



WILDERMERE BEACH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORTS

For the Calendar Year 2024

Annual Meeting- January 26, 2025

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”

Psalm 127:1a

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA FOR REVIEW OF YEAR 2024

January 26, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Review of the Minutes to the Annual Meeting for Review of 2023
3. Review of the Council Officer and Committee Annual Reports for 2024
 - a. Council President Report
 - b. Clerk Report
 - c. Treasurer Report
 - i. Budgeted Amount vs. Actual Income and Expense Summary
 - ii. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024
 - d. Financial Secretary Report
 - e. Pastor Report
 - f. Diaconate Report
 - g. Trustee Report
 - i. Worked Performed in 2024
 - ii. Anticipated Projects for 2025
 - h. Music Committee Report
 - i. Christian Education Report
 - j. Report on Standing Committees for 2024
 - i. Publicity & Events
 - ii. Missions & Evangelism
4. New Business
 - a. Proposed Budget for 2025
 - b. Proposed Slate of Officers for 2025
5. Unfinished Business
6. Closing Prayer



WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MINUTES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR REVIEW OF 2023

January 28, 2024

Attendees: **Matt Brannelly**, Karen Bittar, **Tom Chaffin**, **Jean Collins**, **Anthony Cruz**, **Mary Jayne Cupole**, Caroline Davignon, **Debra Fellenbaum**, **Pastor Ken Fellenbaum**, **Tom Francoeur**, **James Fulton**, **Greg Hanson**, **Mary Claire Hanson**, **David Hnath**, **Lisa Hnath**, **Lee Hurst**, **Robert Hutcheon**, **Clint LaPlant**, **Sandra Manes**, **Dorene Murphy**, **Karen Murray**, **Peter Murray**, **Laurie Nichols**, Jim Nolan, **Mary Ann Nolan**, **Kathy Pough**, **Wendy Ralston**, **Adrian Rebollo**, **Rebecca Rebollo**, **Bill Samela**, **Cindy Samela**, **Pam Schultz**, **Jordan Schulte**, **Tracy Collins Schulte**, **Paula Smith**, **Jan Sowka**, **Beatriz Veltze** (denotes members)

Council President, Mary Claire Hanson called the meeting to order at 11:17 AM, welcoming all with a brief introduction of the proceedings.

Trustee, Peter Murray passed around an attendance sign in sheet to obtain signatures of all those attending the meeting.

A quorum of fifteen (15) members is needed to vote on the matters at hand. Thirty-seven (37) were in attendance of which thirty-four (34) are members. Per Church Clerk, Dave Hnath, we have a quorum.

Clerk Dave Hnath emailed the annual report package which included all the 2023 annual committee reports, a copy of the proposed budget and slate of officers on Wednesday 1/24/24 to members and friends of WBCC for all to review in advance of today's annual all church business meeting to expedite matters.

Dave also prepared paper copies. Trustee Jim Fulton passed out these paper copies to those in attendance who wanted one.

An opening prayer was led by Pastor Ken Fellenbaum.

President Hanson expressed her gratefulness to all for our trust in her as president of WBCC Council for the past nine years. “Even though we are a small congregation, we are mighty and with the strong leadership by our officers & committee chairs giving God the glory has made it all possible.”

President Hanson highlighted a few items from this past year...the completion of the renovation of the men’s restroom and fellowship hall, Bible studies, prayer chain, hosting fellowship meals, increased giving for natural disasters & wars around the world, church volunteers assisting with maintenance issues to name a few.

President Hanson asked if more time was needed to review the reports at which no questions, corrections or comments were received or noted.

Recording Secretary, Cindy Samela cast one ballot to accept all the 2023 reports. Jim Fulton seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Proposed Budget for 2024:

Per Treasurer Paula Smith, finances finished out strong. Council made proposals for 2024, Timothy Fund in particular as we need to start building a reserve to support the transition of PK (when that time comes).

Increased our mission budget to support increased Operation Christmas Child. Budget is very conservative. Expenses besides salaries is our liability & workers compensation insurance for Music Director, Sexton & Pastor.

Council is recommending budget reserve allocation for a \$2,500 deductible.

Closed out 2023 with 10 months of operating cash...very healthy for our small church.

No questions or comments were received about the budget.

President Hanson called for a motion to accept the proposed budget for 2024. Jean Collins made a motion to accept the proposed 2024 budget. Beatriz Veltze seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024:

President Hanson announced the nominations from the prepared list of names. No other nominations were received from the floor.

President Hanson called for a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2024. Ron Lincoln made a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers for 2024. Kathy Pough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Comments from the Pastor:

His 50th ordination anniversary (5-4-1974) coming up in May. Planning a special 2-hour ordination service on Sunday, May 5, 2024. Two special guest speakers to be attending, Dr. Weaver (Pastor where PK was ordained) and Rev. Steve Wingfield (college friend). The faithfulness of God is what he really wants to celebrate on May 5th. Hoping to see a full church attendance that Sunday.

Planning to have Vacation Bible School the week of July 14-18, 2025 in the evening 6pm to 8pm. Asked Tom Chaffin & Jim Fulton to pass out copies of his prepared plan to organize and seek out volunteers for various positions.

Old Business:

No old business to discuss.

New Business:

No new business to discuss.

President Hanson closed with these thoughts from the reading of **2 Corinthians 4:1-7:**

“Time is shorter than we think and so let us continue to be a beacon to our friends and neighbors throughout the year.”

President Hanson called for a motion to adjourn at 11:55 AM. A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Murray and seconded by Mary Ann Nolan.

Pastor Ken closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Samela

Recording Secretary

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT FOR 2024

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true.- Hebrews 6:10-11

Looking back on 2024 our church family has received a fullness of blessing from our Lord. Each of you has given generously of your resources, so that we may corporately continue to give in abundance to our community, and the greater mission of the Church.

We have had our share of sorrow, with the loss of our sister, Beverly Harrigan on May 16th- greatly missed by friends and family. We also mourned the loss of other friends of the church, Josephine Walrod (Deborah Murray's mother), Reverend John Thursby (former pastor of WBCC), and Richard Anderson (spouse of our guest musician, Pat Anderson).

Although we are small in number, our congregation reflects the true example of the work of Jesus Christ. Acts of service provided by members and friends across generations and cultures make us a unique and diverse church in the City of Milford. Pastor Fellenbaum has for many years urged us to pray Matthew 9:37, "... The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few." As a congregation focused on Christ-centered worship and biblical teaching, please continue to make an invitation for family, friends and neighbors to join us.

Our goals for 2025 will continue to be on evangelism, growth of our Sunday School and the initiation of Vacation Bible School. We continue to be very blessed with the leadership of Pastor Fellenbaum for over 12 years. We have a strong outreach with our semi-annual tag sales, fellowship luncheons, food distributions, and participation in worldwide missions. Let us pray that God will lead us as we guide others into his presence and the service of his Church on the West Shore of Milford.

The physical needs of the church have been maintained with the successful renovation of the church kitchen. Thank you to all who contributed their financial support or physical labor. Under the leadership of dedicated Council officers, church members and friends we continue to make improvements beneficial to the congregation and the community.

I have completed my tenth year as Council President, serving this congregation for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that although we are still daily challenged, may we will always be joyful and seek the kingdom of heaven.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Claire Hanson

Council President

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CLERK REPORT FOR 2024

MEMBERSHIP

We started the year with 77 members (58 “active” members). In keeping our membership roll updated, we added two new members, moved three members from inactive to active, two from active to inactive, one member transferred/resigned, and one member passed away. Our membership roll now consists of 77 members, 59 of whom are considered “active” members and 18 of whom are considered “inactive” members.

In 2024 WBCC added two (2) new members. The following **new members** joined our fellowship on December 29, 2024:

- *Marina Diaz*
- *Teresa Hanson*

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

The following member passed away in 2024

- *Beverly Harrigan on May 16th*

It has been an honor and privilege to serve our fellowship, and I look forward to continuing to serve as God allows.

In His Service,



David M. Hnath, Esq. 🙏
WBCC Clerk



YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP

Active (inactive)


2024- 2
2023- 6
2022- 2
2021-0 (1)
2020-8 (2)
2019-3 (2)
2018- 3
2017- 5 (3)
2016- 6 (1)
2014- 0 (2)
2013- 6
2012- 9 (2)
2000s- 1 (3)
1990s- 2 (1)
1980s- 2
1970s- 1
Unknown- 3 (1)

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP ROLL- DECEMBER 31, 2024

LAST	FIRST	MEMBERSHIP DATE
Armstrong-Sherman	Stephanie	11/5/2023
Batista	Verna	3/1991
Calder	Eleanor	3/20/2016
Chaffin	Tom	3/1/2020
Collins	Jean	6/2/2013
Cruz	Anthony	11/4/2012
Cupole	Mary Jayne	3/16/2008
Davidson	Carol	12/13/2020
Diaz	Marina	12/29/2024
Dressler	Sharon	11/5/2023
Fellenbaum	Debra	11/4/2012
Fellenbaum	Kenneth	11/4/2012
Ferraro	Wendy	11/5/2023
Francoeur	Tom	12/13/2020
Fulton	Jim	12/8/2019
Fulton	Joann	12/8/2019
Garman	Bobbi	3/1/2020
Garman	Jack	3/1/2020
Hanson	Gregory	11/4/2012
Hanson	Mary Claire	11/4/2012
Hanson	Teresa	12/29/2024
Hnath	David	11/4/2018
Hnath	Lisa	11/4/2018
Hurst	Lee	
Hutcheon	Robert	12/13/2020
Inzitari	Barbara	3/20/2016
LaPlant	Amandra	4/29/2012
LaPlant	Clint	



LAST	FIRST	MEMBERSHIP DATE	
LaPlant	Helen		
Lincoln	Ronald	11/5/2023	
Mackin	Maria	1/1/2017	
Manes	Sandra	12/21/1980	
Maus	Bruce	11/4/2012	
Maus	Denise	11/4/2012	
McAvoy	Mark	2/28/1999	
Murphy	Dorene	4/11/1976	
Murray	Deborah	9/11/2016	
Murray	Karen	9/11/2016	
Murray	Peter	9/11/2016	
Nichols	Laurie	3/1/2020	
Niver	Dawn	6/10/1984	
Nolan	Mary Ann	7/7/2013	
Pough	Kathleen	11/4/2018	
Purpora	Anthony	4/1/2012	
Ralston	Wendy	11/5/2023	
Rebollo	Adrian	12/4/2022	
Rebollo	Rebecca	12/4/2022	
Rossman	David	1/1/2017	
Rossman	Pamela	1/1/2017	
Ryan	David	9/11/2016	
Samela	Cynthia	1/1/2017	
Samela	William	1/1/2017	
Schulte	Jordan	12/13/2020	
Schulte	Tracy	6/2/2013	
Smith	Paula	6/2/2013	
Sowka	Janet	6/2/2013	
Veltze	Beatriz	12/8/2019	
Visconti	Diane	11/5/2023	
Whelan	Linda	6/2/2013	
			INACTIVE MEMBERS:
Arpie	Blanche	12/3/2017	
Batista	Jason	3/23/1997	
Bok	Jorge	12/14/2014	
Brannelly	Matthew	7/2/2017	
Browning	Joyce	12/14/2014	
Cole	Janet	7/4/2004	
Cruz	Carol	11/4/2012	
DeLuise	Zandi		
Edwards	Steven	3/20/2005	
Granger	Elizabeth	9/11/2016	
Jenness	Matthew	4/29/2012	
LaPlant	Jacob	10/7/2007	
Leonard	David	12/8/2019	
Leonard	Jackie	12/8/2019	
Pinto	Alan	12/26/2021	
Schmalzer	Jocelynn	3/1/2020	
Schmalzer	William	3/1/2020	
Thewlis	Daniel	7/2/2017	

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

January through December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Building Use	2,400	1,800	600
Total Holiday Offerings	844	600	244
Individual	5,962	5,400	562
Loose Offerings	3,689	3,000	689
Miscellaneous			
Christmas Bazaar	2,634	2,750	(117)
Other Misc Income	190	-	190
Tag Sales	928	400	528
TMB Money Market Interest	1,051		
Total Miscellaneous	4,803	3,150	1,653
Pledges	85,673	72,000	13,673
Total Income	<u>103,371</u>	<u>85,950</u>	<u>17,421</u>
Expense			
Advertising and Promotion	3,964	1,000	2,964
Bank Service Charges	1,155	720	435
Christian Education	591	600	(9)
Dues and Subscriptions	135	100	35
Event Expenses	948	800	148
Total Insurance Expense	10,089	10,116	(27)
License Fees	489	475	14
Literature	623	300	323
Miscellaneous Expense	1,562	1,450	112
Missions	5,022	5,200	(178)
Pastor Discretionary Fund	40	1,000	(960)
Payroll Expenses	1,186	1,260	(74)
Postage and Delivery	81	120	(39)
Professional Fees	52,650	53,425	(775)
Repair & Maintenance - Grounds	5,523	750	4,773
Repair and Maintenance - Bldg	4,239	2,040	2,199
Internet/Telephone Expense	2,862	2,640	222
Utilities	5,880	6,660	(780)
Total Expense	<u>97,036</u>	<u>88,656</u>	<u>8,380</u>
Net Income	<u>6,335</u>	<u>(2,706)</u>	<u>9,041</u>

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Checking/Savings

Milford Bank CD 51051

Milford Bank Checking 44674

Trust Fund 245130

TOTAL ASSETS 340855

Operating Cash \$ 74,771 (9 mos Oper Cash)

Cash for Liabilities \$ 20,954

Total Cash \$ 95,725

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Capital Project Reserve 3000

Christian Education Fund 1111

Food Bank Cash Collections 335

Liability Insurance Deductible 2500

Mission Donations 2162

Payroll Liabilities 679

Timothy Fund 10000

Unallocated Reserve 1167

TOTAL LIABILITIES 20954

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2024

An amount of thirty-nine sets of envelopes were distributed at the beginning of the year 2024. Two more sets of envelopes was added for a total of forty-one sets of envelopes distributed in the year 2024. Of these sets of envelopes, twenty-nine were paid in full by December 2024. Of the remaining envelope sets distributed, twelve recorded sporadic giving. The total giving amounts can be found in the treasurer's report.

For the Year 2025 forty-two sets of envelopes were distributed. The estimated giving amount can be found in 2025 proposed budget under the listings of pledges.

The Lord continues to provide for our needs but each year we face many challenges in meeting our budget and maintaining our staff and property. We must remember that the gifts we receive through God's grace can never be equaled in our giving but should be constant in glorifying His Name through our tithes and offerings.

Thank you for your fulfilling your commitment to God in supporting His Church here at Wildermere Beach Congregational.

Respectfully submitted,

Verna Batista

Financial Secretary

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

The year 2024 saw several significant things for our church:

1. Attendance at the worship services grew from 47 to 54. 54 was the attendance in 2019 before the onset of Covid19, which greatly reduced weekly attendance. Since then, we have been growing back each year. The Church continued to function during these years offering ministry and including a number of capital projects.
2. In 2024 the Church undertook the complete remodeling of our much-used kitchen. The old kitchen was probably 70 years old and was greatly in need of a rehabbing. This was accomplished under the design of Greg Hanson with suggestions by some who are the ones mostly seen working in the kitchen. Also of note is the leadership of the Trustees- namely Anthony Cruz and Bill Samela. Many others lent a hand in deconstructing and rebuilding.
3. On May 4-5, the Church and I celebrated the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination. I am grateful for all who contributed to this weekend. These included Dr. W.W. Weaver, Pastor of the Church where I was ordained and College & Seminary friend Rev. Steve Wingfield. The Sanctuary was full with 115 present and 90 who joined the lunch. I also want to thank the Choir for their inspiring music and those who oversaw the preparations of the Hall and food for those who stayed for the lunch. To those who contributed to the expenses of the event thank you ever so much!
4. Looking ahead to 2025 there are two important events being planned. First, we want to celebrate the Church's 130th anniversary, which was formed in 1895. I have reached out to former Pastor, Rev. Hart Inlow, to return and share the Word. He was the minister in the late 70s and early 80s. In the early 2000s he was led to start the Lion of Judah Academy in Tanzania, Africa which is one of the missions we support. Secondly, after some thought and planning we hope to offer a Vacation Bible School for the children of the Church and community. At this time, the plans are for this to occur July 14 to 18 from 6 to 8 pm with classes for children in preschool through middle school. We will start preparations in February. Please pray for this outreach and consider how you can be involved. Our children and youth very much need Biblical instruction.

Submitted by Rev. L. Kenneth Fellenbaum

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DIACONATE REPORT FOR 2024

The board consists of nine deacons: Clint LaPlant, Jean Collins, Lisa Hnath, Ron Lincoln, Sandy Manes, Dorene Murphy, Laurie Nichols, Beatriz Veltze and Rebecca Rebollo. I thank each for their time and service.

Our initial goal was to create unity in the group. Through pointed questions, each response offered a different perspective providing a broader vision of the topic in question and of our understanding of each other.

Time for training was provided during our meetings so the deacons could get the feel of serving communion in the worship service. Going forward two deacons will assist the ushers in distributing the elements at all communion services. Besides partaking in the bread and juice, the congregation can also partake in the whole serving process, receiving and giving, by passing the elements to their neighbor next to them in the pew.

Our focus will continue on the importance of the Usher position. The usher should be alert to the surroundings inside the building as well as outside. He or she also needs to be alert regarding the people in the congregation- does anyone appear in distress? or in need of something? The ushers are first-line witnesses regarding safety issues and the like. And we are always looking for additional ushers to spread out their days of service, allowing them quality time for worship with their families.

We were pleased and blessed by the participation from the congregation assisting in special services remembering Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, as well as partaking in filling Easter and Thanksgiving food boxes for friends and shut-ins.

Spiritual gifts were another topic of discussion, identifying gifts and abilities within the group.

The last topic of discussion at deacon meetings is "Where is the Holy Spirit Leading?" At our October meeting, the answer was one word, "PRAYER." And, that we do for our individual selves, for the Deacon Board, and Christ's Body at WBCC.

Vision for 2025

- Events around Palm Sunday, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be discussed and planned
- Usher training continued
- Safety plans during services, security and safety in general
- Visitations to members and friends as needed or requested
- Discussion on a National Day of Prayer Service for WBCC and community
- Worship Leader – role of leadership and that of a student. Delve into the attitude of the worship leader.
- Deacon Chair requests a monthly meeting with Council President and Pastor to keep the line of communication open on the spiritual direction of the Church.

In Christ,

Clint LaPlant

Deacon Chair

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2024

Completed Tasks in 2024:

- March:
 - Front doors were sanded down to prep for painting
 - The exterior of the church was power washed
 - New carpet was installed in the foyer of the church
- May:
 - Main staircase accordion door was removed and discarded
 - Bilco doors were sanded down
- June:
 - Bilco doors outside of nursery were painted
 - All exterior windowsills of the church have been replaced
- July-August:
 - Deconstruction of the kitchen: old flooring was removed, and walls were taken down
 - Attic is cleared out and basement is reorganized
 - Church parking lot was sealed and lined
- September:
 - All electrical and circuits are done in the kitchen
 - Start with putting up the sheetrock walls
 - Kitchen was painted
 - New LED lights ceiling were installed in kitchen
- November:
 - Fall clean up around church property (last time with the acorns)
 - Oak tree was taken down in the side yard
 - Hall light fixtures were replaced with LED fixtures
- December:
 - Dimmer switch for the sanctuary was replaced with updated switch which is better for the LED lights
 - Also, the switch for the foyer was replaced
 - Front door outside light is now on a timer

In Loving Service,

Anthony Cruz and Bill Samela, Co-Chairs

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024

*PSALM 113¹⁻³ Hallelujah!
You who serve GOD, praise GOD!
Just to speak his name is praise!
Just to remember GOD is a blessing—
now and tomorrow and always.
From east to west, from dawn to dusk,
keep lifting all your praises to GOD! [The Message]*

2024 Year in Review for the Music Ministry:

Thank you Choir members for working on 2 “mini” but challenging Musicals- “Risen King” for Easter and “Come thou Long Expected Jesus” for Christmas. Thanks Cindy Samela & Karen Murray for narrating. Appreciation for all who help coordinate the setups: Dave & Mike Hnath (sound), Karen Murray (programs), and the piano & pulpit movers.

Choir members: Anthony Cruz, Anthony Purpora, Beatriz Veltze, Bill Samela, Bruce Maus, Carol Davidson, Dorene Murphy, Jan Sowka, Jean Collins, Jim Fulton, Karen Murray, Laurie Nichols, Linda West, Lisa Hnath, Mary Jayne Cupole, Peter Murray, Sarah Beckwith, Tom Chaffin.

Gratitude for those who provided special music with solos and new duos or groupings including Dan Wilder & Jean Collins, Lisa Hnath (dulcimer), Mary Claire Hanson & Clint LaPlant (guitar), Mary Jayne Cupole & Joanne Wilder (dance), Dan & Joanne Wilder, Dorene Murphy, Sarah Beckwith, Karen Murray, Clint LaPlant & Friends (Pat, Deborah & Mike) and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission Women. God was praised!

Lastly, thanks to Karen Thorndike for substituting for me on piano during vacation, and to the congregation for beautifully singing acapella while I was out with a virus. May God continue to bless our efforts as we praise Him ever in song.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Fellenbaum

Church Musician

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2024 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

I am thankful for the Lord's provisions in 2024. The church has provided a generous space for Children's Ministry, and God has provided children and volunteers. We seem to have a core group of ten right now, mostly grandchildren of members. Attendance varies and there have been some visitors, whom we hope to see again.

We have gone to one multi-aged class, to use our volunteers wisely, since so many have multiple roles in our church. We are using a simple, easy to use curriculum from "Sermons4kids" which incorporates the Bible reading (usually the same as that being taught in the Service), a short video, a craft, music, and sometimes a snack. We also print up children's bulletins which have word searches, coloring pages, mazes, etc. to go along with the Service, to be used for anyone who wishes to either stay for the sermon, or come into class.

I am very thankful for Jean Collins, Lisa Hnath and Mary Claire Hanson who have faithfully volunteered to teach this year. Jean always seems to have a treat for the kids- either food, or something she just happens to have with her. At Christmas we had a birthday party for Jesus where each child received a "goodie bag," and decorated cookies and cupcakes as a treat while talking about the Christmas story.

We are planning to have a Vacation Bible School this summer on July 14-18, from 6-8 p.m. We are having a preliminary meeting on February 3rd to look into curriculum and start planning. If you are able to volunteer- we need teachers, kitchen staff, craft people and greeters- please let us know. Also, if you know children who might attend, please invite them. All are welcome.

Please keep the children in your prayers- the children we see at church, and those in the neighborhoods we see every day. Childhood isn't the same as when we were growing up. There are many more temptations, distractions and dangers now, and many have no idea who God is, or have any connection to a faith that teaches right and wrong. May we be a safe place that shines God's light and love to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murray

Christian Education Superintendent

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2025 STANDING COMMITTEES

(Appointed by Council President)

Publicity and Events Committee: Pam Rossman (through 1/2026)

This committee shall be responsible for keeping the members and public informed of the activities of the Church and shall by means of press, radio, bulletin board, Sunday programs and any other means available seek to encourage the participation of members and friends in the activities of the Church.

Article VIII, Section H of the Constitution and By-Laws

Special Events Committee: Pam Rossman (through 1/2026)

This committee shall be responsible for overseeing the scheduling and coordination of special events/activities for the Church body with the assistance of members and non-members as determined by the chairperson.

Events/activities that come under the normal function for other committees and departments are exceptions and remain under the coordination of the other committees and departments.

The Church Council retains final review of events/activities and any related expenses.

Mission & Evangelism Committee: Kathleen Pough (through 1/2026)

The purpose of this committee is to identify opportunities for Christian service in the community and the world and to gain support for them in the congregation; to offer education and to encourage action; for instance offer food or clothing items to the community especially at holiday time, as well as organize the collection of gifts for the disadvantaged at Christmas.

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PUBLICITY & EVENTS REPORT FOR 2024

Our calendar continued to be quite full, and we are blessed to have hands and hearts willing to jump in and contribute to make each event a success. Repeat vendors and visitors actively used their social media platforms and connections to promote our events and widen the reach. It is such a blessing to speak with them and hear comment after comment about how they look forward to the events we offer at WBCC.

The year 2024 did bring the following highlighted events:

- **International Potluck Dinner**- The International Potluck Dinner this year was back with meals of the heritage of our members and friends, including desserts!
- **Yankee Swap**- This is one of Pastor Ken's favorite events! Lots of fun was had by all, opening and swapping many surprise packages and unusual treasures.
- **Easter Events**- Our Easter Egg Hunt saw eager children seek out the over 1,000 candy-filled eggs scattered on the church lawn. Easter began with the Sunrise Service on the church grounds before communion in the sanctuary, then to the fellowship hall for a delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the Church.
- **Ladies Game & Dessert Night**- This event, hosted by Kathy Pough, was once again a fun evening for the ladies of the church. Come join us in Spring and Fall 2025!
- **Spring & Fall Neighborhood Tag Sales**- The seasonal tag sales continue to be high traffic events. Each year we have our regular vendors who return as well as new ones who come by word of mouth.
- **Church Picnic**- was held in September on the church grounds for members and friends.
- **Halloween Treat Night**- 2024 was the seventh year we organized a treat night. Another beautiful weather evening, allowing us to provide a safe and welcoming treat station for hundreds of trick or treaters.
- **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Evening**- We exceeded our totals from the previous year and filled 250 boxes in 2024 (an increase of over 12%)!
- **Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Stroll**- Once again our doors saw a great rush prior to the start of the event with customers eager to have first pick of the over 350 dozen cookies our congregation prepared (mostly Pam & Paula)! We had some new vendors participating, our infamous luncheon menu and Christmas music in every corner of the building.
- **Easter plants and Christmas poinsettias** once again were organized to beautify the sanctuary during the most holy holiday seasons.

Our ability to plan and organize these events allows us to expand our presence in the community and thereby expand our ability to show God's love and all the blessings He bestows upon us. Thank you for the willingness and support of all our volunteers throughout the year! Please continue to prayerfully consider the continued needs necessary to make these events successful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Claire Hanson & Paula Smith

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM REPORT FOR 2024

This Congregation continues to support the following ministries:

- **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**, \$300 quarterly plus clothing and food donations
- **Lion of Judah Academy** in Tanzania, Africa, \$300 quarterly and prayers
- **Haitian Helping Hands**, \$300 quarterly and prayers
- **Samaritan's Purse**— 250 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes from this congregation distributed worldwide, and several relief offerings for natural disasters
- **Our Daily Bread Ministries** which provides quarterly devotional guides and supplemental booklets
- Warm hats, scarves and gloves to **Bridgeport Rescue Mission** and **Beth El Shelter**

Tracts and Christian literature are available in the vestibule for use by all members and friends as well as visitors.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has many shawls made by the ladies of the Church. Please share with any in need of comfort in homes, rehab centers or hospitals. Currently in search of women who would like to contribute their talent of knitting and crocheting.

The communication that we receive from each ministry is posted on the Missions bulletin board (located on the left, inside the entrance of the vestibule).

Bridgeport Rescue Mission food pantry is serving an average of 160-190 people on any given day. Breakfast is served to those who are waiting to shop in pantry, and a warming center opened welcoming those who want to come in out of the cold.

The Women's Life Change Program is a six (6) month program for women with addiction to drugs or alcohol or both. A book study is held, reading a chapter each week, and then the women are engaged in conversation to have them open up about how they are feeling and how far they have come as they look forward to graduation! We welcomed them to our congregation a couple of times this past year.

On a personal note, I enjoy engaging with the women and sharing my own experiences. I feel the Holy Spirit led me to **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**. I have observed the women allowing Jesus to come into their lives and the difference that has made.

Please contact us if you feel led to expand your mission field!

Submitted by Kathy Pough, Mission Chair

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET OVERVIEW

January through December 2025

	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
Income	
Building Use	\$ 1,200
Holiday Offerings	\$ 500
Individual Loose	\$ 5,400
Offerings	\$ 3,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,750
Pledges	\$ 81,900
Total Income	<u>\$ 95,750</u>
Expense	
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 4,000
Bank Service Charges	\$ 1,200
Christian Education	\$ 1,400
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 100
Event Expenses	\$ 1,250
Insurance Expense	\$ 10,806
License Fees	\$ 464
Literature	\$ 300
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 3,750
Missions	\$ 4,800
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$ 400
Payroll Expenses	\$ 1,339
Postage and Delivery	\$ 120
Professional Fees	
Musician	\$ 7,288
Pastor	\$ 31,950
Sexton	\$ 10,204
Substitute Musician	\$ 500
Substitute Pastor	\$ 1,000
Timothy Fund	\$ 4,800
Total Professional Fees	<u>\$ 55,742</u>
Repair & Maintenance - Grounds	\$ 700
Total Repair and Maintenance - Bldg	\$ 2,280
Internet/Telephone Expense	\$ 2,400
Utilities	\$ 6,600
Total Expense	<u>\$ 97,651</u>
Net Income	<u><u>\$ (1,901)</u></u>

WILDERMERE BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2025

The Council President suggests the following list of names to the Annual Meeting for consideration as officers for 2025.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
President	1/2026	Mary Claire Hanson
Vice President (and Deacon chairperson)	1/2026	Clint LaPlant
Recording Secretary	1/2026	Cindy Samela
Treasurer	1/2026	Paula Smith
Financial Secretary	1/2026	Verna Batista
Clerk	1/2026	David Hnath
Christian Education Superintendent	1/2026	Karen Murray
Deacons:	1/2026	Clint LaPlant - chair
	1/2026	Dorene Murphy
	1/2026	Rebecca Rebollo
	1/2027	Beatriz Veltze
	1/2027	Laurie Nichols
	1/2027	Lisa Hnath
	1/2028	Jean Collins
	1/2028	Ron Lincoln
	1/2028	Sandy Manes
Trustees:	1/2026	Peter Murray
	1/2026	Bill Samela- co-chair
	1/2026	David Rossman
	1/2027	Bruce Maus
	1/2027	Anthony Cruz- co-chair
	1/2027	Tom Francoeur
	1/2028	Jack Garman
	1/2028	Tom Chaffin
	1/2028	Jim Fulton



[Note: According to the WBCC Constitution:

- 1) *There should not be less than six (6) deacons, nor less than three (3) trustees (VI.B.1)*
- 2) *Deacons and trustees serve for 3 years, with one-third of each board elected annually (VI.B.2)*
- 3) *The Vice President is the chair of the Deacons (VII.B.2)*
- 4) *Officers shall be members of the church in good standing (VI.B.3)]*



2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE / TIME
Yankee Swap night	Friday, January 10th, 7:00 p.m.
International Potluck Dinner	Friday, February 21st, 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday- Lent begins	Wednesday, March 5th
Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 12th, 11:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday	Sunday, April 13th
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, April 17th, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service	Sunday, April 20th, 6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday Breakfast <i>Full buffet breakfast prepared & served by the Men of the church</i>	Sunday, April 20th, 7:30 a.m. <i>(immediately following Sunrise/ Communion Service)</i>
Easter Sunday Church Service	Sunday, April 20th, 10:00 a.m.
Ladies Game Night & Guest Speaker	Friday, May 2nd, 7:00 p.m.
Mothers Day Service	Sunday, May 11th, 10:00 a.m.
WBCC Spring Neighborhood Tag Sale <i>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!</i>	Saturday, May 17th 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fathers Day Service	Sunday, June 15th, 10:00 a.m.
Annual Church Picnic & Anniversary Celebration	Sunday, September 7th, 11:30 a.m. <i>immediately following worship service</i>
WBCC Fall Neighborhood Tag Sale <i>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!</i>	Saturday, September 20th 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Ladies Game Night & Guest Speaker	Friday, October 17th, 7:00 p.m.
Halloween Treat Evening	Friday, October 31st, 5:00 p.m.
Operation Christmas Child Packing Party	Friday, November 7th, 6:00 p.m.
Operation Christmas Child Box Dedication	Sunday, November 16th, 10:00 a.m.
Advent begins	Sunday, November 30th
Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Stroll <i>BAKERS & CRAFTERS NEEDED!!</i>	Saturday, December 6th 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service	Wednesday, December 24th 6:00 p.m.- <i>Candlelight Service</i>