

A JOURNEY OF FAITH CONTINUES

A History of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church 1999 – 2022

The year 1999 saw the church moving ahead under the capable leadership of Interim Pastor Pat Clark who served the church from October 1998 until May 1999. The Pastor Nominating Committee sent word they had a report for the Congregation. They presented David Burns and the terms of call. David Burns was unanimously approved in a Congregational Meeting on June 6, 1999, and called to be our Pastor. David was ordained and installed August 8, 1999.

During 1999, we had eight baptisms with a membership of 353 and seven youth were confirmed in May. Elder Bob Deutsch served as our Clerk of Session and Denise Wilborn received her alternative certification for Director of Education. We hosted the June Presbytery meeting during this busy year, and we approved a mission statement:

“We are a family in Christ, believing that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. We reflect that Light by illuminating the path to Christ for our neighbors far and near.”

The Church year 1999 came to a close with a membership of 353.

During 2000, Bob Deutsch again served as Clerk of Session. We participated in the CUPS (Comunidades Unidos Pro Salud – Communities United for Health) trip to Mexico and we had a church-wide retreat. There were four communicants in 2000. Bill Bryant remained our church office administrator until May 1, when he moved into a well-deserved retirement. Several changes were made, including the addition of a Personnel Committee and our Scholarship Fund was started. The Spring Branch Academy held a successful Fall Festival. Membership dropped to 328 by the end of the year.

Our year 2001 started with Bob Deutsch continuing as our Clerk of Session and Zane Barra moved from interim Music Director to Director of Music. Various changes were made to the organization of the Church committees. Our Academy had seen shrinking enrollment, and a Task Force was put in place. The Session passed a motion to “continue with the Academy as long as a distinctly Christian environment is emphasized, and the Session retains a close overview.” There were two confirmations. Two of our own young adults, Nick Ballesteros and Cyndi Laverty, were summer youth directors. SBPC participated in Habitat for Humanity by pledging over \$6,000 and people hours on weekends. The funds pledged were to be raised by requesting

gifts and pledges from the congregation. Thika Bell House in Kenya, Africa, also received support. We again supported the CUPS trip to Mexico as a mission of the church and our minister David Burns participated. Missionary Dr. Walter Hull filled the pulpit the Sunday David was in Mexico.

Sandra Parker resigned from the Academy in June of 2001. We had four confirmed and Web Trevathan became our Clerk of Session.

A letter from the Hispanic church Jesucristo Es Rey said they would no longer need the Fellowship Hall and thanked us for the use.

The Session received the report from the Task Force on Christian Education in the Academy and a loan was made to the Academy to be repaid when and as possible.

In October of 2001, Dr. Doris Wright was elected to acting Clerk of the Session. Also in October, a motion was passed approving the use of the \$100,000 gift to hire a youth director and the Personnel Committee was charged with develop a job description. At the Session meeting in November 2001, a motion was passed to accept the Elements of a Youth Director Vision Statement, revising as necessary, and to have the Personnel Committee to begin a search for a youth director. Our membership ended with 313 for 2001.

The January 2002 Session minutes reflect our continued financial support of the Academy. Session minutes for 2002 mentioned that Meg Humphrey and family joined the church. Meg later became the new director of the Academy. Updating of carpeted areas in the Education Building was approved with carpet to be replaced with a combination of vinyl, tile and carpet and a building fund target of \$50,000 was established. A motion was passed stating that any monies left in the Capital Improvement fund in the budget at the end of 2002 be transferred to a new designated fund called "Capital Improvement Designated Fund."

In November, Cyndi Laverty was hired as Interim Youth Director effective December 1, 2002. The Session minutes reflect several member deaths and the year ended with membership of 315.

January 2003 started as Elder William "Web" Trevathan became Clerk of the Session. Reverend David Burns continued as our minister. A motion was passed to add one youth elder position to the Session to serve for two years, and Jess Robinson was elected to serve that first term. The Session voted to transfer \$3,660 from the Memorial Fund to purchase new robes for the choir. A church retreat was scheduled for October 25-26 at Mo Ranch and communion was approved for the retreat. We

again passed a motion to support Habitat for Humanity by raising \$6,000 by May 2004. The church grew in membership in 2003, ending the year with 320 members.

The records for 2004 begin with a welcome recap of the SBPC statistics: We baptized 5, added 3 children already baptized along with 12 new adult members, we held 5 weddings, transferred 11 to other churches, and recorded the death of 9 members. Our budget for 2004 reflected projected income of \$415,403 and projected expenses of \$437,405, giving us a deficit of \$22,002. The Academy was making contributions for the expenses incurred by the church. Two Alpha courses were completed during 2004, and it was planned to continue through 2005. Joseph Wilborn, son of Brice and Denise Wilborn, was selected by the Presbytery to be a representative at the Triennium in the summer. Fund raising to support him was approved.

In June, the early service was discontinued for the summer, and at the end of the summer, it was agreed to continue with only the 10:50 service. Membership was 320 at year's end.

Needed administrative work was begun in 2004. *Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual* was developed by the Personnel Committee and adopted by the Session. Details for implementing would be developed in the coming year. The *Church Management and Procedure File* was updated from 1992, with work continuing into 2005. New *Property Use Policy*, *Procedures for Securing the Facilities*, *Kitchen Use Guidelines*, and *Property Use Guidelines* were all approved.

Ads in the Houston Chronicle were placed at Easter and Christmas, with post cards mailed at Easter. Channel 13 featured SBPC at Easter.

Patty Blome resigned from her position as Director of Children's Ministries and Christian Education. Mark Plunkett served in the interim position for the summer while the search continued. The Session began a study of the book, Shifts for Transforming Your Church; Shifts Concerning Vision and Expectation.

We had two retreats during the year; one was an all-church retreat at Cho Yeh, and the other was an Adult Retreat at Mo Ranch. The Benevolence Committee was very active with parties for Woodview Elementary School children, Angel Tree and support for Habitat for Humanity. Three blood drives were held, and we voted to become one of the church sponsors for a single parent event in 2005. There were five baptisms during the year.

In October, the Session was notified of the misappropriation of funds by one of our staff. Once again, Spring Branch Presbyterian kept faith and continued our journey.

The eventful year 2004 ended with membership of 312 and average Sunday attendance of 132, and we received the notification to the church that Reverend David Burns was accepting a call to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA.

Activities in the first of the year 2005 centered around the loss of our minister, recognition of his time with us and began the process to move forward in a search. The Personnel Committee was requested to hire an Interim.

The Pastor Nominating Committee elected was composed of: Patti Nanney and Patty Tremble from the Session, Brice Wilborn, Gary Mitchell, Charlie Craig, Bonnie Lavery, Kate Wright, and Allen Robinson from the Church.

The Session adopted a balanced budget of \$429,896, and the Academy's contribution was increased to \$43,500, which was to more closely reflect their share of the operating expenses for the church facility. Work continued on the Policy and Procedure Manual. In addition, the church by-laws were updated.

The work of the church continued during the time without a minister, using pulpit supply and local ministers as Session moderators. Some of the responsibilities normally fulfilled by the minister were taken by Session members. Our Long-Range Building and Planning Committee members were named: Rocco Sabala, Cathy Robinson, Wanda Boyd, Patti Nanney, Jan Fitts, Sandy Chehade, Elizabeth Powell, Jennifer Miller, Nick Ballesteros, Dan Tremble and Than McCollum. Their work began in February 2005.

Mark Plunkett indicated his intention to begin work as an Inquirer for the Ministry and the Session agreed to support his desire and process toward the Ministry. Rev. Pat Ryan began serving as the Interim Minister on June 1, 2005, and Mark Plunkett served as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries and Christian Education for the summer.

SBPC began the Cedarbrook Mentor program with twelve SBPC mentors participating in the Spring Branch ISD program.

Administrative changes included the conclusion of the misappropriations by a former employee with reimbursement from insurance and an audit of the church's financial records was completed in October. One result was that employees would no longer be signing checks. The strength of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church remained in evidence throughout.

The Property Committee proposed that the Congregation consider the sale of some of our property (the old manse, later termed “The Gathering Place”) to the City of Spring Valley. A congregational meeting was set for the following January. We had three baptisms and we ended the year of 2005 with membership of 308.

The year 2006 brought many changes to SBPC! At the Congregational Meeting in January, the vote was to sell the southern part of our property for \$1.75M to the City of Spring Valley for the creation of a park. The process to replace the old Gathering Place (prior manse) on the property sold was started with a retreat for the Session. The Long-Range Building and Planning Committee followed to discuss the church program needs to allow for the growth and development, not only in numbers, but in education and spiritual opportunities. In June, the Congregation elected a Building Committee, charged with developing a building plan to accommodate the needs for the church’s projected programs. With the sale of the old Gathering Place, many groups were involved in the packing and moving of its contents. Sale was completed on August 25, 2006.

Some of the many changes involved our serving ministers. Rev. Pat Ryan served as our Interim through July when she resigned. Rev. Jim McLeod stepped in and carried us until we welcomed Dr. Laurey Murphy, who was called as our permanent pastor on November 13 with her installation on December 3, 2006.

The year also saw a number of staff changes. Cyndi Laverty Ballesteros resigned as Youth Director in January to attend medical school. Our youth mission trip was to Gulfport MS for hurricane relief. In July, Carlos Hernandez was approved as a parttime Youth Director. Our Music Director/Organist of 9 years, Zane Barra, resigned at the end of May and was replaced with Gabe Perez as Music Director and Merle Vahlkamp and Lonnie Tanner served as our organists.

The Academy enrollment was 172

Our year 2006 concluded with a membership of 304.

Rev. Dr. Laurey Murphy started our year 2007 with an emphasis on developing goals and plan for the future. In April, the Building Committee presented its proposals to the Congregation. The plan was approved to build and furnish an Activities Building and storage building, as well as to renovate the Narthex and sacristy restrooms. A Building Finance Committee was elected in May to see pledges, as the projected cost of the projects was \$884,000 over the funds from the sale of the property in 2006. The work of the Building Finance Committee was delayed to February/March 2008 to allow the Session to hold a Season of Discernment and then a

Visioning process to define more clearly the primary ministries of the church and to set goals for the next 18 months and develop a vision for the next five years. The Vision Task Force was formed in October to develop a Five-Year Plan.

In September 2007, congregational gatherings were held for the Season of Discernment. The outcome of the process which involved both the congregation and the Session was to lay a foundation for seeking the future ministries of the church. From the outcomes of a Session survey and the congregational gatherings, the following ministries were defined: Worship, Nurture of all ages, Ministry to Others, and a target group of youth, young adults, and young families.

Three focus groups were held to garner ideas on how to further develop these ministries. The ideas from these focus groups, Worship, Mission and Nurture, were summarized and recommendations were given to Session Committees for further development and/or implementation during the following six months.

Beginning in October, a Vision Task Force was formed to develop a vision for the next five years. This vision was presented to the Session in December and was to be presented to the Congregation on February 3, 2008.

The annual church calendar was changed to allow more attention to critical events of the year. The current officers were asked to remain in office for an extra five months. The new church program calendar now begins in June with new officers.

Various Task Forces were appointed for specific short-term projects. An Organizational Task Force reviewed the church calendar and made recommendations for change. This Task Force was also asked to continue and review the current committee structure. Further recommendations would be made when the work done in the Season of Discernment and the Visioning process was completed. An Outreach Task Force was appointed to work with the Academy to discuss needs of young families and how to reach them. Another Task Force was appointed to develop a Disaster Preparedness and Follow-up Contingency Plan.

Patty Blome was hired as a part-time Director of Family Ministries. Mark Plunkett was approved by Presbytery to continue as an Inquirer in the Presbyterian Church and a scholarship for Mark was to be provided for his seminary training.

The Academy experienced some major financial difficulty in 2007 and they dropped behind in their payments to the church. The church extended a loan to the Academy and also paid some of the Academy bills to outside vendors. Classes were reorganized to reduce expenses and a plan to work in the black was developed.

We ended 2007 with 274 members – a significant loss of membership, although 27 of these were moved to inactive as part of a review of the rolls. There were 8 baptisms during the year.

The work of the church and Academy in 2008 started with work on the initial budget presented. The initial budget was \$75,000 over income. A new Stephen Ministry group started classes in February to continue through May. The Nominating Committee recommended a change in the size of the Session, with 5 to be elected for each class. This change was effective with the Class of 2010. The Organizational and Vision Implementation Task Forces were reporting to the Session and then to the Congregation on their progress during the first quarter.

A Congregational Meeting on February 10, 2008, and the change to the calendar was explained to the Congregation and Rev. Dr. Laurey Murphy gave her appreciation to the Congregation for the welcome her family received.

Melba Butler joined the church staff as business administrator.

The work of the Building Finance Committee, the Emergency Preparedness Task Force, the Vision Support Team and the Organizational Task Force all continued. It was noted that the Academy was doing better financially.

In April, a Joint Report from the Building Committee and the Building Finance Committee was brought to the Session. Total cost estimated to be \$2,634,004. Pledges received totaled \$538,435 and with the funds from the sale (\$1,750,000) we still needed \$345,569. A construction loan would be arranged but will not be drawn against until all available funds have been used. The revised by-laws and Standing Rules of Session as presented at the Stated Session Meeting on March 25 were voted on and accepted.

Kerry Talley was hired as our organist effective August 1, 2008. The Academy Task Force report was received in May, with the result that we would seek to work more closely with the Academy as the primary local mission of the church. Doris Wright was recognized for her work as Clerk of the Session for the last 4 ½ years. A motion passed to change the number of active elders to 5 (previously 6) beginning with the class of 2010.

In June of 2008, the Building Committee presented a revised building plan due to the increased building costs (\$300,000 more than original estimate in 2007.) A Congregational Meeting was planned for August 10 for the Building Committee to present revised plans to the congregation and for the Building Finance Committee to present plans for the financing. The date was later changed to August 24. At the

Congregational Meeting, the motion presented by the Building Committee failed. It was requested that the Building Committee go back to the Architect and General Contractor to provide revised plans that would be within the funds available (including the pledges.)

In September 2008, Hurricane Ike caused damage in Houston and the church was open all week 9-5 for the Community to charge cell phones, get ice and coffee. The church sustained water damage in several rooms.

The church sponsored 14 Angel Tree Campers to Camp Cho-Yeh.

Kay Craig proposed to provide an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and the Session agreed to encourage members and staff to be trained. A Session Retreat was held on a postponed date of November 22, 2008. A CUPS trip was set for the week of June 14, 2009.

A change from the Building Committee was received where they would use the existing foundation, so that the estimated costs are \$250,000 less than what is pledged. The difference would be used for “soft costs.”

At a Congregational Meeting November 16, 2008, the report from the Building Committee was presented. The motion to accept the plans was approved.

The various committees reported at the Session Retreat in this active church year. In December, Mark Plunkett reported on his journey to become an Ordained Minister. The year 2008 ended with 279 members, a slight increase!

The year 2009 was another active year at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Laurey Murphy started with Session year by outlining her “Emphasis in Ministry” in three parts:

- In the Word: To center and focus the church in the Word of God
- Partners in Christ: To model the leadership style of being partners in Christ together
- Looking Outward: To challenge the church to look beyond itself and to GO as Christ commissions us as his disciples.

Our Annual Meeting of the Church was scheduled for February 22, 2009, to elect officers, hear the state of the church, including the budget. We continued with our Wednesday Night Suppers and our Stephen Ministers program. A Lord’s Supper Class was scheduled for children, their parents and elders. The “Mission of the Month” schedule was provided to the Session by the Mission Team and the Worship Committee reported the scheduled events through Easter. The Worship events

included a Lenten Play “The Sobbing Stone” and having the sanctuary open for prayer on Good Friday.

An update from Mark Plunkett reflects that he is moving into “Candidacy” for the ministry.

The 2009 State of the Church Address included a vision for 2013 and confirmed the Spring Branch Presbyterian Academy as our primary local mission. The Worship Ministry Team, the Congregational Care Ministry Team, the Christian Education Ministry Team, Administration Ministry Team and the Mission Ministry Team all reported an active year in 2008.

In April, a mention was made of the “Swine Flu” occurring in Texas. Also, mention was made of the Angel Tree camping program at Cho Yeh.

At the May Session meeting, the Building Committee report included acting on the Building Contract from Fretz Construction Company. The motion was approved for the Trustees to sign the contract. A “Groundbreaking Ceremony” was set for Sunday, June 28, 2009, as a part of Worship. The Music Group of the Worship Team brought a motion to have a community “Messiah Sing a Long” on December 13 at the church. To pay for the costs of the musicians and publicity, there would be a “Dessert Theater” fund raiser in October. The motion passed. Another motion passed to encourage the Music Group to apply for grant money for their Messiah Sing a Long.

Further plans were made to provide a smooth transition to the new timeline for Ministry Teams. The goal for the new timeline is avoidance of the end of the year time crunch!

Our youth planned to attend a national PCUSA conference in July at Presbyterian College and planned a dinner and car wash to raise money for expenses.

Our Session Shepherding program continued with new lists provided by Congregational Care.

During the July Session Meeting a \$2000 scholarship was approved for Mark Plunkett for each semester in the coming year. Mark was accepted to Princeton Seminary. Also noted was the attendance of Laurey Murphy and Patty Blome with 12 youth at the Middle School Conference in SC in July and a Rally Day was planned for August 23.

Also in July, a report from the I Team as overseer and supporter of the Academy made several recommendations. The motion passed. Generally, the items made oversight more comprehensive with reviews and reports to Session.

Noted for the fall were the following Sunday School classes:

- Nursery – up to 2 yrs.
- Tiptoes – 2 ½ to kindergarten
- Footsteps – 1st through 5th grades
- Youth – 6th through 12th grades
- Adult classes: The Discovers, The Explorers, Saints Under Construction and the Wanderers

Worship on Wednesdays (W.O.W.) continued for the Academy with Laurey Murphy assisted by others. Patty Blome resigned in August to begin teaching in SBISD. In September, the Personnel Group brought a motion with a job description and request to being a search for Parish Associate. Motion was approved.

A website for the church is being worked on by the Communications team as well as a mass emailing list. Times are changing!

A Called Session Meeting on October 18 purpose was to hear a report from the Building Finance Committee to the effect that 79% of the pledges had been paid. Result of the updated information on costs from the Building Committee left no need for a loan to be procured. A report to the congregation was planned.

In October, the Building Committee brought motions to add various items to the soft costs of the building. These included paving some areas, alarm systems and a sound system for the sanctuary. Motions approved. October also saw a motion from the Personnel Committee to hire Rev Jim McLeod as Parish Associate with plans for him to work 20-25 hours a week with emphasis on pastoral care, older adult ministry, communication issues and some Sunday preaching. Motion passed.

The year ended with plans for the January Session to be a retreat to attend St. Luke's Presbyterian for the Presbyter's Church Officer Enrichment. The year active year 2009 ended with membership of 271.

The year 2010 started with wonderful request for baptisms of Luke Fuller and Joseph Vaden and two weddings of our own - Scott Lassiter and Kate Wright. Miriam Vyles was our Clerk of Session. The theme for the year is "Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide."

An open house for the new building was held on February 13!

A Motion was made and approved to accept the Building Use Policy, which was originally written around 2004. The keys to the church have been a problem because we didn't know who had them. New keys were put into place with very restricted

distribution. Some vacation changes were made to the Personnel policy and the sick leave policy was also adjusted.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 28 to report on the State of the church, the 2010 budget, review the Terms of Call for the Pastor and act on the Nominating committee report.

The Transition Timeline for Ministry Teams was passed to the Session and the Committees were asked to work together through June. A report on the conditions along the border with Mexico was received from Jim McLeod and it was decided that we would not sponsor a youth or adult trip to Mexico this year. We would continue to support CUPS for Missions monetarily. A trip to Israel in February 2011 with Laurey and Bob Murphy as leaders was announced, although it was not to be a church sponsored trip.

Rev. Dr. Laurey Murphy provided a written report to the Session on the Confirmation/Commissioning Journey for nine youth and plans were made for their support. Since there was no trip to Mexico for the youth, a High Island Mission Group service project was put in place with a July date. Barbara McClintic began a Ministry internship with the church in May. We continued our support of Mark Plunkett with scholarship funds from an anonymous donation and other donations from the congregation. In September, it was moved to take \$7,000 from the scholarship fund for Mark.

Session Meeting and Retreat was held November 20, 2010, and it centered on The Vision 2013 Review. The review contained a Foundation Statement: This is Spring Branch Presbyterian Church in 2013: A Fellowship of believers building relationships with God and each other. Our faith is grounded in Jesus Christ and the word of God – proclaimed, taught and lived. The areas of concern were Worship, Leadership, Servanthood, the Academy, Discipleship, Facilities and Small Group Ministries. Next steps and responsibilities were also reviewed. The review was to be continued at subsequent Session meetings.

Jim McLeod resigned effective November 30, 2010. We ended another active church year with 273 members.

The next year of 2011 began with Clerk of the Session Miriam Vyles recording the January Session Meeting with the reflections and discussion of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations – chapter 1. Rev. Murphy provided a Vision Update for Session concentration on: evaluating Ministry Teams, create and maintain a viable website, develop small group ministries, target more groups to use our facilities,

encourage leadership to bubble up from within the Ministry Teams, and identify steps toward evaluation of the Academy's program and structure.

The Gathering Place building was completed without debt.

The trip to the Holy Land was noted to be on for February 10-20 and the group would include 19 connected to SBPC. As noted, Laurey and Bob Murphy would be the group leaders.

We participated in a community Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter Sunrise Service in the Spring Valley Park. A Youth Conclave at Camp Cho Yeh February 25-27 was scheduled with 19 of our youth participating. The Mission team was busy visiting our benevolences, removing Cenikor as it is not a "faith-based" organization. The CUPS trip was planned for June 12-17. It was also noted that our Bell Choir was active!

February 2011 Session Minutes reflect continued study of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations with Chapter in review. Also, the Building Committee brought a proposal for the Audio-Visual Project for the Sanctuary, but it was decided more information on usage and more bids were needed.

It was noted that all teachers in the Academy would be required to take a Child Development Accreditation Class and health insurance is being offered to the Academy Teachers with half of the cost to be paid by the Academy.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 6, 2011, Rev. Laurey presented slides of the trip to Israel and a Jerusalem cross was presented to be placed in the Fellowship Hall. The Ministry teams brought reports and the pastor's terms of call and budget were presented.

The Session continued the study of the Fruitful Congregation with chapter 3 in the March meeting and the pastor presented the calendar dates through July. Then the Building Committee presented the proposal and explained the equipment that would be used to upgrade our system. The motion to accept the proposal with bid of \$61,121 passed along with a motion to spend up to \$4,000 on needed electrical work.

April continued the Session study by chapter of Fruitful Congregation. Plans to host Presbytery June 11 were begun. We also had our website up and running in April. It was noted the parking lot sharing with Memorial MRI is being worked out. The year continued with various needed physical items being taken care of and a Family Retreat at Mo Ranch was planned for March 2012. Plans were made and funds authorized to have the CUPS trip in the Valley – not Mexico – on June 3-8. Bill Bryant became our Clerk of Session, and we began looking for a full-time bookkeeper.

The church year continued with physical plant maintenance and planned a January Session meeting in part with the Presbytery's Officer Enrichment workshop. In December, a Called Session Meeting to vote on a revised set of By Laws for SBPC. The motion to accept the new By Laws was made and accepted with an exception to allow time for correction of any grammatical and/or title problems. Final review was to be at the February 2012 Session Meeting. Our year 2011 ended with membership at 270.

The year 2012 – our 60th year – began with Rev Laurey Murphy continuing as our pastor and Bill Bryant continuing as our Clerk of Session. The By Laws noted from last year were approved as a final copy in January. The new By Laws are included in the Session Minutes. Rev Murphy noted in February that a review of our church Child Protection Policy was needed, and a Task Group was selected with representatives from CE, Academy and Personnel. Also noted was a need to complete a review of the Church Sexual Misconduct Policy with the Task Group to conduct that review as well, reporting back May 22.

The use of an anonymous gift to the church was being reviewed along with the decisions about sale of the stock received. The total value of this gift was approximately \$428,800. It was decided to sell the stocks and put the money in an interest-bearing account. A discernment process was begun for use of the gift.

Study continued on New Form of Government. Patty Blome was hired as Contract Summer Youth Leader.

Security camera system was added with the Academy being asked to contribute as they could. Other funds would come from the anonymous gift.

A 60th Anniversary Task Force was organized with Sarah Dikeman as chairperson.

A joy of the church was celebrating the ordination and installation of our own Mark Plunkett at Heritage Presbyterian after an eleven-year journey.

Rev. Murphy provided a report on the 2012 Confirmation-Commissioning Journey of our six youth. Covenant Partners for each youth were volunteers in the church. Rev Murphy asked to attend General Assembly and time/expenses were approved. Plans for the Anniversary celebration were being put forth with the prior minister who would be invited.

The very active Mission Team was given approval to hold a "Dress a Girl Around the World," a Ministry Fair and an Academy Open House with dinner.

The 60th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration, Communion and Dedication was November 4, with pastors who returned for the celebration Jerry and Myra Rice, Newton Todd, Pat and Forrest Clark, Pat and Tom Ryan and Jim and Mary Ann McLeod.

The 60th year ended with 279 members.

The year 2013 began with a continuation of work initiated the prior year. A flow-chart for the Child Protection Policy was provided as the legal review of our policy continued. A community garage sale in our parking lot was scheduled for April and Life Line Screening was set for April 20. Both were open to the community. A leadership retreat was held at Camp Allen in April also. The Session reviewed a demographic report on zip codes 77055 and 77043.

After great effort, the Child Protection Policy and Sexual Misconduct Policies were presented to the Session and approved. Training for Church staff was begun in June and the Academy in August.

We hosted the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering with approximately 120-150 attendees. The labyrinth completed by Ethan Mitchell was dedicated on Easter Sunday. Rev Murphy was a Co-Director of the Youth Celebration June 21—28,

Motion made and approved to move \$100,000 to a restricted fund reserved for insurance deductibles. The job description for a Ministries Coordinator was presented and approved. The balance of the anonymous gift received the prior year was reserved for the Ministries Coordinator to be hired.

Our year 2013 ended with a reported membership of 267.

January 2014 began with Rev Laurey Murphy continuing as our Pastor and mid-year change to Gerald Fitts as Clerk of Session. Our Church Leadership Retreat was again held at Camp Allen in April. Our first hire for the Ministries Coordinator was newly graduated from Seminary, so the title was changed to a Designated Associate Pastor with the Presbytery's minimum standard of call. Presbytery's approval was received, and a call was extended to Kristi Click after approval in a Called Congregational Meeting. Kristi was installed September 14, 2014.

Membership remained at 267 at the close of 2014

The Session was notified in January 2015 of the death of Myra Rice, wife of former pastor Jerry Rice. Patty Blome was again to take a summer position as Children/Youth/College Students Coordinator. Our Designated Associate Pastor Kristi Click took a group of youth to Dallas to serve in Stewpot under the auspices of

First Presbyterian Dallas, where they participated in a number of ministries and social services.

A Task Group was formed to lead the congregation in programs, materials and other resources exploring issues of “Marriage in Today’s World.” Four of our youth were approved to be confirmed and commissioned. Speakers were then scheduled.

A report on the churches in the Presbytery of New Covenant stated there were 95 churches, with our membership putting us in the 18 churches with membership between 179 and 356.

Kristi Click got married and became Kristi Click Blankman!

An additional octave of bells was acquired for our Bell Choir. Support was approved to send Kristi Click Blankman with four youth to the 2016 Triennium at Purdue University. Larger contributions were noted from the Academy as their financial picture improved. We hosted the Presbytery Fall Youth Rally in October.

The church year 2015 ended with membership of 268.

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church year 2016 was eventful. The year began with Pastor Laurey Murphy and Gerald Fitts continuing as Clerk of Session and with Kristi Click Blankman as our Designated Associate Pastor. Noted was the passing of Ferrell Thorpe, believed to be the last of our original members.

Our youth were busy with Conclave at Cho-Yeh, Youth Sunday, Mo Ranch and Triennium, and Crop Walk.

The leadership again scheduled a retreat at Camp Allen at the end of April. Major change happening in April 2016 was the notice that Rev. Laurey Murphy was resigning to take a position at Johns Island Presbyterian Church in South Carolina. Her last Sunday to preach was May 15, Pentecost Sunday.

Patty Blome again agreed to be summer youth counselor and Rev. Kristin Galle became our Interim pastor in October.

And the work of the church continued! Bill Bryant became our clerk of Session during the year.

Approval from Presbytery to set up a Pastor Nominating Committee was received in December. Both Interim Pastor Kristin Galle and Designated Associate Pastor Kristi Blankman made end of year reports to the Session. The year 2016 concluded with 279 members.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held January 22, 2017, and the budget was presented and approved. Session minutes for January 24 reflect allocation of \$15,000 to the Pastor Nominating committee, \$40,000 for Marketing, Advertising and Growth Development, \$3000 for the website and \$5000 for the church audit. Staff in January 2017 consisted of Shelley Broussard, Jorida Vakiari, Gabriel Perez and Ean-Ju Lee.

At the February Session meeting, the Nominating Committee presented 8 names for the Pastor Nominating committee: Elizabeth Powell, Delia Nix, Matt Dikeman, David Fuller, Lisa Merritt Fake, Christopher Powell, Jessica Albert and Denise Wilborn. Their motion to call a Congregational Meeting on March 12 was approved.

A Session Retreat was set for May 6-7 at Camp Allen. Rev. Kristi attended APCE and provided a full report.

The Nominating Slate was approved at the Congregational Meeting on March 12, and the process to find a new minister was underway. Jan Fitts became Clerk of the Session.

Rev. Brent Hampton was the speaker at the Men's Retreat on May 20 and the title of his presentation was "What is Social Righteousness?" The Pastor Nominating committee presented the Ministry Information Form for Session review. It was approved with some revisions.

In June 2017, Designated Associate Pastor Kristi Click Blankman gave the church her notice that she was accepting a position with New Covenant Presbytery as Youth Ministry Coordinator. Her last day was August 6, 2017.

The Personnel Committee brought a motion to extend Rev. Kristin Galle's contract by 9 months and the motion passed. The Personnel Committee also recommends hiring a non-ordained person to replace Kristi Blankman, although the job description was still under construction. Shelly Broussard, the church secretary/receptionist, also resigned and Personnel was working to replace her.

A new hearing-impaired system was installed in the sanctuary and a permanent fence was installed between church property and the City of Spring Valley.

Messy Church was suggested by the Faith Development Team and the motion passed to move \$5700 from the Session Discretionary Fund for Messy Church. A motion to allow them to collect donations was also approved. Messy Church would be allowed to retain 80% of the donations and 20% would go to church designated missions. Idea Spring began and was approved by the church in approving speakers.

A revised Ministry Information form was approved, and in December we learned of the death of our loved former receptionist, Lavon Barnes. We saw more changes with church office staff with Ethan Mitchell filling in and Kat Dethloff working part time.

Our year 2017 concluded with 273 members.

Interim Pastor Kristin Galle started our year 2018 with a discussion on roles and characteristics of Christian Leadership – encouraging healthy behaviors and being called to be a “non-anxious presence” as leaders in the church. We also made some carpeting changes as we continue to maintain our church. Jan Fitts was our Clerk of Session.

Idea Spring and Messy Church were both moving forward, and we held our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 25, 2018, with reports from the Ministry Teams and the PNC, the Academy and the Pastor.

At the February Session Meeting, the Finance Committee made a motion to develop and implement a written Long Term Investment Plan and the motion was approved. In May, Rev Galle’s contract was extended for two months to end on July 6, 2018. The PNC was still some months from having a pastor ready to serve, so another interim was to be found.

Minutes in March note the hiring of Miguel Carlin as our Ministries Coordinator.

The Finance Group moved in August that a Capital Budget addressing facility maintenance related spending be established and that motion passed. Then in September, Dr. David Mason was approved to be our Interim Minister for 3 months.

Reviews of the Academy contribution for their share of expenses was completed. Also noted is that FairBees begin square dancing in the Gathering Place.

Then November 11, a Called Congregational Meeting elected Nominating committee members and approved a call for Pastor Kevin Russell Boyd!

Our organist/pianist Eanju Lee-Davis presented a piano concert November 18 with contributions to be taken to buy new Glory to God hymnals.

Pastor Boyd was in place for the December 4 Session Meeting, and it was decided to have his installation on January 12.

An eventful 2018 ended with 196 members after a roll cleaning.

The year 2019 began with a new pastor, Kevin Boyd, Jan Fitts as Clerk of the Session, and a Called Session Meeting for a presentation by Jake Wilson on Generational Giving.

A Women's Retreat was held in February and was led by Rev. Pat Clark. Rev Boyd started the year by wanting to establish a music group and by asked to take the staff on a retreat. The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 24, 2019, with reports from the Teams and approval of the budget.

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church move forward by decided to allow contributions to be made through PayPal, electronic bank transfers, plus checks and cash. A plan was accepted to have the Mission Yahweh volunteer appreciation dinner in our Gathering Place with no charge for the facility. Also approved was the use of the Gathering Place for Life Line Screening.

At some point during the year, Pianist Chip Colvin joined us and brought his great talent to our music.

August 17, 2019, CENTI Church let by Pastor Sebastian Lopez began meeting at the church on Saturdays.

Rev Pat Clark was approved to be invited to Wednesday Night supper September 18 to introduce her book, Feeling the Shift: Cancer, Faith and Kindergarten Art. We received a grant from Presbytery for participation in The Gathering Place program. The Session also approved a motion to allow the congregation to donate funds through SBPC for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for those affected by Hurricane Dorian.

The year 2019 ended with a Session Christmas Party December 27 at Kay Craig's house and our membership was recorded as 193.

The year the COVID 19 Pandemic hit the United States was 2020. Our year started without knowing what was coming and we planned a seminar on Aging, Elder Care and End of Life Issues to be presented by Baker Ripley, a non-profit. This was held on February 8 and well attended. We voted to allow AA to use the Parlor on Monday evenings and for the dates to continue our support of Blood Drives. An explosion rocked a part of Spring Branch, and we planned a music event to raise funds for support of those affected. A Session retreat was planned.

Then the February Session minutes had the first mention of Corona Virus, when the Slover's related how their granddaughter in Italy was affected. Plans continued for the Men's Retreat, VBS, Junior High Jubilee at Mo Ranch, the Annual Congregational

Meeting and hosting the March 2021 Presbytery meeting. Then came the “temporary” shut down of all activities.

The Academy had an Emergency Called Meeting on March 18 to address how the Academy should proceed regarding the COVID 19 virus, as the latest version of a “corona virus” came to be known. The decision was to follow the closing schedule of SBISD. Next was the regular Academy Board Meeting and another Emergency Called Meeting on April 6. The early stage of our realization of the many changes that were to come brought continuous meetings and conversations about how to proceed with least difficulty but greatest safety for staff, children and parents.

A draft was completed for the “Property Use Policy” for the church buildings and contents.

We did take advantage of the CARES Act Paycheck Program SBA Loan after Session approval. Session meetings continued via Zoom, one of the programs that would be a large part of our lives in coming months. Our Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for March 22 was changed to a “drive-in” service with the new pre-packaged communion cups to be used. New Elders and Academy Board Members were approved and installed. The Teams were tasked with working on a way to return to the Sanctuary for worship, but the work of the church and plans for the future continued, although all meetings were via Zoom. Those ill with COVID were being mentioned in the Church concerns.

Lighting in the parking lot was improved with the installation of LED lights and Pastor Kevin asked for volunteers to come sparsely populate the Sanctuary for the recording of the service. The inventive Fellowship Group found a way to continue Wednesday Night Suppers via “drive-throughs.”

We had continued hope that the COVID 19 Pandemic would soon be a thing of the past and we could return to “normal.” In the meantime, Session meetings as well as all other gatherings of the church continued by Zoom. Sunday morning worship was by re-broadcast at this point. The Worship Team met to discuss how to install and ordain new elders and how to serve communion. A morning drive-in service at 8:30 was decided as the best way to proceed. The decision was to have the new elders waive a white streamer to signify a yes answer to the questions. The congregation would have red streamers to waive in answer to their questions. Communion would use the all-in-one cup and wafer. After a short service, Pastor Kevin was to be at the exit in mask and gown to bless the people as they left.

The Academy continued adjusting to make the Academy safe for children and teachers.

Many options for various services and places were discussed. All activities that could not be changed to a safe format were cancelled. Presbytery meetings became electronic, but always with the hope that the “next” one would be in person.

The Leadership of the church was continuously seeking ways to adjust to what was required to be safe with hope that re-opening was just around the corner. In the meantime, Drive-In Worship and Wednesday Night Suppers continued whenever possible. Plans continued to be made for coming events, hoping all would be open by the time of the event. The Annual Congregational Meeting was moved from the previously scheduled date of March 22 to May 10 and was changed to a drive-in service.

A grant (\$1,000) was received from Presbytery to Elder Care and was used with the “Gathering Place” program.

Worship continued to be mainly by streaming with restrictions on how many could be seated and safety measures used.

By August 2020, the Academy was down to 93 children, with some classes with too few to be sustainable. Other changes included no longer providing lunches, consolidating classes and adjusting to the changes in the public schools which were also adjusting to a new situation. Many were a combination of in-person and virtual. Working from home for parents became much more common, which affected the need to send children to the Academy.

The Worship Team continued its work and voted to use money from their budget to complete the purchase of the Glory to God Hymnals.

Equipment was purchased to enable streaming of the Worship Service live from the Sanctuary.

A merger of Boy Scout Troops 652 and 478 brought adult leadership, 40+ Scouts and some equipment to our Scout Hut. They brought a fund of around \$3,000 and have a fundraiser each year that brings in around \$6,000. SBPC voted to dissolve our Scout Fund Designated Account and give the \$2,090 to the newly-merged Troop to be used as they make various improvements to the Scout Hut facility.

Toward the end of 2020, the Academy was moving toward financial stability with their numbers, and the SBPC was working out ways to have those who wished to worship in person able to do so. Meanwhile, the worship service was being streamed

live through Facebook. Session approved in-person worship in October with provisions for safety: Every other pew would be blocked, and families were encouraged to sit on either end of the pews. Masks were required, and a record of attendees was kept in case of a need for contact tracing. A signed release was required to attend in person. Cleaning and disinfecting of the church and Academy were also increased.

The Mission trip to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to help with their terrible hurricane damage was postponed to January 2021.

The first year of the COVID 19 Pandemic came to a close with an Advent unlike any other. The Christmas Eve service was in the parking lot with appropriately placed chairs. Our membership was recorded at 186.

Year TWO of the COVID 19 Pandemic continued with limited contact, Zoom meetings and restrictions. Discussions among SBPC groups continued regarding the possibility of any change to our worship and other gatherings. Wednesday Night Suppers were still offered by drive-through every two weeks and were very successful. There was no charge, but donations were accepted. Members who were helpers with The Gathering Place made goodie bags and delivered them to the care partners. The Hot Meals program continued throughout the pandemic and the meals plus the Advent boxes were happily received. Faith Development Team took time in January to review their past year and to make plans for Lent and the coming year.

The Academy had ended 2020 with enrollment of 119 and increased payroll as teachers worked to cover for those out with illness. They also reported that calls were coming in each day inquiring about enrollment.

Vaccine for COVID 19 was becoming available, bringing great hope for an end to the virus and a return to our former life.

Rev Boyd spoke to the Session at the January meeting about the House of Peace in Pakistan. A motion was made and approved for SBPC to support St Paul Presbyterian Church in Pakistan. CENTI church renewed its lease for another year.

Then in early February the temperatures in Texas started dropping and to complicate the usual effects of extremely low temperatures, we suffered rolling blackouts. The situation qualified as a true disaster.

Generally, we had settled into the handling of living in a Pandemic. The Academy had new hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Worship made plans for Lent with ashes to be given at WNS drive through and “Lent in a Sack.”

Major changes were made March 15 as the Session voted to resume all programs effective April, provided leaders/instructors are willing to lead the programs – and that masks are worn, and social/physical distancing measures are followed. It was also decided to discontinue the requirement that people register for in-person worship. A picnic was planned for May 23, as that provided the ability to distance.

Explorers Sunday School class discontinued the Zoom option. However, in the summer, a strictly Zoom class was started with the assistance of Carol Davis running the Zoom. Initially it was thought the Zoom Sunday School would be only a summer class. However, as time went on it became obvious that a small core group of members wanted a Sunday School class but either could not or did not wish to return to in-person classes. The Zoom class became permanent. Presbytery meetings continued virtually until July 2022.

Vaccinations were a major topic of conversation centering around availability and concerns about the vaccine themselves.

The Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services were planned for the parking lot with the ability to listen on the vehicle radio made available.

As the months went by, we gradually continued to reduce the restrictions and requirements for in-person gatherings.

The Academy enrollment had been steadily increasing and reached 142 by March.

In May, the Session voted to discontinue the requirement for masks for vaccinated individuals, but we would not be monitoring the vaccination status. Exciting news – a Hamburger Supper was planned for June 19 IN PERSON. The application for a grant from Presbytery for the Gathering Place indicated a plan to return to programs in August of 2021.

Vacation Bible School was set for July 13-16 and the choir was to start rehearsals again. Acolytes returned and pre-recorded music was phased out. The ushers began to take up donations, with only the ushers touching the plates.

The Mission Team put together “hurricane kits,” which were also shared with the Hot Meals recipients.

Wednesday Night Suppers were to return to the Fellowship Hall in September, but the drive-through dinners were planned to continue until October.

In August, the Academy Board decided to require all teachers be vaccinated by September 1, and it was then decided to open the Academy to parents, who had not been allowed in during the difficult days. Enrollment was at 180.

Rev Boyd reported to the Session in September that thanks to SBPC donations of \$9,000 and the \$3,000 in donations from a church in North Carolina, St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Pakistan could support the children's education at the orphanage.

Church offering counters were established with a pair of volunteers for each week of the month.

The Property Team reported that events were scheduled to be held in the Gathering Place, Fellowship Hall and Parking lot. Air purifiers were purchased for the church and a rat problem in the Sanctuary was addressed. The Session members continue to be shepherds to members of the congregation.

COVID 19 continued to be a presence in all facets of church and Academy life in 2022. However, the life of the church continues, and a totally new phone system for the church and Academy was being determined. The in-person Wednesday Night suppers did not resume until November 2021.

A celebratory lunch was planned for the staff and teachers at the Academy when we had 100% vaccination. The teachers were being encouraged to work toward certification in CDA – Child Development Association.

As another year came to a close, a men's retreat was held with 20 participants. A women's retreat was planned for January 2022. The Hanging of the Greens was scheduled for November 22 and the Advent Party was set for December 16. Seafarers' boxes were prepared and delivered, and we also had our traditional Angel Tree and PCHAS trees to give members a way to donate.

Membership was recorded as 186.

January 2022 started again with hopes for an end to the issues from the Pandemic. Elizabeth Powell continues as Clerk of the Session. The Session and other activities are generally in person, with individuals continuing to protect themselves as they determine appropriate. The church also faced a security problem with a threatening phone call received by the church office. Training for the church staff and members will be provided. Our phone system is being upgraded with financial input from the Academy. The Academy is doing well and the planning for a major playground revision is starting.

The 70th year of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church began as we continue to adjust to new versions of the COVID 19 virus. The year 2022 is also the 70th year of our Boy Scout Troop #478 and the 50th year of the Spring Branch Academy. The Platinum Jubilee Committee began to make plans!

The Property Committee is always active, and they have plans for roof work, some to be repaired and some to be replaced. The Academy continues to work on the safety of all with input from the Spring Valley Police, and retirement plan options are being explored.

In March, it was approved to remove the “barricade” tape from alternating pews, as there has been a decrease in the number of COVID cases. Worshipers are encouraged to sit wherever they are comfortable and to mask or not as they wish. The church continues to monitor the number and severity of cases.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in January 2022 remains an area of humanitarian concern as of this writing in August 2022. The Mission Team voted to send \$3,000 in humanitarian aid. Doctors Without Borders USA received \$1500 and the World Food Kitchen received \$1,500.

The Mission Budget was increased by \$15,000 for 2022. Upon notice of the wonderful news, the Mission Team approved a motion to increase current benevolences by \$5,000. After the Ukraine related donations and the benevolence increase, it was moved that \$1,000 of the remainder be put in a designated fund for support of Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops at SBPC. Then work began on ideas for the remaining \$6,000.

Another step in the return to pre-COVID was the return of the Ritual of Friendship pads to the Sanctuary.

The Academy will add STEM/STEAM weekly the summer of 2022 for 3s, 4s and 5s with daily during VBS and continues to provide quality care as a part of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church.

Our kitchen was being used by “Jessie’s Bites,” as we voted to support a new venture making dog treats. Jessie is a special needs young person, and Jessie’s Bites use of our kitchen would be temporary. A contract for landscaping was approved. The grounds were hard hit by two years of extreme cold and a drought in the summer of 2022. Reviews of security system changes for the church and Academy were continuing.

Plans for the 70th Platinum Jubilee are being put in place, with an exciting weekend of celebration November 5 and 6.

The JOURNEY OF FAITH at Spring Branch Presbyterian continues into its 8th decade, following in the footsteps of those who have come before and providing a foundation for the ones who come after.