



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future



Statement of Welcome (adopted by Session in 2018)

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ’s vision of God’s realm – one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor. Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people. As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God’s grace in Jesus Christ to become a part of the membership and ministry of the church. We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.

A Brief History

Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, Arkansas (“Second Church”) was formed in 1882 by 14 charter members from First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. By 1910 church membership had grown to 270 members.

The period from 1910 to 1962 was marked by continued growth and examples of unique leadership from the pastors that continue to impact how Second Church sees itself and involves itself in the community outside its walls. Dr. Hay Watson Smith, the son-in-law of one of the 14 charter members, served from 1910 to 1939. During that time, Dr. Smith, recognized as a profound religious scholar, publicly stated what were considered liberal views on evolution and divergences from the doctrines of the Westminster Confessions on matters of the infallibility of scripture, the method of Creation, and total depravity. As a result of such statements, he was charged with heresy by the Presbytery of Arkansas; those charges were ultimately dismissed by the General



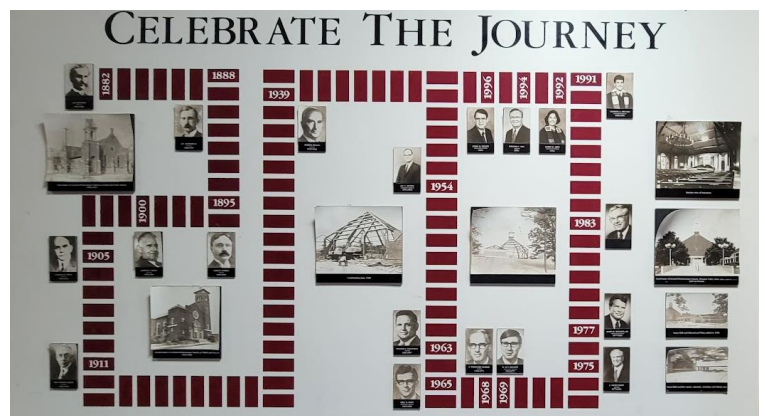
Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Assembly. During Dr. Smith's tenure, a new church building was constructed in the downtown area and membership grew to 955.

Dr. Smith was succeeded by Dr. Marion Boggs, who had defended Dr. Smith in his heresy trial before the General Assembly. Following the World War II as the city of Little Rock grew westward, Second Church took an active role in helping to establish and fund new churches that became Westover Hills Presbyterian Church and Grace Presbyterian Church. In the early 1950s, Second Church undertook a major reconditioning and expansion of its facilities, while a long-range planning committee studied whether Second Church should remain downtown or move to the western part of the city as that expansion continued. During the 1957 Little Rock school crisis, Dr. Boggs, with the support of the Session, publicly advocated for the integration of the public schools in line with the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court, a position not widely accepted in the city of Little Rock. At the time of Dr. Boggs's retirement in 1962, Second Church had grown to 1,071 members and was the largest Presbyterian Church in the state.

In 1965 the decision was made to move to western Little Rock. A site was selected, a capital campaign was conducted, and planning and construction began. The last service in the downtown location was held in December 1968.



For several interim months, services were held in B'Nai Israel Temple, a courtesy that Second Church was able to repay several years later when the Temple itself moved to west Little Rock and was without a meeting place for several years. The first services were held in the current location in February 1969, and women were first elected to both the Diaconate and Session in the same year. In 1988 an education wing and multi-purpose Great Hall were added. In 2003 a major renovation of the sanctuary and narthex was made, the former Fellowship Hall was reconfigured to put all staff offices in one location, the former office space was converted to a slightly smaller worship and group meeting space, the adult and children's choir rooms were improved, the elementary age Sunday School space was redesigned, and a free-standing 7,600 square foot Youth Building was constructed. In 2018 a Second Vision Capital Campaign funded the refurbishment of the Great Hall and adjoining kitchen, upgrading of technology and installation of solar panels, and the purchase of a new organ for the sanctuary.



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Second Church has been blessed throughout its history by outstanding ministers and a congregation whose members have served both the Presbyterian denomination at the local church, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, and the community as civic, charitable, and business leaders. Second Church is proud of its progressive positions in theology, church policy, and social action, without extremes of the right or left or serious internal schisms.

Mission Statement (adopted by Session in 1990)

We, the members of Second Presbyterian Church, celebrating our rich heritage and the faith we affirm in Jesus Christ as Lord, claim our mission to be a growing and inclusive congregational community where all are committed; to grow in the knowledge of the faith, in the depth of spirituality, in the quality of our fellowship, and in compassion for all God’s children and creation; to recognize and use effectively the time, talents, and material gifts of all members and of the congregation as a whole; to care actively for the spiritual, physical, and intellectual needs of persons in this congregational, community, and world, and to participate meaningfully in the larger Church.



Introduction to the Study

The Session of Second Church appointed a task force in May 2022 to conduct a Mission Study of the congregation. Such a study reflects on the past, studies and reports on the current culture and health of the congregation, and identifies challenges and aspirations of the congregation. Once completed, the study then becomes both a resource for the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) in sharing the story of Second Church with candidates and a living document supporting current and future ministries as we move into the next

chapter of Second Church’s life. The members of the Task Force were Catherine Lowry (Moderator), Bracy Cross, Sharon Ann Downs, Jackson Farrow, Betty Herron, Linda VanHook, and Justin Villines.



The task force used two means to gather its information. A written survey consisting of 89 questions was distributed to the entire congregation via email and printed copies of the survey were available to be picked up in the Church office and at worship services on Sunday morning. The task force also conducted three Congregational Conversations sessions – one following Sunday morning worship on a designated Sunday, a second on a Wednesday evening just after dinnertime, and the third by



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Zoom. In the Congregational Conversations, church members were in small groups of 4-6 with a facilitator to lead the discussion. Each group was asked to discuss four questions – (1) Reflecting on your entire experience at Second Presbyterian Church, remember a time when you felt the most engaged, alive, and motivated. Who was involved? What did you do? How did it feel? What happened? (2) What makes this church unique? What are the strengths? (3) What have been three congregational challenges in the last three to five years? (4) Make 3 wishes for the future of our church. Describe what the church would look like as these three wishes come true.

There were 219 responses to the survey and approximately 111 individuals participated in the Congregational Conversations. The two groups were not mutually exclusive, and people who had completed the survey were in fact encouraged to also attend one of the Congregational Conversations. The respondents to the survey were disproportionately female and above the age of 65; similar information was not gathered with regard to the participants in the Congregational Conversations. Consequently, the task force did not have sufficient information to determine if the responses are a statistically accurate reflection of the views of the congregation. What follows is simply a summation of the recurring themes in the responses received.

Responses From the Congregation

When did you feel engaged

The respondents felt most engaged when they were personally involved in activities outside worship services themselves. No single activity or group of related activities dominated the responses. Rather the responses reflected a broad spectrum of alternatives leading to great diversity – ministry service (with repeated mention of pastoral care), RAIN teams, Presbyterian Women activities, recruiting volunteers, Hanging of the Greens, serving as a welcome partner to a new member.

What makes Second Church unique

The most dominant theme of the responses was consistent with the central design of the Church building more than 50 years ago – worship, including preaching and music, is central to the identity of Second Church. Strong intellectual sermons, scripturally based, that relate to what the respondents deal with day-to-day are expected. Music is an integral part of the worship services and is provided in a number of ways beyond just the adult choir – bell choirs, guest musicians and performers, and children’s choirs, with significant pride in the new organ. Closely related to worship is the overall education program of Second



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Church. A variety of short-term Sunday School classes are offered focused on issues in the local community and larger society and how those issues should be analyzed and dealt with from a spiritual perspective.

Second Church strives to be a part of the community that its members live in. Not only does Second Church commit 25% of its prior year actual giving to outreach, but extensive use of the Church facilities is also made available to community groups that are not considered part of the budget commitment - LifeQuest (a weekly education program direct to retirees that has an annual attendance of 2300) and AIAnon and similar support group meetings are held weekly. The Little Rock Chinese Christian Church uses Second Church's chapel each Sunday morning.

Second Church is proud of its efforts to be an inclusive community. Much focus and debate went into Second Church's Statement of Welcome, and it is printed in the bulletin every Sunday morning as a reminder to the congregation as well as telling our visitors what the church strives for. The educational offerings aim toward expanding horizons, not just reinforcing what the participants want to hear.

Second Church represents stability. It has had long-tenured ordained staff. It has made known that it wants to be part of the larger community conversation. That stability includes finances. Second Church is debt free, and over the last 10-15 years it has been able to avoid the financial trends that have impacted many mainline Protestant churches.

Recent challenges

As to be expected, many of the responses regarding recent challenges of Second Church focused on COVID-related matters, largely related to loss of engagement and whether habits forced by the pandemic, such as virtual attendance, will continue. Those issues are acknowledged here but are not considered to be issues unique to Second Church.

While Second Church has had a history of stability in ordained and administrative staffing, at the present moment there are significant vacancies. In addition to the head of staff position being open, a very long-tenured Christian educator has recently retired and several other positions are being filled with part-time personnel. As a further subset of the staffing complexity, many respondents felt the youth program has not had the same energy in recent years (perhaps due in part to COVID limitations). For a variety of reasons, Second Church should be an attractive mainline Protestant church for staff, but completing the



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

staff may need a little extra attention at the present time. As of the date of this report, a search is in process for a full-time Director/Minister for Youth and Young Adults, as well as a full-time Director of Spiritual Formation (Educator).

As with many, if not most, mainline Protestant churches, financial support has historically come largely from the older members of the congregation. While the current financial position is indeed one of the greatest strengths of Second Church, that will not continue without specific attention. Significant upgrades to facilities have been made in the last 20 years, but those will need to continue.

Wishes for the future

A very strong wish from the respondents was a continuation of leadership, both spiritual and educational, from the pulpit. Second Church is a relatively large congregation and the staff contributes multiple skills, but the head of staff is key.

While Second Church feels like it has done a good job toward diversity, there should be continued efforts to that end focusing on race, families with young children, youth, and reflections of the larger Little Rock community. Recognizing changing communication methods and patterns is likely to play a significant role in those efforts, along with a continued variety of educational and programmatic opportunities.

Recognizing that the role of organized religion is undergoing many challenges in current society and that the single largest percentage of the church's budget is personnel, optimization of staff structure and compensation of staff will be crucial.

Community Description of Little Rock AR

Second Church is located at the intersection of a major east-west corridor, Cantrell Road/Highway 10, and a north-south running I-430 which connects I-40 north of the Arkansas River and I-30 south of the Arkansas River. When Second Church moved to its present location in 1969, it was on the growing western edge of Little Rock. Since that time, significant residential and commercial growth has occurred further west.

The northern section of I-430, which borders Second Church, was opened in 1977. There is currently a major





Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

expansion in the progress of the Cantrell Road/Highway 10 and I-430 interchange just west of Second Church. Many commuters pass through this intersection and see the Celtic cross standing out atop the sanctuary.

Demographically, the area around Second Church is less racially diverse, more highly educated, and more affluent than Little Rock as a whole. The population within five miles of the church is 163,214, and notable demographic characteristics for the populations within five miles of the church are as follows (per 2020 US Census).

		Age	
Income		Ages 0-17	21.7%
Household incomes of \$45,000+	62.5%	Ages 18-34	24.3%
Household incomes of \$125,000+	23.0%	Ages 35-54	25.5%
Employment		Ages 55 and older	28.8%
Working in white-collar jobs	75.7%	Family	
Unemployment	2.3%	Married with children	15.7%
Education		Married with no children	26.1%
Bachelor’s degree or above	49.8%	Single parent with children	9.3%
Private preschool enrollment	44.7%	Adults	
Private K-12 enrollment	27.4%	Never married	32.9%
Race/Ethnicity		Married (not separated)	43.8%
White	61.4%	Separated/spouse absent	4.2%
Black	27.5%	Divorced	13%
Hispanic	4.1%	Widowed	6%
Asian	4.1%	Religion	
		Estimated unclaimed	42.1%

With a population just over 200,000, Little Rock is the capital city of Arkansas and county seat of Pulaski County. The Little Rock MSA totals just over 750,000 residents, meaning that approximately one in four Arkansans find their home in the central Arkansas region.



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

For most of the state's history, Little Rock has been Arkansas's political, economic, and cultural center. As the seat of state government, Little Rock remains the unquestioned political hub of Arkansas. However, in recent decades, the dramatic economic and population growth of the northwest Arkansas corridor with its particular focus on enhanced quality of life issues has lessened Little Rock's economic and social dominance. Still, Little Rock remains a growing capital city and the state's only truly urban core, although its density has been diluted by the sprawl of the city.

Little Rock's economy is centered around the governmental, health care, nonprofit, and finance sectors. Aside from governmental entities, the largest employer in the city is the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (with approximately 10,000 employees) followed closely by other medical facilities. The various modes of transportation—interstate highways, the Arkansas River, and trains—that all come together in Little Rock are beneficial to manufacturing and distribution jobs. In recent years, much job growth has centered around the intermodal Port of Little Rock.

Little Rock offers any number of amenities that add to the quality of life. Little Rock is home to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park (which includes the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, the Clinton Foundation, and the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas) and the Little Rock Central High National Historic Site. A dramatic re-imagining of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts will open in spring 2023, joining the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and Ballet Arkansas as key cultural amenities. The Central Arkansas Library System is very well funded. Heifer International started in Little Rock, and Lyon College (a four-year private liberal arts college in Batesville AR approximately 90 miles from Little Rock) has announced plans to open both a dental and veterinary school in the downtown East Village neighborhood near Heifer. Little Rock reflects the natural beauty of Arkansas with varied hiking and biking options in the city, a twenty-plus mile bike path, plus even more varied outdoor options only a short drive away.

In terms of the overall population, Little Rock is fairly evenly divided between white (42.15% in the 2020 Census) and Black residents (40.15%). The community also has a growing Latinx population (10%), mostly centered in the southwest quadrant of the city. While racially and ethnically diverse, racial division is a defining characteristic of Little Rock. The population north of I-630 is heavily white, relatively affluent, and well educated, the population to the south of that line is heavily African American and challenged on key socioeconomic indicators.



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

School politics in Little Rock has also been a defining force in shaping the modern history of Little Rock. The desegregation of Little Rock’s Central High School in September 1957, brought about by the engagement of the federal government in upholding federal court rulings, remains a defining historical moment in the life of Little Rock. Litigation regarding the ghosts of legal segregation in the Little Rock district remained active for six decades and led to “white flight” to surrounding suburban districts and the rise of private education in the city. Still, compared to most other southern urban cores, relatively more white and affluent families remain engaged in traditional public education in Little Rock. Following is a snapshot of the K-12 school environment in Little Rock.

2021-22 enrollment	
Large Schools/School Systems in Pulaski County	K-12
Little Rock School District	20,745
Pulaski County Special School District	11,265
North Little Rock School District	7,685
Jacksonville North Pulaski School District	3,846
LISA Academy system (public charter)—central AR campuses and one in Springdale	3,469
eSTEM system (public charter)—Little Rock	3,052
Academics Plus Public Charter School system—headquarters in Maumelle	1,685
Little Rock Christian Academy (private)	1,476
Pulaski Academy (private)—Little Rock	1,263
Episcopal Collegiate School (private)—Little Rock	765
Central AR Christian (private)—North Little Rock	738
Catholic High School for Boys (private)—Little Rock	708
Mount St. Mary Academy (for girls—private)—Little Rock	(est.) 500

Source: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

While racially divided, Little Rock is more homogenous politically. Historically a Democratic city, Little Rock's voting patterns have become more emphatically Democratic in recent election cycles; approximately 7 in 10 Little Rock voters cast their ballots for Joe Biden in 2020. Only precincts in the more affluent western portion of the city are reliably Republican in their voting patterns.

City government in Little Rock is nonpartisan. In 2018, city voters chose Little Rock's first elected Black mayor. The mayor's powers have been expanded through a series of votes in recent decades, but the city also places authority in the hands of an appointed city manager. While the majority on the City Board are elected by wards, three members are elected at large. Together, this means the city government is divided among several centers of power.

The largest and more notable higher education institutions in Little Rock are the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Philander Smith College. UA Little Rock has a total enrollment of approximately 8,000 students. Philander Smith College is a historically Black college associated with the Methodist Church. It has an enrollment of approximately 800 students.

Demographics of Second Church

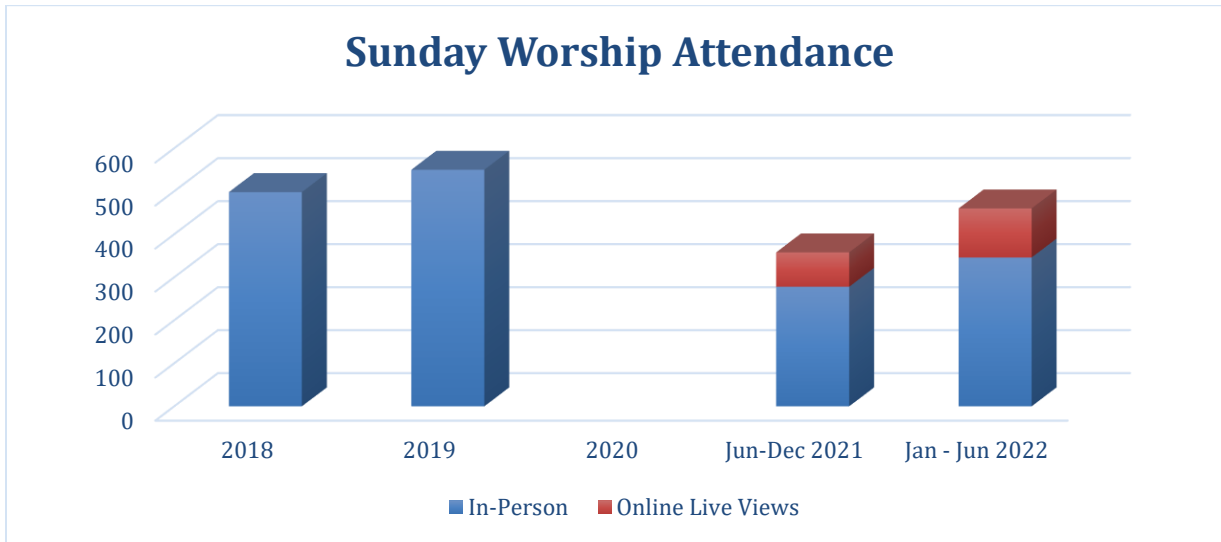
Second Church's congregation is demographically comparable to the PCUSA. It is less diverse by several measures than the immediate surrounding community as well as, particularly, the city of Little Rock. The church roll is currently being updated,



and is expected to reflect approximately 1,400 members. In-person worship was discontinued in March 2020 in response to the COVID pandemic and resumed in June 2021 with precautionary measures in place, which continue to be monitored and adjusted according to community levels, guidance from the CDC, and input from our church's COVID Task Force. Online worship, education, and fellowship opportunities were consistently provided in the interim and remain an option currently. Sunday worship attendance trends throughout this time are depicted below.



Second Presbyterian Church Our Past, Present, and Future



Historically robust adult, children, and youth Sunday School programs experienced a similar decline in attendance since 2020. Many individuals engaged with one another online during the height of the pandemic and these programs remain available in a hybrid format. Our staff, along with the respective ministry teams and pastors, continue to work to discern the most meaningful and consistent ways for our congregation to connect, serve and grow together.

Ministries of Second Church

Worship Ministry

For members and friends of Second Church, worshipping God together, in our church, is foundational to who we are, and what we are about. From the church’s mission statement: “we are all committed to grow in the knowledge of faith, in the depth of spirituality, and in the quality of our fellowship.” Coming together on Sunday mornings, and other times, is what we do. For each of us, different aspects of the worship experience may particularly resonate, at different points in our lives. The worship experience reaches out to diverse people and needs.



Worship includes reading scripture and preaching related to scripture and to events in our world, prayer,



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

participation of holy sacraments, music in a variety of modes that expand our worship of God, and joining in the fellowship of other members and friends.

In the usual course of events, Second Church holds three worship services on Sunday mornings, with two traditional services and one contemporary service. Scripture, preaching, sacraments, music, and fellowship are part of all the services. Since the era of COVID, a worship service has been live-cast via computer video for those members and friends at home, and is available to all in the community, and indeed, throughout the world who wish to connect. In addition, there are special services in the church, such as services during Holy Week and at Christmas time.

The head of staff, for most Sundays, preaches at all three services. Rev. Alisa Secrest, Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture, and Rev. Lindy Vogado, Associate Pastor for Belonging and Outreach, participate in or lead the services. In addition, Rev. Secrest and Rev. Vogado preach on some Sundays. Occasionally, a guest pastor preaches.

Music Ministries

Second Church has a large and dynamic music ministry. Part of its mission is to deepen and expand the worship experience and sense of spirituality of members and friends. For some, music is perhaps the most profound part of the worship experience. It is an important part of the religious experience for many who listen to the music, and also a profound religious experience for those who perform the music, whether it is a 6-year-old child in the Children's Choir, or a senior member of the Adult Choir.



Worship through music has been an important tradition at Second Church, and we are fortunate to have outstanding leaders in the music ministry. Bevan Keating is the Director of Music and the Arts. Also, as the result of a successful capital campaign, a very fine new pipe organ was installed in the sanctuary.

The large music program includes many members, friends, and children. There is an Adult Choir and a Chamber Choir of professionals. There is a youth choir for those in grades 6-12, a children's choir, a



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

children's bell choir, and a children's Sunday School music program. Of note, Mary Ibis, Associate Director of Music and the Arts, has been leading an extensive and successful children's music program for 25 years. In addition, there are three hand bell ensembles for adults and youth. There is an opportunity for almost anyone to become involved in the music ministry in some way.

Pastoral Care Ministry

This ministry is about our mission "to provide compassion for all of God's children, ... and to care actively for the spiritual, physical and intellectual needs of persons in this congregation, community and the world. Rev. Alisa Secrest leads this ministry. We celebrate times of birth and coming together: baptisms and weddings. We minister in times of illness with hospital, home, and hospice visits, and times of loss with memorial services. Pastors and lay members of the church participate in these ministries in important ways.



Second Church has an active Stephen Ministry Program, where trained Stephen Ministers provide confidential, Christian, one-to-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances. This ministry is meaningful both for those receiving the care, and those who provide it. Important member participation in the caring ministry includes the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Church members knit shawls for members and friends who may be undergoing chemotherapy or may be in declining health for other reasons, for those who may be suffering a significant loss, or facing an exciting challenge such as moving away to go to college.

Additional parts of the pastoral care ministry include Faith and Grief Support Group, Meal Ministry, Wheels, Hospital Visitation, and Friends at Home Communion.

Ministry in our Community

From the Mission Statement: "to be a growing and inclusive congregational community, ... to care actively for persons in this congregation, community, and world."



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Being actively engaged in carrying for our community is an essential part of who we are and what we do. Ministry in the community is a serious commitment of Second Church. Second Church commits 25% of its annual congregational support to community outreach. Rev. Lindy Vogado leads this program. The Outreach Ministry in our community probably engages more Second Church members than other ministries.

We are very fortunate to have a large, well-maintained main church building and youth building where we can provide facilities not only



for activities directly related to the church but to provide facilities at no or little cost to nonprofit community groups. Thus, part of our community ministry occurs within the grounds of the church. Some examples include the Little Rock Chinese Christian Church that uses a chapel every week, various Scout groups, Twelve Step groups, mission groups from out-of-state churches for whom we provide lodging in the youth building, fraternal, and educational groups.

Ministry in our community that is beyond the church grounds is extensive. Some examples include sponsoring two Afghan refugee families (one family with 11 members), serving as a school partner and support for Bale Elementary School in Little Rock, volunteering and financial support for Stewpot in downtown Little Rock, and many other important community-based activities. Many members participate in our active environmental ministry.

In collaboration with the Arkansas Presbytery, Second Church provides financial support and extensive volunteer support for Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. It is a much-beloved summer camp for church youth and conference center used by the church throughout the year.

Part of the outreach of our inclusive congregational community is ecumenical. We actively participate in the Little Rock Interfaith Council where we share community support activities and educational programs with Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, and other Protestant religious organizations. We have special ties with Congregation B’Nai Israel with whom we have a substantial tradition of sharing educational programs and community support programs.



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Children's Ministry

At Second Church, the baptismal vow that the congregation gives to each child is taken very seriously. The mission to nurture the faith of the whole family through fellowship, outreach, and study opportunities is shown in our Children's Ministry. We have Sunday school for our pre-school friends, as well as a Bible Village that the 1st through 5th graders attend. The children also experience the Milestones Ministry with many different events created to nurture their faith including Bibles for 3-year-olds, Worshipping Together, Welcome to the Lord's Table, Caring for Others, Praying Together, and Confirmation. We celebrate many fun-filled holidays including Birthday Party for Jesus, an Easter egg hunt and parade, VBS, and a Halloween carnival. Faith in Jesus Christ is nurtured in our children through this Ministry.



Adult Education Ministry

The mission of the Adult Education Ministry is to nurture the faith journeys of all adults in our congregation through a comprehensive educational program. The programming seeks to nurture fellowship and deepen biblical and theological understanding of those who participate. This is done through several Adult Sunday School classes that meet each Sunday, extended learning that occurs outside of Sunday School featuring a variety of topics on leadership, parenting, marriage enrichment, and spirituality; and a documentary series. This ministry is very intentional in working to integrate Bible Study, theological study and reflection, Christian Nurture, Spirituality, and Christian Living.





Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry at Second Church is a special time for 6th through 12th graders where God’s love is shared with others through acts of service and the heart of discipleship. The youth (Second Presbyterian Youth or SPY) meet on Sunday mornings and evenings in the Youth Building for fellowship and fun. And yes, we believe that the youth are so valuable to Second Church that we built a separate building for them! Activities of the youth include mission work in the community, yearly trips to Montreat and Mo Ranch, a Youth Musical (that has been on hold during COVID), and taking on roles in all church activities of VBS and the Halloween carnival.



Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry provides fellowship opportunities for the congregation. The ministry hosts a multitude of church-wide activities that provide fellowship for all members and supports our church mission statement “Inclusive of all”. The activities include special events such as all Church Picnic at Ferncliff, an annual baseball event at a Traveler’s game, the Hanging of the Greens, Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, and outings to local musicals and plays.



Environmental Stewardship Ministry

The Environmental Stewardship Ministry works collaboratively with others in our church community to make God’s creation more sustainable. The ministry maintains the PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation certification for the church by focusing its efforts on four main areas: facilities, education, outreach, and worship. Since 2010, Second Church has been certified annually with the PC(USA) Earth Care



Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Congregations program. For this designation, we committed to the Earth Care Pledge and engaged in various actions and activities toward caring for God’s creation.

As an Earth Care Congregation, Second Church takes our call as prophetic witnesses and stewards sincerely. In

2019, the church installed a new solar panel array—a carport structure containing 81 permanently fixed solar panels. These PV panels reduce our dependence on non-renewable resources, offset energy costs, and publicly proclaim the value of Christian conservation of natural resources. The solar panels provide energy to our Youth Building and have an annual production of about 39,360 kWh. We also have two EV charging stations for electric cars, the first church in Arkansas to have installed them, thanks to a grant from Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light.



There are also a variety of earth care activities: adoption of Two Rivers Park and a portion of University Avenue; use of occupancy sensors in the restrooms; installation of LED lighting; Earth Care Sunday School classes and presentations; sustainability-oriented film screenings; discontinued use of Styrofoam cups; hosting Drawdown Conference; and having Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday services. Replacing the carpet with slate flooring in the sanctuary was a significant environmental initiative—it not only eliminated the 10-year-carpet-replacement cycle but air quality was much improved in the process. Lastly, we have a newly installed Pollinator Garden on the church property.

Review of Financial Resources

Second Church maintains an annual congregational support in excess of \$2.75MM. The 2021 budget for the congregation was \$2,753,916, and the 2022 budget is \$2,775,418. The Church has historically performed in excess of budget, with significant congregational support.



Pledges, contributions, and offerings comprise approximately 80% of total budget revenues, with the remaining 20% derived from endowment earnings and investment returns.

Personnel expenses comprise 55% of the total annual budget. The Church allocates 25% of its prior year actual giving for Outreach on an annual basis, which is the next largest usage of funds after Personnel. Second



Second Presbyterian Church

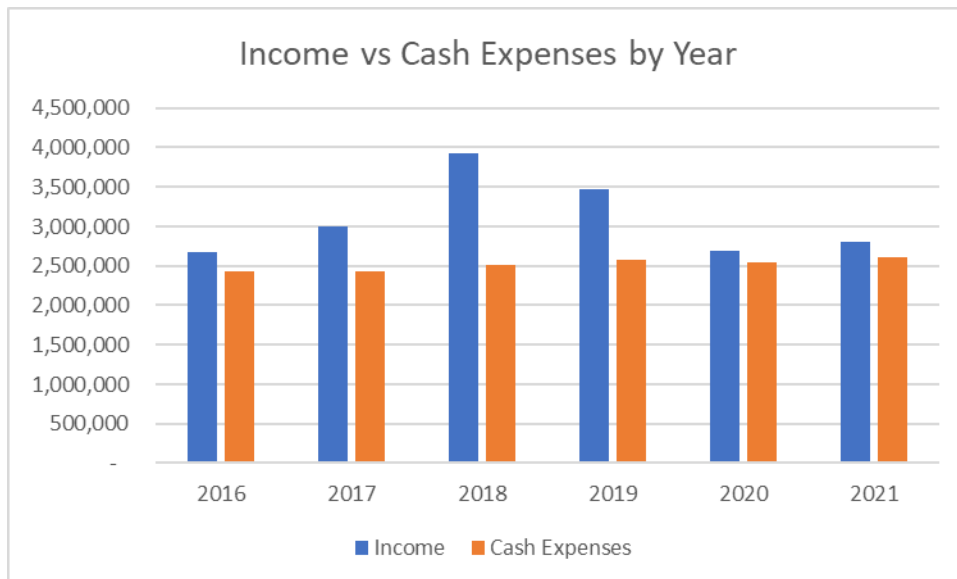
Our Past, Present, and Future

Church’s commitment to allocating a large and fixed percentage of the annual budget for Outreach is an indicator of its faithful stewardship of congregational funds and support of its community. The remainder of the budget is comprised of 18% Property & Administration and 7% Church Ministries.

Second Church has consistently had successful stewardship and capital campaigns. The congregation has historically contributed in excess of the projected need. In addition, there has not been a necessity for long-term bank debt in connection with any of the previous capital campaigns. Second Church is currently debt-free and has no need for supplemental bank debt at this time.

Second Church maintains a large endowment, the income from which provides significant support for Church operations, outreach, ministry, and scholarship. The endowment allows members and others the opportunity to continue their stewardship by making direct gifts or through planned giving. Established over 20 years ago, the endowment has grown to over \$10.4MM through 2022.

The table below shows income vs cash expenses from 2016 to 2021. Income includes all pledges/offerings, building usage fees, and net non-budgeted revenue/gifts (noted in the second table below as Non-Operating Revenue-Net). Investment income and gains are excluded from the tables below. The high income in 2018 and 2019 in the table below was due in large part to the inclusion of net capital campaign revenue which was at peak levels in those two years.

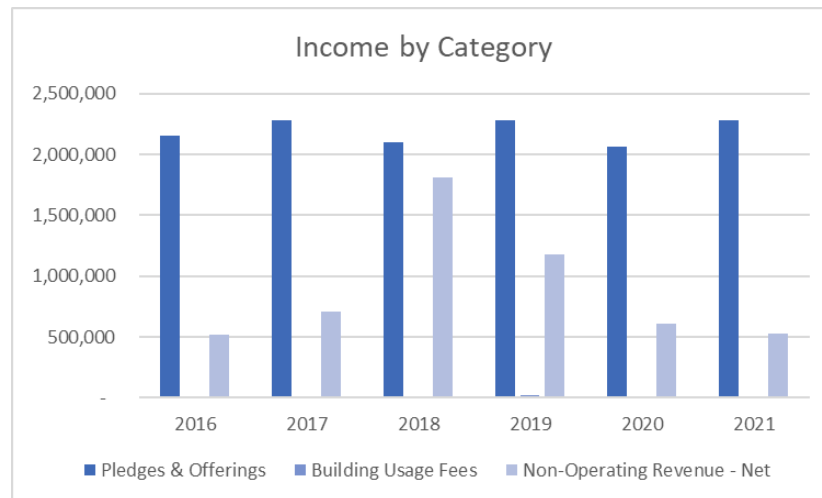




Second Presbyterian Church

Our Past, Present, and Future

Income from pledges and offerings has exceeded \$2MM over the last six years. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were evident in the decline in pledges/offerings in 2020; however, there was recovery in 2021 with the resuming of in-person church activities and stewardship efforts.



Total cash expenses have been relatively stable over the last six years, maintaining the appropriate budgeted allocations as established by the Church.

