

First Presbyterian Church of Denton

Annual Meeting Docket

November 17, 2024

Sanctuary and on zoom and electronic devices

OPEN WITH PRAYER

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

OLD BUSINESS

1. MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE SESSION
2. OTHER OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion to accept, second, discuss, approve

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Read names of nominees
2. Ask for nominations from the floor
3. Vote on nominees
4. Release the nominating committee with thanks

THANKS TO CURRENTLY SERVING OFFICERS

THANKS TO OFFICERS LEAVING OFFICE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

1. Deferred to Corporate Meeting
2. Rev. Dorinda Violante is a Full Time Stated Supply and is hired annually by the Session. Her salary and benefits are included in the Budget.

SET DATE OF 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

SET DATE OF INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO REFER THE APPROVAL OF THE 2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO THE SESSION

DEFER ITEMS RELATED TO OUR CORPORATION TO THE CORPORATE MEETING

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

First Presbyterian Church of Denton

Clerk's Report

November 17, 2024

MEMBERSHIP(October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024)

83 Active Members on the roll on October 1, 2023

82 Active Members on the roll-on September 30, 2024

TRANSFERS

1 New member was received through transfer during this period

0 Transfers given by request during this period

NEW MEMBERS

4 new members were received

Deb Scott

Heather Albrecht

Cody Albrecht

JR Morse

BIRTH: 1 birth recorded –

June 14, 2024- Grace Ann Albrecht

BAPTISMS: 2 baptisms recorded-

June 9,2024- Gabbi Cosh

July 28, 2024- Grace Ann Albrecht

WEDDINGS- 0

HOMEGOMINGS -3

Homegoings recorded during this period:

1. Helen Lippert
2. Jit Sirich (non member)
3. Terry Wickham (non member)
4. Marjorie Tilllotson (non member)

Treasurer Report	Month	Reimbursement	PROPOSED	Budget 2024
			2025	1/1/24-12/31/24
Pastor				
Salary			\$ 56,282.14	\$ 54,909.40
Housing			\$ 16,883.96	\$ 16,472.16
			\$ 73,166.10	\$ 71,381.56
Car Allowance			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Continuing Education			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pension			\$ 6,397.37	\$ 6,397.37
Social Security			\$ 5,501.09	\$ 5,435.21
Presbyterian Life Insurance			\$ 201.00	\$ 201.00
			\$ 88,265.56	\$86,415.14
Worship Supplies			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Guest Speakers			\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Sunday School/Adult Education			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Per Capita			\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00
Cleaning Church			\$ 4,735.50	\$ 4,620.00
Praise/Worship			\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00
Financial			\$ 2,944.82	\$ 2,873.00
Office			\$ 4,157.40	\$ 4,056.00
Stationary/Supplies			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Building Maintenance			\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Orange & Rockland			\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,745.30
Spectrum			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Insurance (Bond)/NYSIF			\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Trash/Waste			\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00
Snow Removal			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Lawn Care			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
P & N Alarm/NECO			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
VBS			\$ 500.00	
			\$ 56,237.72	\$ 54,994.30
Missions				
Undesignated			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Extreme Tour				\$ 500.00
Walter Hoving Home (Feb)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
Gideons (Sept)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
Thailand (July)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
Warming Station (December)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
Sound of Life (April)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
Samaritans Purse (November)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
PresbyBuild (Aug)			\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
			\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total Expenses				
			\$ 149,703.28	\$ 146,409.44

As 2024 comes to a close, I look back and remember that at the end of 2023 we were receiving the news on our Holy Cow church survey results. As a reminder here are the truths that we learned about ourselves and strived to live into this past year. We learned that: Our church does a good job supporting persons in ministry by reminding them that they are making a difference. We are willing to adapt our worship to the needs and circumstances of the people we want to reach in our local community. The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content. Our church prepares our members for ministry by helping them discern their gifts. A friendly atmosphere prevails among the members of our church. We discovered that things you were wanting us to work on were: Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church. Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

I look at these learnings and the subsequent goals and give thanks for you.

As I finish my fifth year serving God with you, I am grateful for the ways that we have paid attention to the needs and desires of our church and live into the future with gratitude and hope.

Our session, deacons, trustees, Sunday School teachers, and the music & worship team pour their energy, ideas, gifts, and love for this church into everything they do on a daily and weekly basis. Volunteers show up throughout each week and offer their gift of mission through things needed in the building to activities of care for church members and community friends. Fred works at keeping our space clean. Shanna works tirelessly to keep our communications up to date and our worship team organized. As you read everyone's reports in this packet, let us offer thanks for the blessings of God and the way the ministry of all believers is lived out at Denton.

Sunday worship continues to meet both in person and on Zoom. I give thanks for the dedicated worship, sound, and tech team that crafts and offers the worship experience together as a gift to God week after week. I appreciate the welcome and support the new liturgists and vocalists have received as they have stepped in to lead with the team. Our monthly average attendance over this last year has been 54 people each week. Some of our special worship offerings included: Thanksgiving service, Advent candle lighting, a Blue Christmas service, All Church Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve, Star Words, Hoving Home visit, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, two Easter services, All Saints Day, Faith Sharing Sunday, and L.I.F.T. worship on the 5th Sunday. We offered the sacrament of baptism to Gabi Cosh and Grace Albrecht. We received into membership Deb Scott, Cody and Heather Albrecht, and JR Morse. We gave witness to the resurrection as we offered funerals for Terry Wickham, Helen Lippert, Marjorie Tillotson. I offered funerals for community members and family or friends of the church for Marjorie Tillotson, Karl Doderer, Jake Collins, and Art Grebeldinger.

We continue to offer opportunities for prayer and study throughout the week. On Wednesday, prayer and bible study meets twice. We have the option of meeting at 10am at church in Lippert Hall or at 7pm on Zoom. You are always welcome to drop in to any session or alternate day time one week and evening time the next. Our discussions are thoughtful and our walk with God deepened. We added this year a seasonal book discussion. I offered a selection of books on a particular topic during Lent, the summer, and this fall.

Individuals chose books to read and gathered at a set time to share what we learned with one another. I plan to offer one for Advent too.

Sunday School and VBS are ministries that are a foundational part of our children's lives. I am thankful for our continued offerings for our youngest members. I appreciate the dedication of Anna Rose Hamilton, Barbara Morse, and Ashley Hamilton for leading these endeavors. Your dedication and love to the spiritual formation of and community building for our children is much appreciated.

Along with our activities of ministry and fellowship, I give thanks for the work we are doing on our church manual as we strive to order how we do our day to day, week to week, and month to month activities. It is necessary work.

As a church, we continue to foster relationships in our surrounding community. I am currently a member of the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council. We meet monthly to discuss the needs of our community and support local missions. Our Park Manor ministry team offers worship to the residents at Park Manor on the first and third Sunday of the month. We have a consistent congregation of 10-15 people. I have offered worship at the Hoving Home with the help of Linda Driscoll, Karen Romain, and Jane Sanok for their mid-week chapel services twice this past year, attended the Gideon's breakfast in September with Linda Driscoll, and continue to support the Al-anon group that meets at Denton every Tuesday. I have supported a New Hampton family with supervised visits for a parent and child once a week since April. We have the joyous addition of the L'Eglise de Assemblée de Promesse (Assembly of Promise Church) worshipping in our building on Friday mornings from 9am-12pm and Sunday afternoons from 4pm-7pm. They are a Haitian Pentecostal Church that are thrilled to once again have a physical place to meet, worship, and pray together.

Serving the greater church through activities in the Hudson River Presbytery is a pleasure and an honor. I served as moderator for the Council of Presbytery this past year as the final year responsibility of my term as moderator of presbytery. I continue to serve on the presbytery grants committee reviewing ministry initiatives throughout our presbytery. I have been active on the presbytery racial justice team as we develop and provide training throughout our region. I am currently serving as the transition representative for Otisville as they search for their new pastor. Once a month the Presbyterian clergy from Orange county meet for lunch for support and the sharing of ideas. I also have had the pleasure of offering a workshop at the Presbytery's clergy retreat on balance of Spirit and Schedule.

Thank you for the opportunity to travel to Salt Lake City, UT this summer to serve as a representative of Hudson River Presbytery and Denton at the General Assembly gathering of the PCUSA. It was an experience I will never forget as I gained a wider appreciation of our denomination as a whole through polity, discussions, and live giving worship as we discerned and voted on the topics before us as a greater church body.

I appreciate the continuing education opportunities that you grant me in my terms of call. I continue to be engaged with the Backstory Preaching community. Their gatherings all occur online over Zoom. It is such a pleasure to be "in the room" with notable authors and theologians along with pastors from across the world. That community has been essential to my ongoing education and sermon study. I also attended workshops focused on digital ministry, small church ministry, and the non-profit/financial management of churches. I thank you for the time and the resources that made these things possible.

Blessings,
Pastor Dorinda

2024 Christian Ed Annual Report

We are so appreciative of the support and overflowing love of our Denton congregation. Our Christian Ed committee was especially productive. Our committee members include Pastor Dorinda, Anna Rose Hamilton, Ashley Hamilton, and Barbara Morse.

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays in person—Lippert Hall 10:00 AM prayer service 10:30 AM Bible Study

Wednesday evenings on Zoom 7:00 PM prayer service 7:30 PM Bible Study

Our Bible study discussions are lively, informative and based on the word of the Lord. Our Bible studies included:

- *God Abides*
- *Encounters In Prayer and Love*
- *Twelve Ordinary Men*
- *Twelve Extraordinary Women*

Church School

Church School meets in person each Sunday except for Communion Sundays. Currently we have between 4 and 8 children that attend with ages ranging from 3 to 12.

We used the *Whirl All Kids* series which includes lessons based on the Bible stories through June. Currently we started a new church curriculum (Spark House Lectionary) which coincides with the Lectionary.

Thank you to our dedicated and very talented teachers Ashley Hamilton and Barbara Morse.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible school met from 6:00PM to 8:00PM during the week of July 22nd Monday through Friday and on Lift Sunday July 28th.

“Seekers in Sneakers” Discover Jesus was the theme and our Bible verse was “I am the Light For the World Follow Me.” John 8:26

“Seekers in Sneakers” Discover Jesus VBS was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in the opportunity to teach the word of our Lord to our children and to each other.

Thanks also for all the special ways our congregation helps to support our Christian Ed ministry

May the blessings of our Lord be with us always!

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Rose Hamilton

Chairman Christian Ed Committee

Deacons Annual Report 2024

We had several covered Dish events following service, which led to the culmination of our monthly event.

Kitchen supplies, stamps, flowers, Our Daily Bread have switched to now being paid from the Deacon Fund.

The Fish & Chips Dinner brought a profit of \$919.00.

We supported our Missions, including Walter Hoving Home and the Srirach's, through donations of funds and a Pajama Drive.

obo Deacons
J. J. R.

2024 Deacon's Checking Expenses

3/11 Easter Breakfast Supplies	\$43.26
3/11 Kitchen Supplies	\$71.72
4/25 Walter Hoving Home	\$500.00
6/10 Headphones for Sound system	\$85.42
6/24 Daily Bread/ Spiritfill Devotionals	\$50.00
8/26 Kitchen Supplies	\$50.00
10/10 Kitchen Supplies	
Plates	\$38.88
10/10 New Hot Water/Tea pot	\$26.00

Balance \$5973.81

as of
10/10/24

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee has convened several times and approached our work with prayer and careful consideration. We acknowledge that our small membership has many leadership roles to fill. After reviewing the membership list and reaching out to individuals about their willingness to serve, we have not yet filled all the available positions. We will continue to seek guidance on the best composition of our church boards as we move forward.

Currently, we are pleased to nominate the following individuals for leadership roles: Adam Land for a full term on the Session, JR Morse for a full term on the Trustees, and Pam Pierce for a full term on the Deacons.

Submitted by Chris Lewis

Praise & Worship Report

2024

The Praise & Worship Team consists of the Praise Team Band Members and the Projection/Sound Team.

Adam Land-Piano & Guitar
Frank Nowicki-Drums
David Jiminez-Bass Guitar & Guitar
Mark Swyka-Drums & Bass Guitar
Shanna Bosch-Projection
Mark Fiore-Sound Support
Debby Kainu-Projection & Sound
Gavin Morse-Projection & Sound
John Morse-Projection & Sound
David Violante-Projection & Sound

The Denton Praise team saw continued growth and expanded service this past year. Several congregation members and guests stepped up to lead worship songs including notably Jerry Amadi, Lisa McKay, Connie Lichtenberger, Marsha Tyrell, Katie Hoyt, Alyson Morse, Kim Pierce, Jane Sanok, Clare Kirkwood, Jen Cosh, Gabi and Dee Valentino.

The services also benefited from David Jimenez's continued expanded role leading praise and worship, and contributing on guitar. The core music team - which also includes Adam Land on piano and Frank Nowicki our wonderful drummer.

Projection duties are rotated weekly between the 5 people who are trained. They manage the lyrics/images on the projection screen as well as run the Zoom meeting controls. We are constantly improving and encourage feedback to know how best to meet the needs of the people in the sanctuary as well as those joining us from home. Some notable updates include the ability to share both lyrics and the video feed on the same screen to those on Zoom.

The Sound team consists of 4 people who rotate the duties each week. They manage the sound/mic/music controls for both in person as well as those on Zoom. They also take care of the webcam for Zoom. We are grateful for the support of Mark Fiore as well as members of the band to help balance and work through technical issues with the sound.

The front projector was replaced December 23, 2023. This was a team effort to get it replaced and installed correctly, but was primarily led by Mark Swyka and made possible with grant money from Presbytery. We are so grateful for the vibrant screen!

The sound team worked on some upgrades as well which included properly identifying wires and connections running throughout the sanctuary to the sound board, as well as cleaning up some bad connections. The wireless mics are now primarily used for movement through the sanctuary during worship for announcements, prayer time praise and concerns and for hymn support for the benefit of those on Zoom. The hardwired mics for our praise team produce a much clearer sound. We have also recently tested out a Bluetooth wireless mic for Pastor Dorinda and will look into upgrading to our own at some point.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

2024

EMAIL

Our email database currently has 88 subscribers. An increase of 4 subscribers since last year. Monday emails consist of the weekly announcements and is sent out at 5pm. Friday emails consist of the bulletin and hymns for Sunday Worship and is sent out at 5pm. Anyone can subscribe to our emails by visiting our Facebook page or our website.

FACEBOOK

Links to the Sunday Morning Bulletin & Hymns and information about how to attend via Zoom or in person is published every Friday at 5pm. We also create events for fundraisers such as the Fish & Chip Dinner, Cookie Walk, Yard Sale, Etc. On occasion we will share pictures, scripture, songs and other uplifting content.

WEBSITE

This is our fourth year using ChurchTrac Software. Most information is already in there and is seamless to update. Some features that are regularly used are:

- ∇ Online Directory – Gives the control to the members to update and input as much information as possible. At any time, members can log in and make changes! Or even add a photo.
- ∇ Worship Scheduling – We use this feature every week to schedule musicians, vocalists, projection and sound coverage. We can see a worship outline as well as have access to all the music each week.
- ∇ Online Giving – We are able to take giving/tithes online. We have some that have it taken out on a regular basis and others who have done it here and there. There are processing fees, but the members can choose to cover the fees for the Church if desired. Linking a checking account for a recurring donation is only a \$0.25 processing fee which is used by a few members. Credit/Debit cards are a little more.
- ∇ Submit Prayer Requests online. They are immediately sent to Pastor Dorinda's email address.
- ∇ Links to our weekly emails of the announcements and bulletin/hymns.
- ∇ Sign up Sheets. We have links to view the current sign up sheets for the various positions needed for Sunday Worship such as Liturgist, Flowers, Refreshments, Praise Music and Communion. We find it is helpful that anyone can check out the schedule without needing to be at the Church. These sheets are updated weekly, typically on Wednesdays.

An app that can be downloaded on any smart phone for easy/fast connection to this website. You now have all the information and more right at your fingertips!

Overall, this software has been such a positive addition to our Church. I hope that as we use it more and more, people will also access it and use the features available. I find it to be very user friendly, while being low cost.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanna Bosch

Annual Report October 27, 2024

We thank the Lord for your prayers, encouragement and support this year.

In January we had the opportunity to share the Gospel with over 300 people during Jit's funeral services. For three days people came to share their condolences at noon and evening meals at the nursery. In private conversations and during the evening preaching we, and other Christians, got to share our confidence of Christ's finished work on the cross and resurrection for everyone who would believe and receive Him. One pastor who has known Jit for over 30 years challenged listeners to remember Jit's God whenever they think of him. There were two more times to share the Gospel at the cremation and then again with the family as we scattered his ashes in the Gulf of Thailand as per his wish. It is the custom here to give a small gift to those who attend the services. We were privileged to give each person the Jesus Film phone card to download on their phones. It is the record of Christ from the Gospel of Luke in multiple dialects of Thai and many other languages.

After the funeral, Mack went back to his studies and dishwashing in Australia. Owen continued preparing to open the nursery in May. There were not enough people interested and able to afford our very low tuition to cover helpers and meals. Since 2022 the government has opened 3 free nurseries in our area. We did not open the nursery in May. The economy continues to get worse due to higher prices for all necessities and many lost jobs as many businesses could no longer afford to stay open.

Owen continues to work for the Community College teaching once a week. In December he begins teaching at the regional prison to prepare people who will soon be paroled for jobs they can do when they are freed. This is instead of teaching on the local campus of the college. A fine Christian lady already works there as the Women's Counselor. Owen will teach computer. He will be able to join other church outreaches at the prison over Christmas and New Year's.

Mack was able to get greatly reduced price tickets to fly home in September. We spent time as a family talking and thinking of how the Lord wants to use us as His "feet on the ground" to share the Lord and encourage people here.

Jit's book in English is almost ready to send to the publisher. WestBow Press is the self-publishing division of Thomas Nelson and Zondervan in alliance with Harper Collins Christian Publishers.

May God continue to bless you all. Love & prayers, Peggy, Owen & Mack

DPC Trustee Annual Report 2024

It has been a busy year and the team has been very active working on items in and around the church. Much thanks to Pastor Dorinda, Ashley Hamilton, Barbara Morse, Pam Pierce, Obumneke Amadi, & Frank Nowicki. Additional thanks to JR Morse for all his help with many of the items we've been working on this past year.

- a. Ensure the fire extinguishers, stove and hood are inspected and in working order, and PN Alarm does an annual test.
- b. Adjusted paper towel holders to accept generic rolled paper towels as we could no longer find the original style.
- c. Repaired / replaced the outlet in the kitchen near the door as it was no longer working as a ground-fault outlet.
- d. Spring cleanup was May 4th, and we really worked on the entire church inside and grounds outside. Fall cleanup is November 9th.
- e. Jim Clinton repaired the sanctuary door frame and flooring near the door as they were spongy from wood rot because of water leaking in that space. Also repaired the drainage lines from the air conditioning units in the sanctuary, as the line had become disconnected causing the wood to rot at the doorway.
- f. Repaired the gutter and fascia along the parking lot side of the building.
- g. The entrance driveway to the church was full of potholes and in terrible shape. We used funds from the building fund to re-pave this area. Economy Paving did this work.
- h. With much help from Mark Fiore, we re-painted the lines in the parking lot.
- i. Water is coming through the basement walls and near the floor in the basement of fellowship hall. There is no footing drain in that spot and the next best option was to pave a grade against the building and replace the downspouts to drain further from the building. Economy Paving did this work for us. We used funds from the building fund to pave this area.
- j. Water is also coming in the downstairs classrooms along the east wall floor, and we have flooded several times with silty water. A local company donated their time and equipment to come in and power flush the drainage line along that side of the building. The line appears to be good and could have had a minor blockage causing the flooding. Many thanks to JR Morse for his work on this.
- k. The wheelbarrow tub had come free of the frame, and we used larger bolts and washers to repair it.

- l. The eaves of the sanctuary building were coming down on the fellowship hall side. A local contractor, Tommy Thompson, began working on removing and repairing them, and found that the brick wall in that area was also leaning inward towards the sanctuary. He braced the wall and is in the process of removing some brick to replace it with a wood frame wall and repair the brick. Birds and bats have been using the space and there is significant damage by them in several areas of the space. The work will be ongoing to make it safe, secure, and restored as close as possible to its original look.
- m. 'Someone' (not me) spent a significant amount of time cleaning the toilets in the upstairs bathrooms and Sunday school room. They didn't want to be recognized so please don't ask, but you all should know it was done and that it took many hours to do. Hopefully regular cleaning will keep them that way. We may need to install a sediment filter in the system to help. They are inexpensive and will help to keep out things that can clog faucet screens and the like.
- n. We are looking at a new garbage company as the costs of our current one have increased dramatically.
- o. We are moving a full-size freezer from Debby Kainu's place to the church and will remove the old one.

On the To-Do list:

- a. Reroute the sump drain below the kitchen from the septic to the curtain drains to reduce load on the septic system.
- b. Replace leaky faucet in kitchen.
- c. Replace broken/ damaged tiles in main entrance ceiling.
- d. Replace the bell tower window louvers.
- e. The deacons are very interested in a dishwasher for the kitchen, and we are working on finding one that will suit us and legal requirements
- f. Once we have an idea about a dishwasher, we will need cabinets for the dishes we already have. The group suggested going to the building place on Golf Links Road.
- g. Move the internet cable from around the building to through the attic space.
- h. Install a French drain / downspout drain on the north side of the building between the fellowship hall and east side of the building where it will tie into the current system.