



Annual Report

2021

Skidaway Community Church
912.598.0151
skidcc.org

A WORD FROM PASTOR JON



In November of 2021, I departed Akron, Ohio, where I had served as a minister for the past six years and set out on a new adventure with my wife, two children, two dogs, two vehicles and seemingly endless boxes of our earthly possessions. The new destination was Savannah, Georgia – Skidaway Island to be specific. As I adjusted to my new ministerial setting among you and learned all that I could about Skidaway Community Church, I was blessed to receive the energy and excitement that accompanies the welcome of a new pastor.

Many of you rightly noted that my timing seemed suspicious. I was arriving in the sunny south just prior to the cold and snow of another northern winter. Even so, my move was inspired by much more than a change of venue or weather. Throughout my ministry, I have remained open to the leading of God’s Spirit and I have corresponded with PNCs in every part of the country, including most recently.

What I am seeking now is to bring my personal and professional experiences to bear in a place where my gifts and skills are needed. To work in partnership alongside willing disciples. To build enduring ministries. To foster needed changes to move the church forward. Curiously, I feel that God has called me to pursue these goals at the smallest congregation that I have served over the course of my ordained ministry.

You see, the truth is that most congregations like to tell prospective ministers how well things are going for them, even when they aren’t. For this reason, I found the honesty of SCC refreshing. The congregation has struggled with staff transitions. The congregation has struggled with musical, educational and missional programming. The congregation has struggled to retain members. The congregation is aging.

These struggles all point to the need for a change of course. A fresh start. A reboot. Together, we must build the church that we wish to see, rather than the one which already exists. And I am convinced that this congregation possesses the vision, the ability, and the resources to do just that. You are promoting growth opportunities. You are leading the way with your digital presence. You readily acknowledge that the church must change and you are committed to helping the church succeed.

Just think about how much fun it will be to look back on this article five years from now and see how far we’ve come. I can’t wait to see where God leads us.

Peace,

Jon Hauerwas

SESSION REPORT

If one word could describe SCC's Session's work activity for 2021, it would be Transition. We started the year with a Transitional Pastor, Rev. Dr. Steven Thomas, who, due to health reasons, had to resign. He was followed by Transitional Pastor, Rev. Ed Ayers. Rev. Ayers formalized Elder training for the new slate of Elders to better prepare them for the Session's work. Rev. Ayers also helped to provide a Transitional Music Director, due to the resignation of Dr. Mary McKee, who relocated to Florida with her family. By year's end, our worship endeavors were stabilized with the hiring of a permanent Pastor, Rev. Jon Hauerwas.

SCC is and has been committed to outreach into the Skidaway Island community and Greater Savannah area. January's Calvin University Lecture Series continued to bring repeat and new participants into Liston Hall for enlightening topics related to the human condition. SCC also made a hallmark statement with the installation of a LED corner sign, which is elevating SCC's exposure to the community to greater heights. Along with the digital sign, SCC recognized the need to hire professional consultants to upgrade our website and ensure our social media is consistent with SCC's goals and mission.

Another key outreach activity approved by Session was the weekly visit of a Food Truck, visibly positioned and announced on our digital sign. Many non-members are using and appreciating this convenient service.

Lastly, the Session wants you to know that, though we worked under significant transitions in 2021, we never lost our focus on serving our Church to the best of our ability. Though SCC started the year with a bit of uncertainty, we ended it on a strong note financially, corporately and spiritually.

Laurel McKeith, Clerk of Session

SESSION — 2021

Class of 2022

Vic Bell
Howard Gandelot
Sue Jones
Dean Smith

Class of 2023

David Denhard
Kurt Kalwitz
Don Mayer
Milo Moore

Class of 2024

Kay Eskew
Cathie Inglesby
Laurel McKeith
Peggy Usher

WORSHIP & MUSIC

It is with gratitude and joy that God allowed us the opportunity and provided the means to continue our worship services every week during 2021, a year full of transitions for SCC. Special thanks to Rev. Rachel Greiner, Rev. Jeff Myers, Rev. John Ruehl, Rev. Dr. Steve Thomas (interim pastor), Rev. Ed Ayers (interim pastor) and Rev. Jon Hauerwas (permanent pastor) for making this a reality. Additionally, recognition is extended to our Music Director, Dr. Mary McKee, for the wide range of music provided through August of 2021, as well as to our interim Music Director, Ellen Barneycastle. With sadness and best wishes we said goodbye in April to Rev. Deanie Strength, our Parish Associate, who wished to spend more time with her family.

Those supporting our worship experience are greatly appreciated – Ushers, Greeters, Flower Guild Members, Communion Preparers, Audio Visual and Technical Support Volunteers and Staff. It should be noted that Live-Stream viewing of our worship services tripled when compared to pre-pandemic participation.

Special worship services this past year included:

- Boy Scout Sunday – February
- Maundy Thursday – March
- Easter Sunrise – April
- Sunset - July
- Kirkin' of the Tartans – November
- Christmas – December



With great joy, we welcomed Rev. Jon Hauerwas, who graciously accepted our call to become SCC's permanent pastor at the end of November. His wife, Kara, and their two sons, Liam and Nathan, quickly became wonderful additions to our congregation.

Committee: Marcia Dodd, Chair; Kay Eskew, Jim Higbee, Laurel McKeith, Dean Smith, Diane Tracy and Jim Brown

Missions & Benevolence

This past year we have continued to support Local, Regional and International Missions. This congregation's generosity continues to be a blessing and an outreach.

Local:

Emmaus House \$4,500, part of which covers the cost of food for a month

Union Mission \$3,500, part of which funds housing for the homeless unaccompanied Women's Shelter

Inner City Night Shelter \$7,800

Parent University \$3,000

JUST \$1000

Tiny House Christmas gift cards \$1,300

Union Mission Christmas gift cards \$1,500

Safe Shelter \$20,135 (\$19,135 from shredding event)



Regional:

Presbyterian Homes \$3,400

Presbyterian Relief Fund \$1915

International:

Faith In Practice \$2000

Common Hope \$1000

Mission Aviation Fellowship \$4000



Presbyterian & Denomination Missions

Savannah Presbytery \$26,115

Christmas Joy Offering \$325

One Great Hour of Sharing \$1655

Presbyterian Hunger Relief \$300

Additionally, Skidaway Community Church members donated socks to Inner City Night Shelter and Union Mission; delivered 15 Hygiene Packets for Afghan refugees to First Presbyterian Church, mainly collected by the Preschool; prepared 240 cards for Memorial Hospital health care workers, thanking them for their dedication and work during the pandemic; delivered bread donated by Derst Bakery to Emmaus House; collected toiletries for Inner City Night Shelter.

Committee: Carolyn Ernest, Chair; Vic Bell, Diane Krstolic, Sherry Leblang, Don Mayer, June O'Hearn, Anita Parmelee and Carri Stoltz

Fellowship

Reaching out in love to others in the name of Jesus to meet their spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs, the following activities and services were provided during a year that presented continued challenges.

2021 Activities

- Coffee fellowship was streamlined to make hosting easier and continues to be a popular time for members to greet each other following Sunday services;
- Tracking member needs through our Care and Concern list has become a priority;
- Members in need of help were identified;
- Care packages and cards were sent to shut-ins and out-of-town members;
- Care Cards continued as an ongoing ministry;
- In-person Receptions returned; several were held outside to accommodate Covid concerns;
- New visitors received a loaf of bread or card thanking them for visiting;
- Visitor lists are being maintained and communicated to Fellowship and Session weekly;
- Reception support followed the showing of Mission Aviation Fellowship's *Ends of the Earth* film;
- The annual Homecoming Brunch was held in- person in October. Proceeds were sent to Thornwell;
- Launched a 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group on Thursdays, open to all members.

2022 Goals

- Create an environment of Christian fellowship that extends into the community;
- Encourage members to take an active role in our programs, outreach and needs;
- Pray that we listen to God's guidance for the future.

Committee— Co-chairs Cathie Inglesby and Sue Jones; Jane Case, Bob Ernest, Eloise Melton, Allan Pulaski and Mark Usher

LEARNING

Matthew 19:14 – Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

SKIDAWAY COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Skidaway Community Preschool is proud to serve the residents of Skidaway Island and surrounding areas with their part-time childcare and preschool needs. Since our inception 36 years ago, our Preschool has been a mission of Skidaway Community Church. Then and now, the Preschool exists “to provide early childhood learning in a loving Christian environment where:

- Each child feels secure;
- Each child is provided with a foundation needed to build a healthy self-concept;
- Each child is taught to learn, grow and excel in the world around them.”

The past three school years have been strongly impacted by Covid-19. The Preschool staff has worked proactively to provide a safe environment for students and staff, while also creating a fun and loving place to learn, grow and wonder. The families and children we serve depend on us to provide a healthy environment where children can learn and socialize with friends.

Fifty-two students enrolled in the 2021-2022 school year, occupying 5 classrooms for ages 1 through 4. We are currently working with Pastor Jon Hauerwas to provide each classroom with monthly Sanctuary visits. The Preschool staff leads the children in developing their trust in the Lord through scripture, praise songs and meal blessings. We continue to provide our children with their first building blocks of learning.

Committee— Linda Denhard, Chair; Milo Moore, Hadley Stack, Maria Rogers, Ellen Bennett, Don Mayer, Laurel McKeith, Tiffany Kolat and Colleen Vlahos

BOY SCOUT TROOP #57

Since 1989 when SCC chartered Boy Scout Troop #57, scouting has been integral to our youth programming. In addition to dedicating meeting and activity spaces, members have led and guided literally hundreds of Island youth to develop skills and values based on ‘service to others’. Over these years, Troop # 57 has produced a record-setting 80 Eagle Scouts and consistently been recognized as one of the best troops in the 10-county Coastal Empire Council.

LEARNING — CONTINUED

GIRL SCOUT JUNIOR TROOP 30206

There are currently 16 girls registered in Junior Troop 30206 for the 2021-2022 school year. The girls are in their second year of the Junior level of Girl Scouting and are working to complete their badges bridging to Cadettes. This year the girls completed the Horseback Riding, Savvy Shopper, Business Owner and Inside Government badges. They plan to earn their Gardening and Jewelry badges this spring.

The Troop is currently working on their fourth year of Girl Scout cookie sales. Last year, they planned and executed two successful cookie booths on the Island. . Cookie booth sales are teaching them about advertising, customer service, money management and how to run a small business while working together as a team. They are using what they learned last year to help them be even more successful with this year's sales. Proceeds from cookie sales help support future Troop endeavors.

Troop Leaders: Amanda James and Amie Nixon.



FINANCES

We mourn the loss of Andy Lohn, a dear friend and longtime member of the Finance Committee.

The 2021 Budget was planned to virtually break even. The actual result was a surplus of \$31,000. Total Offerings came in \$4752 above budget. Expenses were well below budget, mostly due to payroll and related items.

The balance sheet showed a Net Worth of \$102,400, along with reserve accounts of \$362,000. In addition, the Permanent and Manse Funds totaled \$499,000. They are invested in New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund, which was up 13.9% in 2021. The two funds are used to support benevolences and Pastor Housing Allowance.

Skidaway Community Church received a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of Rex McClure, a wonderful ‘planned gift’, which we expect to be the cornerstone of a rejuvenated program. You will be hearing more shortly.

The Budget for 2022 shows a deficit of \$49,000. It reflects the hiring of Reverend Jon Hauerwas and Interim Music Director, Joel Morehouse. This will add \$97,000 to last year’s vastly reduced payroll cost. We are also adding \$20,000 to Repair & Replacement reserves, an account that was almost depleted in 2021 by necessary capital expenditures.

Member Giving is expected to equal 2021 results, even with the loss of congregants who died or moved away. See the Stewardship report. The Permanent Fund will provide \$7500 toward Benevolences and the Manse Fund will provide \$11,700 toward Pastor Housing Allowance.

Milo Moore, *Treasurer*

Committee: Shelly Barquist, Vic Bell, John Evans, Howard Gandelot, Andy Lohn, Ed Shapoff

STEWARDSHIP

Many thanks to Tom Inglesby for heading up the stewardship effort this past fall.

Our members continue to be wonderful givers. As of this writing, we have received 62 pledges, including four new ones, for \$406,000. That is an amazing average of \$6500 in thanks and praise to God! We still need to hear from five people who pledged in 2021. Their impact could equal another \$15,000.

We also received \$45,000 in 2021 in NonPledge gifts and \$3500 in ‘loose offerings’.

From 2021 to 2022, we lost seven pledge units to death or moving away. That translates to a loss of \$29,000 in Pledge Income. As mentioned elsewhere, we have approved a deficit budget for 2022.

The numbers for 2020 were 87 pledges for \$461,000. The 2021 numbers were 69 pledges for \$404,000. The 2022 budget is estimating \$416,000 of pledge income. Our generous members are supporting our mission in the world. We are optimistic about the future given such a dedicated congregation.

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2021, the Communications Committee generated interest/visibility/curiosity/participation in ongoing and new SCC programs/activities/events, all in support of the Strategic Plan’s ‘Outreach’ pillar. Using familiar and traditional media and communications tools, while heightening our social media presence, the Committee’s messaging builds deliberately on two priority “Community Outreach” initiatives authorized by Session in 2020: Rebranding and Refreshing Our Website.

In addition to delivering week-in/week-out support for SCC’s established and robust Christian and events calendar (e-newsletters, Sunrise Service, Kirkin’, Lent/Advent Services, Shredding, Preschool, Scouts, Annual Report, etc.), 2021 presented fresh visibility opportunities, including: construction and introduction of the corner LED sign, weekly food truck visits, hosting Mission Aviation Fellowship’s *Ends of the Earth* film and the arrival of our permanent Pastor.

Installed in June, the LED sign is opening the window to further enhancing our Digital Ministry outreach. With staff leadership and the services of an experienced social media specialist, the Committee is focused on maximizing the capabilities of this ideally situated and impactful communications tool.

Committee: Dee Angell, Chair; Eleanor Graham, Ann Higbee, Dean Klahr, Karen Utzinger and Jim Brown

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

COVID plus age have affected SCC's PW program. We had a second year of cancelled activities, as well as a significant decline in participation. With that being said, the women completed their studies either in person or via ZOOM. Despite the virus raising its ugly head, SCC PW was able to accomplish its projected giving budget of \$1,450. Additionally, PW sponsored the Santa Clause Express, gathering \$570 for the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia and \$1,461 for Thornwell.

Members: Laurel McKeith, Moderator; Jane Case, Marcia Dodd, Judy Gandelot, Shirley Oldham, Patricia Ramsey

PROPERTY

With the help of many volunteers and staff, our property was kept fresh and safe. In addition, our technology was upgraded and expanded. Of note:

Exterior/Grounds - paved and restriped parking lot; installed new electronic sign; trimmed back and shaped multiple trees; with Boy Scouts, constructed a new stage in back of the church; installed new landscaping at flagpole, new sod at Liston Hall entrance; removed unsightly bushes throughout the campus; installed a new pressure tank for the irrigation system; repaired wood rot under windows of Pastor's office and Johnson Hall; cleaned all Church windows; repaired Liston Hall breezeway roof leak; installed gutters at Church administration entrance; painted outside Sanctuary handrail; repaired rotten fence by back kitchen door; audited irrigation system and made repairs/upgrades; completed new signage for the Church and Preschool; installed deer fencing on a number of trees; sold the Church bus with proceeds going to replenish/ repair/replace reserves; replaced "fogged" windows in the Sanctuary.

Interior – completed Sanctuary lighting upgrades; decorated the Church for the Christmas season; installed a new lock on the kitchen's back door; repaired Sacristy ceiling and baseboard, broken pews in Sanctuary; replaced defective Preschool ceiling tiles; installed front door security system; repaired Sanctuary and Pastor's doors; Session adopted new guidelines for the use of Church property by outside groups; repaired A/C system in Sanctuary; completely refurbished and painted Pastor's office.

Office/Technology – installed high-capacity battery backup systems in Sanctuary AV booth and equipment closet in Administration Building to maintain Live Stream operations during power outages; increased Internet capacity by 100% to support expanded Live Stream requirements; implemented a campus-wide access system providing remote management of office computer workstations and Sanctuary video, audio, camera and lighting systems; set up ZOOM capabilities in Liston Hall and Library; implemented a digital road sign with real-time, Internet-based messaging software; served over 1560 remote viewers (avg 30/week x 52) via the Live Stream system; provided system design and setup for the screening of *The Ends of the Earth* mission video; spec'd and purchased a portable audio system to support outdoor events (i.e., Sunrise/Sunset service, Prayer and Praise service, and Preschool graduation service).

Property Committee: Kurt Kalwitz, Chair; Dee Angell, David Denhard, Howard Gandelot, Don Holck, Sonny Jones, Ray Krstolic, Sandy Mayer, Bill Sickels and Jim Brown. *Finishing Touches Subcommittee*: Dee Angell, Judy Gandelot, Sandy Mayer and Sandy Ljundahl



SKIDAWAY
Community Church

Welcoming All Since 1977

*Skidaway Community Church is affiliated with
The Presbyterian Church (USA)*