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# REPORT from the SENIOR MINISTER

#### Dear Park Street Church,

Amid conflict in the church in Corinth—leadership challenges, factions, mistrust, and more—Paul writes these well-known words in 2 Corinthians 4.7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." It's almost as if the conflicts and difficulties were being used by God to remind the church, through the Spirit-inspired words of the Apostle Paul, that this is not about them. As unflattering as it is to be compared to lowly, expendable, powerless jars of clay, there is something liberating about this. The treasure of full, abundant, never-ending life comes from God, and the power working that life deeper into our hearts and pouring that life out of us into the world—that power belongs to God and not to us. God is everything, all in all.

There have been many challenges over the past year, challenges corporately and challenges personally. We have been reminded that we are indeed jars of clay, easily broken. And yet, amid these challenges we have seen the life and power of God poured into us and poured out through us in very real ways. The pages of this report reflect that reality and remind us that we can say with Paul, as he continues in 2 Corinthians 4.8, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." Not crushed. Not driven to despair. Not forsaken. Not destroyed. By the mercy of God. And it is good to tell and read of this mercy as seen through the life of our church described in the pages that follow.

We continued to take up our mission of "making disciples who become like Jesus together," by pressing into worship, community, mission, and catechesis (teaching or instruction). We drilled down into this method for how we grow to be like Jesus during the Lenten Discipleship Initiative (LDI), discussing the lessons and sermons within small groups in our Regional Fellowships on Sundays. The visual for this method intentionally puts these four areas in the shape of the cross—a reminder for all of us of the cross—shaped life we are called to in Jesus and of the fact that we typically grow most through suffering. Newcomers hear



Worship. We continue to be blessed with "full-throated" worship by the grace of God. Meeting together to partake of the means of grace in word and sacrament is the high point of our week. I routinely hear comments from visitors and regulars alike that the veil between heaven and earth is thin in our worship. God has continued to make his presence and power known to us in our gathering together. I know we all have gratitude for our musicians—from Nathan and Dan to the choir and the Sunday Night Band—who facilitate our engagement with the Lord in song.

In the ministry of the word, we finished the series on Leviticus, "God With Us," in the beginning of the year. What a joy it was to mine the riches of that book together and to see afresh the reality that Scripture (including Leviticus!) always points to Jesus. During Lent, the "Becoming Like Jesus" series explored the model for formation into Christlikeness I mentioned above. After Easter, we took up a series called "The World Right-Side Up" on Paul's second missionary journey in the book of Acts (from Acts 16-18). In the summer and September, our ministerial staff shared

a series called "The Psalms of Jesus." During my recovery from spinal surgery following my mountain biking accident, we were ministered to by five different guest preachers, three of whom were local and two who were part of the Mission Conference. Coinciding with my return to the pulpit, we finished the year with a cross-focused series on 1 Corinthians 1.17-2.5 called, "The Cross: The Power and Wisdom of God." God's word is indeed living and active (Heb 4.12), and a foundational blessing for us as his people.

The elders deliberated over the future of worship at PSC, and our decision, announced at the end of May, to end the 4:00 PM service—and the process that led to that decision—understandably led to some hurt and difficulty in the community. We rescinded that decision in June and committed to developing a more open and inclusive process to consider the future of our worshiping life together. That work remains before us in the year ahead.

Community. We continue to long to see the church grow in the development of meaningful relationships through which we live and serve on mission together. The yearlong initiative of having the whole church over to our home for dinner through Regional Fellowships came to an end in June—after 19 dinners and nearly 500 people! The most valuable part of this effort was that people who lived in the same region were able to get to know one another better during small group conversations over dinner. Damian took on a wider scope reflected in a new "Minister of Community" title to help all our efforts in deepening as a community on mission together. We are making some encouraging progress, as you'll read about in Damian's report.

Mission. In his report, Julian shares more about the theme of "integral mission" during our "On(e) Mission Together" conference. Part of the heart behind this theme was to remind us that all of us are on the mission of God, whether locally or across the globe. No one is on the sideline! We see great potential for helpful cross-pollination between the local and global contexts for mission as well. The Spirit continues to bless our efforts locally, especially among refugees and our neighbors. Simon's report, on behalf of the City Engagement team, gives a glimpse into how deeply God is blessing and using these efforts. It gives me great joy to see the line of unhoused neighbors awaiting a warm meal and rich fellowship on Thursday evening or Saturday morning. This ministry has been an outstanding opportunity for partnership with others and is now supported by our youth regularly. Our missionaries across the globe continue to greatly encourage us, and I praise God that our community continues to support them through finances, prayer, listening, and caring. Our Missionary Care Teams are doing critical work as we seek to share the gospel around the globe.

Catechesis. We continue digging deeper into God's word and the gospel, seeking to understand their implications for our lives. We do this in New Members' classes and in Christian formation classes as well as in small groups and during corporate worship. God's word is the foundation of our life, and we will continue to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest this word together. In the past year we did some strategic thinking about this ministry which we will continue in the upcoming year.

We marked some transitions on our staff this year. In terms of departures, we said goodbye to Ron Ebanks who served for 20 years as a sexton of the church. Every one of us on staff misses Ron's regular reminders that we are fulfilling the great commission as we serve God through our particular roles. Caitlin Lubinski stepped down after serving for two-and-a-half years as our Director of Communications in order to head to the mission field in Uruguay with her family for several months. Shannon Jacobs left her role as

Sunday Night Band Director, a role she executed with grace and passion week to week for four years. And Michael Balboni's service as Associate Minister came to an end in early October. Though the end of his service here has been difficult for each of us in different ways and for the church as a whole, I do want to acknowledge the blessing of Michael's faithful ministry for five years on our staff.

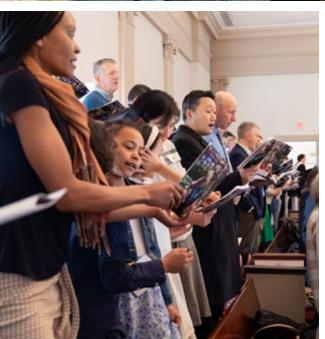
We said hello to some new faces on the staff as well. Long-time member Simon Fowler stepped in at a critical time early in the year to help with City Engagement in a part-time role. Ana Yee-Jones joined our staff in May to assist with communication, finance, and administration on the fourth floor. Leonard Mosiah began as our Minister to Youth in September, bringing needed leadership and support to this critical ministry. And Randall Wetzig transitioned from his administrative role into a new position of Assistant Minister at the end of the year.

As I close and as you dive into the other reports, let me return to 2 Corinthians 4. At the beginning and end of that chapter, Paul says, "We do not lose heart." We are not forsaken, and the power of God continues to be expressed in us and through us. The reports that follow give clear evidence of this. Further, the power of God is made perfect through weakness (2 Corinthians 12.10). Our "jars of clay" status has in some ways never been clearer as a community, but in this weakness, in this time of challenge, we have the opportunity to see the Lord's power for healing and transformation even more clearly. That is my prayer as we move into 2024, that we will not revert to "business as usual," but that we will take up the Lord's invitation to repent, to be healed, to reconcile, and to be transformed by his power and grace. We do not lose heart. God is here!

Thank you for loving Jesus and seeking to love one another. This is our calling. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve among you and eager to continue growing with you as we follow Jesus together.

Mark Booker, Senior Minister









REPORTS
from
MINISTRIES









#### **FAMILY MINISTRIES**

In Family Ministry we often see God show up when we are together. When the body of Christ comes together, God is present. All-Church Camp is always an exciting time, not just because of all the fun outdoor activities, but also because God is with us as we worship, eat, and fellowship together. During our week together we especially experienced God at the lake front, where we baptized eight of our children and teens this year. It was a joy to welcome them into the Church family.

This fall we welcomed a new Minister to Youth, Leonard, and his family to our Family Ministry team. Leonard grew up in South Africa and comes to us from the Chicago area where he was serving in youth ministry. He is married to Elizabeth and they have four kids. He has been a great addition to our team, and we are looking forward to seeing how God will use him in this new season of ministry to our youth.

Adam Herndon, Minister to Families

#### Nursery Ministry

This year the Lord has greatly blessed the nursery! We opened our infant nursery to welcome over 15 babies born into our congregation this past year. We have also been blessed by the continued dedication of the amazing nursery team, with many new members whom the Lord has blessed with the gift of caring for our littlest congregants. The Lord is working during the week in the nursery as well, with more children joining us for ESL and Bible study, giving us opportunities to care for them and show them the love of Christ.

Stephanie Verrengia, Nursery Director

#### Children's Ministry

2023 has been a beautiful year for Children's Ministry at Park Street. We had our 3rd annual Easter egg hunt and our 4th annual pumpkin carving meet-up. At Kidsweek this past summer we were surrounded by galaxies, astronauts, and a giant rocket ship in the lobby. Kids learned about shining Jesus' light and the tweens even got to build mini rocket ships of their

very own! In December, we had an improvised nativity play where every child who wanted to participate got a costume and a part in the skit.

My favorite parts about this past year, however, have been in the smaller moments. I love seeing children who are new to children's church go from shy to beaming when Amanda the puppet joins us. I love watching the wheels turn when we discuss the deeper meanings to Bible stories they've heard a thousand times already. I love how every child picks their own, unique posture when we get ready to pray and how sincere they are in spending time talking to Jesus.

One Sunday in the spring, we had a small gathering for parents where the children shared some of our worship music from Children's Church. The kids danced, sang and radiated exuberant joy. There were some younger siblings who jumped right in and joined, even though they'd never heard the songs before! Afterwards, a long-time member of the church (who is not a current parent) came up to me and said, "I didn't even know this was happening until just before it started, but I'm so glad I came. With everything going on, this is exactly what our church needs right now." Praise the Lord for the beauty and wonder he shows us through the smallest of his children. Let us follow their example in how we love and worship our great, big God.



#### YOUTH

I often ask youth, "in what ways did you encounter Jesus in your week?" As the new youth minister, I want to share with you my own answer to this question since my arrival at Park Street Church. A warm welcome and an attentive youth group make the list, as do two specific encounters in the fall semester of 2023 that consisted of increased conversations with students on how to best live out their faith outside the church walls. One student is involved in a Christian gathering at her public school, and I have been blessed to assist this student in leading discussion around the Bible. The second highlight relates to the formation of a youth worship team leading worship on Friday nights at youth group. Students have stepped up to assist in leading worship while being mentored to understand that worship goes beyond the church walls and musical talent. Upon accepting the call to minister at Park Street Church, I prayed along the theme of Exodus 33:15, that the presence of God may be with me and my family as we move to Boston. Surely, I am seeing God at work already.

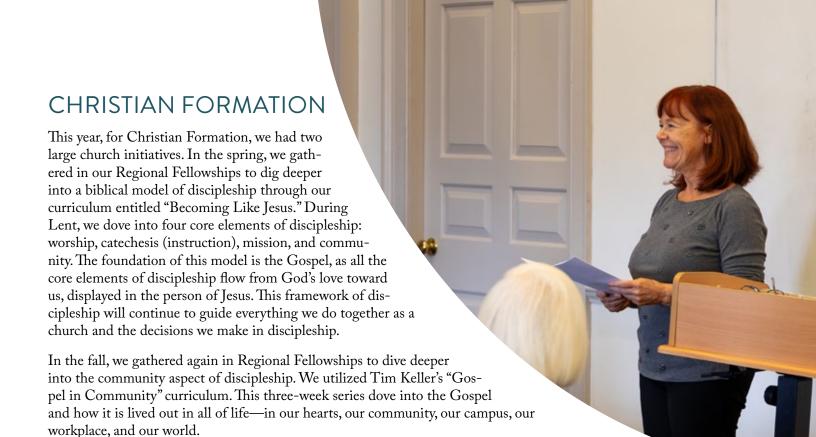
Leonard Mosiah, Minister to Youth



#### **ENABLE BOSTON**

As people with disabilities and their families have continued to return to services at Park Street Church, we are still working to build our volunteer team to offer ongoing support for spiritual growth. In 2023, we were able to host an American Sign Language class to hopefully expand our ability to welcome congregants who are Deaf. We look forward to continuing to learn and grow alongside our brothers and sisters with disabilities as part of our church family in the year to come.

Leslie Bodkin, Director of Enable Boston



Adam Herndon, Minister to Families





#### **MUSIC**

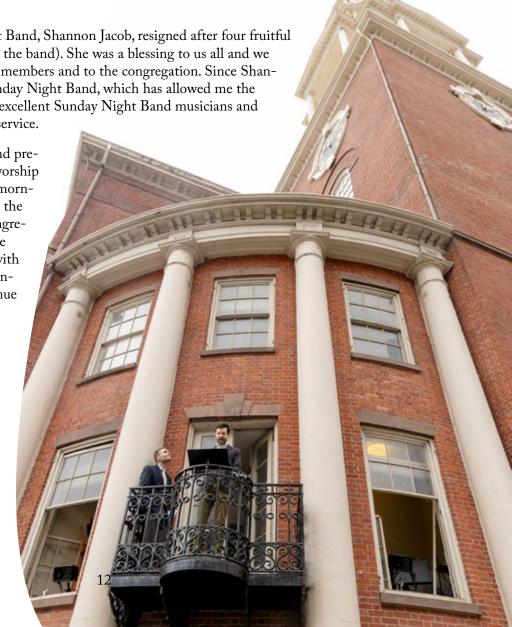
2023 was an eventful year for the music ministry. In the spring, we had the pleasure of welcoming two guest choirs to join us in worship. On Easter Day, the Patrick Henry College Chorale joined forces with the Sanctuary Choir and orchestra, filling the sanctuary with joyful music (and with an extra-long procession during the opening hymn)! In May, the Gordon College Women's Choir joined us in worship. May also saw the public dedication for our loudest musical instrument: the steeple bells (installed in 2021, with a blessing held during the worship service the same year). The exercises were led from the Mayflower pulpit by the Senior Minister and Moderator and included remarks from donor Bobby Sager; this was fol-

lowed by a festive luncheon. The event was an encouraging opportunity to invite our neighbors to connect with the church over one of our gifts to the city: the keeping of time by the beautiful sound of real bronze bells.

Later in May, Director of the Sunday Night Band, Shannon Jacob, resigned after four fruitful years of musical leadership (and a decade in the band). She was a blessing to us all and we are deeply grateful for her ministry to band members and to the congregation. Since Shannon's departure, I have been leading the Sunday Night Band, which has allowed me the opportunity to collaborate weekly with our excellent Sunday Night Band musicians and to connect more directly with the 4:00 pm service.

The music ministry had begun re-tooling and preparing for a significant planned change in worship services (consolidating all services into the morning hours by adding contemporary music to the 8:30 service); but after much prayer and congregational input, the elders determined in June that it would be best not to move forward with the changes. Because of this, we are maintaining our existing patterns as the elders continue to discern and contemplate next steps for wider congregational input.

In late summer, the F&A Committee approved a project to replace the worn-out carpet under the pews with a wood floor of oak-veneer plywood, to be stained, finished, and installed by a team of volunteers. This work was completed over two weekends in September. The floor is a partial and temporary solution for 1–3 years, giving us time to develop a comprehensive plan for flooring throughout the sanctuary. The temporary floor has improved the acous-





Church Sanctuary Choir, Easter Sunday, 2023.

tical liveliness of the sanctuary, imparting new vigor and vitality to our singing and to the spoken word—a strong step forward in a long-standing and ardent desire of the music ministry (dating back at least forty years): that the sanctuary would be a space that encourages hearty singing, where God's praise would indeed "resound."

We dedicated our new Steinway piano in October, which included a blessing in the 11:00 am worship service and a dedicatory recital after the service by congregant Mia Chung, in addition to a Friday evening concert of wellknown piano trios. More concerts are planned for the coming year.

In addition to the usual services and flurry of activity, in December we released an album entitled "A Violin Christmas" with music composed and performed by Park Street violinist Daniel Faris, joined also by Gabe Ling on piano and myself on piano and organ; this is the third installment of "The Music of Park Street Church." The sanctuary choir also completed the premieres (begun in Advent 2022) of the seven "O Antiphons" sung as Introits in our services, which we commissioned from renowned composer Carol Barnett, in honor of Mike Brescia's forty-five years with the choir.

This is not even to mention the ordinary, Sunday-after-Sunday service of our choirs, orchestra, and band, who minister to God and to us so generously and skillfully throughout the year, raising our hearts heavenward and helping us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Dan, Jenn, and I continue to be grateful to serve this church alongside all our musicians, ever mindful that singing together with all the saints is a gift not only for now (to form and encourage us), but for ever, and world without end—an eternal joy.

Nathan Skinner, Director of Music





#### COMMUNITY

This past year, I was able to move into the new role of Minister of Community. "Community" pervades all of the Church's life together and there is no particular Park Street ministry expressly limited to community formation. However, my reflections here group Café Young Adults, Small Groups, and Regional Fellowships together as "community-based" ministries and are the areas of Park Street's life that fall under my purview.

#### Café Young Adults

The Café community was shocked in late winter of 2023 by the sudden loss of our dear brother, Peter Baddoo. Peter's presence had transcended his Wednesday men's small group as he joyfully brought together the 20's and 30's community



with his Sunday young adults' lunches. More than simply a strategic ministry leader, Peter overflowed his vibrant and grounded faith to everyone he encountered in life, not just here at Park Street. We are still grieving the loss and yet also celebrate his life and the eternal hope that he knew so soundly in his faithful and intimate walk with Christ.

Wednesday Café both received and sent many people into their calls to kingdom mission this year. In a new tradition, we asked those moving on to share about their time in the Café community. We were all so encouraged as their sharing repeatedly reaffirmed the vision God has given Café for Spirit-filled transformation in and by community, through the washing of the word, and for the His glory! New leaders have stepped faithfully into the gap to lead our co-ed studies and our men's group also faithfully plows ahead.

Tuesday Café, though usually more settled than Wednesday, has also had quite a bit of turnover this past year. Despite this, we have seen the core of the community rally around nights of prayer and worship, homecooked meals, and significant efforts in outreach and service to refugees – both locally and in Greece.

Some other highlights for the greater Café community include a joint PSIF and Café retreat in May, Café young adults serving together in the Home ministry, a challenging yet engaging Mission Conference week including panelists from global and local missions, as well as two short-term mission trips to Greece sprinkled with Café young adults.

#### Small Groups

The small groups ministry has also grown over the last year. In addition to the consistent spiritual growth of our almost 50 faithful gatherings centered on prayer, the word, hospitality, and mission, we have launched four new neighborhood small groups throughout the greater-Boston area. Almost all our current groups continue to be open to newcomers. Everyone who signed up with interest in the fall was put in contact with a group; most of them were able to visit a group, and more people were able to find a new small group home than in any other onboarding effort from the last three years. Small group leaders have also grown in the frequency and level of their participation in our small group shepherd's community, where there is time for mutual encouragement and insight, as well as prayer and support for leaders and support teams.

Finally, this year also saw multiple small groups reach out and serve together. This took place locally during the Mission Conference. It also took shape as the missional small group program called *Pathways* that we have developed in conjunction with Pastor Julian and the Missions department. Now running in its second iteration, *Pathways* is a unique formational experience where participants learn to discern God's kingdom calling as they become more like Jesus in missional community. Both *Pathways* communities traveled to Greece (March 2023 / January 2024) on short-term mission trips to work with refugees from all over the Middle East, and both had deeply encouraging experiences where they saw God's work in and through their teams.

#### Regional Fellowships

Park Street, though located squarely downtown, has a congregation spread across the entire greater-Boston area. Although this is not the first time the church has been organized in regional groupings, we have recently developed fellowships based on nine regions to serve as a middle space between small groups and corporate worship. These Regional Fellowships are not necessarily separate ministries, but rather a way for Park Streeters to connect, build relationships, and serve on mission locally. They also provide context for in-church classes, discussions, and studies. This past year, for example, our church-wide Faith in Politics Christian formation series, Lenten Discipleship Initiative, and Gospel in Community Sunday studies were conducted in Regional Fellowships. In addition, "welcome captains" from all nine regions put together meals, community gatherings, and outings to help fall newcomers connect with Park Street neighbors from their area. Regional Fellowships were also a focus of neighborhood mission during our annual Mission Conference. Lastly, many have found it transformative to both ask for help and to serve others in our Regional Fellowship neighborhood "needs, prayer, and devotional" group chats on the Church Center App. Though we are still finding further ways to connect outside of church in our busy and separate lives, God is using Regional Fellowships to form and strengthen community!

Damian Long, Minister of Community

#### PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care covers a wide variety of ministries at the church, focused on shepherding and caring for souls through individual and group connection in the name of Jesus. All ministers at the church participate in some form, whether that be through individual mentoring or counseling, or as the weekly "minister on call," or through oversight of a pastoral care group.

Ministers meet regularly with those in their direct ministry areas and in their Regional Fellowships. As needed, individuals, couples and even families can also be connected with a counselor from one of the church's partners (Harbor Christian Counseling, the Boston Center for Biblical Counseling, and other individual counselors) with support from the church. Each week, one minister is the "minister on call" and is available to care for immediate needs of those in our church community and neighborhood. Prayer and counsel are always offered, whatever the request may be, and the church also can provide limited support for physical and financial needs. Each of the full-time ministers is also connected with one or more pastoral care group, which provide support for a variety of needs including sexual struggles, divorce, and loneliness.

The biblically-based DivorceCare ministry for those going through separation or divorce served over 40 individuals this year. DivorceCare remains an important entry point to the church, attracting many people who would not otherwise connect with the church. Discipleship also occurs at DivorceCare. In March, a DivorceCare graduate presented a testimony at all three services that was well received. The DivorceCare team is grateful for the on-going support of Park Street Church and the pastoral care ministry.

Faithful and long-time minister Stuart DeLorme retired from leadership of the Visitation Ministry this year, but his care for our church community continues as he and his wife Hsuan volunteer with Community Care. We are grateful for Stuart's many years of kind service.

Annette Aureli, who has been a pastoral intern, has accepted the baton from Stuart and serves as Visitation Minister, engaging members at home, in hospital, rehab, nursing facilities, and assisted living situations. New this year was the addition of Community Care, giving church members an opportunity to volunteer to visit the sick, elderly, and homebound congregation members, together with support and training opportunities. The Community

Care teams provide monthly worship services at two local retirement homes. These ministries continue to thrive, as caring members of the congregation join this group of like-minded individuals in outreach. Annette Aureli often serves with Women's Benevolence Society (WBS), Wings Ministry, Wings Prayer, Deacons, Elders, and Ministers.

#### WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is one of the hallmarks of the people of God. The Israelites were commanded by God to include outsiders in their celebrations (Deuteronomy 16:1-15), and the early church ate together regularly (Acts 2:42). In his letter to the Romans, Paul tells his readers that they are to welcome one another as Jesus has welcomed them (Romans 15:7). This year saw the creation of a new Hospitality Committee to oversee Coffee Hour on Sundays, Second Sunday meals each month, and receptions for celebrations on Easter and Christmas Eve. The Hospitality Committee and volunteers seek to make Park Street Church a place of warmth, welcome, and community each Sunday.

Over the year, approximately 9,000 cups of coffee were served during coffee hour (now in-between the morning services, after the 11:00 am service, and after the 4:00 pm service). The Committee has made it possible to restart coffee hour after the 4:00 pm service; providing a vital place of connection and community for those here on Sunday afternoons. Most months, a team of volunteers, headed by Patrick Lynch, has spent hours cooking home-made (or rather, church-made) food on a Saturday to be served at Second Sunday meals after each service. Also of particular note was the 2023 Easter Celebration, a potluck after each service in which congregants were encouraged to bring their "best baked good or treat" to share with others. The response was enthusiastic, and the outpouring of food created an atmosphere of joy as we celebrated the Lord's resurrection together.

Each Sunday, teams of greeters stand at the doors of the church to welcome people into the worshipping community of God. In 2023, tens of new volunteers joined the ministry, many of whom were new members of the church. The Welcome Team remains an excellent place for new members to jump in to serving at the church and build community with their monthly meeting team. Anna Koon, who helps to oversee the ministry, hosted a gathering for the Welcome Team volunteers, creating a space in which the Welcome Team could themselves be welcomed.



#### **NEWCOMERS**

The Newcomers Ministry held lunch for newcomers throughout the year on Sunday afternoons, creating a space in which individuals and families newly arrived at the church could ask questions and hear the big picture of Park Street Church as located in the wider Church universal. Sarah Richey continued to lead the ministry, assisted by many volunteers, and toward the end of the year, Dorothy Saunders became a co-leader, while Anna Koon and Park Street's receptionist, Jen O'Mahony, reached out to people who expressed interest in the church and provided an initial set of resources and connections for them.

The Newcomers Ministry is one of the earliest points of entrance into the community life at Park Street Church.

Randall Wetzig, Assistant Minister

#### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

2023 was a year of discernment for women's ministry. Our faithful discernment team (Lianne Croissette, Grace Long, Sarah Stacy, Jen Taber, and I) spent our monthly Zoom meetings in prayer, *lectio divina*, and much conversation about the needs of PSC women during this challenging season. We also read and reflected on a book that I believe speaks truth that could help churches flourish: *The Other Half of Church; Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation* by Wilder and Hendricks. I am so grateful for each woman on our team, and for this group discernment process. It ensured that each voice was heard, and it encouraged collaboration, attentive listening, and ownership of final decisions.

I am so proud of our three Bible/fellowship studies: the Wakefield study, Life Together (meeting at PSC), Faith Journey Bible Study (meeting at Mt. Hope Christian Church in Belmont), and an evening intergenerational study (meeting in Melrose). The Word was studied, not just for information but for *transformation*. Praises and petitions were shared, and women faithfully prayed for one another throughout the week.

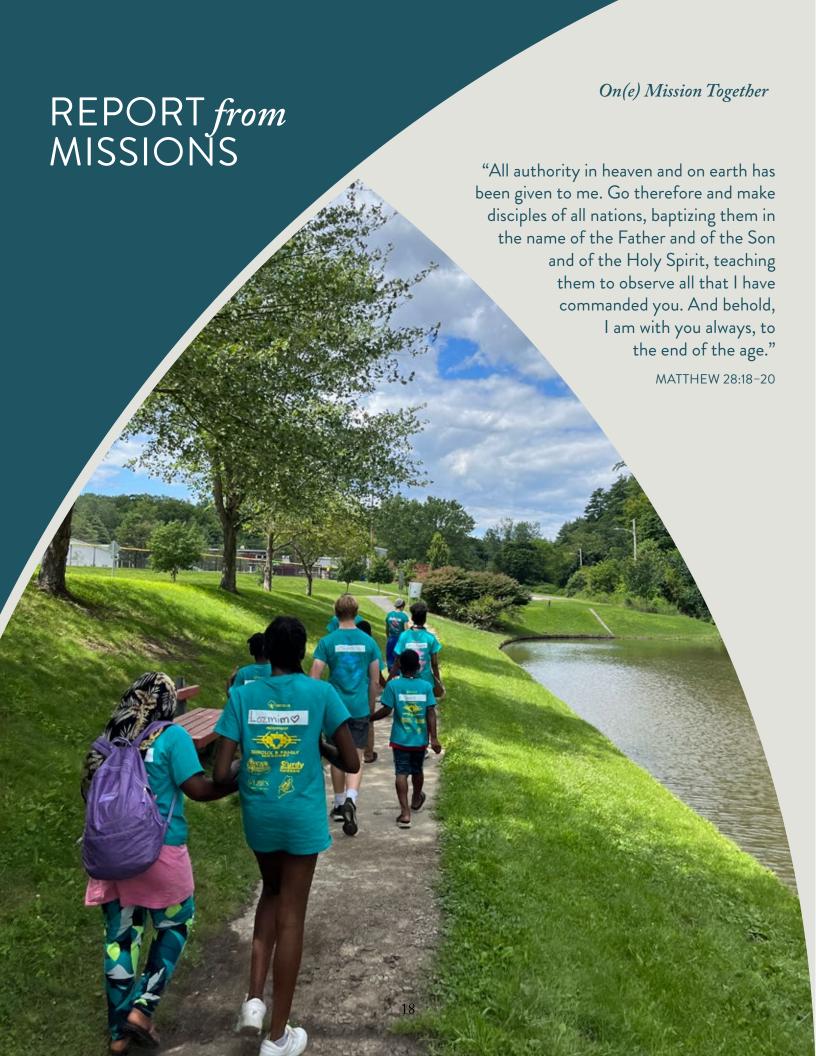
I taught a Christian formation course in the fall based on Scripture and the book referenced above. It was a delight to see attendees' faces light up as they learned about the importance of joy, which the authors say could be considered the "fuel of the brain and of the church."

I was also privileged to be part of a group of women planning the second Synergist Women's conference, a multichurch gathering hosted and initiated by Lion of Judah. It was edifying and inspiring to see how other congregations are faithfully ministering to women in the city. The theme, *Joy and Suffering*, was a timely one in many ways.

Other activities included planning and carrying out a Lenten Quiet Morning for women, writing the material for the Couples Retreat with the theme of Rest and Play, and developing the material for this year's Faith Journey Bible Study. The theme for this study was Praying with the Saints: Dwelling in Prayers of the Bible. I used the Psalms and the prayers of Paul, but also the prayers of women like Hannah and Mary, and passages we might not think of as prayers – such as Mary's dialogue with Gabriel, Moses' with the Lord in the burning bush, and Jeremiah's complaint to God. As we enter this next year, my hope is that we too would keep praying—continuing on in the knee-prints of those who have gone before us.

Chris May, Minister to Women





The redemptive mission of God for the world is not a solo activity. The Father sends the Son and gives him authority not only in heaven but on earth, too. The Son sends disciples out to disciple the nations. It is in the name of the Holy Spirit, Son, and Father that new believers are to be baptized. This one mission for the world is God's purpose for his church until the end of the age. Astoundingly, God has invited his children to serve in his mission together with him (1 Corinthians 3:5–9). In fact, his children cannot mature as disciples unless they serve together on mission. None of it is by their own strength or for themselves, but solely for his glory in the world (1 Peter 2:9–12). We live on *One Mission Together* for his glory.

Park Street meditated on the theme of One Mission Together throughout last year's Mission Conference. We were privileged to hear from Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst and Dr. Mike Goheen, who preached from Isaiah 55-56 and Matthew 5. They taught us how God embraces those no one else welcomes and how a humbled people is called to be salt and light. During the conference, we also savored some Persian cuisine prepared by an Iranian Christian family and a Japanese-themed dinner coupled with a discussion of urban issues in Boston. Mako Nagasawa, a ministry leader in Boston, joined in. Congregants were given opportunities to serve locally in the city. Adrian and Rebecca Tam flew in from Japan to contribute to the conference with their sons, Isaiah and Aaron. Bill and Paula Hanna, as well as Jim and Andrea Zvara, also joined us in-person to share testimonies and wisdom in panel discussions. Several other staff missionaries participated via Zoom.

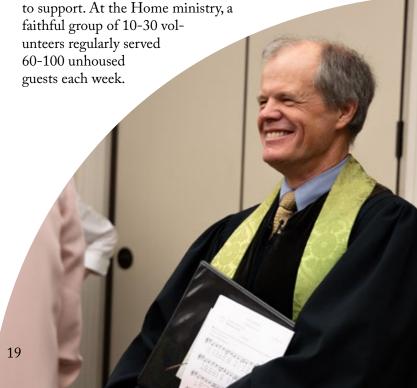
Throughout the conference, we were reminded that God sends us out locally and globally. He sends us out together with others. Along with other local churches and organizations, we participated in a seminar about what "integral mission" means in our context. Park Street's staff, elders, and dea cons participated in yet another workshop on how our ethos, structure, and policies could more directly integrate God's mission. A week after the mission conference, we hosted "Boston Flourish," a local ministry conference that unites Christians from around Boston to support gospel work in the city.

#### Going

At the start of the year, our newest long-term missionaries, Greg and Amy, arrived in the Middle East to begin language studies in Arabic. In the Spring, we sent the Lee family off with prayer and joy as staff missionaries to serve Muslim peoples in East Asia.

After a slow rebound from the effects of COVID in 2022, we were able to send seven Short-Term Mission teams out as a light to the nations. Five of those trips were international experiences, while the other two contributed to well-established projects closer to home. A team of two traveled to the Middle East as a pilot trip to work with one of our missionary families and to prepare for a 2024 team. We sent a team of four to Japan to assist the Tam's church in Fukuoka with a vacation Bible school. Six members of our international fellowship returned to Central Asia, where they shared practical skills and the love of Christ with young adults. Lewiston, Maine was the destination for our youth once again, where a team of twenty joined the staff of the Root Cellar serving the community of immigrants there. For the seventh year, a team of eleven Park Streeters partnered with several other area churches for the Reach the Beach evangelism project in Revere Beach. A team of four saw firsthand the work of the Mays and the Paradas in the prisons of South Africa. Finally, our most unique trip was a virtual trip, where one of our Park Street members shared her spiritual journey with the people of South Asia without ever getting on an airplane. We are so grateful for those who stepped out in faith to go and for those who gave sacrificially to make their going possible.

In Boston, we witnessed several new ministry initiatives: Earle Harmon and Jeff Potts headed up a soccer ministry to international students from Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Afghanistan. Judi Manola coordinated a grant-writers' workshop for prison ministry that attracted several other local churches. Simon Fowler and Maria Harmon also organized pot-luck dinners for the Afghan new neighbors our congregation continues



# MISSIONS BUDGET

	2024 Pr Breakdown	oposed Budget	2024 Budget vs. 2023 Budget		202 Actual	23 Budget	2024 vs. 2023 Budget vs. Actual		
CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME	% Share	Amount	% Change	\$ Change	Amount	Amount	% Change	\$ Change	
Offerings & Collections	79.4%	\$1,713,973	-11.7%	- \$227,348	\$1,672,169	\$1,941,322	2.5%	\$41,804	
Investment Income & Interest	14.0%	302,065	85.3%	139,065	163,000	163,000	85.3%	139,065	
Missions Retirement Reserves	4.6%	100,000	NMF	100,000	-	-	NMF	100,000	
Other Committee-Designated Reserves	1.2%	25,625	NMF	25,625	-	-	NMF	25,625	
Other Missions Income	0.7%	15,920	-24.2%	-5,080	20,909	21,000	-23.9%	-4,989	
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME	100.0%	2,157,583	1.5%	32,262	1,856,078	2,125,322	16.2%	301,505	
SUPPORT & EXPENSES									
Missionary Support									
Staff Missionaries	41.2%	889,461	12.1%	95,783	788,540	793,679	12.8%	100,921	
Staff Missionary Associates	2.9%	63,177	-39.2%	-40,681	103,857	103,857	-39.2%	-40,680	
Partner Missionaries	2.5%	54,000	50.0%	18,000	36,000	36,000	50.0%	18,000	
Mid-term Missionaries	0.0%	-	NMF	-	-	-	NMF	-	
Retired Missionaries	3.3%	70,809	-15.1%	-12,578	79,353	83,387	-10.8%	-8,544	
SUBTOTAL	49.9%	1,077,447	6.0%	60,524	1,007,750	1,016,923	6.9%	69,697	
General Missionary Support		, ,		,	, ,	, ,			
Missionary Visitation & Care	0.7%	15,000	0.0%	-	18,251	15,000	-17.8%	-3,251	
Missionary Furlough	0.6%	12,977	0.0%	-	4,413	12,977	194.0%	8,563	
Missionary Prospecting	0.5%	11,000	1,000%	10,000	259	1,000	4147.1%	10,741	
Subtotal	1.8%	38,977	34.5%	10,000	22,924	28,977	70.0%	16,053	
International Student Outreach	1.070	30,777	31.370	10,000	22,721	20,777	70.070	10,033	
PSIF & ESL Program Expenses	2.2%	47,900	0.0%	_	52,252	47,900	-8.3%	-4,352	
Subtotal	2.2%	47,900	0.0%	_	52,252	47,900	-8.3%	-4,352	
Campus Outreach	2.270	47,700	0.070		32,232	47,500	8.370	7,332	
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%	_	29,848	30,000	0.5%	152	
Support for Local Campus Ministers	1.4%	35,400	0.0%	_	35,746	35,400	-1.0%	-346	
Subtotal	6.3%	136,500	0.0%	_			-0.1%	-194	
	6.3%	136,300	0.0%	_	136,694	136,500	-0.1%	-194	
City Engagement	2.70/	00.104	(0.40/	20.104	20.005	50,000	1// 50/	<b>50.000</b>	
City Engagement / Home Outreach Other Local Ministries	3.7%	80,194	60.4%	30,194	30,095	50,000	166.5%	50,099	
	1.2%	25,000	0.0%	-	22,000	25,000	13.6%	3,000	
Subtotal	4.9%	105,194	40.3%	30,194	52,095	75,000	101.9%	53,099	
Partnerships & Projects									
Other Projects & Partnerships	0.0%	-	2 22/		-	-	) I	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
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%	-	3,713	4,000	7.7%	287	
Subtotal	1.3%	29,000	0.0%	-	3,713	29,000	681.1%	25,287	
Mission Conference & Programs									
Food/Service Receptions	0.2%	4,000	0.0%	-	8,375	4,000	-52.2%	-4,375	
Education, Guest Speakers, Misc. Pgms.	0.5%	10,500	0.0%	-	4,627	10,500	126.9%	5,873	
Missions Intern	0.1%	3,000	0.0%	-	1,000	3,000	200.0%	2,000	
Short-Term Mission Conferences/Pgms.	0.0%	1,000	0.0%	-	41	1,000	2330.7%	959	
Annual Leadership Conferences	0.1%	3,000	0.0%	-	1,950	3,000	53.9%	1,050	
URBANA Conference Scholarships	0.0%	-	NMF	-	-	-	NMF	-	
Mission Conference	0.9%	20,000	50.0%	-	15,787	20,000	26.7%	4,213	
Subtotal	1.9%	41,500	0.0%	-	31,780	41,500	30.6%	9,720	
Staff Salaries/Benefits & Administration									
Missions Salaries & Benefits	25.6%	552,156	-8.6%	-51,908	540,741	604,063	2.1%	11,415	
Support Staff Salaries & Benefits	4.9%	105,967	-13.5%	-16,549	112,528	122,517	-5.8%	-6,561	
Administration Expenses	1.1%	22,942	0.0%	-	29,778	22,942	-23.0%	-6,836	
Subtotal	31.6%	681,065	-9.1%	-68,457	683,047	749,522	-0.3%	-1,982	
TOTAL SUPPORT & EXPENSES	100.0%	2,157,583	1.5%	32,261	1,990,256	2,125,322	8.4%	167,327	
NET SURPLUS		-			-134,178	-		134,178	

#### Discipling

In the summer, Gustavo Karakey developed an innovative seminary class at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia for students to integrate technology and mission. The Lee family led trainings for Asian believers to learn how to reach out to their Muslim neighbors. The Parada and May families continued to disciple prisoners in South Africa through restorative justice programs and Bible studies.

In Boston, we joined with the Small Groups Ministry to develop a new 9-month missional discipleship program for congregants seeking clarity about their call to serve Jesus. This program, called *Pathways*, is a community experience that involves listening to the story God is writing in our lives, learning through cross-cultural mission, and being sent on mission. For the cross-cultural learning phase, Pathways participants embarked on a short-term trip to serve refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey under the oversight of Iranian believers who run a flourishing refugee ministry in Greece. Following that, we spent several months prayerfully reflecting on what the Lord had taught us as a community on mission and then crafted a clear commitment statement with a vision for our personal mission. Though Pathways requires a high level of commitment, the fruit is significant for those who participate.

#### Supporting

Bible translation is one of Park Street's key missions priorities. This past year, we were able to use money from the Shaw Fund to support an indigenous Uzbek consultant in a minority language translation project. We were also privileged to strengthen the translation work of Bill and Paula Hanna through another gift from the Shaw Fund that enabled the construction of a new recording studio in Chiangmai, Thailand. This new facility will allow many of the 40 or so translations they have been involved with to be recorded and distributed across SE Asia. Earlier in the year, we sent a gift to World Relief to support their work amongst earthquake victims in Turkey. What a blessing, to contribute financially to God's work among the nations! Of course, support can occur in other ways, too. For example, this past summer Mark and his son, Jameson, were able to join Kim and I on a trip to visit our missionaries in Japan (the Tams and Kangs) and Thailand (the Suwidjis). Additionally, in the early Fall, the church was able to provide



"to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). His constant love, grace, and provision is what sustains our missionaries overseas and our congregants who volunteer in the city. We are amazed at the Lord's grace to us sinners and to his call to serve together on his mission. Thank you so much for your encouragement as we serve together in his mission.

Julian L., Minister of Missions





God is faithful! This past year the Lord brought at least 20 different nations to our doorstep to learn Conversational English and to hear the message of the Gospel. Beside the regular ESL classes, we were able to offer Pronunciation, Vocabulary, and an American Culture classes. Recently, while teaching one of these classes, one of the students came about 20 minutes early. She had a look of concern, so I asked her if everything was okay. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she began to share what was on her heart; I knew it was an honor that she would open up to me, since this student came from an Asian country where it is culturally common to refrain from sharing if trust has not been built. Praise God that this was one of many opportunities to share the balm of the Gospel message with our ESL students. In our quilting class, students often opened up about their lives and shared about both good and troublesome experiences as we sat in a circle and worked. What a privilege to know how to pray for each one!

Our Language Partner Ministry has been wonderful. Usually, teachers meet with students on Zoom, which allows us to keep in touch with students who have formerly studied in ESL and returned to their home countries. Through these virtual meetings, friendships continue and God's Word continues to go forth! We were also able to share an Easter Dinner with over 120 students and their families. Former students attended and again, the

Gospel was shared. Around Thanksgiving, we went on a trip to Plimoth Plantation, where we shared the history of America and told of the freedom found in Christ Jesus. In addition to these notable events, regular events like Saturday outings, rock climbing, Bible Classes, Teahouse Chats, and game nights helped to strengthen relationships outside of the classroom and gave us numerous opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel.

I recently received an email from a Turkish student that studied with us last semester. He is a professor at a University in Turkey. He came to study in Boston and has now moved to Missouri to do more research. He wrote, "Even though Boston did not treat me very well, I had a wonderful time at the church. It was the only place that I felt comfortable to socialize with my fellow ESL students and teachers. I felt like I belonged. Thank you for the scholarship and your warm heart."

I am so grateful to God for all the teachers and volunteers whose eyes and ears have been continually focused on Jesus and His calling to serve through ESL. By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are privileged to be a light to the nations in Boston!

Karen Patschke, ESL Coordinator

#### PARK STREET INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Traditions often start small and without fanfare. About three years ago, as the country was dealing with COVID, a tradition of joint outings involving both our PSIF and ESL programs began—small gatherings to go rock climbing at first, followed by a bike ride up the Minuteman Trail, barbecues, hikes, and apple-picking trips. We then added the natural pairing of ice skating by North Station followed by Lessons & Carols at Park Street, a combination which saw its third iteration this past December. Some who came were repeat skaters. Others were on the ice for the firsttime, including an older pastor visiting his son from halfway around the world. He daringly ventured a few "dance moves" that landed him on the ice—he was unhurt, but it provided a moment of levity. As we left the rink, an intense rain made it a bit harrowing as we raced to the nearby food court next to TD Garden. Despite our damp clothing, dinner was a time of wonderful conversation and fellowship!

It has been a privilege to see communities form, relationships grow, and traditions establish throughout my time with PSIF. Now in my ninth year as the Minister to Internationals, I have had the time to develop perspective, to see how God's love shapes us as we face obstacles, to do our best to live out God's desires for us—to be true disciples of our Lord both as individuals and as a community. Perspective is good, especially in this very challenging year for the church, and it is good to remain steadfast in God's goodness and timing for all things.

Our ministry to internationals remains strong. Our ESL program has continued to serve students from overseas, including those from Afghanistan, Iran, and Haiti, alongside many from different parts of Asia. This past Easter, instead of ESL staff and PSIF preparing dinner for the ESL students, the students themselves volunteered to help alongside everyone else! At the end of the night, the students and their families didn't simply leave after dessert, but many stayed to help clean and to chat with those from PSIF until facilities staff kicked us all out of the Fellowship Hall. PSIF and ESL have found a way to grow together, and it has been to the benefit of both. Over the past year, PSIF has grown both spiritually, in number, and in diversity. The South Asian cohort is large enough now that we are not satisfied simply when someone says they are "from India," but rather we ask, "Where in India are you from?"

Meanwhile, the Van Baay House, our residence for international students, has continued its mission to be a loving community, to reach to other international

students for Christ, and to prepare its residents to live on mission. Community arises from what may seem inconsequential in the moment, but in time creates a tapestry woven by a shared experience of Christ—in weekly dinners and Bible studies, regular house retreats, and in serving the homeless together once a month. Over the course of the year, there have been game and karaoke nights, as well as dinners and barbecues where other internationals are invited to come and see how God's Spirit both informs and creates a community that, while not perfect, strives to exemplify His love. Our residents, representing seven different countries and five different educational institutions in Boston, not only serve at PSIF, but also in Park Street's children's and music ministries. Others have been exploring a future in missions through the *Pathways* program.

This past summer, our PSIF community sent a short-term missions team to Central Asia to help long-time friends in ministry. This was the second time PSIF has sent a team there, and it was the continuation of a partnership that originated well before my time on staff. There were some on the team from East Asia, and then there was me—I may look Asian but am culturally more American. Our leader was Caucasian, from America. He was the only one who spoke the official language of Russian, and the only one who understood the culture, because he had been a missionary there before. The Asians on the team may have looked at home, but we were clueless, and needed our American-looking and American friend to show us the way. This is as it should be, each of us from such different backgrounds, with different giftings, helping one another as we serve God. It was a thrilling experience, one that I hope is the beginning of a wonderful tradition.

Raymond Kam, Minister to Internationals



#### **COLLEGE MINISTRY**

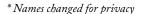
Park Street's College Ministry seeks to create a church home where students can experience the heart of God and engage in the mission of God through their encounter with the people of God. We seek to build discipleship communities for students within the church and on campuses around the city where students can be introduced to Christ and/or learn how to grow in their faith and share their faith for the rest of their lives. Here is a recent story from Malisa, one of Park Street's Cru staff members, illustrating how God was at work in College Ministry this past year:

"I met a mom at Park Street who was dropping off her freshman daughter, Amy\*, at BU. I connected with Amy and began to disciple her. She began to ask the Holy Spirit to change her heart attitude towards her friends. God answered that prayer. She told me, 'Malisa, I can't believe it, I prayed and then my heart was soft towards this person."

Amy eventually invited that friend, Sarah, to one of our discussion groups. After a couple of months, Sarah surrendered her life to Christ. Amy and Sarah then invited Alex and Nora to the group. Soon Nora surrendered her life to Jesus. They went on to invite Katelyn who quickly realized, 'This isn't about religion. It's about a relationship with Jesus. It's about the life that Jesus gives you as he comes into your life and changes you.'They then invited Emma and Ashley who have also surrendered their lives to Jesus."

On Sundays, the in-house college ministry has grown to 35 people. Throughout the year we have hosted hundreds of students in the Wilson House—PSC's college ministry house in Harvard Square. Students gather in the house for outreaches, game nights, holidays meals, leadership retreats, missions trip briefings, and more.

Tammy McLeod, Director of College Student Ministries





#### **GRAD STUDENT MINISTRY**

Serving Graduate Students at Park Street and on the campuses of Boston is a great joy. Park Street partners with InterVarsity to support campus fellowships that witness to and support Christians in graduate school. Jesus is so needed in these communities, as many live lives characterized by stress and loneliness. In the university setting, success can be measured in worldly ways such as getting important jobs or publishing in important journals. Our calling is to love both those who are "successful" and those who are struggling. We do this by encouraging students with the truth that Jesus is more important than grades or research, offering fellowship on campus, and hosting meals. About 30% of the graduate students we encounter are international students, oftentimes coming from countries that have limited access to Jesus' Good News. What joy to minister to them during their time in the U.S.

Sarah and I reach out to BU International students and MIT MBAs. Michael Greene (our deacon to Grad students) helps with Christian Fellowships at Harvard Public Health and Northeastern. David and Roselle Heckendorn (Director of Van Baay International Student Ministry House) do outreach at Harvard to international students (often using Alpha course), and Jeff Potts focuses on BU international students. Sarah, Michael, David, and Jeff all worship at Park Street. We are thankful for this faithful team!

Tim Leary, Director of Grad Student Ministries





#### CITY ENGAGEMENT

"The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy and loving-kindness; teach me Your statutes."

#### PSALM 119:64

I want you to know the names of our friends and neighbors whom we've had the privilege to know and love, and be known and loved by, this past year—image-bearers in all their particularity. I think of G, a regular guest at Home who always comes early to help set up, has the sweetest smile, is now over 60 (which we celebrated with a cake which made his smile even broader), and is still suffering the consequences of lead poisoning as a child. Or consider J, another guest at Home, who has been sharing his reflections on Scripture and encouraging me to journal. And like N, evacuated with family to Rwanda from Afghanistan without a dime in their pockets, now trying to make a life in Boston.

There are 30+ more Afghan neighbors—men, women and children—in a growing community of people who fled their homes 2.5 years ago and who have been supported in various ways through our New Neighbors ministry. This past year, we gathered monthly at Park Street Church for a potluck. In addition, Earle Harmon and Jeff Potts launched Sanctus Sports Fellowship, which uses soccer to foster community for refugees and international students in the area. There are now 80–120 guests, (almost double that of over a year ago), unhoused or otherwise in need, coming to Home on Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings, including a growing number of Haitian refugees. God knows each of their names and each of their stories.

We thank God for the privilege it has been to know and hear them, and in some small way, to bring them tangible expressions of the love of Christ. We thank God for the original New Neighbor fund that has allowed us to provide essential, temporary support for new Afghan families. We thank God for the Home budget that has allowed us to serve over 8000 meals at Home and provide toiletries and clothing. We thank God for those providing training: CPR, Food Safety, "Culture and Trauma" (a workshop we hosted led by Rachel Uthmann of International Association for Refugees, and Dana Baker of the Boston Trauma Healing Collaborative). And we thank God for all the answered prayers: Home guests like A finding a permanent home, O finding a permanent job, ALL our original Afghan families finally receiving asylum after two years of waiting, and God raising more people to serve at Home just when we needed them.

The "we" here has been a particular work of God for which we praise him: so many Park Street families, and so many brothers and sisters from different churches and organizations serving Christ together. Home ministry has been blessed with faithful brothers and sisters from St. Paul & St. John Chrysostom Coptic Orthodox Church, Cornerstone Church of Boston, and Renewal Church in particular. Our New Neighbor ministry to Afghans has been blessed by people from Lighthouse Church in Quincy, Grace Chapel, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 4 Rivers Church in New Hampshire, and more. It is no surprise that God would bring church unity as a fruit of loving service in his name.

The ministry of City Engagement brings disproportionate joy and reward. However, it also comes with its own sorrows. Sometimes this sorrow arises from own doing – from neglecting, misunderstanding, or mishandling needs, or from having conditional love (in our human longing for results or gratitude). Otherwise, this sorrow springs naturally from being close to the brokenhearted, witnessing self-defeating actions, gross injustices, and suffering.

We look forward to the day—Come, Lord Jesus—when there are no one is hungry, seeks refuge, goes without a home, has a broken relationship, or suffers from mental illness. We look forward to the day when "he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Simon Fowler and the City Engagement Team

#### WOMAN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Continuing with our mission of serving God by serving others, WBS met most weeks between September and May. Our meetings include hospitality, which we share with anyone who passes by the Granary Room, work on projects, lunch together, and a time of worship, devotions, and prayer. This year our projects included knitting hats and scarves for the Home ministry, baby blankets for Fourth Trimester and Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices, as well as lap blankets and prayer shawls for elderly members no longer able to attend Park Street in person. We made and shared several quilts and table runners. We trimmed and sorted about five pounds of stamps contributed by the congregation and sent them to the Shell Point Stamp Ministry, which sells them and uses the funds for Spanish language Sunday School

materials. They have raised

over \$1 million since they began in 1972. We cut used Christmas cards into ornament shapes. Some are sent to Child Evangelism Fellowship in New York City, where they are given out at a "birthday party for Jesus." About 100 of them were part of gift bags shared by the Park Street Care Ministry team at Christmas worship services held at two local nursing homes. A high point of the year once again was lunch with the Missionaries and Missions Office team during the 2023 Mission Conference. It was such a blessing to hear about what God has

One of the most significant ways we serve others is through our ever-growing card ministry. In this time of electronic communication, WBS believes that it is meaningful to receive a real pen-and-paper greeting in the mail, and our recipients seem to agree. This past year, we sent around 300 cards to retired and current missionaries as well as elderly members; we sent words of encouragement to Park Street leaders and volunteers, valentines to members of the Friendship Bible Study, as well as many get well, birthday, and sympathy cards. Despite some health challenges experienced by those in our group, we are thankful to the Lord for the blessings we receive at His hand and the opportunity to serve.

these dedicated brothers and sisters.

been doing around the world through

Judi Manola, President of the Woman's Benevolent Society

# PARTNER SCHOOLS

#### PARK STREET SCHOOL

#### The God Who Sees Us

In early September at the Preschool, we begin to learn about ourselves. We learn to name and describe our feelings. We make handprints. We draw self-portraits using shapes and exploring colors. We identify our

individual skin, eye, and hair color. In the 3-year-old Preschool classroom, we make self-portrait puppets. We name various parts of our bodies. And we discover where we fit into our family as a sister or a son, as a daughter or a brother. In Pre-Kindergarten, we talk about what makes us unique. We recognize and write our names. We begin to think about our hopes and dreams.

As we learn about

ourselves, we also discover it is God who has made each one of us uniquely. Not only that, but He also keeps His eye on us. In Chapel this year, at both the Elementary School and at the Preschool, we've been exploring that idea, focusing on the theme: "God Sees You!"

In Chapel, we've been engaging Bible stories where we see God, or Jesus interacting with men, women, boys, and girls, sometimes when they are having a hard time, and sometimes when they are expressing faith and courage. We've been learning that God cares about us. He pays attention to us.

From God creating Adam and Eve, all the animals and the world, we see that God saw how unique, distinct and beautiful each of His creations was! From the account of Hagar, who ran away from her unkind mistress, we see how God saw her in hard circumstances, showed her kindness and promised her life. From the story of the 5,000 people who hadn't brought lunch when they went to hear Jesus, we see how Jesus stayed near. He demonstrated compassion to the thousands on the hill by feeding them from a young man's lunch. From the story of Zacchaeus, we learn how Jesus saw Zacchaeus' choice to steal from others, and yet, seeing him in the tree, He calls him by name, goes to his house, and offers forgiveness. From Esther, we are reminded of how God saw a young woman's courage, grounded in her reliance on Him when she prays. He, in turn, demonstrates His love for His people as He saves them. And finally, as Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son who went far from home,

taking and spending all of his inheritance, He reminds us that as the child returns home, the Father, filled with love, sees him, runs to greet him, and welcomes him home.

We are grateful for each prayer Park Street Church (PSC) members have prayed for Park Street School. As we look toward our twenty-fifth year, please pray for each of our alumni, former families, current students and families, and faculty

and staff, that no matter where any of us are, we would know the goodness of our amazing God, who sees and loves each one of us well. We pray the same for you, our partners.

Kim Twitchell, Director of Communications

Current Headmaster, Tim Belk pictured here with Headmaster Emeritus, Frank Guerra at the opening of the Bradley Athletic Center. >

#### **BOSTON TRINITY ACADEMY**

2023 was a year of remarkable growth and achievement for BTA, solidifying its position as a leader in Christian education where every student is known and loved. We were excited to open several new spaces on campus to develop and enhance school culture. The opening of the Bradley Athletic Center has provided much needed space and focus to the school's athletic programming. We won two championships last year and are enjoying an expanded athletic program with increased student involvement due to excellent coaching especially from within the faculty. The introduction of Austin House, a student residence, added a new dimension to campus life, allowing international students to flourish in a supportive environment. BTA is proud of its short-term student programs, welcoming students from Morocco, Switzerland, Spain, and various other international locations. Finally, we have worked to provide additional dedicated and beautiful spaces that inspire, most notably the new quiet reading area (eventually to be named in honor of the former headmasters of the school, Frank and Becky Guerra). The impact on school spirit of spaces that properly honor the activities taking place within them is unmistakable. We are planning additional renovations and improvements at the school in order to shape the imagination and encourage pride in the students.

The Christian faith remains central to all aspects of school life. We continue to explore and develop innovative programs that draw together questions of meaning and wisdom within the curriculum. We recognize that with the rise of social media — especially since the pandemic — it is becoming harder and harder for many young people to achieve a meaningful connection with the world. Our programs weave together social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual concerns. Simone Weil noted that "faith is the experience of knowledge enlightened by love." Seeing with the eyes of faith is to discover the worth and responsibility given to us in creation. Through our range of programs including the Humanities curriculum, Symposium and the Trinity Institute, we aim to help young people acquire the vision, character, and confidence that will enable them to do something great with their lives. Finally, in addition to the regular weekly chapels, a new student-initiated-andled spiritual life group called "FIRE" was launched.

The commitment to diversity remains a cornerstone at BTA, as the school continues to serve families from all backgrounds, reinforcing its status as New England's most diverse school. New strategic partnerships were forged to



Recruiting, developing, and retaining the very best faculty is essential to the fulfillment of our mission. We are delighted by the new talent who have chosen to join the faculty this year in order to inspire and transform student learning outcomes. Currently, 85% of our faculty hold advanced degrees and 50% are foreign-born or minority. We saw some of our best-ever AP results in 2023 and now offer 16 AP courses with new offerings particularly in the sciences. Yet the focus is less on test prep than on ensuring that students develop the skills and attitudes necessary for genuine engagement and discovery within each discipline. We have expanded the college counseling department and our students continue to be admitted to some of the finest colleges in the nation and to find themselves ready to excel upon arrival.

In 2023 Boston Trinity Academy continued its efforts to provide one of the most compelling educational opportunities in the area. We seek to prepare students for lives of faith, integrity, and service, believing that as it is nourished by the love of Jesus Christ, a diverse student body can aspire to exemplary scholarship and genuine community.



Upper School students on campus. >

# REPORT from OFFICERS & BUDGET

# REPORT from the MODERATOR

"The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him." This is how our services began when I was a child. Our pastor was calling us to be still before God, that God is on His throne and therefore we need to quiet our hearts, our worldly worries and focus on Him. Habakkuk is talking with his God, complaining, "How long shall I cry for help?" and "Why do you make me see iniquity?" God tells Habakkuk that there will be suffering and hardship, but in the end, there will be deliverance. The Lord gives Habakkuk this assurance "But the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him." Psalm 11:4 says, "The Lord's throne is in heaven and His eyes see, His eyelids test the children of man." Our Lord is on His throne in heaven, He is able to do all things, including bringing the world into silence, the world around us into silence. We need to be still in

the knowledge that He is God and patiently wait, in faith,

believing, that He will intervene and save us in His time.

the youth program is equipping our youth to face challenges in this world by being grounded in Christ; our worship services are powerful, preaching is strong and our congregational singing and music are glorious, and the list goes on. The Lord IS in His holy temple!

I am blessed to be working alongside faithful men and women who are your elders, ministers, staff, clerk, deacons, as well as those serving on our committees. They are wonderful people, committed to serving God through His church. We are not perfect, but we are all seeking to serve our God and all of you with humility, discernment, and courage—diligently seeking His will in all things. Each of us has been blessed with unique gifts, which make for diverse ideas and robust discussions. We do not always agree on everything, but we agree that in all things, we want to glorify God. Ephesians 4:4–6 says that we are all saved by the same grace, through the same faith,

given by the same Savior, who is both Lord and God of us all. We are all united



through Christ, so let us stay united as a body, keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Him.

The Lord sees us, what is happening, our joys and our suffering. He sees it all and in His promise to those who love Him and are called according to His purposes, we find assurance that whatever happens in our journey is for our good and for His Glory. In the meantime, while we wait, let us engage fervently in prayer. Let us, like Habakkuk, be able

to respond: "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food...yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation..."

Jason Abraham, Moderator

### REPORT from the CLERK

It is an honor and a blessing to serve as Park Street's Clerk. This has been a busy and challenging year. We began the year with a membership reaffirmation drive directed by our Elder Board. The Membership Committee and many others took part in this effort. We emailed letters, mailed letters and made phone calls to 1282 people who were listed as members and affiliate members of Park Street. We consulted with ministry leaders, elders, deacons and staff to ensure accuracy of our data. We staffed a table on several Sundays after each service to encourage people to reaffirm physically. We consulted many in the church — pastors and staff members, past and current Membership Committee members, ministry leaders and long-term active members. We worked hard to identify who among the 1282 people listed as members continue to be part of our faith community. By the end of this process, we believe we have an accurate count of 852 active members.

Each Park Street active member has confirmed

- · Faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior
- Agreement with the Park Street personal confession of faith (parkstreet.org/about-us/beliefs)
- Commitment to the PSC Covenant of Faith and Government (parkstreet.org/about-us/bylaws)
- Active engagement with Park Street

Going through this process was a blessing – hearing of the important role our fellowship plays in the lives of our members and getting to know each other as we worked and prayed together.

As Elder assigned to the Membership Committee, Nick Dedeke oversaw this effort as the year began, and after the annual election, Elder Andrew Ziegler continued. It has been a privilege to work with Nick and Andrew as well as with Pastor Randall Wetzig, who in his previous administrative role, set up many systems and aided me in understanding the technical aspects. It was very clear to see that God put exactly the right people in their roles all along the way, even for the relatively mundane task of counting people!

We had two membership classes this spring, the duration of each was 3½ hours on each of three Sunday afternoons. As a result of the classes, we welcomed 43 new members this year.

Thirty-one people were baptized in 2023 – 19 adults and 12 infants. Four infants were dedicated to God by their parents.

Twelve former members returned to Park Street and reactivated their memberships. Six members transferred to other churches.

I worked with Nominating Committee members to confirm membership status of potential candidates.

We have had several petitions come to our Church leadership this year, and for these, I verified membership status of petition signers, working with former Parliamentarian Brian Lacey, several elders and our Moderator Jason Abraham.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Debbie Gallagher, Church Clerk

## REPORT from the CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**HEBREWS 12:1-2** 

These verses from the beginning of the Epistle to the Hebrews are especially familiar to us now as they have been preached upon for the last few weeks. Indeed, we do have a great cloud of witnesses, and not only those referenced in Chapter 11 of Hebrews, but also all who have come before us over the last 2000 years who followed faithfully along the path and in the footsteps of the biblical figures spoken about there.

Jesus is everything to me, and I trust, to you. Savior and Lord, our faithful high priest, the perfector of our faith. It is the next phrase in this passage that really touches my heart these days when the author of Hebrews states that Jesus en-

dured the cross because of the joy that was set before him. Jesus, God the Son, incarnate, eternally shared the joy and bliss within the Trinity and then was born a baby in Bethlehem, in a manger. He had already lived with unfathomable joy for eternity and yet he came to save us, to suffer on the cross, and to bear our judgment. And what is this joy that was set before him? It moves me very deeply to think that the joy referred to here is an escalated joy, an even greater joy, because the joy he must be looking forward to is the joy of bringing us along with him into his heavenly kingdom. What merit do we have that such an outcome should bring greater joy to Him? Well, the answer to this question is "none." Nevertheless, he loves the sinful, the broken, men and women with evil hearts. He redeems us, loving us with His everlasting love.

What can be said about how we should live given these truths? Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Let us all pray for discernment of the truth in this difficult time. God knows all things. What do each of us actually know? What have we actually observed? Let us with humble hearts put aside what we have heard secondhand and think about those things that we know from our firsthand experience in our community. Let us ask our Lord, as he works within us, to give us wisdom and discernment as we trust in Him.



# MINISTRY & OPERATIONS BUDGET

	2024 Pı Breakdown	oposed Budget	2024 Bu 2023 I	idget vs. Budget	2023 Actual Budget		2024 vs Budget vs	
CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME	% Share	Amount	% Change	\$ Change	Amount	Amount	% Change	\$ Change
Offerings & Collections	84.3%	\$2,899,523	-9.6%	- \$306,239	\$2,838,388	\$3,205,762	2.2%	\$61,136
Endowment Investment Income	10.6%	365,486	86.2%	169,151	196,335	196,335	86.2%	169,151
Reserves Appropriation	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facility Use & Rental Income	3.3%	113,450	0.0%	-	114,263	113,450	-0.7%	-813
Other Operational Income	1.7%	60,000	50.0%	20,000	52,531	40,000	14.2%	7,469
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME	100.0%	3,438,459	-3.3%	-117,088	3,201,517	3,555,547	7.4%	236,942
OPERATING EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS								
Ministry & Programs								
Ministry & Program Staff Expenses	36.7%	1,262,030	-3.5%	- 46,164	1,231,296	1,308,194	2.5%	30,734
Adult Ministries	1.2%	40,000	9.6%	3,500	39,647	36,500	0.9%	353
Family Ministries	1.6%	55,500	0.0%	-	58,469	55,500	-5.1%	-2,969
General Ministries & Programs	3.2%	110,950	-10.4%	-12,850	123,412	123,800	-10.1%	-12,462
Total Ministry & Programs	42.7%	1,468,480	-3.6%	-55,514	1,452,824	1,523,994	1.1%	15,656
Park Street Facility								
Maintenance Expenses	3.5%	122,000	0.0%	-	232,104	\$122,000	-47.4%	-110,104
Building Supplies Expenses	0.6%	20,000	0.0%	-	23,115	20,000	-13.5%	-3,115
Utilities Expenses	8.9%	304,764	15.0%	39,764	304,764	265,000	0.0%	0
General Expenses	3.2%	110,917	13.2%	12,917	119,946	98,000	-7.5%	-9,029
Total Park Street Facility	16.2%	557,681	10.4%	52,681	679,929	505,000	-18.0%	-122,248
Total 1626 Mass Avenue Facility	1.5%	51,000	0.0%	-	55,437	51,000	-8.0%	-4,437
General & Administrative Services								
Administrative Staff Expenses	24.2%	831,298	-5.9%	-51,820	798,660	883,118	4.1%	32,637
Communications & Office Technology	4.3%	147,500	-16.9%	-30,000	153,494	177,500	-3.9%	-5,994
General Admin. Services & Expenses	4.1%	142,500	-18.5%	-32,435	182,463	174,935	-21.9%	-39,963
Total General & Administrative Services	32.6%	1,121,298	-9.2%	-114,255	1,134,617	1,235,553	-1.2%	-13,320
Transfer to Replacement Reserves								
Park Street Facility	5.8%	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	7.0%	240,000	0.0%	-	240,000	240,000	0.0%	-
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS	100%	3,438,459	-3.3%	-117,089	3,562,808	3,555,547	-3.5%	-124,349
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		-		-	-361,291	-		

# COMMITTEES どSTAFF

The names below are current as of January 1, 2024.

#### **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
Mark Booker, Senior Minister\*
Nick Dedeke
Mary Harvey
Linda Herman
Gabriel Ling, Treasurer
John Liu
Leslie Liu
David Murgatroyd
Kirstin Peltz
Geoff Raux
Andrew Ziegler

# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Jason Abraham, Moderator

Lyford Beverage Philip Chen David Cist **Iennifer Collier** Chase Gibson Gregg Hansen, Assistant Treasurer Joan Hale Leonard Jake Lubinski Andrew Kamili Gabriel Ling, Treasurer Ling Yi Liu, Missions Treasurer Judi Manola Wynne Mun Martha Neu, Chair Drake Richev John Saunders Jeff Shaw, Facilities Subcommittee Chair Mike Ahearn, Church Administrator\*\* Joe Ghobrial, Controller\*\*

#### MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Lois Andersen Bailey Chang Ruth Chen Simon Fowler Julia Ho Alana Howland Selwyn Jayakar Charles Larson David Lewis Alice Loo John R. Knight Jason Peter Yuyu Song Brian Wilford Brian Winey, Chair Kara Yee John Liu, Elder to the Missions Committee Raymond Kam, Minister to Internationals\* Julian L., Minister of Missions\*\*

Ling Yi Liu, Missions Treasurer Carol Scott, Missions Administrator\*\* Andrea Zvara, Director of Global Outreach\*\*

#### **DEACONS**

Annette Aureli, Visitation Millard Baublitz, Prayer Hour: Sunday (AM) Lyford Beverage, Choir 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 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 Clay Hancock, Orchestra Peter Holt, Boston Fellows Program Alana Howland, FOCUS/ESL Tom Kane, FOCUS/ESL Turid Larson, Woman's Benevolent Society Heather Lewis, Wings Pat McLeod, College Ministry Dale Myers, Communion (AM) Charles Peltz, Orchestra Sharon Postma, Enable Boston/Friendship Bible Study Jennifer Powell, Children's Ministry Sarah Richey, Newcomers and Hospitality Greg Rideout, Pastoral Care Mayumi Rideout, Prayer Team Hugh Rutledge, Alive in Christ 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)

<sup>\*</sup> Staff \*\* Staff, non-voting

#### **DEACONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Tom Kane Sharon Postma Christine Vasko Wally Weld, Chair

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Iason 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 David Rix, Former Moderator Mike Ahearn, Church Administrator\*\*

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Robert Andersen Lois Andersen Jeff Collier Debbie Gallagher, Clerk Elisabeth McSherry Green

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

Randall Wetzig, Assistant Minister\*\* Andrew Ziegler, Elder & Chair

#### 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 Leslie Bodkin, Director of Enable Boston

Mark Booker, Senior Minister

Simon Fowler, City Engagement Consultant

Joe Ghobrial, Controller

Maria Harmon, City Engagement Intern

David & Roselle Heckendorn, Directors of the Van Baay House

Adam Herndon, Minister to Families

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

Julian L, Minister of Missions

Damian Long, Minister of Community Caitlin Lubinski, Director of Communications

Chris May, Minister to Women

Steve McGaff, Assistant Facilities Manager

Tammy McLeod, Director of College Student Ministries

Leonard Mosiah, Minister to Youth

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, Assistant Minister

Philip Wu, Sexton

Ana Yee-Jones, Administration, Communications, & Finance Coordinator

Andrea Zvara, Director of Global Outreach

