

PEBBLE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT



May 2021 - May 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	3
Pastor's Report	4
Clerk of Session	6
Board of Deacons	8
 <u>Committees, Groups, Teams</u>	
Educational Ministries	10
Membership Committee.....	11
Mission Committee	12
Stewardship Committee	13
 Finance Team	13
 Memorial Gifts, Endowment & Designated Funds	14
 Personnel Team.....	17
 Property Team.....	18
Worship Committee.....	20
Witness to Race and Reconciliation Team.....	21

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING
June 12, 2022 at 11 a.m. In person
Topic: Annual Meeting

Time: June 12, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Opening Prayer - Rev Elizabeth Lyman

Determination of a quorum - Doris Gorman (Donna Sognefest is out of town today)

Overview of the year - Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

Stated Clerk's Report - Doris Gorman

Overview of Finances - Mary Elizabeth Haas

Spiritual Discernment Council - Steve Eidt

Nominating Committee Report

Ron Cavanagh - Elder liaison

Bill Byrne - Deacon liaison

Mark Ferguson, Pam Ryan, David Hitchcock - congregational representatives

Nominations of Church Officers

Elder Nominations for class of 2025

Kathy Fanella

Karen Low

David Hitchcock

Any nominations from the floor?

Motion to approve slate of Elders.

Vote

Deacon Nominations for class of 2025

Jackie Talcik

Linda Imboden

Maggie Reid

Carole Taylor (for a 1 year term)

Zach Huitink (for a 1 year term)

Any nominations from the floor?

Motion to approve slate of Deacons.

Vote

Recognition of Elders and Deacons who will no longer be serving

Steve Eidt

Maureen Macero

Ron Cavanagh

Susan Cobb

George Kurian

A prayer for those we have lost this year

Virginia (Jinny) Byers, PhD, died August 6, 2021
 Judith (Judy) Daly, died August 31, 2021
 Helen De Vere, died September 12, 2021
 Marjorie Quaife, died September 22, 2021
 Margaret Bowen, died October 10, 2021
 Marilyn Coughlin, died October 17, 2021
 Terry Wheat, died February 8, 2022

Motion to adjourn meeting

Closing Prayer

PASTOR'S REPORT, 2022

The hand of the LORD came upon me, Ezekiel, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. God said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Ezekiel 37:1-4

When I wrote my annual report last year, I thought we had put COVID in the past. I also expected that I would not be here to write another report. We have traveled together almost three years now. It has been an extraordinary journey.

Looking back at this year, Pebble Hill has had both struggle and joy. We celebrated Bette's fiftieth anniversary at Pebble Hill with a joyous worship service. However, that was also the time when Bette began her journey through cancer to recovery. We walked with her and prayed with her and laid our hands upon her to ask for healing. Our prayers were answered. Bette can now move forward with her hip surgery. We continue in prayer for this part of her recovery.

We lost one very capable office administrator when Carol left for a full time position. We were very blessed to find another office administrator equally skilled in Mara Miller. It is a joy to work with her.

We have been blessed with capable Christian Educators for our young people. Carrigan worked with us up until her wedding and was replaced with the wonderful Carrie Farmer, the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor and a very capable Sunday School teacher. She is the program director for a Presbyterian camp this summer and will return in the fall.

JoAnn Ottman continued her wonderful series on the history of slavery. We celebrated Advent and Lent with online programs. We plan to re-introduce our Sunday forums in the fall.

Worship was rich this year. We found ways to be back together, even in the midst of COVID surges. Many folks found that the live-streaming was so helpful for them to stay connected and

be in worship. We held special services for the anniversary of 9/11, we celebrated in person on both Christmas and Easter! We prayed in the Memorial Garden and lifted up those whom we have loved and lost. We celebrated our new hymnals and dedicated them to so many of our ‘saints’. We worshiped at the Nottingham every month and took communion to our friends there.

It was a joy to be able to worship again with our friends at Congregation Beth Sholom - Chevra Shas and the Islamic Center at Thanksgiving. It felt good to dance again at the synagogue!

The Elders and Deacons have done extraordinary work in keeping the ministry and mission of Pebble Hill at the forefront. We have been blessed with good and wise leadership. They have steered us through the difficulties of a law suit (still in discovery phase and could be that way for a few years). They have found ways to keep us safe and healthy. Elders and deacons (and a few others) got me though my knee replacement surgery (finally!), made sure I got to Physical Therapy and walked Molly.

Some of the most gratifying work of the past year has been my work with the Spiritual Discernment Council. We have been meeting every other week since October. We have been learning how to listen for God’s leading for Pebble Hill. We have explored our history, discussed our strengths and weaknesses, listened to our Resource Presbyter, Karen Chamis, as she presented the demographics for the area and took us through the Holy Cow work you did a few years ago. We held a series of congregational conversations to listen to all of you about Pebble Hill’s strengths and what you see as it vision of the future.

We have spent much time in prayer and in the reading of scripture. Each meeting, we start in the chapel and center ourselves for the work of the evening. We are now at the point of writing our report and will work with session to use it as a way to move us forward and to be the foundation of the Mission Study that Presbytery requires as the beginning of the pastor search process. It has been a deep and meaningful journey. I thank all who have participated.

It is the season of Pentecost. The Hebrew Bible reading for this season is from Ezekiel. Israel is in ruins. Its people in exile. Ezekiel speaks to the reasons for the devastation. At this point in the book, he has a series of visions of the future. Although Israel is barely alive, its people a tiny fraction of what they once were, God speaks hope to them. He tells them he will knit them back together. God will literally “re-member” them. Piece by piece. Moment by moment.

“Can these bones live?” We have been fragmented, we have felt torn apart with the events of the past few years. We have lost dear friends and loved ones. We have seen worship attendance drop. But we are being “re-membered”. Many people watch our services from home. Others are coming back to being together on Sunday. Forums are being planned. New ways of reaching out to our community are being studied. We move forward in faith.

This will be the last time I write an annual report for you. By next year, you will be rejoicing in the arrival of a new pastor. I have loved the time I have spent with you. It has been an honor to be your pastor.

The Peace of Christ be with you all,

Pastor Elizabeth

CLERK OF SESSION

This report covers the period May 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022.

May 1, 2021 May 31, 2022

Active Membership	187	177
Losses by Death	7	
Transferred to another church	2	
Transfer to Friends of PH	1	

Losses by Death:	Virginia(Jinny) Byers, PhD, died Aug. 6 2021 Judith (Judy) Daly, died August 31, 2021 Helen De Vere, died September 12, 2021 Marjorie Quaife, died September 22, 2021 Margaret Bowen, died October 10, 2021 Maralyn Coughlin, died October 17, 2021 Terry Wheat, died February 8, 2022
Letter of Transfer to Second Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY	Dale Shidemantle, May 23, 2021
Joined Another Church	Kathy Herron, November 16, 2021
Transfer to Friends of PH	Mary Roberts Baily, June 8, 2021

Communion was served in the Sanctuary	Sunday, May 2, 2021 Sunday, June 6, 2021 Sunday, July 4, 2021 Sunday, August 1, 2021 Sunday, September 5, 2021 Sunday, October 3, 2021 Sunday, November 7, 2021 Sunday, December 5, 2021 Sunday, February 6, 2022, Sunday, March 6, 2022 Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022 Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 Sunday, May 1, 2022
Communion was served at The Nottingham	Wednesday, December 1, 2021 Wednesday, February 2, 2022 Wednesday, March 6, 2022 Wednesday, April 6, 2022 Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Stated session meetings were held via Zoom monthly from May 2021 to January 2022, and March 2022 to April 2022. The session met at PH on May 17, 2022. A special session meeting was held at PH on Sunday, August 29, 2021. A joint meeting of the deacons and session was held on December 7, 2021.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the Sanctuary and via Zoom on Sunday, May 23, 2021. The congregation received the annual reports of the various church ministry groups and teams. The congregation also received the report of the Nominating Committee for the election of new officers. The new officers were all previously ordained and were installed again on Sunday, June 26, 2021.

Elders Elected Class of 2024: Doris Gorman, Donna Sognefest and Nancy Stewart

Deacon Elected Class of 2022: George Kurian

Deacon Elected Class of 2024: Veronica Agyepong, Bill Byrne, Zachary Huitink and Margo Sampson

The Annual Congregational Financial Meeting was held on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at which time the 2022 budget was presented to the congregation.

We lost seven members of PH over the past year who were all faithful and dedicated to service.

Virginia (Jinny) Byers, PhD joined in November of 1976. Jinny was active at PH attending regularly along with her husband, The Rev. Dr. Donald Byers, and she served as an elder. Jinny was a very accomplished woman and was a professor of nursing for 40 years.

Judith (Judy) Daly joined in April 2004. Judy sang in the choir in the early years of membership. She was dedicated to service and helping other people. Judy shared her talents as a deacon and attended the women's morning circle.

Helen De Vere joined in November 2013 after the late Hazel Phipps introduced her to PH. Helen was a social worker in her younger years. She continued to use her talents in retirement. Helen served as an elder for many years in her prior church in Scotia, NY, and attended the women's morning circle

Marjorie Quaife became a member in December 2006. She was a nurse and then became a nursing instructor for many years. Marjorie was an active member at PH and was known for her quick wit. She attended the women's morning circle.

Margaret Bowen and her late husband, Jonathan, joined in October 2014 after moving to CNY. She taught choral music and directed church choirs for many years. Margaret attended the women's morning circle. She was active in the Presbyterian Church and the Western NY Presbytery.

Maralyn Coughlin was a long-time member joining in September 1965. She taught elementary school in the Syracuse City School District for many years. Maralyn was very active at PH. She

served as treasurer, was an elder and a deacon. Maralyn enjoyed attending the women's afternoon circle.

Terry Wheat was a life-long Presbyterian and transferred membership along with his wife, Lynda Wheat, in January 2013. Terry served our country in the Navy and then served the community as a funeral director. Terry shared his talents with PH as the consummate host and leader. He served as a deacon and an elder and was active in the Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Sognefest
Clerk of Session, PHPC

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons exists "to minister to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith" (from *The Book of Order*). Toward that goal we have several activities we maintain on a weekly, monthly or annual basis.

Leadership: Current Deacon leadership – of the group as a whole, and of our individual ministries and outreach efforts – is as follows:

Moderator of the Board of Deacons: Zach Huitink & George Kurian

Treasurer: Margo Sampson

Secretary: Carole Taylor

Outreach (Stockings, NJFP): Lynda Wheat & Jackie Talcik

Member Care (Care, Prayer and Share, Youth care): Charlotte Haas

Garden: Carolyn Layburn

Ushers: Bill Byrne & George Kurian

Fellowship: Zach Huitink & Lynda Wheat

Session Representative: Jean Soper

Care, Prayer & Share: Each Deacon is assigned a list of church families and friends. The list serves as a starting point to meet the duties of the office of Deacon, as noted above. It provides a point of contact, a place to begin, a voice to bring concerns to the attention of the Board. The Board believes that extending care and upholding in prayer those in need is a duty that can best be addressed by the Board as a whole. The care is organized in a flexible manner to meet

changing needs. It can include the planning of social events; visitation teams, providing transportation or emergency assistance. Various Deacons lead the activities as time and talents allow. In the event that a Deacon cannot fulfill their term, another Deacon adopts their list. Care cards are sent to members to convey our caring and prayers. We thank Pastor Elizabeth for alerting us to specific needs throughout the year.

New Jerusalem Food Pantry: The Board thanks the congregation for their faithful donations of food each month. Deacons purchase needed food items each month and deliver your donations the third Sunday of every month to the New Jerusalem Food Pantry, as well as donate to the Eastern Farm Workers. Our involvement with this inner-city organization goes back to the founding of Pebble Hill. New Jerusalem is part of an area-wide pantry network. It serves large families and others whose needs are not adequately met by traditional pantries. The Board also collects donations and purchases turkeys at Thanksgiving. One additional note: in May 2021, NJFP informed us that they are re-modeling the area of the building where we drop-off food. Accordingly, until this is finished, we will not be making monthly food drop-offs. In place of the drop-offs, we are purchasing diapers for the CNY Diaper bank for which we have previously raised funds through the annual Deacon brunch. The diaper initiative stemmed from a concern Pastor Elizabeth received about needs for diapers. We will, however, continue to accept donations from the Congregation and provide them to NJFP as soon as they are ready to receive donations again.

Fellowship Time: Among our most visible work involves preparation and serving of coffee and other refreshments after each weekly service. We purchase cookies and other items with your donations. The church provides coffee and paper products. We are grateful to Sexton Bob Wolff for monitoring levels and reordering supplies as needed. We paused this effort due to COVID, though are grateful to have since re-instated it, and are planning to reach out to the Congregation to elicit volunteers who would like to help on weeks where there are not enough Deacons to cover all the responsibilities.

Deacon's Corner- We have a “virtual corner” (Crosscurrents- to highlight Deacon Projects) and a real corner (under the banner in the Atrium), dedicated space in which to share news and sign up for activities or to volunteer for flowers and ushering.

Ushers: Congregation members serve as ushers for our services. The two-usher system is working well, with four ushers used during holiday services. Deacons maintain the sign-up list and provide instructions for ushers.

Flowers: Deacons order the floral arrangements that grace our chancel for members of the congregation. The sign-up sheet for flowers to enhance our worship and to commemorate events is in the foyer. Arrangements provided from home gardens are always appreciated. Christmas poinsettias and Easter flowers are offered for purchase annually. The flowers adorn the church for holidays and are an addition to our homes over the holiday seasons. The Deacons deliver poinsettias and Easter flowers to those members at home over these holidays.

Christmas Stockings: We continue our Christmas stockings, delivering stockings to local school children, as well as books, supplies, and gift cards. Lynda Wheat led this effort most recently, in December 2021. She is available for additional details and questions.

Congregation and Community Dinners: None this past year with COVID, though we have discussed a Summer, 2022, picnic or ice-cream social. These discussions are ongoing, and more information will be forthcoming if the Deacons have enough time and resources, and there is enough interest from the Congregation.

Garden Fund: The Deacons manage the Pebble Hill Community Garden Fund.

The Board of Deacons ends this year with the 12 Deacons it started with. Two Deacons are going off service, and two new ones are joining, to be installed in July, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Huitink

Board of Deacons Moderator

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Committee Annual Report, 2022

Committee members:

Ron Cavanagh, Susan Cobb, Dan Radcliffe, & Maureen Macero (chair)

It has been another year of creative alternatives in all aspects of our church community and Christian Education has been no exception. Carrie Farmer began her position as Christian Educator at Pebble Hill this February, working approximately 5 hours per week to facilitate faith development in young minds and hearts. She has been a wonderful addition to our Pebble Hill family. Carrie was previously heavily involved in children's programming at her home church, Avon Central Presbyterian Church, where her mother is the pastor. This summer Carrie is the Program Coordinator at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, an overnight summer camp owned by the Presbytery of Geneva. She will continue her work at Pebble Hill in the fall when she returns to CNY for her senior year at Cazenovia College. Carrie is majoring in English and Communication Studies with plans to attend seminary.

Thank you to Charlotte Haas, who with Gary's creative support taught many wonderful children's lessons along with Susan Cobb, Lynda Wheat, Maggie Reid, Jean Soper, and Maureen and Emma Macero. Thank you also to Dan Radcliffe and Ron Cavanagh for once again sharing their expertise and teaching gifts in leading Lenten studies on Zoom this year. The Christian Education committee would like to express its deep gratitude to Pastor Elizabeth who has continued her

tireless leadership during these challenging and uncertain times in all realms of Pebble Hill's life. Her logistical, pedagogic, and spiritual leadership of both Advent and Lenten study series despite many obstacles was particularly well received and much appreciated.

The Christian Education Committee also extends many thanks to JoAnn Ottman who has continued to lead the Witness to Racial Reconciliation Team in examining the roots and reach of racism. JoAnn has researched and led several sets of studies this year on Zoom with the final session of this academic year to be held on June 15th. As fall approaches, Sunday forum programming of various topics will be re-considered and the work on racism will continue.

If you have concerns, inspirations, or just wish to become more involved in Christian education at Pebble Hill, please contact a member of the CE committee.

MEMBERSHIP Committee Annual Report 2022

Our Mission Statement: To reach out in word and deed to church members, friends and those who express an interest in joining our church. We strive to enhance the fellowship of our congregation by all means.

In 2021-2022 we provided the following to our church community:

Provided name tags for newly joined church members and "frequent" visitors.

Sent cards to sick, bereaved and homebound members. Sent cards to many members including Christmas, Valentine and Easter cards.

Updated the Membership Roll.

Updated the Church Directory. It was emailed to members and hard copies are available at church.

Updated the Photo Board, near the church office, created an event board in the atrium and will create an information board in the coat room also near the church office.

Coordinated the Monthly Women's Desert Gatherings on Zoom. That has now changed to in person dinners at King David's. The dinners are held on the third Monday of every month at 6:00.

Organized the Pebble Hill Women's Christmas Luncheon at the Century Club.

Arranged a shower/celebration for George Kurian, Minu Mary Abi and their new baby Natasha.

Coordinated Memorial Service Receptions, led by Doris Gorman.

Our Pebble Hill Church pamphlet and weekly Crosscurrents are available on Sundays in the atrium.

Welcomed newcomers, returning members and friends each Sunday.

Submitted Monthly Report and Annual Budget to Session.

Committee Meetings are scheduled on the second Tuesday of every month at 2:30 on Zoom. If anyone is interested in serving, please contact Cindi Ferguson, Chairperson, or Committee Members: Nancy Byrne, Doris Gorman, Linda Imboden, Jean Soper, Carole Taylor or Shirley Weimar.

MISSION Committee Annual Report, 2022

God is alive and at work through the members of Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church as we strive to live out our mission statement...to love and serve God and neighbor with open hearts, open hands and open minds.

Mission is a vital part of life at Pebble Hill. It is part of what makes us who we are as a church family. We care for each other as we care for our brothers and sisters in our community, city and world.

A variety of groups within the church perform mission projects and activities including Red Cross blood drives, Samaritan Center servings, food contributions and deliveries to the New Jerusalem food pantry and Eastern Farm Workers, One Great Hour of Sharing, Holiday Stocking Project, CROP and Alzheimer's walks, Peacemaking and Global Witness offering, Interfaith Works Center for New Americans through our Welcome Home Ministry, Christmas Joy Offering, Backpack Project and the Syracuse Memory Café.

In addition to the projects and activities we are involved with our financial gifts are used to support organizations that do faithful and wonderful work. The Mission Committee meets to discern and decide the organizations Pebble Hill's mission funds will support. Here is a list of the organizations we made contributions to in 2021...

Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery General Mission

Member of Interfaith Works and ACTS (Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse)

Samaritan Center

Haiti Ministry & Mission in support of Paulette, Haiti

Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Rent Subsidy Fund

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hurricane Ida Relief

Haiti Student Scholarships

PHPC Teachers Support

Vera House

Isaiah's Table

New Jerusalem Food Pantry

Eastern Farmworkers Association
 Rhama Health Clinic
 Food Bank of CNY
 Literacy CNY
 Interfaith Works Center for New Americans
 One Great Hour of Sharing
 Peacemaking Offering
 Christmas Joy Offering

On a personal note, it has been over 10 years since Pastor Pete pulled me aside and asked me to lead the Mission Committee. It has been an honor and a blessing to be involved with the mission work at Pebble Hill. There are truly amazing, compassionate and dedicated people at PHPC that want to make a difference in the world. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman of the mission.

It is time for me to move on to other things. As part of the Spiritual Discernment Council we have discussed how best to structure the church in order to accomplish all that we wish to achieve. The mission committee will be meeting soon to discuss how we should be structured to best serve our brothers and sisters around the world.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the mission committee,

Tim Frazee

Committee members: Gary Quirk - session representative, Ruth Colvin, Tom Taylor, Lennie Turner and Andrew Trapasso

FINANCE Committee Annual Report, 2022

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing PHPC operating funds, undesignated invested funds, along with the designated New Day Fund and restricted Minister's Discretionary Fund. Every month the Finance Committee reviews detailed revenue and expense reports, and prepares a summary report for Session. In the fall, the Finance Committee develops & recommends an annual operating budget based on prior expenditure trends, along with specific funding requests to achieve program goals. In addition, the Committee meets annually with the investment firm representative to review our portfolio.

June 2020-May 2021 Events and Activities:

- As a consequence of the pandemic, we streamlined our financial processes and increased the use of online banking and auto-draft for recurring monthly. Due to the change in utilizing volunteer counters, we increased the backup documentation for revenue receipts.
- In April 2020, the church applied for and received a \$35,600 loan through the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) of the CARES Act. This loan enabled the church to maintain staffing levels without

any interruption. On April 29, 2021 we applied for PPP loan forgiveness which was accepted and approved.

- In June 2020, we tried to hire a new bookkeeper after the resignation of Lynn Roberts. That effort was unsuccessful. As a result, Margo Sampson (Treasurer) and Mary Elizabeth Haas (Finance Chair) have been managing the Finance Office.
- In July 2020, we implemented a traditional accounting approach by recording all revenue and expenses on our Statement of Activity. We studied our investment portfolio and implemented a new practice of identifying interest/dividend earnings, and market gain/loss on our Balance Sheet. Due to the unusually large amount of market value increase that was unclear on our Balance Sheet, we allocated some of that market value change to the Endowment. Annually, we will allocate interest/dividend earnings to our restricted funds.
- In December the Finance Committee prepared a 2021 Operating Budget for Session approval. The Session approved the 2021 Operating Budget in January. The 2021 Operating Budget was published in the Annual Financial Report to the Congregation and discussed at the January 31, 2021 Congregational Meeting.

In spite of the many challenges presented by the global pandemic, the fiscal health of Pebble Hill remains solid due to the generosity and vitality of our faith community.

The Finance Committee welcomes input and participation from anyone in the Congregation. Please feel free to contact any Committee member: Janine Bernard (Memorial Gifts & Endowment Committee,) Steve Eidt (Session representative,) Margo Sampson (Treasurer,) Don Pair, Tom Taylor, or Mary Elizabeth Haas (Chair.)

Respectfully Submitted by: Mary Elizabeth Haas, Chair

MEMORIAL GIFTS & ENDOWMENT Committee (MG&E) Annual Report, 2022

The MG&E Committee oversees three major funds:

- The Memorial Fund accepts gifts to honor lives and talents of loved ones, both living and deceased. Gifts of any size are welcome. The Fund is also the repository of financial donations to the Church in lieu of flowers in conjunction with memorial services. The Memorial Fund may be used for a variety of purposes that enhance the mission and ministry of the PHPC. Some of the Memorial Funds are designated. Designated funds are approved by Session to be used for a particular purpose (e.g. the Youth Fund, and the Peace Fund).
- The Endowment Fund accepts gifts that ensure the long-term mission of the PHPC. Both current and legacy gifts are encouraged. An endowment gift may also be designated. Principal of the Endowment Fund is invested in accordance with the Church's investment policies; income from the fund may be used as designated by Session.

- The Memory Garden Fund was established to support PHPC's Memory Garden. The Fund is used to cover improvements and refurbishment of the Memory Garden and to purchase commemorative plaques for those remembered in the Garden. As such, the Memory Garden Fund is a designated fund.

ADDRESSING GOALS FOR THE YEAR:

Our two chief goals for this past year were an ongoing emphasis on the Endowment Fund for the long-term financial health of PHPC. Beyond this, the MG&E Committee accepted a proposal from an ad hoc Planning Group to refurbish and enhance the Memory Garden based on a design submitted by Elizabeth Metz. The plans are being implemented by Elizabeth Metz and Pam Wildridge with help from Chris Klemperer. A group of volunteers has been organized to help new plants become established over the summer via regular watering.

Endowment Fund

As we had done in previous years, we used Remembrance Sunday to highlight the Endowment Fund and encourage gifts in memory of deceased loved ones.

Comment. As a result of Remembrance Sunday, the Endowment Fund is holding despite recent downturns in the stock market. No legacy gifts were added to the Endowment this past year. We remain at around 53% of what is considered best practice for endowments (at least 2X operating budget). For the future, additional legacy gifts will be key for the Endowment to reach an amount where income from the Endowment can be used as additional resources during a fiscal year.

Memory Garden

The Memory Garden was 20 years old in 2021 and needed significant refurbishment. As noted above, an enhancement of the Garden is currently being implemented. Funds are being used to buy new shrubs and plants. The walk to the Garden will also be upgraded. Trees in the Garden received significant pruning in order to keep them healthy and to provide more light to other plants.

Comment. A group of eleven church members volunteered last summer to water annuals planted in the sunken room to provide some color. Volunteers are being sought this year to help establish new shrubs and perennials. Work will continue in the Garden dependent on funds to complete the approved proposal.

Memorial Fund

It was thought that funds from the Memorial Fund would be needed to purchase new hymnals. However, individual hymnals were purchased by members and dedicated to loved ones; this process covered the cost in full.

The **Youth Fund** was once again tapped to send a small amount to each college student from the congregation to help with expenses.

IN REMEMBRANCE AND IN HONOR:

Names of those remembered/honored through gifts to one of the MG&E funds from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022 are listed below. In addition to these, contributions have occurred by congregation members to the Endowment Fund and the Memory Garden Fund as part of their commitment to Pebble Hill PC. The donors for these contributions are not listed below.

Endowment Fund

Memorial Fund

Music Fund

Persons Honored

Bette Kahler

Nancy Byrnes

Bette Kahler

Bette Kahler

In Memoriam

Margaret Bowen

Virginia Byers

Virginia Byers

Maralyn Coughlin

Federika Edit

Helen DeVere

Raymond Gorman

Elizabeth El-Hindi

Hazel Phipps

Peter & Mary Lou Koenig

Horace & Betty Rees

Marjorie Quaife

Russel Sampson, Jr.

Terry Wheat

Sylvia Turner

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Bernard

Memorial Gifts and Endowment Committee: Janine Bernard (Chair), Craig Cobb, Chris Klemperer, Andrew Trapasso, Margo Sampson (ex-officio), and Elizabeth Lyman (ex-officio)

PERSONNEL Committee Annual Report, 2022

COMMITTEE: Deedee Elleman, Kathy Fanella, Mary Elizabeth Haas, Tom Taylor. Rev. Elizabeth Lyman, Ex Officio. Nancy Stewart, Chair

The Personnel Committee resumed in-person meetings in May of this year. Otherwise, meetings have been conducted via Zoom.

Status of staff and departments:

Pastor: **The Rev. Elizabeth Lyman**, Transitional Pastor, has maintained flexibility during unpredictable times. Church services have been conducted “live” with “streaming” available for anyone caring to view off site. She was creative and helpful with staff changes and as the church’s needs change. She meets with the Spiritual Discernment Committee, and she is constructive where other staff adaptations have had to be made. She has maintained contact with members who were ill or otherwise unable to attend worship services. She conducted many memorial services in the past year. Elizabeth had knee replacement surgery earlier this year and was able to take the required medical leave for recuperation.

Organist: **Bette Kahler** has been undergoing medical treatment this past year which has required a supply organist for the times she has been out. The choir has been rehearsing mostly on Sunday mornings before service, although for the past few Sundays they have also rehearsed on Thursday evenings. The music continues to be beautiful and inspirational.

Office Administrator: Carol Eich resignation in August of 2021, necessitated the hiring of a new Office Administrator. Interviews were conducted shortly thereafter, and **Mara Miller** began in that position on September 7, 2021. Coming from a hospitality background, she has learned to create our bulletins and Cross Currents while also getting to know members and Pebble Hill Church. Session voted in May, 2022, to extend her time for one hour each day; her schedule now is Mon – Thursday from 9 – 2 pm. She is doing a fine job!

Christian Education: Carrigan Cleveringa resigned in September 2021, after her marriage and due to more responsibilities in her own church. Staffing Christian Ed has been maintained through the contributions of church volunteers who creatively kept our attendance of mostly one child interested and educational. Ongoing searches for a new Christian Education staff member were answered when a college student was found who could commit to being with us during the academic year. **Carrie Farmer**, a junior at Cazenovia College, began this year. Her summer schedule of being at a church camp means that we are again depending on our excellent membership for volunteers. Searches for a summertime replacement for someone who can be here, using our class materials, so far have not been productive. Meanwhile, a big thank you to our creative volunteers who are filling this important role!

Sexton, Bob Wolff, has kept our church facility in excellent order. During Covid restrictions he was able to paint some areas. He is one of the people who provide important services, and we are grateful for his know-how and commitment to Pebble Hill.

Margo Sampson and **Mary Elizabeth Haas** continue to volunteer their services as **Treasurer and Bookkeeper**. Our records are in financial order, and they have donated much time to maintain these records.

Nancy Phipps Byrne, New Member Ministries, continues to actively engage any new folks who are in attendance. She helps to maintain the friendly, welcoming nature of our church.

Finally, the **Policies and Procedures Manual**, was revised, brought up to date and approved by Session in 2021. The last revision was November 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stewart
Chair

PROPERTY Committee Annual Report, 2022

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Property Committee has responsibility to care and maintain the church building, manse, and surrounding grounds.

Snowplowing of parking areas / entry lanes and grass mowing is a primary responsibility of Pebble Hill School (PHS). The sexton, Bob Wolff, is a very valuable member of the team and assumes responsibility for cleaning the church, mowing grass in areas not cut by PHS, snow removal on sidewalks, setting up rooms for group use, some painting, and some repairs.

Terry Wheat was a tremendous asset to this committee and is and will continue to be a great loss to this committee and Pebble Hill. His involvement in the community was a tremendous resource in finding groups to use in the care of this Property. His knowledge of and input regarding Covid-19 protocols was a very important resource, as well.

Carol Watson's landscaping team had been hired to look after the Manse gardens, Memory Garden and Donna's Garden from April through October each year. Costs were a part of the Property Committee budget. We recently advised that Watson's group will no longer provide support for work on these property areas. The Property Committee and the Memory Garden Team have been in discussions with Michael Grimm Services regarding mulching in appropriate areas of the Church property.

Flagstones in the Memory Garden were reset and a sign has been posted to advise all to be aware of caution when walking down the path to the Garden.

Allied Electric has been a great addition to the group of service companies we work with.

Repainting of the Manse has been scheduled and should be completed this summer by Ryan Painting.

Repaired Elevator November 2020 due to water damage. The roof was recaulked and resealed around the roof cover over the elevator. A retired roofing inspector reviewed the work and saw no issues.

Worked with O'Connor Tree Service to trim or take down any damaged trees over the last 4 years.

Worked with Bluebird Music for the program be conducted outside on the lawn (Northside of the Church) in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 and eventually in the Church. The program continues to thrive.

Pebble Hill has become a home to a Daisy Scout Troop and a Girl Scout group during the school year. Each group meets 1 time each week. The Daisy Scouts collected hats and scarves for children in the Christmas holiday.

The Office suggest the purchase of 8-foot folding tables. These lightweight tables are easy to set up and to move, as needed.

The dishwasher in the Fellowship Hall kitchen has been repaired. It is important to run the unit at least once a month.

The door opening device for the South side is still under repair (with a search for a repair part).

Respectfully submitted,

Deedee Elleman, Chair

Property Team:

Craig Cobb

Pastor Elizabeth Lyman

Doris Gorman

Andrew Trapasso

Bob Wolff - Sexton

Deedee Elleman – *Chair*

WORSHIP Committee Annual Report 2022

The Worship Committee has completed another year of keeping the candles burning, the flowers appearing, and the Communion elements served at PHPC. The goal of the Worship Committee is to support and enhance the experience of worship for the congregation, including children and visitors, those who are present in the sanctuary and those watching at home through live streaming. We are pleased to realize that our live-streamed services are continuing to reach many people who are not able to join us for worship in person.

All “behind the scenes” work, which keeps the various elements of worship happening, is accomplished by the dedicated members of the Worship Committee. These tasks include decorating the sanctuary, changing the paraments (colored cloths on the pulpit and lectern) with each liturgical season, filling the candles with oil, arranging for flowers, arranging for volunteers to prepare and serve Communion, and consulting with the pastor and music director about special celebrations and variations in worship. The seasons of Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas, are enhanced by the palms, flowers, Christmas trees, poinsettias, and other decorations that beautify our church, through the efforts of the Worship Committee and the generous contributions of our members.

Music in the church is also under the auspices of the Worship Committee. Bette Kahler, in spite of major health challenges, has been able to continue her excellent performance and management of music at Pebble Hill. The choir, though small in size, continued to work hard to present choral music to contribute to the worship services.

A gratifying experience for our committee this year was the purchase and dedication of new *Glory to God* hymnals for our sanctuary. It was determined by the pastor and music director that new hymnals were needed, and their purchase was approved by Session. The Worship Committee then approached the congregation with the opportunity to purchase and dedicate one or more hymnals in honor of a special person. Bookplates were designed and purchased, and committee members inscribed them and added them to the hymnals before placing them in the pews. The congregation responded very generously to this suggestion, and the majority of our new hymnals have been donated and dedicated to many of our loved ones.

The Worship Committee is always interested in suggestions from the congregation regarding improving the experience of worship. We always welcome new members who would like to take part in the rewarding work we are doing.

Submitted by Katherine Fanella, on behalf of members Elizabeth Lyman, Bette Kahler, Donna Sognefest, Linda Kaiser, Carolyn Layburn, Carol Ganotis, Susan Cobb, and Lynda Wheat.

WITNESS TO RACIAL RECONCILIATION TEAM Annual Report, 2022

This past year, the group continued its review of American history through the lens of race. 15 sessions were presented over Zoom. Attendance ran between 12 - 16 participants with an average of 14 per session. Zoom allowed some folks not a part of Pebble Hill and some who had moved and some away on vacation to join us. Next fall, we will pick up our study with a focus on the Jim Crow era.

In the fall, we surveyed the large group of members who have participated in these sessions over the last few years. There were 21 responses. When asked to put in their own words what this learning meant to them, these are some of their comments: " ... being a part of these studies from the beginning has opened my eyes more to the past struggles and current struggles with which people of color still face." "... exploring racial issues impacts one's sensitivity and openness to all people, and that openness will evolve in a more welcoming and diverse church community." , "...it's very important for Pebble Hill to confront the legacy of racism in our community as part of its future.", "...it is vital that we individually and as a community stand with those who are denied equality of access to jobs, education or health care...", "This work we have done on racial reconciliation has opened my eyes, and I think that PHPC should be an explorer and a leader in ways to improve relations and connectivity." "The greater awareness brought about by our exploration has increased my desire for a more diverse worshiping community."

Submitted by, JoAnn Ottman

PEBBLE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Our Mission:

*To Love and serve God and Neighbor
with open hearts, open hands, and open minds*

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Bob Wolff, Sexton