

REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION FOR THE YEAR 2025



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STAUNTON
FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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Clerk	Martha Tillen
Music Director	Dr. Renee Huff
Office Manager	Heidi Marsh
Worship	Martha Tillen
Mission and Outreach	Sharon Wilson
Congregational Life	Barbara Richardson
Presbyterian Women	Donna Goble
Property	Hugh Sproul
Administration	Cindy Cooke
Nominations Report	Cindy Cooke

Current Officers for 2026

Elders, Class of 2026

Cindy Cooke, Administration
Sherry Cox, Worship
Martha Tillen, Clerk

Elders, Class of 2027

Eddie Homes, Congregational Life
Sharon Wilson, Mission & Outreach
Mark Shore, Administration

Elders, Class of 2028

Donna Goble, Mission & Outreach
Robin Knott, Congregational Life
Mary Meade, Worship

Staff

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Transitional Pastor
Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music
Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

Treasurers

Scott Wilson
Amanda Avery
Clerk: Martha Tillen

Corporation Board

Cindy Cooke, President
Mark Shore, Vice President
Martha Tillen, Secretary
Scott Wilson, Treasurer

In Loving Memory of Members Who Joined the Church Triumphant in 2025:

*Stephany Morgan**

Nancy Carey

*Dr. James Cooke**

Opal Homan

**Ordained and installed as
Ruling Elder*



2025 Church Statistical Report

Church **First** PIN **23219**
 Presbytery **Shenandoah**
 Address **100 E Frederick St, Staunton, VA 24401**
 Phone **540-886-0704** Fax **540-886-0705**
 Email **stauntonfirst@gmail.com**
 Web Site **www.1stpres-staunton.org**



Membership			
Prior Active Members	112	Adjusted membership	113
Gains			
Certificate	0	Certificate	1
Youth Professions	0	Deaths	4
Professions & Reaffirmations	0	Deleted for any Other Reason	20
Total Gains	0	Total Losses	25
Total Ending Active Members	88		
Baptisms			
Presented by Others	0	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	39
At Confirmation	0	Friends of the Congregation	5
All Other	0	Ruling Elders on Session	9
		Do you have Deacons?	No
Age Distribution of Active Members			
17 & Under	0	Hearing impairment	2
18 - 25	6	Sight impairment	2
26 - 40	8	Mobility impairment	4
41 - 55	5	Other impairment	2
56 - 70	46		
Over 70	23	Gender Distribution	
Total Age Distribution	88	Women	55
		Men	33
		Non-Binary	0
Youth in Congregation			
Age 4 and under	0	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	0
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	0	High School (9th – 12th grade)	0
		Total Youth	0
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	0	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Black/African American/African	1	White	87
Middle Eastern/North African	0	Multiracial	0
Hispanic/Latino-a	0		
		Total Racial Ethnic	88
Budgeted Income	285,308		
Budgeted Expense	325,461		
Receipts			
Regular Contributions	182,800	Bequests	0
Capital Building Fund	0	Other Income	59,395
Investment Income	9,603	Subsidy or Aid	14,000
Expenditures			
Local Program	317,886	Investment Expenditures	0
Local Mission	12,666	Per Capita Apprt	5,000
Capital Expenditures	12,207	Other Mission	4,275

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Transitional Pastor

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith... (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

A little while back Scott Wilson let me borrow his Ohio State Buckeyes hard hat. It was a funny joke; a satirical commentary on the sometimes-surprising tasks that a pastor faces with a congregation within one's day-to-day ministry (I helped clean up an exploding toilet the day before).

The truth is, I like the hard hat as a metaphor for the work that each of us has been called to do here at First Presbyterian.



To the common bystander, church life might seem rather easy. Each day, hundreds of people drive, ride, run, or walk by the property of First Presbyterian Church and remark, "What a lovely church."

But we, the community of faith within the walls of this church, know how much heart and hard work goes into the lifeblood of this congregation.

Maintaining the physical property is a responsibility and task all its own, but I'm not just referring to maintenance of these buildings.

Let's be appreciative of all of the programs, mission projects, music, worship, administration, Bible studies, and fellowship, that gives life to this church community today as well.

This is not an "easy" thing to do! It takes thousands of volunteer hours, plenty of energy, and a perseverance in faith and prayer that is only possible in Jesus (This might be a good time to re-read that scripture from Hebrews on the top of this page).

Within the next few pages of this report, we are invited to read and reflect upon the heart and hard work that goes into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian.

My hope is that this document serves as an invitation to not only appreciate the "lovely church" that First Presbyterian is, but to also consider how each of us are called to serve as Christ's hands and feet for our community in the year ahead.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff".

Pastor Jeff

Transitional Pastor Report
Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Transitional Pastor
February 15, 2026

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6)

Note: this is not your typical Transitional Pastor experience. Who would have thought that after two and a half years, we would still be planning to serve together for another two and a half years still to come? Like I said, this is not typical, but it is a wonderful opportunity for this congregation to step forward in faith in some rather unique ways.

So, what opportunities are there for us to encounter and engage with in the coming years? Here are a few initial ideas that come to mind:

1. Our **Building for Hope** program continues to evolve, now in its second year. Last year you endorsed the idea to engage with community partners to help fill our church space, so that First Presbyterian can continue to be part of the fabric of Staunton. We will continue to do so, while also working on some necessary physical improvements so that more people can share our space. One example of this will be a new keyless entry system being installed this year to help keep track of who comes and goes through these doors. Stay tuned for more conversations and announcements about discerning these opportunities ahead.
2. **Church partnerships** continue to be a celebration in the connectional church. We have built upon these relationships over the years, specifically with 2nd & 3rd Presbyterian churches, through fellowship events, worship, and Bible study. My hope is that we will continue to formally partner with these congregations moving forward, as now all three congregations are experiencing transition. To do so, we will work with these churches to discern what this may look like, but please remember that any decisions made are up to you as the congregation.
3. **Community relationships** will continue to be vital as we envision a new future for First Presbyterian. I am taking the opportunity with my longer contract to build these relationships by getting involved with more city-focused groups, events, and committees. One of the best ways for us to share news of this church is to simply be present with others who may not know about our ministry or who we may not normally cross paths with, and who may be wonderful allies in serving the needs of the community.

We have our challenges. The maintenance needs of the property and buildings continue to tax our human and financial resources. Our income continues to decline while our expenses continue to rise. Yes, we have financial reserves, but regularly drawing from them is not a sustainable financial model. Our church leaders are tired, and we have not added new members in a long time.

If it is any comfort, please know that these issues are being experienced by many congregations across the country these days—we are not alone. There simply is not an easy answer; if there was, we would have taken those measures by now. This is the long, tough road of communal discernment, where tough questions must be asked, and tough decisions must be made. But this is also a wonderfully faith-filled opportunity as well for this congregation to unite as a true family of faith as we encounter an undetermined future ahead.

So, I wonder, First Presbyterian, how will God call us forward in faith in the days and years ahead? What priorities would you like to address during these transitional years? How might we envision a bright new future for First Presbyterian moving forward, so that every breath of our being may be to praise the Lord?

In Christ,


Pastor Jeff

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01/09/26

Accrual Basis

First Presbyterian Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Income	
001 · Pledged Operating Fund \$142507	124,771.10
003 · Unpledged Offerings \$142801	451.00
003A · 4th Sunday Loose Plate	27,692.01
003 · Unpledged Offerings \$142801 - Other	27,692.01
Total 003 · Unpledged Offerings \$142801	28,143.01
004 · Rental Income	
Rental Income - Other	52,595.00
004 · Rental Income - Other	6,800.00
Total 004 · Rental Income	59,395.00
005 · Memorial Fund	1,050.00
008 · Offerings-Designated Miss	22,884.00
009 · Unpledged Designated Fund	7,002.00
010 · Interest Income	9,603.40
Total Income	252,848.51
Gross Profit	252,848.51
Expense	
1000 · ADMINISTRATION \$11650	
1100 · Computer Expenses	541.38
1200 · Office Machine Maintenance	7,245.85
1300 · Office Supplies	2,898.77
1400 · Postage and Delivery	438.00
1600 · Advertising and Promotion	155.88
1700 · Committee and Session	3,144.50
Total 1000 · ADMINISTRATION \$11650	14,424.38
2000 · BUILDING AND PROPERTY \$78300	
2100 · FACILITY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	
2110 · Building & Maintenance Supplies	2,624.04
2120 · Maintenance and Repairs	25,198.10
2130 · Major Repairs	12,207.23
2150 · Insurance Expense	24,365.50
Total 2100 · FACILITY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	64,394.87
2500 · UTILITIES	
2510 · Electricity	16,655.33
2520 · Natural Gas	17,469.12
2530 · Telecommunications	4,636.65
2540 · Water-Sewer-Trash	2,189.02
Total 2500 · UTILITIES	40,950.12
Total 2000 · BUILDING AND PROPERTY \$78300	105,344.99
4000 · CONGREGATIONAL LIFE \$3000	756.05
5000 · MISSION AND OUTREACH \$14000	
Home Goods Pantry	2,895.22
5000 · MISSION AND OUTREACH \$14000 - Other	9,770.64
Total 5000 · MISSION AND OUTREACH \$14000	12,665.86

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01/09/26

Accrual Basis

First Presbyterian Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
6000 · PERSONNEL EXPENSES	
6200 · Office Manager \$46146	
6216 · Disability Insurance	335.35
6210 · Office Manager Salary	27,538.86
6211 · Benefit - Health Insurance	12,678.88
6212 · Benefit - Pension	2,932.35
6213 · Benefit - Life Insurance	354.04
6214 · Benefit - Dental Insurance	-248.23
6215 · Vision	-18.39
Total 6200 · Office Manager \$46146	43,572.86
6500 · Music Staff Salaries	
6520 · Chior Director Salary \$17020.18	17,020.08
Total 6500 · Music Staff Salaries	17,020.08
6870 · SUBCONTRACTORS	
6871 · Bookkeeping Expense \$4000	7,880.00
6872 · Buildings and Grounds	1,274.18
6873 · Facility Cleaning \$12500	10,890.50
Total 6870 · SUBCONTRACTORS	20,044.68
6980 · Payroll Expenses \$5000	3,128.75
6990 · Workman's Comp Insurance \$430	523.25
Total 6000 · PERSONNEL EXPENSES	84,289.62
7000 · TERMS OF CALL \$119299.48	
7100A · Effective Salary	
Pastor Salary	22,624.00
Housing Allowance	45,000.01
Dental Insurance	354.17
Total 7100A · Effective Salary	67,978.18
7100B · Reimbursable Expenses	
Continuing Education	1,187.39
Professional Fees	2,475.17
Travel Expenses	1,530.61
Total 7100B · Reimbursable Expenses	5,193.17
7100C · BENEFITS	
7700 · Social Security Compensation	5,173.26
7110 · Health Insurance	21,252.40
7120 · Pension	5,738.89
7130 · Life Insurance	688.69
7135 · Temporary Disability	375.85
7140 · Vision	36.01
7150 · Fidelity Annuity	17,419.98
Total 7100C · BENEFITS	50,685.08
Total 7000 · TERMS OF CALL \$119299.48	123,856.43
8000 · WORSHIP \$5000	
8400 · SUBCONTRACTORS	
8484 · Substitute Pastors	875.00
8420 · Guest Musicians	950.00
8430 · Instrument Maintenance	390.00
Total 8400 · SUBCONTRACTORS	2,215.00
8000 · WORSHIP \$5000 - Other	3,531.69
Total 8000 · WORSHIP \$5000	5,746.69
9000 · Presbytery \$5100	5,030.38
Total Expense	352,114.40
Net Income	-99,265.89

2025 External Funds
First Presbyterian Church
Account Balances - December 2025

Unrestricted	Accounts	As of December 31, 2025		
	General Memorial		\$ 101,533	
	Martha Grafton		\$ 5,723	
	Thomas & Martha Grafton		\$ 42,013	
	Roper		\$ 342,575	
	Silling		\$ 73,605	
	General Endowment		\$ 1,258,515	
	Checking		\$ 29,145	
	Grand Total		\$ 1,853,109	

2026 Budget

Operating Income	2025 Projected	2025 Budget	2026 (Adopted)	
Pledged	\$133,231	\$142,507	\$123,905	93%
All Other	\$115,862	\$142,801	\$103,117	
Total Operating Income	\$249,093	\$285,308	\$227,022	91%
Total Operating Expense		\$117,550		
Net Operating Income		\$167,758		
Part 2				
External Draw	\$100,000	\$40,000		
Part 3				
Ministry Expense	2025 Projected	2025 Budget	2026 (Adopted)	
Administration		\$11,650	\$15,000	
Discipleship		\$500	\$500	
Congregational Life		\$3,000	\$3,000	
Mission and Outreach		\$14,000	\$15,000	
Worship		\$5,000	\$5,000	
Presbytery		\$5,100	\$5,100	
Sub-Total		\$39,250	\$43,600	
Buildings and Property		\$78,300	\$150,000	
Part 4				
Personnel Expense	2025 Projected	2025 Budget	2026 (Adopted)	
		\$207,911	\$215,206.07	
Roof Repair				
Legal Fees				
Grand Total Expense	\$384,228	\$325,461	\$408,806.07	
Gain/Loss	(\$135,135)	(\$40,153)	(\$181,784)	

Treasurer's Report (December 2025)

January 10, 2026

This represents the end of year report for 2025.

Income:

Total income through December stands at \$252,849 or 89% of our annual budget target. This is composed of Pledged Income coming in at \$124,771 which is below our 2025 budget of \$142,507 and also our year end prediction of \$133,231 we made in September. All Other Income (Unpledged, Rent, Investment income) of \$128,077 was 90% of our budget goal but exceeded our September prediction of \$115,862 producing a total Income for December YTD higher than our September projections but short of our budget goals.

Expenses:

Total Expenses for December YTD were \$352,139 and represent 108% of our target for the year, mainly as the result of continuing Property expenses which stand at 138% of the annual Property budget. Our Session Committee budgets were exceeded by Administration and Worship with the balance at or below budget levels.

Total Assets:

Total Assets for at the end of December were \$1,952,579. Our investments continue to show resilience in these uncertain times. The market has been favorable to our investments and allow us to continue funding our deficit budget.

Comments:

The result of our income shortfall and expense overages was a net loss of -\$99,291 against our budget loss of -\$40,153. This continues a pattern of deficit budgets for many years. Our strong investment position continues to fund these deficits. This deficit, while exceeding our budget, is considerably less than our September prediction of -\$135,135 mainly as forecast expenses were somewhat lower.

Amanda Avery and Scott Wilson
Treasurers – First Presbyterian Church

Church Financials Summary 2025

Dashboard Financial Summary - Income Statement				
First Presbyterian Church December 2025				
Part 1				
Operating Income	December	December YTD	Yearly Budget	% of Yearly Budget
Pledged	\$ 9,205	\$ 124,771	\$ 142,507	88%
All Other	\$ 11,196	\$ 128,077	\$ 142,801	90%
Total Operating Income	\$ 20,401	\$ 252,849	\$ 285,308	89%
Total Operating Expense				
	\$ 19,236	\$ 143,968	\$ 117,550	122%
Net Operating Income	\$ 1,165	\$ 108,880		
Part 2				
External Draw	\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000		
Total Assets - (Balance Sheet)	\$ 1,952,579			
Part 3				
Ministry Expense	December	December YTD	Yearly Budget	% of Yearly Budget
Administration	\$ 131	\$ 14,424	\$ 11,650	124%
Discipleship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	0%
Congregational Life	\$ 78	\$ 756	\$ 3,000	25%
Mission and Outreach	\$ 1,629	\$ 12,666	\$ 14,000	90%
Worship	\$ 1,749	\$ 5,747	\$ 5,000	115%
Presbytery	\$ -	\$ 5,030	\$ 5,100	99%
Sub-Total	\$ 3,587	\$ 38,623	\$ 39,250	98%
Buildings and Property	\$ 15,649	\$ 105,345	\$ 78,300	135%
Part 4				
	December	December YTD	Yearly Budget	% of Yearly Budget
Personnel Expense	\$ 17,687	\$ 208,146	\$ 207,911	100%
Legal Fees	\$ -	\$ 25	0	
Grand Total Expense	\$ 36,923	\$ 352,139	\$ 325,461	108%
Gain/Loss	\$ (16,522)	\$ (99,291)	\$ (40,153)	247%

Clerk's Report 2025

- The clerk attended the annual *Reading of the Minutes* at Third Presbyterian Church on April 5, 2025 at which time minutes from 2024 were approved. Clerk will attend the Reading for 2025 on March 14, 2026..
- The clerk provided a certificate of transfer of membership for 1 member. Twenty others were removed from the roll at their request following an update of the rolls process.
- The following members passed away in 2025: Nancy Carey, Jim Cooke, Opal Homan and Stephany Morgan
- Average weekly attendance: 39
- The membership is comprised of 55 women and 33 men
- Total members as of 12/2025: 88

Martha Tillen, Clerk

Music Director's Report 2025

Many blessings have graced the Music department this past year. We are small but mighty! Streaming issues were present, but Sam Clem deals with these so masterfully no one can tell, thank you for your wisdom, Sam! Chris Nicholson has enriched our lives greatly with his amazing abilities: on organ, as piano duet-partner, sight-reading and rehearsal guide, pianistic virtuoso, as well as his singing and ringing gifts. Thank you Chris, the congregation appreciates you!

Our resident percussionist, Robert Richardson, adds so much joy to our services helping to stream and do camera work when Sam can't be there. We love you Robert!

The Worship Committee (with the organized Martha Tillen as Chair) has unfailingly chosen hymns for us (even when I couldn't be there) and they give so freely of their time and efforts in making the musical aspects of event planning efficient and on track. Thank you team!

Pastor Jeff has stepped up to the plate on several occasions setting up the live-stream and AV equipment this year when Sam was gone. The pastor's willingness to go above and beyond is always amazing and appreciated. We have truly had so many people who contributed to a successful 2025 year.

Many thanks to the Handbell Choir (Susan Lendermon [and her husband for always helping when we need it], Emmie Dupont, Jean Wengenroth, Chris Nicholson, and Ann Weiland) and the Chancel Choir (Robert Richardson, Scott Wilson, Dick Cox, Chris Nicholson, and occasionally Anna Christina Kendall and Amanda Rogus) for hanging in there and celebrating God's word through Music. Glory to God!

Many Thanks to Heidi for all she does with getting the bulletin out and scheduling musical events. Great job!

Dr. Huff attended the Massanetta Springs "*Ringing in The Springs*" Handbell Retreat February of 2025, and will be attending again in 2026. We are always seeking to enrich our music program.

This past year Dick Cox took charge as liaison for all groups using our sanctuary and rental rooms. His careful, professional correspondence greatly enhanced the flow of information and the feedback for all things behind-the-scenes. Thank you Dick!

Many great musical performances blessed our property in 2025 from Heifetz, The Staunton Music Festival, MBU, Waynesboro Symphony, to various schools and community choirs, quartets, and ensembles. We remain steadfast in our desire to encourage creativity and participation as a musical lifeline for our 'Queen City Community' and will be continuing our efforts to involve future musical opportunities as platforms of ministerial outreach.

After the Heifetz summer program, an extra grand piano was left in our sanctuary which has added to our musical options during services.

Our outdoor services and many fellowship luncheons brought fun energy and vibrancy to the congregation. A thread of openness and opportunity mirrored a more relaxed 'Jazzy' infusion to many of the musical performances during worship. It is exciting that Pastor Jeff and the Worship Committee are so good-natured about fresh ideas and experimental musical genres used during the service. Thank you! Feedback is always welcome.

Annual Evaluations occurred in October/November and we feel steady progress has been made.

Our Christmas program was planned differently this year (shorter, but much richer) than we have had the past few years. We handled more difficult music - 3 Christmas Cantatas! Tandem musical groups performed together with outside soloists and the process definitely challenged everyone's expectations and abilities. This experience gave us good feedback which will be quite useful for future planning (more rehearsals would make everyone more comfortable). A big shout-out to all participants - I am so proud of us! Bravo!

I am excited to see how we grow and change in 2026. I know we have had a slow (with ice and illness) start to the year, but I am very encouraged about moving forward.

Blessings to All,

Dr. Renee Huff
Director of Music Ministries
1st Presbyterian Church of Staunton, VA

Office Manager's Report 2025

It was busy as always in the church office in 2025! It has been gratifying to see and/or be a part of such activities as the Home Goods Pantry, committee meetings, PW, and our new tenants, The Oratory School.

The work continued as usual in the office in 2025, as bulletins, newsletters, calendars, and flyers were created, weekly announcements were made, the directory and database were updated, bills were paid, accounts payable records were maintained and updated, contributions were recorded, bank statements were reconciled, and reports were generated. Publicity for church events via the website, Facebook, and email blasts continued to be a priority.

We got a new copier this year! I compiled information comparing two vendors, prices and the products they offered, working with Pastor Jeff and Cindy Cooke. We purchased a refurbished copier, and it works just like new.

With the Home Goods Pantry applying for and receiving grants, I am now providing information each month regarding Home Goods expenses, contributions, and in-kind donations.

I continued to work with community members for concerts and events, and outside contractors, including making sure that all paperwork (property agreements, insurance policies, W-9 forms) was received and filed accordingly. I also ensured that, given that we have several tenants, that the rent was paid on time. Communicated with Building & Groundsman regarding property issues needing attention. Maintained key records and made sure that keys were turned back in after use.

Yearly reports were completed and sent to Presbytery.

The Annual report was compiled and printed.

packets for Session meetings were created each month. Reports were generated monthly for Session members.

The Home Goods Community Pantry was busy throughout the year. Forms/documents continued to be generated and updated each month in order to remain organized in the midst of continued high demand in the community. Communicated with Sue Ann McAllister whenever we received special requests for the pantry.

I continued to maintain the church website, updating it as I became aware of events. I communicated with web developers as needed.

Routine, ongoing bookkeeping duties continued, including ensuring bills were paid on time, running reports, sending quarterly & yearly contribution statements, and coordinating with our outside bookkeeper regarding exchanging information promptly, and ensuring that paychecks were received on time & distributed quickly. Also conducted year-end work, updating bookkeeping files, binders, and the PO book.

Items for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign were printed, compiled, and mailed in October of 2025.

Ensured that computer warranties and cybersecurity software were updated and renewed as needed.

Many thanks to all who volunteered and helped in the office, including Scott Wilson, Amanda Avery, and Fay Kniley.

Heidi Marsh
Office Manager

Worship Report 2025

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*

The committee was very busy this year providing meaning and beautiful worship and special services throughout the liturgical year. A beautifully decorated sanctuary filled with wonderful music and meaningful worship is only possible through the efforts of many dedicated helpers, some members and some friends of the congregation. First Presbyterian Church extends thanks to the following (please forgive any accidental omissions):

Worship Committee Members: Jeff Binder, Martha Tillen, Sherry Cox, Renee Huff, Chris Nicholson and Gary Havens

Office support, organization, and communication: Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

Musicians: Dick Cox, Gary Havens, Eddie Homes, Renee Huff, Kyle LeGore, Robert Richardson, Scott Wilson, Anna Christiana Kendall, Jory James, Emmie Dupont, and other special guest musicians who added richness to our worship.

Handbell Choir Members: Grace Clem, Emmie DuPont, Gary Havens, Renee Huff, Kyle Legore, Susie Lendermon, Chris Nicholson, Robert Richardson, and Ann Weiland

Advent Candle Lighters: June Jordan and Margaret Armstrong, Mark Shore and Joe Surratt, Chris Nicholson and Robert Richardson, Sharon and Bob Driscoll, and Sherry and Dick Cox

Liturgists: Amanda Avery, Lucinda Cooke, Dick Cox, Sherry Cox, Mark Shore, Joe Surratt, Martha Tillen, Scott Wilson, Sharon Wilson

Ushers: Amanda Avery, Lisa Caywood, Lucinda Cooke, Dick Cox, Sherry Cox, Barbara Richardson, Mark Shore, Joe Surratt, Martha Tillen, Scott Wilson, Sharon Wilson

Christmas Decorating/Clean- up: Amanda Avery, Jeff Binder, Lucinda Cooke, Dick & Sherry Cox, Fay Knicley, Mary Meade, Barbara Richardson, John Sheaves, Alex Tillen, Martha Tillen, and Scott & Sharon Wilson.

Communion Bread Baker: Martha Tillen

A very special thank you to Gary Havens and Christopher Nicholson for volunteering many hours of rehearsal and performance to provide us with beautiful music on organ and piano.

Summary of Activities for 2025

- We have acquired the long term use of a beautiful Baldwin grand piano that belongs to the Heifetz Institute. They will store it in the sanctuary and we may use it whenever we like. We have used it frequently and have also enjoyed some two piano pieces using our own lovely Kawai piano as well.
- The Worship Committee planned and organized the Sacrament of Communion (including set-up, arranging servers, and clean up) once a month and on Maundy Thursday, Worldwide Communion Sunday, and Christmas Eve.
- The Chair arranged for coverage of four Sundays when Pastor Jeff was absent.
- The Chair arranged for weekly liturgists to help lead the service.
- The committee helped the Pastor to plan and carry out special services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Worldwide Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and Advent/Christmas.

- The committee arranged for flowers and decorations in the sanctuary on Easter, and Advent as well as arranged for flowers donated by members from time to time. Fresh wreaths were also placed on the outside doors of the church during Advent. The committee coordinated with Heidi to solicit memorial donations from members and friends during Easter and Christmas.
- The Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra, the Heifetz Institute, the Staunton Music Festival, and Mary Baldwin University all used space this year for rehearsals, concerts, and classes.
- Mary Baldwin University and the Staunton NAACP held their annual service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in our sanctuary in mid-January 2026.
- Committee members chose hymns for each week to please a variety of tastes and to complement the weekly sermon themes.
- The Committee continues to have an interest in opening the sanctuary to more concerts and events that enrich our community and expand our mission supporting the goals of our *Building for Hope* mission.

Martha Tillen, Worship Committee Chair

Mission and Outreach Report 2025

Our Mission and Outreach committee is comprised of six members: Alice Herbst, Fay Knicley, Sue Ann McAllister, Donna Goble, Margaret Armstrong, Louise Whipple, along with Pastor Jeff and Sharon M. Wilson – Chair.

Besides mission projects, we are also tasked with Outreach to the congregation and community (i.e. website and visitor follow-up).

This year we sponsored 4 special offerings: Trinity Lunch, Valley Mission, CASA, and Massanetta Camp Conference Center.

Areas of support include:

1. Trinity lunch- 2 teams (alternate third Thursday of every month).
 - a. Team Alpha- David Lowman (Loch Willow), Andra Borrell, Robin Dietrich, Margaret Armstrong, Amanda Avery, Robin Knott and Susie Baker. (Scott Wilson – Head Cook).
 - b. Team M&M - Barbara Richardson, Robin Dietrich, June Jordan, David Lowman (Loch Willow), Margaret Armstrong, Darlene Mason (Third Pres.) (Sharon Wilson – Head Cook).
2. Home Goods Community Pantry (See separate attached report).
3. CASA
4. Sacks of Love - Pastor Jeff organized a group to help pack bags at First Baptist Church - Sherry and Dick Cox, Louise Whipple, Barbara Richardson, Sue Ann McAllister and Pastor Jeff.
5. SACRA
6. Presbyterian Disaster Relief
7. Christmas Giving Tree “Adult Social Services” - organized by Donna Goble
8. Valley Mission
9. WARM (Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministries)

Prepare food and serve at Christ Lutheran Church: Sherry and Dick Cox, Sue Ann McAllister, Barbara Richardson, Mary Meade, Donna Goble, Sharon and Scott Wilson and Pastor Jeff.

10. Children's Home of the Highlands.

11. Presbyterian Women also support many causes:

Afghan refugee family, Staunton High School Nurses Office, New Directions and many others.

We'd like to thank everyone for their commitment in this effort to spread the word, work and mission of Christ in our community. It truly takes a village!

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Wilson, Chair - Mission and Outreach

Home Goods Community Pantry Report 2025

The Home Goods Community Pantry has continued to grow each quarter over the past year. Following are the quarterly bag distributions and individuals assisted:

1st: 212 bags; 539 individuals

2nd: 327 bags; 816 individuals

3rd: 359 bags; 935 individuals

4th: 387 bags; 1,036 individuals

2025 Total: 1,285 bags; 3,326 individuals

All of this would not have been possible without the help of the following people. **Distribution of bags either 1 time or multiple times:** Stephany Morgan, Fay Kniley, Louise Whipple, Robin Dietrich, Darlene Mason, Margaret Armstrong, Sue Ann McAllister, and Kiwanis members

Shoppers for items either 1 time or multiple times: Stephany Morgan, Donna & Paul Goble, Sharon & Scott Wilson, Robin & Rick Dietrich, Sherry & Dick Cox, Alice Herbst, Lisa Caywood, Eddie Homes, and Sue Ann & Danny McAllister

Packers of bags: Cindy Cooke, Sue Ann McAllister, and Kiwanis members

Grant writer: Megan McAllister

Inventory, stacking and taking boxes to recycling, and other odd jobs: Sue Ann & Danny McAllister
Every month Heidi Marsh works behind the scenes answering phone calls and email for special requests to adding new names to the master list.

In April, the pantry formed a partnership with the Staunton Kiwanis Club. The members helped create a new packing room by moving furniture. They began packing monthly bags and helping with monthly bag distribution. Cindy Cooke was instrumental in beginning this partnership.

In May through October, Project GROWS began bringing their mobile fresh food market to the pantry during the first hour of operations. Susie Lendermon was instrumental in scheduling this group. They plan to return to the pantry in May 2026.

In October, Megan McAllister wrote a grant from the Presbytery of Shenandoah Committee on Committee on Missions and Outreach Missions. They awarded the pantry \$8,000 in November. She will continue to work on grant writing as they become available.

In October, 8 Staunton Police Department officers packed bags for the pantry. They chose the pantry for their day of service project.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Ann McAllister

Congregational Life Committee Report 2025

Members: Lisa Caywood, Vice Chair, Sharon Driscoll, Sam Clem, Alice Herbst, Sara Lewis Anderson, Mona Tate, Barbara Richardson, Chair

Card Writers: Alice Herbst, Sara Lewis Anderson, Sharon Wilson, Louise Whipple, Barbara Richardson

Cards were sent to the VIPs every month and on their birthdays.

Bud vases for Valentine's Day were delivered to the VIPs (Jim Cooke, Nancy Carey, Opal Homan, Nancy Hall, Nancy Rhea, Helen Wood, and Louisa Dixon) by Lisa, Alice, Cindy Cooke. Valentine cards were sent to Carolyn and Ray Hoaster, Margaret and Bob MacKay.

Bud vases of flowers from the receptions for Stephany Morgan and Nancy Carey were delivered to the VIPs by Cindy Cooke, Alice Herbst, and Barbara Richardson.

Easter Lilies from the Easter service were delivered to the VIPs by Cindy Cooke and Barbara Richardson.

Sara Lewis Anderson selected Flag decorations for the Fourth of July. They were delivered to the VIPs by The Rev. Dr. Binder, Sharon Driscoll, Andra Borrell, and Barbara Richardson.

Christmas stockings were delivered to the VIPS in December.

The committee has increased visits to the VIPS, encouraging others to assist.

Members of the committee have been contacting members to be sure they know about activities.

The committee and members of the church helped with receptions after the funerals for:

Stephany Morgan March 8

Dr. Jim Cooke May 29

Nancy Carey, March 28

The committee has planned an activity each month:

A brunch February 16 for the Annual Meeting. The congregation brought food.

A barbeque lunch on March 16 prepared by Sam Clem, with side dishes and desserts provided by the congregation.

An Agape meal on Maundy Thursday April 17 with the congregation bringing items for it.

May 18 worship and a covered dish lunch on the lawn with the church providing chicken and drinks.

June 15 a covered dish picnic after worship at the home of Sharon and Scott Wilson.

July 10 a covered dish picnic with the First, Second and Third Presbyterian Churches was moved to the Third Presbyterian Church from Gypsy Hill Park because of the threat of rain. Two members of the Second Presbyterian Church provided the chicken. Each church donated to the picnic.

August 17 an ice cream social after the worship service.

August 23 a covered dish picnic hosted by the Third Presbyterian Church, with Bingo and prizes.

September 21 the worship service and a covered dish picnic on the lawn. Barbecue was provided.

October 19 Pumpkin decorating with prizes. A lunch of pizza, salad, and ice cream sandwiches was provided.

December 7 Thanksgiving/Christmas lunch prepared by Sam Clem with assistance from Grace Clem, Ron and David Lowman, and Barbara Richardson. Alice Herbst, Sue Menikatos, and Barbara Richardson prepared the drinks, and set up for the lunch. Martha Tilden decorated the tables.

Coffee and refreshments continue to be provided after worship, with many members contributing.

Barbara Richardson, Chair

Presbyterian Women Report 2025

Every month the Presbyterian Women (PW) of 1st Presbyterian Church meet to share a meal, provide a Bible study lesson, host speakers and discuss local, national, and global efforts to help people and organizations that spread Christ's love and compassion for those in need.

In 2025, PW provided support to the following organizations:

- Approximately \$650 for Staunton High School Nurse
- Approximately \$600 for New Directions
- \$1200 for an Afghan immigrants family
- Spring Donations:
 - \$100 PW PC (USA) Mission Pledge
 - \$49.55 PW PC (USA) Least Coin from 2024
 - \$100 PDA - US Flooding
 - \$30 1st Pres. Homegoods Pantry
 - \$100 CASA
 - \$100 Community Child Care Center
 - \$100 Martha's Meals on Wheels
 - \$100 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands
 - \$100 Valley Pastoral Counseling Center
 - \$204.83 Valley Mission (Meat)
 - \$303 Church World Services Hygiene Kits and Shipping
 - \$68 Massenetta Special Offering
- Fall Donations:
 - \$387.57 CWS Kits and transport (50 kits)
 - \$16.54 Valley Mission laundry buckets
 - \$215.84 Journey Bags for Foster Love Ministries
 - \$200 Bread for the World
 - \$200 SACRA
 - \$200 Sunnyside - Fellowship Fund
 - \$200 Salvation Army
 - \$200 SAW Habitat for Humanity
 - \$200 PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) - US flooding
 - \$250 for New Directions
 - \$500 for Homegoods Pantry
 - \$144.97 Valley Mission (Turkeys)
 - \$450 for Church Staff Christmas gifts

Total Donations for 2025: almost \$7000

Bank Balance as of 12/31/25: \$4747.51

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lendermon and Donna Goble, Co-Chairs, PW

Property Committee Report 2025

Significant accomplishments:

1. Replacement of forced air heat to the Potter Building
2. Determining and fixing the water leak in the top floor of the Frazier Building. The rain water source was not the roof, as had been diagnosed by my predecessor, but was coming through the walls. The walls are now capped and sealed.

Hugh Sproul, Chair

Administration Committee Report 2025

Committee Members: Amanda Avery, Dick Cox, Sharon Driscoll, Martha Tilden, Scott Wilson, Pastor Jeff, Stephany Morgan, Chair (through February 2025), Cindy Cooke, Chair (March- December 2025).

Budget and Stewardship

Through December 2025 we stood at 89% of our annual budget total of \$285,308. Both pledged giving which came in at \$124,771 (below our 2025 budget of \$142,507), and All Other Income (unpledged, rent, investment income) of \$128,077 was 90% of our budget goal but did exceed our September prediction of \$115,862. This produced a total income for December YTD higher than our September projections, but short of our budget goals.

Expenses for December YTD were \$352,139 and represent 108% of our target for the year. This overage was mainly the result of continuing Property expenses which stand at 138% of the annual Property budget. Session committee budgets were exceeded by Administration and Worship by 124% and 115% respectively.

Total Assets at the end of December were \$1,952,579. We have been fortunate that our investments continue to show resilience in what has been an uncertain year. The market has been favorable to our investments and allows us to continue funding our deficit budget.

The combination of an income shortfall and expense overages caused a net loss of -\$99,291 against our projected loss of -\$40,153. We have experienced a long pattern of budget deficits, going back decades. Our strong investment position has been our chief support so that we can fund these deficits.

Many thanks to our treasurer, Scott Wilson, who provided the above information regarding our church finances and is the "go to" numbers guy!

In late September, our Stewardship Campaign/Season opened, led by Cindy Cooke. Her committee consisted of Amanda Avery, Martha Tilden, Scott Wilson, and Pastor Jeff. A letter included in the October newsletter, explained our 2025 theme, "Building for Our Future." Capitalizing on the "Building for Hope" project initiated at the end of 2024, the committee chose to embrace groups that use our buildings to reach out in various ways to the greater Staunton community and how we are using mission and outreach to assist many in need throughout the area. An ASK letter and pledge card were mailed out in mid-October, followed by four Sunday Stewardship Moments where our committee members focused on the words of those who use our spaces and what it means to be able to reach out to large segments of Staunton and beyond, thereby fulfilling their missions and ours to embrace a diversity of people and interests. We had hoped to have a 2026 pledge goal close to that of \$142,507 from 2025. Nineteen households pledged in 2025; only 10 in 2026. Pledging fell short in 2025, with \$117,989. Thus far for 2026, pledging has reached \$94,140. Admin will be looking at ways to boost that total beginning in the spring of 2026.

Personnel

All personnel received evaluations and their job descriptions updated, A 4% increase was given to Jeff, Heidi, and Renee effective January 1, 2026. 2% COLA and 2% merit. We are grateful for Jeff's role as Covenant Pastor, and to Heidi and Renee for their hard work, dedication, and welcoming presence to our congregation and throughout the community.

Manual of Operations

By way of review from 2024, a background check policy has been in place for several years; however, no follow up has taken place. In 2024, the Admin Committee recommended, and Session approved, that all covered by this policy have a background review every 5 years; or more frequently if circumstances require.

There are several Presbytery-required policies which are to be a part of our Manual of Operations. These include Boundary Training for Edlers and Sexual Abuse/Harassment Policies. Most, but not all Elders have taken the Boundary Training. Amanda Avery met with Pastor Jeff to review and synthesize the latter for Admin to read and recommend to Session for approval. This occurred in November 2025.

Our church has two part-time employee contracts. One is with T&J Cleaning (John and Teresa Sheaves) for cleaning and maintenance, and Rhonda Ritchie (accounting services). The contract for T&J has proved more than satisfactory for them and for our church. Last year the contract was reviewed and modified on a more permanent basis.

Incorporation

In October of 2024, the church became a duly approved and active non-stockholder corporation. The Session is the Board of Directors. Officers for the first year of operation are elected by the Session. They included Stephany Morgan, president, Cindy Cooke, vice president, Scott Wilson, treasurer, and Martha Tilden, secretary. New officers will be elected in February 2026 at a congregational/corporation meeting.

Rental/Lease Contracts

Our church has a number of lease agreements and facility use contracts, some of which are ongoing, and others are one and done. Since keeping these all organized and up to date required a great deal of Heidi's time, the responsibility passed to Admin to sort out, organize, and manage. In 2025 we had ongoing rental contracts in Potter (Heifetz, ASC, and Oak Grove) as well as facility use agreements for use of our sanctuary. 2025 was a busy year and Dick Cox rose to the occasion by organizing all our agreements and myriad policies into consistent and cohesive facilities use policies and rental agreements. These were examined by Admin and forwarded for adoption by Session. Dick also wrote the contract with our newest lessee, Sacred Heart of Christ Classical Academy who now occupy the second floor of Fraser. With only a few minor bumps along the way, this arrangement is working out well, both from the school's point of view and ours. Negotiations were ongoing for months as preparations went forward for the school to move in and for us to provide necessary repairs to make the rooms accessible. Dick stayed on top all the way. Currently, Heifetz has requested additional rooms (for a total of 8) for 2026, while Sacred Heart has indicated they may also need additional rooms for 2026.

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee is a congregational elected committee. It is a 3-member committee serving 2-year staggered terms. One member is elected from the Session. Due to circumstances, Cindy Cooke was the only remaining member. She served as the Session member and added Sam Clem, Donna Goble, Martha Tillen (Clerk of Session), and Sharon Wilson (Session). Congratulations go to the entire committee who worked diligently to fill five positions on the Session. These new members were duly installed on January 11, 2026. We are fortunate to have the full 9 members as established in our Manual of Operations.

Thank you for our work on this committee and to those who have agreed to serve on Session.

Special thanks to all who serve on the Administration Committee. We meet monthly on the second Sunday of the month after worship service.

Cindy Cooke, Chair