



# Alpharetta Presbyterian Church

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## 2021 Annual Report

**Our Mission:** *We are called to be a Christ-centered family of believers committed to growing spiritually, worshipping joyfully, and sharing God's love daily.*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### **STAFF AND CHURCH OFFICER REPORTS:**

PASTOR, Dr. Oliver Wagner	Page 2
ASSOCIATE PASTOR, Rev. Anne Fyffe	Page 3
ASSOCIATE PASTOR, Rev. Beverly Markham	Page 3
ASSOCIATE PASTOR, Rev. Erin Noh	Page 4
CLERK OF SESSION, Susan Burkett	Page 4
DIACONATE	Page 5

#### **SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	Page 6
DAYSCHOOL	Page 7
FELLOWSHIP	Page 8
MEMBERSHIP	Page 10
MISSION	Page 11
NOMINATING	Page 13
PERSONNEL	Page 13
PROPERTY	Page 14
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	Page 16
STEWARDSHIP	Page 16
STEWARDSHIP – REVENUES AND EXPENSES	Page 17
WORSHIP	Page 18
YOUTH MINISTRY	Page 20
PC(USA) CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT	Page 21

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Oliver Wagner

We opened 2021 with a worship service held in the rear parking lot and closed it with one held in the sanctuary. The 50 Sunday services in-between were outside, inside and virtual. One of the things the pandemic has required of us is flexibility. It has also required faithfulness and humility. We began to livestream worship this year as well so that those not physically present can be with us virtually with no delay in time.

St. James UMC's new pastor tells me they now have hundreds for in-person worship and thousands with them virtually. Who knows what other blessings have miraculously come through the changes necessitated by these challenging times. Heather and I were \$125 short on our 2021 pledge to APC as of December 29. From my living room chair I made that final gift to the church on my cell phone. It took less than a minute. Indeed, how much we have all learned to do ministry in new ways!

I continue to serve on several boards and Presbytery committees but no longer have to do those long drives—we meet by Zoom call, just as many of our church meetings and bible studies do. Several rooms in the church facility have been outfitted with a virtual option and in all of the above cases I give thanks to our wonderful and talented staff whose steadfast commitment has helped us accomplish these improvements efficiently and seamlessly. Your church staff continues to work hard and in new ways to support and extend the mission and ministry of the church while doing so in the safest and most effective ways possible. I am endlessly grateful for them, each one.

As I flipped through my 2021 "At-A-Glance" calendar (yes, I still prefer a paper calendar) I see the year was full of all that you'd expect of a pastor: weddings, funerals, baptisms, counseling sessions, hospital and home visits, committee meetings, bible studies and the like. In these odd days of remote work, I can also see how much personal life and family were woven into my work days and weeks. The clear lines of differentiation are no longer there given the way that technology has us so connected wherever we are. Claiming time for rest, renewal and self-care is always important to our well-being, and I continue to be intentional in doing so.

What stands out most to me as I reflect on the year now past is the grace of God present and active in the life and work of this Christ-centered family of faith. It is amazing to me that given all of the struggles and challenges, losses and obstacles faced, we still gathered, gave, volunteered, forgave, prayed, taught, welcomed, planned and played. What a blessing for each one of us to have an inclusive community of care, faith, hope, love and witness in these days of upheaval and disruption. I must say that as I look back with thanksgiving for all that God accomplished in and through APC last year, I have every confidence that great things are ahead for this people of God.

It is a great joy and honor to serve you.

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Anne Fyffe, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

I have now been serving as a pastor at APC for over three years and it is wild to know that over half of that time has been during the pandemic. But even with all the challenges that come with COVID, I am grateful for all that there is to celebrate from this past year.

We continued mostly in-person youth activities as safely as possible with weekly youth group and local mission weeks over the summer where we served with various local organizations. It is such a joy and privilege to walk alongside our incredible youth and everything we do would be impossible without our dedicated volunteers. Other highlights included celebrating the 2021 Confirmation Class and partnering with Alpharetta First United Methodist Church to host young adult events.

I continue to be inspired by the generosity of our congregation when it comes to supporting our mission partners and others in need and to enjoy the opportunities I have to preach, assist in worship leadership, and get to know APC members and friends.

Being back in the sanctuary for the 11:00pm worship service on Christmas Eve was such a gift and I look forward to living out the hope, joy, peace, and love we celebrate that night in the coming year alongside this community.

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Beverly Markham

As a congregation, we learned in 2021 how to settle into our new way of being brought on by this ongoing pandemic. We learned how to reopen for worship services and fellowship, for meetings and memorial services. And, we learned how to move our business back online when we saw the need. We settled into comfort with masks and distance and Zoom as natural parts of our lives. Sometimes I wonder how we will tell the story of this great pandemic.

Serving as an associate pastor at APC during 2021 was a learning and growing experience for me. We are the first generation of associate pastors (in a long, long time) to serve and lead during a pandemic. Walking through this time in this position has led me to believe that what we need most is compassion for one another.

Lamentations 3:22-23 has always been a favorite verse – especially for funerals, but it has taken on new meaning during this time of constant stress and anxiety. “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

In leading the Deacons and in working with the Open Arms ministry and with people who are hurting or grieving, this scripture stays at the forefront of my mind. God's compassions are new every morning. How can bear I witness to that in uncertain times? Finding an answer to this question every morning helps guide my work in ministry at APC. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this community.

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Erin Noh

The year 2021 emphasized life's dualities, with the pandemic demanding a shift in worship, education, and service to virtual worship and in-person sanctuary worship. Yet, we successfully navigated, reconnecting with the congregation despite new protocols and challenges. Yet, the journey reminded us that the church is not a building but rather the people who gathered together in the Spirit of God. Although we continue to struggle in these challenging times, our commitment to fellowship keeps us strong as one community.

I have been blessed to work with the Membership and Spiritual Growth committees, which regularly offered Joining Sundays that support new members. Furthermore, I work with experienced bible study leaders committed to keeping their groups connected. Although many events had to be adjusted, Adult Education Series, Pastoral Care workshop, and the 40 Day New Testament Reading Challenge during Lent continued in 2021.

Also, I served a three-year term for New Church Development Council in connection with the larger church. Additionally, I served on the Examinations Committee of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. And to expand my circle of ministry, I joined Asian American Ministry Leaders Group.

As one of the associate pastors at APC, it is a pleasure to work collaboratively with my colleagues, Rev. Ollie Wagner, Rev. Beverly Markham, and Rev. Anne Fyffe, in shaping the vision of the APC ministries. I am grateful for Session, committee members, and staff who have been supportive, allowing me to grow in my role as a contract call associate pastor. In 2022, I will continue my service in expanding hearts and minds in the love and light of Christ here at APC and the community beyond.

## **CLERK OF SESSION**

Elder Susan Burkett

In 2021, a total of 23 Elders and the installed pastors of APC comprised the APC Session, serving as the council for the APC congregation. The Session, through its activities and the Elders' leadership of APC committees, seeks to support the congregation as a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.

With that objective in mind, the Session's activities in 2021 included the following: 11 Stated Meetings (scheduled monthly meetings); 4 Called Meetings (meetings for a special purpose, such as receiving new members); one Meeting of the Corporation and Congregation of APC and one Congregational Meeting (for all APC members); serving as commissioners to five meetings of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (four Stated and one Called); providing annual review to APC's Manual of Administrative Operations.

The Elders of the 2021 Session were Jodie Barger, Walt Baxley, Robert Beal, Dave Berry, Susan Burkett, Rich D'Alberto, Tami Drotleff, Lisa Gould, Gordon Hagler, Pam Heydinger, Jeff Hyde, Lee Jones, Brian Moore, David Neal, Vito Perri, Shannon Pickerell, Lynn Reimann, Colette Rhoades, Ingrid Schmitz, Keith Still, Elliot Temple, Steve Wardrup, and Mike Womack.

## DIACONATE REPORT

The Diaconate at APC leads in ministries of sympathy, compassion, service and witness. The primary concerns are for the sick, the needy and the friendless. In 2021, we had 43 Deacons, including three youth Deacons. Our 2020 service was severely impacted by the risk and severity of COVID. Rev. Beverly Markham provides leadership and support to our team.

The work of the Diaconate is segmented into four care teams, each of which focuses on a specific area of service the Deacons deliver to the congregation and community.

**The Compassion and Care team** consisted of 11 Deacons and was led by Judy Akerman and Laurel Akerman. The goal of the Companion Care team is to extend friendship and support to individuals in the church family who are in need or cannot regularly come to church. Our team was "COVID limited" beginning March 2020. Prior to COVID, our team made visits, took treats, sent cards, made phone calls, and delivered flowers. After COVID, the team made telephone calls, and sent holiday cards on appropriate occasions. The team also delivered reading material and small gifts for nursing home residents, although they were not allowed to visit.

**The Connection and Support team** consisted of 12 Deacons and was led by Amy Hewitt. This team works to support the Open Arms Ministry and reaches out to make connections with the outside support groups that use APC's facilities. As APC facilities were closed for the majority of 2021, the support of this team was severely limited. This team did send a limited number of cards and meals. We are hopeful that this service and these functions will be resumed in 2022.

**The Service team** consisted of 10 Deacons and was led by Barb Bacarella and Blake Cherrington. Members of this care team organize and support memorial services and receptions, Activities were severely restricted for 2021 as a result of COVID but the team was able to successfully organize receptions after the memorial services for Tom Hyatt, Bob Warnicke, Michael Corrigan, Ty Porter and Cynthia Smith.

**The Witness and Outreach team** consisted of 9 Deacons and was led by Richard Genet. This team sends cards for life events. They support families of APC who may be mourning a loss or celebrating an important event. Typical celebrations may include births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations and weddings.

The Deacons met ten times in 2021, mostly by zoom. One meeting was in person, two were hybrid meetings. Zoom meetings proved to be somewhat more effective than normal voice-only conference calls, but are not nearly as positive as in-person meetings. We hope it will be appropriate in 2022 to again hold in-person meetings.

Woody Cannon was the Deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Elder Mike Womack, Elder Colette Rhoades

**Staff:** Kristin Hicks, Director of Children's Ministry, Kari Minnich, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth, Karen Cornell, Director of Cherub Choir, Mary Busman, Assistant Music Director

**Committee Members:** Sheryl Wentworth, Kate McChesney, Allison Liu

**Sunday school:** Due to the pandemic, Sunday school 2021 was held through Zoom at 9:00 am. Each week, two Sunday school teachers and the Director of Children's Ministry held Sunday school for all ages utilizing Sparkhouse Whirl Curriculum. We returned to in-person Sunday school in August. Classes were divided by age group from preschool through 5th grade. We used Sparkhouse Whirl lectionary Curriculum for ages Prek – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and PCUSA's Follow Me Curriculum for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. We utilized 25 teachers throughout the school year with 6 teachers teaching each week. All Sunday school teachers and volunteers were approved by Session. Youth/Child Safety Training, taught by the Children's Ministry Director, was held prior to the start of weekly Sunday school classes and again as needed. This training is required every three years and is held several times a year to ensure compliance.

**KinderWorship:** KinderWorship is a weekly educational time based on Storypath books that coincide with lectionary offered to preschoolers through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade during the 11 am worship service after the children's sermon. Attendance varies from six to fifteen children. We utilize one staff member and one volunteer each week. KinderWorship was not held from January – April due to COVID but was held beginning in May. During the months of January – April, Children's Ministry put together outdoor worship bags that contained crafts and activities to use in the cars during the outdoor worship service. When weather permitted, we gathered in the outdoor chapel for a story and playtime.

**Bible Class:** in the fall, we held a Bible basics class for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, who were unable to attend last year due to COVID. Children were taught the history of the Bible, books of the Bible and learned how to begin to read the Bible. There were 16 children who attended. The class was taught by the Director of Children's Ministry and a Parent volunteer each week. After the children attended the class they were presented with their Bible's during the Children's Service in October. Younger children, ages 4 and 5 were given their first Story Bible from the church in this service as well.

**Nursery:** The use of an outside agency for staffing continues to be successful. We continue to have 4-6 children in the nursery at the 9:30 am hour, and 3-5 during the 11:00 am hour. Nursery staff was not used while we worshiped outside.

**Children's Choir:** This group met periodically during the drive-in service. Instrument buckets were assembled and children were socially distanced and masked. Children were filmed several times for virtual worship services. Music was also used during the Zoom Sunday school hour. Children's Choir resumed in person in the fall, from 10:25-10:55 am (between Sunday school & 11:00 worship). Attendance varies from ten to twenty children per week. Cherub Choir director, Karen Cornell stepped in to take over both classes as Children's Choir director, Mary Busman, resigned from this position after 6 years of service. We give thanks for her 6 years of dedication to the children of APC. In October of 2021, Riley Hogan was approved by Session to fill this vacancy, starting in January 2022.

**Cherub Choir:** This is a preschool choir for three to five year-old children. The children meet in person beginning in September, from 10:25-10:55 am. Attendance varies from eight to sixteen children a week. Cherubs have sung several times in worship. During drive-in services, we utilized the outside grounds to hold music classes after the drive-in-worship services began. Instrument buckets were assembled and children were socially distanced and masked.

**Vacation Bible School:** We held VBS the last week of June. Due to COVID we limited the number of attendees to 50 and had fewer volunteers. Our theme was Adventure Island from Cokesbury.

**Club 45:** This is a bi-monthly youth group for children in 4th and 5th grades meeting during the school year. This has been well attended with 12-25 students per week with a variety of “tween” topics and activities. We did not hold Club 45 from January – July due to the pandemic. We resumed Club 45 in August and have 15 children attending on average. We have utilized Grow Curriculum to provide lessons along with fun and fellowship building activities and a meal.

**Special Events and Family Centered Worship:** This year we could not worship or gather in person for the spring and decided to create at home Worship Lenten Boxes for our families to pick up. During the fall, when we were back in the building we partnered with Youth Ministry to hold an intergenerational Advent Fair utilizing the event provided in the Follow Me curriculum. A meal of chili, salad, bread and desert was served. Each family created an Advent wreath, made ornaments for their tree at home and received a “Advent Take-Home Box” as a gift from Children’s Ministry. A collaborative art project, Advent paraments, was also created while song and scripture were read.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** This year, due to the pandemic, we delivered the Easter eggs to each of our 50 Children’s Ministry families. Twelve eggs were hidden for each family and with a special note taped on the door to let them know that one egg was empty to remind them of the surprise of the empty tomb.

**Blessing of the Backpacks:** This year we resumed our in-person Blessing of the Backpacks during the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Children and teachers were invited to come forward with their backpacks. Children and teachers were given backpack tags and device stickers. A litany of prayer was done to bless the beginning of the school year.

**Children’s Christmas Pageant:** The Children’s Christmas Pageant was held at the 9:30 service on December 12<sup>th</sup>, with 45 children participating.

**Children’s Christmas Eve Service:** Our 3:30 pm family Christmas Eve service continues to be a popular choice for our young families. Each year we have many visitors attending. This year we used a book to tell the Nativity story, the children’s choir sang as well as several choir members leading the hymns in the service. Children received a bag filled with a book, a glow candle and a candy cane. Afterward, families and children gathered in Fellowship Hall for cake and to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## DAYSCHOOL

**Advisory Board:** Wendy Curl (Dayschool Director), Susan Burkett (President, Elder), Molly Hathy (Vice-President), Mary Shevlin (Treasurer), Nancy Hardwick (Secretary, Administrative Assistant through June 2021), Kelly Carr (Secretary, Administrative Assistant, effective June 2021), Kristin Ropp (PTO Liaison through 6/2/21), Ellen Adolph, and Ollie Wagner.

APC Dayschool completed a successful, yet unprecedented, school year in May 2021, all the while continuing to follow Health and Safety Policies and Procedures. Four successful summer camps were held. In August, the Dayschool opened for the 2021-2022 school year with high enrollment and 100 new families were welcomed.

### **Achievements for the Year:**

Total staff members: 28

Total students: 169

An in-person graduation ceremony was celebrated with students, staff, and families.

The teachers and staff are working diligently to ensure the highest level of safety for all.

In-person, outdoor Chapel is a weekly offering for students.

Weekly music, science, and dramatic play are offered to students.

A zoned Christmas Program was created by the staff and students and shared with the families.

Staff appreciation events (back to school, Christmas breakfast, Christmas dinner, secret Santa, birthday celebrations).

PTO continues to have high interest and participation.

Monthly Bible study is offered to the families.

The students are invited to participate in monthly mission projects.

### **Current Status:**

Overall morale of staff and families seems high despite current circumstances. We have been flooded with enrollment interest for the next school year and for 2022 summer camps. The Dayschool has maintained the quality of the loving, nurturing, Christian learning environment we are known for in the community.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Lynn Reiman, Elder Jodie Barger

**Staff Liaison:** Katie Millican

**Meeting time and place:** second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom

**Fellowship Committee Members:** Barbara Bacarella, Diane King-Helfrich, Deb D'Alberto, Jan Hughey, Jess Mizenko, Ted Lynam (kitchen/breakfast liaison), Dot Van Dyke, Barbara Jones, Pat and Wes Connelly.

### **Separate, stand-alone groups represented by the Fellowship Committee and group leaders in 2021:**

ACT1 – Melody Cookson

APC Book Club – Katie Millican

APC Softball – Richard Boston

Presbyterian Women – Lynn Reiman

STARS Leadership Team: Wes and Pat Connelly, George and Jody Bancroft, and Charles and Cissy Moriarty

Sunday Breakfast/Kitchen Coordinator – Ted Lynam (no chef on the payroll)

**Fellowship Committee Report:**

To start off the year, Fellowship gathered APC members together on small group hikes in the local area. The first “Soul Stroll” was held April 17 at Big Creek Greenway and the second on June 5 at Vickery Trail/Roswell Mill.

Fellowship Committee members and their family members helped clean and prepare the kitchen for activities. Our first event was a successful and well-received lunch on the lawn on June 27 with boxed lunches from Jason’s Deli and outdoor games for the children. We followed that with a boxed lunch picnic on Kickoff Sunday, August 15. Fellowship hosted a reception on September 12 for APC’s summer seminary intern, Dana AbuGhazaleh.

Fellowship was thrilled to work with Centro Familiar Cristiano to offer an extended breaking of the bread gathering after the outdoor World Communion Sunday service on October 3 – CFC offered samples of foods from Peru, Columbia and Mexico with children dressed in traditional wear. Fellowship offered boxed lunches and bakery treats from Just Bakery, Atlanta, which is part of Memorial Drive Ministries.

Fellowship members and elders supported the Stewardship Taskforce leadership luncheon on October 24. Fellowship also held a casual cookie swap on December 12 and congregational decorating of a tree in Fellowship Hall for Christmas, then wrapped up the year with a reception after the Music Ministry service on December 19.

Additionally, in lieu of breakfast, the breakfast crew started Sunday Hospitality between services featuring baked goods and fruit offerings with help from our talented congregation. This is an effort between Fellowship and the Breakfast/Kitchen crew. Many thanks to such dedicated committee members and their families!

**APC Softball report:**

APC sponsored a softball team that competed in the city’s softball league. 16 players enjoyed the fellowship and fun for weekly games held at North Park. Richard Boston served as the coach.

**APC Book Club report:**

APC Book Club met monthly during 2021, first via Zoom, then with hybrid (in person and Zoom) meetings once the church re-opened. Attendance remains consistent (6-12 each month), and participants (men/women, mixed ages) really enjoy the fellowship and stimulating discussions. Katie Millican is the group leader. The group read 10 books in 2021---- and have read 142 total since the group was started back in 2008.

**Presbyterian Women report:**

In July 2021, we installed the 2021/2022 Coordinating Team with Lynn Reiman as Moderator, Mary Curtis Pizzano as Moderator Advisor, (Vice-Moderator position remains open), Wendy Cory as Treasurer and Mary Rogovin as Secretary. PW continues our four Circles – Esther, Lydia, Martha, and Ruth. The Circles meet monthly from September through May for study, mission, and fellowship. Most circles met virtually in the first half of the year. Some circles met virtually, via Zoom or a hybrid of the two starting in September.

Membership for the year ended June 2021 was 65 members; membership for the year that began in July 2021 is 58. We continue to use the Horizons Bible Study published by PW of PC (USA.) The 2021/2022 Horizons Bible Study is, “What My Grandmothers Taught Me.”

Additional activities in 2021 included:

March 2021- the Gifts of Women service was held during the outside drive-up services. Beverly Markham led the service, PW volunteers served as liturgists, greeters and parking attendants and Mary Busman led the women's ensemble. APC PW awarded Nancy Hill a lifetime membership.

April 2021- We awarded our first PW Scholarship to two well-deserving high school seniors. We presented checks in the amount of \$500 each to go towards their college expenses.

September 2021 – PW sponsored the Spiritual Growth Committee’s *Story Companions* retreat.

October 2021 – PWCT and Circles put together 15 home welcome kits for refugee families and delivered them to Memorial Drive Ministries on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

November 2021 – PW served as greeters for the November 17<sup>th</sup> prayer service.

Bibles- presented First Bibles at Baptisms throughout the year

PW collected donations to support Family Haven, Dress for Success, NFCC, and offerings to support the worldwide mission efforts of PW (as part of PC/USA). PW donated to the Presbyterian Homes Caring Hands program in lieu of the Santa Claus Express. We donated money from our Mission budget to this cause. We additionally donated to the Angel Tree and Pastor's Emergency Fund.

Shawl Ministry provided prayer shawls to the Confirmands in April, donated baby items to Beacon of Hope, washcloths, and hats to The Encouragement Project, and provided baby blankets to newborns, and shawls to members in need throughout the year.

**ACT1 report:**

February 2021: Under COVID protocols, ACT1 rehearsed and filmed "Gee's Bend," the story of the quilters of Gees Bend, Alabama, in the Arts Center Black Box Theater for distribution on demand as a contribution in honor of Black History Month.

September 2021: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" was resurrected from March 2020 with only a couple of replaced cast members. The show ticket sales went very well with a couple of sellouts. The show is nominated for several local theater awards.

October 2021: "The Tempest" ran for two weekends in October in Wills Park. Over 300 attendees over four evenings.

December 2021: "White Christmas: The Musical" celebrated a return to normal functions of the mainstage theater, although audiences were required to wear masks. As with "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," casts were required to wear masks until dress rehearsals and be fully vaccinated (2 doses). Audiences were required to wear masks.

ACT1 supported the City of Alpharetta with strolling characters at their Season of Celebration holiday event evenings.

Auditions were held Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for the February black box theater show in the Alpharetta Arts Center in our partnership with the City of Alpharetta and commenced rehearsals Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. The show will be a two-person romantic-themed show slated to dovetail with Valentine's Day and run the second and third weekends of February 2022.

*Coming attractions in 2022:*

ACT1 is supporting APC Worship by costuming the three kings for the Epiphany Service in early January.

Auditions will be held just after the New Year for "A Higher Place in Heaven," a play by a local writer focusing on race relations in the South. The show will be at APC in March.

"Little Shop of Horrors" will hold auditions in March and performed in early June.

**STARS - Seniors, Travel, Arts, Recreation, Social report:**

STARS has not met during the pandemic although members have participated in other fellowship events. STARS' leaders have been mindful of the vulnerability of their group. STARS is currently looking for people interested in leading this intelligent and lively group. Many thanks to prior leaders!

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Lee Jones, Elder Jeffrey Hyde

**Committee members:** Margy Culver, Sabine Genet, Lysa Jacobus, Kevin Isom, Ray Appen, Tim Chisolm, Lynn Reiman

**Staff support:** Erin Noh

**Overview:** In 2021, the APC Membership Committee focused on three areas: 1) Connecting with the community around us, 2) Helping members engage with APC and 3) Seeking and supporting new members. These areas often overlap with activities of other APC committees. In order to understand our connection with Alpharetta, we identified what differentiates APC from nearby churches. What we found is the same as we found last year— our desire to welcome and accept others without opinions or prejudice is the difference. This committee continued to work and plan with this in mind in 2021. We developed a new brochure to hand out to visitors and possibly to the local Chambers or visitor centers. We look forward to being able to use Realm in assisting with identifying church members with common interests to further meaningful connections among church members. The committee is actively working

with the Day School to encourage families to join, sharing coffee, snacks, and information on APC. This contact was well received and will be continued in 2022.

**Scheduled Events:** The following scheduled events were either sponsored or attended by the committee:

- Joining Sunday - Several joining Sundays during 2021. We remained flexible due to Covid and includes Youth Confirmation Sunday
  - Alpharetta's fall celebration by entering a scarecrow - Theme: All Are Welcome
  - Emails and calls to visitors to encourage signing up for the Good News and tuning into online worship
  - New Member Christmas Gift Bag in lieu of our dinner – Delivered/caroled to each new member unit that joined in 2021, filled with chocolates, homemade cookies from the committee, a glass ornament of the APC rose window and a card from our committee.
  - Reached out to Day School families encouraging them to attend APC services and functions by sharing coffee, snacks, and church information at drop off.
- Membership number as of December 8, 2021: 996 (816 adults, 180 baptized children).

## MISSION COMMITTEE

Elder Pam Heydinger, Elder Tami Droftleff

**Committee Members:** Dale Carter, Yvonne Chrimes, Walter Dean, Judy Donnahoo, Randy Schiltz, Sydney Schneider, Eva Wardrup, Sue White, Tom and Lisa Gould, Yvonne Chrimes, and Tim Chisholm

**Staff Support:** Rev. Anne Fyffe

**APC Mission Partners Include:** Centro Familiar Cristiano (Spanish-speaking congregation), Christmas Angel Tree, The Drake House, Family Promise of North Fulton, General Assembly of the PC(USA), Habitat Aid Initiative (Kenya), La Gonave Haiti Partners, North Fulton Community Charities, LifeSouth (Blood Drive), The Place at Forsyth, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Presbyterian peacemaking ministries, The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Whiz Kids tutoring program, Memorial Drive Ministries.

### 2021 Activities by Mission Area:

Many events that were budgeted for in 2021 did not occur or did not happen on the scale that was intended due to the pandemic. This led to a disbursement of funds at the end of the year to various mission partners as noted below.

**Advocacy:** Session approved APC becoming a Matthew 25 church.

**Angel Tree:** Angels were distributed via Signup Genius and at the church. Six charities were helped; NFCC, The Place of Forsyth, The Drake House, Family Promise, Thornwell and Family Haven.

**Centro Familiar Cristiano:** The Committee maintained contact with Claudia, Centro Familiar Cristiano's pastor. The Committee transferred \$950 to the Centro Familiar designated fund to help pay for liability insurance payments for 2022.

**Drake House:** The Drake House apartment was renovated including new bathroom fixtures and cabinets. The Committee donated \$1,000 to Miss Mary's Ice Cream fund raiser but did not participate in the drive-up event. The balance of \$500 originally earmarked for apartment repairs was disbursed to the Drake House for general needs.

**Family Promise:** APC hosted Family Promise 11 weeks. APC is in the unique position of having the showers, kitchen, laundry, and space to host multiple families for an extended period. Often, partnering congregations would provide overnight volunteers. The Family Promise online auction raised \$44K.

**Habitat Aid Initiative:** Schools resumed meeting at least for a while. A large container of medical supplies was shipped and received. Covid impacted the region with the Medical Clinic.

**La Gonave Partnership:** Schools resumed meeting for a while and the kids continued to get lunch. Randy attended the Haiti Partnership Convention. The Computer Lab roof construction began. In response to a letter from Pere Vill requesting urgent assistance in funding food, the Committee sent \$2,000 to La Gonave Haiti Partners to fill this urgent need.

**Memorial Drive Ministries:** APC held a Diaper Drive for the Amani Women's Center and Refuge Family Literacy. Randy and Yvonne toured the MDM campus. At the end of the year, an additional \$1,000 was given to MDM.

**Montreat:** The Committee voted to pay \$500 out of the Misc. Missions fund to Montreat. Next year we recommend that this be a line item in APC's budget possibly as part of the Fellowship or Christian Education budget.

**North Fulton Community Charities:** A member of this committee assisted in counting the homeless. This number is important because it generates funds based on the numbers of homeless in the community. Food drives, back-to-school and coat drives were held. At the end of the year, a total of \$2,000 was given to NFCC to be applied to the capital campaign pledge.

**The Place of Forsyth:** Support was provided for food drives, school supplies and winter clothing. At the end of the year, an additional \$500 was given to The Place. Eva attended the Place Cottage Open House and reported that 3-4 women will reside in the house.

**Presbyterian Peacemakers:** Due to the Covid pandemic, International Peacemakers was cancelled in 2020-2021.

**Theological Education:** The committee voted to pay \$1,000 out of the Theological Education budget towards Dana AbuGhazaleh's stipend.

**Whiz Kids:** Did not meet due to the pandemic.

**YMCA:** APC made a donation for after-school scholarships.

**Additional offerings were received for:**

One Great Hour of Sharing

Caring Hands (Presbyterian Homes of GA)

Pentecost Offering for APC Youth and Children's Ministry

Coins for Caring

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Christmas Joy Offering

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Lisa Gould, Elder Mike Womack

**At-large members:** Dennis Barger, Ron Curl, Valerie Fulkerson, Laura Vacko

**Deacon Representative:** Amy Hewitt

**Staff Support:** Ollie Wagner

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, the committee met for the first time in preparation for the November 7, 2021 Congregational meeting to recommend for election:

A. A new class of church officers. The committee was tasked with presenting nominations for eight elders and 12 new deacons for the class of 2024.

B. Four at-large members to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee

The committee nominated and Session approved 8 candidates, including 1 youth candidate, to serve as elders and 12 candidates, including 2 youth candidates, to serve as deacons. All candidates were elected.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Elder Rich D’Alberto, Elder Elliot Temple

**Committee members:** Ted Lyman, Rob Vacko, Nancy Hill, Beth Hudson, Greg Raabe, Mellissa Schmitz

**Staff Support:** Dr. Ollie Wagner

Each committee member continued to serve as a liaison to an APC staff member for support, feedback and increased communication through regular contact. This included annual performance reviews for each employee conducted in May.

Accomplishments of the past year included:

1. Recommended the annual personnel budget to Session for 2021
2. Approved Staff Covid Guidelines
3. Approved Intern position and associated reimbursable expenses.
4. Approved plan for use of support staff for audio-visual services, and approved Audio/Visual and IT Administrator position description.
5. Assigned “Special Focus” duties to committee members for staff support.
6. Revised Position Description of Administrative Assistant for Youth and Children’s Ministry.
7. Approved plan for staff to carry over 2020 vacation thru end of 2021.
8. Approved payment of staff expenses while working at home during past year.
9. Approved amendment of APC Personnel Handbook to include the Monday after Easter as official PTO Holiday.
10. Accepted resignation of Assistant Director of Music Ministry (Mary Busman) and approved hiring of replacement (Riley Hogan)
11. Prepared and submitted annual MAP for 2022.
12. Renewed contracts for Beverly Markham and Erin Noh and approved addition of Ministers Choice Pension Plan.
13. Approved substitute position for Facilities Management.
14. Added elective benefits available to staff thru Board of Pensions.
15. Approved moving Director of Day School from Part Time to Full Time.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Elder David Neal Elder Steve Wardrup

**Committee Members:** Dick and Sharon Bean, Greg Helfrich, Diane King, Ted Lynam, Bob Cookson

**Staff support:** Gene Casey, Tyler Moore

As the calendar turned from 2020 to 2021, the APC facilities were still closed to the public due to the pandemic except for the Dayschool and hosting Family Promise for the month of January. The recently completed renovations of the small kitchen made it easier to isolate the spaces in the building used by the families during their stay. Other than Dayschool and the Family Promise spaces, the only space used on a regular basis the first four months of the year was the Sanctuary to film the worship service elements for the virtual services on You Tube. Prior to the reopening of the facilities, the Property Committee worked with Beverly Markham to develop “Reopening Guidelines” for internal and external groups that included safety protocols recommended by the APC Health Advisory Team. The Sanctuary was opened for in-person worship services on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, internal APC groups were allowed to meet in the building beginning in June, and outside groups were allowed to use APC space beginning in July. Throughout the summer and fall, more and more groups have returned to APC so the “normal” activity is slowly ramping up. The groups currently using APC in addition to Dayschool and Family Promise include Centro Familiar, ACT 1, WARM, Windward Men’s Bible Study, Scouts, AA, APC Circles and Disciple classes, Karate, Toastmasters, and PowerCore Networking. The expectation is that we will continue to see an increase in the requests for space in 2022.

### Regular Activities

Although the building was still closed at the beginning of the year with the exceptions mentioned above, Gene Casey and members of the Property Committee continued to maintain, and when appropriate or necessary, upgrade the facility and grounds to keep the property a safe and inviting place for worship and learning once the facilities reopened. Property Manager Gene Casey continued his excellent work with facilitating needed repairs, preventive maintenance, and security measures along with other needed requirements of operating a facility for public use while maintaining the safety and security of the facilities. Gene continued to monitor the building infrastructure, developed and implemented processes for minimizing our utility usage in areas of the facility that were not being used, and ensured all systems remained functioning at a high level so the return to normal building activities would be a smooth process once the facilities reopened to the public. Gene has consistently been proactive in negotiating favorable rates for utilities and maintenance contracts to hold down costs and that continued throughout 2021. A mini-work day was held in April prior to the Sanctuary reopening and a larger workday was held in November to address both interior (Narthex, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall) and exterior items (mulch, pine straw, tree trimming) in preparation for Advent Season. Members of the Property Committee continued conducting security checks of the facilities and property every weekend through April and resumed the normal opening and closing procedures once the Sanctuary opened in May. In August, Tyler Moore came on board in a part-time capacity to help Gene. In mid-October, Gene took a leave of absence and Tyler has increased his hours to fill-in as needed during Gene’s absence.

### Key Accomplishments for 2021

Our campus is over 26 years old and just as a homeowner needs to maintain their home on a regular basis, the same holds true for our APC facilities, even when they are not being used at the same level as a normal year. There was a lot of activity in 2021 which included projects, but also tasks to “reopen” the facility after being shut down for 14 months, and this is in addition to the regular maintenance and facility management that takes place during the year:

- **Kitchen and Fellowship Hall** – After being closed for over a year, the kitchen received a deep cleaning in July and August by members of the Property Committee and Fellowship Committee. The head unit on the ice maker was replaced in June, then the ice maker was repositioned in November to facilitate better access and the metal shelving next to it repositioned. Maintenance was performed on the Sanitizer in November and although it is the oldest piece of equipment in the kitchen, it is still in very good shape and should last a few more

years. Abernathy Cleaning Services is providing an estimate to perform a steam cleaning of the kitchen twice a year. Negotiations are underway with a new chef to perform services for APC on an as needed basis with the retirement of Chef Doug. An additional new chair rack was donated to APC for Fellowship Hall in November.

- **Memorial Garden** – Plants, flowers and other landscaping items were tended to throughout the year by a committee of volunteers led by Ted Lynam.
- **Dayschool** – In addition to completing the 20/21 school year, the Dayschool hosted four weeks of summer camps. Although it was tight, the annual stripping and re-waxing of all Dayschool floors was completed before the start of the 21/22 school year. In September, a blocked outside drain along with a torrential downpour resulted in the flooding of the main hallway on the west side of the CE building. Luckily a Dayschool teacher was still on-site and noticed the incoming water and alerted church staff. With towels, brooms, shop-vacs, fans, and a lot of hard work, this small band of heroes was able to limit the damage, despite the volume of water that breached the building. The biggest impact was in room 112 where the carpet had to be replaced. The enrollment of the Dayschool is at the highest level in a number of years, facilitating the use of the nursery as part of the Dayschool. Discussions are in the works regarding updating the security protocols for the Dayschool now that they are using facilities outside of the CE Building.
- **Eagle Scout Projects** – For his Eagle Scout project, Joseph Masson replaced the fence around the Cottage in August. As of the end of 2021, we do not have another Eagle Scout project planned for 2022, although the leaders of Troop 429 have inquired about a joint project with APC that incorporates a new shed with a roof that would cover the APC minibus.
- **APC Cottage** – Lionheart resumed using the APC Cottage on a weekly basis for the Lionheart WORKS program in the fall of 2021. Tim Chisholm has created a handicap access point along the curb next to the cottage to accommodate individuals that are in wheelchairs. A longer-range plan should be discussed regarding that parking area and handicap access to the cottage as well as the front entrance of APC.
- **Safety and Security** – There were multiple failures over the course of the year with several analog cameras that are part of our security system. The analog cameras are becoming harder to get due to the outdated technology so in November we met with our supplier to discuss upgrading all the analog cameras with IP cameras, plus adding additional cameras to address the “dead” spots on our campus (large and small playground, back parking lot, west-side parking lot). An estimate has been provided in the 2022 MAP to address this issue.
- **Roof** – The roof on Phase One (original building) was replaced in June 2020, and the inspection of the roofs on Phase Two (current Sanctuary / Fellowship Hall / Offices) and Phase Three (CE building) estimated we had about five years remaining on Phase Two and 10 years on Phase Three. In March 2021 we were having issues with the Phase Two roof as we were losing shingles. The subsequent repair came in just under \$1,100, but the real news is that our current roof on Phase Two was incorrectly installed (there are only three nails in each shingle instead of the required four nails), plus the inspector does not believe we have five years of life left on the Phase Two roof.
- **HVAC** – Star Services provides quarterly maintenance on all HVAC units including filter changes on the 33 units at APC and they continue to do a great job at a great price. Gene received a quote from a competitor in 2021 that was almost double what Star Services charges.
- **Sprinkler / Fire Suppression Equipment** – Fire inspection showed no issues except for two bad batteries which were replaced at no charge. There were no issues reported with the sprinkler system after the annual inspection in August.
- **Outdoor Worship Services** – Outdoor worship services continued until the Sanctuary reopened in May. The platform was left in place due to the weight of the structure and it was used during the World Communion Sunday service Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. A long-term decision has not been made as yet in regard to the outdoor platform.
- **Small Playground on the east side of the building** – In 2020, at the request of the Dayschool Director and the Director of Children’s Ministry, we began the process of removing all the playground equipment in the small playground and disposing of it. That process was completed in March. There is currently a plan in place to completely redo that area with a new drainage system, new playground surface, and structures. Additional details still need to be finalized but the tentative date for completion is late March / early April 2022.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

Elder Brian Moore, Elder Dave Berry

**Committee:** Dale Carter, Polly Hyatt, Mary Rogovin, Derek Scheidt, Deanna Womack

**Staff Support:** Rev. Erin Noh

APC's Spiritual Growth Ministry offered a number of regularly scheduled classes and special events for participants to enhance their Christian growth through knowledge and understanding of the Bible and of issues of faith. 2021 continued the 2020 theme of "pandemic," with classes, speaker series and committee meetings all held virtually for much of the year.

### Special Events in 2021:

- January Series: Dr. Christine Roy Yoder, professor at Columbia Seminary, presented three Zoom talks about how the story of Exodus was foundational for ancient Israel and remains significant today to both Jewish and Christian communities.
- April Speaker: Dr Michael Cook led an online discussion about caring in a pandemic and how we restore lost identities.
- August Series: Dr Karen Scheib, professor at Emory Candler School of Theology, led a 3-week online series (that included participants from Candler) in her program "Story Companions: Caring Through Story Listening". We then had an on-site retreat and luncheon (a special treat to meet in person) at APC in early September where she led us in activities to further embrace story listening. We made improvements in managing our meetings and in tracking class offerings. (Look for more class information included on the church website.) Having the classes virtually allowed people from out of town to participate and let us include speakers from out of the area. Primarily due to the coronavirus, we had two classes cease to meet and their membership was consolidated with the Faith in Real Life Sunday class.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Gordon Hagler, Elder Robert Beal

**Committee Members:** Rob Vacko (Treasurer), Ollie Wagner (Pastor), Laura Moore (Office/Finance Manager), Phil Jones, Beth Hudson, Jan Hughey, Dale Carter, Ted Lynam, Patrick Liu, Scott Doll, Jim Gray.

It was a challenging year with the continuance of COVID and pandemic fear causing partial shutdown and much lower congregation attendance. This has also caused the Stewardship Committee to continue spending many hours in face-to-face and Zoom meetings developing budgets and contingency plans to protect the financial viability of the church. Through the efforts of the committee, and Rob Vacko, Church Treasurer, APC was able to take advantage of the PPP Loan program and during 2021, the Small Business Administration formally forgave the PPP loan that APC undertook in 2020. The committee also made adjustments with Insurance companies, and adjusted various APC investments. These recommendations, and many others, have been fulfilled due to the dedicated services of Church Treasurer Rob Vacko; Office/Financial Manager Laura Moore; and Dr. Ollie Wagner.

On a positive note: The Dayschool was able to fully open, add classes, and even increase enrollment. This resulted in substantial increased income for APC. That committee can report for themselves, but the Stewardship Committee gives our full support, and has pledged to offer, in any way, our assistance to the Dayschool.

The Commitment Team (Robert Beal, Beth Hudson, Jim Gray, Dale Carter, Tim Deitrich, Scott Doll, & Lynn Reiman), during these difficult times, developed a program to keep the pledges and funds flowing to APC. We have received 215 pledges totaling \$981,250, a 3% increase over 2021. The committee has done a great job reassuring our congregation that the mission of our church has not faltered during this unprecedented time and will continue to do whatever is needed for our congregation, but also for the community.

A final report on the 2021 operating budget is attached.

**ALPHARETTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**2022 BUDGET**  
Prepared for the Congregational Meeting

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	<u>2021</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Pledged receipts	\$ 930,807	\$ 940,016	\$ 985,000
Non-pledged receipts	97,000	92,090	100,000
Kitchen	3,300	2,016	2,000
Special offerings	10,000	9,888	7,310
Dayschool benevolence	23,333	50,708	63,000
Other income	38,200	44,774	46,300
Use of Reserves	85,000	9,602	62,275
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,640</b>	<b>\$ 1,149,095</b>	<b>\$ 1,265,885</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	709,200	699,798	740,800
General expenses	79,125	76,269	76,300
Mortgage	47,861	53,398	48,852
Deacons and Session	3,900	1,309	4,500
Property - maintenance	101,400	96,607	114,558
Property - supplies	5,500	8,254	7,050
Property - utilities	77,400	67,304	82,600
Children's ministry	21,715	20,843	32,215
Youth ministry	9,100	10,373	15,600
Spiritual growth	4,100	1,758	4,100
Fellowship	2,750	1,950	4,750
Kitchen	4,300	3,546	6,100
Membership	3,000	968	3,000
Presbytery (and per capita)	37,474	37,474	44,800
Special offerings	10,000	9,888	7,310
Missions	44,000	43,811	48,500
Commitment	3,465	2,599	3,250
Worship	20,450	10,572	18,700
Communications	2,900	2,375	2,900
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,640</b>	<b>\$ 1,149,095</b>	<b>\$ 1,265,885</b>
<b>SURPLUS (SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Lisa Gould, Elder Keith Still

The Worship Committee of the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church oversees all worship-related activities and functions of the church, including planning and implementation of these activities, and assisting the pastoral and music leadership staff in these processes. These include core weekly worship services with scripture-based pastoral messages, participation in sacred music, communal prayer, as well as scheduled communion, and baptisms. Special worship activities such as weddings, funerals, and memorial services are also overseen by the committee, as well as the planning and implementation of special seasons and times of worship, such as Lenten/Easter services and Advent/Christmas services. The committee also oversees other traditional elements of worship, such as liturgy, sanctuary preparation, acolyte functions, ushering, sound and lighting, flowers, and sanctuary garden planning and maintenance.

The Worship Committee has continued to operate during the pandemic, while trying to slowly reintroduce various aspects of Worship Services, while balancing the public health recommendations. The following are some special highlights in which the committee and its membership have been involved in concert with other church members and leadership during 2021.

- While worship inside the sanctuary was still suspended at the beginning of 2021, the Drive-In Worship Services, which started in October 2020, continued. The Worship Committee continued to work toward reopening the sanctuary for later in the spring. The online services started at the beginning of the pandemic continued, with a filming of a service each Wednesday evening.
- The FDA approval of vaccinations for all adults began to bring changes to our worship operating procedures as we headed into spring. The Worship Committee gained Session approval for the choir and handbell choirs to begin practicing music in the Sanctuary again, in order to get them ready for the Sanctuary reopening when approved.
- The church offered both online and outdoor services for Holy Week. During the recorded Maundy Thursday service, several women from Presbyterian Women introduced the newly commissioned Communion set that was a donation given by PW and Lydia Circle in memory of Mary Dantzler. Good Friday was held at noon this year with an outdoor service that was also recorded. Easter Sunday services were held outdoors with beautiful weather and beautiful flowers adorning the cross and pulpit. An orchestra was hired to play for the service to bring special music to the Easter celebration.
- The sanctuary reopened on May 2, with guidelines the Worship Committee took to session for approval. The Worship Committee agreed to start with one service, but quickly found that a second service was necessary to accommodate the demand for members to worship in person. The Worship Committee was very cognizant in their preparations to include safety guidelines put in place by the CDC. These preparations included signage to allow for social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer, and proper ventilation. Every other pew was designated as closed and those that were open were taped off to indicate the proper six-foot social distancing between member groups. The church contracted with ChurchReserve to act as a reservation system to help with limiting the number of attendees (per CDC guidelines), and to seat them in a socially distanced manner. In addition, the software allowed for a record of attendees, should contact tracing become necessary. Communion continued by elders passing out prepared elements at the doors of the sanctuary, with the sacrament taking place during the service. The offering continued at the end of the service, with ushers holding baskets at the door to avoid passing the plate, for safety reasons.

- The new Ordinary Time banners given by ACT 1 as part of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary were unveiled in May and the new white ones were unveiled during Advent. The Worship Committee is thankful to ACT 1 for the donation of these beautiful banners.
- As services recommenced in the sanctuary, the chancel choir wore their new dark blue robes in services. Of note, the robes also include stoles of different colors that correspond with the church calendar.
- As we transitioned back into the sanctuary, we opted to purchase a few plants instead of flowers, until flower donations were commenced. Committee member Mary Nelson began soliciting flower donations shortly after opening. In 2021, we started to use a new florist, who seems to be working out well.
- In October the church celebrated World Communion Sunday with Centro Familiar, in a one-time outdoor service, including music from both congregations. Fellowship continued after the service with the sharing of international food and boxed lunches. It was very well received and should be a consideration for future World Communion Sundays.
- The Advent season was back to normal operations for the church, including the Christmas Music Service, and four services on Christmas Eve.

Number of 2021 Baptisms: 11 Weddings: 5

**2021 Subcommittee Chairpersons:**

Ministerial: Ollie Wagner

Liturgists and Communion: Kelly Vandever

Ushering: Ellen Adolf

Music: Drew Bowers and Sam DeCarlo

Weddings: Dawn Bray

Strategic Planning: Melody Cookson

Flower Guild: Mary Nelson

Sound/lighting function: Paul McChesney

Acolytes: Jerri Temple

Memorial Garden: Jan Hughey, Ted Lynam, Blake Cherrington

Special Worship (Christmas/Easter) Sanctuary Prep: Elizabeth Hughey

Emergency Response Team: Florence White

AV/Tech Liaison: Lisa Gould

Funerals: Susan Schiltz

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Elder Walt Baxley, Elder Shannon Pickerel, Youth Elder Vito Perri, Youth Elder Ingrid Schmitz

**Committee members and advisers:** Charlene Baxley, Walt Baxley, John Hicks, Mike Womack, Jerri Temple, Melissa Schmitz, Wendy Seeman, Meredith Brogan, Bart Smith, Derek Scheidt, Shannon Pickerel, Katherine Thomas, Joe Hellrung. Sunday School teachers: Middle School - Dennis Barger, Melissa Schmitz, Susan Muller, Susan McBreairty. High School - Wendy Seeman, Sonia Colby. Rise & Shine Volunteers – Bob Pickerel, Rob Vacko, Laura Vacko, Barbara Ghent.

**Staff support:** Rev. Anne Fyffe, Kari Minnich

### Youth Group:

- The first few months of 2021 Youth Group involved meeting outside weekly to discuss various topics and engage in fellowship.
- The youth organized and led the Souper Bowl of Caring offering on Super Bowl Sunday in February.
- Youth planned and led the online service for Youth Sunday in May. Seniors gave mini sermons for the online service and the in-person service that day.
- Youth advisers and other volunteers gathered for a visioning and planning retreat in July.
- We kicked off Fall youth group with outdoor games and the Four Fat Cows ice cream truck in August.
- Youth hosted a well-attended Trunk or Treat for families of the church, day school, and community in October.
- Other youth activities included a scavenger hunt at Avalon, progressive dinner Christmas party, late-night “lock-in,” delivering cards to and visiting with homebound members, mini golf, assembling care packages for college-aged young adults, a bonfire and whiffle ball fun in Ollie and Heather Wagner’s backyard, and walks downtown to get ice cream.

**Sunday School:** Youth Sunday School also returned in August with both the middle school and high school classes using the PC(USA)’s Follow Me curriculum. The committee continues to brainstorm ways to increase attendance for high school students.

**Summer Mission:** Both the middle schoolers and high schoolers each engaged in local mission weeks where we served with some of our mission partners and learned about issues of housing and homelessness, hunger and food insecurity, and immigration.

**Confirmation Class:** Six youth and six mentors participated in virtual Confirmation Class over Zoom and joined during the online worship service on April 25. In addition to weekly classes, the Confirmands watched an online service from a different faith community, engaged in acts of service, and prepared faith statements that were shared at the online April Session meeting.

**Young Adults:** APC partnered with young adults from Alpharetta First United Methodist Church in the fall for weekly get togethers for meals, service, and a video study and conversation.

