

Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church

Annual Report to the Congregation for 2018
Presented to the Congregation March 10, 2019



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As you know, I begin the weekly newsletter with *Here we are*.

Review of 2018: We are GROWING!

We have reached my stated goal of 20 (yes, *twenty!*) new households since January of 2018. This is cause for celebration and thanksgiving. Also, for reflection and evaluation. Why have they joined? In speaking with the new members, key commonalities have emerged. We are effectively living into our stated mission: Welcome, Worship, Witness. A few words about these key words ...

New members rave about the Welcome they have received and the generosity of spirit found here. Yet we also work hard with nametags, follow-up letters, and greeters. Welcome extends to the fellowship hall after the service, as well as to the playground for young families.

Once welcomed, people remain because of Worship. We hold a lively tension between formal liturgy and an inviting atmosphere. The flow of the service is generally smooth as a result of detailed planning and coordination among staff. Duke Ellington once quipped there are really only two kinds of music: good and bad! We certainly fall into the “traditional” category, but our leaders incorporate other instruments (including the bells!) and other styles of music.

Another note about Worship is the Sacred Arts Table. Once a source of anxiety, the involvement of our children is now recognized as a source of pride. Indeed, I would say that the *role* of children in worship is becoming one of the defining characteristics of our congregation.

As far as my preaching, I believe that I have gained confidence over the past year. A sermon is the Gospel filtered through the personality of the preacher, and I think I am finding my voice as teacher, caregiver, and wordsmith. I am leaning into the idea of pastor as poet. Chapel in the Pines is a tremendous listening congregation; the holy attentiveness here makes me strive to find the right words for the right occasion. You listeners are gracious to me.

For Witness, our congregation is increasingly visible in the larger community. We are developing a positive reputation as a growing, vibrant community of faith, one that is inclusive. This is not to say that we all vote the same; however, the bold statement of welcoming diversity on the cover of our Order of Service speaks volumes.

Witness includes activity in local ministries. A number of our members spearhead local groups: The Take and Eat Pantry, The United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Take and Read Book Pantry, Tutoring, The Farm at Penny Lane, and The Youth Development Center. Our new youth group has also taken the lead in providing hurricane relief in the form of hygiene kits, school supplies, and financial donations.

As I think back over 2018, there is much cause for rejoicing! *Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise!*

Friends, as always, I am thrilled to update you on the growth of our music program. 2018 was a busy year in the Chapel in the Pines Music Ministries. The Adult Choir and Bell choir continue 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. The choir has topped 33 members this year! As we expand our roster we continue to expand the music library. We are always seeking out ways to involve the music groups in our church in new and exciting ways. Our bell choir saw a great deal of musical growth during this year. We have rounded out a full bell choir with several subs. The bell choir continues to be an important part of every worship service. This year we have been able to add several instrumentalists to our roster and they have added greatly to our worship service. Rob Passow, our pianist continues to offer his gifts of composition with our choir and instrumentalists. He is an invaluable part of our team.

Mission:

1. To provide the congregation of Chapel in the Pines 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. Direct the Choir of Chapel in the Pines
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 2018:

- Adult Choir met Wednesday nights from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- The bell choir has grown to a full choir of 12-14 members (plus subs) under the direction of Katherine Brekke.
- The bell choir expanded the difficulty of its music as well as its role in worship.
- Bell Choir met Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:00 p.m.
- We have explored creating a middle school bell choir with help from the community
- We are exploring all of the musical possibilities in our sanctuary by performing all over the space, not just the front.
- The choir is maintaining weekly attendance of 20-25 singers helping to lead worship. With a top attendance of 33 singers!
- 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 and bell choir continue to participate in Montreat Worship and Music Conference.
- Grew the music library to incorporate more music for our growing choir

Goals for 2019

- 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 Chapel in the Pines – through the Choir, Bell Choir, and Instrumentalists
- Increase the use of musicians from outside the church as a way to build our community
- To work with our new pastor to infuse worship with music.
- Start building up our percussion instruments, replace broken instruments.
- Purchase 3-4 new music stands

Treasurer's Report

Jerry Wehmuller

Entering the year 2018, Chapel in the Pines faced a tough and challenging year. With the start of our new pastor in January, the church would incur two one-time large expenses: the severance payment for our interim pastor and the moving expenses of the new pastor. The church responded by having a very successful stewardship campaign in the fall of 2017 which provided the necessary resources to cover those expenses plus the funds to cover our operating expenses. Early in 2018 it became obvious that additional funding would be needed as the congregation began to grow including families with younger children. Both additional nursery staff and increased hours for our Director of Children's Ministry would be required if the needs of those families were met. Several of our members voluntarily agreed to increase their pledge to help with those resources.

Chapel in the Pines ended the year receiving \$340,909 in gifts from members, friends, and visitors which was \$19,000 over the original budget and an increase of 20% in giving over last year. A major contribution to that increase was the number of new members who began to support financially the operating fund.

Total operating expenses were \$333,300 which was also over budget by \$18,500 and some \$51,000 over last year spending including about \$25,000 in those one-time expenses mentioned above. Most of the remaining overage were from increased hours for the Children's Director and increased paid nursery staff. Increased attendance also caused higher expenses for printing bulletins, copying, postage, and utilities for facilities usage. The Session did approve taking \$7,000 from the prior year operating surplus to help fund increasing the parking lot capacity. That along with a \$15,000 gift from a member covered the total cost of that project.

Giving to the operating fund was not the only gifts received from our membership. The operating budget approved by the Session included \$30,000 for various outreach and other community programs. In addition, the congregation gave almost another \$30,000 for 15 or so other outreach activities. The largest amounts given included \$5,500 to the local Food Pantry, \$2,957 collected by the children for the Pennies for Hunger program and \$1,840 was a special giving request to go to victims of Hurricane Florence. Finally, approximately \$2,100 was given for county residents who called the church directly in need of help with their heat, water, and housing. These funds go directly to the utilities or rental agents to assist these neighbors in need with their bills.

Our cash balance ended the year at \$251,208 or a little over \$50,000 more than we had at the first of the year. Of this amount \$142,000 was in a reserve for paying our future mortgage payments. We also ended the year with a balance on our PILP loan for building the Sanctuary of \$696,890 which was reduced by \$40,713 during this year. The original loan was for \$964,000.

Chapel in the Pines had an extremely successful year financially no matter what measure is used. To all our generous and dedicated members, friends, and visitors: thank you so much. You make my job as Treasurer both easy and satisfying to belong to such a gracious church family.

The Clerk's Statistical Report to the Presbytery

Marcia Ladd

Active Membership of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church
As of December 31, 2017: 176

Membership Gains in 2018 by:

Reaffirmation of Faith, Profession of Faith: 15

Letter of Transfer: 10

Other: 0

Total Gains: 25

Membership Losses in 2018 by:

Letter of Transfer: 0

Death: 4

All other: 9 (Removed from Church Roll)

Total Losses: 13

Active Membership of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2018: 188

During 2018, Chapel in the Pines received 10 members by Letter of Transfer, 15 by Reaffirmation/Profession of Faith. 9 members were removed from roll and 4 members died: Margaret Hatcher, Dorothy Meriwether, Brenda Moore, and Ilia Rosen.

The Session met in 12 stated meetings and 1 called meeting at which minutes were received and reports given from all standing committees and the staff. There were 9 email votes by Session. There was 1 Congregational Meeting – October 7, 2018 for the purpose of nominating and electing two members for the diaconate. There was 1 stated meeting of the Board of Trustees. A roll of members and a file of all minutes are maintained in the church office.

I consider it a privilege to serve as the clerk of session for such an active, engaged and inspiring congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Ladd
Clerk of Session

New Members:

Andrew Riggs	March 4, 2018
Erin Riggs	March 4, 2018
Lindsay Powell	March 4, 2018
Matthew Powell	March 4, 2018
Rebecca Thomas	March 4, 2018
Aaron Freuler	April 15, 2018
Ashley Freuler	April 15, 2018
Deanna Crosby	August 19, 2018
Thomas Crosby	August 19, 2018
David Jester	August 19, 2018
Heather Jester	August 19, 2018
Emily Behr	June 10, 2018
Greg Behr	June 10, 2018
Jerry Douglas	June 10, 2018
Cynthia Hilliard	June 10, 2018
David Hilliard	June 10, 2018
Elizabeth Sunde	June 10, 2018
Sarah McCormack	September 30, 2018
Mary Raymond	September 30, 2018
Allison Grimes	November 4, 2018
Ian Grimes	November 4, 2018
John Brantly	November 18, 2018
Cheryl Richardson	November 18, 2018
Robert Richardson	November 18, 2018
Katherine Higgins	November 18, 2018

Child Baptisms: 12

Membership losses:

Removed from roll: 9

Deaths: 4

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds Committee

Karen Atkins

We would like to thank departing committee members Becky Peer and Kent Norgren for all their hard work (and meeting minutes!) on the Building and Grounds committee, and also Jan Rickard, who is stepping down from managing the Remembrance Garden after many years of thoughtful guidance.

The most visible accomplishments of this year are the coordination with Briar Chapel to pave Great Ridge Parkway and the addition of a new parking lot.

Other highlights from this year are outlined below:

Bio-Pond

- The Bio-Pond continues to get its annual certification at no cost to the church: Many thanks to former member Fred Royal for providing this service in the past and to Kevin O'Dell for continuing it.
- Mowing the bio-pond was started in 2017 and continues regularly
- The berm was bush hogged and will continue to be cut
- The original silt fence was removed

Great Ridge Parkway

- Worked with Briar Chapel to have Great Ridge Parkway paved

Additional Parking Lot

- Had land surveyed and plat drawn
- Layout/design of parking lot for permits and contractor bids completed.
- Obtained Right-of-Way from Briar Chapel to allow for new gravel parking lot
- Obtained necessary permits for new gravel parking lot
- Obtained two bids for the installation of the new gravel parking lot
- Assisted in tree removal for new gravel parking lot
- Provided guidance and overseeing of the installation of the new gravel parking lot

Fellowship Hall

- Re-arranged exterior lighting of the Fellowship Hall
 - Breezeway, kitchen door and rear (Remembrance Garden door) exterior lights on their own switch
 - Exterior spot lights are now motion sensor and on their own circuit
- Changed Music Office door to "lockable" door and keyed to master keys
- Installed door mounted "In-box" on music room door
- Added caution tape in front of alarm and electrical panels
- Created Fellowship Hall Usage Checklist

Remembrance Garden

- Obtained permits for future gazebo concrete pad in Remembrance Garden
- Provided guidance and overseeing of the installation of the future gazebo concrete pad in Remembrance Garden
- Repaired bench rot (2 benches)
- Preliminary Columbarium niche brochure completed
- Coordinating transition of Remembrance Garden leadership from Jan Rickard

Grounds

- Completed mediation area off the walking trail around the rear of the property (Eagle Scout Project)
- Re-stained playground equipment
- Re-mulched playground with playground mulch (special mulch)

- Removed sand box from playground
- Grounds workday (May 19)
 - Moved plants (for new gazebo pad)
 - Added mulch
 - Weeding
- Cleaned gutters
- Second Workday (Oct 20)
 - Landscaped front entrance
 - Added top soil and grass seed
 - Added new plants
 - Planted donated Japanese maple
 - Washed the Sanctuary floor
 - Window washing
- Replaced trail bridges that were washed down stream as result of the hurricane

Misc.

- Performed initial assessment of church safety, created a sample safety plan, and helped to instigate the creation of the Safety Task Force
- Added visual doorbell to exterior office door
- Overhead spot lights in Sanctuary changed to LED lights
- Supported Fire Marshall Inspection
- Performed many minor repairs around the church
- Lead closet clean-up effort (donated green folding chairs to Chatham Senior Center)
- Added shelving to new Godly Play classroom (older children)
- Re-arranged nursery and library
- Coordinated plumbing repairs to staff kitchen sink and men's bathroom urinal
- Repaired wall in men's bathroom – post urinal repair
- Clean and organized tool shed
- Added signage
 - Nursery signs
 - Alarm panel signs
- Blinds added to nursery windows and janitor closet in the Fellowship Hall

The year in Christian education at Chapel in the Pines was quite different than the previous year in which the church hired Joelle Brummitt-Yale as director of children's ministry and established Godly Play as the children's church school curriculum.

While 2017 was marked by beginnings, 2018 was highlighted by growth and change: Increased numbers of children and adults were involved in Christian education and new education programs and church school classes were established to accommodate the growing membership of the church.

And in other cases, the programs established in 2017 expanded in 2018. The Christian education committee was in many ways ready for these changes thanks to the Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman's admonition to anticipate the challenges we saw coming down the (paved) road. And sure enough, 2018 brought just that: completion of the paving of Great Ridge Parkway in December.

Both in anticipation and response to new members and increased numbers of children, Christian education worked to accomplish the following:

- expanded Godly Play into two classes.
- split the nursery into two classes (for infants and older children).
- created a youth program that began meeting weekly.
- attempted coordinating church school meeting times.
- improved church playground by painting the structure, mulching grounds, removing the sandbox.
- increased Joelle's hours to 20 per week.
- offered one more adult church school option taught by Andrew.
- engaged parents of young children in church school or other Sunday morning activities.
- hired UNC undergraduate Vance Stiles to primarily work with youth group and in worship.
- established a weekly parents' morning out program.
- participated in time and talent fair.

Discussion and/or action continued on the following:

- initiating a confirmation class.
- having church school for teens/youth.
- facilitating and coordinating mission trips for youth.
- applying for seminary intern.
- initiating service projects that involve adults and youth.
- creating other educational opportunities based on age and interest.
- continuing to improve the playground by putting new equipment on the church wish list.

Members of Christian Education Committee were Joelle Brummitt-Yale (director of children's ministries), Mary Ellen Houck, Paul Isom, (chair), Emily Smith, Andrew Taylor-Troutman (ex officio), Barbara Strange and Polly Williams.

Communication and Technology Committee

Pat Chappell

Due to a change in the Session liaison mid-year and Andrew's advent as our new pastor, the focus of the committee has begun to shift inward to internal communications. Electronic communication remains strong and effective.

Social Media:

As of December 6, 2018, the Chapel in the Pines' Facebook page had 595 followers, up from 448 in January 2017. This growth is organic, meaning it has happened naturally over time without paid advertising. Of the church's Facebook fans, 63% are female, 37% male. Some people click through the Facebook page to get to the church website and some click through to get directions to Chapel in the Pines.

Responsibility for posting to the Facebook page has broadened during 2018 to include staff members Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Rob Passow, and Joelle Brummitt-Yale, in addition to member Karen Fisher, who curates the Facebook page.

The Instagram page is also primarily managed by Karen Fisher. One or more new photos are added weekly. The Instagram page had 90 followers as of December 6, 2018, up from 49 in January 2018. Posting on Instagram is an opportunity for involvement for church members looking for a way to contribute to communications in the church.

Some committee members are posting church events to Next Door, which also serves as a way to inform our neighbors in Chatham County of church events. The email address socialmedia@citppc.org has been added for members and friends to send in photos and other items of interest for use on the Facebook and Instagram pages or in the weekly e-news.

Publicity:

For Holy week and Advent, banners advertising special services were again posted at the intersection of Mann's Chapel Road and Great Ridge Parkway.

This committee posted no mailings in 2018. This will be re-evaluated in 2019 after assessing the effect of the new traffic pattern after the opening of the full length of Great Ridge Parkway.

Print advertising in the Briar Chapel Magazine and the magazine for Governors Club continued until late fall 2018. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of our print advertising, we launched a survey to our congregants asking how they found out about Chapel in the Pines and what brought them to the church. Of 88 respondents, only 1 heard about the church through a magazine ad and none via social media. More than half learned about Chapel in the Pines by word of mouth. Given these results, the committee decided to discontinue magazine advertising for 2019.

Technology Support:

A goal of the committee for 2018 was to recruit and train members of other committees to be responsible for updating web pages which pertain to their particular interests. This was begun on a limited scale with some success. Mary Donna Pond continues to administer the website and regularly updates links for the weekly bulletin, weekly newsletter, and sermon podcast. She works with church staff and committees to keep the site information timely and informative. Usage statistics for the website from January-October 2018 (excluding May and June for technical reasons) showed monthly visits to the site generally in the 7000-8000 range.

Audio-Visual:

Bob Warren manages the AV systems in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Documentation for both systems has been improved so it is usable by a broad variety of the church membership and friends.

We are continuing to train people to serve on an audio team to take turns managing the audio levels for worship. Others have been trained to edit and post the sermon podcasts to the Chapel in the Pines' website.

Committee members: Pat Chappell, Chair and Session liaison; Mary Donna Pond, Technology support
Bob Warren, Audio-Visual; Karen Fisher, Social Media; Amanda Briggs, Advertising; Braxton Malan
Butch Smith

Fellowship Committee

Barbara Amago

Fellowship Committee: Barbara Amago (Chair), Phyllis Greene, Lynne Hoerter, Emily Smith, Joan Zollinger

The seven fellowship teams were re-organized in June and a newly elected elder, Barbara Amago, took up the chairmanship in July.

The fellowship teams provide refreshments, prepare coffee, and clean up for the fellowship time following worship services. They also provide the same support for special events such as the second Sunday potlucks, pastor installation, Strobilus Arts events, and stewardship Sundays if needed. The Fellowship Committee provides oversight of the kitchen, making sure kitchen supplies are replenished and that outdated food items are removed promptly from the refrigerator. As of July, the Worship Committee took on responsibility for ushering, thus relieving the Fellowship Teams from having to provide volunteers for concurrent activities.

The second Sunday fellowship potluck lunches continued this year, and have continued to be quite popular. Fellowship Team participation has been good, although the leaders have reported that they never hear from some of their team members. The Committee collaborated with Building and Grounds on an October Church Workday/Family Day that was quite successful.

Strobilus Arts organized an art show that highlighted original art pieces from church members and friends. We also had a very well-attended concert by Vox Virorum in May. The team organized an Emily Dickinson poetry reading and performance for August that had to be rescheduled for November due to hurricane Michael.

Finance and Administration Committee

Stan Campbell

Major activities in 2018:

1. Added Paul Bolig to the committee in June 2018.
2. Met monthly to review the financials and issued an approval of the financial statements to the Session each month.
3. Ensured a balanced budget while monitoring the impact on the reduction in reserves (a portion was needed to balance the budget after new expenditures were approved by Session during the year to fund new programming, for children and youth primarily).
4. Provided oversight of the annual *Stewardship Campaign for the 2019* budget (**Keep Our Vision GROWING**). The Stewardship Campaign committee was led by Heather Honeycutt and Lee Werley (Finance & Administration members) and included Emily Smith, Phyllis Greene, Jerry Wehmuller, and Andrew Taylor-Troutman. Goal for pledges was \$300,000. The campaign ended with a pledged amount of \$332,330, more than 10% over the goal.
5. Began establishing a preliminary proposed 2019 budget of \$344,000 for Session to approve in February 2019. After subtracting pledges received from the Stewardship Campaign, the remainder is anticipated to be received from unpledged donations, Sunday plate collections, and building use fees (based on past years' performance from these items).
6. Provided oversight of *Pillars of Faith Capital Campaign* collections. December 2018 was the 30th month of a 36th month collection process (83% finished). 94% of the pledged amount had been paid by December 31, 2018.
7. Recommended that a task force be approved by Session to determine if additional land is needed for expansion to the north, should the classroom building need an addition.
8. Began a review of how solar panel rebates by Duke Energy might be advantageous to the church should solar panel energy help reduce our monthly utility cost.
9. Oversight by Treasurer Jerry Wehmuller of contracting and financing a rock-based parking lot that came online in October 2018.

10. Oversight by Treasurer Jerry Wehmueller of a study to add solar panels to assist the church in reducing its carbon footprint.
11. Prepared a description of how cash is handled by Treasurer Jerry Wehmueller so that the committee and Session are up-to-date on the process.
12. Presented the Financial Review sub-committee's report. The committee met on December 15 and 16 of 2017 to review receipts, payables and payroll to determine if procedures were being followed or if procedures needed to be tweaked or developed. The sub-committee's review of recommendations was finalized in January 2018.
13. Hosted a tax-changes/estate-planning seminar by OPUS Financial Advisors in the fall to assist our congregation and the community in making tax-wise and family-wise financial decisions.
14. Hosted two reviews of the church's finances after worship during fellowship time.
15. Revised financial overview information sheets that are included in new member packets.
16. Accepted gift-in-kind items on behalf of the Session and oversaw updates to the Wish List maintained by F&A for Session.

IT notes for Administration:

- A "cloud backup" program was installed on all of the office computers so that any documents, spreadsheet, etc. created on them will be backed up quickly and on to an off-site backup system.
- The office desktop PCs were upgraded with solid state disk and more memory (at a modest cost) so that they should continue to be adequately useful for another 2-3 years.
- The accounting computer was upgraded to use Windows 10 so that all CITP systems are at the same operating system (for ease of maintenance and better security).

Committee members— Paul Bollig, Stan Campbell, Ron Greene, Lynne Hoerter, Heather Honeycutt, Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Jerry Wehmueller, Lee Werley, and Jack Zollinger

Membership Committee

Paul Harrell

Visitors

During 2018 we continued providing two volunteer greeters each Sunday to make sure new and returning visitors are warmly welcomed as they enter the church. The greeters help visitors make a name tag or find their tag if they have visited before. Greeters direct visitors to the nursery if they need child care, and try to seat them with a member who will continue to welcome them. The greeters encourage visitors to fill the friendship register so that we can acknowledge their visit, and invite them to return to worship with us.

New Members

- In 2018 25 new members joined the church roll. Names and pictures of each new member were added to the new member board in the narthex, and to the online directory. New members were assigned to a fellowship team, and to the care of a deacon.
- In 2018 we re-instituted the New Member Friends program. Each new member or family was assigned a current member volunteer to be a first contact for the new member, to help them become part of the life, work, and worship of the church.
- For the first time this year we planned a meal for everyone who joined Chapel in the Pines in 2018. Committee members provided the food and child care was available. During the fellowship together and in a follow up questionnaire we received feedback on the new members' experience at Chapel in the Pines.

Existing Membership

- A volunteer sends cards to anyone who has expressed a prayer concern during the worship service on Sunday.
- Membership rolls are reviewed each January and recommendations are given to Session.
- During the week volunteers sort the name tags and return them to the file boxes for use the next Sunday. New, printed tags are made for returning visitors.
- Activity bags for children in worship are stocked and available in the narthex for use on Sunday morning.

Committee members: Paul Harrell, Barbara Strange, Judy Kenyon, Polly Williams, Mary Donna Pond, Marcia Ladd, and Ginny Taylor-Troutman.

Mission and Service Committee January - June 2018: Monty Brekke (Session), Barbara Amago and Susie Smith (Co-chairs); July 2018: Maggie Reif

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.

Committee chair Maggie Reif was on extended leave through June of 2018. In Maggie's absence, Barbara Amago and Susie Smith were co-chairs of the committee and Monty Brekke served as the session representative.

Budgeting and Finances:

The 2018 budget for outreach totals \$30,000, which is slightly more than 10% of the overall church budget. Of this amount, \$13,225 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 mission, with \$8,450 for global mission and \$6,575 for local mission.

Capital Campaign:

The remaining \$1813.99 from the 2013 capital campaign was disbursed to Casa Materna to fund their plans to expand their kitchen and dining area and work toward adding a second story for additional beds.

We will begin 2019 with approximately \$7,300 in the 2016 capital campaign. Developing a plan to disburse these funds in a timely manner will be a priority for the committee in 2019.

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 co-worker, Karla Koll, who is now serving at the American Biblical University (UBL) in Costa Rica. You can learn more about Karla's ministry at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/koll-karla-ann/>

This year the committee was happy to welcome Leslie Vogel on August 1 to learn about her work with the Presbyterian Mission Agency in Guatemala and Mexico. Leslie Vogel has served as a mission co-worker in Guatemala since 2013 and became regional liaison for Mexico and Guatemala in 2018. You can learn more about Leslie Vogel's work at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/rev-leslie-vogel/>

This year, a portion of our global mission funds went to Presbyterian Mission Agency following Hurricane Florence (\$500). The committee also matched \$250 of the youth group's special offering to provide additional assistance.

The committee worked this year toward organizing an educational mission trip to Guatemala with CEDEPCA, which will take place in the spring of 2019.

We continue to support three 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, Quetzaltenago provides basic maternal and child care and primary care services to residents of a rural area of Guatemala.
- Casa Materna Ana Sayre serves women in the rural, isolated and poverty-stricken region of Cahabon, Guatemala and whose purpose is to reduce the high maternal and infant death rates by providing free, safe, short-term residence within reach of a medical facility for expecting mothers.

Casa Materna received the remaining \$1813.99 from the 2013 capital campaign. CEDEPCA received \$1000 from the global mission budget. The remaining funds in the global mission budget were split between World Central Kitchen, which focuses on hunger and areas affected by disaster, the Francisco Coll School and the Pachaj Health Clinic.

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 2018:

- Take and Eat Food Pantry
- Take and Read Book Club
- Take and Wear Clothes Closet
- Chatham Habitat for Humanity
- Chatham County Literacy Council
- Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE)
- Chatham Youth Development Center
- Communities in Schools of Chatham County
- Fuel Up at Perry Harrison Elementary
- The Farm at Penny Lane
- UPLIFT Chatham

The Take and Eat Food Pantry is no longer able to support a paid director and has returned to an all-volunteer model. Two volunteers are currently sharing the position of operations manager. One of those volunteers is Phyllis Greene from Chapel in the Pines.

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.

A "Pasta With a Purpose" fundraiser was held in September for the Take and Eat Food Pantry. \$1270 was raised.

We receive a monthly Pennies for Hunger offering, which supports Salem Presbytery's Domestic and International Hunger Grants programs. In October 2018, the Take and Eat Food Pantry received a grant of \$1500.

The food pantry continued its tradition of providing special Thanksgiving baskets. In December, the food pantry gave out fruit baskets and other "extras" with the regular distribution instead of the Christmas baskets that have been given previously.

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

The committee provided support to the Church of the Reconciliation in its works as a sanctuary congregation.

The committee also contributed to organizing an Earth Day celebration on April 22, partaking in fellowship and shared enjoyment of God's creation and reminding us of our role as stewards of this planet.

The Farm at Penny Lane organized and catered a Thanksgiving meal for their clients and staff. Chapel in the Pines provided a venue and some volunteers for their Thanksgiving meal.

Three special offerings were received this year, as usual. The One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday went to the Presbyterian Disaster Agency. The local portion of the Pentecost offering was given to Communities in Schools of Chatham County. The local portion of the Peace and Global Witness offering was given to Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE).

Throughout the year, the committee has been working towards becoming a Hunger Action Congregation and an Earth Care Congregation, examining our local and global missions through the lens of addressing questions of hunger and care for God's creation and using these questions as guides in the local and global missions we support.

Goals for 2019

Some goals of the committee for 2019 are:

- To become an Earth Care Congregation
- To become a Hunger Action Congregation
- To continue to improve communications with the congregation so that church members (and visitors to the website) are aware of the missions we are involved in
- To continue to re-energize our global mission, particularly in Guatemala
- To continue to strengthen our social justice ministries and to build closer working relationships with the missions we support financially, bringing in speakers from these missions to provide minutes for mission throughout the year

Members of the mission and service community during 2018 included: Barbara Amago, Monty Brekke, Amanda Briggs, Karen Fisher, Paul Harrell, Maggie Reif, Will Siebert, Susie Smith, Jane Wolf, Liz Woods and Mike Woods.

Personnel Committee

John McDowell

The Personnel Committee meets regularly to discuss various staff matters that arise during the year at Chapel in the Pines. Currently, Chapel in the Pines has seven individuals working as staff or contract employees. We evaluate the work of the Pastor and assist him/her in evaluating other staff members. Staff is listed below with contact information.

Goals for 2019:

- provide general oversight of the personnel program of the church
- in particular, work with the Pastor to assess personnel needs of the church, supporting changes as the need arises
- respond to any other personnel issues as they arise

Members of the committee are John McDowell (Chair), Marcia Ladd, Greg Behr, Betsy Sunde.

STAFF

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OUR DEACONS AND ELDERS

TERM	Elders	Deacons
Through May 2019	Karen Atkins Maggie Reif Terry Rudolph	Elizabeth Poirier Gail King Garrett Southerland
Through May 2020	Stan Campbell Paul Isom John McDowell	Madeline Schalk Susie Smith Vince Walker
Through May 2021	Barbara Amago Pat Chappell Paul Harrell	Heather Honeycutt Braxton Malan Barbara Strange Sally Wehmuller

Worship Committee

Terry Rudolph

In 2018, the Worship Committee continued to facilitate the Chapel in the Pines' mission of Welcome, Worship, Witness while welcoming our new pastor, Andrew Taylor-Troutman!

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. Andrew dove in from day one with his warmth and enthusiasm and this showed through the increase in new members.

The responsibilities within the Worship Committee include music, flowers, children's message, readers, communion, and all internal signage and decoration.

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 take great care to provide service to those who are unable to come forward for communion and for those who are caring for the children. This year we have returned to having all trained church members the opportunity to serve in this sacred duty, even our young disciples!

With the opportunities that our new Hall for All has provided the Fellowship teams, the Worship Committee has resumed the duties and scheduling of ushers. We are continually looking for more member participation to serve in this "front door" expression of Welcome. This is a great volunteer opportunity for newer members to learn names and faces, spouses of choir members, and it can be a unique option for getting our youth involved, as well.

Other opportunities to serve in the life of our church is through volunteering to serve as a lay reader, sign up to bring flowers in memory or honor of loved ones or anniversary, and join the rotation of children's sermon presenters.

As children are the future of our church, we have made more of an effort to have them be an active part of the service. The children are invited to the front of the sanctuary to get a closer look at baptisms, installation ceremonies, and the welcoming of new members. The Sacred Art Table, started last year, continues, as a place for the children to work on liturgical artwork that they present as their weekly offering. As a part of the Children's message, the children have continued to collect the Pennies for Hunger offering.

We have welcomed a number of fine guest preachers this year. Bill Richardson, Lee Strange and Joelle Brummitt-Yale all filled in when Andrew was out. We were very fortunate to have Brian Blount, the President and Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, deliver a powerful sermon in October.

The music program (choir and hand bells) continues to be a cornerstone of our worship experience. The church has been blessed by the gifts of individual accompanists also. They include Jerry Douglas, Katherine Brekke, Kent Norgren, Bob Warren, Sarah McCormack, Karen Atkins and Steve Mann. Many of the church's new members have mentioned the beautiful music as a reason for joining the church.

Open Spaces, an informal service of silence, sacrament and song, has returned! This welcome respite from our busy week is scheduled each month on the second and fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m.

We continue to try to implement liturgical art into our services. The Creative Commons group created a banner to honor Earth Day. Elizabeth Melton led the congregation in a unique Call to Worship, and Emily Williams taught the congregation how to sign "We Will Go Out in Joy."

Our beautiful surroundings outside the sanctuary (and beyond, in the county) have also been the setting of a few unique worship services. We dedicated the trail, created as part of an Eagle Scout project, that snakes its way around the grounds. In August, at the Freuler "farm-ish", by the request of 5 small boys, we had our first baptism dunking. On a beautiful fall day in November, also at the Freuler's, and another first for our church, we had a Blessing of the Animals.

Lenten season services were again celebrated with special services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Two Christmas Eve services, a family friendly service at 5:00pm, with the bell choir providing the music; and a 7:00pm candlelight service with music provided by the choir brought the year to a close.

Members of the Committee include Terry Rudolph, Chair; Elizabeth Melton, Pat Chappell, Will Sibert, Katherine Brekke, Joelle Brummitt-Yale, staff; Jeremy Nabors, staff.