



FAIRBANKS UNION CHURCH

Presbyterian Church, USA

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 27, 2024 at FAIRBANKS UNION CHURCH

The meeting, which was moderated by Rev. Richard Waddell, began at 1.05 pm on January 27, 2024, with prayer. A quorum was declared. There were fifteen (15) members in attendance including one on zoom, plus 2 guests, Pat and Bill Flewelling, our PNNE Commission on Ministry liaisons.

Voted unanimously to approve the docket.

The following written reports were submitted to the meeting:

Session Clerk's report for 2023, Moderator's report, Treasurer's report, 2024 Budget, Stewardship report, Collector's report, Deacons report, Property report, Worship Committee report, Mission and Outreach report, and Lobster Shed report.

Noted:

Treasurer: Checking account total: \$97,134.85, including operating funds of \$29,047.30; Other Funds (LPL Financial, New Covenant Funds, Lobster Shed Checking account) \$203,527; Memorial Funds designated and undesignated: \$16,101.51. Collector's report: Total money deposited by collector in 2022: \$82,738,87.

A balanced budget had been presented by the Stewardship committee to the session on January 13 and approved by the Session the same day by email. The budget was presented in two pie charts, budget and revenue, for ease of comprehension.

Voted unanimously to accept all the above reports.

Nominating Committee Report -

The nominating committee comprised Nancy Pond, Millard Rackliffe and Celia Flint.

Anne Smith was stepping down as Session Clerk and the election of a new Session Clerk would take place in a session meeting immediately after the annual meeting, since officers are elected by the Session.

Janet Bagnulo and Marjorie Taylor are stepping down as Deacons and Ed Jesteadt will remain for another term. No new deacons are being added.

Commission on Ministry is to be meeting during the coming week to hopefully confirm that Alison Hagerstrom can stay on the session as a non-voting adjunct for an extended period of at least 4 months.

The following were presented for nomination to the Session, Deacons, FAEM and Nominating Committee.

Session

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Alison Hagerstrom [ext.]	Tom Hagerstrom (2nd term)	Emily Rackliffe (2 nd term)
	Cindy Kemble (2 nd term)	Hazel Doak [1 st term]
	Nancy Pond (2 nd term)	Karen Beacham (1 st term)
		Millard Rackliffe (1 st term)

Voted to reappoint Emily Rackliffe for a 2nd term and Alison Hagerstrom for an extension of time (at least 4 months) subject to Commission on Ministry approval.

Voted to elect Millard Rackliffe, Hazel Doak and Karen Beacham for a first term to the class of 2027.

Deacons

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Celia Flint (2 nd term)	Tom Hagerstrom [2 nd term]	Ed Jesteadt (2 nd term)
Candace Hagerstrom(2 nd term)	Jackie Tardif [2 nd term]	
Mary O'Donal (2 nd term)	Doug Pond [2 nd term]	
	Rita Smith [1 st term]	
	Emily Rackliffe [1 st term]	
	Millard Rackliffe [1 st term]	

Voted to reappoint Ed Jesteadt for a 2nd term.

Officers (elected by session)

Session Clerk – to be elected following the Annual Meeting

Treasurer – Alison Hagerstrom

Assistant Treasurer – Joel Bunker

Collector - Nancy Pond

Commissioners to Presbytery (elected by session) – Emily Rackliffe and Hazel Doak

Voted – to elect Anne Smith as Alternate Commissioner

Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry *Voted to reappoint Anne Smith and to appoint Christopher Smith as representatives*

Nominating committee

Voted to appoint nominating committee comprising Anne Smith as member at large, Mary O'Donal as deacon and Cindy Kemble as elder.

Authorization of celebration of Lord's Supper: *Voted unanimously to celebrate the Lord's Supper once a month in 2024.*

Goals: A discussion of goals followed. Having assisted a young Xhosa man in obtaining his teaching certificate, it was decided not to continue the partnership with the Jikani non-profit in South Africa. There would be a 6-monthly update on the following goals for 2024:

- Continue to actively support the McCleary House partnership with MATE
- Add to the Property Wish List
- Continue to proactively look for a new pastor.
- Continue to inject more musical contributions into the services, and, in particular, reinstitute the choir.
- Continue to consider an extension of the building towards the back as a community center – for suppers etc.
- Continue to support Maine Outdoor Ministry (MOM) in its work with youth. MOM plans to focus on programs and activities that are already established, rather than create new ones.
- Start “CSN” project (Concrete Support for those in Need) with the \$1000 donation from PNNE. The current plan is to provide specific items such as bedding, but with the idea that we would provide whatever the needs of the community are as time goes on.
- Strengthen fellowship by having a potluck brunch after church on every 2nd Sunday of the month (potluck but people would sign up to act as hosts, setting up tables, providing paper goods etc. beforehand). Dietary needs to be posted.

Taking of collection: Discussion and decision to introduce new way of taking collection: since most people already pay by pledge check and do not put cash in the collection plate, it was decided to have the collection plate on the table at the entrance so that visitors or others could put their collection in at that point. The plate will still be taken up to the altar at the collection time, without it being handed round the pews. An announcement would be put in bulletin saying that people can still make donation after church by going up to collection plate on altar.

There being no other business it was voted to adjourn the annual meeting with prayer by Rev. Waddell. The meeting ended at 3.10 pm.

Anne Smith, Session Clerk

2024 CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

Looking back over the last year:

- Average Church Attendance for 2024 was 25
- Fairbanks and New Portland continued to look for a ½ time stated supply pastor. The PNC interviewed one potential candidate. However, joint PNC decided that it wasn't a good fit
- Reverend Richard Waddell served as our moderator for 2024. We are grateful for his ongoing support.
- We welcomed a new session member (Millard Rackliffe) and 2 returning ruling elders (Karen Beacham and Hazel Doak) to our session
- We continue to use the PPNE outreach funds to support ongoing needs in our community. The focus of our outreach was restricted to beds and bedding with the PNNE outreach funds.
- The Fairbanks Church Website went live in 2024. We have 3 church members that have been trained to update and maintain the website
- The sanctuary front wall was renovated with tongue and groove boards.
- Fairbanks Deacons continue to be active in caring for those in our community through ongoing cards, meals, and transportation. Their leadership with the annual Christmas sale and June yard sale continues, however all church members and friends make these fundraisers successful.
- Fairbanks Church continues to support FAEM and hosts the annual care and compassion service.
- The joint worship committee, property committee, garden committee all continued to be active
- We continue to partner with Mission at the Eastward and value our commitment to help those in need in our community. MATE offered work group orientations at Fairbanks in the summer of 2024 with several groups attending our worship service. We also supported the guests living at McCleary throughout the year.

Millard Rackliffe Session Clerk

2024 SESSION MODERATOR REPORT

“In the Presbyterian system of church order the pastor is the Moderator of Session. When the congregation is without a pastor an ordained minister must be found to serve in the Moderator’s role in order for the Session to do its work.”

The above paragraph explains why it is that for the past three years you have had me, the Rev. Richard Waddell, Jr., serving as your Moderator of Session. I cannot speak for the members of Session, but for

me this role has been an opportunity to experience God's Spirit at work in and through you, a small rural congregation. You folks impress me.

My responsibilities as Moderator include opening and closing meetings with prayer, facilitating discussion of matters that come before Session, and moving the discussion toward a decision; decisions made by consensus or by vote. Given the dedication I sense from the participating Session members, I would say that decisions are discussed and made in the presence and by the power of the Spirit of God.

I commented above that I am impressed by the life and energy of this small congregation. You are without a pastor, yet you find ways to minister to one another. You are open to a variety of worship leaders/preachers. You care for one another. You reach out to the community. You see that the structures and property of the church are well cared for. You are blessed by God through the energy you bring forward together. Yet, much as I have been blessed by having been provided this role of Moderator of Session, I pray that God provide you with a pastor who will not only serve as Moderator, but also participate in the other roles of teaching and caring that sustain the life of Christian community.

I thank you and thank God for the privilege of serving as your Moderator.

The Rev. Richard Waddell, Jr., Moderator of Session

2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

The work of the Stewardship Committee and the Session in preparing the budget continues to be commendable. Much thought is given to creating a reasonable budget that will meet the needs of worship and growing in faith; mission and outreach within the community and the world; each other through the work of our Deacons; and maintaining our charming building.

Pledges, loose offerings, fundraiser proceeds from the yard sale, the Lobster Shed, and Christmas sale, shared pulpit supply expenses from the New Portland Community Church, and the office sharing lease with MATE remain the major sources of revenue.

With volunteer snowplowing, sanding, and lawn mowing, we were able to meet the expenses of the church.

The checking account breakdown is as follows:

	<u>As of December 31, 2024</u>	<u>As of January 1, 2025</u>
• Benevolence	\$ 1,162.50	\$ 1,162.50
• Church Operating	42,690.75*	28,790.75
• Memorial Gifts	14,301.51	14,301.51
• Mission & Outreach	1,470.49	1,470.49
• Capital Funds	2,138.97	2,138.97
• Deacons	11,295.03	11,295.03
• Donation (\$60 for Youth Activity)	90.00	90.00
• Pastoral Savings	25,656.45	39,556.45*
• Wells Estate Flower	<u>4,155.05</u>	<u>4,155.05</u>
CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL	\$102,960.75	\$102,960.75

* The Session approved moving \$13,000 from the general church operating funds to the pastor savings fund as of January 1, 2025.

INVESTMENT FUNDS

LPL Financial	\$148,734
New Covenant Funds	57,636
Lobster Shed Checking Account*	<u>\$ 13,192*</u>
OTHER FUNDS TOTAL	\$219,562

The gain on our investments in 2024 was \$17,069.

*Startup money in the amount of \$5,000 must stay available in the Lobster Shed checking account for operating the Lobster Shed at the Franklin County Agricultural Society’s Fair as requested by the donor, Betty Wells.

The three projects that were approved by the Session in 2023 were expensed in 2024 as follows:

- New front wall in the sanctuary \$2,500 (from Memorial Funds & Quarter Drive)
- Furnace repairs \$2,989.50 (from Insurance Reimbursement and Capital Funds)
- New website \$2,000 (from Memorial Funds)

2024 Memorial Funds Account Status *as of December 31, 2024*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Source/Name</u>	<u>Designation of Use</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS:</u>			
In Fall 2020	Friendly Workers*	Increasing Sound System into Meeting Room	\$ 261.29
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS			\$ 261.29
<u>UNDISIGNATED FUNDS:</u>			
Balance Forward	Doris Gay Will	Session to designate	\$ 1,815.00
Balance Forward	Unknown	Undesignated	\$ 914.47
Balance Forward	Betty Wells Estate (Apr 2019)	Undesignated	\$ 7800.75
07.21.2021	Paul & Dory Dickman:		\$ 350.00
11.12.2021 thru 01.22.2022	Jim O'Donal:		\$ 350.00
07.17.2023 thru 01.31.2023	Don Kenny		\$ 915.00
06.05.2023	Elena Barker		\$ 1,895.00
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED FUNDS			\$ 14,040.22
TOTAL MEMORIAL FUNDS			\$ 14,301.51

* Friendly Workers closed account at Franklin Savings Bank and designated the money to go toward expanding the sound system into the meeting room.

Alison Hagerstrom, Treasurer

2024 COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The duties of the Church Collector are:

- Collect all monies coming into the Church
- Breakdown and record each transaction onto an Excel spreadsheet

- Make weekly deposits into our TD Bank general funds account
- Report all income weekly to our Treasurer

For 2024, we had 24 people/families pledging. This is the same number of pledgers we had in 2023. Loose plate offerings were down this year from 2023, by about \$1150.00. This could possibly be due to the change in how the offering was collected. We are now back to the original way of collecting the offering each Sunday.

The following list reports the final income for this year with some highlighted totals for individual accounts that pertain to you, the parishioners:

Total money deposited in 2024:	<u>\$64,105.74</u>
Pledge Income:	\$33,217.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 2,288.00
Per Capita:	\$ 412.00
In Memoriam Donations:	\$ 200.00
Mission and Outreach Donations:	\$ 1,641.02
Other Donations:	\$ 1,901.25

Other receipts for the year will be reported to you by our Treasurer, as well as those in charge of specific committees.

Nancy Pond, Collector

2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The theme chosen for 2024’s Stewardship campaign was entitled, *“Celebrating The Past/Committing To Our Future”*. The committee discussed the importance of our past years at Fairbanks Union Church, and how those years have shaped our future. Our major emphasis on the future is to increase our church membership and improve upon the things the congregation would like to see updated or improved. A large bulletin board was on display in the meeting room featuring many pictures from our past – people and events. The section set aside for the future remains to be filled. It is the hope of the Committee to set aside a couple of Sundays in 2025, to host “Bring A Guest To Church Day”. Other ideas to bring more people into our Church continue to be welcomed ideas.

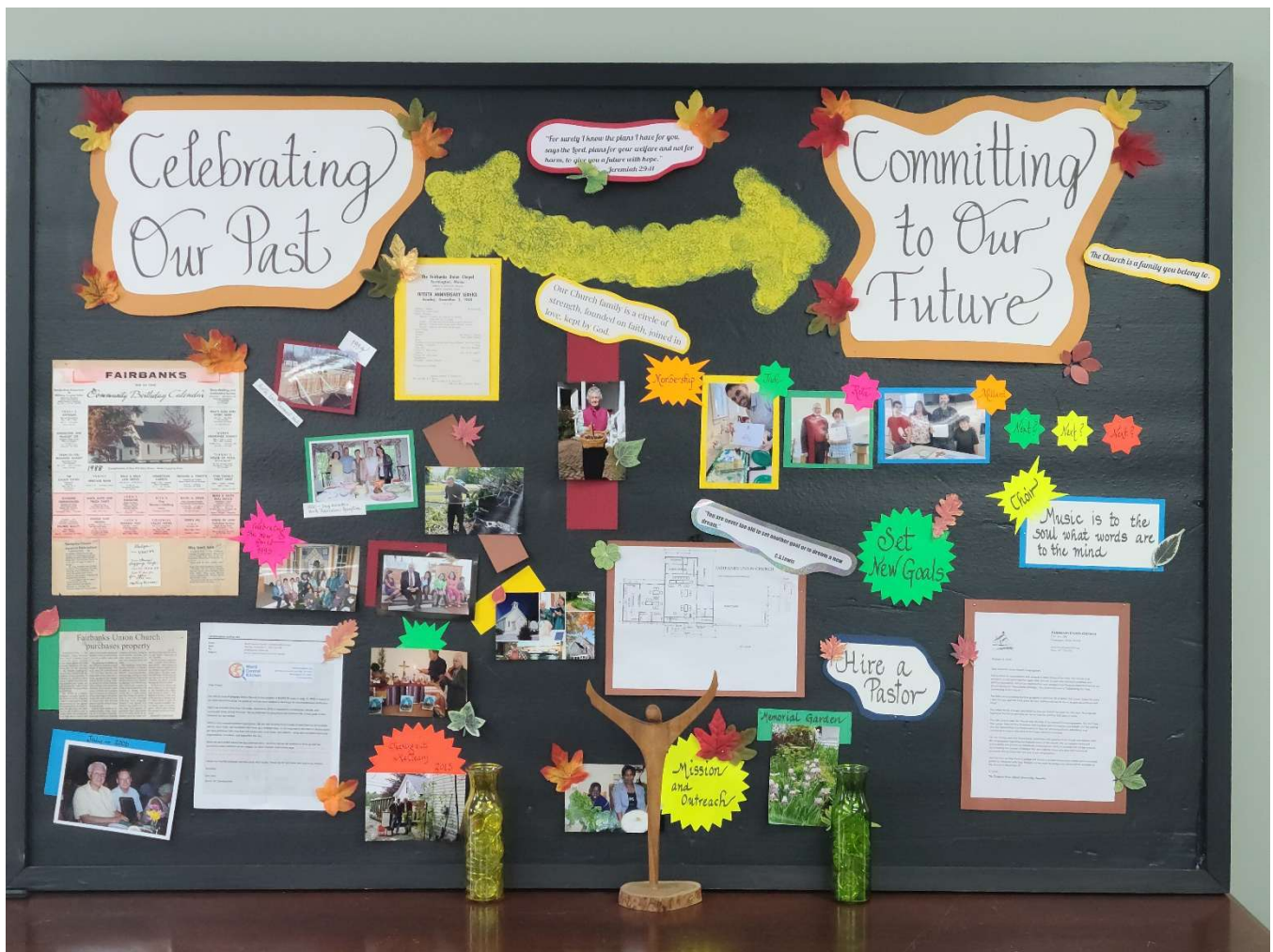
The campaign began on November 3, 2024, and culminated on November 24, 2024, with the presentation of our Distinguished Stewardship Awards. The deserving recipients of this award went to Karen Beacham and The Barker Sisters. We are indeed lucky to have these wonderful ladies as they each offer so much of their time, talent, and ideas for the good of our church.

We have received 23 pledges for 2025, which is one less pledge from last year. Due to life circumstances, we lost two pledgers, but we gained one new pledge for 2025.

The Stewardship Committee presented a balanced budget to the Session, which they approved at their last meeting.

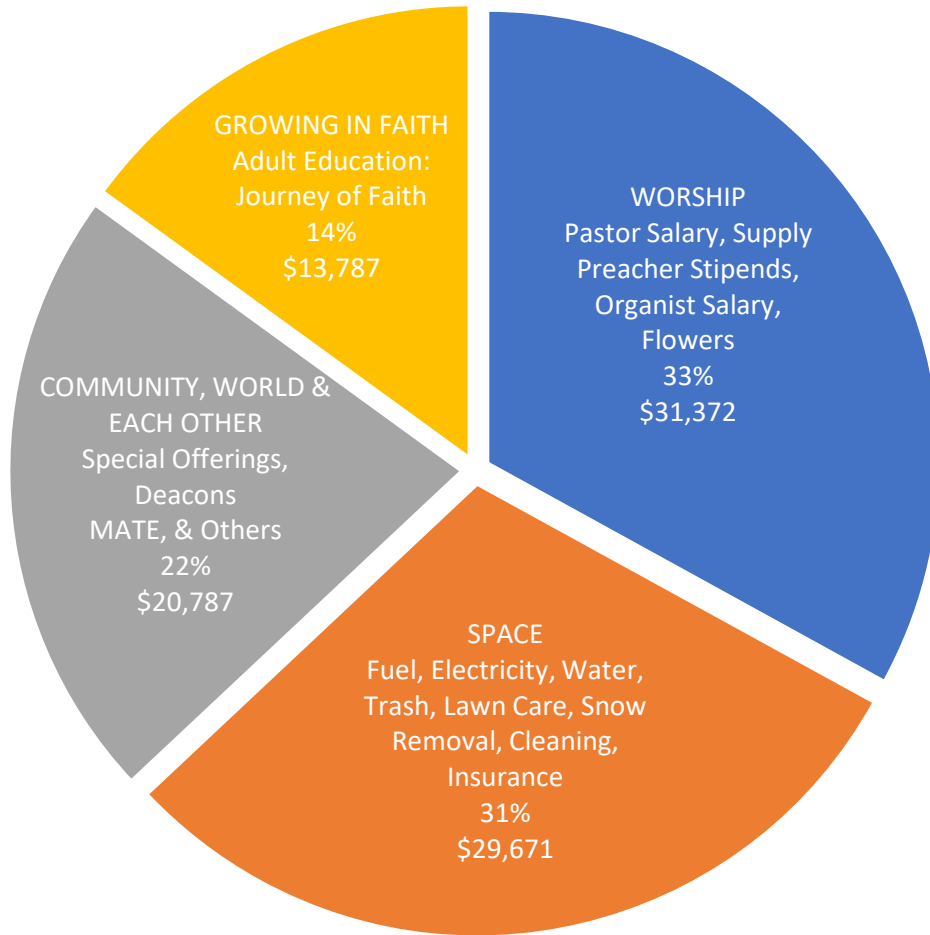
Our committee consists of Alison Hagerstrom, Tom Hagerstrom, Cindy Kemble, and Nancy Pond.

Nancy Pond, Stewardship Committee Member



Stewardship Board created by Cindy Kemble

Our Church Expenses by the Slice 2025 Expense Budget (\$95,617)



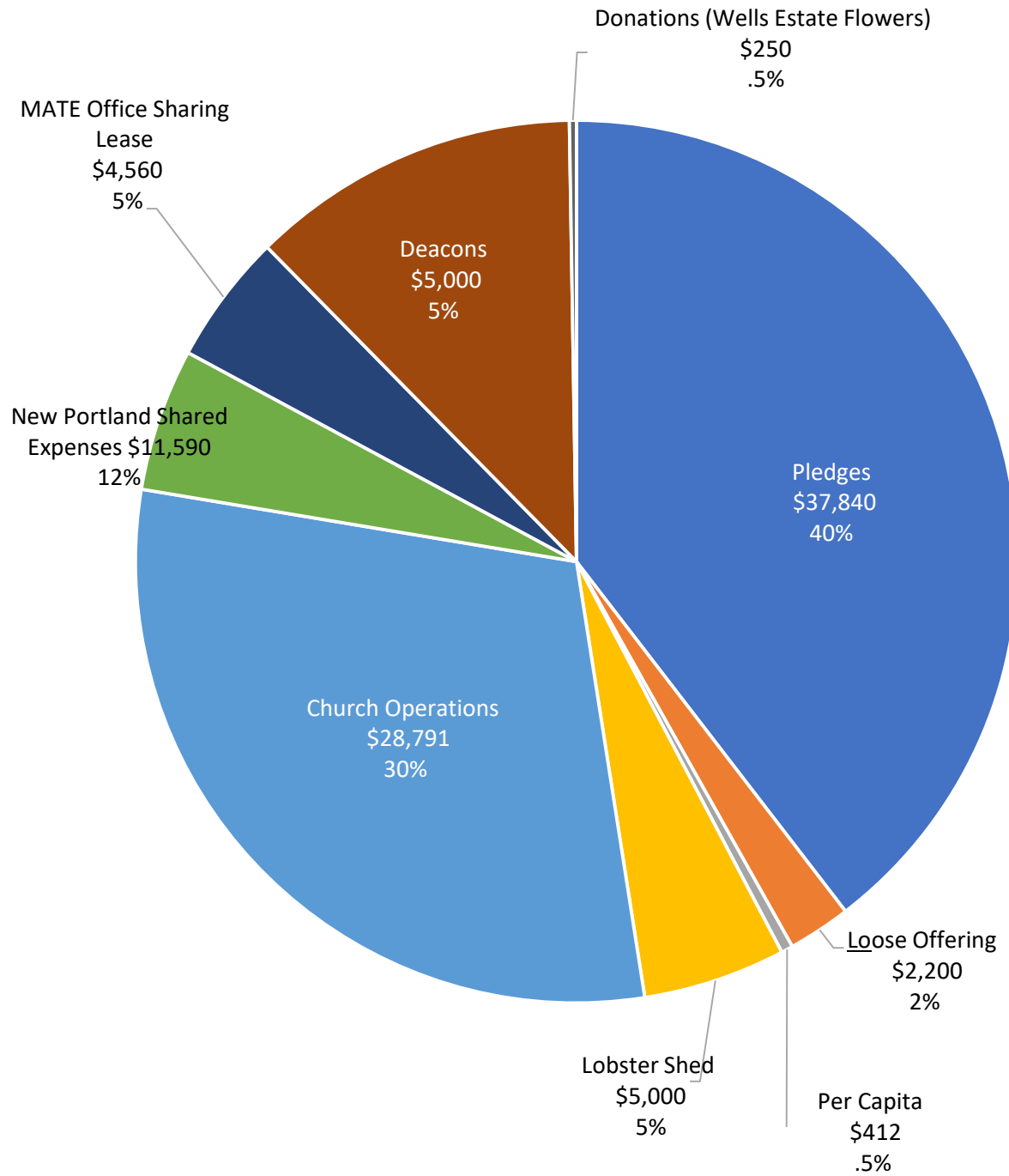
The Pastor's Salary is reflected in each of the following categories: Worship 48%, Community World & Each Other 26%, Growing In Faith 26%, Space 0%. Pastor Salary: \$42,112

The administrative expenses are reflected equally in each category at 25%. Total Administrative Costs: \$11,350. 25% = \$2,838

The Space budget reflects volunteers providing lawn care (Hagerstrom) and snow plowing (Barker), This saves the church an estimated \$7,000.

Our Church Revenue by the Slice

2025 Revenue Budget (\$95,643)



2024 WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks, first of all, to the committee consisting of Hazel Doak, Nan Berry, Anne Smith, Emily Rackliffe, MaryEllen Royce, Millard Rackliffe, Judi Batchelder and Bayla Beane.

This past year it was good to be able to continue in-person services. We also zoomed them and put them on Facebook, as well as emailing the bulletins to the congregation and friends of the church. Many thanks, as ever, to Millard for being here to run the zoom and sort out the technical issues that can occur.

As before, we welcomed a variety of preachers. Huge thanks go to Stan Wheeler, Dick Waddell, Louise McCleery, Debby Bliss Bujnocki, MaryEllen Royce, Rick Dorian, storyteller Phyllis Blackstone, and David Smith. And yet more thanks are due to all of you – services rely on everyone pitching in and that is certainly what happens here with people always willing to prepare Communion, play music, be worship leader, tidy up. The fifth Sundays are always fun and people continue to contribute songs/poems, stories, messages and jokes. We certainly had a fun time just before New Year with a potluck brunch in the meeting room, singing carols.

Fairbanks also plays a vital role in the Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry services – the Martin Luther King Day service, at which Zoe Sahloul of the New England Arab American Organization was guest speaker, and the Christmas Care and Compassion service hosted by Fairbanks, which was unfortunately not well attended, possibly due to covid. It was beautiful with the candle lighting in memory of departed loved ones, and the Old South drumming group and Nan and Debby Bliss contributing musical pieces.

The choir has started to provide more music during the services and on Christmas Eve we had the pleasure of hearing Jack do a solo for the first time. We very much look forward to hearing him again in the coming year.

The church looked beautiful at Christmas with the angel tree and the wreaths. Thank you, Nancy and Doug and Cindy and everyone else for all you do to make it beautiful. Nancy and Doug are stepping down from that role after doing it for the past 25 years and so we are in need of someone to take over that responsibility.

Thanks to Nancy and Doug and others for stepping in at very short notice to run the Christmas Eve service. Again, this was due to covid and colds which seemed to abound around the holiday season.

The flowers on the church altar are always truly beautiful – thank you, Cindy. Thanks too to Mary for sorting all the bulletins before church and to Clyde and Keith for helping with the collection plate and lighting the altar candles.

Let us have your thoughts on services – things you'd like added/changed /different locations/different formats. Also – if you would like to be a worship leader, read scripture, play music, give a message or do something else, please let us know.

There has been mention of people preferring to have Communion in individual glasses with bread cut up into cubes. That does require more work, of course, but possibly people could take turns to help with that. Please let us have your thoughts. Maybe you would like to alternate between the two methods.

All best wishes for a good new year.

Anne Smith, Member of Worship Committee

2024 PASTOR SEARCH REPORT

In October, a letter was distributed to the congregation updating all of you on the status of our Pastor Search. You can find that letter on the next page if you do not recall seeing it a few months ago.

While there is no recent information to share, we do continue to check out the PNNE Church Leadership Connections website to see if any matches have been made for our Church, and we keep our job postings up to date on the university websites.

Recently, PNNE developed a new committee, The Regional Resource Team, or RRT for short. The members of this team have been divided into groups of four people, each group being in charge of assisting congregations in the different regions that make up PNNE. These people will come to our church, meet with the Session members, and help us to problem solve in whatever area(s) we feel we need assistance with as we have no Pastor. We're not sure that helping us to find a Pastor is one of their areas of expertise, but they may be able to help us "think outside the box" and come up with other alternatives to assist our Church with growing. The Session plans on meeting with members from the RRT in the near future, so more information will be forthcoming in this new year.

Nancy Pond, Pastor Search Committee Co-Chair

OCTOBER 2024: PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE FOR CONGREGATION

One of our church's goals for the past couple of years has been to "actively search for a new Pastor." We are the co-chairs of this committee and wanted to give you an update as to where we stand in this process.

This is not a fast or easy process. Over a year ago, as co-chairs, we spent many hours rewriting our Ministry Discernment Profile, or MDF. This profile gives information to potential candidates on who we are and where we hope we are going. It not only describes our church, but it also states our beliefs, the importance of our mission projects, and also describes the communities of Farmington as well as that of North New Portland. This MDF is part of our job posting on the PNNE website, the Church

Leadership Connection website; postings were also submitted to Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Harvard University, as well as Princeton.

Lo, and behold, this summer we received some interest through our job posting with Harvard University. In August, the candidate interviewed first through an informal Zoom meeting, then he travelled to Maine from Massachusetts in early September for a formal interview with our Session members as well as with New Portland's Session members. This candidate was a 40-year-old Nigerian man, married with three children. While we were impressed with his love of God and his faithfulness, we soon discovered through the interview questions we asked, his beliefs tended to lean heavily on the conservative side. We were sure this was due to his upbringing and the culture in Nigeria, as well as his inexperience with becoming a Pastor in an American church. There were also some student visa and work visa hurdles to overcome. Unfortunately, after lots of discussion between both Sessions, we decided this candidate was not the right choice for our churches.

So, our search continues! The job posting is for a Part Time Supply Pastor to cover both churches – ours and New Portland. It's not an easy position to fill. We will give another update to you when we have something new to tell.

In God's Love and Hope,

Alison Hagerstrom, Nancy Pond, Search Committee co-chairs

2024 DEACONS REPORT

Our Mission:

The ministry of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.

The projects and activities for 2024 to fulfill this Mission were the following:

1. **Cards:** 94 cards were sent to people to during an illness, bereavement or to celebrate an important milestone
2. **Sunday Bulletins:** 69 were sent out to members who were unable to attend Sunday services.
3. **Meals:** Rita S. prepares Friday family style meals at the Legion; 35-40 meals weekly; as both a service by providing an inexpensive meal and as a fundraiser for the Legion. She also prepares other meals for individuals - 3 to 4 weekly.
4. **Meals On Wheels:** Tom H. delivers weekly to between 3 to 20 people over multiple towns in Franklin County.

5. **Assistance & Transportation:** Gas card for a mom with cancer; support for the Dunlap's who had a home fire.
6. **CSN:** Concrete Support Needs: We are using the PNNE \$1,000 grant for Community Outreach with a focus on beds and bedding for those in need. Separate report by Emily.
7. **Food Pantry:**
 1. Monthly: \$100 contribution to Care and Share Food Closet; Millard actively involved in weekly unloading of food deliveries from The Good Shepherd and others.
 2. Delivery of goods from the congregation – Thanks to all who filled the basket at the pulpit in the front of our church
8. **The Shed:** Coordinated with Session on collecting items for Yard Sale. Thanks also to Hazel for use of her garage & barn for storage as well.
9. **Monthly breakfasts:**
 1. Women's group meets 1st Thursday of the month at 8 am – Farmington D
Averaged 8 women per breakfast
 2. Men's group meets 1st Friday of the month at 8 am - Farmington D
Averaged 5 men per breakfast

Other Activities

1. Care Giver Thanks: Sent baskets of 'goodies' to the staff of our community's Senior Living Facilities as THANKS for their dedication to, and care of, our seniors entrusted to their care.
2. February BINGO family day for our Congregation – a fun event!
3. Easter Egg Hunt – 17 kids this year!
4. Mothers Day – Vase w/flower
5. Father's Day – 'donuts for dads'
6. Yard Sale – In addition to our general support of this congregation-wide effort, we parceled out dozens of bags of donated children's clothing. Using social networking of the CTF [Children's Task Force], had 100+ families pick up adult & children's clothing the Wednesday after the yard sale.
7. Christmas decoration sale – Built 4 sets of 4'x8'x5' shelving in basement under sanctuary to hold & sort items for the Nov. sale. Sale grossed ~ \$3,000, but more importantly, the community benefited by 'recycling' of Christmas decorations for the festive celebration of the birth of Christ.

Ed Jesteadt, Secretary

2024 Deacons Financial Report

Available Funds to support the Deacons (Sits in Church Operating Account)

Beginning Balance January 2024	\$11,166.63
Cash Donations	316.00
Yard Sales Proceeds	5,380.10
Christmas Sale	<u>2,932.30</u>
	\$19,795.03
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Church Operations	5,000.00
Transfers to Deacons Checking Account	3,000.00
Gift for Doug & Mary Dunlap	<u>500.00</u>
	\$ 8,500.00
Available Funds as of (12.31.2024)	<u>\$11,295.03</u>

Deacons Checking Account

Beginning Balance January 2024	\$ 758.90
Transfer from Available Funds	<u>3,000.00</u>
	\$3,758.90
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Fairbanks Church for Children Hunger	100.00
BINGO Prizes	100.00
Care & Share Food Closet	1,100.00
Staff Basket-Nursing Homes; Mother's Day Flowers; Father's Day Donuts; Bird Feeders for New Residents	352.60
Christmas Gift Card for family	150.00
Yard Sale Tents, Landfill Fees, Supplies	866.82
Hand Truck (Dolly)	109.71
Stamps	<u>68.00</u>
	\$2,847.13
Balance as of 12.31.2024	<u>\$ 911.77</u>

Celia Flint, Deacons Treasurer

2024 LOBSTER SHED REPORT

What brings to mind is that we have this Lobster Booth week down to a science! We start in April with contracts, ordering materials, and having meetings to prepare. The nitty gritty starts in August. We ask church parishioners for donations of supplies, we coordinate the transportation of food and drink. We solicit individuals to make donuts, molasses cookies, whoopie pies, blueberry cakes, and this year we had raspberry bars. Others offered money.

We ask people to volunteer their time to work shifts. We clean the booth, get the water flowing, make sure the grounds are ready, and make minor repairs. We set up the tent, place our decorations on the walls and put up signs. A person makes chicken, gravy and biscuits. The day before opening, we made the stew and obtained fresh products from the market.

Into the second day of the fair the soda machine stopped operating. Cold Standard came to repair the machine and found the compressor gone. Coolers and ice were brought in for two days. Chelsea Allen repaired the machine. We were back to normal operations again.

After the fair, the tent is taken down and stored for another year, everything is placed in totes. Inventory is taken, the booth is cleaned, the water and electricity is shut off.

The Franklin County Agricultural Society staff is so supportive and good to us. We are fortunate to be in a small community with so many friends. Neal and Camellia Yeaton gave us supplies, and helped us in so many ways.

Some statistics for you to absorb:

- Lobster and all other products have increased in price this year. Thus, we had to increase our prices. In 2023 we paid \$25.50 a pound for lobster, this year the cost was \$31.50. We increased the rolls and stew to \$18.00, from the 2023 price of \$15.00. The baked products were increased by \$1.00.
- We had seven (7) fantastic days of weather. Four of the seven days we had 85+ degree weather – senior days and kids day were three of them.
- Twenty two people volunteered their time at the booth. There are four shifts: 8:00 am to noon, 12:00 to 3:00, 3:00 to 6:00, 6:00 to 9:00. The evening shift varies from 3 to 4 hours depending on what is happening at the pulling ring.

6 people worked 7 days - some double shifts
2 people worked 6 days - some double shifts
1 person worked 5 days with double shifts included
6 people worked 2 shifts - one gave double time
7 people worked one shift

- Fifteen people donated supplies, to include a new hot water pot.
- Five (5) people gave monetary donations.
- One person made 14 ½ dozen of donuts - Chocolate, Chocolate sugared, Plain, and Applesauce

- One family of three made 124 whoopie pies - some with a variety of favors.
- One family of three made 13 ½ dozen Molasses Cookies
- One person made 36 Raspberry bars
- Five people made two Blueberry cakes each. (10 cakes, 9 used).
- One person prepared Twenty pounds of Chicken and gravy, and baked 40 biscuits. We ran out of Chicken and gravy Friday night.
- Four batches of stew prepared throughout the week. This was a smaller amount than normal, due to the hot weather. Around two cups of stew were left on Saturday evening.
- Leftover cut up lobster has been frozen for a church function.
- Coffee packets were taken to the church for coffee hour
- All leftover soda was taken to the church for functions.
- All leftover perishable supplies were given to the Care and Share Food Closet.

In 2025 we will need to paint the booth by June. The paint will be supplied by the agricultural society. The front counter needs to be repaired and polyethylene. We hope to have a screen door for the back of the building. We are crowded in the space we now have. There is some talk about building an addition. This talk is in its infancy. We will bring more data as the year progresses.

Cindy Kemble, Chair

2024 Lobster Shed Financial Report (As of 12.31.2024)

	<u>\$ Amount</u>
<u>Available Funds</u>	
<u>Beginning Checking Account Balance (Jan 1, 2024)</u>	\$ 14,228.66
Cash Donations	\$ 175.00
First Day of Fair 09.15.2024	\$ 1,657.00
Second Day of Fair 09.16.2024	\$ 1,038.00
Third Day of Fair 09.17.2024	\$ 1,823.43
Fourth Day of Fair 09.18.2024	\$ 1,667.90
Fifth Day of the Fair 09.19.2024	\$ 1,849.81
Sixth Day of the Fair 09.20.2024	\$ 2,012.05
Seventh Day of the Fair 09.21.2024	\$ 2,066.17
Tips & Bottle Return	\$ 222.80
	<u>\$ 26,740.82</u>

Vendor	
Franklin County Ag Society	\$ 450.00
Lobster	\$ 3,465.00
Drinks & Other Supplies	\$ 1,788.13
Support for Church Budget	\$ 7,000.00
	<u>\$ 12,703.13</u>

Balance	<u><u>\$ 14,037.69</u></u>
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New Compressor for Soda Machine	845.69
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Available Funds	\$ 13,192.00
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Start-up money in the amount of \$5,000 per donor, Betty Wells, must remain in the account for the next year's fair.

Tom Hagerstrom, Lobster Shed Treasurer

2024 MISSION & OUTREACH REPORT

We support mission and outreach to actively demonstrate our faith by sharing the love and teachings of Jesus Christ with others in our community, putting our beliefs into action through service and compassion, and ultimately bringing people closer to God by addressing their needs and offering support to those in need.

Fairbanks Church's commitment to local and worldwide outreach continued to be strong in 2024. The following are some of the ways that we have contributed this past year:

\$200 United Methodist Economic Ministry

\$500 Doug and Mary Dunlap

\$1,000 McCleary House Support

\$500 Mission at the Eastward

\$500 FAEM Ecu-Heat Program

\$3,000 Deacons Support

Special Offering:

\$162 One Great Hour of Sharing

\$265 Children's Hunger:

\$132.50 to PNNE to support the South Asian Disaster Relief Fund

\$132.50 purchased cereal for children donated to Care & Share Food Closet

\$115 2024 Christmas Joy Offering (Paid in Jan 2025)

Concrete Support in times of Need (CSN)

PNNE gave the Fairbanks Church \$1,000 for the second consecutive year to support local outreach in our community. Bedding, beds and mattresses continued to be a need not being meant. This year we...

- Provided twin size bedding to a child placed with his teacher by DHHS
- Provided a full-size bed and bedding to an individual leaving the jail that wanted to live with his daughter but didn't have a place to sleep
- Provided a mattress to a child that needed a bed for when he was at his Dads
- Provided a toddler bed and blankets to a child transitioning from a crib to a "big boy bed"
- Provided a set of bunk beds, mattresses, and bedding to two boys that had moved from a situation of domestic violence.
- Provided a twin mattress to a child who was sleeping on a mattress that was soiled and wet from repeated accidents over the years.
- Provided a crib, sheets and blankets to a toddler who didn't have a safe sleep environment

Goals for 2025- Continue to work collaboratively with area resources to collect and distribute beds and bedding to those in need in our communities

As we move into 2025, we are committed to continuing to help those in need. We will continue to be a people that exemplify Matthew 25, 35-40 ...

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Emily Rackliffe, Point Person

2024 PROPERTY REPORT

When you hand good people the possibility, they do extraordinary things. The quote by Biz Stone reminds me of our church. We are small but we are mighty!! 2024 was another year of continued maintenance to our buildings to give them more life and years. Jack Clark joined our committee this year and he brings a wealth of knowledge in the forestry land area. He is an arborist.

Some highlights of what has been accomplished this year:

- The sanctuary wall was completed in time for Easter. It is a beautiful stark white wall and it is well done. We thank Millard Rackliffe and his workers.
- Donna Keaten has done a phenomenal job cleaning our place at \$15.00 an hour. She adds her own personal touches and brings in decorative items for the church. She made a skirt for the bath vanity.
- Jack and Peter Clark have started a compost pile in the upper right corner of the field.
- Mike's Stump Grinding leveled the maple stump. Chips were hauled to the compost pile.
- Major work/upgrades were completed on the furnace at a cost of \$2989.50. The second oil tank had too much sludge which was removed. Then they re-piped a vent to the first tank. They disconnected the pellet unit from the system. Funds for this project came from memorial funds not our budget.
- Shelving was built by Ed Jesteadt and Keith Alexander in the basement area where the Christmas sale items are stored. What a difference. More work needs to be completed in the kitchen side of the basement.
- A group workday was held in October. Most of the work was done outside in preparation of the winter months (more in garden report). Nine people volunteered that day with two other members working another day. Brush was cut on the perimeter and Jack and Peter prepared a burn pile for our winter solstice. (Winter solstice was cancelled due to ice and an extremely cold night.)
- Small projects have been completed around the place, ie., coat rack installed, carpet tacked down and lots more.
- We purchased a new vacuum.
- Plowing, sanding, shoveling and yard work is still being donated by the Hagerstrom's, Rackliffe's and Barker's. The Clark's goats continue their grazing to promote better soil.

Cold weather prevented the work of: cutting a hole in concrete for an opening in the north side of the basement. Another hole will be cut between the north and south basement inside walls. A door will be added at the north end.

New drainage will be completed in the back of the church. Crushed stone will then be added. The concrete ramp will be removed from the front of the church.

Lobster Shed:

The Agricultural Society is asking us to paint the booth by June. Society will provide the paint. This is an April or May project. There has been some talk of adding to our fair booth. This is premature and only in the talking stage.

Storage Shed:

No problems or concerns. It is full, and ready for another sale!

Garden Committee:

The Garden committee's work was sporadic this summer due to many commitments. However, two MATE work groups gave a total of six hours weeding and clipping the bushes. We hauled the debris to the landfill. In the fall, on the October workday, raking the garden area was completed. Weed whacking around the church perimeter and cleaning up debris from the area was achieved.

McCleary House area was mowed, and leaves were raked and hauled to the compost pile. Eleven people worked.

Many members and friends donate their time and energy doing small projects throughout the year. We thank everyone for their skills and abilities...we will move into another year, within hopes of doing the same. Thank you.

Property Committee:

Jack Clark, Ed Jesteadt, Tom Hagerstrom, Kyle Rackliffe, Millard Rackliffe, and Cindy Kemble, Chair.

Garden Committee:

Celia Flint, Tom Hagerstrom, Kelly Jones, Cindy Kemble, Carole Sweetser, Marjorie Taylor, Alison Hagerstrom, Chair.

Cynthia Kemble Chair Property Committee

2024 GOALS: HOW DID WE DO...

Continue to actively support the McCleary House Partnership with MATE

We supported the McCleary House project financially with \$1,000 and the Deacons and Session standby ready to support any family with hospitality services.

We also supported MATE financially with \$500. MATE says, "We are so blessed and thankful to call Fairbanks our closest church partner!"

Add to the Property Wish List

The Property Committee was very successful in completing many projects, the most prominent projects being the new front wall in the sanctuary and repairs made to the furnace.

Continue to proactively look for a new pastor

We renewed job postings with Harvard's, Princeton's and Boston University's Schools of Theology.

There was interest from a candidate enrolled in Harvard's school of theology. We did go through an interview process. Unfortunately, after lots of discussion between both Sessions, we decided this candidate was not the right choice for our churches

We continue in our effort to find a pastor.

Continue to inject more musical contributions into the services and in particular, reinstitute the choir

The choir started to provide more music during the services and on Christmas Eve we had the pleasure of hearing Jack do a solo for the first time. We very much look forward to hearing from him again in the coming year.

Continue to support Maine Outdoor Ministry (MOM) in its work with established youth activities

MOM is rethinking their youth program.

Continue the Concrete Support for those in Need (CSN)

We are, again, pleased to fill the gap by providing beds, mattresses, and bedding for those in need. This year we provided a variety of bedding combinations to seven families.

Strengthen fellowship by having potluck brunch after church once a month

Although we weren't successful in having a potluck brunch once a month, we did share in a few. This is a goal we wish to pursue with more organization and planning.

Continue to consider an extension on building

To be able to put an addition onto the church remains a wish that we want to keep as a goal. Many factors play into the timing of this project. Maintaining it as a goal keeps us hopeful.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee was composed of Mary O'Donal, Anne Smith and Cindy Kemble.

SESSION:

<u>*Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Alison Hagerstrom (Extension)	Tom Hagerstrom (2nd term) Cindy Kemble (2nd term) Nancy Pond (2nd term)	Emily Rackliffe (2nd term) Hazel Doak (1st term) Karen Beacham (1st term) Millard Rackliffe (1st term)	

Session: For the Class of 2025, COM representative Emily Rackliffe will ask PNNE for another extension for Alison Hagerstrom to serve on session. We will await the reply. Until permission is granted Alison will not have a vote.

***No nominations at this time. Reappoint Alison Hagerstrom to a one-year term with extension.**

Officers (Elected by Session)

Session Clerk: Millard Rackliffe

Treasurer: Alison Hagerstrom

Assistant Treasurer: Joel Bunker - Hazel Doak

In the event Joel Bunker is unable to carry out the assistant treasurer's position, Hazel Doak has graciously volunteered to fill the position.

Collector: Nancy Pond

DEACONS:

Once a Deacon Always a Deacon

The Fairbanks Church deacons will be looking a little different this year as we try to align our boards and committees with PCUSA expectations and continue to ensure that all deacons are valued and honored for their commitment and years of service.

The deacons will continue to do the work of Christ within our community, as we always have. We will continue to coordinate fundraisers, fellowship activities and care for our neighbors. We will continue to have monthly deacons' meetings, with all deacons encouraged to attend and participate. The

officers that we elect will have term limits of no more than six consecutive years. This will resemble an executive committee of the deacons. We will have a chair, vice chair, a treasurer, assistant treasurer, and a secretary.

Present officers: Emily Rackliffe, Chair; Candace Hagerstrom, Vice Chair; Ed Jesteadt, Secretary, Celia Flint, Treasurer; Doug Pond, Assistant Treasurer. (All elected by the Deacons.)

Class of 2026

Tom Hagerstrom (2nd term)

Jackie Tardiff (2nd term)

Doug Pond (2nd term)

Rita Smith (1st term)

Emily Rackliffe (1st term)

Millard Rackliffe (1st term)

Class of 2027

Ed Jesteadt (2nd term)

Class of 2028

Celia Flint (2nd term)

Candace Hagerstrom (2nd term)

Mary O'Donal (2nd term)

***Commissioners to Presbytery (elected by Session)** - Emily Rackliffe and Hazel Doak

A volunteer needs to be nominated from the floor as an alternate. This is necessary should Emily and/or Hazel be unable to attend these meetings.

***Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry** - Reappoint Anne Smith and Christopher Smith as representatives.

***Nominating Committee** - Appointed to represent Session:

Appointed to represent Deacons:

Appointed to represent members at large:

*Denotes action needed to be taken at Annual Meeting