

*The Presbyterian Church
Shippensburg*

2024 Annual Report



OUR MISSION

To be disciples of Jesus Christ
and to joyfully seek to Know,
to Serve, and to Proclaim Him
to all people.

Matthew 28:16-20



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians

I often wonder where the time goes, especially when I receive email notifications that things like my cell phone bill are now available to view or that I can check my monthly credit card statement. I'm sure everyone feels somewhat the same way. And then the secretary, Diane, says, "Hey Gary, don't forget it's time to get your yearly pastor's report to me." What? Okay, um, let me get right to that; maybe tomorrow.

In my report last year, I mentioned an unknowable future as I was here in a transitional pastor role. Little did I know that I would become more of a permanent fixture as I transitioned to the hired pastor. So, where do I begin? Well, let's work our way backward with the newly launched and much-needed church website. If you have not yet visited the website, please do. You can access the website at <https://presbyship.org>. If you forget, you can find the website address on the front of every Sunday's bulletin. Sermons are now posted weekly in YouTube format.

In December, we held our first Christmas Concert, with proceeds benefitting the North Carolina Buladean Community as they scramble to serve the local community for those affected by the horrific devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. In October, we held a Christmas Shoe-Box packing party, helping Samaritan's Purse to spread the Gospel to children around the world. It was wonderful to have students from Shippensburg University come as we had fellowship and a meal together.

In late summer, I, along with our youth leader, organized a student mission work day, pulling weeds and spreading mulch. In July, I delivered the sermon at the opening vespers service at the Shippensburg Fair. Also, during fair week, Pat and I volunteered to work at one of the food booths recently purchased by Shalom Christian Academy. In coordination with Dave Coldsmith, we renovated the conference room in Galbreath Hall. The Corn Fest is always something to look forward to, parking cars and, this year, handing out cold bottled water as people returned to their vehicles. Each year, the month of July sets aside one day for National Hot Dog Day; something I always enjoy doing is cooking hot dogs for the local community, which, again, was held at Grace Place Gardens.

As I look back, it is hard to count how many home visits I made during 2024. However, I presided over three funerals or celebrations of life, as I would like to conclude. I presided over one wedding, led an adult small group class on Sunday mornings, joined the Shippensburg Campus Ministry Council, joined the Board of Directors with CCO, a partner at Shippensburg University, helping campus ministry to love and disciple college students. I also serve on the Shippensburg Ministerium and the board of Love Our Town. I also served on a board with SAMC, reviewing applications from high school students vying for two \$500.00 scholarships for first-year students.

There was plenty more activity as I attended Pastor Appreciation Day(s) at Shalom Christian Academy and Cumberland Valley Christian School. Earlier in the year, Patti and I attended ECO's National Gathering in Greenville, South Carolina. I have had monthly meetings with other pastors, the honorably retired and good friend Rev. Meagan Boozer and colleague Rev. Wayne Lowe.

I could go on and on for many pages about what this past year entailed; however, I have learned that lengthy reports often get lost in the shuffle. I will end with this: I am thankful to be here. In all honesty, I do frequently think about retirement and what I would do with extra time on my hands. But for now, along with the Holy Spirit by my side, I look forward to moving this body of believers into a new light with renewed minds, all for the glory of our Father in Heaven.

In His Grip
Pastor Gary

ANNUAL REPORT for 2024
Membership Data

Previous ACTIVE membership, as of December 31, 2020 _____ **109**

Membership Gains _____ **1**

Certificates of transfer (1)

Patricia Rebok 6/11/24

Reaffirmation of Faith (0)

Profession of Faith (0)

Transfer from inactive rolls (0)

Correction to records)

Membership Losses (Active) _____ **2**

Certificates of transfer (0)

Deaths (2) _____ *John Stark – 2/16/24*
Gwen Patton – 8/10/24

Removal from active rolls (19)

Correction to records (0)

Transfer to inactive rolls (0)

Total ACTIVE membership as of December 31, 2024 _____ **89**

38 male and 51 female members;

Removal from inactive rolls (0)

Average attendance for 2024 at Sunday worship – 44

Adult, Teen & Children Baptisms (0)

Infant Baptisms (0)

Births (0)

Weddings (0)

Session = 7 active Elders/Trustees - (5 men & 2 women)

2024 Worship Committee Report

Worship Committee met three times during 2024. In addition to preparing the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship, we worked diligently to ensure that the spiritual needs of the congregation were met with the utmost care.

During Easter, Pentecost and Advent we worked with Fisher's Florist to provide flowers to celebrate those seasons. We are blessed to have Fisher's as a worship partner.

Tambrey Strickland taught children's church throughout the year and she is an answered prayer to our church family.

Worship music was coordinated by Beth Trez and Jonathan Parsons. Both sharing our Sunday worship services as organists. Praise hymns were led by Cathy Shenk, Vicki Shoap, Pam King, Cenith Nehf and DeLaura Sloan. The bell choir became an active part of our worship service to include Christmas Eve! The candelabras (circa 1983) were replaced with two candle stands and refillable candles.

In preparation for 2025, the Worship Committee prepared the Communion and Healing service schedules which were approved by Session during December's meeting. We will continue to have communion on Easter and Christmas.

The Worship Committee would like to thank our Office Administrator, Diane Rodriguez for her professionalism, wisdom and dedication to the service of the Lord. Without Diane, the Worship Committee's endeavors would have been difficult to complete. In addition, AJ and Britt Sloan have been an asset to the preparation of the sanctuary. Specifically during Advent when they setup the pew candles.

After seven years of being chair of the Worship Committee, it is time for me to serve the Lord a different capacity. I know that God will call another leader for this committee.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Sloan
Chair of Worship Committee

Christian Education Annual Report 2024

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, for convicting, for correcting, and for training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

Knowing and loving the gift of God’s Word to us is the driving force that keeps those who volunteer to teach in His church faithful throughout the years. We truly love sharing the wonderful stories found in the Bible with the students who come to us, providing opportunities for fellowship and growth throughout the year. Our Sunday morning Small Groups meet at 9:15 AM each week. Our children, ages 4 – 5th grade, explore the Old and New Testaments using Lois Keffler’s All Together Now series, published by Group. Through stories, games, treats, and discussion we dig deeper into God’s Word, learning how to apply the lessons found there to our daily lives. Our youth, grades 6 through 12, continue to grapple with topics such as anger, contentment, and gratitude using biblically based lessons by minibiblelessons.com.

Adult Small Group also meets at this time and over the past year has covered many topics and studies including a study of the Book of Genesis, Max Lucado’s What Happens Next, as well as special studies during the Lenten and Advent seasons.

Our Women’s Small Group Study continues to meet monthly. We are now in our 3rd year. Our meeting time has moved from an evening study afternoons at 1:00 PM. Throughout the year we have studied the Prayers of Jesus and are currently using Max Lucado’s Ten Women of the Bible as our curriculum. Rahab, Mary, Abigail, Esther and more...they each teach us of God’s great plan and of His grace and purpose for our lives.

In addition to our regular studies, we’ve gathered to celebrate:

- The Lenten season with special studies.
- Easter, with an Easter morning breakfast together and special treats for our children.
- Super Summer Sunday Specials – our summer small group program for children – from June through July.
- Christian Education Sunday, September 8, with commissioning of our teachers for the 2024 – 2025 school year and presentation of Bibles to 2-year-old Clara Heeter and 2nd grader Rodney Heeter.
- Advent, with studies for all ages and calendars for our children to guide us through the special season.
- Christmas Breakfast, always a delicious and filling treat and a time of fellowship, on Sunday, December 22. Children in the church family received Christmas gift bags that day also.

We look forward to 2025 with new opportunities to serve and grow together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Shenk

Outreach Committee Report for 2024

Active members of the Outreach Committee for 2024:

Lori Stark, Chair (retired from committee as of October 2024),
Dave Coldsmith, Vice Chair; Sue Coldsmith and Pam King

In addition to “in person meetings”, all other committee business was conducted via phone or email.

There were no applications received for Summer Camp Scholarships this year.

By the Grace of God and the congregation’s generous support, the Outreach Committee was able to meet all our planned budget commitments, as listed on the attached 2024 Benevolence Budget.

Congregation-wide community projects the committee sponsored this year included:

- Several people from the committee and congregation met in the Community Room for a light meal and to pack approximately 75 shoe boxes for Samaritan’s Purse Operation Shoebox.
- A Christmas Benefit Concert was presented to benefit the Asheville, North Carolina Hurricane victims and the donations raised was in the amount of \$1,300.
- The entire Christmas Eve. Offering of \$1395.00 was collected and sent to the Shippensburg Produce Outreach Organization.

The committee continues to provide opportunities for “our partners in mission” to speak during the worship service when, and if, they are available to update the congregation regarding their ministries.

Reports from our foreign and local missions and ministries are posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board as they are received.

The committee looks forward to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ within Shippensburg, the surrounding communities and the world in 2025. Please contact any committee member with suggestions you may have to help us with this mission.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

2024- 2025 Annual Report from Facilities and Grounds

This year we focused on several projects to improve and maintain the appearance and functioning of our buildings:

Electrical Projects:

- 1.) Ceiling Lights were installed in Galbreath basement all hooked to one light switch, so all lights turn on at one time.
- 2.) New LED lights were installed in the Church basement where Christmas decorations are stored.
- 3.) Fixed lights in the Elevator
- 4.) Reinstalled Emergency lights in the basement
- 5.) The old florescent lights behind stain glass windows and in the attic were replaced with LED lights. The lights were set to match the brightness of the stain glass windows in the sanctuary.
- 6.) Electrician completed all outside lights on the Annex, Galbreath and the Church
All lights on the outside exits of the Church have been replaced Lattice room – motion detection lights installed, receptacle in Courtyard installed

Plumbing Projects:

- 1.) Sump pump replaced in Church basement
- 2.) Boiler inspections were completed on the heating systems in the Church

Renovation Projects:

- 1.) Painted Galbreath Conference Room
- 2.) Painted Community /Gathering Room
- 3.) Clean up and organization in the Lattice Room (back of the Church)
- 4.) All sidewalks around the Church, Galbreath and Annex were power washed.
- 5.) All Carpets cleaned in the Church, Galbreath and the Annex

Purchases:

- 1.) Adjustable wooden organ bench was installed Church from Mark Cooley's business by Dave and Ken
- 2.) The refrigerator for Coffee time (upstairs Gathering Room) was purchased and installed in October.

Grounds/Flower Bed:

- 1.) Thanks to Karen Miller for planting the beautiful flowers in the flower bed outside the Church Office (Galbreath).

Thank you to Marty Carmack, Tom Shenk and Pastor Gary for all their help this year. Their willingness to help repair and get projects done at the Church was greatly appreciated.

In His service,
Dave Coldsmith
Elder, Facilities and Grounds Committee

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
2024 REPORT

Actions for the year:

Purchased the Daily Devotionals, at the cost of \$181.40 for the year.

Purchased the Table Runner & Pulpit Cloth at the cost of \$189.89.

Purchased the 2 Paschal Floor Wilton Brass Candlesticks at the cost of \$2,023.00.

Total expenses for the year are \$2556.28.

The donations received this year were \$455.00.

Committee Chair.
Robert King

2025
SESSION ORGANIZATION
Approved by Session

MODERATOR	Pastor Gary Rebok
CLERK OF SESSION	Cathy Shenk

WORSHIP COMMITTEE <i>Sub-Committee – Healing Ministry</i>	Pastor Gary Rebok, Chair <i>Bob & Pam King</i>
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE	Tambrey Strickland, Chair
CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE	Pat Rebok, Chair
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	Ben Sloan, Chair
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE	Ken Shoap, Chair
FACILITIES/GROUNDS COMMITTEE <i>Sub-Committee - Technology</i>	Dave Coldsmith, Chair <i>Robert King, Chair</i>
STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE	Ben Sloan, Chair
BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE	Pastor Gary Rebok, Chair
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Open
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE	Bob King, Chair

CORPORATE OFFICERS	Tim Garling, President Ben Sloan, Vice President Cathy Shenk, Secretary Vicki Shoap, Treasurer
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