



Tabernacle Presbyterian Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



ANNUAL MEETING

February 4, 2024 | 9:00 AM | Sanctuary



OUR MISSION

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church is called by God, led by faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the Kingdom of God through worship, discipleship and outreach. Honoring our heritage at 34th and Central, we will faithfully serve our community, city and world in the present and prepare expectantly for the future.

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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fram **REV. TERRI THORN**

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

As Presbyterians, our common understanding of the work and purpose of the church universal is described in what we call The Great Ends of the Church:

- ⇒ *The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind*
- ⇒ *The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God*
- ⇒ *The maintenance of divine worship*
- ⇒ *The preservation of the truth*
- ⇒ *The promotion of social righteousness*
- ⇒ *The exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world*

This is who the church is and what the church is called to do - a guide for mission and ministry in all seasons. Our commitment to reflect these "Great Ends" rises above all circumstances and is solely to the glory of God.

In this 2023 Annual report for Tab, you will discover that the Tab family has remained faithful to the Great Ends in our times of joy and sadness, both in the ordinary days and through milestones and transitions that occurred this year, including:

- The 100th Anniversary of Tab's physical presence at the corner of 34th and Central.
- The installation of the first installed female pastor, **Rev. Terri Thorn**, in our history.
- The death of our beloved employee and Tab family member, **Jeff Ellis**, who served Christ and this congregation for more than 25 years.
- The privilege of providing a summer pastoral internship opportunity to Tab member and Wheaton College student, **Jack Booker**, as he discerns God's call toward seminary.
- The celebration of the retirement of **Rev. L. John Gable** after 42 years of ministry, including 15 years with Tab at the end of July.
- An unprecedented **Tab FamilyFest** weekend in Brown County.
- A five-month transitional season and interim search which successfully discerned the call of **Rev. Dr. Bill Smutz** as the Interim Senior Pastor, who arrives in early January 2024.

We were also blessed to welcome new staff to Tab who compliment the giftedness of our amazing leadership team and bring the same commitment to Tab's vision of Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships and Stronger Community as we live out the Great Ends of the Church together.

- In March, **Greg Kashman** was hired as our Sunday morning facility host ensuring a warm welcome of hospitality for all who worship at Tab on Sundays.
- In May, **Jeff Earnest** joined the staff as the Facilities Manager, coming with years of experience in a similar urban historic church building and immediately acclimated to ours.
- In September, **Janaé Woodson** joined the Tab staff as the part-time Community Ministry Coordinator where she provides support to our neighbors through the various community ministries of Tab.

Mother Teresa once said, "I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things." Beloved, being church together is the greatest thing we can do. In 2023, we have done it well, not because of what any one of us has done, but because of what God is doing in and through all of us. We give thanks and pray that God will continue to call Tab for great things in 2024, and that together we will faithfully respond.

the STATISTICAL REPORT

and 2023 Tab New Members

MEMBERSHIP (as of January 1, 2023): **641**

ADDITIONS

Letter	13
Reaffirmation	4
Profession	2
Restoration	0
TOTAL ADDITIONS	19

BAPTISMS

Infant	3
Child/Adult	8
TOTAL BAPTISMS	11

LOSSES

Letter	2
Deaths	8
Delete	27
Inactive	5
TOTAL LOSSES	42

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS **0**

MEMBERSHIP (as of December 31, 2023): **618**

2023 NEW MEMBERS

February 21

Mr. David AMSTUTZ
Dr. Karen AMSTUTZ
Mr. Robert BUSH II
Mrs. Debra BUSH II
Mr. Kirby MOFFATT
Mr. James MOORE
Mrs. Karlee MOORE
Mrs. Katharyn MOORMAN
Mrs. Amy RIESMEYER

March 21

Mr. R. Daniel POLLOM
Mrs. Robyn POLLOM

June 18

Mr. Robert COWLES
Mr. Jeffrey EARNEST
Mrs. Julie EARNEST
Mr. Steven HOFFER
Mrs. Heather HOFFER
Ms. Elizabeth REICHANADTER
Ms. Shirley SMITH

July 18

Mrs. Betty MULLIN

the NECROLOGY

MEMBERS WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN 2023

Mrs. Mary Ellen MAY	March 15	Mrs. Margaret HANSEN-KAHN	September 18
Mr. R. Daniel POLLOM, JR.	March 31	Mr. Donald J. WHITE	September 25
Mrs. Patricia J. REEL	April 14	Mr. Dallas H. MOORHEAD, JR.	October 6
Mrs. Mary (Molly) K. REDDING	September 2	Mr. Wayne E. WEBER	November 26

the **SESSION REPORT**

submitted by Sharon Marshall, Clerk of Session

With God's good grace and in the midst of pastoral transition, the Session of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church has continued to pursue and support Kingdom Work in our congregation and families, the mid-north neighborhood and community beyond 34th and Central.

In addition to the general governance of the church and assurance of its mission, Session authorized fundraising books and materials for Adult Education and Lenten reads, Circle City Fellows, the "Conversation with Tamika Catchings," our Summer Pastoral Intern, major Sanctuary repairs and renovation, a Duplo paper folding machine, Tab-chartered Boy Scout Troop 72 and the enjoyable Tab FamilyFest recently held at Brown County State Park.

Other mission and outreach approvals were given for the A-Maizing Meal for Umoja, Mission Legacy Fund and the Harriet Tubman School of Excellence. Administratively, important decisions were made regarding the call and installation of our Designated Associate Pastor, The Reverend Terri Thorn, the support of member, Bart Ost, as a Commissioned Ruling Elder, the formation of an Interim Transition Team, and the approval of the The Rev. Dr. William Smutz as our Interim Senior Pastor.

Finally, affirmation was given as we celebrated together the Centennial of the Sanctuary, and the retirement of Rev. L. John Gable as Pastor Emeritus.

May the Lord continue to build and uphold this congregation as we are called to do his work to his glory and the good of Tab.

the Tab CHURCH OFFICERS

CLASS OF 2024

CLASS OF 2025

CLASS OF 2026

THE SESSION

Rev. Dr. Bill SMUTZ, *Moderator* | Sharon MARSHALL, *Clerk* | Dave KING, *Treasurer*

John BYERS
Kyle EMS
Peter HARDING
Linda McCABE
Amy McLEAN

Judy FRAPS
Janet HOHLT
Adam PACKER
Cathleen PERRY
Debby PARDUE-WESSEL

Pat CARLSON
Bernice CORLEY
Ryan MILLER
Jeff POOLE
Byron ROBINSON

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Carol NEWELL, *Moderator* | Caleb GOSS, *Vice-Moderator* | Rob SPRINGER, *Secretary*

Julie FOSTER
Joni HEUGEL
Rita LINGEMAN
Ellen MOELLER
Carol NEWELL
Gary NICKEL
Angela SHAW
Rob SPRINGER
Cindy VERBARG

Kevin AHEARN
Stephanie DeTRUDE
Kathy DONALDSON
Sergio FERNANDEZ
Caleb GOSS
Peyton HART
Marion HOOPINGARNER
Ann OST
Sandy ROOB
Sue WHITE

Margie CRAFT
Caroline FOSTER
Karlee MOORE
Karen MURRELL
Sharon POOLE
Marsha ROBINSON
Julie SIMMONS
Liz STRODTMAN

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES

Carl EVANS, *President* | Mark LUBBERS, *Vice-President* | Lucy EMISON, *Secretary*

Andy COSTLOW
Kate EMS

Carl EVANS
Joe KUKOLLA

Bob DONALDSON (*Class of 2027*)
Lucy EMISON (*Class of 2027*)
Mark LUBBERS (*Class of 2027*)

PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONERS

Dan HURSH | Mike O'BANYEL | Jim PFEIFFER | Dave PERRY, *Alternate*

the ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

submitted by Carl Evans, Endowment President

Since its inception in May of 1951, the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund's mission has been to provide ongoing support to Tab's operating budget and its capital needs. It is also a backstop for operating budget deficits in lean times to keep the church solvent. The Endowment paid \$428,958 to the church operating budget in 2023. In addition, \$776,610 was contributed to capital projects, including the tuckpointing and renovation of the exterior of the church and the interior remodeling projects. \$781,000 was returned to the Session which was the other major contributor to these capital projects.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation in their participation in our "Giving While Living" fund raiser last year. The Endowment received \$1,311,595 in gifts, memorials, and bequests this past year! Another \$404,555 has been pledged to be paid over the remaining two years. To summarize, \$1,205,568 was paid out to the operating budget and capital campaigns, \$781,000 returned to the Session, and \$1,311,595 received in gifts. 2023 was a very busy year! I am also happy to report we earned \$1,739,674 on the investment portfolio (13.7%). 69% of the gains for the year happened in the last two months!

The Endowment fund results for in table form are as follows:

January 1, 2023, total assets	\$ 12,037,375
Tab Operating-Budget Contribution	(\$ 428,958)
Capital Projects / Centennial Book	(\$ 776,610)
New Gifts/Bequests to Endowment	\$ 1,311,595
Session Fund Withdrawals	\$ (781,000)
Dividends, Interest, Realized/Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ 1,739,674
Management Fees	<u>(\$ 44,885)</u>
December 31, 2023, TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 13,057,191

The investment objective of the Endowment Fund is to maximize returns with the appropriate level of risk, consistent with other conservative endowments with an income and growth objective following the "prudent man" rule. We strive for a net annualized return of 4% above the Consumer Price Index over the long term. The trustees believe an appropriate asset allocation for the current environment is 70% equities, 25% bonds and 5% cash. The

equity portion is overweight in large cap dividend paying stocks, as dividends have contributed to approximately 40% of the total return of the stock market over the last 50 years and have been less volatile than growth stocks with no dividends.

This strategy served us well in 2022, as we lost less than the overall market as measured by the S&P 500, but somewhat hindered our returns in 2023. Technology stocks led the market this past year, with the "magnificent seven" (Apple, Meta, Alphabet, Microsoft, Nvidia, Amazon and Tesla) increasing 92%! These seven companies make up 29% of the S&P 500 index and contributed heavily to its return of 26.3% in 2023. Without the Magnificent Seven, the S&P was +12.0%. Another benchmark for large cap dividend paying stocks is the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had a total return of 13.7%. The benchmark for the bond portfolio is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, which was +3.76%.

To reiterate, the long-term performance benchmark for the Endowment Fund is to earn 4% above the rate of inflation. Inflation is measured based on the Consumers Price Index, or CPI. So, the benchmark return for 2023 would be 3.3% + 4%, or 7.3%. The total return for the portfolio was 13.7%, exceeding the benchmark. Realizing that 30% of the portfolio was invested in bonds or cash averaging less than 5%, we were satisfied with the performance of the fund this past year and believe we are well positioned for 2024.

the **BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT**

submitted by Gene Berry, Elder

During a year of tremendous change at Tab, the church's financial position continued to remain extremely healthy and helped support the missions, programs, and infrastructure of the church. Congregational giving finished the year at 97.3% (\$1.685 million) of the 2023 general giving goal of \$1.733 million. Other revenue sources exceeded budget in 2023, and total revenue for the year exceeded the budget of \$2.364 million by \$25,139. The staff and various committees effectively managed spending within their budget targets while making sure the needs of the church were met. Total spending was \$22,993 greater than budget, but actual income exceeded actual expenses by \$2,146. The church's cash position continues to be exceptionally strong, ending the year with a balance of \$1.824 million.

During 2023 the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) worked closely with Kristine Green (Director of Finance), the Facilities Committee and the Endowment Committee to monitor cash balances and determine the best way to effectively fund numerous capital projects that have helped to significantly improve the physical plant of the church.

Tab is uniquely blessed to have Kristine Green managing the day-to-day finances of Tab, while the church staff and elders work through a variety of committees to prudently apply resources to the ministries and programs of the church. Monthly, the BFC meets to review and advise the Session on all aspects of church finances. Additionally, reviews by external auditors provide an extra level of assurance that Tab's finances are appropriately managed. BFC members in 2023 were: Ruling Elders Gene Berry and Peter Harding, Director of Finance Kristine Green, Church Treasurer Dave King, and church members Don Fledderjohn, Bob Shaw, and Terry Turman.

the FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

prepared and submitted by Kristine Green, Director of Finance

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% ACTUAL TO BUDGET	DOLLAR VARIANCE
INCOME				
Contributions*	\$ 1,685,465	\$ 1,733,100	97.3%	\$ 47,635)
Special Gifts	29,240	20,000	146.2%	9,240
Loose Offering	5,158	9,000	57.3%	(3,842)
Miscellaneous Income	24,246	36,000	67.4%	(11,754)
Recreation Income	87,645	63,000	139.1%	24,645
Other Income (<i>interest & Rec Grant</i>)	51,162	-	-	51,162
Memorials-Undesignated	3,590	5,000	71.8%	(1,410)
Wedding/Funeral Income	23,405	25,000	93.6%	(1,595)
TOTAL INCOME FROM OPERATIONS .	\$ 1,909,912	\$ 1,891,100		\$ 18,812
Total Income from Endowment	428,958	433,180	99.0%	(4,222)
Total Income from Designated Funds	50,549	40,000	126.4%	10,549
TOTAL INCOME .	\$ 2,389,419	\$ 2,364,280	101.1%	\$ 25,139
EXPENSES				
Administration Expenses	\$ 95,595	\$ 95,000	100.6%	\$ 595
Adult Ministry Expenses	5,792	7,500	77.2%	(1,708)
Arts and Music Ministry Expense	83,263	85,000	98.0%	(1,737)
Board of Deacons Expenses	1,355	1,400	96.8%	(45)
Children's Ministry Expenses	27,012	31,350	86.2%	(4,338)
Community Ministry Expenses**	162,293	132,750	122.3%	29,543
Congregational Life Expenses	15,324	14,250	107.5%	1,074
Facilities Expenses	535,520	447,000	119.8%	88,520
Human Resources Expenses	1,140,356	1,260,000	90.5%	(119,644)
Media Ministry Expenses	54,976	58,030	94.7%	(3,055)
Membership Expenses	4,340	5,000	86.8%	(660)
Missions Expenses	72,521	75,000	96.7%	(2,479)
Recreation Ministry Expenses***	121,291	83,000	146.1%	38,291
Stewardship Expenses	11,809	11,000	107.4%	809
Weddings/Funerals Expenses	14,690	15,000	97.9%	(310)
Worship Expenses	4,186	5,000	83.7%	(814)
Youth Ministry Expenses	36,948	38,000	97.2%	(1,052)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 2,387,273	\$ 2,364,280	101.0%	\$ 22,993
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 2,146	\$ -		\$ 2,146
Endowment Ministry Expenses	\$ 116,166	\$ 116,166	100.0%	
	\$ (114,020)	\$ (116,166)		\$ 2,146

*Reflects current year pledges only

**Designated Fund Support

***Community Action Rec Grant

Capital Projects from Endowment to Session Fund (50%) = \$ 870,553

Estate gifts = \$5,000

—Subject to Revision & Audit Adjustments—

the **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT**

submitted by Jennifer Wirt, Children's Ministry Director

2023 was a good year for Children's Ministries! We began the year with the Missions Unit throughout January and February as usual. With the help of 80 adult and teen volunteers, we visited Greece, Chile, Hawaii, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Switzerland. In each of these countries we learned about the geography, culture, daily life, religious practices, Christian mission efforts, and talked about how we can be missionaries in our own schools, towns, and nation.

In January, we had our annual "Lunch and a Movie" outing for the Pre-teens on MLK Day. Also in January, we hosted a Family Fun Night, and in February we had our customary "Lunch and a Movie" activity in Lower Level B for all elementary students on President's Day. In April we hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt, enjoying crafts, cookie decorating, and hunting for 1200 eggs; we had more than a hundred children from Tab and our community, and enjoyed the all-outdoor activity. In May, we had a Mystery night outing to have lunch downtown and to play "glow in the dark" mini-golf.

Our Spring quarter curriculum focused on Jesus calling the Disciples, Acts of the Apostles, and Pentecost. After that, we moved on to our annual Summer Musical, "More Power to You," which the students performed beautifully in August. We also went on a well-attended Pre-teen summer trip to Mammoth Cave. We had our now-annual Family Fun Cookout at Fort Benjamin Harrison in June, and we presented Bibles to thirteen 3rd graders and eight 7th graders at the Bible Presentation at the end of August. We also provided scholarships for eighteen "Tab Kids" to attend Camp Pyoca, our Presbytery's camp and conference center throughout the summer. Our fall curriculum started with a unit on Ruth followed by a double unit on Daniel. We hosted a few Pre-teen fellowship activities and a service project, Trunk-Or-Treat, a "Just for Moms" holiday craft night, and the Advent Workshop. We also participated in planning, programming, and childcare for Tab FamilyFest.

As always, gifted and loving volunteers helped with so many aspects of our programming and nurseries; we could not do the ministry work with children without those volunteers! It is a blessing to work with and nurture Tab's youngest members, and we are excited to see what adventures lay ahead for us in 2024!

the **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REPORT**

submitted by Amy McLean, Elder

The Congregational Life Committee is called by the grace of God to provide opportunities for the people of Tab to experience and grow deeper relationships. These relationships can be fostered through hospitality and connecting activities. We will strive toward the goal to be His disciples— always growing, always sharing, and always loving.

Several duties are now the responsibility of the CL Committee, most notably the pleasure of welcoming and integrating visitors and new members of our congregation. In addition to following up regularly with Sunday visitors, we are involved with each Inquirers' Class to help them find their role in serving as a member of the Tab family.

This year, our committee was privileged to help celebrate milestone events in the life of our church family. These include:

- Special coffee conversation in February
- Centennial Celebration
- Rev. Terri Thorn's welcome reception as Associate Pastor
- Rev. L. John Gable's Retirement Celebration with more 400 people

By far, the event which best represents the focus and mission of our committee was Tab FamilyFest held in November at Brown County State Park. Traditionally held every other year, the committee faithfully stepped out to change the format and, with the support of Session, offered the opportunity for all who wanted to attend to be able to go with no financial constraints. Nearly 170 members registered for the weekend with 39 of those under the age of ten. The love and hand of God was truly felt by all who attended.

This committee truly feels called to practice hospitality and deeper connections and are privileged to be an integral part of Tab's family.

the **DEACONS' REPORT**

submitted by Christine Gall, Deacon Moderator

2023 was an outstanding year to be Moderator of the Deacon Board. This group of deacons worked very well together and was always ready to jump in and serve. It was also lovely to return to a pre Covid feel as the congregation became more comfortable participating in congregational activities.

On the 4th Tuesday of each month, the board met both in person and via Zoom. This new practice has allowed those who are traveling, new parents, or those not feeling well to participate when they are not able to attend in person. Each meeting began with a devotional by one of the members. This was a great way to put us in the right frame of mind and a wonderful way to start our meetings. The primary responsibility of each Deacon was to manage a shepherding list of 15-20 families. Shepherding allows the members of the congregation to have a specific person to reach out to in times of spiritual or practical needs. At every deacon meeting there was time set aside to discuss best practices for shepherding and to share confidential prayer requests.

There were many opportunities for fellowship and service this year. We coordinated with Tab's Congregational Life Committee to assist whenever possible. The Deacons were involved in Rev. Thorn's installation reception, the TabJams reveal party, Pastor Gable's farewell celebration, the annual Tab Golf Classic, Staff Appreciation reception, the Thank-Offering Dinner, and the Christmas Tea. Unfortunately, due to staff shortages, we were unable to host the chili cookoff this year but there are plans for it to return in 2024! The Tab Golf Classic was a huge success, both financially and by providing great fellowship. We had a record-breaking number of congregants that were not golfers but joined in for lunch and the silent auction. The money raised was equally split between the Deacon Benevolence Fund and the Community Care Fund.

The Deacons provided lunch to the staff during the Lenten season. On Mother's Day, carnations and prayer cards were provided to the women of the church. Donuts for Dads has become a congregation favorite and was once again provided by the Deacon Board on Father's Day. We were also able to provide a bit of extra support in the form of a \$100 Target gift card to parents of babies born to Tab members. Home communion was a privilege for the Deacons, along with Session, to be able to provide for our shut-ins. This is a lovely way to provide shut-ins a connection to Tab as well as some much needed fellowship.

We concluded 2023 by thanking seven graduating deacons for their service over the past three years. We are fortunate to be adding 9 new deacons to the Board. They are ready and excited to serve. Leading our Deacon Board for 2023 will be Carol Newell serving as the Deacon Moderator, and Caleb Goss in the Vice Moderator position. The 2024 Deacons will do great things under their leadership!

the **FACILITIES REPORT**

submitted by Teresa Lubbers, Elder

Current Members:

Kate Ems and Teresa Lubbers (co-chairs), Kyle Barnett, Zach Canterbury, Mike Cracraft, Bob Donaldson, Jeff Earnest, Lucy Emison, Randy Green, Mike O'Banyel, Larry Simonel, Debby Wessel

The Facilities Committee, as stewards of Tab's building and grounds, continues to focus on both immediate and deferred maintenance needs. In concert with the Budget and Finance Committee and the Endowment, in 2023 we prioritized issues that are highly visible, such as the tuckpointing and cleaning of the exterior limestone, as well as items that are less obvious but still important, such as HVAC system upgrades.

Other highlights include the completion of office/restroom renovations; Tab Park improvements; replacement of water pipes to prevent additional burst pipes; and the installation of a net in the football field north end zone.

Critical to our efforts was the hiring of Jeff Earnest as Tab's new Facility Manager. We are grateful to Kate Ems for serving as the interim Facilities Manager and to the Tab Facility staff that includes Sean O'Banyel, James Payton, and Greg Kashman.

The Facilities Committee members are committed to ensuring that Tab's facilities are linked to our ministries, serving our members, and building a stronger community.

the **MEDIA MINISTRY REPORT**

submitted by Kyle Ems

The Media Ministry Committee had a very productive 2023 highlighted by the upgrade of several key pieces of equipment. To prepare for future production needs, the Committee elected to upgrade the entire streaming system. The upgrade included new cameras, signal wires, an improved camera control unit, and a new switcher. In coordination with the Worship, Music and Arts Committee, the production room audio board was replaced to improve streaming audio quality. Event content produced by the Media Ministry staff included the Tab Centennial, Tameka Catchings Interview, Josh Kaufman Concert, Pastor John Gable's Retirement Celebration, "A Night of Praise" with Dave Noel, the Children's Musical, and C.S. Lewis Society's Guest Speaker Event. Additional content produced included the annual "Can I Get a Witness?" series and 7 Lessons and 7 Skills for the Tab Rec program. Several events including TabJams and Tab FamilyFest were photographed by the Media Ministry staff and volunteers. Thank you to the media ministry staff, committee, and volunteers for a successful year!

the MISSIONS REPORT

submitted by Matt Gall, Elder

The Mission Committee of Tabernacle Church is pleased to share with you the highlights of our ministry in 2023. We are grateful for the support and participation of our congregation in fulfilling our vision of being a church that works toward Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community.

Prayer Services for Ministry Partners

We organized two special prayer services to lift up our ministry partners and their work in the local and global communities. The first one, "Prayer and Pancakes," was held on February 20, and featured delicious pancakes and a time of intercession for our partners. The second one, "Prayer and Pie," was held on December 6, and offered sweet treats and a chance to pray for specific needs of our partners. Both services were well-attended and enriched our fellowship and awareness of God's mission.

A Conversation with Tamika Catchings

On April 23 we hosted a special event with Tamika Catchings, a former WNBA star and a Christian leader. Tamika shared her inspiring story of overcoming challenges and pursuing her passion for basketball and serving the community. She also talked about her foundation, "Catch the Stars," which empowers youth to achieve their dreams through fitness, literacy, and mentoring programs. The event was held in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Gymnasium, where Tamika spent time with the attendees. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from and connect with a role model of faith and excellence.

Summer Presentations by Mission Partners

Through the summer months, we invited our current mission partners to present to the congregation about their ministries and efforts. We learned about the various ways that God is using them to bring hope and transformation to the people they serve. The partners who presented were: Raphael Clinic, Indy Grace Place, the Parlatos, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic, Oaks Academy, Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation, and Tab Rec. We thank them for their time and dedication, and we encourage you to support them with your prayers, gifts, and involvement.

Community Ministry Successes

In June, Tab hired Janaé Woodson as Community Ministry Coordinator who helps facilitate Tab's Community Ministries— Tab Tutoring, Open Door Café, Tab Community Care and Fresh Stop Produce programs. On June 2 we celebrated the one year anniversary of the new format of the Open Door Ministry Café. The café provides delicious food and a chance for fellowship and engagement.

Mission Trips

We also participated in two mission trips in 2023. The first one was from June 24 to July 1, when Rev. Thorn traveled to Neighborhood Ministries in Phoenix with the youth group. The second one was from October 6 to 16, when three members traveled to Romania to visit our partners, MissioLink International and Mana Deschisa.

Legacy Fund Successes

Through the generous Legacy Gift from Session, the Mission Committee was able to provide ministry expansion support to many of our local and global partners. The expanded funding allowed our partners to invest in these items: Indianapolis Food Pantry extended needs, assist Romanian churches with Ukraine refugee resettlement, Teacher certification/training for student mental health, assist with Back-to-School shoes for Kids Camp (w/Tab Youth), and fees for visas for travel soccer team from Colombia to come to USA for a tournament.

We thank God for all that He has done through Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in 2023. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Him and with you in 2024.

the **RECREATION REPORT**

submitted by Ben Hughes, Tab Recreation Director

Tab Recreation continues to offer the following programs throughout the year: Basketball (2-seasons), Soccer (2-seasons), Flag Football, Tackle Football, Cheerleading, Friday Night Lights, and open field and gym time. We also did Kid Games in 2023 which paired Children's Ministry and Recreation for a week-long program. It was an enjoyable week - great fun was had by all. Hundreds of youth, both boys and girls, enjoyed Tab Recreation programming in 2023. As always, this required a commitment from numerous volunteer coaches and support staff to successfully accomplish. Tab Recreation is grateful for the time and effort from all of our volunteers as we seek to achieve our mission.

Our continuing relationships with Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Shortridge High School, The Oaks Academy, and School 60 helped us achieve our commitment to the pillars of the Vision Renewal Document. These relationships will keep us strong and vital for many years to come. Tab Recreation greatly appreciates the love and support of the church and its 99 year commitment to providing youth programming and quality facilities at 34th and Central.

Lastly, I continue to be blessed and uplifted by an outstanding staff: Steve Summerville and Nigel Foreman. These two men epitomize the goals of the Vision Statement: Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community. I am also grateful for the leadership of John Byers (chairman) and the guidance of an outstanding Tab Recreation Committee: Doug Braly, Chad Lynn, Jay Pribble, Todd Townsend (FCA), Mark Speigal (Dynamo), and Craig Huljak (SHS AD).

the **SPIRITUAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

submitted by Linda McCabe, Elder

The Spiritual Growth and Development Team (SG&D) provides programming which encourages lifelong learners to grow in faith, deepen relationships, build stronger communities, and ‘*be transformed by the renewing of their minds.*’ (Romans 12:2)

Sunday mornings in the Parlor included enriching lectures, book reviews and group discussions. Pastor Terri Thorn and co-leader Shannon Woller studied several Gospel texts in which women encounter Jesus based upon the book, *Back to the Well*. Connie Hintz and Sally John led a series on the riches of classic spiritual disciplines based upon the best-selling devotional book *Soul Feast*. Rev. David Chaddock, Director of CenterPoint Counseling Center at Second Presbyterian Church, led a series on *Why Do We Do What We Do? Journey to Spiritual Maturity*. Mark John led a study on *The Problem of Pain* written by C.S. Lewis that challenged us to explore and study the Christian doctrine of being made perfect through suffering.

The All Church Read Lenten Study provided time for reflection on Jesus Christ as nearly 100 people gathered weekly in small groups to study *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield, a book of devotions based upon ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

The spring teaching series paralleled the sermon series, *Vision Renewal*, with presentations from the leadership of Tab missions, ministries and community partners. In addition, the Staff, Elders and Deacons introduced themselves and shared their role and responsibility in the church.

On Reformation Sunday, we were honored to have special visitors, i.e., some distinguished Tab members, who portrayed Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Jeanne d’Albret and shared their life story and connection with the Reformation. The year concluded with two *Christmas and the Arts* programs: 1) the meaning of Advent’s four weekly themes: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and 2) the history of the Christmas carol, “Silent Night.”

The SG&D Team hosted a session at this year’s FamilyFest retreat. We asked small groups of 6-8 children and adults to read a children’s book and then present to all those gathered their own faith story based upon the theme of that book, using props and crafts from a plentiful supply table. Groups soon shared their many talents, creative abilities, joyful spirit, and their love of the Lord through songs, stories, skits and artwork.

Following a planning retreat and subsequent meetings, SG&D has developed a strategic plan for 2024 that includes a year-long outline of programs, topics, and studies with a challenge to offer additional options throughout the year.

We are grateful for those who faithfully served on the SG&D Team, those who willingly stepped up to teach classes and those who hosted ongoing fellowship gatherings, Bible studies and book reviews throughout the year. I thank God for each of you.

the WORSHIP & COMMUNION SCHEDULE

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

2023 COMMUNION DATES

Served by intinction unless otherwise noted

January 1	10a service
February 5	All services
February 22	Ash Wednesday Service
March 5	All services
March 5	Home Communion
April 2	All services
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service
April 9	Easter Sunrise Service
May 7	All services
June 4	All services
June 4	Home Communion
July 2	All services
August 6	All services
September 3	All services
October 1	All services
October 1	Home Communion
November 5	All services
November 12	Tab FamilyFest Weekend
December 3	All services
December 3	Home Communion

All 8a Services

2023 SPECIAL SERVICES

February 22; 7p	Ash Wednesday Service
April 6; 7p	Maundy Thursday Service
April 7; 7p	Good Friday Service
April 9; 7:30a	Easter Sunrise Service
May 28; 10a	ONE SERVICE—Race Weekend (Education Hour at 9a)
July 2—September 3; 8:00 AM & 10a	Worship Services (Education Hour at 9a)
November 12; 9a	Tab FamilyFest Weekend
December 10; 10a	“Christmas With Tab” Taping (Education Hour at 9a)
December 24; 10a	Worship Service (No Education Hour)
December 24; 5p & 8p	Christmas Eve Services
December 31; 10a	Worship Service (No Education Hour)

the **WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS REPORT**

submitted by Adam Packer, Elder

2023 was a year filled with a number of milestones in the life of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church.

This was the year that we, as a congregation, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of our beautiful Sanctuary at the corner of 34th and Central. The year began with a celebration banquet held at the Riviera Club on Saturday, February 4, followed by a celebration service on Sunday morning, February 5. We were blessed to have The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the PCUSA, as our guest speaker that morning. The music and liturgy for that service were taken from selections that were part of the original dedication services held the first week of February 1923.

As part of the centennial year celebration, a special choral anthem was commissioned that featured the scriptures that are carved into the chancel woodwork, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation." Dr. Michael John Trotta was selected to provide this special anthem that was premiered at our Anniversary Sunday Celebration on September 24, 2023.

On March 25 Tab welcomed singer/songwriter Josh Kaufman as he shared his testimony and how God has called him into sharing his faith journey with family, friends, and fans. It was a wonderful evening of personal testimony and original songs.

Also in the spring of 2023, the Session of Tabernacle approved an extensive renovation and up-grade to the organ in the Sanctuary. The almost 40-year-old instrument was in need of some major work in order to continue to serve this congregation for the next 40 years. The original builder of the instrument, Casavant Frères of Quebec, Canada, along with Goulding and Wood Organ Builders were hired to make recommendations and eventually contracted to work in conjunction with one another in this major project. Work was begun on August 7, 2023 and the project will take roughly 24 months for completion. Phase one of the project should be completed sometime in the summer of 2024 and the second phase sometime in the fall or winter of 2025. The committee is so grateful for the support of all who have made this dream a reality.

TabJams once again returned for three summer concerts on June 11, July 9, and August 13. Plans are underway for another exciting season for the summer of 2024.

As well as being a year of centennial celebration, it was also a time to celebrate the ministry of our pastor, Rev. L. John Gable, who retired on August 6, 2023. July 30, 2023 was filled with a wonderful worship service, a time of gathering and remembering Pastor Gable at a special celebration following the worship service, and ending with a Pig Roast Picnic in the newly renovated Tab Park.

The Worship, Music and Arts Committee also assisted the Media Ministry in the purchase of new, up-graded equipment for our Sunday morning live-stream broadcast. We are so grateful to the Media Ministry for providing this opportunity for all to share in the worship of Tab.

The year finally finished with a wonderful celebration of Advent and Christmas. As always, the annual taping and broadcast of, "Christmas With Tab," was a highlight of the season.

Thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement as we continue to bring God's message of redemption through worship, music, and the arts.

the **YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT**

submitted by Daniel & Amy Rexroth, Youth Ministry Directors

2023 was generally a successful year in youth ministry. While we had sad goodbyes to graduating seniors, we also had a healthy infusion of new middle schoolers. The median age of our group is somewhat younger than it was two years ago; it has been great continuing to grow deeper in our relationships with our older youth while getting to know the new ones.

We travelled to Phoenix, Arizona in June to volunteer at Neighborhood Ministries. Thirteen youth and 4 chaperones traveled to provide a week's worth of programming at Kid's Club, a two-week summer camp offered through Neighborhood Ministries. As usual, our kids served, had Bible studies, and played together. It was a first-time trip for some and was also the first time one or of the kids had flown.

At the beginning of the year, we watched the first two seasons of *The Chosen* (modern series about Jesus and his Disciples). During the summer we began a series on Heroes of the Bible which has continued through the fall. In December we did a somewhat in-depth study each Sunday of the history and meaning of Advent.

Given the relatively young ages of most of our youth (i.e., non-drivers) we continued to meet for youth group right after church to reduce the number of trips families had to drive to Tab. We generally have a fun activity, food, and fellowship followed by a game of Bible trivia and a short discussion/study about how to wed our Christian faith with our lives.

Amy and I are thankful for the opportunity to work with the youth at Tab. We love getting to know them and teaching about having a relationship with God. Randy and Jacquie Green have been instrumental in this work but are taking a one-year hiatus; we look forward to working with them again next year. Val Phelps has expressed interest in working with the youth, and we hope to incorporate her gifts and love for kids in the coming year.

the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023, SANCTUARY

PRESENT

Moderator: Reverend L. John Gable

Clerk of Session: Sharon Marshall

Congregation: Estimate of 75 persons in Sanctuary; 30 on livestream video

THE CALL FOR THE MEETING

Reverend Gable called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum declared.

The following Call had been previously communicated:

In accordance with the By-laws, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of: reviewing the Annual Report, receiving the approved Operating Budget for 2023, acting on the Pastor's Terms of Call, electing an elder for the Class of 2025 and the 2023 Church Nominating Committee and any other business that may be properly discussed. The Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary and all members are encouraged to attend.

Rev. L. John Gable, Moderator

Sharon Marshall, Clerk of Session

Copies of the Annual Report will be available online; printed copies available upon request.

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. Gable led the congregation in prayers for those members who have entered the Church Triumphant. The 2022 Annual Report had been previously made available for review, and he thanked Director of Finance Kristine Green, Front Office Administrator Janna Clegg, Media Director Dave Streit and Clerk of Session Sharon Marshall for their work on the Report.

Being there were no objections or questions, the following was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

From the Moderator:

MOVED: The Annual Report be received.

REPORT OF THE ALL-CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jeanne Morton, Chair of the 2022 Nominating Committee, presented a nominee to fulfill the office of Elder for the Class of 2025.

The following was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

From the Nominating Committee:

MOVED: That Cathleen Perry be elected Elder for the Class of 2025.

Jeanne then presented the candidates for the 2023 All-church Nominating Committee.

The following was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

From the Nominating Committee:

MOVED: That the following persons be elected for the 2023 All-Church Nominating Committee:
Brittany Barnett, Jane Harvey, Dan Hursh, Ruth Miller, Jeff Poole

PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Member of the Budget and Finance Committee Bob Shaw presented the 2022 Financial Report, sharing he was glad “to see the congregation support the outreach of the church,” and feels “confident that tithes and offerings are being stewarded well.” He stated the 2022 Budget was created “while we were still coming out of COVID, and uncertain how church activities would be impacted.” It was reported that nearly each category of income in 2022 exceeded expectations, with contributions exceeding budget by approximately \$24,000 and the total income of \$2.4 million \$107,000 more than budget; expenses were \$19,000 less than budget resulting in a surplus of \$126,250. Human Resources expense was \$45,000 less than planned due to staffing changes.

RECEIVING THE 2023 OPERATING BUDGET

Bob then presented the 2023 Operating Budget, stating “the church’s budget-building process is essentially back to normal.”

Income: Contributions \$1,742,100; Memorials \$5,000; Miscellaneous (including interest and Recreation Grant) \$36,000; Recreation \$63,000; Special Gifts \$20,000; Weddings/Funerals \$25,000.

Total Income from Operations \$1,891,100; Total Income from Endowment Fund \$433,180; Total Income from Designated Funds \$40,000.

Total Income: \$2,364,280

Expenses: Administration \$95,000; Adult Ministries \$7,500; Arts/Music Ministries \$85,000; Children’s Ministry \$31,350; Community Ministries \$132,750; Congregational Life \$14,250; Deacons \$1,400; Facilities \$447,000; Human Resources \$1,260,000; Media Ministry \$58,030;

Membership \$5,000; Missions \$75,000; Recreation \$83,000; Stewardship \$11,000; Weddings/Funerals \$15,000; Worship \$5,000; Youth Ministry \$38,000

Total Expenses: \$2,364,280

It was noted the increase in Human Resources was due to the Associate Pastor position, with staff pay raises, an Office Administrator position, increased insurance costs, and that a decrease in Recreation related to a grant received in 2022. After a question regarding the Endowment Fund income to the Operating Budget, which was deferred to the Endowment Fund Report portion of the Agenda, the following was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

From the Budget and Finance Committee:

MOVED: That the 2023 Operating Budget be received.

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

On behalf of the Endowment Fund Trustees, President Bruce McDonald reviewed the 2022 Endowment Fund Report as presented in the 2022 Annual Report, including a \$357,710 contribution from the Fund being used for the church to “further its mission,” and that \$818,310 was received as gifts, memorials or bequests. He highlighted three areas of purpose as listed in the Endowment Fund results:

- 1) Contributions to the Operating Budget of \$357,710.00,
- 2) Capital Projects (e.g. renovations, tuck-pointing, facilities improvements, organ repairs, Tab park improvements) of \$1,020,000.00 and
- 3) Gifts and Bequests of \$818,309.57. Year-end dividends, interest, realized/unrealized gains/losses were \$1,892,637.09 and Management Fees were \$44,596.91, ending in Total Assets of \$12,037,374.91. To answer the previously-asked question, Bruce indicated that fluctuations in the Income from the Endowment Fund toward the Operating Budget were a reflection of the four percent of the last twelve month rolling average.

PROPOSED ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES BY-LAWS CHANGES

Bruce then shared that the Endowment Fund Trustees had been reviewing the EFT Policies and Procedures and noted a few discrepancies between the original trust charter and the church by-laws, specifically in the number of Trustees and length of term. Session authorized the needed changes on December 20, 2022. After a clarification on the previously presented EFT Report, the following was then, moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

From the Endowment Fund Trustees:

MOVED: That the following be adopted as Article VIII of the By-laws of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church:

Section 1: Endowment Fund Trustees: Pursuant to the Trust Agreement, dated May 31, 1951, establishing the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund, the Endowment Fund Trustees are, per Article IV, “seven in number,” and per Article VII, are “nominated and elected in the same way and manner as Ruling Elders of the Church are nominated and elected and each shall serve for a four-year term.” For purposes of compliance with this Trust Agreement, the nomination and election of Endowment Fund Board of Trustees shall be subject to Article IV, Sections 12 and 13, of these bylaws.

Section 2: Authority, Duties, and Responsibilities of Endowment Fund Trustees: These, and all other matters pertinent to the Endowment Fund trustees are set forth Trust Agreement, dated May 31, 1951, establishing the Endowment Fund.

APPROVAL OF PASTORS’ TERMS OF CALL

Chair of the Human Resources Committee Keva Rop presented the Terms of Call for Rev. Gable, stating that the Committee is appreciative and supportive of the staff and the work they do, noting the previously mentioned 4% salary increase for “cost of living and significant contributions.” The Congregation was reminded that Rev. Terri Thorn is currently a “Contract Pastor,” and thus will not need a similar review. After presenting the Effective Salary for Rev. Gable, including Cash Salary, Housing Allowance, and Reimbursable Expenses including Business/Professional Expenses, SECA Supplement, Continuing Education and Other Allowances, the following was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

From the Human Resources Committee:

MOVED: That the Terms of Call for Rev. John Gable be approved.

MOVED: That Sharon Marshall and Keva Rop be elected to sign the Terms of Call.

PASTOR’S COMMENTS

John opened his comments by sharing Tab’s Mission Statement to serve the community at 34th and Central is still taking place in its 173rd year as a congregation and its 100th year at this location, encouraging members to attend the Centennial Celebration on February 4 and the Centennial Worship Service with Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson on February 5. He shared he is grateful “God has blessed and led this congregation through the generations... with a committed staff and dedicated deacons and elders.” He reflected on the goals for the past year, post-pandemic, and expressed gratitude for the generosity of the congregation. John reaffirmed Tab’s call and investment to this community and our church facility, saying “God called us here... with all its assets and liabilities...an instrument we’ve been given and for which we need to prepare for the next one hundred years.” He shared we must “refocus our attention on how it and we will be used and recommit ourselves to the Vision Renewal Statement of “Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, Stronger Community” especially now in the post-pandemic church, and reflected on the book “*Canoeing the Mountains*” by Rev. Tod Bolsinger in regards to strategies and perspectives on the changing church. John mentioned how perhaps the pandemic has “exposed changes” within the church, and one may need a “different way forward than back.” These topics will be covered in an upcoming Session Retreat, as elders look at “the future of the church.” John concluded that he is “optimistic with the opportunities given to the church...and that he is grateful that when we face an unknown future, we have a known God.”

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57a and concluded with prayer.

Sharon Marshall
Clerk of Session

Rev. L. John Gable
Moderator

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