

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



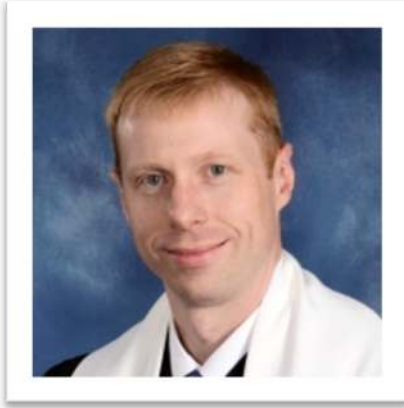
First Presbyterian Church
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

2018 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,

It's hard to believe that we have entered into another year so quickly. 2018 has come and gone, but we do not forget the blessings we've received as a church family and the ways in which God has been so faithful to our church. In terms of staffing, Elizabeth De Vere has been serving as our Interim Children's Director, as Rebecca Liljestrand took a new call to teach nursing. Our youth ministry has been very active this year under Robert Bannan's leadership. Steve Marks completed his Commissioned Ruling Elder process through Salem Presbytery and was commissioned to the Western Neighborhood to preach and serve communion if needed. Steve has been a big help providing additional pastoral care and continuity in the pulpit to our congregation when I'm away. Tammi Zaidel continues to support our Discovery Class and our Deacons, and helped us welcome 25 new members into our flock this year!

Once again, we were challenged during the season of Lent to give intentionally and sacrificially towards the needs of our brothers and sisters in Chiapas, Mexico. Our congregation exceeded our \$15,000 goal, giving \$19,874.00 to support the construction of a new dining hall at the presbytery camp in the village of Yax. In addition, the church sent a mission team of 11 folks from FPC and other churches within our presbytery to help with the ongoing work of constructing the dining hall, to lead a vacation bible school for the children of the community, and to partner with Wine to Water in bringing clean water to the families of Chiapas. Locally, our members gave sacrificially to the Deacon's fund, which supported people in need by contributing \$27,722.63 this year. In response to our neighbor's along the coast who suffered loss and damage from Hurricane Florence, our church raised over \$6,000 to provide aid to families in need and sent a mission team of 10, comprised of members of FPC, North Wilkesboro Presbyterian, and Rumble Presbyterian Church to serve. 2019 will bring additional opportunities for disaster relief efforts to continue.



We began a seven-week, one-worship service, called "Summer Church" in July and August to provide a blended service, during a time when many are traveling out of town on vacation. We were blessed to have singer songwriter and author, Andrew Greer, lead a Christmas concert during Advent, and we began a Christmas Eve potluck meal for folks who may not be able to see their family on Christmas. Administratively, we approved a new employee manual to better assist our staff, our Communications Committee provided new signage, developed a new website, created a church app that can be downloaded on your smart phone, and developed a professional video about our church that can be found on our website.

Our church also launched a new vision initiative called, "Beyond 2020" in which 14 small groups met over eight weeks and discerned and dreamt about where God is leading as a church into the future. 2019 will bring this process into full swing as we anticipate a long-range plan being developed to help us set goals for the future. As you can see, there's a lot that has happened in this year, but these things don't even scratch the surface of the pastoral care provided, the fellowship enjoyed, and the spiritual growth that has taken place in the lives of our congregation. Take a look in the pages presented here and you will see for yourself that we have much to give thanks for, and much to anticipate as God continues to lead us this year!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Staff

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor
Jennifer Jones, Office Administrator
Robert Bannan, Director of Youth & College Ministry
Elizabeth DeVere, Interim Director of Children's Ministry
Steve Marks, Pastoral Associate
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

Shelley Dewey
Dean Gropper
Doug Hall
Mike Hall
Katherine Logan
Brian Molenda
John Newell
Betsy Payne
Rob Robertson
Bob Smith
Donna Warmuth

Deacons

Jennifer Hendrix
Amy Hiatt
Kevin Hutelmyer
Dan McAulay
Arthur Merschat
Ben Miller
Guy Rippy
Amy Robertson
Christy Welch
Gay Lynn Williams
Allie Woods

New Members

Rita Almond	Joe Hutelmyer
Jason Balduf	Lynne Hutelmyer
Kristi Balduf	Emma Lipscomb
Cindy Barr	Peter Lipscomb
Pete Barr	Christy Lombardozzi
Jackson Butler	Gennard Lombardozzi
Jane Butler	LaFelle Ruff
Joan Cone	Linda Ruff
Read Cone	Cathy Simpson-Koch
John Filson	Mary Beth Walker
Kelly Filson	Matthew Walker
Margaret Gilleskie	Krystal Wilson
Mark Gilleskie	

Baptisms

Ginny Grove
Mabel Lombardozzi
Thomas Prevost
Eva Walker
Jackson Walker
Matthew Walker

Deaths

Pearl Johnson	Bob Misenheimer
Pat Light	Allen Trivette
Ben Logan	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Moderator: *Donna Warmuth, Elder*

Children's Ministry - 2018

This was a year of change for our children's ministry. Rebecca Liljestrand left the position as the Director of Children's Ministry in July and Elizabeth DeVere has been serving as interim since. Due to the shift, Vacation Bible School was postponed until the summer of 2019 and The Children's Ministry Planning Team lost two members but is hopeful to add more in the coming year.

This Planning Team has continued to carry out its previously decided upon foci: discipleship, mission, and fellowship. "Kingdom Kids," activities have gone well and continue to enhance our children's spiritual lives. Discipleship is taught in Sunday school as well as Wednesday night 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.

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 2019.



We have continued to use the sign-in process that was established in 2017 and will moving forward. It provides a streamlined process that allows for more security, better organization, and excellent data tracking. *Elizabeth DeVere, Interim Children's Director*

Youth & College Ministry 2018

Sunday school: Heather Langdon was our key teacher for our middle school Sunday school class and did a fantastic job. Anel and Dan Gryder shared teaching responsibilities with Dottie Sykes. Both classes utilized our curriculum from teensundayschool.com. This curriculum seems easy to teach for our teachers and was applicable to our middle and high school students.

Youth Discipleship: Met this past year from 5pm-7:30pm on Sunday evenings. At the start of the year we had Troy and Kia Creamer serving as volunteers. Sadly, Troy and Kia had to move away from Boone. Then Shaquera Clawson stepped in to help volunteer, then she had to move! Both Shaquera and the Creamers did a fantastic job with our students and I was grateful for their service. In the spring we had one combined recreation time from 5-6pm, ate dinner from 6-6:30pm and had a combined bible study from 6:30pm-7:30pm. In the fall we gained 13 6th grade students, so we altered our schedule so that the middle schoolers had recreation time from 5-6pm, while the high schoolers had bible study from 5-6pm. We would then join for dinner together from 6-6:30pm, and then the high schoolers would finish with recreation time from 6:30pm-7:30pm and the middle schoolers will have bible study during the same time frame. We were blessed to get a new volunteer to step in at the end of the year: Mary Beth Walker. She has a heart for students and she looks forward to helping in this ministry in 2019.

Youth Sunday: Held on the last Sunday of April last year, our middle and high school students led both worship services and did a fantastic job. The congregation seemed very excited to see their leadership and I was very proud of them as their youth director.

Day Trips: The youth did several day outings throughout the year. We had a Lock-In at the end of April. The youth were dropped off on Friday night and we went out to eat, went bowling, had a bible study, played hide and seek in the church (in the dark), and had a late night ice cream social. Kids had a blast and the youth director spent the next day recovering :-). During the summer we took trips to Carowinds amusement park in Charlotte, NC as well as a trip to the Emerald Point water park in Greensboro, NC. Both trips were lots of fun and our youth had a blast. The youth also had a hiking trip in the summer, we took the bus from the church and hiked up to Elk Knob, enjoyed some views and lunch and then headed back to the church.

Great Escape Youth Conference: Our middle schoolers enjoyed the second week of June at the Great Escape in Cleveland, TN. The Great Escape is an annual middle school conference held at Lee University, it includes dynamic speakers, loud music, games, athletic tournaments, and small group reflection time. Our middle schoolers had a super fun time and also grew in their faith.

High School Mission Trip: Our high schoolers journeyed to Atlanta to do inner city mission work through the DOOR network. They had a chance to stock pantries, serve in soup kitchens as well as build relationships with those on the street. Our students stayed at Central Presbyterian Church in Downtown Atlanta. It was powerful seeing our students learn what life is like as a homeless person, the struggles they face, and being able to serve them in hands on ways.

Middle School Fall Retreat: In October our middle schoolers traveled to Awanita Retreat Center in Travelers Rest, SC. Our middle schoolers joined the youth from North Ave Presbyterian in Atlanta, GA. Our youth enjoyed kayaking, hiking, volleyball, zip lines, as well as in depth bible studies and small group time.



College Ministry this year has been very transient. In the Spring we lost 5 of our seniors to graduation, which is a good thing. Activities were slow during the summer months with the kids being out. However, things regrouped slowly this fall. We have settled in to 4-7 students in college Sunday School. These students have been very consistent. I have also made efforts to meet with college students for lunch and coffee which is where a great deal of the college ministry has taken place. I have also been involved in the Listening Post, which is an ecumenical organization that provides college students a place to talk and listeners at the post provide a listening ear. Finally, beginning in 2019 we will have a dinner gathering off site at a restaurant. The students agreed that Friday evenings is the least busiest time that they could get together for. The students will meet every 3rd Friday of the month.

Robert Bannan, Youth & College Director

Adult Education

The Adult Ministry program enjoyed a busy and productive year in 2018. Our efforts are facilitated by staff and several active planning teams. Our programming is coordinated through the Christian Education Committee which provides guidance and support. We have primarily focused our attention on Sunday School activities and Wednesday night programs. We also help to logistically support a number of study groups that meet at the church and at off-site locations.

Sunday School classes continued throughout the year. We are blessed to host seven different classes each week, offering content from traditional biblical studies, to current topics on various social concerns. Our classes utilize a variety of teaching media and styles in an effort to offer something meaningful to everyone. Many of our class facilitators serve on our Adult Ministry Planning Team, helping to assure that we are offering a variety of programming framed by our Reformed theology.

Our Reach Wednesday programming continued to flourish in the spring with well attended opportunities for all ages. We offered a traditional Bible study class and as well as a special parenting presentation for the adults. During the fall series, we facilitated a church-wide visioning process. It should also be noted that First Presbyterian Church is one of only a few churches in the area that provide for meals on Wednesday nights. Planning for our spring and fall programming is supported by a dedicated group of folks who make up our Reach Wednesday Planning Team.

In 2018, we continued to explore opportunities to grow our faith within the Adult Ministry program. At the end of the year, a new initiative was launched with the formation of the Small Group Ministry Planning Team. In the coming year, we will look for new ways to connect with our faith and with one and another in the development of small groups. We are excited to see all that God has in store for us through our Adult Ministry programs!

Steve Marks, Pastoral Associate

CHURCH LIFE

Moderator: *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 2018:

1. Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry. Marty Meredith continues to coordinate this ministry, and she requested more volunteers. Now Marty has a message board so that volunteers can sign up for coffee preparation and to bring treats. This seems to be running smoothly.
2. Reach Wednesday (formerly Wednesday Night Live) meal time planning. An ASU fraternity worked to set-up and clean-up, and we are grateful for their help.
3. In April, sponsored an Easter Sunday brunch before a combined worship.
4. In July, sponsored the annual Church Family Picnic, held at Valle Crucis Park.
5. 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. So much was accomplished on this workday!
6. Organized two covered dish lunches held on combined service and new member joining Sundays in May and October. Each event was well-attended.
7. Organized the annual Thanksgiving meal the Sunday before Thanksgiving. About 190 people attended, including about 30 from the Hospitality House (HH). Vicki Krueger drove the church bus and shuttled back and forth between both HH properties. There were additional guests who drove to the church; they heard about the dinner throughout the HH community. It was a successful dinner and we were happy to have our guests join us.
8. Agreed to support (in 2018) 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 small group dinners, to be coordinated by the Hayeks in 2019.
9. Further discussion for a church picnic shelter/pavilion. John Lehman is working on finding reasonable estimates for building this structure. There has also been discussion about getting the work done by skilled church members who would lead the construction, with volunteers to help. This could be set up in a “barn-raising” style.
10. Agreed to support a Christmas Eve potluck dinner after the Monday night service. This was suggested by Sue Newell and was designed to give people without family members in the area, those who experienced the loss of a loved one, and those who just wanted to share a meal with their church family, a chance to be together on Christmas Eve.



Goals for 2019:

1. Pray about opportunities we can provide to help people grow in their faith with our church family.
2. Pray and plan for a picnic shelter/pavilion to be built in the church back lot.
3. Pray about and determine interest in an FPC retreat, likely in mid to late-spring.
4. Support Let’s Be Friends dinner group coordinated by the Hayeks, to begin in May 2019.
5. 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.
6. Continue to sponsor our well-loved annual and regular events, such as the new member pot luck lunches, the summer Church Family Picnic, and the Thanksgiving meal.
7. Continue with the Gathering to Serve day of service.

COMMUNICATIONS

Interim Moderator: *Sue Newell*

The mission of the Communications Team is to communicate to the church and the community what God is doing in and through First Presbyterian Church using available media and different mediums.

Newsletter – instead of using Publisher to create the newsletter, we switched to MailChimp which provides statistics on the number of people who read the newsletter, and is user friendly for phones and tablets and computers.

Welcome Video – Thanks to Kyle Grove, FPC has a new professional Welcome Video that can be found on the church website homepage and on YouTube. **Release of welcome video** reached over 3,500 people!

New Website went live March 28 - Changed to the website provider Sharefaith, which also allowed us to create a church APP for a total of \$864 / year and includes the potential for future online giving.

Church APP - was made available to the congregation in May. It provides the ability to listen and download sermons, read and / or listen to the Bible, view the church calendar and upcoming events, send push notifications and get directions.

Facebook - An Administrator is needed to manage FPC's Facebook page. Facebook post that were boosted reached over 2000 people with Jeff's Palm Sunday message. **Facebook live stream** - since the sound would be an issue using an iPhone in the sanctuary, we will look into livestreaming in the future using a video camera.

Beyond 2020 logo was designed by Garner Dewey.

BEYOND 2020 

FPC Car Window Sticker was designed by the team. 250 stickers were ordered and made available at the Beyond 2020 small group meetings in September.



A Color Brochure was created in September to inform the Discovery Class and visitors of what is going on at FPC. A second brochure was created for November / December and a copy was placed in the bulletins late in November. The next flyer is scheduled to be printed and included in the bulletin before Lent.

Publicity for Andrew Greer concert... *Posters for FPC and community... In Contact article... Website... Local papers... Radio... Facebook Event*

Welcome Desk –David Bryan has volunteered to build the desk designed by Kyle Grove.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Moderator: *Shelley Dewey, Elder*

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. Led by Arlene Steeves, Gail Johnson, and Carolyn Banzhaf, 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 3 years. In 2018, this group has served communion to the following: Nell Edmisten, Juanita King, Hal McNeely, and Sarah Lynn Spencer. Anyone who is experiencing a short or long-term disability or illness and is unable to attend church is welcome to receive Communion on any one or all of these Sundays.

Congregational Life – Tammi Pace-Zaidel reports to our group about new members and visitors. She keeps track of their attendance on Sundays and Wednesdays. 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 9 were made during 2018. Prayer shawls or lapghans were given to 5 adults and 2 youth, as well as baby blankets given to 2 families.

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.

DEACONS' FUND

Summary for 2018

Medical expenses	7,725	Grocery gift cards	500
Rent payments	6,410	Cleaning expense	375
Food cards for Angel Tree	3,805	Wheelchair	300
Moving expenses	1,738	Gift card for clothes	300
Security deposits	1,650	Gift card for fire victim	262
Visa gift cards	1,425	Angel Tree expense	183
Salvation Army	1,000	POA payment	150
Electric bills	534	Gas cards	89
FMO tuition	520	College text books	63
Furniture cost	650	Oil change & inspection	46
		Total expenses:	\$27,722

ENDOWMENT

The 2018 committee membership at year end with year and term expiration was as follows:

Frank Dooley	Chair	2018	Bill Caroselli, Jr.	Treasurer	2019
Donna Warmuth		2018	Terese Fogleman	Vice Chair	2020
Barry Elledge	Secretary	2019	Gary Moss		2020

Donna Warmuth has served two consecutive three year terms and are ineligible for reappointment. Neville Chaney was elected and approved by the Session to replace Donna. Frank Dooley was eligible for, and has agreed, to serve another three year term. The Session has authorized Wayne Steeves to serve as advisor to the committee, having power only to break ties.

The committee manages two funds during 2018, their activity is summarized as follows:

	<u>12/31/17</u>	Gain (Loss)	Expenditures	<u>12/31/18</u>
Unrestricted Fund	\$ 717,365	\$ (51,795)	\$ 78,015	\$ 579,555
Weeks FMO Scholarship	40,563	(2,399)	2,500	35,669
Totals	\$ 749,928	\$ (54,189)	\$ 80,515	\$ 615,224

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

	Mission Projects	Capital Needs	Total
Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 21,075	\$ 30,707	\$ 51,782
2018 Expenditures	(34,015)	(44,000)	(78,015)
2018 Year Accrual	<u>28,030</u>	<u>14,015</u>	<u>42,045</u>
Available for 2018 Expenditures	\$ 15,090	\$ 722	\$ 15,812

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

FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP

Moderators: *Betsy Payne & Doug Hall*, Elders

First Presbyterian Church Final 2018 Financials

We are pleased to report that 2018 was another strong year fiscally for our congregation. Expected giving exceeded budget by \$24,000 and we ended the year with a \$26,258 surplus. God has been at work in and through our congregation over the past and we have been able to fund the necessary activities to do His work for our church.

Our congregation also contributed in multiple love offerings this year to include the Deacons' Fund assisting members and others in need, food for families, staff gifts, church improvements including the organ and picnic shelter and others.

Income	Amount	Percent
Pledges	567,677	82.65%
Member Giving	20,633	3.00%
Loose	37,901	5.52%
Endowment	34,015	4.95%
Interest Income	1,864	0.27%
Special Missions	<u>24,774</u>	<u>3.61%</u>
	686,864	100.00%
 Actual Expenses		
Church Pastor & Staff	323,915	49.03%
Other Administration	35,231	5.33%
Congregational Care	866	0.13%
Buildings and Grounds	110,776	16.77%
Missions	122,501	18.54%
Worship	31,248	4.73%
Christian Education	18,732	2.84%
Church Life	7,389	1.12%
Youth	<u>9,948</u>	<u>1.51%</u>
	660,606	100.00%
 Net Income	 \$ 26,258	

MISSIONS

Moderator: *Brian Molenda, Elder*

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) supports many local and international missions financially, spiritually and voluntarily through your Missions Committee. Highlights from 2018 include:

- Provided \$12,000 to the Hunger & Health Coalition and \$13,000 to Hospitality House for their respective operating budgets.
- Donated \$10,000 to WeCan which helps local residents with heating and electric bills.
- Contributed \$5,000 to Kari's Home for Women which provides a Christ-centered residential program for women in recovery from addiction.
- Supplied \$5,000 to the High Country Prison Ministry which underwrites the salary of a prison Chaplain.
- 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.
- Donated \$2,000 toward purchasing food for the Food 4 Families mission project. An additional \$3,940 was collected from the congregation which allowed FPC to provide food to 29 local families (143 total people), four times over the summer.
- Provided \$2,000 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.
- Collected 500 packages of notebook paper and donated \$398 during the Back-2-School festival.
- Provided \$4,500 to support Drs. Leslie and Cindy Morgan's missionary work in Bangladesh.
- Contributed \$1,500 to support Drs. Gary and Marlene Van Brocklin's missionary work in South East Asia.
- Donated \$2,000 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 \$9,000 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 \$6,000 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.
- Provided \$5,000 to support the ASU campus minister.
- 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 the Watauga Habitat for Humanity.
- Donated \$1,000 to Eagle Rock Ministries. They administer a Chaplain program and jail ministry in Watauga County.
- Conducted a mission team to Haiti in November to deliver water filters & help in a school and a medical clinic.
- The Two Cents a Meal offering, received the last Sunday of the month, totaled \$4,054. This is a ministry through the Salem Presbytery's Pennies for Hunger program to fight hunger locally, nationally and internationally.
- Contributed \$2,565 and volunteers to purchase, prepare and deliver food for thanksgiving meals for 81 Hispanic families (355 total residents) in Watauga County.
- Provided space and volunteers to assist feeding thanksgiving dinner to over 200 clients from the Hospitality House.
- Filled and delivered over 100 Christmas Shoeboxes in conjunction with Operation Christmas Child.
- Collected \$1,359 from the Moravian Lovefeast love offering which was donated to Travis' Lunchbox which serves our neighbors in need in Watauga County.
- Collected funds during the Advent Conspiracy which were donated to support various local and international charities.

In addition several new mission projects were completed in 2018. Highlights include:

- Collected \$19,874 during Lent which was used to support a construction mission team trip in July to Mexico.
- Contributed \$1,200 to support a missionary at ASU for Campus Crusade for Christ.
- Sent a team to Eastern NC to assist with disaster relief and contributed \$4,429 to 3 organizations that fed affected families.

PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL

Moderator: *Dean Gropper, Elder*

In March of 2018 the Session voted to separate the Church Management Committee into two separate committees to better focus some of the work. The Property and Personnel Committee is tasked with handling all matters associated with our physical plant and caring for our personnel which includes setting and administering all church personnel policies as well as dealing with any issues that may arise.

First Presbyterian experienced several transitions in our staffing this past year. First, Rebecca Liljestrang resigned as our Director of Children's Ministry. Subsequently the Session voted to approve Elizabeth Lee as Interim Director of Children's Ministry until a search for a new Director can be conducted. As of the end of 2018 that search was still in progress. Second, Steve Marks' role as Director of Adult Ministries was expanded after he completed classes and was approved by Salem Presbytery as a Commissioned Ruling Elder for the Western Region. With his role being expanded to assist Pastor Smith with congregational care and some preaching his job title has been changed to Pastoral Associate.

The Property and Personnel Committee also completed, and Session approved, a First Presbyterian Church Employee Manual. The new manual is up to date has undergone legal review. It is a living document and will be continue to be updated as circumstances warrant. In addition, the Property and Personnel Committee has begun an effort with First Morning Out to better understand and document the role of Session and the role of the First Morning Out Board of Directors. This work is expected to be completed in the first half of 2019.

The Property and Personnel Committee, and in particular Frank Dooley, also worked diligently to keep our property well maintained and everything in good working order.

WORSHIP

Moderator: Bob Smith, 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 2018

Worship continued to be enhanced by an ever growing Chancel Choir, led by Director Lisa Combs, the First Light Praise Team, led by Cindy Clawson, and the Exuberant Bells, led by Sylvia Rippey. Scholarship students continued to participate in worship throughout the summer. A violin was added to the First Light band. Pastor Jeff Smith's sermon series included *Good News Travels Fast, Lost and Found, But God...*, *Long Story Short, The Acts of the Holy Spirit, And He Shall Be Called*.

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

Another combined worship service was held in October on Dedication/New Member Sunday. In November, 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 Lovefeast (attended by approximately 400 people), Christian singer, composer, and author Andrew Greer led the music in both services on December 16th and presented a wonderful Christmas concert for the church and community. 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, May, October, and in December for the Lovefeast. The Tech Team continued to improve the presentation software and the violin interface.

An organ search committee was formed to evaluate all potential instruments to replace the unfinished pipe organ. A final report was presented to the session after four months of busy evaluation, and was approved pending funding.

Partially due to lower attendance in both services during the summer, a single service, "Summer Church," was held for seven Sundays, using both contemporary and traditional music styles.





First Presbyterian Church

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