

2023 ANNUAL REPORT COMPILATION

(Finance Pages Omitted)

First Presbyterian Church On the Square Carlisle, PA



Annual Report for 2023

2023 – Table of Contents

Vision and Mission	1
Agenda	2
Pastor’s Report	3-4
Congregational Register	5
Clerk of Session	6-7
Committees/Groups Reports:	
Worship	8-9
Christian Education	10
Parish Life	11
Nominating	12
Mission & Outreach	13
Property	14
Stewardship & Finance	15-24
Presbyterian Women	25-27
Board of Deacons	28-29
“Books for Babies” Program	30

**ANNUAL MEETING
First Presbyterian Church
On the Square
Carlisle, PA 17013**

Sunday, February 4, 2024

AGENDA

Call to Order with Prayer – Rev. Anthony D. Lorenz, Moderator

Clerk's Report

Declaration of a Quorum

Minutes of this meeting to be approved by the Session at its next Stated Meeting

Clerk's Report

Moderator's Comments

Committee / Group Reports

Nominating Committee – Election of Deacons: Bonnie Deardorff & Pat Pepper

Adjournment with Prayer

PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Church Family,

Annual Reports give us a chance to reflect on where we are as a congregation, to take stock and ask where we have been and where is God leading us. Annual Reports are, at best, a snapshot in time. This report doesn't tell the whole story of the life of our congregation – the million little things that get done when no one is looking – but it does give us a strong sense of how God has blessed us and how we have blessed others in God's name through worship, prayer, study, fellowship, and service.

In Luke's gospel, forty days after Jesus is born Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer the sacrifice prescribed by the law for Mary's purification and to make a monetary offering on behalf of their child. As they approach the Temple two elderly people – Simeon and Anna – rejoice and praise God. These two have been waiting – and waiting – for the arrival of the Messiah for decades. God revealed to them that they would live to see the Anointed One, and now led by the Holy Spirit they have come to bless this child.

Simeon and Anna are somewhat representative of our congregation. They've reached their mature years. Both of them could have retired a long time ago. But they watch and wait. They are people of prayer who, undoubtedly, have prayed through some dark times before the light of God has come to shine on them that day in the Temple.

You have to imagine that there were probably a more than a few times when one or the other wanted to throw in the towel, to give up, and enjoy retirement. More than once they were probably depressed, convinced God wouldn't keep his promises. But whenever Simeon was down Anna would remind him of God's promises – He's still coming! And whenever Anna was down Simeon would remind her – God's still in charge!

I think that's often one of the most powerful, most important things we can do as church members – to be like Anna and Simeon for one another – to remind each other that God is still coming, God is still in charge, God is still with us. There are many ways we can choose to live. We can choose to be angry or we can choose to be kind. We can choose to be negative or we can look for the light. Simeon and Anna spent their lives waiting for the Messiah to show up. And let me tell you, there are a lot worse ways to spend your life than looking for signs of God.

There are God sightings in this report – the ways God blesses us and how we, in turn, are able to bless others in God's name. Where have you seen God lately? You never know when God will show up!

Anna and Simeon rejoice when Jesus is brought to the Temple. The Holy Spirit has finally revealed to them that this is the Messiah. They offer blessings to the child and encouragement to his parents. They don't ask God to take them back to their glory days. They don't ask for everything to be like it used to be. Instead they ask to be led forward into

the new thing God is doing in this infant Messiah. That new thing? It's a light to the nations, God welcoming Gentiles into the family of faith.

As a family of faith are we where we want to be? No. We look around and there aren't as many people as there used to be, resources are spread thinner, there's not as much energy. Pew Research reported last week that 28% of all adults in the United States are either agnostic, atheist, or indifferent about belief in God. We have an opportunity to share God's love in Jesus Christ! But where do we want to be? Back to the so-called "glory days" when there was seemingly more of everything? Or do we want to trust God through the hard times and believe that he is with us (like Simeon and Anna?) Do we want to go our own way or do we want to follow where God is leading into the future that probably isn't going to look like what has come before? We aren't where God wants us to be, but by his grace we are getting there step by step.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Tony

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER - 2023

Accessions

Reaffirmation of Faith

Lewis Thomas Patterson – September 19, 2023

Dismissals

Letter of Transfer

Lucy Zander – to Carlisle United Methodist Church, Carlisle, PA

Deaths/Funerals

Active members

Robert Paul Winters – January 30, 2023

Grace (Lebo) Winters – April 28, 2023

Sandra Lee (Wilson) Ilgenfritz – June 14, 2023

Emily Cue Compton – September 12, 2023

Arlene (Jumper) Roberts – October 12, 2023

Non-members

Randall Elbert Crawford – March 7, 2023

James Lee Stanfield – October 13, 2023

Weddings

Sinai Andrea Dugarte Angulo and Duncan James Crim – April 8, 2023

CLERK OF SESSION'S REPORT

As Clerk of Session, I can report that your Session has faithfully attended to the ministering of God's word at First Presbyterian Church for our 290th year.

The Session consisted of 10 Ruling Elders in 2023: Lyn Barr, Denise Kelly, Fred Seltzer, Bruce Bailey, Richard Bressler, Carlton Walker, Deb Richcreek, Deb Ryerson, Joe Shane and Charlie Thompson, clerk.

Our Session met 11 times through the year. No meeting was held in December, due to an illness and the difficulty of rescheduling in the midst of the Christmas season. Minutes of all Session meetings are kept in the church office and are available for review by any interested church member.

On Nov. 26, 2023, following Sunday worship, we held a congregational meeting at which members present approved the Pastor's terms of call for 2024, and elected the following candidates to new terms as officers:

Elder (for three-year terms ending in 2026): Lynne Hofferica, Lynda Mann, Susan Palyo, Charles Thompson.

Deacon (for three-year terms ending in 2026): Barbara Allen and Mary Jane Blosser; and for (a one-year term covering 2024): Earlene Heckendorn.

We thank our outgoing class of Elders, Fred, Lyn and Denise, for lending their time and talents, particularly in the areas of managing our finances, growing strong ties with new and existing mission partners, and making lively fellowship opportunities happen for members and guests.

We mourned the deaths of five members in 2024: Emily Compton, Sandy Ilgenfritz, Arlene Roberts, Grace Winters and Robert Winters. Session also approved a letter of transfer from Lucy Zander to Carlisle United Methodist Church. But we warmly welcomed back into our church family Dr. Lewis Patterson. This leaves our current membership roll at 214.

For the Session, I'll take a moment here to thank Pastor Tony and our church staff – Avis, Ron, Art and Chuck - for their dedication to helping us all, individually and in community, continue our walk with Christ. Thanks also to Marsha Krotseng, who has seamlessly stepped into the role of Treasurer after Bruce Ashbaugh's richly-deserved retirement. And let us not forget the church mice who make sure that our members not present in the pews have the fullest possible access to our services: Recording engineer Ray Thomas, videographer Joe Shane, and YouTube uploader, Tony Lorenz.

And that makes me think about something else as a member. Spiritually speaking, soften our church lives are a "you-get-out-it-what-you-put-into-it" situation, right? At the time of this annual report, I wonder if it's a good point for all of us to ponder: Are we getting all we could out of what our spiritual home offers us? What new thing could I, or you, try?

I don't mean that as a lecture or expectation, but more in the vein of an encouragement. It might be helping with one of the many, many projects our Deacons have going, attending a Sunday School class or Bible study series, hosting a fellowship hour after worship or yes, Ron, singing in the choir.

For me, I literally had never attended our Wednesday Lenten concerts until 2023. But I could last year because of my ability, post-pandemic, to work from home. So I gave it a try, and those mid-day breaks were lovely.

What other new thing can I try in 2024?

Any one of these things helps us get more centered in our own faith lives and knits us all together more tightly as a church family. If you have an opportunity to try just one of these things, you might be surprised at how life-giving it can be.

As I wrote in this report last year, I hope each of you feel that First Presbyterian is your extended family, and that you take in the reports that follow as a sort of annual letter to let you know what your relations are up to. And, hopefully, how you can take full part in the future.

Faithfully submitted,

Charlie Thompson, clerk of Session

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Pastor Tony Lorenz, Lynda Mann, Suzanne McKinnon, Ron Richcreek, Deb Ryerson, Ray Thomas, Art Thompson, Deb Richcreek (chair)

The Committee supports the activities of those who plan and lead worship every week, including Pastor Tony, music director Ron Richcreek, organist Art Thompson, and choir members, for whom we all are grateful.

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) resumed all normal activities in 2023. It was decided by the committee to continue serving communion by intinction and to continue with having the offering plates by the doors. The finance committee reports that more members continue to pay pledges online or through the mail.

Attendance numbers, which are listed below, indicate an average worship attendance of 58 people, with the strongest average monthly attendance in April (Palm Sunday-82, Easter-81); May (Choir Sunday - 93); and December (24th-morning service-63).

2023 highlights:

- Our committee met four times (February 15, May 3, September 6, and November 15), but continuously worked to provide readers, ushers, and communion helpers.
- Committee member Deb Ryerson agreed to be the coordinator for the altar flowers.
- The Wednesday Noontime Lenten Concerts and Soup Luncheons resumed in 2023. We thank David Erickson, the FPC Choir, Michelle Trefen, the Boiling Springs Concert Choir, and Dan Dorty who performed, and for all who made soup and desserts and helped with the luncheons. \$1604 was donated to Project Share.
- Special services held during Lent included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Group communion was served at the table on Maundy Thursday. The Good Friday service was Tenebrae with the Seven Last Words. A Sunrise service was also held on Easter Sunday.
- All Saints Sunday, again, included having members bring in photos to remember loved ones.
- The Worship Committee handled Christmas decorating before the first Sunday in Advent. Those assisting in putting up and taking down the decorations were Bob Davis, Richard Tritt, Trudy Bailey, Bruce Bailey, Charlie Thompson, Rick Line, Deb Ryerson, Fred Seltzer, Lynda Mann, and Deb Richcreek. Charlie Thompson also took charge of having the outdoor nativity placed in the church's front yard.
- The committee once again offered the sale of both virtual and real poinsettias at Christmas to honor friends and loved ones. Members purchased 71 live poinsettias and 37 virtual ones, resulting in a \$370 donation to Safe Harbour shelter.
- Under the direction of Ron Richcreek, Choir Sunday was held May 21.
- The Committee organized 11 communions by intinction this year. Home communion was served 4 times to those on the Care and Concern list.
- Acting Deacons and Elders are now serving communion together.
- The Committee and the congregation extend a special Thank you to Judie Read for making up new altar flower arrangements.

Sunday Attendance by Month, 2023

Listed is the total and average attendance by month.

(*Months with 5 Sundays)

	<u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
• January*	265	53
• February	233	58
• March	221	55
• April*	345	69
• May	280	70
• June	207	51
• July*	245	55
• August	203	51
• September	215	54
• October*	287	57
• November	235	59
• December*	311	62
(Christmas Eve)	124	

Average weekly attendance: 58

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Richcreek
Worship and Music Committee, Chair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In 2023, in-person Sunday school continued with Pastor Tony and Rev. Bill Beck leading the adult class. A combined children and youth class continued to be led by Barbara Crum, Lynne Hofferica and Joe Shane using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum during the first part of 2023. The departure of Matt and Megan Crum from First Presbyterian, however, halted the children and youth class.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Shane
Chair, Christian Education Committee

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Again this year, a big word of thanks to all who donated time and snacks every Sunday to help make Fellowship Hour a welcome part of our congregational life together. It is wonderful to see so many people enjoy a bite, and linger around the tables for conversation each week. Your contributions to the hospitality of our congregation following worship is truly appreciated!

Thank you to Deacons Connie Husler, Dennis Husler and Susan Palyo, who always stand at the ready to volunteer their time and efforts to the Committee's events. Many others helped out frequently, contributing food items and whatever was needed to support various events.

Special events in 2023 included:

- **Birthday Sundays** – The 3rd Sunday of every month we acknowledge that month's birthdays with a cake to celebrate our members and friends.
- **"Welcome Back" Sunday** - A picnic luncheon was held September 10 to welcome all back to the regular Sunday schedule after summer. Held in Fellowship Hall, the event was well-attended with many in the congregation contributing to the feast. Thank you to all who attended!
- **Advent Luncheon** – This annual luncheon was held on December 10, consisting of soup, bread & dessert. The soups & desserts were delicious! Thanks to all who contributed, served and cleaned up afterwards.

Thanks to all for your support of these events in any way. Special thanks to all who lent their talent and expertise to make the "life of the parish" so vibrant.

Lyn Barr

Parish Life Committee, chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2023 Nominating Committee included Elders Denise Kelly, Charlie Thompson, and Deb Ryerson (chair); and Deacon Vicki McLaughlin.

The committee worked tirelessly for several months, starting in August, and I am grateful for their wisdom, hard work and dedication.

We needed to secure four elders and five deacons, including filling a one-year term left vacant by the resignation of Megan Crum.

We secured the following officer candidates:

- Session: Lynne Hofferica, Lynda Mann, Susan Palyo and Charlie Thompson
- Deacons: Barbara Allen, Mary Jane Blosser and Earlene Heckendorn for the one-year term.

These candidates were approved at a Congregational Meeting on Nov. 26, 2023, and most were installed on Jan. 21, 2024.

Subsequently, Bonnie Deardorff and Pat Peffer agreed to fill the final two deacon slots. Their nominations will be considered at the annual meeting on Feb. 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ryerson
Nominating Committee, chair

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Membership: One of the main focuses in 2023, and moving into 2024, has been trying to right-size our congregation's official membership roll. It's a tricky question that takes a lot of consideration. Because, in our hearts, we've always held to the philosophy that "if you've ever been a member, you're always a member." But church governance doesn't work that way. It actually encourages a tight formal accounting of membership through imposition of a per capita assessment based on a congregation's roll. So, the church can wind up paying thousands of dollars for people like the couple that hasn't really shown up since they married here, or the kids whose grandmother brought them into the church as confirmands, but haven't really been here since she passed. It's eventually going to lead to a cut in our "official" membership rolls, but the journey could also lead to us getting some of the wandering members of our flock back into the fold, thereby bolstering our active list. And, of course, any members that we cull are still going to know that they are part of our extended family, and we'll be ready with a warm greeting whenever they come back.

Outreach:

- It was a big year for the Nativity Scene project, because we had to rebuild the creche for the first time. (It was delivered here in one piece last year, then taken apart for storage). Thanks to the engineering leadership of Steve Walker and Mike Stamey, and the willing hands of Richard Bressler, Dennis Husler, Joe Shane and Charlie Thompson, Mary and Joseph had a spot on the Square once again.
- Congratulations to so many of you for extending warm welcomes to our visitors. On any given Sunday, did you know that we are seeing as many as 10 attendees who are not First Church members but have chosen to make us their church home while here for school, a work assignment or military deployment? That's a reflection of your welcoming spirits.
- We continue to work to promote First Presbyterian in the community through participation in key downtown events, welcome letters to new residents, and providing publicity boosts to all-community events like the Wednesday Lenten concerts.
- In one new effort this year, we took the old concept of a Mission Fair and used our North Hanover Street plaza to give our mission partners the opportunity to tell their stories to new families during the Downtown Carlisle Association's August "Welcome Jam."

In 2024, look for recognition of the 250th anniversary of a 1774 meeting of Cumberland Countians at this very building which, so the history records, an early version of a Declaration of Independence was passed.

And finally, as always, please invite a friend, relative or new neighbor to worship this year. They just might say yes!

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Thompson
Membership & Outreach Committee, chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Dennis Husler, Mike Stamey, Chuck Adler and Richard Bressler (chair)

Listed below are finished projects for 2023:

- Replaced and installed a new heat trace unit for gutters and down spouts
- Installed 15-ton chiller with air handler
- Replaced time clock for outside lights, fixed broken switch for Sanctuary lights and troubleshooted the light for the sign outside the church.
- Addressed the leak and replace vales in basement associated with boiler
- Replace Sump pump and grinder system to up flush unit.

Upcoming projects for 2024:

- Install protected glass (vented) for Oculus on Hanover Street
- Repair leaded glass at vestibule and sanctuary doors
- Repoint stone by alley(s). Repair joints and water seal ledges at windows.
- Replaced hot water heater (completed 1/23)



Property Chair Richard Bressler

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Preparation of the 2024 Church Budget

The 2024 budget is an estimate of the anticipated income and expenses of the church for the year 2024. The Stewardship and Finance Committee used the process described below in the development of that budget.

During 2023, the various Session committees were responsible for monitoring expenses within their respective areas. Based on that monitoring, each Session Committee chairperson had the opportunity for 2024 budget input. While gathering and analyzing data to be used for the 2024 budget proposal, the Stewardship and Finance Committee received and used the input received from the Session Committee Chairpersons. The Stewardship and Finance Committee also gave due consideration to the final results of several past budgets and to the latest data available on total expenses and income of the church through Dec. 31, 2023. The Church Session approved the budget for 2024 at their January Session meeting.

Income and Expenses

Except for the month of December, each month of 2023 ended with cumulative expenses exceeding cumulative income. It was the existence of a carryover from the church's checking and savings accounts from 2022 and special gifts during 2023 that enabled the church to pay its bills and meet its commitments on time each month during 2023, especially during the first 8 months of the year. The Committee is particularly thankful to church members responding to Minute for Mission appeals in August by changing the timing of their giving in order to also help the church with its monthly commitments and obligations especially during each of the last four months of the year. As a result, our church ended the year with income actually exceeding expenses for the year by \$324.17.

Since there is no guarantee that carryovers and special gifts will continue in the future, the Stewardship and Finance Committee feels that church members not already doing so yet who are able to do so please consider adopting a giving pattern that complements our church's regular monthly (household) expenses and commitments. For example, rather than giving once during the year or every 6 months, spreading that giving over 2, 3, or 4 months would certainly help to smooth the flow of income for our church and for the church's mission commitments.

Church Assets

On Dec. 31, 2023, church assets totaled \$1,493,857.04. This was an increase of \$126,286.37 over the Dec. 31, 2022 total. Church assets include money held in the church's savings and checking accounts along with investments. Most of the increase mentioned above was due to gains made by the church's investments.

Investments and Trusts

The church holds money in trusts and investments from the generosity of members and former members. The majority of these are held either by F & M Trust Company or in a New Covenant Fund, part of the Presbyterian Foundation. The church receives dividends and/or distribution checks throughout the year from these entities which are budgeted as income. In past years, shares of New Covenant Fund were redeemed to pay bills and meet payroll when a gap between income and expenses demanded such action. Fortunately, such was not the case for the year 2023.

Memorial Funds

Special gifts to our church are directed into one of two memorial funds. Gifts to the Davidson Property Fund are used for unexpected expenses related to the Church's physical property and grounds. Gifts to the Mission and Ministry Fund are used for unexpected expenses pertaining to the broader mission and ministry of the Church. Each Memorial Fund receives gifts that can be designated either as a donation or an endowment. Persons interested in making a gift to either fund should ask the church office for a copy of the May 2019 version of the Memorial Funds Description in order to determine which fund best suits their intentions. Additionally, consultation with the pastor is highly recommended.

Thank-you

To everyone who made a commitment to First Presbyterian Church by pledging in 2023, Thank you! We depend on your support for both the financial health and the vitality of our congregation. Likewise, Thanks to everyone who supported the work of the church during 2023 through their special gifts and/or donations.

If you haven't yet pledged for 2024, it is not too late. Pledge forms, usually found on a table in Fellowship Hall, are still available. As you consider your pledge and/or support of First Presbyterian Church, please take some time to consider how God is leading you to support our congregation's mission and ministry. We are grateful for your generosity and we invite you to continue your generosity in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Seltzer
Stewardship and Finance Committee, chair
(term ended Jan. 21, 2024)

~ FINANCE PAGES ~
(omitted)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
("Faith Circle")

Presbyterian Women (PW) "Faith Circle" met on the 4th Monday of months September through May at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall.

One of our faithful sisters in Christ, Emily Compton, died in September due to a pedestrian/car accident. We chose to remember her by donating to both the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) memorial fund and to the Bosler Free Library, where she was a frequent reader and active member.

We also wish to recognize long-time Faith Circle member Pat Grabey, who could not continue to attend Circle meetings. Pat has been a faithful leader, having served in a variety of roles with the group. We miss her very capable leadership.

Our 2023 Bible Study was "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight" by Carol Bechtel.

Special offerings went to:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for the earthquake (Feb. 16, 2023)
- Heifer International (Mar. 15 & Dec. 27, 2023)
- Outreach / Syria (Mar. 15, 2023)
- PW Birthday Offering (May 23, 2023)
- PW Thank Offering (Nov. 30, 2023)

Mission support went to:

- First PC Outreach Foundation (Feb. 9, 2023)
- First PC, One Great Hour of Sharing (Mar. 29, 2023)
- EAPC Scholarship (Apr. 24, 2023)
- First PC Deacons (Ukraine) (Apr. 30, 2023)
- First PC for Hawaii wildfires (Aug. 27, 2023)
- First PC Memorial Fund in memory of Emily Compton (Aug. 29, 2023)
- Bosler Free Library in memory of Emily Compton (Sep. 9, 2023)
- The Salvation Army (Nov. 27, 2023)
- Project SHARE (Nov. 28, 2023)

Our congratulations went to Debby Madden, our Educator Emeritus, who was honored by receiving the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) "2023 SUSTAIN Lifetime Achievement Award." We are so thankful for Debby's dedication to PW, for teaching our Bible Study, and for being our Treasurer.

We are always hoping for more women to join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Kretzing, Moderator
Debby Madden, Treasurer

BOARD OF DEACONS

THE DEACONS who faithfully served the congregation in 2023 are: Rita Beck, Megan Crum, Connie Husler, Dennis Husler, Kari Kornish, Rick Line, Suzanne McKinnon, Vicki McLaughlin, Kathy Mulvey, Susan Palyo, Tracy Sommers, and Ray Thomas.

IN OUR CONGREGATION:

- We reached out to 14-17 members on our Care and Concern list (formerly called Shut-ins list) through visits, cards, phone calls, and Home Communion to include them as an important part of First Presbyterian Church.
- We comforted 13 members who lost loved ones through our *Journeying Through Grief* program – providing a series of booklets that give helpful insights on the process of grieving.
- We provide *These Days* devotional booklets (large print format) for members and friends of our congregation.
- We continued sending notes to members who were prayed for in congregational prayers each Sunday and at the Deacons' meetings.
- We purchased 15 gift cards for our college students in December.
- A Ministry of Hospitality called “Dining with the Deacons” continued. Once a month members/friends are invited to join the Deacons at a local restaurant for dinner and fellowship.
- The results of the congregational survey were compiled, and Deacons discussed ways members of the congregation can be assisted by the Deacons and others.

IN OUR COMMUNITY:

- We served three Sunday evening dinners at “My Brothers’ Table” at The Salvation Army and Community CARES.
- We raised \$800 in bell-ringing for The Salvation Army.
- We delivered 167 bags of home-baked holiday cookies to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry and to members on our Care & Concern list.
- We gave Visitor Bags with information about First Presbyterian Church’s mission and activities to visitors who worship with us.
- Monetary donations totaling over \$1,400 were sent to: Bethany House, Community CARES, Adult Employment Skill Center, Fill the Bus, Maranatha, Safe Harbour, Summer Program for Youth (SPY), and a Ukrainian family.
- In February we hosted the “Souper Bowl of Caring” luncheon, raising \$300 and donating 421 cans of soup to Project Share.
- Sunscreen was purchased for use by children attending the SPY program.
- We collected school supplies to support the “Fill the Bus” program.
- We sponsored an Angel Tree to provide Christmas gifts for 35 children in the family shelter of Community CARES, Shippensburg.
- In honor of Father’s Day, we conducted a fundraiser, “Dinner for Dads,” that helped to fund the meals for “My Brothers’ Table” and other programs throughout the year.

IN THE WORLD: Together with Presbyterian Women, we sponsored Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported our projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Beck, Moderator

BOOKS FOR BABIES PROGRAM

The Books for Babies program continues to support local families through the Carlisle Area Family Life Center on North Hanover Street.

The funds raised by the sale of used books in Fellowship Hall are used to buy simple board books for babies. These books, along with crocheted or knitted baby hats (Thanks to Avis Allen and Deb Bressler!) and literature on the importance of reading to young children are assembled into kits given to young families at the Family Life Center.

In 2023, we donated more than 160 baby kits for their efforts on behalf of expectant parents.

Books that have languished on our shelves for many months are donated to The Bookery at Bossler Library, Carlisle.

Thank you for your continuing support of this local community mission. Keep reading!

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Ashbaugh, coordinator