



Celebrating
February 28, 2024
Lisa Heckman

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday we had a great Presbytery Gathering at Linn Pres in Lake Geneva. There was much to celebrate with welcoming a new pastor (Rev. Jeannine Oaks-Daugherty of Northshore PC), hearing from United Church Camps, offering grants and preaching classes from Congregational Vitality, a fun and informative presentation on the work of Habitat for Humanity by Beth Van Gorp (who is also a member of Calvary), 30 Habitat Houses built and over \$1MM given by our congregations and the presbytery, wonderful hospitality and food from the Linn congregation, and a moving worship service by the Heritage PC emphasizing their partnership with UpTogether. Please read the Gathering Highlights for more details.

Something we rarely celebrate is finances and there wasn't an opportunity to do so on Saturday with all the many good things happening. Dave Holle, the Foundation treasurer, noticed and shared with me 2 very positive items that we should add to our celebrations. First, in 2023, Presbytery was budgeted to lose \$2,100 and instead it **gained** \$65,472. That's a phenomenal outcome! I thank God for a blessed fiscal year, even as the presbytery and all of our churches struggle with shrinking budgets. Another reason to celebrate is the 12.83% return on the Foundation's investments. In a year of high interest rates and a stock market that was all over the place, that is a healthy gain on our funds. Dave also attributes these positive earnings to the Foundation's decision in 2022 to switch to The Parks Group at Graystone Consulting; they have made a real difference in our investments' performance. Money isn't a topic we like to discuss in church circles, but we know it's an important resource. That's why I'm glad we can celebrate good stewardship of the monetary gifts of God.

So what is your congregation celebrating these days? Do you have any events coming up that have an outward missional focus or grow your relational ties (aka community dinners) or boost your ministry thru rummage sales and the like? Please let me know so I can join you in person when possible and to lift up in prayer the blessed ways God is working in your lives.

Grace and Peace.

Lisa

~~~~~  
Rev. Lisa S. Heckman  
Transitional Executive Presbyter  
Presbytery of Milwaukee  
[lisa@pbymilwaukee.org](mailto:lisa@pbymilwaukee.org)  
work: 414.292.2743  
cell: 607.321.4581