

PARK STREET CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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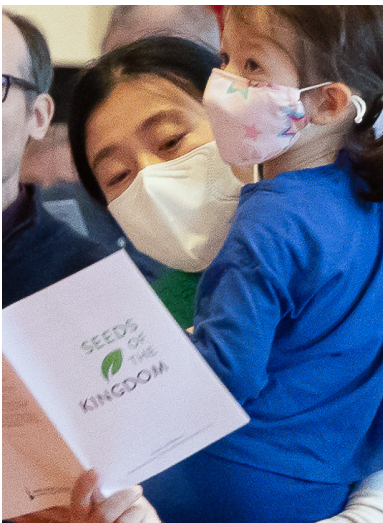
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MARK BOOKER

SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Park Street Church,

As we read in these pages of the many things that God has done in and through us this year, my hope is that we'll be drawn to our knees in thanksgiving to him. While from one perspective, the many acts of service and love recounted in this report are the result of the labors, efforts, and sacrifices of so many in our community, they are most fundamentally the work of the triune God. The intermingling of divine and human agency is often repeated in Scripture, but the accent always falls on divine agency. We see this in the well-known passage from the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2.12-13, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Or again from Paul in 1 Corinthians 15.9, "On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." And let's not forget the words of Jesus from John 15.6, "Apart from me you can do nothing." Many years ago, I heard advice given by an older minister that before he would head into the pulpit, he would remind himself, "Without Christ, nothing. With Christ, something." I try to remember this before walking to the pulpit at Park Street. Really, it would be helpful if we all said this before we did anything—for it is true!

We are routinely tempted to make ourselves too big and God too small. We are impressed with power, with wealth, with eloquence, with wit. God is not. In what, then, does God delight? Psalm 147.10-11 tells us, "His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." God takes pleasure in those who know they are weak before him, those who have no claim upon him, those whose hope is in his covenant love and not in their strength, money, or intelligence. And those kinds of people want to make God big and themselves small. John the Baptist sets a great example when he says in John 3.30: "He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease."

My prayer is that as we read these pages, Christ will increase in our minds and hearts. Look at what he has done through jars of clay like us! Even through some of the difficult situations we faced this year, Christ has been working and he is to be praised. The treasure is his. The strength is his. The glory is his. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 136.1).

The tagline we adopted in 2022 encourages us in this direction: "Jesus Above All." This informs our posture and our motivation. We want to decrease, and we want Jesus to increase—to be exalted above all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our city, and around the globe. Jesus is, in fact, above all, having been raised from the dead



Mark Booker teaching at a New Member's class in December.

and seated at the right hand of the Father, “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion” (Ephesians 1.21). And he is the hope of the world. “Jesus Above All” is the heart of God’s gospel and mission, and, as such, a worthy ethos for us to live into.

In addition to “Jesus Above All,” we also clarified our mission: “To make disciples who become like Jesus together.” This has been the mission of Park Street Church for over 200 years, but it’s helpful to articulate it succinctly. Everything we do contributes to this mission, and, importantly, it includes both leading people to Jesus (evangelism), and helping people grow in Christ from infancy to adulthood (discipleship).

There are two aspects of this mission statement I want to highlight. The first goal of a disciple is to become like Jesus. Jesus is the perfect human being, “Humanity 2.0,” and we are called to be like him, to be conformed to his image (Romans 8.29, among many other passages!). To become like Jesus is to glorify God and to become fully alive. The second goal of a disciple is that we pursue becoming like Jesus together. Making disciples is not a solo enterprise; it’s a community endeavor. It requires all of us using the gifts God has given for the building up of the church.

In 2022 we also clarified a method for how we think about growing in Christlikeness. We’ll explore this more in 2023 (especially

during Lent), but, in short, the method is that we grow more and more into Christlikeness as we faithfully grow in loving God, loving one another, loving our neighbors, and loving God’s word. This means deepening in the four central dimensions of the Christian life: worship, community, mission, and catechesis (an ancient—and good!—word meaning teaching or instruction). Having a shared conceptual framework for how we grow in Christ will be helpful as we pursue our mission together. Everything we do as a church—from corporate worship, to Bible translation, to bearing each other’s burdens—is connected to one or more of these four dimensions of the Christian life.

On top of the foundation of “Jesus Above All,” the mission, and the method, we began a process of clarifying our strategic focus for the coming few years. That process is continuing into 2023, and it’s great to be thinking intentionally with the ministers, directors, and elders—with helpful input from the congregation through a survey in October—about priorities for the coming years.

We maintained our renewed focus on hospitality and on strengthening community this year. Building on similar initiatives in the recent past, we introduced nine Regional Fellowships that encompass everyone in the community. These fellowships have the potential to increase our ability to live life together as the people of God by

helping us connect more meaningfully with those who live closest to us. Mandy and I have enjoyed hosting Regional Fellowships for dinners in our home since September, and this will continue through the middle of 2023. We finally (thanks to COVID) feel like we're getting a proper introduction to all of you, and we are grateful for these times together!

The word of God remains central to our life together, and in 2022 our preaching ministry included the following: a three-week series on hope entitled, "Overflow with Hope," a three-week series on money from Luke 12:13-34 called, "Rich Toward God," a Lenten series called, "A Healthy Community of Love," a summer series on Colossians entitled, "Walk in Him," a three-week series on Luke 15 entitled, "Finding the Lost," and a fall series on Leviticus entitled, "God With Us," with a focus on being holy, from Leviticus 18-20, during Advent. As we have seen, God's word speaks powerfully of Jesus—yes, even in Leviticus!—and encourages us in our Christian lives.

We walked through the difficult process of bringing to light allegations of spiritual abuse against one of our ministers, some of which were substantiated by an investigation by a third-party firm. This experience of grief and confusion reiterated that Jesus is above all—he serves as a model for us even amidst the most perplexing challenges and heartbreak. Jesus used his power and authority to serve, protect, and heal. Any use of power or authority that exploits the vulnerabilities of fellow human beings, especially in the church, is a distortion of the purposes for which this power and authority were entrusted to us by Jesus. We aim to prevent these abuses of power and authority in our midst, and to ensure that Park Street Church is a place where those who have been mistreated by others, whether through abuse or any kind of sin, are protected, defended, and healed. We have learned much and will continue to grow—but

even in this darkness, we have seen the light of Christ piercing through, leading us to a healthier, more honest, more vulnerable place as leaders and as a church.

We also took a significant step in engaging the challenging and divisive issues in our culture with a five-week Christian formation series in October called, "Faithfulness in a Time of Political Upheaval." We hope to continue addressing cultural issues, such as race and sexuality/gender, in the years to come. Learning to engage these challenging issues through the lens of Scripture and the gospel is an integral part of making disciples of Jesus who can live faithfully and bear witness to Jesus in our day. And let's remember, as we engage in more challenging topics, that in Christ we have nothing to fear!

In sum, we came out of pandemic mode in 2022 and reengaged with the full life and ministry of the church. As you read of the many ways that God has been working in and through us, may the words of Fanny Crosby's well-known hymn, written in 1875, be reverberating in your hearts: "To God be the glory, great things he hath done."

What a joy it is to share in this ministry together with all of you. I remain deeply encouraged by your earnest love of Jesus and am grateful to share in life with you. May Jesus be exalted above all as we move forward together.

In Christ,



Mark L. Booker
Senior Minister



Michael Balboni talking to congregants between services.

MICHAEL BALBONI

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Park Street's Associate Minister, Michael Balboni, oversees the Prayer Ministry, Pastoral Care, Christian Formation and the 4:00 pm Worship Service.

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Ministry provides a shepherding presence in the life of congregants. "There are natural transition points in life that people go through: having a baby, getting married, experiencing a death in the family, losing a job, having marriage problems—these moments are often opportunities to be near someone's soul and times when they're seeking a pastoral voice. It's a pastor's great honor and responsibility to be with someone during a vulnerable time," Michael says.

All Park Street ministers are involved in pastoral care through various ways and a "Minister on Call" system covers the day-to-day needs presented by walk-ins or people who call the church. Park Street's relationship with Harbor Christian Counseling supports congregants with more extensive counseling needs and the Wings Ministry coordinates assistance for the physical, material needs of congregants in difficult situations.

Other pastoral care approaches take the more specialized form of pastoral groups like DivorceCare, which offers support to those experiencing separation or divorce. This ongoing ministry, which is offered to the broader community, is an important entry point to the church for people going through a traumatic life transition. Other groups meet around the issues of sexual struggle, sexual orientation and gender identity, and infertility. "These supports help give spiritual encouragement and accompaniment amidst the struggle," Michael says.

Pastor Stuart DeLorme continues to lead the visitation ministry to shut-ins and the elderly to care for congregants at risk of becoming isolated. Worship services, led by a group of Park Streeters, have also taken place the North End Rehabilitation Center, including

a Thanksgiving service and a Christmas service (complete with a clarinet and guitar for worship and supplied with small gifts by WBS).

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Formation—an engagement of scripture and theology with a focus on life application and spiritual growth—has covered a range of subjects in 2022. Michael says, "This year we focused on providing punctuated seminars on important topics of spiritual and personal growth while also trying to cultivate a Christian worldview and way of thinking to help people approach difficult issues in our culture. We've been blessed by gifted teachers and have seen some growth of involvement this year." Some of the seminars this year have covered: Healing Prayer, Lenten Discipleship Institute: Healthy Communities of Love, Missions, Faithfulness in a Time of Political Upheaval, Prayer Course, Joy, and studies on Ezekiel, Acts and Ephesians.


PRAYER MINISTRY

All-Church Prayer events occur weekly, both in-person and over Zoom, and are devoted to praying for ministries of the church, people's specific needs and general cultural issues unfolding in the world. "These have been sweet times," Michael says, "And it's been good to find some semblance of a rhythm together as we learn to become the kind of people that go to God first." A strong prayer leadership team has bolstered this ministry which has emerged in recent years (though PSC did have weekly prayer meetings decades ago) as it has moved from monthly to weekly prayer meetings.

EVENING SUNDAY SERVICE

Congregants at the 4:00 pm service continue to enjoy worship led by the Sunday Night Band which is directed by Shannon Jacob. Second Sunday meals after the service have helped build community, and Christian Formation times have also reinforced community connections, particularly during the month of October when groups were arranged according to Regional Fellowships.





Enjoying the beach at
All-Church Camp in Maine.
Photo by Elizabeth Lohnes

ADAM HERNDON

FAMILY MINISTRY

Park Street's Family Ministry's mission of building Christian community in the lives of kids and families has a twofold approach: connecting with kids and teenagers to help them cultivate a heart for the Lord, while also encouraging and empowering parents to disciple their kids at home.

The Family Ministry staff includes Adam Herndon, the Minister to Families and Youth, Kristina Johnson, the Director of Children's Ministry, and Stephanie Verrengia, Nursery Director. They work together with several members of the congregation to bring the mission of the church to life. This mission was lived out in a wonderful diversity of ways this year. Regular ministry events included:

Weekly Youth Group Gatherings—Every Friday night, the youth group met at Park Street to play games, participate in student-led worship, open the scriptures together and share with and pray for one another in their small groups.

Friday Night Live—These once-a-month evenings minister to the whole family. They are a chance to build community among Park Street's kids while also providing a chance for parents to spend time together. Kids enjoy a fun night of eating pizza and playing games like Gaga ball, knockout, and tag. Their exuberant (and sometimes raucous) enthusiasm fills the hallways, stairwells, and elevators of the building as they bounce from one activity to the next. Friday Night Live is organized by the Family Ministry's staff and supported by their regular team of volunteers.

City-Wide—This initiative started last January and has been a special highlight of 2022 for Family Ministry. Youth from across the city's churches, high school campuses and ministries meet once a month for joint worship services which are hosted on a rotating basis by Park Street Church and Congregation Lion of Judah. These gatherings provide a pivotal opportunity for many of the youth to make connections with other Christians their age



*The annual soccer game at All-Church Camp.
Photo by Elizabeth Lohnes*

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...*THEY*
UNDERSTAND
THAT THEY’RE
NOT ALONE AS
CHRISTIANS...



Above: Adam Herndon, Minister to Families and Youth



in Boston as they hear from different youth workers and Christian leaders in their city. It is also part of an ongoing focus on establishing deeper ties with the broader Christian community in Boston, to strengthen and encourage youths' witness in the city. "It's been a long time since there's been any cross-network of churches and ministries doing something together to try to galvanize the youth of the city so they understand that they're not alone as Christians in their spaces and that there's a much larger community beyond them," Adam Herndon says.

Sunday Programs—A large amount of Family Ministry's programming takes place on Sundays when kids and youth meet in their respective age groups for **Sunday school, children's church, children's choir** and **nursery**. These programs focus on building knowledge of scripture in age-appropriate ways as well as helping kids cultivate a relationship with the Lord. The faithful service of adults as Sunday school teachers, nursery volunteers and children's church volunteers enable this formational time for our children.

Enable Boston—As people with disabilities and their families have continued to return to services at Park Street Church post-COVID, Enable Boston is working to build its volunteer team to offer ongoing support for spiritual growth. In the fall of 2022, Enable Boston

hosted a lunch welcoming a former volunteer with Park Street's Friendship Bible Study who is now a professor of theology and has written a book on disability and the practice of Christian community. Leslie Bodkin, the Director of Enable Boston, looks forward to the Park Street Church family continuing to learn and grow alongside brothers and sisters with disabilities in the year to come.

Some other events this year:

All-Church Camp—The annual expedition as a church to Camp Laurel South in Casco, Maine took place August 24–28 and was once again a time of rejuvenation, connection and worship in God's beautiful creation. Those who attended enjoyed swimming, rock climbing, soccer, tennis, basketball, tubing, crafting, kayaking, a dance party, s'mores, bonfires, daily devotional times and worship together. The retreat from the distractions of daily life in Boston created time for people to connect more deeply with God, their families and their church family as they gathered for this cherished, long-standing rhythm of the church's life together.

Couples Retreat—Couples traveled to the Linekin Bay Resort in beautiful Boothbay Harbor, Maine for a weekend in May to spend intentional time with one another as they focused on how joy is integral to strong marriages.



Debriefing around the campfire during the youth group's mission trip to Lewiston, Maine.

Youth Retreats—The youth escaped the city for two weekend retreats to Oceanwood Camp in Maine (spring) and Brookwoods Camp in New Hampshire (fall). In the spring, they dove into the story of the Good Samaritan, and in the fall they thought about what it looks like to cultivate a heart for Jesus.

Youth Missions Trip—This week-long trip to Lewiston, Maine over the summer was an incredible opportunity for several of our youth to serve refugee families and children, predominantly from the war-torn country of Somalia, through the ministry of the Root Cellar. The team began each day by opening the word and praying together, and then helped conduct a Bible-based summer camp program and English tutoring for adults. Each evening they processed the day, prayed, and enjoyed time with each other. The week culminated in a large picnic for the whole community.

Kidsweek—The annual Vacation Bible School week drew a crowd of children from Park Street and beyond. Several volunteers used their creative ingenuity to transform the church into a land of jungles and hidden caves, setting the stage for the “Treasured” theme. Kidsweek helps kids experience God through singing, tasting, hearing, acting and seeing. As the kids participated in large group singing with a live band, immersive Bible story experiences, large group games, missions discussions, crafts and snacks, they learned that they are God’s greatest treasure. The tweens broke away for

an adventure-filled field trip to Tree Top Adventures (a zipline and high ropes course) and the Pirate Museum. The week culminated in a family picnic and scavenger hunt through Boston Common. The Family Ministry team was grateful for the many volunteers, including several Park Street youth, who contributed to making this a great week.

*Right: Singing songs in the sanctuary at Kidsweek Vacation Bible School
Photo by Jessica Herndon*





“I FELT HA
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PROBABLY
HAVE KEP

JULIA HUTTER, *AGE 7, WHEN ASKED
ABOUT THE ALL-CHURCH DANCE PARTY*

HAPPY AND
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END. I
COULD
GOING!”

*Dancing with glow sticks to music by DJ Dave
Murgatroyd at the All-Church Camp dance party.
Photo by Elizabeth Lohnes*



*Damian Long, Minister of Small Groups and Café has a conversation at All-Church Camp
Photo by Elizabeth Lohnes*

DAMIAN LONG SMALL GROUPS

This year Park Streeters have shown considerable interest in connecting with small groups as way of finding community and fellowship in the larger Boston area, and the Small Groups Ministry has risen to the challenge by launching new small groups to accommodate this need. Damian Long, Minister of Small Groups and Young Adults, has implemented a new approach for this—a small group incubator, of sorts—which encourages, trains and resources leaders, to give them a strong foundation before sending them out to lead others. In this model, future small group leaders journey together for eight weeks in their own small group, embodying a vision of what a healthy group looks like by (among other things) learning to share their stories and listen well. “Thankfully, we have seen leaders blossom under this model,” says Damian, “and we plan to continue doing it in the future.”

This fall the Small Groups Ministry also organized several Onboarding Dinners in Regional Fellowships around the metro area, which enabled people to connect with those in the congregation living near them. These encouraging times underscored a current hunger in the church for identifying fellow Park Street neighbors and seeded a future vision for more community-building through dinners and listening to one another’s stories. Last spring, the “Small Groups Assessment Tool” was also created and launched by Damian as a supportive trellis to help existing small groups identify areas of both strength and potential growth. Two of these areas—growing in prayer and growing in mission—are future focuses for the ministry as they try to help groups move toward richer engagement together. In the coming year Damian hopes to continue creating pathways for current small groups to go deeper while also broadening accessibility for those interested in joining new small groups.

A photograph of a man sitting in a blue Adirondack chair on a sandy beach. He is seen from behind, looking out at a body of water. He has his hand on his head and is wearing a watch. In the background, there is a wooden pier and some boats on the water.

& CAFÉ

The Café ministry offers pastoral care, encouragement and discipleship to young adults (ranging from people just out of college to those in their early forties). Two distinct groups meet weekly: a Café 20s & 30s, and Café Early 20s. Both groups share a meal, worship as a large group, and then break into small groups. This year, Damian Long, Minister to Small Groups and Young Adults, led a retreat with Café-ers which focused on developing a shared vision for the ministry, having conversations about needs and dreams, and fostering ownership in shepherding within the group. A joint retreat with PSIF (Park Street International Fellowship) focused on restful rhythms of union and communion with Christ which shape how one lives in a community. “What has emerged this year is a healthy leadership structure within Café,” Damian says. “This group really does journey well together. When one member gets sick, the whole ministry is swirling around figuring out how to hold and encourage that member.”

“We’ve also been doing things to engage more missionally, which is a highlight this year,” says Damian. The group has served as an Afghan New Neighbor team, offering practical support and encouragement for a newly arrived neighbor. Damian says that experiencing life with their new neighbor has been a blessing to the team. “This young woman visited Park Street during the Global Missions Conference and shared her story with us, and we were able to pray for her afterward. It was such a participatory moment of love and mission,” Damian said. Many members of Café also joined Damian and his wife Grace on a short-term mission trip to Central Asia where they ministered to refugees and learned from local believers who endure daily persecution for being Christian. As another way of living missionally in their community, several Café-ers invited their nonbelieving friends to Alpha groups, following up with them afterwards to continue sharing about Christ.

NATHAN SKINNER

MUSIC

Nathan Skinner, Director of Music, says that the Lessons and Carols service in December demonstrated the full recovery of the choir, orchestra, and congregation since the pandemic—a welcome demarcation in his mind after the upheaval of the past few years. The effects of COVID on the Music Ministry haven't been wholly negative though; in some ways they helped to reorganize and focus it. A reduced choir rehearsal schedule borne out of the necessity of the pandemic revealed the benefits of having fewer, more focused rehearsals, especially for members who didn't have the time or ability to travel into the city twice a week. The choir now practices twice a month on Thursday evenings and an hour before the service. This change meant the choir has less downtime during rehearsals to hang out with one another, so monthly meals after the service have provided intentional space for building fellowship.

Perhaps the most marked change in the past year is the Sanctuary Choir's current presence at the 11:00 am service only. This strategic decision has two purposes. It has allowed the choir to welcome a number of new members (including those with young children) who could not have accommodated the old schedule in which choir members arrived at 7:45 am and sang both services. It has also meant that the choir is present throughout the entirety of the 11:00 am service (which has the highest attendance), lending more flexibility to what the Music Ministry can do in that service. This has, of course, left an absence in the 8:30 am service, for which the Music Ministry continues to consider options.

Orchestra and brass accompanied the worship on holy days in the church year (Holy Week, Easter, Eastertide, Advent, and Christmas). The Sunday Night Band also gave a concert in November which was a celebration of contemporary Christian music, ranging from pop, rock and bluegrass to gospel music. The Boston College Voices of Imani Gospel Choir also participated in the concert, and it was an evening of joyful music and worship.

In January of 2022, Park Street hosted a professional development time for a small men's fellowship of full-time musicians in like-minded churches. The group meets annually for encouragement, inspiration and counsel. Thanks to the assistance of a gracious Park Streeter, the sixteen musicians stayed at the Union Club (next door to Park Street), while enjoying tours of Park Street's organ as well as several of the most notable organs in Boston.

Dan Schmunk serves as the Director of Choral Music, and Shannon Jacob serves as the Director of the Sunday Night Band. Christine Vasko (volunteer) leads the Children's Choir, which resumed this fall after a two and a half year hiatus. Jenn Schmunk assists in varied organizational and administrative projects for the ministry.

Right: Peter Chew plays viola at Lessons & Carols







WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

NEWCOMERS MINISTRY

The Newcomers Ministry welcomed 117 newcomers this year. After filling out a Connect Card, interested newcomers receive an invitation to a Newcomers lunch where they share a meal and engage with Park Street congregants, ministers and elders. Senior Minister, Mark Booker, offers a short introduction to the church as well as some ways newcomers can connect more deeply with the community. The ministry has shifted this year from dinners at the Bookers' home to lunches at church after the 11:00 am service to allow room for Mark and Mandy to host Regional Fellowship dinners in their home. The ministry is led by Sarah Richey and Anna Koon and a team of volunteers who help prepare the meal and are at the lunch to welcome the newcomers.

WELCOME MINISTRY

The Welcome Ministry, coordinated by Ministries Administrator, Randall Wetzig, provides a welcoming presence at both entry points to the church (the front doors and the Ockenga Lobby doors) before each worship service. In addition to welcoming, greeters help anyone needing assistance as they arrive, serve as a source of information on Sunday mornings,

and connect with new visitors. Several new members of the church have joined the ranks with other long-time members who have served as faithful greeters for years, creating a wonderfully mixed team. Randall says the Welcome Ministry is undergirded by the words of Romans 15:7, "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

The Hospitality Ministry's goal is to provide a warm and hospitable space after each service so congregants can connect with one another and show each other the love of Jesus. This year has seen the continuation of the popular Second Sunday Meals, most of which were prepared by Patrick Lynch and Fred Withee. This fall, the church also gave a hearty thank you to Ruth and Joel Luna who stepped away after faithfully coordinating and serving an elaborate coffee hour for many years. The congregation was deeply blessed by their ministry. Randall Wetzig, who coordinates the ministry as well says, "I have been encouraged to see the connections and friendships people have made during coffee hour and Second Sunday Meals. It's wonderful to see people from all different backgrounds getting to know each other over lunch or coffee." He also notes that he hopes to see a growth in the amount



CHRIS MAY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry's mission is to draw women to dwell in Christ and from that place of security to do the works that have been planned for them since before time began. Chris May, Minister to Women, says, "I long for women to ask, from a place of security, 'What are you calling me to do Lord?' And then to answer that call, not out of fear, shame or duty, but because something has bubbled up inside of them. It's come from God and it's on their hearts to serve the church in that way. There is no woman who's not useful to the church and the wider Kingdom of Christ, and I want each woman at Park Street to know that."

Over the past five years, Chris has worked with the Women's Ministry leadership team to practice prayer and group discernment as a foundation for setting the ministry's goals each year. In 2022, they made a particular point of partnering with other ministries like Family Ministry and Missions to provide support to their events. They also hosted summer gatherings in conjunction with Enable Boston to share a meal and discuss a talk on the connection between suffering, joy and hope. Their several, intergenerational women's Bible studies and book clubs have continued to meet regularly, and women have also gathered for regular fellowship walks, and "Quiet Mornings," which are guided times of silence with God's word. Chris, along with her husband Doug, led an Alpha Marriage Course that they hope to repeat in the future. Chris also partnered with Family Ministry to lead a spring marriage retreat in Maine that helped couples foster connection through joy.



Elder Leslie Liu greeting on Sunday morning.

of people serving in the ministry in the next year, as it moves from a model that depends on the effort of a few to one that offers abundant hospitality from many. "Hospitality is in many ways the perfect opportunity for people looking for a first step to serve the church. It's also a great way to build relationships among your serving team," Randall says.

JULIAN L.

MISSIONS

Above: Congregants worship on Sunday morning during the "Seeds of the Kingdom" Global Missions Conference.

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Missions at Park Street Church continues to embody several dimensions of care for the outside world, both locally and globally. Julian L, our Minister of Missions sees this two-pronged calling of the church (local and global) as a mutually edifying endeavor. “We are all together on mission and our goal is finding creative ways of strengthening and deepening that as the body of Christ. Some of us are on mission in Boston, caring for the poor through the Home at Park Street ministry or sharing the gospel with students on campuses. Others are working on Bible translations for unreached people groups in distant parts of the world. There are those in our congregation who are part of Missionary Care Teams that support our global missionaries through prayer and practical care. Dozens of congregants participate in Park Street’s short-term mission trips, which we believe enables them upon their return to pray more intelligently about the world, think more deeply about suffering or justice, and serve and give in new ways to the church. In all of this we are working together as a church to make disciples. As one Christian leader recently observed, our message must be apostolic, but its power must be mediated by our life together as an apostolic community.”

GLOBALLY

On the global side, Park Street Church supports 30 missionaries and their 20 children across twelve countries. To better grasp the substantial network of Park Street’s global work, it’s helpful to view it through the framework of the Five Priorities that the Missions Committee identified in recent years. These priorities grew from a foundation of prayer and were established as a means for funneling momentum toward deeper, more effective work in fewer places. They include (1) unreached people groups, (2) Christian movements in the Muslim world, (3) Bible translation, (4) the growth of the majority world church, and (5) international students in Boston.

1. Unreached People Groups – Of 17,017 ethnic groups in the world, 7,087 (that’s 42%) remain unreached with the gospel. Eighty-six percent of all Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists do not know Christ. This least-reached area of the world is often called the “10/40 window” (which refers to the 10°N to 40°N latitude and constitutes countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia). The majority of our missionaries serve in these predominantly Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist countries.

2. Christian Movements in the Muslim World – Recent studies have shown that more people in the Muslim world have come to Christ

in the past thirty years than in the previous 1,200 years. Believers are multiplying even as they endure the steep consequences which turning to Christ can cause, including exclusion, excommunication, the threat of physical harm and the loss of life. Our missionaries in these areas work in outreach and apologetics, disciple-making, and family ministries to join God where he is already clearly working as they share the gospel and support and equip local believers.

3. Bible Translation – Of the 6,909 distinct languages in the world, 2,184 still don't have access to Scripture. Our missionaries work with Bible translation organizations as translators, educators, literacy experts, social workers, and IT specialists to serve the overall goals of scripture engagement. Getting the Bible into the hands of the people in their native languages is a strong step in seeing the Church established among languages and cultures where Christ is not yet known.

4. Growth of the Majority World Church The “majority world” refers to the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where the majority of all Christians now live. As the epicenter of the Church moves toward this part of the world, our relationship will shift from being primarily a sending community to becoming more of a partner in the evangelistic work of God. Our missionaries in these areas focus on theological education for church leaders, prison ministry, missionary training, and leadership development.

5. International Students in Boston The world arrives on Boston's doorstep every year in the form of over 47,000 international students studying at area schools. Often, these students arrive from countries where there are few Christians, or where Christians endure harassment and persecution. While here, international

students can hear the gospel, and be disciplined and equipped to return to their countries, where access to their cultures, languages and communities make them incredibly effective witnesses for Christ.

LOCALLY

In Boston, the primary thrusts of mission continue in **College Ministry** through Park Street's support of 28 campus ministers on different campuses throughout the city in collaboration with Cru and InterVarsity (most of those campus ministers are members of Park Street); its support of the **Wilson House** (which houses volunteers helping in campus or church ministry); the flourishing **ESL Program** and **Park Street International Fellowship (PSIF)**; the **Van Baay House** (a ministry to international students); the **Woman's Benevolent Society (WBS)** (one of PSC's longest running mission organizations which provides practical and prayer support for missionaries); and **City Engagement** initiatives like **Home at Park Street ministry** (which serves our unhoused neighbors) and the **ministry to New Afghan Neighbors** (which cares for several recently arrived immigrant families). For expanded updates on each of these ministries, please continue to p. 28.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An encouraging collaboration has emerged this year between ESL and PSIF as they enjoyed relationally oriented outings (such as rock climbing, apple picking, ice skating) together which have helped create and strengthen an overlapping community.
- The Home at Park Street ministry has grown to nearly 110–160 guests per week on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings and has expanded its clothing pantry to serve guests in need. The ethos of mutual blessing permeates



Above: Nicole Woodside and other volunteers prepare a meal for Home at Park Street guests in the kitchen of the Fellowship Hall.

Left: The Missions staff and interns. From right to left, beginning in the top row: Maria Harmon, Julian L, David Heckendorn, Yermek Rayev, Roselle Heckendorn, Karen Patschke, Carol Scott, Andrea Zvara, Tammy McCleod, Ray Kam, Ana Yee-Jones.



Above: Park Street missionaries and their children at their retreat in July.

the Fellowship Hall as unhoused guests and volunteer hosts prepare, cook, serve meals, talk and pray together.

- After two years of COVID restrictions and closed borders, many of our missionary families were finally able to take long-awaited furloughs. In July, seven missionary families and our missions staff gathered for a relaxing retreat in New Hampshire, resulting in an enormously encouraging time of connection.
- In November the Global Missions Conference's theme "Seeds of the Kingdom" coalesced into a natural connection with better understanding the "hard soil" of places like Afghanistan and the Middle East. These are not easy places to live or share the gospel and yet the conference highlighted how God is still calling, equipping, and sending people into these countries.
- In August Park Street sent out its newest missionaries, Greg and Amy V., as members of Wycliffe Bible Translators. This deeply loved couple who has been a part of the Park Street community for many years is a perfect demonstration of what it looks like to send our own people on mission.
- New Neighbor Teams, which united around supporting seven Afghan families during the past year and a half, have demonstrated an incredible level of support and quiet sacrifice as they have helped with job and apartment searches, medical appointments, immigration legal work, and asylum interviews and documentation. Nearly 30 of our new Afghan neighbors gathered for a retreat in New Hampshire in the fall, in the same place where they arrived during their first weeks in New England.

	2023 Proposed Breakdown	2023 Proposed Budget	2023 vs. 2022 Budget	2023 vs. 2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 vs. 2022 Budget vs. Actual	2023 vs. 2022 Budget vs. Actual
CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCOME	% Share	Amount	% Change	\$ Change	Amount	Amount	% Change	\$ Change
Offerings and Collections	91.3%	\$1,941,322	6.4%	\$116,467	\$1,675,438	\$1,824,855	15.9%	\$265,883
Investment Income & Interest	7.7%	163,000	1.9%	3,000	160,000	160,000	1.9%	3,000
Other Missions Income	1.0%	21,000	-32.3%	(10,000)	16,966	31,000	23.8%	4,034
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCOME	100.0%	2,125,322	5.4%	109,467	1,852,404	2,015,855	14.7%	272,917
SUPPORT AND EXPENSES								
Missionary Support								
Staff Missionaries	37.3%	793,679	12.1%	85,457	687,303	708,221	15.5%	106,375
Staff Missionary Associates	4.9%	103,857	36.7%	27,871	86,670	75,986	19.8%	17,187
Partner Missionaries	1.7%	36,000	0.0%	-	36,000	36,000	0.0%	-
Mid-term Missionaries	0.0%	-	-100.0%	(7,500)	12,911	7,500	-100.0%	(12,911)
Retired Missionaries	3.9%	83,387	0.0%	-	83,387	83,387	0.0%	-
Subtotal	47.8%	1,016,922	11.6%	105,828	906,271	911,094	12.2%	110,652
General Missionary Support								
Missionary Visitation and Care	0.7%	15,000	0.0%	-	13,531	15,000	10.9%	1,469
Missionary Furlough	0.6%	12,977	0.0%	-	8,440	12,977	53.8%	4,537
Missionary Prospecting	0.0%	1,000	0.0%	-	275	1,000	263.6%	725
Subtotal	1.4%	28,977	0.0%	-	22,246	28,977	30.3%	6,730
International Student Outreach								
PSIF and ESL Program Expenses	2.3%	47,900	18.3%	7,400	48,620	40,500	-1.5%	(720)
Subtotal	2.3%	47,900	18.3%	7,400	48,620	40,500	-1.5%	(720)
Campus Outreach								
Longwood Christian Comm. Church (BHF)	1.1%	24,000	0.0%	-	24,000	24,000	0.0%	-
Real Life - Cru	2.2%	47,100	0.0%	-	47,100	47,100	0.0%	-
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship	1.4%	30,000	0.0%	-	29,744	30,000	0.9%	256
Support for Local Campus Ministers	1.7%	35,400	-5.2%	(1,950)	35,341	37,350	0.2%	59
Subtotal	6.4%	136,500	-1.4%	(1,950)	136,186	138,450	0.2%	314
City Engagement								
City Engagement / Home Outreach	2.4%	50,000	-3.8%	(2,000)	176	52,000	NMF	49,825
Other Local Ministries	1.2%	25,000	0.0%	-	22,153	25,000	12.9%	2,847
Subtotal	3.5%	75,000	-2.6%	(2,000)	22,328	77,000	235.9%	52,672
Partnerships and Projects								
Other Projects and Partnerships	0.0%	-			-	-		
One-Time Special Projects	1.2%	25,000	0.0%	-	-	25,000	NMF	25,000
Partnership Development by PSC Staff	0.2%	4,000	0.0%	-	-	4,000	NMF	4,000
Subtotal	1.4%	29,000	0.0%	-	-	29,000	NMF	29,000
Missions Conference and Programs								
Food/Service Receptions	0.2%	4,000	0.0%	-	3,217	4,000	24.3%	783
Education, Guest Speakers, Misc. Pgms.	0.5%	10,500	0.0%	-	10,825	10,500	-3.0%	(325)
Missions Intern	0.1%	3,000	0.0%	-	1,500	3,000	100.0%	1,500
Short-Term Missions Conferences/Pgms.	0.0%	1,000	0.0%	-	188	1,000	430.6%	812
Annual Leadership Conferences	0.1%	3,000	0.0%	-	3,222	3,000	-6.9%	(222)
URBANA Conference Scholarships	0.0%	-	-100.0%	(5,000)	3,927	5,000	-100.0%	(3,927)
Missions Conference	0.9%	20,000	100.0%	10,000	23,724	10,000	-15.7%	(3,724)
Subtotal	2.0%	41,500	13.7%	5,000	46,604	36,500	-11.0%	(5,104)
Staff Salaries/Benefits and Administration								
Missions Salaries and Benefits	28.4%	602,605	-2.8%	(17,520)	509,009	620,125	18.4%	93,596
Support Staff Salaries and Benefits	5.8%	123,976	11.4%	12,709	118,109	111,267	5.0%	5,867
Administration Expenses	1.1%	22,942	0.0%	-	25,740	22,942	-10.9%	(2,798)
Subtotal	35.3%	749,523	-0.6%	(4,811)	652,858	754,334	14.8%	96,665
TOTAL SUPPORT AND EXPENSES	100.0%	\$2,125,322	5.4%	\$109,467	\$1,835,113	\$2,015,855	15.8%	\$290,209
NET SURPLUS		\$0			\$17,291	\$0		

CITY ENGAGEMENT

The majority of the City Engagement energy this past year has been channeled in two directions: the Ministry to New Afghan Neighbors and the Home at Park Street ministry. Simon Fowler took over coordination of the Ministry to New Afghan Neighbors this April while Earle and Maria Harmon have assumed leadership of Home, along with Simon. Despite leadership transitions, both these ministries have continued to flourish in the past year.

From the fall of 2021, the New Afghan Neighbors Ministry received and supported 30 individuals (across seven family units) who were forcibly displaced from their homes in Afghanistan. Six geographically-based teams, each composed of several Park Streeters and members of other area churches, have worked diligently in distinct roles to help these families find and navigate jobs, housing,

education, healthcare, financial services and basic necessities. Prayer teams around each of the families, and for the ministry as a whole, meet throughout the week to blanket the work in prayer. Members who took on “Wayfinder” roles have walked alongside the families (both literally and metaphorically), helping them navigate the new systems that comprise their lives in Boston, building deeper relationships with them and helping them contend with challenges and the ongoing effects of trauma and family separation. A community among the neighbors themselves, and other Afghan diaspora, has been growing as well—gathering monthly at the church to share a meal and spend time together and enjoying a fall retreat that was hosted by Park Street.

“Our teams have been privileged to witness up close how our Afghan neighbors have persevered through incredible hardship,” said Simon. “And I’ve seen them wrestle deeply in prayer and fellowship about



A summer gathering of the Arlington-Winchester New Neighbor team.



Fred Withee hugs Mama Ling after cooking a meal they serve to Home guests.

how to develop a Christ-like posture toward our neighbors, in all things bearing witness through word, deed and prayer, to Jesus Christ, not ourselves, as the source and goal of hope. These teams are all doing things they've never done before, and they've had to lean on each other and lean on Christ as they remember God's love for the families and for them. It's been a real expression of the body of Christ acting in love and mercy."

Designed as a three-phase plan to "Embrace," "Educate," and "Establish," questions about what it means exactly for these families to be "established" loom in the foreground: an individualistic US culture; differences in cultural and religious practice; language barriers preventing them from matching their previous educational or professional levels; ongoing separation from wives, children, siblings and parents, some of whom live in great danger; US government laws; worsening conditions back home—all these make being 'established' a long, difficult, discovery process. Simon asks for prayer for all this, and for the Holy Spirit to guide, empower and give wisdom to the teams as they fulfill the law of Christ.

Over the past year, the Home at Park Street ministry has opened the doors to Park Street's Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings to provide a safe, hospitable haven for 110–160 houseless guests a week. As its attendance has burgeoned, God has also been steadily increasing the number of volunteers who serve as hosts. Home is focused on radical welcome—making it a place where people who are experiencing significant hardship can find and build connections. "Many of our guests face challenges which can be so serious and immense, yet it's beautiful to be with them in the middle of it and see God moving there," Earle Harmon says. "We build friendships. We share the scriptures and pray together. We invite them into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Materially, we focus on providing a warm, quiet, welcoming space, a good meal, and essential things like clothing and toiletries. And we also try to help people learn about and get connected to other valuable resources in the city."

"Home isn't just for the guests—it's a place where we encourage believers to explore an element of their faith that was a special part of Jesus's ministry and teaching: caring for people in need," Earle says. "Guests and volunteers alike are more conformed to the image of Jesus as we serve, fellowship and come to God's word together."



COLLEGE MINISTRY

Park Street's College Ministry partners with Cru to work with 600 students on 22 campuses. Twelve Cru college ministers attend Park Street, including Pebble and Todd Williams, Brian and Malissa Ellis, Patty Derry, Renée Buck, and Pat and Tammy McLeod (Tammy is the Director of College Student Ministry at Park Street). Throughout the year, Park Street hosts meals for college students after the 11:00 am service, and socials and outreaches at the Wilson House (Park Street's college ministry house where recent graduates live and contribute to college ministry). College ministers also host dinners, teach Bible studies, run discipleship groups and hold outreach

events across several campuses. This year, over 300 students attended a fall retreat at Lake Winnepesaukee where several came to know Jesus and others grew in their faith and learned how to be involved in mission. Over winter break, teams of students led by Cru staff went on short-term mission trips to South Africa (to help tutor high school students) and the Middle East (to do campus evangelism).

Tammy McLeod says, "We had 55 students attend our most recent Christmas party outreach. The cool thing was that half the people there were Christians and half were not, because a lot of our students invited their non-Christian friends. We've been focusing on teaching our students about "body life evangelism" which is the practice

of inviting the people around you into the life of your Christian community so they can see people loving each other and they can experience that love for themselves. They're invited to watch the life of the community and that becomes a picture of what Jesus's love looks like." Tammy lights up when she talks about how she was able to share about Christ with three students at the Christmas party who found the event on Instagram. "I went over to welcome these three students who had showed up out the blue, and almost right away one of them asked me, 'What's your story?' I couldn't believe it. They had basically asked me for my testimony! So I was able to very briefly share my story with the gospel mixed into it."



College photos: (Left) Students attend a fall retreat, (Upper middle) Students at an on-campus ministry event, (Upper right) Residents from the Wilson House gather for dinner, (Lower middle) Students at the Christmas party outreach, (Lower right) Students play tug-of-war at the fall retreat.

GRADUATE STUDENT MINISTRY

The Graduate Student Ministry, in partnership with InterVarsity on campuses, seeks to love grad students in Jesus, those who know him now and those who are learning about him. It aims to develop student leaders with the hope that they will go on to bless their churches, families, workplaces and communities.

Tim Leary, Director of Grad Student Ministries, says, “A large part of what we do is befriending students so that they keep wanting to hang out and over time they fall in love with Jesus. In between the weekly Bible studies and homemade dinners, we do fun things like pizza parties and Red Sox games. We have a lot of tea and coffee follow-ups, and we invite alumni back to share with our current students about what they’re doing now with the hope of giving our students a vision of how they could go on and bless their own communities after they leave grad school.”



The grad ministry is back to nearly the same size as before COVID. In addition to Tim Leary, Michael Greene helps with Christian Fellowships at Harvard Public Health and Northeastern, David Heckendorn (Director of Van Baay International Student Ministry House) does outreach at Harvard to international students, and Jeff Potts focuses on Harvard and BU international students. Michael, David and Jeff all worship at Park Street.

“
...THAT
BECOMES
A PICTURE
OF WHAT
JESUS’S LOVE
LOOKS LIKE.

RAYMOND KAM

PARK STREET INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

PSIF is a fellowship for people from other countries to grow in Christ. Internationals share lunch (which each small group takes turn cooking for the larger fellowship), and then have worship and a short time of teaching before breaking into smaller, Bible study groups. Raymond Kam, Minister to Internationals, says that PSIF is focused primarily on discipleship. Every two weeks he and his wife, Janice, host a team of PSIF leaders in their home for a meal, prayer and a time of preparing Bible passages. Ray reports that over the past year, PSIF has experienced expanding diversity with an influx of participants from South Asia as well as from South and Central America. International participants in Sunday Alpha courses conducted by Roselle and David Heckendorn, Directors of the Van Baay House, have joined with PSIF for lunch before breaking off into their study group.

PSIF has also reorganized itself over the past few years, to incorporate more ESL students into its events. During the height of COVID, some ESL students expressed their growing sense of isolation, so Ray began to offer invitations for social outings with people from PSIF. What began with monthly rock climbing outings to the gym grew into regular social events throughout the year: bike trips, cross country skiing, trips to

Boda Borg and the Head of the Charles, sushi-making parties, and trips to the USS Constitution and Bunker Hill Memorial. PSIF, ESL and the City Engagement New Neighbors Ministry also made a joint trip to Plimoth Patuxet in November and enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal together at the church afterward. “All of a sudden,” Ray says, “people who would never take us up on our invitations to Bible study began participating in the life of our community. Nonbelievers suddenly saw life being done differently. PSIF has always had an evangelistic arm to it, but now Christians from PSIF and nonbelieving ESL students have begun building relationships, and that’s a huge change for both ministries.”

This December, Ray organized a PSIF/ESL group to go ice skating and have dinner before attending the Lessons and Carols service. Ray says, “It’s good to be with nonbelievers in these kinds of social spaces. We, as believers, live in a bubble sometimes and forget there’s life outside. Sometimes we forget how hard it is for people who don’t have hope in Christ.”

ESL

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses run throughout three separate terms: spring, summer, and fall. Coordinated by Karen Patschke and supported by several volunteers and Nursery Director Stephanie

Verrengia (who arranges childcare so parents can attend classes with their babies and toddlers), ESL classes provide a place for people to learn English, meet others and learn about God. This year the ministry served 90 students through 14 different classes with the help of 20 volunteers. The ministry was blessed with students from many different nations and diverse backgrounds and cultures. Interspersed throughout the student body were a number of wonderful believers. Karen says, “It was so wonderful the way they were led to share their testimonies in the classrooms and other activities. They were very bold in sharing how God had changed their lives. ESL teachers were often asked, ‘What makes you different from other people we meet in daily life?’ The Holy Spirit opened all kinds of doors to share the love of Christ with them.” This past semester the ministry had a baby shower for one of its Japanese students. “She was so overwhelmed with all the love shown to her,” Karen says. “She also attended our Bible class and learned where that love came from. This past Christmas she sent me a note saying how grateful she was for the shower but also for learning about Jesus. She wrote, ‘I pray that my baby will also have that opportunity when she is older.’ Every semester the Lord leads us to so many wonderful people. We are so blessed to be his instruments in sharing the gospel message.”

VAN BAAY HOUSE

Park Street Church operates the Van Baay House (VBH) in Cambridge as a home for international graduate students and scholars. The house has three purposes:

- to build loving Christian community
- to serve as a base for outreach to other internationals
- to equip students to live on mission, here and as they move on from here.

VBH accommodates eight students, plus a pair of resident directors (David and Roselle Heckendorn). Current residents come from ten countries across five different continents. Residents are missional Christians representing a diverse range of countries, universities and majors. Their cohabitation provides a foretaste of Revelation 7:9, “...a

great multitude... from every nation, people, tribe and language, standing before the throne..." Residents participate in the life of Park Street Church by leading and participating in worship, leading the international fellowship (PSIF), teaching Sunday school and ESL classes, leading Bible studies and Alpha outreach groups, and leading and supporting technology projects. Weekly House Dinners offer outsiders a taste of Christian community.

Since opening up post-COVID, VBH has hosted hundreds of international guests for House Dinners as well as karaoke nights, game nights, Peace Feasts (Muslim-Christian dialogue), Lunar New Year celebrations, worship evenings and Alpha outreach courses. Having prayed in English with several student guests to follow Christ, in 2023 VBH is excited to introduce Jesus to Chinese students through new Chinese-context Alpha videos, and to study Emotionally Healthy Relationships together.



Members of PSIF and ESL ice skating before the Lessons & Carols Service.

WOMAN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Woman's Benevolent Society continued its activities this year, serving God through serving others and serving each other through fellowship, prayer and friendship. Thirty members of all ages attended meetings over the course

of the year, and about 30 visitors attended at least one meeting. Park Street missionaries and the Missions staff attended the annual luncheon during the Global Missions Conference. Luncheon participants enjoyed hearing about the missionaries' work, both in person and virtually. WBS distributed around 50 gifts to the missionaries, including several quilted items, and about 90 small jewelry cases for participants in a Central Asia conference headed by one of the missionaries. The group also made over 100 favors that were distributed to nursing home residents during a Park Street-led Christmas worship service. Other work included 50 items made for the Home at Park Street ministry and over 200 cards sent to missionaries, congregants and leaders over the course of

the year. The women in WBS are grateful to God for their health and energy to serve together.



Some WBS members (left to right): Mary Young, Elvia Aquino, Turid Larson, Judy Borgen, Pearlina Mills.



MODERATOR JASON ABRAHAM

Greetings Church,

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Prov 3:5-6). This is one of my favorite verses and one that I use to ground me in times of uncertainty or trouble. In Matthew 14, when Jesus asked Peter to come to him, he stepped out onto the water in full, unwavering faith, and to Peter's amazement, he walked on water. As Peter took his eyes off his Lord and began to rely on his own understanding he began to sink. Peter experienced the supernatural power of God when he trusted, but when fear took over, the weight of his nature returned.

We have just come off a difficult year. Through all the bumps and bruises we experienced, God's presence was a constant. Every time the evil one tried to deflect our attention to what might happen, it became an exercise in faith for me to shift focus from our circumstances to rest on his promise to protect, rescue and prosper us as a church body. 2022 was also a year where we welcomed 85 new members, saw our overall attendance reach close to pre-pandemic levels, and our various ministries and programs return to normal, including our much-loved children's choir. What you will see in this report is the evidence of how we were able to serve our brothers and sisters, our neighbors in Boston, and those around the world, in Jesus' name. It is my hope and prayer that our shared experiences of the past year drew us closer to Jesus and increased our faith and trust in him.

This year, let Jesus be our priority above all else. Let us spend time in God's word so that as we read scripture, God will speak into our lives and circumstances. Let us take time to pray continuously for: ourselves, our families, our Church, and the world. Praying as a family of God will renew our faith and revive our Church. A Church renewed is a powerful witness to those around us. Also, let us serve one another through our God-given gifts. Jeff Schuliger (former PSC minister), in his message on June 30, 2013 said, "The truth is the Church needs you to exercise your gifts. The gifts of the Spirit are specifically to build up, encourage, and serve one another in the body of Christ." According to Jeff, our brothers and sisters will miss out on the blessing of our service when we fail to use our gifts to serve one another; whether we teach, lead, exhort or sing. Let us extend grace to one other and "strive for peace with each other" (Heb 12:14). Finally, give God the glory in all things. When we acknowledge that everything we have comes from His hands, God will bless us according to his plan for our lives and according to His riches and glory. May we follow the exhortation in Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

Jason Abraham

Jason Abraham,
Moderator

Moderator, Jason Abraham,
enjoying the soccer game at
All-Church Camp.
Photo by Elizabeth Lohnes

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

MIKE AHEARN

Mike Ahearn, Park Street Church's Administrator (the position that oversees facilities, finances, technology, security, communications, and human resources for the church), says his work boils down to one goal: enabling ministry. That is no small undertaking in a large, busy church with historic buildings. "There's a lot of ministry that takes place in our buildings during the week as well as outside the walls," Mike says. "My task is to enable the ministry of the congregation (the pastors and the lay people) through managing our financial and physical resources well and making sure that they're available and in good condition. You've probably heard the expression: 'Make the trains run on time.' My goal is to make the trains run on time."

This year, the Finance & Administration Committee made the decision to install a new boiler system to heat the church building. Financial reserves funded half of the \$400,000 cost and a generous donor supplied the remaining half. Over the course of this major project, additional infrastructure needs in the church buildings were uncovered that will require future attention, including reinforcing the basements of our buildings in certain places beneath the public sidewalk, as well as other

HVAC, energy and building maintenance issues. The Missions Office area also underwent a renovation this past year, and an extensive clean out project of building basements helped the church reclaim usable storage space.

The vacant Facilities Manager position has remained a challenge in the past year, but Mike is hopeful it will be filled in the first half of 2023. In the coming year, the Administration team will also work on improving digital communication platforms and software to create a more seamless experience for congregants who have increasingly returned to in-person attendance this year (reaching close to pre-COVID attendance levels).

The timing of Mike's tenure, which began in July 2019, has been nothing less than eventful. He took on his role three and half years ago, after being a member of Park Street for over 30 years and serving in leadership and as Treasurer. "When I took the job, the church was between senior ministers and little did I know that COVID was about to strike. I have felt a little bit like Esther who was put in her position, "For such as time as this" (Esther 4:14). I think that being part of the church for so long was tremendously helpful in navigating the events of the past few years. It's a labor of love. It really is. I'm blessed in so many ways doing the work of the Kingdom."

New members signing their names in the Membership Book in December.



CLERK'S REPORT

DEBBIE GALLAGHER

Park Street's active and affiliate membership at the end of 2022 was 1,282; 1,247 active members and 35 affiliate members.

This year:

- 84 people joined the church after completing a New Members class.
- 1 former member reactivated membership
- 4 members transferred their membership to other churches
- 15 members withdrew their memberships

Twenty-one of our high school students publicly confirmed their faith; ten of these young people were also baptized.

Our ministerial staff conducted two infant dedications, seven infant baptisms, and seven adult baptisms.

Several in our fellowship went to be with the Lord this year. With thanksgiving, we remember long-time faithful members Hedda Christiani and Renate Stahl, and our missionary to South Africa, David Bliss, who entered the presence of the Lord on December 31.

Four New Member classes were held during 2022—one in the traditional seven-week format, two in the format of three Sunday afternoon classes and a Friday and Saturday weekend session. We give thanks for the good work of our Membership Committee and our ministers as we continue to welcome brothers and sisters into our fellowship.

To God be the glory!

MINISTRY & OPERATIONS BUDGET

	2023 Proposed Breakdown	2023 Proposed Budget	2023 vs. 2022 Budget		2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 vs. 2022 Budget vs. Actual	
CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCOME	% Share	Amount	% Change	\$ Change	Amount	Amount	% Change	\$ Change
Offerings and Collections	90.2%	\$3,205,762	6.7%	\$200,118	\$3,064,702	\$3,005,644	4.6%	\$141,061
Endowment Investment Income	5.5%	196,335	0.9%	1,760	194,575	194,575	0.9%	1,760
Facility Use and Rental Income	3.2%	113,450	4.6%	4,950	113,171	108,500	0.2%	279
Other Operational Income	1.1%	40,000	17.6%	6,000	27,080	34,000	47.7%	12,920
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCOME	100.0%	3,555,547	6.4%	212,828	3,399,527	3,342,719	4.6%	156,020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS								
Ministry and Programs								
Ministry & Program Staff Expenses	36.2%	1,350,940	11.7%	141,234	1,190,225	1,209,706	13.5%	160,716
Adult Ministries	0.7%	36,500	46.0%	11,500	27,315	25,000	33.6%	9,185
Family Ministries	1.2%	55,500	35.4%	14,500	40,725	41,000	36.3%	14,775
General Ministries & Programs	4.5%	123,800	-16.8%	(25,000)	123,383	148,800	0.3%	417
Total Ministry & Programs	42.6%	1,566,740	10.0%	142,234	1,381,649	1,424,506	13.4%	185,092
Park Street Facility								
Maintenance Expenses	2.8%	122,000	32.6%	30,000	116,906	92,000	4.4%	5,094
Building Supplies Expenses	0.4%	20,000	33.3%	5,000	19,064	15,000	4.9%	936
Utilities Expenses	7.2%	265,000	10.0%	24,000	287,310	241,000	-7.8%	(22,310)
General Expenses	2.6%	98,000	11.4%	10,000	113,313	88,000	-13.5%	(15,313)
Total Park Street Facility	13.0%	505,000	15.8%	69,000	536,593	436,000	-5.9%	(31,593)
Total 1626 Mass Avenue Facility	1.6%	51,000	-1.9%	(1,000)	49,441	52,000	3.2%	1,559
General & Administrative Services								
Administrative Staff Expenses	27.4%	880,806	-4.0%	(36,378)	842,289	917,184	4.6%	38,517
Communications & Office Technology	4.4%	177,500	20.7%	30,500	156,360	147,000	13.5%	21,140
General Admin. Services & Expenses	3.8%	134,501	6.7%	8,473	116,433	126,028	15.5%	18,068
Total General & Administrative Services	35.6%	1,192,807	0.2%	2,595	1,115,082	1,190,212	7.0%	77,724
Transfer to Replacement Reserves								
Park Street Facility	6.0%	200,000	0.0%	-	200,000	200,000	0.0%	-
1626 Mass Avenue	1.2%	40,000	0.0%	-	40,000	40,000	0.0%	-
Total Transfer to Replacement Reserves	7.2%	240,000	0.0%	0	240,000	240,000	0.0%	-
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS	100.0%	\$3,555,547	6.4%	\$212,828	\$3,322,765	\$3,342,719	7.0%	\$232,782
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$0		\$0	\$76,762	\$0		



*One of Park Street's youngest congregants
takes in Kristina Johnson's teaching.
Photo by Elizabeth Lohnes*



PARK STREET SCHOOL

Reset. Reflect. Refocus.

His name was Jack.

He was kind and generous. Handsome, strong ... a “wilderness enthusiast.” Jack’s smile, authentic and warm (with a hint of mischievousness), both welcomed and heartened you. He was respectful and highly respected. A steadfast friend and loving brother. He quietly connected with and affirmed everyone around him.

Jack began at Park Street School (PSS)’s Preschool in 2003. Jack, his parents, Doug and Jeanine Murphy, and sisters, have been part of the PSS community for more than 20 years. Although Jack left PSS in 2012, graduated from Boston College High School, and was attending college, he returned often, to collect his sisters, volunteer after school, or to say hello. In Preschool, Jack joined morning circle, enjoyed class Thanksgiving Feasts with family, made a sock “Baby Jesus” at Christmas, and spent Family Day at the

Swan Boats. In Elementary School, he enjoyed recess on the Common, took the ferry to Georges Island, and dressed crazy for Mix n’ Match Day. He won the Rose Zvara Award, given “for demonstrating godliness, kindness, diligence, perseverance, grace and joy.” He was a Boston kid, raised in the South End, made friends at Ringgold Park, played soccer at Hill House, enjoyed skiing in Sunapee, NH and time on the Cape with family. He loved the outdoors and was incorporating that passion into more of his life.

On Tuesday, August 2, Jack was struck by lightning on a wilderness emergency training course in Wyoming. He immediately went into cardiac arrest. His team performed CPR for an hour, but death was certain. (<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/boston-ma/john-murphy-10873967>)

Coming out of COVID required a reset

for the school. It meant being in person, welcoming parents back into classrooms, stepping back from restriction, and less time on Zoom.

Jack’s death has caused us to reflect: Reflect on his life and the *blessing* of having shared life with him. Reflect on death and its eternal significance. We’ve thought about Jack’s time at PSS, and on the spiritual foundation laid, in partnership with his parents. Did Jack know how much God loved him? Did he have hope? Would his sisters know God’s comfort now? We’ve reflected on our mission: “... *To empower and equip each child with a love of learning, a passion for truth, a heart for others, and an understanding of God’s love and grace for us in Jesus Christ.* ”

Our reflection has led to a refocus. We are encouraged to recommit ourselves to our mission—both as a school and as individual Christians. God has made a way for PSS ... a Christian school ... to exist in the heart of



BOSTON TRINITY ACADEMY

Boston. As we refocus, may we be faithful in all that God has for us.

It's been a sobering year. Jack's life and death have brought clarity. Please continue to pray for PSS, that as we reset, reflect and refocus, it would be in humble reliance on Jesus who has called us.

—Tracy Bradley, *PSS Head of School* with Kim Twitchell, *Director of Communications*

Boston Trinity Academy opened the 2022-23 school year with a new Headmaster: Timothy Belk. Tim Belk did not need to be introduced to the students, parents, and faculty. He has served at Boston Trinity Academy since 2009—first as a teacher and Academic Dean, and then, starting in 2012, as Assistant Headmaster. He and his wife, Sara, a beloved teacher and responsible for the school's renowned theater program, have been a critical part of the school's growing success and reputation over the past decade.

Headmaster Emeritus and founding trustee, Frank Guerra, and his wife, Rebekah Guerra, also a founding trustee and later Dean of the Middle School, retired in June 2022.

Boston Trinity Academy has seen many other new changes. We are excited to announce that the Bradley Athletic Center has now opened its doors. At the Bradley Center, our community has been cheering our athletes for home games, gathering for events and enjoying the camaraderie and conviviality that comes with celebrating together.

BTA has also launched a new International Residence program. Austin House is a five-minute walk from our main campus in Hyde Park, Boston's southernmost residential neighborhood. Austin House advances the school's commitment to global education by providing an immersive school experience in the comfort of a home-style residence.

We look forward to an exciting 2023. We persist in our commitment to build a thriving "community of differents" that educates students who are distinguished by their academic courage and purposeful faith.



LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

Jason Abraham, *Moderator*
Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
Gregg Hansen, *Assistant Treasurer*
Ling Yi Liu, *Missions Treasurer*
Deborah Gallagher, *Clerk*

BOARD OF ELDERS

Jason Abraham, *Moderator*
Stephen Adams
Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***
Yannick Assogba
Lyford Beverage
Mark Booker, *Senior Minister**
Cindy Cutlip
Nick Dedeker
Linda Herman
John R. Knight
John Liu
Leslie Liu
Doug May
David Murgatroyd
Charles Peltz

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Lyford Beverage, *Board of Elders*
Philip Chen
Jennifer Collier
Gregg Hansen, *Assistant Treasurer*
Norris Henry
Joan Hale Leonard

Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
Ling Yi Liu, *Missions Treasurer*
Judi Manola
Martha Neu, *Chair*
Tracy Noga
Drake Richey
John Saunders
Jeff Shaw, *Facilities Subcommittee Chair*
Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***
Joe Ghobrial, *Controller***

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Lois Andersen
Ruth Chen
Alana Howland
Selwyn Jayakar
Charles Larson
David Lewis
Alice Loo
John R. Knight, *Elder to the Missions Committee*
Yuyu Song Georgescauld
Brian Wilford
Brian Winey, *Chair*
John Liu, *Elder to the Missions Committee*
Raymond Kam, *Minister to Internationals***
Julian Linnell, *Minister of Missions***
Ling Yi Liu, *Missions Treasurer*
Carol Scott, *Missions Administrator***
Andrea Zvara, *Director of Global Outreach***

DEACONS

Millard Baublitz, *Prayer Hour: Sunday (AM)*
Sam Beverage, *Children's Ministry PM*

Bryan Bilyeu, *Choir*
Michael Bond, *Café*
Julie Boyd, *Youth Ministry*
Rob Bradley, *Boston Trinity Academy*
Jennifer Collier, *F&A Committee*
Lisa Crawford, *Fourth Trimester*
Helena Daniel, *Café*
Stuart DeLorme, *Visitation & Shut-ins*
Brian Ellis, *College Ministry*
Judy Engibous, *Communion (AM)*
Andrea Enzinger, *Medical Ministry*
Simon Fowler, *City Engagement*
Cindy Frechette, *Ushers (AM)*
Emily Freedman, *Small Groups*
Michael Greene, *Grad Student Ministry*
Peter Holt, *Boston Fellows Program*
Alana Howland, *FOCUS/ESL*
Tom Kane, *FOCUS/ESL*
Turid Larson, *Woman's Benevolent Society*
Heather Lewis, *Wings*
Joel Luna, *Hospitality (AM)*
Jooseppi Luna, *Ushers (AM)*
Ruth Luna, *Hospitality (AM)*
Pat McLeod, *College Ministry*
Jude Muyanjanja, *Communion (PM)*
Dale Myers, *Communion (AM)*
Kirstin Peltz, *Orchestra*
Sharon Postma, *Enable Boston/Friendship Bible Study*
Jennifer Powell, *Children's Ministry*
Geoff Raux, *Ushers (AM)*
Greg Rideout, *Pastoral Care*
Mayumi Rideout, *Prayer Team*
Hugh Rutledge, *Alive in Christ*

* Staff ** Staff, non-voting



Sarah Stacy, *Women's Ministry*
Christine Vasko, *Children's Ministry: Choir*
Jen Vogan, *Enable Boston*
Kyle Vogan, *Hospitality (PM)*
Wally Weld, *Boston Trinity Academy*
Brian Winey, *Missions (Chair)*

DEACONS SUBCOMMITTEE:

Kirstin Peltz, *Chair*
Sharon Postma
Geoffrey Raux
Wally Weld
Christine Vasko

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Jason Abraham, *Moderator & Chair*
Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*
Kathie Lindemann, *At-Large Member*
Ling Yi Liu, *Missions Treasurer*
David Murgatroyd, *Elder*
Martha Neu, *F&A Committee Representative*
Margaret Sloat, *At-Large Member*
Herman Smith, *At-Large Member*
David Rix, *Former Moderator*
Andrew Ziegler, *At-Large Member*
Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jeff Collier
Lianne Crossette
Nick Dedeke, *Elder & Chair*
Debbie Gallagher, *Clerk*
Elisabeth McSherry Green

Howard Green
Megan Ibekwe
Maura Kurtz
Dylan Ross
Dorothy Saunders
John Saunders
Kyle Vogan

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Rob Bradley, *Chair*
Gregg Hansen, *Assistant Treasurer*
Joan Leighton, *Member-at-Large*
Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
Ling Yi Liu, *Missions Treasurer*
Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator**
Joe Ghobrial, *Controller**

STAFF

Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator*
Michael Balboni, *Associate Minister*
Leslie Bodkin, *Director of Enable Boston*
Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*
Stuart DeLorme, *Visitation*
Ron Ebanks, *Sexton*
Joe Ghobrial, *Controller*
Maria Harmon, *City Engagement Intern*
David & Roselle Heckendorn, *Directors of the Van Baay House*
Adam Herndon, *Minister to Families and Youth*
Shannon Jacob, *Director of the Sunday Night Band*
Kristina Johnson, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Raymond Kam, *Minister to Internationals*
Esther Kan, *Assistant Controller*
Kris Larson, *Sexton*
Tim Leary, *Director of Grad Student Ministries*
Albert Lee, *Children's Ministry (PM)*
Alyssa Lee, *Children's Ministry (PM)*
Julian L, *Minister of Missions*
Damian Long, *Minister of Small Groups & Young Adults*
Caitlin Lubinski, *Director of Communications*
Chris May, *Minister to Women*
Steve McGaff, *Assistant Facilities Manager*
Tammy McLeod, *Director of College Student Ministries*
Jennifer O'Mahony, *Receptionist & Freedom Trail Site Supervisor*
Karen Patschke, *ESL Coordinator*
Dan Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*
Jenn Schmunk, *Assistant to the Director of Music*
Carol Scott, *Missions Administrator*
Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*
Stephanie Verrengia, *Nursery Director*
Randall Wetzig, *Ministries Administrator*
Philip Wu, *Sexton*
Andrea Zvara, *Director of Global Outreach*



PARK STREET CHURCH