

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LEADING PEOPLE TOWARD JESUS WHERE WE LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY.



ROSE HILL  
CHURCH



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# Docket

*For the Rose Hill Church Annual Meeting  
& Meeting of the Corporation  
January 28, 2024 • 11:30 am*

*In Person Attendance in the Sanctuary*

*Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer*

*Certification of the Call: Rev. Brian North, Moderator*

*Approval of the Docket*

*Approval of the Minutes: Jim Peterson, Clerk of Session*

*Staff Reports & Ministry Teams Reports*

*Report of the Nominating Committee: Quenten Pippel, Elder*

*Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Adopted 2024 Budget:  
Dave Cram, Director of Finance*

*Approval of Pastor's Salary*

*Miscellaneous Business*

*Adjournment*

*Prayer and Benediction*

*All Elders and Officers are reminded  
that there is a special meeting of Session  
following the congregational meeting.*



# Staff

Rev. Brian North ..... Senior Pastor  
Rev. Gwen Stidham-North ..... Minister to Children & Families  
Rev. Rob Mathis ..... Minister for Congregational Care  
Bree Zehnder ..... Director of Youth Ministry  
Deanna Matzen ..... Interim Director of Modern Worship  
Tim Weltz..... Director of Worship & Music  
Jenifer Fenn.....Preschool Director  
Dan Wolfe..... Director of Facilities\*  
Dave Cram .....Director of Finance\*  
Monica Ernsberger..... Director of Local Outreach\*  
Elaine Weltz & Team ..... Interim Global Outreach Leaders\*  
Betty Berg.....Director of Fellowship & Discipleship\*  
Mary Lovett ..... Office Administrator  
Leslie Thompson ..... Financial Secretary  
Sam Hudson..... Director of Security  
Elaine Weltz.....Organist/Accompanist

*\*Volunteer staff position*

## **Session**

Pastor Brian North, Moderator  
Jim Peterson, Clerk

### **Class of 2023**

Linda Muilenburg  
Bob Harshbarger

### **Class of 2024**

Pat Ernsberger  
Laird Leavitt

### **Class of 2025**

Linda Holbrook  
Dan Wolfe

## **Deacons**

### **Class of 2023**

Valerie Gordon  
Jane Peterson  
Doug Ricard  
Mary Lou Roetcisoender

### **Class of 2024**

Sandy Adair  
Marilyn Campbell  
Telly Roderick  
Julie Wolfe

### **Class of 2025**

Dena Burns-Hunt  
Judi Byrne  
Jan Mathis  
Jim Peterson

# Statistics

182 Total Members  
as of December 31, 2022

6 Deaths  
4 New Members

180 Total Members  
as of December 31, 2023

## In Memory

<i>Shirley Smith</i>	<i>January 24</i>
<i>Elizabeth Schmidt</i>	<i>April 12</i>
<i>Sue Mateer</i>	<i>May 21</i>
<i>Don Gillie</i>	<i>July 22</i>
<i>Barbara Menz</i>	<i>November 15</i>
<i>Barbara Patrick</i>	<i>December 4</i>

# Senior Pastor's Report

## **2023: Beginning to Live into Our Vision**

In last year's report looking back on 2022, I wrote this: "I'm saying that 2022 could end up being viewed...as one of the most pivotal [years] ever. Why? Because of one thing we did in 2022: Adopt a new Vision Statement."

As you probably know, that vision statement is that Rose Hill Church exists to make disciples who are "leading people toward Jesus where we live, work, and play." This vision fits the history and culture of our church – so it's not a radical departure at all – but at the same time is fresh and vibrant for today. No matter how close to Jesus a person is, there's always room to move closer still.

What I love about our vision is that it's Biblical. Jesus never kept the gospel message in a box, confined to some particular aspect of life. He lived it wherever he was and taught his disciples to do the same.

As I look back now on 2023, I can say that for sure, our vision has had an impact on our life together as a church. It has become the filter through which staff view, lead, and evaluate ministries. Your Elders consistently keep it before them when looking at the big picture of Rose Hill Church and the decisions they make.

For instance, the decision to merge the traditional and modern worship services together into one was driven by our vision. We believe that engaging in worship and discipleship classes together will help us be better equipped to live out our vision. Sermons are frequently directly tied to our vision; classes have been connected to our vision.

2023 was quite a year, however, in many ways. Jim Peterson writes more about some of these things in the Clerk's Report, and more is in the reports that follow. But let me briefly recap here:

- We sent Paul Hudson and his family off on a new, Jesus-led adventure as he became pastor of a Community Presbyterian Church of Vacaville. That is an incredible thing for us to have helped raise someone up to become a pastor, leading a church and shepherding people in that role!
- We also re-booted our preschool, hiring Jenifer Fenn to lead it;
- We hired Breanna Zehnder as our new Youth Director;

- Deanna Matzen stepped up to be our Interim Director of Modern Worship;
- Leslie Thompson was hired into the role vacated by Yam Hudson to be our Financial Secretary;
- We overhauled our financial recording systems, led by Dave Cram;
- And then right at the very end of 2023, Betty Berg told me she wanted to step into the Director of Fellowship and Discipleship volunteer staff position.

All but one of those was done in the last 6 months of the year, even!

Aside from all of that, there was so much good ministry that happened in 2023. The reports that follow what I write here will remind you of much of it. The people who wrote these articles have helped lead the ministries and are people to thank for their faithful dedication and leadership of Rose Hill. I am so grateful for all of these people, and I hope you are as well.

But a church is not just it's staff, Elder, and Deacon leaders: We are all a part of the body of Christ here at Rose Hill; we're in this together! And I'm thankful for each person who calls Rose Hill Church "home." Whether you are formally a Covenant Partner ("member") or not, you have helped shape who we are. You have impacted the ministry: encouraging people with your presence, your prayers, and your faithful and generous giving of time, talent, and treasure.

So, "Well done, good and faithful servant" for helping to make 2023 a solid year of ministry, and bringing honor and glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I look forward to where God leads us in 2024. Already, plans are laid for encouraging deeper discipleship to Jesus that impacts us each day and the people God puts on our path in all facets of life. May we each be led closer to Jesus this year, and lead others toward him as well, so that in the end, "Every knee will bow...and every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).

Your Pastor,



Brian

# Session Report

JIM PETERSON  
Clerk of Session

During 2023 Rose Hill Church has experienced a year of continuing recovery and growth, maturing of our vision, broadening of our adult discipleship, unification of our worship services, restarting of our preschool, and several staffing changes.

The effects of the COVID pandemic have perhaps been longer-lasting than we would wish, but in-person attendance at Rose Hill Sunday worship services has been gradually returning to near pre-COVID levels. The overall average in-person attendance by year has progressed from the low point of 45 in 2020, to 72 in 2021, 96 in 2022, and 118 in 2023. That doesn't quite match our pre-COVID benchmark of 148 in-person attendees in 2019. But if we include the estimated average on-line participation for 2023 that brings the total combined average weekly worship participation (both in-person and on-line) to 157, exceeding the 2019 benchmark for the first time. While worship participation has grown, the number of Rose Hill Church members has decreased slightly this past year due to the passing of six long-time members: Shirley Smith, Elizabeth Schmidt, Sue Mateer, Don Gillie, Barbara Menz, and Barbara Patrick. As of mid-December the Rose Hill Church membership roll stands at 180 members.

Moving into our second year with our new Vision Statement, the focus and direction of our ministries and especially of our adult discipleship classes has been developing and maturing under its influence.

*"Leading people toward Jesus where we live, work, and play."*

That statement seems simple enough, but putting it into daily practice in our lives is a challenge for each one of us. And the pastor and Elders frequently turn to it for both inspiration and as a guide when reviewing and prioritizing both existing ministries and new ministry ideas and opportunities.

One significant decision by the pastor and Elders in 2023 was to restart the Rose Hill Christian Preschool. That decision was made in March, leaving a very short period to hire a new Preschool Director in time to make plans and preparations, and secure student enrollments, so that classroom teaching could begin in September. We were blessed by God to find Jenifer Fenn and bring her

on board in late May, after which she accomplished the herculean task of getting the preschool ready for operation in only 3 months. Praise the Lord! As expected after such a late start (enrollments would normally begin in February), the preschool enrollment has been small by historical standards. The Session is waiting to see what the Lord will do in the preschool during the coming months.

Another very significant and visible change this year was the unification of our modern and traditional worship services into a single service with elements of both previous services. While the new unified service represents some level of compromise in worship preferences for many, the benefit of worshiping and fellowshiping together with the entire Rose Hill family every week has been appreciated by everyone.

The worship service transition occurred in July at the same time that Paul Hudson completed his seminary studies and accepted a position as pastor of a church in California. We celebrated Paul's success and advancement in his ministry while at the same time being sorry to see him, Yam, and most of their family leave Rose Hill. Paul left big shoes to fill as both Director of Modern Worship and Director of Youth Ministries. We've been enjoying Deanna Matzen's talents and leadership since July when she began volunteering, and was later hired, as our Interim Director of Modern Worship. And Bree Zehnder joined our staff in mid-October as Director of Youth Ministries, bringing with her many ideas and plans for the Rose Hill youth discipleship and fellowship activities in the coming year.

A less visible, but still important, change during 2023 has been completing the transition of our financial record keeping system. Together with an improved method for managing the church's reserve funds that was implemented last year, these changes are making our monthly financial reviews simpler while also decreasing operating costs and providing better financial security with increased returns for the church. And one final staffing change was the very welcome addition of Leslie Thompson as our new Financial Secretary, replacing Yam Hudson who left that position last year.

As we begin the year 2024, let's all thank our Pastor, staff, Elders, and Deacons for their faithful service in 2023, giving special thanks to Bob Harshbarger and Linda Muilenburg as they each complete their term as Elders, and Valerie Gordon, Jane Peterson, Doug Ricard, and Mary Lou Roetcisoender who are completing their



terms as Deacons. Even more, let's give praise and thanks to God for these leaders of our church and ask Him to continue to bless them in the coming year.

In Christ,  
Jim Peterson  
Clerk of Session

## Deacons' Report

Jan MATHIS  
Deacon Moderator

The Deacons have three primary areas of service in our church. The prayer ministry, community outreach and congregational care. The Deacon prayer ministry consists of maintaining a current prayer list for those in our congregation that have medical, spiritual or emotional needs. Each month at the end of our meeting we pray together for a portion of the people on our prayer list. We also encourage Deacons to pray regularly for those listed.

Community outreach consists of several ministry areas. One is our monthly monetary offering and our weekly gathering of canned goods for Woodinville Storehouse. We also have Deacons who volunteer at Woodinville Storehouse monthly and a yearly drive for Back to School backpacks filled with school supplies for the Storehouse. This November the Deacons gave Safeway gift cards to families in need at Rosehill Elementary for help with their holiday meals and shopping. We were thrilled to collect twice as much money as we needed for the ten families so we bought them gift cards in November and plan to do the same again the week before spring break. In the past the Deacons gathered food for baskets for these families but since the pandemic, gift cards are preferred. In addition, this year the Deacons have helped individuals in our community pay bills and rent. At Christmastime the Deacons sponsor a drive for gifts for the children of incarcerated people through Angel Tree.

The Deacons spend the most time in the area of congregational care. One Deacon coordinates the parish system, another Deacon coordinates memorial receptions. Another Deacon sends out "Home Touch" mailings and a copy of Rose Hill's bulletin twice a month to those who are homebound or in nursing homes. One of our Deacons is in charge of mailing a devotional

about grief to those who have lost family members. Our monthly ministry at Madison House Assisted Living has continued throughout 2023. Deacons enjoy gathering there with residents from our church, leading a devotion and having dessert together. The Deacons call, serve communion, drop off gifts or flowers and mail cards to those in need. Here are the total contacts made by Deacons from January 2023 through November 2023. There have been 646 love filled cards, visits and calls as of November 28, 2023. One last thing to mention is that the Deacons hosted a new Deacon training last February for those stepping into this new role. The new Deacons were taught how to serve communion, about confidentiality, what to do if they have a problem or concern, how to report contacts and tips about making home visits and calls.

In Christ,  
Jan Mathis

## Staff Reports

REV. GWEN STIDHAM-NORTH  
Minister to Children & Families

### **Looking Back at 2023**

This past year has been a delight in Children's Ministry. We had so many opportunities to grow in our faith and make new friends. Learning about Jesus and growing in faith has taken place. We have enjoyed special events and Sunday School, we have reached families for Christ, and helped kids grow in their faith.

We have had a fabulous volunteer team! I am so thankful for Jeanne, Bud, Jan, Dana, Brooke, Doug, Tracy, Nancy, Steph, Jenifer, and more who have volunteered to help out in the classroom. Jeanne coordinated the Sunday School program for the first three months of this year while I was on leave. It was such a blessing that she served with such energy, love and devotion.

This year we had four larger events that included the community. We had the Easter Egg Hunt which draws many people into the church and the kids get to hear about Jesus before they hunt for eggs. The pool party is incredibly fun because everyone loves the water in summer. Floating together with cannon balls going off of the diving board is entertaining!

VBS got edited this year as we did a weekend VBS. We took a five-day curriculum and ran a camp with three meetings. It was a blast! The Trunk or Treat is a fun way that we invite the community to come together. The food truck and cars were so lively and fun. We also did some playdates at parks. Additionally, the Christmas Pageant is always a highlight because the kids are able to act out the Bible. They get to play real characters in the story of Jesus' birth.

Sunday School is a wonderful time to gather and grow in faith. We have been learning with Lifeway curriculum. This curriculum has fantastic Bible studies and enables kids to read the Bible for themselves. They learn important themes about God's love and get to play with their friends. Having Brooke an intern this year has been wonderful and we have a fabulous group of volunteers.

I can't believe how fast this year went by. It "takes a village to raise children." I love being at a multi-generational church and am blessed to serve in this capacity!

In Christ,  
Gwen North

BREE ZEHNDER  
Director of Youth Ministries

Paul was in leadership for most of 2023 and left in July. My Youth Annual Report this year consists of the last three months of the year, after I was hired. We've seen progress in many areas. We had a very successful November and December with our friendsgiving and ugly sweater Christmas parties allowing students to bring friends and share in laughter, fellowship and thanksgiving. We've had successful outings as a group into the community for birthday celebrations to Starbucks and also to Nerf gun wars. We've welcomed two additional youth to the regular Sunday & Wednesday evening gathering with awesome engagement from parents. We had our friendsgiving party at their house! Monica and Pat have been very supportive in helping cover youth on Wednesday and Sunday mornings before I was hired, and when I briefly was ill. Excited to get more parents connected and volunteering to help carry that load going forward.

Looking forward in 2024 there are lots of great things planned for youth ministry. Most of these ideas were gathered from our successful Brunch

with Bree gathering in January with around 30 parents and kids. Parents and students filled out surveys and we had a great discussion about the winter retreat planned in March as well as the plans looking forward to the summer and involvement in local and international missions. We are planning to start a New Testament study of the Book of Hebrews and the identity of Jesus. We have discussed Youth Sunday coming up in May and have discussed the youth vision for what the worship and messages will look like for this day. Many youth have volunteered to play instruments and learn to play new instruments like the guitar in order to lead worship that day. I envision our Wednesday evening gatherings will soon consist of worship again very soon. We are going to re-launch the Friday gatherings once a month as well and hope to do various activities including rock climbing, zipline tours, bowling and more laser tag!

In Christ,  
Bree Zehnder

TIM WELTZ  
Director of Worship & Music

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you;  
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.*

*Psalms 9:1-2*

We as a church have much to be thankful and to praise God for. We continue to see new people in worship, and it is a joy to see many stepping up to take on roles and are serving alongside us here at Rose Hill. I am especially thankful for those who have joined choir and bells this past year.

Over the past couple of years, our choir has remained small but mighty. We continue to serve our congregation with anthems that are intended to provide messages of hope, encouragement, and instruction on most Sundays throughout the year. This has, at times, been a challenge as members have found it necessary to be away. As we welcome more new members, this will become less of an issue. Choir membership is open to all who enjoy singing from age 14 and up.

Our Praise Ringers are continuing to prepare music to share with the congregation at various time throughout the year. We have sadly lost a few members as they have left for college, but we have also joyfully accepted new members into

the group. As in choir, we would gladly welcome those who are interested in ringing bells to come and be a part of our group. We are currently planning to hold a bell training session either the latter part of February or early March where those interested will have an opportunity to try their hand at ringing handbells.

One of my greatest joys is being a part of and leading congregational singing. In a previous church, I had a friend who would always sing strong and loud and often not entirely on pitch. He didn't worry about what others thought of his singing, he just let his praise of God be heard. I would encourage all in our congregation to do the same. To paraphrase a song from The Carpenters;

*Sing, sing a song;  
Sing out loud, sing out strong;  
Don't worry that it's not good enough  
For anyone else to hear;  
Just sing, sing a song.*

Soli Deo Gloria  
Tim Wertz

DEANNA MATZEN  
Interim Director of Modern Worship

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant,  
and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones,  
and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace,  
and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For me, the modern worship ministry, and our church, 2023 has been a year marked with transition and change. In July, we said goodbye to Paul, Yam, John, and Emily Hudson. At the same time, we said goodbye to having two worship services that were regularly distinct and separate to create a new thing that God was

doing in creating an intergenerational service that blended modern and traditional worship styles. For some, there is great joy in doing something new and different (that would be me!), but for others, there is grief in losing something they valued. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that this grief is normal because for everything there is a season. Yet, God is with us in these transitions and seasons.

Over the summer, I entered a season of learning three new songs each week because I had not been leading worship since we left our former church when we moved to Kirkland six years ago. When I stepped up into the role of Interim Director of Modern Worship this fall, I had a new season of growth as I learned how to navigate technology, schedule musicians, and make new systems that worked for me. It's a good thing that I love to learn! God is teaching me that instead of striving for perfection, I am to work towards excellence – bringing the best possible gift I can.

Through it all, I have been struck with the beauty that comes from intergenerational worship. Our church is so blessed to have musicians across the generations. I began my journey as a worship leader in high school due to the generation above me calling me up and inviting me in. They made space for me, they encouraged me, and they taught me. Lately, I have been thinking about this generational investment through the lens of having a spirit of hospitality.

It is not enough to invite someone to dinner, we must also make space at the table, prepare nutritious food, engage in conversation, and listen with our whole hearts. This is the vision I have for our ministry in modern worship, and perhaps what God is asking of us in our new intergenerational service and as we engage with the Kirkland community. Hospitality means that we invite one another in, make space for one another, and nurture each other in our faith journeys. This is a form of discipleship. We give generously out of our gifts and our strength to help others grow into the roles that God has prepared for them. In modern worship, that means raising up the next generation of musical worship leaders.

If we do not invest in the generations behind us, what will come of the church? At the same time, we must honor those who have gone before us. I hope and pray that this is the spirit with which we greet each other in worship on Sunday mornings because we are all worship leaders! Each and every one of us has the opportunity and responsibility to point to the glory, the goodness,

and the worthiness of God and give others the space to respond to it!

In Christ,  
Deanna Matzen

JENIFER FENN  
Director of Rose Hill Christian Preschool

We began the re-opening process of the preschool in June. Enrollment/re-enrollment usually happens in late January early February. I may have underestimated the need for preschool only vs full day childcare that late into the year. In late August we made the tough decision to combine all 3 classes into 1 morning class. Thankfully all of our families agreed to the change. With that said we got the classrooms cleaned, organized and ready for the first day of school for our 3 students. As of the end of December we have 6 students. I have 2 that plan to start sometime in January. The goal is to end the year with 10 kids. I am attending several preschool fairs and events in January to begin the enrollment process for next year with all 3 classes being offered. The goal for next year is 30+ students.

It really has been amazing watching God orchestrate every little detail these past 6 months. I can see how each child and family was brought to RH preschool for us to pour Gods love into their lives, and in turn how blessed I am to daily work with them. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to pour Jesus into the lives of these children, families and staff daily. I am forever grateful for Gods provision and direction in every aspect of my life and the work of the preschool. Please continue to pray for the preschool and continue to support us.

In Christ  
Jenifer Fenn

DAVE CRAM  
Director of Finance

Last year in my report, I shared how many changes occurred and how difficult a year 2022 was for me and everyone else involved in the church's financial management. Fortunately, 2023 proved to be a much better year. We had far fewer changes. The changes we made in 2022 really helped smooth the operation.

During 2023, we were able to close all our accounts at Washington Federal bank and move all the financial operations to Global Credit Union. Initially, Global Credit Union had a branch very near the church. However, they have since closed that branch. So, the nearest branch is now in Kingsgate. That's added to the effort that the counting team has to put in getting the donated funds to the credit union.

In late 2022, I observed that we had more funds in the bank than FDIC insurance would cover. That concerned me as it wasn't safe. So, with support of the Session, I worked with Charles Schwab to move those reserve and restricted funds into a ladder portfolio of U.S. Treasury Bonds. Those bonds are all government guaranteed. That significantly increased the safety of our reserves and also the interest we earn on our investments. In 2023, our return on this investment was 4.30 percent.

In June, Yam Hudson, who was serving as our Financial Secretary handling all the recording of donations, resigned from the position so she could move with Paul to California. Fortunately, her backup, Leslie Thompson, stepped into the position right away. Since she already knew the Planning Center giving system, the change was seamless. Leslie is doing a great job in that role. We also completed the move from PayPal to Planning Center for online giving. That is working very well for us. If you would like to take advantage of the convenience of online giving, go to the Giving Page on the Rose Hill Church website, <https://www.rosehill.church/>. Here you can set up your donations to the church. And your gifts will automatically be recorded on your giving record with the church. Leslie will not have to data enter it. Further instructions for how to give, to manage your donor account, to make one time or recurring donations, and to see your donation history, are explained in this video: ["How to Give Online" \(website or app\)](#).

Our biggest need right now is for more people to volunteer to serve on the count team. The more people we have on the count team, the less frequently a person needs to serve. Contact me, Leslie, or the church office if you would like more information on the role of the count team members. And please, feel free, to contact me or Pastor Brian if you have other financial questions. My thanks to all of you for your faithful support of Rose Hill Church. It is a delight to serve with you.

In Christ,  
Dave Cram



DAN WOLFE  
Director of Facilities

The Facilities Ministry emphasis this past year was the Saturday morning work parties, the second Saturday of each month. The year of 2023 seemed like the first normal year since Covid hit. We have seen a steady increase in volunteer participation. We have seen new volunteers showing up to help. I attribute that to Pastor Brian announcing from the pulpit that we need more help. Thank you Pastor Brian! One highlight has been from our Thursday morning Men's coffee group. After they meet at 10am a few of them often tackle the ongoing long list of maintenance items on the campus.

We rely on our volunteers to maintain about 30,000 square feet of building space and 5 acres of property. Anyone who owns a home knows that it takes a lot of time and energy to clean off roofs, gutters, pull weeds, mow lawn, trim back bushes and trees, remove trees and shrubs that are too close to buildings, painting maintenance, replace/maintain furnaces, maintenance on fire sprinkler, fire alarm, security alarm systems, fix roof leaks, etc. Okay it would be easier just to say we maintain all the building and grounds, but I wanted to provide a few details.

I am thankful for the faithful team of volunteers that have participated in our facilities ministry during 2023. Truly, our church building and grounds is a blessing, and it's a joy to be good stewards of it! Our focus is to make the Rose Hill Church campus as inviting to our community as possible. I pray that God would draw in new people to our church and they would become disciples of Christ. I am hopeful and expecting God to add to the Facilities team for 2024 and beyond. Please pray that God adds key faithful members to the Church and to the Facilities Team in 2024. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the House of our Lord Jesus!

In Christ,  
Dan Wolfe

BETTY BERG  
Director of Fellowship & Discipleship

**Adult Fellowship & Discipleship**

As we combined to one service in 2023, one of the great joys has been having more time for fellowship with our whole community. A consistent set of people have been providing delicious snacks and hot beverages to enjoy during conversation. We've also had the chance to gather for all-church meals on several occasions. Thank you to all who helped set the table for our fellowship times.

Living into our vision to "lead people toward Jesus where we live, work, and play," we continued reading books together about being good neighbors, exploring our inner lives and returning to the fundamentals of the faith in Sunday classes, digging into Scripture and prayer throughout the week, and connecting in small groups.

At the very end of 2023, I stepped in to fill the role of Director of Adult Discipleship and Fellowship. One of my life-long loves is to foster growth, especially growth in faith and love of Christ. As I begin this role, I am picturing Rose Hill as a grove of trees planted by streams of living water, bearing fruit and providing refuge on this journey toward Jesus. My main goal is to help people get rooted and flourish here. If you have an idea of new ways to engage in community and grow closer to Jesus at Rose Hill, I would love to talk with you! Contact me at [bberg524@gmail.com](mailto:bberg524@gmail.com) - Betty Berg

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a small group of knitters and crocheters who make soft, warm shawls and meet when possible to fellowship together. In 2023 we distributed 3 shawls to Rose Hill members, attenders, extended family members, and friends. These included two for bereavement, and one for a staff person(s) leaving Rose Hill (Paul and Yam Hudson).

As some of our newer attenders joined us, it became apparent that other crafts enjoy the fellowship of working on one's own project in the company of others. To that end, we renamed our group, "The Handcrafters' Fellowship." We now meet on the third Saturday of the month in Linda's home for knitting, etc., lunch and fellowship. All who like to work with their hands are welcome. For those who want to learn how to create prayer shawls, instructions are given to beginners or those needing a refresher course. If you are interested in joining the group, donating funds, providing yarn, or know of a person who would benefit from having a shawl, contact Linda Holbrook, 425-681-2088.

~ Linda Holbrook, Coordinator

**Women's Ministry**

2023 Women's Ministry Year in Review – How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

In 2023, Women's Ministry provided events that invited women to experience God's people living together in unity. All were welcomed to events for service, fellowship, and growth. Saturday, January 28th, was an opportunity to make warm hats and scarves for neighbors out in the cold.

On Saturday March 18th, we invited our moms, daughters, friends, and neighbors to a Spring Tea, where we celebrated being Daughters of the Most High King. Leigh Ann Leavitt shared a story of Queen Esther.

We enjoyed a "stay at home" retreat on Friday April 28-Saturday April 29. This was an opportunity to explore spiritual gifts. Betty Berg, Leigh Ann Leavitt, Elaine Weltz, and Monica Ernsberger led us in Bible study, an assessment of the gifts we have been given, discussion with people of similar gifting, and a discussion of the purpose and plan for the gifts we've been given.

We kicked off the new ministry year on Saturday, October 22 with a potluck and game day, and enjoyed a Christmas dessert on Saturday December 2nd.

Our committee saw some changes in membership as Leigh Ann Leavitt has stepped away for a season. New members include Betty Berg and Karla Thomas.

Committee: Karla Thomas, Betty Berg, Elaine Weltz, Monica Ernsberger, Sandy Adair, Sue Eddy, Judi Byrne, and Jeanne Harshbarger

~ *Jeanne Harshbarger*

### **Piecemakers Quilters**

The Piecemakers are a group of ladies from RH and the community who continue to produce quilts to give. Our quilt batting is provided in the church budget. All other expenses are covered through donated fabric and volunteer "labor". In 2023 we have given 98 quilts to organizations including Bridge Ministries, Evergreen Hospital NICU, Evergreen Hospice, Camp Eyelsbutt (for children who are burn victims), Olive Crest (for children in foster care), and friends in need.

~ *Linda McIntosh*

### **Men's Ministry**

In 2023, men's ministry consisted primarily of two bible study/fellowship/prayer groups (at least, formally): A Wednesday morning (5:30) one on zoom, and a Thursday morning one at 10:00 at the church. There are other gatherings that men in the church have initiated on their own for conversation, Bible study, and prayer, as well. If you'd like to help facilitate something in men's ministry in 2024, Pastor Brian, Betty Berg (Adult Discipleship staff) or others who are already leading men's ministry groups would be happy to help you think about how to move forward with your idea. But you can also simply reach out to people you meet on Sundays, or

guys in your neighborhood, and get something going.

Pastor Brian

### **REV. ROB MATHIS**

Minister for Congregational Care

This has been a very busy year for congregational care and ministry. We are seeing an increase in attendance, and an increase in needs within the Body of Christ at and through Rose Hill Church. This reveals itself in many ways; people desiring pastoral visits, people within and outside our congregation in deep need of support, encouragement, and our prayer and presence. As a result, we have slowly been building on what the Deacons are doing, ministry-wise, adding some parishioners who are not formally Deacons (though they have served in such capacity in the past). We continue to reach out to our parishioners in care, as well as to those outside our church body, traveling to care facilities and hospitals in places like Lynnwood, New Castle, Edmonds, Seattle, all over the Eastside and even down to Auburn.

While loneliness seems to be felt at epidemic proportions in our society today, we feel our outreach, in its many forms, is helping to draw those outside the church in, and help those who are parishioners to be kept from being left behind. As for my position itself, my service includes visits that rack up thousands of miles and many many hours of time. My focus is primarily on supporting and encouraging both those helping to serve, as well as those who have found themselves isolated from our congregation and/or society in general. I have been absolutely amazed at how many lonely and seemingly "left behind" people there are in our communities. Some were stalwarts in our congregation or in another congregation at one time. Some, for various reasons, often past trauma, would never allow their shadows to darken the steps of a church. Yet they all desperately want to be remembered, respected, and treated like "they matter".

As we move into 2024, I want to continue to encourage our people to step out in love and faith and concern for those within and outside our community of faith. It is essential that we do not look past anyone, especially those with ever-narrowing experiences in life. This means we will continue to reach out to those in need, and especially those most isolated. This includes in-person visits to those in care, as well as meeting in small groups and to ensure that even if and when they cannot or will not attend church, that they are not forgotten, and are valued.

Finally, so much more seems to be accomplished

in ministry when we encourage each other to pray, one for another. Given that perspective, I will continue to undergird my ministry with prayer over our congregation and those outside our four walls, and to encourage those in ministry with me to do the same. Though the world can sometimes look like a very discouraging place, we know that in the midst of darkness, His Light shines brightest! Let us therefore walk in that light and be His light!

Rev. Rob Mathis

## ROSE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rose Hill Church Scholarship Fund was established in 2008. The Scholarship Fund is governed by a four-member board, and one member of a three-member selection committee is elected annually at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The first awards were made in 2009. Your current board members are Leigh Ann Leavitt, Betty Berg, Syd France, and Jeanne Harshbarger.

The purpose of the Rose Hill Presbyterian Church Scholarship is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the promotion of higher learning in students who will take the Gospel into the world through ministry, mission, and industry. The scholarship is available to members of Rose Hill Presbyterian Church who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies at accredited institutions of higher learning. Applicants will demonstrate:

- A desire to spread the Gospel through their participation and leadership in church ministries and missions
- The capacity to succeed in their further education
- A well-rounded life

Donations to the fund are accepted at any time throughout the year, and are expected to be above and beyond members' regular tithes and offerings.

In 2023, Amanda Pippel, Olivia Ernsberger, Hailey North, and Natalie Kull were awarded scholarships.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Rose Hill Church Nominating Committee for 2023 was comprised of the following members:

- Linda Holbrook, Elder
- Bud VanDerAa, Member-at-Large
- Bob Harshbarger, Elder

- Quenten Pippel, Member-at-Large
- Pastor Brian, non-voting advisor

The committee began our work in early November and by mid-January we have identified a number of candidates for the available positions. We are currently two representatives for the role of Deacon short from submitting a full class. With that said, we are placing the following members of Rose Hill Church in nomination for election to office beginning in 2024:

### Elder Class of 2026

- Linda Muilenburg
- Bud VanDerAa

### Deacon Class of 2026

- Lena Chen
- Kurt Thompson
- TBD
- TBD

### 2024 Nominating Committee Member-at-Large

- David Patterson
- Bob Seifert

### Scholarship Committee (3-year term)

- Ro Patterson

Our committee gives praise to God for His gracious provision and our thanks to His willing servants who accept positions of leadership and responsibility in His church.

Quenten Pippel

## GLOBAL OUTREACH AT ROSE HILL

Rose Hill is a sending and/or supporting church for over a dozen missionaries serving around the world. In addition to budgeted support, we have members who support individual missionaries above-and-beyond these dollars, and even more who regularly pray for them. We are all blessed by knowing these missionaries, all of whom have a special relationship with Rose Hill...and we with them!

See the following page for an  
"at a glance" view of our  
Rose Hill missionaries.

	<b>Rose Hill's Global Outreach Team at a Glance</b>
<b>Dan &amp; Peggy Agee</b> Wycliffe Bible Translators / SIL Dallas, Texas Oaxaca, Mexico	Supporting the Mexico branch of SIL and meeting with Wycliffe translators around the world. Living in Dallas to help with Dan's parents also means being closer to their grandchildren.
<b>John &amp; Shelley Bailey</b> Wycliffe Bible Translators (Ret.) Mesa, AZ	Enjoying family time and their church in Mesa. Always open to volunteer opportunities.
<b>Larry &amp; Andrea Ciccarelli</b> Wycliffe Bible Translators Canada	Arabic language scripture translation. Working with a diverse team to create audio and printed scriptures to reach Muslims with the Good News
<b>Dave &amp; Joan Cram</b> Wycliffe Bible Translators (Ret.) Vancouver, WA	Serving churches and church workers with financial audits, tax preparation and financial advice. RHC Corporate Treasurer
<b>Ray &amp; Angie De Lange</b> East-West Ministries London, England	Ray reports: "both Angie and I still have the joy of being right in the place of God's call for us to help facilitate the growth of the gospel and the Lord's church among a Middle Eastern people group who are also suffering so severely in many areas of life."
<b>Karen Erickson</b> RCE International Jordan	Curriculum Coordinator and Co-Accreditation Coordinator at Whitman Academy, Amman
<b>Brian &amp; Brooke Johnson</b> Ethnos360 Mexico	Spanish language and culture study continues in Mexico. Training culture & language coaches from around the world.
<b>Kevin &amp; Sarah Johnson</b> United World Mission Wheaton, IL	Kevin - Having completed Masters in Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, he is now in the PhD program at Wheaton University. Sarah - Busy Mom to 3 little girls, she is still involved in Deditos materials creation and training.
<b>Jim &amp; Gina Nie</b> Tyndale Bible Translators Vancouver, WA	Melanesia Boat Project. Planning and funding to build and equip boat MSV-1. This fall received a matching grant of \$2.5 million toward this project.
<b>Bill &amp; Julie Odom</b> NAYM / ROCK Tucson, AZ	Audio recordings of scripture in the Havasupai language. Editing a Chinese dialect scripture recording.
<b>TS John</b> South Asia Access Lexington, KY	Ministering Christ's hope and healing to children, families, and communities struggling with disabilities in South Asia.
<b>Matthew &amp; Elizabeth Van Wart</b> WorldVenture Mbarara, Uganda	Providing public health clinics and training. Hosting house church and Sunday school. Always open to befriend and help those in their area in any way possible.
<b>Richard &amp; Wendy Yancey</b> PIONEERS Kandern, Germany	Richard continues in his teaching role at Black Forest Academy. Wendy volunteers in their community, often with refugees navigating culture change as they begin new lives in Germany.