

# **Annual Report to the Congregation For 2016**



**February, 2017**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Ministers**

The Congregation

**The Church Staff**

Jennifer Creswell, Administrative Manager

Christy Kelly, Administrative Assistant

Steve Mehder, Treasurer

Michael Lancaster, Director of Worship/Music

Angie Jenkins, Organist/Music Coordinator

Marty Rosenfield, Food Coordinator

Kyle Clark, Property Manager

Janice Mathis & Keri Raby, Nursery Attendant

Mozelle Edwards, Judy Mouchet, & Rita Paoletti, Sonshine School Directors

Briana Jenkins, Afterschool Attendant

**Pastor(s)**

Curtis Fussell

Emily Wilmarth

**2016 Session of First Presbyterian Church**

<b>Class of 2016</b>
<i>Ann Greenlee, Mission</i>
<i>Carol Hughes, Congregational Care</i>
<i>Delaine Mehder, Children's Ministry</i>
<i>Claude Sullivan, Clerk of Session</i>

<b>Class of 2017</b>	<b>Class of 2018</b>
<i>Tom Joyner, Vision 20/20</i>	<i>Mike Campbell, Personnel</i>
<i>Chad Lucas, Adult Education</i>	<i>Kat Evans, Worship</i>
<i>Deborah McKnight, Congregational Care</i>	<i>Stewart Manning, Finance</i>
<i>Bob Tietze, Property</i>	<i>Gerri Tulley, Membership</i>



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Dear Church Friends,

As we all know as we get older time seems to go by more quickly. Emily and Curtis note that coming this June 2017, we will have served as your co-pastors for three years! Yes, time flies but what a wonderful flight of three years it has been!

We continue to both explore and settle into our positions as co-pastors. That effort will continue and it's a good endeavor for us and our congregation. We still learn about each other's gifts, and we are still working out how to allow our gifts to thrive in the shared and split work of ministry among you. We continue to schedule preaching every other week as the schedule allows; we do the same with moderating session meetings.

The highlight of this past year for our congregation was this wonderful, exciting, and gracious gift; the birth of Emily and Kevin's first child, their daughter Clara Margot Gates-Wilmarth, on Thursday, October 6, 2016! It's something of a rare event for a congregation to have their pastor become a first-time mother. Such a delightful personal experience for Emily and Kevin, and equally a joyful occasion in which our congregation is glad to share.

We continue to give thanks for the many gifts provided by our church staff – Jennifer Creswell, Kyle Clark, Angie Jenkins, Mike Lancaster, Christy Kelly, Steve Mehder, Marty Rosenfield, and the Sonshine School staff – Mozelle Edwards, Judy Mouchet, Rita Paoletti, and Bri Jenkins. Their dedication and work on behalf of our congregation and community is astounding and humbling. It is a genuine privilege to work with such good, dedicated, and talented people! We offer the same gratitude to the session members of our congregation; these folks live daily into their roles as ruling elders with faith, vision, and commitment. They are unwavering in their love for God and for this church. They seek to serve this congregation with generosity and with intelligence. It is a delight to serve alongside them.

As you read through this booklet, we hope you know that it represents more than words. What these reports present are the experiences of people being touched by the worship, education and mission opportunities provided by our church; people helped by our mission support in the community; people lovingly touched by our congregational care; the invitation of welcome that our physical presence offers for people in Highlands. These gifts are made possible because of joyful and enduring financial giving and by the guidance we seek to be faithful to the calling God has given to us.

We are excited about the healthy way in which First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is moving into its future. Hurdles will confront us in the path ahead, but we have the promise that the Holy Spirit will guide us over and beyond these hurdles as together we move forward as people of faith in Jesus Christ!

With gratitude and joyful anticipation,  
*Emily and Curtis*

## Adult Education Ministry

The Adult Education Ministry Team (AEMT) has worked to strengthen and support the following educational opportunities at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands:

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### Sunday School Classes

- Bible Study – led by Curtis Fussell, this class had an in-depth study of the Book of Acts over the calendar year as well as Galatians.
- Book Review – led by Chad Lucas, the class studied “*We Make the Road by Walking*” by Brian D. McLaren and continues into the New Year with “*The Heart of Christianity*” as authored by Marcus J. Borg.
- The Wired Word – ongoing group discussion inspired by the weekly Wired Word transmission was emailed to the congregation providing personal study and reflection as well.

### Bible Study

**NEW-There are request from members of our congregation to see a comprehensive study of the complete Bible established in a year-long format. We are eager to hear feedback and interest on this topic as we work to shape such a new educational offering. Please contact Curtis or Chad Lucas.**

- The Women’s Evening Study – led by Betty Fisher on Thursdays and the Women’s Morning Study – led by Sally Copeland on Wednesdays as well as the Men’s Breakfast Group on Mondays continued to provide prayer, fellowship and educational opportunities.

### *Beyond the Walls* Book Review

- Tuesday Meetings at the 4PM at the Ugly Dog Pub were well attended and continues to extend fellowship and growth outside of the traditional church setting. Allowing a ‘drop-in’ opportunity for those who are not able to commit to weekly meetings or attend a traditional Sunday school format.

### Pot Luck Dinner Discussions

- Led by Betty Fisher on the last Thursday of each month. This is a revival of a former offering once enjoyed by our church family. Held in Coleman Hall at 6PM we wish to grow this opportunity for fellowship. A good meal seeks to grow our chances to get to know one another as well as offer educational topics with each event.

### Advent & Lenten Study Series

- Season specific studies were held combining individual Sunday School classes for 4-week periods through the Lenten and Advent seasons.

### Mullen Lecture Series

**The Mullen Lecture Series is self-funded and does not draw upon the general funds of the church. It relies on contributions specific to the support of this unique and meaningful extension of our Christian education. Please consider the value of this to our church family and community at large by donating.**

Committee Members are: Curtis Fussell, Sally Copeland, Claude Sullivan, Mac Issacs, and Chad Lucas.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mullen Lecture Series hosted Sharol Haynor, author of *Joy in the Journey*. Sharol delivered a sermon on August 21<sup>st</sup> and a lecture with excerpts from her book on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Mullen Lecture Series 2017 will feature Randall Balmer on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> with our lecture and reception following on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Balmer is the John Phillips Professor in Religion at Dartmouth College where he chairs the Department of Religion. He is an American author and a historian of American religion. He taught at Barnard College and Columbia University for twenty-seven years before moving to Dartmouth College in 2012, where he was named the Mandel Family Professor in the Arts & Sciences. He is also an Episcopal priest ordained in 2006. He earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1985. He was visiting professor at Yale Divinity School from 2004 until 2008. Randall Blamer has written 6 books and was nominated for an Emmy for his script-writing and hosting a PBS documentary, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory", based on his book with the same title.

The Mullen Lecture Series continues to grow in its mission to provide leading thinkers on Christianity a forum to share unique insights with our church fellowship and the entire community of the Highlands-Cashiers plateau.

Educational Publications offered by our Church are:

1. FPCH Newsletter – printed monthly and mailed
2. FPCH Website – info on our entire ministry – services, events, missions and newsletter archives
3. *The Wired Word* – weekly subscription available to all via email
4. *Our Daily Bread* – monthly subscription to these daily devotional guides available throughout the Church and providing a large print format as well as the regular print booklet
5. Library Content – our book offering expands with each Sunday school, book review and speaker offering. All books are available for checkout and use.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chad Lucas  
Chair, Adult Education Ministry Team

## **Children's Education Ministry**

Our children's ministries here at Highlands First Presbyterian continue to be centered around providing services for after-school support, our Sunday nursery and our continued support of the Highlands Community Child Development Center. These services offer much needed support and gives many families in our area a "peace of mind" opportunity" for their children.

Our after-school program continues to support 20 children which is the maximum number that we can accommodate with our current available space. Children are met by their teachers as they get off the bus, just as they would be if they were being met by a parent at home. After a snack and free play, they buckle down to do homework. Dividing the students into two groups in two separate rooms allows two teachers for each group and the ability to give extra time to students who need the help. The day is rounded out with more free play or organized games. Fun and educational programs are a part of our curriculum. The Land Trust brings us science programs with hands on examples of how things work. An artist from the Bascom comes over twice a month to do an art project, again dividing the children into two groups so that the projects can be age appropriate. The first Wednesday of each month is movie day at the Hudson Library with popcorn. This year a children's community choir was formed and we offered those who wanted to participate an opportunity to be a part of the choir. As our mission states, we always strive to offer a structured, but fun program where our children feel comfortable, loved and are taught by word and example how much they are loved by God, encouraged to know and love God and live by his examples.

Our nursery services are available for all services. We are fortunate to have the nursery staffed by a current HCCDC teacher as well as a former HCCDC teacher. For those children whose parents prefer not to use the nursery services but may not be old enough to sit quietly through a service without something to do, there are activity bags placed for pick up at the front of the church.

The Highlands Community Child Development Center which was founded by our church continues to be one of our most important areas of contribution and mission for Highlands and its surrounding area. We are so proud of the outstanding service that it provides for children and their families of the area. Because of the strong financial support of the church and its commitment to maintain its support, many children have an opportunity for care and education that gives them a life changing experience.

We are obligated to have two adults with our children always as required by our insurance company and for the protection of our children and our employees. All people, including volunteers who work with children, are required to take a "Child Safety Policy" course every three years. We take this requirement very seriously just as we do the care and safety of our children.

Respectfully submitted,  
Delaine Mehder  
Chair, Children's Education Ministry Team

## **Congregational Care Ministry**

The Congregational Care Ministry Team executed the following events for 2016.

- 11 - Sunday Congregational Luncheons
- 1 - Ladies Appreciation Luncheon
- 4 - Receptions
  - Angie Jenkins' Anniversary Celebration
  - Kirkin' Celebration
  - Emily and Kevin's Baby Shower
  - Community Christmas Concert
- 2 - Dinners
  - Maundy Thursday
  - Baccalaureate
- 5 - Funerals
  - Lamb
  - Greenlee
  - Beatty
  - Bauknight
  - Spruill

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah McKnight & Carol Hughes  
Co-Chairs, Congregational Care Ministry Team

## Membership & Outreach Ministry

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Membership Roles received thirteen new full members in 2016. Three moved from affiliate membership to full time, nine were received as full time members by *Certificate of Transfer* and one joined by *Affirmation of Faith* We rejoice their membership. Our affiliated Membership Rolls received twelve new members.

We Rejoice...

*New Members and Affiliate Members Joined with us...*

Gail & Don Carpenter, Kay & James Cook, Barb & Rob Daivs, Lamira & Cary Fondren, Dot & Bill Lewis, Judy & Bill Maner, Carole Marotti, Scott McDuff, Stella & Dave O'Harra, Nancy & Tony Moye, Pam & Bill Peacock, Betsy Phillips, Donna Philips, Karen & John Sullivan and Garrett Whipkey.

And Remember....

*Necrology...*

Ruth Bumgardner, Ed Dierich, Beth Greenelee, Katherine Kaiser, Martha Lamb, Allen Lewis, Phil Leabo, Ina Rodgers, Martha Spruill and Penny Zellner.

In 2016, three infant & child baptisms took place. On March 6, 2016, Edward McKnight Brown, son of Alice and McKnight Brown received the Sacrament of Baptism. On September 25, 2016 Emma Davis Cramer, daughter of Kate & Evan Cramer and granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Lee W. Bowman received the Sacrament of Baptism. On December 24, 2016, Elouise Helena Sioui, daughter of Shirley Elouise Minton & Adam Carter Sioui, granddaughter of Misty & Michael Minton received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Also, a hearty thanks to all our church membership family who made our church the warm, friendly place that it is. Many new members have said that joining First Presbyterian is very much like coming home.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerri Tulley  
Chair, Membership & Outreach Ministry Team

## Mission Ministry

### Mission Committee members for the year 2016:

Sally Copeland, *Congregation Women of the Church, Little Children of the World*

Mary Ann Creswell, *Highlands Emergency Council, Food for Fuel*

Barbara Landwehr, *Fishes and Loaves (TEAFAP), Empty Bowls*

Delaine Mehder, *Sonshine School, HCCDC*

Hillrie Quin, *Bolivian Mission*

Mary Ann Sloan, *Macon County, Mission Secretary*

Bob Tietze, *Gideon's, International Friendship Center, and Literacy Council*

### The budget for Mission's year 2016 was \$196,000. Listed below are the local and Western NC organizations that we could fund:

Blue Ridge Dental	\$13,000	Community Care Clinic	\$ 13,000
Bascom	\$ 2,500	Relay	\$ 250
4 Seasons Hospice	\$ 2,000	Reach	\$ 1,500
HCCDC	\$46,000	HEC	\$ 10,000
Int. Friendship Center	\$15,000	Literacy Council	\$ 4,000

Camp Grier	\$ 500
Black Mountain Children	\$ 1,000
Rathburn Center	\$ 1,000
Unified Giving (Presbytery)	\$30,000
Counseling/Pshyco Therapy at the Crosby Center	\$ 2,000
UKIRK Ministry WNC	\$ 2,000
Children's Hope Alliance	\$ 5,000
Big Brother/Big Sister	\$ 1,000
PTO Highlands	\$ 500

In September and October, we held two successful fund raisers, one for HEC (winter fuel help), and Empty Bowls (Food Pantry). The HEC luncheon brought in \$6,930 and the Empty Bowls brought in \$8,915.

In our Local Assistance, we helped 3 families in need, and thanks to Marty we served 4 Community Dinners and helped with the Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

The Missions committee sent money thru Presbytery for helping those in need to Southern Conference Hurricane Matthew Disaster Relief Fund (\$500), N.C. Eastern Flooding (\$3,725) and the Fires in Tennessee (\$4,900).

### National and International Programs were allotted \$6,500:

Medical Benevolence	\$ 2,000
Little Children of the World	\$ 4,000
Gideon's	\$ 500
Living Waters	\$23,538

**Note: The money used this year for Living waters came from the restricted account that had been set up when we began this mission. None of the money used came from the 2016-year budget.**

**Missionaries:**

The First Presbyterian Church of Highlands supports our Missionaries thru Presbytery of WNC and our allotment was \$7,000. These Missionaries are John McCall Taiwan, Barbara Nagy, Malawi, Chenoa Stock, Bolivia and Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer, Guatemala. You can read more about our Missionaries at [PCUSA.org/missionconnections](http://PCUSA.org/missionconnections).

The Mission Ministry Team thanks you the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church for the generous support to our community and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Greenlee  
Chair, Mission Ministry Team

## **Personnel Ministry**

- The Personnel Ministry Team members for 2016 consisted of:
  - Mike Campbell, *chair*, Claude Sullivan, Delaine Langston, Emily Wilmarth, Curtis Fussell, and Jennifer Creswell.
- The Personnel Ministry Team in 2016 found no need to make any material or substantive changes as relates to Personnel.
- In 2015 a comprehensive and through review of all the Policies and Procedures was made by the Personnel Ministry Team, under the very capable leadership of Obie Oakley, including a review of the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual, Church policy on budgeting for staff and review of the PCUSA publication guidelines for Session Personnel committees. Per this review the policies for 2016 remain unchanged.
- In 2016 we were reminded, as we always we are, how blessed we are with a wonderful staff. It is remarkable how much is done by so few.
  - We started the year with a vacancy in the Food Coordinator position. In less than two weeks, we added Marty Rosenfield to the team, highly regarded in the community as an expert in food services.
  - We also started the year with a vacancy in the Admirative Assistant position reporting to the Administrative Manager, Jennifer Creswell. For a variety of reasons, including budgetary, this position remained open for much of the year. During that time, Jennifer stepped up and did the work of two people. In September, we decided to fill the position, adding Christy Kelly to the team. Christy brings to the team a wealth of administrative experience including experience in church administration.

- In June 2016, we also had the honor of celebrating the remarkable and exceptional service of Angie Jenkins to our church who has served our church over forty years as church organist.
- Also in the summer of 2016, our Director of Music and Worship, Dr. Michael Lancaster took on the additional responsibilities of bell choir director of the Sacred Sounds Handbell Choir.
- A report on 2016 church personnel could not be made without a special shout out of thanks to Kyle Clark who ably oversaw the extensive and complex repairs on the terrace.
- The Sonshine School staff are so devoted to the children of our after-school ministry. We're thankful to Mozelle, Rita, Judy, and Bri for their dedication to the children of our community. Without the Sonshine School, parents have trouble filling the gap between the end of the school day and the end of their work day. Our staff provides great care, fun, homework help, as well as welcoming outside opportunities for the students to grow. Thanks for all you do!
- Finally, of course, a special word on our co-pastors. We are exceptionally thankful for their leadership, inspiration and guidance in fulfilling our church mission, *to know Christ and to be committed disciples in God's kingdom here on earth.*

Respectfully submitted,  
 Mike Campbell  
 Elder for Personnel Ministry Team

## **Property Ministry**

- The terrace project is finished.
- One ac/heater unit replaced.
- 2017 projects: Removal of one dead hemlock and an expansion of outside irrigation lines.
- Many thanks to Kyle Clark for making my job so easy.
- Thanks to Duncan for yardwork and flowers.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bob Tietze  
 Chair, Property Ministry Team

## **Stewardship and Finance Ministry**

The financial position of the church continues to be solid. We ended the year with liquid assets (bank account, and invested accounts), of \$1,882,000. This is reduced from the beginning of the year's balance of \$2,031,000. The reduction is due largely to the cost of the repair of the upper deck, attached to Coleman Hall funded through the Building Fund invested account.

The Operational Income/Expenses finished the year with only a very small deficit of \$1,000, against a projected budgeted deficit of \$36,000. Contributions finished basically equal to the projected income budget. With the exception of the repairs, mentioned above, there were no noticeable variances against budgets. The repair expenses were funded by invested funds, set aside in the Building Fund.

The Operating Budget for 2017 shows projected income of \$818,000 vs \$811,000 for 2016. Projected expenses for 2017 are \$838,000 vs \$848,000 for the prior year. This results in projected net 2017 deficit of \$20,000, compared to \$36,000 in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team

## 2016 Financial Information with 2017 Budget

	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET VS ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET
<b>INCOME:</b>				
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Plate	175,000	189,249	14,249	180,000
Pledges	560,000	544,385	(15,615)	565,000
Property Rental Income Totals	6,295	10,337	4,042	6,295
Personnel Committee Totals	31,275	5,653	(25,622)	17,275
Worship Committee Totals	4,000	3,085	(915)	4,000
Music Committee Totals	8,000	22,196	14,196	9,500
Adult Education Totals	250	666	416	400
Children's Ministry Totals	13,500	11,964	(1,536)	13,300
Congregational Care	-	609	609	900
Missions Totals	13,000	33,756	20,756	11,000
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>811,320</b>	<b>821,900</b>	<b>10,580</b>	<b>807,670</b>
<b>Income from Deferred Revenue</b>	-	156,959	156,959	
<b>Total Other Income</b>		32,909	32,909	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>811,320</b>	<b>1,011,768</b>	<b>200,448</b>	<b>817,670</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>				
<b>Operating Expense</b>				
Total Salaries and Wages	491,952	481,410	10,542	515,552
Total Worship	9,698	8,430	1,268	10,098
Total Music	24,901	35,441	(10,540)	21,450
Total Adult Christian Education	2,911	791	2,120	1,408
Total Children's Ministry	2,500	977	1,523	2,200
Total Congregational Care	8,900	8,348	552	9,900
Total Membership & Outreach	900	450	450	900
Total Stewardship and Finance	3,610	2,716	894	4,758
Total Missions	196,000	204,542	(8,542)	166,000
Total Property	89,368	86,144	3,224	88,800
Total Administration	16,880	25,760	(8,880)	17,100
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>847,620</b>	<b>855,009</b>	<b>(7,389)</b>	<b>838,166</b>
<b>Total Abnormal/Non-recurring Expense</b>	-	157,598	(157,598)	
<b>Total Other Expense</b>		415	(415)	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>847,620</b>	<b>1,013,022</b>	<b>(165,402)</b>	<b>838,166</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(36,300)</b>	<b>(1,254)</b>	<b>35,046</b>	<b>(20,496)</b>

## **Worship & Music Ministry**

The Worship committee met December 13 for a final time in 2016. The arrangements for all the Christmas holidays were discussed. The committees gave their reports.

### **Flower Committee**

Most of the flower calendar was filled for the year after April. Using the prayer plants for Sundays when there are no arrangements is a big savings. With Jill being out of town it has been difficult to coordinate a “flower arrangement” committee.

### **Ushers and Greeters**

In Don Fisher’s absence, this fall, Bill Peacock has done a spectacular job organizing greeters and ushers for all the services and events. His great enthusiasm and commitment to service has made an impact. I am very grateful for all his help. Having the Elder of the Month help with greeters is really working well.

### **Name Tags**

Betty’s tireless attention to detail makes it easy to speak to people using their name. It is wonderful to address a guest or member by name when Passing the Peace and giving communion. We should always try to have someone cover name tags at the Church St. entrance.

### **Outreach**

Gerri has done a fantastic job holding new member classes. We need to revisit pew outreach brochures in 2017. It would be helpful if committees had an idea of what new members are interested in, for example flower arranging.

### **The Sound Committee – from Skip Taylor**

The sound committee is adding a new member. Scott McDuff, who recently joined the church, has been training with several existing committee members over the past few Sundays to learn and master operation of the system. He will take over my duties on the third Sunday of each month. I will be resigning from the committee at the end of December as MaryAnn and I are relocating to Tryon, NC in January.

I have asked Pat Mulherin to take over heading up the committee, and he is considering it. Another good candidate would be Kevin Gates. They would both have the time and knowledge.

We are currently experiencing some issues with the sound system – specifically some feedback. I have talked with Pat and Kyle about this and we are investigating. Initial efforts to track down the issue seem to indicate that one of the choir mics may be the problem. As of this past weekend, it appears to be causing feedback at normal sound levels (the same settings that have been used for the last two years). While we replaced the sound board, the sanctuary speakers and choir monitor, and have added a couple of new stand mics (for

concerts such as the Christmas Chorale) in the last several years, the choir mics date back quite some time. They are the mics that are suspended over the choir loft. They are at least 10, if not 15, years old.

Kyle and I will do some further investigation in the coming week to try to isolate the problem and find a solution. In the meantime, we have significantly reduced the volume level on these mics, which seems to have eliminated the problem for now.

The Coleman Hall audio/visual system performed well this past weekend. About two dozen people watched the performance of the Community Christian Chorale in Coleman Hall. And while it was not the same experience as being in the main sanctuary, it seemed to be acceptable per those I spoke with.

The sound committee received a request on Sunday to provide an operator for the Community Children's Choir concert in the church next Sunday. We are trying to work that out.

Respectively submitted,  
Skip Taylor  
Chairperson (Subcommittee of Worship Ministry Team)

#### **The Music Committee – from Stell Huie**

Deepest gratitude is extended to Bill and Fran Matthews for providing generous funding each year which enables us to feature numerous guest musicians to enhance our worship services.

The Chancel Choir was thrilled to welcome new members in 2016: Celia McCullough, Frances O. Jay, Riley Jay, Frances R. Jay, Eileen Moorman, and Kay Callaghan. We were sorry to lose long-time choir members Pud Brogan and MaryAnn Sloan who both moved away.

Mike Lancaster agreed to assume responsibility for directing Sacred Sounds Handbell Choir in early summer following Donna Philips' retirement.

Our 1960's Steinway piano underwent major repairs this year. The piano is worth approximately \$100,000, and we had not had any major work done to it since acquiring it in 2004. The Music Committee is very grateful to Larry & Nancy Fuller for underwriting this expense. Thanks also to Larry & Nancy for underwriting the cost of routine tunings for the pipe organ and the sanctuary piano.

The Chancel Choir took a well-deserved break during the month of January.

On Palm Sunday, the Chancel Choir presented a service of special music and readings with featured guest musician Linda Lancaster, flutist.

On Easter Sunday, a brass quintet & timpani accompanied the service music.

On Saturday May 7, British Composer Philip Stopford led an all-day Choral Workshop with a concert following- 37 singers participated from our church and other area churches. Mr. Stopford's fee was underwritten by Nan Hunter. Singers were provided with a light meal in Coleman Hall prior to the evening concert. Mr. Stopford also participated in the May 8 worship service.

First Presbyterian Church hosted the Highlands High School Baccalaureate Service on Sunday afternoon, May 22, with Angie providing organ accompaniment.

On Sunday, June 12, Angie Jenkins was recognized during the morning worship service and at a reception following for having served as organist at First Presbyterian Church for 40 years. She was presented with a proclamation from Mayor Pat Taylor which states that she is the longest tenured organist in the history of Highlands First Presbyterian Church or of any church in the history of Highlands, NC.

Angie attended the Montreat Worship/Music Conference June 19-26.

The annual July 4 Patriotic Concert featuring Highlands Male Chorus attracted a full house as usual, with overflow crowds being seated in Coleman Hall.

Coro Vocati, a volunteer vocal ensemble consisting of professional musicians from Atlanta, held a retreat at First Presbyterian Church July 8-10. The group presented a concert on Saturday, July 9, and sang during the Sunday, July 10 worship service.

Our series of Interlude concerts co-sponsored by the Episcopal Church continued during July & August. One of our four concerts were presented by the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and our church co-sponsored a Children's Concert and Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, July 12.

The Chancel Choir participated in the annual Summer Sing at Highlands First Baptist Church on Sunday evening, Aug. 7.

Following session approval in April, copies of the new Presbyterian Hymnal "Glory to God" were purchased and dedicated to the Glory of God and in honor of Angie Jenkins' 40th anniversary as organist at First Presbyterian Church. The Hymnal dedication took place during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, Aug. 28.

The Music Committee presented a Spirituals Concert at 4pm on Sunday, August 28. Featured were 11 vocalists from the Chancel Choir and guest soprano, Mirna Valerio.

A Western Carolina University Concert was held on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Guest Choirs singing in worship during 2016: The Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School *Gap Singers*; May 1, & Oct. 2, Coro Vocati, July 10; Highlands Male Chorus; Aug. 14; and Pebblebrook School's *Phoenix Ensemble*, September 4.

The Pebblebrook School Phoenix Vocal Ensemble held a retreat at our church on Sept. 3-4.

Bluegrass Groups were featured in worship on June 19 and Oct. 16. Many thanks to Ray & Diane McPhail for underwriting these.

Numerous guest musicians were featured at 8:30 & 11:00 worship services throughout the year.

Old-fashioned Hymn Sings were held for the community on Sundays, May 1 and October 23.

The annual Christmas Carol Sing was held on Saturday, December 3 following the town Christmas Parade.

On Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11, our church hosted the Highlands Community Christian Chorale Concerts, accompanied by a 16- piece professional orchestra. Mike Lancaster served as conductor and conducted weekly rehearsals in our church's sanctuary beginning in early September. Forty-eight area singers participated, including 13 from our church.

At 3pm on Sunday, December 4, the Music Committee hosted a recital featuring Concert Organist Dr. Jack Jones. This event was sponsored by the Arts Council of Macon County.

At 3:30pm on Sunday, December 18, our church hosted the Highlands-Cashiers Children's Choir Concert. Delaine Mehder, Elder over Children's Ministries was instrumental in making this happen.

On Sunday, December 18, the Chancel Choir presented Lessons & Carols at the 11am worship service with guest musicians Linda Lancaster, flutist; Emily Scheider, oboist, and Valerie Whitcup, harpist.

Our student Choir Interns from Western Carolina University continue to greatly enhance our worship services.

All the musical offerings included in this report are made possible by the hard work, dedication to the church and the remarkable organizational skill of Angie Jenkins. She makes the work of this chair an easy task.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stell Huie  
Chair, Music Committee (Subcommittee of the Worship Ministry Team)

The Worship Committee will meet on the following dates in 2017 at 5:00 PM on the **Second Monday** of the following months:

- February 13
- April 10
- June 12
- August 14
- October 9
- December 11

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kat Evans  
Chair, Worship & Music Ministry Team