

Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church

Annual Report to the Congregation
for 2015

Presented to the Congregation March 13, 2016



314 Great Ridge Parkway
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516-4122
919.960.0616

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My dear friends,

2015 marked our sixth year as a congregation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and our fourth year in our new sanctuary. By now, we have settled in and are finding more and more ways to share the beautiful sanctuary God has given us with the community around us. We continue to add new members, our worship continues to be vibrant, and our mission to the local community and to Guatemala continues to grow. As a congregation, you continue to hear God's call to go into the world, bearing the light of Christ and sharing God's promise of hope and peace. You are passionate about the gospel and seek to discern together, through your study, prayer and service, what it means to be Christ's disciple in the world today. I am honored to partner with you in this journey of faith.

MISSION:

Our congregation focuses its mission on three words: **Welcome, Worship, and Witness.** As we do ministry together, we continually search for ways we can be inclusive and fully welcoming to all God's children. We ask how our worship informs who we are and what we do in the world. We seek to discern how God would have us witness to the love and light of Christ to the world. In our ministry together, we keep this three-fold mission focus in the forefront of our minds.

STAFF:

I continue to be in awe over the quality of the staff serving this congregation: Nana Morelli (Office Manager), Jeremy Nabors (Director of Music Ministry), Mitzi Leshner-Thomas (Parish Associate), Michael DePue (Director of Christian Education), Janet Askew (Bookkeeper), Leigh Denny (Pianist), Dennis Dallke (Custodian), Peaches Smith and Barbara Treyz (Nursery workers). They give so much of themselves to the work they do here at Chapel in the Pines. I am grateful to be a part of such a gifted, dedicated and faithful team of leaders. Thank you for your generosity as a congregation which allows us to have such a talented and hard-working team in place.

This year we were blessed to have added to our staff two wonderful new team members – Leigh Denny as our pianist in March and Michael DePue as our Director of Christian Educator in September. We are fortunate to have such gifted individuals as a part of our staff.

We also continue to be grateful to Katherine Brekke and the many volunteer hours she puts into directing the handbell choir and for the overall musical gifts she brings to the worship team as well.

During 2015, we worked with several Duke Divinity School student interns after a break for many years because of financial limitations. From January –April 2015, Nick Andersen continued as an academic year intern, sharing his gifts of pastoral care and preaching.

During the summer, Indhira Udofia joined us from Duke Divinity School and added her strong preaching voice and tutoring program leadership to the summer.

In the fall Katie Muchison Ross began her academic year internship, with a focus on pastoral care, prison ministry, and worship leadership.

Savannah Caccamo, a UNC student and a member of First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, served as our youth ministry intern.

For all of these interns, I served as supervisor and met with and mentored them every week. Chapel in the Pines continues to be a wonderful place for these divinity students to learn and grow and explore the particular vocational calling God has for them. Thank you all for the welcome you have given each one of them and the guidance you have offered them in their journey. I am very grateful for all of these students and the gifts they have shared with our congregation.

My work for the church this year continued to focus in the major areas of worship leadership, preaching, pastoral care, administration, membership, staff support and committee resourcing. Included in this were baptisms, weddings, and memorial services.

In 2015, we appointed a Strategic Planning Task Force (Heather Bogan, Chair, Haley Terry, Sec., Lee Werley, Kevin O'Dell, Barbara Strange, Karen Adkins, and John Walkup). They will continue their work in 2016 as they look to the future God has in store for Chapel in the Pines.

I hope you will take the time to read through this document and see the incredible impact Chapel in the Pines has on the community around us. We provide financial resources and volunteers for a large number of service agencies and work particularly in areas related to poverty, hunger, race relations, mental illness, care for the environment, and ecumenical partnerships. We are a strong, healthy church bearing witness to God's grace and love to a hurting world. May God continue to guide us in the days and years ahead.

To God be the glory, now and always.

Your pastor, servant, and friend,
Mindy Douglas

Brothers and sisters, each year seems more difficult than the last to look back and take stock of all that has happened, all that has changed; and only because it's difficult to believe another year has passed. How many times have we rearranged chairs and tried to get them back just so? Or puzzled over bees, squeezed cars into the lot like pieces of a puzzle, juggled to find an available room or fit in one more chair. Perhaps these don't seem the moments to celebrate but I think they are; it's the ordinary stuff of daily life lived in community. We are not, praise God, a static body; a place where no one, save the pastor, darkens the door until Sunday morning. The CITP community, and the community at large, comes and goes to study, work, pray, worship, meet, plan, eat, laugh and live and I am so grateful to be a part of it all with you. As with any household it can bring frustrations, flinging wide the doors means things will rarely be 'just so.' But what joy as the house is filled with all the sights, scents, and sounds of life lived in and for the grace and glory of God!

I treasure this life of faith we share and am grateful for the opportunity to continue in ministry with and for Chapel in the Pines. Over the years my role has become that of a generalist in ministry. I continue as the staff liaison for the deacons but also teach, help lead and plan worship, maintain office hours and provide pastoral care. As we reflect on a year gone by and face into a new one I pray we may continue in boldness, flinging wide our doors in welcome, trying new things, celebrating when they succeed and pausing to take stock when they don't; may we ever trust, not solely even primarily, in our own ideas or efforts but in the creative, free, unpredictable, loving Spirit of God who abides with us now and forevermore.

Deacons

The office of Deacon as set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service. Deacons help extend a ministry of care and compassion to members and friends on behalf of the congregation. Deacons meet every other month for study, prayer and to attend to the caring ministries of CITP. Each deacon is assigned approximately 14 households with whom they develop a relationship and to whom they provide on-going care through emails, phone calls, or cards. They help serve as an officer in the narthex, may help serve communion, deliver flowers following worship, and organize memorial receptions, coordinating refreshments and volunteers as they care for grieving families.

They strive to acknowledge significant life events such as births, baptisms, and graduations with a special gift on behalf of the congregation. Deacons extend the care of Chapel in the Pines by assisting with transportation, providing meals, and accompanying the parish associate on homebound communion.

Highlights of 2015

"He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two..." Mark 6:7

Deacons have been working in pairs to support one another in their ministry and to pray for one another as they seek to serve the congregation. Deacons, along with members, have helped to provide transportation, meals, and memorial receptions as needed.

Began a study of Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life by William Willimon & Stanley Hauerwas

3 high school graduates received bibles given by deacons on behalf of Chapel in the Pines with notes from deacons and elders – these were delivered by deacons or the parish associate to the graduate and/or family member.

Numerous Holding Crosses (www.holdingcross.com) and Stephen Ministry Grief Books have been delivered to members and friends struggling with loss, illness, or other life crisis

Held first deacon 'Meet & Greet' – following the installation of new officers, on 4 separate Sundays deacons hosted, immediately after worship, a time for members to meet their deacon in person

Goals for 2016

Organize 2nd 'Meet and Greet' following installation of new officers – consider whether the resources are available to host this event bi-annually

Complete study of *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

Continue to seek creative ways to build and foster relationships between deacons and shepherd groups and within the community as a whole

Pastoral Activities/Responsibilities

Highlights of 2015

Leading women's Study based on the book *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*

Arranged for guest speakers on Judaism and Islam

Supported group in initiating a once a month volunteer effort at Take & Eat

Planned and led 2nd annual Hanging of the Greens – an opportunity for the whole congregation to learn about the liturgical traditions and symbols of Advent as we prepared the sanctuary for the coming Christ child

Planned and led 2nd family friendly, child oriented Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m.

Leading *Open Spaces* - an alternative worship opportunity, meeting on Tuesday evening, centered around Taize style song, silence, and weekly celebration of communion

Arranged for guest leaders and musicians to introduce community to other forms of meditative practice such as Buddhist walking meditation

Meet bi-monthly with deacons

Visitation & homebound communion provided as needed or as requested by member or pastor

Goals for 2016

Continue Tuesday morning women's study group with focus on service being intentional part of study

Continue *Open Spaces*, with a particular eye toward inviting new leaders who can help us explore other forms of spiritual practice and learning more about other alternative worship experiences

Friends, as always, I am thrilled to update you on the growth of our music program. 2015 was a very busy year in the Chapel in the Pines music ministries. The choir continues to be a large part of the worship service as well as a community building activity within the church community. This year we have been able to involve even more people in our music ministry. In the early months of 2015 we conducted a search for a new pianist after Dr. Jay Pierson left in December 2014. We are very blessed to have found Leigh Denny to join our staff as our pianist. Leigh is a wonderful addition to our music ministry. Our bell choir saw a great deal of musical growth during this year.

Mission:

1. To provide the congregation of CITP with music to enhance the worship service.
2. To engage the members of the church with meaningful expression of faith through the art of music.
3. To allow the members of the choir to participate in this congregational outreach through quality music and quality presentation.

Responsibilities:

1. Oversee the music of the church service
2. Oversee the music staff
3. Lead the Choir of CITP
4. Arrange for special music outside of the traditional service music
5. Encourage participation of the congregation in the music making of the church
6. Include congregational music in the worship service

Highlights of 2015:

- Adult Choir met Wednesday nights from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- The bell choir as grown to a full choir of 12-14 members under the direction of Katherine Brekke.
- The bell choir expanded the difficulty of its music as well as its roll in worship.
- Bell Choir met Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:00 p.m.
- We are exploring all of the musical possibilities in our sanctuary by performing all over the space, not just the front.
- The choir has up to 30 members of the congregation having sung with us at least once.
- The normal choir on Sunday has stayed consistent at 16-22.
- We have kept up congregational participation in service music with several people offering to add their own music to the service.
- The choir has focused on pairing the anthems with the liturgy of the week.
- Members of the choir continue to participate in Montreat Music and Worship Conference.
- Led an Advent Service of Music with a performance of the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*
- Grew the music library to incorporate more music for our growing choir.

Goals for 2016

- Continue to advocate for a line item to the staff budget for our Bell Choir Director.
- Continue to build a strong bell choir program
- Continue to incorporate the bells into worship
- Continue to increase participation of the congregation in the music program of CITP – through the Choir, Bell Choir, and instrumentalists
- Increase the usage of musicians from outside the church as a way to build our community

Summary

Since I was hired in October, a lot of my time at Chapel in the Pines this year was spent getting to know the church—the people, the spaces, the rhythms of Sunday, and the pattern of life together. Although this is essential work for my position, it is slow and difficult to put into a report. In more specific terms, I have become the point person for both children’s Sunday School (organizing, preparing lessons/materials, recruiting teachers) and the nursery (organizing volunteers). On Sunday mornings I lead an adult Sunday School class (Modern Faith) that has a small, but dedicated group who attends. At the end of the year, the Children and Youth Committee decided to purchase a new curriculum for children’s Sunday school. This new curriculum follows the lectionary readings and I am very excited about it as it gives us another way to help the children of CITP engage with Sunday worship. Nothing that I have done would be possible without the help of the CYC and the many volunteers who are committed to working with the children of the church and I am grateful for all their help. Moving forward, I am excited to find new and creative ways for the children to participate in the life the church and to continue to recruit and support volunteers, especially Sunday School teachers.

2015 Achievements

- Began new adult Sunday School class (Modern Faith)
- Researched (with CYC) and prepared new lectionary based children’s Sunday School curriculum to implement in 2016
- Led children’s choir song in Advent
- Recruited nursery workers

2016 Goals

- Recruit more children’s Sunday School teachers
- Reestablish children’s church during Sunday service
- Continue children’s choir
- Find more ways for children to engage with Sunday worship
- Increase attendance to Modern Faith class

In 2015, Chapel in the Pines experienced another year of excellent financial health. During the year, we received \$311,544 in operating revenue and incurred operating expenses of \$295,759, allowing us to increase our operating reserve by \$15,785. Our operating story is excellent—but not the complete picture.

Our members and friends again provided a number of special gifts designated for non-operating items, including additional funding to make our church facilities more energy efficient, a number of new plantings to our grounds particularly around the bio-pond and in the Remembrance Garden, a piano microphone, and additional audio equipment, etc.

Various committees in conjunction with the Finance Committee this year put together a “Wish List” of items the church needed that fall outside the operating budget for members and friends who wish to make a special donation. This wish list is published on our church website.

The congregation continued to demonstrate our commitment to various mission and service activities not only with our money but also with our time and talents. Our members provided countless volunteer hours for those in need in the local community. Local organizations to which members gave time included Habitat for Humanity, the Food Pantry, Take and Wear, Take and Read, etc. Financially, the church provided \$43,936 to outreach from our operating budget and the capital campaign. In addition, Chapel in the Pines received \$15,621 in special offerings and gifts to carry out the mission of community service of Chapel in the Pines making our total funding for mission and service almost \$60,000 in 2015.

Our online giving continued to attract more attention as a preferred option for our members to fulfill their annual pledge. Over \$10,000 was given online, a significant increase from \$4,000 in 2014. Most simply signed up for a monthly charge to their credit card as a way to support the church.

As Treasurer, I look back on 2015 as another successful financial year for Chapel in the Pines. It again demonstrates the generosity of our members and friends both financially and through time and talent commitment. Most importantly, it provides confidence that we will be able to continue to carry out the work the Lord has called us to do in the years ahead. Thank you so much to each and every member and friend for your many contributions and your continued generosity.

Active Membership of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church
As of December 31, 2014: 171

Membership Gains in 2015 by:

Reaffirmation of Faith:	2
Baptism & Profession of Faith:	0
Letter of Transfer:	16
Other:	2

Total Gains: 20

Membership Losses in 2015 by:

Letter of Transfer:	0
Death:	2
All other:	3 (removed from roll)

Total Losses: 5

Active Membership of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church
as of December 31, 2015: 186

During 2015, Chapel in the Pines received 16 members by Letter of Transfer, 2 by Reaffirmation of Faith, 1 Affiliate and 1 returned to roll. Three members were removed from roll and two members, Ray Jones and Maury Henkels, died.

The Session met in 10 stated meetings (February meeting cancelled because of inclement weather and September meeting cancelled for lack of quorum) and 5 called meetings at which minutes were received and reports given from all standing committees and the staff. There were 3 Congregational Meetings: March 15 for the purposes of approving the nominating committee and presenting the 2014 Annual Report, April 26 for the purpose of electing a third elder and approving changes to the pastor's terms of call recommended by the personnel committee, and September 20 for the purpose of electing a ruling elder to complete an unexpired term. A roll of members and a file of minutes are maintained in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Ladd
Clerk of Session

New Members:

Blisse Adams	January 25, 2015
Todd Adams	January 25, 2015
Palmer Smith	January 25, 2015
Paulette Williams	January 25, 2015
Emily Williams	January 25, 2015
Elizabeth dePrater	March 22, 2015
David Bohner	July 19, 2015
Sarah Graham	July 19, 2015
Haley Terry	July 19, 2015
Zach Terry	July 19, 2015
Elizabeth Melton	July 19, 2015*
Melissa Carter	August 23, 2015
Judy Kenyon	August 23, 2015
Margaret Reif	August 23, 2015
Jo Ann Bolig	November 22, 2015
Paul Bolig	November 22, 2015
Jo Ann Harllee	November 22, 2015
Jim Harllee	November 22, 2015
Paul Isom	November 22, 2015

Membership losses:

Antoine Sharpless, Susan Feinberg, Elizabeth Read - removed from roll on 8/24/15

Ray Jones – died on February 11, 2015

Maury Henkels – died on May 19, 2015

* Affiliate membership and also Ford Heath returned to roll.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adult Education Committee

Kristin Lavergne

In 2015, Chapel in the Pines continued to offer Sunday morning adult education opportunities as well as some during the week.

Exploring Together Class (formerly named the Café Class) - this Sunday morning meets in the Exploring Together classroom in the Education Wing. In 2015 this class focused on studies of the Bible, various theologians, and church history.

The First Christmas by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

John Wesley by Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.

March/April they studied the New Testament book of Revelation using a study written by Duke Professor James Efrid

Saint Francis: the Life, by Augustine Thompson.

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs for Everyone by John Goldingay.

John for Everyone by N. T. Wright

The Social Justice and Peace Making Class - this Sunday morning class meets in the Library and completed studies of several primary works during 2015.

Journey to the Common Good by Walter Bruggemann.

Strangers at My Door by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission by Amy Simpson.

World Changing 101: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness by David LaMotte.

Modern Faith – this Sunday morning class is led by Michael DePue our Director of Christian Education. A new class, participants discussed short articles or blogs from a variety of topics around contemporary issues of faith. Parents of young children were especially encouraged to join as this class meets at the same time as the children's Sunday school class.

Spirituality and Literature Class meets every 3 or 4th Sunday of the month to discuss spirituality with the help of good books. It is a time of food (small lunch provided), fellowship and discussion.

Faith Study Group - Women's study – led by Mitzi Leshner-Thomas and Joelle Brummitt-Yale

Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew- three Women Search for Understanding by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, with study beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Thirst Quenchers continued to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at local restaurants to discuss various topics of interest brought by group members. Topics are widespread including everything from current events to theological issues. While topics typically differ for each meeting, themes often emerge. Attendance varies greatly, and often includes participants from outside the congregation.

Paul Tillich Study in October/November *Human Sin, Estrangement and Reconciliation*, by Mickey and Bill dePrater.

Seeking Solidarity across Racial Lines – Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Led by Mindy Douglas and Michael DePue. Discussed sections of the book *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*.

Healing the Wounds of Trauma – this course was taught by Will Sibert on three consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 14, 21, and 28 from 9:00-12:00.

Inquirers' Classes – taught by Mindy Douglas

January 11, 18

August 2-16

In 2015, the Building and Grounds committee continued to focus on the maintenance and enhancement of our beautiful church and grounds. Highlights of our year included major landscaping work that involved re-mulching, adding numerous plants to the front of the church, and replanting the biopond. Other outside enhancements included re-graveling the driveway, installing a picnic table in the playground, sealing the outdoor benches, and adding wheel stops to the parking lot.

The biopond continues to be a source of concern, which we are monitoring closely. We discussed its possible conversion into a wetland with experts, but concluded that it is working well enough to postpone the conversion for another two to five years. We added Kevin O'Dell to the committee with the special charge to look after the biopond.

Within the building, Building and Grounds performed routine cleaning and upkeep, along with minor enhancements. We organized the annual cleaning day, in which the church joins together to be responsible stewards of our building. Church members and friends washed the sanctuary floor, pulled weeds, dusted furniture and vacuumed carpets, and cleaned windows. We contracted to have the education wing carpets cleaned and the building sealed against wasps. We replaced the church's emergency lights and replaced office and classroom curtains with blinds in accordance with fire marshal regulations and added curtains to the nursery and cork strips to the children's classrooms.

Members of the Committee include Bruce Raymond, Chair; Karen Atkins, Sec.; Dana Staats, landscape architect; Bart Holtz, contractor; Rodney Hudson. We look forward to continuing to serve the church in stewardship in 2016.

For the Children and Youth Education committee, 2015 was a year of transition and growth. Most notably, we were incredibly excited to welcome Michael DePue as the Director of Christian Education. We also added a number of new children's programs and opportunities:

- Partnered with Mt. Zion Baptist church to offer a tutoring program there.
- Continued a partnership with the Take and Read book program to provide students with their own books.
- Held a celebratory kickoff for the beginning of the Sunday school year.
- Started a children's choir, initially rehearsing during Sunday school, which performed during an Advent church service.
- Changed, at the end of the year, from the rotation-based Sunday school curriculum to a lectionary-based curriculum. Purchased new Bibles for the Sunday school classrooms to go along with the new curriculum.
- Increased our ability to welcome all children and families by training and hiring Peaches McIntyre to work with children with autism.
- Sought feedback from the church community on our children's programs by distributing and evaluating a survey.

We also continued and grew a number of our successful programs. Sunday school continues to be taught by a broad number of volunteers in conjunction with regular shepherds, and we offered a child-friendly Christmas Eve service (along with a more traditional candlelight service) for the second year in a row. Savannah Caccamo, an intern with the UNC Presbyterian Campus ministry, continued her work with our youth.

As we reflect on the past year and move into a new one, we especially want to thank outgoing committee members Georgana Bond, Debbie Sears, and Katherine Brekke and outgoing Session chair Tina Dickerman for their service in Children and Youth Education.



Social Media Subcommittee

CITP has been using Facebook as the primary social media outlet. We have Twitter and Instagram accounts, but have not kept up with updates on these, and have very few followers. Hence, the committee will continue to focus primarily on Facebook.

We have continued to post the weekly sermon on Facebook, which has been consistently popular. We also posted the video produced for the stewardship campaign. Other posts include pictures of flowers around the church, and promotions for the Farm at Penny Lane and Habitat. Special prayers for refugees and the recent victims of terrorism have also been posted. We have also cross posted with Strobilus and Penny Lane.

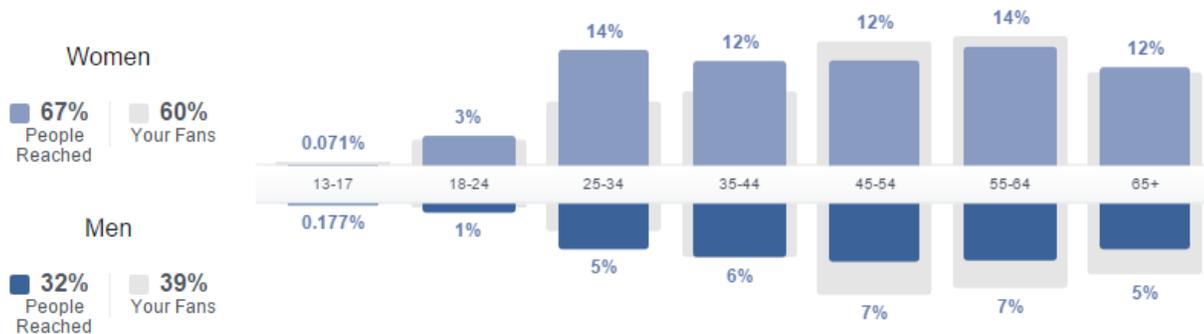
These are the top "reach," or number of times the below items have been viewed:

- Stewardship video - 967
- Flowers photos - 757
- Sermon 10/28 - 537
- Sermon 9/25- 517
- Strobilus Women's Voices photos - 444

As can be seen from the above numbers, photos and videos are popular on the site. The committee plans to continue focusing on adding small videos of members and community members telling what the church means to them. Facebook page "likes" have increased from 422 at the start of the year to 496 in mid-December.

Efforts mostly have been reaching people aged 45 and older. 67% of the viewers are women.

The number of people your post was served to in the past 28 days.



Publicity Subcommittee

Publicity efforts have concentrated on configuring and posting banners at strategic locations on roadways, advertising special worship opportunities, and also designing artful postcards for mailing to residents in nearby neighborhoods.

Banners were posted advertising Holy Week and Christmas Eve Services, resulting in significant increases in attendance.

A special mailing of 10,000 original design postcards was made to neighborhoods within a five mile radius of the church. The mailing occurred during the week of September 23-30. Increased attendance attributed to the mailing was significant and encouraging for future planned mailings.

Technology Support Subcommittee

The CITP website continues to be maintained and updated by Mary Donna Pond and provides much information, including the following: Welcome information for newcomers and visitors; podcasts of the sermons and sermon texts, when available; a link to the weekly worship bulletin and weekly e-newsletter; calendar of events; lists of volunteers for flower duty schedule, communion service helpers, lay readers, etc.; the 2015 stewardship packet materials and video; Session approved policies, procedures, and documents; discussion readings for Thirst Quenchers; updates to pictorial directories and information on new members (accessible without logging into the website and both password protected); link for online giving; Strobilus Arts Series information; annual report for 2014. A system for recording Sunday sermons was implemented.

A Website Redesign Task Force was appointed by the Session. During late 2015, the group met several times to talk about how a new website might function. An online survey solicited input from church members and friends. Survey results were posted on the website, and improvements were incorporated.

Audio-Visual Subcommittee

Audio Enhancements

Several important enhancements were made to the audio system in early 2015: a speaker was added in the Narthex for service broadcasts; a lavalier microphone was added to support an additional speaker (usually the intern); a PC was added to record and upload the service for providing podcasts (see below),

University Presbyterian Church upgraded their audio system and donated their previous digital signal processor (DSP) to CITP. This system was professionally installed and configured in September, 2015 (paid for by generous donations). It has replaced the limited functionality analog "auto-mixer" allowing for both more input channels and more varied output channels. The DSP converts audio signals to digital data and allows the mixing of various combinations of inputs for each of up to 4 output channels (versus the previous one output channel). Since the audio stream is digitized it can be mathematically manipulated in an efficient and flexible manner to enhance the quality of the sound.

With the DSP CITP now has this immediate benefit:

- the volume for the various microphones is adjustable from anywhere in the sanctuary using an application on an iPad/iPhone connected wirelessly to the DSP
- the dynamic range of microphone users can be "shaped" with higher volume levels smoothed and lower volume levels boosted
- using alternate input sources (e.g. an iPod) have been simplified

Future capabilities made possible by the DSP (requiring additional modest wiring and equipment additions) include:

- with the addition of one or more hanging mics, the DSP could send the sounds of the choir, piano, and congregational singing to the hearing loop and remote speakers, but not the main speakers avoiding possible feedback issues)
- if a band has its own sound equipment (mics, speakers, mixer) their mixed audio output can be input to the DSP and sent to the hearing loop system and remote speakers

Sermon Podcasts

The sermon podcasts are now automatically recorded and uploaded to Google drive for later processing by a PC located in the sanctuary storage closet. It is no longer required to use a smart phone recorder application for this purpose, and all microphone inputs are captured (including both scripture readings). There is also a mechanism for manually initiating the recording and uploading of special services. The process for editing and posting the sermon podcasts has been fully documented and shared on the Google drive. However, the goal of enlisting a team of members to share in producing the final version of the podcast and making it accessible to others on the church website has not yet been achieved.

Hearing Loop

The “hearing loop” makes it possible for those with hearing impairments to better hear and participate more fully in the worship service. Those with activated “telecoil” (T-coil) enabled hearing aids are now able to hear the clear sound provided by the loop. There are also 4 T-coil headsets available for those who do not have hearing aids but would like to have hearing assistance. More people are using the hearing loop or expressing interest in doing so but some issues remain with preparing the hearing loop headsets and providing instructions for their use.

Access ACS and Church Life

The church uses software from Automated Church Systems (ACS) to keep track of member contact information, financial contributions, committee memberships, etc. ACS also provides a web interface (“Access ACS”) and recently a smart phone mobile interface (“Church Life”) to this data. Several members and staff have been using this mobile application in a trial mode. This allows them access to the member directory, provides for easy sending of emails or texts, and can link to a mapping application for directions to their home. The goal is to work out the process for keeping the Access ACS/Church Life member information current and roll these applications out to more users, with appropriate training. Eventually, Access ACS may be used to provide secure access to one’s giving history and status.

Computers and Network

Planning is underway to update the church computers to use Windows 10. In addition, the two network routers have been experiencing intermittent loss of wireless service and will be replaced in early 2016.

Committee Members

- Al Schalk
- Mary Donna Pond
- Bob Warren
- Nathan Kotecki
- Keith Glidewell
- Karen Fisher
- Terry Rudolph
- Jeff Morehouse
- Monty Brekke
- Mindy Douglas (ex officio)

This fall, the Fellowship Committee reinstated the set up team model that was used at North Chatham School during the time we worshiped there.

Our committee divided members into 11 teams with every member being assigned to a team. At the end of the first 11 months, the teams will begin anew with each team moving to the prior month for year two.

The fellowship team leaders prepare refreshments and coffee for enjoyment following the Sunday worship service. They also plan for and carry out a separate fellowship event during their month of service. It is hoped these events will be multi-generational and either free or inexpensive. Not only does this involve everyone in fellowship but it also allows members to work together and get to know one another.

The Fellowship Committee consists of Lynne Hoerter, chair; Mary Donna Pond, Phyllis Greene, and Marcia Ladd.



February Fellowship luncheon



Easter Sunday



Dedication Sunday

The Finance Committee had five major activities in 2015:

- **Stewardship campaign.** Under the leadership of Lynne Hoerter and, new this year, co-chair Chick Biddulph, CITP launched a successful stewardship campaign this year, focused again on “God’s Children, Our Future.” The campaign brought in \$280,643 in pledges, a 3.2% increase from last year’s campaign. This boost will help to continue supporting new enhancements to our youth programming for 2016, including funding a part-time Christian educator position.
- **Capital campaign planning for 2016.** Under the leadership of Stan Campbell, the capital campaign committee began work towards our 2016 capital campaign. We have lofty aspirations, including building a new fellowship hall: planning for this endeavor commenced in January of 2015 and was well underway by the end of the year.
- **Wish list and policy for designated giving.** The Session developed and will revise annually a “wish list” to help members direct their giving to those uses that will benefit the works of the church in ways deemed important and worthy.
- **Online giving.** This way of giving continues to grow in popularity. About \$10,000 was donated electronically by members and non-members.
- **AmazonSmile.** Though small in terms of revenue generation (about \$20 this year), CITP’s membership in the AmazonSmile program puts a smile on our faces every time we make a purchase and know that a donation will be made on our behalf to the church.



Members of the Committee include Heather Bogan, Chair; Jack Zollinger, Ron Greene, Jerry Wehmueller, Stan Campbell

Visitors

In 2015, our committee was intentional about making sure first time visitors and returning visitors were greeted warmly each Sunday as they entered the church. We added an additional volunteer in the narthex to greet visitors so that we could have two people to greet visitors while the deacon or elder focused on greeting members. Our volunteers were responsible for either helping visitors to make a name tag or find an existing one. They encouraged visitors to fill out an information card which they handed to them along with a brochure about the church. Note cards and/or emails were sent to visitors during the week following their visit. Note cards were also sent to returning visitors.

New Members

Nineteen new members were received during 2015. In an effort to make sure new members assimilated into the congregation, Fellowship Friends were matched with new members for the first year of their membership. Efforts were made to match members of similar ages and lifestyles and to place them on the same Fellowship Team. Names and pictures of new members were added to the New Member board in the narthex and in the online directories.

Prospective Members

In an effort to tell more people about Chapel in the Pines, 4X6 postcards with the church logo were purchased to be sent to new residents in our surrounding neighborhoods. Volunteers will be responsible for locating addresses of new residents in their neighborhood newsletters and sending a short invitation to join us for worship.

Existing Membership

Efforts were made to update our pictorial directory by offering times that members could have their picture taken if they did not have one or have a new one made if their existing one was out of date. We also offered non-members the opportunity to have their picture made for the directory.

The membership rolls are reviewed in January and recommendations are given to the Session.

Each week, name tags are replaced into the file boxes by volunteers for use the next Sunday. New name tags are created for lost ones and for visitors.

Activity bags for children are kept stocked and made available for children each Sunday. Members of the Committee include Barbra Carson, Mary Donna Pond and Marcia Ladd.

The Mission and Service Committee's work reflects the mission of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church to share the love of God by caring for those in need, locally and globally. Throughout the year we have worked to meet our goals of serving our local and global communities through hands on involvement, financial support and prayer.

Budgeting and Finances

The 2015 budget for outreach totals \$32,320.00, which is slightly under 11% of the overall church budget. Of this amount, \$16,395 was allocated for Salem Presbytery and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The remaining funds were used by the committee to support our local and global missions.

At the beginning of the year, there was \$12,108.35 remaining from the mission portion of the 2010-2012 capital campaign. These funds were disbursed as follows:

- \$4,000 to Will Sibert to start a trauma healing ministry with BEE World
- \$2,453.56 to the Presbyterian Hunger Project
- \$2,453.56 to Pachaj Health Center
- \$2,453.56 to Francisco Coll School
- \$373.84 to Chatham Literacy Council
- \$373.84 to The Farm at Penny Lane

In total, 50% of the 2010-2012 capital campaign funds were given to local missions and 50% was given to global missions. A portion of the local mission funds from the 2013-2015 capital campaign have been disbursed. Recipients of these funds are Circles Chatham, The Farm at Penny Lane and Chatham Literacy Council. 50% of the mission funds in this account are allocated for global missions, and the committee has had some difficulty discerning the best use of these funds.

Global Mission

We continue to support the work of CEDEPCA (Centro Evangélico de Estudios Pastorales en Centro América) through direct financial support and through the work of our mission coworker, Karla Koll, who is now serving in Costa Rica. You can learn more about Karla's ministry at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/kollkarlaann/>.

Also this year we continued to support a second mission coworker, Amanda Craft. Amanda serves as Regional Liaison for Mexico and Guatemala. Her husband, Omar Chan, is a native of Guatemala and was appointed in January 2014 as Facilitator for Border Ministries with the Presbyterian Border Region Outreach. You can learn more about Amanda and Omar's ministry at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/craftamanda/>.

We continued to support two missions in Guatemala. The Francisco Coll School, located at the Guatemala City garbage dump, provides quality education and nutritious food to more than 300 children in grades 1-6. The health clinic in Pachaj, Quetzaltenango provides basic maternal and child health care and primary care services to residents of a rural area of Guatemala. These missions each received \$175 from our global mission funds in 2015.

In response to the global refugee crisis, we gave \$350 to Church World Services to support refugee resettlement worldwide. \$100 of global mission funds was given to NEXT Church. Mindy is on the advisory board of NEXT, and the organization's mission statement is:

The mission of NEXT Church is to foster relationships among God's people: sparking imaginations; connecting congregations; offering a distinctively Presbyterian witness to Jesus Christ. Trusting in God's sovereignty and grace, NEXT Church will engage the church that is becoming by cultivating vital connections, celebrating emerging leadership and innovation, and working with congregations and leaders to form and reform faith communities.

You can learn more about NEXT at <http://www.nextchurch.net>.

We continue to offer fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate for sale in the narthex each Sunday. These items are purchased through a volume discount from Equal Exchange and are offered to the congregation at no additional charge.

Local Mission

We supported the following local missions in 2015:

- Take and Eat Food Pantry
- Take and Read Book Club
- Take and Wear Clothes Closet
- Chatham Habitat for Humanity
- Chatham County Literacy Council
- Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center
- Communities in Schools of Chatham County
- The Farm at Penny Lane
- Circles Chatham

Members of the congregation participated in a "Chatham Serves" work day with Chatham Community Church. This was the first time that we have partnered with this program, and we hope to continue our participation in 2016.

We participated in a tutoring program with Mount Zion Baptist Church. This program was well received by those who attended the programs, and we hope to continue this mission in 2016.

The "Wellness on Wheels" van, a mobile health care unit made possible in part by contributions from Chapel in the Pines' capital campaign funds, is now in operation! Thava Mahadaven, director of the UNC Center for Excellence on Community Mental Health, brought the van to CitP and talked about how it will help to offer health care to people who would otherwise not be able to receive regular health care.

\$100 of local mission funds was earmarked for scholarships to the Faith Connections on Mental Illness conference. The early registration fee for this conference is \$25, so a total of four scholarships are available to members of the congregation.

We receive a monthly Pennies for Hunger offering, which supports Salem Presbytery's Domestic and International Hunger Grants programs. We applied for a Domestic Hunger grant in the amount of \$3,000 to benefit Take and Eat Food Pantry and received a grant of \$2,000. An offering of "First Fruits and Vegetables" is received on the first Sunday of each month and donated to the Take and Eat Food Pantry.

Our members continued to work with Chatham Habitat for Humanity, providing labor, materials and lunches for Apostle Build work days.

A Thanksgiving gathering was held again this year for clients and staff of the Farm at Penny Lane.

The Take and Read book program continues to provide books at no charge to families in need throughout Chatham County.

Two special offerings were received this year, as usual. The local portion of the Pentecost offering was given to Communities in Schools of Chatham County (formerly Chatham County Together). The local portion of the Peacemaking offering was given to Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services.

Goals for 2016

- To continue to improve communications with the congregation so that church members (and visitors to the Web site) are more aware of what we are doing and where our money is going
- To reenergize our global missions, especially in Guatemala
- To get more people directly involved with our missions
- To strengthen our social justice ministries and to build closer working relationships with agencies that we support financially

Committee members

Members of the Mission and Service Committee are Monty Brekke, Amanda Briggs, Karen Fisher, Paul Harrell, Jeff Morehouse, Michelle Morehouse, Pat Poret, Beverly Rudolph, Susie Smith and Bob Warren



Summer Tutoring Program at Mt Zion Baptist Church



Habitat Build for the Vazquez-Grimaldo family



XDS Thanksgiving Dinner



The Farm at Penny Lane

Session Members

Class of 2016:

Monty Brekke
Vicky Raymond
Fred Royal

Class of 2017:

Heather Bogan
Kristin Lavergne
Butch Smith

Class of 2018:

Lynne Hoerter
Al Schalk
Barbara Strange

Board of Deacons

Class of 2016:

Brett Dillon
Janet Dopler
Terry Rudolph

Class of 2017:

Susan Cyr
Josh Ladd
Kenneth McIntyre

Class of 2018:

Carl Biddulph
Mary Donna Pond
Peggy Wilkerson

The Personnel Committee met several times. Currently, the church has eight individuals working as staff or contract employees. Only the pastor is full time. The office manager position is part-time, 25 hours a week.

The Personnel Committee addressed many complex personnel issues since the church was founded. The committee develops, recommends and presents the pastor’s terms of call to the Session for final approval and conducts the pastor’s annual review.

During the year the committee recommended candidates to fill the pianist and Christian educator positions. Leigh Denny joined our staff as our pianist and Michael DePue as Director of Christian Education.

Currently the committee consists of: Diane Tietz, John McDowell, Rachel Stevens, Charles (Chuck) Rickard and Archie Smith (Butch)

Goals for 2016:

- Provide oversight of the personnel program of the church
- Respond to personnel issues as needed

Pastor:

Mindy Douglas
528 Copperline Drive
Chapel Hill 27516
Cell: 919-260-5107
mindy@citppc.org

Parish Associate:

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas
20 Hawks Spiral Way
Pittsboro 27312
Cell: 919-444-1249
lesherthomas@citppc.org

Bookkeeper:

Janet Askew
1709 Patrick Henry Lane
Hillsborough 27278
Primary: 919-732-2648
Email: acctg@citppc.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Jeremy Nabors
2911 University Drive
Durham 27707
Cell: 919-360-5242
naborsje@gmail.com

Pianist:

Leigh Denny
522 Glendale Street
Siler City, NC 27344
Cell: 910-512-5338
cuppadenny@gmail.com

Office Manager:

Nana Morelli
309 Carlton Drive
Chapel Hill 27516
Cell: 919-632-6934
nmorelli@citppc.org

Director of Christian Ed:

Michael DePue
823 N. Buchanan Blvd, #2
Durham, NC 27701
515-710-1828
mjdepue@me.com

Sexton:

Dennis Dallke
1313 Hillsborough
Chapel Hill 27516
Cell: 919-606-1747
dallke@upcch.org

Highlights:

The Worship Committee's network of volunteers helped the community of Chapel in the Pines live out its mission of Welcome, Worship, Witness in 2015.

Each week we make special efforts to provide an inclusive environment that welcomes all who worship with us. Our intention is to make the experience comfortable for long-time Presbyterians as well as first-time visitors.

The sub-committees within the Worship Committee include Ushers, Music, Flowers, Children's message, Communion, Readers, and Liturgical arts.

Efforts have been made to widen the opportunity of serving in any of these capacities by providing church members with an online sign-up process accessed through the church website.

The Lord's Supper was celebrated the first Sunday of each month and other special days in our liturgical year. To make the experience inclusive for all, we offer gluten-free bread and grape juice. We also added service to the child-care volunteers. We also take great care to provide service to those who are unable to come forward for communion. Efforts have been undertaken to remind the congregation that at Chapel in the Pines all are welcome to serve communion and to invite all church members to participate.

Recruitment of ushers shifted to each month's Fellowship teams as a way to broaden the participation of members to serve in this "front door" expression of Welcome.

Additional members of the Children's message team were added, expanding the participation in this important part of each Sunday's worship experience.

The music program (choir, hand bells and special instrumentalists) continues to be a cornerstone of our worship experience. Music enriches our services, and the congregation has been introduced to many new selections.

An alternative worship service "Open Spaces" led by Mitzi Leshner-Thomas continued. These informal services and include silence, sacrament and song. Lenten season services were celebrated in partnership with Evergreen United Methodist Church. On Christmas Eve, we continued a second service at 7 p.m. The 5 p.m. service designed for families with children and the 9 p.m. candlelight service each had good attendance.

Members of the Committee include Vicky Raymond, Chair; Edith Dengler, Marcia Ladd, Peggy Wilkerson, Sandy Williams, John Walkup, Will Sibert, Katherine Brekke, Mindy Douglas, staff; Jeremy Nabors, staff.



Children's sermon



Easter 2015



Bell Choir



Choir



Sunday School Kick-Off, August 2015



Baptism Virginia Bell October 2015

Building Use

Nana Morelli, Office Manager

Our building use guidelines state Chapel in the Pines recognizes this building is a house of worship entrusted to this congregation for worship and service to God's glory. 2015 found the church opening its doors and welcoming many people —members, friends and people from the community, for worship, special services, meetings, prayer groups, dinners, Scottish dancing, yoga, choir and handbell rehearsal, retreats, concerts, weddings and memorial services.

In 2015 two weddings were performed at Chapel in the Pines and three memorial services.

On Thanksgiving Day we hosted the UNC XDS Thanksgiving dinner, with member volunteers helping to serve approximately 80 people.

Community groups are welcome to use the church building for approved events when date(s) and space are available. Fees for approved use of the building by non-member or sanctioned groups is reasonable. Church members and sponsored groups may use the building with no charge. Building use policies, fees and an application form can be found on our website at www.citppc.org.

Strobilus Music Series 2015-2016 brought a variety of musicians, vocalists and artists to the church.

In addition to church services and numerous community events during 2015, Chapel in the Pines provided meeting rooms and gathering space for the following organizations or churches:

UNC Hospice

Chatham Habitat for Humanity Board

Sisters' Voices

UNC XDS Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

Westminster Presbyterian