

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



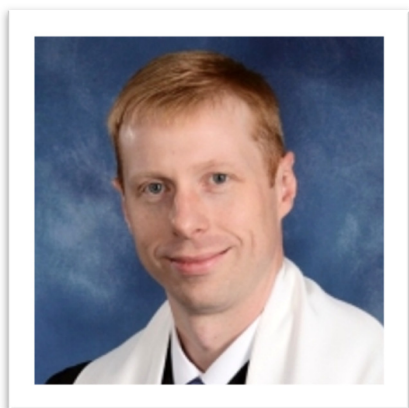
First Presbyterian Church
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

2017 Annual Report
First Presbyterian Church
131 Big Valley Street
Boone, North Carolina 28607
828-264-3906

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A Year in Review - from our pastor



Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Once again we pause for a moment to reflect on the various ways in which God has been at work among us as a church family at FPC! Inside these pages you will find a snapshot of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit this year. Even though 2017 brought a number of changes in our staffing, God has been faithful in providing us with three new staff members who are passionate and excited to be serving alongside us. We welcomed Rebecca Liljestrand as our new Director of Children's Ministry, Steve Marks as our new Director of Adult Ministry, and most recently Robert Bannan as our new Director of Youth and College Ministry. All of them are a great addition to our ministry team and are providing great leadership in Christian Education to all ages in the church.

This year the church was challenged during the seasons of Lent and Advent to give intentionally and sacrificially towards the needs of our brothers and sisters in Haiti and in Mexico. Our congregation responded in a mighty way as we launched our new global mission outreach to Haiti, sending twelve members of our congregation on a mission trip this fall. In addition to that, we raised over \$19,000 in seven weeks to assist in the construction of a school for the orphans in Haiti, and to help support the financial efforts of our mission team. During Advent we raised over \$12,000 to provide clean water for almost 500 families with our water filtration initiative. Using the Advent Conspiracy curriculum, we focused our efforts collectively to give to *"the least of these"* in honor of our loved ones.

In worship we walked through the Gospel of Matthew during Lent, we explored how to put on the full armor of God, we studied what we affirm through the Apostles' Creed, and were challenged into more faithful discipleship as we contemplated the hard sayings of Jesus together. In addition to changing up our Wednesday evening discipleship offerings, we also provided a marriage enrichment workshop for married couples in the church, and unveiled a new church logo.

While we celebrate the good news being lived and shared through our church family in the various ways we have given financially, or even as we embark on new ventures; there's no way to measure the countless ways in which the Body of Christ has been the church. Countless hours of service, of bible study, of pastoral visits and calls, and of fellowship can't be measured in one single document. And at the same time, these are the integral things we do together as we serve and follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ together! To God be the glory, great things He has done and will continue to do!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Staff

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor
Jennifer Jones, Office Administrator
Robert Bannan, Director of Youth & College Ministry
Rebecca Liljestrand, Director of Children's Ministry
Steve Marks, Director of Adult Ministry
Tammi Zaidel, Community Connections Coordinator
Shelley Dewey, First Morning Out Director
Lisa Combs, Chancel Choir Director
Sylvia Rippy, Assistant Director of Music
Cindy Clawson, First Light Director

Elders

Neville Chaney
Shelley Dewey
Dean Gropper
Doug Hall
Mike Hall
Heather Langdon
Katherine Logan
Brian Molenda
Sue Newell
Bob Smith
Donna Warmuth
Kelley Wilson

Deacons

Carleen Berndt
Garrett Burkett
Amy Hiatt
Vicki Krueger
Dan McAulay
Arthur Merschat
Guy Rippy
Amy Robertson
Jo Sorrell
Christy Welch
Gay Lynn Williams
Allie Woods

New Members

Kia Creamer	Anita McMillian
Troy Creamer	Sam McMillian
Margaret Gregor	Margaret Headrick
Herb Hash	Russell Headrick
Angela Heidt	Darby Logan
Rick Heidt	Jim Logan
Bert LaGrone	Robert Riker
Julie LaGrone	

Weddings

Leah Vaughan & Nate Leska

Baptisms

Lucy Abel
Ben Dewey
Catie Grace Hutelmyer
Kai Yoo

Deaths

Carleen Berndt	Shirley Nilles
Dr. Joe Browde	Mary Shook
Frank Hamilton	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Ministry

This was a year of great change in our children's ministry. Rebecca Liljestrand started the year as the interim director in January, then accepted the permanent position in June. The Children's Ministry Planning Team lost three members, and added two: Anne Muttai and Christy Lombardozzi.

This Planning Team carried out visioning exercises for the ministry and developed three clear foci for all activities to fall under: discipleship, mission, and fellowship. Under the new title "Kingdom Kids," the ministry actively plans activities to enhance our children's spiritual lives. Discipleship is taught in Sunday school as well as Wednesday night activities. Mission service opportunities are given to the children during Reach Wednesday and once-monthly Sunday afternoon Kingdom Kids activities. Fellowship times are intentionally organized for the children during Reach Wednesday and Kingdom Kid activities. The newly defined foci have provided straightforward guidelines for programming.

Vacation Bible School was restructured in response to input from a church-wide survey, now running twice a year during weekends. In July, children had fun learning how to be a "superhero for God." The volunteer turnout was tremendous, and the VBS planning team felt well-supported by our church family. We will have our Winter VBS in 2018 the weekend of February 16 & 17.

We also made important changes in curriculum. Sunday school classes started "The Gospel Project" curriculum this Winter, including a new class for toddlers. Reach Wednesday programming introduced scripture memorization as a focus this fall, and children had the opportunity to recite memorized verses in a church service. We will continue this focus in 2018.

A new sign-in process was established for children going to classes and activities on both Sundays and Wednesdays. This provides increased security, better attendance recording, more complete and convenient data tracking and a springboard for increased safety measures. We will build on this foundation in 2018 to fully utilize the system.



Youth & College Ministry

While we experienced a year of transition in 2017 for our Youth and College Ministry programs, our Sunday School programs continued to serve as a solid foundation for spiritual growth. We are blessed to have wonderful support from Heather Langdon for our Middle School class and from Trimella Chaney and Dottie Sykes for our High School class. Garner Dewey, Elizabeth Abel and Steve Marks led our college class throughout the year, supporting both ASU students as well as our own FPC college students who have moved up from our youth program.

Our Sunday Night Youth Group activities provided both learning and recreation during the school year. Once again, the middle school students attended their own youth conference, The Great Escape, in June. The high school students embarked on a mission trip to Washington, DC for a week in July, serving folks of all ages throughout the city. This past fall, the Youth participated in the Rise Against Hunger program (formerly Stop Hunger Now). This multi-generational initiative brought church members of all ages together to prepare and package over 17,000 meals. Again this year, we partnered with the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity as part of the Rise Against Hunger, as well as during our Wednesday night programming.



In 2017, we said goodbye to Jill McElroy as she left us to pursue other opportunities. We are grateful for her love and passion for the students and wish her the best in her new endeavors. Steve Marks served in an interim position during the search for a replacement. And as we concluded the year, we welcomed our new Youth and College Ministry Director, Robert Bannan and his family, to our church. We are very excited about the future of our Youth and College Ministry program under Robert’s guidance and direction!



Adult Education Ministry

The Adult Ministry program also experienced transition in 2017 as we bid farewell to Elizabeth Abel. She and her family relocated to Arkansas when her husband accepted a new position. The entire Abel family contributed to our ministry and will be dearly missed. Elizabeth facilitated a Marriage Retreat for our church in the spring and supported our Sunday School classes as they continued to prosper with increased participation and leadership. We have been blessed to offer many classes with the guidance of a number of teachers/facilitators (Koinonia – Kay Stacy, Man to Man – John Newell, Social Concerns – Marc Kadyk, Bible Discovery Class – Doug Sterrett and Herb Hash, FOCUS – Sue Newell and Rob Robertson, NIKE – Greg Langdon, Genesis Class – Harris Prevost and Susan Corey).

Steve Marks became our new Director of Adult Ministry and worked with a team of members to look at new ways to provide Christian Education throughout our church. Our Wednesday Night programming transitioned mid-year into what we now call Reach Wednesday as we continue to explore opportunities to serve God, to help others and to equip ourselves. As the year concluded, all of our Adult Sunday School classes participated in the church-wide worship, service and education program, The Advent Conspiracy. Additional initiatives are planned for the coming year as we continue to grow our holistic Adult Ministry program.

Kelley Wilson, Moderator

CHURCH LIFE

Chair: Heather Langdon, Elder

Co-Chair: Katherine Logan, 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.*

Highlights from 2017:

- Continued the Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry. Marty Meredith coordinated this ministry, and volunteers are always needed.
- The *Membership Committee* continued to monitor church membership/rolls.
- Coordinated *Wednesday Night Live* and *Reach Wednesday* meal time planning. An ASU fraternity helped with set-up and clean-up, and this was a tremendous help.
- Provided a meal each semester for the Presbyterian-Episcopal College Ministry (PECM).
- Sponsored an Easter Sunday brunch before combined worship. About 100 people attended.
- Sponsored the annual Church Family Picnic, typically held at Valle Crucis Park. Due to thunderstorms, the event was held in the church, and approximately 70 people attended, which is our typical attendance for this event when held at the park.
- Sponsored the *Gathering to Serve* day where members and attendees spent a half day working at various locations around Boone and in the church in support of local missions/ministries as well as individuals. About 100 people participated in this joyous workday!
- Organized two covered dish lunches held on combined service and new member joining Sundays in May and October. About 100 people attended each of these events.
- Church directory photos were taken in fall for an updated church directory. Several FPC members and friends volunteered their time and talent to take portraits.
- Provided dinner for about 80 *Rise Against Hunger* volunteers in November.
- Organized the annual Thanksgiving meal the Sunday before Thanksgiving. About 180 people attended, including about 25 from the Hospitality House (HH). Vicki Krueger again drove the church bus as our shuttle back and forth between both HH properties. There were approximately 15 additional people and families who attended whom we believe heard about the dinner throughout the HH community – we were very glad they learned of the dinner and joined in.
- Agreed to support a dinner group ministry – *Let's Be Friends*. These are intended to provide further opportunities for people to get to know each other over monthly cross-generational group dinners, to be coordinated by the Hayeks in 2018.
- Began the planning phase for a church picnic shelter/pavilion.



Goals for 2018:

- Pray about opportunities we can provide to help people grow in their faith with our church family.
- Pray and plan for a picnic shelter/pavilion to be built in the church back lot.
- Pray about and determine interest in an FPC retreat, likely in mid to late-spring.
- Support *Let's Be Friends* dinner groups coordinated by the Hayeks, to begin in May 2018.
- Continue to support *Reach Wednesday* meal time. We continue to pray for this ministry as it takes many hours of planning and many volunteers each week.
- Continue to sponsor our well-loved annual and regular events, such as the new member pot luck lunches, summer Church Family Picnic, and the Thanksgiving meal.
- Continue with the *Gathering to Serve* day of service.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT

Budget & Finance:

We are delighted to report that 2017 was a strong year fiscally for our congregation. Pledged giving exceeded budget by almost \$11,000, and our loose offerings exceeded budget by almost \$14,000. The budget year ended with a \$22,241.00 surplus! Praise be to God! God has been at work in and through our congregation over the last four stewardship seasons increasing our total operating budget by \$132,566, which is an increase of \$33,000 per year.

Our congregation also participated in multiple love offerings to support members in need, staff members transitioning, our food for families summer feeding project, our Lenten mission project in Haiti and our Advent water filtration project that generated an additional \$61,400, which coupled with the Deacon's fund, exceeded over \$100,000 of giving. We are grateful for the generosity of all who have given to care for the needs of so many this year!

Personnel:

First Presbyterian experienced multiple transitions in our staffing this past year. Sharon Carlton retired from leading our children's ministry and we were led to hire Rebecca Liljestrang who served initially as an interim and then accepted the position moving forward. Elizabeth Abel and her family moved to Arkansas which vacated our adult ministry position, but God provided Steve Marks to step in and lead in this role. Steve is preparing to be commissioned as a lay pastor by the presbytery and will be providing some much needed help in the areas of pastoral care and in worship. Jill McElroy vacated her position as the youth and college ministries director, and after a six-month search, God led us to hire Robert Bannan. Robert brings experience and a seminary education to our full-time position. In the midst of transition, God has provided for us and has also enhanced our entire ministry team!

Property:

In addition to maintaining all areas of the property, the church added seven new parking spaces in front of the sanctuary to provide additional limited mobility parking to assist members and visitors who come to worship and serve at FPC.

First Presbyterian Church Final 2017 Financials

Income	Amount	Percent
Pledges	501,828	78.98%
Member Giving	41,658	6.56%
Loose	43,692	6.88%
Endowment	25,445	4.00%
Special Missions	<u>22,768</u>	<u>3.58%</u>
	635,391	100.00%
Actual Expenses		
Church Pastor & Staff	305,557	49.83%
Other Administration	25,924	4.23%
Congregational Care	129	0.02%
Buildings and Grounds	104,013	16.96%
Missions	106,083	17.30%
Worship	28,929	4.72%
Christian Education	17,593	2.87%
Church Life	6,383	1.04%
Youth	<u>18,539</u>	<u>3.02%</u>
	613,150	100.00%
Net Income	22,241	

COMMUNICATIONS



Our new FPC Logo was finalized and is being used on publications and social media.

Indoor directional signs were installed in November.

A New Welcome Video is in the works. A script has been approved. Kyle Grove took photos and videos throughout the year and drone shots were taken of the church facility, and the church.

Church Directory Access Guidelines:

The communication committee adopted guidelines for church directory access this year.

Website: research has begun on redesigning the website using a different format and partnering with a different company so that the website will be easier to maintain.

Church APP: since many people mainly use their phones instead of computers, we will be creating a Church APP for FPC that will provide access to the website, Facebook, Instagram, etc., and have the ability to push notifications and access online giving.

A Welcome Desk / table for the Gathering Space is in the design process and will be built by church members. The desk will be located next to the front door, but will be movable and will tie in with the décor of the Gathering Space.

Facebook: Social media continues to be an effective way to reach the church and the community to share events, mission opportunities, sermon series, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Newell, Moderator



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Mission statement for Congregational Care: *The entire congregation will be given 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 following have been the main concerns of our committee this year:

Thinking & praying for you cards are being sent to 5 members/families each month by our committee. **Birthday cards** are being sent to all the members of the church by Julia Pedigo.

Care Receivers Ministry - Pat Weaver coordinates this ministry for the church's homebound, both in 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. They provide a source of comfort and love while deepening relationships with care receivers and their families.

Comfort Kitchen - This group is dedicated to the ministry of preparing homemade, individually packaged and free of cost meals here at First Presbyterian and is led by Arlene Steeves and Gail Johnson. They keep our church freezer stocked with healthy, tasty meals to be distributed by church members to anyone in need of a comforting meal.

Communion for the Homebound - Communion is served to homebound members of our congregation on a quarterly basis: February, May, August, and November. Shelley Dewey has been coordinating this ministry during the last 2 years. In 2017, this group has served communion to the following: Nell Edmisten, Pearl Johnson, Juanita King, Pat Light, Mary Shook, Sarah Lynn Spencer, Erma Young, and Doug & Rachel Sterrett and Carleen Berndt.

Congregational Life – Tammi Pace-Zaidel reports to our group about new members and visitors, as well as keeps track of their attendance. Tammi is always looking for opportunities to involve them in the life of our congregation so they will be encouraged and find ways to serve and participate in fellowship, study, and ministry.

Knarthex Knitters - Since its inception, the Knarthex Knitters have given over 100 prayer shawls and lapghans to those who have lost loved ones and to those who have been ill, and baby blankets for newborns, as well as teach knitting to those who want to learn. Julia Pedigo reports that 6 shawls, 11 lapghans and 4 baby blankets were made during 2017.

Prayer Ministry – Prayer request cards continue to be available in all the pews in the Sanctuary, as well as in the Gathering Space beside the prayer box. Our prayer warrior ministry includes volunteers who sign up for a two-month period to receive prayer requests via telephone. Two members volunteer per two-month period. All requests are kept confidential.

The Congregational Care Committee meets monthly (the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m.) and has diligently endeavored to achieve all that has been put before us.

Respectively submitted,

Shelley Dewey, Elder & Moderator

DEACONS' FUND

Summary for 2017

Designated for members	12,247	Car insurance	468
Food cards for Angel Tree	4,090	Cell phone	307
Car repairs	2,900	Electric bill	250
Medical cost	2,414	Windshield replacement	187
Rent assistance	1,300	Cleaning supplies	172
Tutoring expenses	750	Food cards	200
First Morning Out tuition	692	Designated for adoption fund	100
Designated for Puerto Rico family	500	House cleaning assistance	100
Designated for friends outside our church	500	Mulch expense	72
		Total expenses:	\$27,447

ENDOWMENT

The 2017 committee membership at year end with year and term expiration was as follows:

Neville Chaney	Vice Chair	2017	Frank Dooley		2018
Wayne Steeves	Chair	2017	Barry Elledge	Secretary	2019
Donna Warmuth		2018	Bill Caroselli, Jr.	Treasury	2019

Neville Chaney and Wayne Steeves have served two consecutive three year terms and are ineligible for reappointment. Terese Fogleman and Gary Moss have been elected and approved by Session to fill the vacancies. The Session has authorized Wayne Steeves to serve a one year term as an advisor to the committee, having voting power only to break ties.

The committee manages three funds and their balances are as follows:

	<u>12/31/16</u>	Gain (Loss)	Expenditures	<u>12/31/17</u>
Unrestricted Fund	\$ 617,096	\$ 117,714	\$ 25,445	\$ 709,365
Weeks FMO Scholarship	35,960	6,603	2,000	40,563
Library Fund	<u>22,795</u>	<u>1,390</u>	<u>24,185</u>	0
Totals	\$ 675,851	\$ 125,707	\$ 51,630	\$749,928

Expenditures were:

Mission Committee projects	\$25,445
FMO Scholarships	2,000
Educations Projects and reserves	<u>24,185</u>
	\$51,630

Unrestricted Fund reserves available per agreement with Mission Committee and Session:

	Mission Projects	Capital Needs
Balance 12/31/2016	\$ 20,630	\$ 17,762
2017 Expenditures	(25,445)	(0)
Current Year Accrual	<u>25,890</u>	<u>12,945</u>
Available for 2018 Expenditures	\$ 21,075	\$ 30,707

Additional funds become available at the rate of 1% per quarter for Mission Projects, and 1/2% per quarter for Capital Needs.

Submitted by *Wayne Steeves*, Chair

MISSIONS

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) supports many local and international missions financially, spiritually and voluntarily through your Missions Committee. Highlights from 2017 include:

- Provided \$7,500 to the Hunger & Health Coalition and \$11,250 to Hospitality House for their respective operating budgets.
- Donated \$7,500 to WeCan which helps local residents with heating and electric bills.
- Contributed \$4,000 to Kari's Home for Women which provides a Christ-centered residential program for women in recovery from addiction.
- Supplied \$4,000 to the High Country Prison Ministry which underwrites the salary of a prison Chaplin.
- Provided \$2,000 and volunteers for "One Day with God" prison ministry which allows incarcerated men an opportunity to visit with their family during an all-day faith-based event.
- Donated \$2,000 toward purchasing food for the Food 4 Families Spring Church mission project. An additional \$8,932 was collected from the congregation which allowed FPC to provide food to 31 local families (145 total people), four times over the summer.
- Collected 500 packages of notebook paper and provided volunteers to work during the Back-2-School festival.
- Contributed \$2,780 and volunteers to purchase, prepare and deliver food for thanksgiving meals for 358 Hispanic residents in Watauga County.
- Filled and delivered over 100 Christmas Shoeboxes in conjunction with Operation Christmas Child.
- Collected \$1,003 from the Moravian Lovefeast love offering which was donated to the Hunger and Health Coalition to support them as they serve our neighbors in need in Watauga County.
- Provided \$4,500 to support Drs. Leslie and Cindy Morgan's missionary work in Bangladesh.
- Collected \$555 to support Drs. Gary and Marlene Van Brocklin's missionary work in Southeast Asia.
- Donated \$1,500 for medicine and supplied missionaries to work in the medical clinics provided by the Hebron Foundation in Chiapas, Mexico for 4 weeks during the year.
- Gave \$4,000 to the Hebron Foundation general fund which provides medical clinics for the indigenous people in Mexico in addition to construction assistance for the local churches. FPC also provided \$7,500 which pays a portion of the salary of a full time doctor working at the Hebron Foundation clinic.
- Provided volunteers to cut, haul and split firewood for families in need that rely on firewood for heating their home.
- Gave \$2,000 and supplied volunteers to support "Rise Against Hunger" which prepares food for hungry families around the world. 17,000 meals were packed with assistance from ASU fraternity Pi Kappa Alpha.
- Contributed \$1,200 to the PC(USA) Theological Education Fund which subsidizes the seminaries' operating budget.
- Furnished \$5,000 in financial support for the Salem Presbytery's operating budget.



- The Two Cents a Meal offering, received the last Sunday of the month, totaled \$3,338. This is a ministry through the Salem Presbytery's Pennies for Hunger program to fight hunger locally, nationally and internationally.
- Provided volunteers to tutor Hispanic people during Monday evening English as a Second Language classes.
- Donated \$3,000 to support RAMS Rack which provides clothing and household items to needy people.
- Contributed \$1,500 to Habitat for Humanity and gave \$7,500 to support the ASU Campus Minister.
- Donated \$1,000 to Eagle Rock Ministries. They administer a Chaplin program and jail ministry in Watauga County.

In addition several new mission projects were completed in 2017. Highlights include:

- Collected \$10,000 during lent which was donated toward building a school for Real Love Haiti, which is an organization that assists orphans and widows in Haiti. Also, FPC adults and youth collected and earned an additional \$13,608 to support sending twelve people on a mission trip to Haiti.
- Provided space and volunteers to assist feeding thanksgiving dinner to over 250 clients from Hunger & Health Coalition.
- Collected just under \$13,000 during the Advent Conspiracy which will be used to purchase portable water filtration systems for Haiti and Mexico.



Dean Gropper, Harless Wright, Bill Herring, Vicki Krueger, Alice McRae, Kelvin Gryder, Kelley Wilson, Daniel Meredith, Brian Molenda

STEWARDSHIP

This year the stewardship committee agreed upon the theme: *“Will you follow...?”* based on Luke 9:57 which says, *“As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “Lord, I will follow you wherever you go.”* The three-week preaching series focused on three areas of stewardship: Following Jesus wherever he leads – *“Let the dead bury their own dead,”* Not just giving financially but also practicing mercy – *“Woe to you!”* and Giving our lives in service to God – *“Give to God what is God’s”*.

Rather than asking the congregation to consider increasing their pledges to meet the \$30,000 ask budget, the committee wanted to encourage members of the congregation who have never pledged, to make a pledge for the first time. Goals were set to encourage participation in three areas of church life: by participating in a bible study or a fellowship opportunity beyond worship, by participating in the area of service in or through the church, and by making a pledged commitment in giving intentionally to the operating budget. The goal was to have at least twelve new people or family units participate in each of the three areas, of which 18 new pledges were received and 10 new families committed to fellowship and service. Looking ahead, the committee explored possibilities for phone app capabilities to include a giving option in worship.

Tammi Zaidel, Community Connections Coordinator

WORSHIP

Members

Bob Smith (Moderator), Will Buckmaster, Peggy Buckner, Cindy Clawson (Praise and Worship Team Director), Lisa Combs (Chancel Choir Director), Greg Langdon, Judy Miller, Sylvia Rippy (Organist, Assistant Chancel Choir Director), Jeff Smith (Pastor), Travis Wallace, Rebecca Weaver, Wes Weaver

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 2017

Worship was enhanced by an enlarged Chancel Choir, led by Director Lisa Combs, the First Light Praise Team, led by Cindy Clawson, and the Exuberant Bells, led by Sylvia Rippy. For the first year, scholarship students participated in worship throughout the summer, in addition to the fall and spring semesters. Pastor Jeff Smith's sermon series included The Beatitudes, Lenten Gospel of Matthew, The Full Armor of God, The Apostle's Creed, Hard Sayings of Jesus, and the Advent Conspiracy.

The committee focused on providing worship opportunities throughout Lent. A congregation-written Lenten devotional (40 Days: Journey with Jesus: A Journey Through Matthew) was created, and special services were held for Ash Wednesday, The Living Last Supper presentation on Maundy Thursday, including communion, and Easter Sunday combined worship.



Another combined worship service was held in October on Dedication/New Member Sunday. In November, our Chancel Choir joined with the Rumble Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir to present special music at both churches on Reformation Sunday. This was followed by a Hymn sing that afternoon at the Rumble Church. Special elements of worship were presented on World Communion Sunday and All Saints Day.

During Advent, a variety of special worship opportunities were integrated throughout the season –Greening of the Church in worship, the Moravian Love Feast (attended by approximately 400 people), Christmas Lessons and Carols provided by the First Light Team and the Chancel Choir. In addition, a Christmas Eve service of Carols was held featuring a live nativity scene with the children dressed as angels, sheep and shepherds (attendance about 250).

The Exuberant Bells handbell choir played in March for the Palm Sunday service, in May and October, and in December for the Lovefeast. The Tech Team installed a new computer, presentation software, and instrument related equipment.

During the summer, we welcomed back Jacob and Krista Cook (former Chancel Choir members), who presented a recital of Christian classical music. The First Light Team purchased a replacement keyboard.



First Presbyterian Church

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