



# **40 Years of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian**



**3700 Pleasant Hill Road  
Duluth Georgia 30047**

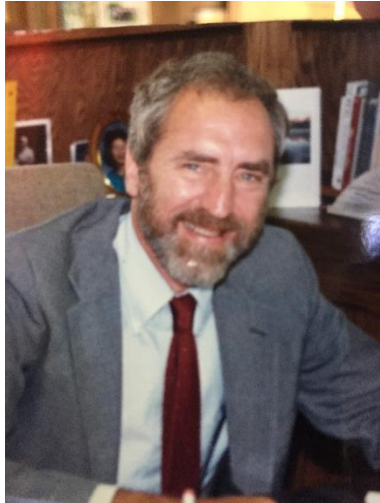
**January 20, 1985– May 18, 2025**

This is not a comprehensive history of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian and will certainly be out of date the moment it is published. Many aspects of church life have been omitted due to lack of information or sources about youth programs, Vacation Bible School, transitions in church school, building changes and improvements. Additions and corrections are always welcomed.

***Lovingly compiled by Margot Ashley***

## 40 Years of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian

Mall Corners Theater on Satellite Blvd at Pleasant Hill Road was an unlikely place to start a new church. However, because it was a trial run for the actual preferred target, Duluth Middle School, that was the first place to ask. David Fry, Associate Pastor at Shallowford Presbyterian Church, had been recruited by the Atlanta Presbytery to lead the effort to add



*Dave Fry in the early years of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian*

a new church development in growing-Gwinnett County near the new Gwinnett Place mall. Surprisingly, the theater manager was not only open to the idea, but accommodating and very interested. On a record-cold morning (-15 F degrees) of January 20, 1985, about fifty people gathered for the first service in one of the smaller theaters. Given the temperature of the day, it was appropriate that *City Heat* was on the movie marquee. The nursery was at the front of another theater directly under the big screen, and within a couple weeks, we obtained carpeting to keep our babies off the cold floor. There were many surprise discoveries including finding ample storage space under and behind the movie screens; after every movie, stray popcorn was blown under the curtains where all the church set up was stored.

Pre-service set-up required vacuuming as well as pulling out piano, pulpit, table, etc. from under the theater screen to transform this entertainment center into a place of worship.

Because David Fry had been an Associate Pastor and Youth leader there, many people from Shallowford Presbyterian attended PHPC for the first six months until our own membership grew to a critical amount. After several weeks in that first year, we outgrew the small theater and moved to a larger one. Everyone who was there will remember, when standing up to sing, all of the seat bottoms would rise up in a resounding rattle. Another surprise was the muffling of hymns when singing because of the sound-suppressing draperies on the walls. It was common for the smell of popcorn to waft in during the last 15 minutes of the service as the movie theater staff prepared for the first wave of customers. When blockbuster movies were showing, there were times when we had to collect our children from the nursery and put everything away in a theater filling with movie goers waiting for the 12:15 show. Dave learned not to preach long sermons, so we could be out in proper time.

June 30, 1985 was the day the church charter was signed by 124 members and 2 affiliate members. We had a big celebration in the courtyard outside the movie theater.

Our first Elders were charter members who had been with us from the beginning: Kind of brings to memory the election of Matthias in Acts 1, without the whole Judas-betrayal thing.

From one of our first elders, Kathi Buffington:

Our first Session was both reverent and irreverent at times! We got the work done to begin building a church, meeting in the little house on Pleasant Hill Road next to the pond. We sat around the room in casual clothes, and had varied personalities—from Dave Hudson and Bill Hull, our jokesters, to Ned Chapin, who was, I think, the oldest member and the only one who had been on a session before. One of the funniest times was when Dave Hudson came in with a water gun and shot everyone in the room, including the visitors from Presbytery! Or the time that Bill Hull was reading scripture and when he came to the part about Jesus' riding into Jerusalem on an ass and he said on "his ass" and broke into laughter that spread throughout the room. Thank goodness, we had no Presbytery visitors that evening! But we seriously considered, in prayer, the job before us and accomplished a lot.

Later, I was on the session again with a much different and more reverent group. There were very few church activities in which my husband Mike and I weren't involved. I chaired the Angel Tree program for several years and also chaired the annual Red Cross Blood Drives. We served as ushers, served communion, helped build a Charis House, attended all of the fun church functions and parties—especially the wonderful church camps! — and the first year, we never missed a Sunday service. Mike played on the softball team which was a great recruitment tool for new members. Most of our social life revolved around PHPC. It helped that Mike's brother, Jimmy, and his wife, Kathy, were also members and all four of our children participated in the church, too. We watched families grow up: children from babies to helping baptize their babies! These were exciting years! We miss those wonderful times.

As Chair of the Finance Committee, I remember that we met with C&S Bank to obtain financing and had our major donors, Don Sands and Drew Echols, and the head of the Atlanta Presbytery and the contractor Milton Reviere, who was Presbyterian also. I remember touring other churches, including First United Methodist of Gainesville, GA where our daughters and their families are now members. Jane Kauffman fell in love with their bell tower and really wanted us to have one like it. Mainly, though, Dave and the others liked the open sanctuary with high wooden beams.

One of our initial tasks was to identify a name for our new church. Several of the elders were named David (e.g., Hudson, Cain, and Albright), as well as Dave Fry, and we all jokingly talked about naming the church "St David's Presbyterian Church". Seriously, many on the Session felt strongly about the name Grace Presbyterian, and two of them liked Pleasant Hill Presbyterian because it provided some geographical context for those who

might be seeking a new congregation. The Atlanta Presbytery also liked that choice, so that became the official name.

In September 1985, Sunday School classes began—for adults, youth and children. Dave Fry led an adult discussion class in one of the theaters. In a few months, another adult Bible-study class led by David Ashley started with four members sitting on folding chairs in a back hallway of the theater complex, with fierce winds whipping through the hall around the back door. To kick off the second year of Sunday School, Marianna Travis convinced Dave Fry to introduce Super Sunday School wearing a superman costume. There is only a fleeting picture of his back as he was racing down the aisle of the theater.

Because there was no church building, a house across from the Marriott on Pleasant Hill Road and just across I-85 from the theater was rented as an office with Shannon Hudson as the first church secretary. Before the building was complete, this office was the location for many covered-dish dinners, choir rehearsals, session meetings and volleyball games. The congregation also met at Shorty Howell Park for larger evening gatherings to get to know those who were to become our church family.

## New Building



*Grader at 3700 worksite*

Property at 3700 Pleasant Hill Road was sold for \$1 to Atlanta Presbytery by real estate developer, Scott Hudgens in August 1985. The construction company American Building Consultants stated that a grader would be “at the site on Monday morning”. When Dave Fry drove by to check on progress, there *was* a grader parked on the verge beside the road, but no one was there to operate it. The grader was removed by the next morning, but it *had* been there on the designated date. Eventually, trees were removed, ground was cleared and locations were marked for the various rooms of the new structure. The ground-breaking ceremony was held on a Sunday in June 1986 following worship at the

theater. The ground was still hot from the fires used to burn logs, stumps and debris after clearing the land and shoes were coated with ash as church members walked across the ground from one location to another. Prayers were offered for the office and workrooms, worship space, sanctuary/fellowship hall, Sunday School rooms, kitchen and nursery. Purple



balloons tagged with “Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, Duluth Georgia” were released at the end of the dedication ceremony. One balloon was eventually returned in the fall of that year from a farmer in North Carolina—the only Presbyterian elder in his community.

Throughout all this time, everyone had a profound sense of mission—that of building a new church in the area—and realized that if every person wasn’t fully committed, what needed to be accomplished couldn’t be done. Milton Reviere, a Presbyterian minister, was the architect of this original building, as well as serving as the contractor for the construction.

Mike Buffington was chair of the Building Committee. These are some of his recollections:

Related to the Building Committees, I chaired the original building committee for our first structure, the multi-use building, and I served on the committee to build the current sanctuary, as well as serving on the Session. Both committees were made up of several members along with Dave Fry and our selected architects. We had spirited and prayerful conversations about our needs. We surveyed and interviewed other members and members of other churches. We also visited other churches. The first committee worked fairly quickly as we were anxious to get into our first building. Working with our architects, we developed what we thought were the best facilities for our congregation at the time and for our anticipated future needs. We spent much time projecting our future size, working with other committees, and making every effort to stay within our budget to get the most church we could afford.

We were all extremely proud of the first structure when it was completed. I spent many enjoyable hours in that facility and believe it served our congregation well.

The committee for the sanctuary (2001 completion) took longer to develop a plan and complete construction. We worked together as a committee, but we had more decisions to make and more things to consider. We were a much larger church and projected to grow even more. We were looking at this being the last construction project, and we were building for the future. Membership was growing in leaps and bounds, and one of our major discussions was when/if we would add a balcony to the new sanctuary. Steve Kunkel and I were in favor of building the balcony with the structure. The committee's eventual decision was to include foundations to support a future balcony but not build it at that time. I guess that turned out to be the best decision.

I very much enjoyed being a part of starting PHPC and our building program. I wish I knew how many hours we spent on these projects. How ever many, they were certainly worth the effort. I believe everyone feels that way.

Moving into the new building was a momentous day in April 1987...and within just a few months we realized that we had already outgrown the number of Sunday School rooms in the building design. The original building contained the reception office, workroom and

pastor's office, combination large fellowship hall and sanctuary, a smaller meeting room off the kitchen for dinners and gatherings, two nurseries for younger and older babies, and two Sunday School rooms for older kids. There were movable walls on the sides of the sanctuary which were functionally challenging.

## **Early Concerns**

One of the biggest disagreements of the new church was whether to have stained glass windows in the sanctuary/fellowship hall. Would our worship service be more formal or would it be more informal? Designs were presented to the congregation and the first window was completed over the entryway door. After our first service in our new church on April 5, 1997 and significant discussion, it was decided to leave the sanctuary windows uncovered to enjoy the beauty of the pines and hardwood trees outside. Because we moved into the sanctuary in early spring, it was quickly apparent that the beauty of the trees should not be blocked by stained glass. However, at certain times of the year, light coming through the clear windows would shine off of Dave's (balding) head and give the appearance of a halo. Congregants in the front rows sometimes brought sunglasses to shield their eyes from the brilliant sunlight.

The next issue involved whether to have an artificial or a live Christmas tree and how tall it would be. Because a member's daughter was getting married during the Christmas season, the mother insisted that the live tree should be 30 feet tall. Elders drove to the Atlanta Farmers' Market and found a tree that was about 25 feet tall. Roping it to the top of their van was a challenge, but those who had made the purchase felt it was secure. However, on the drive back to Duluth, a sudden gust of wind knocked the tree off, landing on I-285 and shattering into thousands of toothpick-sized pieces. The same family had also bought a tree for themselves that was about 20 feet tall and this became the tree for the sanctuary that year.

The conflicts were minor in most instances until a member who was a veteran felt that an American flag should be displayed in the sanctuary in 1991. This caused considerable discord as there were other members who felt that having the flag in the sanctuary was elevating patriotism over faith. A compromise was reached to have the flag available outside the sanctuary doors and to place it inside the sanctuary on Veteran's Day.

As we moved into the new sanctuary in 2001 there was a declaration that there would be no coffee in the new space. Since up to this time it had been regular practice to grab a cup of coffee before entering worship, this was a major re-write of our rules. There was considerable upheaval and discussion about the decision, but soon everyone adapted to the idea in the attempt to keep the sanctuary presentable as long as possible.



## Building Improvements

### Second and Third Building

With the clear evidence that more space was needed, a second building program began in early 1990 and was completed in August 1990 for construction of the Education building; this was to include 13 classrooms, expanded office space, a resource room, restrooms and needed storage space. Every new classroom was utilized, most with one class per grade level. In a couple years, there were two classes of three-year-olds because of the rising number of children. In March 1997, a Building Committee was selected to consider construction of a new sanctuary and additional classrooms to accommodate the increased number of young families of our congregation. The capital campaign to fund this endeavor was called Harvest of Faith. An agreement was signed in January 1999 to begin the construction, with a down payment of \$110,000.

From Robin Prater, chair of the Sanctuary Building Committee:

The extension of the west wing was done when the new sanctuary was built. A few years later, Dave Fry felt like the original wing of the building containing the first sanctuary, office space, vestibule, and classrooms looked tired and without focus. He initiated a building campaign to revitalize that area. The result was the Fellowship Table/Coffee Bar, an updated and enlarged kitchen, new flooring, and wall paint throughout that part of the building. Artwork and new lighting fixtures were added throughout. The idea was to create a warm, welcoming space. The coffee area became known as the Gathering Area. It was widely used between Sunday School



*Gathering Area outside fellowship hall*

and Worship and became a place of Fellowship. Under the initiative and leadership of Tom Freese, rotating teams of volunteers brought a wide variety of delicious snacks and provided coffee. High chairs and tables, and soft chairs were provided to allow for conversation areas and these were used even outside of Sunday morning. The space became a place for people to

meet for a quiet conversation or wait for a meeting.

The photographs on the wall were all taken by members of the church. The original idea was to make this a gallery that would regularly change. So far, nobody has taken up that project and the original photographs remain. The first classroom to the right



of the entrance area was decorated as our Bride's Room and has since been used for many small group activities like Book Clubs, Caregivers meetings and Preschool conferences. Amacher Brothers, the contractors that built the new sanctuary, did the construction. Barker, Cunningham, Barrington, P.C. were the architects.

The same campaign provided for installation of showers in the education building, extension of the west wing to add six classrooms, enlarge the small fellowship hall and renovate and expand the kitchen. Both building projects involved major three-year fund-raising campaigns. The new sanctuary was dedicated in May 2001. "Join the Adventure," an additional capital campaign, took place in 2005 to retire some of the mortgage debt, improve the landscaping along Pleasant Hill Road and combine two classrooms into one for a larger youth room upstairs in the education building. There was a push in 2017 to retire the remainder of the debt before Dave Fry's retirement through another capital campaign "Gifted Past, Bold Future." The debt payoff was accomplished by January 2018, one month after Dave's retirement. During the pandemic in 2020, two of the nursery rooms in the original building were converted to a youth room, which serves for additional meeting space when youth are not using it.

## **Columbarium**

In 2007 a group of members began to think about the need for a final resting place at the church for aging members. On Sep 20, 2007 the PHPC Columbarium Committee met for the first time and began to research options for locations in the church, interview companies that provide columbarium niches, and tour other churches in the area with columbaria. The committee proposed the creation and installation of a columbarium to Session. The project was approved by Session in Oct 2008. Architectural Engineer Jane Bengel created preliminary drawings for design concepts and the working drawings for the construction. The goal of the design was to blend with the existing architecture such that it would look "original". The committee managed every aspect of the columbarium development, purchase, installation and publicity. The pre-sale of niches to PHPC members funded the initial construction of the columbarium including the first phase of installation of niches. The stacks of niches (40 niches per stack) were purchased in phases as additional niches were sold making more funds available. In 2014 the final stack of niches and the liturgical art in the arches above the columbarium were purchased and installed.



*Prayer Chapel and Columbarium*

## Prayer Chapel

In 2014, Robin Prater and Tiv Alston began work on plans for a Prayer Chapel outside the sanctuary near the Columbarium. The Prayer Chapel was completed in 2015. The Prayer Chapel was micro-funded with many members of the church giving donations. The major expense was building an additional closet to the left of the exterior doorway.

## Prayer Garden

The views outside the windows of the Prayer Chapel sparked the idea of eventually having a Prayer Garden outside of the Prayer Chapel. Tiv Alston, Gail Funderburk, and Robin Prater nurtured the idea and it came to fruition in September 2022. The sculpture is by Andrew Crawford, the same artist that did the sculpture at the front of the sanctuary.



*Creation of the Prayer Garden: Kim Klein, Robin Prater, Linda Beach, Melba Kida (left to right)*



Prayer Garden workers: Linda Beach, Dan Miller, Marian Miller, Dale Murphy?, Deb LoPresti, Dick LoPresti, Kendall Smith, Julie Smith, Robin Prater, Melba Kida, Cordell Prater, Bernie Kida, Nancy Varner, Kim Klein

## Staff Growth

The expansion of the building and facilities reflected the rapid growth of the church membership and increases in the church staff. Before moving from worship in the theater to a permanent home, in 1986, a part-time Associate Pastor, Holly Tickle, was hired for Pastoral Care.

Holly's hiring was followed soon after by part-time Director of Christian Education, Ed Forsyth, who was hired in late 1986. He resigned in December 1987 and Martha Rosselot was hired into the position. Martha developed and grew the church school program for children and adults until her retirement in 1995. During her time as DCE, the church school classes increased to utilize all the classrooms in the education building, both nurseries in

the original building, four or five adult classes, as well as Vacation Bible School and evening groups.

As soon as the new building was available in 1986, it was apparent we would need someone to clean and maintain the facility. Henry Lowry was a charter member, had skills in this area, and was looking for something to fill the time in his retirement. He was known as “Pop” to everyone in the church and over the years all the children gravitated to him for his gentle ways. After several years of service, he was given a comfortable chair to sit in the entryway



*Henry Pop Lowry's Chair*

while he rested from his work around the church. The children of the preschool had a ritual to greet him with a high five as their lines went by his chair. As Pop grew older, his son-in-law, Charles Amason, took on much of the heavier, more demanding tasks outside but Pop continued to come to “work” to sit in his chair. We have had other sextons and facility managers through the years, but Pop always has a special place in our hearts as the first. In early 1996, a search committee interviewed candidates for DCE and found two



*Anna Brown, Kerri Petersen-Davis, Holly Tickle*

candidates who were equally qualified and talented. The search committee recommended hiring both, one as full-time DCE and the other as an additional part-time Parish Associate for youth. (Up to this time, youth ministers had been part-time and minimally paid positions.) With a bit of financial stretch and a lot of faith both were hired: Anna Brown and The Rev Kerri Peterson-Davis. Kerri came on part time as Parish Associate in August 1996, then was promoted to Associate Pastor in May 1997, and ultimately installed as full-time Associate Pastor in September 1998. Kerri was responsible for middle schoolers and also helped lead worship, including occasional

sermons. Anna led the high school youth ministry as well as overall leadership of Christian Education.

As soon as Anna took the role of DCE in May 1996, she instituted a child protection policy, requiring two adults to be present when a child was in attendance. During the time Anna was in charge of Sunday School, many changes and innovations grew the program into a highly attended, dynamic program. Each class had ten to twelve students in attendance and every grade level had its own set of teachers. Anna was also in charge of coordinating the nursery, every Sunday required 18 or 19 volunteers to manage the many children present. Anna pursued the concept of having children of school age (over 7 years old) in worship, establishing production of expanded “worship bags” for each child to have quiet work in

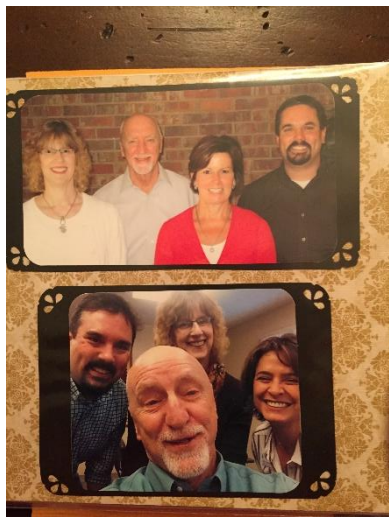


the pews as the service progressed. Anna earned her doctorate during her years at Pleasant Hill. She would speak of “thin places” as locations where God was more easily experienced. She would often comment that we should take off our shoes because we were standing on holy ground. One of the strongest messages Anna conveyed was the ministry of asking: that inviting someone else’s involvement in God’s work offered opportunities for others to grow in their faith and strengthen the church.

When he became available in 2001, Kerri’s husband, Jeff Peterson-Davis, was hired as part-time Parish Associate. The joint efforts of Jeff and Kerri brought in young adults through The Open Door ministry. Evening events also brought church members together in fellowship. The Peterson-Davises initiated Adult Mission Trips to Honduras as well as continuing continental mission projects. Jeff assumed the role of IT, establishing connections between all the computers in the building on a central drive.

At this juncture (about 2002), there were four full-time pastoral staff: Dave Fry, Kerri and Jeff Peterson-Davis, and Anna Brown, with Holly Tickle as part time pastoral care pastor.

In December 2006, Jeff and Kerri accepted senior pastor positions at another church in Solan, Ohio. A new search committee looked at the needs of the church, developed a



*Anna Brown, Dave Fry, Holly Tickle, Andy Acton*

*Andy Acton, Dave Fry, Anna Brown, Jody Andrade*

mission statement and the vision of “Connecting Faith with Everyday Life” before beginning the search for a new Associate Pastor. During the interim period of about a year, Beverly Ostrowski was called as Pastor for Youth and Missions.

Andy Acton was called to a full-time position as Associate Pastor in May 2008 to be in charge of Youth and Missions. He later assumed leadership of Communications as well. Andy’s work with the youth created many memories for the very active youth group, as they attended summer camps (middle school and high school groups on separate trips), mission trips, ski trips and retreats to mountain homes of members. He also organized Mission in my Backyard, shoe collections for Africa, the Souper Bowl of Caring, Duluth Bed Race, and family mission trips to the Gulf Coast, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Holly Tickle resigned in January 2014 to pursue full-time counseling. The Rev. Richard Hill served as interim Associate Pastor from March to July 2014 of that year. He worked closely with the Pastoral Care Committee to add visitation by lay visitors to homebound members and to take communion to those unable to attend worship. In July, upon Richard's departure, the Pastoral Care committee assumed many of the responsibilities for congregational concerns, supporting the ministers in this work until Jody Andrade was hired as new permanent Associate Pastor in October 2014 and focused much of her work on pastoral care.

Dr. Anna Brown resigned as DCE in Feb 2015 to open a Bed and Breakfast in Maine with her husband Jim. Cynthia Blaine served as interim DCE until Jennie Sankey was called as Associate Pastor for Christian Education in December 2015.

It should be noted that all Session committees provide integral support in the organization and presenting of ministries in the life of the church and assume greater responsibility during staff transitions.



*Anna Brown  
standing in a "thin  
place"*

## **Search for a New Senior Pastor**

In November 2016, the founding pastor of PHPC, The Rev. Dr. Dave Fry, announced his intention to retire in late 2017. He made this announcement well ahead of the expected date of retirement so that the church could go through an orderly transition and carry out a capital campaign to retire the mortgage before his departure. A Leadership Team for the capital campaign "Gifted Past, Bold Future" was formed and efforts began to raise \$1.2 million. Dave Fry retired from ministry in December 2017, preaching his last sermon on November 12, 2017, and in January 2018, the mortgage was completely paid off. On his final Sunday the pews on the sanctuary were full with clergy, members, past members and friends wishing him well in his future endeavors.

A Transition Team was formed in March 2017 to start the planning process for seeking a new Pastor. In July 2017, an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee started looking for someone to serve the church while we searched for a new head pastor. The Rev. Joel Alvis was called in March 2018 as interim pastor and a newly selected Pastor Nominating Committee began work immediately.

Interim Pastors during the period Nov 2017-April 2020 were:

- Joel Alvis (March 2018-June 2019)
- Jody Andrade (July 2019 - October 2019)
- Susan Haynes (November 2019 - April 20, 2020)

Several changes and transitions occurred over the space of almost two and a half years: In the absence of a Senior Pastor, Laura Freese was elected as interim Chief Executive Officer

of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church corporation, with Dick LoPresti as Chief Financial Officer and David Ashley as Secretary in February 2018. A policy regarding carrying weapons in the church was established in response to an Open Carry Law passed by the Georgia Legislature. Faith Ghanaian Church Development was given access to use the church on Sunday afternoons. JOY to Go offered outings to older members. Operation Turkey Sandwich was initiated. The Prayground was approved and established. The youth program was revamped and new meeting space established. Theater and Theology outings resumed. Many church policies were reviewed and reworked. The ministries and work of the church continued and flourished during this time, changing and evolving into a different place prepared to accept leadership of a new Senior Pastor.

The Rev. Katie Day was called by the Pastor Nominating Committee with congregational approval on March 1, 2020 to great enthusiasm and celebration. Her first day in the new position was May 1, 2020 in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown, complete with social distancing, no in-person services or ministry, and a closed church office. That Sunday, in order to welcome Katie and her family, many of the church members (83 cars) drove through the church parking lot to greet Katie, Kevin and Elijah Day with signs, smiles



*Jody Andrade children's sermon*

and waves. The choir gathered in the lower parking lot to serenade the Days, with appropriate social distancing. Katie was installed on June 20, 2020 via Zoom, and provided with a quilt of elders' hands to drape over her while prayers were said.

In June 2022, Jody Andrade announced her intention to resign as part-time Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, stating it was time to care for her ailing mother.

This reduced pastoral staff to two full-time ministers. Jennie Sankey now serves as a general

Associate Pastor, overseeing Christian Education and Mission, and regularly collaborating with Katie in worship planning, preaching, and pastoral care.

## **Children in Church and Prayground**

PHPC has always been intent on trying to make worship a welcoming event for children as well as adults. Dave Fry was expert at developing "children's sermons" that were engaging, had relatable messages for the kids and also spoke to the adults in the congregation. It is impossible to forget jelly beans (one for now, one for later and one to share with a friend),





*Dave Fry's rap for children's sermon*

Willie Nail's son, Blues Brothers, and a motorcycle in the sanctuary. A group of volunteers ("Church Mice") created totes weekly with art supplies, reading and quiet play for children to do their own work quietly in the pews while younger children left for the nursery. While Anna Brown was the Director of Christian Education, a question arose about whether children should remain in the entire worship service or have "children's church" in their own setting. The conclusion of the discussion was that children, who wanted to, could remain in

church and were provided worship bags, an expansion of the early bags made by the church mice. The objective was to provide materials on their level relating to the weekly theme so that children could remain connected with the worship service.

As part of strategic planning, the PHPC Session recognized the aging of the church congregation and the need to reach out to young adults and the parents of young children. The Christian Education Committee and Jennie Sankey, in her role as Associate Pastor for Christian Education, suggested a new bold idea to try to engage children in worship more effectively. A decision was approved by Session in September 2018, on an interim basis, to create a specific place for children in the sanctuary, a "Prayground," with activities and tables for children to be in church but engaged in their own work. In a very short time, following some initial adjustments and realization that this idea not only excited children about attending church but also attracted the parents of young children, the change was made permanent. Now children arrive early for worship and are well engaged even before the start of the service. The Prayground has served during weddings and funeral services as well as during worship. In 2024, Jennie and the Christian Education committee applied for and received a grant to enhance signage and improve the quality of materials in the Prayground. Children under five still may depart after the children's sermon to Play and Praise, but older children can remain in the Prayground.



*Newly opened Prayground*

## Choir

Barbara Waslewski was hired to lead the choir in July 1985. The first choir practice was held on a Thursday night in August 1985 at the home of Karen Voelker (because she had a piano). Her daughter, Heidi Voelker, served as the pianist for the second service in the

theater and then Lois Finley was hired as pianist for worship and later for choir practice. Ten people sang the first anthem in the muffled theater. At Christmas that year, fourteen people valiantly sang the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* with the assurance that that limited number had sung it the first time it was performed. The choir continued to grow, practicing in the church office once a piano was donated. Barbara moved to Idaho in 1987 and Steve Dean was hired as part time choir director. Under Steve's direction the choir took on complex works and grew to as many as 45 members during special seasons. Christmas choir worship services have become an event many community members attend, expanding to include a 20-piece orchestra and liturgical dancers. Spring concerts in April or May provide another opportunity for musical enjoyment. A highlight of one worship service was Condoleezza Rice, cousin of Lativia Alston, playing "Morning Has Broken" on the piano. The ranks of attendance were swelled by her Secret Service agents and other dignitaries.

In June 2000, the choir took a trip to Europe. According to Steve Dean:

27 singers plus pianist Miriam Kast White and myself took a 12-day European tour. In addition to singing in several churches related to Miriam's family, we sang for the 10:00 am mass service at Salzburg Cathedral. We were very warmly accepted and sang five anthems during that service. This tour marked a significant change in the quality of our Chancel choir music.



*Choir at Christmas Worship Service*

In March 1989, the choir began offering a performance of Broadway music following dinner at an evening presentation. In the mid 90's the event was titled "Cabaret", and included performances of secular songs to raise funds for choir robes, music and special musicians. These have continued to the present day. Post-pandemic, in 2022, this event was moved outside to become "Chastain at PHPC". Members and neighbors brought chairs, tables, food, and even

candelabras to enjoy an evening of popular music.

Lois Finley provided music for worship until 1993 when Susan Dlouhy was hired to serve as pianist, followed two years later by Miriam Kast White. Miriam would knit during the worship service until she was needed to accompany the choir or play the hymns and produced many beautiful sweaters. Music became a central part of the worship service when Hyoun Joo Song was hired in 2001. An accomplished organist, she also honed her piano skills and played duets with member Cathy Cunningham. The installation of the organ was accompanied by a training session at which the instructor played a version of "It

is Well with My Soul” designed to display the abilities of the organ. It is a highlight of a service to have this piece played.

## Missions

Mission activities – local, national, and international – have been a focus of PHPC since its inception. Early mission efforts included supplying meals for the Druid Hills Night Shelter (DHNS) once a month; this continued over three years until DHNS closed. With that closing, PHPC’s effort moved to supporting the Clifton Ministries Night Shelter at first with meals and in more recent years by serving on their leadership board, inviting residents to special church events and providing meals.



*Charis House*

As part of our tithe of funds raised in the Capital Campaign for construction of the new building in 1986, the church contacted **Charis House** to help finance and build a house for a family in need in the Summerhill neighborhood in downtown Atlanta near Atlanta Fulton County Stadium. Church members traveled to Atlanta each Saturday for eight weeks to complete construction. A second housing construction project was undertaken with Charis House in 1990 in conjunction with the education building capital campaign. The capital campaign that was held for construction of the new sanctuary in 2001 led to joint efforts with **Habitat for Humanity**

on a house in southern Gwinnett County.

In order to bring mission efforts even closer to our neighbors near PHPC, **Mission in my Backyard** was started in spring of 2004, with one-day activities at local nursing homes, members’ houses and work inside and outside the church.

**Family mission trips** were started in 1997 and took place in the spring, timed to coincide with spring break to allow participation by children and youth. The first of these trips were along the Gulf coast or in Mexico in response to hurricanes or other natural disasters. Later, the youth pastors identified communities in Kentucky, North Carolina, and other nearby locations that would benefit from the efforts of young people and adults.



**Adult domestic mission trips** were in the late fall or winter. These trips originated from the need for helping rebuild homes in Louisiana that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina; later to other areas along the Gulf Coast. In April 2016, Deb LoPresti suggested utilizing the homes of two church members in the Blue Ridge, Georgia area to meet the needs of the residents of Fannin, Lumpkin, Dawson, and Gilmer Counties. These trips have occurred at least once, sometimes twice a year, ever since. Working with Habitat for Humanity and Feed Fannin, PHPC groups have helped to build Habitat houses; rebuild porches, decks and attics; restore chimneys; clear out garages, hand out coats; sort food; clear obscuring overgrowth from yards of folks living in the area, repair existing buildings and improve conditions for non-profit organizations in the area. The North Georgia Mission Lodge was purchased in the Fall of 2021 by several members of PHPC and supplemented by funds from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian to provide a base of operation for the Fannin/Gilmer County mission efforts and to allow the participation of other churches and mission groups in the region. NGML functions as a non-profit.



*Mission in an attic*

**International mission trips** to Honduras were begun by Kerri and Jeff in 2001, working with Honduras Outreach International and taking between eight and eighteen adult church members to the Agalta Valley. Other trips since have been to the Amazon River, Haiti and Guatemala with a recent exploratory trip to Ecuador.



*Mixing Cement in Honduras*

In 1998, Pleasant Hill collaborated with Christ Church Episcopal in Norcross in supporting children of unhoused families while the parents learned tactics for gaining employment, keeping a budget and managing a household through Rainbow Village. When the decision was reached to build new facilities in downtown Duluth in 2009, **Rainbow Village** used Pleasant Hill Presbyterian on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for classes for their residents. Rainbow Village provides housing for 15 to 20 unhoused adults and their children and offers classes over the course of two years, as well as educating their residents in self-care and business skills. Church members provided meals for everyone and then engaged with the children while the parents attended class. Once their new facility opened in downtown Duluth, the PHPC Men's Group continued to go on Thursdays (The Big Recess) to interact with the kids.

PHPC was first introduced to **Family Promise** in 2004 with a presentation to session by the program executive director asking PHPC to become one of the inaugural church congregations to commit as a host church. This new program in Gwinnett County, utilizing the facilities of 14 area churches, had a goal of helping 4-5 families per week experiencing homelessness due to hardships such as job loss and physical injury that caused major medical issues. The families were offered 30 to 90 days in the program to allow time for them to work out housing needs. This would also entail, providing or creating space within the church building for personal sleeping space for a week for each family unit, morning and evening meal services, personal care/hygiene facilities and recreational space. When the week concluded, families would pack-up and begin a new host week with another participating church in Gwinnett County. This cycle would repeat approximately every 2½ to 3 months. The depth of PHPC's commitment to this program was shown by the decision to expand our restroom facilities upstairs to include showers on the 2nd floor of the educational wing of our church. Sunday School and Youth activity rooms were repurposed and created to make individual "residential-like spaces" for each individual family we hosted. PHPC participated in the program for ten consecutive years serving as a volunteer church, serving four to five families per week. We believe we truly aided the Family Promise program to meet its goal of providing hospitality to homeless children and families.

Early in the history of the church (1989), members of the congregation helped a **refugee family** from the Republic of Georgia resettle in Duluth. In addition to providing housing, assistance with learning English, finding employment, obtaining all the necessary papers and permits, the younger children were helped with their schooling. This involved miles of driving and hours of work each week by many members of the church, and allowed the family to settle well into the community.

At a session meeting in July 2010, Pastor Dave Fry stated that he felt that our church should consider starting a new **PHPC Refugee Mission** to help resettle refugee families here in Duluth. As a result of our work with the Duluth Co-op through the years, he was aware that the Proctor Square apartments which adjoined the Co-op building were half empty due to the ongoing recession. Placing newly arrived refugee families in those vacant apartments would be a win-win for the refugee families and the apartment complex itself. Discussions were held with World Relief to convince them that settling refugee families in Gwinnett County, far away from most support in the Clarkston area, was viable. Recently retired, Dave Huffman agreed to take on coordination of this effort. In June of 2011, we welcomed Ngun Lan, his wife Sui, and their children Alex and Chrstina. The travelers were picked up at the Atlanta airport and the PHPC refugee mission was off and running. We worked with this family to get social security cards, medical screenings, school registrations, and to search for employment. PHPC members donated a used car and after receiving driving lessons, the family was on their way to self-sufficiency. They bought a house in 2015 and are truly living the American dream. Ngun Lan continues to work at Tyson today in 2025.

Sui works in a warehouse and Alex and Christina are both in college at Georgia State University. Christina graduated with a degree in biology in 2024 and plans to enter the medical field. Since the founding of this ministry in 2011, PHPC has helped resettle nine different refugee families from Burma representing over thirty adults and children. The families have all been able to purchase homes, cars, and have good steady jobs. All of our folks over 18 years of age have become naturalized United States citizens.

We have had a number of Burmese weddings take place at our church, including one between two young folks from two of our families who found each other due to our PHPC mission. David and Priscilla are now living in their home in Lawrenceville with their young son Daniel.

We have formed a partnership with two other Presbyterian churches in our area to resettle refugees. The **Six-Star Refugee Partnership** consists of Pleasant Hill, St. Luke's Presbyterian of Dunwoody, and Morningside Presbyterian in midtown Atlanta. The new partnership accepted its first refugee family from Afghanistan in January 2022. This family was settled in Clarkston due to a lack of vacancies in Duluth.

Refugee resettlement slowed tremendously in 2024 and stopped completely in 2025 with decisions by the Trump administration to halt all refugee entrance to the USA, resulting in closure of all resettlement agencies.

Around 2016, a group of people felt the need to provide an emergency food source on the campus of the church. Greg Thurlow constructed a free-standing box with clear doors for non-perishables to be available for neighbors-in-need at any time of day called the **Little Free Pantry**. It was placed near the street for ready access. By 2018, it was a roaring success requiring refills about every ten days. People from neighborhoods brought by trunkloads of food to add to the pantry, in addition to the donations of Pleasant Hill members. During the pandemic, the pantry was an excellent means of providing for the community without direct contact. Since 2022, demand has continued to be high, requiring replenishing every few days; a closet in the building is dedicated to storing the donations until they are needed. To date, the mission has expanded from a one-person effort to now a 4-person effort in sorting, stocking, and sometimes shopping. With the addition of monthly congregational contributions and inclusion of this vital outreach program with Project Angel each Christmas, we are able to remain vibrant in our community.

**Laundry Love**, initiated by Dave Fry in the spring of 2016, addresses the needs of families who may have to choose between washing clothes and meals. Shawn Badinger took on coordination efforts, including application for a grant to help establish the ministry. Church members offer members of the community laundry soap (pods) and coins to cover the cost of washers and dryers at a local laundromat. After the first event, enough enthusiasm of church members sparked offerings on two Thursday nights and one Thursday morning per month. Collections during the third Sunday of worship encouraged the donation of coins, but many people provide significant cash, soap or dryer sheets to increase the coverage. The 2020 pandemic curtailed all Laundry Love efforts, and the sale of Proctor Square where the laundromat was located meant the search for a new location.



In 2024, we resumed twice a month morning and evening events at a laundromat nearby in Norcross. Not only are families given the gift of clean clothes, but relationships have grown between the volunteers and the laundry users.



*Operation Turkey Sandwich*

**Operation Turkey Sandwich** was begun in November 2019 by Erik Mjorud and other members of the church, providing meals for community law enforcement, bus drivers, hospital staff and others who had to work on Thanksgiving Day. This not only provides them a meal on a day when most people are with their families but also expresses our appreciation for those whose jobs support their communities.

## Pastoral Care

When she was hired, the Rev. Holly Tickle took on the role of being in touch and visiting members who were sick, in hospital, and having new babies (of which there were a lot!). In addition, over her years of service, a prayer chain through phone calls between members kept everyone informed of needs and concerns within the church. Early in the church, there was no need for funeral direction because the congregation was so young, but as the years went by, Holly and Dave shared responsibility for families who lost loved ones. By 2009 this had grown to a committee of several people. "Lotsa Helping Hands" ministry was started to provide meals from church members for families in difficult, stressful or challenging situations. In 2004, Holly and Margot Ashley started a group for people caring for aging parents. Soon after a prayer shawl ministry was initiated. During the job market tightening in 2008, Holly established an Unemployment Transition Group for people to network and learn marketable skills for being better employees. A yearly 6-8 week Grief Group was started for those experiencing the loss of loved ones led by Mary Winkeljohn. Senior Friends was originally organized by Carolyn Schmid, the church secretary. After Carolyn's retirement, Holly took over coordination of monthly programs and outings for our seniors. This was under the umbrella of Pastoral Care, along with visiting homebound members at assisted living facilities. As our children grew up, a College Ministry was started, reminding students that they may be far from their church home but they are still cared about. A Stephen Ministry training in 1994 provided seven Stephen Ministers to help members through challenging times. When Peachtree Christian Hospice started in the area around 2004, the church began providing volunteers. Holly was responsible for all these ministries. With Holly's departure in January 2014, Richard Hill served as interim and

worked closely with the Pastoral Care Committee to add visitation by lay visitors to homebound members and to take communion to those unable to attend worship. He also established a spreadsheet to track pastoral concerns requiring follow up. Jody Andrade's arrival in October 2014 permitted formation of a larger committee informed about the concerns of the congregation. Stephen Ministry was re-established in 2022 with training of ten ministers during Jody's tenure. This ministry continues beyond the years of Jody's time at PHPC. A team of Stephen Minister Trainers provide guidance and support to the Stephen Ministers who continue in this valuable one-on-one service. The pastoral care committee has grown and expanded as the needs presented themselves and continues to offer care to our members.

## **LGBTQIA+**

In 2008, Presbyterian Church USA made the decision to ordain LGBTQIA+ ministers and elders. This was while Beverly Ostrowski was serving as interim DCE and she was able to provide insight into the implications. In June 2015, Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly made the decision to allow same-sex marriages to be performed by ministers if the ministers chose to do so. PHPC was approached by two couples interested in making official the commitment that they had made to each other fifteen to twenty years before; the Session approved ministers of PHPC to conduct ceremonies in July 2015. The decision also opened the way for LGBTQIA+ folks and others who have been rejected by their church to find a church home where they are welcome. As this concept has grown and expanded, the church focuses on being open to everyone, with inclusive intentions, and encouraging active efforts at understanding those different than oneself. Our church is becoming increasingly known in the area for our inclusive welcome. PHPC hosted a booth at Gwinnett Pride for the first time in 2023.

## **Preschool History**

In the early days of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian, children almost outnumbered adults. A mother's morning out task force was initiated in April 1988, and the initial Morning Mother's Out program opened its doors in January 1989. The church provided \$6100 in funding to establish the program. It was held in the nursery rooms in the hall across from the church office, with ready access to the playground. Alice Scott was the first coordinator for the program.

The program made a major step forward when Jane Fitzpatrick was hired in April of 1989 to establish a preschool program. The program began in the fall of the year in the two nursery rooms and two additional rooms on the same hall, with 39 students enrolled. By 1990, enrollment grew to 110 students when it was moved to the newly constructed education building. Gwinnett Early Childhood Education began providing programming for special education students on Tuesdays and Thursdays in January 1992 as a pilot program. The program moved to its own facilities in July of that year. In its fifth year of operation, the preschool had fourteen staff members and 98 students, 25 of whom were from church families. With seven rooms in use, the preschool was accredited by National Association of Education for Young Children (NAEYC) in 1994. To receive this elite accreditation the school met national standards and hosted on-site evaluation. With continued leadership of Jane Fitzpatrick, the preschool flourished and served many families in the area. During this time, Bunny Amason served as chair of the Preschool Board.



*New Playground Equipment 1995*

Jane Fitzpatrick retired in 2013, with the suggestion to hire one of the teachers of the preschool as the new director. Gina Maguire was hired the next day and served through the height of the pandemic until July 2021. The preschool had a great reputation in the area and many previous families were crucial in spreading the word to friends and neighbors. As the demographics in the neighborhoods near PHPC changed, the cultural background of students attending the preschool also changed. To prepare the teachers more effectively a course was held

on multicultural sensitivity. By 2015, payments from the Preschool to the church were increased again to \$1000/month for utilities and operating expenses. This was made possible because of a CD that Jane Fitzpatrick had put aside for rainy days. The budget and spending were closely monitored by the preschool director and were reviewed by the financial secretary and ultimately the business committee. Gina Maguire met with the Preschool Board on a consistent basis which was headed up by Florence Milway who put her heart and soul into making sure the preschool was running smoothly. Florence had been the Preschool Board Chair for 14 years. Her love of the children and dedication to PHPC allowed the preschool families and staff to feel supported. She was key in being the go between for the church and the preschool. However, by September 2018, enrollment at the preschool dwindled to less than 35 students; the question of closing the Preschool was brought to Session in January 2019. Seven part time teachers and a full-time director could not be supported by the existing tuition. At this time, Session agreed that as part of its Mission, PHPC would more closely support and engage with the preschool. An infusion of funds from concerned church members and supporters enabled the preschool to continue through the end of the school year and Margot Ashley accepted the role of Preschool Board

Chair. The following fall, additional marketing efforts brought in a new influx of students. In April 2019, the preschool celebrated thirty years of enrollment with a reception following a worship service.

In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all preschool activities in the building were suspended. During this time, a subcommittee formed to consider much-needed improvements to the playground. Beginning with hopes, dreams and wishes, the committee formed vague plans without any idea of funding. As it appeared that the pandemic was waning in the summer of 2021, summer camp offerings were expanded to four weeks, providing an outlet for students and an inroad for enrollment in the fall.

A mini capital campaign called “Rooted in Faith” was started in June 2021 to fund the playground, prayer garden and significant drainage problems around the building. This allowed the playground committee to go into full swing in planning a major overhaul of the playground area. Gina Maguire resigned in July 2021 after accepting a job at a private school and Beth Goodenberger, an Elder whose children attended the preschool agreed to step into the Interim Director role. Fall 2021 classes were purposefully diminished in size to reduce the possibilities of cross infection from COVID. The reopening of the Preschool constituted five classes for two-, three- and four-year olds and included 52 students. Beth resigned in July 2023 as her family moved to Iowa. An internal hire of teacher Talitha Minton proved to be fortuitous for the preschool, as enrollment bloomed due to the closing of several preschools around the area. The face of the preschool has changed over time and the demographics of its students have evolved, but the mission continues to offer a play-based curriculum with a balance of self-discovery, child-centered, and teacher-directed activities.

## **Building Use by Outside Groups**

Almost as soon as the building was dedicated and opened, other groups began asking to use the facility for their meetings. A Building Use Policy was created in 1987 to address these requests. Within the next three years, **Crossroads Community Church** utilized the building on weeknights, **St Benedict’s Catholic Church** held mass on Saturday nights, **Campus Crusade for Christ** held Bible study, and **Holy Cross Lutheran** used the church for more than a year. In 1992, **Temple Shir Shalom**, a Jewish congregation, approached the church about using the sanctuary for its high holy days and later continuously on Friday evenings for their services while their building was constructed. They met at PHPC for about two years. Upon their departure, they presented a circular design as a token of friendship between our churches. **Church of the Hills** held their charter service at Pleasant Hill in 1995. In 2003-2004, **The Bridge Korean Presbyterian Church** held services for two years.

In 2012, the church was approached by a newly-forming liberal Muslim group **Independent Progressive Islamic Church**, seeking to increase positive interaction with the community, to use the building four or five times for meetings. After considerable

discussion, the Session agreed to the request, and met to share a meal with the members of the group. Except for the initial meal, the group did not subsequently meet in the building.

By 2025, three other congregations are sharing space in the church: **Faith Ghanaian Presbyterian** (a new church development for Ghanaian immigrants) began in 2018, **Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church** (ATPC) in 2022, **Church in Motion** in 2016 (a Korean-speaking new church development), and **New Presbyterian Church of Georgia** (Korean language) in 2023. Faith is not yet chartered and approached Pleasant Hill about sponsoring one of their members for exploration of a career in ministry in January 2024. When they arrived, ATPC was in the process of moving to a new location and were seeking temporary facilities to continue to meet while they established their new building facilities. As they have utilized the facilities at Pleasant Hill, they recognized that this is a very workable situation and have recently made a three year commitment to continue sharing facilities. These co-worshipping congregations have provided several opportunities for joint services and dinners facilitating cross-cultural interactions.

In addition to spiritual groups, other groups have used the building for regular meetings, including Insight Atlanta, Alcoholics Anonymous and AlAnon, Toastmasters, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Mothers of Gwinnett and most recently Live Arts Theater.

## Coronavirus Pandemic



*Baptism of Matthew Dannemiller*

The Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, Covid 19) Pandemic started in early 2020 and quickly impacted the gathering together of people in the United States, including worshipping congregations, for several years. On March 11, 2020, the Choir Cabaret was held in Fellowship Hall with designed measures to reduce potential spread of the virus. The following Monday, all church services and activities were suspended; ministers initiated online worship which could be viewed on livestream or from YouTube archives. This involved the staff's rapidly obtaining new equipment for quality broadcast, learning its use and making recordings. Additional efforts to be in touch with single members by phone or email by members of the Pastoral Care committee enhanced communications with members and

kept many people engaged. The choir continued to hold practice online for much of the pandemic. Mid-week prayer, study and conversations occurred via Zoom. Particular groups of the church chose to create "cocoon" groups which allowed them to be close to friends. Church school classes met at various times—both on Sunday and during the week—to pursue Bible study as well as maintain contact with others.



In late October 2021, the ministers started offering worship services every other week in the back parking lot of the church, leading the service from the bed of a pick-up truck. Everyone was asked to mask, even outside, and could either sit in their cars and listen



*Special Music in the parking lot*

through the radio or bring lawn chairs to sit socially distanced (six feet apart). The current use of hands while “passing of the peace” was instituted during these outdoor services. After seven months of no contact in person, it felt like we had been let out of prison as we were able to see each other face to face (still masked). In January, “drive-in” services were increased to weekly. Only two worship services were canceled due to rain, but faithful members appeared each week, warmly clothed and wrapped in blankets, to worship outside together. Some new visitors found the church

because they were able to open online worship services on their electronic devices--apparently an issue with worship offerings at other churches.

To maintain the sense of church, pastors arranged special music following the outdoor services: a string quartet in early December, Banks and Shane “mini-concert” in January. Every service ended with those present sitting through the “recessional” because the music was an added feature of being together.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021 services were moved into the sanctuary for the first time after a year and three months of pandemic isolation. It was a day of great celebration. We still had no congregational singing, only solos or duets, but we were in the sanctuary again! It was not until May 2022 that congregational singing of hymns resumed with three hymns during the service. The size of the congregation had diminished during the pandemic and Katie made a decision to hold one combined service at 10:00 am, instead of the 8:30 and 11:00 am services scheduled prior to the pandemic. It was wonderful to be together in worship again. An added bonus was that we continued with live-streamed services so that folks out of town or not feeling well could still worship on Sunday morning or later in the week. It was a challenging time for all the world. However, through innovative ideas and approaches, PHPC managed to survive and flourish during this very isolating time.



*Banks and Shane post worship concert*



## Church Membership Growth

In January 1985, fifty people attended the first worship service. Numbers increased rapidly over the next several months and at the time we were chartered in June 1985 there were 124 members and two affiliate members who signed the charter. At that time, Gwinnett County was the fastest growing county in the nation, so it was logical that Pleasant Hill would also grow rapidly.

In February 2022, Pleasant Hill formed an agreement with the Greater Atlanta Presbytery to participate in a three-year program called Vital Congregations Initiative in conjunction with twelve other churches in the metro area. Many meetings, surveys and conversations resulted in descriptions of “who we have been”, “who we are now” and “who we will be in the future”. The objective of these activities was to increase member involvement and facilitate engagement within the church and form a stronger church family. With both outward and inward efforts, the church began participating in local festivals and parades to increase visibility, reach out to our neighbors and provide joy to others. Each season there were invitations for members to participate in church events, ministries and activities, taking a next step to increase their faith. As individuals made decisions to practice “Your Next Step in Faith,” others in the church benefited from increased contact, spiritual growth together, stronger mission commitments and heightened awareness of needs in the community. For the first time since 2004, net membership numbers increased at the end of 2024.





*Ben Badinger Organ Recital*



*Trip to Scotland*



*Dave Fry SuperSunday – 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary*



*Jeff & Jackson Milway Mission*



*Fall BBQ*





*Men's Softball: Back Row: Mike Buffington, Thom Dugas, Mickey Roberts, Jimmy Buffington, Ted Roessner, Bill Hull  
front row: David Hudson, Gene Bourgeois, Tommy Harris, Bob Dullen*



*Rev Katie Day at Trunk or Treat*



*Worshipping in the Parking Lot and the Days as Parade to Welcome the Rev. Katie Day and Family*

## Church Membership Numbers 1985-2024

Date	Membership
December 1985	167
December 1987	259
December 1988	451
Easter 1993 – 3 services	1200
December 1996	780
October 2001 increased attendance year over year	47%
December 2004	863
December 2015	670
December 2017	568
December 2019	370
December 2021	362
December 2023	278
December 2024	281

### **Staff History**

**Office Staff:** Shannon Hudson, Carolyn Schmid, Beth Nix (Head Pastor Asst), Janet Bain, Sharon Ragan, Elissa Pope, Louise Byrd, Diane Dayton, Barbara Day, Carol Aitken, Marianne Anderson, Macy Ruple, Katie VanBrackel, Claire Keyser, Tania Royster, Veronica Pennington, Hilary Mize

**Sextant:** Henry “Pop” Lowry, Charles Amason, Donna Sands; Cleaning company hired

**Facilities Director:** Adnan Zukonovich

**Administrator:** Richard Williams, Kristie Johns, Mary Cooper

**Financial:** Bill Partenheimer, Grace McGinty, Eleanor Burgin, Kelly Hebert, Tricia Kopec, Kristie Johns, Mary Cooper, Kristen Ching (interim)

**Choir Directors:** Barbara Wasilewski, Steve Dean

**Children's Choir:** Nanette Oliver, Amanda Morton, Pronda Few, \_\_\_\_\_, Carol Ann Stough, Kaycee Brown, Gloria Trode, Erin McCollum Towe, Hannah Smith, Mekensie Gonzalez, Kayla Otim

**Pianist/Organist:** Heidi Voelker, Lois Finlay, Susan Dlouhy, Miriam White, Hyoun Joo Song

**Preschool Director:** Jane Fitzpatrick, Gina Maguire, Beth Goodenberger, Talitha Minton

**Nursery Staff:** Hema Chudasama, Farzana Javid

### **Ministers**

**Head of Staff:** Rev Dr Dave Fry (1985-2017), Rev Katie Day (May 2020- present )

Interims: Rev Dr Joel Alvis (Apr 2018-Apr 2019),

Rev Jody Andrade (Jan 2018-Mar 2018, Jun 2019-Oct 2019),

Rev Susan Haynes (Nov 2019-Apr 2020)

**Pastoral Care:** Rev Holly Tickle (1990-Jan 2014), Rev Jody Andrade (Sep 2014-Sep 2022)

Interim: Rev Dr Richard Hill (Apr 2014-Jul 2014)

**Associate Pastors:** Rev Kerri Peterson-Davis (Sep 1996-Nov 2005), Rev Jeff Peterson-Davis (1998-Nov 2005), Rev Andy Acton (May 2008-Mar 2018), Rev Jody Andrade (Sep 2014-Sep 2022), Rev Jennie Sankey (Jan 2016-present)

**Youth:** Eddie Venable, Susan Friedl, Rob Campbell, Greg McGinn, Charlotte Martin, Matt Fry, Rev Kerri Peterson-Davis/Anna Brown, Interim: Rev Beverly Ostrowski (Associate Staff), Rev Andy Acton/Anna Brown, Rev Jennie Sankey, Interim: Bernie Kida, Macy Ruple, Saeeda St. Aude, Grace Andrade

**Christian Education:** Ed Forsyth (4 hrs/wk→ 8 hrs/wk), Martha Rosselot (1988-1995), Dr Anna Brown (May 1996-Feb 2015), Rev Jennie Sankey (Jan 2016-present)

Interim: Rev Cynthia Blaine (2015)

**Interns:** Melissa Elkin (1992), Karen Bacon (1993), Jennifer Drydon (1994), Sandy Ullman (1995), Katie Fellows (2003), Tricia Dillon Thomas (2004), Leslie Roper (2005), Chip Pope (2006), John (Skip) Martin (2007), \_\_\_\_ (2009), Christina Cataldo (2012), Macy Ruple (2021)



## Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church Timeline

Date	Event	Detail
1/1/1984	Special commission for new church development formed	Dr Frank Harrington, chair; Dwight Allen; Rev John Nicholson; Prince Rivers; Dr John Sloop; Luan Vinson; Rev Hugh Ward; Richard Wolters; John Baird, chair of council; Rev Asa Meadows, chair of evangelism; Mrs Douglas Ellis Jr; William Adams; Moderator Fred Moore
3/6/1984	Dave Fry affirms interest in North Atlanta church development	Statement of Intent
11/1/1984	Dave Fry called by Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to organize new Presbyterian Church in Gwinnett Place Mall area	
11/20/1984	Small exploratory group meetings in houses of Gwinnett families	
1/6/1985	Church organizational gathering, adults only	Shorty Howell Park
1/18/1985	Family Gathering	Shorty Howell Park
1/20/1985	1st worship service; "Morning Has Broken" opening hymn; nursery with paid workers	Mall Corners Theater "City Heat" on the marquee
1/27/1985	2nd worship; Heidi Voelker pianist	
2/18/1985	1st newsletter	
2/24/1985	1st Sunday School classes	
3/31/1985	1st Family night supper at church office: volleyball	1722 Pleasant Hill Road
4/4/1985	Maundy Thursday - 1st communion served by Bert Tippet at church office	18 present
6/30/1985	PHPC chartered; "The Church's One Foundation" opening hymn	124 members, 2 affiliate members
7/14/1985	1st Session Meeting:	Committees - Worship, Care and Concern; Church Growth; Nurture; Church and Community; Church Business; Clerk
8/15/1985	Barbara Wasilewski hired as choir director	
8/11/1985	Communion Banner presented by banner committee; 1st sanctuary communion	
8/18/1985	1st Holy Communion served	

8/23/1985	1st Family Camp	Covecrest; 56 attended
8/29/1985	1st choir practice	
9/8/1985	Presbyterian Women approved	budget \$1414.00
9/8/1985	Lois Finley hired as pianist (instead of contract)	
9/15/1985	Dave Fry installed as pastor	
9/28/1985	Duluth Days booth	offering cold water and purple balloons
10/13/1985	Druid Hills Night Shelter responsibilities	on 4th Fridays
11/12/1985	Monthly Church income \$4465 + Building Fund \$1500	Expenses \$3,977.00 From Presbytery \$3000
11/12/1985	1st PW Women's Circle	
11/24/1985	Building Committee Elected	Mike Buffington—chair
12/7/1985	Children's Christmas Day	church office
12/8/1985	Budget Approved; total \$44,453	
12/8/1985	1st Confirmation Class examined	Wes Albright, Emily Burningham, Brian DeBarry, Amy Fry
12/31/1985	Total membership 167; 12 elders.	Annual receipts \$119,242, Expenses \$114,632
1/5/1986	Youth ski trip	
1/12/1986	Contract with American Building Consultants for new church building design	
1/13/1986	Carolyn Schmid hired as church secretary	Corporate Certificate of Authority obtained
2/2/1986	Line of Credit Loan established with Citizens and Southern Bank	¼% above prime; expected cost \$400,000
2/16/1986	Church Financial Systems (Dept of PC(USA)) contracted to help in building fundraising	
3/9/1986	Presentation of Church Construction Plan to congregation	
3/16/1986	Move to larger theater due to increased attendance at worship	
4/13/1986	Bill Partenheimer contracted to maintain financial records	\$150 initial, \$15/month
4/18/1986	Formal plan presentation to members at dinner	Atlanta Country Club
4/20/1986	Construction begun on Multi-purpose worship/fellowship area	3700 Pleasant Hill Rd, Land Donated by Scott Hudgens; 7.5 acres

6/8/1986	Personnel Committee established	
6/15/1986	Groundbreaking Ceremony for new church	
9/5/1986	Family Camp at Burnt Mountain Baptist Assembly, Jasper GA	
9/7/1986	Installation of 1 <sup>st</sup> class of elders	
11/9/1986	Search Committee for DCE formed	
12/6/1986	Advent Event (Children's Christmas)	
12/18/1986	Caroling at Charleston Bay	
12/21/1986	Christmas Program by Jr Hi Youth, children's church & Sunday School participants	
12/24/1986	Christmas Eve service at Marriott Hotel (no hymnals, no instruments, single candle allowed)	175 present
2/14/1987	Date for Eight begins	
4/5/1987	1 <sup>st</sup> worship service: move into new building	
4/12/1987	Staff search committee formed	
4/12/1987	Barbara Wasilewski continues as choir director until new person hired	
5/16/1987	1 <sup>st</sup> wedding in Sanctuary	Mike & Beth Hayden
5/17/1987	Increased session by two members for 3 years:	from 12-18 elders
5/31/1987	Stained Glass Window proposal approved	
6/7/1987	Building Use Policy established	
6/7/1987	Dedication Sunday for New Building	
7/13/1987	Henry "Pop" Lowry hired as custodian	
7/13/1987	Evening VBS	Alice Scott, director; Lynn Roberts, asst director
7/19/1987	Part time Associate Pastor and Computer Project Manager/Secretarial Support approved	
7/19/1987	Monthly or twice monthly joining classes since 1986	
8/5/1987	Average 45 visitors per week; total membership: 342. Request for \$10,000 additional assistance	Report to Church Development Commission
8/20/1987	Steve Dean hired as Choir Director, part-time	\$500/month
8/20/1987	Ed Forsyth, Christian Education, time doubled	8 hrs/week
8/20/1987	8:45 worship service added	

8/20/1987	1 <sup>st</sup> Nursery Committee appointed	Jeffery Hood, Clare Wade, Debbie Bourgeois
9/1/1987	Holly Tickle hired part time for Pastoral Care	Parish Associate
9/8/1987	Lake Burton Family Camp	
10/11/1987	Baldwin Grand Piano purchase approved	
10/31/1987	Halloween bonfire	
11/8/1987	Nursery care to all-volunteer	
11/15/1987	Purchase of pulpit	funds raised through Special Christmas Gifts funds
11/22/1987	Ice storm	David Ashley leader 8:45; Mickey Roberts leader 11:00
11/24/1987	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service with area churches at PHPC	
11/27/1987	Druid Hills Night Shelter mission work increased	every other Friday
12/1/1987	Ed Forsyth resigned as DCE	
12/28/1987	AA Meetings begin in January 1988	Wednesdays at 8 pm
12/31/1987	Total Membership 259	
1/24/1988	Red Cross Blood Drive	
2/14/1988	Crossroads Community Church continued use of building	meet on Wed nights
3/8/1988	Presbytery meeting at PHPC	
3/13/1988	Refugee Family: Laotian	
3/18/1988	Maundy Thursday, Good Friday prayer vigil in new sanctuary	
4/10/1988	Grace McGinty hired as business administrator/financial secretary	
4/10/1988	PHPC street sign removed by City of Duluth	Permitting issues
4/10/1988	Adults-ONLY events requested	
4/10/1988	Mothers' Morning Out Task Force initiated	
5/8/1988	Audit of financial records begun; Tom Stubbs	
5/8/1988	Susan Friedl hired as "volunteer youth leader"	\$150/month
6/12/1988	Holly Tickle called as Parish Associate	after Sept 1988
6/12/1988	Picture directory in production	Shannon Hudson coordinator
6/12/1988	Presbyterian Women reorganized; 1st meeting. Assume responsibility of kitchen support, crisis	50 women present



	meals, prayer chain, and shelter meals. working on women single's group	
7/7/1988	Martha Rosselot hired as part-time Director of Christian Education	
8/21/1988	Family Camp	Camp Westminster , Conyers, GA
9/11/1988	Standing Personnel Committee started	Mike Buffington, Ted Roessner, Mickey Roberts
10/9/1988	PRIME Timers formed	
10/9/1988	Playground equipment and fence installed	
11/13/1988	St Benedict's Roman Catholic Church mass approved	Saturdays at 5:30 pm
11/13/1988	Youth representative elected to session, permission to speak, no vote. One year term	Bryan DeBarry
12/15/1988	Al-Anon Meetings began	
12/31/1988	Total Membership 451	
1/2/1989	Mothers' Morning Out began	Alice Scott coordinator \$6100 grant to start from PHPC
2/5/1989	Lois Finley, pianist, became employee	previously worked as contractor
2/5/1989	Basketball league started	Harmony Grove UMC Lilburn
2/8/1989	Answering machine installed	
2/19/1989	Red Cross Blood Drive	
4/16/1989	Jane Fitzpatrick hired for Preschool; office in "choir room" (current co-worshiping Office)	maintain own books, including payroll
5/14/1989	Dave Cain applied to Columbia Seminary; approved by session as inquirer	
5/14/1989	Permanent sign installed on Pleasant Hill Road	
6/4/1989	Red Cross Blood Drive	
8/13/1989	Search Committee for Youth Director formed	
8/15/1989	Russian refugee family arrives	Republic of Georgia
9/11/1989	Bible Discovery selected	Adult Sunday School curriculum
9/11/1989	Preschool opened in two nurseries and (current) youth room	39 enrolled, Jane Fitzpatrick, director
9/11/1989	Portable buildings considered for Sunday School classes	
9/11/1989	Computer Research Committee formed	

10/8/1989	Building Committee elected	Goal: education space, add staff offices, renovate sanctuary, improve parking
10/8/1989	Brownie Troop at PHPC approved	
10/8/1989	Rob Campbell hired for Senior High Youth Minister	6 hrs/week at \$225/month
10/8/1989	Holly Tickle's hours increased	12 to 15/week
11/12/1989	Building Fund Committee appointed	
11/12/1989	Habitat for Humanity in Gwinnett offered PHPC support by letter	
11/12/1989	Preschool enrollment 51 (1 opening remains);	Donation of \$100/month to PHPC toward utilities
12/10/1989	Sanctuary reached capacity during 11 am worship	
12/10/1989	New Speaker system installed in Sanctuary	
1/20/1990	5-Year Anniversary celebration	
1/20/1990	Stained Glass Window dedication	
1/20/1990	Singles group started	
1/21/1990	Susan Friedl approved as inquirer for ministry	
2/23/1990	Pictorial Directory begun	
2/26/1990	Charis House donation approved	\$20,000
2/26/1990	Men's softball team started	
2/26/1990	Men's basketball team begun	
2/26/1990	Shepherd Groups considered by session	
3/17/1990	Square dance	
4/8/1990	Preschool enrollment 56	(capacity 79)
5/18/1990	Holy Cross Lutheran Church concluded use of PHPC	over the last year
6/3/1990	Red Cross Blood Drive	42 units
6/24/1990	Bluegrass worship service	
6/30/1990	Homecoming Sunday	
7/8/1990	Camping trip to Colorado	14 people
8/12/1990	Greg McMinn, Senior High Youth advisor hired	
9/1/1990	Holly Tickle called as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care	full time Sep to May, off June-Aug

9/1/1990	2-story education building completed	13 classrooms, restrooms, resource center, Senior Pastor office, storage
9/1/1990	Preschool expanded to new building	110 students; change to 10-month from 12-month schedule
9/1/1990	Sanctuary Construction began	
9/9/1990	Laminating Machine purchased	
9/9/1990	Charis House initiated by youth	\$500
10/6/1990	Texas BBQ at Fifers'; Lois Finlay-Chopin concert	
10/14/1990	Preschool enrollment	75 enrolled
11/4/1990	Holly Tickle ordained	
11/25/1990	Red Cross Blood drive	
1/10/1991	Winter Wednesdays (night time dinner and classes - 146 attended first session)	
1/10/1991	Cabinet for sound system built by Bill Wren	
1/10/1991	Flags donated to PHPC	
1/13/1991	Contract with BFI sanitation approved	dumpster placed on property
1/13/1991	Confirmation Class planned	
3/2/1991	Sock Hop	
4/6/1991	Alanon Meeting (all day event); 6 AA meetings/week at PHPC	
4/7/1991	Executive Committee of Committee Chairs formed	
4/14/1991	Blended Families Group started	
4/14/1991	Middle School Youth program recommended	
5/5/1991	Children led worship service	
5/7/1991	Men's softball team started	
7/21/1991	Backpacking trip in Oregon	
8/4/1991	Charlotte Martin hired as Youth Director	32 hours/month
8/4/1991	Inside offices of PHPC moved for renovation	
8/4/1991	Better Birth Foundation childbirth classes at PHPC	
8/4/1991	Youth Council formed; senior high "wants to meet every week"	
8/4/1991	Presbyterian Women Request to restart	

8/26/1991	Early service changed to 8:30 am	
9/15/1991	Education Building Dedication	
10/13/1991	2nd Brownie Troup approved	Monday 4-5 pm
10/13/1991	Gwinnett County Christian Women's Club nursery approved	2nd Thursdays each month
10/13/1991	Counting changed to Mondays	four teams rotating
10/13/1991	New asst custodian hired ____	
10/13/1991	Structured Men's Group Requested	
10/13/1991	Double-Income No-Kids Group started	
10/13/1991	Duluth Days: gave away all purple balloons by mid-day; cups of cold water until day end	
10/13/1991	2 Volleyball teams formed	
10/30/1991	Neighborhood cluster meetings for stewardship	
11/10/1991	Campus Crusade for Christ Bible study approved	Wed 9:30
11/10/1991	Dave Fry's administrative asst hired: Beth Nix	
11/10/1991	Purchase of handbells approved	Steve Dean, George Welch, Robin Whitworth; cost \$5,266 3 octave set
12/10/1991	Advent Event	100 children
12/24/1991	Christmas Eve services	5:30 and 11:00 PM
1/12/1992	Landscaping plan presented	\$18,500
1/12/1992	Gwinnett Early Childhood Program (special ed for preschool children)	T-F 8-10:30 and 12-2:30
1/12/1992	Budget: \$358,980 with \$6000 surplus	piano loan, intern, computer and training
1/12/1992	Druid Hills Night Shelter meal service continued	
1/15/1992	Winter Wednesday suppers	for 6 weeks
2/6/1992	Winter Hike in the Smokies w. DF	
2/9/1992	Voter Registration request for polling place approved	
2/9/1992	L Z Aerobics class 2x/wk approved	
2/9/1992	Collection Counting changed to Sundays	
2/9/1992	Food Pantry initiated: freezer purchased with fees from coffee	Anna Prodehl
3/2/1992	Dave and Gretchen Fry separated	



3/8/1992	New hymnals @ \$15/book by members of congregation purchased	
3/8/1992	PHPC not in top 5 growing churches	1 <sup>st</sup> time in 7 years
3/8/1992	Good Friday 8-hour prayer vigil	
4/13/1992	Senior High met every other week	
5/17/1992	Marriage Retreat	
6/14/1992	Melissa Elkin, summer intern	
6/14/1992	Association with Norcross Cooperative Ministry as they expanded into Duluth-on hold	Judy Wiltshire
7/12/1992	Temple Shir Shalom requested building use for High Holy Days	75 people attended
7/12/1992	Gwinnett Preschool for Developmentally Handicapped Children moved to own facility	
7/12/1992	Preschool enrollment 98 (fifth year); 14 staff	25 students from church families
8/15/1992	Date for Eight resurrected	
9/1/1992	Dave Fry's divorce finalized	
9/13/1992	Scotland hiking trip	
9/13/1992	Additional nursery to accommodate children during worship	Volunteers for nursery: 18-19 per week
10/10/1992	Adopt a Social Worker program with Gwinnett County DFACS: Caring for Kids approved	
10/22/1992	Duluth Co-Operative Ministries meeting at PHPC	
10/23/1992	Family camp	Burnt Mountain Baptist Assembly Jasper GA
11/1/1992	Giving Envelopes mailed monthly	Cokesbury
11/8/1992	Discovery Point childcare contracted for emergency building use in the event of a crisis	
11/8/1992	Young Life Christmas Tree Lot started	
12/31/1992	Aerobics class cancelled	
1/10/1993	Special grant to hire second custodian (outdoor maintenance)	Charles Amason
1/10/1993	Cards sent: Get well - 26, Sympathy - 25, New Baby - 27	Amy Reder
1/10/1993	Temple Shir Shalom extended contract through 1993	

2/14/1993	Maid service dismissed; installed electric hand dryers in bathrooms	
2/14/1993	Susan Dlouhy hired as pianist	
2/14/1993	Youth director budget increased to full time	Charlotte Martin
2/14/1993	Newsletter and bulletin sent to outside printer rather than purchase copier	The Print Monkey
2/15/1993	Lois Finley resigned as pianist	
3/21/1993	Preschool storage shed approved	
3/21/1993	Broadway Dinner Theater presented by choir	
4/3/1993	Caving trip	
4/11/1993	Easter attendance 1200 in 3 services	8:30, 10:00, 11:00
5/23/1993	Matt Fry hired as youth director	
5/23/1993	Summer Intern: Karen Bacon (6/4 - 8/15)	
5/23/1993	Purchase of china dishes for church night suppers	
5/23/1993	No Food or Drink policy for sanctuary	
5/28/1993	Charlotte Martin resigned as youth leader	
7/11/1993	PW cookbook planned	
7/21/1993	Red Cross Blood Drive	
9/12/1993	Chair of Preschool Committee approved	Bunny Amason
9/12/1993	Maternity Leave Policy approved	
10/10/1993	Special offering for Duluth Cooperative Ministries	
10/10/1993	Locks installed on preschool doors	
10/22/1993	Family Camp	Rock Eagle
11/14/1993	Donation for stained glass window received	
11/14/1993	Traffic Control Officer hired for December and 1/2/94	
1/9/1994	Refinance of Mortgage with NationsBank	\$885,000 12 year
2/13/1994	NAEYC Accreditation of Preschool in process	7 class rooms in use
2/13/1994	Emergency Assistance referred to Duluth Co-op	
2/13/1994	Stephen Minister program introduced	
3/1/1994	Pictorial Directory	
4/10/1994	Jennifer Drydon called as summer intern	

6/12/1994	Copier purchased	
6/12/1994	Church van purchase requested	
6/12/1994	Playground upgraded: divided into sod and wood chips (for accreditation)	
7/10/1994	Park Bluff Lane constructed; tie in to parking lot	
9/18/1994	Chuck Scott allotted interim office space	Young Life Director
10/10/1994	Neal Kuhlhorst allotted office space for counseling	Covenant Counseling Center
11/13/1994	Alternative Christmas Parties	
1/8/1995	Olympic Host project	25 families available
1/8/1995	Church of the Hills Charter Service	95 members
1/15/1995	Square dance	
1/22/1995	Security system considered	
1/22/1995	10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner	
2/12/1995	Fax machine installed	
3/1/1995	Ash Wednesday Service	
4/9/1995	Sandy Ullman, summer intern	
5/21/1995	Personnel Policy approved	
6/15/1995	Janet Bain hired as Administrative Asst	computer oriented
8/19/1995	Computers updated and networked	
8/19/1995	Visitor table started in Narthex	
8/19/1995	Withdrew from Druid Hills Night Shelter service	
8/19/1995	Stephen Minister training begun	20 participants
10/8/1995	Elders to serve as greeters	
10/16/1995	Mother's Morning Out pilot program	
10/24/1995	Presbytery addressed transgender minister ordination	
11/12/1995	Miriam White hired as pianist	
11/12/1995	Mother's Morning Out program two days a week following school calendar	
12/31/1995	Martha Rosselot retired	
1/28/1996	Matt Fry recommended as inquirer to Princeton Theological Seminary	
3/7/1996	Anna Brown introduced to Session	

4/14/1996	Kerri Peterson-Davis contracted for summer projects (Stephen Ministry, preach once a month, organize Habitat/Charis House	
4/14/1996	Beth Nix resigned	
4/14/1996	Janet Bain hired as full time Administrative Staff for Fall 1996	
4/30/1996	Martha Rosselot retired	
5/1/1996	Anna Brown called to full time position as Director of Christian Education	DCE
7/28/1996	Kerri Peterson-Davis called as part-time Parish Associate for Middle School Youth Minister, preaching	Parish Associate
8/11/1996	Pew Bibles purchased	
9/8/1996	PHPC Carpenter's Union formed to repair a house in the community	
9/8/1996	Youth Bell choir formed	
9/15/1996	Kerri Peterson Davis called as Associate Pastor	
10/13/1996	RadioShack Security system purchased	\$400
11/10/1996	Hearing assistance devices purchased for worship service	
11/17/1996	Make It, Bake It, Take It to profit Duluth Coop	
12/31/1996	Janet Bain resigned as office admin	
12/31/1996	Active Members 780	
2/16/1997	Dave Fry married Debbie McKenzie	
3/2/1997	Building Committee Selection for new sanctuary	
4/13/97	Van purchase approved	
4/21/1997	Dave Fry Sabbatical began	2 months
5/1/1997	Kerri Peterson-Davis to part-time Assoc Pastor	Associate Pastor
5/11/97	Restrictions removed from Jeff P-D's participating in youth activities	
6/1/1997	Matt Fry endorsed as a candidate at Princeton Seminary	
6/7/1997	Stephen Ministers completed training	
6/8/1997	Security system installed in offices	
8/10/1997	Bell Choir Director recruited	pay \$6000-\$8000



8/10/1997	Child Protection Policy approved	
8/10/1997	1 <sup>st</sup> website <a href="http://geocities.com/heartland/rance/7260">geocities.com/heartland/rance/7260</a>	
10/12/1997	Greeters began	
10/12/1997	Permanent usher captains established	
11/9/1997	Insight Atlanta granted space for drug abuse prevention	
11/9/1997	Resource Service, Inc contracted to begin Capital Campaign for sanctuary	Harvest of Faith
11/9/1997	Ned Chapin Scholarship established	
3/8/1998	Cub Scouts began meeting	
4/19/1998	Susan Verbruggen requested to become inquirer	
4/19/1998	Carpet installed in Education Building	
8/1/1998	Kerri Peterson-David promoted to full time	Associate Pastor
8/9/1998	Support for Rainbow Village, move from Norcross to Duluth	
8/9/1998	Kathy Taber, director for Mother's Morning Out	
10/1/1998	1 <sup>st</sup> International Mission Trip	Agalta Valley, Honduras
1/24/1999	Agreement to approve construction proposal for sanctuary signed	\$110,000 down payment
2/1/1999	Hema Chudasama hired as nursery worker	
3/1/1999	New Road Sign, West Wing classrooms and Sanctuary construction to begin; complete by May 2000	
4/1/1999	Family Mission Trip	Appalachian Project
4/14/1999	New Moms' Support Group (2nd and 4th Wed meetings)	
5/2/1999	Charles Amason hired as custodian	
10/8/1999	Adult Mission Trip	Agalta Valley, Honduras
11/21/1999	Make It-Bake It-Take It	
1/1/2000	Y2K	
1/30/2000	Souper Bowl Sunday to benefit Duluth Co-op	
4/1/2000	Family Mission Trip	Appalachian Project
4/16/2000	New phone system installed	
5/17/2000	Preschool closed due to difficulty finding staff	

6/1/2000	2000 Choir European Tour	
8/13/2000	Scott White approved as inquirer at Columbia Seminary	
8/13/2000	New carpet in foyer, halls, Sunday School rooms	
9/1/2000	Year of the Bible initiated	
9/24/2000	Organ purchase approved	
10/1/2000	Adult Mission Trip	Las Manzanas, Honduras
11/5/2000	Angel Tree initiated	
1/21/2001	Carpet replaced	halls, vestibule, nursery, Choir room, Rooms A 102, A 101 and Education Bldg hallways
1/21/2001	Habitat for Humanity Build to complete 3/4/2001	
2/11/2001	Carillon installed	
4/1/2001	Family Mission Trip	Sunset Gap, TN, Appalachian Project
5/1/2001	New Sanctuary dedicated	800 seats, choir suite, west wing classrooms, kitchen upgrade
5/6/2001	Sale of .003 acre to City of Duluth	sidewalk along Pleasant Hill Road
6/10/2001	Pagers for Nursery instituted	
8/1/2001	1 <sup>st</sup> wedding New Sanctuary	John & Maria King
9/11/2001	Trade Towers in NYC collapsed	
10/1/2001	Adult Mission Trip	La Lima, Honduras
10/7/2001	Eleanor Burgin resigned as treasurer	
10/7/2001	Attendance increased 47% over previous year	(new sanctuary)
10/10/2001	Jeff Peterson-Davis called as Parish Associate for Hospitality, Ministry to Young Adults, Communications and Infrastructure, some preaching $\frac{3}{4}$ time	until 9/30/2002 then full time
11/11/2001	Sharon Reagin hired as office secretary	
11/11/2001	Hyoun Joo Song hired as organist	
1/20/2002	Scott White approved as Candidate at Columbia Seminary	
2/24/2002	Celebration of Hope; David Bailey concert, Ann Bailey seminar	
3/3/2002	Farzana Javaid hired as nursery worker	

3/17/2002	Grace McGinty retired as Financial Secretary	
3/17/2002	Employment Transition Group started	
3/17/2002	Care Teams to assist members in difficult times	
4/27/2002	Potato Drop to benefit Atlanta Food Bank	40,000 pounds bagged
5/5/2002	Prison Ministry initiated	
8/11/2002	Kelly Hebert hired as Financial Secretary	
10/1/2002	Adult Mission Trip	La Lima, Honduras -6 participants
10/27/2002	Costume Carnival	
11/10/2002	Baptismal bowl purchased	
11/10/2002	Welcome desk established	
11/10/2002	Coke Vending Machine Purchased	\$1100 cost
1/12/2003	Proposed Memorial Garden presented	Dick LoPresti
2/9/2003	Greeters program organized	John DeBarry
3/9/2003	Discussion of plans in the event of War	at session meeting
4/5/2003	Family Mission Trip	Louisville KY
4/13/2003	Sale of Van	
6/8/2003	Cleaning service and landscape company considered	
6/8/2003	Session size increased by three members for 1, 2 and 3 years	21 to 24 elders
6/15/2003	Boy Scout Camp	160 boys, age 7-11
8/10/2003	Elissa Pope hired as Administrative Asst,	computer specialist
8/10/2003	Choir sings at Braves Game	Braves won
9/14/2003	Katie Fellows, intern (5 hours/week)	
10/1/2003	Adult Mission Trip	La Lima, Honduras
11/1/2003	Habitat for Humanity build began	
11/9/2003	The Bridge Korean Presbyterian Church nested at PHPC, led by Eddie Kim and Soon Mee Kim	Use 2 small rooms West Wing and Brides' Room
11/9/2003	Chris West, custodial asst hired	
1/11/2004	Chris West, custodial asst let go	
2/8/2004	Add Youth Elder serving 1-year term to session roster	
2/29/2004	David Bailey concert	

3/8/2004	Fellowship Hall and upstairs classrooms carpeting replaced	
3/8/2004	Financial audit in progress	
3/8/2004	Recycle cell phones and print cartridges to fund mission trips begun	
3/8/2004	Mission Statement approved: "Connecting Faith with Everyday Life "	Embracing God's grace, Seeking to live God's love revealed in Jesus Christ, Participating in a supportive, accepting, nurturing community of faith; Serving neighbors near and far; Sharing leadership - women, men, youth and children - as equal partners in ministry
4/1/2004	Family Mission Trip	Appalachian Project
4/1/2004	Caring for Aging Parents (CAPS) support group started	
4/18/2004	New Mothers Care team started	
5/5/2004	Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (hospitality, technology, men) formed	Chris Lybeer, Cully Veal, Dave Fry, David Ashley, Susan Odegaard
6/13/2004	Kroger Gift Card sales for fundraising (5% of amount)	
6/13/2004	Tricia Dillon Thomas, summer intern	
6/13/2004	Scott Reed, custodial asst hired	
7/4/2004	APNC recommended extending a call to Jeff Peterson-Davis	part-time Associate Pastor
8/15/2004	2 new copiers and color printer donated	
8/15/2004	Jeff Peterson-Davis from Parish Associate to Associate Pastor,	Associate Pastor, increase from 3/4 to full time
8/15/2004	Presbytery decision to divest multi-national companies operating in Middle East	
8/27/2004	Jewish Temple utilizing PHPC during their relocation (and Nov 2004 to May 2005)	Temple Shir Shalom
9/5/2004	Communion increased from every other month to once a month.	alternating Intinction with Table service
9/12/2004	Family Promise introduced to Session	
10/1/2004	Adult Mission Trip	Amazon River, Brazil

		Average 4-5 families per host week (about 14-16 people). ALL age groups within PHPC volunteered for donations of food items, meal prep, room set-up, shop, prepare, serve, clean-up, overnight sleepover hosts, children activities, transportation, tear-down service, reset Sunday School rooms, laundry angels, purchase new supplies, etc.,
10/10/2004	Family Promise approved to begin 2005	
11/14/2004	Preschool hours changed to 9:30 am to 1 pm.	
12/31/2004	Total membership 863	adherents 1924
1/20/2005	Letter of Endorsement for Blake Hudson to Columbia Theological Seminary	
1/23/2005	20th Anniversary worship service	
2/13/2005	Termination of relationship with The Bridge	Korean nesting church
2/28/2005	Kerri Peterson Davis Sabbatical leave	thru May 5, 2005
		Landscape Pleasant Hill Road; remodel/expand kitchen; rework fellowship hall to be recreation friendly; enlarge small fellowship hall; add bathrooms/showers upstairs; reduce mortgage; unisex bathroom
3/13/2005	Join the Adventure Capital Campaign	
3/13/2005	Leslie Roper, summer intern	
3/13/2005	Taco Bell Presbyterian Boycott	tomato growers share cropper working conditions
3/13/2005	College Student Ministry - Presbyterian Leadership Search Effort starts with summer retreat	
4/1/2005	Family Mission Trip	Myers Park, Charlotte NC
5/22/2005	Contract with GRASCO	weekly grounds maintenance
5/22/2005	Family Promise collaboration begun	Coordination: Tiv Alston, Erik Mjorud, Lisa Hubbert
6/12/2005	Communion to Peachtree Christian Hospice	alternating months
7/10/2005	Letter of endorsement for Rainbow Village	to Presbytery Outreach Ministry Team
8/21/2005	Blake Hudson approved as Inquirer	
8/21/2005	"Sing the Faith" hymnals purchased	
9/11/2005	Bride's Room renamed	in honor of Carolyn Schmid



10/1/2005	Adult Mission Trip	Mississippi - Katrina
10/9/2005	Director of Events position created for weddings and other events	Carolyn Schmid
10/20/2005	International Adult Mission Trip	Seis de Mayo, Honduras
1/22/2006	Relationship established with Gwinnett Medical chaplains	
2/12/2006	Stewardship Committee established	
3/1/2006	Louise Byrd hired as Office Administrator	
3/12/2006	Nursery roof repaired	\$11,000
3/12/2006	Summer Intern, Chip Pope placed at seminary expense	5/29-8/15/2006
5/28/2006	Elissa Pope resigned as office administrator	
6/11/2006	Fire alarm updated	
6/11/2006	Labyrinth constructed	Wes Faulkinberry, Eagle Scout
6/11/2006	Playground drainage issues addressed in-house	
9/10/2006	Sanctuary HVAC air compressor replacement, repairs	
9/10/2006	Sanctuary Art approved by session	
9/10/2006	Charis House Construction	
9/10/2006	Erik Mjorud appointed member of Board of Directors at Clifton Hospitality	
9/25/2006	Anna Brown sabbatical. until Dec 3, 2006	
10/1/2006	Adult Mission Trip	Mississippi - Katrina
10/1/2006	International Adult Mission Trip	Seis de Mayo, Honduras
10/15/2006	Search Committee for Interim Associate Pastor formed	Tiv Alston, Anna Birdsong, Mike Kaman, Mary Don King, Dave Moore, Brigid Richardson
11/12/2006	Playground improvements through Preschool	
11/12/2006	Adult Mission Trip	Houma, LA
11/12/2006	Kelly Hebert resigned as Financial Secretary	
12/6/2006	Peterson-Davis' move to Ohio	
12/17/2006	Goods for Goodies bake sale	
1/14/2007	Associate Pastor Information Task Force	Curt Fehn, Mike Kaman, Cathy MacLean, Cully Veal, PJ White

3/1/2007	Beverly Ostrowski called as Interim Pastor for Youth	
4/1/2007	Family Mission Trip	Louisville, KY
5/20/2007	Wyldlife meetings approved	From Duluth Middle School
5/20/2007	Children's Choir volunteers offered stipend	
5/20/2007	Blake Hudson approved as Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament	
5/31/2007	Carolyn Schmid retired as church secretary	
8/11/2007	Connecting Faith with Everyday Life initiative	Aug 2007 begin family night suppers monthly, Sept to May, Wed night movies for summer and Friday night coffeehouse for youth
8/12/2007	Charles Amason resigned as Sextant	
8/12/2007	Richard Williams hired as Facilities Manager	30 hrs/wk
8/12/2007	Donna Sanders hired for facility cleaning	20 hrs/wk
8/15/2007	Wednesday Night Suppers resumed	
9/1/2007	John (Skip) Martin, annual intern	
9/9/2007	Columbarium concepts presented	
9/9/2007	Baptism Boxes instituted, constructed by VBS	
9/9/2007	Midweek Bible Study resumed	
9/9/2007	Alternative worship service exploration committee formed	
9/9/2007	2-minute audio presentations via email re: electronic giving	
9/17/2007	Braves Game - members attended, choir sang	Braves won
10/1/2007	International Adult Mission Trip	Copan, Honduras
11/11/2007	250 New chairs and 25 tables for fellowship hall	\$23,750
12/15/2007	Diane Dayton hired as Office Administrator	
1/13/2008	Columbarium Committee elected by session	Don Freud, Stewart (chair) & Doddy Peet, Bob & Mary Don King, Jane Bengel. Paul Boyer, Richard Williams
4/13/2008	Summer intern (200 hours, \$2500)	
4/13/2008	Medical Emergency Response Plan in place	
4/13/2008	Sanctuary Roof repair for water leaks	
4/13/2008	Session endorsed the John Knox Presbytery Overture	"to live in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a

		man and a woman, or chastity in singleness" for ordination
4/13/2008	Initial Upword! service (stipend to Jen Januzelli to organize)	Monthly on 2nd Sunday
5/1/2008	Andy Acton hired as Associate Pastor	
6/8/2008	Preschool unable to meet pledge of \$1400 due to declining income, changed to 5% of income	
6/8/2008	Sanctuary replacement windows (defective) installed; alarm systems linked; roof repair on hold after 2 hail storms; nursery AC unit replaced with 7.5-ton unit	
6/8/2008	Video capability in the sanctuary	
6/30/2008	Beverly Ostrowski's last Sunday	
7/20/2008	Andy Acton called as Associate Minister for Youth	
8/17/2008	Personnel Manual revised	
9/14/2008	Counseling for Korean Congregation at PHPC	
9/14/2008	Columbarium dedicated	
9/14/2008	Lotsa Helping Hands started	Ministry of meals to members in need of food support
9/15/2008	Caregivers Support Group continued	
9/15/2008	Funeral Host program started	
10/1/2008	International Adult Mission Trip	Las Manzananas, Honduras
10/1/2008	Employment Transition and Networking Group	Dick LoPresti
10/19/2008	Andy Acton installed Associate Pastor for Youth	
11/9/2008	Entire church roof replaced due to hail damage	\$149,320 (insurance covers all but \$3,620)
11/9/2008	Windows behind sound board tinted	
11/22/2008	30-Hour Fast by youth	
1/3/2009	Tricia Kopec hired as Financial Secretary	
1/15/2009	Louise Byrd let go as Office Administrator	
2/8/2009	Family Promise continued	
3/15/2009	Upword! increased to twice a month in August	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays
3/15/2009	Proctor Square ministry to low-income families	
3/15/2009	Red Cross Blood Drive:	goal 109, actual 140 units donated

5/3/2009	Agreement with Rainbow Village for Tue/Thurs meetings to train residents	Location as well as meals provided by several area churches
7/12/2009	Worship security concerns--west wing locked during worship services	
8/15/2009	PHPC chosen as Clifton Night Shelter for Men "Volunteer Group of the Year"	
8/16/2009	Pleasant Hill Road Widened and median installation	
8/16/2009	Endowment Committee reactivated	
9/1/2009	Diane Dayton hired as Office Admin Asst	
10/1/2009	International Adult Mission Trip	Copan, Honduras
10/11/2009	New Piano purchased	
11/12/2009	Preschool Board Chair approved	Florence Milway
2/1/2010	Adult Mission Trip	New Orleans
3/21/2010	Financial audit in progress	
4/1/2010	Family Mission Trip	
8/1/2010	AED contributed from Health Ministries of Presbytery of Greater Atlanta	
8/1/2010	World Relief for Refugee Resettlement – first contacted	
10/1/2010	International Adult Mission Trip	Port au Prince, Haiti
10/10/2010	New entrances to parking lot approved at Park Bluff Lane	
11/1/2010	Rainbow Village collaboration for after-school care begun (transitional housing, after school program, and life skills to equip with the ability to become invulnerable to homelessness)	Sondra Blue, director
11/15/2010	Pleasant Hill Road widening hampered access to church	
1/9/2011	Pleasant Hill Presbyterian, Sugarloaf Methodist, and Perimeter Church coordinated to begin Refugee Resettlement	
1/11/2011	Dave Fry sabbatical approved	March thru September-Tibet
1/11/2011	Ordination of gay elders and ministers approved "live in obedience to Christ"	
1/15/2011	Adult Mission Trip	New Orleans

3/13/2011	Upword! services stopped due to loss of leadership	
3/13/2011	LGBT minister ordination approved by Presbytery	
3/13/2011	Background checks for volunteers instituted	
4/1/2011	Youth Mission trip	Calvin Center
6/15/2011	1 <sup>st</sup> Refugee Burmese Family arrives in Duluth	led by Dave Huffman
7/1/2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Burmese refugee family arrives	
8/15/2011	Holy Cow Fundraising Campaign began	
8/15/2011	New Organ Purchased (due to lightning strike)	\$90,000
10/1/2011	International Adult Mission Trip	Port au Prince, Haiti
1/16/2012	Drop Down Screen added to sanctuary	
1/18/2012	Islamic Group requested building use—to be considered at future meeting	
1/22/2012	Men's Kayaking Trip to the Bahamas	
1/27/2012	New church website launched	
1/27/2012	Personnel committee reactivated	
1/29/2012	Souper Bowl of Caring	
2/9/2012	Presbytery Meeting hosted by PHPC	call for commission to investigate allegations v. Jeff Peterson Davis
2/10/2012	Updated Child Protection Policy Adopted	
2/10/2012	Information Technology Committee formed	
3/18/2012	Rainbow Village moved into Duluth facilities	
3/18/2012	West Wing AC Unit replaced	
3/18/2012	Holy Cow Strategic Planning	Empty nesters group; two women's ministry monthly groups; Over 55 age group; young professionals/ college age group; post high school group; lunch online for 30s/40s
3/18/2012	"Faithful Ones" instituted	Envelope donation of \$1 to increase visibility of giving during worship
3/18/2012	Monthly prayer service instituted	
4/1/2012	Family Mission Trip	Myers Park, Charlotte NC
5/1/2012	Diane Dayton resigned as Office Administrator	
6/10/2012	Online membership directory	



6/10/2012	Donation Center in hallway outside small fellowship hall (Jerusalem)	Eagle Scout Project: Michael Armstrong
08/12/2012	Christina Cataldo (DCE) internship	for 9 months
9/9/2012	Independent Progressive Islamic (Gwinnett Islamic) Church request building use	three times in Oct/Nov/Dec
10/14/2012	<i>Chosen Word</i> (mailed newsletter) ->emailed "What's Happening"	
10/28/2012	Pastoral Care to PHPC members through letters, Congregation-wide meetings Nov 1 and Nov 3 for prayer, questions and responses	Formal Charges v. Jeff PD by Presbytery Joint Committee
11/13/2012	Election Day Refreshments initiated	
2/3/2013	Super Bowl event at The Everett Barn	
2/3/2013	Youth Sunday	
2/10/2013	Refinance church mortgage initiated	10-year loan
2/10/2013	Non-Youth Sunday	over 75 yo participation in worship
3/10/2013	Mortgage refinance with First Citizens Bank	10 years at 3.75% interest
3/10/2013	Mission in My Backyard	
3/10/2013	Olympic Bed Race	PHPC youth won
3/10/2013	Senior Friends resumed	
3/17/2013	Replace custodian with cleaning service	
4/1/2013	Family Mission Trip	Tuscaloosa AL
6/30/2013	Jane Fitzpatrick retired as Preschool Director	40 students in preschool
7/1/2013	Gina Maguire hired as Preschool Director	
8/28/2013	Service of Healing at PHPC offered for Presbytery;	notification by letter of members who left the church between 1996 and 2006.
9/12/2013	Presbytery Meeting hosted by PHPC	
10/28/2013	Pilgrimage to N GA and TN	Senior Friends
11/17/2013	<i>Glory to God</i> Hymnal debuted	Single copies purchased in honor and memory of individuals
1/2/2014	Montreat College Conference	10 PHPC youth attended
1/5/2014	Interim Associate Pastor Search Committee formed	
1/28/2014	Holly Tickle resigns	
2/8/2014	Super Bowl event at The Everett Barn	

2/23/2014	Men's Group sponsor "Big Recess" for Rainbow Village children	
2/23/2014	Software upgrade for Business (ACS)	
3/1/2014	Richard Hill hired as Interim Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care	
3/9/2014	Common English Bible to be used for 3rd grade gifts	
3/9/2014	"Monthly Moments with God" instituted in Preschool, led by Dave Fry or Andy Acton	Chapel time
3/15/2014	Associate Pastor Search Committee Forms (Pastoral Care)	Chris Keyser--chair, Dianne Warren, Rob Keith, Marian Miller, Jim Miskell
3/16/2014	Removal of hill and installation of landscaping and new sign on Pleasant Hill Road	sign donated by Formetco (\$35,000); Landscape by Russell Landscape (\$53,000)
4/1/2014	Family Mission Trip	Asheville NC
4/20/2014	Worship Bags instituted	
6/8/2014	Prayer Chapel concept introduced to session	
6/8/2014	Lay Visitors established for members needing care	
6/22/2014	Church BBQ at The Everett Barn	
7/1/2014	Richard Hill resigns	
7/13/2014	Cell phones replace pagers to notify parents of Nursery (Extended Session) concerns	
7/13/2014	Hand Gun law in Georgia changed	Session vote: not allowed in worship
8/10/2014	Laundry Love introduced to Session	
8/10/2014	Endowment Committee reorganized and elected	
8/10/2014	Elder of the Day during worship initiated	
9/14/2014	Multicultural sensitivity training for Preschool teachers	due to diversity of enrollment
9/15/2014	Rainbow Village moved into Duluth facility	(end of use of PHPC building)
10/1/2014	Adult Mission Trip	Guatemala
10/1/2014	Jody Andrade hired as part time Parish Associate for Pastoral Care	
11/9/2014	Online giving started	
11/9/2014	Communion to homebound members 4x per year	

12/7/2014	Jody Andrade ordained	
12/7/2014	Multicultural choir presentation	
12/11/2014	DelMar Gardens Christmas Party and Communion	
12/14/2014	WorldWide Christmas Choir presentation	250 in attendance
1/15/2015	Interim Pastor Search Committee for DCE	Alan Klein – chair, Colin Ching, Dianne DeBarry, Sherre Kahrs, and Florence Milway
2/8/2015	Family Promise participation ended	
2/28/2015	Anna Brown resigns as DCE	
3/8/2015	Choir Cabaret	raised \$3000 for choir expenses
4/15/2015	Cynthia Blaine hired as Interim DCE	
5/1/2015	Associate Pastor Search Committee Forms (CE, Youth)	
7/1/2015	Synod decision: Gay Marriage allowed in Presbyterian churches	
7/12/2015	Used Shoe Collection for Africa	
7/12/2015	Landscaping on hillside of Pleasant Hill Road complete	
7/14/2015	1 <sup>st</sup> Gay marriage performed	
7/19/2015	30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary worship service of PHPC	
9/13/2015	Digital sign design presented to session	donated by Formetco
9/15/2015	Preschool payments to PHPC of \$1000/month for utilities; Church Financial Secretary assumes responsibility for financials of preschool	
11/15/2015	Carol Aitken hired as Office Administrator	
11/22/2015	Associate Pastor Nominating Committee formed	Colin Ching, Leigh Ann Griswold, Sherre Kahrs, Alan Klein, Florence Milway, Tonya Borders
12/20/2015	Jennie Sankey hired as full time Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Youth	
1/15/2016	Gifted Past Bold Future to retire mortgage debt	\$1,200,000
2/21/2016	Church By-Laws approved by session	
4/1/2016	Family Mission trip	using LoPresti's and Milway's homes for housing, Blue Ridge, GA
5/8/2016	Communications Director, Soundboard Operator positions approved	

5/8/2016	Sunday School curriculum purchase approved	
6/1/2016	Intergenerational Church School initiated; Single 9:30 AM worship service for summer months	
8/13/2016	Erin McCollum Towe hired as Children's Choir Director	
8/14/2016	Church in Motion (Korean) approved use of building	Sunday mornings
8/14/2016	Brian Powers approved for Candidacy at Columbia Seminary	
8/14/2016	College of Elders formed	
8/18/2016	Laundry Love started in Duluth at Proctor Square	one evening per month
9/15/2016	Carol Aitken suffered a stroke preventing her working	(volunteer members filled position, headed by Diane Warren and Marianne Anderson)
10/9/2016	Laundry Love expanded to two evenings and one morning per month	
11/2/2016	Tricia Kopec resigned as Financial Secretary	
11/12/2016	Amended Child Protection Policy adopted	
11/19/2016	Kristie Johns hired as Financial Secretary	
3/21/2017	Laura Ware, LPC offered office space in exchange for counseling referrals	
5/14/2017	Marianne Anderson hired as Interim Office Administrator	
6/25/2017	Purchase church bus	Gifted Past Bold Future funds
7/23/2017	Interim Pastor Nominating Committee elected	Laura Freese, Matt Hoffman, Claire Keyser, Patrick O'Farrell, Winn Story, Mary Winkeljohn
10/15/2017	PHPC collaboration with Peacemaking Partnership established	
11/12/2017	Dave Fry preaches last sermon	
12/3/2017	Congregational Meeting to dissolve the call of Rev Dr David Fry	
12/17/2017	Li'l Pantry approved by session	
1/12/2018	Interim Head Pastor Search Committee formed	
1/14/2018	Crisis Management Plan approved	

1/22/2018	Church Mortgage retired	
2/11/2018	Jody Andrade called as Interim Head of Staff	
2/11/2018	Pastor Nominating Committee selected	Jeff Milway, Tiv Alston, James Park, Alan Klein, Jillian Zinn, Shawn Badinger, Kathy Reineking, Dave Huffman, Chris Keyser
2/18/2018	Election of Corporation officers: Laura Freese, CEO, Dick LoPresti, Treasurer and David Ashley, Secretary	
3/1/2018	Joel Alvis called as Interim Senior Pastor	
3/11/2018	Policy regarding weapons on church grounds; preschool blocked off from access with key code pad; keypad on main door and cameras	
4/8/2018	Session Action Forms introduced	
6/5/2018	Dealing with Dementia seminar	
6/10/2018	Faith Ghanaian Church allowed building use in afternoons on Sunday	
8/12/2018	Erin McCollum Towe hired for additional hours as Director of Children and Youth Choirs and Assoc Director of adult choir	\$12,000/yr
8/12/2018	JOY on the Go	Seniors over 55 - outings
9/9/2018	Sacristy proposed to session	
9/9/2018	Mental Health Awareness Workshop (3 weeks)	
9/9/2018	Prayground proposed to session	
9/9/2018	Youth Group hosted joint meeting with Hi-Hope Center	
9/9/2018	Preschool enrollment at 32 students	not sustainable with 7 part-time teachers and full-time director
11/11/2018	Operation Turkey Sandwich	Erik Mjorud
11/11/2018	Carpet replacement in fellowship hall and hallways	
11/18/2018	Call of Rev Andy Acton dissolved by congregational meeting	
12/1/2018	Northside Hospital Mammograms in parking lot	
1/12/2019	Trial period for Prayground begins	



1/12/2019	Confirm Pleasant Hill Preschool as part of the church's mission; to supplement the preschool funding	consideration to close due to low enrollment
2/15/2019	Andy Acton resigns	
2/17/2019	Exterior church painted	
2/17/2019	Ministry Architects engaged for advice on staffing, program and facilities for the youth program	\$6,210
4/21/2019	Joel Alvis resigned as Interim Pastor	
4/28/2019	Preschool 30th anniversary	
5/15/2019	Jody Andrade called as Interim Senior Pastor	
6/11/2019	Change of 2 pews (size) to allow for wheelchair seating	
7/1/2019	Katie VanBrackel hired as part-time communications: newsletter, webpage	
8/11/2019	Need for new Children's Choir Director stated	
8/11/2019	New Church website launched	
8/18/2019	Ken Medema concert	187 attendance
8/25/2019	Kitchen vandalized	\$10,000 damage
9/8/2019	Bridge Interim Pastoral Search Committee elected	Mary Don King, Colin Ching, Ann Cathey, Margot Ashley, and Patrick O'Farrell
10/20/2019	Updated PHPC Personnel Policy Manual approved	
10/20/2019	Raised bed garden behind kitchen approved	Henry Armstrong - Eagle Scout project
10/31/2019	Jody Andrade resumed part-time Pastoral Care Parish Associate	
11/1/2019	Susan Haynes called as Bridge Interim Pastor	
11/3/2019	Adult Mission Trip	Blue Ridge, GA - 30 participants
11/17/2019	Red Cross Blood Drive	
12/15/2019	"Inactive" Members changed to "Friends of PHPC"	
1/1/2020	Claire Keyser hired as part time Communications Coordinator	
1/10/2020	Bernie Kida - Hired as Interim Youth Adviser	

1/12/2020	Social Networking policy added to Personnel Policy	
1/15/2020	Jennie Sankey on maternity leave	
2/9/2020	Theater and Theology	
2/23/2020	Alvin Ailey Dance Company outing	
3/1/2020	Taco Lunch fundraiser for youth	Mission Trip to Guatemala
3/1/2020	Call Rev Katie Day as Senior Pastor	Congregational Meeting
3/8/2020	Choir Cabaret	Social distancing, specially wrapped food
3/11/2020	Covid Pandemic causes suspension of all church ministries, office closed	
3/15/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> online live streaming worship service (due to pandemic lockdown)	
3/15/2020	Georgia Governor closed all non-essential activities until April 6 (Coronavirus);	all church activities virtual; church staff paid full salaries
3/15/2020	Preschool doors closed but materials sent to students for work at home	Teachers paid through May, Director paid through end of summer
3/15/2020	Suspension of Kroger cards for community assistance: referral to Duluth Co-op	
3/29/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> pre-recorded worship service	
4/1/2020	Paycheck Protection Plan funds applied for 60 days of payroll	\$100,700
4/5/2020	Online Adult Sunday School Classes resume	
4/19/2020	Fellowship Hall HVAC installed	
4/19/2020	Approve virtual meetings to elect elders during pandemic	Congregational meeting
4/19/2020	All mission trips cancelled for 2020	
4/20/2020	Susan Haynes resigns as Bridge Interim Pastor	
5/1/2020	Katie Day called as Senior Pastor	
5/3/2020	Drive-by parade to welcome The Revs Katie and Kevin Day and Elijah	
5/17/2020	Pandemic Task Force formed	Session Committee Chairs, John Su, Deb LoPresti, Dan Miller and Lori Reed
6/6/2020	Weddings for 2020 cancelled	
6/9/2020	Primary Voting - 950 voters attended	

6/14/2020	Communications and Technology Committee formed	
6/28/2020	Katie Day installed as minister at PHPC by Zoom	given quilt of elders' hands
6/30/2020	Richard Williams resigned as Facilities Manager	
7/8/2020	Virtual VBS offered	
7/12/2020	Projection version of <i>Glory to God</i> purchased for online worship	\$500
7/12/2020	Preschool closed for 2020-2021 school year	
7/14/2020	Online Friendship Pad to register worship attendance	
7/16/2020	Laundry Love resumed (outside table, contactless provision of supplies and coins)	10 people served (1/2 of normal)
8/2/2020	Virtual Coffee Hour following worship	
8/6/2020	Duluth Co-Op served 336 families, (1394 people) and 21,081 pounds of food	Annual report
8/9/2020	Drive-Thru Blessings day	
8/9/2020	Choir anthem presented virtually	Richard Stewart integrated individual recordings
8/20/2020	Kristie Johns hired as Administrator of Facilities and Financial Secretary	
9/1/2020	Rev Jody Andrade began three-month sabbatical	
9/6/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> post-pandemic wedding performed by Katie Day	
9/13/2020	Outdoor Small Gathering Guidelines approved	
9/13/2020	Financial procedures audit begun	Brooks, McGinnis & Co, LLC
9/13/2020	Courtney Henry taken under care as seminary candidate	Laura Huffman, liaison
9/13/2020	Church School via Zoom: Growing in God's Love curriculum	
10/4/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> Zoom worship service	
10/11/2020	Renovation of Youth Room plan presented to session	\$30,500
10/18/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> drive-in worship service in back parking lot (reservations for children's time required)	Planned for every other week
10/20/2020	4 portable heaters purchased for outdoor services	

10/31/2020	Trunk or Treat CAR-nival	
11/3/2020	PHPC hosted voting for Presidential General election	
11/17/2020	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday hikes resume	
12/6/2020	Stringed quartet post-worship concert	
1/6/2021	Playground Task Force established	Beth Goodenberger, Jennie Sankey, Kristen Ching, Margot Ashley
1/10/2021	Rev Jody Andrade hours reduced to 12/week	focus on pastoral care
1/24/2021	Post-worship concert by Banks and Shane	
2/16/2021	Shrove Tuesday (outdoor event) rained out	
2/17/2021	Ash Wednesday/Shrove Tuesday combined event = Shrash Wednesday	
3/4/2021	Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church requested building use as they transition to the Duluth area from Clarkston	
3/4/2021	Rooted in Faith Campaign to fund prayer garden, playground renovation and address drainage problems	\$300,000
3/4/2021	Jody Andrade and Mary Winkeljohn participating in Stephen Minister Leader training	
3/4/2021	Ministry of Deacons study initiated related to Pastoral Care and Fellowship	12 elders, 9 deacons, 1 youth elder/deacon
4/1/2021	Macy Ruple called as summer intern	
4/20/2021	1 <sup>st</sup> baptism post-pandemic lockdown	Matthew Dannemiller
4/21/2021	Facilities Use Policy updated and adopted	
5/23/2021	Pentecost: 1 <sup>st</sup> indoor worship service since pandemic started	
6/14/2021	Preschool offers expanded summer camps	1/month +1 additional in August
6/21/2021	Outdoor VBS for ages 4 yrs to 5th grade	
6/27/2021	1 <sup>st</sup> class of Deacons installed	
6/30/2021	Marianne Anderson resigns as Office Administrator	
7/7/2021	Gina Maguire resigns as Preschool Director	
7/14/2021	10:00 Worship begun (combined 8:30 and 11 services)	

7/21/2021	Beth Goodenberger hired as Interim Preschool Director	
8/1/2021	Dan Miller bike ride across America to support Rainbow Village	
8/1/2021	Claire Keyser hired as full time Office Administrator, Communications Director	
8/8/2021	Kristie Johns' role expanded to include Facilities Oversight: Church Administrator	
9/12/2021	Membership Committee separated from Fellowship Committee	Elders v. Deacons roles
9/12/2021	Child Protection Policy revised to include anti-bullying, social media conduct code and annual video training	
10/1/2021	Adnan Zukanovic hired as part time Facilities Assistant	
10/21/2021	Shepherd Ministries organization begun	Bernie Kida, Shannon Hudson
11/01/2021	Six-Star Partnership formed with St Luke's and Morningside Presbyterian Churches for Refugee resettlement	
11/4/2021	Adult Mission Trip	Blue Ridge/Fannin County
11/14/2021	Congregational singing reinstated in worship services	
11/16/2021	Communion bread sealed in individual plastic bags	
11/21/2021	Andy Kim hired as Sound Board Tech	
12/12/2021	Cameras installed in sanctuary to live stream choir worship service	
12/15/2021	Expenses in 2021 Replace stolen catalytic converter on bus, replace preschool HVAC, replace furnace in choir room (due to fire), repair drainage pipe from tree roots, replace pipe in playground protecting wire conduit to church, replace supervisory panel for fire alarm system.	Expected in 2022 Replace HVAC in education bldg, recertification/update of sanctuary sprinkler system.
12/20/2021	Preschool enrollment 37	
12/31/2021	Laundry Love 2021	Totals: People helped 237; loads 418; cost \$1,837.25
1/2/2022	In person worship suspended for 1/2/22 and 1/9/22 due to pandemic surge	



1/8/2022	Stephen Minister training begun	12 candidates
1/9/2022	Vital Congregations Initiative begun	
1/15/2022	Afghan refugee family resettlement begun through Six-Star Partnership, settled in Clarkston	International Rescue Committee of Atlanta
1/23/2022	ATPC initial worship service	
2/2022	Electronic sign hit by lightning - no communication with motherboard	
2/13/2022	Mask use inside building continues; suspension of choir and congregational singing due to surge in Covid	
2/13/2022	Katie to part-time mornings for 12 weeks,	beginning 2/14 thru May 4
2/13/2022	Change of Congregational Meetings to once per year	last Sunday in January to include all nominations (elders, deacons, nominating committee), Terms of Call and budget presentation, Annual Corporate meeting. Nominating Committee to meet in October. Officers trained Feb to April with ordination in June
2/13/2022	Preschool enrollment 42	(max 44)
2/13/2022	New names and signage for Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Cana, Emmaus and Nazareth in west wing rooms.	
2/13/2022	Faith Ghanaian Church worshiping weekly, New Presbyterian Korean Church will return in April, Atlanta Taiwanese moving in March 1	
2/27/2022	Dedication of Playground	
3/6/2022	Joint worship of co-worshiping congregations: PHPC, Faith Ghanaian, Taiwanese Presbyterian, Faith in Motion; followed by taco lunch	
3/16/2022	Filming of Dynasty (CBS) episode (4 days) in sanctuary	
3/20/2022	Return to congregational singing	based on recent declines in Covid
3/20/2022	Furnace in choir room replaced (due to fire)	
3/20/2022	Fire alarm supervisory panel, pull stations, smoke alarms, etc replaced, Central Station monitoring company	
3/20/2022	Fire sprinkler head inspection in sanctuary	

3/20/2022	Facility Use policy revision to include rental of parking areas	
3/20/2022	Resumption of passing the plate for offering	
4/10/2022	VBS registration full (already) total 69	
4/10/2022	Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunrise services scheduled	
4/11/2022	Masks optional in Sunday School classes	
4/20/2022	Pandemic Task Force suspended	
5/13/2022	Memorandum of Understanding with Laura Ware, LPC for counseling services	
5/15/2022	Church cookout and Ministry Fair	
5/15/2022	Kristie Johns resigns as Church Administrator	Facilities Manager and Financial Secretary
5/15/2022	Saeeda St Aude hired as Youth Minister	
5/27/2022	Mary Cooper hired as Facilities Manager and Financial Secretary	Church Business Administrator
5/29/2022	Beth Goodenberger hired as Preschool Director	(permanent)
5/30/2022	Playground and pizza for Sunday School during summer	
6/5/2022	Hannah Smith hired as Children's Choir director	
6/6/2022	Preschool repainted by volunteers	
6/12/2022	Cameras and livestreaming equipment installed in sanctuary	
6/15/2022	Stephen Ministers ordained (10)	
6/20/2022	Rejuvenation of Senior Friends: lunch	attended by 43 people; Erik Mjorud
6/20/2022	New AV equipment installed in sanctuary	
6/20/2022	Offering collection along ends of pews reinstated	(covid-19 precautions lifting)
6/21/2022	VBS : 30% PHPC children, remainder from surrounding area	
8/14/2022	Jody Andrade resigned as Pastoral Care Parish Associate	
8/14/2022	North Georgia Mission Lodge established: support from PHPC session	

9/6/2022	Preschool opens with 52 students, 10 teachers and director	2 yr olds, 3-day 3s, 4- and 5-day 3s (2 classes), 4- and 5- day 4s (1 class)
9/12/2022	Congregation-wide personal survey: who we are now in conjunction with VCI	
9/15/2022	Women's Bible Study resumes	
11/3/2022	Adult Mission Trip	Blue Ridge/Fannin County
11/13/2022	Affiliation with Presbyterians for a Better Georgia	
11/20/2022	Joint Worship Service w. Faith Ghanaian, ATPC	
2/1/2023	Tanya Royster hired as Director of Ministry Support	
2/22/2023	Claire Keyser resigned as Communications Director	
2/28/2023	Tanya Royster resigned as Director of Ministry Support	
3/1/2023	Playground Grand Opening	
3/1/2023	Veronica Pennington hired as Director of Ministry Support	
3/26/2023	Joint Worship Service w. Faith Ghanaian, ATPC, New Presbyterian	
4/22/2023	Prayer Garden Dedication	
4/30/2023	Saeeda St Aude resigned as Youth Minister	
5/15/2023	Talitha Minton hired as Preschool Director	
5/21/2023	Laura Ware, LPC discontinues in-house counseling	
5/21/2023	Grace Andrade hired as Director of Youth Ministry	
5/27/2023	PHPC participated in Gwinnett Pride Event (Norcross, Thrasher Park)	
6/30/2023	Beth Goodenberger resigned as Preschool Director	
7/15/2023	Doors installed in Preschool: 3 classrooms facing courtyard	to comply with fire code
8/20/2023	Crisis Response Team formed to establish Plan	
9/14/2023	Pastoral Care Volunteer Coordinator established	Margot Ashley
9/23/2023	PHPC participated in Peachtree Corners Festival	

9/28/2023	Red Cross Blood Drive	
9/30/2023	PHPC participated in Duluth Fall Festival parade, throwing footballs to the crowd	
10/1/2023	3-month sabbatical begins for Jennie Sankey	
10/8/2023	Kettlerock Brewery Trivia night -- last time	
11/11/2023	Church in Motion/New Presbyterian resumes after two-month break	
11/18/2023	Sewage back-up in bride's room. bathrooms and kitchen (west wing) requiring plumbing rework, decontamination and replacement of wallboard and flooring, removal of cherry tree and rework of outside drains	
1/21/2024	Hannah Smith terminated as Children's Music Director	
1/21/2024	Interfaith Workshop -- Jennie Sankey, Tom Stricker	
1/22/2024	Emmanuel Akrong (Faith Ghanaian) taken under care as inquirer for ministry	
2/11/2024	PHPC joined Presbyterians for a Better Georgia	
3/10/2024	Mekensie Gonzalez hired as children's music director	
3/10/2024	Electronic sign restored to use, including full color	Drew Phillips, Pat Miller
3/10/2024	Crisis Response Plan in progress	
3/10/2024	Direct Mailing to surrounding neighbors re: Easter services, Choir program	
3/15/2024	Monument sign cleaned, "and Preschool" added	
3/24/2024	Joint Worship of co-worshipping congregations: PHPC, Faith Ghanaian, Taiwanese Presbyterian, New Presbyterian	
5/31/2024	Mekensie Gonzalez resigned as children's music director	
6/1/2024	Live Arts Theater began use of building:	Practices, 6 productions/year
8/1/2024	Stephen Minister Training (6 candidates)	
9/22/2024	Kayla Otim hired as Children's Music Director	
10/31/2024	Mary Cooper let go as Facilities Manager and Financial Secretary	

11/4/2024	Veronica Pennington resigned as Director of Ministry Support	
11/4/2024	Phones and office staffed by volunteer church members	
11/15/2024	Live Arts Theater presents first performance for the public	
12/4/2024	Adnan Zukanovic hours increased, hired as Facilities Coordinator, full time	
12/4/2024	Kristen Ching served as interim financial Secretary with assistance from Roswell Pres	
12/15/2024	Courtney Henry ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament	
1/27/2025	40th anniversary beginnings celebration at Wasteland Gaming--former site of Mall Corners Theater	
2/3/2025	Hilary Mize hired as Ministry Support Assistant	
2/16/2025	4 Stephen Ministers commissioned	
3/17/2025	Fellowship Hall used as Movie set for filming <i>Tulsa King</i> on Paramount+ Sylvester Stallone series	"AA Meeting/Community room"