

FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – February 20, 2024

- Paul Geiger led the opening devotion and prayer.
- Liz Burns gave the Clerk's Report. We received thank you notes from the family of Joan Haupt for her funeral luncheon, from the landlord to the Ukrainian family for the rental assistance, from CAST for a donation from the Mission Committee, and from Dianne Mills, the daughter of Florence and Fred Schoenbachler. There were four funerals held at FPC in the last two months. Worship attendance averaged 63 people. And the Session approved the baptism of Elise Marie Karavas, daughter of Denise Angevine and Dean Karavas. The 2023 Statistical Report was received and approved by the Session.
- Jan Falkowski gave the Treasurer's Report. Eileen Sayre will start attending Session meetings to present the report going forward. Net revenues are up versus last year, largely due to increased loose donations. The endowment is holding its own.
- Liz Burns was the Commission for the January meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island. The Presbytery sold the East Moriches church property, and is using some of the proceeds to help renovate the Manse at the Shinnecock Presbyterian Church. A group at the Presbytery is working on creating policies for when church properties are sold or decommissioned as some churches are closing. The next Presbytery meeting will be April 13 in West Islip, and a commissioner is needed.
- Peter Kelley reported that training for Elders and Deacons will be offered on several upcoming dates. Ordinations and installations will take place in worship on April 7 and April 21. We have two homebound members who would welcome visitors: Roberta Hering and Harold Haupt. Please consider helping the Deacons with this ministry.
- WinterFest was a hit. The building was used for two different musical performances. The chili makers did a great job. The cleanup team left the buildings and grounds in good shape. Free will donations amounted to \$237. We will need to do a better job of promoting our events, perhaps by handing out flyers on Main Road, and advertising in advance.
- For Buildings & Grounds, Dave Collins reported that Above All Chimney will repair and waterproof the chimney when the weather improves. The gutters will be cleaned and repaired, with gutter guards installed, in the spring. The Chacon family will be moving into the Manse this Saturday, Feb. 24. We will need to clean out the garage to store furniture and appliances that the family does not need.
- Marla Koster reported that the Cemetery Committee signed a contract with Lighthouse Security to replace the security cameras and monitor the security system.

- For Faith Formation, Jan reported that she is getting her feet wet as the coordinator. S.A.L.T. is well established, and there are several volunteers to help with Kids' Church. We still need help with Faithful Friends, the preschool program on Saturdays. Confirmation students will start meeting on Sunday afternoons to prepare. They will participate in a retreat at Holmes in April. The Lenten Bible Study starts Thursday the 22nd at noon. Next year, we may plan a Fat Tuesday potluck, and the Ash Wednesday service may be at noon instead of 7 pm.
- The Session approved a motion to accept Sue Ketcham's transfer from her prior church to become a member of FPC, and to become an Elder.
- Jay Batterman reported that he has re-started the Eagle's Wings ministry. He has eight drivers to take people to medical appointments on the North Fork and in Riverhead. Additional volunteers are welcome – contact Jay to sign up.
- For the Mission Committee, Colleen Clark reported that she is working on a letter for the One Great Hour of Sharing collection at Easter. Karen Murray reported that the Chacon family – Mario, Dixi, Jordani and Sophia – is moving in this Saturday. They are so grateful and excited for this opportunity.
- The Nominating Committee will work on amending the by-laws to shrink the size of the Session from 15 to 12. The vote for congregational approval will take place after worship on Pentecost.
- Ralph Edwards reported for Stewardship & Finance. The church has undergone an audit of its books three years in a row. Now the committee is going to determine whether to have a different level of review going forward. The by-laws require a full audit once every five years. Ralph also reported that the Henn Scholarship is now fully funded and ready to be distributed for educational needs, with preference given to people who are studying engineering. A scholarship committee will be formed with Ralph, Liz Burns, Marla Koster and Jay Batterman to solicit applications and choose recipient(s).
- Jay Batterman reported for the Worship Committee. Ash Wednesday service was not well attended, so the service may be moved to noon from 7 pm next year. Dave Collins has been doing the heavy lifting with livestreaming worship, and he needs other people to help. Bonnie Zellner, Heather MacArthur and Penny Kelley have offered to help. There was a request to have worship at the Barn during the warmer weather. Peter Kelley reported that the committee is starting to consider an alternative worship service, which would be very different from the traditional Sunday worship. It would have to be a different day and time and tone. The committee will start asking people what they would look for in an alternative service.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer from Peter Kelley.