

# **Annual Report to the Congregation For 2017**



**January 21, 2018**

**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

Ana Reyes, Nursery Attendant

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

Briana Jenkins, Afterschool Attendant

**Pastor(s)**

Curtis Fussell

Emily Wilmarth

**2017 Session of First Presbyterian Church**

<b>Class of 2017</b>
<i>Tom Joyner, Vision 20/20</i>
<i>Chad Lucas, Adult Education</i>
<i>Deborah McKnight, Congregational Care</i>
<i>Bob Tietze, Property</i>

<b>Class of 2018</b>	<b>Class of 2019</b>
<i>Mike Campbell, Personnel</i>	<i>Kay Holland, Children's Ministry</i>
<i>Kat Evans, Worship</i>	<i>Carol Hughes, Congregational Care</i>
<i>Teeter Smith, Finance</i>	<i>Delaine Langston, Clerk of Session</i>
<i>Gerri Tulley, Membership</i>	<i>Donna Philips, Membership</i>



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Dear Church Friends,

If there is one word that encapsulates 2017 from our perspective, *generosity* is it. As we look back over the year, we recognize how the generosity of our congregation, our church friends, our staff, and our leaders has shaped our ministry together.

We are grateful for the time, imagination, energy, and love that our session members have given to the various ministry areas. These leaders are “yes” people, leading with enthusiasm and openheartedness. At the same time, they are careful to listen and express a diversity of views and opinions. We spent several months working together to revise our Vision 20/20 statement this year. Ultimately, the session has affirmed our mission while refining it slightly. Our revisions aim to keep before us the on-going mission of becoming the body of Jesus Christ in Highlands for this time.

Our staff also continues to serve Jesus Christ and our church with a level of dedication that makes coming to work each day a joy. We give thanks for the gifts of Jennifer Creswell, Kyle Clark, Angie Jenkins, Mike Lancaster, Christy Kelly, Steve Mehder, Marty Rosenfield, and the Sonshine School staff – Mozelle Edwards, Judy Mouchet, and Bri Jenkins.

As the storms of the fall began to devastate our friends and neighbors in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, our Mission Ministry Team asked us each to reach out with additional resources to help in the immediate recovery. The congregation was generous, and we were able to send funds to these suffering regions via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We hope to participate in hands-on assistance in the coming year, and we will keep you informed of any plans for work trips as the way becomes clear.

As we grieved the death of several dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we were able to also give thanks for their generosity of spirit and the gifts they brought to the church. We miss their presence with us, and we remember the ways each one contributed to our journey together for the glory of God. In the same way, as we look at those who have joined this family of faith in the last year, we are delighted by the ways each one has become woven into our fabric, bringing their individual gifts for service, fellowship, education, and growth.

We hope you find this report encouraging and nurturing as you reflect on the ways your faith is fed at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands!

With peace and love,  
Emily and Curtis

## Adult Education Ministry

The Adult Education Ministry Team (AEMT) for 2017 has supported the following educational opportunities at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands:

### Adult Education Classes

- Bible Study – led by Curtis Fussell, this class had an in-depth study of the Book of Acts and the Book of Galatians over the calendar year.
- Book Review – this class was discontinued due to the class facilitator being ill.
- The Wired Word – this casual meeting group was also discontinued due to leadership absence with the relocation of Skip Taylor and personal health issues with other key attendees.

### Bible Study

- The Women's Evening Study led by Betty Fisher on Thursday evenings, the Women's Morning Study led by Sally Copeland on Wednesday mornings, as well as the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Monday mornings continued to provide prayer, fellowship and educational opportunities.

### *Beyond the Walls* Book Review

- Tuesday Meetings at 4Pm at the Ugly Dog were well attended. This opportunity continues to extend fellowship and growth outside 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.

### 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: Don Mullen, Curtis Fussell, Sally Copeland, Claude Sullivan, Mac Isaacs, and Chad Lucas.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mullen Lecture Series featured Randall Balmer preaching on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. A lecture and reception followed on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> titled *His Own Received Him Not: Jimmy Carter, the Religious Right and the Crisis of Authority in America*. 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 six 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 large print format as well as the regular printed booklet.
5. Library Content – our book offering expands with each Adult Education class, book review and speaker offering. All are available for checkout and use.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chad Lucas  
Chair, Adult Education Ministry Team

## **Children’s Education Ministry**

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands provides support for many families in the community. Our programs include the Sunshine School, Sunday Nursery care, and continued support of Highlands Community Child Development Center.

The Sunshine School “after school” program accommodates 20 students from Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade in a wholesome atmosphere led by teachers with extensive backgrounds. They greet the school bus, monitor free play, serve refreshments, tutor homework, and organize stimulating educational programs, as well as extracurricular activities. We are fortunate to be recipients of entertaining science programs from The Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, art activities from The Bascom Art Center, and movies at the Hudson Library. This year we initiated a music program with Angie Jenkins, funded by Bel Canto, which has been a welcome addition to our itinerary.

Nursery Care is provided for the 11:00am service each week throughout the year. Special programs are incorporated in the Easter and Christmas services and an activity bag is placed at the entrances for those who wish to attend services.

The Highlands Community Child Development Center, founded by our church, administers an outstanding program for families in Highlands and the surrounding area. With strong financial support, we take pride in the level of care given by this exceptional staff. Opportunities for growth and life changing experiences are given that are not readily available to these children elsewhere.

The church mission statement requires a structured program, where children are nurtured in admonition and love of God through word and example. We are charged to have two adults, who have taken the Child Safety Course to attend students always. This is a provision of our insurance policy, which we take as seriously as the ultimate care and safety of our children.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Holland  
Chair, Children's Education Ministry Team

## **Congregational Care Ministry**

Monthly Luncheon/Kitchen Operation's committee served approximately 1,138 throughout the year. December's luncheon was cancelled due to weather.

\$2,246 was collected from fellowship donations to go towards the cost of the monthly luncheons.

Memorial Receptions for 2017 were as follows:

- Katherine Kaiser - April 2017
- Madeline Huie - April 2017
- Nancy Cox - May 2017
- Don Carpenter - November 2017
- William Creswell - December 2017

The Member Care Committee sent birthday cards to church members, sympathy cards and food/flowers for church members who had family deaths or experiencing an illness.

Pictorial Church Directory updated in August 2017.

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

## Membership & Outreach Ministry

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands received 18 new members in 2017. Nine were received as full-time members by Certificate of Transfer. Seven were received by Reaffirmation of Faith. Two persons joined as Affiliate members.

We Rejoice...

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

Buffy Anderson, Kay Callaghan, Keith Crawford, Anna Griffin, David Hicks, Frances Hicks, Linda Lancaster, Michael Lancaster, Katherine Lancaster, Jimmy Langham, Mary Langham, Carol Parlato, Cheryl Parlato, Ken Proctor, Jim Tamplin, Suzy Tamplin, Brenda Woodward, and Butch Woodward.

And Remember....

*Necrology...*

Sandra Bethea, Pud Brogan, Janet Connell, Don Carpenter, Nancy Chandler, Bill Cochran, Mattie Crawford, Nancy Cox, William Creswell, Elizabeth Eberhart, Madaline Huie, David Lacy, Marian Russell, George Thomas, and Veronica Vogt.

In 2017, four infant & child baptisms took place. On April 23, 2017 Carter McKinney Shaw, daughter of Suzanne and David Shaw, received the Sacrament of Baptism. On May 7, 2017 Callaway Quinn Rector, daughter of Brittany and Dan Rector, received the Sacrament of Baptism. On June 11, 2017, Clara Margot Gates-Wilmarth, daughter of Rev. Emily Wilmarth and Kevin Gates, received the Sacrament of Baptism. On October 8, 2017 Elizabeth DeNeale Brown, daughter of Alice and McKnight Brown, received the Sacrament of Baptism.

With permission from the Session, this committee chair was able to have installed in the sanctuary nine inspirational and beautiful photographs of an exhibit called *The Good Books...The Katrina Bibles*. An explanatory brochure was available at both entrance doors to the sanctuary so that worshippers and weekday visitors could learn more about the photographer and collectors. The exhibit was on display from the end of April until before Thanksgiving.

Another project organized as part of the Membership Outreach was a summer chorus, The Carolina Women's Chorale. Singers joined from Franklin, Cullowhee, Cashiers, Sylvia and Highlands. The singers performed in worship and presented a concert in our church at the end of August.

Our church membership is to be heartily thanked for their warm welcome of visitors. Many new members have proclaimed that joining our church is like coming home.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Philips  
Chair, Membership & Outreach Ministry Team



## Mission Ministry

### Mission Team Members for the Year 2017:

Sally Copeland, Ann Greenlee, Carol Hughes, Barbara Landwehr, Chad Lucas, Scottie Scott, Claude Sullivan, Emily Wilmarth

### Mission Ministry Budget 2016 Totaled 166,000.00. Listed below is a breakdown of that Funding:

#### **Local and Western NC organizations:**

Blue Ridge Dental Clinic	\$9,000.00
Community Care Clinic	\$9,000.00
HCCDC	\$39,000.00
Highlands Emergency Council	\$9,000.00
International Friendship Center	\$15,000.00
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$1,500.00
Black Mountain Children's Home	\$1,500.00
Children's Hope Alliance	\$4,000.00
Counseling Center	\$2,000.00
Four Seasons Hospice	\$3,000.00
Literary Council	\$3,500.00
Reach	\$1,500.00
PTO Highlands	\$500.00
UKIRK of WCU	\$2,000.00
Rathbun House	\$1,000.00

In September and October, we held two successful fundraisers. Food for Fuel to support the Highlands Emergency Council brought in \$6,860.00. Empty Bowls to support the Food Pantry brought in \$9,770.00.

In our local assistance, we helped 3 families/ individuals in need for gas, utilities, and food. We also donated to the fund for a local police officer and family who lost their home in Hurricane Irma. We served 4 Community Dinners and assisted with the Thanksgiving Community Dinner with the help of Marty Rosenfield.

The church held a free will giving campaign in which the generous congregational response funded \$9,000.00 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for relief efforts following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The Mission Ministry also budgeted \$2,000.00 to Global Giving, following Hurricane Maria and \$2,000.00 to PDA in support to South Sudan.

#### **National/ International Opportunity**

Gideon's	\$500.00
Little Children of the World	\$4,000.00
Living Waters (restricted acct.)	\$14,053.00
Medical Benevolence	\$2,000.00

***Missionaries/Presbytery of WNC***

Unified Giving	\$20,000.00
Camp Grier	\$1,000.00
John McCall, Taiwan	\$1,750.00
Brian and Sandy Thompson-Royer , Guatemala	\$1,750.00
Amanda Craft and Omar Chan, Mexico/Guatemala	\$1,750.00
Barbara Nagy, Malawi	\$1,750.00

The church was pleased to host Barbara Nagy last February for a Mission update before her retirement.

The Mission Ministry Team would like to thank the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for their generous support which allows our church to serve the community and beyond in their needs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerri Tulley  
Chair, Mission Ministry Team

## Personnel Ministry

- The Personnel Ministry Team members for 2017 consisted of:
  - Mike Campbell, chair, Claude Sullivan, Delaine Langston, Emily Wilmarth, Curtis Fussell, and Jennifer Creswell.
- The Personnel Ministry Team in 2017 found no need to make any material or substantive changes as relates to Personnel.
- Further, this has been a very quiet year, and from a human resource standpoint, a wonderful year. There have been no staff changes and absolutely no issues to be dealt with.
- The reason for this quiet year, is that we are blessed with a wonderful staff and we were reminded again of that this year. For our new members and those whom may not be familiar, the following are our staff. It is remarkable how much is done by so few:

Kyle Clark, Property Manager  
Jennifer Creswell, Administrative Manager  
Angie Jenkins, Organist/Music Coordinator  
Christy Kelly, Administrative Assistant  
Michael Lancaster, Director of Worship/Music  
Steve Mehder, Church Treasurer  
Ana Reyes, Nursery Attendant  
Marty Rosenfield, Food Coordinator

Mozelle Edwards, Sonshine School Director  
Judy Mouchet, Sonshine School Director  
Rita Paoletti, Sonshine School Director  
Briana Jenkins, Sonshine Assistant

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Campbell  
Elder for Personnel Ministry Team

## **Property Ministry**

The only significant project for this year was the removal of a dead hemlock located between the Sanctuary and OEI. The reason for the loss of the tree could not be ascertained, but it was not due to the woolly adelgid infestation. Our trees are treated for this infestation and monitored by an experienced arborist. Several trees located near the memorial garden were treated this year when I noticed a small infestation in early spring. It is possible that the drought of 2016 may have placed strain on the tree, therefore we expanded the irrigation system along that property line. This area had never had irrigation.

Following the re-waterproofing of the terrace, no leaks have been detected in the offices.

I continue to monitor the condition of the Sanctuary HVAC units. Both compressors have now been replaced as well as several thermo-valves, but do to the age and condition of the copper pipes, we may have no choice but to replace them in the next few years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kyle Clark  
Property Manager

## **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 \$2,330k. This is an increase from the beginning of the year's balance of \$1,961k. The increase is due both from Operational Income/Expenses being kept in line with the budget, and the effect of the increase in the investment market. While the Operational Income/Expenses are expected to remain in line with the budget, there is no assurance that the investment market will rise at the 2017 rate.

The Operational Income/Expenses (Operational Income/Expenses does not include Unrealized Gains/losses from invested funds) finished the year, basically flat, with a very small surplus of \$1k, against a projected budgeted deficit of \$30k. Contributions finished down 4%, or \$ 29k versus budget. The deficit (\$58k) was entirely in pledges, while partially offset with a surplus (\$28k) in non-pledge contributions. As a result of good fiscal management by the Elders, there were no expense variances against budgets.

The Operating Budget for 2018 shows projected income of \$830k vs \$818k for 2017. Projected expenses for 2018 are \$849k vs \$838k for the prior year. This results in projected net 2018 deficit of \$20k, compared to \$20k in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teeter Smith  
Chair, Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team

## 2017 Financial Information with 2018 Budget

	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET VS ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET
<b>INCOME:</b>				
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Plate	180,000	208,319	28,319	190,000
Pledges	565,000	507,426	(57,574)	540,000
Property Rental Income Totals	6,295	14,597	8,302	9,795
Personnel Committee Totals	17,275	7,005	(10,270)	32,275
Worship Committee Totals	4,000	3,175	(825)	3,500
Music Committee Totals	9,500	9,995	495	9,500
Adult Education Totals	400	314	(86)	400
Children's Ministry Totals	13,300	13,300	-	13,300
Congregational Care	900	8,399	7,499	6,000
Missions Totals	11,000	19,063	8,063	5,000
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>807,670</b>	<b>791,593</b>	<b>(16,077)</b>	<b>809,770</b>
<b>Income from Deferred Revenue</b>		4,828	4,828	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>10,000</b>	78,516	68,516	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>817,670</b>	<b>874,937</b>	<b>57,267</b>	<b>829,770</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>				
<b>Operating Expense</b>				
Total Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	515,552	506,429	9,123	518,040
Total Worship	10,098	8,116	1,982	8,823
Total Music	21,450	21,262	188	21,450
Total Adult Christian Education	1,408	907	501	908
Total Children's Ministry	2,200	866	1,334	2,200
Total Congregational Care	9,900	8,117	1,783	10,100
Total Membership & Outreach	900	354	546	900
Total Stewardship and Finance	4,758	4,630	128	2,800
Total Missions	166,000	159,652	6,348	170,000
Total Property	88,800	88,748	52	88,800
Total Administration	17,100	22,077	(4,977)	24,910
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>838,166</b>	<b>821,158</b>	<b>17,008</b>	<b>848,931</b>
<b>Total Abnormal/Non-recurring Expense</b>		4,843	(4,843)	
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	-	285	(285)	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>838,166</b>	<b>826,286</b>	<b>11,880</b>	<b>848,931</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(20,496)</b>	<b>48,651</b>	<b>69,147</b>	<b>(19,161)</b>

## **Worship & Music Ministry**

**GREETERS:** Bill Peacock has done an outstanding job as head usher in Don's place. As he has grown stronger, Don is gradually doing more to assist Bill. (In Bill's absence during Christmas, Don will oversee volunteers.)

Having elders line up greeters has made a major improvement in having people in place for services.

**NAMETAGS:** Several new members have been added and have received name tags. An individual dedicated to regularly providing name tags in the Ravenel Room entrance is important. If there is not a person relegated to doing the name tags, one of the greeters should step up.

**SOUND:** Our current Sound Roster is as follows: Pat Mulherin (Week 1), Kevin Gates (Week 2), Scott McDuff (Week 3), Duncan Greenlee (Week 4), and Scott McDuff (Week 5 if there is one)

**FLOWERS:** Jill Wolfe has started a FPCH flower guild. There has been a spectacular response. She is so thankful for Sandy Barrow who has volunteered to be co-chairman. Her input, along with Sally Copeland and Betty Fisher's many years of church service has made this new venture much easier. Vicki Stewart at Reeves Floral has been invaluable with her suggestions of colors, contrasts and choosing the freshest flowers for us. We can now purchase wholesale, and have fresh flowers delivered to our door by Friday. Everyone is enthusiastic and willing to help when they can. There has been nothing but RAVE reviews for all the arrangements we have done.

### **The Music Ministry Team – 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.

Gratitude is also extended to Larry and Nancy Fuller who provide generous funding each year to keep the sanctuary instruments in tune.

In 2017, the Chancel Choir gladly welcomed new members: Keith Crawford, Carol Criminger, and Rick Trevathan. We were sorry to lose long-time choir members Sue Seabrook and Farrel Zehr who moved away, and Stewart Manning, Phyllis Tietze, and Bob Wright who retired.

The Chancel Choir took a well-deserved break during the month of January. Vocal soloists from the choir were featured at each service in January.

On Palm Sunday, the Chancel Choir presented a service of special music and readings with featured guest musician Stephanie Quinn, violinist.

On Easter Sunday, trumpeters Alyssa Marseilles and Spencer Childers accompanied the service.

Following the Easter worship service, Donna Philips hosted an Easter Feast at her home with music ministry participants & guests invited.

The *Gap Singers* from Rabun Gap Nacoochee School sang during worship on Sunday, April 23 and again on Sunday, October 22.

On Sunday, May 7, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster sang during the 11:00 worship service and then presented a 4pm concert in our sanctuary.

On Sunday, May 21, the Atlanta Boy & Men's Choirs under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe presented a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in our sanctuary. Stell Huie was recognized during this concert since he was the incorporating attorney when the group was formed.

Long-time Chancel Choir member Mozelle Edwards was honored on Heritage Sunday, June 4 for having faithfully served in the Chancel Choir for over 50 years. She was presented with a plaque during the 11am worship service.

Bluegrass Groups were featured in worship on June 18 and October 15. Deepest gratitude is extended to Ray & Diane McPhail for underwriting these.

Mike Lancaster attended the National Convention of the American Choral Director's Association in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN in February. Angie attended the Montreat Worship/Music Conference June 18-23.

The annual Patriotic Concert featuring Highlands Men's Chorus attracted a full house as usual, with overflow crowds being seated in Coleman Hall. Dr. Michael Lancaster took over leadership of the Men's Chorus in 2017, following Joe Powell's resignation. The Highlands Men's Chorus is an entirely separate entity from the church.

Coro Vocati, a volunteer vocal ensemble consisting of professional musicians from Atlanta, held a retreat at First Presbyterian Church July 7-9. The group presented a 5:30pm concert on Saturday, July 8, and sang during the Sunday, July 9 worship service.

Our series of Interlude Concerts co-sponsored by the Episcopal Church continued during July and 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 at 3pm on Tuesday, July 11.

We hosted a Young Artist's Harp Seminar fund raiser concert which was presented in Coleman Hall at 7pm on Thursday, July 13. The Young Artist's Harp Seminar is a non-profit organization which awards many scholarships each year to students from around the world.



The Chancel Choir participated in the annual Summer Sing at Highlands First Baptist Church on Sunday evening, August 6.

The Highlands Men's Chorus sang during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, August 13.

The newly formed Carolina Women's Chorale sang during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, August 27, and then presented their debut concert in the church sanctuary at 4pm that afternoon. The group was formed in the spring of 2017, and is directed by Dr. Michael Lancaster. The Carolina Women's Chorale is a separate entity from the church.

The Pebblebrook School Phoenix Ensemble from Cobb County, GA held a retreat at our church September 1-3. The group sang during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, September 3.

At 5pm on Saturday, October 14, we hosted a ticketed Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Concert in the church sanctuary. This concert featured the Vega String Quartet. No tickets were sold at the door.

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

Sacred Sounds Bell Choir played during worship services on March 19, May 14, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24, October 29, November 19, and December 17. They also played during 8:30 worship services on the June, July, and August dates.

The annual Christmas Carol Sing was held on Saturday, December 2 following the town Christmas Parade.

At 4pm on Saturday, December 2, we hosted a Christmas concert by the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus, directed by Mike Lancaster.

On Sunday, December 10, the Chancel Choir presented Lessons & Carols at the 11am worship service with musicians Linda Lancaster, flutist; Andrew Parker, oboist; and Jillionna Bailey, harpist.

On Sunday, December 24, Harpist Valerie Whitcup was unable to perform a thirty-minute prelude prior to the 5pm Christmas Eve Service due to illness. Angie Jenkins performed an organ prelude.

Our student Choir interns from Western Carolina University continue to greatly enhance the Chancel Choir.

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