

# JESUS MATTERS

**Annual Report  
2023**



**PARKGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Love God. Love People. Love Now.



## *a letter from our* **LEAD PASTOR**

**Dear Parkgate Family,**

As we begin a new year, I am filled with gratitude and awe for the journey we have been through together in 2023. Putting together this report has reminded me of so many good things God has done in just one year! God is so faithful!

Parkgate has been through a season of transition but has remained faithful through it all. In 2023, we welcomed Shirley Votaw (*Office Manager & Bookkeeper*) and Pastor Daniel Walker (*Students & Young Adults*) to our staff. Shirley has been an invaluable source of help and Pastor Daniel hit the ground running, providing ways to help students follow Christ in every area of their lives. We celebrated 20 years of incredible service from Danette Lawson, who coordinates HeartTouch Ministry and so much more. We're grateful for our three interns. Megan Smith served with KiX in the summer and Michael Spiller served with IMPACT in the fall. They both did excellent work. Kyle Atkins continues to serve very well as our Trellis resident intern.

Our worship services have been a source of inspiration and spiritual nourishment throughout the year. We've witnessed the Holy Spirit move in our midst, drawing us closer to God and strengthening our sense of community. The music ministry and special events have been instrumental in creating a space where we encounter the divine and uplift one another. We currently have 12 LifeGroups and 5 SundayLife Groups.

Our KiX Children's Ministry has continued to flourish, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and leaders. The next generation is being equipped with a strong foundation in faith, and we continue to invest in their spiritual formation through engaging programs, special events, and Christ-centered activities.



Our commitment to serving the community has been constant. Through food distribution (477 bags of food handed out), to serving with Faith Promise partner, The Wheelhouse (10 groups served), to Vacation Bible School (77 kiddos attended) and Family Fall Festival (469 people attended), we have been able to make a positive impact on the lives of those in our community. We helped victims of an earthquake in Turkey, assisted people in cleaning up after a tornado ripped through our city, and gave assistance to our community in various ways. Parkgate has been a beacon of love and compassion, reflecting the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Over the past 18 months, we have collected \$58,926.53 for our church plant endeavor! Praise the Lord!

Looking forward we want to focus on the truth that **Jesus matters** in every situation, question, joy, struggle, and event in our lives. Because Jesus matters so much, the goal of Parkgate is clear: **to know Jesus and make Him known**. This is our vision and answers why we exist as a church.

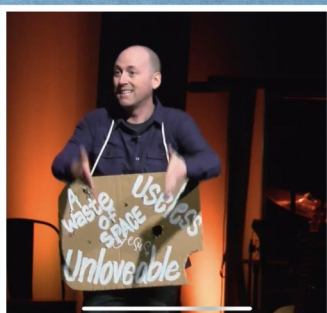
- Why do we have worship services? To know Jesus and make Him known.
- Why do we invest in the next generation? To know Jesus and make Him known.
- Why do we reach and bless our community? To know Jesus and make Him known.

And it's happening. In 2023, Parkgate baptized more people than any year since 2003 with 21 baptisms (our records only go back to 2003). Look how good God is!

As we anticipate the year ahead, let us approach it with a sense of expectancy and hope. Parkgate's vision is rooted in our commitment to glorify God, grow closer to Him, make disciples, and impact our community with the love of Christ. Let us press on, united in purpose and fueled by the Holy Spirit as we strive to fulfill the Great Commission together.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your faithfulness, dedication, and love for one another. May the Lord continue to guide and bless us as we embark on a new year together.

In His Service,  
**Kenneth J. Spiller**



# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

## ATTENDANCE

- Our average worship service attendance was **233 people** each week.

## WORSHIP

- We used **116 songs** and **13 original videos**, as well as some skits, to create an atmosphere of worship during our Sunday morning services.
- There are **23 people** who serve in worship/tech ministry.
- We **upgraded and installed equipment** this year, including speakers, light additions, in-ear monitors, and a new camera.
- **Kyle Atkins** serves as our Resident Intern through the Trellis program. He is exploring all facets of church work, with his main emphasis in worship ministry.

Interested in serving in worship/tech ministry?  
Contact Pastor Kenny at [kboggs@parkgate.org](mailto:kboggs@parkgate.org).

## GUEST SERVICES

- There are **31 people** who serve with Guest Services as greeters/ushers.

Interested in serving with Guest Services?  
Contact the church office.



# SPIRITUAL LIFE

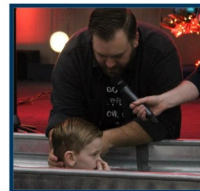
## SERMON SERIES

- Our 2023 theme was **Here on Mission**. Our verse for the year was **Colossians 3:17**: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
- We had **10 different sermon series** this past year, as well as **2 standalone Sundays**. Sermon series included T-Shirt Theology, Plot Twist, and One at a Time, among others.

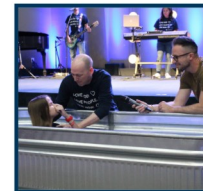


## BAPTISMS

- **21 people** publicly professed faith through Baptism.



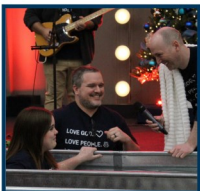
Trey Boggs



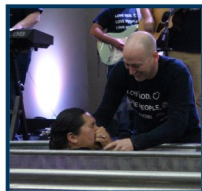
Kendal Boyd



Santos Chavez



Chloe Coleman



Natali De La Garza



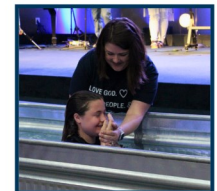
Jacob Finn



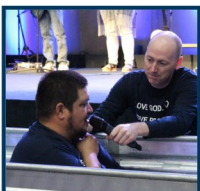
James Finn



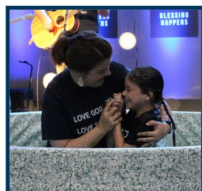
Sebastian Franjul



Aubree Galloway



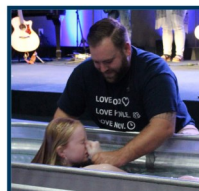
Sergio Garza



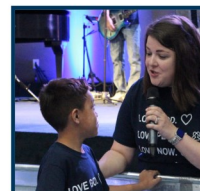
Sophia Garza



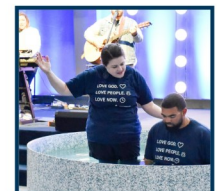
Candace Gordon



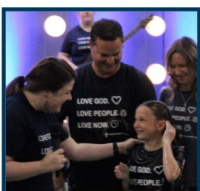
Lexi Gottselig



Francisco Guevara



Xavier Johnson



Annalise Keeney



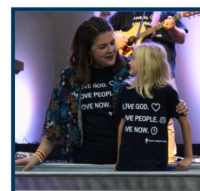
Cherilyn Keeney



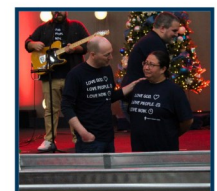
Grace Keeney



Adam Myles



Clare Smith



Evette Vasquez

Interested in baptism? Contact one of our pastors.

# GROUP LIFE

In 2023, Group Life got a rebrand at Parkgate. We call groups that gather on Sunday mornings SundayLife and groups that gather during the week LifeGroups.

## SUNDAYLIFE

- On Sunday mornings, we offered **7 SundayLife groups** over 3 sessions.



## LIFEGROUPS

- In 2023, **66% of our church** was actively involved in one of **12 LifeGroups**.

Interested in getting plugged in to Group Life?  
Contact Pastor Kenny at [kboggs@parkgate.org](mailto:kboggs@parkgate.org).



# MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

- A monthly **Men's Breakfast and Fellowship** continues to meet the second Thursday of the month at Kelley's on Spencer.
- Our December Women's Ornament Exchange was attended by **40+ ladies**.





# IMPACT STUDENT MINISTRY

## WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

- **26 students** were involved in IMPACT in 2023.
- An average of **14 students** participate in IMPACT on Sunday mornings. An average of **15 students** participate on Wednesday nights.
- IMPACT Students are served by an awesome team of **11 adult leaders**.

## OTHER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- In July, **9 high school students** and **2 adult leaders** traveled to Allen, South Dakota to serve alongside our Faith Promise partners, Tim and Kim Wardell.
- That same month, **5 students** and **2 adult leaders** attended Texas Church of God's Youth Camp. During camp, one student was baptized!
- In October, after over a year of searching, we **welcomed Pastor Daniel Walker** as our new Associate Pastor of Student and Young Adult Ministries. Shortly after, we hosted a Lock-In, with **20 students** in attendance.
- **16 students** attended Dare2Share live. Of those students, **11 committed** to be disciples who make disciples and **3 students** have actively shared the gospel with their friends!
- In December, **17 students** and **6 leaders** attended the IMPACT Christmas Party. **14 students** and **4 adult leaders** attended the Winter Retreat.
- A Donut Hole Fundraiser brought in **\$511** for future trips.
- **Michael Spiller** served as the IMPACT Intern for the fall semester and was a great asset to the ministry!

Interested in serving in IMPACT?

Contact Pastor Daniel at [dwalker@parkgate.org](mailto:dwalker@parkgate.org).







# KiX CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY

- KiX Ministries welcomed **225 different kids**, including **5 new families**, who are now regularly worshipping with us.
- We average **29 kids** on Sunday mornings.
- Our kids continue to **engage God's Word** through hands-on lessons, scripture memorization, games, crafts, and more! This happens for *all* ages of KiX programming - babies included!

## MIDWEEK MINISTRY

- Club KiX welcomed **49 different kids** on Wednesday nights in 2023, with an average attendance of **14 kids**.
- We hosted **4 theme nights**: Valentines Night, Green & Groovy Night, Nature Night, and our Bluey Christmas Party

## OTHER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- **31 adult leaders** serve in KiX, alongside **14 student leaders**.
- **Megan Smith** served as our KiX Summer Intern and did a fantastic job!
- **37 people from 11 families** attended our Easter in Five Letters Family Experience, which was serviced by **12 volunteers**.
- **42 kids** attended Splash Bash, our follow-up to VBS.
- Our KiX YouTube channel now has **over 500 subscribers**.

Interested in serving in KiX Ministry?  
Contact the church office.



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



- We hosted an **original Vacation Bible School, BIG**, in July 2023, where we learned about the life of Joseph. We welcomed **77 kids** to VBS, served by a team of **70 volunteers**.



- On Wednesday night, we had a **giant inflatable obstacle course** to help kids remember to trust God, even when troubles come.



- Our kids were challenged with a dual missions project with a local goal (stocking our Food Pantry) and a global goal (supporting Ukrainian refugees). Our kids brought in **600 canned goods** and raised **\$872.06** for Ukrainian refugee relief!





# FAMILY MINISTRY

## LOST LOVES VALENTINES DINNER

- In February, we hosted the Lost Loves Valentines Dinner. We welcomed **30 widows/widowers** from our church family and the surrounding community.



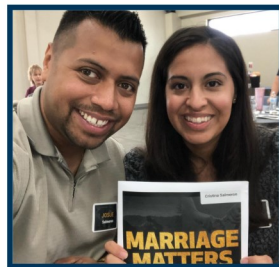
## FISH FRY

- We hosted our annual Fish Fry in March, which was attended by **119 people**, who managed to stay mostly dry during an unexpected downpour mid-event!



## MARRIAGE MATTERS CONFERENCE

- In June, we hosted Marriage Matters, a one day marriage boost, attended by **21 couples**.





## ALL-CHURCH PICNIC & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

- In September, **80 folks** joined us for an indoor picnic and ice cream social!



## FAMILY FALL FEST

- We hosted Family Fall Fest in October, with approximately **469 people** in attendance. The event featured **22 games**, **8 activity areas**, **Kona Ice**, and **over 20 vehicles** for Trunk and Treat!



## COOKIES & CAROLS

- In December, we hosted Cookies & Carols: An Evening of Songs & Sweets for the congregation. A choir composed of **26 young people** led our church in singing Christmas carols. Afterwards, we enjoyed **150 cookies** and a visit from Santa and one of his elves!



Stay informed on these and other upcoming events at  
[parkgate.church/events](http://parkgate.church/events).

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

## FAITH PROMISE

- We budgeted **\$39,000** for Faith Promise in 2023 and brought in **\$55,327**. We hope to give **\$40,000** in 2024. For more information, see the Faith Promise Partners section.
- We welcomed **2 new Faith Promise partners** - the Downing Family, serving as missionaries in Ecuador, and The Wheelhouse in Deer Park.
- Our Missions Team hosted a **Faith Promise Prayer Walk** and a **Faith Promise Dessert Reception**.



## OUTREACH

- Our Food Pantry distributed **477 bags** of food to **213 families** in 2023. **13 families** received a special Thanksgiving meal bag.
- We sent **10 groups** to serve at **The Wheelhouse** during 2023. We also sent a team of **22 people** to serve at **The Bridge** in April.
- **25 people** served the city of Pasadena through Team Up to Clean Up.
- We hosted a food drive for **Sarah's House**, collected various products for **earthquake relief in Turkey**, and helped with **tornado cleanup** in our area.
- We packed **76 shoeboxes** for Operation Christmas Child.



Interested in learning more about Faith Promise or other outreach initiatives?  
Contact the church office.



# SPECIAL DAYS

- Throughout the year, we hosted **3 special midweek worship gatherings**.
- We celebrated the **10 year anniversary** of the merger between Parkgate Community Church and Burke Road Church in March, with an enormous photo mural, a special message from former Pastor Jim Feirtag, and an all-church potluck after service.
- In April, we hosted a **Good Friday Come & Go Prayer Experience**.
- Our Easter services were attended by **347 people**.
- In May, we honored **8 high school graduates**, **1 college graduate**, and **1 grad school graduate** on Graduation Sunday.
- Our August **Soup and Stories** event gave us the opportunity to share how God was working in our lives. We heard stories from across generations.
- We brought out Kona Ice for **Promotion Sunday** in mid-August.
- In November, we hosted a **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** to celebrate and thank all who serve at Parkgate Community Church.
- Our annual **Pastors' Open House** in December was a wonderful time of food and fellowship.
- We had **2 Christmas Eve services** - morning worship and an evening candlelight service.
- We had **4 special photo booths** on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas!

The best way to stay up to date on everything Parkgate is to subscribe to our weekly eNews email.  
Contact the church office to sign up.





# CARING MINISTRIES

## HEARTTOUCH MINISTRY

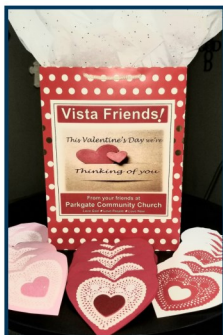
- Our 2023 HeartTouch Ministry was comprised of **26 volunteers** who provided caring ministry to people in our church family who were in the hospital or nursing homes or were homebound for health reasons. Through various forms of outreach, this team reminds these in their times of greatest health vulnerabilities of their immense significance and value to God and to us as a church.
- **38 people** were served on a regular basis by HeartTouch volunteers during the year, plus **numerous others** on short-term bases as new health crises and other related circumstances arose.
- We celebrated **20 years** of incredible service and leadership from **Danette Lawson**, who oversees HeartTouch and our other caring ministries.



## NURSING HOME MINISTRY

- Thanks to our volunteers, our Nursing Home Card Ministry made **12 more monthly deliveries** to Vista Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Pasadena during 2023, bringing at least **100 individual cards of encouragement** each time. This brings the total number of individual cards and gifts to Vista to approximately **5,600** through our **43 monthly deliveries** since the ministry's inception in April 2020.

Interested in serving with our caring ministries?  
Contact Danette at [danettekeylawson@gmail.com](mailto:danettekeylawson@gmail.com).





# ESL MINISTRY

- Our English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry serves **20 students** and **6 children** across **6 classes**.
- ESL is led by Frankie Duenes and a team of **19 volunteers**.

Interested in serving with ESL?  
Contact Frankie at [HisworkNMe2003@yahoo.com](mailto:HisworkNMe2003@yahoo.com).



# OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Truth & Light Ministry provided counseling for **28 families**.
- **Every child and teen** regularly attending Parkgate at the start of the school year was matched with a Postcard Prayer Pal.
- Our building was used by **9 different organizations** in 2023, including Texas Ministries, who hosted their **Recalibrate Conference** here.
- Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center hosted a blood drive. We had **12 successful donations**.
- **Numerous repairs and improvements** were made around the church, including electrical improvements, painted classrooms, siding repairs, and a new toilet!
- Our Facebook page is liked by **868 people** and has over **1000 followers**. We're on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok too — [@parkgatechurch](https://www.instagram.com/parkgatechurch).
- Our online services are regularly watched on YouTube, where we have **239 subscribers**. We average **49 viewers** per week on our service videos. Our most watched sermon of 2023 was the Easter message. Visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/@parkgatechurchtx](https://youtube.com/@parkgatechurchtx).



# FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise is a ministry of Parkgate Community Church that supports 16 other ministries through prayer, mission trips/service opportunities, and financial support.

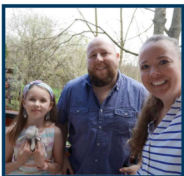
## MISSIONARY PARTNERS

- Each of our missionary partners receives \$5,000 from our Faith Promise pledges.



**Timothy and Angelita Downing** train local leaders and pastors with the Church of God in Ecuador. They have five children: Tim, Esperanza, Ezequiel, Elias, and Adelena.

**Kara Junck** serves with Operation Mobilization in Greece, an organization that runs simulations to encourage believers to get involved with missions.



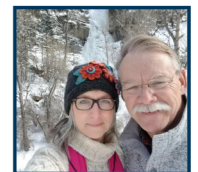
**Daniel and Christy Kihm** minister to churches throughout Europe and the Middle East by training and supporting leaders with the 3 Worlds organization. They have a daughter, Sofie.

**Zach and Audrey Langford** pastor Egan Road Church in North Birkenhead, England. They also work with 3 Worlds. They have two children, Lola and Leo.



**Corey and Abby Stocksdales** are located in Botswana, where they minister locally and with the Children of Promise program. They have three children: Declan, Olivia, and Simeon.

**Tim and Kim Wardell** are the pastors of Pass Creek Church, serving the Lakota community in Allen, South Dakota.



## LOCAL PARTNERS

- Each of our local partners receives \$1,000 from our Faith Promise pledges.



The **Community Pregnancy Center** in Pasadena offers free, confidential and non-judgmental services about pregnancy, parenting, and adoption.



The **Elijah Rising Restorative Care Program (ERRC)** specializes in providing high-quality residential care to women who have experienced sexual exploitation.



**Habitat for Humanity of Pasadena** is committed to a single goal; helping everyone have a decent place to live.

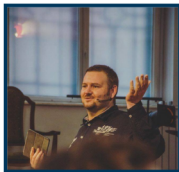
**The Bridge Over Troubled Waters**, known as The Bridge, offers support, provides safety, and works to prevent domestic and sexual violence.



**The Wheelhouse** works to provide a supportive environment and recovery tools where men can free themselves from the grip of alcohol and drug addiction to return to society as functional, useful and responsible members.

## GLOBAL PARTNERS

- Each of our global partners receives \$1,000 from our Faith Promise pledges.



**The Budapest Church** refers to multiple dynamic churches serving in Budapest, Hungary.

**Global Strategy**, a division of Church of God Ministries, walks alongside the local church globally, developing healthy, locally led and sustained churches.



**Grace Horizon** is a community of survivors in Central Indiana supporting each other in the recovery from violence and exploitation, including sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

**Lisa (Van Damme) Albert** has served with YWAM (*Youth with A Mission*) for 23 years. She spent 12 of those years in Myanmar and now resides in Colorado Springs, where she trains leaders with YWAM.



**Pink Door** is a facility that houses women leaving the sex industry, serving Berlin and western Germany.

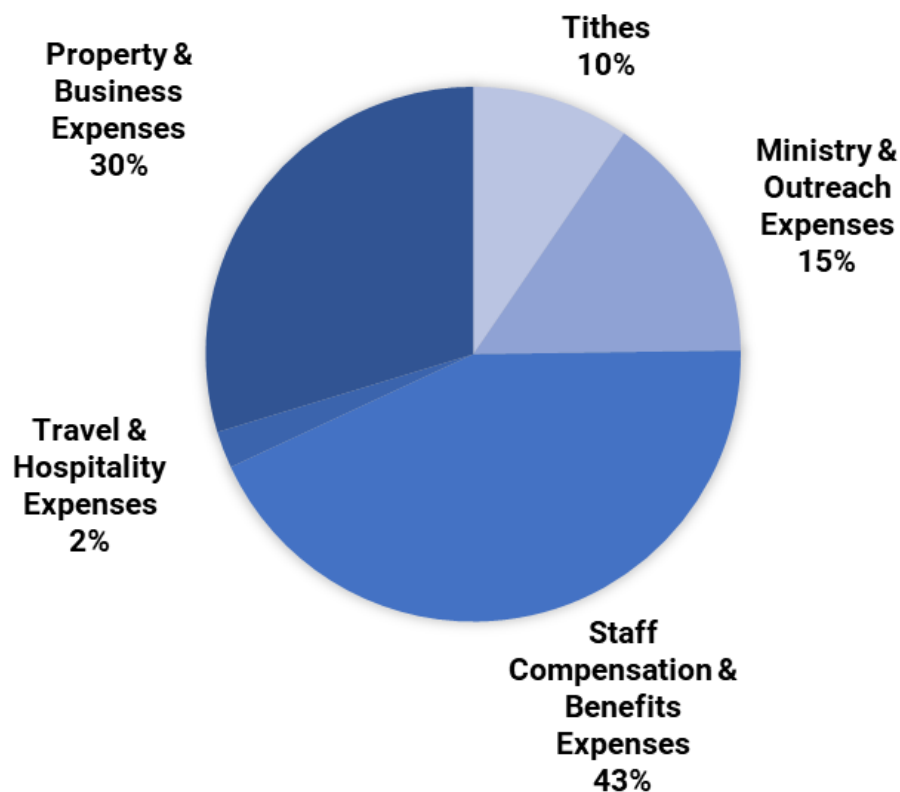
Interested in contributing to our Faith Promise partners?  
Contact the church office.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: FISCAL YEAR 2023

## INCOME & GIVING OVERVIEW

- **GENERAL BUDGET INCOME:** We received **\$625,765.77** from **161 families**. Of these, **24 families** were new givers!
- **FAITH PROMISE INCOME:** We received **\$55,327.00** from **45 families**.
- **TRELLIS INCOME:** We received **\$25,335.00** from **14 families**.
- **SEED THE PLANT CHURCH PLANT INCOME:** We received **\$43,073.62** from **23 families**.

## EXPENSE SUMMARY: FISCAL YEAR 2023



If you would like further budget information, contact Bob Dunn at [treasurer@parkgate.org](mailto:treasurer@parkgate.org).

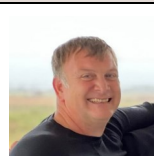


# SAMPLE BALLOT

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

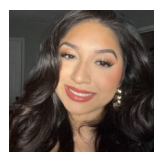
*Updates:* **Ron Elkins** has chosen to end his time on the Leadership Team following one three-year term. **Kim Lawson** has termed out following two consecutive three-year terms.

*Other Current Team Members:* **Adriana Chavez** (2nd term ends 2025), **Frankie Duenes** (1st term ends 2025), **Cristina Salmeron** (1st term ends 2025), **Brandt Smith** (1st term ends 2024), **John Votaw** (1st term ends 2024)



**Bryan Axtell**, 3-Year Term (*1st term*)

[ ] Yes [ ] No



**Elena Mendiola**, 3-Year Term (*1st term*)

[ ] Yes [ ] No

## CORPORATE SECRETARY

*Updates:* **Janet Duncan** has chosen to end her time as Corporate Secretary following one three-year term.

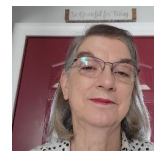


**Shirley Votaw**, 3-Year Term (*1st term*)

[ ] Yes [ ] No

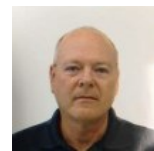
## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

*Other Current Team Members:* **Janet Duncan** (1st term ends 2025), **Bob Dunn** (2nd term ends 2025), **Becky Hicks** (Chair - 2nd term ends 2024), **Steven Keeney** (2nd term ends 2024), **Jeremy Stevenson** (1st term ends 2025)



**Nana McGregor**, 3-Year Term (*2nd term*)

[ ] Yes [ ] No



**Ray Thomas**, 3-Year Term (*2nd term*)

[ ] Yes [ ] No

**APPROVE BUDGET FOR 2024:** [ ] Yes [ ] No