



## *First Press*

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*Nov -Dec 2022*

### *From the Pastor's Desk*



#### *Angels Among Us*

As the end of the calendar and church year approached, our thoughts turned to review and preview. 2022 saw gains and losses for this congregation, as is natural. We have added 10 new members/frequent visitors, and lost a few friends, notably Jane Hickerson, and families have experienced mourning over their beloved who are no longer with us- but are with Jesus. Thank you for stepping up and stepping in to provide care and support. We had 165 at Jane's service. Your efforts were phenomenal. I enjoyed working with Rev. Scott- a legacy son of this congregation and presbytery (of care).

We experienced additions to our ministries and expansion of our missions. New members/friends are diving into the needed campus/building repairs and organization of events. The security team is composed of almost half new faces, an outgrowth of the men's group. That group is meeting monthly with a speaker and dinner for about 13-15 men.

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**POLKA SUNDAY**



## Pastor's Desk (cont.)

The women's group got off to an incredible start with a dessert bar and prayer bead workshop with 18 women in attendance. In December there were Christmas events for both groups with music and dinner or cookies. The men enjoyed hearing about the Katy Railroad history and seeing (and operating) model trains. The women had a great time exchanging cookies and recipes. Both groups enjoyed Christmas music by Jessye and James Whitis.

New banners are being prepared by a team of crafters to enhance the worship atmosphere. The prayer chain has been reinvented. Mission offerings have included both monetary, clothing and food pantry gifts for community members. Worship is now being transmitted on Facebook live and Zoom, thanks to our techies. We are on the move and on the rise as we answer the call of our Savior to service. How can we expand our missions and ministries while increasing our Membership in 2023? Pray about this -please.

Previews began with the stewardship campaign-Stewardship Sunday was November 28, appropriately on Thanksgiving weekend. If anyone was unable to be in worship please pick up a pledge card or email the church with your intention to give to the 2023 budget. This past year we adopted a deficit budget, projected to be about \$26,000 short. We are actually a little over \$10,000 short. I like to see green not red in December but am thankful we are doing this well. Our last worship weekend of 2022 was extravagant, though not in dollars- in spirit.

The Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 24 showcased all of our choirs and carols tied in with the successive reading of the story of the birth of our Lord. Christmas Day was celebrated with casual worship and social time. As always there is a lot more to report and unfold but these are some highlights. Please pray us into the

As Paul wrote-" I give thanks to God always for you." I think there are angels among us!

Kathy Vineyard, H.R.



## FINANCIAL DATA JANUARY - DECEMBER

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$75,946.71</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$86,542.85</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$-10,596.14</b>





**A Stated Meeting of the Session was held on Dec. 20, 2022. Highlights provided by the Clerk of Session include:**

1. We have poinsettias from the Christmas Eve Service available for purchase for \$15. Please pick one up this week and give it a good home.
2. As our last church directory was done in 2018, several folks have asked if they could get a copy of a more current membership list. That has been updated and emailed to everyone on our email list. We will also provide some printed copies that can be picked up at the church.
3. January dates for the calendar:

Session will meet at Terry Coyne's on Saturday, January 21st for Leadership Training. There won't be a meeting on Tuesday, January 17th.

Communion will be served on Sunday, January 1st. What a great way to start this new year!

We will have an installation of elders and a trustee on Sunday, January 15th.







**VETERANS DAY**







SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 20 - 11 AM  
**SCOTTISH HERITAGE SUNDAY**

