

COME, BE FED, BE SENT



CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

STATISTICAL REPORT 2022

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP January 1, 2022	99
New members added during 2022	8
Members removed from rolls in 2022	13
Other Participants	72
Baptized Members	10
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP December 31, 2022	94
Baptisms (children)	0
Baptisms (adults)	0
Weddings performed by pastor	1
Funerals performed by pastor	1

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2022	2023	2024	2025
Bill Honey	Christie Mistrot	Faye Salomone	Sue Holcomb
Scott Wiley	Janet VanFleet	Heather Hartrim-Lowe	Dian Poujade
Phil Hickok	Renee Lacombe	Cordell Beck	Josh Krane

ORGANIZATION OF THE DEACONS

2022	2023	2024	2025
Sharon Morrison	Debra Dayal	Deborah Shaner	Anne Wiley
Mark Hartrim-Lowe	Doris Raspa	Nancy Bisbee	Linda Beck
Betty Scott	Jeanne Robbins	Mary Oswalt	Sherry McKusick

SESSION MINISTRY CHAIRS

Clerk of Session		Heather Hartrim-Lowe
Christian Formation	Worship Arts Mission & Peace Christian Education Technology	Christie Mistrot Janet VanFleet Heather Hartrim-Lowe Cordell Beck
Connections	Community Life Evangelism/Member Care	Renee Lacombe Josh Krane
Stewardship	Stewardship/Finance Bldgs. & Grounds Personnel	Sue Holcomb Faye Salomone Diane Poujade

SESSION MEETINGS	Regular	12	Special	1
CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS	Regular	2	Called	0

PASTOR'S REPORT

"[The blind man who Jesus had just healed] looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.' Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly." Mark 8:24-25 NIV

This story in Mark's gospel of Jesus healing a blind man at Bethsaida perfectly frames the year of 2022 as I look back. Notice in the story how Jesus' healing was not immediate, but progressive. At the start, the man's vision was still unclear. The man thought that the people walking around looked like trees. Everything was still foggy, unclear, and uncertain. Then Jesus touched his eyes again and restored his sight perfectly. Yes Jesus healed him, but it took time for the fog to lift.

This makes me think of how some people have struggled with the after affects of long COVID. They talk about brain fog and being unable to resume life as normal. Indeed, when we reflect on the beginning of 2022, it seemed like we were just getting out of that COVID fog. And then just when it seemed like it was becoming safe once again to resume communal life at Cascades, new Coronavirus variants shut us down once again. In January and February, we had to delay our mortgage burning celebration and cancel pancake breakfasts, Sunday school, and our Annual Sweetheart Banquet. It was frustrating, hard and sad.

But did that stop us from being the Church of Jesus Christ? NO! We still gathered for worship while masked. We opened our doors to a new poetry group called The Seedlings who gather for generative poetry writing workshops monthly with the Clark County Poet Laureate, Armin Tolentino. We also began work with Community Lutheran Services NW to sponsor two new refugee families who escaped persecution from the Afghan Taliban in August 2021. Also in March, we watched as the Russian war in the Ukraine was becoming more apparent to the world stage which then framed our prayers for peace for the entire year.

By April as COVID variants passed, we welcomed the community back into the church for our Craft Fair and Plant Sale. This is always a wonderful opportunity to get community members into the church, to showcase the artistic and crafty talent of our members, and to connect with one another. By the end of the month, we were able to finally celebrate the fact that we had completely paid off our new sanctuary construction loans by having a Mortgage Burning Party. Along with that we also finally celebrated the life of charter member and construction supervisor, Dorman Holcomb who tragically passed away in September 2020. We gave thanks to God for the many gifts that we have been given over the years.

In May, the men of the church were pleased to celebrate the women of Cascades by hosting the Annual Women's Tea. May was also when Dr. Anthony Fauci said the U.S. was transitioning out of the pandemic. Praise God! Who would have ever thought it would have taken two years. In some ways it seems like it took forever. In other ways, it seemed to pass by in the blink of an eye.

By June we looked forward to summertime activities, vacations, and easier routines. At our Annual Meeting of the Congregation in June, we elected new elders and also took a very sobering moment to talk through and practice emergency drill procedures in the event of a violent intruder during worship. This was not a fun way to end the meeting, but a necessary exercise to put into practice if the unimaginable happened.

For July we figuratively headed to Australia for Vacation Bible School where we explored what life in Christ looks like in the land down under. It was especially meaningful to have Brenna Beck who grew up in the church but who now lives on a sheep ranch in Australia create meaningful videos of life on the ranch that tied into our daily bible lessons. From the children, to the teen and adult volunteers, we were all blessed with this chance to grow more in our faith in Jesus.

In August we began looking forward to the fall programming schedule. One of the things we hoped for but wasn't realized was the welcoming of the Slavic Christian Academy who we had contracted to use our space for Slavic kindergarten, Monday through Thursday. Unfortunately because of delays with Clark County Permitting, we never received the necessary rezoning permits to begin. This resulted in a loss of planned income and the need to draw on some much needed reserves. We took this time, however, to remodel the Sunday school classrooms which were greatly needed. On the first Sunday of their use, one of the children remarked "Wow, this is so fancy!"

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PASTOR'S REPORT Continued

In September, the Youth Group and Adult Sunday School resumed along with Pancake Breakfast Sundays. In October the Men of Cascades gathered for Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament and Steak Dinner Night at Pastor Chris Montovino's house. This was a great time to enjoy some fun, fellowship, and good hearted banter. And the end of October we kicked off the beginning of the holidays with our Annual Harvest Party/Potluck hosted by the Cascades Youth Group.

In November we reflected upon our year of service walking alongside our two sponsored Afghan families. We learned so much and rejoiced as both families achieved drivers licenses and became self sufficient through employment. Our sponsorship has now moved from physical financial support to relational support. As Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ, we gathered at East Woods Presbyterian Church for our Churches in Partnership Thanksgiving Eve Service. It was especially meaningful to hear about what God was doing missionally in each Presbyterian church throughout Clark County. We ended the month, gathering for fellowship and worship at our annual Hanging of the Greens worship service.

The December year finale brought about the usual Advent activities. At this time of year, Session decides which initiative would best benefit from our annual Christmas Eve Offering. We chose to support the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program as they support victims of the War in the Ukraine. We also prayerfully considered how to bless local Ukrainian refugees here in Clark County. God answered those prayers when at the December Junior Symphony of Vancouver concert we were introduced to eleven year old violinist, Ellis, who and along with her family had just immigrated as war refugees from the Ukraine. Through a grant from our Cascades Benevolence Board, we were able to provide the JSV with \$2,500 in tuition scholarship money to assist students like Ellis who may not be able to further their participation in the arts without this support. In December, Pastor Chris and Karen Montovino were excited to once again host the session, deacons, staff, and Benevolence Board members and their families to their home for a Christmas Brunch. It was such a wonderful time celebrating the many people who give so much of their time, talents, and hearts to service to God through Cascades Church. Our family has been so blessed to share life with such wonderful people over the past eighteen years. Unfortunately an ice storm interrupted our plans to gather for worship on Christmas Eve and we all missed singing Silent Night by candlelight. That disappointment quickly faded with the ability to worship together in our pajamas on Christmas morning.

So as one can see, it has indeed been a very full year. Throughout this annual report you will see countless ways that the Lord has worked in and through us in 2022 as a community of faith. What started out looking somewhat fuzzy at the beginning became crystal clear by year's end. That's the way it works at Cascades Presbyterian Church with Jesus at the helm. He is our vision, our strength, and our rock. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

So *Come, Be Fed, Be Sent*. Who are you inviting to join us on our journey of faith together?

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

We have emerged from our COVID-19 chrysalis to enjoy more time in each other's presence this year! Christian Education has continued to work toward embracing all members of our Cascades community, both near and far. What a blessing it is to be a stepping stone on your path to follow Christ.

This year we zoomed around Australia for Vacation Bible School. With more than 30 children in attendance, most from the surrounding community, we spent our days exploring the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru and all the cute animals. But each day we boomeranged back to the Bible and what it teaches us about the value of life. We were blessed to be joined by Brenna Beck and her family for our morning messages. Seeing life on her sheep ranch and hearing how God is at work in Australia really enriched our VBS time this year. Thank you also to Cordell and Jared Beck who pitched in to pull off this technological feat.

Our mission for VBS this year was to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The ILF is a national charity working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote communities across Australia. They are community-led, responding to requests from remote communities for culturally relevant books, including early learning board books, resources, and programs to support communities to create and publish their stories in languages of their choice.

Sunday School for our youngest members has continued on the trajectory we set in 2021. Each week we learn about the life and work of a different Bible Hero. I am blessed to teach alongside Renee LaCombe who has been a Sunday School teacher for 50 years. I'm so grateful for her depth of knowledge and the loving way she points us all to Christ. I am also thankful to Becky Hickok for always being willing to pitch in and for Christie Mistrot who came into our class to teach the children to sign Jesus Loves Me. We welcome any other church members who would like to share their gifts and talents with the children of Cascades.

The two Sunday School rooms that serve our elementary-school aged children received a much-needed facelift this year. Many hands went into this labor of love. Our Christian Education materials are now organized and our classrooms are set up to provide a cheery, safe space for children to learn. Our Cascades kids have given the rooms two thumbs-up.

As adults, it was so wonderful to get back to learning together in person while still utilizing ZOOM for some evening Bible Studies. We had a slow start due to an uptick in COVID cases. Pastor Chris hosted two adult evening ZOOM studies a New Members Class in the Spring and Advent Study called Lifesongs which looked at the lives of Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds.

On Sunday mornings, our in-person Adult Education class continued watching a video series called *Everyday Works* that explores our call to God's work in the world. In the fall, Anne Wiley graciously facilitated a video series study by Matt Chandler on *Psalms 119*. 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 lectionary until Easter. After Easter he preached a series titled *Wrestling with God* based on a book by Ronald Rolheiser. In the summertime, sermons were based on various *Psalms*. In the fall and up until Thanksgiving, we focused on Paul's *1st and 2nd Letter to Timothy*. And finally for Advent, he taught the importance of passing down from generation to generation the Christmas stories of Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and the Wisemen.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Continued

One final ministry that I'd like to highlight is that of providing the Children's Message during our worship time. I am so grateful for all of you who have stepped up to take the challenge of sharing a message: Karen Montovino, Christie Mistrot, Renee Lacombe, Judy Scovil, Janet VanFleet, Sarah Ostrand, Rebecca Foster, Anne Wiley, Nancy Bisbee, Catherine Hartrim-Lowe and the Youth Group. As we all know the Children's Message is for all of God's children.

The mission of Christian Education is to learn to live more like Christ. Let us all continue to seek new ways to invite God into our hearts and lives through Christian Education.

Heather Hartrim-Lowe
Elder, Christian Education

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

What a year this has been! We have accomplished so much and yet have plans for more.

Preventive maintenance is key to providing a building that will serve us for generations. 2022 Saw the completion of some major issues:

- The shingle roof was in need of repair. We replaced it before it started to leak and damage the interior of the building.
- The parking lot was resurfaced and striped before the cracks could become holes and require more extensive repair. Additionally the company the did the work, All Seal Northwest, gave us a 50% discount, saving us \$5,000.
- Looking at building security we've put blinds on the door windows in the classrooms.
- The Sunday School rooms have been painted and a new floor has been put in. New shelves and cabinets have been installed providing more usable storage and access to Sunday school supplies

Our two work parties planted, cleaned the grounds, removed shrubs that were difficult to maintain with more attractive and flowering shrubs. The youth group spread bark chips on the playground under the new shrubs and the windows were washed. Two hours were set aside for the work that needed to be done and so many came out to help that we were able to get all of this done.

There's still more to do. The exterior building needs to be painted. This is no longer a 'want to do' it's a 'have to do' in order to prevent damage. While the new kitchen has had to take a back burner, it's still on the stove! This spring we will be planting fields of clover, not only to improve the appearance of the property but reduce maintenance. We hope the spring work party will provide a time for our multi-generational church members to work together to groom the grounds.

Faye Salomone, Elder
Buildings and Grounds

MISSION AND PEACE

To follow Jesus is to live a life where we are always looking for ways to meet the needs of other, through our talents, gifts, and abilities. It means you are going something primarily for the benefit and goodwill of another person or group of people. When we serve, we look outside of ourself, beyond our own problems, and seek to bring value to others. It is a lifestyle of putting others first, thinking not about ourselves and our own desires, but also about what others lack that we can provide. At Cascades there are a multitude of opportunities to be a servant to others. Perhaps one of them is where you talents, gifts, and abilities could make a difference. COME, BE FED, and serve:

- Giving Hands Ministry-prayer quilts, knitting and crocheting quilts, hats, and 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.
- Orchards Team-minister to young adults.
- Deacons-care for our flock
- Elders-lead us and make management decisions
- Children's sermon
- Lead worship
- Lighting the candles, prayers of the people, offering collection.
- Choir and worship team music.
- Sound systems and technology support.
- Sunday morning greeters.
- Pancake Breakfast-first Sunday of the month.
- Treats after church on Sundays
- Building and grounds maintenance
- Office support
- Nursery support
- Lead or attend a Bible study
- Participate in special events.

Jesus also challenges us to be sent out into the world to serve others whom we may not yet know. Perhaps reaching beyond our comfort zone. Be SENT:

- Friends of the Carpenter
- The Giving Closet
- Family Promise of Clark County
- Silver Star Elementary School
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest-support of refugees.
- Heritage Farm-community garden.
- New Hope Opportunities-San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
- Or maybe you have a new mission idea for Cascades.

What are you doing Monday through Saturday to impact your community, your school, your family, or your business through your service? Is your life, as Jesus commands, one in which you are not first, but last, following the example of Jesus and using what you know and what you have to lift up and help everyone around you?

As you Elder for Mission and Peace, I am here to encourage and support wherever God is leading us as congregation in our mission to serve others.

Janet Van Fleet, Elder
Mission and Peace

COMMUNITY LIFE

When an activity at church involves the four F's; food, fellowship, faith, and fun, it often is a community life activity. While the last few years have found us worshipping from home, this year was a welcome turnabout. Here are some of the highlights from 2022.

We enjoyed celebrating our mortgage burning with marshmallow s'mores and grateful hearts after church in the parking lot. It was a very happy and sticky time!

Our church birthday potluck picnic in July was a fabulous time at the Hartrim-Lowe farm. It was well attended and the weather was just perfect. There was lots of swimming, talking, eating, and enjoying each other's company.

We helped with the Harvest Party potluck that our intrepid youth and their leader Sarah Ostrand led for the enjoyment of church and community children.

Our final get-together this year was the Hanging of the Greens potluck where we enjoyed visiting together before we readied our hearts and sanctuary for Advent.

Our yarn and quilting groups joined forces this year becoming the Giving Hands ministry. You can call Kay Gibson if you would like to find out more about this opportunity. Their outreach encompasses not only our church but friends of our church as well as people not directly connected with Cascades.

Pancake breakfasts the first Sunday of the month resumed much to everybody's delight. Sue Holcomb and Deborah Shaner are serving up a wonderful breakfast at 9:00. It is definitely a popular and delicious way to start your Sunday morning.

The congregation participates in the coffee hour by bringing cookies and treats for all to enjoy. We always provide sugar-free and gluten-free options so everyone finds something that fits their particular diet requirements.

We look forward to 2023 with Top of the Hill potlucks and Dinners and Lunches for Eight starting back up in January. It has been a blessing to be involved with our Community Life this year.

Renee Lacombe, Elder
Community Life

WORSHIP ARTS

As Worship Arts Elder, I have the joy of watching an amazing team of individuals work to ensure that Cascades Presbyterian is a place where people can meet and worship in a meaningful way. It is indeed marvelous to watch everyone work together to accomplish this goal. And, I am also very appreciative of those who contribute to the actual service by serving during different portions. When others serve alongside me, it truly shows how much of a 'family' we are. How wonderful it is to be a part of this amazing congregation. And equally wonderful to watch the true 'artists' (Nancy, Sarah, Erik, Erin, Cordell, and Pastor Chris) weave together a service that will lift our spirits high!

Christie Mistrot, Elder
Worship Arts

EVANGELISM AND MEMBER CARE

Evangelism and Member Care is responsible for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with those outside our walls we have yet to meet while caring for the folks who call Cascades their spiritual "home." So how do we do this?

WORD OF MOUTH: First and foremost, trusting relationships with friends, coworkers, family, and neighbors are the primary vehicles through which we encourage each other to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Whether in word or in deed, we are each called to be evangelists. The truth is that most first timers come to a church because someone they know invited them. More and more we should be inviting people to Come, Be Fed, and Be Sent to be part of God's work in the world. We challenged members to invite family and friends to our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services. Unfortunately due to inclement weather, Christmas Eve Services were cancelled and Christmas Day services were scaled back. But we will try again for the Easter and Christmas Seasons in 2023.

ADVERTISING: Today, less and less people rely on printed media for their daily news. While we occasionally post events in the Columbian and Reflector Newspapers, we have turned to Facebook and Instagram online social media as more effective ways to quickly let people know what is going on within our community of faith. Pastor Chris has also found that these two media were very effective tools to share messages of hope, love, and endurance during the pandemic.

ONLINE STREAMING: Also during the pandemic, Cascades morphed to hybrid worship both in person and online. Though the pandemic ended at the beginning of 2022, we found that about 60% of our congregation returned for in person worship while 40% has chosen to remain online. While we hope that more people will return to in person worship, we have also found that streaming worship services online has been a great way for new people to worship with us before choosing to attend in person. Thank you to Technology Elder Cordell Beck and his Online worship team of Jasper and Erin Suttan, Olivia Scott, Sophia Hickok, Harrison and Seth Hartrim-Lowe who operate sound and video equipment to make this happen.

FACILITY SHARING: Another key way that we get the word out about Cascades life is through facility sharing. We continue to open our doors to groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Junior Symphony of Vancouver, Seedlings Poetry Workshops, 4H Chapters, various neighborhood associations, and music recital groups. Each new group who comes through our doors builds awareness that Cascades is a vibrant caring community of faith.

CHURCH GREETERS: Claudia and Art Derbyshire provide a wonderful first welcome to visitors through our Greeting Ministry. The greeters introduce themselves and provide information about our church along with introducing them to the pastor and other members of the church. Art also keeps watch over the parking lot and an eye for any type of suspicious activity within the church grounds during services. Thank you Art and Claudia!

LOVE AND CARE OF ONE ANOTHER: But the most important way that our members are cared for is through the love and compassion we show one another regardless of the roles we serve in the church. When one person is hurting, we all hurt. When one person rejoices, we all rejoice. Simply checking in on one another especially when folks are absent for extended periods of time demonstrates the kind of Caring Christian Community that everyone wants to be part of. Our deacons ministry, prayer chain, and prayers of the people during Sunday morning worship each allows us the opportunity to show our love and concern for one another in a way that sets us apart from many other congregations. Member Care and Evangelism go hand in hand in outreach in the community proclaiming that Cascades Presbyterian Church is a welcoming place to worship Jesus Christ and fellowship with other Christians.

"COME, BE FED, BE SENT" is Evangelism & Member Care.

Pastor Chris Montovino & Josh Krane, Elder
Evangelism & Member Care

PERSONNEL

2022 saw transitions. There was a transition of personnel elders, from Scott Wiley to Dian Poujade. There was a transition to more in person programs from worship services, committee meetings, on-site office hours, all education programs, youth activities and Bible studies. The life of the church was resuming while still maintaining a zoom presence for participants needing to worship from the safety of their home for services and Bible Studies.

We are grateful to the amazing staff we have been blessed with for their ability to adapt and adjust without compromising the quality of their services.

We are grateful to Sarah Shewbert, Nancy Bisbee and Erik Suttén (and Erin) for their devotion, skill and talents in leading our music program. I'm not sure any congregation could find more skilled, dedicated and committed leaders. Sarah Foster Ostrand has continued to rebuild the youth program and strengthen the fellowship and faith of the youth of Cascades, such a critical role for the continuation and health of the church. We appreciate the services of Pam Boehning with the assistance of Sofia Montovino, for her professionalism and her welcoming environment in the church nursery. We also appreciate the hard work of Tom, our custodian from Innovative Services NW (a special non-profit group that employs people with disabilities.) And we are so grateful for the bookkeeping and administrative skills of Michelle Drexler who manages the many personal and written communications to the congregation, and oversees the myriad of support tasks for the pastor, the staff, Session and Deacons and other committees. Without her unique skill set, Cascades Presbyterian would be a different place!

We have survived and even thrived through the pandemic and in this transition back to community worship and fellowship in part because of the wisdom and leadership of our pastor, the Rev Dr. J. Christopher Montovino. His heart for God, his heart for people and his leadership and vision are unique and we have been blessed to learn from and to work with him. His seventeen plus years of serving as head pastor has given him the experience and perspective to lead our body well and we give thanks to God for the gift he has been to us. It is not easy to be without other pastoral staff as partners so we recognize the commitment this has required from him and his family.

Finally I want to thank the three congregational members that serve on the personnel committee: Mary Oswalt (former personnel elder), Scott Wiley (former personnel elder) and Mark Hartrim-Lowe. We meet as needed to consider issues related to personnel practices. Their input and perspective is invaluable. The personnel committee recommended to Session an 8.3% salary increase for all staff for 2023, per the recommendation of the Presbytery and consistent with the CPI for our area and the increases in Social Security. Because the delays in being able to share our facilities with the Slavic Christian School and receive that income, Session felt that it would be prudent and fiscally responsible to limit increases to 4%. We are aware that this increase does not enable our staff to meet current inflationary costs. Session recommended a review of this increase at the end of Quarter 1 to see if there is a way to increase the 4%, and the personnel committee and session will do so at that time.

We look forward to a blessed year in 2023 and are grateful to all those who lead as well as those that worship at Cascades Presbyterian. May we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God in this year ahead. (Micah 6:8)

Dian Poujade, Elder
Personnel

TECHNOLOGY

Livestreaming of the Sunday service has become one of our most important missions. This has been made possible by a very important group of volunteers and young missionaries. It is important to recognize the valuable contribution of the technology team for their willingness and abilities that makes streaming possible. Sophie, Jasper, Olivia, Harrison, Seth and Sam, thank you for your support and work.

Technology accomplishments in 2022:

- Purchased and installed a new office computer. The old office computer was 8 years old and unable to keep up with the software used for Church business.
- In support of Vacation Bible School, coordinate and edit videos about Australian life, sent by Brenna Beck.
- Purchase and installation of additional hardware for the security system. This work was rewarded when someone attempted to break-in last summer. Two windows were broken which set off alarms.

Potential future technology projects:

- Replacing the community computer and the sanctuary computer used for worship. Both computers are 10 years old and are unable to keep up with the demands of the Church.
- The overhead projectors in the sanctuary are beginning to show signs of failure. Maintenance of the filters and bulbs will be made to keep them operational, but the time is approaching when they need replacement.
- Teleconferencing improvements that will allow hybrid Bible studies. 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.
- Add an additional monitor and software to create an easier method of handling slides during the worship service. This would provide for the preview and improved select ability of PowerPoint slides.

Technology has become an important support system for the many areas of church life. We see how it has enhanced the Sunday morning worship experience. The live stream in addition to providing our members with better access has increased our evangelism presence in the community. Christian education has been enhanced through ZOOM Bible studies. Our Church is protected by a security system during the hours when there is no one present. Technology has enhanced the outreach to our local community providing a meeting place for our neighbors. Technology also provides a readily available mission opportunity for our youth who have become the support team for our worship service. The role of technology is complicated but through planning and wisdom, better tools can facilitate and simplify many of these complicated processes.

Cordell Beck, Elder
Technology

THE ORCHARDS

The Orchards is a group of families and young adults in our church body. The past year has seen a bit of transition for this group as many of our members have been in seasons of change. We have spent less time meeting consistently in person and more time texting, calling and gathering in smaller groups when we can. We have watched this group grow and change over the past year and are so thankful for the deep friendships that have been formed that continue despite a season of less regular meetings. As we look to the year ahead we are excited to find ways to spend more time fostering deep friendships together. Thank you to Sofia Montovino and our teen members who often provide childcare when we meet together so that the adults can connect with less distractions.

Erik and Erin Suttan
Orchards Volunteer Coordinators

YOUTH GROUP

Getting back into gear has felt lovely. The youth group has been able to meet regularly on both Wednesdays and Sundays.

Wednesday nights have focused more on discussion-based teaching. Our lessons have been called "Simple Truth" and the weeks break down what it looks like to know God loves them and has restored them to Him.

My goal for the rest of this year (until June), I would like to emphasize community, self-esteem, and identity in Christ. I'd like Wednesday nights to be more of a break for the kids, where they can be in community with friends, play a game, and have a group discussion.

Sunday mornings we have delved more deeply into Scripture and how it answers questions about who God is, who we are, and how we can live our lives to love Him and others. We take turns reading from a passage and then break down how it provides the aforementioned answers.

Service is still a key component for our group. This fall we ran the harvest festival. We enjoyed a meal with all the families, wrapping Pastor Chris up like a mummy, and facilitating games for children of our church and neighborhood. We also worked to build care kits for those experiencing homelessness. There are still plenty in the narthex, so feel free to grab a bag. Finally, this Christmas, we caroled for some of the members of our church who have been stuck at home. It was such a joy to sing with those who haven't gotten to worship with their church family in a while. We also had fun setting up the Nacimiento. This spring I am working towards having a 5 (or 10) mile mission where we spend the day at the church and serve in various roles in our community. We are also throwing the Sweetheart Banquet this February 17th.

I have seen great growth in the youth this year. They have participated more on Sunday mornings, serving at the sound booth, working behind the camera, singing in choir, and reading for the Advent wreath. Every Wednesday night, I have each person pray for a request mentioned. If there aren't enough requests, then the person has to open or close. My goal is to get everyone comfortable praying aloud and connecting with God without limits. They always rise to the occasion, even if begrudgingly.

This fall we kicked off our year with a sleepover at the church. I heard kids laugh harder than I have before and was delighted to see them enjoying many games and each other's company. For more community building and fun, I would like to have a summer weekend camping trip.

Thank you to Greg Beck, Becky Hickok, and Cordell Beck who have supported me and the youth this year. They prove over and over again to be the hands and feet of Christ to me and, most importantly, to the kids who attend our group. It is such an honor and privilege to serve these young men and women and I look forward to the year ahead.

If you have any concerns, questions, or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sarah Ostrand, Director
Youth Group

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 annually by a generous family independent of the Cascades congregation and is not supported by Cascades' Annual Budget.**

Overall in 2022, the CBB granted more than \$105,151 to local non-profits, the homeless, underserved/under resourced families and schools in Clark County including:

1 family with car repairs - \$532
1 family with furniture needs - \$434
1 family with emergency hotel lodging - \$497
13 families with rental assistance - \$19,533
Family Promise of Clark County - \$6,500 (Homeless Family Shelter)
Evergreen Habitat for Humanity - \$7,500 (Faith Build Project + Grant)
Council for the Homeless - \$5,000 (Family Discretionary Fund + Winter Housing Overflow)
YWCA Clark County - \$4,500 (Safe Choice Emergency Fund)
Friends of the Carpenter - \$10,500
Orchards Elementary School FCRC - \$1,250 (WinCo Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)
Sunset Elementary School FCRC - \$1,250 (WinCo Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)
Silver Star Elementary School FCRC - \$1,250 (WinCo Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)
Covington Middle School FCRC - \$1,250 (WinCo Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)
Heritage High School FCRC - \$1,250 (WinCo Family Friendly Christmas Gift Cards)
Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools - \$7,500 (Family Community Resource Center Support)
Evergreen Schools District - \$5,000 (Family Community Resource Center Support)
Assistance League of SW Washington - \$3,000 (Assault Survivor Kits)
Churches in Partnership Heritage Farm - \$4,000 (Food Bank Farm Start Up for 2022 & 2023)
Afghan Family Resettlement - \$2,515
Clark County Young Lives - \$4,500 (Campership for teen moms, kids, and mentors to attend summer camp)
East Clark County Young Life - \$5,300 (Campership + Heritage/Covington Young Life Club Expenses)
Open House Ministries - \$9,500 (Homeless Family Shelter)
The Giving Closet - \$2,500 (Provides free clothing and household goods to low income people)
Battle Ground Educational Foundation - \$2,500 (Family Community Resource Center Support)

In 2022 we reached out to past Benevolence Board beneficiaries to invite them to participate in our Faith and Finance Classes geared to teach lower income people financial stewardship. Unfortunately, no one signed up. We are still trying to figure out the best way to reach participants for future offerings. Stay tuned.

Also in 2022, our rental assistance grants increased 260% and the amount we granted increased 174%. This confirmed expectations that more rental assistance would be required after eviction moratoriums expired and people had to pay back delinquent rent during the COVID 19 pandemic. As a result of this increased need and to be able to help as many people as possible, the CBB amended our rental assistance criteria to limit the amount of aid given at one time to \$1,500 or one month's primary housing expenses per family.

We were pleased to once again provide grants to the Council for the Homeless, several school districts, and other local partner agencies who support under house/resourced families. We were also delighted to sponsor a second Afghan refugee family resettling in the Vancouver area after being evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan in August 2021. We are so grateful to have the resources to help these families strive for human flourishing. As expected the amount of aid that we have provided these Afghan families has reduced considerably as now they have become adequately employed and self sufficient.

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CASCADES BENEVOLENCE BOARD (continued)

Thank you very much to CBB Members Janet VanFleet, Emily Wagner-Davis, Catherine Hartrim-Lowe, Chris Montovino, Christie Mistrot, Phil Hickok, Bob McKusick, Josh Krane, and Betty Scott for listening to the needs in the community and prayerfully considering how to best walk alongside others in their times of need. I am especially grateful for the work of Betty Scott who has taken over the responsibility of personally connecting with families requesting rental assistance in order to better assess their need and our ability to resource them. This vetting has taken a huge burden from my plate. I am always amazed at how God provides just the right people at the right time with the right set of job skills for the work at hand. Thank you Betty!!!

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino

DEACONS

The Book of Order directs Deacons to provide "sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ" to members of the Cascade family.

The Cascade Family is divided into flocks for each of our nine Deacons. Members and congregants who attend regularly, as well as those who are unable to attend service, are included in our flocks. Members of the flocks may participate in our Cascade Prayer Chain, or not. To be included in Cascade's Prayer Chain, anyone can contact a Deacon or Pastor Chris for more information.

The Deacons maintain the prayer chain by sharing prayer requests by phone or email with their flock, other Deacons, and Pastor Chris. During 2022, over 150 prayer requests were shared on the Cascade Prayer Chain.

In addition to maintaining the prayer chain, Deacons keep in contact with members of their flock with calls, visits, and cards. For Cascades' older members, Deacons provided gifts to help them celebrate Valentine Day 2022 and Christmas 2022. Deacons also provided meals for members who experienced medical issues and transportation to medical appointments. Deacons maintain a list of volunteers who can help with these needs. Another Deacon responsibility is to help organize receptions when requested. In 2022, Deacons had the honor of working with the Holcomb family to celebrate the life of Dorman Holcomb, a founding member of Cascade.

Deacons also provide communion for the congregation. It was the consensus of the Deacons in 2022 that we would continue to purchase prefilled communion sets to assure the safety of those participating in communion. Sets can also be provided to members who cannot attend and request them. How communion is served will continue to be assessed to determine how and when we may return to more traditional service.

Deacon work is supported by contributions that include time, talent, and financial donations to help provide service for the Cascade Family. The Deacons are grateful for everyone's help and prayers to assure that we do fulfill our mission of service.

Doris Raspa- Moderator

Linda Beck

Nancy Bisbee

Debra Dayal

Sherry McKusick

Mary Oswald

Jeanne Robbins

Deborah Shaner

Anne Wiley

GIVING HANDS MINISTRY

The Cascades prayer quilt ministry began fifteen years ago with seamstresses who wanted to use their skills to bless others. Over the years the quilters have made more than three hundred quilts that have been given to persons in crisis, including numerous quilts to children in South America who were recovering from cleft-palate surgery. Some have gone to church members, and many go to relatives or friends of church members. A few years ago the Cascades yarn ministry began with crocheters and knitters who made items to bless and comfort others, including children at Silver Star Elementary School.

Over the years the prayer quilt ministry and yarn ministry lost members to illness and death. Other group members moved away. This year the remaining quilters invited former members of the yarn ministry to join them in a group that became known as the Giving Hands Ministry. This group still makes prayer quilts to be given to those in crisis. It also makes various items from yarn to be shared with those who need a little comfort or warmth. Craft items were donated to Silver Star Elementary for its Holiday Shop. Five prayer shawls have been made, one of which was given to a member of the church this year. 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. 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

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for turning in your planned giving cards to the church this year. We have received 44 giving cards from our recent pledge campaign. Last year we received 47 pledges, so we are down 3 pledges from last year. We have had some people leave the church due to job changes or relocations, etc. Other concerns are that maintenance costs for the building, heating, etc. that have increased due to prices going up. Also, the Presbytery requests that we give raises to our staff members due to the current inflation going on.

We were concerned that the giving would be down due to loss of some people but many people in the congregation (18 people) graciously raised the amounts on their giving cards. Thank you so much for your generosity. The total planned giving for 2023 will be \$218,341.

We did lose the income from the Love of God Church a while back. The good news is that we have another church (Church of Christians of the Seventh Day) who will be starting use of our church and we will receive rent from them. The Slavic Christian School also wants to rent space in our church, but they are waiting on the Clark County Permit Office to process it. Hopefully, we will hear from them soon.

So, with the generous giving of the congregation and the additional rent from these two new churches, we will be in good shape for the coming year.

Sue Holcomb
Elder Finance and Stewardship

CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2021, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2022
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023

Expenses	2021 Actual	2022 Budget Actual		2023 Proposed Budget
Pastoral Ministry				
Travel-Chris	\$1,863	\$2,000	\$2,553	\$2,000
Continuing Education-Chris	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Business Expenses- Chris	3,081	3,500	3,934	3,500
Subtotal	6,444	7,000	7,987	7,000
Building and Grounds				
Property Ins./Assessment	4,476	4,370	4,778	5,120
Building/Equip Maintenance	7,441	11,200	9,917	11,200
Utilities	8,896	10,000	8,666	11,700
Custodial Services	4,466	4,673	4,810	6,260
Custodial Supplies	287	800	319	400
Subtotal	25,566	31,043	28,490	34,680
Mission and Peace				
New Hope Opportunities	1,200	3,000	3,000	3,000
Local Mission	268	1,000	1,000	1,000
Theological Education Fund	1,000	1,000	537	1,000
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,700	1,500	1,730	2,000
Pentecost Offering	45	800	-	400
Pentecost-Local	30	200	-	100
Peacemaking Offering	-	400	3,319	400
Peacemaking Offering-Local	56	100	1,107	100
Christmas Joy Offering	-	500	175	500
Christmas Eve Offering	3,594	2,000	3,826	1,500
Disaster Relief	-	-	1,587	1,000
FISH	1,242	2,000	1,711	1,500
Other Local Mission	-	-	250	2,000
Subtotal	9,135	12,500	18,242	14,500
Worship Arts				
Adult Choir	-	400	55	400
Worship Team	168	200	-	200
Worship Supplies	1,091	1,000	1,211	1,000
Instrument maintenance	-	300	525	300
Repair/Replace	-	500	244	500
Music/Worship Workshop	-	300	-	300
Copyright License/Cong. Music	414	350	481	350
Sound Tech Consultant	220	-	-	560
Subtotal	1,893	3,050	2,516	3,610

CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2021, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2022
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023

Expenses	2021 Actual	2022 Budget Actual		2023 Proposed Budget
Administration				
Telephone	4,048	4,300	4,398	4,100
Office Supplies	2,103	2,200	2,187	2,100
Online Giving Fees	1,132	1,200	1,079	1,200
Postage	1,449	1,500	1,314	1,500
Computer/Printer Maintenance	108	300	-	150
Office Machine Lease/Service	2,213	2,300	1,834	2,000
Payroll Expenses	1,225	1,300	1,217	1,300
Per Capita	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,241
Administration Services	265	400	720	600
Annual Audit	550	550	550	550
Subtotal	17,093	18,050	17,299	17,741
Christian Education				
Education Materials				
Pre-School/Elementary	-	200	229	200
Youth	338	200	638	200
Adult	-	200	-	200
Vacation Bible School	455	500	697	500
Youth Ministry	761	1,000	399	1,000
Leadership Training	32	100	-	100
Subtotal	1,586	2,200	1,963	2,200
Community Life				
All Church Fellowship	1,069	700	1,316	1,000
Family Ministry	156	2,000	72	2,000
Men's Ministry	-	200	-	200
Women's Ministry	-	200	-	200
College/Young Adult	96	300	-	300
Subtotal	1,321	3,400	1,388	3,700
Evangelism & Member Care				
Annual Advertising Campaign	762	1,000	282	1,000
Stephen Ministries	478	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	50	-	-
Subtotal	1,240	1,050	282	1,000

CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2021, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2022
 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023

Expenses	2021	2022		2023
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
Payroll				
Pastor's Salary	45,208	46,327	27,359	27,248
Pastor's Housing	25,000	26,200	45,166	48,180
Pension & Health Insurance	29,070	29,229	30,306	30,883
Medical Reimburse. (FLEX)	2,215	1,294	2,321	1,346
Employer 403(b) Match Cont.	1,200	2,321	1,294	2,414
SECA	3,250	3,589	3,589	3,733
Accompanist	13,585	13,515	13,541	14,056
Choir Director	4,123	6,689	5,934	6,957
Worship Leader	9,531	9,412	8,980	9,788
Subs-Music/Office/Pulpit	1,182	2,096	2,272	2,180
Nursery & Child Care	3,324	4,878	1,814	5,073
Secretary/Treasurer	23,365	23,385	23,167	24,632
Audio/Visual Tech	1,646	-	-	-
Youth Ministry	4,706	11,379	4,664	11,834
FICA/Workers' Compensation	5,242	5,397	4,527	5,613
Subtotal	<u>172,647</u>	<u>186,011</u>	<u>174,934</u>	<u>193,937</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$236,925</u>	<u>\$264,304</u>	<u>\$253,101</u>	<u>\$278,368</u>

CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ACTUAL INCOME FOR 2021, APPROVED BUDGET/ACTUAL FOR 2022
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022

Income	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
Pledges	\$190,844	\$214,632	\$203,261	\$218,341
Loose Offering	20,800	20,000	23,548	24,000
Interest	52	60	115	50
Per Capita	520	2,000	2,607	2,000
Miscellaneous	1,507	1,000	2,983	1,000
Building Use Donations	14,060	1,000	661	25,800
Subtotal	<u>227,783</u>	<u>238,692</u>	<u>233,175</u>	<u>271,191</u>
Special Offerings-Local				
Vacation Bible School	330	500	365	500
New Hope Opportunities	-	3,000	-	-
FISH	1,242	2,000	1,711	1,500
Other Local Missions	126	1,000	-	2,000
Subtotal	<u>1,698</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>2,076</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Special Offerings-Presbytery				
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,700	1,500	1,730	2,000
Theological Education Fund	-	-	50	-
Pentecost offering	75	1,000	-	500
Peacemaking Offering	125	400	4,426	500
Christmas Joy Offering	-	500	175	500
Christmas Eve Offering	3,594	2,000	3,516	1,500
Disaster Relief	200	100	1,587	1,000
Subtotal	<u>5,694</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>11,484</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total Income	<u>\$235,175</u>	<u>\$250,692</u>	<u>\$246,735</u>	<u>\$281,191</u>
Current Year Operations	\$(1,750)	\$(13,612)	\$(6,366)	\$2,823
Funds Available from Prior Year	\$66,336	\$64,586	\$64,586	\$58,220
	<u>\$64,586</u>	<u>\$50,974</u>	<u>\$58,220</u>	<u>\$61,043</u>

CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DESIGNATED FUNDS
As of December 31, 2022

Building Fund Reserves		
Kitchen Remodel	\$13,835	
Other Reserves	<u>\$11,999</u>	<u>\$25,834</u>
Deacons		\$4,066
Quilt Ministry		\$522
Camperships		\$2,414
Women's Assoc.		\$1,372
Benevolence Fund		\$115,271
Maintenance Bldg/Gds		\$4,832
Pastor Cont. Ed.		\$3,627
Technology Fund		\$1,950
Worship/Music		\$1,656
Youth Fund		\$1,369
Other Misc. Reserves		\$1,266

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).