



**PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

**THE CROSSROADS**

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you for the incredible welcome you have given me and Jim. The welcome basket had delightful things in it, and the poppy seed bread from Jenn Rohrbach was eaten quickly. We haven't opened the fig preserves from Debbie Bray yet, but it will be soon – I went out and bought frozen biscuits! I know, I know – I should make my own, but as you probably know by now, cooking is not my gift. I hope to meet more of you in person as we continue to hold services live. But I do get confused at times when I've met people on Zoom and then see them in a mask. So forgive me if I hesitate!

We just received St. Patrick's Day cards from Debbie Bray and Beverly Johnson, our PPC Shepherd. I love this concept of members of the congregation volunteering to shepherd several families in the church. At every other church I've belonged to, the Deacons or the Elders took on this responsibility. Elders often would have 16-25 families, and they just had a difficult time keeping up. So I am so grateful to you Shepherds out there for agreeing to check in and support our families. I keep finding out about this church's generosity in so many ways – the generous gifts to the Morrow Food Bank outdid anything I have been used to in large churches. You folks may be a "small church" but your hearts are huge.

We are getting close to Holy Week, and this year we will join together, in person or via Zoom, to have a Good Friday Service. It will be simple – some contemplative music and readings of the Passion Narrative from Mark. I hope you can join us at noon on April 2 as we listen to God's word and contemplate this holy day. I also hope you will join us for Easter Sunday, as the silence of Good Friday and Easter Vigil Saturday are broken by Alleluias! I was reminded of that transition as we spent the night somewhat fearfully March 17, praying that the storms across the south would not strike us. I woke to some rain but little else, and suddenly, the sun appeared in a bright blue sky. That is what the journey in Holy Week leads to – the light of a new day with a resurrected Lord.

As we end the Lenten devotions on Easter Sunday, I will begin sending out a personal devotion once a week. We will post it on the website and the Facebook page on Mondays. And if you haven't been to church lately, a little surprise – we're ringing that bell in the Narthex to call folks to worship – something that very few churches are able to do these days!

May God bless you as we move into Eastertide,

**Jeanne**



**PASTOR:**  
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

**PHONE:**  
404-366-1851

**PASTOR E-MAIL:**  
revjeannesimpson@gmail.com

**SECRETARY E-MAIL:**  
secyppc@bellsouth.net

**WEBSITE:**  
ppc-usa.org

**A light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ centered worship and ministry and nurtures their faith in order to extend His kingdom.**

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**THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS**

- 02/ Chris Banke
- 03/ Jennifer Rohrbach
- 05/ Rose Enow
- 15/ Angie Tharpe
- 18/ Diane Kemper
- 19/ Don Nelson
- 19/ Andrew Durden
- 20/ Pat Randolph
- 24/ Pegge Murphy
- 26/ Henry Brock
- 28/ Erwin Gettys

**THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES**

- 20/ Karen & Howard Nelson
- 28/ Celestine & Philippe Karka

**TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS** (new info in bold)

*Please notify us concerning new info and updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!*

03/03 Helen Carter (Pat & John's daughter) – lumpectomy with follow-up radiation

**03/22 Jane Lovern (Tom Murphy's sister) - lumpectomy on March 26**

03/24 Carole Masdon—suffering with bone cancer

03/02 Richard Phillips (Jim's brother) liver cancer-radiation going well

**03/22 Wayne Schmeltz (Ann NeSmith's son-in-law) - diabetic infection in feet**

**03/23 Mary Smith—gall bladder surgery on 4/1**

**OUR HOMEBOUND:** *Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information*

Nell Cates    Marie Foster    Patty Boone    Becky Huie    Ann NeSmith

**Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email [secyppc@bellsouth.net](mailto:secyppc@bellsouth.net)**

*Philadelphia Church Family,*

*My sincere thanks to everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls and food received after my fall. Each ack of kindness brightened my day and help speed my recovery. God bless all of you. Dinah*



*Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Family,*

Ginger and I would like to thank you for the grand send off you gave us on our last Sunday as your Interim Contract Pastor. We especially thank you for your kind words and well wishes, many wonderful cards and your more than generous gifts. We have been honored to serve you for a second time and we shall carry a multitude of good memories of you all in our hearts. Among the special memories we shall cherish is our Christmas Eve Service when our sons and grandchildren blessed us with the lighting of the Advent Candles.

Once again, I want to thank Philadelphia's gifted Staff for their excellent work and the Session for enabling us all to do ministry together. As always, it has been a joy to lead worship with our talented and faithful choir. We have truly been blessed and we look forward to following you on Facebook and to seeing you at Philadelphia's next Homecoming Service!

Blessings on the Rev. Jeanne Simpson as she works among you and may God always hold you in the palm of His hand.

With grateful hearts,

*Jack and Ginger*

**Did You Know?**

As most of you know, **Mr. Ray Morgan** turned 95 years old on November 20, 2020, and he DEFINITELY does not look or act 95 years old. But did you know that he received a letter from Former President Trump commemorating his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday? Mr. Ray served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, and in the letter that was sent, the President thanked Mr. Ray for his service and sacrifices during such a difficult time for our country. Former President Trump also wished him a happy birthday. Now you know.

**PW MESSAGE CORNER:**

**APR 8—07:00pm—Mary & Martha  
(virtual)**

**APR 10—10:30am—Circle One**



**Workday**

Saturday, April 17 at 9:00am

Please come and help out if possible



**Community Missions**

**Souper Bowl Donations**



Thanks to you, we were able to donate to the Morrow Presbyterian Food Bank, the following items:

- Food valued at \$609.80
- Clothing valued at \$1380.50
- Monetary donations \$200.00

Thank you for your faithfulness.

**Connie McWilliams**  
**Community Missions**

**HOLY WEEK**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- Sunday Mar. 28 11:00am Palm Sunday
- Friday April 2 12:00 noon Good Friday Service
- Sunday April 4 11:00am Resurrection Sunday with Communion

Please come, bring your family, and join in the worship.

**PPC Clerk's Corner**

Greetings from the Clerk of Session,

I hope this finds you and your family doing well. We are starting to hear from members that they have been able to get vaccinated which is exciting. I hope that you have done well with the vaccine and that you will soon feel comfortable enough to return to church for in person service. We will continue to live stream the service on Facebook for those who aren't able to join us in person at this time. If you aren't able to watch us live on Facebook, you can always go to the church's webpage to see the service there once it has been uploaded.

We are very excited to have Reverend Jeanne Simpson with us. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet her and her husband yet, I hope that you will get to do so soon. If you have been at church or have watched us live on Facebook, you may have noticed an additional person in the choir. Jim Simpson, Reverend Simpson's husband, has joined the choir and is sharing his musical talent.

The Session did meet on March 18, 2021 via Zoom to conduct our monthly business, and it is our plan that we will meet on the third Thursday of each month. For the month of February, our financial information was as follows:

- Total Revenue – February – including designated - \$14,818.10
- Total Expenses – February - \$13,807.12

Thank you so much for your continued financial support. Our church is very blessed by your generosity.

Please continue to check on one another and please let either myself or one of the other elders know if someone is in need.

Please pray for Reverend Simpson and our church as we start a new chapter, and pray for us as the church elders and that God will continue to guide us.

Much love to you all!!!

Jennifer

**OUR MISSION:** is to offer spiritual peace in a chaotic world through the stability of traditional Christ-centered teaching, worship and prayer.

**OUR CORE VALUES:**

- Radical Hospitality (Romans 12:9-21)**
- Passionate Worship (John 4:21-24)**
- Intentional Faith Development (I Corinthians 9:19-24)**
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service ( Matthew 25:14-30)**
- Extravagant Generosity (II Corinthians 9:6-15)**

Find us on the web  
[ppc-usa.org](http://ppc-usa.org)



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315 MORROW ROAD  
FOREST PARK GA 30297*

# PPC Financial Year in review - 2020

## The numbers

We started 2020 with a total Church operating assets of \$42,740. The assets include short and long-term cash and investments, as well as several designated account funds for such things as long term maintenance, recreation and benevolences funds. We received income for the year of \$170,975 made up of offerings, special donations for activities & benevolences, as well as a Federal grant and facility rentals.

We incurred normal operating expenses of \$167,548 made up of salaries, contracts, utilities, and committee expenses for an operating surplus of \$3,427. This results in an increase in total assets to approximately \$52,829 at the end of 2020. Total church assets have dropped from \$96,000 over the last 10 years.

In addition to operating assets, the church also has control of the assets of the Corporation of the Church. From the time period of 9/2019 – 9/2020 the Corporation of the Church's assets decreased from \$50,171 to \$49,952 due mainly to the pandemic. Corporation assets have dropped from \$98,000 over the last 10 years.

## The reason

Total giving for the year is up \$1,000 even though total church membership dropped by 5 members. Total revenue for the year is up \$16,000, included in that total were additional incomes in the form of a PPP grant for \$19,000 and rental income of \$13,803. Total expenses were down by \$4,600, due to a decrease in Administration expenses and utilities.

## The outlook

In 2021 we are looking forward to a continued relationship with the Way of Salvation church for facility rental income. We have also entered into a new half time contract with Reverend Simpson. On the expense side, we anticipate an increase in utilities usage as the facilities are used by two congregations. Also we always face the possibility of capital expenses for heat & a/c.

## The assessment

Overall, considering the pandemic and the reduction of church membership we had a surprisingly stable year financially aided by a one-time Federal grant. For the past several years we have had the need to go from a full time minister to a half time position. That arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future. The Session and the congregation in general are more mindful of the financial realities in this slowed economy and the effect of a gradual decline of mainstream denomination membership. We as a church are also in a state of gradual membership decline.

## The need

However stable we are at this time, we recognize that year after year we are on a financial decline we must keep in mind that we have a fairly minimal financial commitment to local and worldwide mission. If we as a church hear the call to start any new evangelical, outreach, or new mission projects; we will have to increase revenue or dip further into our Church reserve and Corporation assets to finance any new programs. We must remember that stewardship includes giving of time and talent. We will often be faced with the question of "doing it ourselves" or "paying someone else" to do it. Whenever possible, church volunteers can significantly reduce project costs by "doing it ourselves".

Again the surest way to financial security and increased mission and community impact is through church growth. Invite a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker to church and nurture them once they enter our doors.

Rick Pierce

Chairman of Finance Committee

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