

# Morrisville Presbyterian Church



## Annual Report July 2023 - June 2024

Morrisville Presbyterian Church  
771 N. Pennsylvania Avenue.  
Morrisville, PA 19067  
(215) 295-4191  
[www.MPCusa.org](http://www.MPCusa.org) - [MPC@MPCusa.org](mailto:MPC@MPCusa.org)



## Table of Contents

Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith & Formation, Alex Lester-Abdalla .....	5
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff, Rachel Rhodes .....	6
Minister of Visitation, Reverend Jack McAnlis .....	8
Clerk’s Report .....	9
Trustees.....	10
Finance Committee.....	12
MPC Financial Summary .....	14
Financial Task Force .....	19
Stewardship Committee.....	19
Board of Deacons (BOD) .....	20
Memorial Fund Committee .....	23
Presbyterian Women (PW).....	23
Personnel Committee.....	25
Worship Committee.....	26
Congregational Ministry Committee (CMC) .....	28
Educational Ministry Committee (EMC) .....	31
Music Ministry .....	33
Flower Committee .....	35
Youth Ministry Committee.....	36
Young Adult .....	39
Rachel Zobel, Christian Education Coordinator .....	39
Communication and Evangelism Committee .....	41
Outreach Committee.....	43
Mission Code Blue and Community Meals.....	44
The Ivins Outreach Center (IOC) .....	46
Food Center (FC).....	48
The Lord’s Tailor Shop .....	49
Weekday Nursery School (WNS) .....	51
Cub Scouts Pack 3 - Morrisville, PA.....	53
Boy Scout Troop 3 - Morrisville, PA .....	54

**Please note that most information contained in this report was submitted prior to June 30, 2024 and was accurate at that time.**



## Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation & Mission

### Alex Lester-Abdalla

Dear Priesthood of All Believers,

Energy. That's the word. That is the word that rises to the surface as I look back over the horizon of this past year. We kicked off the fall with welcoming Rachel Zobel as our new Education Coordinator and we saw immediate results. A new kids corner popped up in the narthex with well-used fidget spinners (popular with kids and adults!) and worship backpacks. Children were streaming down the center aisle for Time for Young Disciples and Sunday School rooms were bursting with laughter and smiles. All of this energy was reflected monthly in Rachel's new Children's Ministry Newsletter.



Children's ministry was not the only place in the church that was teeming with energy. Adults too, took seriously Rachel's invitation to "Let Us Build a House Where All Can Dwell." Bunko events returned along with the popular family friendly movie nights and other fellowship events that allowed us to enjoy one another beyond the Sunday morning worship services. Likewise on the men's retreat, men of the church traveled to south-west Philadelphia to volunteer at and learn from The Common Place—a half church, half non-profit serving their neighborhood with a strikingly similar origin story to our church and Ivins Outreach Center. We opened our doors yet again to unhoused people in our community by hosting the Code Blue Homeless Shelter while also hearing an invitation to do more. Thus began our trial run to host monthly community meals throughout the year. And that is not to mention the plethora of other scenes I have seen in youth ministry, adult education, and the wider church that demonstrates the glorious hum of human activity we have enjoyed this program year.

So as we turn to face to a new set of seasons, I think energy will be our guide once again. There is no denying the concern and worry we have for our church as we navigate the new waters with Rachel's departure. But I encourage you to remember that the energy of this past year was no accident and will not be fleeting. For as someone who has seen this church blossom into its new vision over the past five years, the spirit of this congregation and the Spirit that guides us is strong. In fact, the concern we have for our church is itself a sign of health in this season of transition. Dr. Ken McFayden notes in his book *Strategic Leadership for a Change* that anxiety is energy looking to move. So let us allow ourselves to acknowledge what worries us about the future and what concerns we have for the present. Once we do that, we will be able to hold them loosely—loose enough to remember the energy we have known and that which motivates us today. For where there is grief, there is also hope. Where there is concern, there is also excitement. Where there is anxiety, there is energy to ride the winds of God that will take us to new shores on the other side of this sea.

Grace and Peace to You,  
Alex

**Former Senior Pastor & Head of Staff**  
**Rachel Rhodes**

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

Dear friends,

I am filled with mixed emotions as I write this annual report. I am delighted to be able to share some of the gifts and blessings of this past year, but I also write knowing that my time at MPC is ending; and by the time this is in your hands, we will have already said “goodbye” to one another. Therefore, it is my deepest prayer that within this report you might see the gift of God’s Spirit in your midst, and the promise of God’s Spirit moving among you still.



Last fall, born out of larger Session conversations, we entered into a worship series titled, “Let Us Build a House,” based on the hymn by the same name. Through this series, we explored what it meant to build a life together where all are welcomed and where radical hospitality is extended to anyone who walks through our doors. But we also explored the fact that radical hospitality is far more than offering a warm welcome. It means inviting people into spaces of true belonging where all are known and loved. Together, we have sought to build a house where God’s love always dwells, extending beyond Sunday morning pleasantries and seeking to know and care for one another with a depth that only God can create among us. In an effort to move toward this greater sense of belonging, we have seen the creation of our Welcome Center when you enter on Sunday mornings. We have encouraged one another to learn the names of those they sit alongside and invite one another for coffee or for dinner. And we have sought to welcome visitors and new members with more intentionality and care, ensuring that God’s table at MPC always has room for more! It has been remarkable to see God melting and molding MPC for this new chapter of ministry, reminded of the gifts for hospitality and welcome that are already a part of MPC’s DNA and yet, utilizing those gifts in new ways to ensure that MPC becomes a home for so many more!

Other highlight of the year include:

- Princeton Seminary Intern—the presence of Pastoral Intern, Adrienne Poissant, from September through April. Adrienne led in worship each week, preached and taught several times throughout the year, and regularly served as a pastoral presence in our Confirmation Class and at Youth Club. It is always a gift to be a part of the discernment and educational process of seminary students, and this year was no exception. We give tremendous thanks for Adrienne’s ministry among us.
- Memorial Garden Renovation—a significant “Hallelujah!” was offered when ground was broken on our Memorial Garden project! This project has been a long time coming and it has been a gift to see it come to fruition. I am particularly

grateful for Linda Tadlock and her family, whose dream it was to make this space more accessible. I mourn that it was upon Linda's death in 2020 that the idea was first founded, and yet give thanks for the many people who will be able to enjoy this garden for decades to come. I cannot wait to see pictures of the final product!

- Ordination, Installation, and Commission of Officers—when I looked upon the new elders, deacons, and trustees, who were ordained, installed, and commissioned this past June, I was overwhelmed by the new leadership rising up in our midst! For many years, MPC has relied upon the faithful leadership of a few, and yet so many people stepped into leadership this past June who have never served at MPC in this way before! What a gift to see all that God is doing! What a gift to be a part of this new chapter! It is my fervent prayer that their leadership and ideas might be received with gratitude, joy, and encouragement.

Beloved church, I cannot begin to tell you what a gift it has been to be your pastor! It fills me with such joy to imagine all that God will do in you and through you in the years to come. But I also know God will do more at MPC than I can even begin to imagine or fathom! You have meant so much to me, and have melted and molded my heart in profound ways these past seven years. I love you. I will miss you. And I am infinitely grateful for the God who brought us together and who will continue to bind us together through our faith in Jesus Christ. May God's richest blessings be upon all of you this day and forevermore!

With deep gratitude for the life we have shared,  
Rachel



## **Minister of Visitation**

### **Reverend Jack McAnlis & Pastor Brian Ballard**

*Submitted by the Reverend Jack McAnlis*

Since I spent part of the last year as the Minister of Visitation, I am starting this report and Brian will add to it. The tasks of my work have not changed from the previous year; but the staffing has. Over 8 years ago, I “came out of retirement” when called to be the Minister of Visitation at MPC. At the end of 2023, I went back into retirement.

The work of pastoral care is a ministry of the whole church. I continue to give thanks for the members of Congregational Ministries Committee and the Deacons who make regular and concrete contacts with members of MPC. Their efforts show the loving side of our congregation and provide important eyes, ears, and hands to assist the pastors in the ministry of caring.

It is with gratitude and appreciation for the community of faith at MPC that I have been able to serve my Savior, Jesus, the Christ in this way. I enjoyed being a part of the “Brown Bag Bible Study” every week, teaching adult education classes, and serving on the Stewardship Committee. It is difficult to put a pastor “out to pasture.” I expect to continue to serve as God calls and will worship at MPC when I am able.

*Submitted by the Reverend Brian Ballard*

Scripture tells us that wherever two or three are gathered in Jesus’s name, God is there with them. The Church of Jesus Christ expands beyond the walls of a physical location to connect to all those seeking to follow God faithfully. Part of the work of the visitation minister is to manifest that connection through visiting MPC members who are living, permanently or temporarily, in personal care facilities, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers.

Every week, visits and connections are made with individuals regardless of where they live. In addition to Rev. McAnlis and myself making those contacts over the past year, the Deacons and other volunteers have spread the love of God through the giving of flowers around the holidays, meaningful weekly visits, and regular phone calls.

The ministry of visitation is carried out in numerous ways. Below are a few of them:

- Continuing to keep in touch with members by telephone calls, emails, and sending cards and letters, and being available to their family members.
- Stewarding the MPC prayer ministry through the weekly prayer list.
- Attending and leading weekly worship whenever possible.
- Officiating at funerals for members of the church and community.
- Providing committees of the church and Deacons with members and friends of MPC with whom to show God’s love and care.
- Connecting with the larger congregation through various MPC events and gatherings.

The work of visitation is open to all followers of Christ. If you are interested in using your gifts to connect with those in need in our congregation, whether through visits, calls, prayer, or something else, please be in touch!



## Clerk's Report

The composition of the Congregation and the Session\*

<u>Race</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Session</u>
Asian	3	0
African-American	4	0
Hispanic	1	0
Native American	0	0
White	298	15
All Other	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<u>306</u>	<u>15</u>

<u>Age</u>		
25 & Under	12%	0%
26-40	7%	0%
41-55	8%	20%
56-70	35%	67%
Over 70	38%	13%

<u>Sex</u>		
Male	38%	47%
Female	62%	53%

### Report to the General Assembly

**Membership, January 1, 2023** **343**

Additions

Adult Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation & Restoration	3
Transfer from Other Churches	1
Confirmation Class	<u>0</u>
Total Additions	<u>4</u>

Losses

By Death	8
By Transfer to Other Churches	3
Other Session Removals	<u>30</u>
Total Losses	41

**Membership, December 31, 2023** **306**

\*All statistics are as of December 31, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Zazzu, Clerk of Session

## **Board of Trustees**

Given that much of the Trustees' work involves building maintenance and overseeing the church's investments, the results of our labors aren't very visible. For example, you wouldn't notice that the circulator pumps in the boiler room were repaired, and that monies were taken out of one Vanguard Index Fund and placed in another. This year, however, is an exception. Everyone can see that the Memorial Garden is undergoing a major change, and that the work on the first phase will soon be completed.

The renovation of the Memorial Garden and the construction of the ADA ramp finally began on May 17. We agreed to a contract with Cedar Creek Landscapes of Pennington, NJ, a firm that was able to perform the design, engineering, permitting and construction, all aspects of the project. The initial goal was to make the Memorial Garden accessible from the north narthex to those with mobility issues. It evolved into renovating the overgrown gardens, improving the drainage system, and replacing the deteriorated pavers which were installed in 1989. In a sentence, we wanted the Garden to become more accessible, functional, spacious, and attractive.

The new design also included an expanded gathering area towards Pennsylvania Avenue to accommodate picnics, fellowship gatherings, and services. We received approval from the Borough of Morrisville to add the ramp and renovate the existing Garden, so we decided to consider that phase one of our project and commence construction. To proceed with the phase two expansion, the Borough required a new site survey so that they could accurately calculate our impervious surface area. The Borough code maximum is 30%, which we obviously already exceed. That process is still ongoing; we hope to get approval in August or September, and the construction will resume immediately after.

The contractor was provided a map of all the cremation burial sites, and they were also physically marked. We are committed to maintaining the integrity of the burial sites.

The overall cost of the project is \$317,480. To date, generous members of our congregation have donated \$160,000 towards the project. Some components of the price include \$59K for the ramp and railings; \$25K for the stormwater management system which includes multiple drains, piping, and an underground drywell; and \$12.5K for engineering and permit fees. Phase one of the project should be complete around the end of July.

All of the Garden oversight has been performed by Pastor Rhodes, Larry Low and Seth McHenry. Hat's off to those patient souls. In addition to the Garden challenges, our Building and Grounds committee concentrated on MPC's interior as well. Property Manager David Sterling was kept busy completing a long list of projects to keep our church and grounds looking their best.

A major renovation to the Food Center's Room Four walkway was undertaken by a group of MPC volunteers. Old wall covering material and drywall was replaced with new. New doors were put on shelving and storage closets. The entire room was spackled and painted. The curtains were cleaned and rehung.

Electric upgrade to Weekday Nursery School wing was done to handle window air conditioning units on their own circuit.

Fluorescent lights are being replaced throughout the building by LED lights which are more energy efficient and run much cooler.

Storage rooms have been cleaned out and organized for better use of space.

There is ongoing work with our insurance company and contractor for replacement of the church roof that was damaged by a hail storm. Property Manager Sterling has been keeping pace with this project to get the most benefit for the church.

We were into our second year with Code Blue, providing a shelter for homeless individuals with a setup of overnight sleeping area in Fellowship Hall. Church volunteers provided a hot meal. This is coordinated through Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need.

Blue Jean Sunday is an ongoing event that takes place on two Sundays, after church, in the spring and fall. Volunteers work on various projects around the church and help with some of the workload of the Property Manager. Some projects that are undertaken include deep cleaning of the sanctuary and other rooms, outdoor landscaping, and some painting.

A few projects on the horizon for MPC include a new freezer to be purchased for the kitchen in Fellowship Hall, exterior painting, new carpeting in some rooms, and upgrading parts of the MPC Clothing Center.



## Finance Committee

In addition to overseeing our day-to-day MPC accounting, reporting, investments and overall financial processes throughout the year, there were additional items the Finance Committee accomplished during the past year. They included the following:

- Finance Committee members comprised 4 of the 6 members of the separate Financial Taskforce that met throughout 2023 to review our overall MPC finances and develop improvement recommendations. This Financial Taskforce presented their recommendations to Session in October 2023 and many of their recommendations have already been implemented with others in process. Recommendations already fully implemented include the consolidation of both the Deacons and Memorials finances into the main MPC accounts and the merger of 3 Restricted Funds into other funds to enhance the use of these monies. See the separate Financial Taskforce report for details on all Taskforce activities and recommendations.
- To comply with relatively recent changes in GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), we started to report *unrealized* investment gains & losses in our monthly P&L. Due to the volatility of these unrealized investment gains/losses and their lack of impact to our real financial results for any given month, they are being reported in the non-operating section of the P&L so they don't skew the results of our operating results.
- Prior to the start of the Memorial Garden project, monies representing the estimated cost of the project were moved from our stock/bond mutual fund investment accounts into a money market account (earning roughly 5%) to protect those monies from any potential adverse market changes over the course of the Garden project.
- Our investment strategies were reviewed, including allocations by Vanguard mutual fund, and the strategy was re-affirmed for another year.
- Our MPC investments at Vanguard were re-balanced several times throughout the year.
- The 2023 MPC Financial Annual Report was issued to all Elders and Trustees in February 2024. This report, similar to a corporate financial annual report, is available to any MPC member. If interested, please contact the MPC Treasurer for a copy of it.
- As reported earlier, Head Start consolidated their operations in Lower Bucks and left MPC (and three other smaller church locations) effective September 2023.
- Our long time Financial Secretary of almost 20 years, Laurie Jacobson, retired effective March 1, 2024. Her replacement, Rosie Sheahan, cross-trained with Laurie for roughly five weeks and has been handling the job solo since.

- Due to the volume of changes created by the Financial Taskforce & other recent operational changes, and to ensure our new Financial Secretary had an up-to-date reference document, the MPC Financial Policies and Procedures Manual was thoroughly reviewed and updated to incorporate our latest processes and practices. This was completed in February 2024.

In addition to the Building & Grounds and Finance committees, our members also serve on MPC's Church Nominating, Personnel and Stewardship Committees, and throughout the year we have a representative attend Session meetings to inform elders about our works in progress.



## MPC Financial Summary

	<b>12 Months Ended December 31, 2023</b>	<b>(Restated) 12 Months Ended December 31, 2022</b>
<b><u>OPERATING REVENUE</u></b>		
Pledges - Current Year	\$475,082	\$470,234
Prior Year Pledges	12,620	1,440
Plate	19,991	21,530
Per Capita	4,599	4,480
Seasonal/Special Offerings	8,309	18,286
Deacons Gifts	15,454	0
Memorial Gifts	8,330	3,746
Building Rent/Usage	27,300	31,515
Investment Income	114,742	112,537
All Other	10,928	9,796
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>697,355</b>	<b>673,564</b>
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>		
Ministry	256,729	226,494
Building and Grounds	161,401	168,995
Admin and Finance	82,439	81,003
Benevolence	82,755	73,500
Child & Family	1,468	1,976
Communications & Evangelism	26,040	18,439
Congregational Ministries	16,402	13,073
Educational Ministry	3,856	3,109
Music Ministry	83,442	73,469
Personnel	2,350	849
Stewardship	3,348	3,756
Worship Programs	3,826	3,871
Young Adult Ministry	124	275
Youth Ministry	6,272	7,770
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>730,452</b>	<b>676,579</b>
<b>OPERATING EXCESS/ (SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>(\$33,097)</b>	<b>(\$3,015)</b>
<b><u>NON-OPERATING INCOME</u></b>		
Bequests	33,102	2,927
Restricted Gifts	6,000	7,000
Vanguard Investment Gains/ (Losses)	323,004	(645,087)
<b><u>EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE</u></b>		
Major Projects	51,330	10,650
Benevolences on Non-Operating Income	7,222	207
<b>NET EXCESS/(SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>\$270,457</b>	<b>(\$649,032)</b>

**2023 MPC INVESTMENT SUMMARY BY FUND**

	Balance		2023 Activity					Balance
	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	Donations	Interest/Dividends	Market Gain/(Loss)	Transfers	Withdrawals	12/31/2023
<b>ENDOWMENTS:</b>								
Parlow Endowment	\$1,037,508			\$30,049	\$110,158	(\$18,800)		\$1,158,915
Birks Scholarship Endowment	25,168			701	1,279			27,148
Roberts Scholarship Endowment	24,745			689	1,257			26,691
Wanda Stover Memorial Garden Endowment	7,590			211	386			8,187
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS:</b>								
Parlow Capital Improvement Fund	1,081,083			32,318	138,917		(47,271)	1,205,047
Counseling Fund	63,714			2,450	3,638			69,802
Women's Retreat	51,195			1,868	2,774		(5,221)	50,616
Pastor Housing Fund	35,649			1,294		(36,943)		0
Memorial Garden Uprate Project	22,317		13,710	1,050	1,559		(3,732)	34,904
Donation for Pastor Discretion	72,869			2,805	4,166			79,940
Donation for Music Director Discretion	12,104			453	673		(641)	12,589
Holiday Memorial Music Fund	0			97	144		800	5,286
Older Adult Ministry	0			90	134		(10)	4,913
Medical Equipment	0			28	42		(10)	1,538
Garden Care	6,302		1,478	237	353		(250)	6,642
Wanda Stover Memorial Garden	420			17	24			461
Children & Youth Bible and Crosses/Christian Ed	9,355		925	307	455		(3,689)	7,352
Youth in Mission	5,980		2,786	374	556			14,430
Youth Club	12,964			498	740			14,203
<b>Scholarship Funds:</b>								
Birks	54,301			2,006	2,980		(4,198)	55,090
Roberts	25,612			946	1,405		(2,000)	25,964
Paul Jane Reeves	12,770		1,550	521	773			15,615
McCluskey	4,832			184	273		(114)	5,174
C. Burgess	2,997			115	171			3,283
Borden	1,725		2,000	66	98		(2,000)	1,889
New Wilmington Pastor Continuing Ed	4,567			166		(4,733)		0
<b>UNRESTRICTED:</b>								
General Reserve	905,166		51,323	35,174	52,235	55,743	(106,365)	993,276
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,481,034</b>		<b>\$87,833</b>	<b>\$114,714</b>	<b>\$355,189</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$174,818)</b>	<b>\$3,828,957</b>

Note 1: Represents all MPC investments except Food Center, Nursery School, Presbyterian Women and Mrs Oberach Center, all of whose records are maintained by separate Treasurers.  
 Note 2: The above funds with longer-term time horizons (Endowments) were invested primarily in stock mutual funds which realized large market gains in 2023 as the stock market did very well. Funds with shorter-term time horizons were invested primarily in bond mutual funds which also realized gains, largely due to the FED ending its interest rate increases in 2023.  
 Note 3: The above represents the actual Vanguard activity for each fund. The transfer of 2023 Endowment income to either Restricted or Unrestricted funds (depending on the Endowment terms) was done in Jan 2024 so is NOT reflected in the above. The \$18,800 Parlow Endowment transfer represents the portion of its 2022 income actually transferred to Unrestricted in Jan 2023.

## INVESTMENT FUND DESCRIPTIONS

Endowments - monies in these funds are assets subject to donor-imposed legal restrictions requiring the principal to be maintained PERMANENTLY by the Church. Generally, the donors of these assets permit the Church to use part or all of the income earned on related investments for specific purposes.

1. Partlow Endowment - Hilda Partlow bequeathed MPC \$1,236,000 in 2011-14 requiring the original principal amount remain untouched with only earnings on the original gift allowed to be spent. Interest and dividend income is transferred annually to our Unrestricted General Reserve account for use in funding regular operating church activities. Market gains on the Endowment are periodically transferred to the Restricted Partlow fund. If the Partlow Endowment fund balance falls below the original \$1.236 MM gift amount, only interest/dividend income related transfers will take place until market gains return the fund to an amount in excess of the original gift. The donor's intent was that the original gift never be touched to ensure MPC would receive investment income on the original gift in perpetuity.
2. Birks Scholarship Endowment - William James Birks was a strong Christian who actively encouraged youth to enter the ministry. Shortly after Birks died in 1968, his mother started donating monies to MPC to fund an endowment in her son's name for use by the church in awarding scholarships to youth interested in entering the ministry. Prior to her death in 1982, she donated a total of \$24,346 to the endowment. Earnings from this fund are transferred annually to a restricted Birks scholarship fund, which awards ministerial scholarships to qualified candidates. Decades of market gains continued to accumulate in this endowment fund but in 2022 the cumulative market gains were transferred to the restricted Birks fund so they could also be used to award scholarships. The endowment portion of the Birks monies is solely the \$24,346 original cumulative gift.
3. Roberts Scholarship Endowment - Mary Carver Roberts, an MPC member, passed away in 1983. In 1987, her sister, Ella Carver Duke, donated \$25,000 to MPC for the creation of a scholarship endowment in her sister's name, the earnings of which are to be used for scholarships to MPC members who are interested in careers in either the ministry or medical fields. These earnings are transferred annually to a restricted Roberts scholarship fund for use in awarding the scholarships. Decades of market gains continued to accumulate in this endowment fund but in 2022 the cumulative market gains were transferred from the endowment fund to the restricted Roberts scholarship fund. The endowment portion of the Roberts monies is solely the \$25,000 original gift.
4. Wende Stover Memorial Garden Endowment - in 2021, the Stover family donated \$8,500 for the establishment of an endowment fund in the memory of Wende Stover, the earnings of which are to be utilized for the maintenance of Wende's garden. Earnings from this endowment account are transferred annually to the restricted Stover Memorial Garden fund for use in maintaining Wende's garden.



Restricted Funds - monies in these funds are assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions that may or will be met either by actions of the Church or the passage of time. Restricted assets consist primarily of contributions and related investment income which are used for the purposes specified by the terms of the original gift.

1. Partlow Capital Improvement Fund - consists of cumulative market gains from the Partlow Endowment Fund transferred periodically into this fund. Session has designated these monies for use as an MPC Capital Improvement Fund with distributions used to fund Major Capital Projects. Monies in this fund have recently been used to pay for, among many other capital projects, the \$168,000 cost of resurfacing the church parking lot and the \$150,000 cost of plumbing repairs & asbestos remediation in the Education wing, furnace replacement and bathroom renovations.
2. Counseling Fund - during 1971-72 MPC received \$20,000 from the Schreve Foundation for use in providing Counseling services to the MV community. However, little of these monies were actually ever dispensed. Over time, the fund grew substantially due to stock market gains. Although incorrectly classified as endowment monies for the last 15-20 years, after much research it was determined that these monies were never endowment. So in June 2022 Session approved a recommendation to re-classify this fund from Endowment to Restricted. Although historical records were not restated, starting in 2022 this fund has been classified as Restricted.
3. Women's Retreat - memorial gift in the name of Dot Scheidemantel, for use in partially funding Women's Retreats @ approximately \$6,000/yr.
4. Pastor Housing Fund - these monies were generated via the sale of MPC manses and were designated by Session for use in assisting new incoming pastors with housing assistance (loans) during their time at MPC. In 2023, based on recommendations from the Financial Taskforce, Session voted to reclassify these monies to Unrestricted.
5. Memorial Garden Upgrade Project - gifts received for the upgrade of the Memorial Garden to be started in 2024.
6. Donation for Pastor Discretion - 2021 gift to MPC; to be used at the discretion of the Sr Pastor.
7. Donation for Music Director Discretion - Gift to MPC in 2021 for use by the Music Director to fund special music or musical events.
8. Holiday Memorial Music Fund - monies to subsidize the music program sourced from Christmas & Easter memorial gifts.
9. Older Adult Ministry - Memorials monies given in remembrance of a deceased MPC member for use in Older Adult Ministry. All Memorial monies were merged into main MPC accounts in 2023.
10. Medical Equipment - Memorials monies given in remembrance of a deceased MPC member for use in purchasing medical equipment. All Memorials monies were merged into main MPC accounts in 2023.
11. Garden Care - for use in maintaining MPC memorial gardens.

12. Wende Stover Memorial Garden - income from the Stover Endowment above to be used to maintain Wende's Garden (at the base of the stairway leading from the education wing to the parking lot). In absence of a need to fund the upkeep of the Garden, annual interest can be provided to the MPC Food Center.
13. Children & Youth Bible and Crosses - originally for use in purchasing children & youth bibles, crosses for new confirmands and/or other Christian Education purchases. In 2023, based on recommendations from the Financial Taskforce, Session voted to allow these monies to also be used to fund other Youth Education expenses.
14. Youth in Mission - monies for use in the annual YIM trip or programs.
15. Youth Club - monies for Youth Club activities.
16. Birks Scholarship Fund - these monies are from the earnings of the Birks Endowment Fund (see above) and are to be used for scholarships to youth interested in pursuing careers in the ministry. Available to men and women. MPC membership is not a requirement.
17. Roberts Scholarship Fund - as noted above, these monies are from the earnings of the Roberts Endowment Fund (see above) and are to be used for scholarships to MPC members interested in pursuing careers in either the ministry or medical fields.
18. Patti Jane Reeves Scholarship - memorial gift received in 2010 for scholarships to MPC members exhibiting academic excellence, community service and commitment to (including participation in) the life of MPC. Scholarship awards are generally the greater of \$500/yr or 5% of the fund corpus.
19. McClanen Scholarship - funded from earnings sent to MPC quarterly from a \$25K memorial endowment fund created by Robert McClanen in 2003 and held in trust by the Presbyterian Foundation. Endowment earnings to be used for scholarships to need based students who are children of MPC members. The scholarships are in memory of Edmund & Kathryn McClanen, Robert's parents, who were MPC members.
20. Burgess Scholarship - memorial gift for Clara Burgess received in 1948 when the Clara Burgess Womens Guild was dissolved. Gift to be used for need based scholarships; generally \$500/year.
21. Borden Scholarship - memorial gift for Helen Borden received in 2016. Gift to be used for scholarships for need based students who demonstrate the values of hard work and perserverance. Normally, \$2,000 in scholarships to be awarded annually.
22. New Wilmington Missionary Conference Scholarship - 1981 gift from Dr. & Mrs. James Grey for scholarships to the New Wilmington (PA) Missionary Conference or for similar missionary conferences. In 1985, the Grey's approved the use of these monies for Youth In Mission programs as well. In 2023, based on recommendations of the Financial Taskforce, Session voted to transfer these monies to the Youth-in-Mission fund.

Unrestricted: Monies available for any church related purpose.

## Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force (FTF) concluded its study and presented its findings with recommendations to the Session in October 2023. Following the financial consolidation of the Board of Deacons and Memorials Funds earlier in 2023, our final recommendation was to keep the three remaining constituent activities of the church (Food Center, Weekday Nursery and Presbyterian Women; see Financial Annual Report for more detail) unconsolidated for now.

In a second phase of the FTF project, we reviewed all of the 23 endowment and restricted funds in detail. We concluded there is opportunity to invigorate and/or consolidate the use of monies in 5 of the 19 special purpose funds to better meet the needs of our ongoing ministries, while also still honoring the wishes of the original donor. While highlighting the available and unused balances for Mental Health Counseling and Youth Club restricted funds, Session approved an immediate change to 3 other restricted funds:

- The session-designated Pastor Housing Fund from the sale of MPC Manses was reclassified as Unrestricted.
- The fund for Children & Youth Bible and Crosses will be allowed to cover other Youth Education expenses.
- The New Wilmington Missionary Conference Scholarship Funds were transferred to the Youth-in-Mission fund.

The remaining recommendations were 10 specific action items related to missional review, financial oversight and communications, and activities related to Outreach, Stewardship, and Youth committees. Session formed 4 sub-task force teams to study these various areas including our missional commitment and activities related to Ivins Outreach Center, Weekday Nursery School, mental health counseling funds, and legacy/planned gift giving.

Many thanks to the FTF members who dedicated an enormous amount of time and energy to this review during 2023. We appreciate that Session members have continued to explore certain recommendations during the first 6 months of 2024.

Submitted by Shellie Stoddard (Chair) on behalf of the full task force: Tom Evans (Trustee), Dawn Flook (Elder), Tom Smith (Stewardship Committee Chair), Christy Stephenson (Deacon), Gary Ward (Treasurer)

## Stewardship Committee

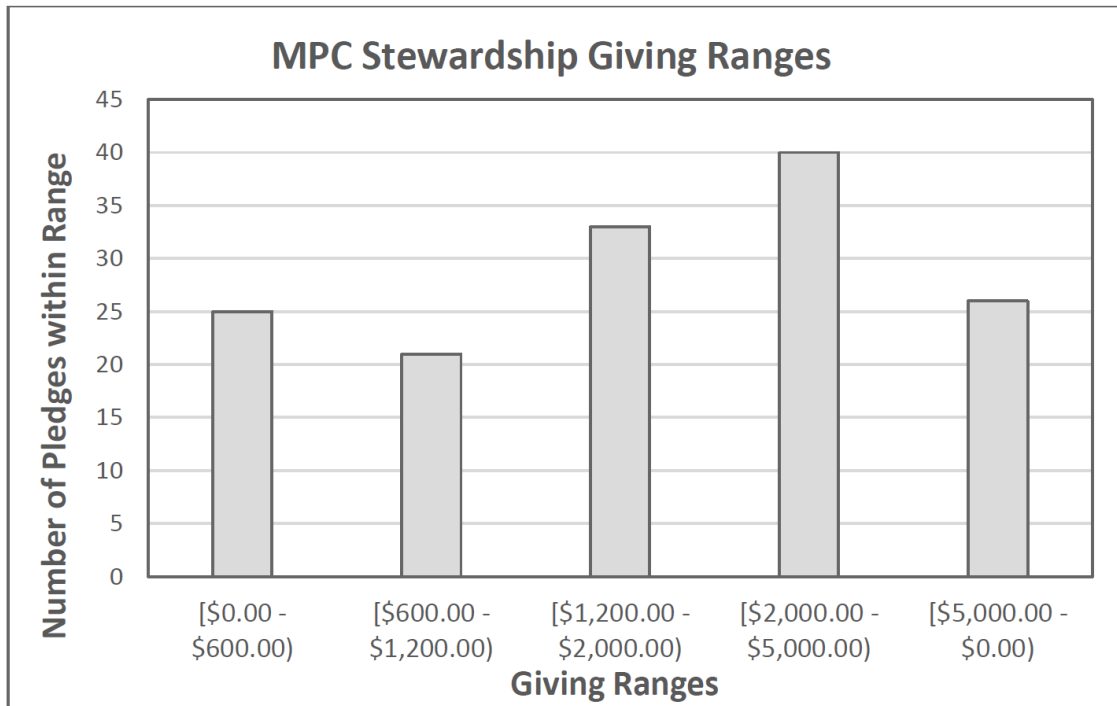
*“The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

– 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

During the fall 2024 Stewardship campaign, we tied in with the sermon series, “Let Us Build a House”. “We are working toward God’s vision for MPC and to be a community where God’s love always dwells, and always flows through us to the people and the world that God Loves”.

The level of pledge giving continued at a high pace from the previous year. Our committee realizes it is difficult to pledge and increase pledges during unsettled economic conditions. The congregation at MPC is faithful to stewardship and the well-being of the church. Over 25%

increased their pledges. Nineteen new pledges were received from members who previously had not pledged in 2023. In total 145 Estimates of Giving were received with the average pledge slightly above \$3,000. Pledges ranged from \$100 to \$21,000+. Thank you for your continued financial generosity that helps us to be a place where God’s love dwells.



In addition to pledged giving, MPC members support many other programs. Some examples are Youth in Mission to Pipestem, WV, where young people and adults journey to spend a week and share God’s love. Earth Day volunteers for a day of mission at Snipes Farm and Education Center. Helping neighbors struggling with food insecurity through the Deacons Food Basket program and weekly Food Center packing and distribution. Hosting the homeless and providing meals during Code Blue in March in Fellowship Hall, and also providing community dinners throughout the year under the auspices of Advocates for the Homeless and those in need. Donating supplies for the backpack drive to help high school students and the Angel Tree with toiletry kits. The Clothing Center that sells value priced clothes and housewares and donates the proceeds to the Outreach Committee to flow back into the world. The time and commitment of our congregation is impressive, in addition to the monetary support.

**Stewardship Campaign and Time & Talents:**

Following a letter to the congregation with an Estimate of Giving Card (EOG), emphasis was also placed on the backside of the card for Time and Talents. A list of the many ways members and friends can offer their skills to help in the life of MPC were highlighted. Examples are volunteering in the Nursery, Food Center, or Clothing Center; helping with building and grounds maintenance, finance, phone calls to homebound members, serving on a committee or as an officer, cooking a meal for a member in need, praying for the life and ministry of MPC, assisting the Communications & Video Ministry, singing in the choir, or playing in the bell choir. Multiple members returned Time and Talent cards and all were contacted on who to reach out to volunteer their gifts.

In addition, members were asked to complete a leaf to attach to a tree in the Communications Center and later moved to the sanctuary. On the leaves were expressions of what people love about MPC. Some of the responses were the pastoral staff, the music program, Youth Club, Youth in Mission Trip, Christian Education, friends, family feel to the church, community, helping members and others in times of need, and many more.

### **Per Capita Education:**

When people are asked about Per Capita apportionment, many respond with “What is that?” and “I would like to know more.” A Minute for Ministry was given along with a bulletin article for a few weeks to answer questions many have. MPC, along with all Presbyterian churches, support their Presbytery (Philadelphia for MPC), Synod of the Trinity (PA and most of WV for us) and the Office of General Assembly in the U.S. The payment is based on each church’s total active membership. The money is used for many purposes such as pastoral searches, training and supporting interim ministers, resources for worship, and more. MPC has always been below meeting the costs of Per Capita since not every member covers their cost. The difference is made up from other sources. By highlighting this campaign, we can have more funds available for other ministries and missions of the church.

We give our thanks to the congregation for all you do in supporting MPC with gifts financially and with time and talents. This assistance is why we can build a house where God’s love always dwells.

Faithfully submitted: Tom Smith (Chair), Rev. Rachel Rhodes, Rev. Jack McAnlis, Shellie Stoddard, Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Caroline Thompson, Bill Hughes, Robb Dugan, and Bill Miller



## Board of Deacons (BOD)

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me . . .*

--Mathew 25: 35-39

Once again, the Deacons were off to a great start with the Backpack Drive which resulted in 68 backpacks being distributed to Ivins Outreach Center for students in Bristol, Croydon, Morrisville, and Bensalem.



Coordination of Fellowship Hour returned with great success! Deacons and other groups throughout the church volunteered to make this event an enjoyable and safe fixture every Sunday after worship.

To ensure the safety of our pastors and congregation, the First Aid Committee resumed blood pressure screenings in April, and we hope to offer this three times per year. In addition, a bench was placed in the North Narthex for anyone who may feel unwell.

The Angel Tree Committee is always busy, and this year collected **121** bags of personal hygiene products for the Food Center at MPC to distribute during early January. The ongoing generosity and fulsome response of the MPC community are so appreciated!



Deacons continued to participate in weekly food packing on Monday evenings and to prepare the produce on Tuesday mornings to support The Food Center, which continues to serve approximately 200-250 individuals/families each week. Guests are visited with a chat, a brief song, joke, or greeting while lined up in the parking lot on Wednesday morning.

The Holiday Food Basket Committee was in full swing as well for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Although food prices have soared, the deacons, with help from many, were up to the challenge! Three times per year, the parking lot is a scene of hats, gloves, scurrying deacons, Youth Club, and members of the congregation. Come join us, as we continue to support and cherish this vital ministry!

The Flower Ministry was also busy at work ensuring that those members of our community who are in healthcare facilities or remain at home would have some cheer for the holidays through the delivery of poinsettias at Christmas and tulips for Easter. There is nothing like seeing the beauty of fresh flowers, along with a hello and visit from a deacon, to bring a smile to someone.



Who is that usher? What are they doing? Each deacon volunteers during the year (covering at least a month of Sundays) to usher on a Sunday and/or usher for special events. Did you know that there are additional duties that those deacons have while you are participating in service? Yes, some are making sure that the building is secure, some are checking to make sure that the pastors have water for the service, others are directing people who are visiting, and the activities go on. We do more than “pass the plate ” but we do enjoy doing that as well.

Ever get a call asking you to serve as a deacon? Everyone is so very busy these days and we are seldom out of reach thanks to all our technology. The Nominating Committee worked diligently asking people to serve and although no one wants to say, “no, but thank you for asking,” sometimes we have to. Life is busy. The Nominating Committee reached out to many members, which is no small task, and we have a full Deacon Board for 2024-2025 as well. Outstanding!

It's been a full year and there is more to come as the deacons see a need and spread their wings and share their hearts and commitments. The deacons wish to thank all at MPC who have supported, led, and joined us in our ministry throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Yazujian, Moderator; with Donna Damiani, John Damiani, Heidi Dous, Tom Drake, Jim Gaston, Karl Helland, Karen Hill, Jen Jones, Beth Keys, Kathy Larkin, Jim Levan, Ruth Levan, Russell McCleskey, Maddie McCleskey, Bill Miller, Cindy Moskow, Eric Moyer-Harrington, Greg Neiman, Curt Rimler, Christy Stephenson, Nancy Stoner, and Tim Stover

### **Memorial Fund Committee**

In April 2023, the Financial Task Force recommended that the Memorial Fund Committee be disbanded. The Session approved the recommendation and all funds in the Memorial Fund were consolidated into the main church accounts. Funds that were previously identified for specific use were noted and will be allocated appropriately.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Zazzu on behalf of the Memorial Fund Committee.

### **Presbyterian Women (PW) - Deborah & Rebecca Circles**

All women of MPC are considered members of Presbyterian Women. PW continues to recognize the needs of our communities and strives to meet those needs through mission donations. We also have two circles that meet monthly from September through May, providing fellowship and faith enrichment. Women are welcome to attend a circle meeting, participate in mission drives, or donate a pledge. Board Members Beth Curtiss, Nancy Kernan, DeeAnn Martin, Marion Rea, and Carol Evans meet by Zoom to oversee the business of PW.

Circles typically meet on the second Monday of the month in the lounge. Deborah Circle (15 women), met at noon with various members providing seasonal decorations. The December meeting for Deborah Circle was a Christmas luncheon provided by Rebecca Circle members. Rebecca Circle (35 women), led by Jen Jones, met at 7:00 p.m. with the exception of field trips or pot-luck dinners. All meetings provide fellowship, sharing of joys and concerns and prayers. This year's Circle programming included a variety of speakers (storytellers, history professors, pastors), reflections on devotions, luncheons and pot-luck dinners, chair exercise, a field trip to the Yardley Historical Association Old Library at Lake Afton, or trying to ring choir bells.

Circle members pledge drive brought in \$3890.00. We closed the year with \$117.10. The money was donated to Snipes Farm and Education Center Camp Scholarships, Ivins Outreach Center van repair and maintenance, Appalachian South Folk Life Center (location for Youth in Mission trip), Youth in Mission, and Social Services Emergency Fund. In addition to monetary donations, a church-wide drive was held encouraging women to donate feminine hygiene products on Women's Sunday, April 14. This resulted in an estimated \$1000 worth of products that were donated to Libertae, Bucks County Family Service Association, and MPC Food Center.



Thank you to the Circle members who support these efforts and bring their gifts to share and enrich the fellowship of women. This report closes with a portion of a Rebecca Circle devotion written by Elizabeth Dugan, who wonderfully captured the spirit of circle.

*“Can this force that bakes brownies for Code Blue guests (offering hospitality), that collects feminine products for our female neighbors (providing dignity), that writes and offers prayers via email and in worship (showing devotion), that identifies, communicates and takes action on behalf of our church family (modeling compassion) ... I could go on, but you get the idea... can that force be defined? I say YES ... (the Circles) shared love of and faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ make us stronger than we could ever be on our own. As we close out another year, let us give thanks for the many diverse and unique gifts found in this marvelous group of ladies, but let us never forget the source of our strength. The center of all our Super Power. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Alleluia!”*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Curtiss  
Moderator





## Personnel Committee

The responsibilities of the Personnel Committee are to meet the organizational needs of the church and to support and advocate for its staff. We are very proud of our MPC staff and the many ways they participate in the mission of our church. The past 2-3 years have been heavily focused on staffing. We have hired a new Property Manager (Dave Sterling), new Organist (Yun Kang), a new Childcare Coordinator (Cynde Jacobus), a new Education Coordinator (Rachel Zobel), a new Minister of Visitation (Brian Ballard) and expanded our Communications Coordinator's role (Damon Miller). Most recently, we have also hired a new Financial Secretary (Rosie Sheahan) and a new Administrative Assistant (Kimberly Turner).

Optimizing our human resources is not only about hiring, but also about growth and development. By allocating time off and budget funds, we support our staff in their personal and professional development.

As you know, Pastor Rachel started a Doctor of Ministry program last August and has already completed two of five terms. You may not know that Rachel has also completed a Zick Preaching Fellowship (3-year program, privately funded) along with five other PC(USA) preachers. She has recently been asked to join the Zick leadership team and assist in facilitating/leading an incoming group of six new preachers in retreats in Atlanta, GA and Highlands, NC. Rachel is also part of a community of PC(USA) Senior Pastors around the country that meet annually for education and fellowship. This group of 25-30 pastors has been around for decades and has supported the ministry of many well-known clergy around the country.

Pastor Alex has also been active with training and development. In summer and fall of 2023, Alex completed a Ministry Architect's course on the fundamentals of programmatic Children's Ministry, focused on best practices for scheduling, communication, volunteer recruitment, etc. In fall 2023, Alex spent time with a clergy cohort group centered on leading through seasons of change. They read the book "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going". In spring/summer 2024 Alex started a spiritual direction program through the Shalem Institute. Through readings and peer group discussion, Alex is learning how to be a better spiritual director. He will be attending an in-person residency program in August to learn different spiritual practices, listening skills, and how to be in a relationship with ourselves and others contemplatively. This program runs through 2025.

Tim Carpenter has also been actively training. In an on-going basis, he is part of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, which is an educational resource supporting leaders in worship and music. In April 2024, Tim was part of a Princeton University workshop focused on choral performance. Tim is engaged in an independent study of Psalms using various resources. Tim says "the Psalms are intended for singing. Singing engages us much more deeply with these ancient songs of prayer and praise." This month, Tim is participating in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, NC. This year's theme is "Lead Us Homeward." We are proud to support the next generation of church leaders through our intern program with Princeton Theological Seminary. Interns come to us for Field Education in order to learn and gain valuable experience. The goal is to help students acquire a general understanding of the church and its ministry in a variety of areas, and to help prepare students for ordained ministry, pastoral responsibilities, and leadership roles. In May,

we completed a program year with Adrienne Poissant. Adrienne was a regular part of our weekly worship, and was very active in Education and Bible Study. This fall, we will continue this program and welcome Ruth Amadio as our 2024-25 pastoral intern. She is a third-year student at PTS. She is originally from Stow, Ohio (near Akron) and is passionate about preaching, practical theology, education, social justice, mental health advocacy and mission work within the church community and beyond. She excited to get to know MPC and focus on preaching, worship planning and the food center ministry.

In closing, I would like to thank the dedicated members of the Personnel Committee for giving of themselves to all these tasks and more, on top of their very busy lives: Matt Bausher, Bill Hughes, Kathryn Jervis, Rich Ryan and Tony Zazzu. Beginning this summer, we also welcomed Christy Stephenson to our team. This very talented and faithful group brings a varied experience from academic and corporate careers as we continue to support the staff and strive to meet the needs of our church. As I step away from Session after many years, for a “Committee Sabbath”, I confidently pass the torch to Rich Ryan to take over as Chair. I am grateful for these years in service that were so formative and developmental for my personal faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Gilbride, Chair  
On behalf of the Personnel Committee

### Worship Committee

We give thanks for our life together and all the many ways we worship God!

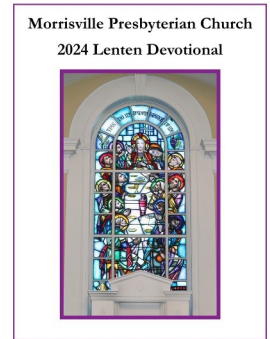
We are grateful to the elders who volunteered to proclaim God’s word during worship last summer while Pastor Rachel was on sabbatical. What a blessing!

Our Advent plans, prayerfully constructed during an earlier committee workshop, came to fruition in December. Our theme “While we wait....” was heard from the pulpit and discussed in adult education.

We marveled as the Christmas narrative came alive for us during our Christmas Eve family service. Led by our youngest disciples, it was a profound beginning to the celebration of baby Jesus’ birth. A special thanks to the Thompson Family for serving as the Holy family and supplying such a beautiful babe. Thanks be to God for a meaningful way to celebrate Emmanuel - God with us!



Many of the MPC faithful assisted the worship committee and staff in drafting thoughtful devotions and prayers for our first ever home grown Lenten devotional. It was a vulnerable and beautifully written booklet that walked beside us on our Lenten Journey. There were so many amazing voices gathered and lifted in praise to our Lord - a holy ground moment for this chairperson, to be sure. What an excellent way to stretch our faith and a powerful statement of God at work within our community of faith. Special thanks to all those who said YES to this call, especially for those who (and you know who you are!) stepped out of your comfort zone. God is good!



The worship committee also hosted three soup suppers during Lent, including a Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week. It fed our bellies but also our souls, as we gathered around a shared meal for thoughtful Lenten conversation.

We are truly blessed to worship with such beautiful music each week. Every Sunday, and especially during our Word in Music Sundays, God's message to us is proclaimed through song. Thanks be to God for this ministry and those who make it happen. *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD* (Psalm 98:4).



To all those who helped (and continue to help!) clean and organize and decorate our beautiful sanctuary, know that you are appreciated. Each of your talents and contributions are a gift.

Faithfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Dugan, Chair

Worship Committee members: Carol Carpenter, Tim Carpenter, Elizabeth Dugan, Luisa Herrera, Nancy Powers, Tom Smith and Pastor Rachel.



## Congregational Ministry Committee (CMC)

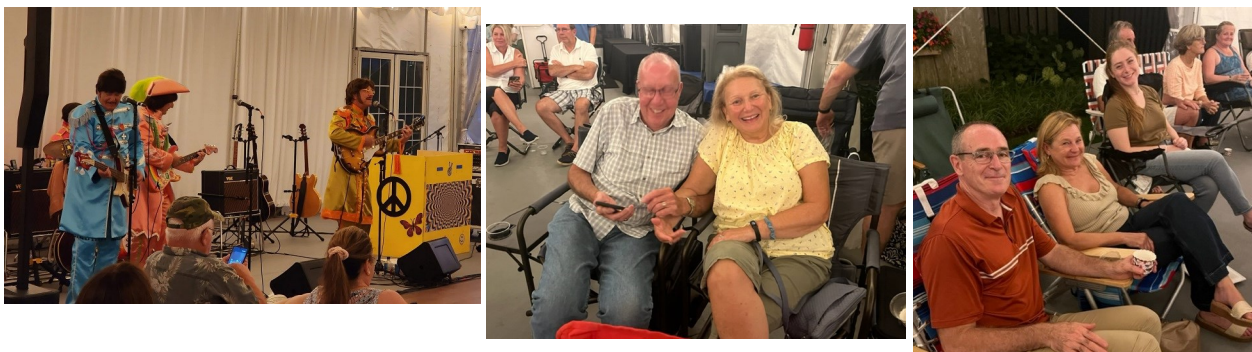
The Congregational Ministry Committee continues its role as the caregiver of our MPC family. Our members, Nancy Anderson, Beth Becker, Ann Clements, J'Ann Ellis, Gail Hunger, Nancy Kernan, Karin McAnlis, Nancy McHenry (Co-Chair), Cindy Moskow, Shellie Stoddard, Ruth Workman, and Lisa Zazzu are busy hosting events and keeping in touch with our church family.

### All Church Events

The *Grounded in Grace* picnic was held in Fellowship Hall with approximately 100 attendees. Folks enjoyed sandwiches and fellowship. Since the picnic had to be held inside due to the weather, the Bounce House and games that were planned were rescheduled to Fellowship Hour on October 8 following worship.



In August folks from MPC attended a Wine & Music event as Crossing Vineyards featuring music from The Beat Tells. It was a great evening of fun, music and fellowship.



The *Anniversary Sunday* luncheon was held in Fellowship Hall with approximately 90 attendees. Anniversary Sunday is a wonderful tradition at MPC where we all celebrate our membership here at MPC. Those who have been members for 50+ years also receive special recognition.



In December, a group from MPC met at Shady Brook farm for hot dogs, hot chocolate, and a

wagon ride through the light show. It was a great way to enjoy the holiday season together.



Two family movie nights, featuring *Elemental* and *Leo*, were held in Fellowship Hall. Pasta dinners were served as well as popcorn and snacks to go along with the movie viewing.



In June, a Potluck picnic was held outside the Main Entrance. Pulled pork sandwiches were served and folks brought sides and desserts to share. There were games for all ages and prizes for the kids.



“Dinner for eight” groups were formed. This is a great opportunity for folks to get to know each other better.

In June, a group of more than 60 MPCer’s headed to the ballpark to see a Trenton Thunder baseball game. There were a lot of laughs and fellowship unfortunately not great baseball. The evening ended with a beautiful display of fireworks.



### Older Adult Events

We hosted Christmas and Valentine’s Older Adult luncheons for our senior members in Fellowship Hall. Folks enjoy the chance to get out and to catch up with old friends.



### Care

We organized meals for those who are dealing with illness/injury and births. We hosted funeral receptions. We connected with members through calls and cards.

We continue to coordinate greeters in the Welcome Center (anyone can be a Greeter; please sign up in the Welcome Center) and we update the bulletin board in the Welcome Center with upcoming events and pictures of past events.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Zazzu,  
Congregational Ministry Committee Chair

## Educational Ministry Committee (EMC)

This year started out with a blast of new energy as we were blessed with a large group of young people filling our halls with laughter and cheers on their way to Sunday School. With many returning teachers this year, our classes seemed to pick up where they left off last year as we once again had our 4 classrooms (Pre-K, K to fourth, fifth to eighth, 9 to 12).

Our youngest disciples were led by Beth Keys, Gail Flesch, Lisa Kutch, and Nicole Weitz. The loudest and most boisterous group were our K-fourth group who could be heard down the hall as they rejoiced in all that they learned from Emily Bausher, Caroline Thompson, James Gilbride, and Wes Gardner. Our Quest Class (fifth to eighth grades) took on the Old Testament, from Genesis to the Divided Kingdom of Israel. While they may not have made it all the way through, they were ably led by Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Katherine Gilbride, and Wendy McCleskey/Kevin Subers splitting the year. High School Seminar once again took on a combination of lectionary and current event topics for their small, but devoted group, taught by the team of Patrick Gilbride, Russell McCleskey, and Dan Jones.



This year, we also celebrated the milestone that is Confirmation. We had a group of four young people join us from January through April as we took a deep dive into Faith, the Church, and what they as individuals believe. Guided by Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, Wendy McCleskey, and Adrienne Poissant, we shared many deep conversations about how our faith helps us find forgiveness and deal with loss. We had the opportunity to join several other Confirmation classes at Camp Johnsonburg for a retreat in February and join with members of our own church family who served as mentors. We delighted in welcoming Angel Kamara, Bella Keys, Vincent Kutch, and Courtney Neiman into membership on May 5.



Our Youth Sunday Schools classes also benefited from the amazing addition to our group, Rachel Zobel, who came onboard as our Christian Education Coordinator this year. She jumped in and assisted with teacher coverage, classroom supplies, and creating our Sunday School newsletter which shows all the fun being had. In addition to all that, she revamped the worship backpacks and added the wide variety of fidget toys which have been a hit with young and old. Her assistance has been greatly appreciated by all.

The Adult Sunday School started this year continuing their exploration of the Confessions, reflected on the Psalms, and learned about the Middle East both for current events and history. Many people joined as teachers including Pastor Jack McAnlis, Adrienne Poissant, Drew Hunger, Kathryn Jarvis, Representatives from AHTN, and more. We thank them all for sharing the wide variety of knowledge and experience.



The Book Discussion group read many different genres this year including *The Kite Runner*, *The Reading List*, and several sections of *3,000 years of Christianity*. In addition to this, the Social Justice group read and discussed *Evicted* in the fall and *Caste* in the spring.

The Book Distribution was fortunate to be joined by Alice Garcia and Joy Rees who have resumed distributions once a month to Food Center clients. Their facility with the Spanish language makes them very effective with the large number of Spanish speaking clients. Joy also distributed small books and New Testaments to our visitors during Code Blue Dinners. The Book Distribution has also experienced a large increase in the number of books it obtains. Our two main suppliers in Baltimore (The Maryland Book Bank and The Book Thing) have expanded our access to their books and one source has been the recipient of a grant of 80,000 new books. While the books lasted, they allowed their clients to select unlimited numbers of books and we were collecting about 1000 books a visit from them.

We have also been the recipient of generous donations from:

**Members of the MPC congregation:**

Teachers have passed on their collections; retirees and other downsizers have given us great collections; generous folks have purchased used dictionaries for us to distribute; and creative folks have given us art supplies, puzzles, old toys of all sorts, boxes, badminton sets, etc., which we pass on to our families and teachers.

**Friends in the Community:**

The Newtown Presbyterian Church, a generous congregation, who once gave us brand new Spanish bibles for Food Center clients, recently gave us many used bibles.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Yardley has been a regular supplier of books and one member is a frequent helper with the sorting of books.

The Ivins Center donated numerous children's books they no longer needed.

The Bryn-Mawr Wellesley Book Sale invites nonprofits to take free books on the last day of their annual used book sale. Their members are now collecting bibles and dictionaries for us during the year. In exchange, we pick up books for new mothers in Baltimore, and we pass on adult books we receive but cannot distribute.

The Princeton Montessori School has, for three years, given us very generous donations of excellent quality used books at the end of the school year.

Ewing Public Library holds a fundraising book sale every year and we are invited on the last day to take books for free. They also collect dictionaries for us.



This year we distributed 37 shelving units, ranging from milk crates to six-foot tall shelves. While we have had to discontinue this effort because of the time commitment and concerns over safety issues with tall units, we have kept three tall shelving units to help sort and store books until we distribute them. Recently, graduates of the MPC Youth Group made six small shelf units which will be given to families at Sprout to store their books.

This year we have been blessed with more volunteers to help with the sorting of books and schools have told us that their reading specialists will determine the reading levels of books for us (a huge saving of our time). Both of these have been a huge help since the number of donated books we receive has increased significantly. This year, it is very rare for a week to go by when no one calls to make some kind of a donation.

The fall had a Men's Retreat at The Common Place in Southwest Philadelphia where they toured the facility and learned about their mission and assisted with some building repairs. The Women's Retreat is coming up this fall, October 25-27, at St Joseph Center for Spirituality in Ocean Grove, NJ. The retreat will be lead by Pastor Molly Ramsey, our former pastoral intern.



In addition to all the volunteers mentioned throughout this report, MPC's Educational Ministry program relies on the faithful and dedicated service of the committee members: Wes Gardner, Rachel Zobel, Beth Keys, Jill Monroe-Dillon, Susan Light, Chris Bannister, and Beth Curtiss. We are also thankful for the leadership and inspiration provided by Pastor Alex.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy McCleskey, EMC Chair

## Music Ministry

**Chancel Choir** is thriving, thanks to our faithful volunteer singers and section leaders. We sing anthems that have strong, meaningful texts aligned with music that highlights the sense and feeling of the words. When an introit or anthem with a text appropriate for a particular Sunday is not readily available, our "in-house" composer, Kyle St. Sauveur, will write one for us.

Word-in-Music Sundays offered a celebration of psalms in the fall and during Lent our service centered on the passage from St. Paul's letter to the church in Rome: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." Easter Sunday was a glorious celebration of Christ rising, replete with organ, brass, timpani and a full choir.



We have welcomed two new singers to our group and are always happy to welcome new and former singers to join us for short-term, long-term or seasonal commitments.

**Chancel Chimes**, our adult bell choir, has gained a new member and we are learning new repertoire and new bell ringing techniques. This group of loyal ringers and willing substitutes continue to make music to enhance worship.



**God's Thunder**, the youth bell choir, is small, but gaining in experience and technique. We have been combining malleting with ringing bells, playing modified bell quartet music and ringing with Chancel Chimes on occasion. Our use of co-teachers to work and ring with this devoted group has become a good model.

Our **Teen Choir** rehearses after worship when we have a quorum of three out of a possible five singers. Even though this group is small, we have been able to sing pieces in two parts - as well as showing off our kazoo-playing skills.

**Children's Music** took on a new form during the pandemic and we are continuing to use it with modifications. During worship we take children from toddlers to grade five out of worship for music, musical games, dancing, and playing rhythm instruments. Most of the songs this year were short melodies with bible verses for texts. Process, rather than performance, is the main focus of this group. Carol Carpenter and Eric Moyer-Harrington have been stalwart and committed teachers and we are blessed to have Bella Keys as a helper.

Yun Kang is our dedicated and faithful **organist** who is a joy to have as part of the Music Ministry. Yun is a wonderful accompanist and pianist and, in addition to accompanying the choirs, her piano offertories and the offertories of her Song Trio are a blessing during worship.



Our music ministries continue to change and evolve as we respond to the changing and evolving new short-term and possibly long-term in-church attendance and involvement norms post-pandemic. With all of our music groups the process of learning choir skills such as community building, faith development, voice building for singers, and technique improvement for ringers, are as important - and sometimes more important, especially for the younger groups - as performance.

We are doing well, doing worship and ministry within the congregation, and seeking to be an inviting presence in the wider Morrisville community. To GOD be the glory!

Timothy Carpenter, Director of Music

## Flower Ministry

Each Sunday, if you look toward the front of our sanctuary you will see two beautiful floral arrangements. These flowers are part of a quiet ministry that not only adds beauty to our worship but also serves as an outreach ministry to our members. After the worship service, these flowers are placed in small pails and delivered to a member of our church family who may not be able to attend worship, has recently lost a loved one, or may have provided a special ministry for which we want to offer our gratitude. Although it seems a simple gesture, behind each bouquet is a story of multiple personal contacts among our church family. Our flower ministry coordinator, DeeAnn Martin, first contacts those who have asked to give flowers on a particular Sunday. Several of these contacts lead to conversations with members who no longer live in our area, or may not regularly attend worship, but wish to give flowers in memory of a loved one. Our pastors, members of the weekly Prayer Group, Presbyterian Women, and caring friends offer names of those to whom flowers could be given. Your reaching out to our pastors, or DeeAnn, to share a member's need of prayer and a caring visit is a vital part of this Ministry. DeeAnn then contacts those named, which often leads to a wonderful conversation of sharing and caring. She then arranges for a member to deliver the flowers after our worship service. These volunteers provide the most important "in person" contact letting those unable to be with us know they are remembered.



Through the 100 flower arrangements that adorn our sanctuary on Sundays (Easter tulips and Christmas poinsettias complete the year) approximately 200 phone contacts and 100 personal visits take place,

There is always a need for flowers, which can be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of someone or a special event, or in gratitude for a ministry or act of kindness. The cost of each arrangement is \$35. If you would like to give on any Sunday, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email her at [deemar918@aol.com](mailto:deemar918@aol.com). The Flower Ministry is an opportunity for everyone to reach out to another in a small way that often makes a big difference.

## Youth Ministry Committee

As a committee that focuses specifically on the Youth, our goal is for them to find a place of comfort and understanding while growing in years and faithfulness. Some highlights from the 2023-2024 program year are:

### MPC Youth Club

Youth Club on Wednesday evenings may still be at the same time, but it may also look and sound different than years ago. Today's setting is more intimate and involves a core group of youth from our congregation, as well as those from the community.

Every week there is a meal followed by a variety of activities - games, discussions, or mission-oriented efforts, but all with the intent of building and supporting the youth in their development. Throughout the year, anywhere from 10 to 15 youth were able to have great conversations, support a local family at the holidays, grow spiritually, and enjoy some old traditions like Broomball, Bowling, and Manhunt, a constant favorite.



*Fellowship Hall hosts Youth Club on most Wednesday nights during the school year, but one night in January the hall became a Broomball Court where current Youth Clubbians play the Youth Club Alumni.*

This year's Youth Club was responsible for donating some of the monies from past youth club fundraising ("the shows"). Through multiple discussion around charity and giving, the youth were already very aware of key issues and the importance of donations. They decided to contribute to the following efforts:

- Addressing climate change through a \$150 donation to Snipes Farm and Education Center
- Supporting resources for youth homelessness by providing \$500 to Anchor House
- Recognizing the struggles of poverty by offering a \$350 gift to our local Ivins Outreach Center

The program ended in May with a send-off for our graduating high school seniors, and a promise for a pool party in August. With Alex's steadfast faithfulness, along with involvement from the Youth Ministry committee and other adults from the church, the Youth Club continues to be successful and meaningful.

### Celebrating the class of 2024 HS Seniors

We continued our tradition of recognizing graduating HS seniors in service. Some of these seniors had been with MPC since baptism, some joined along the way, but as a congregation we have enjoyed watching them grow in faith through the years. We now look forward to their future with them. We wished Annika Hernandez-Feehan, Angel



Kamara, Catherine Moyer-Harrington and Megan Oleynick all the best in our June service with a token from which to remember MPC on their next journeys.

### **2024 Scholarship Awards**

This year, we recognized four recipients with scholarships for their continuing education with the generosity of those that came before us:

- Joely Gardner and Angel Kamara each received a Mary Carver Roberts Scholarship. Ella Carver Duke established the Mary Carver Roberts Scholarship in 1987, in memory of her sister Mary. This scholarship fund supports those seeking a career in medical professions or ministry.
- Megan Olyenick received a Helen Borden Scholarship. The family of Helen Borden established the Helen Borden Scholarship in memory of Helen, a longtime faithful member of MPC, to be given to students who demonstrate the values of hard work and perseverance.
- Lizzie Stoner received a McClanen Scholarship. The parents of Don McClanen established the Don McClanen Scholarship in his honor. Don's parents were members of MPC. Don grew up in Trenton and in 1954 went on to form the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an international organization that today supports tens of thousands of Christian coaches and athletes in over 80 countries around the world.

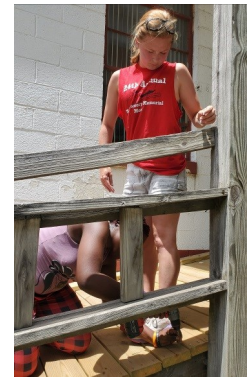
### **The annual Youth-In-Mission Trip to Pipestem, WV**

July 2024 was another successful trip to the Appalachian South Folklife Center that included nine youth and six chaperones. These mission trips are always very generously supported by our MPC congregation. Starting with our first fundraiser in February for the annual Shrove Tuesday night Pancake Dinner served by the Youth to the Car Wash, Bake Sale and Stock Sale fundraisers, the youth are reminded of the love and generosity from MPC.

After an eight-hour trip to Pipestem Saturday afternoon, the group spent the evening getting settled, participated in ice breaker games, discussed the Folklife Center and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings. On Sunday, we ventured to the Pluto Community Church for morning service - this was the church we repainted on our 2023 trip. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed the outdoors at the lake, or horseback riding at the Pipestem State park.

The workweek brought us to a remote old coal mining mountain town. Once a school from the 1950s, the building now houses a community church, which had experienced some severe flooding. Our tasks were to build a cement barrier to limit future water penetration, and to give the front of the building a much needed update. We had the opportunity to learn more about the church and this community from "Mayor Mike" who is committed to having the church be a vibrant place of worship again. In the evenings we enjoyed sharing dinner responsibilities, devotional time, square dancing and playing group games or just enjoying some downtime.

And as in past years, the Lord's presence was made known to us throughout the week in ways that we celebrated together, and in more personal ways. The youth shared some of these moments in service the Sunday after our return to MPC. We'll also be sharing some of the memories from the trip sometime this fall during Fellowship after church service. In conclusion, we are so very grateful to the many supporters within our congregation who generously support this Youth mission every year.



Whether it is cooking a Wednesday night meal for Youth Club or participating in our Mission Trip Car Wash and Bake Sale, we are so grateful for our faithful and supportive congregation. We are especially appreciative of Pastor Alex, who gives so much love, commitment and guidance to not only our youth but also to our committee.

Respectfully submitted by the 2024 Youth Ministry Committee:

*Heidi Dous, Dawn Flook, Wes Gardner, Dan Jones, Travis Keys, Tracy Massey, Nancy Stoner*

## Young Adults

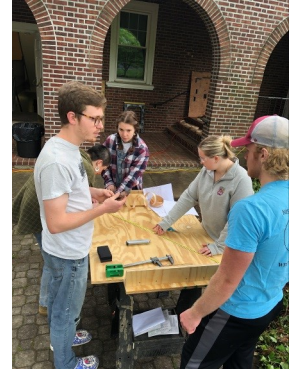
Over this past year the young adults of MPC have gathered several times, coming together for mission and fellowship. It has been a wonderful journey reuniting with recent high school graduates and young 20-somethings. We initially met in early January for pizza when many were home for the holiday break. We took that time to listen to their ideas for future events. What a gift it was to hear them say “YES” they would very much enjoy an opportunity for service and wished to stay connected to MPC and to one another.

In May, we met in the Memorial Gardens to construct bookshelves. Six (6) beautifully constructed bookshelves are ready for Trenton families which we pray will encourage and foster a love of reading in children. Our efforts support the existing MPC book ministry and will be distributed to local families through contacts at Sprout U and The Center for Child and Family Achievement.

In July, this group will support the community meal program organized through AHTN and newly hosted by MPC. Many have already signed up to cook and serve dinner for those in need. We will continue to seek additional programs and activities for this thriving group of young adults who are a vibrant part of our community and have so much to give.

We are grateful for the support and guidance of Pastor Alex, and for our crafty wood-working experts, Wes Gardner, Dan Jones and Travis Keys.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Becker and Elizabeth Dugan



## Rachel Zobel, Christian Education Coordinator

I had the privilege of joining Morrisville Presbyterian Church as the Christian Education Coordinator in September 2023. Any nerves I had about beginning a new position immediately vanished as soon as I walked through the doors for my first Sunday School experience. Upon my arrival, I made my way to each classroom to introduce myself to our wonderful teachers and energetic students. No amount of planning or preparation could ever prepare me for the delightful experiences and encounters I had throughout the 2023-24 year.

We had four designated Sunday School classrooms: Pre-K, K–fourth grade, fifth–eighth grade, and ninth–twelfth grade, and were blessed with fourteen Sunday School teachers. Pre-K students participated in weekly stories, arts and crafts, and other various activities led by Gail Flesch, Beth Keys, Lisa Kutch, and Nicole Weitz. Our K–fourth grade class was home to our largest class this year and students consistently showed up each week eager to learn from Emily Bausher, Wes Gardner, James Gilbride, and Caroline Thompson. Our Quest class (fifth–eighth grade) learned about the Old Testament through readings and interactive games such as Jeopardy and a scavenger hunt led by Katherine Gilbride, Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, and Wendy McCleskey. Our Quest students graciously welcomed Kevin Subers as a substitute teacher for

part of the year while Wendy McCleskey served and led Confirmation class. In High School Seminar, students engaged in lectures and discussions centered around current events and incorporating the feeling of God’s presence in everyday life, led by Patrick Gilbride, Dan Jones, and Russell McCleskey.

Early on in my role, it became overwhelmingly evident how dedicated and hardworking our Sunday School teachers were and how much our students enjoyed attending Sunday School. While our teachers are very humble, I felt it was necessary to share the exemplary work they were doing with the rest of the congregation. In the fall of 2023, we created and deployed the very first Children’s Ministry newsletter. The newsletter consisted of pictures and updates from each class in addition to any relevant announcements and a Teacher Spotlight. The newsletter was sent out monthly and can be found on the MPC website and worship bulletin.



Halfway through the year, I was presented with the opportunity to take on the responsibility of the Worship Backpacks from Carol Carpenter. Carol graciously educated me about the history of the backpacks, as well as provided with me the necessary supplies and tools to get started. Currently, all Worship Backpacks consist of a clipboard with the Lord’s Prayer, coloring pages, a gratitude journal worksheet, a prayer journal worksheet, and a Bible word search. Children can enhance their backpacks by selecting from an array of fidget toys to help promote concentration and focus during worship. The fidget toys have also been popular among adults in the congregation as well! In addition to revamping the Worship Backpacks, new supplies for the Sunday School classrooms were also purchased. The whiteboards and markers were a huge hit and provided an interactive way for students to stay engaged and participate during lessons.

All the growth and progression discussed above would not have been possible without the outpour of support and guidance from our teachers, MPC staff, volunteers, and members of our congregation. I am eager to see what is in store for the upcoming 2024-25 year!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Rachel Zobel  
 Christian Education Coordinator





## Communication and Evangelism Committee

The Communications and Evangelism Committee serves MPC by maintaining a sense of community by building a bond through various media outlets.

Utilizing the approved Communication Plan, communication to and from the congregation and various committees and ministries of MPC continues to improve. The committee has begun work reviewing and implementing goals established within the plan while keeping focus on how MPC is impactful in the lives of those in the congregation and surrounding community.

Damon Miller continues as the communication coordinator, as well as the chair of the committee. Along with the creation of *Currents* and weekly worship bulletins, Damon oversees our livestream worship and manages our recorded video and podcasts which are available via MPC's website as well as links from the website and subscription services to the MPC YouTube channel and podcast. This year we welcomed David Hough as a new member of the committee and welcomed back Curt Rimler. A.K. Rosenbaum and Luisa Herrera are the remaining members of the team. All add valuable insight and assistance to maintaining the level of communication within MPC.

Communication through weekly emails and bulletins with worship information and announcements continue as the mainstream method of providing the latest to MPC members. A schedule of publication dates for *Currents* will now be seasonal with four editions a year.

A goal last year was to engage the staff and other groups at MPC more by collecting and forwarding church news and stories for production in printed and electronic media. Many members contributed to those efforts, and we are grateful for your help. If you are a new committee chair or involved in circle, event, or mission of the church, please feel free to take a few photos and pass them along so that others may see the wonderful things going on inside and outside our church.

Last spring a survey was distributed during Fellowship Hour when the committee hosted. One item that stood out from the survey was the desire to have the promotion of events be more frequent on our social media pages. You will see an increase in that this coming year but continue to use established methods, especially in print, keeping in mind members who do not receive information from MPC electronically.

The committee returned to hosting hospitality to those marching in the Morrisville Memorial Day Parade which starts in the parking lot of MPC each year. Parade participants were welcomed to use the restrooms as well as grab snacks and water prior to their departure. Thank you to everyone who supported this reception.

Many thanks go to Nancy Powers for her continued help in editing our printed publications.

Former Administrative Assistant, Nicole Brice, was helpful in posting information to our Facebook and Instagram pages. Due to her departure, Damon Miller is now posting on the social media sites.

We invite you to join us on our social media pages and email distribution, if you are not already following us, to stay up to date with everything going on at MPC. We encourage engagement on our pages and welcome your comments (or even a simple "Like") when you see something that interests you.

## Communication - By the Numbers

Online worship participation expands beyond Pennsylvania and New Jersey to 24 states, the District of Columbia, and five countries.

Period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 worship service including the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve and Ash Wednesday services:

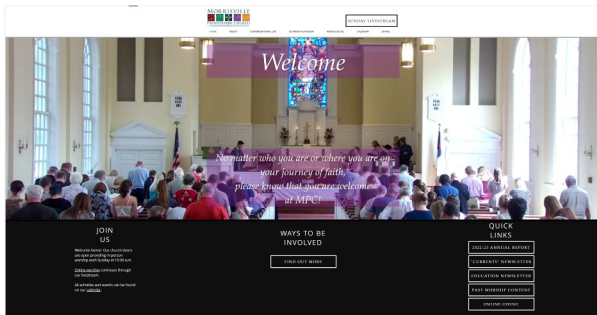
- Podcast
  - 713 total downloads
- Livestream via Boxcast streaming service
  - 906 unique viewers\* of which 66% watched live and the remaining watched the recorded service through Boxcast viewer
- Livestream (Youtube)
  - 937 total views\*\* watched live
  - 3,328 watched recorded service
  - Additional 817 views of recorded videos previous to period reported above
- Website/Social Media/Email
  - Over the past year, we have welcomed nearly 4,366 unique visitors\* to our website
  - 553 followers on Facebook
  - 269 followers on Instagram
  - 339 email subscribers

\*Unique is defined as one view per IP address no matter how many times a view is done.

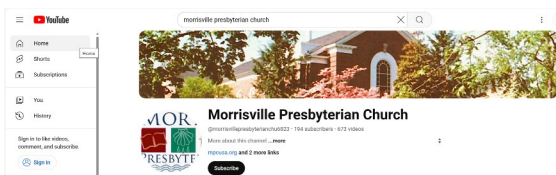
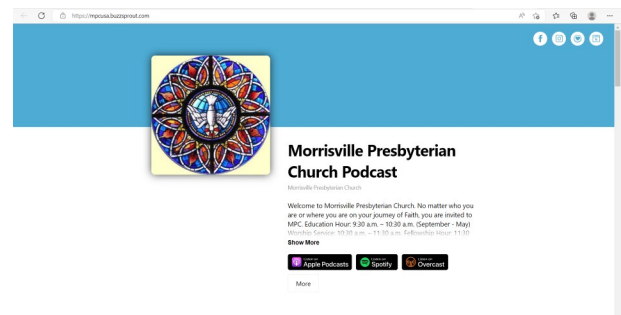
\*\*Total is defined as each view with no limitation, including multiple views per IP address.

Respectfully submitted,

Communications and Evangelism Committee



Visit us at [mpcusa.org](http://mpcusa.org)



Find us at:  
Morrisville Presbyterian  
Church



Friend us at:  
Morrisville Presbyterian  
Church



Instagram:  
@MorrisvillePresbyterian

## Outreach Committee

As disciples of Christ, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, comfort the afflicted. MPC members strive to fulfill these acts of mercy in many ways, through sharing our financial gifts and working in varied roles within the community.

The Outreach Committee has the enviable task of distributing the designated benevolence money from our annual budget to many worthy mission partners near and far. This year generous gifts of MPC members supported the local ministries of Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Ivins Outreach Center (IOC), Family Promise, Family Services Association, Anchor House, UrbanPromise Trenton, the Food Center, Snipes Farm and Education Center, and the Center for Child and Family Achievement, including the purchase of 300 custom-printed bookbags for CCFA's summer program (seen top right). In addition to financial support, MPC members assisted Habitat for Humanity on three local building projects, provided food and welcome to guests of Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) on Code Blue nights in March and again at a community dinner in May. We also supported missionaries in Mozambique through the Outreach Foundation and contributed to Presbytery Inspired Life and Children's Village. Through special offerings we were able to send money to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for humanitarian relief of victims of wildfires in Maui, war in Ukraine, and the Middle East, as well as to flood victims in Lower Bucks County.

The Clothing Center is a valuable ministry of MPC, providing low cost clothing to the community and serving as a financial resource for further support of local ministries. Gifts from the Clothing Center funds were given to the Solid Rock Youth Center, the Breathing Room Foundation, the Peace Center, and Morrisville Presbyterian Towers. Contributions were also made to the deacons' backpack drive, the book distribution ministry, and the Common Place in Philadelphia, underwriting the cost of the materials used on the men's retreat building project.

There are many ways MPC members perform outreach to the community besides the offering of financial gifts. Volunteers give generously of their time and energies to the Food Center, IOC, the Clothing Center, Code Blue and community meals, Habitat builds, book distribution, Morrisville Presbyterian Apartments, among others.

One of the six Great Ends of the Church is "the promotion of social righteousness." This year, the Outreach Committee has expanded our mission to include developing awareness of social injustices and working to combat them through education and advocacy. We have formed a relationship with Interfaith Power Bucks, an organization where lay people and clergy from various faith traditions join to share ideas and determine ways to support one another's efforts to address social justice issues in our communities. We have



attended workshops on developing awareness of implicit bias, on prevention of gun violence, and on developing compassionate listening. MPC members have lobbied in Harrisburg for passage of measures aimed to reduce gun violence, we have engaged in letter-writing campaigns for equitable education funding and peacemaking issues. Some of us recently attended a gathering of Coming to the Table, the Presbytery's monthly conversations about race.

To provide easy access to information about the varied missions of the Outreach Committee, we have updated and streamlined our page on the [mpcusa.org](http://mpcusa.org) website with a pull-down menu and links to volunteer opportunities with several of our local mission partners. Also, our bulletin board in the hallway to the lounge has colorful brochures from many affiliated agencies and information about current volunteer opportunities.



The hard-working and dedicated Outreach Committee members are Gail Flesch, Alice Garcia, Ray Hendrickson, Ruth Levan, Nancy Powers, Joy Rees, and Christy Stephenson, with guidance and support from Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla.

Carol Carpenter, Chair

### **Mission Code Blue and Community Meals**

This past March, for the second year, MPC opened its doors to welcome Code Blue guests in partnership with Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN). Our partnership has grown and flourished in these past two years and is now in full operation as we look ahead to serving for a third year in 2025.

For those that may not know AHTN, it is a Bucks County interfaith, nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and those in need by providing year-long access to emergency shelter, food, and other life-sustaining services with dignity and compassion. Code Blue is just one of the many initiatives that AHTN offers, and it is an overnight emergency shelter for male and female adults over the age of 18. Started in the winter of 2009, the shelter is opened when the temperature dips to dangerous levels and there are enough AHTN volunteers to staff evening, overnight, and the mornings at the shelter. There is also a need for bus drivers to assist in transportation to and from the shelter. The program runs from December 1 to March 31.

In addition to providing a warm place to spend the night, we prepare and serve dinner to our guests, as well as offer breakfast and lunch items before they depart the following morning. While the temperatures were more moderate than the prior year, in 2024 we saw an increase of our nightly visitors and on average we hosted approximately thirty guests, and sometimes more, on each of the six evenings.



Guests are very appreciative for the meal they receive and for a warm place to spend the night. During the evening, guests often expressed the need for clothing, and we were grateful we were able to assist them with the support of the MPC Clothing Center and AHTN. New this year, through the suggestion of the Book Ministry committee, we offered bibles and books for our

guests to read while with us, but also encouraged them to take the books with them as they left. As a special treat this year, during dinner, we enjoyed the very talented Howard Reese at the piano which, in turn, also brought out the musical talents of some of our overnight guests!



This ministry is only possible with the ongoing support from MPC. We are so very thankful for the financial contributions of the congregation who have generously supported this new ministry. Additionally, we are grateful for all the support from the many volunteers, including those who greeted our guests at the door, grocery shoppers, cooks, and kitchen leads, along with Rebecca Circle for keeping us well stocked with desserts. We are so grateful for Pastor Alex's leadership and guidance as we navigated these past two years. Leading us in prayer this year, Pastor Alex helped center and ground the volunteers each Code Blue evening.

Through this ministry, we are now testing a new program through AHTN - Community Meals. On Friday, May 31, we hosted our first Community Meal in which we served approximately thirty-five guests for a chicken and rice dinner, and we enjoyed seeing many of the same we see during Code Blue. Guests are so grateful to enjoy a meal and have a place to socialize with one another and the volunteers for an hour or so. We will also host July 30 and August 30 before evaluating a longer-term commitment of hosting the fifth Tuesday or the fifth Friday of the month ten times a year.

While this growing ministry may be about serving, we can honestly say we are the ones who are being served.

Respectfully and joyfully submitted by Beth Becker and Dawn Flook



## The Ivins Outreach Center (IOC)

Ivins Outreach Center (IOC) has been a vital mission of our church since 2003. The IOC supports resident of Lower Bucks County with quality-of-life programs that direct those in need to existing social services, enables seniors to remain independent in their homes, and manages after-school and summer enrichment opportunities for children. IOC strives to improve the quality of life for those within our neighboring communities with opportunities to be healthy, confident, connected, and secure, regardless of age, income or background.

IOC has an annual budget of \$250,000, excluding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant with a budget of approximately \$500,000 per school district. IOC has two full-time employees and two part-time employees. IOC office space is currently at capacity with ten 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant staff and three PathStone workers. The two full-time IOC counsellors currently rent office space at MCP due to the lack of space in their building. Darletta Berry-Johnson has been the Executive Director of Ivins since its inception. Darletta was honored at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in September of 2023. The picture here was taken at the celebration when Darletta was presented with a flag and a proclamation from Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick's office.



IOC program highlights for 2023-2024 include:

### **Resource and Referral Program**

Since its inception 20 years ago, Ivins has been committed to mobilizing aid to youth, families and older adults in crisis by connecting them to needed social services.

Over the last year IOC's Resource and Referral program has connected 731 individuals to social services. Referrals were provided for financial issues such as rent, utilities or credit card debt, parenting issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, after-school programs and gangs, medical and health issues, and connecting individuals to needed social services in the community. Ms. Carol, from PathStone, has assisted with the Resource and Referral program this past year.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant**

IOC coordinates after school programs in Bristol Borough School District, School District of Borough of Morrisville, Bucks County Technical School, Conwell Egan Catholic High School, Bensalem Township School District, Holy Trinity, St. Mark's, St Ephrems, and Bensalem Cornwell Elementary School.

After school programs offer academic support, enrichment activities, and snacks. A hot supper is served to all students free of charge. The summer programs provide academics, arts, sports, STEM, and credit recovery classes as well as career readiness opportunities. Over 1500 students were served in four Lower Bucks County school districts. Over the summer, 80 hours of mandated community service was performed at IOC.

### **Staying Put in Lower Bucks**

Through the Staying Put program services are provided to seniors so they can stay in their own home and “age in place” rather than move to a nursing home or another level of care. IOC currently serves 40 seniors with a team of 22 volunteers on a weekly basis. There is a waiting list of 30 seniors as of June 1, 2024 due to the lack of volunteers.

### **Staying Put Cancer Care Program**

IOC received a grant to extend the Staying Put program and services to individuals 55 and older who have cancer or those in need of dialysis. This program will have a soft start in September of 2024.

### **Food for Thought**

Food for Thought is an after-school program offered to students through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant. Students prepare meals for Staying Put seniors and deliver them each Friday to forty Staying Put seniors. The meals are high quality, home cooked meals designed to provide enough food for both Saturday and Sunday.

### **Home Share**

Home Share is Bucks County’s first program designed to bring together a homeowner who has a room to spare and a person who is looking for a place to live. The Home Share program started in 2023. IOC has made 8 matches between homeowners and individuals in need of housing.

### **Seed to Fork at Snipes Farm**

Seed to Fork is a summer program for students entering grades nine to twelve where students learn the “story of food” and its impact on their health. There were seventeen students in the Seed to Fork program last year.

### **Community Partnerships**

Hot Meals are provided weekly to seniors, students in IOC programs, and families in need of food. The meals are provided through partnerships with Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Jewish Family and Children’s Services of Greater Mercer County, and Morrisville United Methodist Church.

### **Fundraising**

The IOC Golf Outing is the major fundraiser each year. We are very grateful for the leadership Jim Gaston has provided as chair of the golf outing for over ten years. We are also grateful for the MPC members who have attended the golf outing year after year and volunteered to make the event a success.

The 2024 Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 16 at Yardley Country Club.

Thanks to Dan Jones, IOC received a \$25,000 grant from the DeLuca Family Foundation. The donation will go to support IOC’s food insecurity programs - Seed to Fork at Snipes Farm and Education Center and Food for Thought.



Ivins Outreach Center would not be the vibrant organization it is without the leadership of Darletta Berry-Johnson and the dedication of the staff. We are grateful for all the volunteers, many from MPC, who have graciously given of their time and talents for years. If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, please consider Ivins Outreach Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christy Stephenson, Kathy Foster and Andy Beidler



### **Food Center (FC)**



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

#### **Operations**

Clients drive their vehicles on the circular driveway leading to the portico every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11:30 a.m., are greeted and asked to verify their name and the number of people in their living unit. The requisite number, based on family size, of prepacked food bags staged near the double doors under the portico, are placed in the vehicle, along with refrigerated meats, and bags of vegetables and fruit. Clients can come once per month.



In 2023, the FC served an average of 118 families each week which amounted to over 13,900 people in the year; this was an increase of about 3,900 people from 2022. The total amount of food provided in 2023 was about 268,000 pounds.

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



## **Food Supply**

Each week, Philabundance donates fresh produce and non-perishables, the Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) in Doylestown donates non-perishables and Applegate Farm products when they are available. Pepperidge Farms donates breads. The donations from Philabundance, BCOC and Pepperidge Farms are substantial. The remainder of the canned goods and other non-perishables we distribute are purchased from Aldi and C&S Grocery Supply, while chicken is purchased from City Beef. Volunteers pick up a variety of bread, desserts and boxes of donated merchandise each week from McCaffrey's, and fresh produce from Rolling Harvest Food Rescue when available. The Food Center also benefits from food drives run by other local congregations, scouting groups, schools, the Postal Service, and other community organizations.



## **Donations & Expenses**

Total income from donations, grants, donated food in 2023 was \$128,845. Most of this money comes from a large number of individual donors, churches, social and service organizations, and businesses. Total expense during 2023 for purchased food and nonfood items was \$123,242. The worth of the food given out, if it had to be purchased by the clients at grocery stores, would be about four times the money spent by the Food Center in obtaining the food.

DH/CR/RW JUNE 2024

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

Our annual report for the Lord's Taylor Shop, a.k.a The Clothing Center, reflects operations from September 14, 2023 to June 13, 2024. During this time frame, we made a profit of \$8535 to support our Outreach Committee, who in turn distributes these funds to charitable agencies, agencies/organizations both local and global. (\*See Outreach report)

Founded in 1983, the MPC Clothing Center is located in Room 4 of the Church basement. We are open for business on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with the pricing day on Wednesday.

This little jewel of a shop sells top quality and brand name clothing for women, men, teens, children, and infants; along with jewelry, shoes, books, household items, including small appliances, lamps, dishes, glassware, linens and occasionally some antiques. You don't have to pay full price for your family's clothing or home merchandise ever again. When you shop at the MPC Clothing Center you will not only be satisfied with your purchase, but you will leave with money in your pocket.

Beginning the 2023–2024 season, we celebrated our 40th anniversary of being in the business of doing God's work. On Saturday December 9, we hosted a Christmas Extravaganza so customers who work during the week could take advantage of our sales. We have special sales every week. However, for certain holidays we do something a little different. In March, to celebrate basketball, we played March Madness. We have the customers toss a ball into a

shopping basket for a chance to get 20%, 30% or 40% off their total purchase. Easter was our famous egg hunt and in May it was picking a flower, both for a percentage off our already low prices. Our customers appreciate our efforts to make their shopping fun and look forward to these special sales. Sometimes we are greeted with “What’s today’s special?” before they say “Good morning.” It’s a great way to start the day. During our last two weeks of business we had “bag sales”. Customers had the opportunity to purchase two different size bags (priced accordingly) and stuff them with any merchandise they wanted except for Lenox and jewelry. For each bag purchased they could choose two pieces of Lenox and four pieces of jewelry. It’s amazing to see what they can squeeze in the bags.

The MPC Clothing Center is staffed by faithful volunteers, Kathy Foster, Betsy Jurey, Cheryl Palmer, Gail Flesh, Jane Detraz, Caroline Pickering, and our newest team members Ann Murray, Carol Carpenter, Becky Hendrickson, and Joy Rees. It is a blessing and privilege to work with these dedicated ladies.

We want to thank everyone who generously donated merchandise to our inventory during the year enabling us to help our local community and beyond. Our shop would not be the success it is without your help.

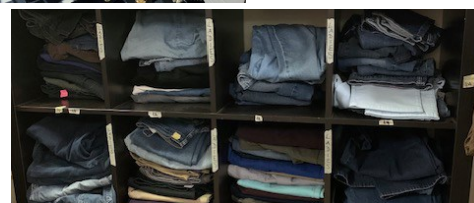


We look forward to our coming season starting sometime in the fall. During the summer the Clothing Center will be getting a makeover. We were blessed to receive a generous bequest designated for making improvements to our shop from Sally Scheidemantel in memory and honor of her mother, Dorothea (Dot), and her years of service at the Clothing Center. We are also doing some rearranging to make better use of our space. We hope you will take the opportunity to come and check out our new look and shop for great bargains.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Detraz

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



## Weekday Nursery School (WNS)

We have officially completed the 2023-24 school year at MPC Weekday Nursery School. We had a fantastic year filled with learning, growing and friendship. It is wonderful to say that after 65 years of serving the youngest learners, our enrollment is growing. Our full-day Inventor class has gained momentum, and we will be offering it again next year. During the afternoon portion of this class, students are exposed to different STEAM activities that enrich their learning. The focus of our morning is to help children navigate learning through play. The social interaction among peers and the problem solving that happens during play are lifelong skills and create a strong foundation for academic learning that will happen in elementary school and beyond. Our morning also focuses on instilling Christian values. Each month we have a different focus ranging from LOVE to RESPECT to KINDNESS. It is our tradition to follow Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” At WNS, we believe that guiding children to find the good in themselves and in others, and learning to work through differences in a productive way, are some of the key attributes to lifelong education.

In an attempt to stay current with the ever-changing needs our community, we have started a summer camp for children ages 3-5. Camp meets for three weeks during the summer: once in June, once in July, and once in August. We have had a successful first week and are looking forward to the other two upcoming weeks.

We serve the community as an outreach program of MPC. We focus our service projects on the MPC Food Bank and the Ivins Outreach Center so that our service connects closely with the missions of the church. Weekday Nursery School is licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Each member of our teaching staff has earned a Master’s degree and is certified by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education.

Below is the 2023-24 WNS Staff:

- Joanie Layden; director since 2023 and teacher since 2021; teaches 3, 4, 5 day Inventors and Full Day Inventors (4 year-olds)
- Amy Kieley; teacher since 2021; teaches Half-Pints (2.7 year-olds) and Explorers (3 three year-olds)
- Emily Bausher; teacher since 2021; teaches Half-Pints (2.7 year-olds) and Explorers (3 year-olds)
- Jill Hay; aide since 2015
- Cathy Cusick; aide since 2021
- Caitrin McLean; aide since 2023

The teaching staff is grateful for the support and dedication of MPC and our Board of Directors. All board members are unpaid volunteers with the exception of the treasurer, enrollment secretary, and director who receive a stipend for their work.



Director	Joanie Layden	Member at Large	Jill Hay
Treasurer	Caitrin McLean	Member at Large	Beth Rainville
Enrollment Secretary	Michelle Jennings	Parent Representative	Melissa Benson
EMC Representative	Jill Monroe Dillon	Parent Representative	Meaghan Corini
Recording Secretary	Christa Layne	Parent Representative	Regina Madden

Below are the 2023-2024 WNS Board of Directors

**Tuition by Class for 2022-2023 school year**

- Four-Year-Old Inventors - 15 students enrolled
  - Three mornings \$2,856.00
  - Four mornings \$3,724.00
  - Five mornings \$4,592.00
  - Three full days \$5,034.00
  - Three Full days & two mornings \$6,856.00
  
- Three-Year-Old Little Explores - 11 students enrolled
  - Three mornings \$3,332.00
  
- Half Pints (Two-year and 7-months old) - 14 students enrolled
  - Two mornings \$2,824.00



## Cub Scouts/Pack 3 - Morrisville, PA



<b><u>Pack Leadership Team</u></b>	
<b>Charter Organization Representative</b>	Bill Burgess
<b>Committee Chair</b>	Stephanie Huston
<b>Former Cubmaster</b>	Katie Pargola

In early September, our fifth grade Arrow of Light Scouts crossed over to Scouts BSA Troop 3. All four Cubs had earned their Arrow of Light rank over the summer and were excited for the adventures that awaited them at the troop level.

Our remaining nine Cubs made up our Tiger, Wolf, and Bear dens. These Cubs and their families were active through early April, and participated in weekly den meetings and worked on rank advancement.

### **Pack Activities 2023-24**

Summer 2023 - OA Nights at Ockanickon, Cub Scout Day Camp, Troop 3 Fishing Derby

September - Court of Honor and Crossover

October - Pack Halloween Party

November - Holiday Party

February - Pinewood Derby

April - Blue & Gold Banquet

Unfortunately, in April, the former Cubmaster decided to charter a pack at Holy Trinity Catholic School. All of the Cubs who are students at Holy Trinity transferred to the new pack, leaving just our Wolf Den, led by Linda Hotzman.

Linda has played an active role in the scouting community in Morrisville for more than 30 years, first with her children, and now with her grandchildren. Her dedication to Cub Scouts has led to the Cubs in her den each earning sixteen adventures this year! Way to go Mason & Lucas! Right now, these Cubs are finishing up a week at day camp where they are preparing for next year as Bears.

We appreciate the continued support of Morrisville Presbyterian Church and the congregation in getting the word out about Cub Scouts and that Pack 3 is open to boys and girls ages 5-10 in our community.

As we plan for the upcoming Scouting year, Cub Scout Pack 3 will be starting a multi-level den that meets mid-day during the week specifically for the homeschool community. These dens will be co-ed and supported by the families. We are also working on plans to grow our other Cub Scout dens that meet throughout the week. We look forward to sharing our successes with you next spring.

## Boy Scout Troop 3 - Morrisville, PA



### Chartered Organization

Rep: Bill Burgess

Scoutmaster: John Waslenko

Committee Chair: Stephanie Huston

Senior Patrol Leader: David Huston



## SCOUTS BSA TROOP 3

WEEKLY TROOP MEETINGS  
MONDAYS @ 7-8:30PM  
MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
771 N PENNSYLVANIA AVE | MORRISVILLE PA

Scouts BSA Troop 3 has been going strong in Morrisville since 1911. We are one of the oldest troops in the nation. For over 110 years, Troop 3 has helped young men become responsible, participating citizens and leaders who are guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouts meet weekly on Monday evenings from in Fellowship Hall at Morrisville Presbyterian Church. Meetings run from the Monday after Labor Day through late June.

During the weekly meetings, Scouts work on rank advancement, plan for upcoming camping trips, develop life skills, and work on merit badges. There are many opportunities for our Scouts to work on their leadership and Scouting skills throughout the year while building lifelong friendships. Members of our Patrol Leaders' Council - David, Matt, Eric, Emily, and Aaron - made sure that all meetings and outings were planned to fulfill rank or badge requirements. They took pride in helping our new Scouts rise up and rank up.

This fall we welcomed three new Scouts: Michael and Billy crossed over from Cub Scout Pack 3, and Madelyn was brand new to Scouting. Troop 3 is excited to have these new Scouts as part of our legacy as the oldest continuous troop in Bucks County.

Scouting and camping just go hand in hand. Not everything has gone according to plan though, and those last-minute changes have taught the youth to be resilient and to always have a back up plan. "BE PREPARED." Our backup plan when things didn't come together? In January, ice storms damaged the lodge we had planned on staying at so instead we focused on fellowship and spent the weekend together right here at MPC playing games and enjoying good food.

The favorite outing of the year has got to be our April trip camping at Voorhees State Park and horseback riding at Silver Bit & Spur Farm in Whitehouse Station, NJ. Patrol Leader Emily prepared the troop for this outing by teaching horsemanship merit badge in the weeks prior to camp. Everyone who attended the trip had a blast horseback riding and is looking forward to when we can go again.

Troop 3 is excited to announce that Matthew Miller has earned the rank of Eagle Scout as of April 2024. For Matthew's Eagle Project, he designed and installed shelves in the choir loft at Holy Trinity Catholic Church to replace a previous file system that was no longer meeting the needs of the choir.

In the coming weeks, Troop 3 will hold an Eagle Board of Review for Ian Bellamy. For Ian's Eagle Project, he framed and laid a brick walkway and painted a railing/fence at St. John the Evangelist Church.

We look forward to the coming year of being able to serve more youth in our community through Scouting.

Troop 3 by the Numbers:

- Thirteen youth registered as Scouts (two recently turned eighteen and will be added to the roster as adults.)
- Eighteen adults registered as scoutmaster, assistant scoutmasters, and committee members
- Over 162 hours of community service
- 204 nights of camping
- Over sixty miles of hiking
- Five rank advancements
- Forty-nine merit badges
- Eleven special awards



