



PebbleCreek
COMMUNITY CHURCH

2023 Annual Report

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Pastor's Report
Nate Watkins
2023

Since this is my first Pastor's Report, I'd like to include my story of how I got here so we can remember the circumstances in years to come!

My tenure as pastor of PebbleCreek Community Church began on July 1, 2023, but the story of how God guided us here began in December of 2022. As many of you know, I was pastoring a church in upstate New York. It was about the same size as PCCC and God had blessed my work there in numerous ways over the past four years; so much so, in fact, that in December of 2022 Rocio and I had decided to sell our home that was about six miles outside of town so we could buy a place in town where I thought we could be even more effective.

We had a buyer within a few weeks offering us full price, which surprised us because of how slow the market was, but we weren't complaining, assuming God was making a way for us to move into town sooner than expected. We agreed to a 90-day escrow, which was typical for New York. Then, the very next week, we received news from Rocio's brother, who lives in Anaheim, CA, that he had been diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer. That changed everything. Rocio could not bear the thought of living across the nation from her family while her brother underwent whatever treatments were available or lived out his last months/year. So, we prayed about it, and decided that since we were already in the process of selling our house, God was paving the way for us to move west.

I chose to look for a church in Arizona that would put us within driving distance of her family, but still be outside of California so we could afford to buy a house. That next week, the advertisement for PebbleCreek Community Church popped up on the website I was using to job search. At that point, I had never heard of a church in the middle of a 55+ community and mentioned it to Rocio, but we didn't really think too much about it. I mean, what kind of church is in the middle of a resort? Also, there were lots of other churches in Arizona looking for a pastor, so two weeks went by in my job search as I kept looking for the "right" position. But each night, I kept finding myself coming back to the PCCC advertisement and wondering about it. Finally, I decided to apply, figuring there was nothing lost if I never heard anything back.

Well, I heard back almost right away from the search committee on February 1, letting me know that they would be looking through all the initial resumes they had received and would let “selected candidates” formally apply on February 17th. I had no idea what it might take to become a “selected candidate,” so I prayed that God would lead the way and I kept looking for other possibilities. On February 7th, 10 days earlier than expected, I heard back from the search committee saying I was a “selected candidate” and could now formally apply. I filled out the application, submitted it, and then received a call from Susan Preston outlining the candidate process. On February 20, I received word that the committee would like to interview me for the position on March 2nd, and I told Rocio that for whatever reason, I was beginning to feel like God wanted me take this opportunity seriously.

The interview on March 2nd went well and I was invited to have a 2nd interview on March 10th. At that point, I told our sons about the possibility, and my youngest asked, “Are you sure this isn’t a scam?” I had to admit, I wasn’t 100% sure it wasn’t at that point, so I decided to take a quick trip to PebbleCreek over the March 19 weekend just to make sure it was all on the up-and-up. It was. None of you saw me, but I poked my head in on Sunday morning just to be sure a church service was going on. I also toured the community, and even played a round of golf. I went back home confident it wasn’t a scam! I then interviewed with the Board of Elders and was invited to come for an eight day visit the first week of May. That led to us telling our church in New York that it looked like God was moving us on, and they would need to create their own search committee to look for a new pastor.

And you all know the rest of the story...our house in New York closed escrow the week before we visited PebbleCreek in May. We were with you two Sundays and I interviewed with every Board and Committee in the church during the week. We found a house to buy in PebbleCreek and by May 8th, I had signed a contract to be your new pastor. We said our tearful goodbyes to our church in June and then drove across the country, arriving on June 29th, the day before our house in PebbleCreek closed escrow. The timing was perfect in every possible way and we were so grateful. Then the real work began!

In the months of July and August, I listened carefully to God’s Spirit as to what I should focus on, what I should preach on, who I needed to meet with, what changes I needed to make to prepare us for the Fall. Some PCCC attenders/members decided they would leave the church and find a pastor better suited for them, which was sad. However, that often happens when leadership changes, so it wasn’t completely unexpected. Attendance hovered around 110 in those first few months. Meanwhile, the Elders supported me well, as did the production team on Sunday mornings. Rocio and I felt so loved by you all, especially those who went the extra mile in bringing us food (or desserts!) and gave us cards of encouragement. The choir started back up with Katie Croy as the new director, and I was able to begin producing more variety in the congregational worship with some of our musicians.

Word got out in the community that new things were happening at the church, and by mid-October, we were beginning to see a steady inflow of guests on Sunday morning. The installation service on October 29th was when I really felt the Spirit of God bind us together. That was followed by the service on November 5th when we celebrated our nation’s veterans, and 33 of

them came! The next week, November 12th, was the first Sunday where we broke the 180-barrier in attendance. I thought that was pretty great, but then came the Christmas Cantata on December 10th when over 260 people came!

Now, just to be clear...our attendance numbers are not what we are focused on as a church...but attendance does indicate good things are happening:

- We are regularly inviting our friends and neighbors, talking to them about the church during the week.
- When they come to visit on Sunday, they are feeling welcomed and want to come back.
- There is a sense of holy anticipation in the room on Sunday mornings as people arrive and are ready to worship when we begin (have you noticed?)
- There is an increase in participation in the worship singing, in the congregational response, in the willingness to serve, in the congregational giving.

All of those indicate God is moving among us in a new way. An answered prayer for many of you, and for Rocio and I as well. I anticipate 2024 is going to be even better as God works among us. Thank you for calling me to be your pastor!

Chairman of the Board Report 2023

Chair: Mary McFarland

Board: John Aycock, Inge Chapman, Sharon Graville, Steve Kirk, Charlie Newcomer, Susan Preston, Larry Sessoms, and Pastor Nate Watkins

Dear Fellow Christians of PCCC:

Psalm 106:1 reminds us “Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” 2023 has been a year we can praise and give thanks to the Lord for He has blessed PebbleCreek Church in many ways. We began the year under the leadership of interim pastor, Hal Merwald. We are grateful he could return to lead Sunday services and help with administrative functions.

Our Staff is Now Complete:

- Pastor Nate and Rocio joined us in July. They quickly became involved with PCCC and the community. We are grateful for their leadership and their musical talent as they enrich our Sunday worship experience.
- Our treasurer Syd Mersereau was joined by volunteer Don Hlusak. Together they have streamlined the treasurer’s process and made the treasurer’s job more efficient.
- Katie Croy joined us as our choir director. The choir and congregation greatly appreciate her talent and experience.
- Phylice Walton has continued to be our faithful secretary.

Other Blessings

- Church attendance increased with returning members and we welcomed new attendees.
- We are experiencing a growing sense of unity.
- Our worship services are enhanced with special music.
- Our production team makes the service and online recordings a joy to watch.
- Offerings have increased so we ended the year with a surplus.
- All boards and committees have done their part to build up the church. Please read their reports and see the amazing work that each has contributed to the body of Christ.

The Elder Board faithfully performed its duties by receiving new members, overseeing the boards and committees, developing job descriptions, hiring new employees, reviewing job performances, overseeing the budget process, and providing for spiritual growth of members. The elders met monthly except for June and July. The meetings always began and ended in prayer for the needs of the congregation. For our devotional time, we began reading the book *Spiritual Leadership* that includes principles from scripture to help make us better leaders in ministry.

Praise be to God who has blessed us richly in 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary McFarland
Chair of the Elder Board

Board Of Deacons Report 2023

Chairperson: Jan Kirk, *Elder Liaison:* Inge Chapman

Deacons: Kathy Cheek, Gladys Conklin, Pamela Frye Mary Lou Goss, Leslie Henson, Marilyn Newcomer, Faye Sessoms, Karen Stanley, Roxann Sykes, Ruth Windorski

Objectives:

The Board of Deacons elected and confirmed by the church membership is to nurture members and regular attendees of PebbleCreek Community Church. They greet visitors, send cards for several occasions, assist at times of bereavement, and provide meals to those members in need due to surgery or illness.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- The Deacons made numerous visits in homes and convalescent facilities. The Deacon Outreach Ministry made 459 visits, 755 calls, and sent 323 e-mails and texts and 489 cards (these cards are in addition to those sent by the Card Ministry Distributor). This ministry continues to provide visits, encouragement, and prayer for the ill.
- The Deacons (through our Outreach Ministry and Monthly Deacon Coordinators) have prepared 28 meals.
- A team of 27 Deacon Helpers graciously agreed to provide meals as needed. Our list of Deacon Helpers was updated for 2023.
- The Card Ministry sent birthday, anniversary, get well, and thinking of you cards to regular attendees and members. Sympathy cards were also sent to members and the PebbleCreek community at large as a part of our outreach to non-members.
- The Mats for Homeless Ministry has made and delivered 111 mats to Andre House in Phoenix.
- Every effort is made to greet members and visitors and reach out to serve the congregation of PebbleCreek Community Church.

Board Of Trustees Report 2023

Co-Chairs: Don Hlusak, Todd Spiegel, *Elder Liaison:* Charlie Newcomer

Trustees: Liz Arnold, John Conklin, Lee Eakins, Frank Glowinski, Darrell LaCascio, Nancy Love, Tom MacKenzie, Dave Modderman, Ruth Walters

Objectives:

1. Provide for the physical set-up, tear-down, and storage of equipment for each service and event, including the sound system, projectors, and camera for the 9:00 a.m. service.
2. Maintain an inventory (count, condition, and value) of the physical assets.
3. Purchase supplies for the fellowship time after services, as needed.
4. Prepare coffee, hot water, and ice water for the fellowship time, as needed.
5. Set up all sound equipment, microphones, and camera, as needed, and provide trustees to operate the equipment for all services and special events.
6. Lower the screens and prepare the projector and computer for on-screen presentation.
7. Set up the camera and record the service. Edit it and place on the website on Sunday afternoon
8. Return all equipment to storage after the service.
9. Recommend to the Board of Elders any maintenance or new equipment needs.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- Trustees were assigned for each Trustee function: physical set-up and tear-down for each service, sound system, and camera recording.
- Purchased supplies for the fellowship time after services and for other events as needed.
- Coordinated with the Activities Office/HOA for changes in seat numbers when the snowbirds leave and when they return. There are four different configurations each year.
- Counted church attendance each week and for special events.
- Coordinated with the HOA regarding storage of church equipment.
- Provided one trustee (Nancy Love) to the Nominating Committee to trustee opening on the committee.
- Developed a summer spreadsheet to show the need for additional help with set-up and take-down. Recruited assistance from the congregation for summer months.
- Maintained contact with elder liaisons and chairpersons throughout the year to address any concerns or problems.
- Purchased supplies for the fellowship time after services and for other events as needed.

- Coordinated with the Activities Office/HOA for changes in seat numbers when the snowbirds leave and when they return. There are four different configurations each year.
- Counted church attendance each week and for special events.
- Coordinated with the HOA regarding storage of church equipment.
- Provided one trustee (Dave Modderman) to the Nominating Committee to trustee opening on the committee.
- Developed a summer spreadsheet to show the need for additional help with set-up and take-down. Recruited assistance from the congregation for summer months.
- Coordinated with new pastor to modify worship setup to conform with his needs and desires. Acquired new sound equipment to support the pastor's musical service needs.
- Worked with elder liaison and noming committee to replace two trustees who resigned in 2023.
- Requested three new hearing assist units to be placed in the 2024 budget. These will increase our units to six.
- Assisted Communications Committee to place three additional advertising signs around the community about our Sunday worship services.
- Purchased a step ladder for the church office.
- Organized all church music from the church office closet and placed it on shelves in the church office.

**Church Staff and Officers
As of December 31, 2023**

Pastor:	Nate Watkins
Treasurer:	Syd Mersereau
Secretary:	Phylice Walton
Choir Director:	Katie Croy
Pianists:	Shirley Nebergall Karen Peterson
Prayer Coordinator:	Edna DeFord
Elders:	Mary McFarland (<i>Chair</i>), Pastor Watkins, John Aycock, Inge Chapman, Sharon Graville, Steve Kirk, Charlie Newcomer, Susan Preston, Larry Sessoms
Board Secretary:	Larry Sessoms
Trustees:	Don Hlusak, Todd Spiegel (<i>Co-Chairs</i>), Liz Arnold, John Conklin, Lee Eakins, Frank Glowinski, Darrell LaCascio, Nancy Love, Tom MacKenzie, Dave Modderman, Ruth Walters
Deacons:	Jan Kirk (<i>Chair</i>), Kathy Cheek, Gladys Conklin, Pamela Frye, Mary Lou Goss , Leslie Henson, Marilyn Newcomer, Faye Sessoms, Karen Stanley, Roxann Sykes, Ruth Windorski

Choir Director Report 2023

Objectives:

- Research, select, and order music that represents biblical truths and supports the church and pastor's vision
- Work collaboratively with pastor
- Plan and direct choir rehearsals
- Encourage current choir members
- Recruit new choir members
- Create a ministry environment of care and support within the choir
- Select and present a Christmas Canata
- Attend a choral workshop to inform selection of future music
- Work collaboratively with our choir pianist, Shirley Nebergall
- Prepare articles for PebbleCreek Post as needed

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

The choir at PebbleCreek Community Church has been a special blessing. The past year was a time of transition, and the choir was dedicated and faithful throughout that time. The church was fortunate to have Shirley Nebergall as the interim Music Director during the months of January-July with Bev Griggs serving as the interim Choir Director from Jan-May. Starting in September, Katie Croy was selected by the board to become the permanent Choir Director and continues in her role to date.

I would like the congregation to note that membership in the choir does not require auditions and it is open to new members any time during the year. In the fall of 2023, the choir started with approximately 14 dedicated members and now we have more than doubled that number with close to 30 choir members singing praise to the Lord. The choir schedule includes Sunday anthems from September through May with practice sessions each Tuesday from 4:00pm-5:30pm in the Robson theater. The choir is on hiatus in the summer and during Christmas break.

One of the highlights of the choir ministry for 2023 was the "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" cantata which was presented during the first part of December. There were 264 attendees from

the PebbleCreek Community and the church who enjoyed the presentation (and the cookies provided by the fellowship committee)! A special guest violinist added to the melodious sounds of the choir and the beauty of the cantata. We welcome all those who are interested in joining the choir to attend a rehearsal to become familiar with this important ministry or you are welcome to call me for additional information.

Honored to serve in the house of the Lord,

Katie Croy

619.675.2264

Communications Committee Report 2023

Chairperson: Valerie Spiegel, *Elder Liaison:* Larry Sessoms/John Aycock
Committee Members: Bonnie Brown, Donna Gustafson, Jean Kotula, Jim Porreca,
Roxann Sykes

Objectives:

1. To coordinate messaging within the church, via website updates relative to worship, personnel, social events, meetings, committees, finances, and other news items.
2. To keep the entire PebbleCreek Community informed of our church's activities and worship opportunities via website, Post publications, and clubhouse bulletin boards.
3. To alert PebbleCreek residents of on-campus Sunday worship opportunities and the existence of a non-denominational church within their community.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- Maintained a communications management strategy with a committee member assigned to each major church committee/committees as liaison for that communications channel.
- Video recording of Sunday Worship services and special events were published to our website each Sunday via YouTube thanks to the faithfulness and initiative of Joe and Liz Arnold.
- Submitted 19 articles to the PebbleCreek Post regarding church activities throughout the year including: Christmas, Easter, Bible studies, Fellowship events, Bereavement class, searches for Music Director, Treasurer, and Pastor, and updates on mission projects/support for the Phoenix homeless, Joy Brazil, Good Samaritan, and Operation Christmas Child.
- Renewed monthly PCC advertisements in PC Post and the annual Sourcebook thanks to Dave Modderman. In addition, the church advertisement featured on the back fence of the PebbleCreek Ball Field was refunded.
- Submitted timely internal articles and pictures for posting on the church website so potential visitors and members can easily access current church news and future participation opportunities.
- Secured three additional “sandwich boards” which, along with the one John and Marie Aycock donated several years ago, total four. On Sunday mornings from 7:00-11:00 AM, the Trustees have PCHOA clearance to post a sign at the two gate entrances, the entry drive to Eagle's Nest clubhouse, and between the entry doors of the Eagle's Nest clubhouse and ballroom where our worship services are held.

Connections Committee Report 2023

Chairperson: Hubert Windorski, *Elder Liaison:* Larry Sessoms/John Aycock

Committee Members: Bonnie Brown, Donna Gustafson, Jean Kotula, Jim Porreca, Roxann Sykes

Objectives:

1. To do all we can to make visitors in our church feel comfortable and welcome.
2. To encourage people who attend our church to become regular attenders and/or members.
3. To provide “Welcome to PebbleCreek” information sessions and other activities for the purpose of orienting new people to our Constitution, By-Laws, and other fundamentals of our community church.
4. To assist in the reception of new members.
5. To track attendance and follow-up on inactive members.
6. To work on policies and programs that enhance outreach and make participation in church a joyful and spiritually rewarding experience.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- **Welcome Packets:** These packets will continue to be distributed to first time visitors from our entry during fellowship. They have been updated to include a current message from Pastor Nate and information about our church.
- Our committee has reached out to our congregation by completing new pages for our church directory. In November we hosted an information session with our new pastor.
- **Church Pictorial Directory:** Our committee retains responsibility to update our church directory as needed. We are rapidly running out of directories for new people and are in the process of publishing additional directories.
- **Worship Service Attendance Growth:** Our church continues to experience significant growth in worship service attendance. Our committee will continue to search out innovative ideas for how we can, in a friendly manner, reach out to receive people with Christ’s love. We welcome any input from our congregation around how we might better serve and minister to the needs of our congregation.
- **Our Goal:** The goal of our committee is to meet, welcome, and create a relationship with visitors to make them feel comfortable in making a decision about joining us in fellowship on a regular basis.

Education Committee Report 2023

Chairperson: Mary McFarland, *Elder Liaison,* Mary McFarland

Committee Members: Joe Arnold, Howard Atkinson, Steve Duncanson, Ruth Windorski, and Rebecca Wible

Objectives:

- To increase biblical discipleship and promote spiritual maturity of the PebbleCreek Community Church congregation.
- Facilitate Bible study and support group leaders with prayer, communication, resource study materials, recruiting, and training new leaders
- Communicate to the congregation with 1) a current list of the groups that are meeting, including the study topics, meeting times, and contact person, 2) biblical-based materials, including “Our Daily Bread” and pamphlets, and 3) information on biblical educational opportunities in the area.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- Supported eight (8) bible study groups meeting in person and on Zoom
 - a. Women (2)
 - b. Men (2)
 - c. Mixed (4)
- Continued holding bible studies in Robson Reserve
- Began showing Christian movies in Robson Reserve theater
- Recognized bible study leaders during a worship service
- Served as resource for bible study topics and questions from leaders
- Continued writing the monthly “Know Your Bible” article for the bulletin and website
- Supplied “Our Daily Bread” and other biblical materials
- Managed the church library cart each Sunday by adding appropriate books and encouraging members to take the books home and enjoy

Fellowship Committee Report 2023

Chairperson: Jan Kirk, *Elder Liaison:* Susan Preston

Committee Members: Mary Lou Goss, Leslie Henson, Sharon Moran, Faye Sessoms, Patricia Wilson, Ruth Windorski

Objectives:

Create an atmosphere of fellowship and fun among members, prospective members, and regular attendees.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

Fellowship Hour: The social time each Sunday after church services provides snacks and coffee.

Fellowship Events: The Committee planned eight (8) events over the period of a year.

- **JANUARY-APRIL, 2023:** Small Social Circles with four (4) groups and 36 participants
- **FEBRUARY 13, 2023:** Valentine's Day Dinner
- **MARCH 25, 2023:** Pre-Season Baseball Game
- **APRIL 9, 2023:** Sunrise Service/Fellowship
- **APRIL 28, 2023:** 9th Annual Spring Dinner
- **JULY 30, 2023:** "Popcorn and a Movie"
- **OCTOBER 27, 2023:** "Picnic on the Patio - Welcome Back Church Family"
- **DECEMBER 10, 2023:** Christmas Cantata/Fellowship "Deck the Halls with Cookies"

Finance Committee Report 2023

Chair: Douglas McFarland *Elder Liaison:* Steven Kirk

Committee Members: Bob Geiges, Don Hlusak (assistant treasurer), Ted Huntoon, Sydna Mersereau (treasurer), Dave Modderman

Objectives:

1. To create the annual church budget based on estimated tithes and offerings, expenses requested by committees, and other expenses; to request special offerings for Christian purposes; to inform the Elder Board of the church financial position throughout the year; and to inform the congregation of the Elder Board's decisions in such matters.
2. To oversee and manage the church's general fund account, the church's reserve fund accounts, and restricted special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the church.
3. To oversee the church accounts monthly and to conduct an annual review of church financial records.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- [The 2022 budget was balanced for the seventh consecutive year, but following the departure of the pastor in summer, 2022, contributions declined substantially and the church deficit for the year 2022 was \$43,906.] Proposed a 2023 budget reflecting a lower level of contributions and expenses, with anticipated contributions of \$270,000 and expenses of \$292,296, for a proposed deficit of \$22,296. The budget was approved by the congregation at the annual meeting in February, 2023.
- Reviewed each month's financial results and provided monthly financial reports to the Elder Board. For the year, tithes and offerings were \$281,354.50, higher than projected, and the general fund received a transfer back from the allocation to missions, due to the lower offerings in 2022, of \$10,565.00. Expenses were \$263,727, lower than budgeted primarily due to the vacancy in the position of pastor for much of the year. This resulted in a surplus of \$17,627, not including interest income. The church's aggregate bank accounts increased from \$343,050 on January 1 to \$363,414 on December 31, 2023.
- Conducted the annual Finance Committee review of the church's 2022 financial statements and found no exceptions
- Managed the investments of the reserve funds. While interest rates have risen during the year, the funds are primarily designed for safety through placement of bank FDIC-insured deposits.
- Prepared a budget for coming year 2024 with anticipated tithes and offerings of \$300,000, and anticipated expenses of \$299,200, which projects a budget surplus of

\$800. Please see the 2023 financial reports and the 2024 proposed budget, attached separately.

What we will do in 2024 and beyond

- Continue to work to achieve a balanced budget.
- Examine each item in the church budget for furtherance of the Kingdom of God.
- Continue to improve the efficiency of the church's financial systems and provide meaningful reporting to the Elder Board.
- Continue to oversee the church's investments and expenses to ensure that we are being good stewards of God's resources.

Thank you for your loving outpouring of tithes and offerings for the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Missions Committee Report 2023

Chairperson: Edna DeFord, *Elder Liaison:* Mary McFarland

Committee Members: John Aycock, Don Clark (Consultant- India), Inge Chapman, Edna DeFord, Jim Gillespie, Donna Grover, Michael Priebe, Steve Kirk.

Objectives:

1. Focus our giving toward meeting spiritual needs, as well as meeting humanitarian endeavors.
2. Support mission outreaches that are effective in presenting the claims of the gospel and winning people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Grace.
3. Support missions reaching out to people in keeping with our Lord's teaching to feed the hungry, and provide clothing, shelter, and medical care to those who are hurting in this world.
4. Support missions which are viewed as meeting established criteria. These missions will represent local, state, national, worldwide Christian ministries, and their missionaries in accordance with the church goals, This includes individual(s) working with these ministries that are required to obtain their own financial support.
5. Support American Indian missions and their ministries.

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- The Committee has been working diligently to make the best use of the funds dedicated to missions and to provide as many “hands on” service opportunities for our congregation while adhering to the changes resulting from the virus shutdown. We met monthly using ZOOM technology and continued to review our missions to ensure they meet the criteria set up for our mission endeavors.
- We supported nine (9) missions at \$ 200.00 per month. These local, national and international missions are Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank, Alaskan Christian College, Eve-A-Douglas Caribbean Deaf Ministry, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, JESUS Film Project, JOY Brazil, Phoenix Rescue Mission/Changing Life Center, Samaritan's Purse (SP), and World Gospel Missions Southwest Indian Ministries. The remaining budgeted funds were used to assist other missions brought to our attention by God and reviewed worthy of our help in spreading the Gospel Message throughout the world.
- Added new Monthly Mission to support Zach Hsu as he attends Phoenix Seminary while working at, Arizona State University (ASU) doing Christian Challenge Student

work. This replaced InterVarsity Christian Fellowship when Katie Rawson Retired at the end of 2023. She was one of our first missionaries and our Church supported her for over 20 years.

- Added a new Occasional Mission of Arizona Christian University (ACU) campus located in Peoria, AZ. A student Scholarship Fund for \$ 5,000.00 was started. We reached out to the congregation for additional support to attain the \$ 5,000.00.
- **Specific projects included:**
 1. Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoe Box Ministry led by Edna DeFord and Inge Chapman that filled a total of 588 Shoe Boxes in 2023. Shoe boxes were provided to our church family during October and November. An On-Line Shoe Box Page was generated for our church by SP/OCC which allowed individuals to fill a total of 200 shoe boxes online from the comfort of their homes or providing funds to have the OCC Committee fill online for them. Individuals also funded 248 “Adopt A Box” by paying the \$10.00 transportation fee. By using “Follow your Box” labels, we know these boxes were sent to the Philippines, Ecuador, and various Hard to Reach Areas. A Special Shoe Box Prayer Dedication was held during the November 19, 2023, worship service. We thank God that shoe boxes from PebbleCreek Community Church blessed children in several countries and in areas we will never know about as it is too dangerous to reveal their locations.
 2. Donations from the congregation were made to Samaritan’s Purse for Disaster relief deployments for the Maui Fire and to Samaritan’s Purse World Medical Mission trips made by Dr. Allan Sawyer to Papua, New Guinea, and Africa.
 3. Agua Fria Food Bank Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Distribution Program was supported by financial assistance and collection of plastic bags and empty prescription bottles.
 4. The Missions Committee supplied slide shows on several Sundays, and additional presentations to keep the church updated on the exciting event of churches being built by our congregation’s funds.

Other Major Mission activities in 2023 include:

- Mission updates were included in the PebbleCreek Community Church Prayer Chain information and on the church website.
- **Monthly Special Mission Prayer Time in Worship Service** for two of our Missions.
- **Provided funding to Agua Fria School Uniform Program** where over 400 young people received two new school uniforms.
- **JESUS Film Project received funds to purchase wireless electronic equipment** so teams could show the JESUS film DVD, in areas without electricity, to people who had never seen a movie before. Helped fund the translation of a new language for the JESUS Film.
- **Special Designated Funds went to Brother Jacob in India** for use in his ministries including the purchase of school supplies, food for 6,500 children, and

to purchase bunk beds for children’s dormitories to comply with COVID inspections. During COVID, the government also assigned him to help feed additional people. Funds for equipment for new hospital building.

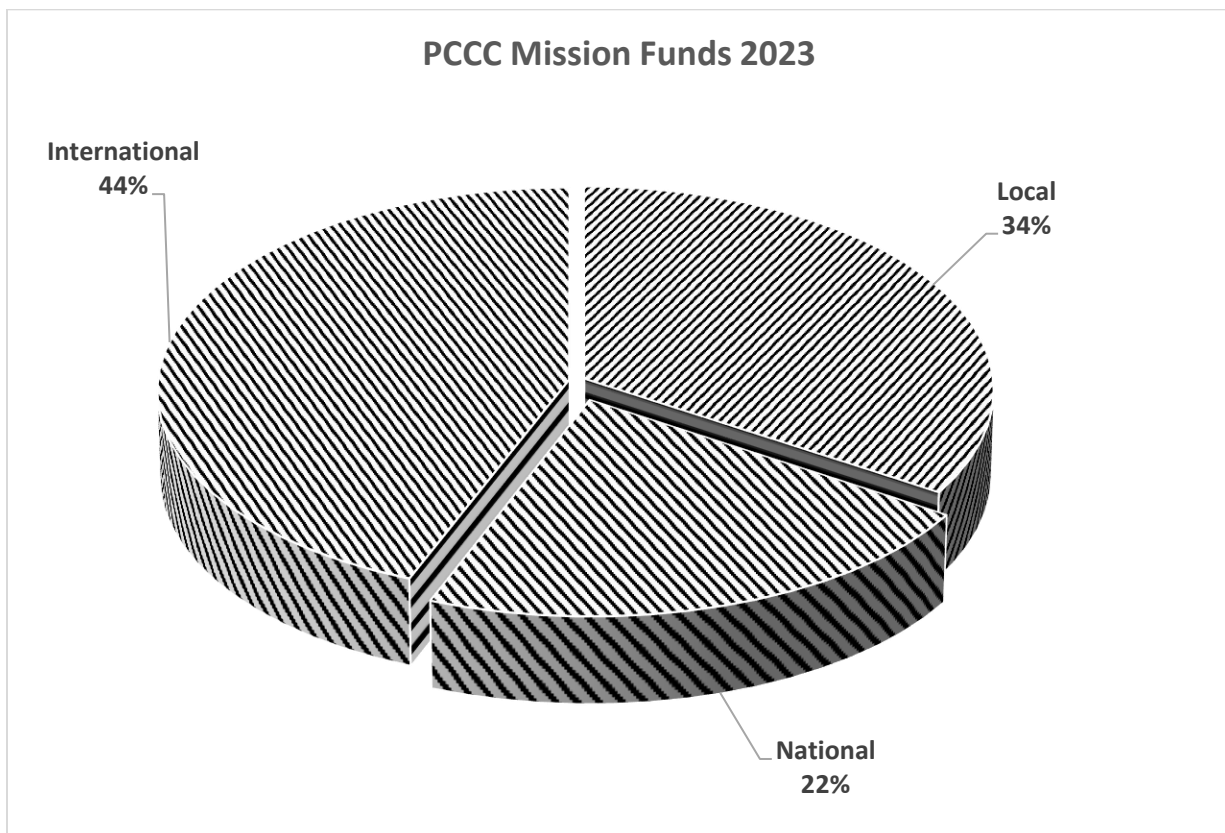
- For **St. Bonaventure Indian Mission** we also sent funds to purchase blankets for the elderly and for the water truck which is the only source of water to many families on the reservation,
- **Pastor Daniel in Uganda** received funds to supply food and school fees for the 30 orphans they became responsible for after COVID.
- **Alaska Christian College** received special designated student scholarship funding and one Arizona student was given scholarship money. This is an annual commitment, and anyone interested in adding to these scholarships is encouraged to contact a Missions Committee member for information.
- **Pastor Elijah – Kenya:** Pastor Elijah received funds to support orphans that the government determined belonged to the church because their parents died and there were no other relatives. Funds for food and school fees were supplied.
- **Katie Rawson – InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** was given support to publish a new booklet on working with students from different cultures. A Retirement gift was given to Katie for her great service to the International Students.
- **Phoenix Rescue Mission** received funds to assist in the renovation of the older building and for special programs to help the homeless by distributing water, sandwiches, and God’s message of love.
- **Our church was blessed with many speakers from our supported Missions in 2023.** Dr. Allan Sawyer from Samaritan’s Purse World Medical Missions; Phoenix Rescue Mission; Eve-A-Douglas, Jamaica; Leanne Leonard, Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank; LeRoy & Sandy Anderson, World Gospel Missions, Southwest Ministries; Bishop Jacob Rise & Shine India Video and many updates.
- **Pebble Creek Community Church members and guests** are to be congratulated for their strong mission support in our community, nation, and around the world. We are following the commands of our Lord to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel” and to share the Love of Christ with our PebbleCreek neighbors.
- **Over \$22,000 was donated by people in the congregation to the various missions we support.** The largest gifts designated by members in 2023 were distributed to the following charities:

Samaritan's Purse - OCC	\$6,605
Maui disaster assistance	\$5,795
AZ Christian College	\$3,600
Agua Fria Food Bank	\$3,600
JOY Brazil camp	\$1,075

Smaller gifts were designated for Pastor Daniel (Uganda), Pastor Elijah (Kenya), and the Jesus Film Project.

Percentage Distribution of Mission funds for the year 2023

- Budgeted Income for Missions = \$ 70,339.00 (25% of Budget)
- 2023 Total Missions Receipts = \$ 92,554.00 (Additional Designated Gifts)
- Total General Fund Contributions for Missions = 32.9%



Worship Committee Report 2023

Chairperson: Phyllice Walton, *Elder Liaison:* Pastor Nate Watkins

Committee Members: Katie Croy, Barb Geiges, Margaret Gillespie, Linda Pardue, Linda Porreca

Objectives

To assist the Pastor in preparing services which enhance the worship of God and deepens our commitment to follow Christ. Our areas of service include:

1. Music Ministry
2. Baptism, Communion Preparation
3. Special Times of Worship: Advent, Christmas, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving
4. Special Emphasis Services: Moments for Mission, Memorial Day, Father's and Mother's Day, Veteran's Day, Operation Christmas Child, Dr. King Observance
5. Banner selection
6. Worship Assistants

Review of the past year: (January 1, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023)

- Selected the weekly Scripture readers
- Prepared Advent Wreath, selected Advent readers
- Purchased and distributed Veteran's Day, Mother's and Father's Day gifts
- Purchased Christmas poinsettias and Easter flowers. Distributed to local assisted living facilities: LaLoma, Robson Reserve, The Groves
- Submitted Worship Committee budget for 2022 to cover expenses for Bulletins, Candles, Flowers, Offering Envelopes, Music Material, and miscellaneous supplies.

