the church additional income.

Thanks to your generosity of time, talents, and resources our church will continue to shine the light and joy of Jesus throughout 2025!

Mark Hartrim-Lowe  
Elder, Finance and Stewardship

**CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**ACTUAL INCOME FOR 2023, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2024**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025**

| Income                              | 2023<br>Actual   | 2024             |                  | 2025<br>Proposed<br>Budget |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|                                     |                  | Budget           | Actual           |                            |
| Pledges                             | \$213,555        | \$210,908        | \$204,124        | \$224,273                  |
| Loose Offering                      | 24,969           | 24,000           | 34,570           | 24,000                     |
| Interest                            | 476              | 450              | 691              | 450                        |
| Per Capita                          | 2,691            | 2,500            | 2,478            | 2,500                      |
| Miscellaneous                       | 1443             | 400              | 1,069            | 1,000                      |
| Building Use Donations              | 29,690           | 35,100           | 33,005           | 35,235                     |
| Other                               |                  |                  | 3,091            |                            |
| Subtotal                            | 272,958          | 274,358          | 281,964          | 287,858                    |
| <b>Special Offerings-Local</b>      |                  |                  |                  |                            |
| Vacation Bible School               | 343              | 400              | 343              | 400                        |
| FISH                                | 1,516            | 1,500            | 1470             | 1,500                      |
| Other Local Missions                | 50               | 0                | 200              | -                          |
| Subtotal                            | 1,909            | 4,000            | 1,909            | 1,900                      |
| <b>Special Offerings-Presbytery</b> |                  |                  |                  |                            |
| One Great Hour of Sharing           | 1,825            | 2,000            | 1,727            | 2,000                      |
| Theological Education Fund          | -                | 1,000            | -                | 1,000                      |
| Pentecost offering                  | 422              | 200              | 540              | 500                        |
| Peacemaking Offering                | 322              | 500              | 631              | 500                        |
| Christmas Joy Offering              | 155              | 250              | 1,000            | 750                        |
| Christmas Eve Offering              | 1,464            | 1,500            | 1,464            | 500                        |
| Disaster Relief                     | 4,790            | 1,000            | 1,118            | 500                        |
| Subtotal                            | 8,977            | 6,000            | 8,977            | 5,750                      |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>\$283,711</b> | <b>\$281,191</b> | <b>\$283,710</b> | <b>\$295,108</b>           |
| Current Year Operations             | \$7,456          | \$(8,621)        | \$8,980          | \$(14,052)                 |
| Funds Available from Prior Year     | \$58,220         | \$65,676         | \$65,676         | \$74,656                   |
| <b>Remaining Fund Balance</b>       | <b>\$65,676</b>  | <b>\$57,055</b>  | <b>\$74,656</b>  | <b>\$60,604</b>            |

# CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2023, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2024

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

| Expenses                       | 2023    | 2024    |         | 2025            |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
|                                | Actual  | Budget  | Actual  | Proposed Budget |
| <b>Pastoral Ministry</b>       |         |         |         |                 |
| Travel-Chris                   | \$2,127 | \$2,400 | \$2,058 | \$2,400         |
| Continuing Education-Chris     | 656     | 1,500   | 1,194   | 1,500           |
| Business Expenses- Chris       | 3,390   | 3,500   | 2,579   | 3,500           |
| Subtotal                       | 6,173   | 7,400   | 5,831   | 7,400           |
| <b>Building and Grounds</b>    |         |         |         |                 |
| Property Ins./Assessment       | 5,472   | 5,400   | 5,636   | 5,976           |
| Building/Equip Maintenance     | 8,730   | 8,500   | 7,674   | 7,291           |
| Utilities                      | 10,441  | 11,200  | 10,868  | 9,800           |
| Custodial Services             | 3,203   | 0       | 0       | 0               |
| Custodial Supplies             | 1,203   | 500     | 940     | 1,036           |
| Other (Painting & Permitting)  | 7,092   | 0       | 0       | 1,331           |
| Subtotal                       | 36,141  | 34,680  | 25,118  | 25,434          |
| <b>Mission and Peace</b>       |         |         |         |                 |
| New Hope Opportunities         | 3,000   | 3,000   | 3,026   | 3,000           |
| Imago Christie-Zeigler Support | 0       | 2,400   | 2,400   | 2,400           |
| Local Mission                  | 736     | 500     | 374     | 500             |
| Theological Education Fund     | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000           |
| One Great Hour of Sharing      | 1,825   | 2,000   | 1,727   | 2,000           |
| Pentecost Offering             | 253     | 150     | 324     | 400             |
| Pentecost-Local                | 0       | 50      | 0       | 100             |
| Peacemaking Offering           | 241     | 400     | 473     | 400             |
| Peacemaking Offering-Local     | 0       | 100     | 0       | 100             |
| Christmas Joy Offering         | 151     | 250     | 1,000   | 750             |
| Christmas Eve Offering         | 212     | 500     | 1,658   | 500             |
| Disaster Relief                | 5,892   | 1,000   | 1,167   | 500             |
| Vacation Bible School Mission  | 0       | 0       | 0       | 400             |
| FISH                           | 1,314   | 1,500   | 1,346   | 1,500           |
| Other Mission                  | 50      | 0       | 0       | 0               |
| Subtotal                       | 14,674  | 12,850  | 14,495  | 13,550          |
| <b>Worship Arts</b>            |         |         |         |                 |
| Adult Choir                    | 66      | 200     | 188     | 200             |
| Worship Team                   | 36      | 200     | 25      | 200             |
| Worship Supplies               | 839     | 1,000   | 1,419   | 1,500           |
| Instrument Maintenance/Repair  | 1,035   | 800     | 380     | 900             |
| Soloist/Musicians              | 0       | 0       | 0       | 300             |
| Music/Worship Workshop         | 0       | 0       | 0       | 350             |
| Copyright License/Cong. Music  | 806     | 800     | 1,158   | 1,100           |
| New Hymnals                    | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1,140           |
| Subtotal                       | 2,872   | 3,000   | 3,150   | 5,690           |



# CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2023, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2024

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

| Expenses                      | 2023   | 2024   |        | 2025            |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
|                               | Actual | Budget | Actual | Proposed Budget |
| Administration                |        |        |        |                 |
| Telephone                     | 4,081  | 4,100  | 4,200  | 4,100           |
| Office Supplies               | 1,714  | 1,940  | 2,861  | 1,940           |
| Online Giving Fees            | 1,556  | 1,500  | 1,304  | 1,800           |
| Postage                       | 1,574  | 1,500  | 1,469  | 1,600           |
| Online Subscriptions/Security | 321    | 720    | 560    | 720             |
| Office Machine Lease/Service  | 1,923  | 2,000  | 2,177  | 2,000           |
| Payroll Expenses              | 1,182  | 1,300  | 1,333  | 1,300           |
| Per Capita                    | 3,907  | 4,241  | 4,195  | 5,000           |
| Administration Services       | 1,485  | 1,000  | 966    | 1,000           |
| Annual Audit                  | 550    | 500    | 550    | 500             |
| Bank Fees                     | 8      | 0      | 2      | 0               |
| Corporation Fees              | 20     | 0      | 20     | 20              |
| Subtotal                      | 18,321 | 17,741 | 18,321 | 18,831          |
|                               |        |        |        |                 |
| Christian Education           |        |        |        |                 |
| Education Materials           |        |        |        |                 |
| Pre-School/Elementary         | 42     | 200    | 129    | 200             |
| Youth                         | 157    | 200    | 245    | 200             |
| Adult                         | 152    | 200    | 8      | 200             |
| Vacation Bible School         | 482    | 500    | 382    | 500             |
| Youth Ministry                | 849    | 1,000  | 658    | 1,000           |
| Leadership Training           | 0      | 100    | 3,105  | 100             |
| Subtotal                      | 1,682  | 2,200  | 4,395  | 2,200           |
| Community Life                |        |        |        |                 |
| All Church Fellowship         | 2,199  | 3,000  | 2,693  | 3,000           |
| Men's Ministry                | 21     | 200    | 228    | 350             |
| Women's Ministry              | 80     | 200    | 43     | 350             |
| College/Young Adult           | 0      | 300    | 60     | 300             |
| Subtotal                      | 2,300  | 3,700  | 3,024  | 3,700           |
| Evangelism & Member Care      |        |        |        |                 |
| Annual Advertising Campaign   | 140    | 500    | 392    | 500             |
| Stephen Ministries            | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0               |
| Miscellaneous                 | 0      | 0      | 26     | 0               |
| Subtotal                      | 140    | 500    | 418    | 500             |

# CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2023, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2024

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

| Expenses                    | 2023<br>Actual   | 2024             |                  | 2025<br>Proposed<br>Budget |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|                             |                  | Budget           | Actual           |                            |
| <b>Payroll</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                            |
| Pastor's Salary             | 28,126           | 29,226           | 29,226           | 30,307                     |
| Pastor's Housing            | 49,734           | 51,677           | 51,677           | 53,589                     |
| Pension & Health Insurance  | 34,043           | 35,570           | 33,851           | 38,033                     |
| Medical Reimburse. (FLEX)   | 1,501            | 1,443            | 1,443            | 1,496                      |
| Employer 403(b) Match Cont. | 2,492            | 2,589            | 2,589            | 2,685                      |
| SECA                        | 3,853            | 4,004            | 4,004            | 4,152                      |
| Accompanist                 | 14,534           | 15,076           | 15,089           | 15,634                     |
| Choir Director              | 6,811            | 7,461            | 6,918            | 7,737                      |
| Worship Leader              | 10,502           | 10,499           | 6,954            | 10,887                     |
| Subs-Music/Office/Pulpit    | 1,251            | 2,338            | 2,087            | 2,425                      |
| Nursery & Child Care        | 1,600            | 5,441            | 1,928            | 5,642                      |
| Secretary/Treasurer         | 24,952           | 26,421           | 28,044           | 30,433                     |
| Audio/Visual Tech           | -                | -                | -                | -                          |
| Youth Ministry              | 7,366            | 12,693           | 9,696            | 13,163                     |
| Custodian                   | 1,423            | 5,400            | 5,400            | 6,300                      |
| FICA/Workers' Compensation  | 5,848            | 6,020            | 6,520            | 6,243                      |
| Subtotal                    | 194,036          | 215,858          | 205,425          | 210,678                    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$276,250</b> | <b>\$289,929</b> | <b>\$281,472</b> | <b>\$285,739</b>           |

**CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DESIGNATED FUNDS**  
As of December 31, 2024

**Building Fund Reserves**

|                 |              |                 |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Kitchen Remodel | \$13,835     |                 |
| Other Reserves  | <u>\$200</u> | <u>\$14,035</u> |

**Deacons** \$2,020

**Giving Hands Ministry** \$595

**Camperships** \$1,418

**Women's Assoc.** \$1,723

**Benevolence Fund** \$45,752

**Maintenance Bldg/Gds** \$596

**Pastor Cont. Ed.** \$166

**Technology Fund** \$3,119

**Youth Fund** \$1,240

**New Hope Opportunities** \$(230)

**Senior Care Ministries** \$20,481

## **CASCADES BENEVOLENCE BOARD (CBB)**

The purpose of the Benevolence Fund is to attend to the specific missional needs identified within our community along with people's basic needs on a short-term interim basis. The CBB reserves the right to consider any and all requests with specific attention toward the homeless, underserved/under resourced families and schools in Clark County, Washington. The CBB strives to partner with benevolence recipients and to dispense benevolence in a way that preserves dignity and encourages the long-term financial stability of all. The fund achieves this purpose primarily through specific disbursement at the direction of the CBB. **The Cascades Benevolence Fund is resourced independently and is not supported by Cascades' Annual Budget.**

Overall in 2024, the CBB granted more than \$95,731 to local non-profits, the homeless, underserved/under resourced families and schools in Clark County including:

1 family with dental needs - \$1,500

13 families with rental assistance - \$21,706

Family Promise of Clark County - \$13,000 (Homeless Family Shelter/Fall Fundraiser)

Council for the Homeless - \$15,625 (Winter Housing Overflow/Fall Fundraiser/Evergreen and Vancouver School District Housing Support Funds)

Friends of the Carpenter - \$10,000 (Homeless Day Shelter)

Orchards Elementary School FCRC - \$1,500 (Winco Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)

Sunset Elementary School FCRC - \$1,500 (Winco Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)

Silver Star Elementary School FCRC - \$1,500 (Winco Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)

Covington Middle School FCRC - \$1,500 (Winco Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)

Heritage High School FCRC - \$1,500 (Winco Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)

Churches in Partnership Heritage Farm - \$2,000 (Food Bank Farm Start Up for 2025)

East Clark County Young Life - \$6,000 (Campership + Heritage/Covington Young Life Club Expenses)

Open House Ministries - \$10,000 (Homeless Family Shelter)

The Giving Closet - \$5,000 (Provides free clothing and household goods to low income people)

Greater Clark County Rotary Foundation - \$2,500 (Dorman Holcomb Good Samaritan Award Sponsorship)

In 2024, we found that the number of referrals for direct rental assistance was far more than we could handle. As a result, we pivoted our giving in order to fund once again two housing support funds that are now managed by the Vancouver and Evergreen school district Family Community Resource Coordinators (FCRCs) along with The Council for the Homeless. Now, instead of receiving referrals from 15 different FCRCs directly, all referrals are being vetted through the Head FCRCs. This has resulted in a more manageable number of direct family grants that we are able to provide for rental assistance.

Additionally, after some study about responsible church benevolence work, we opted to narrow the number of partnership organizations to which we award grants and assigned each a CBB liaison who remains connected to the organization's needs. For the first time, we also set an annual budget to help us distribute funds according to priorities of the board. Each year, we learn more and more about how to faithfully support under-resourced people in our community and to be better stewards of the resources with which we've been entrusted.

Since the Benevolence Board was established in 2017, we have been blessed to provide over **\$783,358** in direct assistance to under resourced families, schools, and nonprofits in Clark County, Washington.

Thank you very much to our current CBB Members Janet VanFleet, Sam Hartrim-Lowe, Chris Montovino, Christie Mistrot, Phil Hickok, Rod Swanson, Betty Scott, and Lindsay Winsor for listening to the needs in the community and prayerfully considering how to best walk alongside others in their times of need. Tim Rettberg-Speed rotated off the board after relocating out of the area.

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino

## **DEACONS**

According to the Book of Order of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, USA, "The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ". We humbly serve the congregants of Cascades Presbyterian Church, including those who are not able to attend.

Our Cascade family is divided into nine groups (flocks), one for each Deacon. Throughout the year, we try to check in with our flock members at worship and/or with calls, visits or cards.

Cascades Church's prayer chain is coordinated and activated through the Deacons. Prayer requests for the prayer chain can be initiated by contacting your Deacon, Pastor Chris or any Deacon. The prayer requests are sent out via e-mail or phone calls. This year, there were 170 prayers on the prayer chain. If you would like to be included in the prayer chain, please let us know. For those on the prayer chain, you receive the requests through your Deacon.

The Deacons visit many of our congregants who are unable to attend and stay in contact with them through phone calls and cards. We take small gifts to those congregants during Christmas and Easter to make sure they know we are thinking of them (11-13 this year.) The Deacons also serve home communion to those who would like it, especially during Christmas and Easter. Eight home communions were served by Deacons.

The Deacons are called to provide meals for families during bereavement and illness/surgeries and have provided 20 meals in 2024. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help the Deacons with meals and transportation to medical appointments. It is very much appreciated. Also, the Deacons were able to offer rental assistance to one congregant this year.

In partnership with Community Life, the Deacons provided some of the lunch items for the New Members Lunch held in April. We also partnered with Community Life on the Retirement Party for Michelle Drexler in December. Many thanks to Christie Mistrot and everyone who helped make it a special day for Michelle. We also coordinate receptions for memorials as requested.

The Deacons set up and help serve communion in worship service on the first Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday and this year during the evening Thanksgiving Service. The communion elements are gluten-free.

The Deacon ministry is fully funded and supported by the congregation and we thank everyone for their donations to the Deacons' fund. Thank you for your prayers for us as we minister to you.

Linda Beck-Moderator  
Sherry McKusick  
Lynda Wittren  
Joan Detrick  
Barbie Baker  
Karen Montovino  
Becky Hickok  
Anne Wiley  
Sarah Ostrand

**Recently Retired**  
Deborah Shaner  
Nancy Bisbee  
Mary Oswalt

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

- We share God's love, acting as one in mission, within and beyond the church.
- We worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in spirit and truth.
- We know, appreciate, and love one another, sharing lives of faith.
- We strive for spiritual growth as Jesus' disciples.
- We minister to the whole person: body, mind, and soul.
- We ask for God's guidance through prayer – and then act on it.
- We welcome, care for, and build friendships with all people.
- We reflect our Christian mission through stewardship of resources and time.
- We seek to follow God's Word in our own words and deeds and to sing a new song to God's glory.
- We answer God's call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8).

## **OUR MISSION**

Acts 1:8 calls us to be Jesus' faithful witnesses to Jerusalem (our people), Judea (our neighborhood), Samaria (the marginalized), and to the ends of the earth (the poorest of the world's poor). This well describes CPC as we join the Spirit of God in each of those spheres. While our members serve in many areas individually, CPC corporately feels called to local, national, and international ministries along with supporting the special annual offerings of the PC (USA).

## **OUR VISION**

Through worship, Christian education and prayer, we prepare and then witness to Jerusalem (our own people), Judea (our neighborhood), Samaria (the marginalized) and the ends of the earth (the poorest of the world's poor).