

THE THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 14, 2024
Eagle River, Alaska

...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

-Isaiah 40:31

CHURCH INFORMATION

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Church Office Hours:

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PASTOR INFORMATION

Pastor Blake Severson

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The THIRTY-NINTH REPORT of Mission and Ministry ANNUAL REPORT of 2023 Eagle River Presbyterian Church

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HISTORY OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Eagle River Presbyterian Church was chartered **March 8, 1985**. We are including the last ten years of detailed history. Please contact the office for previous years' history.

In **2013**, we filled the frontage area with sod. Our tenants, Doggy Decadents and College Coach, left us. Children's Church moved from 10 am to 1120 am, following the Children's Message during worship. Glory To God, the new PC(USA) hymnal, became our standard during worship.

In **2014**, our tenants were Behavior Matters and Yogi Berry. We transformed the space formerly used by Doggy Decadents into a Fellowship Hall. We helped with the purchase of a new heater for the Kaktovik church. We participated with local churches and Love Inc. in the Thanksgiving Blessings. We supported the Chinooks baseball team by sponsoring a game and providing dinner twice for the team. Our organ gave out and we were finally able to use the Baldwin organ that had been stored in our building for many years.

We continued our community outreach in **2015** with the construction of raised garden beds to use for growing fresh vegetables for the Food Pantry. A free little library was added to our grounds through a Boy Scout project. The Berrys went to Gambell to help with the construction of the new church. Our tenant moved out leaving us without the rental income source. The congregation stepped up to make the mortgage payments. By year-end, the balance was less than \$5,000.

In **2016**, the mortgage was paid off in February. We did not have a tenant for the first 9 months. The Pain and Headache Center began renting space in September. The garden beds continued to grow, with all the produce being donated to the Chugiak-Eagle River Food Pantry.

In **2017**, Sarah Dutton, our administrative assistant since 2003, resigned in May and in June we hired Allison Denton. Brendon Mezzeti, our organist, left in June and through a connection of a church member we found and hired Mike Wright. For the first time in 10 years we hired a choir director, Patti Wilson. Through all of this change we continued to reach out to the community through our many great ministries. We ended the year with the finances in the positive. The church held a fundraiser to support the purchase of a "new to us" organ; the old Baldwin organ had reached its lifespan. This brought new and beautiful sound to the church.

In **2018** the session voted to go to one 10:00 a.m. service coming back from the summer schedule. We said good-bye to our organist, Michael Wright, and the Choir Director, Patti Wilson. We welcomed Gretchen Clayton as our new Music Director. In October we began to offer space to a new Al-Anon Group, Stepping Stones. New panels were purchased to replace the faded/outdated oval sign. In November we installed a new efficient toilet into the tenant space in hopes of reducing the plumbing issues that they were having. We had the honor of hosting the Annual Presbytery meeting. Our congregation helped with transportation, housing, cooking and additional efforts to make the meeting a success. On November 30 we were hit by the 7.1 earthquake and suffered extensive damage to the building.

2019 saw more personnel changes. After Allison Denton moved in May, Elizabeth Hobbie joined our staff as the administrative assistant. Gretchen Clayton resigned in October and Connor Spencer became the music director. Piper took a 3-month sabbatical, her first in seventeen years of serving as pastor of ERPC. Rev. David Dobler served as interim pastor from July through September. In response to the earthquake damage, repairs and renovations began in the spring. The office was moved to the front of the building, and the narthex was expanded. We ended 2019 solidly in the black, and carried the balance forward to 2020, for further repairs to the building.

2020 was a challenging year for all. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March, all in-person worship services were suspended and moved online, and all church meetings were held on Zoom. There was a silver lining in that the extensive building repairs and renovations could continue

without the need to put the sanctuary back together for worship each week. We were also able to reach worshippers outside of our geographic area. Most of the building repairs were completed this year, with new ceiling tiles, paint, flooring and roof. We applied and received a PPP grant to help with personnel and regular expenses in the first few months of the pandemic. We held one in-person service after March: Christmas Eve, in the parking lot, with singing and candles.

2021 began with online worship exclusively, but in late March we were able to meet safely in person, with a Covid-19 mitigation plan. The children’s Christian Ed program started back as well. During the summer we had fellowship outdoors, and later we added air purifiers to the narthex which increased safety during indoor fellowship time. Our insurance company finalized and closed our claim from the 2018 earthquake, and all remaining contractor bills were paid.

2022 continued to be a year of getting back to regular worship and fellowship activities. We had several potlucks, celebrations, and an Advent dinner and craft night. In September we had a special building re-dedication service following the earthquake reconstruction and renovation – something that had been delayed due to Covid. We replaced the shake roof with new shingles and got new sanctuary doors. Session was without a Christian Education elder; however, we still had Sunday school with rotating teachers. The year ended with Rev. Cartland’s announcement that she would be retiring at the end of May 2023 after serving 21 years as our pastor.

SUCCESSION OF PASTORS

The Rev. Jim Scott, Organizing Pastor 1984-1985

The Rev. Ben Walters, Interim Pastor, 1985

The Rev. Ed Hamilton and the Rev. Myrlene Hamilton, Co-pastors, 1986-1988

The Rev. John K. Wilson, Stated Supply, 1988-1989

The Rev. Ken Smith, Pastor, 1989-1997

The Rev. Arlys Wilbur, Interim Pastor, 1997-1998

The Rev. Dr. Dean Knapp, Pastor, 1998-2000

The Rev. Robert Palmer, Interim Pastor, 2001

The Rev. Piper B. Cartland, Pastor, 2002- 2023

The Rev. Blake A. Severson, Interim Pastor, 2023 - present

COMMITTEE AND BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

SESSION

- Oversight of all ERPC organizations
- Identify long term goals
 - Provide leadership for committees
 - Approve and track annual budget
 - Approve capital improvements

Committees:

- Personnel
- Worship and Music
- Fellowship
- Christian Education
- Stewardship/Finance
- Nominating
- Building/Trustees
- Mission/Outreach

BOARD OF DEACONS

Care of the congregation's spiritual, emotional, and physical needs

- Monthly contact with the congregation
- Set up and administer communion
- Recognize congregational special days

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Care and upkeep of all financial assets and physical property

- Maintain the Church building
- Capital improvements to the church building
- Secure and maintain contractual agreements with tenant

SESSION COMMITTEES

NOMINATING

Provide leaders for the church

- Identify and select prospective church officers
- Explain duties and job description to prospective church officers
- Organize and provide training for church officers
- Ensure effective transition between outgoing and incoming officers

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Provide an inspirational worship service

- Organize worship service order and content with the pastor
- Schedule music and pulpit substitutes
- Schedule layleaders, ushers and greeters
- Conduct training for the above volunteer positions

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Nurture the Christian role of stewardship

- Provide regular stewardship awareness discussions
- Coordinate volunteers' time and talent for workdays
- Conduct annual stewardship drive
- Maintain the church financial database

PERSONNEL

Administer church personnel policy

- Conduct annual reviews of church paid staff
- Develop job descriptions for church officers, volunteers, and staff

FELLOWSHIP

Provide social activities

- Provide after service fellowship hour
- Organize monthly church activities for families and kids

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Promote congregational spiritual growth

- Organize and conduct weekly Sunday school classes for all ages
- Organize weekly bible study classes

- Organize and conduct summer Vacation Church School

MISSION/OUTREACH

Coordinate church mission activities

Spread the gospel to the community

- Act as the initial contact for needs outside the congregation
- Identify, fund, and monitor approved mission causes
- Administer designated mission account
- Prepare information packets for new members and visitors

- Conduct training for contacting new worshippers

- Conduct training for Deacon congregational contacting

PASTOR'S REPORT

With the retirement of Rev. Piper Cartland in May 2023, the Session was tasked with finding an interim pastor. The Personnel and Worship committees worked to fill the pulpit each Sunday throughout the summer. In September, Pastor Blake Severson arrived from an interim position in Parma Heights, OH (near Cleveland) and was joined by his wife, Megan, who grew up in Anchorage, and his two daughters, Ada and Sigrid. Pastor Blake is excited for the opportunity to bring his skills and passion for the gospel to the place he and his family love above all other places, Alaska. He is also honored by the opportunity to serve Eagle River Presbyterian Church in this crucial season of its life as we continue the process of calling a permanent pastor.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

As clerk of Session for Eagle River Presbyterian Church since 2014, I've come to appreciate all the hard work the many Elders I have served with over the years have done on behalf of the church. Taking the minutes at each Session and congregational meeting has given me a better understanding of the history of the church and all the work we have accomplished, not only for our church, but for the community. This past year has been especially challenging as the church adjusted to the retirement of our long-term pastor, Rev. Piper Cartland, in May. It was a pleasure to work with Rev. Leisa Carrick, who stepped in to serve as moderator of Session over the summer as we searched for an interim pastor. I also took minutes for several of the interim pastor interviews. At the February Presbytery meeting, hosted by Eagle River Presbyterian church, I served as the recording secretary for the meeting. I enjoyed meeting all the Elders and pastors from churches throughout the Presbytery of Yukon as we discussed our churches' wants and needs, and how we can better help each other throughout the year. In September we welcomed our interim pastor Rev. Blake Severson. It's been a pleasure to work with him as he moderates Session and guides us through the next steps in the process of finding a permanent called pastor. I also worked with Debbie Ossiander in revising our bylaws to better reflect how our church operates. I look forward to working with Pastor Blake and Session in 2024.

Respectfully,
Diane Walters
Clerk of Session

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The principal role of the Board of Trustees is to oversee ERPC's nonprofit corporation by managing its real property and any special funds.

ERPC had no significant corporate issues in 2023.

Building improvements for 2023:

-Completion of the Sidewalk and parking lot projects, funding source through FEMA earthquake funds totaling \$201,000. ERPC retained a project manager that was our only out of pocket expense \$1,800. ERPC Trustees appreciate the efforts of John Malecha and Debbie Ossiander who were

instrumental in keeping this project on task and navigating the maze of requirements to ensure our out-of-pocket expenses were kept to a minimum.

-Completion of the Pavilion in the gravel parking area. This project was funded through a grant obtained by the food pantry and will be utilized primarily as a covered food distribution area. The ERPC trustees appreciate the efforts of John Malecha who was instrumental in the planning and implementation of this project. I will try to give John a break in 2024!

-Remodel of the Tenant space, rent abatement was provided to our new tenant for them to update the leased space. \$21,000 in renovations were completed prior to them occupying the space including all new floor covering, remodeling the entrance area and painting the entire space.

-An additional 3 raised garden beds were installed, and starter plants, seeds, soil and fertilizer were purchased using a micro-grant for food security from the U.S.D.A. Thanks to Brent Koenen for applying for the grant. The approximately \$1,000 was spent by ERPC up front, and will be paid back by the grant funder in spring 2024.

-Energy saving measures made prior to my chairmanship, including updated lighting and new roof have been paying dividends by reducing both electrical and gas expenses.

Leased Space

-The Pain and Headache Clinic left this spring and we enlisted the services of a realtor for finding the next tenant. Keller Williams Real Estate signed a lease at the end of July, updated the space, and occupied in August. Rent was abated September – November in exchange for improvements made to the space. Beginning in December they paid rent at the full rate. They signed a 3-year lease with the option to renew. I am very thankful the space is providing positive cash flow in relatively short period of time. The owner of Keller Williams was thankful to be back in this space as she informed me they were our original tenant when we first took ownership of the building!

Thank you to your generous financial support of our church building and the donated time of the many members who help on projects large and small.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Musick
ERPC Trustee

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

The Board of Deacons is charged with caring for the congregation's spiritual, emotional and physical needs. We minister to all those who attend our church whether they are members or not. We help with the general well-being of the church in a variety of ways and attempt to help those who are sick, alone, or distressed. Every deacon is assigned to a committee of the church, and has an "alpha group" of individuals to contact and connect with regularly.

Those who served on the Board of Deacons in 2023 were: Stephanie Spencer (Moderator), Whitney Lewis (Secretary), Laura Southwell and Ellen Koenen (Treasurer), Elizabeth Hobbie, Patti Malecha, Jean McCarthy, and Peter Hobbie as Youth Deacon. Laura Southwell moved out of state and Ellen graciously accepted the position. We are very grateful to all the members of Eagle River Presbyterian Church for their donations to the Deacons' fund. These donations, our only funding source, are a critical part of the care we provide the congregation and church.

The regular yearly tasks performed by deacons include:

- Staying in touch with their respective group of families and providing them with assistance as needed, praying for them, and keeping them updated on church activities
- Organizing meals for families in time of births, illness, deaths, or other times of need
- Sending flowers or memorial donations for births, illness or deaths
- Preparing the communion table and purchasing communion supplies
- Sharing communion duties on Sunday with the Elders
- Stocking tissues and hand sanitizers for the Sanctuary
- Maintaining the defibrillator (AED)
- Sending birthday and anniversary cards and cards for other special occasions

- Providing and serving birthday cakes for the monthly birthday celebration
- Providing Mother's Day/Father's Day gifts for the congregation
- Giving Christmas gift cards to staff (other than the pastor)
- Providing \$50 fuel cards/grocery cards to those in need

Flowers or Memorial donations were given to a number of families throughout the year.

In addition to our regular tasks listed above, we continued our support of our church family this year by co-sponsoring church activities. We also purchased more banners for the church and 3 bistro tables for the narthex. Our plan to re-work our outdoor play space this past summer was thwarted by a summer of rain. Hopefully, the summer of 2024 will bring sun and a new play area! The deacons are also discussing the purchase of emergency shelter items to prepare for any future natural disasters. Answers to questions about specific donations and purchases are available from the Deacons.

Respectfully submitted,
The Deacons

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Sunday School continues to be a vital part of our Sunday morning ministry, led by a variety of different adult volunteers. We are continuing to use the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum that aligns with the Revised Common Lectionary cycle of scripture study. We so appreciate all of the volunteers who stepped in to give our youth this valuable experience.

We continued our tradition of an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter Sunday, thanks to Whitney Lewis for organizing that. For Christmas our children, led by Donna Davidson, participated in the Samaritan Purse program. The Christmas pageant was again a no-rehearsal event during worship on December 17, 2023. We had 15 participants, including 2 cows, 2 sheep and a dragon! Thank you to Whitney and Olivia Lewis for providing narration.

Our youth group continues to partner with other Presbyterian churches in the area and is hosted by First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage.

Adult Education resumed in September with Wednesday Bible studies with Pastor Blake. There was a zoom Bible Study in the afternoon and in-person (weather permitting!) studies in the evening. Our annual "garage" sale was held on September 9, 2023 and netted just pennies under \$2,000.00. The volunteer turnout for set up, sales and clean up was overwhelming and very appreciated. Items that didn't sell were taken to Methodist Recycle for a Reason. Funds were allocated to support our Christian Education programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Baisinger-Davis

MISSION AND OUTREACH

In 2023, Mission and Outreach held a fundraising auction again! On February 11, desserts and other Valentine themed items were bid on, bringing in around \$1,300. The evenings' dinner featuring a baked potato bar was partly provided by donations from our local Fred Meyer and Carr's grocery stores. Half of the proceeds was given to Love; Inc. and the other half was reserved for another local need that might need donations later in the year. Our other missions were well supported by the congregation:

- Alongside Ministries, \$900/yr.
- Fire Lake Elementary School—school supplies and backpacks plus \$175 for other needs identified by the school staff

- Hiland Mountain Correctional Center—coats, clothes and shoes
- Thanksgiving Blessing, in coordination with other area churches and Love in the Name of Christ, over 100 gravy mixes and 100 cans of sweet potatoes
- Young Life, \$600/yr.
- Garden beds for summer vegetables donated directly to the Food Pantry
- Monthly contributions to Yukon Presbytery, \$12,000/yr.

Nearly \$3,000 was contributed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assist in Maui's recovery from devastating fires. We continued to help support One Great Hour of Sharing and their missions, Christmas Joy offerings and the Food Pantry. End-of-year donations were made with available funds to further support the Presbytery with an additional \$3,000 and Young Life with another \$600. There was an in-kind donation of lodging for a Kairos volunteer, a group that used the church facilities in order to support a retreat at the Hiland Correctional Center. Other in-kind donations were made to help with getting the rental space readied and with building maintenance.

Advertisements for Easter and Christmas were purchased for a total of \$881, published in the Good Deal Magazine and Anchorage Daily News.

Thank you to all that donated time, money and items to fulfill our commitments to the community. Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Musick

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music committee works with the pastor and staff on worship and sanctuary use. We are grateful to those who share their gifts in leading worship throughout 2023. Thank you to our many guest pastors during Pastor Piper Cartland's retirement and before Pastor Blake Severson's arrival, especially Todd Carter, who led us in worship for many months. Thank you to Connor Spencer, our music director and pianist, for skillfully leading us in congregational hymns and his direction of the vocal and handbell choirs. We thank all of the tech volunteers for their service in broadcasting the internet live-stream of the worship services. Thank you to Nancy Baisinger-Davis and Whitney Lewis who led the children and youth as they shared a Nativity pageant during Advent. Thank you to those who enhanced our celebration of Easter and Christmas Eve worship as members of the Chancel and Handbell Choirs. Thank you to Larry Baumgartner and Megan Severson who shared their musical gifts as a guest organist or vocalist this year. Last, but not least, thank you to our many Lay Leaders, as well. Thanks to all for these and other acts of service that enable us to praise God in worship each Sunday!

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Hobbie, Worship and Music Committee Chair

GENEROSITY

The Generosity Committee is responsible for the stewardship and finance matters for ERPC. During 2023, the committee consisted of Kim Arlington (Committee Chair), Sharon Frick (Treasurer) and Elizabeth Hobbie (Accounting Technician and Church Secretary).

The Generosity Committee and Session thank you for your continued generous support of our congregation through your time, talents, and resources. Your generosity has allowed our congregation to serve our community as well as provide meeting and operation locations for several community services. We continued to meet our monthly expenses during 2023 even though we did not have a paying tenant in our rental unit for six months and some of our regular expenses have increased. In addition, ERPC was able to fulfill our commitments to the missions and organizations that depend on our support, and we ended 2023 with some savings.

This year ERPC finished all the remaining projects related to the renovation of the church building such as the new parking lot and sidewalks. The associated costs were covered by our insurance company, FEMA funds, and your generous donations. In addition, ERPC was able to manage the construction of a pavilion for the Food Pantry.

Thank you for your faithful contributions to ERPC, we could not do any of the things that we do without your loyal support. We look forward to 2024 with gratitude for the blessings God has bestowed upon our congregation. Please reference the financial pages at the end of the annual report for a more detailed financial breakdown for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Arlington

PERSONNEL

This has been an eventful year for ERPC. Our long time Pastor Cartland retired in the spring. Your personnel committee helped recruit the many different pastors that filled in during the months we were hunting for an interim pastor. We were then very pleased to be able to successfully negotiate a salary and benefits package to bring Pastor Blake Severson up to Alaska from Cleveland, Ohio. We anticipate exciting changes for the church as Pastor Blake helps us find the path to a new permanent pastor.

It has been our continued pleasure to work closely with our administrator, Elizabeth Hobbie. She seems to rise to meet any new challenge we experience. Neil Banks is continuing to provide reliable positive help in the nursery. Evan Spencer is still cleaning the church every week. We have started to expand the job description for Connor Spencer. He has restarted our choir and is directing a holiday bell choir, while continuing to provide piano accompaniment each week.

In his service,
Debbie Ossiander

FELLOWSHIP

The year always starts off with taking down the Christmas decorations. I want to thank the Deacons for organizing this since I had to be out of town at that time.

In February, the Presbytery was hosted by the church. Meals were provided for all who attended the two-day event. We had many members help prepare meals, set-up and do clean-up.

In April we said goodbye to our pastor, Piper Cartland, by hosting a retirement party. The theme was, "Get your kicks on Route 66". A potluck was served, filled with favorite diner foods.

Father's Day was celebrated by having a BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs.

We welcomed Pastor Blake by having an Italian themed luncheon after the Sunday service.

In October we brought back our Chili Cookoff and included a game night.

The church was decorated for Christmas, on the first Wednesday of December, with the help of the Wednesday coffee group.

In December we prepared for Advent by hosting an advent craft and dinner. Those that participated brought in their favorite soups to share and then selected an ornament to make.

Coffee, tea, juice, and finger foods were provided each Sunday after service.

As we continue to recover from the Covid years, and now going through our pastor search, Fellowship is looking forward to continuing to bringing back more activities. In 2024 we are planning to bring back progressive dinners, and more group activities.

We are always open to ideas and help.

In his service,
Linda Homan, Fellowship Chair

Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2023

The January annual meeting of the congregation was held January 29, 2023, in person and via Zoom. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Book of Order. Rev. Piper Cartland served as moderator and Diane Walters was clerk. The meeting opened with prayer at 11:05 a.m. with a quorum of 27 members present.

Clerk's Report: Congregational minutes from the January 30, 2022 and the September 25, 2022 annual meetings were presented to the congregation for approval. Megan Gobeille moved and Debbie Ossiander seconded to approve the minutes of the previous congregational meetings. Motion passed.

Reports: Rev. Cartland presented the committee reports (Session, Deacons and Trustees) contained in the 2022 annual report. Debbie Ossiander had a question about the budget. It was \$38,000 more than she thought it would be, especially since we are losing our renter and need to hire an interim pastor when Rev. Cartland retires. Rev. Cartland explained that the budget can always be modified and that money budgeted for the Terms of Call will be used for the interim pastor. Debbie Ossiander moved and Nancy Davis seconded to approve the annual reports. Motion passed.

Election of Officers:

- Nominating Committee – Scott Bailey self-nominated to be the at-large member of the committee for the upcoming year. Nancy Davis moved and Dave Charlton seconded that nominations from the floor be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed.
- Trustees –The nominating committee placed in nomination Bill Walters and Jamie Lewis to serve as Trustees. Stephanie Spencer moved and Paul Cartland seconded that nominations from the floor be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed.
- Elders –The nominating committee placed into nomination Kim Arlington to serve as chair of Stewardship and Finance (Generosity), Debbie Ossiander as chair of Personnel, and Nancy Davis as chair of Christian Education. Paul Cartland moved and Miles Gobeille seconded that nominations from the floor be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed.
- Deacons – The nominating committee placed into nomination Patti Malecha and Ellen Koenen to serve as Deacons. Megan Gobeille moved and Laura Southwell seconded that nominations from the floor be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed.

Rev. Cartland will meet with new Deacons and Elders for instruction and have the ordination and installation of officers later in the spring.

Other Business: Retirement of Rev. Piper Cartland. Rev. Cartland's last day in worship will be April 30, 2023. She has four weeks of leave to use, so her official last day will be May 31, 2023.

Ellen Koenen moved, Bill Walters seconded and the congregation approved the motion to ask the Presbytery to concur with Rev. Piper Cartland's request for dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Eagle River Presbyterian Church effective May 31, 2023.

Matthew Hobbie sent out a letter on Friday explaining the process to find an interim pastor, with the goal of having someone in place by June 1, 2023. He has volunteered to lead the search. Session finds the interim pastor, but a committee made up of members of the congregation looks for a permanent pastor, and based on the committee's recommendations, the congregation elects the permanent called installed pastor.

Bill Musick thanked the members of the nominating committee for their work in finding people to serve in the various positions.

Nancy Davis moved and Debbie Ossiander seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting closed with prayer at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Walters
Clerk of Session

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes April 2, 2023

A special meeting of the congregation was held April 2, 2023, in person and via Zoom. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Book of Order. Rev. Piper Cartland served as moderator and Diane Walters was clerk. The meeting opened with prayer at 11:15 a.m. with a quorum of 31 members present.

The purpose of this meeting is to re-elect Becky Musick as an Elder and Peter Hobbie as the Youth Deacon.

The Nominating Committee placed into nomination Becky Musick as an Elder and Peter Hobbie as the Youth Deacon. Coming out of committee, no second is needed. Paul Cartland moved and the congregation seconded that nominations from the floor be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed.

Debbie Ossiander moved and the congregation seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting closed with prayer at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Walters
Clerk of Session

Congregational Meeting Minutes September 24, 2023

The September annual meeting of the congregation was held September 24, 2023, after the 10 a.m. service. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Book of Order. Interim Pastor Rev. Blake Severson served as moderator and Diane Walters served as clerk. The meeting opened with prayer at 11:01 a.m. with a quorum of 29 members present in person. Introduction: Pastor Blake introduced himself to the congregation. He explained that no pastor's terms-of-call would be voted on at this meeting as he is an interim pastor. He said the purpose of this meeting was to give an update on construction, tenancy of our rental space and to create a nominating committee for church officers for next year. He added that he is here to learn, look at how the church has been doing things, and do we want to continue doing the same things or re-evaluate and change some things.

Construction and Tenant Update: (Bill Musick and Debbie Ossiander); Debbie announced that we made the final payment to the construction contractor for repairs from the November 2018 earthquake. She recapped all the work that has been done since the start of construction in January

2019 to include leveling the floors, fixing cracks in the drywall, replacing the ceiling in the Sanctuary and elsewhere in the building, replacing the building roof, and sidewalk and parking repair. She said the rebuild is basically complete after five plus years of work. Bill Musick added that we have a new tenant, the Realty Company Keller-Williams. We are giving them a 3-month rent abatement because they paid to remodel the space themselves. They signed a 3-year lease that can be extended. The Food Pantry pavilion should be completed by October 18, 2023.

Bylaws: (Debbie Ossiander) Some of the changes needed to be made to the bylaws include allowing people to participate and vote in Session and congregational meetings electronically, e.g. via Zoom, change the month from when we elect officers from the January congregational meeting to the September meeting, with officers starting their term in January instead of March, and make other changes as deemed necessary. Because we need to elect new officers for January and we do not have a slate ready for this meeting, Debbie moved that the current bylaws be suspended and that officers be elected at the January 2024 congregational meeting and be installed later that month. Coming out of committee, no second is needed. Motion passed. We will be voting on the new bylaws at the January congregational meeting.

Nominating Committee: Debbie Ossiander agreed to serve as Elder and chair of this committee. Pam Darnall and Donna Davidson self-nominated to serve on the committee with Debbie. Lloyd Pool moved and Nancy Davis seconded that nominations from the floor be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed. Debbie added that we need two Elders and three Deacons.

Other Business: None

Megan Gobeille moved and Debbie Ossiander seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion passed. The meeting closed with prayer at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Walters
Clerk of Session

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Activities:

Operating Account

Regular expenses exceeded our regular income by \$14,688.32 this year. Income for the year (from undesignated contributions and rental/misc. income) was \$221,288.73, while our regular expenses were \$235,977.05.

Statement of Activities:

Designated Fund/Pass Through Accounts

Thank you for your generous financial support of various funds throughout the year. Your donations supported the ERPC Deacons, Chugiak-Eagle River Food Pantry, poinsettias and flowers for the sanctuary, the Christmas Joy special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the fires in Maui, Fire Lake Elementary, and Love, Inc. We received \$23,221.86 in designated contributions to funds outside of the Operating Account.

The Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023, the main liability carried forward is the MBMANC (Major Building Maintenance and New Construction) fund of \$147,098.47.

2023 Financial Plan Highlights

The **average monthly** regular income (undesignated contributions plus rental and miscellaneous income) was \$18,440.73. The **average monthly** regular expenses totaled \$19,664.75. Although we overspent our income this year, we have maintained a healthy amount of savings from previous years' surpluses, and our undesignated contributions remain stable.

Past 5 years' monthly **undesignated**

contributions were as follows:

2023 monthly average: \$15,604

2022 monthly average: \$15,450

2021 monthly average: \$14,821

2020 monthly average: \$13,674

2019 monthly average: \$14,096

The 2024 Spending Plan continues to reflect the effort of the Generosity Committee to be faithful stewards of the church funds. Projection of 2024 expenses will remain nearly the same in most categories.

Community groups continue to use our Church, including Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry, AA, Al-Anon, Kairos prison ministry, and the Eagle River Moms' Playgroup. This year we added a new group, The Greater Eagle River Garden Club who meet monthly in our narthex, from March to November. Without the generous contributions of our members and friends, we could not maintain the building or offer it for our community's use.

Thank you all for your continued support of our congregation, church and community with your generous financial gifts.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Hobbie, Administrative Assistant
and Financial Technician/Bookkeeper

Eagle River Presbyterian Church Inc.

2023 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OPERATING ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

	2023 Actual	% of Total	2023 Plan	% of Total	Change from 2023 Plan
Contributions	\$187,248.89	85%	\$201,878	75%	(\$14,629.11)
Rental Income	\$24,207.45	11%	\$52,905	21%	(\$28,697.55)
<u>Misc. Income*</u>	<u>\$9,832.39</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>\$9,000</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>\$832.39</u>
Total 2023 Receipts	\$221,288.73	100%	\$263,783	100%	(\$42,494.27)

DISBURSEMENTS

	2023 Actual	% of Total	2023 Plan	% of Total	Change from 2023 Plan
Building	\$71,636.31	30.4%	\$68,360	27%	\$3,276.31
Church Office Expense	\$6,819.94	3%	\$7,500	2.8%	(\$680.06)
Session & Administration	\$449.40	0.2%	\$900	0.2%	(\$450.60)
Christian Education	\$1,874.06	0.8%	\$2,200	.9%	(\$325.94)
Personnel	\$135,256.99	57%	\$160,423	59.5%	(\$25,166.01)
Fellowship	\$166.77	0.07%	\$2,200	0.6%	(\$2,033.23)
Worship & Music	\$1,346.53	0.6%	\$2,000	0.8%	(\$653.47)
Mission/Outreach	\$18,063.70	7.9%	\$19,200	7.8%	(\$1,136.30)
Generosity	\$363.35	0.1%	\$1,000	0.4%	(\$636.65)
Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$0				
Total Disbursements	\$235,977.05	100%	\$263,783	100.00%	(\$27,805.95)

Receipts less Disbursements -\$14,688.32

*MISC INCOME	
Bank Interest/Dividends	\$811.34
Food Pantry Utilities Donation	\$1,200
AI-Anon Donation	\$750
AA Donation	\$6,600
Bldg Usage	\$125
<u>Refunds</u>	<u>\$346.05</u>
Total	\$9,832.39

Eagle River Presbyterian Church Inc.

2023 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

DESIGNATED FUND and PASS THROUGH ACCOUNTS*

	2023 Opening Balance	2023 Receipts	2023 Disbursements	2023 Ending Balance
MBMANC Fund (Major Building Maintenance and New Construction Fund)	\$112,994.56	\$69,944.91	\$35,841	\$147,098.47
Flower Fund	\$0.0	\$1,004	\$853.31	\$150.69
Food Pantry	\$0	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$0
Renter's Deposit	\$0	\$4,676.00	\$0.00	\$4,676.00
Auction	\$0	\$1,348	\$639	\$709
Fire Lake Elementary	\$0	\$175	\$175	\$0
Presbytery Feb. Meeting @ ERPC	\$0	\$750	\$672.04	\$77.96
Deacons	\$0	\$8,325	\$7,925	\$400
Christmas Joy Offering	\$0	\$910	\$910	\$0
One Great Hour Offering	\$0	\$364.86	\$364.86	\$0
Pastor's Educational allowance	\$2,000	0	\$68	\$1,932
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$0	\$2,870	\$2,870	\$0
TOTAL FUNDS	\$114,994.56	\$96,117.77	\$56,068.21	\$155,044.12

*The Designated Fund Accounts are not part of the Operating Account.

Eagle River Presbyterian Church, Inc.

2023 Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

<u>Cash Assets</u>		<u>Cash Liabilities</u>	
\$47,284.49	Checking	Designated accounts:	
\$241,244.56	Savings	MBMANC Fund	\$147,098.37
\$288,529.05	Total Cash Assets	Renters deposit	\$4,676
		Misc. Funds/Pass thru	\$6,358.69
		Total cash liabilities	\$158,133.06
Total cash assets		\$288,529.05	
Total cash liabilities		-\$158,133.06	
Total current assets		\$130,395.99	

Eagle River Presbyterian Church
2024
Spending Plan

	2024 Spending Plan	% of Overall Plan	2023 Spending Plan	2023 Actual	Difference from 2023 Actual to Spending Plan
REVENUE					
Contributions	\$197,910	75%	\$201,878	\$187,248.89	(\$14,629.11)
Rental Income	\$56,112	21%	\$52,905	\$24,207.45	(\$28,697.55)
Misc. Income**	\$9,000	4%	\$9,000	\$9,832.39	\$832.39
Total Revenue	\$263,022	100%	\$263,783	\$221,288.73	(\$10,921.56)
DISBURSEMENTS					
BUILDING:					
Insurance & Taxes	\$26,500	10%	\$25,035	\$24,670.41	(\$364.59)
UTILITIES					
Electricity	\$8,200	3%	\$10,000	\$8,168.59	(\$1,831.41)
Garbage Disposal	\$2,500	0.9%	\$2,300	\$2,465.43	\$165.43
Natural Gas	\$7,500	2.8%	\$9,000	\$7,523.88	(\$1,476.12)
Sewer/Water	\$1,200	0.4%	\$1,200	\$2,365.09	\$1,165.09
Snow Removal	\$9,500	3.6%	\$9,500	\$9,475.72	(\$24.28)
Security Service	\$660	0.25%	\$660	\$660	\$0
MAINTENANCE					
Fire Equipment Inspection	\$600	0.22%	\$600	\$315	(\$285)
Janitorial Supplies	\$400	0.15%	\$500	\$357.88	(\$142.12)
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$10,000	3.8%	\$9,565	\$15,634.31	\$6,069.31
TOTAL BUILDING	\$66,460	25%	\$68,360	\$71,636.31	\$3,276.31
OFFICE:					
Telephone/Internet	\$2,940	1.1%	\$2,940	\$2,932.53	(\$7.47)
Office Equipment Maintenance	\$150	0.05%	\$150	\$0	(\$150)
Copier Maintenance	\$2,700	1%	\$2,990	\$3,306.74	\$316.74
Office Supplies	\$1000	0.4%	\$1,420	\$580.67	(\$839.33)
TOTAL OFFICE	\$6,790	2.6%	\$7,500	\$6,819.94	(\$680.06)
SESSION/ADMINISTRATION:					
Session/Treas/Admin Exp.	\$500	0.2%	\$900	\$449.40	(\$450.60)
Reconciliation Expense	0	0.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL SESSION /ADMIN	\$500	0.2%	\$900	\$449.40	(\$450.60)

	2024 Spending Plan	% of Overall Plan	2023 Spending Plan	2023 Actual	Difference from 2023 Actual to Spending Plan
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:					
Children's Curriculum	\$550	0.2%	\$550	\$180	(\$370)
Adult Curriculum	\$400	0.15%	\$400	\$808.66	\$408.66
Bible / Senior Gifts	\$100	0.03%	\$100	\$385.75	\$285.75
Vacation Bible School	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0.00	0
Equipment / Supplies	\$500	0.2%	\$500	\$464.52	(\$35.48)
Jr./Sr. High Youth Group	\$650	0.25%	\$650	\$35.13	(\$614.87)
TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$2,200	.8%	\$2,200	\$1,874.06	(\$325.94)
PERSONNEL:					
Pastor's Salary / Severance Pkg	\$39,999	15%	\$22,588	\$18,980.00	(\$3,608.00)
Pastor's Utility Allowance	\$0	0%	\$8,008	\$2,002.02	(\$6,005.98)
Pastor's Housing Allowance	\$40,001	15%	\$43,129	\$24,605.46	(\$18,523.54)
Pastor's Auto Allowance	\$0	0%	\$5,200	\$1,300.02	(\$3,899.98)
TOTAL PASTOR'S SALARY	\$80,000	30%	\$78,925	\$46,887.50	(\$32,037.50)
Pastor's Medical/Pension/Dental	\$33,072	12.6%	\$31,898	\$24,314.78	(\$7,583.22)
Reimbursable Expenses	\$2,000	0.8%	\$2,000	\$486.11	(\$1,513.89)
Education Allowance	\$2,000	0.8%	\$2,000	\$68	(\$1,932)
Temporary Pastor	0	0	0	\$13,154.12	\$13,154.12
Pastor Relocation Expenses	0	0	0	\$11,177.39	\$11,177.39
TOTAL PASTOR'S COMPENSATION	\$117,072	44.5%	\$114,823	\$82,865.78	(\$31,957.22)
Workman's Compensation	\$1,400	0.5%	\$1,400	\$795	(\$605)
Pulpit Substitution/Other Expenses	\$1,500	0.6%	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$750
Secretary/Accounting Tech	\$25,000	9.5%	\$25,000	\$18,826.92	(\$6,173.08)
Music Director/Organist/Pianist	\$10,500	4%	\$10,500	\$7,260	(\$3,240)
Employer FICA/Medical Taxes	\$2,500	1%	\$2,500	\$4,329.83	\$1,829.83
Security Bond	\$100	0.03%	\$100	\$90.00	(\$10.00)
Payroll Updates & Other Expenses	\$500	0.2%	\$500	\$1,560.34	\$1,060.34
Nursery Attendant	\$1,500	0.6%	\$1,500	\$1,125	(\$375)
Cleaning Services	\$2,600	1%	\$2,600	\$3,000	\$400
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$162,672	62%	\$160,423	\$135,256.99	(\$25,166.01)
FELLOWSHIP:					
Supplies	\$2,200	0.8%	\$2,200	\$166.77	(\$2,033.23)
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	\$2,200	0.8%	\$2,200	\$166.77	(\$2,033.23)

	2024 Spending Plan	% of Overall Plan	2023 Spending Plan	2023 Actual	Difference from 2023 Actual to Spending Plan
WORSHIP & MUSIC:					
Music Supplies/Other Expenses	\$800	0.3%	\$800	\$515.53	(\$284.47)
Licensing Fees	\$500	0.2%	\$500	\$516	\$16
Piano/Organ Tuning & Repair	\$700	0.3%	\$700	\$315	(\$700)
TOTAL WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$2,000	0.8%	\$2,000	\$1,346.53	(\$385)
OUTREACH & MISSION:					
Outreach Advertising & Supplies	\$1,600	0.6%	\$1,600	\$881	(\$719)
Presbytery Pledge / Mission	\$12,000	4.6%	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$3,000
Designated Mission	\$5,000	1.9%	\$5,000	\$982.70	(\$4,017.30)
Young Life	\$600	0.2%	\$600	\$1,200	600
TOTAL OUTREACH & MISSION	\$19,200	7.3%	\$19,200	\$18,063.70	(\$1,136.30)
STEWARDSHIP:					
Stewardship Expenses	\$1000	0.4%	\$1000	\$363.35	(\$636.65)
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	\$1000	0.4%	\$1000	\$363.35	(\$636.65)
TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES	\$263,022		\$263,783	\$235,977.05	(\$27,805.95)

Eagle River Presbyterian Church Members December 31, 2023

Lisa Anderson
John Anderson
Jim Arlington
Kim Arlington
Linda Armstrong
Wayne Armstrong
Scott Bailey
Haley Banks
Jeff Banks
Joanne Banks
Neil Banks
Chelsea Berry
Dale Berry
Emily Berry
Nate Berry
Brandi Braunwarth
Joe Braunwarth
Jerry Brossia
Paul Cartland
Dave Charlton
Sandra Charlton
Jennifer Cottle
Pamela Darnall
Alex Davidson
Dean Davidson
Donna Davidson
Kelsey Davidson

Bruce Davis
Nancy Davis
Gail Duft
Larry Frick Jr.
Sharon Frick
Megan Ossiander Gobeille
Myles Gobeille
Elizabeth Hobbie
Matthew Hobbie
Penelope Hobbie
Peter Hobbie
Linda Homan
Linda Kelly
Rick Kelly
Ralph Kiehl
Ellen Koenen
Brent Koenen
Rose Koon
Jamie Lewis
Whitney Lewis
John Malecha
Patti Malecha
Gary McCarthy
Jean McCarthy
Jerry McNearney
Ruth McNearney

Rebecca Musick
William Musick
Suellyn Novak
Debbie Ossiander
Brian Peterson
Allison Petroccia
Tony Petroccia
Jessica Pierce
Carol Pool
Lloyd Pool
Rachel Rasic
Mike Saylor
Paige Saylor
Josh Saylor
Laura Southwell
Dennis Spencer
Stephanie Spencer
Abbie Spencer
Gay Stewart
Bill Swears
Teri Swears
Kelli Toth
Donald Tybus
Bill Walters
Diane Walters
Kay Witt
Lucy Witt
Chris Woodard
Jean Woodard

