

# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

## Annual Report 2023

Congregational Meeting: January 28, 2024



### **\*AGENDA\***

**Call to Order & Opening Prayer**

**Establishment of Quorum**

**Review of 2021 Congregational**

**Minutes**

**Annual Statistical Report**

**Report of the Pastors**

**Approval of Terms of Call for Pastors**

**Report of Ministry Teams**

**Treasurer Report, including 2023**

**Budget**

**Other Business**

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer**



# Annual Statistical Report for 2023

## Session:

2024 Jay McGregor, Todd Barnes  
2025 Connie Howe-Vielmetti, Ingrid Eggert  
2026 Michelle Trebtoske, Open slot

Pastors Luna and Phil GebbenGreen, Co-Moderators; Ron Eggert, Clerk/Treasurer

## Staff:

Luna & Phil GebbenGreen, Co-Pastors      Jenya Trubnikava, Music Director  
Krysta Niznick, Office Administrator      Marisol Guevara, Custodian

## Annual Membership Report:

Active Members as of December 31, 2022	31
New Members	0
<b>Total number added to Active Roll</b>	<b>0</b>
Active Members removed from Roll	4
Death of Active Members	2
<b>Total number removed from Active Roll</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Active Members as of December 31, 2023</b>	<b>25</b>
Baptized members (children)	5
<b>Total Congregation</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Friends of EPC</b>	<b>20</b>

**Died in 2023:** Watson Fearing d. 3/5/2023 (Elder)  
Carol Schweickhardt d. 4/11/2023 (Elder)  
Marlys Kingsriter from friends of EPC d. 5/5/2023

## Pastors' Report

It seems right to begin this report with the prayer that has shaped our community over the past years:

*Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge,  
and we will follow,  
trusting that your direction leads to peace.*



Our common life at Edgumbe Presbyterian is shaped by this movement of surrender, transferring our trust from the ego perspective of separation and fear brings us to the holy spirit's kindom of love and at\*one\*ness. These are lovely ideas but are impotent until we consent to them, allow them to be real for us, and then the truth of them will transform our lives as we apply and practice this prayer in our daily living.

This past year, the phrase "Love and healing happen here" has emerged organically as one way we can communicate who this body is to others in the community. Take a moment and ask yourself—What are the ways that you have encountered love and healing within the EPC community?? Having a real and felt experience of this begins to shape how and what we do. Mid-year, as we looked at our projected numbers for 2024, the leadership team saw there could be a \$40,000+ deficit due to some changing circumstances. The first movement was that the leadership surrendered this in prayer for two months as we planned to begin communicating with the entire body. When the whole body joined as one and we prayed for discernment and guidance, we asked people to turn 2024 pledges in a couple of months early so that we could work with the forecasted budget. By the end of the pledge period, Session had an overage of money for the new budget. This is not to be passed over quickly. Trust and generosity are hallmarks of the Holy Spirit, and this experience allowed each of us to experience how surrendering our lives leads to love and healing.



Another learning this past year was in regards to backwoods spaces. At a conference this past Spring, Pastor Luna learned that, according to a study by Fetzer, 86% of Americans self-identify as "spiritual," while 9 out of 10 people believe in some kind of Higher Power. And, at this conference, every person under the age of 35 she met did not identify as religious, but all had some type of nature component to their spiritual expression. What this could mean for the EPC community is that our backwoods has the potential of being the most easily accessible space for the larger community to experience our ministry. Perhaps it was working with these dynamics that a new way of seeing the backwoods emerged this year. Typically we have used the word "backwoods" for everything north of the parking lot. But really, there are at least two very distinct spaces that could be parsed out. The first space is the stage and the lawn. We have an opportunity to have spaces for others to gather for music and performances. The second distinct space allows for the nurturing of a more contemplative spiritual expression in nature with the walking meditation path, the stations for prayer and reflection, the gathering space under the maple, and even the labyrinth. Recognizing that the backwoods is not just one monolith meaning will help us discern how we want these spaces to be an extension of the love and healing from the EPC body.

Every death is potentially a big loss, but the sudden death of Carol Schweickhardt during Holy Week this past year had a large and lasting impact on our community. Carol's free-spirited creativity and life-sparking enthusiasm and humor touched every one of us. We had at least three gatherings to celebrate her life and comfort one another. We laughed and cried in equal measure, which seems appropriate. In our mourning, we remembered with faith that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Finally, we want to recognize that It is an absolute joy to serve this community alongside the team of Elders serving on Session. Thank you to the folk sharing their gifts and talents on the Teams, and for all the ways each person volunteers and contributes to the dynamic life of the community! We also recognize that Edgcumbe is blessed by the folks who are on staff—Jenya, Krysta, and Marisol. Each person connected to this community offers so much generosity of spirit as we embody the Living Christ!!



## **Building & Grounds**

Activities focused on general building upkeep, repair and enhancements in order to be active stewards of the building and landscape that we have inherited and will eventually hand off to future church families. A few of the projects completed this year were:

1. A major clean-up, organization, and clean-out of the furnace room and basement storage room was completed. We now have a work-room area in the storage room for current and future church projects. A powered miter saw was obtained (for free) and refurbished for use in this work room.
2. Hoses were installed to two spigots in the backwoods so that watering flowers (or watering the school children during “water days” at the Montessori school), no longer required placing hoses across the parking lot.
3. A new mower deck was installed on the riding lawnmower when the old one wore out.
4. Peeling paint on the stairwell header on the main floor by the steps was removed and new primer and paint was installed.
5. Three oak trees and a few cedar trees were planted and watered in the backwoods.
6. Weekly (actually probably daily) watering and tending to the grounds’ shrubs and flowers were done by Kathy.
7. The window well in the furnace room was covered to prevent snow melt (water) from collecting there and overflowing into the furnace room.
8. Old carpeting was removed to make way for new vinyl flooring that was installed in the first floor school classroom (sometimes called the Fellowship Hall).
9. Plumbing repairs were completed in the school bathrooms.
10. Various church doors were adjusted, repaired, rebuilt and reworked to make them more functional and silent in their operation by Jay the “door whisperer”.

Our building continues to be used by multiple groups so that over 25 meetings or events are taking place every week. A few highlights for 2023 included:

- Our relationship with the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music continued through all of 2023 and will stretch into the first half of 2024.

- Rehoboth Evangelical Church continued to host worship services every Sunday and a win-win agreement was reached with their congregation regarding continued use of our space.
- Highland AA resumed paying regular rent, with an updated lease in the final stages.

## **Mission Report**

2023 was a good year of giving! We collected funds for the following organizations: **Truce Center, Angelie Ryah (Belong Farms), Voices of Hope, Minnesota Food Share, Highland Park High School, Our own Backwoods, Plaster House, Guild, First Nations Kitchen, Peace and Global Witness, Small Sums, Project Home.** In addition to funds, we provided hands-on volunteer assistance to HPHS in the form of monitoring their IB exams, First Nations Kitchen food packing and distribution, Backwoods clean-up, invasive species removal and tree planting. We've collected clothing and other items for Joseph's coat throughout the year. Our own food shelf has been maintained and stocked by EPC members, with occasional deliveries to other local food shelves when it's over-stocked. We collected 175 boxes of Tissues for Highland Park High School!



We've learned a lot about our local communities by having guests come to educate EPC members about their wonderful organizations to whom we donate.

The total collected for the year 2023 was \$8,335. Thank you to all who contributed!  
Submission by Lisa Holden, Mission committee member

## **Small Groups**

Two ongoing ministries are the Sunday evening Bible Study and the Tuesday afternoon Centering Prayer group. Both groups meet on Zoom with both regular attendees and new participants and guests.



## **Music Report**

In 2023 the music at Edgcumbe continued going strong. The choir regularly performed a variety of repertoire - from hymns and rounds to standard choral literature representing different musical styles, periods and composers. For our Christmas service we were blessed with 80+ worshipers as attendees; the choir, consisting regular members and guest musicians, performed the music of Andrews, Besig, Jennings, Poston, Rorem, Rutter and The Roches.

In addition to expanding our repertoire's difficulty and stylistic variety, we continued to aim to become a better singing ensemble. In rehearsals the choristers diligently worked on their sound production quality, diction, dynamic sensitivity, expressivity and overall sense of togetherness, matching each others' tone, being unified in our musical shaping of the piece, and ultimately sharing the gift of music with the congregation.



Sadly, 2023 was a very difficult year for us as we have lost our beloved member and friend Carol Schweickhardt. It was a hard blow for the community and for our little singing group – Carol was so enthusiastic, committed, and brave in her support of the music at EPC. It was an honor to be invited to sing at Carol's life celebration. We miss our dear friend and know that she is singing with angels and all celestial creatures, occasionally throwing in unconventional repertoire suggestions. We miss you, Carol.

Ruth Andersen and Todd Barnes continued to generously share their musical gifts with us, always bringing something new; and without Jay McGregor's technical support neither ZOOM services nor the high quality of the sound would have been possible. Huge thank you to everyone for supporting the music at EPC!

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report (see the appended 2023 budget/actual and 2024 budget). Our total 2023 income exceeded expenses by \$13,278. Income sources included pledged income, non-pledged income and rents from AA, Montessori and the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. Pledged income was less than anticipated but that was offset by an extension of the St. Paul Conservatory lease. A significant increase in member pledges for 2024 will offset the loss of Conservatory rent in the coming year. Of note, 90% of our 2023 expenses were for fixed costs: 70% for personnel and 20% for utilities and building and grounds upkeep/maintenance—i.e. very little flexibility in the expense column. I'll be happy to answer questions about the budget at the annual meeting or anytime! Ron Eggert

## **2023 Year-End Report & 2024 Budget**

<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>12/31/23</b>	
<b>Vanguard</b>		<b>63,916</b>	
<b>Associated Checking</b>		<b>22,738</b>	
<b>Associated Savings</b>		<b>1,202</b>	
<b>Backwoods Fund</b>		<b>802</b>	

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
<b>Pledge Units</b>	14		14 (2 new units)
<b>Pledge Payments</b>	60,160	55,690	93,660
<b>Unpledged Contributions</b>	4,000	5,308	5000
<b>Montessori Rent/Prop. Tax</b>	52,944	52,944	54,528
<b>AA Rent</b>	14,400	22,000	18,000
<b>St. Paul Conservatory</b>	32,668	33,600	16,800
<b>Misc. Inc.</b>	0	3,287	0
<b>Monthly Mission</b>	0	8,335	0
<b>Carry Fwd Bank Balance</b>	23,402	22,738	20,000
<b>Sabbatical Donations</b>	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>187,574</b>	<b>203,902</b>	<b>207,988</b>
	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
<b>TOTAL B&amp;G</b>	40,510	38,314	35,835
<b>TOTAL OFFICE</b>	3,830	4,279	4,645
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	142,957	132,091	146,018
<b>TOTAL MISSION</b>	3,400	10,833	3,394
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	1,750	1,231	2,150
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	200	0	200
<b>TOTAL SESS,DEAC</b>	280	0	280
<b>MISC. EXPENSES</b>	850	850	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>193,777</b>	<b>187,598</b>	<b>192,522</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>187,574</b>	<b>203,902</b>	<b>207,988</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-6,203</b>	<b>16,304</b>	<b>15,466</b>
<b>BUILDING &amp; GRDS EXP.</b>	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Utilities/Heat, Light, etc.</b>	16,000	10,571	12,000
<b>Insurance</b>	8,410	8,415	6,385
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	4,000	2,598	4,000
<b>Services</b>	5,500	10,057	6,000
<b>Assess/Prop Tax</b>	1,200	1,226	1,200

<b>B&amp;G Supplies/Custodial</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>3,538</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Grounds Maintenance</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Backwoods Project</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Backwoods Fund</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL B&amp;G</b>	<b>40,510</b>	<b>38,314</b>	<b>35,835</b>
<b>OFFICE EXPENSES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Computer/Software</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Telephone/Internet</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>Copier</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>675</b>
<b>Postage</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Payroll Services</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Bank/Vanco Fees</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFICE</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>4,279</b>	<b>4,645</b>
<b>PASTOR COMP</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Pastor Housing</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Pastor Salary</b>	<b>36,182</b>	<b>36,182</b>	<b>33,744</b>
<b>Pastor Pension/Medical</b>	<b>24,251</b>	<b>19,167</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Continuing Ed</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>Carry forward Continuing ed</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,681</b>
<b>Automobile</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Pastor Misc Allowance</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Med/Dent Supplement</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Sabbatical</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>Pastors Compensation</b>	<b>96,674</b>	<b>88,091</b>	<b>100,425</b>
<b>OTHER PERSONNEL</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Music Director Salary</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,213</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Music Dir-Cont Educ.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Office Administrator</b>	<b>6,820</b>	<b>6,174</b>	<b>6,969</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>19,563</b>	<b>19,910</b>	<b>20,424</b>
<b>Handyman</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>

<b>Payroll Taxes</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>2,853</b>	<b>3,200</b>
<b>Staff Supply</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Staff Misc</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,850</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER PERSONNEL</b>	<b>46,283</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>45,593</b>
<b>OUTREACH &amp; MISSION:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Per Capita Paid Out</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,194</b>
<b>Denom Mission</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Other Mission</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>Special mission</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,533</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>10,833</b>	<b>3,394</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; ARTS EXPENSES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Zoom</b>			<b>200</b>
<b>Musicians</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>ArtPlayce</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; ARTS</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>2,150</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Education Expenses</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Biz Grant</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL MISC. EXPENSES</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>0</b>

## **TERMS OF CALL 2024 - Edgumbe Presbyterian Church**

Reverends Phil & Julie (Luna) GebbenGreen

Presbytery of Membership: Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Co-Pastors, splitting one call 50/50

Effective Date: January 1, 2024 (original call effective August 1, 2007)

### **Terms (all should be annual):**

Salary & Housing \$63,744 (Includes housing/utility allowance \$30,000)

Free Use of the Manse \_\_\_\_Yes \_X\_ No

Vacation = 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Continuing Education allowance \$2,400 per year, cumulative over 3 years to \$7,200.

Continuing Education leave 2 weeks, cumulative over 3 years to 6 weeks

Pension Full (37% of Effective Salary)

Automobile allowance, IRS rate, Vouchered up to \$800

Professional Expenses Vouchered up to \$1,000

Social Security Offset \_\_\_\_Yes \_X\_ No (7.65% of salary & housing)

Medical/Dental Supplemental \_X\_Yes \_\_\_\_No Vouchered up to \$4,000 (with half of unused portion at year's end returned to the pastors)

Optional Retirement Contribution \_\_\_\_Yes \_X\_ No Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Sabbatical \_X\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Length of leave: 3 months; years of service required: 6 years. (Presbytery guideline is 3 months after 6 years of service.) Session approval of dates and plan required.

Parental Leave - When an installed teaching elder or spouse is to give birth, or to adopt a child, family leave shall be offered under at least the following terms: Eight weeks family leave at 100 percent of pro-rated annual salary and full housing allowance, or twelve weeks at 75 percent of pro-rated annual salary and full housing allowance. (See full Presbytery Policy on Family Leave for more details.)

Moving Expense \_\_\_\_Yes \_X\_ No Vouchered up to \$\_\_\_\_\_

# Congregational Meeting Minutes 2023

## Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting January 29, 2023

**BY ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN OUR CHURCH, WE SHARE GOD'S WORD IN THE  
COMMUNITY TO HEAL AND CHANGE LIVES.**

### Call to Order:

On January 29, 2023, the Annual Meeting of the congregation of Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church was called to order at 11:00 am by Pastor Luna GebbenGreen. The meeting was opened with prayer and a quorum was declared and brunch was eaten!

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 3 and February 6, 2022 and the Statistical Report were reviewed.

**A. Music Report:** Jenya gave a heartfelt report to the church with gratitude for all the support offered to the music program.

### B. Pastor's Report:

#### 1. Pastor Phil:

- a. Phil has noticed, especially since last fall's sabbatical, that the congregation is taking more ownership of both the practical and spiritual work of being the Body of Christ. Edgcumbe has grown within itself and members are taking more upon themselves with integrity and teamwork. He takes great joy in his and Luna's growing obsolescence as a sign of communal health and vitality and trust.
- b. The Bible Study is beginning to ask, What if we were to expand our reach and include more people? It was commented that if that happens, the present members will not have the same experience that they have now with such a tight group. He feels we need to be humble and grounded and that more is being asked of us. These are also questions for the whole church community.
- c. At the present time, the way in which they are called to give service to the church works for the church and the pastors.

**2. Pastor Luna:** There is a deep, fundamental affection that God has for us, the beloveds of God. Receiving God's affirmation, we are called to be grounded in his love.

### C. Terms of Call:

See attached EPC 2022 Annual Report, page 13.

The congregation is re-establishing the Pastor's Call for another year. **MSC to approve the Terms of Call for Pastors Phil and Luna GebbenGreen for another year as written and submitted.** The motion was carried unanimously.

### D. Team Reports:

See attached EPC 2022 Annual Report for all the team reports.

### E. Budget:

See attached EPC Annual Report, pages 10-12.

**MSC** to adjourn the meeting with prayer at 12:07.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Holt, Clerk of Session

**Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church**  
**Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting - May 28, 2023**  
Election of Elders

**BY ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN OUR CHURCH, WE SHARE GOD'S WORD IN THE  
COMMUNITY TO HEAL AND CHANGE LIVES.**

**Call to Order:**

The Congregation of Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church met for a special congregational meeting Sunday, May 28, 2023, during the 10 a.m. worship service. Pastor Phil GebbenGreen, acting as moderator, called the special meeting to order with a prayer and declared a quorum.

**Election of Elders:**

Pastor Phil explained that the Elders support the spiritual life of the church.

1. Rich Schiferl, already serving as elder, has agreed to serve a 3 year term.
2. Member Michelle Trebtoske was nominated by the Session to serve a 3 year term.
3. **MSC** to close the nominations so that a vote can be taken.
4. **MSC** to reinstall Rich Schiferl for a 3 year term (to 2026), and to ordain and install Michelle Trebtoske for 3 year term on Session (to 2026).

Michelle's ordination and her and Rich's installation will be planned for a Sunday in July. Meeting adjourned with prayer and the end of the worship service around 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Eggert, Clerk of Session