

D

H

2023 Annual Report

P

C

A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Dear friends,

Druid Hills Presbyterian had a faithful and lively 2023. Throughout the life and ministry of our work together, we lived into God’s call to this community in a creative, dedicated, and steadfast manner. Among the highlights for me was our outreach to the wider community in our partnerships with Virginia Highland District. It was a true joy to sponsor the kids zones for Porchfest and Winterfest! Children were delighted by our candy bowls. Adults were delighted by news of our recycling programs. Dogs, big and large, were delighted by our dog treats. Another highlight was the installation of our solar panels and the return of the organ. Both of these projects worked to assure that treasures of the past will be around for future generations. They were acts of faith and trust that God will be active in this place for many years to come. Finally, the creative ways DHPC worshiped was a highlight of the year. We had two beautiful outdoor worship services celebrating God’s good creation. We spent time in worship at the intersection of faith and advocacy with the Solarbration and Wear Orange Gun Violence Prevention Sunday. We had powerful guest preachers, including David Roth, Director of Memorial Drive Ministries, and Dr. Bill Brown, Columbia Seminary Professor of Old Testament. There were, of course, many more memorable and noteworthy moments over the course of the year. (I’d love to hear your list of highlights!) The thing that was consistent throughout them was you, the people of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. None of the ways that we lived into God’s call this year would have been possible without the good and faithful work of each of you. It is indeed a gift to walk this journey with you.

I look forward to seeing God at work in this place in beautiful and surprising ways in 2024!
-Pastor Elizabeth

Annual Report Table of Contents



- Intro 1
- Christian Education 2
- Finance 3
- Mission 4
- Personnel 5
- Property and Administration 6
- Worship 7
- Deacons 8
- Organ Restoration Task Force 9
- Presbyterian Women 10
- Security 11
- Photos 12
- 2023 Financial Review 13
- 2024 Budget 14
- Clerk’s Report 15

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Team is called to serve members and friends of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church of all ages. As the PC(USA)'s website eloquently states, we strive to "help individuals know what it means to be a Christian, guide people to tell God's story in relation to their own story, and prepare members to hear God's call to go and serve."



The Christian Education team had another successful year. The ministry team, composed of Nicole Escobar, Pete McGuire, and Gigi Muirheid and staffed by Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton, worked to provide thoughtful and meaningful opportunities to those of all ages in the Druid Hills community. The children's Sunday School class meets on the first Sundays of the month, while the adult Roundtable classes meet every Sunday morning. The CE team strives to think creatively and act faithfully in how they serve the congregation. The Team is always open to new team members and new ideas!

BIG 3

- The CE team organized two adult book studies this year: during Lent, Walter Bruggeman's *Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out* and in October, Scott Black Johnston's *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice*.
- On Easter morning, CE organized an Easter egg hunt and then decorated the cross with flowers and shared snacks.
- The CE Team organized three special adult Sunday school classes: a class on the 2023 Lenten theme, taught by Rev. Betsy Turner; a class on Earth Care, taught by Rev. Stan Saunders; a discussion class on the Hamas/Israel conflict, led by congregation members.



Thank you to Nicole Escobar for her faithfulness, energy, and dedication that enables the CE Team to see with new eyes how to intentionally serve DHPC. Also, a huge thank you to Pete McGuire who is there for DHPC every Sunday teaching the Roundtable Class.

FINANCE

The Finance Team is called to be good stewards of the financial resources of Druid Hills Presbyterian. As the Book of Order denotes, the Finance Team prepares, with input from each team, the annual budget which determines the distribution of the congregation's benevolences and other revenue derived from church assets. The Finance Team also accounts for the proceeds of the revenue and the disbursements. The Team works with our bookkeeper who prepares monthly financial reports and writes checks for our payables. Finance also works with the Church's CPA as she prepares our annual financial reports.

The Finance Team is composed of Linda Davis, (Treasurer), Donna Durden, Alma McFarland, Coby Armstrong, Bob Beard, and Betty McIntosh (Chair). Finance welcomed Coby as a new team member this year. The Team developed and refined the FY 2024 budget, balancing pledges and other known revenue sources with the ministry needs of each of the ministry teams. Also, the Team closely monitored both income and expenses to ensure all ministry teams received financial information in a timely manner. Additionally, the Finance Team was actively involved in the successful 2024 stewardship campaign. Finance Team members worked together to count weekly contributions and prepare the bank deposits.



- In 2021 DHPC received a generous bequest from the estate of a deceased member. The Session created the Investment Committee, as a subcommittee under Finance, to determine how this gift should be managed. Based on research, the Investment Committee made recommendations which were approved by Session to invest the funds with New Covenant Trust, a part of the Presbyterian Foundation, in socially responsible mutual funds. A plan was implemented where funds from the growth in the principle assets are dispersed to DHPC in a way that will provide income in perpetuity and preserve and possibly grow the principle. It was agreed that this income will be used for initiatives that will grow our congregation. In 2023, money from these funds was disbursed for a partial payment to Gregor Turk, the artist who was chosen to install an original art piece on the church grounds; for the Splish Splash Summer Bash children's event; for sponsorships at Virginia-Highland neighborhood events PorchFest and Winterfest; and for support of the the organ concerts.
- The Finance Team cheered on the amazing work of the Organ Restoration Task Force (ORTF) as they continued to raise considerable funds for the organ refurbishment. In December of 2022, the ORTF announced that they had met the goal of raising \$415,000 to fully fund the organ restoration. The final invoice for the organ restoration was paid in 2023.

BIG NEWS



**Thanks to everyone on the Finance Team
and their work as good stewards of DHPC's resources.**



MISSION

The work of the Mission Team is to search out needs in the community that God is calling DHPC to address, to respond to God's call by discerning how the church can best speak to those needs, and to keep the congregation informed about these needs so they can participate in efforts to address those needs. The team responds to God's call with both action and with financial support of partner organizations.

DHPC is known for its service to others. This year the Mission Team continued its work to sustain that reputation by seeking to provide shelter for those without a roof over their head, making and serving meals and sandwiches to those in DHPC's community and internationally experiencing food insecurity, and encouraging mindful actions that contribute to a healthy planet for all of God's children. The work of the Team and DHPC as a whole benefited a vast network of people, from those in DHPC's back parking lot to strangers across the world.



BIG 3

- The Mission Team continued hosting quarterly community recycling opportunities. In August, 2023, nearly a ton of paint and chemicals was delivered to the church from community members. These items were brought to CHaRM for responsible disposal and, thus, were prevented from causing environmental damage.
- Members of the Mission Team offered monthly Minutes for Mission in worship throughout the year. These served to inform DHPC's members about ways that the Mission Team supports many different organizations in Atlanta and beyond. Examples of the organizations supported are Hagar's House, Southern Center for Human Rights, and Memorial Drive Ministries.
- The Mission Team donated significant monetary gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. As climate change worsens, environmental disasters are increasing around the world. Meanwhile, the scourge of war continues to rain trauma on communities internationally. Financial gifts were designated to be used in Ukraine, Turkey/Syria, Israel/Palestine, Mexico, Morocco/Libya, Maui and others.

The Mission Team always has a full agenda and none of the business of the team could happen without Bob Battaglin, Eric Dusenbury, Jon Houghton, Vivian Hodo, Anne Townsley, and Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton. All of these members step up when asked, or they volunteer without being asked!

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Team works to assist and support DHPC's pastors and staff. In addition, the team works, along with the Session, to create a healthy and mutually satisfactory workplace.



This year the Personnel Team, in seeking to staff the church in the most faithful and useful way, worked to expand and adjust staff members' job descriptions as they took on a number of new responsibilities to deal with ongoing problems and explore new opportunities. In addition, the team hosted a staff appreciation lunch and held a staff appreciation offering allowing for DHPC congregation members to share a financial gift of gratitude to the staff members.

With the support of other Session Teams, the Personnel Team:

- Substantially adjusted the duties of the Facilities Manager, adding the roles of security coordinator and first line tech support. To give the Facilities Manager time to accomplish these new tasks, Personnel created and submitted for Session approval a new part-time janitorial position reporting to the Facilities Manager and working 20 hours per week cleaning the sanctuary and church offices and assisting with set-up for special events.
- Adjusted the duties of the Communications and Hospitality Manager to allow greater emphasis on finding tenants and arranging filming locations and to participate in the new DHPC marketing and wayfinding initiatives.
- Radically increased the responsibilities of the Associate Pastor for Engagement. Following approval by the Session this became a full-time position based in a broad definition of Engagement that included lead responsibility for:
 - Selection of a marketing firm to work with the Associate Pastor to create a new DHPC website and a new logo, and design new external signage to increase the church's presence on surrounding streets,
 - Design and execute a community outreach plan to bring new people into relationship with DHPC,
 - Oversee the hiring of additional hourly employees as needed to successfully implement the community outreach plan such as seminary students brought in to help with children's community outreach programs,
 - Design and implement a plan for DHPC to have a presence in community events, such as VaHi Porchfest, Food Truck Fridays, and Winterfest.

BIG 3



- The magnitude of the changes to the staff responsibilities required completely new documentation. To accomplish this, Personnel wrote and submitted for Session approval a new DHPC Personnel Manual and new job descriptions for pastors and staff members.
- The Personnel Team organized a process of formal annual evaluations for pastors and staff.

The Personnel Team would like to thank Interim Pastor Betsy Turner, who initiated and guided many of these projects, and Associate Pastor Elizabeth Acton who provided support throughout the process.

PROPERTY & ADMINISTRATION

The Property and Administration team (P&A) is charged with managing the church's property (including buildings and grounds), managing relationships with tenants and users of the property, and overseeing the general front office administrative functions of the church. P&A is also responsible for managing tenant leases as well as oversight and booking of events on campus. P&A seeks to keep all systems functioning well and in good repair.

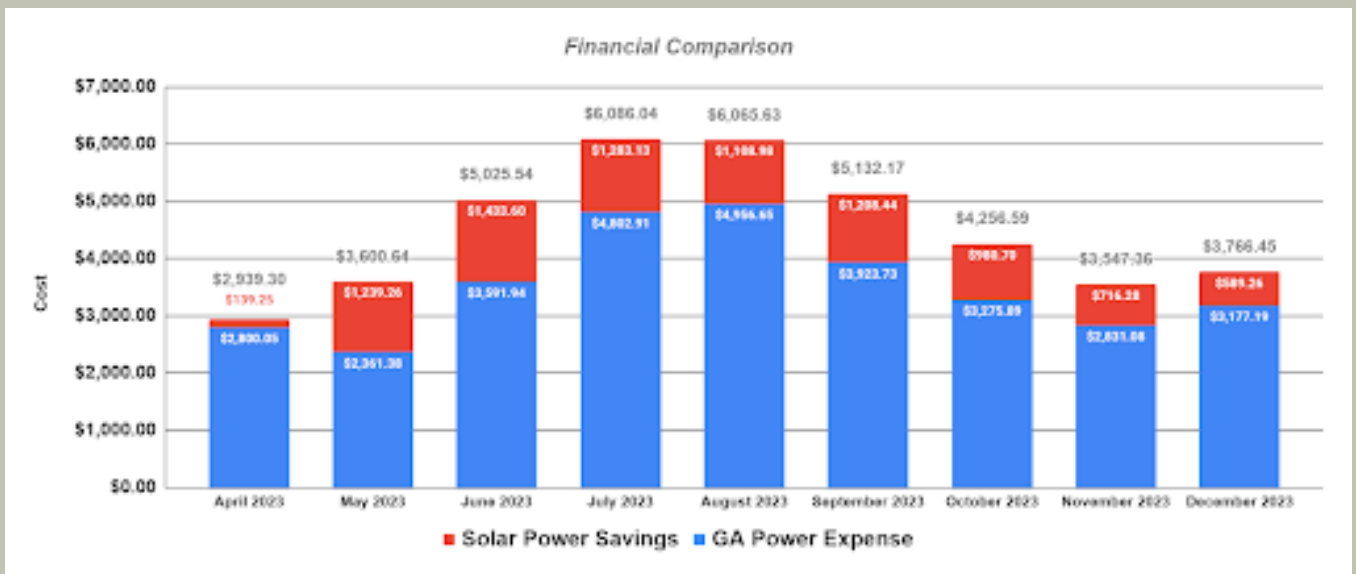


DHPC is known for being involved in various missions. Supporting the mission organizations DHPC houses (Intown Cares, Mercy Church, the Child Development Center, and Children 1st), requires buildings and grounds that are functional, safe, and welcoming. In addition, P&A's care for DHPC's beautiful sanctuary affords the congregation a place to be with God in worship and song and to welcome all.

During 2023 P&A accomplished several major projects:

- Painted the common places on the main level and the 2nd floor in the Education building to include halls and trim
- Began comprehensive discussions with all tenants about campus security and assumed responsibility for all security personnel. The P&A Team is working to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the needs of both the church and all who work or play on the DHPC campus
- Activated the new solar panels on the top of the Dilbeck building, which, using the rate per kilowatt hour paid to Georgia Power, saved DHPC a total of \$8,698.90 over 9 months which is an average of \$966 per month off the energy bill.

BIG 3



It takes a host of people to help P&A oversee and accomplish all the continuous and ongoing activities of this team. A very special shout out goes to Bill Armstrong, Mike Williams, and Nate Baughman for their time and talents to keep DHPC beautiful and functional!!

WORSHIP

The Worship Team partners with the pastors, music director, and organist to nurture the corporate worship life of DHPC, providing vibrant worship opportunities that are inspiring, celebratory, and centered on the Word of God.

BIG 3



- DHPC continued to celebrate communion monthly on the first Sunday of each month in 2023 with the congregation going forward to receive the communion elements. Elders have resumed assisting the pastors in serving communion. These minor changes have significantly increased the sense of shared community when celebrating the sacrament of communion. The Worship Team also acknowledges with gratitude the Deacons' organization of home communion visits for members of DHPC unable to attend worship.
- The Worship Team assisted with the celebration of All Saints Day on Sunday, October 29. The necrology was more inclusive than it has been in the past, allowing for the reading of names of both members and nonmembers. In the weeks prior to the service, members and visitors were invited to submit names of those Saints in their lives over the years they wished to be remembered, whether they had been members of DHPC or not. Names of each person remembered were read, followed by the lighting of a candle and ringing of a bell in their memory.



- The seasons of Advent and Christmas included several special events overseen by the Worship Team. On December 3 the Team led the congregation in the Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary. On December 10, a special music service that included lessons and carols was presented by DHPC's music director, organist, choirs, and guest musicians. Additionally, during worship, the Advent candles were lit by costumed members portraying biblical characters including Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary, Martha, and Joseph. Finally, on December 24, a candlelight Christmas Eve service was well-attended by both congregants and visitors from the surrounding community.

The Worship Team is grateful to the Chancel and Bell Choirs for sharing their abundant gifts in worship at DHPC. The music of these talented members and friends brings glory to God and warms the hearts of all who hear it.

The Worship Team worked with the pastoral and music staff to plan a full year of worship services. During Lent and Advent DHPC used resources from A Sanctified Art to create rich, beautiful services. In addition the Worship Team oversaw the continuation of the live streaming of weekly worship services, making worship accessible for those unable to attend in person.

DEACONS

The DHPC members who served on the Board of Deacons in 2023 are Susan Hagood, Susan Rutherford, Marlene Slavich, and Anne Soileau (Moderator).

The deacons' responsibilities to care for the DHPC fall under four primary areas:

- Oversee congregational fellowship events;
- Host receptions and hospitality tables;
- Coordinate membership and evangelism;
- Facilitate care of members so that intentional contact is made with all at least quarterly.



As part of the church's Earth Stewardship Initiative and in order to oversee congregational fellowship events and host receptions and hospitality tables more efficiently, the deacons cleaned out the parlor kitchen and pantry as well as closets in Converse Hall to determine what paper products and what reusable dinnerware, glasses, and cutlery DHPC had on hand. Many paper products and other unneeded items were donated to area nonprofits. In addition, the Deacons purchased a much needed refrigerator and began using the dishwasher in Converse Hall.

The Deacons organized and hosted the following events: Katie Simpson's Baptism Reception on February 12; Solarbration Reception on February 19; Light Continental Breakfast on April 9; Summer Kickoff Barbecue on May 21; a Farewell Reception for the Merceron Family on June 25; a Farewell Reception (with Presbyterian Women) for Interim Pastor, Rev. Betsy Turner on September 3; Charles' Middleton's Memorial Service Reception on September 16; Fall Kickoff Meal on September 17; and Advent Event Lunch on December 3.

During 2023, the Deacons contacted every person in the church directory; sent cards to members and friends on their birthdays; and kept the prayer list current. The Deacons also provided a meal for the family of Isaree Patterson following Isaree's death in October. In addition, the Deacons organized home communion visits to Sylvia Goodson, Jane Boyd Lee, and Cecile Hooks. Finally, on December 11, the Deacons called a special meeting to pray for the Mercy Community Church members, DHPC staff, and all who were affected by the fatal shooting at Mercy on December 11.

This ministry could not be accomplished without a strong partnership with the congregation's members and friends. Thank you to all who help in so many ways.

ORGAN RESTORATION TASKFORCE

The DHPC members who served on the Organ Restoration Task Force (ORTF) are Howell Adams, Bill Armstrong (chair), Karin Dusenbury, Chris Escobar, Cliff Frierson, Kenneth Wideman

December 10, 2023 saw the culmination of the extensive effort to restore DHPC's 1940 Æoliain-Skinner pipe organ with a festive rededication during morning worship. The project started on February 20, 2018 with the Session's formation of a task force to plan and supervise the massive undertaking. The task force defined the work that needed to be done, searched for the best capable organ restoration company that could meet our needs, drove a successful fundraising campaign, and coordinated the restoration work with the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company of Lithonia, Georgia.

The task force is pleased to report that sufficient financial contributions were received from church members, friends from the wider community, and two charitable foundations. The ORTF gratefully acknowledges and thanks the Schlueter family for their extravagant donation of valuable pipes and labor that DHPC could not have afforded on its own. Considering in-kind donations and discounts, DHPC paid only \$445,000 for the restoration that is valued at about \$710,000! The ORTF accomplished the restoration with no debt and no impact on the church's operating budget.

With the repair of all existing problems, its complete restoration to pristine condition and installation of new features, DHPC's historic pipe organ is now in the best state it's been in since its debut over eight decades ago. It was also expanded to include six ranks of pipes that were in the organ's original design but were unaffordable to the church when the organ was first installed. Thus, the organ is now dependable, complete, and flexible.

Since 24% of the funds raised came from outside our membership, the ORTF is presenting it during public events featuring the organ either as a solo instrument or in conjunction with instrumental ensembles, choirs, or other groups. Two successful community events have already been presented and more are being planned.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



This year was another successful one for Presbyterian Women. PW continued to have morning and evening circle that met once a month. Gigi Muirheid led the morning circle and Marion Reeves led the evening circle.

Highlights of the year were:

- Hosting a luncheon after church to introduce our Spring Mission Project. The Rev. Robert Gamble, a long term interim at DHPC, was our guest speaker. Robert is the founder and CEO of This Child Here, which is located in Ismil, Ukraine. He presented a slide show and video greeting from the Director, plus some poignant stories from some of the women that have taken refuge and participated in services and programs offered by This Child Here. PW raised \$2,100.0 for This Child Here, which was very much appreciated
- Participating in other PW mission projects, such as purchasing school supplies for a child in our community; supporting denominational PW offerings such as the Least Coin Offering, the Birthday Offering, and the Thank Offering.
- Having PW Members Anne Townsley and Leita Henson attend Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meetings.
- Supporting church-wide mission activities, such as sandwich making; providing and serving meals for Mercy Church; giving weekly donations to Intown Cares Food Pantry; contributing to the church drive for Memorial Drive Ministries.
- Assisting with the planting of annuals in the church's front lawn and providing perennial plants for Gertrude's Garden in memory of Charles Middleton..
- Providing desserts and savory bites, for which PW is famous, at all church receptions.

There is little that happens at DHPC in which PWs are not totally involved. From writing letters to state and our national representatives, delivering communion, ushering, and volunteering, PW is there!



SECURITY

In response to a series of incidents on the DHPC campus, the Session has created a Safety and Security Task Force and named as members: Linda Davis, Eric Dusenbury, Pete McGuire, our Facilities Manager Mike Williams, and Associate Pastor Elizabeth Soileau Acton.

After multiple meetings with tenants and surveys of the campus, the Task Force:

- Obtained bids from a number of security companies and replaced the previous multiple security companies working on the campus and made a single company responsible for security throughout the campus
- Increased the number of security guards and modified their working hours and responsibilities
- Gave Mike Williams formal responsibility for daily coordination with the security company and individual security officers
- Coordinated with our insurance company to ensure sufficient liability coverage for any future incidents
- Arranged for monthly meetings for the Task Force and all of our tenants to ensure that new security issues are addressed promptly
- Scheduled a professional security review, a critical incident plan for the campus and critical incident training for the staff.

The Task Force is currently working with the Child Development Center and Intown Cares to minimize disruption during the Tuesday morning food pantry, coordinating with Mercy Church about their security needs, and creating a new traffic plan for the campus.

The security meetings are providing much of the information needed for the campus-wide Wayfinding Initiative which will include new signage throughout the campus to ensure that all guests are able to move easily to their intended destination without interfering with other activities.

The Child Development Center has arranged for a grant to support planning for the Wayfinding Initiative, and the Initiative itself will become part of the DHPC Marketing Project that was approved last year by the Session.

The Task Force wants to thank Pastor Elizabeth who has arranged and moderated the meetings with our tenants, our Communications and Hospitality Manager Nate Baughman whose timely and detailed communications with our tenant organizations have facilitated a new level of cooperation among our campus partners, and our Facility Manager Mike Williams whose work with our security company has made the work of our security officers more efficient and effective.

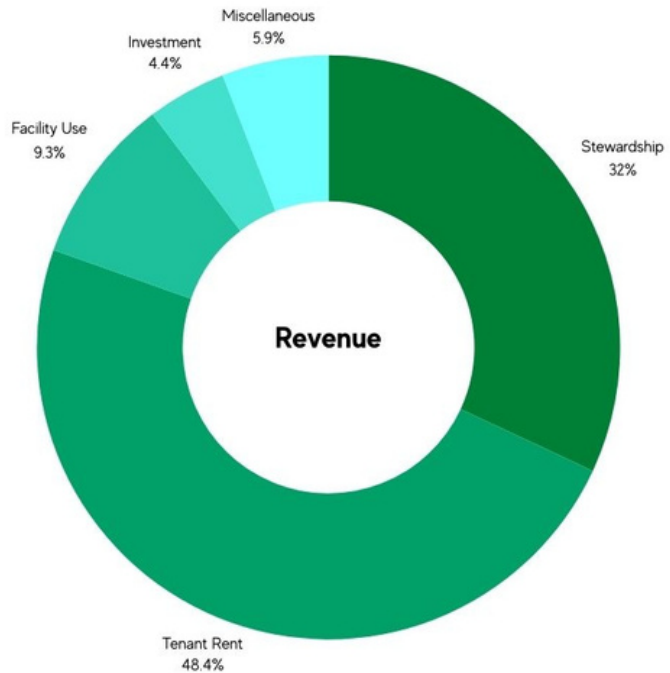




Druid Hills Presbyterian Church 2023 Financial Review Summary Actual Performance

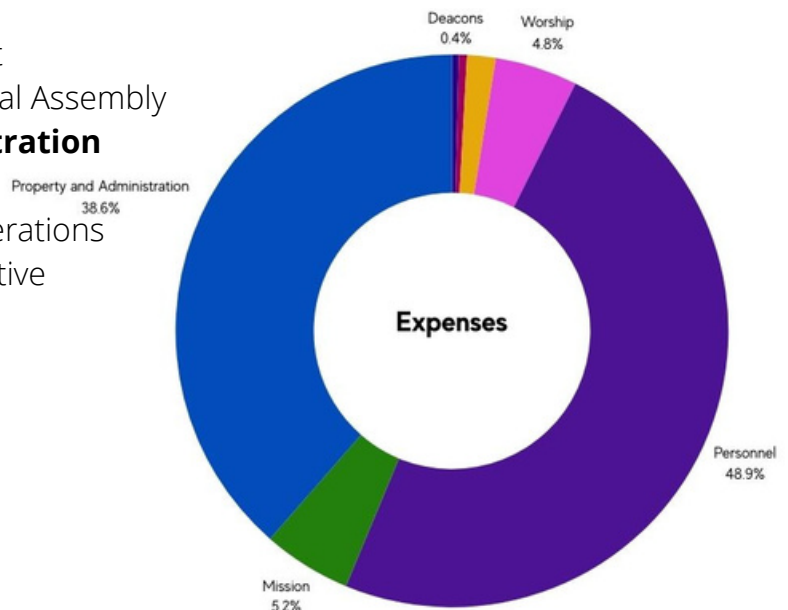
Revenues:

- \$ 261,627 Stewardship Pledges
- \$ 396,558 Tenant Rent/Utilities Reimbursement
- \$ 75,993 Facility Use - movie revenue
- \$ 36,000 Investment income
- \$ 48,457 Miscellaneous other
- **\$ 818,636 Total Revenues***



Expenses:

- \$ 3,201 **Deacons**
- \$ 3,836 **Christian Education**
- \$ 13,656 **Finance**
- \$ 39,357 **Worship**
- \$ 398,152 **Personnel**
 - \$ 303,061 Salaries
 - \$ 50,404 Benefits
 - \$ 21,411 Taxes
 - \$ 23,268 Expenses
- \$ 42,113 **Mission**
 - \$ 7,170 Intown Cares
 - \$ 7,000 Mercy
 - \$ 23,441 Local Mission Support
 - \$ 4,500 Presbytery and General Assembly
- \$ 314,012 **Property and Administration**
 - \$ 49,123 Insurance
 - \$ 79,824 Maintenance and Operations
 - \$ 36,266 Office and Administrative
 - \$ 47,527 Security
 - \$ 72,781 Utilities
 - \$ 25,000 Capital Reserve
 - \$ 3,487 Presbytery Per Capita



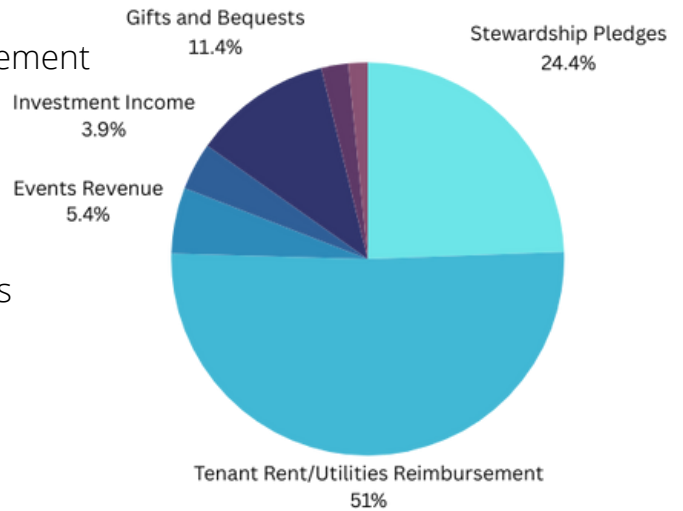
\$ 814,327 Total Expenses

\$ 4,309 Revenue over Expenses

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church 2024 Budget Proposal

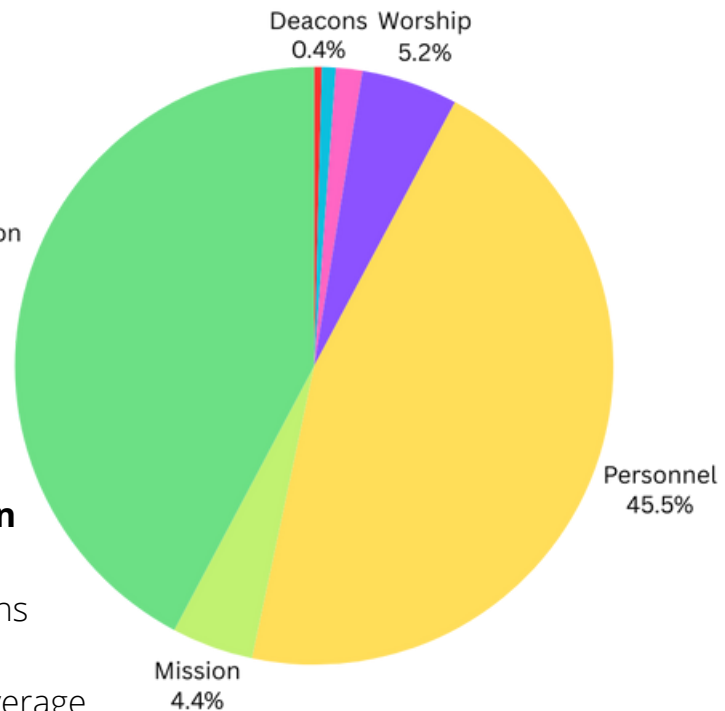
Revenues:

- \$ 225,000 Stewardship Pledges
- \$ 469,601 Tenant Rent/Utilities Reimbursement
- \$ 50,000 Events Revenue
- \$ 36,000 Investment Income
- \$ 105,000 Gifts and Bequests
- \$ 20,500 Miscellaneous
- \$ 14,600 Reserve from Prior Years Profits
- **\$ 920,701 Total Revenues**



Expenses:

- \$ 3,750 **Deacons**
- \$ 6,930 **Christian Ed**
- \$ 13,200 **Finance**
- \$ 47,950 **Worship**
- \$ 419,192 **Personnel**
 - \$ 318,003 Salaries
 - \$ 64,400 Benefits
 - \$ 22,109 Taxes
 - \$ 14,680 Expenses
- \$ 40,620 **Mission**
 - \$ 6,600 Intown Cares
 - \$ 16,800 Local Mission Support
 - \$ 6,000 Mercy Church
- \$ 388,968 **Property and Administration**
 - \$ 49,740 Insurance
 - \$ 89,572 Maintenance and Operations
 - \$ 34,500 Office and Administrative
 - \$ 108,700 Security - Campus wide coverage
 - \$ 73,500 Utilities
 - \$ 25,000 Capital Reserve
 - \$ 7,956 Presbytery Per Capita



\$ 920,610 Total Expenses

\$ 91 Net Income

CLERK'S REPORT

Church membership

Members on the roll January 1, 2023 – 120
Members on the roll December 31, 2023 – 120
44% male, 56% female
Average worship attendance 49
New members – 0 Deaths – 0
Baptisms – 1 Other losses – 0

The Session (classes) and ministry teams

Eric Dusenbury (2024) - Clerk of Session
Gigi Muirheid (2023) - Christian Education
Betty McIntosh (2024) - Finance
Anne Townsley (2024) - Mission
Pete McGuire (2024) - Personnel
Betty Davis (2023) – Property & Administration
Bob Beard (2023) – Worship

Deacons

Susan Hagood
Susan Rutherford
Marlene Slavich
Anne Soileau (Moderator)

Elders Emeriti

Cecile McRae Hooks

Corporation

President – Betty McIntosh
Secretary – Vivian Hodo
Treasurer – Linda Davis



Pastors as of 12/31/2023

The Rev. Dr. Renee Meyer,
Head Pastor, Moderator

The Reverend Elizabeth Soileau Acton,
Associate Pastor for Engagement

PC(USA) Clergy who Worship with Us

The Rev. Jerry Coling,
Honorably Retired, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

The Rev. Peter Hausmann,
New Hope Presbytery (NC), member at large

The Rev. Tina McCormick,
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, serving as Chaplain
and Religion Teacher at The Westminster School

