

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



## First Presbyterian Church

131 Big Valley Street  
Boone, North Carolina 28607

### Our Mission Statement:

*"A family of faith Called to Grow in the love of Christ,  
Share that Good News, and Serve the world."*



# 2021 Annual Report

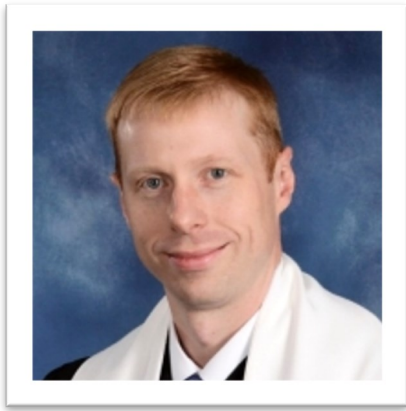
## First Presbyterian Church

131 Big Valley Street  
Boone, North Carolina 28607  
828-264-3906

### Table of Contents

A Year in Review.....	1
Staff-Leadership-Membership.....	2
Christian Education.....	3-5
Church Life.....	6-7
Communications.....	8
Congregational Care.....	9
Deacons' Fund.....	10
Endowment.....	10
Finance/Stewardship.....	11
Mission.....	12-13
Property/Personnel.....	14
Worship.....	15

# A Year in Review - from our pastor



Dear FPC Family of Faith,

As I reflect on 2021 the one word that continues to come to my mind is hope. The Apostle Paul exhorts the Romans saying, “*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.*” (Romans 12:12). This past year has been one of hope for our congregation as we finally had access to vaccines to allow us to move from isolation into fellowship once again. The Covid-19 pandemic is not over, but we’re also not in the same place we were in 2020. We were joyful in hope that God would bring us out of the oppression of isolation, much like the Israelites in the Exodus

from Egypt. We went from online pre-recorded worship services, to outdoor in-person services in May, and then transitioned into in-person sanctuary worship in July. In October we moved back to two worship services and re-opened our Sunday school and children’s and youth gatherings. In addition to all of this, the session approved the purchase of livestreaming equipment so that we could reach those in our congregation who were unable to gather or who felt uncomfortable gathering in a large group. Worship is forever changed at FPC in a positive way, because now anyone in the world can view our services, and we’ve had people from near and far do so.

During all of this we’ve also seen some changes to our staffing. Tammi Zaidel, our Community Connections Coordinator, relocated to Granite Falls, NC after serving the church faithfully for many years. In doing so, her part-time position was added to Steve Marks’ part-time position to make Steve full-time, bringing all of our primary staffing positions to full-time capacity. Steve continues to serve as our Pastoral Associate and has taken on additional duties that Tammi previously led. In addition, Will Sabillo, our Interim Director of Youth and College Ministry, took a call with his wife, Maggie, to the Philippines to serve as missionaries through Teach Beyond. A search committee was formed to hire a permanent Director of Youth and College Ministry and Grant Mills was hired and arrived in the middle of August. Our pre-school ministry, First Morning Out, re-opened in the fall with limited enrollment and has been successful in providing a safe environment for our little ones to learn and grow. Hope...

While the pandemic has affected the church in many ways – some leaving the church, others developing new habits, others worshipping from home; we have also been blessed to welcome new families into our membership and new families into the life and worship of our family of faith. Hope continues to abound as we continue to navigate into this new normal together. Throughout this report you will see numerous ways in which God has been at work through us to grow in faith together, to share the gospel, and to serve the needy among us. May we look to 2022, rejoicing in hope, being patient in affliction, and being faithful in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to shape and mold us to be the church God desires.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jeff*

# **Staff**

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor  
Jennifer Jones, Office Administrator  
Erin Fowler, Director of Children's Ministry  
Steve Marks, Pastoral Associate  
Will Sabillo, Interim Director of Youth & College Ministry (Jan-July)  
Grant Mills, Director of Youth & College Ministry (Aug-Dec)  
Tammi Zaidel, Community Connections Coordinator (Jan-June)  
Lisa Combs, Chancel Choir & Handbell Director  
Cindy Clawson, First Light Director  
Brandon Winbush, Pianist  
Amber Kanoy, First Morning Out Director

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## **Elders**

Jeff Brandon  
Melissa Bryan  
Ruth Dotson  
Becca Eggers-Gryder  
Russell Headrick  
Vicki Kruger  
Kim McAulay  
Alice McRae (Sept-Dec)  
Garry Moss  
Harris Prevost  
Cathy Simpson-Koch  
Wayne Steeves  
Cathy Ziegler (Jan-Aug)

## **Deacons**

Pete Barr  
Jane Butler  
Mary Linda Dooley  
Steve Edwards  
Sarah Gordon  
Margaret Headrick  
Kevin Hutelmyer  
Julie LaGrone  
Christine Leist  
Craig McKinney  
Marty Meredith (Jan-Sept)  
Liz Michael  
Angela Smith

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## **New Members**

Andrew & Trisha Glover  
Chris & Lisa Kelly  
Trivia Eggers  
Frank & Jerri Mayberry

## **Deaths**

Charlie Speer  
Sarah Lynn Spencer

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Moderator:** *Becca Eggers-Gryder*, Elder

**Co-Moderator:** *Harris Prevost*, Elder

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's ministry continued to thrive in 2021 through non-traditional means. Our Reach Program brought families together at home through scripture memorization and a dinner devotional exploring the names of God. Children met for fellowship at the Blowing Rock Playground and for a hike around Bass Lake and to the Apple Barn. Take home Easter resources and periodic direct mailings aided in keeping contact with our families.

Sunday school carried on with two classes meeting at 8:30 and 9:00 am via Zoom until August when our in person classes resumed. Families continued to have the option to join by Zoom at 10 am. Four families regularly attended using Zoom with 8-12 children meeting in our building. Kevin Hutelmyer led children's worship time with Elizabeth Hutelmyer, Dawn Talton, and Kelsi Mills teaching. Through our Bible in Life Curriculum, the children studied how God gives us families, friends, and the church. The children participated in the church-wide Grinch Advent Study.

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School took place in July with 30 kids attending and 15 adults and youth serving. Most of the time was spent outside at stations for safety. Children sang, danced, played games, heard Bible stories, and created science gizmos all through the filter of exploring Jesus' power. Decorations by Dawn Talton and Greg Langdon serving as the pretend character, Cam Track, added to the silly fun.

In the fall, over 20 children participated in our pumpkin painting and devotion event. Children served others by creating appreciation posters for our local hospital health care workers. Tie-dye shirts were made and packed in *Operation Christmas Child* shoeboxes. The year concluded with 10 families attending a Gingerbread Nativity Bash which included hearing the Christmas story, and singing worship songs.

The Children's Ministry Planning Team remained flexible and sought God's guidance in the 2021 activities with the priority of giving families opportunities to know God and experience a personal relationship with Him. This will remain the goal of our 2022 ministry. To God be the glory!

*Erin Fowler*, Children's Director



## **YOUTH AND COLLEGE MINISTRY**

This year, we saw the youth get back into somewhat of a routine. We went from having Zoom meetings to having blended meetings via Zoom and in person. Since August, the youth have been able to participate in fellowship activities, serving projects, and weekly Bible studies to grow in the word of God and get to know fellow youth in the process.

### **Fellowship activities**

Our first fellowship activity was the youth kick-off in September. The kick-off was the first big event since COVID, and all our youth were able to gather at the Gryder's and have a time for fellowship and fun and getting back into the swing of the youth group at First Presbyterian Church in Boone. We had the following fellowship activity event at the Stacy barn and had a bonfire with s'mores. We had over 20 kids attend each of these events, and during these events, the kids were able to connect with other youth in the youth group and deepen and develop bonds with their fellow youth.

### **Service project**

In November, the youth packed shoeboxes during the Sunday school and Sunday evening times for *Operation Christmas Child*. During this time, the youth were able to pack 49 shoeboxes that will be distributed by Samaritan's Purse all across the world, so kids know the love of Christ.

### **Weekly Bible study**

During Sunday school time, we looked at how the Bible comes together. We saw how the Old Testament points to the New Testament and finds Jesus in the Old Testament. During Sunday night youth gatherings, we looked at deepening our relationship with Christ. We did this by challenging each other to pick a spiritual goal for the week and trying to achieve it. There are spiritual disciplines within the scriptures that we read to identify how we can grow closer to Christ. For our Reach program, which is the mid-week program, our middle schoolers tackled *The Gospel According to Harry Potter*, talking about themes of love of learning, sacrifice, and spreading the good news during this time. We discussed how these themes brought up in the Harry Potter series are also found in the gospel and point us back to Christ. We also discovered how non-Christian books can relate to the gospel. During this study, we saw many middle schoolers discuss how the books they were reading related to the gospel as we were having the conversation of how Harry Potter relates to the gospel. Our reach program focused on prayer for our high schoolers, and each week, we met at Panera Bread and had our high school prayer breakfast. During the prayer breakfast, the high schoolers were able to discuss what was going on with their lives and take their stresses, worries, and joys to the Lord in prayer. During this time, we saw a bond form with the youth who share stories of their good and bad weeks and understand that when we take everything to God, it makes things easier.

*Grant Mills, Youth & College Director*

## ADULT EDUCATION

### 2021 Highlights in Adult Education:

The year 2021 began in a virtual mode for our adult education program due to COVID restrictions. Even in the midst of these limitations, our Sunday School classes continued to meet weekly on Zoom. Seven different classes were offered each week, with content ranging from traditional biblical studies to current topics on various social concerns. Meeting by way of Zoom allowed folks to stay connected with each other and with our Sunday morning educational programming. We were finally able to resume in person gathering in the late summer. Our classes utilized a hybrid format meeting in person and online with Zoom thereafter.

Many of our Sunday School classes combined for a special church-wide Advent program offered for adults, as well as separate classes for our youth and children. Our four Advent classes all used lessons from "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch" by Matt Rawle, based on the well-known Dr. Suess story, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The programs were conducted on Zoom for folks who were not able to participate in person. Additionally, during each week of Advent we published items from our study in the church newsletter so that families could further discuss themes and Bible stories.

Our Small Groups also continued to meet on Zoom. Everyone adapted well to the technology and found the connection with their respective groups to be remarkably meaningful, especially with the requirements for social distancing in place due to the pandemic. Our Small Groups even met during a portion of the summer before adjourning in the hopes that we could soon meet in person. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions continued in the fall and the Small Group leaders decided to pause their efforts through the fall and winter holidays. Special thanks to everyone who embraced the technology and adapted to the virtual setting.

Our Reach programming continued in a virtual capacity during 2021 with classes meeting on weekday evenings in the spring and fall. Once again, we relied on facilitators to lead and guide their classes using Zoom. Our Spring session included classes on Atonement, Staying Connected through the Pandemic, The Color of Compromise (as part of our Anti-Racism Task Force), and Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story (Women's Bible Study). Our Fall session included a study on Isaiah, Church Officer Training, an Introduction to Teaching ESL class, and an additional Women's Bible Study class.

Perhaps an overlooked resource worth mentioning, especially in light of our need for virtual activities, is our continued use of Right Now Media. It's essentially the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" offering instant access to thousands of great videos for kids, youth, parents, married couples and more. Right Now Media can be accessed from a smart tv, smartphone, tablet, or computer. The church underwrites the cost of this service and offers it to our members and guests for free! Right Now Media is available for all of our adult ministry activities in addition to use by individuals and families at any time.

*Steve Marks*, Pastoral Associate



## **CHURCH LIFE**

Moderator: *Vicki Krueger*, Elder

Co-Moderator: *Alice McRae*, Elder

**Mission:** *Involve members and friends of the congregation in the life of the church by creating opportunities, guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow and to share our faith, hope, and love in relationship with others.*

This committee wondered how Church Life could possibly do things this year with the pandemic to continue supporting the life of our church. How COULD we be the church while separated from church family?

1. Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry was suspended during Covid protocols in the church.
2. Reach Wednesday (formerly Wednesday Night Live) meal time planning never took place due to Covid protocols.

Goals for 2021:

During the months of January through December 2021, Church Life members met just a few times in person but mostly via Zoom to check in as things shifted during the pandemic to see how to best meet the needs of members of the community with our budget being very limited.

2021 Goals:

Our Beyond 2020 plan states that Church Life is in charge of planning and implementing a picnic shelter in the future. The pandemic has changed the Beyond 2020 plan, but the shelter is needed in order to provide a meeting place where social distancing is possible. It was discussed to possibly have it built as a barn raiser in order to save funds and make it a community building event that our church family could participate in safely. We have \$23,000 earmarked for the shelter, but we still have hopes for prices of the supplies we need to go down in pricing. The prices of materials are way too high right now.

**Gathering to Serve** took place on August 7th and there were many opportunities for serving our neighbors in the community.

### **Welcome Team**

A Welcome Planning Team came together in the fall of '21 to put together a team that:

“Welcomes visitors and members and helps them connect to the church and ultimately Grow in the love of Christ, Share that Good News and Serve the world.” The Planning Team identified possible greeters who were asked to join the Welcome Team. Training was provided on ZOOM in December with most of the about 30 members of the Welcome Team in attendance. An in person training will take place in 2022 when the COVID number is better. The Welcome Team signs up to greet using a SignUpGenius.

**The Valle Crucis Church Picnic** had almost 60 folks in attendance. Bottled water, lemonade and tea were provided and members came with their own lunches to eat together. Many conversations took place and fellowship was great. Though it was a little different than past gatherings, it was a perfect afternoon for our first picnic in a while.

### **Church Directory Photos**

There is a need for new photos to update our church directory. The idea is to have families send photos to update the old ones. Members will be asked to send an updated photo from cameras, tablets or cell-phones. Now that the directory is electronic, it should not be too difficult for Jennifer to replace old photos with new ones. For members who are not able to, but still want a photo update, there will be a mobile group of folks who can go take the photo to be submitted to the directory.

### **Reaching Out**

We spoke about finding a way to encourage our church family to contact one another. There are still many folks who have not returned to be at worship in person. We discussed a way to get the word out that we, as a church family, are called to get in touch by being the hands and feet of Christ to touch base with others they are led to call or contact.

### **Evangelism**

The Church Life Team is discussing getting back to the way it was in the past with more evangelism on the team. There is more to our committee than just planning gatherings and picnics. There is a huge need to get out of the church building to share the love of Christ as our mission statement says. We discussed possibly sending out a new Spiritual Gifts Inventory to our church family to see where they might be able to serve since things changed a year and a half ago. Many people may have different gifts to share as time has passed and lives have changed.

# COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator: *Cathy Simpson-Koch*, Elder

The mission of the Communications Team is to share our Mission Statement:

*“A family of faith Called to Grow in the love of Christ,  
Share that Good News, and Serve the world.”*

Methods of Communications during this time of Covid include:

- Zoom
- Facebook page
- Instagram
- In Contact - our weekly church newsletter
- Welcome/Connect cards
- Email
- You Tube
- Signs by the roadside
- Face to Face when permitted with mask being worn
- Phone calls to those not seen in some time
- Cards, letters, and ecards sent to those not seen in some time
- Communication Committee meetings to come up with better ideas to reach others
- New formation of the Welcome Greeters for Sunday morning church service

The Communications Committee has met almost monthly for the year 2021, via Zoom. We will continue to meet via Zoom for the time being.

The Communications Committee will continue to strive to connect in any way possible to reach individuals and families to share the Good News and Serve those visiting or new to First Presbyterian Church and beyond.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

The Congregational Care committee serves as an adjunct of the Diaconate of the church with a mission to provide loving and compassionate care when needed, according to the season of life or needs which arise from birth, illness, hospitalization, or death within a family. The committee serves in various capacities, with primary responsibility for the following five initiatives in Congregational Care:

**Comfort Kitchen** - This ministry, coordinated by Arlene Steeves, is dedicated to preparing home-made, individually packaged meals for our sick and homebound. The Comfort Kitchen Team keeps our church freezer stocked with healthy, tasty meals to be distributed by church members to anyone in need of a comforting meal.

**Birthday Cards** - This ministry, facilitated by Julia Pedigo, sends a birthdays card to each of our church members in celebration of their special day.

**Care Givers Ministry** – This ministry, coordinated by Pat Weaver, provides spiritual care for the church's homebound, sick and out-of-town members. Several members of our congregation participate in this ministry by regularly sending cards, making phone calls, and visiting individuals in their homes or care facilities (when safe to do so). They provide a source of comfort and love while deepening relationships with care receivers and their families.

**Knarthex Knitters** - This ministry is comprised of a dedicated group of knitters, coordinated by Julia Pedigo. They have typically met on Wednesday evenings but have shifted to meeting virtually using Zoom. They knit lapghans and shawls for folks who have both health concerns and celebrations. The knitters then prayer over the lapghans and shawls before delivering them with an appropriate message of love.

**Widow's Group** - This ministry, facilitated by Sharon Carlton, provides support in the form of an active group to those who have suffered the loss of a spouse. The group meets regularly for fellowship and service projects as they support one and another through the grieving process.

The Congregational Care Committee typically meets every other month and will convene more often when needs arise.

*Steve Marks*, Pastoral Associate

## DEACONS' FUND

Medical Expenses	\$10,226.05	Insurance	\$ 1,326.48
Rent Payments	\$240.00	Funeral Expenses	\$ 996.69
General Living Expenses	\$500.00	Food Cards for Angel Tree	\$3,065.50
Car	\$ 4,000.00		
Landscaping Expenses	\$ 640.00		

Respectfully submitted: *Ben Miller*

**Total Distribution      \$20,994.72**

## 2021 ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The committee membership with term expiration dates was as follows:

Wayne Steeves, chair	2023
Frank Dooley, vice chair	2021
Gary Moss, secretary	2023
Bill Caroselli, treasurer	2022
Neville Chaney	2021
Harris Prevost	2022

Neville Chaney is eligible for and has agreed to serve another three year term. Frank Dooley has completed two consecutive three year terms and per the by-laws must be replaced. Keith Ogden has been approved by the Session to replace Frank. Frank has been a valuable and faithful member of this committee serving twelve of the last thirteen years, several as the chair.

The committee managed two funds again this year. Their activities were as follows:

	Bal 12/31/20	Gain (Loss)	Expenditures	Bal 12/31/21
Unrestricted	\$681,974	\$ 78,162	\$24,000	\$736,137
Weeks FMO	<u>42,221</u>	<u>6,087</u>	<u>2,734</u>	<u>45,574</u>
Total	\$724,195	\$ 84,250	\$ 26,734	\$781,711
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Per agreement with Session and the Mission Committee, the reserve activity and year end balances of the unrestricted fund were as follows:

	Mission Projects	Capital Needs	Total
Balance 12/31/20	\$ 7,926	\$ 28,639	\$ 36,565
2021 Accruals	29,041	14,521	43,562
2021 Expenditures	(24,000)	0	(24,000)
Balance 12/31/21	\$12,967	\$ 42,160	\$56,127
	=====	=====	=====

Additional funds become available at the rate of 1.5% of the balance each calendar quarter. 1% for mission projects and 1/2% for capital needs.

Submitted by *Wayne Steeves*, Chair

## **FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP**

Moderator: *Wayne Steeves*

The Lord does provide. We started this year with a budgeted and expected deficit. We ended the year with a net income of \$21,261 as detailed below. In addition, our membership made substantial contributions to support the Deacons' Fund and local Disaster Relief projects which are detailed in other places of this Annual Report. The presence of the Holy Spirit continues to lead our membership. The theme for last year's stewardship campaign was "Thankfulness", and yes, we are THANKFUL!

<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pledges	\$548,584	83.6%
Member Giving	61,669	9.4
Loose Offerings	21,220	3.2
Endowment	24,000	3.7
Interest Income	<u>663</u>	<u>.1</u>
	<u>\$656,166</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Church Pastor & Staff	\$386,643	58.9%
Other Administration	23,420	3.6
Buildings & Grounds	88,862	13.5
Missions (see Mission report)	94,092	14.3
Worship	31,023	4.7
Youth & Adult Education	9,370	1.4
Church Life & Congregational Care	<u>1,495</u>	<u>.2</u>
	<u>\$634,905</u>	<u>96.8%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 21,261</u></b>	<b><u>3.2%</u></b>

### **Stewardship**

The theme for the 2022 stewardship campaign was "In God We Trust". Erin Fowler, John & Sue Newell and Greg & Heather Langdon all gave moving testimonials as part of this year's campaign.

For 2022 we have 85 pledges totaling \$504,160. This is up \$21,360 from the 78 pledges that we had in 2021 totaling \$482,800. The Session has approved an Ask Budget for 2022 which exceeds the 2021 budget by \$70,607 as we prayerfully expect to return to full programming early in 2022.

**IN GOD WE TRUST!**

# MISSION

**Moderator:** *Jeff Brandon*, Elder

**Co-Moderator:** *Ruth Dotson*, Elder

The Mission Committee has joyfully embraced the church's vision that we are Called to Grow in the love of Christ, Share that Good News, and Serve the world. The members of the committee have prayerfully considered how financial and other resources of this church will be most impactful in serving others in the name of Christ locally and around the world.

First Presbyterian Church continues to give generously with financial gifts, time and talents. Our special Lenten Mission Offering raised \$25,183.40 which was distributed to local aid organizations including the Hunger and Health Coalition, Casting Bread/Travis' Lunchbox, Hospitality House, WeCan, and Blowing Rock Cares to assist their efforts in a time of great need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The special offering during the December Celebration of Light Service also collected nearly \$500.00 which went to Casting Bread/Travis' Lunchbox.

In August, members and friends gave of their time and talent at Gathering to Serve. Organizations served included Hunger and Health Coalition, Wood Lot, Community Care Clinic, First Morning Out, Back-to-School Festival, RAMs Rack, Casting Bread/Travis' Lunchbox, and volunteers also prepared lunch for those who went into the community to serve.



Organizations and individuals that we supported in 2021 include:

\$13,000.00 - **Hebron USA** works with the Presbyterian Church and the indigenous people of Chiapas, Mexico through supporting the **Las Manos de Cristo Medical Clinic** led by Pablo and Jan Cruz. Starting in 2003, members of First Pres. Boone have traveled to volunteer at the clinic and work on construction projects, although the COVID pandemic has recently limited sponsored trips.

- \$10,407.00 - **Hunger and Health Coalition** is a local resource for members of our community who need assistance with basic needs such as food and prescription medications.
- \$10,000.00 - **Hospitality House** serves seven northwestern NC counties and has been combating homelessness, hunger and poverty since 1984.
- \$10,000.00 - **Real Love Haiti** seeks to invest in the lives of the people of Haiti with the love, mercy and power of Jesus. Core ministries include an orphanage, medical clinic, school, ministry to widows, marriage counseling and water filters.
- \$9,000.00 - **WeCan (Western Crisis Assistance Network)** provides crisis assistance with heating bills, housing and other needs while providing guidance and education to those in crisis.
- \$7,000.00 - **Kari's Home** for women and **Freedom Farm Ministries** for men provide Christian counseling and housing for those seeking to be out of bondage of alcohol and drug addiction.
- \$6,593.04 - **Food 4 Families** provides summer food deliveries to support at-risk families in western Watauga County.
- \$ 5,500.00 - **Appalachian State Presbyterian/Episcopal Campus Ministry** provides Bible studies and Christian fellowship to students.
- \$5,000.00 - **High Country Prison Ministries** supports the chaplain at the Avery-Mitchell correction facility and works with **Forgiven Ministries/One Day with God** program to unite inmates with their children.
- \$3,000.00 - **Casting Bread Ministries/Travis' Lunchbox** provides food, community and compassion in association with Faithbridge United Methodist Church in Blowing Rock.
- \$2,250.00 – Missionary **Dr. Amanda McCoy** worked at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, Africa.
- \$2,250.00 – Missionaries **Will and Maggie Sabillo** moved from Boone to Quezon City, Philippines in July, where they work with the International Graduate School Leadership Program with a vision to build Christian leaders and missionaries to serve throughout the world.
- \$2,100.00 - **W.A.M.Y. (Watauga/Avery/Mitchell/Yancey) Community Action** seeks to bring people out of poverty and less reliant on government assistance by identifying and filling gaps not met by other area assistance programs.
- \$2,000.00 – **Blowing Rock Cares** is a food assistance ministry of Rumble Presbyterian, partnering to provide food boxes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$1,200.00 – **Will Barbour - ETSU Campus Ministry** - Will Barbour grew up at First Presbyterian Boone and serves as the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship at ETSU.
- \$1,000.00 - **RAMS Rack (Resort Area Ministries)** provides local campground worship services, an affordable Thrift Store, and home repair projects to those in need.
- \$500.00 - **Wood Lot Ministry** is a partnership with Grace Lutheran Church and collects, splits, and stores donated firewood for those who need winter heating assistance.
- \$200.00 – **Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes provide gifts at Christmas for children around the world.
- \$100.00 - **Back-to-School Festival** was created to help with the heavy financial burden that back-to-school shopping creates for local families.

Many thanks to members of the committee as well as many others who helped throughout the year.



## **PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL**

Moderator: *Russell Headrick*, Elder

As in 2020, the COVID pandemic continued to present challenges on both the personnel and property sides of the committee's responsibilities during 2021.

### **Personnel**

**Staff Changes:** Will Sabillo resigned as Interim Youth Director, and Grant Mills was hired as full-time Youth Director. Tammi Zaidel resigned her part-time position, and Steve Marks became full-time and assumed many of Tammi's responsibilities. The session also approved hiring a part-time technician to assist with live-streaming worship and other church events.

**FMO Remained Closed for 2021 Winter/Spring Session and Re-opened for 2021 Fall Session:** With Amber Kanoy serving as FMO Director, FMO was able to hire/re-hire staff, conduct a successful registration campaign, and prepare a budget for the 2021-2022 session. Despite continued COVID concerns, FMO successfully completed the Fall 2021 session before the holidays.

### **Property**

**Return to More Normal Building Operations:** The building remained closed to virtually all in-person use through mid-year, when in-person worship resumed, and staff returned to a more normal in-office routine. The building operations expense reflected these changes in building use.

**Building Repair Issues:** The session authorized entering into a contract with REI, an engineering firm with offices across the state, to design a solution to building envelope issues, to prepare construction contract documents to rectify those issues, and to perform construction contract administration during the term of the construction contract. REI completed its design work and has presented 90%-complete construction contract documents for FPC review before proceeding to complete final contract documents.

**HVAC and Computer Network Upgrades:** Conversion of our electric HVAC system to natural gas was investigated but rejected in 2021 due to inordinate expense verses anticipated benefits. Out of that process, however, a plan was proposed to replace all existing thermostats with computer-controlled models, which enable more precise and centralized control of heating and cooling, thereby significantly lowering electricity costs. At the same time, a plan was proposed to provide needed upgrades to our over-taxed and outmoded computer network, and a proposal was obtained to perform the network upgrade and to obtain some additional computer wiring and hardware to facilitate installation of the new thermostats. Session approved both the HVAC upgrade proposal and the computer network upgrade proposal at the December meeting, and work should begin on both shortly.

# **WORSHIP**

**Moderator:** *Melissa Bryan, Elder*

**Co-Moderator:** *Kim McAulay, Elder*

*Mission: To enhance worship which involves all generations through drama, liturgical dance, singing, teaching, and preaching so the congregation of First Presbyterian Church experiences the joy and wonder of God and gives God praise and adoration.*

## **Accomplishments for 2021**

**Worship during the Pandemic:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, services continued to be held online with a transition to outdoor services that began Mother's Day and ran through mid-July. An 11:00am in-person masked service with live streaming resumed in mid-July with the return of two services on October 24. Services have been averaging 60-70 per in person service not including those joining via the livestream.

**Service of Light/Christmas Eve services:** After much thoughtful discussion and consideration, it was decided that the traditional Moravian Love Feast could not be executed safely and a beautiful "Service of Light" was conducted in its place. For Christmas Eve services, a family friendly service was held at 5:30PM followed by an adult service at 7:00PM; both services were well attended.

**Music scholarships:** Worship Committee funded the First Light Praise Team scholarships as the band was an active participant in all worship services.

**Brainstorming Beyond 2020 Goals:** Prior to the onset of the pandemic, the Worship Committee brainstormed its three Beyond 2020 goals:

- More voices/demographic participation
- Alterations of service
- Children's choir (work building a sub-committee for this topic was discontinued in April)

With the onset of the pandemic and more pressing concerns, further discussions were tabled for the remainder of the year.

## **Other activities:**

We continue to be limited with volunteers in the sound booth and look to hire someone to help fulfill those duties. Additionally, session approved a paid position for running the livestream production. Lenten Worship services included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, which were all conducted online. Flowers were made available for families to come by the church to participate in "The Flowering of the Cross."

The Worship Committee renewed the ProPresenter license for the software used for services within the sanctuary.

The Worship Committee discussed the need for new projectors in the sanctuary as current bulbs and projectors are nearing the end of being operationally reliable. The Worship Committee sent a request to Personnel and Finance to look at funding for new projectors estimated to be ~\$35,000. An anonymous generous donation of \$10,000.00 came in earmarked for the projectors.





## **First Presbyterian Church**

131 Big Valley Street

Boone, NC 28607

828-264-3906

[www.firstpresboone.org](http://www.firstpresboone.org)