

2023 Annual Report

Bedford Presbyterian Church
February 4, 2024





Table Of Contents

Vision and Mission	4
Message from Pastor John	5
Session Report	6
Board of Deacons	9
Academy	11
Buildings and Grounds Committee	12
IT and Communications Committee	15
Personnel Committee	16
Mission Committee	17
Parish Life Committee	21
Nominating Committee	22
Worship and Music Committee	23
Stewardship and Finance Committee	25
Treasurer's Report	27
Notes Page	29



Vision And Mission

Vision

With God’s help, Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) envisions a congregation, community, and world that is more loving, peaceful, and whole – on earth as it is in heaven.

Mission

In joy and gratitude, with purpose and passion, the mission of Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is to actively love God and all neighbors; faithfully learn, embody, and follow Jesus through our worship, study, fellowship, stewardship, prayer, and service; and heed God’s call in scripture to intentionally do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God – both here in Bedford and beyond – wherever the Holy Spirit calls us to serve.

A Message from Pastor John

Here is the Annual Report for our congregation. These words sound so official – so businesslike. In truth, whatever we did in 2023 is the product of what God has done through us and what God has done over the course of our 274 years as a congregation. Saints of the church who have come before us have all contributed their gifts, their skills, their time, their money, their energy, their hopes, and their dreams, and God has used all of this – plus all of your gifts, skills, time, money, energy, hopes, and dreams – to bring us to where we are. It is not what we have done, but what God has done through us – thanks be to God!

God has richly blessed us and I hope that, in these pages, you will be able to see how God has richly blessed our community, our region, our nation, and our world through some of our ministry in the past twelve months.

As we look forward into our 275th year, we want to continue to build on what has been – specifically the ways in which, throughout our history, BPC has been a center of worship and community connection. We will be doing this by celebrating the history of our congregation in worship on May 19 and fostering community connections on August 18. We will also be hearing from a team of people who are compiling historical snapshots to share with us AND we will be looking to the future with our Big Green Project – bringing solar panels and energy-efficient HVAC systems to our church facility as a gift to future generations.

Thanks be to God and thanks be to you!

Grace and Peace,

John

The Reverend Dr. John Sawyer, Pastor
Bedford Presbyterian Church



SESSION REPORT

We are back! Although Covid still lingers it no longer controls so much of our lives. We have opened our church fully but still provide online worship. After careful consideration and discernment the Session crafted a mission statement and a vision statement for our congregation. The Session has begun focusing their energies on being a Matthew 25 congregation.

- Opening the use of the Mission Outpost to Weight Watchers.
- Community outreach through holding blood drives, supporting Families in Transition dinner service, holding food and coat drives.
- Fellowship and learning opportunities like book clubs, Bible basics workshops, Hiking Group, and the Fall Welcome festival.
- Mission outreach and being a Matthew 25 church through our Mission trips to Maine and Puerto Rico and the continuation of the Neighborhood Support Team helping Afghan families resettle in New Hampshire.
- Began preparations for celebrating the 275th Anniversary of BPC.

Members Involved in the Greater Church

Elders Fran Bader, Sarah Murai, Deb Stanas, Andy Wickwire, and Marcia Morgan served as Commissioners to the Presbytery. Sharon Cowen served at the PNNE Commissioner to the Synod of the NE.

Sharon Cowen and George Reese serve on the Board of Directors for MATE.

The Rev. Dr. John Sawyer serves as the Presbytery representative on the New Hampshire Council of Churches Board and is continuing to serve as the Moderator of the Marturia Administrative Commission. He also is serving on as the regional representative for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.





Membership Changes in 2023

New Members Received by Reaffirmation of Faith: None	Members Transferred to Inactive Status:	
Confirmands Received: None	Ben Loveless Scott Shipley Doug Van Blarcom Kevin Brelsford Sarah Brelsford Meghan Brennick Jamie Burroughs Anne Craig Joseph Deleault Brenna Dobbins Thomas Hamel Margaret Hamel Kylie Holland David Temeng Georgina Temeng	Emma Holland Jack Holland Sue Landzettel Paul Bernsten Bill Plants Lynn Plants Rowland Stilwell William Temeng Florence Temeng Nancy Temeng Jayme Wallis Casey Richardson Elna Richardson Emily Auger Nate Auger Kristy Richardson
Weddings Approved: Katie Martel and Steve Mackowiack		
Received by Letter of Transfer: None		
Removed from the rolls: None		
Transferred to another Church: None		
Baptisms: Elliot Sawyer, Elizabeth Caron, Vera Tanner, Evelyn Hughes		

Membership as of 12/31/2022:	458		
New members received by Letter of Transfer	--	Transferred to Inactive Roll	-31
New members received by Reaffirmation of Faith	--	Removed from Rolls	
New members received by Profession of Faith	--	Members Deceased	-5
Confirmands received	--	Reconciliation adjustment	
Members transferred to another church	--		
Members moved to Affiliate Role	--	Membership as of 12/31/2023	422
Members returned to Active Roll	--	Net change for 2023	-36

GOING FORWARD

Session Committee Assignments for 2024

Buildings and Grounds	Brian Martel
Academy	Sean Michalski, Lisa Wolf
Parish Life	Cindy Chagnon
Finance and Stewardship	Jennifer Climo
Matthew 25	Marcia Morgan
Mission	Sharon Cowen, Jennifer Chew
Nominating	Michael Chen
Personnel	Andy Wickwire
Worship and Music	Sandy DiCinti
Youth Elder (term ends June 2024)	Grace Wolf

Session Roster 2024

Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Jennifer Climo Andy Wickwire Sandy DiCinti Michael Chen Lisa Wolf Grace Wolf (Youth Elder)	Sean Michalski Sharon Cowen Jennifer Chew Marcia Morgan Brian Martel Cindy Chagnon

Church Treasurer	Lorraine Emerson
Church Historian	Caitlin Sofield
Clerk of Session	Frances Bader

Respectfully submitted,
 Frances Bader, Clerk of Session

BOARD OF DEACONS

It is the duty of Deacons, first of all, to minister to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to anyone who may be in distress both within and beyond our community of faith. They shall assume such duties as may be delegated to them time to time by session, or the pastor, such as leading in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the scriptures, presenting gifts to the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper.

Members of the 2023 Board of Deacons

Kevin Avery, Co-Moderator
Belinda King, Secretary
Sarah Costello
Louisa Erf
Margaret Hayes
Caitlin Sofield
The Reverend Dr. John Sawyer, Pastor Liaison

Andrea Martel, Co-Moderator
Roland Bryan
Katharine Daly
Kristi Harriman
Diana Hayles
Matt Studham

The Deacons fund their outreach programs through the generosity of the Bedford Presbyterian Church congregation as well as friends in the community. During the year 2023, the Deacons' Fund was gifted financially to accomplish many of the programs set out to benefit not only the congregation, but many in the community as well. For this we are eternally grateful. Listed below are many of the opportunities the Deacons were able to grant because you gave.

Congregational Care

- The Deacons continue to support the Pastors' Discretionary Fund throughout the year 2023 including for a monthly program, "Ageless Wonders Senior Lunch", organized by Michelle Jones. This hosts senior members of not only our church but those in the community, celebrating their importance to all of us.
- Harold G. Williams Jr. Scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to Cameron Climer, Natalia Coulter, Rheyra King.
- Memorial luncheons were supported for two long standing members' families during 2023, one being the family of Edie Schmidtchen, and the other the family of Joyce Redman.
- This holiday season, the Deacons were able to continue the tradition of delivering poinsettias to church members that are in nursing homes or otherwise unable to attend church during the holidays.
- Most importantly as noted in the Book of Order, the definition of a Deacon includes ministering to others. This is accomplished through phone calls, texts, emails, cards and letters and in person visits to all within the Deacons' flocks.

Community Outreach

- The Board of Deacons continued to support both financially and “hands on” with the Meals Ministry and Ride to Worship Ministry as needed during 2023.
- The Deacons’ fund was influential with \$3,750 to support licensing counselors for the Pastoral Counseling Service.
- Adopt-A-Family was supported financially when the program was short, financially, to complete the program “gifts for children” as well as gift cards during the Christmas Holiday season.
- Deacons were able to help support both physically and, financially \$1,200, to the annual Rise Against Hunger campaign for 2023.
- The Deacons’ Thanksgiving Meal Ministry continues to be the Deacons’ largest, most important annual program, and 2023 was no different. The Deacons were able to send \$60 gift cards to 172 families in our community to ensure that these families enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal this holiday season.

The Board of Deacons is extremely grateful for the generosity and support of the congregation, Pastor, staff and members of Session during this 2023 year. Without the gifts of money, time, caring, and support, the Deacons would not have been able to fund and provide the programs that blessed church members and the community of Bedford, NH.

Member of the 2024 Board of Deacons

Kevin Avery, Co-Moderator
Belinda King, Secretary
Sarah Costello
Louisa Erf
Margaret Hayes
Caitlin Sofield
The Reverend Dr. John Sawyer, Pastor Liaison

Andrea Martel, Co-Moderator
Bev Hoover
Katharine Daly
Kristi Harriman
Diana Hayles
Arwyn Chen, Youth Deacon

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Kevin Avery, Co-Moderator
Deacon Andrea Martel, Co-Moderator



ACADEMY

The Children and Youth Academy experienced a dynamic year filled with regular Sunday School and Youth Group meetings, along with various special events. The summary is outlined below.

Sunday School: The year commenced with the continuation of the Grace and Gratitude curriculum. In the fall, a new curriculum titled "Living the Word" was introduced, aligning with topics from the lectionary.

Our **Easter Egg Hunt** event drew a significant turnout. The festivities included a hunt, singing, salt painting, a palm parade, and the decoration of a wire cross with flowers—a beautiful symbol of Easter.

Third Grade Bibles were presented to third graders in the spring.

Youth Group: Meetings on Sundays featured food, fun, and fellowship, with our numbers steadily increasing throughout the year. The final meeting of the year boasted 11 participants. Activities included a service project for FIT, an escape room, corn maze, Canobie Lake visit, BPC photo scavenger hunts, campfires with s'mores, and board game nights. Additionally, the second annual Trivia Night, well-attended, successfully raised funds for Ageless Wonders, and fun was had by all.

In November, the Youth Group helped to host **Rise Against Hunger**, which garnered considerable attendance.

The **Children's Christmas Pageant** (Lessons and Carols format) took place in December, featuring 21 participants and directed by Sean Michalski, with Melinda Chen serving as the rehearsal accompanist—a resounding success.

The committee maintained focus on an ongoing project to update our Safe Haven Policy, volunteer applications, and covenants of conduct.

Academy Elders for 2023:

- Sarah Murai
- Addy Bunie, Youth Elder (first half of the year)

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Murai, Academy Elder

Committee members: Lisa Bourcier, Sarah Murai,
Lisa Wolf, Dawn Zimmerman, Sean Michalski (Nov 2023)



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE


As we look forward to the 275th anniversary of our church formation we also look back to our accomplishments. First and foremost, our committee works from the premise of love: love for our sanctuary, love for our setting on the hill, love for all the programs that visit us regularly and have used our spaces over the years. But mainly love and respect and dedication to our task of caring, physically, emotionally, and spiritually for the physical property of Bedford Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to our congregation for your trust in us to care for this magnificent and treasured sacred place.

The Building and Grounds Committee members have worked tirelessly to repair and improve many aspects of our physical plant. Some are obvious (new lines in our parking lot); others are not so (knob and tube wiring removed from the attic). Premises like ours, of this vintage, and of this large complexity require constant monitoring to assess priorities for repair and/or replacement. We are always “on Call” to attend to any need. If we cannot accomplish it ourselves, we have ready teams to assist.

In addition to the day to day needs of the church we made a significant shift in our focus and priorities and established what we call our Green Team. Our goal was to become independent of the “grid.” And so, we embarked on a lengthy, detailed and labor-intensive study of how we might accomplish such a task. We became very quick learners, but we also had some very expert help. Stephen Morgan from Boulder, Colorado and Jean Fullerton from Bedford have been invaluable assets to our committee. However, as one of our committee members said from the very beginning, in order to save money, we will have to spend money.

A friend from Limerick, Ireland provided the seed and incentive for an initial fundraising effort. We dubbed it the “820 Go-Green Fund” and it provided dividends and was put to good use. Shortly after that initial investment we began to see savings in fuel and electricity. Not only did our consumption decrease but our utility bills and subsequent cash outlay were less. BPC began saving almost immediately!!

But bigger, much bigger plans are close at hand. As part of our study, we have narrowed down after many interviews and sometimes difficult deliberations select providers of solar panels and heat pumps. These two projects, first solar and then heat pumps, will give us the independence we plan for. Our efforts to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel energy by eliminating CO2 emissions into our atmosphere are under way. We continue to be focused on clean renewable energy solutions.



We pray that for our 275th anniversary funding will become available for the groundbreaking and implementation of the first phase of our project – solar panels on the lawn below the parking lot. We believe the spirit of the 820 Go-Green Fund is alive and well in our church and in our community!!

Throughout our study, the committee and team have spared no effort to maintain the historical integrity and beauty of our sanctuary. It is well known to be a town, state, and national treasure. No part of what we have accomplished or planned has affected that self-imposed mandate. Beverly Thomas for New Hampshire Preservation and a member of our congregation has helped us with both on-site recommendations and resources available to us.

We thank our Session, Finance Committee, and church administration for assisting and supporting this remarkable endeavor. Our pastor, the Reverend Dr. John Sawyer, has been especially encouraging. We are indebted also to our sexton, Kenny, who has become our eyes and ears for day-to-day maintenance and to our always ready painter Antal. And of course, to our remarkable members listed below we owe a huge debt of gratitude!

Please see the attached list of all our Committee and Green Teamwork completed in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Martel, Elder

Buildings and Grounds

Brian Martel, Committee Elder, Jack Daly, Pete Dalrymple, Joseph Campanie, Michael Tanner, Clark Gott, Clay Hayles, Kyle Hay, Cam Climer

Green Team

Brian Martel, Elder, Jean Fullerton, Paul Carr, Jack Daly, Pete Dalrymple, Caitlin Sofield, Jen Climo, Clay Hayles, Michael Chen, Steve Morgan, Beth Evarts, Clark Gott, Kevin Wooldridge, Michael Tanner, Ellie Cochran, Beverley Thomas

Upcoming Buildings and Grounds Projects for 2024

- Remove old and install new carpet tile squares in hallway down to mission outpost.
- Add molding to hallway after carpeted.
- Paint exterior Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall
- Remove gutters and repair wood and paint around office window area.
- Replace windows in Fellowship Hall.

Buildings and Grounds 2023 Accomplishments



- Remove and replace stained ceiling tiles in kitchen ceiling.
- Mount new VoIP phones throughout the church.
- Have AJ LeBlanc fix vents in sanctuary not blowing heat.
- Change our NEST Thermostat in Choir room to regular thermostat, and then back again after AJ Leblanc re-wired the thermostat.
- Patched cement stairs to Food Pantry.
- Added tar patch at wheelchair ramp.

- Removed all knob & tube wiring from attic; cleaned out attic in preparation for blown in insulation. Wasn't financially feasible to complete insulation. Blower door test told us we aren't losing much heat through the ceiling, but heat loss is through windows and walls.
- Removed and reglazed ½ moon window above Narthex.
- Steam-cleaned carpets in Fellowship Hall and foyer.
- Secured wooden doors on dumpsters with longer screws and new door harness.



- Painted new lines in parking lot including accessible parking spots.
- Installed E-Gauge system to monitor electrical usage throughout the church.
- Replaced all windows in the Food Pantry with new triple pane argon gas windows.
- Painted front door and shutters of Sanctuary.
- Realign insulation in attic to cover light fixtures in attic.
- Installed New LED lighting around soffits in Fellowship Hall.

- Power washed front of Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall entry.
- Replaced old timer for parking lot lights with new timer we can program by day.
- Realigned door from organ room to storage room with hydro pack system and weatherstrip door.
- Weather strip door where audio/video team stores equipment at the Pulpit.
- Weather strip door leading from balcony up to attic. Used pink sheet already there.



- Insulated under electrical plug plates with foam pads, or if needed foam in the can.
- Installed new wiring conduit in balcony to house all AV wiring.
- Installed insulation on balcony door leading to attic.
- Moved insulation around in the attic to cover spots that were identified by blow door test to have air flow area that could be sealed off.
- Installed hand dryers in 4 bathrooms off kitchen and downstairs adjacent to Food Pantry. No more paper towels.

IT & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Thanks to the completion of major tasks and objectives over the past couple years, the IT/Communications Committee transitioned to a task force that will convene as needed.

- Completed a new WordPress web site.
- Installed a new VoiP phone system with the help of Brian Martel and staff.
- Replaced aging firewall hardware.
- Addressed internet connection and WiFi issues. (Note: Guest WiFi speeds have been restricted to preserve livestream bandwidth.)
- Discussed cybersecurity and multi-factor authentication with both staff and lay leader points of contact.
- Transitioned IT/Comm budget line items to Finance/Admin and Worship & Music.
- Facilitated the reset of John's old MacBook Pro for use by Livestream.

Some open items to be addressed in the future may include improved sound projection for Fellowship Hall (TV, music), volunteer scheduling software, and software training for new Elders, Deacons, and Leaders.

With the skills and knowledge of Beth Evarts, Communications Director, and Mike Chen's livestream team in place as an integral part of Worship & Music, we look forward to supporting BPC with any new IT/Communications challenges as needed on an informal basis.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Morgan, Chair

Members: Mike Chen, Beth Evarts, Laurie Storey-Manseau, Matt Studham, Cheryl Barlow.



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel committee endeavors to provide support to our staff. Here are highlights of the important work done by the committee in 2023:

- **Members.** The current members of the Personnel Committee are: Andrea Chatfield, Ellie Cochran, Tom Crompton, Marty Sferrazza, and Andy Wickwire (chair). Brenda Conery served on the committee until she stepped down in March. Ellie Cochran joined our committee in May.
- **Reviews.** We conducted annual reviews of the staff. The committee solicited feedback from Session and Deacons, as well as key church stakeholders who had frequent contact with the particular staff members. We also sought input from John as he works closely with all of the staff. Reviews of Michelle, Beth, Barb, and Kenny occurred in June. John's review took place in November. The review conversations were opportunities for the staff members to offer and receive valuable feedback. The conversations went well. All of the staff members reported that they enjoyed working at BPC and felt supported by the congregation. BPC is blessed to have staff so devoted to the church and its mission.
- **Employee Handbook.** The Committee worked to update the Employee Handbook, which had last been updated in 2016. We finalized revisions to the Employee Handbook in February. The updated Employee Handbook was approved by Session in April. Updates to the Handbook in 2024 will include an inclement weather policy and an updated list of paid holidays.
- **Program Director.** The Committee explored the possibility of a new Program Director role, which would combine existing responsibilities of the Church Administrator with congregational and community outreach responsibilities. This has not been approved by Session as of yearend, but remains on the table.
- **Coffee Hour.** The Committee hosted Coffee Hour on Sunday December 10, 2023.
- **Staff Lunch.** Members of the committee and the staff enjoyed a luncheon together at the Copper Door on November 1, 2023.

Liaisons- Each committee member is a liaison to a staff member:

- Michelle Jones- Andrea Chatfield
- Barb Flocco- Marty Sferrazza
- Ken Gardner- Tom Crompton
- Beth Everts- Ellie Cochran
- John Sawyer- Andy Wickwire

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Wickwire, Elder

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee views its role as carrying out the principles of our commitment as a Mathew 25 church. We are the manifestation of the message that Christ implores us to do: Love your neighbor.

With the generosity of our Bedford Presbyterian Church members and the many volunteers that participate in our “boots on the ground” work we have accomplished much in the past year.

Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS)

Melinda Chen has been instrumental in establishing an ongoing relationship with Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS). Our committee with the support of the Deacons has enabled PCS to implement a program of certification for counselors and supervisors in drug and alcohol rehabilitation. We have also supported PCS in group therapy interventions.

PCS was able to use the 2023 grant from BPC to support two groups this year. One was a 12-week group for people dealing with anxiety, depression, stress, and loneliness. It focused on giving people a place where they could talk about these experiences and then to identify resources (such as deep breathing, meditation, affirmation, relaxation, tapping) to help them manage these symptoms. The group was designed to be an 8-week group, but group members were getting so much out of it that they asked if it could be extended 4 additional weeks! The second group was a 4-week group focused on supporting older adults who are dealing with medical issues, changes in health, financial stress, retirement, grief, and other life changes. That group was successful as well.

PCS also continued to use money from the 2022 grant to fund training for two therapists as a MLDAC (Master Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor). One therapist has completed or has almost completed her supervisory sessions and will soon sit for her examination. The other therapist began her supervisory sessions in the fall of 2023.

Both Cal Genzel and one of the therapists addressed the congregation during Stewardship month 2023, thanking BPC for their support and talked about the impact it has had in the wider community.





Neighborhood Support Team (NST)

Larry Cowen has done masterful work with our Neighborhood Support Team. The family we have adopted has grown into life in New Hampshire, with all the trials and tribulations we all experience. But the joy they have also felt learning about life in America has been overwhelming for our team. Their success has been remarkable, and their family life strengthens them and our community every day.

More than 2 years ago, BPC partnered with Ascentria Refugee Resettlement Services to form a Neighborhood Support Team (NST) consisting of both BPC and community members to sponsor the family evacuees from Afghanistan. Enormous steps in the family’s progress occurred in 2023, greatly reducing their reliance on our team.

The family moved out of their tiny, troublesome first apartment, with problematic neighbors and a non-responsive landlord, into a much larger apartment with good neighbors and a good landlord. The mom earned her New Hampshire driver’s license, and thanks to the generosity of the BPC congregation, the NST purchased their first family vehicle. The family is successfully demonstrating their ability to work in addition to the long hours of the dad. The mom has since stopped working for family reasons, but the manager said he would hire her back in an instant when the time is right. For now, she will focus on her education, the special care needed for her children. The applications for asylum and temporary protected status for the family remain unconfirmed, but we have learned through the attorney we hired and Senator Shaheen’s office that the family’s case is in process. We remain hopeful that it will be approved soon.

The BPC NST has learned so much about the challenges and realities of resettling in America. The family constantly expresses their deep gratitude for everything this church and the community-based NST have done for them. We are grateful for every individual member of the NST. This is an amazing, gifted, and loving team of advocates. We are in awe of the strength, hope, and faith of this amazing family.





George Reese has done remarkable work on many fronts as well. In addition to coordinating our Helping Hands (local initiatives to help those in need with smaller projects) he has organized our annual mission trips to Maine - Mission at the Eastward (MATE) and our major mission trip to Puerto Rico. Both mission trip efforts require considerable time energy and planning and involve flight plans/transportation, room and board and communication with on-site managers. A daunting task for anyone but George is a master having the experience since planning trips to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina!

Families in Transition (FIT) and Adopt A Family (AAF)

Deb Stanas in addition to being our co-moderator has been our liaison with Families in Transition (FIT) and Adopt a Family. Great need followed by a wonderful response from our congregation. We are grateful to Deb as she completes her elder responsibilities to our committee and session. A total of \$1500 in gift cards were distributed for Adopt a Family. We filled 83 children’s gift packages and 12 adult gift packages for Care Givers.

Recovery Trips

Many will remember the wise words of our retired co-pastor Karen Hagy who declared unequivocally that our task as followers of Christ was to “get out” and serve others. She literally meant that we were to leave the comfort of the pew and go out into the poverty and trauma of the greater world – whether it be downtown Manchester, inner city New York/New Orleans/Houston or rural Maine. Mission Committee has taken those words to heart. (As you leave the parking lot of our church recall the words, “You are now entering the Mission Field”.) We do our best to be healers and comforters of those in need.

Puerto Rico

After a three-year delay (COVID), we were able to resume our five-year commitment to recovery work in Puerto Rico. During the week of March 18, 2023, a team of 16 people, church and non-church members, returned to Puerto Rico and worked on three hurricane damaged homes in and around San Juan. This was the second trip in our commitment and plans are already made for our third trip in March 2024.





Maine

Our decades long relationship with Mission at the Eastward (MATE) continued with a week-long recovery trip, July 30 - August 4th, 2023. A team of 11 people, church and non-church members replaced a roof, worked on MATE's new construction of a "Tiny Home" and did electrical work on McCleary House, MATE's transitional housing project. Plans are already being made for our return in July, 2024.

In September, 2023, working again with MATE, a team of six people, church and non-church members, returned to Maine for MATE's "Roof Week". A complete roof was stripped and re-shingled providing a safe, warm, and dry home for a family.

Chris DeLisle Executive Director of MATE in his recent visit to our pulpit attested to the work that our church has done in Maine. His praise for our boots on-the-ground (or roof) approach as well as our financial commitment is just one testament to Mission's broad outreach. We will continue into 2024 with renewed energy for another trip to Puerto Rico and Maine.

As we enter 2024 we have ongoing hope that congregational energy and enthusiasm for our neighbors in need will sustain us, enrich us and urge us forward to new and more challenging areas. We are indebted to you all!!

Mission believes our spirituality does not end when we pass the peace and leave the sanctuary. In fact the peace we pass we extend to folks in Maine, Puerto Rico, and beyond. Acts of spirituality include putting on a new roof, fixing a bathroom floor, or listening to a distraught homeowner. The peace our congregation passes as we walk out the door goes with us to all our places of need. Spirituality is the most important tool in our toolbox and we carry it and use it on every trip. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Mission Committee: Jack Daly, Deb Stanas, Larry Cowan, George Reese, Melinda Chen and Rev. Dr. John Sawyer



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

In 2023 Parish Life at Bedford Presbyterian Church mainly focused on Sunday after church activities. Working with the office staff, the decision was made in fall 2022, to have all-church events the first Sunday of each month. Most of these events were directly after church, but a few were on Sunday evenings. In February, there was a Chili Luncheon, in March, there was an Irish Pot Luck, and the annual BPC Youth Trivia Night was held in April. Other than those special events, every other Sunday after church, regular Coffee Hours were held through early June.

When events resumed in the fall of 2023, the office staff helped me organize a new structure because I was now the primary caretaker for my husband who was suffering from ALS and I couldn't leave him alone or bring him to coffee hours for any extended period of time. The structure they organized facilitated more involvement of many people in the church in these fellowship events and also helped to make more members aware of the various committees and activities the church is involved in.

The first Sunday of each month went to various Church Committees:

- September – Office Staff – Fall Welcome Back Party
- October – Green Team
- November – Finance and Stewardship
- December – Worship and Music
(The Hanging of the Greens)

The responsible groups for the rest of the month:

- Session – 2nd Sunday
- Parish Life – 3rd Sunday
- Deacons – 4th Sunday
- Rotation – 5th Sunday



I also want to extend a special “Thank You” to Sarah Costello, Kristi Harriman, and Linda Phelps who have helped me so much in the last year in addition to all those who provided wonderful refreshments for our Sunday Coffee Hours!

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Chagnon, Parish Life Elder

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee nominates a representation of the congregation to serve in elected offices: Elders, Deacons, members of Nominating and Personnel Committees, Treasurer, and when needed, Pastor Nominating Committee. The committee endeavors to match candidates' interests and personal gifts with the needs of the church. It also strives to bring candidates of varying demographic and length of membership. Nominations do not come solely from the Nominating Committee; nominations, including self-nominations, may be made by church members.

While not part of its primary mission, the committee has also assisted in recruiting members for committees or other roles as needed.

For 2024, the Nominating Committee members are Michael Chen (Chair), Alicia Wooldridge, Manny Barreto, Margaret Hayes, Eliza Michalski, Beverly Hoover, Brian Martel, and John Sawyer (ex officio). They were elected at the Congregational Meeting of December 17, 2023.

For 2024, last year's committee made nominations for the Elder of Children's Ministry, Parish Life, Mission, Buildings and Grounds, Matthew 25 ministry, and Nominating Committee. They were elected at the Congregational Meeting of December 17, 2023, and will be installed in January 2024.

Currently the committee is seeking an Elder of Mission, one Deacon, and a nominating committee member.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Chen, Elder

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

It was a year filled with beautiful music and meaningful messages. We are thankful for the leadership and preaching talents of the Rev. Dr. John Sawyer. We are also thankful for all those that filled in to lead worship while he was away. They include Mark Dayton, Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath, Rev. Scott DeBlock, Rev. Dr. Blair Moffett, Jen Climo and Jill Pennington.

Our fabulous Music Director Barb Flocco continues to lead our Senior Choir and Handbell Choir which add beautiful music to enhance our worship services. Also additional musical offerings included vocal soloists, instrumental soloists and a brass ensemble. Our Senior Choir participated in two funeral services this past year for longtime choir member Roland Bryan and Jean Chagnon, husband of choir member Cindy Chagnon. Our hearts are saddened by their loss.

In April we hosted a Music Choral Workshop led by Christine DeMaio and organized by Barb Flocco. It was opened to other choirs in the area and very well attended and received. Also in April at our Maundy Thursday service we had worshipers participate in the washing of the feet. Easter Sunday we offered a 7 AM outdoor service and a 10 AM service.

In the fall new bins were purchased for storage of Christmas decorations and the storage area was organized. A special thanks to Penny Torbich and Diane Italia for taking on that project. They also made sure we had all the candles we needed for the Advent and Christmas service.

- 12/3 “Hanging of the Greens” and the coffee hour with a soup luncheon hosted by the Worship and Music Committee.
- 12/16 & 12/17 BPC’s youth and the Senior Choir collaborated to present Lessons in Carols. Thanks to Sean Michalski, Melinda Chen, Sarah Murai and Barb Flocco for working out all the details and all the children that participated.
- 12/23 A Carol Sing open to all and featuring the Senior Bell Choir.
- 12/24 There were 3 services on Christmas Eve. The 10 AM service was the 4th Sunday of Advent. The 5PM Family Christmas Eve Service and 7PM the Christmas Eve Service were our traditional services. A special thanks to Barb Flocco and Rev. Dr. John Sawyer for enduring along day and providing 3 different and beautiful services that day.



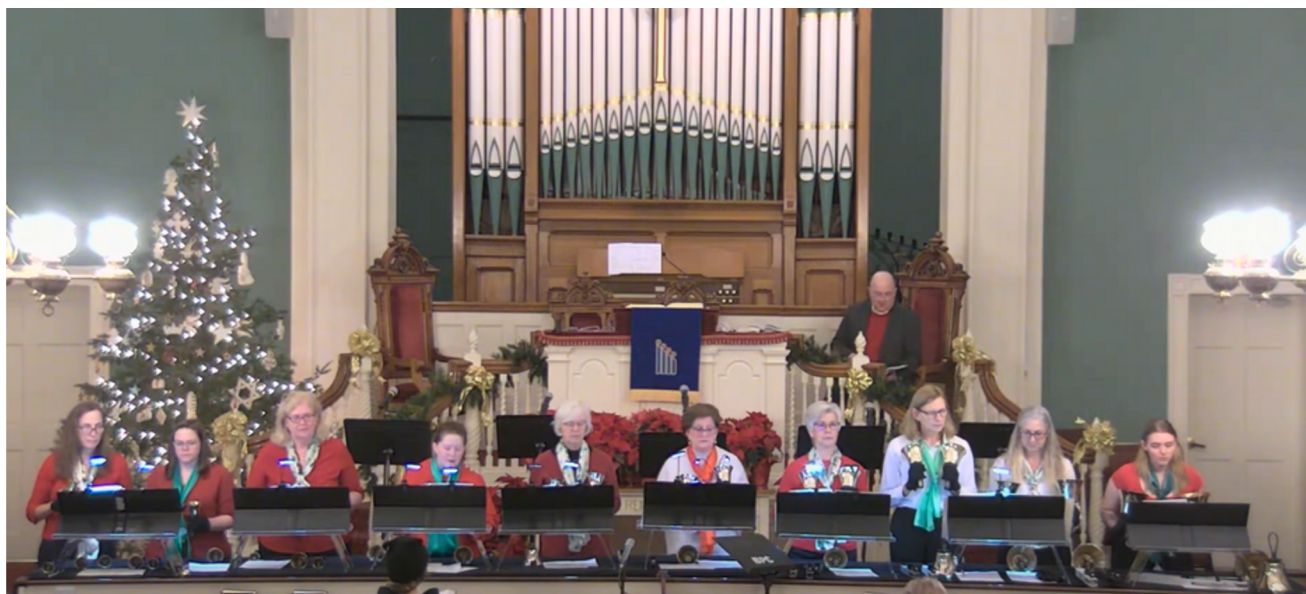


We continue to offer to broadcast our services on-line for those uncomfortable or unable to attend in person. Our worship services were available to people worldwide. Our Committee would like to thank our dedicated and talented sound and video technicians: Michael Chen, Brian Martel, Marc Murai, Kyle Eno, Abby Dopfer, Tom Crompton, Andrew Wu, Eric Berry, Scott Bourcier, and Bradley Bourcier.

Part of the duties of Worship and Music is getting volunteers to serve as Elder of the Day, Ushers and Communion servers. We now are utilizing Breeze when possible to sign up Elder of the Day and will be adding it for Ushers and Communion servers. Thank you to Beth Evarts for her assistance in getting this project going and the technical support to me.

Many thanks to my dedicated Worship and Music committee members: Diane Italia, Penny Torbich, Carolyn Swift, Joe DiCinti, Frank Beaty, Alecia Wooldridge, Pastor John Sawyer and Barb Flocco.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy DiCinti, Worship and Music Elder



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

2023 was a productive year for the Stewardship & Finance Committee. Most notably the following:

- We ended the year break-even
- We did not need to take any funds from the Ellison fund in order to break-even
- We repaid \$164K that had been borrowed in older years from the endowment fund into Ameriprise from the money market
- We transferred \$100K from our bank savings account earning next to nothing in interest to an Ameriprise money market fund earning about 5%.
- We met with our Ameriprise investment advisor twice for routine meetings to review strategy and cash flow needs.
- We onboarded a new bookkeeping vendor 1/1/2023 (Bianchi Financial Services Group). They changed names to Synergist Accounting in mid-2023, and had some staff turnover at the end of 2023.
- We switched payroll vendors to Gusto to allow better employee paid time off tracking.
- Lisa Beatty resigned from finance committee meetings but will continue to work as pledge administrator
- We continued to produce monthly financial reports by class to show the contributions and expenses of each fund
- We transferred the required percentages of the 2022 surplus to the endowment, capital and IT funds.
- We reviewed the insurance coverage.
- We audited the Pastor's Discretionary Fund quarterly
- Deacon's and Mission Fund updates improved with the new bookkeeper. Since the staffing change, we have fallen behind again, but expect to get this back on track in 2024.
- We created a Stewardship subcommittee of John, Beth and Jen, with the goal of incorporating a Stewardship message all throughout the year
- In 2024, we will work with mission to realign our chart of accounts to better assist their reporting

The committee continued to do the following (but not limited to) yearly financial work of the church:

- We sent pledge giving statements to donors 4 times during the year.
- We prepared the 2024 budget and it was approved by Session.
- 2023 Stewardship campaign completed. Statistics below

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee is a sub-committee of Finance and Stewardship and manages memorial gifts made on behalf of loved ones who have passed.

- A memorial gift was made to the Operating Fund of the church in 2023 in the name of Robert Dumouchel (Mimi Dumouchel's Father)
- A gift was made to the Blake Marston Youth Memorial Fund of the church
- Gifts were made to the Memorial Fund of the church in the name of Jean Chagnon
- A gift was made to the Memorial Fund of the church in the name of Patricia and Paul Deloid
- A gift was made in loving memory of Lois Garvey (Karen Hagy's mom) to the NH Charitable trust for the Church's Endowment Fund
- The total of the General Memorial Fund remaining at the end of 2023 was \$20,001.27



Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Climo, Finance Elder

Committee Members: Alicia Wooldridge, Bruce Olsen, Lisa Beatty - Pledge Administrator, Lorraine Emerson - Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bedford Presbyterian Church	2021 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenue			
4100 Regular Offering	\$ 370,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 450,000.00
4200 Church Pass-thru Offering (2016 moved to Balance Sheet)			
4300 Church Gifts - Current Yr.			
4400 Per Capita	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000.00
4500 Other Receipts	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,800	\$ 25,200.00
4600 - Restricted Giving spent same Yr.			
4700 Deacons Fund (2016 moved to Balance Sheet)			
4800 Mission Fund (2016 moved to Balance Sheet)			
4910 Endowment Distribution	\$ 14,035	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000.00
4940 Interest Income	\$ 900	\$ 300	\$ 300.00
2517 June Ellison Memorial Fund		\$ 38,000	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 401,435	\$ 489,100	\$ 509,500.00
Expenditures			
6010 Presbytery Mission	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000.00
6020 Church Mission	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 20,000.00
6040 Non Budgeted Expenditures	\$ -		
6110 Co-Pastor (JS)	\$ 116,374	\$ 128,686	\$ 133,042.00
6120 Co-Pastor (KH)	\$ -		
6130 Music Director	\$ 50,299	\$ 54,902	\$ 56,194.00
6140 Admin Assistant	\$ 35,778	\$ 38,721	\$ 39,997.00
6150 Sexton	\$ -	\$ 17,913	\$ 18,334.00
6160 Childcare Workers	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,422	\$ 2,645.00
6170 Communications Director		\$ 37,483	\$ 38,369.00
6210 Adult Ministry	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750.00
6220 Children's Ministry	\$ 2,484	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500.00
6230 Youth Ministry	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000.00
6240 Worship & Music	\$ 10,400	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500.00
6320 Fellowship	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000.00
6330 Personnel	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200.00
6340 S&F Committee	\$ 7,000	\$ 961	\$ 961.00
6350 Membership	\$ 500	\$ 400	\$ 400.00
6360 Session Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 250.00
6400 Finance & Admin	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,950	\$ 44,450.00
6500 Buildings & Grounds	\$ 74,860	\$ 86,000	\$ 96,100.00
6600 IT & Communication	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -
6700 Per Capita Expense	\$ 23,618	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000.00
2512 Capital Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 395,563	\$ 486,138	\$ 511,692
Total Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 5,872	\$ 2,963	\$ (2,192)
Add Director position			\$ 23,723.00
Total Surplus (Deficit) with Director position			\$ (25,915)

Bedford Presbyterian Church

Balance Sheet Comparison

As of December 31, 2023



		Total
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1100 Cash		204,005
Total Bank Accounts	\$	204,005
Other Current Assets		
1255 Undeposited Contributions		28,900
1310 Petty Cash		200
1410 Ameriprise Financial		574,386
1420 Treasury Direct - iBond		21,770
Total Other Current Assets	\$	625,255
Total Current Assets	\$	829,260
Fixed Assets		
1500 Net Property, Building & Furnishings		1,640,042
Total Fixed Assets	\$	1,640,042
Other Assets		
1610 NH Charitable Foundation		141,621
Total Other Assets	\$	141,621
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	2,610,923
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
2010 Accounts Payable		0
Total Accounts Payable	\$	0
Credit Cards		
2060 Home Depot CC		0
2070 Lowe's CC		310
2080 Staples CC		0
2085 TD Bank CC		374
2090 Eastern Bank CC		0
Total Credit Cards	\$	683
Other Current Liabilities		
2100 Liabilities		1,117
2320 Accrued Expenses		0
2350 Deferred Contributions		9,107
2500 Temporarily Designated		235,430
2523 Academy		2,297
2600 Temporarily Restricted		27,254
2650 Eastern Bank - Line of Credit		0
2670 Deacons		11,692
2701 Mission Committee		47,337
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$	334,233
Total Current Liabilities	\$	334,916
Long-Term Liabilities		
2800 Permanently Designated		542,214
2900 Permanently Restricted		29,540
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$	571,754
Total Liabilities	\$	906,670
Equity		
3000 Opening Balance Equity		0
3010 Unallocated Funds		40,433
3100 Net Investment in Property		1,640,042
Net Income		23,777
Total Equity	\$	1,704,253
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	2,610,923

notes



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www.bedfordpresbyterian.org





WAYS TO SERVE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

We offer a wide range of opportunities for individuals and families to join us in our commitment to love God and all neighbors. Answering God's call to pursue justice, embrace kindness, and walk humbly, we invite you to be a part of our mission to create a positive impact in our church, communities, and beyond.

Whether it's welcoming BPC members and newcomers as an Usher or Greeter on Sundays, assisting with Coffee Hour, providing meals for those in need, contributing to the planning of our 275th Celebration activities, mastering the operation of our Livestream, participating in a Mission trip, or helping to teach Sunday School – there's a meaningful role for everyone!

Scan the QR below or visit our website!




bedfordpresbyterian.org/serve/

MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDAR!

MAY
19

Pentecost Sunday
Celebrating BPC's
Birthday




AUGUST
18

Community Wide
Picnic to be held at the
Bedford Village
Common



SEPTEMBER
08

fALL Welcome!
Celebrating 275 Years
and the Future!



275TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS