



SUMMERVILLE Presbyterian Church

Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE PASTOR

Based on common metrics that churches often use to evaluate effectiveness, SPC has had a successful year. By common metrics, I mean the “ABC’s”: Attendance, Buildings and Cash. In terms of Sunday morning attendance, SPC went from an average of 169 worshippers in 2022 (contemporary and traditional services combined) to an average of 221 combined, a 32% increase. In terms of buildings, the many ways we maintained and improved our physical plant are listed on pages 8-9. In terms of cash, SPC ended 2023 with an overage of \$18,535, \$646,972 in our endowment fund and over \$500,000 in various restricted funds. We are going into 2024 with \$709,267 in pledges, an increase of 6% from 2023’s pledge amount of \$668,064.

But are the ABC’s the best gage of how we are doing in sharing Christ, serving others, and growing together in faith? Obviously, that is much more difficult to measure. How do you measure deeper relationships with God and others? How do you assess changed hearts and renewed commitments to Jesus Christ? How do you evaluate the impact of SPC on our community? These are some of the questions Session will wrestle with in 2024. For while they may be difficult to measure, if individual lives are not being transformed through the mission and ministry of SPC, then doing well in the ABC’s truly doesn’t matter.

In this annual report, you will read about how effective we were in meeting our 2023 goals. Here you can evaluate how the worship services, classes, events and activities that were planned and executed impacted lives for Jesus Christ. Additionally, you will read about some of our plans for 2024. Many of our activities are ongoing, but some of the new ways we will share Christ, serve others, and grow together in faith in 2024 include:

- A Mother’s Morning Out program, which has begun with 24 children enrolled. While at SPC, children will learn that they are special to God and that the Bible is God’s message to them.
- A Mission trip to Costa Rica scheduled for July 2024, which will enable us to support Christians in that country as we grow in our relationships with Christ and each other.
- An expanded worship schedule on Sunday mornings, which will provide additional worship opportunities for our congregation and the community to hear God’s Word preached and experience God’s presence.

As you learn more about what SPC has done in 2023 to fulfill our mission statement, I invite you to ask yourself similar questions: How have I done in sharing Christ? In what ways have I served others? What environments have I been in to grow in my faith? Your answers to these questions should serve as the data for your own goals for 2024, many of which we hope you will be able to achieve by joining with us in SPC’s ministries and missions.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Anita

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Karen Fuller



Elder Sheri Page

Additional Team Members:

Kim Collins
Jennifer Grainger
Sharon Klein
Zachary Storti
Tom Terranova

Mission

The mission of the Fellowship Ministry Team is to minister to the members of SPC, helping them develop a sense of community that marks the Church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principle

Our goal is to guide the congregation into deeper fellowship and to provide for all members of the church personal and family nurture through Christian fellowship.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

- **Pig Pickin’**—The 2023 Pig Pickin’ was held on January 28. The event was well attended. Robert Pratt’s band provided entertainment, while Hugh Spearman and Donnie Gamble did an excellent job managing the cooking.
- **Church Picnic**—The annual church picnic was held on Sunday, April 23 at 11:00 am. This event was held on campus so that the children attending could enjoy the playground at SPC.
- **Outreach**—Our team will continue to work on ways to involve more members of the community in our events. Fellowship teamed up with Spiritual Growth this year with the Fall Festival.

2024 Focus Areas

- **Wednesday Night Live Attendance**—The Fall 2023 WNL dinners were well attended. Fellowship will continue to brainstorm ways to involve more families.
- **Upward Volleyball**—Last year Fellowship started a concession stand while hosting Upward Volleyball during the spring. Fellowship hopes to see this program grow and will try to involve the youth of the church in this event.
- **Imani Milele Choir Concert**—This event that SPC hosted several years ago. This event is returning this year. The concert will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the gym. We want everyone to come out and enjoy this event. These children do an amazing job.



Julie McCormick
Administrative Office and
Communications Coordinator

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Michael Browder



**Elder Henk
van der Meyden**

Additional Team Members:

Jeff Bowers
Jim Hamilton
Ed Lindsay
Robert Pratt
Jane Pelletier, Treasurer



Cecelia Bond
Finance Manager

Mission

Review, report, and advise on financial information to support decision-making and to safeguard the assets of the church.

Guiding Principle

By applying His gifts, we steer SPC through planning, preservation and maintenance, financial management, administrative support and supervision.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

- Review and monitor the financial status of the church on a monthly basis and report its findings to the Session. Recommend any adjustments to the budget if needed during the year.
Results: Kept the membership and Session informed on the financial status of the church. Made necessary adjustments to the budget to keep it balanced. Implemented a “legacy giving” option for pledges.
- Prepare a church budget that meets fiscal needs and is funded through pledges and other donations. Make any necessary adjustments and present a final budget to Session for approval.
Results: Prepared the 2024 budget for Session’s approval.
- Ensure an annual review of the church finances is made each year in accordance with the Book of Order.
Results: Reviewed the church finances to ensure compliance with the Book of Order.

2024 Focus Areas

- Continue to monitor the status of the church finances in conjunction with the staff’s Financial Manager and the Church Treasurer. Recommend adjustments to the budget if needed during the year.
- Prepare a yearly budget for Session’s approval.
- Ensure that an annual review of the church finances is made each year in accordance with the Book of Order.



SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Ellen Carney



Elder Kristi Selander



Elder Joseph Friday

Additional Team Members:

Ellen Burns
Heather Kemble
Kelli Kemmerer
Sherry Roberts

Resource: Julie McCormick

Mission

The Service Ministry Team works to provide our congregation and congregational friends with opportunities to use our collective financial and talent resources to support vigorously various mission programs at the local, regional, and global levels.

Guiding Principle

Instructed by Jesus, to go into the world, and guided by the Holy Spirit to serve God's people.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

- Continue to engage our congregation in the missions of our church.
Results: Through the Hands of Christ program, over 100 volunteers provided clothes and school supplies to 210 children from our local community. At Thanksgiving SPC joined with other local churches to provide food baskets to families in the Summerville area. During our Rise Against Hunger food packing event, over 120 volunteers packaged more than 25,000 meals. Through the leadership of Vicky Methot, members of SPC served meals to the community at Doty Park.
- Increase the involvement of our youth in our church's missions.
Results: SPC Youth participated in mission activities such as Hands of Christ, Rise Against Hunger and the Hearts for Summerville Christmas event.
- Provide ongoing support for missions locally, regionally, and internationally.
Results: Continued support of Dan and Elizabeth Turk. Elizabeth Turk visited SPC and shared information about their mission work in Madagascar during church services and Sunday School.
- Maintain programs that are in place for as long as these needs exist and to look for new opportunities to serve others in which we feel guided by the Holy Spirit.
Results: Supported Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Home of Hope, Hope's House, HELP of Summerville, and Thornwell with volunteers, and food, clothing, and financial donations. Hosted and provided volunteers for the first Hearts for Summerville Christmas event which served over 300 children with gifts, games, activities, and fellowship. Provided over 100 Angel Tree gifts to clients of DCCO, Habitat for Humanity, Hearts for Summerville, Thornwell and Hands of Christ. Provided financial support for campus outreach activities through Charleston Atlantic Presbytery and communicated with director, Erin Norton, about ways to contribute to these activities in the future.

2024 Focus Areas

The Service Ministry Team will strive to continue SPC's efforts to serve God's people. Our focus in 2024 is to continue to engage our congregation in the missions of our church, continue to encourage our youth to participate in service programs, and to provide ongoing support for local, regional, and international missions. Additionally, we are planning a mission trip to Costa Rica in July of 2024.

NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Jim Wylie



Elder Colin Martin

Additional Team

Members:

Bill Demerest

Charlie Harris

Liz Demerest

Sue Harris

Ingrid Don

Sharon Klein

Diane Dunham

Ginny Lyles

Barbara Grube

Mission

The mission of the Nurture Ministry Team is the care of the members of our SPC congregation and community. Reminiscent of Jesus' words to Peter, we seek to show our love by "tending His sheep" (*John 21:17*).

Guiding Principle

Building a strong, caring ministry of support for our members is foundational to preparing us to serve all His children.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

- Train a team of funeral coordinators.
Results: The Funeral Coordination Team has been formed and trained and is supporting Anita and the family of the deceased.
- Continue to grow Stephen Ministry.
Results: We have disseminated information to the congregation through a series of articles in both 3rd Chronicle and in weekly eblasts. We welcomed two additional Stephen Ministers to the team.
- Revive Bus Transportation from the Village to Sunday Worship.
Results: A survey revealed no interest in reviving use of the bus for this purpose at this time. Our transportation ministry is available to assist interested Village residents in attending worship without use of the bus.
- Promote and grow Prayer Ministries
Results: A 3rd Chronicles article gave a brief overview of and invitation to the communal prayer opportunities we offer. Reminders have been included on the website calendar and in eBlasts and bulletins. While there has been little growth in attendance for the weekly morning or evening prayer gatherings, we have added several new members to the Prayer Shawl Fellowship group.

2024 Focus Areas

- Review each of Nurture's 15 ministries as to procedures, means, levels of need and effort, efficiency and productivity.
- Better and more frequently communicate, illustrate and demonstrate to our church family the services provided by the Nurture Team.
- Explore what other serving ministries could the Nurture Team organize and lead that would help meet the needs of our church family.
- Recruit additional leaders to continue to fulfill Nurture's mission.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Ana Hill



Elder Anna Winstead



**Youth Elder
Ethan VanDeventer**

Additional Team Members:

Mary Bowers	Ashley Heslop
Caroline Edwards	Robin Legare
Debbie Friday	Alicia Macomber
Perry Harris	Sherry Roberts
Gail Hyatt	Daniel Selander

Mission

The Spiritual Growth Ministry Team seeks to provide opportunities, resources, and relationships to study and develop skills which will enable every member to grow in their relationship to God and, thus, demonstrate to others God's love in the world.

Guiding Principle

Grounded in scripture, we strive to become disciples and to foster a deepening faith in all generations.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

- Expand more in identifying ways to connect spiritually and intergenerationally with the congregation and the community. **Results:** Youth Sunday followed by Church-wide Picnic on campus following service, Church Family Breakfasts held in 2023, college care packages done twice this year.
- Continue to encourage all ages to grow in their walk with Christ. **Results:** Small groups launched in 2023; Confirmation Class 2023; started a new church-wide Sunday School Curriculum; Inquirer's Classes held with new members joining.
- Explore new gatherings that will reach out to our congregation and our community. Expand ways to work with Service Ministry Team and continue to work with the Fellowship Ministry Team. **Results:** Mother's Morning Out finalized and director hired with planned opening in January 2024; Upwards Volleyball at SPC; VBS returned to daytime and increased in participants; Fall Festival; Gaga Ball Pit assembled and opened to the public with youth and Boy Scout troops; Living Last Super experience.

2024 Focus Areas

- Launch the Mother's Morning Out Program and support its growth moving forward.
- Continued growth of small groups and intergenerational events.
- Focus on transition in Youth Leadership.
- Continue relationship with Upwards Volleyball through Summerville Baptist Church.
- Incorporate our mission statement more around campus and in our vernacular to focus on disciple identity.
- Explore the idea of and consider implementation of Children's Church.



Jennifer Grainger
Director of Spiritual
Growth & Outreach



Rev. Dr. Ralph R. Herbert
Discipleship Pastor



Allison Bond
Director of Youth &
College Ministries

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Walt Morgan



Elder Alicia Macomber

Additional Team Members:

Ashley Heslop
Debbie Lindsay
Leo Lorenz
Barbara Norris
Oden Semones

Mission

The Worship Ministry Team serves SPC by striving to provide worship opportunities for our entire community. We will work together throughout the church year in creating worship services and music programs that not only promote the spiritual growth of our membership, but also provide opportunities for our membership to reach out to one another in God's name through Word and song.

Guiding Principle

As we seek to be a Christ-centered people, we encourage all to celebrate God's Word, to joyfully worship God, and to listen to the counsel of the Holy Spirit.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

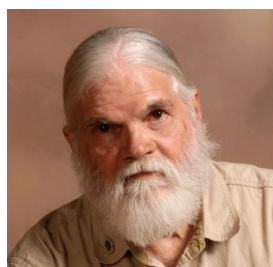
- **Plan worship experiences** - Included Church Family Moments, Combined Contemporary and Traditional Services, variety of Sermon Series
- **Contemporary service** – Supported and encouraged further growth
- **Music Ministry** – Developed opportunities for choir participation and other music ministry
- **Audio/Visual Upgrades** – Broadcast services through a variety of platforms in addition to in-person worship.
- **Safety Committee Formation** - Recommended to Session and helped form a Safety Committee to improve the safety of congregation members and visitors for worship services and other church activities.
- **Special Services** – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, VBS Sunday, Scottish Heritage, Memorial Day, World Communion, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

2024 Focus Areas

- Seek ways to become an even more welcoming church for visitors.
- Encourage services that are family-friendly and community-friendly.
- Safety Plan – Continue to develop safety measures while remaining a welcoming church.



William Bennett
Director of Music

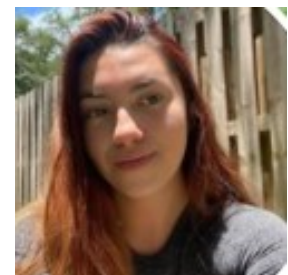


Jim Moore
Organist



Joe Swisher
Co-Director of

7 Contemporary Worship



Julia Miller
Co-Director of

Contemporary Worship

PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM



Elder Lauch Blue



Elder Ed Lindsay

Additional Team Members:

Topper Avenel	Harl Porter
Wilson Bond	Hugh Spearman
Claude Burns	Scott Wilson
Phil Dunham	Scott Wright
Doug Hess	

Mission and Guiding Principle

Help to maintain and improve the SPC physical plant.

2023 Focus Areas and Results

- Improve landscaping – major cut back of azaleas to get vines under control not performed to maintain appearance for spring wedding pictures.
- Upgrade the Dorchester Room with repairs and paint – work completed including wall/molding repair, painting, new drapes and wall mounted TV monitor.
- Investigate resurfacing the gym floor – floor refinished in November.
- Routine periodic building equipment maintenance – HVAC systems, fire alarm systems, Kitchen commercial range exhaust hood fire suppression system, Kitchen commercial range exhaust hood (fire code required cleaning) and Office emergency generator.
- Repairs of equipment failures as necessary – HVAC systems (Sanctuary, Upper Education Wing and Gym), fire alarm system (Upper Education Wing and Gym), Kitchen commercial range exhaust hood and Office emergency generator.
- Obtained earthquake insurance coverage to replace in-kind the coverage non-renewed by Church Mutual two years ago.
- Upgraded internet bandwidth via new ISP to eliminate issues associated with live streaming worship services and support future upgrade of campus wide IT network upgrade; as an adjunct replaced old Office telephone system with a new VOiP system as cost savings measure with ISP change.
- Coordinated with Town of Summerville to remedy displacement of their large-bore storm drain line from underground ground after Tropical Storm Idalia (storm drain is within city easement across SPC property from S. Laurel Street property to opposing rear property line).
- Improved gravel overflow parking lot behind Gym adjacent to playground.
- Changed property/CGL/excess liability/bus coverage from Church Mutual to Brotherhood Mutual (required as Church Mutual would not renew property coverage for the Sanctuary, Spann/Wheeler Building nor Office), including increasing Sanctuary coverage amount to more reasonably align with replacement cost and adding accident policy for enrollees of mothers morning out program.
- Refined needs/requirements for additional sexton and recruited individual for personal to hire.
- Modified exterior doors and hardware for small narthex (Lanneau Hall side of Sanctuary) to accommodate panic operation for emergency exit and improve lock security of doors.
- Developed plan to upgrade IT network infrastructure campus wide – provides secure ethernet drops in Upper Education Wing to provide church business support in spaces other than Office (also allows for future extension of VOiP phone system if needed as MMO grows) and open wi-fi network for internet access from all interior spaces on campus; executed agreement with provider for implementation in January 2024.

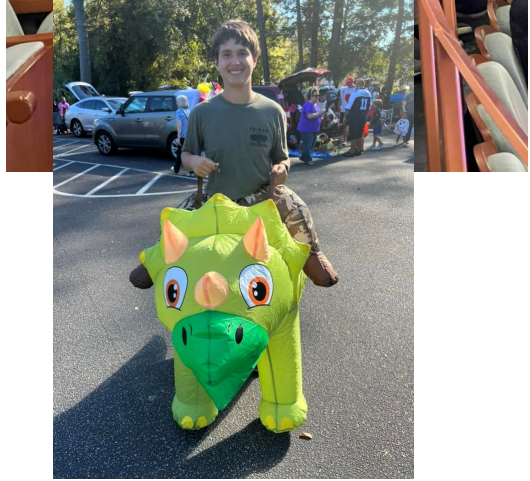
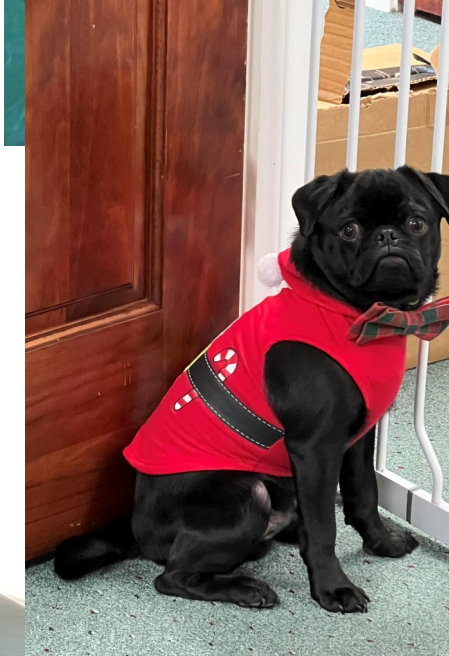
- Replaced roof on Upper Education Wing (including adjoining breezeways to other buildings) and Lower Education Wing/Kitchen (excluding metal roof over Gym proper), which was all due to hail/wind damage so reimbursed by Church Mutual (except deductible which was to SPC account).
- Initiated evaluation of potential causes of wall coating failure in Sanctuary as well as alternative remedies for such – this cannot be finalized without Church Interiors (contractor who performed the restoration project) participation as they may have some culpability.

2024 Focus Areas

- IT network infrastructure upgrade – implement upgrades and identify any further refinements needed for inclusion in five-year plan.
- Sanctuary wall coating deterioration – complete evaluation with Church Interiors (and any consultants deemed necessary to fully protect SPC interests) to determine definitive cause(s), appropriate remedies, financial responsibilities and implement remedies.
- Sanctuary settlement cracks (associated with expansion of opening between nave and “zoo”) – evaluate to determine cause, appropriate remedy and any culpability of Church Interiors (including consequential financial responsibility), then implement remedy.
- Restore balance between nave and “zoo” for Sanctuary audio system – have Church Interiors A/V re-tune system for proper balance, determine if any modifications/supplemental required (implement if funding available, otherwise integrate into five-year plan) and provide additional training for SPC A/V operators.
- Five-year plan – develop plan of work to be performed over the period, including financial implications of each work item, so that priorities and funding can be coordinated with the annual budgeting process to guide the implementation schedule.
- Spann Building men’s restroom – upgrade with new smaller vanity, coordinated basin/faucet, mirror and fresh paint.
- Routine maintenance – perform maintenance in accordance with periodic schedule for building equipment systems.
- Equipment failure repairs – promptly address issues as they arise.
- Landscaping – perform major cut back of azaleas after springtime bloom, to be followed by getting encroaching vines/weeds under control then adding fresh pine straw mulch to reinvigorate the plants and keep more attractive in the warm months (this is major cut back which will be supervised by competent person(s), but some complaints can be expected).
- Insurance – upgrade earthquake and solicit competitive pricing for total.
- Signage – supplement existing signage around the campus (both interior and exterior), with new to match or coordinate with existing, to make navigation easier/friendlier for visitors to the church.
- Playground shading – since sun exposure is high for the playground and use will increase with MMO program, evaluate shading options and implement upon Session approval.

2023 AT A GLANCE





DEACONS

Class of 2023 - Suzanne Chastain, Bill Demerest, Phil Dunham, ML Hyatt and Ruth Owens

Class of 2024 - Claude Burns, Merrilyn Long, Lisa Blue, Sandy Hess, Kathy Lorenz and Barbara Thornton

Class of 2025 - Shawn Blunt, Elizabeth Brown, Ingrid Don and Patricia Tolbert



Summerville Presbyterian Church
Established 1859
Successor to Old White (Congregational) Church
Founded 1696

In 1695, the people of Dorchester, Massachusetts, sent the Rev. Joseph Lord and several followers “to go to Carolina and settle the gospel there.” A site, eighteen miles from Charleston, was chosen and named Dorchester, and The Independent White Church was established. The church became known as the Old White Meeting House. A wood church was built first, followed by the construction of a brick building whose remnants can still be seen.

Throughout the Revolutionary War, the British occupied and then burned the interior of the church building. The walls were all that remained. The interior was rebuilt and worship resumed there in 1794. Soon thereafter there was interest in a Summer Church, and construction began in 1831. On June 9, 1859, the Charleston Presbytery chartered Summerville Presbyterian Church.

By 1886, all that remained of the Old White Meeting House were its exterior walls. By 1894, the 1831 building was in disrepair and the 66 members undertook the formidable task of building our present sanctuary, dedicated in 1895.

Through several building projects during the 20th century, the Wheler Building, the Spann Music Building, the education building, the gym, kitchen and additional classrooms were constructed.

The most recent renovation of the sanctuary was completed in the spring of 2021. We give thanks for the generous gifts that made possible this restoration. May we continue to use this sanctuary and all our spaces to proclaim the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ!