

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Palms Presbyterian Church

February 14, 2021



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A Wee Word from Dr. Weenink- Your Interim Pastor

What does “church” mean to you? The body of Christ. A port in a storm. A great group of people. A place to worship. A place to serve. A place to learn. A place to be comforted. A place to be challenged. Palms Presbyterian Church is all of these and more. Every week we do our best to state what “church” means to us, or, what we mean for the church to be. I’m going to go there again.

Mission Statement

By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are called to worship God: to connect in community, to nurture in love, and to serve in the world.

Vision Statement

Palms is a diverse and transformative community of believers embodying the grace of Christ by:

- Serving as bridge builders for a divided world
- Working as ambassadors for compassion and reconciliation
- Growing servant leaders for God’s work in a rapidly changing world.

That's our mission and that's our vision. This Annual Report gives a glimpse into what we did in fidelity to our mission and vision. It scratches the surface to note a little more about the who and the how. Just as a mission or vision statement cannot encompass it all, neither can the reports and statistics sum it up. The COVID-19 pandemic threw us a curveball, but we did our best under extenuating circumstances. We did all the things a church does, connecting ourselves both to ancient practices and new ways of living out our faith. We give thanks to God for the occasions to be in service in God’s great vineyard. We give thanks for work to do, strength to do it, and, for those with whom the work has been carried out by, members and staff.



The 2020 Introspection Study

by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

In January 2020 the Session authorized a self-study. The purpose of the self-study was to intentionally examine who we are as a congregation, where we have been, and where God may be leading Palms to go. The study incorporated a qualitative data collection and a quantitative data collection. On the qualitative side, a process known as Appreciative Inquiry was chosen. Appreciative Inquiry was chosen as it intentionally incorporates qualitative research and generative conversations focusing on core competencies, strengths and values. Multiple venues were created for Appreciative Inquiry Gatherings. Multiple individual interviews were arranged as well. The COVID-19 crisis crimped the momentum that was gathering around this endeavor as many venues, regrettably, had to be canceled, stifling the full benefit of this carefully planned process. Several groups scheduled to participate had to abandon plans. The congregational focus from Epiphany, Lent and Eastertide engaged the congregation in exploring the sentiments, core values, finest successes, greatest dreams aspirations and visions for the congregation. All worship emphasis, educational efforts and congregational energy was focused on Appreciative Inquiry. A sermon series focused on **Questions Jesus Asked ... Or Answered**, as did a Lenten devotional guide which also served as curriculum for a variety of small groups. Nearly 150 interviews were completed.

For a quantitative research methodology, the Session approved utilizing the services of Holy Cow Consulting and their Congregational Assessment Tool (C.A.T.)

This congregational assessment tool C.A.T. was customized for the purpose of analysis of our health as a congregation.



Both instruments obtained a fair, objective assessment of the health and vital signs of Palms Presbyterian Church and constitute the 2020 Introspection Study.



2020 FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# 714795

Entity Name: THE PALMS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT JACKSONVILLE
BEACH, FLORIDA, INC.

Current Principal Place of Business:

3410 SOUTH THIRD STREET
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250

Current Mailing Address:

3410 SOUTH THIRD STREET
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250

FEI Number: 59-1010640

Certificate of Status Desired: No

Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:

FISHER, TOUSEY, LEAS & BALL, P.A.
501 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
SUITE 600
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202 US

The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.

SIGNATURE:

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Date

Officer/Director Detail :

Title PRESIDENT
Name TOUSEY, CLAY B JR
Address 2225 ALICIA LANE
City-State-Zip: ATLANTIC BEACH FL 32233

Title SECRETARY
Name NELLSON, BARBARA
Address 24652 MISTY LAKE DRIVE
City-State-Zip: PONTE VEDRA BEACH FL 32082

Title TREASURER
Name BEARD, MURRAY
Address 9456 PRESTON TRL W
City-State-Zip: PONTE VEDRA BEACH FL 32082

I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 617, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: CLAY B. TOUSEY, JR.

PRESIDENT

04/22/2020

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer/Director Detail

Date

Membership

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Prior Active	1421	1411	1239	1214	1243	1102
GAINS						
Certificate	17	22	36	15	14	6
Youth Professions	10	7	6	9	6	0
Professions/reaffirmations	23	12	26	52	26	9
Other	3					
Total Gains	53	41	68	76	46	15

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
LOSSES						
Certificate	15	7	7	3	2	6
Deaths	25	26	31	18	33	38
Other	23	180	55	26	152	7
Total Losses	63	213	93	47	203	53

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Christian Education	477	507	498	559	389	292
Baptisms	15	11	13	15	12	2
Worship Attendance	469	500	471	498	464	473

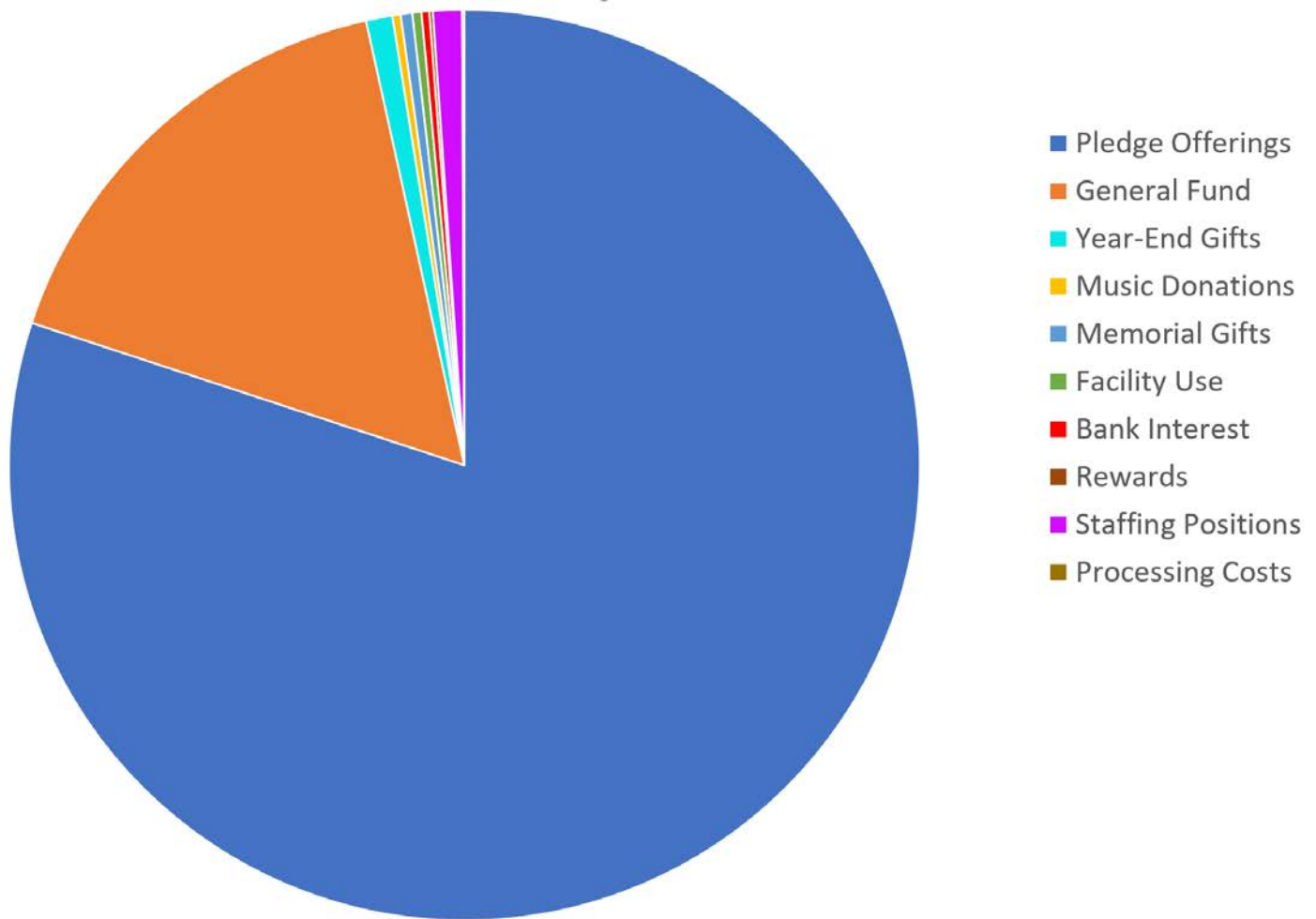
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Time : 7:03:53 AM

Palms Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet
December 2020

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Accounts			
		Assets	
Current Assets			
Checking Accounts			
Ameris Bank Checking Account			
Baldwin Account	\$2,052.13		
Choral Interns Account	\$682.00		
Church Operating Account	\$30,301.16		
Fine Arts Account	\$2,603.96		
Organ Account	\$6,751.89		
Preschool Account	\$5,874.01		
Property Account	\$15,214.44		
Sharkey Account	\$1,000.00		
Walker Lecture Series Account	\$2,096.64		
Total Ameris Bank Checking Account	\$66,576.23		
Ameris Bank Money Market Acct			
Baldwin MM Account	\$80,000.00		
Choral Interns MM Account	\$14,300.00		
Church Operating MM Account	\$320,187.28		
Fine Arts MM Account	\$709.00		
Organ MM Account	\$10,000.00		
Preschool MM Account	\$123,315.53		
Property MM Account	\$177,699.62		
Sharkey MM Account	\$19,000.00		
Total Ameris Bank Money Market Acct	\$745,211.43		
Total Checking Accounts	\$811,787.66		
Petty Cash			
Church Petty Cash	\$250.00		
Preschool Petty Cash	\$150.00		
Total Petty Cash	\$400.00		
Total Current Assets			\$812,187.66
Contra Asset			
Mastercard BOA Credit Card	(\$104.10)		
Total Contra Asset			(\$104.10)
Investments			
Fidelity			
Baldwin - Fidelity Account	\$181,681.32		
Choral Interns - Fidelity Account	\$31,456.91		
Church Reserves - Fidelity Account	\$200,010.46		
Fine Arts - Fidelity Account	\$273,207.32		
Organ Repair - Fidelity Account	\$157,458.96		
Property Perpetual - Fidelity	\$4,816,256.24		
Property Short Term - Fidelity	\$359,343.60		
Walker Lecture Series - Fidelity	\$73,687.44		
Total Fidelity	\$6,093,102.25		
Total Investments			\$6,093,102.25
Fixed Assets			\$6,054,973.27
Total Assets			\$12,960,159.08
		Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	
Liabilities			
Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received			
Fund Principal			
Beginning Balance - Baldwin	\$361,424.21		
Beginning Balance - Choral Interns	\$69,395.42		
Beginning Balance - Fine Arts	\$250,382.57		
Beginning Balance - Operating Fund	\$218,967.44		
Accounts			
Beginning Balance - Organ Fund	\$161,794.59		
Beginning Balance - Preschool	\$149,263.08		
Beginning Balance - Property Endow	\$4,661,638.48		
Beginning Balance - Sharkey	\$30,000.00		
Beginning Balance - Walker Lecture	\$75,840.39		
Fixed Assets	\$5,979,739.27		
Total Fund Principal	\$11,958,445.45		
Excess Cash Received			
Excess Cash Received - Operating	\$240,600.66		
Excess Cash Received - Property Endowment	\$706,875.42		
Excess Cash Received - Baldwin	(\$97,690.76)		
Excess Cash Received - Preschool	(\$19,923.54)		
Excess Cash Received - Choral Interns	(\$22,956.51)		
Excess Cash Received - Organ Fund	\$12,416.26		
Excess Cash Received - Fine Arts	\$26,137.71		
Excess Cash Received - Sharkey	(\$10,000.00)		
Excess Cash Received - Walker Lecture Series	(\$56.31)		
Total Excess Cash Received	\$835,402.93		
Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received			\$12,793,848.38
Restricted Funds			
Total Temporary Restricted	\$166,310.70		
Total Restricted Funds			\$166,310.70
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			\$12,960,159.08

2020 Church Contributions and Income



Church Contributions

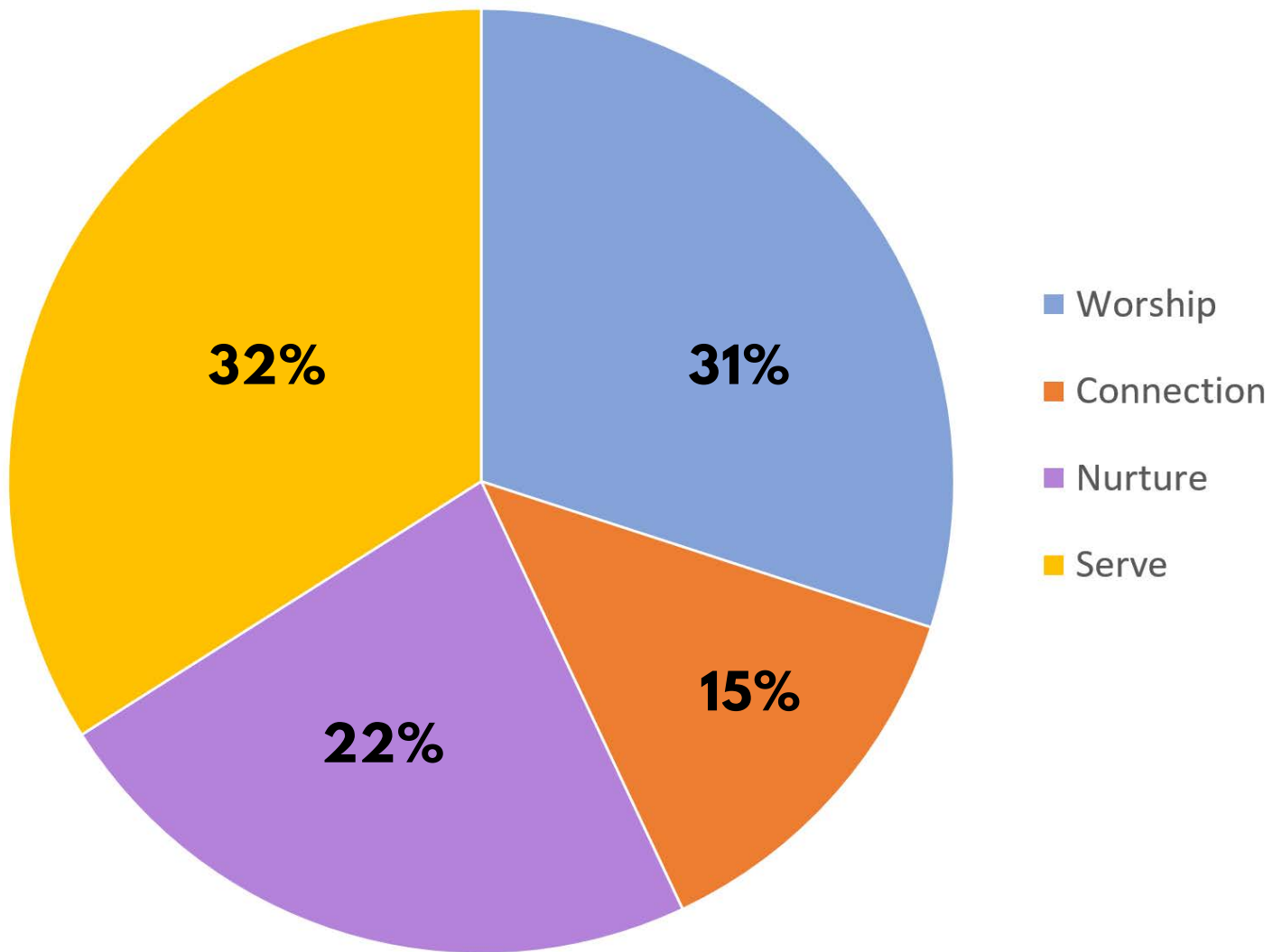
Pledge Offerings	\$1,281,649
General Fund	\$263,752
Year-End Gifts	\$15,000
Music Donations	\$4,670
Memorial Gifts	\$6,575

Other Income

Facility Use	\$5,182
Bank Interest	\$4,422
Rewards	\$1,985
Staffing Positions	\$16,423
Processing Costs	\$1,244

Total: \$1,600,902

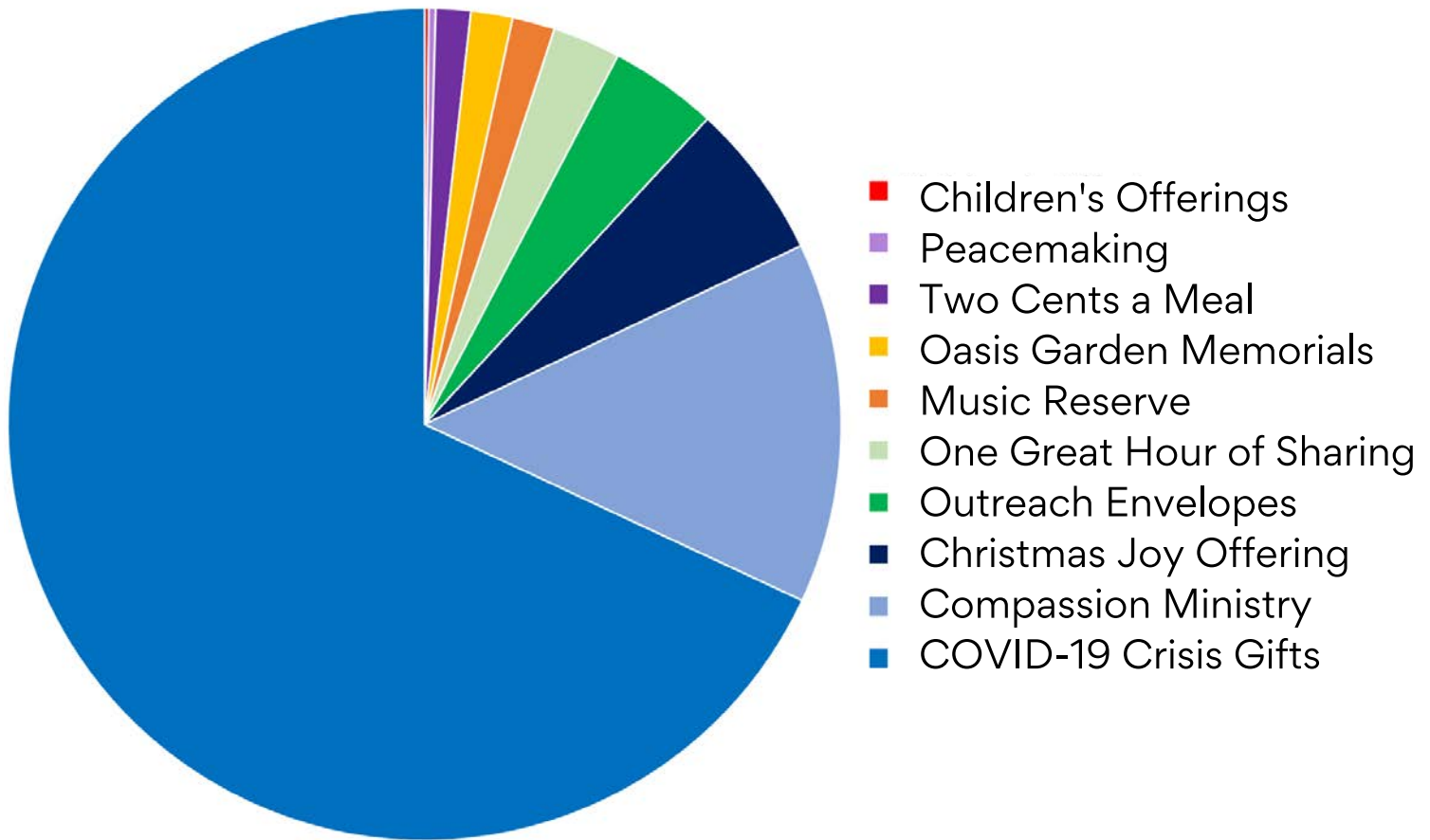
2020 Church Actual Expenditures



Ministry Expenses

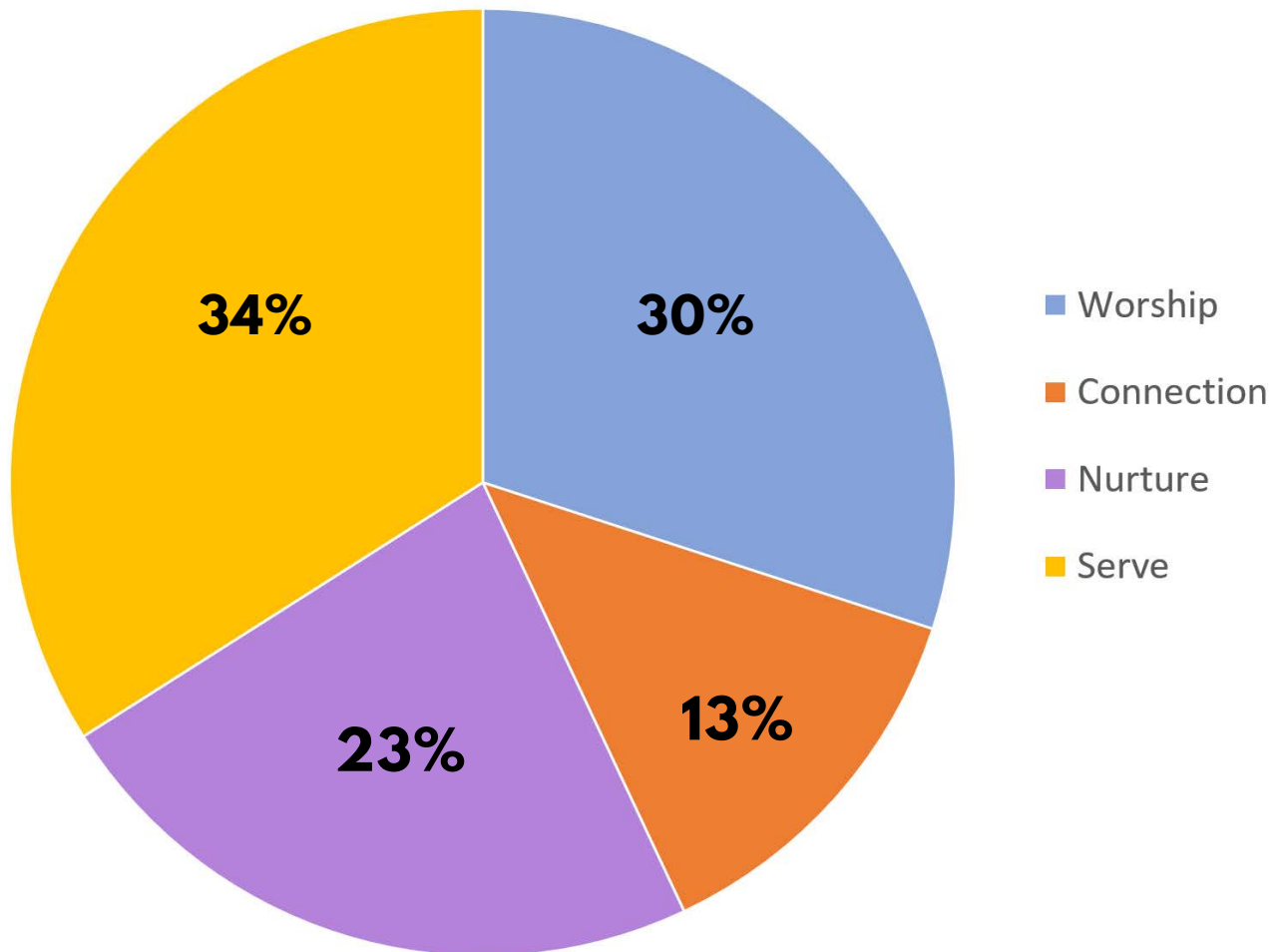
Worship	\$478,632
Connection	\$229,372
Nurture	\$339,239
Serve	\$504,069
Total:	\$1,551,312
Net Excess Cash	\$49,590

2020 Special Offerings & Projects



Children's Offerings	\$141
Peacemaking	\$230
Two Cents a Meal	\$1,166
Oasis Garden Memorials	\$1,395
Music Reserve	\$1,425
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,275
Outreach Envelopes	\$3,625
Christmas Joy Offering	\$5,230
Compassion Ministry	\$12,083
COVID-19 Crisis Gifts	\$58,725

2021 Church Budget/Mission Plan



Church Contributions

Pledge	\$1,330,354
General Fund	\$200,000
Year-End	\$6,000
Music	\$5,000
Memorial	\$6,000
Other Income	\$8,000

Total: \$1,555,354

Ministry Expenses

Worship	\$469,208
Connection	\$199,162
Nurture	\$360,597
Serve	\$521,806

Total: \$1,550,773

Projected Excess Cash \$4,581

Worship

by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

Our worship life draws upon the full Biblical tradition of gathering God's people in to assemble for praise, proclamation, prayer, instruction and inspiration. The worship ministry is also intentional about sending God's people out to share the joys and responsibilities of an informed discipleship. Our worship life combines ancient liturgies with newer, more casual and imaginative forms, but the goal remains the same: proclamation of the good news of salvation through Christ and an invitation to hear and to serve God as bridge builders in a divided world; ambassadors of compassion and reconciliation; and servant leaders. The worship ministry is more than Sunday morning. It permeates the endeavors of the entire household of faith. It is incorporated into our mid-week ministries, small groups, our Wednesday evening service of healing, services of Witness to the Resurrection, weddings, celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, regular Chapel time with the Palms Preschool and more. It intentionally cultivates a life of devotion, dedication and faithful discipleship.

Our two worship services, 8:30AM and 11:00AM, follow a traditional format and are followed by fellowship and education opportunities. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. There is an annual Youth Sunday, VBS Sunday, Lessons and Carols Sunday during Advent and a Music Sunday every June as a part of the Palms Fine Arts Series. A visiting Theologian Program features the guest as a worship leader, traditionally in the winter season. The Haitian partnership brings annually brings one of our Haitian clergy partners to our worship during World Communion Sunday. A weekly evening prayer service takes place each Wednesday evening in the Chapel. There are four worship experiences currently offered on Christmas Eve – a family service and three candlelight services.

In March 2020 church staff was confronted with the COVID-19 crisis, and, in an abundance of caution, suspended in-person worship. Concerted effort went into making a worship experience available virtually. Fortunately, Palms was in a position with infrastructure in place. Our worship participation grew exponentially with the ability to view an 11:00AM live-streamed service on BoxCast, the Palms YouTube channel and Facebook. We now have regular participation from people all over the world as well as all over the United States. Our gratitude goes out to all who contributed with insight, intelligence, creativity, and imagination to distinguish Palms' virtual worship experience. Gratitude is also extended to our choral interns and volunteer choir members who lifted our hearts with meaningful musical arrangements.



Worship

Our virtual worship helped us realize the importance of engagement. A group of online hosts, or what we call Virtual Ushers, was established to engage and interact with the online worshipping community. To help Palms account for online worshipers, they were invited to complete an online connection form to help note their presence. This form allowed Palms to recognize new viewers who joined worship on a regular basis without ever stepping foot on campus. Palms re-opened in-person worship on June 14. Even through the spikes of COVID-19 cases, we did not need to suspend in-person worship because of our adherence to the protocols lovingly put in place to keep everyone safe. One example was to require registration for in-person worship. This was done for contact tracing and to monitor the sanctuary capacity based on CDC guidelines. We are grateful to the entire Health Ministry Team who helped to monitor the protocols for safe in-person worship.

Communion in a COVID-19 world continued to be observed but in a different way. We are grateful to Barb Johnson and her fine communion preparation team. We are also grateful for those who have served the Sacrament.

Memorial Services at Palms remained an important part of the ministry. As you can imagine, pastors creatively crafted a variety of columbarium and graveside and Palms garden services, Zoom memorial services and family gatherings, funerals at local funeral homes, and a very few, socially-distanced memorial services here in the sanctuary. All memorial service receptions were suspended until further notice, in compliance with CDC guidelines.

Since COVID-19 began, the Wednesday Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness was suspended. However, at the beginning of COVID-19, Pastor Laurie led a Prayer In Time of a Pandemic. In the summer, worship leaders came together to offer a Prayer in the Time of Racial Reckoning. In the fall, an evening prayer of Thanksgiving and Healing, by way of a virtual recording, as was a Blue Christmas worship experience were offered. We remain on hiatus from our in-person Evening Prayer services and look forward to meeting again in our chapel. The magnificent Lessons and Carols event was offered in-person as well as virtually. While it was different, it was faithfully provided and delivered with a high degree of excellence. During this time, Palms was the recipient of silk green Stoles handmade by Tony from Haiti and the artists and cooperative there. Additional paraments have been commissioned.

Palms has worked faithfully to be resilient in the face of this pandemic and our worship ministry has made the necessary adaptations, adjustments and modifications. We look forward to being able to return to a level of normalcy with safe and secure in-person worship.

Worship and Fine Arts Team

by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

Re-consitituted at the end of 2020, the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Team reviews and recommends to Session matters pertaining to the public worship of God, including special services. In meeting this responsibility, the team is to provide supervision of the scheduling, coordination, preparation and celebration of the sacraments. The team also is responsible for recruitment, training and direction of the Ushers. The team works with the music staff to develop a ministry of choral and instrumental music with persons of all ages. It is responsible for the care and use of choir robes, music, instruments, and vestments owned by the church. Participants include Deb Truitt, Jan and Helen Duggar, Tonya LaBarbera, Suzanne Mikalsen, Bob Sellery, Bill Tickle, Ann VanDenBerg, Betty Engle, Jeffrey Weenink and Ronn Cummings.



Connect

by Dana Riley and Melissa Clapp

The heart of Palms is deepened and strengthened through the connections made in Christian community. The Connection Ministry seeks to guide disciple members, guests and friends to engage with one another through fellowship, study, service, and worship, demonstrating a different way of life to the world; a way of life that supports and cares for one another and for the wider community. The Connection Ministry is made of the following teams: Hospitality, Fellowship, and Connectors.

Hospitality is central to the Connection Ministry (Greeters, Welcome Center, Fellowship Hour Snacks). First-time visitors receive an email, phone call or letter from a member of the staff. Visitors who indicate interest in a particular ministry are connected with a member of that ministry and invited to share their gifts and talents with the community. Those who are interested in learning more about covenanting with this community are invited to participate in a New Member class. The purpose of this class is to allow those who have participated in the life and ministry of Palms and/or who are new to Palms to form connections with others who are also new to Palms, to share individual faith journeys, and to discern new avenues for spiritual growth and service in the Palms community. Central to the covenant we make with God and with one another is mutual affirmation and accountability, supporting and encouraging one another as we share God's love and serve God's mission.

The members of Palms value the fellowship they share in Christ, from the weekly coffee hour after worship to organized fellowship events. The Connection Ministry provides opportunities for intergenerational fellowship through events (Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Friendsgiving Potluck), special activities (Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt, Blessing of the Animals, Ice Cream Sundae Sunday) and regular gatherings (Wisdom's Table, No Guilt Group). All-church events such as potluck dinners and retreats deepen the connections.



No Guilt, January 2021



Connect (Continued)

As Jesus modeled, justice is a call to connect with others. Palms Church has adopted and engaged the Matthew 25 Initiative offered by the PC(USA) in light of the historical racial violence and abject poverty in our country. The first focus area of this initiative is to build congregational vitality. Palms held a 21-day Racial Equity Challenge and discussion group. The second focus area of the Matthew 25 initiative is dismantling structural racism. Palms lead Deliberative Dialogues on Racial and Ethnic Tension. The third focus area of the Matthew 25 initiative is ending systemic poverty. Palms, in partnership with One Jax, held the Jacksonville Together: Disrupting Division program where participants were encouraged to be part of creating courageous conversations and a paradigm shift from “us and them” towards “we the people”. These three components of Matthew 25 continue to be discerned and cultivated in and with the Palms congregation and beyond.

Connection Ministry works to not only build bridges within the community of Palms but also to strengthen the connection between Palms and our local community. While this year was challenged by COVID-19, in past years Christmas and Easter Services have been expanded to include Deck the Chairs Christmas Eve Service and Easter Sunrise Service. The Connection Ministry seeks to be a part of the wider community and works toward that end by serving in organizations such as Beaches Ministerial Association, Beaches Hospitality Network, and City Council meetings. Palms extends hospitality to groups such as Parkinson’s Caregiver Support group, 12-step groups, Girl Scout troops, youth and men’s basketball teams, and HOA groups who use the Palms’ facility for their meetings and gatherings.

By connecting and engaging in the life and ministry of Palms at Palms and beyond, we become active participants in God’s work.



Nurture

Excerpt from the 2020 Palms Mission Study

In order to join in God's work at Palms and throughout the world, we intentionally nurture ourselves in and through the love of God. This nurture results in a deepening of our relationship with God which leads to transformation into more Christ-like individuals. When we live and love as Christ did, we have a passion for working in the world to bring God's kingdom. This means that as a congregation we are called to nurture Palm's disciples through opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages. The Nurture Ministry helps people of all ages learn, live, love and serve in the way of Jesus. Our Nurture



Ministry provides opportunities as varied as mission trips for middle and high school students, to Vacation Bible School, to meditation spaces for every person who comes to Palms. All of these opportunities are to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God. True faith formation is holistic- it involves Christian education, worship, connecting with others and service. Consequently, the Nurture Ministry provides opportunities for people to engage in meaningful experiences that incorporate all of these in a variety of ways. In addition to Sunday School and VBS, we have Bible studies, book studies, centering prayer, Lectio Divina, seasonal labyrinth walks and annual visiting theologians.

We also recognize that faith formation occurs at home and in daily life, as much as it does on Sunday morning and at church, so we have developed an Intentional Faith@Home program to nurture and equip parents to lead faith development at home. These include the Faithful Family Library, The Faithful Family Facebook Page and seasonal take-home bags with devotions and activities. We also bring all generations together for activities, fellowship and worship on Faithful Family Sundays (the first Sunday of each month).



Youth Ministry

by Jimmy Steele

Palms Youth Ministry provides opportunities for 6th through 12th graders to find their place at Palms through fellowship, study, worship and service. Ordinarily, our youth connect through many fellowship outings throughout the year. On any given weekend you might find our youth growing relationships through fellowship at places like Adventure Landing, the local bowling alley, local restaurants, the beach, someone's swimming pool, or with movie/game nights in our own newly renovated youth room. Our youth are provided with small group discussions in Sunday School and during youth group where they seek to grow closer to God and to one another in all they do. This year, we adapted and found many new ways to continue to hold meaningful faith formation and youth fellowship events. Weekly zoom calls including Bible Study, scavenger hunts, family trivia nights, and other virtual games were just a few of the ways we stayed connected when we were unable to meet in person.



Recently, our Youth Leadership team worked on a three-year plan focusing on growing leaders through service and outreach. Over the course of three years, youth group members and advisors (along with

intergenerational partners) will experience local, national, and international mission work. Serving in our community is a vital part of our call as members of the body of Christ, but it does not stop here in our own back yard. Our goal is for our group to study and learn about the injustices related to hunger, homelessness, poverty, and the peacemaking process on a local, national, and international level.

Youth Ministry (Continued)

Learning more about the facts related to these important issues that are vital to our Christian journey and then experiencing them firsthand have the potential to change lives forever. As a part of our youth's faith journey, we feel like it is important for students to be aware of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ and to put the Great Commission into action, all while remembering the words found in Matthew 25 related to the least of these around us. Working first with local partners, then with partners around the United States, followed by global partners, students will have a well-rounded and global perspective related to the injustices we are studying. Through hands-on servant leadership, interactive and participatory worship, and purposeful learning sessions, our students will learn ways that they can become bridge builders through their service and interactions, thereby truly making a difference in the world around them by living out the scriptures.



Serve/Outreach

by Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

Serve Ministry at Palms testifies to and enables us to live out, our faith through the work of justice, compassion, and service.

The ministry ensures that disciples care for the Palms' community (through Board of Deacons) and work with our larger community (through Outreach Ministry). Serve Ministry is less about what we do but who we are as servant leaders. Likewise, we seek to serve from a place of generous abundance as who we are as the body of Christ and individual members. We seek to serve with the entirety of our lives: our time, talents, and treasure.

Our Board of Deacons focuses on care of our congregation, serving our disciples day in and day out. Serve Ministry lives into the requirement for action in Jesus' command, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Loving God compels us to love and serve others. It is fundamentally who we are. During COVID, in many ways, the work of the Board of Deacons continued with important modifications. Our Prayer Links Ministry prays fervently. Our Congregational Care Callers and Shepherd Ministry shifted to become Crisis Callers (which may continue beyond the pandemic), Hospital Visitation, Stephen Ministry, and Love Callers shifted to phone calls and Zoom. Flower Ministry and Food For the Soul have been working hard all through the pandemic to meet the increasing care needs of Palms during this time. Health Ministry switched into high gear, acting as Palms advisory board for all things COVID and we continue to turn to them for ongoing guidance as to precautions/re-opening/staff expectations, etc.



Deacons Meeting, 2020

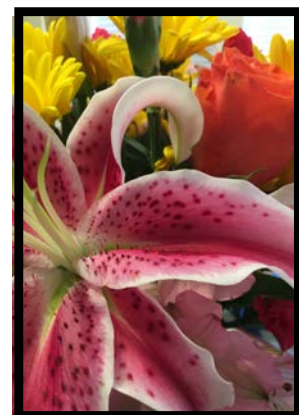


Serve/Outreach (Continued)

Outreach at Palms is rooted in relational ministry with local and international mission partners. We walk with others in ministry, rather than merely “funding” initiatives. A few of our local partners are BEAM, Mission House, serving the homeless at the beach and five beach elementary schools. Not surprisingly, the needs of the local community and international mission partners skyrocketed during the pandemic. Though there was much we could not do “hands-on”, Palms remained committed to serving alongside our partners who in turn served the most vulnerable. Like the Board of Deacons, much of the work “shifted”: MayportMarket was modified to a drive-by food distribution.

Our Mission House Kitchen folks purchased and delivered meals instead of preparing and serving. Meals on Wheels continued to run with contact-less delivery. We successfully modified our Back to School Drive and Angel Tree and are looking forward to our Healthy Snack drive all which serve local children in our schools and community centers. Our Haiti Medical Mission and Educational Trips were not able to run as planned, but we were able to send additional financial support to help local medical and school personnel as they combatted the effects of poverty and COVID. The needs of our community and international partners are great and Palms continues to offer generously of ourselves.

In many ways, with Outreach and Deacon ministry at Palms, the heart of Palms, continued to beat and the work of the church continued even during these unprecedented times. As we are now a Matthew 25 church, Serve seeks to live out, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)



Presbyterian Women

Excerpt from the 2020 Palms Mission Study

Presbyterian Women at Palms Presbyterian Church (Palms PW or PW) is a part of an independent organization of women within the Presbyterian Church (USA) with more than 300,000 members worldwide. The program and resource options offer a variety of ways for women to live out their faith within an inclusive, caring community.

Palms PW is a group of women committed to the PW Purpose:

- Nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible study
- Supporting the mission of the church worldwide
- Working for justice and peace (in our immediate community and globally)
- Building an inclusive, caring community of women to strengthen the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Palms PW currently includes several circles and study activities including two morning circles, two afternoon circles and one evening circle. Palms PW primarily uses the Horizons Bible study materials, published by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.



Circle members pledge financially to a variety of programs and missions including several connections with Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM), sponsoring children, and sewing clothes and uniforms for HOM schools. PW Crafters' proceeds from the craft sales are sent to local missions and also to Cuba, Africa and Haiti. They also make donations to community groups, such as BEAM and the PW Sarah Breakfield Scholarship. Dorcas Memorial Receptions are a ministry offered to the Palms congregation through PW. Members of PW plan, host, and serve a reception following a Palms memorial service. Food, flowers, and table settings are donated by PW members.

A long-time PW community outreach activity occurs once a year at Pablo Hamlet and Pablo Towers two affordable housing community for seniors in Jacksonville Beach. PW prepares a meal and activities to celebrate the birthdays for residents in these two communities.

Presbyterian Men

Excerpt from the 2020 Palms Mission Study

Two dedicated men's Bible study groups have been meeting for 15 -20 years. In addition, for more than ten years the men of the church gather once a month for lunch and fellowship. For the past five years, Palms has been host to an active men's basketball group involving some Palms members as well as other men from the community who are 40+. As an expression of love and hospitality, the men of the church arrange for photos of each family at Easter time in the Oasis Garden by a cross adorned with fresh flowers.



Preschool

by Kadesha Baker

Palms Preschool first opened in September 1985 and is home to 127 children ages 1 - 5 years old operating from 7AM - 6PM daily, Monday-Friday. The program operates year-round beginning in August. There is also an extended day program for school-age children 1st-6th grades. The preschool is proudly accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and promotes high-quality learning through relationship building and intentional teaching strategies. The church and preschool collaborate by offering a bi-weekly preschool chapel that incorporates Bible stories, music and movement. Palms Preschool, while a ministry of the church, is self-sustaining with tuition and fundraising activities.



Seasoned Saints

Excerpt from the 2020 Palms Mission Study

In January 2018, a designated older adult ministry was established with Palms Presbyterian Church. Initially, studying and surveying was completed to determine a direction that would meet the needs of the 65+ disciples at Palms.

A Senior Council was formed to work with a program coordinator. In the first year, successful programs were held with approximately 60 people in attendance. The first program year included workshops on forgiveness, mindfulness and hospice.

in 2019, at the group's direction, it was decided to call the 65+ group "Seasoned Saints." In 2019, United Church of Christ (UCC) minister Bill Wildey took over the coordinator position at Palms.

During 2019 and early 2020, Seasoned Saints sponsored four major events. These featured a workshop on storytelling, a luncheon with the Head Curator at the Cummer Museum of Art, workshops on the health of brain and body, and a luncheon titled "Love Abounds" that featured music by the Palms choral interns. The average attendance at each event was between 80-90. In early 2020, a trip to the Mayo Clinic Simulation Lab was offered. Additional classes, focusing on how cinematic moments say something about faith, have been offered.

In addition, the Seasoned Saints coordinator works with the Youth Ministry Coordinator to create opportunities for intergenerational interaction. Several events, such as a game night, have been successful.

Property Team

by Bob O'Brien

The Property Committee is a standing committee of Palms Presbyterian Church under the Stewardship Ministry and responsible to the Session of the management of the property which includes the appropriate use of church and preschool buildings and facilities, maintenance of the buildings and grounds and enhancement to the property. The committee is also responsible for the property and liability insurance for the facilities, programs and staff of the church and preschool. Staff support for the committee is headed by Lori Vaughn, Church Business Director and includes Alex Crawford, Facilities Manager, and JP Schexnayder, Sexton and Assistant Facilities Manager. Disciples include, Bob O'Brien, Chair, Lori Blevins, Howard Baldwin, Phil Hammond, Rick Mann, and Bill Etheredge. Ed Officio members include Bob Nellson, Terry Keyser and Rick Giles.

A two-year Baldwin Grant for Energy Efficiencies initiated by Charlie Sellers for \$20,000 in 2019 is complete. The Property Team provided oversight for the work and Rick Mann headed the Green Team along with Charlie Sellers and others. The Team succeeded in 1. Replacing all the inefficient lighting fixtures in the Preschool with new energy-saving LED fixtures, 2. Purchasing new LED bulbs for all the lighting fixtures in the administration/classroom buildings, and 3. Replacing inefficient emergency lighting with updated emergency lighting throughout the campus. Rick's Green Team recommended and received approval for a Solar Energy Baldwin Grant project for 2021 in the amount of \$35,000. The team is concentrating its focus on providing solar power for the administration/classroom buildings this coming year.

Property Maintenance Reserve (PMR)

by Bob O'Brien

The Team has been entrusted to provide oversight of the Property Maintenance Reserve (PMR), funded by an endowment for Property Maintenance. The amount of funds available for capital needs each year is 5% of the past 4-year average of the account. In 2020 the amount of PMR funds available to use by the team was \$202,475. Authorized expenditures of \$68,053 were an AC unit, enhanced audio in sanctuary, painting and floor refinishing in the chapel, painting administration areas, campus-wide security cameras, purchasing a preschool bus, and remodeling the staff workroom.

An estimated \$331,843 will be available for 2021. Potential projects include HVAC units in Patton Hall, several AC units in the EDP rooms, and shade coverings in the Columbarium.

Strategic Planning

by Gene Filbert and Carol Barbour

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) 2020 Annual Report (members: Gene Filbert, Carol Barbour, Scott Matthews, Rev. Jeffrey Weenink)

1. Reviewed and analyzed a variety of documents for previous planning, goals and strategic direction (including Palms Bylaws, Palms Ertrachter Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020 draft, Palms 2012 Alban Institute Leadership Assessment and 2020 Palms CAT Study).
2. Worked together on a subcommittee with HR, Finance and staff to develop short term staffing model for Palms
3. Developed a committee charter to establish direction moving forward and provided it to Session for approval.
4. Worked with the Baldwin Grant Committee to clarify goals, re-define the grant application process and recommended grant proposals to Session for 2021 phase one funding of \$65,200.

Endowment Funds

by Richard Ross

The Endowment Committee is charged with the Stewardship of the Palms Endowment funds. Three major objectives of the team are Capital Preservation, Best Practices Investment and ensuring the wishes of the Donors are honored. Palms End of Year 2020 total Endowment stood at approximately \$6M. Our accounts performed very well in 2020 during both the Market downturn and growth period. Current Endowment Committee Members include: Richard Ross, Chair, Robert Nellson and Lori Vaughn

Please refer to the balance sheet for a listing of all Endowment Funds

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

by Carolyn Ettlinger

Committee Members were elected to the PNC by the congregation through a virtual congregational meeting in April 2020. The committee began working at the beginning of July 2020, starting with prayer and study as the PNC sought God's guidance for Palms Presbyterian Church's future. The committee is fortunate to have Rev. Craig Davies as the liaison from the Presbytery of St. Augustine's Call Commission. As the search process moves forward in the search process, prayers are for the church, its mission and for its future leadership. Members include: Michelle Copenhaver, Carolyn Ettlinger, Dave Hammers, Jim Hoener, Elaine Mann, David Taylor, Jeremy Thien and Melody Toma.

Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC)

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) works to seek Palms members who can provide leadership in serving God through the Session and Deacons Ministries as well as for the Nominating Committee. The CNC is headed by Scott Matthews and includes Bud Bolenbaugh, Kim Gossett, Mike Mantia, Kara Scremin, Bill Tickle, Ann VanDenBerg, and Jennifer Wise.

Human Resources

by Elaine Mann

The Human Resources Committee works in a supportive and counseling relationship with the senior pastor and meets monthly to address agenda items such as employee policies, compensation, staffing, job descriptions, the annual review process, preschool employee-related matters and any other topics related to the church and preschool staff. Budget-related recommendations are made after a review of the current budget and in collaboration with the Finance Committee. Among the many items that the HR Committee addressed during the last year were the COVID-related closing and later reopening of the preschool and the associated personnel matters, as well as leading the search process for the new preschool director. Items such as these are acted upon and presented to session for final approval.

Stewardship Committee

by Gordon Strickland

The Finance Team works to provide financial oversight to the church. We meet monthly to review and manage the congregation's budget and finances, financial planning and reporting needs and monitor internal control and policies that are in place. The goal of the Finance Team is to ensure the financial resources of the congregation support the mission and ministry of the church.

Generosity

by Karen Burdette

Our disciples at Palms have demonstrated their commitment to **Shine A Light in the Dark and Stand strong in Faith**. In a year like no other, where many of you faced great challenges and made unprecedented sacrifices, you have shown your commitment to our church and to our mission.

2020 was a turbulent year, where most of us were unable to worship in person, but our disciples stood strong in their faith to help us meet our operational expenses and our commitments to Serve, Nurture and Outreach ministries.

While we met our Pledge Giving income goals for 2020, approximately 20% of our annual income and budgeted line items were projected to come from what we call the "General Fund". This is largely funded by in-person worship offerings and as you would expect, we had a shortfall. As we faced this shortfall, many Palms disciples stepped forward to help us make up that financial gap. We are eternally grateful. Looking ahead, we are pleased to report that the response to our 2021 Pledge Campaign has been outstanding. We have, as of this date:

- Raised \$1.3 million keeping us on par with last year
- Seen 44% of our disciples increase their pledges for 2021 in response to these challenging times
- Received Pledges from 40 new households

Our challenge ahead is to continue to welcome gifts to our General Fund and fully meet our 2021 Annual Budget of \$1.5 million. While that is a reduction from the 2020 budget, through the Grace of God, we will do more with less.



Baldwin Grant Program

by Donna Rex

In 2017, Disciples James G. Baldwin and his wife, Sally Ferguson Baldwin made an investment in the future of Palms Church with a gift of \$500,000 through Mr. Baldwin's individual retirement account. Prior to Mr. Baldwin's passing, the gift was designated to be used for "new and creative" programming as determined by the Palms Presbyterian Church Session to enable Palms to move towards its strategic goals. Grants were approved and funded over 1-3 years. For 2020, ten new grants were approved totaling \$65,688, and there were nine grants totaling \$24,300 approved in prior years to be spent in 2020 and 2021.

2020 was a challenging year for us all with the introduction to the USA of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus. As churches, businesses, and more shut their doors, Palms Presbyterian Church moved to a primarily online presence where worship, education, administration and other programs were delivered via ZOOM. This had a significant impact on the amount of money spent on in-person programs. Accordingly, six grants totaling \$36,485 were not funded at all but may be considered in the future.

Common Grounds, a 2-year grant, had a successful year with several Deliberative Dialogues with topics ranging from *Racial & Ethnic Tensions* to *How to Rebuild Our Economy*. Common Grounds culminated with a large event, Jacksonville Together: Disrupting Division, which was held at several locations in the Jacksonville area and featured speaker Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton.

In late 2020, a committee was established as a partner with the Strategic Planning Committee to invite grant requests, recommend for approval, administer and report outcomes on the various Baldwin grants. Recommendations flow through the Strategic Planning Committee and to the Session for final approval. Moving from an end of year grant cycle to a rolling cycle of three approval periods will allow for the committee to respond quickly to ideas for new and creative program opportunities during the year. The first round of grants for 2021 were approved in December.



Baldwin Grant Program

2021 Recipients

CODEP (2 year grant):	\$4,200
Elevate:	\$5,000
Knit Together-Prayer Shawl Ministry (2 year grant):	\$1,250
Solar Energy:	\$35,000
The Need to be Kneaded:	\$2,500
Walking the Mourner's Path (2 year grant):	\$8,030

Multi-year Recipients

Balance & Strength:	\$2,500
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Roll-over Funds Recipients

Balance & Strength:	\$1,150
Geo-Thermal Project:	\$4,122.55
Transitional Ministry:	\$1,408.21

As of 1/1/2021, the Baldwin Grant Team has approved total awards in the amount of \$57,840.76 for 2021.

There is approximately \$200,000 left in the Baldwin Grant Fund after current grants are fully funded. The committee has requests pending for the next approval round and encourages anyone with ideas to submit at any time during the year. Please request general information, guidelines and proposal applications from Donna Rex at donnafund@gmail.com for assistance.

Sincere thanks are extended to Sally Baldwin for her continued interest and support of the Baldwin Grant program at Palms.

Baldwin Grants Committee

Bill Martin, Chairman – elder

Pam Chally - for the Finance Committee, elder and teacher/administrator

Craig Dykstra - retired pastor and foundation executive

Gene Filbert - for Strategic Planning, elder, current session member

Donna Rex - nonprofit professional, consultant, elder