

FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – January 16, 2024

- John Touhey led the opening devotion and prayer.
- Jan Falkowski gave the Treasurer's Report. Overall income from revenues, including fundraising from Tuesday Suppers and SALT, is up versus last year. But contributions are down by \$8,500, and spending is up, particularly for the launch of Stepping Stones. The value of the endowment investment accounts was up in 2023, and we continue working to take less from the endowment in order to preserve it for perpetuity.
- Penny Kelley was the rep for the Deacons. They were very busy with several funeral receptions and several PIN requests. The Giving Tree for Christmas was very successful – all the gifts were purchased, plus there was an anonymous donation of \$3,000. FPC will be participating in WinterFest on Saturday, February 17.
- For Buildings & Grounds, Dave Collins reported that Bob Bohn has been making upgrades to the playground at his own expense, including replacing the fence and gate. He offered to help because he wants the Stepping Stones family to have a nice playground. Bob's generous gifts of time, labor and materials are much appreciated.
 - Paul Geiger reported that he's been working on the problem of the heat going out in the Sanctuary because the chimney is in need of repair. Above All Chimney can repair and waterproof the chimney for an estimated \$2,875.
 - The other priority is to clean and repair the gutters and install gutter guards. With more dramatic weather and heavier rainstorms, water is gathering by the base of the chimney and causing leaks. JP Hunter will repair the gutters when the weather warms up, for an estimated \$6,340.
- Marla Koster reported for the Cemetery Committee. The fall fundraising campaign raised \$16,000. The committee thanks Jan Falkowski for her help with the campaign. The committee is working on replacing the security cameras and getting a bid for monitoring the security system.
- Sue Russell reported that Faith Formation met on January 10. Jan will lead S.A.L.T., and volunteers have signed up for help with snacks. **Kids' Church continues – leaders are needed.** The lesson plans are user-friendly and easy to follow. Faithful Friends resumes on Saturday, January 29th – they have enough volunteers right now. There are 12 students eligible for Confirmation. Lenten Bible Study will be Wednesdays from Feb. 22 to March 21 from 12 to 1 pm. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on March 30 – Faith and Jan will run it. And **VBS is scheduled for July 29 to August 2**, with a Scuba theme.
- There will be a Potluck Supper to welcome new members on Friday, January 26. Elders and Deacons are encouraged to attend.

- For the Mission Committee, Karen Murray reported that Stepping Stones has asked C.A.S.T. to identify two or three families who can fill out our application. Peter reported that we didn't send a group to the MLK brunch this year, although we put an ad in the program booklet. We need to be sure we show up next year for this important event.
- The Nominating Committee will meet on Sunday, Jan. 21 after worship. They will also work on amending the by-laws to shrink the size of the Session.
- John Touhey reported that the Personnel Committee has hired Eileen Sayre to be the church's part-time bookkeeper for 15 hours per week. She is knowledgeable and experienced, and knows the Southold community. She is doing well, and is already helping with phones and other administrative tasks. The committee offers a big Thank You to Jan for training Eileen while still managing all her usual tasks and running Faith Formation. Ann Romeo will be in the office one day a week on a volunteer basis to help with pledge records, bank reconciliations, deposits and audit materials. Thanks are given to Ann for her ongoing help with the books.
- Ralph Edwards reported for Stewardship & Finance. Jennifer Collins is stepping down, and the committee needs new members. So far for 2024, 71 pledges totaling \$201,000 have been received, including 18 new pledgers. However, 21 people have not re-upped their pledges. (Some moved and some passed away.) In 2023, we received \$248,000 in envelope giving, which was \$40,000 above the pledged amount, because some people wind up giving more than they pledge. The committee is meeting on January 17 to work on thank you notes to donors and outreach to non-responders.
- Jay Batterman reported for the Worship Committee. Un-decorating the sanctuary after Christmas went well thanks to the presence of a number of helpers. Peter asked for prayers for Patty Shuford and her mother Constance Barry. Peter invited input on the 4 pm Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service. Most people really enjoyed the 4 pm service, but some people missed the 8 pm service. There may be a Gifts of Women service on March 3.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer from Peter Kelley.