

Annual Report

Gilbert Presbyterian Church

Prepared for the
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 28, 2021

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

January – December 2020

The year 2020 began with the Pastor Nominating Committee in place, new Elders and Deacons had been elected, and we were on track with the process of a pastor search. Then COVID 19 struck and church life, along with other aspects of our lives came to a halt.

Impact on Worship

In March the session acted on the advisement of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon to end in-person worship services and go to virtual services only. A tech team, Susan Martinez, a liturgist, and I were the only ones in the sanctuary for weeks. Worship services were shorter, and over time individuals were added to provide special music. I continued to preach from the lectionary and focused on God's word to us through Lent, Eastertide, ordinary time, Advent, and Christmas to honor the presence of God through the cycles of life.

Now we have a hybrid service with a few members attending in person and most viewing from home. The timeframe remains at 40-45 minutes which has been discussed and agreed upon with the Worship Committee. They have been a tremendous group of people dedicated to seeing that you are provided with the opportunity for weekly Sunday morning worship. Kudos to all the volunteers that make it happen!

Impact on the work of the Session

In order to deal with the many issues that arose during the lockdown and planning for the future, the session met weekly for a few weeks and then to twice-a-month meetings. I continued to meet with each committee to support where I was able. Gaill Blackburn was instrumental in getting all our committees going on Zoom and assisting chairpersons in learning the procedures for hosting Zoom meetings. You will see from their committee reports that ministry did not end just because the buildings were closed. The session stepped up to the task of assessing situations that arose and taking action together.

Pastor support for the church

My way of supporting the session besides attending the committee meetings has been to provide a weekly video message on YouTube. First videos were more pastoral in content with devotions or scripture and prayers along with an encouragement to reach out if necessary, by phone, text, or email. Over time the content included more about the plans and direction of the session. I have provided information from the PC(USA) in both the videos and the weekly church email so that we remember we are not in this alone. I have been available for phone support for those needing to talk and have prayer. Finally, I continued with the Sunday morning class which covered two books in 2020.

I did new deacons' orientation online, prepared an Inquirers class that was available if needed, and continued with my presbytery commitment on the Commission for Ministry.

Rev. Judy Wellington

Buildings & Grounds Committee Annual Report for 2020

The B&G Committee's Job Description -

B&G is responsible for the operation & maintenance of the church buildings and property, including:

- Maintaining all equipment and facilities.
- Arranging for work sessions for cleaning, general maintenance, and campus upkeep, etc.
- Reviewing and recommending appropriate insurance coverage for the church.
- Organizing and maintaining kitchen facilities and equipment.
- Maintaining the esthetics of the buildings and campus.
- Providing property management services.

Even though the campus was in lock-down for most of the year due to covid-19, much work was accomplished:

Livestream & internet -

- In the sanctuary building: an ethernet cable was installed from the router in Liz's office to the narthex; the dimmer switch to the narthex chandelier light was removed due to audio interference with the livestream (humming); shelves were built for 2 webcams in the back of the sanctuary; and the old communion table that sits in the narthex was repurposed for the livestream desktop.
- In the Palmer Center: ethernet was hardwired to most rooms. In Falkenstine Hall: a large screen wall on the north end was painted; cabling for 9 speakers and a receiver were installed; room darkening window coverings were installed; and a locking a/v cabinet was built to store a projector & laptop.
- In both buildings: a mesh wi-fi system was installed for seamless internet throughout the entire campus.

Security & Social Distancing -

- A new wireless doorbell was installed at the sanctuary main double doors; 4 Ring cameras/intercoms were installed at the west, office, main, and pastor exterior doors.
- Signs re covid-19 precautions and campus-wide closure to outside groups were put up on exterior doors.
- Social distancing was measured and taped off in the sanctuary, overflow, and Falkenstine Hall.
- 5 hand sanitization stations / offering boxes were built and placed by exterior doors: 3 in the sanctuary building, and 2 in the Palmer Center.
- 4 sanitization buckets were made with cleaning instructions: 2 in the sanctuary building, and 2 in the Palmer Center.

Contracts & documents for 2021 -

- New bids were received (and approved by Session) for: janitorial services; landscaping services; pest control; and fire system testing.
- A "Facility Use Agreement" was developed and approved by Session.
- New rental fees were determined for 2021 rentals.
- A "Facilities Coordinator" position was developed and presented to the Personnel committee who put this on hold for the time being due to lack of funds.
- A cell tower proposal was reviewed and unanimously declined.

- Mechanical contract to repair existing HVAC units was approved by Session and the work was completed.
- Discussions began in 2020 for rekeying both buildings in early 2021.

Interior repairs -

- The Nursery & Pre-K rooms got a much-needed facelift: new paint, toys disinfected, and much more.
- Liz's office was rearranged to her specifications and new sliding door window coverings were installed.
- All carpets were steam cleaned in both buildings, and all the sanctuary pews were steam cleaned.
- Replaced bathroom exhaust fans in both buildings; repaired multiple toilet leaks; repaired sanctuary kitchen refrigerator leak; replaced chancel lightbulbs and cleaned projectors; repaired old partition in sanctuary overflow; removed broken air hockey table in Sr Hi room; organized the B&G closet in the sanctuary overflow; installed water treatment for the entire campus and a new hot water heater in the Palmer Center; installed night lights in all restrooms and in the Palmer Center hallways; installed new first aid kits on the kitchen wall in both buildings.

Exterior repairs -

- Completed patio improvements (just need to replace the tree that was removed).
- Repaired the cross in the courtyard; cleaned/decluttered the HVAC storeroom; repaired sanctuary building leaks above the Narthex; repaired the parking lot lights; repainted the yellow stripe on the sidewalk to avoid the tripping hazard; removed the swing portion of the playground equipment that broke in the middle; refinished the entrance doors to the sanctuary and the south door as well as the two west doors to the Palmer Center; removed Palmer Center doormats that were a tripping hazard; worked on the mechanical bars many times on the exterior doors for proper automatic closure.

Landscaping & irrigation -

- Removed the dead palm tree in the east parking lot area; cut back the dying pepper tree at the south sidewalk; raked weeds in the overflow parking lot several times and sprayed preventative material; obtained a bid from an arborist to prune the acacia trees, palm trees, & olive trees.
- Installed main irrigation lines on the east side of the Palmer Center; repaired / replaced irrigation on the north side; set up a schedule for blowing the dropped leaves.

Donations of time, materials & money -

The B&G committee would like to thank everyone involved for their more than generous donations of time, materials, and money. Without this help, many of the items accomplished in 2020 would not have happened!

Meeting day/time -

B&G meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm virtually via Zoom due to Covid-19.

Those serving on the 2020 B&G Committee were -

Lyn Goodbar (chair), and in alphabetical order by first name - Art Nelson, Bret Blackburn, Dave Peterson, Dennis Wilkie, Ethan Nasiff, Gaill Blackburn, John Stover, Mike Gallagher, Roy Martin, Tom Russell, and Pastor Judy.

Submitted by: Gaill Blackburn, B&G Co-Chair

Christian Education Committee Annual Report for 2020

Members of the Christian Education Committee during 2020 were Pastor Judy Wellington, Judy Sullivan, Barbara Belz, Linda Gibbons, Ginger Martin, Britney Blackburn, and Don Boyd (chair).

At the start of the year, the staff teaching the Children's and Youth Sunday School Classes consisted of Judy Sullivan, Mary Burger, Linda Ewoldt, Roy Martin, Linda Gibbons, and Britney Blackburn. After a short while, Britney assumed the role of caregiver for children in the nursery during the Worship Service.

The Adult Sunday School Class has been led by Pastor Judy during the year covering a variety of Christian topics. Once the COVID-19 virus closed the church, the Adult Sunday Class met over Zoom each week. For ten weeks Don Boyd ran a Prayer Time Meeting on Sunday Following church. A Video Sunday Class for children was started during the time church was closed and has continued to this day. The format starting with an introduction to the video, a prayer, a two-to-three-minute video Bible story followed by crafts and/or music with the help of Britney and Gaill Blackburn.

Montlure Summer Camp for Children was a virtual camp this past summer, due to Covid-19. Several children from GPC participated in the camp with other children from Chandler Presbyterian, University Presbyterian, Mission Del Sol, and Mesa First Presbyterian.

Submitted by Don Boyd

Board of Deacons Annual Report

Barb Atchison (2022), Bret Blackburn (2020), Carole Blake (2021), Lynn Clapper (2020), Laurel Coughlin (2021), Lisa Ewoldt (2020), Linda Gibbons (2020), Liz Hansen (2020), Jean Nielsen (2022), Cheri Peterson (2021), Diane Schans (2022), and Mary Ann Wilkie (2022)

The GPC Board of Deacons began in 2020 hosting the annual Birthday Luncheon after church on January 26th. It was enjoyed by all who attended. The February meeting the board discussed many plans including: a picnic in the fall, a Black Bear Diner Restaurant event. Dinners for 8 (or so), Programs at the Chandler Center for the Performing Arts, and a patio evening with a fire pit, music and s'mores. On March 9, the Deacons hosted a reception following the Memorial Service for Ralph Johnson. And they had tentative plans for a light "brunch" following the Easter Service. Then on March 15th, the GPC campus was closed down due to COVID-19 and the Deacons started to find ways to serve their flocks remotely.

Starting in April, the Deacons' meetings were held with Zoom each month. We were supported in our goal of keeping everyone informed and included by the Elders' Angel's Hands initiative which Elder Ken Hassen explained to us at the April meeting. Throughout the year, the Deacons were asked to keep in touch with their flocks and to help disseminate information regarding church functions such as electing a Pastor Nominating Committee and progress on technical updates and possible dates for "in-person" worship as it became available.

The Deacons helped determine who in our flocks would be ready to return to "in-person" worship if it were offered in October and who would be willing to be an Usher. Deacon Co-moderator, Lisa Ewoldt, provided "Welcome Back" water bottles on the picnic table on the patio for the October 25th in-person service.

Social times were set up on Zoom by our amazing technical team for all who wanted to participate. In October, the Deacons started hosting the Friday evening and Sunday after-church social times to give the tech team a well-earned break.

Carole Blake

Evangelism Committee Annual Report

The Evangelism Committee's Mission -

Create opportunities for church members and non-members to come together as a family, learning and growing in Christian love. We offer guest speakers, spiritual retreats, mental health groups and family centered events in addition to supporting other church committees such as mission and education.

In-person events that were put on hold due to Covid-19 -

- GPC's Mental Health Support Group which met on the 2nd Sunday of each month with Liz Hansen facilitating from 4:30-5:30pm in room 7 of the Palmer Center.
- GPC Men's Wednesday Breakfasts which were held weekly at 8:00am at IHOP on Baseline and Val Vista.
- New Members Classes which were held in person that the Evangelism team attends.

New virtual events / etc that were developed due to Covid-19 -

- Friday night social hours on Zoom at 7pm.
- Sunday social time on Zoom after Church at 10:30am.
- Trained the Deacons on 10/19 to take over both Friday and Sunday social times.
- Worked with Liz on both the weekly eblast and the electronic sign "Interested in becoming a member? We are holding virtual inquirers classes!"
- Virtual classes were scheduled with Pastor Judy but cancelled due to people wanting to wait until we are back in person.
- Developed a virtual visitor's packet / simplified trifold for newcomers and added to the website.
- Developed a visitor's questionnaire via google forms and used google forms for the website contact page so that we get email verifications, and none get overlooked.
- Reached out to visitors who have been attending lately to make sure they are on our email list, etc.
- Worked with Liz and added a ton of new information under the "About" section of the website.
- Talked with Pastor Judy about always having a kid's sermon so that we will appeal to young families watching on the livestream.
- Talked with all the ruling Elders asking for committee descriptions that can be added to the "Ministries" section of the website.
- Developed a "Zoom for Dummies" cheat sheet for members to hold their own virtual holiday events with family/friends that they might not be able to see due to Covid-19.
- Worked with the Tech Team to post in the Sunday livestream comments weekly bulletin can be found on the website; feel free to host a "watch party" of the service; link for the online brochure and where to leave contact info; link to easily donate online; email for prayer concerns; Zoom links for all the virtual events.
- Researched online livestream statistics and realized that the livestream is an amazing opportunity for Evangelism, where we are able to reach out to hundreds and potentially even thousands virtually!

Meeting day/time -

The Evangelism team meets on the second Thursday of each month at 3pm virtually via Zoom due to Covid-19.

Those serving on the 2020 Evangelism Committee were - Gaill Blackburn (chair), and in alphabetical order by first name - Dennis Wilkie, Diane Howard, Jean Nielsen, Judy Sullivan, Ken Hassen, Laurel Coughlin, and Pastor Judy.

Submitted by: Gaill Blackburn, Evangelism Chair

Finance Committee

2020 Annual Report

2020 was a year unlike any other we have seen before. While starting off like any previous year, we underwent a change in March none of us had seen before. We found ourselves restricted in our movements. we were asked to stay home for a few weeks, close our businesses, keep our children at home and as it affected GPC; don't attend church, at least not in person. So from April on till the end of the year, we have had to adjust to these restrictions and learn how to worship God using technologies most of us had never used before or probably had not heard of before. Now we have ZOOM, U-Tube, Tithe.ly, Facebook and I'm sure other programs that I've missed. It has taken all of us some time to adjust to these new ways of conducting our lives. It has also taken the church some time to figure out how to conduct its operations. The Finance committee membership for 2020, made up of John Stover, Mike Gallagher, Sue Jax, John Paterson, Lyn Goodbar, Carole Blake, and Pastor Judy Wellington were at the forefront in making financial decisions that would help us make it through the year.

From an Income vs Expense point of view, for the year, we have been able to keep our expenses under control which allowed us to maintain a positive level of cash in our bank accounts. This despite a drop in our overall income. This was accomplished by actively watching our available funds and approving only those expense items that were believed to be necessary by the Finance Committee and by Session. The management of the services provided by the other committees – Education, Buildings and Grounds, Worship, Personnel, Evangelism, Deacon's outreach, Administration, and Stewardship to keep expenses as low as possible contributed significantly to the overall decrease in our expenses.

Two other actions also contributed to our financial well-being. First, during the second quarter, the US Government passed a program that would permit businesses and non-profit organizations to apply for a grant to offset the costs of salary, utilities, and other such expenses that were necessary to keep the organization afloat. GPC applied for and received a grant of \$21,000 for use in these areas. And second, about this time the Presbytery informed us that we could forego three months contributions to the pastor's retirement fund – approximately a \$6,000 reduction in our expenses. These programs were instrumental in helping us to manage our operations.

The committee continued its research to identify a method to allow our members to submit their offerings in addition to using the US mail and by bank transfers. The Tithe.ly internet donation program was selected by the committee to be the preferred internet program for our congregation to use to make their donations to the church. It is still growing in its use and we hope it will continue to do so.

The Capital Campaign is entering its final year. Through 2020 we have collected approximately \$187,000. The Capital Campaign was established to pay off the PILP loan of \$200,000 as soon as possible, and upon completion of that goal, to retain any excess funds in the Capital Campaign Fund. Funds received in 2020 provided us with the opportunity to not only make our monthly payments, but to refinance our loan and reduce it from a 6-year loan to now a 3 year loan.

This was due to GPC making a payment on the loan principle of \$25,000 while also making our monthly payments. The loan has now been reduced to approximately \$46,000. We shall continue to accelerate payments when possible to further reduce the time to pay off the loan.

The Facilities Upgrade Discernment (FUD) Program, initiated in 2017, continued throughout 2020. All work identified in the program has now been completed. There is about \$13,000 remaining in the FUD bank account. This money is being kept aside as a contingency for any emergency repairs that may be required before the Capital Campaign ends. If these funds are still available at that time they will be used to help pay off the PILP loan or deposited in the Capital Campaign Fund for use on future facility needs.

Administrative actions accomplished during the year included the approval of the Facility Use Agreement, Formalization of our Fund documents, the revision to the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual and the preparation of the 2021 budget.

The committee also would like to recognize those members of the congregation that have stepped forward when a particular program or project was mentioned in our various communication methods and have funded these activities. These are programs that the church believes are necessary but didn't have sufficient funds to accomplish them. These individuals were generous in their willingness to help and not looking for any recognition for their actions. We want to thank them for all that they do.

Finally, Initial figures are alerting us that our 2021 annual pledges are down as is the amount pledged. The Finance Committee, and Session has made some difficult decisions in preparing the 2021 budget. We believe that with our new budget we shall continue to be able to fund all necessary 2021 budget items necessary to continue our operations here at GPC.

As they say it is always darkest before the dawn. We are hopeful that with the New Year comes the dawn of a return to life as we would like it to be.

God bless you all,

The Finance Committee

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee started 2020 by taking stock of our mission commitments and reviewing our obligations for the upcoming year. There was an agreement to cut back on some of our activities to lighten the load of a core group that has become smaller in number over the past two to three years. Some also felt that reducing the mission activities would better facilitate the transition of a new pastor and their vision. Although there was some “scaling down”, deletions from the calendar were limited to EVMC dinners and a reduction in the number of service opportunities for Feed My Starving Children. The other deletion of note was the removal of Easter Food boxes from the 2020 calendar.

In 2020 the Mission Committee served Feed My Starving Children, Justa Center, EVMC lunches, GPC West Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes and Christmas Angel tree. Although Abounding service cancelled their mission activity for this year due to Covid 19, we have stayed in contact with them and have been provided with updates on their status. The Heavenly Threads ministry was continued and slightly expand for 2020.

Covid 19 dramatically altered the way GPC Mission served others in 2020. In person service opportunities were no longer permitted by the ruling body of GPC as well as by the organizations we serve. The change resulted in a model where monetary donations replaced in person service. In every instance, the response from the congregation to these requests went above and beyond the amount that we estimated was needed in lieu of donations. The organizations responded with great thanksgiving and appreciation for finding different ways to help and bless during this time of unprecedented difficulty.

The Stewardship committee has recently approached the Mission Committee and has commented that there is overlap between the two committees. They are requesting better communication and cooperation between the committees as we move forward in the new year. More discussion will be upcoming.

As we move forward into the next year, it is my hope that the Mission Committee will continue to work together to serve those we are called to serve. Regular 2020 Mission Committee members included Rob Nagy, John Paterson, Dan and Ann Bernal, Dennis Wilke, Mike Gallagher, Don Boyd and Rev. Judy Wellington. The committee was co-chaired by Rob Nagy and John Paterson.

Report of the Personnel Committee

Because of COVID-19, 2020 was an unusual year for all of us at Gilbert Presbyterian Church, and that includes the Personnel Committee. The choir directors for both the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir were on a 10-month contract that ran from August 2019 through May 2020. With the CDC recommended restrictions for face masks and social distancing, Session closed our facilities. Neither choir could rehearse and perform. Because of those restrictions and other personal reasons, both directors said they would not renew their contracts going forward. When the time is right in the future we will interview and hire a choir director for GPC.

Effective the 1st of March, the Personnel Committee along with Clerk of Session offered a second one-year contract to Pastor Judy Wellington to serve as Interim Pastor. We are grateful to Pastor Judy for her leadership and guidance during this time as the GPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) interviews candidates to fill our fulltime Pastor position. We also assisted the Christian Education committee with hiring Britney Blackburn to staff the church nursery.

The committee annually reviews and communicates the Personnel Guidelines that provide resources and guidelines for church employees, define hiring processes, document policies and provide structure for church personnel activities. Other activities included serving as a resource to church employees, conducting annual discussions with employees, making recommendations to Session for personnel budget and ensuring proper governance over payroll, time reporting and employee contracts. The members of the committee in 2020 were John Paterson, Ann Bernal, Cheryl Williams, Rocky Mackey and Jennifer Nagy.

Submitted by
John Paterson

Presbyterian Women - 2020

2020 proved to be a challenging year for the ladies of Presbyterian Women at Gilbert Presbyterian Church. The first two meetings, January and February, went as expected with the ladies meeting in the Falkenstine Hall of the Palmer Center. The slate of officers for 2020 was Moderator, Carole Blake; Secretary, Beryl Elwood; Treasurer, Arlyn Hearn and Historian, Mary Jenkins. In honor of her constant loyalty and devotion to PW since it was established at GPC and her inspirational leadership the past 6 years, **Mary Jenkins** was presented with PW's highest tribute, The Honorary Life Membership and pin.

Then, in March, the church campus was closed down due to the COVID-19 virus.

We tried to stay in touch with each other as the months went by. Then the GPC Tech Team suggested that PW could meet on Zoom. There was much discussion as to how it would work and who could join in, but by the third Saturday in September, the PW ladies joined in on Zoom. The first meeting was just to catch up with each other on what was happening in our lives during the previous months. Then we made plans for the coming months.

Starting in October we studied the lessons of *"Into the Light (Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament)"* led by individual members. Each month we carried on the business of the group.

Our small group was able to support Mission projects as follows: World Wide Synod and Presbytery Support-\$300; Justa Center-\$300; Outreach Foundation for Sebbes Banda's birthing training-\$300; Presbytery Disaster Assistance-\$300 and Christ for the Island World of Indonesia-\$150. We also supported the GPC Women's Meeting by paying the speaker fee of \$300 and we supported Quilts of Valor with a donation of \$250.

Special Offerings: Thank Offering - \$220; Birthday Offering - \$278.25; and Least Coin - \$13.46.

Funds for Mission next year will be much reduced because the group decided that it would be impossible to have our Annual Cookie Sale in December of 2020.

Annual Report 2020 Stewardship Committee

The year 2020 began normally and the Committee was able to meet in the usual in-person manner through March. After that, all the meetings for the remainder of the year were held virtually by Zoom. In general, it was much more difficult to carry out the responsibilities of the committee during 2020. The COVID-19 required that stewardship information and requests be presented primarily via *The Crossroads* and the weekly email (eblast). From April through December at least one, and frequently two articles about stewardship were published in the newsletter. Some in-person Minutes for Mission and two skits were presented during the last quarter of the year.

For the 22nd consecutive year Gilbert Presbyterian Church participated generously in the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, One Great Hour of Sharing (\$955), Pentecost (\$500), Peace and Global Witness (\$475), and Christmas Joy offering (2,812). However, due to the COVID-19 and the closure of the church campus, and later limited attendance, giving was reduced in all the special offering. Of the Pentecost offering, 40% stays with GPC for local mission and was used to support the Montlure Sumer Camp. Of the Peace and Global Witness offering, 25% was given to Abounding Service. In addition, an anonymous member gifted \$312.45 directly to the 102 Shared Mission Support, a part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

During the year 2019 the Stewardship Committee discussed the possibility of instituting an online option for giving to the GPC. Early in 2020, Judy Walmsley met with several members of the Tech Team and Finance Committee about this. Subsequently, the Tech Team (Gail Blackburn) explored the various options for doing this and the platform *tithe.ly* was chosen. In May 2020 it was reported that approximately 10% of the giving was being made through *tithe.ly*.

The months of October and November were especially busy times for the Stewardship Committee. A letter, a pledge card, and a refrigerator magnet were sent to each giving unit during the last week of October. A self-addressed return envelope to GPC was included for members who were not attending the in-person worship. Four options for turning in pledges were available: bring to church, regular mail, electronic pledge card, drop off in church parking lot. The dedication of pledges was held on November 15.

In light of the economic difficulties imposed by the COVID-19 on some members, it was anticipated that the amount pledged for 2021 budget would be less than for 2020. As of January 2021, pledges had been received from 58 pledges units for a total of \$138,640.84. This is 9.4 % less than the preceding year, but very close to the \$139,710.84 pledged for 2019. The Committee is very thankful for the support of the faithful members and friends of GPC. Thank you cards were sent for each pledge received.

Members of the Stewardship Committee in 2020: Karen Gallagher, David Paul, Dorothy Smith, Co-moderator Rocky Mackey, Moderator Judy Walmsley, Pastor Judy Wellington (ex officio).

2020 Worship Committee Annual Report

Worship Responsibilities: In concert with the pastor, the worship committee plans and implements worship experiences that glorify God, plants the seeds of faith, and cultivates disciples. The committee provides for the administration of the Sacraments, flowers and seasonal decorations, and participation of members as ushers, liturgists, communion preparers and servers. The worship committee oversees the music subcommittee and interfaces with the technology task force, including oversight of the audio-visual technology during worship. The worship committee maintains the worship elements, arranges pulpit supply as needed, explores new and existing worship experiences, and reviews and specifies the order of worship.

Beginning in February 2020, GPC offered one worship service year-round, at 9:30 AM. Each service was live-streamed, so that members who were unable to attend in-person could participate in the worship experience, either in real-time or at a later time. In mid-March, a decision was made by the GPC session to temporarily discontinue in-person worship, in response to public health concerns regarding COVID-19. A small, but extremely dedicated, team of worship, music, and technology leaders conducted a weekly live-streamed worship service each Sunday morning, and the majority of our members worshipped remotely. We grappled with changes such as how to celebrate communion when most of the worshippers are not in the same physical location, and how to accept offerings when passing the plate is not an option and generated creative and safe solutions.

The worship committee spent several months seeking input from members about their comfort level on the topic of returning to in-person worship. This feedback was used by Session, in conjunction with a review of information from knowledgeable public health sources, to reach a decision to offer in-person worship beginning in October 2020. The worship committee developed guidelines, including the use of physical distancing protocols, increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces, reduced use of paper products, and mandatory masking by all worshippers, prior to reopening the sanctuary doors to worshippers. The role of ushers was revised, and the worship committee provided in-person and online training of these individuals, who have been a key part in ensuring a safe experience is provided.

During and after the period when the church was closed, we have learned that many people, both members and guests, took advantage of the opportunity to worship remotely. Over the months, the technology team expanded in membership and in the types of platforms available to viewers. New equipment, including a new projector and laptop for Falkenstine Hall, materials to provide a large viewing screen area in Falkenstine Hall, wiring for speakers in Falkenstine Hall, a desktop computer for the sanctuary, two webcams, WiFi mesh systems for both buildings, and a new pulpit microphone, was obtained. These acquisitions enabled an even better-quality virtual worship experience to be provided, as well as permitting the use of Falkenstine Hall as an additional worship site. Donations of money and labor from members minimized the costs of these improvements.

While the number of people attending worship in-person on Sunday morning is fewer than it was at the beginning of 2020, we have been able to keep in-person and virtual worshippers connected as we all worship together. We are committed to continue offering a quality live-streamed worship option for all those who for whatever reason choose not to attend in person. We look forward to the date when we will be seeing more worshippers walk through the doors into our sanctuary to worship with us in person.

MEMBERS: Gaill Blackburn, Jennifer Nagy, Rob Nagy, Ray Zubler, Rocky Mackey, Don Boyd, Diane Schans, Susan Martinez, Judy Sullivan, and Interim Pastor Judy Wellington. Janet Paterson and Shelley Randall participated as members for a portion of the year.

Submitted by Judy Sullivan, Chair

2020 Church Statistical Report



Church	Gilbert	PIN	10863
Presbytery	Grand Canyon		
Address	235 E Guadalupe Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85234-4536		
Phone	480-892-6753	Fax	
Email	azgpcoffice@gmail.com		
Web Site	www.azgpc.org		

Membership

Prior Active Members	196	Adjusted membership	196
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Gains

Certificate	
Youth Professions	
Professions & Reaffirmations	3
Total Gains	3

Losses

Certificate	
Deaths	4
Deleted for any Other Reason	21
Total Losses	25

Total Ending Active Members **174**

Baptisms

Presented by Others	
At Confirmation	
All Other	

Average Weekly Worship Attendance	
Female Members	101
Friends of the Congregation	35
Ruling Elders on Session	12
Do you have Deacons?	Yes

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	10
26 - 40	20
41 - 55	28
56 - 70	46
Over 70	70
Total Age Distribution	174

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	9
Sight impairment	
Mobility impairment	12
Other impairment	6

Christian Education

Birth - 3		Grade 7	
Age 4		Grade 8	
Kindergarten		Grade 9	
Grade 1		Grade 10	
Grade 2		Grade 11	
Grade 3		Grade 12	
Grade 4		Young Adults	
Grade 5		Over 25	
Grade 6		Teachers/Officers	

Total Christian Education **0**

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	3
Black/African American/African	
Middle Eastern/North African	
Hispanic/Latino-a	6

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	1
White	164
Multiracial	

Total Racial Ethnic **174**

Financial Data

Annual Income	246,596
Annual Expenses	243,487

Mission Expenses	21,654
Personnel Expenses	134,001
Facilities Expenses	50,946

