



# TPC 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

### A YEAR OF COURAGE

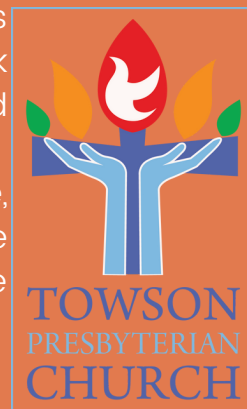
Staff had quite the debate when discerning a theme for this year's Annual Report. Don't worry—it never got angry or heated. In fact, we were joyful, inspired, and filled with gratitude as we explored all the reasons we have to celebrate.

I voted for "A Year of Unprecedented Growth," as the phrase captures just how much growth we experienced this year. Across the past 12 months, worship attendance expanded by 10% while giving/stewardship increased almost 7%. That's simply incredible. But we didn't just grow numerically. We grew in entirely new ways!

- TPC launched a brand-new, virtual campus this year that extends the mission and ministries of Towson Presbyterian Church.
- We were blessed to call two parish associates: Rev. Mary Gaut and Rev. Roger Rice. What a gift they have been to us.
- Our community now has three brand-new Mission Action Teams (Hunger, Peacemaking, and Earth-Care), which are already at work planning fresh new ways to make a difference in the world around us.

That said, I humbly accept that Alison's theme won the day. Because, well... it's a really good one, too. Namely... none of this growth would be possible if not for the courage of this community of faith to take some risky, daring steps to follow where the Spirit is calling!

Peace, Rev. Rob Carter



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# COURAGE IN UNCHARTED TERRITORY

TPC launched a brand-new, virtual campus this year that extends the mission and ministries of TPC to wherever people choose to engage. While maintaining all of our in-person ministries, the virtual campus now makes it possible for individuals and families to worship and participate in the life of our church from wherever they can get the internet.

To do this TPC grew in a myriad of directions:

- TPC offered more adult spiritual formation opportunities than ever before. Fifteen of these offerings were held virtually.
- Our staff expanded in significant ways, as existing job descriptions grew and we were blessed to call Alison Raskin as our new Director of Communication and Connections and Mimi Frysiek as our new Administrative Assistant.
- Programmatic staff offered regular spiritual resources online such as "Sing with Understanding" where music director Stephen Harouff explored an upcoming anthem- leading us to deeper and fuller worship.



New Communication Director, Alison Raskin and family attended our Virtual Epiphany Star event with 46 other participants.



Our very first Trunk or Treat kicked off with great success. Above, our new administrative assistant, Mimi Frysiek and Patty O'Brien in costume!

## VIRTUAL STATS:

- Over the year our Facebook "reach" grew by 42%
- Instagram "visits" grew by 156%.
- We received 10K unique visits to our website.
- We began advertising via Facebook.

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# COURAGE TO PERSIST IN A 'HOPE- DEFERRED' YEAR

Proverbs 13:12 states "Hope deferred makes the heart grow sick." In other words, if you must wait a long time for something that you want, you will become despairing.

Most of us (all of us) hoped 2021 would bring an end or at least a workable solution to the worldwide pandemic and though there were strides made...our lives continued to be adversely affected by the virus.

Instead of despairing, TPC leaned in, showed courage by continuing to do what was safest and best for ourselves and for our neighbors. While so much of our world felt frozen and stagnated, TPC was willing to innovate and remain flexible. We fortified and grew our existing structures and systems with courage and tenacity.

- Weekly Zoom Church School utilized Growing in God's Love curriculum with attendance ranging from 3-17 children. We were excited to kick-off in-person Children's Church and Church School in the Fall of 2021. Though closing this option to remain safe from the Omicron surge was disappointing, we were happy to have the consistent virtual option for our families.
- Camp BeeTree resumed successfully! We navigated the pandemic with safe in-person daily time at the preserve as children explored the verse of Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."
- Despite the challenges of Covid, Youth Group met both virtually and in-person, inviting youth to gather for community and faith formation. Eight youth completed their Confirmation requirements and took a step in their ongoing journey of faith.
- We increased our Associate Pastor's position factor and salary. We grew both the Director of Music and the Director of Children and Family Ministries' job description, hours, and salary. TPC compensated our Business Manager for increased workload during the pandemic and staff transitions.



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# COURAGE TO PERSIST IN A 'HOPE- DEFERRED' YEAR



In what may have been our most beautiful (and last minute!) pivots of the year we decided amidst a surge to move our Christmas Eve family service outside. We gathered 160 strong to see our children share the story of the birth of Jesus Christ- JOY to the world! Thank you to Carol Appleby, Lorene Laberge and our children for your effort and flexibility.

## COURAGE TO CARE FOR OUR UNGLAMOROUS BUT NEEDED STRUCTURAL UPDATES AND CHANGES, INCLUDING:



- \$51,000 in improvement of fresh air ventilation and circulation in the Sanctuary.
- \$63,000 for AV upgrades for virtual programs and worship (to be completed in 2022).
- \$23,000 in sewer line replacement.
- \$25,000 in repairs to exterior masonry; phase 1 of 3 planned projects.
- \$14,000 in roof repair and maintenance.
- \$7000 in upgrade of windows.

## THE COURAGE TO ADAPT



"To borrow a phrase from our military- "Semper Gumby" seems to be an appropriate phrase for our music ministry at TPC. Through 2021 we've been on, off, at home, at church, upstairs, downstairs, inside, outside, felt the pain of isolation, and felt the joy of fellowship. Through it all, we've learned to trust in God, and we are stronger for it." -Stephen Harouff, Music Director

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# COURAGE TO GIVE



It is so much easier in tough times to clench our fists...but you have opened your hands and hearts in generosity. This is testimony to what God has done in you individually and as a community. We give tremendous thanks for all the gifts and specifically here for your financial gifts.

- **We started with the goal of \$750K and then “The generosity of members and friends blew the \$750K goal out of the water! This is just what living with the gift of the Holy Spirit is all about.” (Cornelia McKenna). Please see our addendum for more details.**

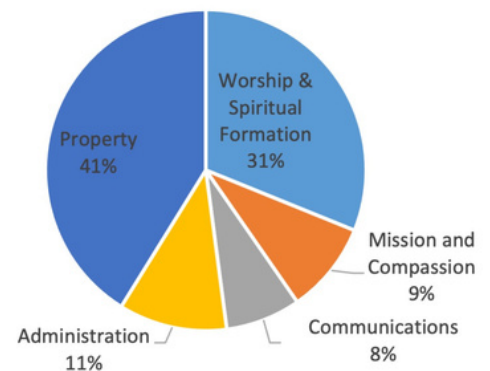
**"The testimonials that have been given this past year have been one of TPC's most precious gifts. Those generous and courageous enough to share them deserve our unending gratitude! Those of us hearing (receiving) their gifts have been transformed. We've learned that God shows up in unexpected places. We've learned the healing, the love, and the life we can strive to live with Jesus at our side.**

**We've learned that God shares in our failures and disappointments. We've learned that TPC is a family where we are loved, served, and nurtured to grow."**

-from a conversation with the Stewardship Committee

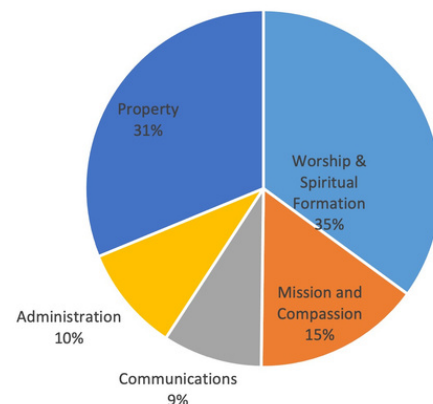
## 2021 Actual Expenditures

General Fund \$946,494 +  
Restricted Funds \$140,292 = \$1,086,786



## 2022 Budget Expenditures

General Fund \$954,607 +  
Restricted Funds \$128,220 = \$1,082,827



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# COURAGE TO INCLUDE

- A key reason for the launch of our Virtual Campus was to open up our “walls” and include people who might be interested in a church like ours but not live in close proximity. We want to be a church that is inclusive in every way, including geographically.
- In 2021 the CORE & Communication committees have joined forces to best align our efforts to reach out and welcome.
- TPC has welcomed roughly 100 new visitors in just the Fall and Winter of 2021 (40 to our Virtual Campus and 60 in-person)! We have been blessed that many have continued to join us and participate in virtual and in-person worship as well as our small groups. CORE has worked tirelessly to ensure every person who enters our front door or virtual door receives a welcome, and a personal follow-up with invitation to grow deeper into our community through joining an Adult Spiritual Formation offering.
- 7 MS Youth and 3 Youth Advisors experienced a local mission trip this past summer, serving in Baltimore City through Baltimore Presbytery’s The Center. They learned about the sinful history of racial injustice in Baltimore (and the surrounding areas) and it’s systemic impact today. Students served [local organizations](#) and churches who are taking action to bring justice and healing for brothers and sisters of color and underserved populations.



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# COURAGE IN COMPASSION

- TPC launched our HUNGER ACTION TEAM, coordinating the heart and efforts of so many individuals who have been long at work in these areas in TPC's surrounding community. This group is constantly on the move seeking to be God's hands and feet in Towson.
- Our partnership with Mount Calvary AME has continued as we helped prepare and deliver Wednesday meals to residents facing food insecurity in Towson.
- We contributed 92 bags to ACTC's Thanksgiving Basket Drive.
- Solicited and packaged period products, backpack drives, and essential items for Student Support Network, and volunteered at distribution sites



- We launched our PEACEMAKING ACTION TEAM led by Parish Associate, Rev. Roger Rice. The group builds upon past efforts around anti-racism and preventing gun violence and asks the question of how to put our passion into practice.
- TPC officially joined Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. We celebrate the Environmental ministries of the past year.

- The Intergenerational Garden celebrated its 12th season with 52 deliveries, over 300 lbs. of vegetables to ACTC, and flowers to distribute through member care.
- Through our Angel Tree TPC gifted 60 wrapped presents to the McKim Center for children to receive at their Christmas party. In the Fall, 5 representatives from the McKim Center visited our Youth Group with a fantastic discussion about their work.
- Helped support Casita Copan's purchase of a new building.



- TPC raised \$10,400 through our Alternative Gift Market for organizations and non-profits that share our values.
- The BeeTree Committee maintained the BeeTree Preserve as a testament to our commitment to the care of creation for ALL – TPC members, friends, neighbors, Scouts, nature lovers. The BeeTree Committee, through its deer management program, provided 80 pounds of frozen ground venison to ACTC.

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## COURAGE TO REMAIN CURIOUS

One Sunday morning this past fall during the Children's Message, I offered a picture of what it looks like to be "Curious." When we ask big questions, such as "Who is God?", I invited our children to imagine themselves looking up at the sky with their arms wide open. We need a lot of open space when we ask the big questions of life.

And sometimes we get answers, and when we get one, we should turn around and imagine a shelf behind us and place that answer on the shelf. But then, don't stop there and instead turn back around and ask the question again, with arms opened wide reaching up to the sky. In short, I was telling our children that we should strive to always stay curious and never stop asking the big questions the journey of faith demands.

As we move into a new year, may we continue to have the courage to stay curious, TPC! Because if we can be patient enough to give the questions the time and space to grow within us, they can lead us to new discoveries, new opportunities, new life...and new questions. May it be so.

Grace & Peace, Rev. Joel Strom



- ASF planned & promoted over 25 different offerings.
- All of these small groups and one-time gatherings fell within our Belong, Become, Bless categories and gave TPC members and friends the space and tools to grow in understanding & curiosity about God and one another.
- Virtual weekly Godly Play videos were uploaded beginning Fall 2021. A staff-favorite is the way each video ends with "I wonder" questions, inviting children (and their grown-ups!) to lean into the story of Scripture and the presence of God with curiosity.

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# Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

[www.towsonpres.org](http://www.towsonpres.org) || on social @TowsonPres

## Ministers

Pastor, Senior

Pastor, Associate

Director of Music and Organist

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

Director of Communication & Connections

Business Administrator

Administrative Assistant

Sexton

Parish Associate

Parish Associate

All the members of the church

Rev. Rob Carter

Rev. Joel Strom

Stephen Harouff

Jenness Hall

Alison Raskin

Kathryn Bojanowski

Mimi Frysiek

Walter Austin

Rev. Mary Gaut

Rev. Roger Rice

## Our Mission:

Towson Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith  
growing as disciples of Christ

TPC is a PC (USA) Earth Care Congregation, and a member of  
the Covenant Network (striving for a fully inclusive church).

## Session

### Class of 2022

Katie Cashin

Lenore Chapman

Patty Rath

### Class of 2023

Kevin McKenna

Katie McDougale

Chris Walbert

### Class of 2024

Timothy Burkett

Tim Lotz

Craig Miller

### Clerk of Session:

Lenore Chapman

### Treasurer:

Pat Keller

## Deacons

(class of 2022)

Alex Foley

Kim Labrique

Ann Miller

Barbara Plunkett

Shirley Albert

Beth Bugg

Joseph Clark

Rob Culp

