

2020 - 2021  Piedmont
Community Church
ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
JUNE 13, 2021
12:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF A QUORUM
JAN WOLFE, PRESIDENT OF THE TRUSTEES

INVOCATION
DR. STEVE SCHIBSTED, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
JAN WOLFE

TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET REVIEW
KATHY KELLEHER

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT
LYNN NELSON AND JANET PETERSON

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT
STEVE SENTER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD REPORT
LYLE JOHNSON

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
DANI MONTAGUE

PERSONNEL REPORT
RICH THOMPSON

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS
LYNN NELSON, JANET PETERSON AND JAN WOLFE

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS
JAN WOLFE

IN MEMORIAM
DR. STEVE SCHIBSTED

MINISTER'S REMARKS
DR. STEVE SCHIBSTED

BENEDICTION
DR. DON ASHBURN, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ADJOURNMENT



DR. STEVE
SCHIBSTED

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? - Isaiah 43:19*

In his book, *The Message of the Psalms*, Old Testament scholar and author Walter Brueggemann uses a scheme to identify the different types of Psalms.

He utilizes the “scheme” of orientation - disorientation - new orientation.

Orientation refers to those psalms which reflect a faith and life marked by confidence, equilibrium and stability. Faith and life make sense. There are no great surprises or upheavals.

Disorientation psalms paint a very different picture of life. Instead of equilibrium and peace, times of disorientation are marked by disequilibrium, chaos and disorder. During times of disorientation, it is easy for God’s people to feel like nothing is stable, as though the world is in constant flux and change. I often think of disorientation as similar to a wilderness experience, when we can feel lost or adrift, unfettered.

New orientation psalms do not reflect a move back to the old stable orientation but rather a move into something brand new. God surprises with grace, and life is experienced as moving boldly into something unexpected, and life-giving. In disorientation, something old has died, in new orientation, there is resurrection and new life.

Can you think of times in your life when you have experienced orientation, disorientation and new orientation? I have loved this scheme since I first learned it many years ago. It has helped me to be honest about life and faith and make sense of the storms of life. It has also given me hope - as I know that times of disorientation will be followed by something new and surprising!

I think it is safe to say that in our own personal lives, in our faith community, in our nation and world, 2020-2021 could easily be labeled as a season of

disorientation. As I said in a sermon a few weeks ago, we have experienced so much this past 15 months: a pandemic, economic instability, social upheaval, racial unrest and political chaos. Life has seemed unstable, even out of control at times; it certainly felt like the earth beneath us was a little uncertain.

On top of what we experienced as a nation, our church was also in a state of disequilibrium. We could not gather as a people to worship together in our Sanctuary, perhaps for the first time in over 100 years. Instead, we became very acquainted with YouTube and Zoom. Our beloved Senior Pastor of 19 years retired. A new pastor stepped in (that would be me) and didn’t preach in front of a ‘live’ congregation until his fifth month of service. Certainly not a normal way to begin ministry in a new church!

But now we are entering into a time of new orientation. You can see new signs of life all around our church. We won’t return to the old orientation but will experience something new.

I am confident that God has good things in store for us in the years ahead. To be honest, I am not sure what God’s new thing will exactly look like. But I am excited to travel this journey with you - we are in this together!

My hope and prayer is that we are open to the new things God is doing, looking forward with hope and anticipation.

With gratitude in being your pastor,
Dr. Steve Schibsted
Transitional Pastor



DR. DON
ASHBURN

What can I say about life and ministry this past year? A time of change and challenge, of loss and yet, of opportunity too. Just like everyone else, it's been hard to adjust to all that's been going on.

Yet, at the same time, this past year has been fruitful in many ways; necessitating creativity in what I do and how I do it, as well as reassessing the ways I've thought life and ministry were "supposed to be."

So, as we continue our journey of transition together at Piedmont Church, I see a lot of hope on the horizon, as well as more challenges that are also opportunities to serve God and each other with renewed imagination, faith and commitment. Here are a few highlights of my ministry this past 12 months:

~ Starting with the Stay at Home order last March, I was the staff point person for Piedmont Church's response to COVID. In this capacity, I established a Reopening Task Force, consisting of staff members, Trustees and Deacons. We have met consistently as a group. As part of that effort, I took part in numerous Zoom conferences with local public health officials. I am proud of the diligent, difficult and faithful work the Task Force has done, and am especially grateful to Joan Chow, who took leadership of the group at a crucial point early in the process.

~ I served as Temporary Head of Staff from October 1 to January 1. I'm so thankful to the staff and to members of the various boards, and all of you for your support and guidance.

~ In the fall, I also completed two-month online training course, receiving a credential in Transitional Ministry.

~ Using the Zoom platform this year, I've led a weekly Bible Study, a weekly small group gathering, a weekly morning Prayer Service and a weekly Virtual Fellowship Time on Sunday.

~ Upon Dr. Steve Schibsted's arrival, I have worked closely with him as we commence the work of transitional ministry. I taught a Lenten series with him online as well, on the topic of Grace.

~ I continue to work with the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Altar Guild, the Mission Action Team and many other groups in the church.

~ I lead the monthly gathering of our Prayer Circle, which prays continually for those whose needs have been brought to our attention through our Prayer Boxes and other means.

~ I've continued to be engaged in pastoral care, by phone or online. This includes organizing a series of phone canvases of Piedmont Church members – to check in on the welfare of our people during a difficult time, as well as to offer support, care and prayer.

~ I continue to work closely with our talented Communications Director, Michael Barber, in producing impactful and high quality online worship services.

~ With my denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), I serve on the Committee to support New Worshipping Communities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This past year has been both a blur and a blessing in my life – and in the life of our congregation. I look forward to what God has in store for us as we continue – and explore new ways – to live, learn, serve and worship together in Christ's name.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Don Ashburn
Associate Pastor



JAN
WOLFE

What a momentous year in the history of Piedmont Community Church. We entered a new chapter in the life of our church as we said goodbye to Dr. William McNabb who, in his 19 years of service, fostered new and growing relationships with both local churches and church organizations; international churches, hospitals and the people who serve them; and local ministries that support the disenfranchised and those in need in our community.

This year has also been marked by a strange dichotomy - isolation and coming together. We have been kept apart physically due to COVID-19, but we found creative ways to be together for worship, fellowship and service, made possible by the preparations of Michael Barber for our online services and communications, enabling us to reach more people, in more places, than in past memory. We also called together several groups to address important issues as we start anew to build a thriving and even more vibrant future through Transparency, Truth and Trust.

Reopening Task Force

Made up of staff and wonderfully qualified church members and friends, the Task Force coalesced in June 2020 to meet regularly online with the Alameda County Health Department before our July 1 fiscal year even started. They met several times a month for 11 months to learn information, plan and record procedures, and discuss structural changes for the Sanctuary that would allow us to begin to meet once again for worship and other church activities. After holding an outdoor Sunday service, and a limited-attendance prayer service in the Sanctuary on Maundy Thursday, the Task Force made their final recommendation to the Board of Trustees to hold an indoor worship service on May 16 - following strict guidelines as designed by the Task Force.

Transitional Minister

Nominating Committee (TMNC)

This group worked intensively during the summer and fall to set up guidelines for finding potential

candidates, prepare job descriptions and church information forms, and much more. After considering many candidates, the TMNC narrowed the pool to two final candidates who were interviewed by the staff. Dr. Don Ashburn helped to make the transition seamless by assuming the responsibilities of Head of Staff from October through December. I am grateful for his many hours of additional time during that period as he took on the yolk of Head of Staff and attended the meetings of and gave active guidance to all four of the committees on the Board of Trustees. The final recommendation to the Board of Trustees by the TMNC was to invite Dr. Steve Schibsted, who is now leading us daily with guidance and healing.

Pastor Compensation Transparency Task Force

Made up of members of the Personnel and Finance Committees of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Steve Schibsted, this group met many times to discuss cultural, financial and legal issues surrounding past practices. The resulting recommendation to the Board of Trustees was to fully divulge to the church membership the Terms of Call for each of the pastors, this year and in the future.

Once each of these important groups completed their work, we held three congregational informational meetings to share their outcomes. All three meetings were well attended by our members and friends and each was marked by good discussion and open Q&A. So, through months of much isolation came many, many small gatherings (aka Zoom meetings), which were followed by large successful gatherings (aka really big Zoom meetings), and all have brought us together as a congregation, deliberately working toward transitioning and revitalizing the church that we love.

I am grateful and humbled by the support that our ministers and staff provide to all our church members and to this Board of Trustees that serve our community of faith. The Personnel Committee has brought us up to date with compliance of State laws and statutes and developed plans for individual staff members as health and other issues have presented themselves.

The Stewardship Committee had a long and very challenging year, with the downturn in the economy and the transition of the church leadership. Their determination, fresh ideas for curbside pledging and other activities were an inspiration.

The Finance Committee kept the church running by their attention to available grants and government programs, managing facility use agreements and overseeing the management of our investments. Because there was no youth trip to Mexico, there were no funds to cover indirect costs as in normal years. Reforecasts of the operating budget became a frequent activity.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee had their hands full with compliance issues, more than their share of equipment replacement this past year, projects vital to the reopening of the Sanctuary and repair and maintenance of the manse. I commend and am so grateful for all the members of staff and the board for working tirelessly in a year filled with change and challenges.

Thank you all for your support of me personally and your support of our church as we have journeyed from isolation to coming together in Transparency, Truth and Trust.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Wolfe
Church President



Associate Pastor Dr. Don Ashburn, left, and Transitional Pastor Dr. Steve Schibsted taught online classes together during the season of Lent with a focus on Grace.

This year, the Christian Education (CE) Board continued with Children and Youth ministries oversight. Due to the pandemic, many of the events that the CE Board participates in were cancelled, including the annual church picnic, Christmas Pageant and Treasures Sale.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Leslie Quantz continued her support of young children in her 14th year as Director of Children's Ministries, overseeing the nursery, Sunday school and Kidz Club program (grades 4-6). The nursery was closed for the year, but Sunday school lessons were sent via email and Kidz Club met weekly via Zoom. Children's Ministry continued to sponsor a child from Compassion International, Ecuadorian Ines Ulcuango, who has been under our sponsorship for years. Ines is studying in university and helping to support her family. Some Christmas shoeboxes were filled with donated items to send to children all over the world. People could also fill shoeboxes on line since we could not get together.

Sunday School

We are in the fifth year using the *Dig In* curriculum. Group Publishing modified the program to be 'Covid friendly.'

Christmas Pageant

While we were unable to have the traditional Christmas Pageant we had a Zoom pageant for children where they dressed in costumes, sang songs and heard the Christmas story. Many thanks to the hard work of Amy Mackenzie who led the singing and Alison Clayshulte who narrated the story.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

In his 19th year as Youth Pastor, Rev. Scott Kail continued his vital spiritual work with youth.

Rock and Livewire

These programs were moved to Zoom and met in person when rules allowed. During the spring semester we were able to hold pizza lunches which remained popular among both the middle- and high-schoolers. Leading up to spring break Scott was able to hold some smaller in-person Rock and LiveWire meetings in the courtyard.

Confirmation

We had a class of 14 confirmands this year, who completed our 9-week class. We were able to meet socially distanced in the courtyard. The confirmands were received as church members with the support of their mentors on November 15.

Mexico Mission

Preparation for Mexico this year still provided youth with the opportunity to come together, perform service projects and learn important leadership skills. Unfortunately, two weeks prior, Scott made the difficult decision to cancel the trip in consideration of the health and well-being of the youth and adult volunteers. While the team was unable to travel to Tijuana, Mexico, Scott worked with our partner organization, Amor, to continue with building 10 of the 18 homes our church had committed to build using local labor. While we would have loved the opportunity for a mission trip, we are thrilled to have provided 10 homes to families.

Locally, 75 students were able to serve our community over spring break helping prepare food boxes at the Emeryville Food Bank. This trip continues to be a backbone for involving the greater Piedmont community in the mission of the church and provide leadership opportunities for high school seniors.

Fundraisers

Unfortunately our annual Treasures Sale had to be cancelled but we look forward to holding it next year.

It was a pleasure serving the church over the past year and working with our faithful and passionate leaders Rev. Scott Kail and Leslie Quantz. This year required flexibility as county health guidelines evolved, ever changing contingency planning and a true dedication to reach out and support our youth.

Leslie's weekly effort to provide online learning options and holiday projects for kids along with Scott's courtyard video messages were examples of hard work and adaptability that our church and community appreciated.

I also send my thanks to the members of the CE Board who faithfully participate in our monthly meetings and

volunteer their time to make all the programs successful! I truly appreciate everyone's commitment on the CE Board to an additional year of service to help our youth after this past year disrupted much of our plans.

Many thanks to Kelly Bailey, Alison Clayshulte, Jeff Dorman, Jeff Hiller, Blaire Jahn, Lindy Lowe ,

Amy McKenzie, John Meyjes, Stephen Tindle, and Zookie Todd.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyle Johnson
Christian Education Board Chair



Youth Pastor Rev. Scott Kail tackled social distancing with his weekly 'Courtyard Chats', where he brought inspirational and relatable content to young people and older adults alike via video.



REV. SCOTT
KAIL

As the ministry year comes to a close, it is good to sit and ponder the people, relationships, meetings, ministry, events and all that is the Student Ministries of Piedmont Church. I love and continue to be so excited about the opportunity to serve Christ and those in Piedmont.

I believe the ministry and those involved have grown significantly and continues to be an important part of our community.

We continue to remind ourselves that we have not arrived, but we are well on our way in a very exciting journey. It is by God's grace and leading that we conduct the ministry and also by His grace that we are on the road we now travel. No one could have predicted how things would change during a pandemic. As we end our program year, it has challenged us, but ministry has continued.

Intern Staffing

We have been fortunate to retain Katherine Vieriamendes for her third year. We are maintaining an active search for a male counterpart to start in the fall.

Rock and Livewire are functioning well and continue to be the backbone of the youth program. We started our program year on Zoom as a result of the pandemic, but eventually began meeting in the courtyard in person. Both the students and volunteers saw this a welcome change. It is here that we establish and maintain the vital relationships that our ministry is dependant upon. Over the past year the focus has been specific and fruitful.

We continue to have as our first priority that of building relationships with students that are involved in the ministry. This is a growing number and consists of church members as well as many students whose families are of different faiths and or no faith association. We count this a huge privilege to have access and active ministry to so many. A team of volunteer leaders also assists with the weekly leadership and direction of the ministry. As a leadership team, we focused on four main areas:

- Building an atmosphere of community
- Building an atmosphere of worship
- Creating a proper understanding of Jesus Christ and the roll He desires to play in our lives
- Reaching as many students as possible in Piedmont, accepting them where they are and inviting them to Christ and our ministry

Although this will continue to be a process, I feel we are achieving these goals in fine fashion. The number of students attending and involved on a regular basis continues to grow and the "pool" of students is well over 100 for Rock and 40+ for LiveWire.

Journey, our Sunday morning program, did meet until quarantine started but has not met since. During this last year, we have determined that Sunday mornings are a struggle for attendance of middle and high school students. We will continue to encourage them to attend the main services and we will not be offering Journey going forward. I will continue to be a main part of the worship services and focus our time and efforts on other ministry offerings.

Confirmation occurred in the fall of this year and was offered to eighth-grade students. It was very successful as we were able to meet in person in the courtyard with CDC safety guidelines in place. Fourteen students were confirmed on November 15 and featured in our online worship program.

Mexico Missions Trip

We decided to go ahead with registration and preparation for a trip in 2021. There was enthusiastic interest from over 150 students and we formed teams that met via zoom. The trip was eventually canceled in February when we realized vaccines would not be available in time for the trip. We were able to set up local community service opportunities for the teams and were successful in close to 20 hours of service to CityTeam and Emeryville Community Food Bank. I continue be excited about the future and will move forward in planning a trip for 2022 and a firm belief in service mission's opportunities for the students of our church and greater Piedmont.

Rock Pizza Lunch was paused as a result of the pandemic. We were able to restart it in the courtyard

late last fall. We continue to meet on Thursdays during the high school lunch and have a steady group attending. This is a valuable time to stay connected with the students.

Livewire Movie Night is weekly on Friday and has had steady interest, many of which do not attend church at all (Yet!). The continuation of LiveWire Movie nights monthly on Friday nights has been huge outreach to Middle Schoolers during the “shelter in place” using online platforms. This will continue during the summer.

This coming year, we are excited and planning to restart all our regular ministry offerings in person in the fall. We are still on the road to build and strengthen the four areas mentioned earlier. We Praise God for His guidance and blessings and we pray for the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Scott Kail
Youth Pastor

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES



LESLIE
QUANTZ

The children’s program includes the nursery and Sunday school for the pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. Seventh and eighth graders can choose to continue to attend Sunday school along with the earlier grades.

This year, Sunday school lessons were emailed out to parents and were posted on our website. We continued to use Group Publishing’s *Dig In* program for our curriculum.

During the summer, we gathered twice a week on Zoom to check in and to read children’s stories. This ended when school started up again because families were experiencing Zoom fatigue. We did add a special story time in October for Halloween.

The Operation Christmas Child program allowed individuals to fill shoeboxes online. We also were able to deliver 10 shoeboxes to the collection spot. We created Advent Boxes and distributed them to families and to others requesting them. These boxes contained small wreaths, candles and scripture to allow everyone to celebrate Advent at home. We were unable to pass out valentines in the Sanctuary, so children took photos of Valentines they made, and they were featured in our Sunday Worship video. We were unable to pass out flowers for Mother’s Day due to shelter-in-place. We were able

to meet in the courtyard to present Bibles to our third graders. Michael Barber filmed the presentation so everyone could watch in our weekly online worship service.

CURRICULUM

We have been very happy with Group Publishing’s *Dig Into the Bible*. This year, we are digging into the Foundations of Faith. The lessons were modified so that we could send them home to families. This year of lessons has series of scripture including Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1–4:17), Jesus Feeds 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21), and The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The lesson, craft, family activity page and Talk About video were sent out every week.

We continue to support Ines Ulcuango, our Compassion International child from Ecuador.

ATTENDANCE

We were unable to take attendance due to COVID-19, but we could tell that many families were looking at the lessons online each week.

TEACHERS

While we were unable to meet this year, I am hoping to get more volunteer teachers for when we re-open in August. Teaching Sunday school is very rewarding and is a special gift to the church and our children. Please consider teaching!

'CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES', *Continued from Previous Page*

NURSERY

The nursery was closed this year since we did not have in-person worship.

FELLOWSHIP

Kidz Club –A group for kids in fourth, fifth and sixth graders which meets monthly. This year we met on Zoom and the group was reduced to two children. At this point, we changed to meeting on Zoom weekly until we could meet together in the courtyard. Next year, we will reboot the program meeting weekly at the church.

Family Fellowship – Family fellowship will resume when it is safe to meet.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We were unable to have a Christmas Pageant in our Worship service, so last year's pageant was shown during the online service. We did have a Zoom Christmas Pageant just for our children. This was narrated by Alison Clayshulte and songs were led by Amy McKenzie. Children were encouraged to participate by singing and wearing costumes of their choice.

Thanks to Alison Clayshulte and Amy McKenzie who helped facilitate the Zoom pageant.

FACILITIES

The Christian Education Building will be clean and ready for our return in August. Thanks to all who have been working hard to make it safe to start up again, especially the Reopening Task Force.

Thanks to the Christian Education Board for their guidance and to the staff at Piedmont Community Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Quantz
Director of Children's Ministries



Third-grade students received their Bibles from Dr. Steve Schibsted and Leslie Quantz on our weekly online worship program May 9.



MICHAEL
BARBER

A journey, by definition, means you do not know where you are going. Add faith, and you have identified all Media and Communications for Piedmont Community Church this past year.

Finding new ways to walk with each other through a perilous time was a challenge. Using both familiar and new media, the church was able to broadcast the farewell of a 19-year Senior Pastor, a Christmas concert, Advent and the welcome of a new Transitional Pastor.

Big events captured for small screens.

During this time, our original Sunday livestream quickly pivoted toward a highly-produced online worship experience viewed by an average of 400 people weekly - many of whom we will never meet.

Our YouTube Channel and website became a sacred meeting space, especially on Sundays, but also throughout the week. Parishioners and new friends gathered as they always have in the early hours of the weekend to be uplifted and inspired by our talented clergy, musicians and lay leaders.

And now, even as I write this just a few days since re-opening May 16 to a capacity crowd, our online metrics continued as they have - reaching far more people outside of our own Sanctuary than inside with our unique message of God's love and grace for all.

As many small churches struggle to survive in these days of uncertainty, Piedmont Church is primed and ready to grow, using media as a springboard to reach an entirely new audience.

Exciting times.

Church Website

This year, our website hosted 14,790 visitors and delivered 44,382 pages of content. Our demographics continue to impress with 56.2% of our visitors 18-54 years of age and 43.6% aged 55 and above.

The Messenger ceased printing a paper product at the beginning of the pandemic, opting for a more current and flexible digital-only approach. Last year, we sent 79,410 emails with an open rate of 41%, well above the industry average for religious organizations at

28%. Additionally, our click rate (the number of times people click on content within the email) has increased 5% over the previous year.

YouTube Channel

Beginning last fall, we chose to pull back on Facebook video to concentrate on building a more robust - and more accessible - YouTube Channel. In addition to our parishioners who viewed our content via YouTube without a subscription, 255 unique subscribers watched our weekly broadcast and special music videos. A total of 3,260 hours (136 days) were delivered logging 25,873 views.

LIVE, Now In High Definition

Today, we are literally geared up for whatever our bright future brings. As of Sunday, May 23, we are broadcasting our LIVE webstream using high definition equipment in 1080p. This kit replaces a low resolution 720p signal streamed prior to the pandemic, resting comfortably between 2019's entry-level approach and 2020's fully-produced 4K content.

Highlight

One particular highlight of my year has been working more closely with Dr. Stephen Main and his merry band of music makers to produce special music pieces that attract viewers from around the world. The music excellence found here at Piedmont Church is like no other. It's my distinct pleasure to shine a particular light on this talent.

New Internet Wiring

As part of my Media and Communications work, I will assist the Buildings and Grounds crew and Toni Fischer this summer in completing the significant task of upgrading all of the internet wiring for greater access throughout the entire plant. This will include an upgrade to the phone system as well using Voice Over IP (VOIP) and seamless WiFi connections in key areas of all buildings.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barber

Director of Communications

PiedmontChurch.org - Official Website

The Messenger Email - Michael@PiedmontChurch.org

Sunday Bulletin - Contact Jean@PiedmontChurch.org

Facebook - Facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch

Instagram - PiedmontCommunityChurch

Twitter - @Piedmont_Church

YouTube - Subscribe to 'Piedmont Community Church'

STEWARDSHIP

Along with my fellow Stewardship Committee members Steven Thorne, Co-Chair, Susan Butenhoff, Co-Chair, Lisa Fuller, Paul Schroeder, Dr. Don Ashburn, Dr. Steve Schibsted, and Toni Fischer, we want to say that we are tremendously grateful for your commitment to our church and deeply thankful for your financial generosity. During this challenging time your support has been more important than ever. Thank you so very much!

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign took place while our congregation faced the global pandemic, economic challenges, and California fires along with a major transition for our church. Our campaign theme – *Forward in Faith* – was an apt description of our need be faithful and move forward together as we endeavored to raise money to support our church operating budget during such a difficult time for everyone.

The difficulties our church family faced were evident in our fundraising results. A total of \$748,572 was raised which was significantly under our \$1,025,000 goal, and 29% less than prior year. We received 193 pledges.

Because we were unable to worship in person, the Stewardship Campaign focused on outreach via video, mail, email and online messaging. We also held two new “Curbside Pledging” Sundays where pledgers were able to drive by and drop off their commitment forms.

Donor retention and increased pledging from prior donors, along with efforts to secure new donors were areas of concentration for the committee. I’m pleased to tell you that of those families that pledged last year, 58 were able to increase their pledge. And, we welcomed 10 new pledging families this year. We know that many families reached deep to support our Stewardship Campaign and we are so very grateful.

Now that we are beginning to see hopeful signs that the pandemic is easing, and Steve Schibsted is on board as our Transitional Pastor, we look forward to a time when our church family is back together in person on a regular basis. Continued support and new

growth in our Stewardship Campaign will be paramount to the financial health of Piedmont Community Church. We hope that you will again participate in our upcoming pledge campaign to fund next year’s operating budget and ensure steady continuity during these challenging times.

ENDOWMENT

While contributions to our Stewardship Campaign fund our annual operating budget, the purpose of our Endowment Fund is to ensure long-term financial security and viability for Piedmont Church. The Fund is a financial resource for meeting emergency situations and offers a natural place for receiving legacy gifts from members and friends who include Piedmont Church in their estate planning. Consider our Endowment Fund as our church’s 401K.

There are four ways you can contribute to the Fund:

1. Include Piedmont Community Church in your will or estate planning.
2. Make a gift of cash or other property in honor of, or in remembrance of, a family member, loved one, or to celebrate a special moment in the life of your family.
3. If you are an existing member of the Fund, you can make an additional gift to the Fund, either as a gift of cash, other property, or by including the church in your will or estate.
4. You may also personalize your gift to the Fund by designating it for one or more church ministries. The five ministry options are 1) Buildings and Grounds, 2) Music, 3) Youth, 4) Missions, and 5) Digital Media Outreach.

Your gift, designated to your ministry of choice, will help guarantee that ministry will continue to thrive and serve others within our church community and beyond.

As a result of the special challenges we faced over the past year and the priority of raising Stewardship Campaign funds for our operating budget, the 2021 spring Endowment Campaign was cancelled. However, gifts can be made to the Fund anytime and are greatly appreciated. We look forward to holding our

next Endowment Campaign in the spring of 2022.

The Endowment Fund Investment Committee members are: Bob Coleman, Chair, along with members Tim Recker and Bill Gisvold. We are deeply grateful for their efforts in managing the funds raised through our endowment, and other invested funds.

Total investment assets of the church as of April 30, 2021 were \$3,720,263.

Investment assets were held as follows:

Cash – 23%

Fixed Income – 17%

Equity – 60%

The fiscal year-to-date (July 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021) returns for the portfolio managed by Sepio returned 13.6%. The best performing portfolio was the special projects portfolio which returned 21.3%. The church

also has \$1.25 million in cash in two accounts related to funds for minister housing. The church continues to maintain a very conservative posture in the management of the assets.

We retain every confidence in our manager, Sepio Capital Management, SF.

We extend our thanks of service to the Endowment Committee – Bob Leslie, Chair, and members Pat Leicher, Carl Anderson, and Rick Eigenbrode.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Steven, Susan, Lisa, Paul, Don, Steve, Toni and myself, we offer you our deepest thanks for your most generous gifts to Piedmont Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Dani Montague
Stewardship Co-Chair

ALTAR GUILD

Over the past year, the Altar Guild has been active in keeping the church well decorated for the various, wonderfully produced video recording sessions streaming from the church's grounds.

As is typically the case in the Altar Guild calendar, the biggest decorating episode comes with the Advent season, where once again Marion Schmidt and family handled the majority of the work. Thank you so much.

As the church returns to a more normal schedule, our biggest needs going forward are:

Flower donations to brighten the Sanctuary, and new Altar Guild members!

Fresh cut Flowers can be donated and dedicated for special occasions and loved ones, with the church website being a simple sign-up method, or by contacting the church office.

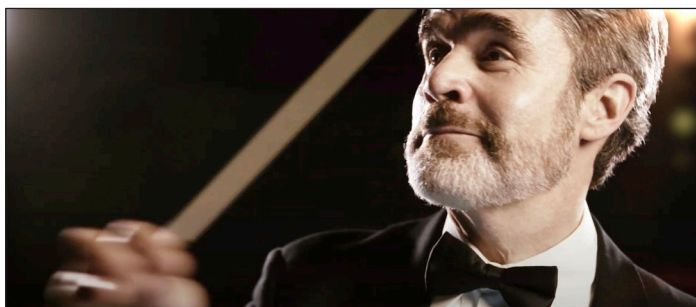
Volunteering for the Altar Guild is truly a wonderful way to help the church, and gives an

interesting in-side look at our facility. The time commitment involves about five, one -hour Sunday morning meetings, helping with Advent and Lent facility decorating, and Communion service set-up two or three times a year.

If you have any interest, please contact me or call the church office.

Finally, once again I would like to thank Kathy Hurd, Penny Robb and Judy Wright for their loyal service during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Schroeder
Altar Guild Chair



DR. STEPHEN MAIN

It goes without saying that 2020-2021 has been a year unlike any other in my 30 years of being Music Minister at Piedmont Community Church.

For over one year, our Sanctuary and rehearsal spaces were shuttered. Public worship was suspended and moved online. It was without question a difficult time, as singers everywhere absorbed dark warnings of the dangers posed performing in large groups.

Many choral groups openly wondered if it might not be years before anything like normal could return. We are fortunate indeed that the vaccines have proven so effective, and so quickly. It's now a real possibility that our choir, soloists, handbell ringers and guest musicians will be able to be back in full swing this coming fall. At this writing, we anticipate a full opening of public worship (perhaps still with masks, though restrictions are being loosed with each day) this summer.

And yet, with all these challenges, in some ways it's been a successful year like no other in the musical life of Piedmont Church.

Thanks to the wonders of digital audio and video technology, your choir and handbell ringers were able to meet on Zoom regularly, which was important not just for planning musical projects, but also just for the joy of seeing familiar faces.

During this 14-month period, the musicians of Piedmont Church have turned out over 25 music videos of excellent quality, featuring not just the choir and handbells, but also soloists and guest instrumentalists. Our section leaders also helped keep worship life afloat with their Sunday solos.

Our splendid pipe organ was heard every week playing hymns for our people, with lyrics provide to sing along with. If you're not in the choir yourself, you (understandably) might not realize exactly what your beloved choir members and handbell ringers have had to do: creating click tracks, singing alone to one's camera and microphones in one's living room, downloading sheet music, carting handbells from the church to practice at home, etc. I'm filled with deep gratitude when I look back over the work of all these fine musicians.

And, I've never felt so proud.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks not just to my wonderful colleagues at Piedmont Church, but in particular our Communications Director, Michael Barber. It's a truism in the creative world that no one ever thinks about the man behind the camera. Yet his influence was everywhere: whether composing the perfect shot for a segment in the Sanctuary, flying a drone camera over the church, or filming me playing the harp outside in the nighttime courtyard for our virtual Christmas Concert. It's not an exaggeration to say that because of his gifts, imagination, and good humor, the online life of Piedmont Church was able to achieve a depth and quality that none of us could have anticipated. We've been in good hands. Our outreach grew as well – at this time, there is a sizeable portion of dedicated viewers who live outside of California.

Going forward, the immediate goal is not just to return to "normal," but to do so in a way that retains the gains and advantages of the past 14 months. Our online outreach is obviously here to stay, and will continue to be a huge factor in the music program.

That said, after a year of members' relative isolation, I'm acutely aware that pastoral outreach – not just to musicians, but to the congregation as a whole – is of paramount importance. People need to know that the music is here for *them*.

Respectfully submitted
Dr. Stephen Main
Minister of Music



TOP: Dr. Stephen Main and our choir brought excellence to screens large and small worldwide.

ABOVE LEFT: Soprano Christa Pfeiffer teamed with Stephen Main this Easter to produce a music video, *Now The Green Blade Riseth*.

ABOVE RIGHT: We introduced 11-year-old singer Kai Esainko in a music video that has been watched more than 2,300 times on YouTube.

RIGHT: Stephen Main plays harp to close our virtual Christmas Concert.



The Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee has been called on to make a number of repairs and upgrades to Piedmont Community Church's Manse, the home that is occupied by our Associate Pastor, Don Ashburn. We installed dedicated, electrical service for a car-charger in the garage and have been working with a contractor to make cost-effective but much-needed repairs to the deck off the back of the house. The house also suffered water damage due to a plumbing leak. The repair of that damage will be covered by insurance.

Our committee is also assembling a B&G Manual for general reference and for the convenience of incoming Trustees. The manual will include descriptions and locations of all mechanical systems, phone numbers for emergency contacts and a list of members who can be called on for small repairs and for advice as well as contact information for frequently used trades-people and contractors.

In addition, we have formed a small team of dedicated members who are filling in for the Church Doorkeeper, Nick Baz. Selma Chin has been generously performing the nightly door-check for the duration of Nick's medical leave. Jeff McClain and Tom Walter have also been filling in for Nick. Once again, we extend special thanks to Bob Wright who has helped out many times, often on a moment's notice with repairs and upgrades.

Scott Fitzgerald worked with with Boy Scout volunteer Jeffrey Kopal as Jeff planned and built a roof over the large storage area beside the church parking lot. The new roof is sturdy and protects church equipment from the elements.

With advice from former B&G member Wayne Marzolf we were able to refurbish the half-bath off the Senior Pastor's office - new plumbing, refinished floor, repairs to sheet rock and fresh paint. This was a much needed upgrade to a rather dilapidated facility.

We replaced two furnaces in the staff offices. The committee and Business Manager Toni Fischer are developing a schedule of anticipated replacements

for other furnaces as many are coming to the end of their useful service. In addition, we replaced two no-longer serviceable toilets in the main building and repaired others.

B&G Committee member Bob Farman has provided advice and extremely useful references for HVAC contractors and vendors for the upcoming campus-wide WiFi upgrade. We anticipate the installation of the WiFi upgrade over the summer.

Trustees Randy Litteneker and Steve Senter have served all year on the Re-Opening Task Force, representing the Buildings and Grounds Committee. One of the big challenges to the re-opening of worship services in our beautiful Sanctuary has been the uncertainty about adequate ventilation.

Mike Costello, a long-time member and recently retired HVAC project manager, agreed to work with Steve Senter to investigate the whole heating and ventilation system in the Sanctuary. Mike concluded from his investigation: "The outside air flow to the Sanctuary could be maximized if the return air damper is closed 100% and the outside air damper is opened 100%. This will pressurize the space from the perimeter supply air grills and exhaust the air through the relief grilles in the floor, thus minimizing any re-circulation in the Sanctuary. The air flow in general would be up the walls, over the space and down through the floor. In the summer months, the furnace would still be operated with the fan only if heating is not required."

We recently completed the necessary retrofit to the heating and ventilation system to allow ventilation of the Sanctuary with 100% outside air. With this additional ventilation added to that provided by open doors and windows, the Task Force recommended that we re-open for indoor services as of May 16, 2021—with congregants masked and distanced for as long as recommended by the public health authorities.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Senter
Chair, Buildings & Grounds

The unusualness of this past year, due to COVID-19, had a definite impact on the Board of Deacons in 2020 and 2021. Not having church dinners and in-house church services, made many of our regular job descriptions obsolete. As a board, we had to reimagine how we could best serve the church and the community within these new pandemic guidelines.

At our monthly Zoom meetings, we reset our focus and created new jobs that could be accomplished within Alameda County's current COVID-19 parameters. Knowing this, we thank all of the members of the Board of Deacons for their time, creativity, flexibility and hard work. It was an unusual year for all of us.

Congregational Life Committee

Many of the Congregational Life committee's tasks (liaison on welcoming events, assist with new member classes, maintain informational kiosk, etc.) were simply not possible this year. In lieu of this, our committee has been working with Dr. Don Ashburn and Dr. Steve Schibsted to address the congregation's need for spiritual connection. Steve will introduce Piedmont Church's new small groups program to the congregation via a sermon series in the coming months, with plans to launch this fall.

Fellowship Committee

Our committee was unable to hold church dinners this year, but with dozens and dozens of cookie donations from our many bakers, we were able to donate cookies to Oakland Presbyterian Church for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Many locals in need enjoyed bag lunches with homemade cookies made by many of you. Fellowship can be experienced in many different ways.

The Outreach Committee

This year we were able to do 3 major projects in spite of the pandemic. The first was Adopt-A-Child which provided Christmas gifts to children in need in concert with CityTeam. We are grateful to the many church members who provided almost 100 gifts to brighten children's Christmases.

For Easter, we provided 20 Easter baskets to children living in Elizabeth House (which provides

transitional housing and services for mothers and children). In addition, after Harbor House experienced a theft of all of their tools, the Outreach Committee along with the Mission Action Committee coordinated an effort to help Harbor House replace all their tools, due to the generosity of church members. Thank you for the dedication of the committee members and the church membership at large.

The Mission Committee

As Deacon members of the broader Mission Action Team (MAT), we have been involved in helping to provide opportunities for church members and their friends to serve others, locally and globally. Examples include CityTeam clothing collection, Harbor House Tool Replacement, Elizabeth House Easter Baskets, and Project Peace Community Service Days.

The Alternative Gift Market was held online this year and raised \$21,130 for local and international organizations. MAT also vets agencies and makes recommendations to the Deacons and Board of Trustees for qualified projects to fund. We thank MAT for making mission an integral part of our identity and as a church.

As co-chairs of the Board of Deacons, we would like to thank all of the Deacons and other board members who contribute so much to the life of the church. Even during this extraordinary, pandemic year, church members have shown resilience and caring for others while we coped with the shutdowns.

We are grateful for the ability of the church to reinvent itself and to function so well with online services and Zoom meetings; and especially with the graceful transition to our interim pastor, Steve Schibsted.

We appreciate and are honored to have served on this board with such extraordinary people.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Peterson and Lynn Nelson
Co-Chairs, Board of Deacons

The Mission Action Team (MAT) reports to the Board of Deacons and provides oversight and guidance in regard to many church mission activities. The goal of MAT is to make mission an integral part of our identity as Christians and as a church. MAT is also involved in the annual Deacon Accrual Fund recommendations and evaluating and recommending grant proposals for the Better World Fund.

MAT members are invited to participate and are approved by the Deacons. Membership is limited to 12 voting members. Dr. Don Ashburn serves as staff liaison.

Current members include:

Deacons: Mike Bandrowski, Lynn Nelson;
Members-at-Large: Sunny Bostrom, Bob Cheatham, Selma Chin, Mary Fielder, Jeff McClain, Kristi Marcelle and Judy Wright.

2020-2021 Mission Activities

Partner Support Activities

We supported a number of our partners over the year, including CityTeam, with a Turning Point Clothing Collection, Harbor House with tool replacements, Elizabeth House with Easter baskets, as well as the Project Peace Community Service days.

Tutoring

With Covid restrictions, tutoring changed this last year to an on-line format. Piedmont Church members volunteered to tutor students through Children Rising and Harbor House.

Refugee Task Force

We continue to be in contact with the families we have sponsored as refugees over the past few years. The Refugee Task Force helped the Fazli family successfully move to Michigan, where they are sponsored by another church. The Yousufzai family moved to Ceres, CA.

Alternative Gift Market (AGM)

We held the AGM completely online this year. Thanks to Selma Chin for organizing this new endeavor.

We raised \$21,130 for local and international organizations.

Adopt-A-Family

The Board of Deacons worked with CityTeam to identify 15 families for which church members generously provided presents to share God's love and to brighten their Christmases.

Better World Fund

A number of grants were awarded this year under the Better World Fund, using up the final amount of funds in this category. The grants awarded this year were: \$8,000 to Children Rising for on-line educational materials; \$6,200 to Harbor House for internet support and a smart TV; \$3,530 to Grateful Gatherings for Chrome books; \$2,000 to 21st Century Medical Project; and \$5,000 to CityTeam for a kitchen hood.

Deacon Accrual Funds

These annual unrestricted funds of \$25,000 were renewed and distributed to CityTeam, Destiny Arts, Children Rising, George Mark House, Habitat for Humanity, Grateful Gatherings and Project Peace.

Despite a challenging time to provide direct mission care with COVID-19, Piedmont Church still had a very meaningful year of sharing God's love in service.

Respectfully submitted

Selma Chin, Chair

Mission Action Team

IN MEMORIAM

21

Carl Alexander
Sharon Banker
Phyllis Jayred
Ron Robinson
Alpha Mae Beamer
Marella Guigou

Jody Earle
John Cottell*
Bob Ruddell
Ann Reynolds

*not a church member

CONFIRMANDS

Tommy Ashton
Julia Baysinger
Rebecca Baysinger
Alexander Furber
Joshua Hammond
Matthew Hammond
Genevieve Hiller

Bosco Lorin
Jayden Oh
Elle Paige
Madeline Payne
Sophia Sucato
Sonja ten Grotenhuis
Angelina Wu

CHURCH CLERK

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership, May 25, 2020 - 1,369

Members Received:

Confession of Faith, Letter of Transfer
or Reaffirmation, 0
Confirmands, 14

Total Members Received, 14

Members Removed:

Deaths, 10
Letters of Transfer & Requests, 1

Total Members Removed, 9

Total Membership, May 25, 2021 - 1,373

PASTORAL SERVICES, OFFICIATING

Baptisms, 1
Marriages, 1
Funerals/Memorials, 6

Total Pastoral Services, 8

CHURCH BOARDS & GUILDS

Piedmont Community Church - 2022-2024 Proposed Slate

Underline denotes persons to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Jan Wolfe, Prior Year President Rich Thompson, Personnel, VP Kathy Kelleher, Finance, Treasurer <u>Sara Hirsch, Stewardship</u> Dani Montague, Stewardship Steve Senter, Buildings & Grounds	Pat Leicher, Finance, President Kara Baysinger, Personnel <u>Bill Molmen, Stewardship</u> Bob Farman, Buildings & Grounds	<u>Tom Parry, Finance</u> <u>Christi Guidici, Personnel</u> <u>Vicki Kendrick, Bldgs & Grounds</u>

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
<u>Suzanne Latham, Co-Chair</u> <u>Bob Wright, Co-Chair</u> Katrina Bergen <u>Janet Peterson</u>	David Birnbaum Kristin Johnson Gary Hurd Jane Anderson	<u>Will Adams</u> <u>Caroline Benson</u> <u>Sue Coffin</u>

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Allison Clayshulte Lindy Lowe John Meyjes Lyle Johnson Jeffrey Hiller	Jeff Dorman Amy MacKenzie Stephen Tindle Zookie Todd	Blaire Jahn <u>Kristi Marcelle</u> Kelly Bailey

ALTAR GUILD

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Mary Heller Judy Wright Kathy Hurd	TBA	TBA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Linda McClain, Geoff Colton, Julie McDonald

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	BOARD OF DEACONS	BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Randy Littenecker, VP Adam Thacher, Secretary Lisa Fuller, Stewardship Steven Thorne, Stewardship Susan Butenhoff, Stewardship	Leland Leisz Dana Colton Mike Bandrowski James Ramos Lynn Nelson	Julie Hofer
	ALTAR GUILD	NOMINATING COMMITTEE
	TBA	Steven Thorne Kristi Marcelle

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY



The life of “The Church in Piedmont,” as it was originally known, began as the twentieth century dawned. The drive to former church homes in Oakland had proved arduous, so several attempts to provide Sunday School for residents’ children were made between 1900 and 1905.

Then in 1905, a permanent Sunday School program was organized under the leadership of Rev. Henry Mowbray, Assistant Minister of First Congregational Church, Oakland. Until the 1906 earthquake, the Sunday School met in the old Blair Mansion on Highland Avenue, then moved to the carriage house of the Mirriam home on Hillside Avenue.

The Piedmont Sunday School Association was founded and raised the funds and built Mowbray Hall in 1909, a permanent home for the Piedmont Sunday School, which stood till late in the century on Vista Avenue across from Piedmont City Hall. Mowbray Hall was soon in demand for adult services.

In Fall of 1909, Dr. John Stuchell was encouraged by the Presbytery of Oakland to investigate the possibility of establishing the first church on the hill. Dr. Stuchell began conducting worship services in Mowbray Hall, and in his Easter Sunday sermon in 1910 described his vision of what would become Piedmont Community Church:

“The opportunity is given of building up a church that will be the pride of the community in future years; we have the chance of showing what a church conducted on the broad lines of basic Christianity can do: if we let it slip, if we allow our enthusiasm to be chilled by the old partisan cries, if we insist that the work must be Congregational or Episcopalian or Presbyterian to be acceptable to the Almighty and helpful to mankind...then we prove that we are not as far beyond

“We have the chance of showing what a church conducted on the broad lines of basic Christianity can do.”

- Dr. John Stuchell, 1910

the Middle Ages as we had fondly imagined. But we do not take this dismal view.”

This vision of an “umbrella” like ecumenical community church, while revolutionary in its day, found a willing and energetic following in this new community of Piedmont. After that Easter service, 56 charter members formally established The Church in Piedmont, which, in the spring of 1912, joined with the Piedmont Sunday School Association as one body.

Piedmont Community Church has been served by nine Senior Ministers:

Dr. John E. Stuchell, Presbyterian, 1910-1916
 Rev. Charles D. Milliken, Congregational, 1916-1927
 Rev. Ernest F. W. Swann, Methodist, 1927-1934
 Rev. Richard E. Shields, Presbyterian, 1935-1939
 Dr. Holland F. Burr, Congregational, 1941-1959
 Dr. Paul W. Yinger, Congregational, 1960-1971
 Rev. Samuel J. Lindamood, Jr., Presbyterian, 1972-1994
 Dr. Jim Davis, Presbyterian, 1994-1999
 Dr. William H. McNabb, Presbyterian, 2001- 2020

The church has been served by 6 different Interim Senior Ministers: Rev. Francis Van Horn, 1934-35; Rev. James Muilenberg and Rev. Arthur Basham, 1939-1941; Dr. Harold Eymann, 1959-1960; Dr. Kenneth Johnson, 1971-1972; and Rev. David Sandberg, who served us in 1999-2001 and previously in 1994-1995. Dr. Steve Schibsted serves as Transitional Pastor, January 2021 to present.