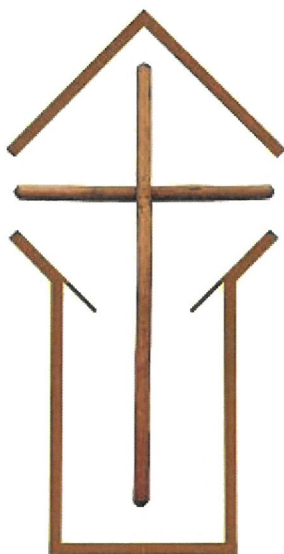


Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church

Annual Report to the Congregation for 2022

Presented March 19, 2023



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Dear Chapel in the Pines,

There were several sermons over the past year in which I compared our congregation to a teenager. On the most basic level, I simply referred to the number of years our church has been chartered.

But by referring to Chapel in the Pines as a teenager, I meant to give high praise.

The teenagers that I most regularly interact with are the members of our confirmation class. They are incredible human beings — mature, imaginative, and generous.

When our elders and I discussed all the members of our beloved church, the same words came to mind! The past year showed physical and spiritual growth, including the expansion to three services (two in-person and one online). Amidst change, we have imagined new ways of being church, including outreach into the larger community. And we have given our time, talent, and treasure. The incredible financial report speaks for itself. Spiritual growth is no less important, yet can be a little harder to measure.

So, let me share the words of one of our confirmation students — “Chapel in the Pines is my church home. I feel it right when I walk through the doors.”

I imagine that you feel the same way.

As your pastor, I am grateful to serve alongside of you. I am grateful every single day. Every. Single. Day. We continue to grow in maturity, imagination, generosity, and in all things love.

Enjoy all the good news in this annual report. People have worked hard to bring things to your attention. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. Your feedback is welcome, your input is valuable.

I close with my 2023 watchword, Psalm 34:5 — “Those who look to God are radiant.” I am excited for the light of love to shine through us in the upcoming year.

In faith, hope, and love,
Andrew

Friends, as always, I am thrilled to update you on the growth of our music program. 2022 has been a year of regrowth Chapel in the Pines Music Ministries. We explored new ways to make music during the pandemic. We tried many ways to increase the music participation in our services. We explored some growing pains as we tried to create a space for music in our outdoor service that honored the outdoor space and fit the service while trying not to force our indoor model in the outdoor realm.

We have been able to regrow the adult choir over the past year. During the early part of 2022 we were averaging 5-7 singers on a Sunday. Towards the end of 2022 we had risen to 12-15.

The pandemic is still affecting our musicians and our music program. Many members have not felt comfortable returning to choir or bells and for others the mask makes participating difficult or impossible. Both the bell choir and the adult choir have added new members to ranks and more members of the congregation have offered their musical talents for our services.

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. Direct 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 2022:

- Return of music and singing to in person worship
- Regrowth of both Adult Choir and Bell Choir membership
- Provided musical offerings for the new two service system
- Strong Lessons and Carols Musical Celebration

Goals for 2023

- Continue to bring back the music program safely during the pandemic.
- Grow the CITP Music staff to include a musician in charge of planning and leading music at the outdoor service that is appropriate for that service.

If 2021 was a year of replanting our children's and youth programs, 2022 is the year that shoots emerged and buds began opening.

Early in the year, as COVID-19 vaccinations became available to our youngest disciples, we reopened our church nursery. New cleaning and illness control policies were created and put into place. The Buildings and Grounds committee renovated two classrooms, combining them into a larger, kid-friendly space to hold the nursery. Under the leadership of our Children's Assistant, Jordan Horn and our nursery worker, Rachel Schimmelfing, we have offered weekly nursery care at the 11:00AM worship service and at combined worship services. Children have enjoyed time together in this new space!

As we reopened the nursery, we deepened our "flagship" children's Christian Education offerings, Time with Young Disciples and Sacred Art Time. With the assistance of our new Children's Assistant, we were able to offer high-quality, integrated children's messages and lessons during both worship services. We've seen the community of children grow, not just in size, but also in relationships with one another and Christ's church. Children in the nursery began participating in Sacred Art Time, as our youngest disciples began asking to be part of the larger community of children.

And our youth groups have really taken root and began bearing fruit. In 2022, we expanded our younger youth group to allow us to serve children in 3rd-6th grades. While this community is still small, the children are beginning to form relationships, reflect on their faith, and seek opportunities to serve their community. Emily Williams, our Youth Assistant, and I continue to discover (and be amazed by) the gifts and ways that God is active in their lives.

After a meaningful trip last summer to the Montreat Youth Conference, our teen youth group entered into the confirmation process. Since August, they have been exploring the stories of God's relationship to creation offered through the Bible, discovering how God continues to speak to them through these ancient words. This tight-knit community of young people will continue their journey in 2023 through further study, a service trip to CROSS Mission in Charlotte, and discernment of their beliefs and role in Christ's church.

As we move into 2023, Jordan, Emily, Andrew, and I are excited about continuing to explore the many ways God is at work in the lives of our young disciples. We hope to guide them as they continue to discover and deepen their faith.

--Joelle Brummitt-Yale

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

*With gratitude in your hearts sing to God.
Watchword January 1st Service from Colossians 3:16*

2022 was a year of generosity blended with budgetary caution in an uncertain economy.

Generosity was realized in a variety of ways (rounded):

\$460,750 Operating Budget pledges and giving. (Other income added \$7,860.)

\$243,530 Project for Outdoor Ministry Spaces payments.

\$ 57,000 Outreach donations - those gifts beyond Mission's operating budget.

\$761,280 was contributed for CITP's operations, future and outreach!

Operating Budget ended the year balanced. However, income was lower than budgeted due to economic realities limiting pledge fulfillment and "non-pledge" giving. Committees and Session thoughtfully conserved spending in the 4th quarter.

- Budgeted income: \$491,000; actual \$468,610.
- Budgeted expense: \$491,000; actual \$445,714.
- Expenses (excluding mortgage) included Personnel 71%, Mission 10%, Administration 14% and Committees 5%. While the financial aspect for committees may seem small, staff and volunteers were key contributors to the value and cost savings of our programs, worship experience and buildings & grounds upkeep.

Project for Outdoor Ministry Spaces (POMS), living into our future, will provide outdoor welcome, worship and witness as well as picnics, potlucks and play. \$6,500 payments are expected in early 2023. We will be a chapel "in the pines" with activities "among the pines". The new playground was built and is actively enjoyed. More construction should start in the Spring of 2023.

Outreach contributes to the needs for shelter, lessening food insecurity and reaching out to those during trying times. Mission & Service's report provides detail.

Moving into 2023, Session gave Finance & Administration the go ahead in December to renegotiate our debt. Mortgage rates and payments will increase in May becoming a larger portion of the Operating Budget. By Spring, however, we look to refinance with a much lower principal and substantially lower monthly payments. "Debt Reduction Plan" contributions in early 2023 will help greatly!

My thanks to Janet Askew our staff accountant and Jerry Wehmueller, Assistant Treasurer, for their dedication and insights.

Chapel in The Pines is blessed with your abundant giving. Thank You!

Active Membership of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2022: 217

Membership Gains in 2022 by:

Reaffirmation of Faith, Profession of Faith: 10

Letter of Transfer: 6

Other: 0

Total Gains: 16

Membership Losses in 2022

by: Letter of Transfer: 1

Death: 4

All other: 7

Total Losses: 11

Active Membership of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2022: 219

During 2022, Chapel in the Pines received

6 members by Letter of Transfer,

10 by Reaffirmation/Profession of Faith.

1 member was removed from roll and

4 members died: Edith Dengler, Ann Humber, Beverly Chapin and Suzanne Goerger

There were 3 child Baptisms - Henry Maise on March 6, Claire Daniels on April 6 and Caleb Tupper on October 2

The Session met in 14 stated meetings, there were four email votes by Session, one joint meeting of the session and deacons on October 21, 2022, four called meeting, at which minutes were received and reports given from all standing committees and the staff. There was one Congregational Meeting on March 20, 2022 for the purpose of approving the Annual Report to the Congregation for 2021, the Pastor's terms of call and the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. 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

2022 Children and Youth

Infants: 4

Toddlers (2-3 year olds): 2

Pre-k (4 year olds): 5

K: 10

1st: 5

2nd: 2

3rd: 7

4th: 1

5th: 5

6th: 1

7th: 1

8th: none

9th: 2

10th: 2

11th: none

12th: 1

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Bruce Raymond

November 2021 – November 2022

As COVID began to wane and we opened more of the building, Building and Grounds (B&G) made every effort to assure the building and grounds were ready for higher levels of usage and occupation. Certain tasks were unaffected such as the lawn care. The grass was still cut every week, lawn de-thatched, weed killed and had fertilizer applied as is typical every year. Routine maintenance also continued. The janitorial service has been enhanced, and returned to once a week. All the plumbing fixtures and dishwasher were operated periodically to assure they remained in good working order.

Session approved a motion to remove the term limit requirement from committee members if requested by the committee. Building and Grounds submitted a request to allow committee members to remain on the committee indefinitely as the skill set of its members provides a significant cost savings to the church. An example of this, the bio-pond is required to be certified every year by a licensed engineer (Professional Engineer, PE) which due to the B&G skill set this is done at no cost to the church.

Looking forward, we'd like to continue to build our connections with other church committees and groups, and provide more opportunities for members (especially newer members) to participate in stewardship of our building and grounds.

The list below catalogues our accomplishments this year. Reading it can give you a better idea of the type of things we work on. The items noted were done at no cost to the church unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted by the Building and Grounds Committee:

Karen Atkins, Dina Crosby, Bart Holtz, Kevin O'Dell, Bruce Raymond, and Dana Staats

POMs

The Project for Outdoor Ministry (POMs) was a high priority for Building and Grounds. An Implementation Team (ITF) was formed, consisting of representatives from Christian Education, Finance, Building and Grounds, Staff and member at large. Building and Grounds has taken the lead task in coordination with the engineering/architectural firm, the contractors and Chatham County (necessary permits). Tasks completed:

- Negotiated and selected necessary firms to design and construct the POMs structures (Playground Shelter, Pavilion and Gazebo)
 - Summit Design and Engineering Services (Pavilion & Gazebo)
 - RafterMasters Construction Company
 - Arnold Smith Grading
- Designed and drafted the construction drawing for the Playground Shelter
- Assisted in the selection of Playground Structure

- Oversaw the assembly of the Playground Structure
- Obtained necessary permits
 - Ongoing – Current status (Dec 2022)
 - Obtained all permits (four) for Playground Shelter
 - Obtained three of the four required permits for the Pavilion and the Gazebo
- Continue to work with Summit for final drawings for the Pavilion & Gazebo

Bio-Pond

- The bio-pond continues to be maintained by Building and Grounds. The same tasks as have been done in the past continued to be done:
 - The bio-pond continues to get its annual certification
 - Mowing the bio-pond was started in 2017 and continues
 - The berm was bush hogged and will continue to be cut

Buildings

- Replaced the last few old emergency lights with more compact units was done. The old units have been discontinued and as repair was needed, we replaced them – all have been replaced.
- The gutters received a deep clean to remove shingle granular material (this type of cleaning is more extensive than a regular gutter clean). The cost was borne by the church.
- The wall between the library and the old Godly Play room was removed and a set of bi-fold doors installed. This combined space became the new nursery. The library was moved to its original location, which had become the infant nursery. All labor was provided by Building and Grounds, the only cost to the church were the materials (bi-fold doors and trim). This work was started last year and completed this year.
- Replaced the refrigerator in the narthex break room (old kitchen). The old unit became inoperable.
- Repaired the Sanctuary HVAC. This required a contractor (Boer Brothers). There was a leak in the condenser coil.
- Replaced faulty light switches in the church office area and the Hall for All kitchen
- Re-conditioned wood floor in the Sanctuary. This included moving all the Sanctuary chairs, cleaning the floor and applying conditioner.
- Re-organized all the Christian Education supplies that had been moved to the classroom across from the nursery.
- Constructed shelving in the closet of the classroom across from the nursery. These were constructed from the Godly Play shelving boards.
- Assisted in adding under the floor wiring for future microphones. This will eliminate the wires currently taped to the floor.
- Assisted in mounting the narthex TV.
- Repaired Hall for All toilet. This was repaired several times and finally replaced with new parts. As this has been ongoing, signage was added to “Flush gently”.
- Routine maintenance as required was performed (light bulb replacement, hedge trimming, filter replacement, etc.).

Remembrance Garden

- The Remembrance Garden was re-mulched (mulch was purchased by the church).
- The larger shrubs were significantly cut back as they were over hanging and clogging the gutters (See Building Section). Some overgrown vegetation was removed.
- The stone veneer was added to the moved Celtic Cross.
- The river rocks in the fountain have been refreshed with additional stones.
- Cleaning of the fountain which was added last year as a regular task to maintain the garden is ongoing.

Grounds

- The walking trail has been maintained (removing fallen trees, raking path to Ebenezer, weed control, etc.)
- Continue to mow lawns once a week with volunteers, noted above
- Weed control of the lawns, gravel lot and drainage ditches were performed periodically
- Maintained the two lawn mowers, which included repairs, annual maintenance (oil change, new spark plugs and new blades).
- Two new parking lot lights were installed by Duke Energy to help control unwanted usage of the gravel lot and the far end of the paved parking lot (storage shed area). There was no cost for the light installation. There is a monthly electrical cost of \$16 per light that has been added to our monthly electrical cost. The addition of the lights has significantly reduced the unwanted litter created by the unwanted usage.
- A new sign was installed at the entrance to CitP. Building and Grounds: drafted the construction drawing, assisted in contractor negotiation, cleared the brush around the sign area to allow for greater visibility, oversaw the construction, acquired some of the sign materials (metal channels & column caps) and assisted in the final installation of the sign board.
- Spring and fall workdays were held. General cleanup, re-mulching and trimming of vegetation was accomplished.
- All the drainage ditches were inspected and cleaned.
- Landscaped around new sign which included seeding increased lawn area, adding plants and mulch and installing solar lights was completed
- Re-painted white line at the driveway stop sign
- A tree leaning over the storage shed was cut down to prevent damage to the storage shed. A tree service brought the tree to the ground and Building and Grounds cut it up to remove it from the parking lot

Afghan Refugee Relocation Program

As reported last year Chapel in the Pines (CitP), The Local Church and the Church of the Reconciliation had partnered with Church World Service to resettle refugees from Afghanistan. Volunteers had agreed to supply furniture and other necessities, including household goods and cleaning supplies, to four families. CitP was the collection point for the donated items. The program was completed this year with three households being supplied and setup with volunteers from Chapel in the Pines (CitP), The Local Church and the Church of the Reconciliation. After completion

of the three households and indication from Church World Services that there were no more households left CitP still had a significant amount of donations. A Chatham County based organization (Love Chatham) that helps get homeless families housing was approached about using the leftover Afghan relocation donations. Building and Grounds coordinated with Love Chatham to move all the left donations to Love Chatham's collect site in Siler City. This concluded the Afghan Refugee Re-location program with CitP.

Miscellaneous

- Updated CitP Reserve Study. The Reserve Study looks at CitP infrastructure and predicts when replacement will be needed and the cost associated with replacement (example - the current roof is planned to be replaced in year 2042 at \$40,000 in 2022 dollars). This allows for planning for the future.
- Replaced the lock and hasp on the tool storage shed
- Re-established the Safety sub-committee to review the safety plan for CitP
- Completed the annual inspection of fire extinguishers

Cub Scout pack 951

- Assisted in moving physical assets to CitP
 - Canoes
 - Trailer

In 2022, the Christian Education Committee met monthly to discuss ways to meet the needs of our growing and changing group of disciples at Chapel in The Pines Presbyterian Church. Our regular members included: Blisse Adams, Todd Adams, Karen Atkins, Joelle Brummitt-Yale (staff), Jordan Horn (staff), Mary Ellen Houck, Emily Smith, Andrew Taylor-Troutman (staff), Lynn White, Emily Williams, Polly Williams, and Serena zum Brunnen (Chair).

The year was full of needs-assessment. We stayed busy creating relevant programming for our children, youth and adults. We participated in Intergenerational Worship, Nurturing, Teaching, EarthCare, Youth Groups, Confirmation, Church Policy Creation and Volunteer Development as it pertained to educating all of our members. We saw family participation increase, particularly in the 9:15 a.m. outdoor service. We dedicated our new playground in the first implementation of the POMS initiative. Our staff lead us in visioning and planning innovative programming and best practices in our children's and youth Christian curriculum and activities. We were also able to help Session balance the 2022 operating budget by cutting over \$5,000 from the planned and approved 2022 CE budget.

A more specific summary of our efforts includes...

Refining and Expanding Staff Support

- Creating a trial for a Children's Assistant Position with April Williams, who gave us excellent feedback on how to shape the position for a future hire.
- Interviewing and hiring a 10 hr/week Children's Assistant (Jordan Horn) to help with Sacred Art and Nursery activities and programming.
- Interviewing and hiring Nursery Staff
- Hiring a Youth Assistant (Emily Williams) to help DCYM with Youth Groups
- Creating Personnel Evaluations in tandem with the Personnel Committee
- Creating Job Descriptions for CE Staff for 2023
- Encouraging our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries (Joelle Brummitt-Yale) as she receives her **Christian Educator Certification**

Sponsoring and Supporting Adult Education Offerings including...

- Exploring Together with Sandy Williams
- [*Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*](#) by Austen Hartke. A five-week study that meets Tuesdays at 10a.m or Thursdays at 7 p.m.
- *A Long Obedience In The Same Direction* with Randy Kabrick
- New Member Classes by Andrew Taylor-Troutman
- A Conversation on Abortion with Pat Chapell and Andrew Taylor-Troutman
- "Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark" by Rev. Tracy S. Daub.

Strengthening and Expanding Youth Ministry including...

- **Expanding younger youth group programming**—After prayerfully considering the population of children involved in the life of the church, staff proposed expanding our tween youth group to include third and fourth graders. This group continues to grow as children in grades three to six explore their faith, service, and fellowship. This group meets each Sunday from 3:00-4:30PM in the hall for all.
- **Confirmation Group**—In November, we began our first full confirmation process since Andrew and Joelle began on staff. Seven youth in grades 7-12 are engaged in a process aimed at exploring, questioning, defining and refining their faith. The group will continue this process in 2023 through Bible study, a weekend-long retreat at the church, and a service focused trip to CROSS Mission in Charlotte.
- Chaperoning and leading our **Youth Group Retreat** to Montreat
- **Youth Sundays:** We held our first two youth Sundays, the first in May and the second (Montreat Sunday) in September
- **Partnerships with Other Church Groups:** The teen youth group partnered with the More Light Task Force to offer a Genderbread Event exploring gender identity and expression. They also paired with the Earth Care Task Force for the first roadside clean up along Great Ridge Parkway

Revising and Revitalizing Children's Ministries including...

- **Reopening the Nursery**
 - Trained Nursery Staff and Volunteers
 - Planned and designed new Nursery Space with Building & Grounds
 - Devoted ourselves to Covid-19 cleaning and policies for the Nursery
 - Advertised the nursery service
 - Supervised nursery staff, supplies and programming
 - Launched the Nursery (April 10, 2022) offering for the 11 a.m. service only - due to families feeling comfortable with outdoor intergenerational worship.
- **Reactivating the Sacred Art Table** with new cautions in place to protect the health of our youngest members. The Sacred Art Table is now offered at both the 9:15am and 11am Services to ensure all members and visitors have access to children's Christian Education regardless of when they choose to worship. Children engage in developmentally-sound art activities and discussion, designed by our staff, that connect to the Time with Young Disciples.
- **New Playground Space and Procedures:**
 - Sanitizing and caring for the playground, especially pertaining to Covid19 protocols
 - Coordinating with POMS fundraising for the realization and implementation of the **new playground** from Bears' Playground on July 18, 2022

Changes in Christian Education Committee include...

- Observing Term Limits for our committee by thanking Mary Ellen Houck and Polly Williams for their service of six consecutive terms.
- Welcoming Todd Adams, Bliss Adams and Karen Atkins as CE Committee Members

Community Building: Assessing (and ultimately declining) an application for use of our classroom spaces by a bilingual pre-school. This was a serious and involved effort, in good faith, in order to serve our community. However, ultimately CITP space and staff were not able to accommodate the task with the resources we have to offer.

We have a small, but lovely and caring committee dedicated to examining and clarifying best practices for Christian Education. We have been mindful of budget concerns as we plan and amend plans. We each personally volunteer at the Sacred Art Table and in the Nursery. We support our DCYM, our Children and Youth Assistants, and our Nursery Workers. We talk about difficult truths, changing teaching methods, frustrations, joys, and achievements. We struggle with time and budget issues. We are grateful for a supportive Session and Officers, who ask us difficult questions in order to shape our resolve. We commit ourselves to serving the children, youth, and adults of CITP as we all evolve in the Christian life.

Submitted by Serena zum Brunnen
Elder and Christian Education Chair
12/14/2022

Submitted by: Tom Crosby, Chair and Session liaison; Bob Warren, Deb Rogers, JonPaul McClellan, Sarah Daniels, Emily Williams, Ben Tupper.

In 2022, the communications team focused on digital outreach, which the pandemic has demonstrated provides an important alternate means of being in community while not physically together.

There is room for growth, continued collaboration and integration of all the communications from the church. This year, our focus will be on continued operations streamlining and finding key people for roles such as our website manager, a volunteer position. We hope improve our website home page and remove old or unwanted content from the site.

2022 Highlights

- **Main Sign**

In April we installed our main sign on Great Ridge Parkway. This is the culmination of a lot of work going back two years including collaboration with a sign subcommittee and building and grounds. The sign was made possible thanks to a directed gift from a generous donor.

- **Technology and Livestreaming**

We invested in further system upgrades and hired JonPaul McClellan to run our streaming operations. JonPaul has lent his considerable audio talents to continue upgrading our sound in both a live environment in the sanctuary and online.



Tracking Against 2022 Goals

We made good progress in 2022, accomplishing the majority of our goals and making headway on the others.

Accomplished:

- Recruitment of an AV sound and audio technician for the Sunday morning livestream service broadcasts and occasional other events
- Recruitment of additional volunteers
- Installation of a New Main Sign for the church on Great Ridge Parkway
- Continued sanctuary sound system upgrades

Partially Accomplished:

- Developing and publishing procedures, policies and position statements
- Evolution to a Service Bureau model for collaboration with other committees
- Committee participant cross-training

Overall Spending

The communications annual budget has been shrinking over the past several years by our own request. There are two primary reasons for this.

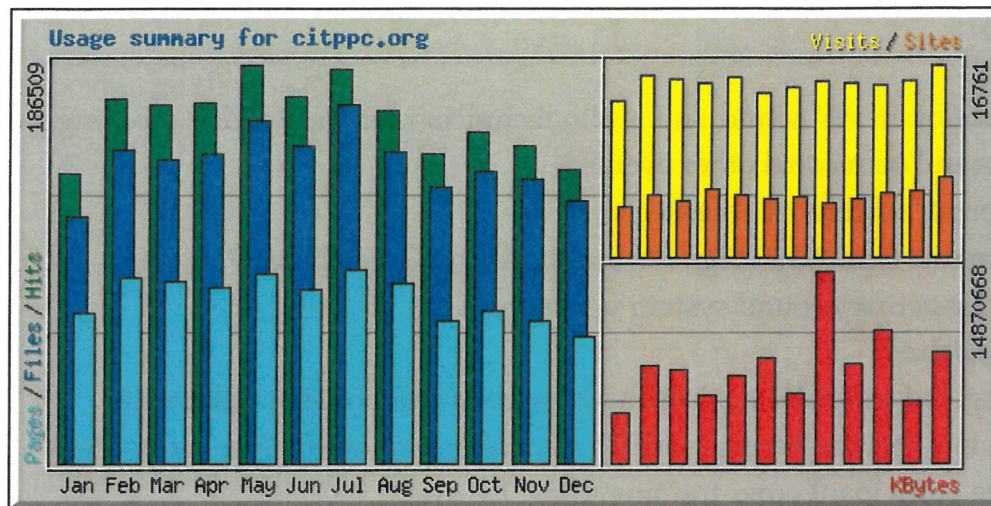
- 1) Moving away from printing and mailing. We have been focusing on using digital means for communications. We have budgeted money for printing and mailing, and have used less of it for these purposes.
- 2) Spending less on contingencies. We have held some money in accounts for maintenance on our audio equipment. We have needed to use this money, so we have returned it, as per Finance's request.

Website Report

The church website continues to prove vital during the COVID recovery. In addition to the routine posting of weekly newsletters, worship bulletins, and livestream and video links, the site also has links for online donations, financial pledges, the church directory, staff bios and photos, Session meeting minutes, and many other resources for both members and visitors.

The church's website is accessed regularly. Our **Visit** totals are a good measure of our usage and show that on any day, we had between 437-598 visitors. Many of these are likely to be church members.

The site is maintained by volunteer CITP member Mary Donna Pond. During 2022, we began discussing a website redesign. Some new members have expressed interest in working on this update.



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Dec 2022	4895	4378	2121	598	6930	8532782	16761	59406	122608	137064
Nov 2022	4955	4424	2235	509	5804	4760848	15286	67051	132749	148675
Oct 2022	4992	4391	2291	482	5521	10169196	14955	71036	136151	154752
Sep 2022	4832	4310	2224	506	5126	7732295	15198	66720	129320	144987
Aug 2022	5316	4695	2702	493	4703	14870668	15302	83769	145565	164814
Jul 2022	5951	5395	2905	476	5134	5410649	14761	90068	167257	184482
Jun 2022	5706	4948	2719	476	4977	8128308	14299	81586	148458	171182
May 2022	6016	5170	2860	502	5324	6808149	15576	88662	160285	186509
Apr 2022	5611	4810	2740	505	5887	5196907	15169	82207	144312	168348
Mar 2022	5422	4568	2743	501	4836	7261531	15552	85048	141609	168106
Feb 2022	6091	5220	3102	566	5445	7532858	15853	86861	146161	170552
Jan 2022	4375	3729	2264	437	4321	3923128	13550	70212	115608	135650
Totals						90327319	182262	932626	1690083	1935121

Social Media

In 2022, our social media channels continued to help CITP extend welcome, worship and witness beyond the church building into a much wider audience, locally, nationally and even abroad.

YouTube, Facebook and Instagram helped us create and maintain community. We seek more members to share in the responsibility for maintaining these growing ministries. In 2022, we welcomed an additional social media team member, Ben Tupper, who is helping with Instagram.

Facebook

Deb Rogers manages the church's Facebook page. The page has multiple regular contributors, including Andrew Taylor-Troutman and Joelle Brummitt-Yale. We regularly post announcements, links to service recordings, devotionals, poems, notices of interest, articles, and more. Members can watch our services live on Facebook or on our YouTube channel.

Pastor Andrew Taylor-Troutman makes extensive use of Facebook by posting Sunday morning devotionals, links to livestream events and recorded Sunday Worship Services. Andrew keeps up a lively pace on the church's Facebook page by posting prayers, articles, poetry and sermons.

We had nearly 2,000 visits last year and our reach is **857 followers, up from 814 last year** – Impressive for a church with around 300 members. The page's growth is organic, meaning it has happened naturally over time without paid advertising. Often, people click through the Facebook page to access the church website where there are links to recorded worship services, publications, and much more, reflecting a return to in-person worship. Facebook videos views totaled more than 9,100 minutes. This number is down from 2021 by 29%, which also likely reflects less watching of videos due to a return to in person worship.

Instagram

Instagram is a visual platform offering two-way social connection primarily through photos but now also via videos. The church's Instagram page, "chapelinthepines," has 200 followers, up from just 49 five years ago. Ben Tupper has taken over responsibility for managing our Instagram page. Ben writes that "The goal for 2023 is to increase engagement on Instagram and create a unique social media experience for viewers. We will strive to have weekly posts that inspire, update, and entertain the CITP community and broaden the reach of the church."

YouTube

We ended the year with 94 subscribers, up 20% from 2021. Viewers watched 650 hours of content, down 32% from 2021. This likely reflects the uptick in in-person attendance in the sanctuary. The site now hosts 155 videos going back to June 2020.

Livestreaming improves sound and experience with new hire

In March 2022, JonPaul McClellan was hired as the Audio Visual Operator. He has managed just about every Sunday service (and other events) since then. He has also instituted a number of the audio improvements. JonPaul faced some technical challenges and we have now tapped his expertise to improve the sound and mix for our services. The sanctuary wireless microphone antennas were moved to see if that would eliminate occasional "drop-outs".

The Livestream offers a valuable method for church members, visitors and former members to experience Chapel in the Pines. Our livestream channels are available live on Facebook and YouTube and are an integral part of the welcome, worship, witness mission of Chapel in the Pines.

Improvements to Sanctuary Audio

Using generous donations, two additional speakers were added in the sanctuary early in 2022. These make it possible to use less volume in the front-mounted speakers, but still maintain a good volume level at the rear of the sanctuary.

In addition, beneath the sanctuary, new cabling has been run to support choir microphones and sanctuary/congregation microphones. The microphones will be installed in 2023.

We purchased a second digital signal processor (DSP) at a very good price and configured it to act as a spare in the case of failure of the primary unit. The DSP is a key part of the audio system but is no longer manufactured. This strategy allows us to lengthen the time we can use our current systems, deferring expensive replacement costs.

The stand microphone was replaced with a new wireless microphone to assist less-experienced microphone users. In addition, we installed a microphone holder on the lectern so that the microphone is better positioned for presenters.

Other Communications Improvements

The large screen TV purchased in 2022 (usually in the fellowship hall but also easily movable) has been used for many committee meetings, by Joelle and the Youth Group and for other presentations. We have purchased a sturdy rolling cart for the desktop computer in the Fellowship Hall.

In November 2022, we received a donated TV, which we have installed in the narthex to display photos, church announcements, regular and special activities, and events, progress of stewardship campaigns, the outdoor ministry plans, etc. An application running on a streaming device connected to the TV allows us to access images containing the information from shared Google Photos "albums" and displaying it as a slide show. We hope that this capability will help inform members and visitors on an ongoing basis and strengthen our sense of togetherness.

Advertising/Sponsorships

We do not spend much on ad placements and sponsorships. We run a ¼ page ad in the Chatham/Chapel Hill Magazine Visitors and Relocation Guide and we are a Gold Sponsor of the Chatham Arts Guild and are listed and linked on the organization's [website](#).

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Sarah McCormack

Members: Tim White, Lynn White, Celia Poon, Peter Poon, Deb Rogers, Braxton Malan, Barbara Amago, Sarah McCormack

In Early 2022, the Fellowship Team was responsible for finding ushers for the 11am service. During the summer, the team transitioned and began offering snacks and cold drinks to attendees after the 9:15 and 11am services. The Fellowship Team also hosted an outdoor celebration for the playground opening. Currently, the team serves refreshments after services when volunteers are available, and also hosts monthly potlucks, usually on the second Sunday of each month, when the 9:15 and 11am services are combined. The Team hopes to expand the number of volunteers and offerings in 2023 and host more fellowship activities after church services as well as other times during the week

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Paul Bolig

Members— Robert Betley, Paul Bolig (Session Representative), Stan Campbell, Joyce Brennan, Brownell Johnston, Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Jerry Wehmueller (Chair and Assistant Treasurer), Tim White (Treasurer), and Jack Zollinger

The F&A Committee is responsible for preparing and recommending the annual budget to Session and periodically reviewing the church's performance against the approved budget and recommending to Session any changes to the budget that might be needed as the year progresses.

During 2022, the committee

- Recommended to Session, for its final approval, a 2022 operating budget.
- Reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report and monthly financial statements and forwarded these to Session for its review monthly.
- Established a three-person team that was formed by Session to control operating budget expenses during the last three months of 2022. This action helped to assure a balanced budget despite a decrease in anticipated 2022 revenue.
- Recommended to Session various actions during the year including allocation of past surpluses, the purchase of a \$10,000 Treasury I-Bill, and modification of sections of the Manual of Operations related to the committee.
- Through its Stewardship Task Force, led by Terry Rudolph, carried out the 2022 stewardship campaign. Other members of the Task Force were Jan Herboth, Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Sarah Thompson, and Jerry Wehmueller.
- Reestablished the Endowment Task Force under Stan Campbell's leadership. Other members of the task force include Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Sandy Williams, Lee Strange, and Joan Zollinger.
- Added Joyce Brennan (June 2022) as a member to the committee.

The members of the Finance and Administration Committee would like to thank Cheryl Richardson for her contributions to the committee.

MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE

Jeff Olson

Members: Barbara Amago, Beth Vazquez, Jeff Olson, Leslee Shell, Mike Mannshardt, Todd Adams, Susie Smith, Paul Harrell

The Mission and Service Committee had a **very successful year in 2022!** With your help, we:

- Donated \$65K¹ to our 27+ mission partners! (Details are on the following page.)
- Strengthened our relationships with our mission partners through increased volunteering and ramping up talks with them about their missions, visions, needs and how CITP can best help.
- Added three new members to our committee. Thank you Beth, Leslee and Mike for joining!
- Developed a "CITP Missions Catalog" that houses detailed information about each mission partner (e.g.: mission statement; successes; needs; CITP champion(s); and more).
- Established a detailed tracking system and governance procedures for our donations.
- Embraced several new meaningful mission support opportunities as they arose in 2022.
- Held an Alternative Christmas Market that raised \$4.8K for donations in 2023. Thank you!

Some of the challenges our committee overcame in 2022 were:

- We got a slow start in 2022. During transitions in the 1st half of the year, we had not disbursed many donations to our mission partners. But we recovered very well!
- By mid-2nd Q, we had begun financially supporting and talking to most of our mission partners.
- During the 2nd half of 2022, CITP's Session (led by Finance & Admin) imposed a cautionary slowdown in expense spending. This was caused by slow pledge giving in 2022. This slowdown prevented M&S from staying on track with the planned spending schedule developed earlier in 2022. At YE, \$42K of the \$44.8K M&S expense budget had been donated to mission partners, leaving 7% underspent – at the request of Session and F&A.
 - This challenge was an opportunity to focus on using monies in balance sheet accounts, outside the expense budget. These monies are primarily prior-year donations – some designated to specific partners; others not restricted to specific mission partners.
 - Also, we were able to use funds from: (a) the 2021 CITP Budget Surplus, 10% of which went to M&S; and (b) the portion of giving to POMS designated explicitly for M&S.
 - By year end, we had disbursed fully \$23K in balance sheet funds to our partners, thus keeping support flowing and boosting our total M&S support to 45% above the expense budget!, while still keeping our expense spending to about \$3K below budget!

Other CITP mission support highlights in 2022 include:

- The More Light effort was moved to M&S. Beth Vazquez stepped up to lead this team! Please participate with this team in 2023 to increase our understanding LGBTQIA issues.

- Greater CITP volunteering. Two examples: new folks on Heat & Eat meals program (Farm at Penny Lane); new team to cook & freeze entrees for the Chatham Chuckwagon meals program.
- In December, we donated \$2,100+ to the restoration of the Union Taylors Community Center which will again support historical black communities in rural southwest Chatham County.

From M&S and from outside M&S, CITP gave: \$15.6K for hunger alleviation; \$6.8K to disaster relief; \$10.4K for Afghani Resettlement support; \$21K for shelter / homelessness / housing challenges; \$10.7K to social justice causes; \$8K to Central American missions; and over 15K to our Presbytery.

Submitted by the CITP Mission and Service Committee (Barbara Amago, Beth Vazquez, Jeff Olson, Leslee Shell, Mike Mannshardt, Paul Harrel, Susie Smith, Todd Adams)

¹Numbers highlighted in yellow on this page are also highlighted in yellow in the detailed table on the following page. Of this \$65K total, \$42K was from expense (from the M&S budget of \$44.8K) and \$23K was from balance sheet funds.

Mission and Service - 2022 Expense Budget & Spending *

		Budget and Spending from Operating Expense				Donations from Balance Sheet Funds & Total Donated		
		Expense Budget	Allocated to Partner	Total Expense Donated	Over (Under)	From Restricted Funds	Total Donations	Versus Expense Budget
LOCAL MISSIONS								
Chatham Habitat for Humanity (facing permitting problems)	Shelter	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,400	\$ (1,100)	--	\$1,400	\$ (1,100)
Local Community Projects	Soc Just	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$ (500)	\$750	\$1,250	\$ 250
<u>Mission Projects (Local)</u>		\$9,900						
Chatham Chuckwagon (new mission 3rd Q '22)	Hunger		\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$89	\$89	\$ 89
Chatham Literacy Council	Literacy		\$750	\$900	\$ 150	\$600	\$1,500	\$ 750
Chatham YMCA	Soc Just		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ -	\$750	\$1,750	\$ 750
Chatham Youth Development Center	Soc Just	can't accept checks	\$750	\$313	\$ (437)	\$1,026	\$1,339	\$ 589
CORE (Chatham Org for Racial Equality)	Soc Just		\$500	\$750	\$ 250	\$750	\$1,500	\$ 1,000
CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance) Food Pantry	Hunger		\$1,500	\$800	\$ (700)	\$2,525	\$3,325	\$ 1,825
Fuel-Up Program (Perry Harrison School)	Hunger		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ -	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$ 1,000
Heat and Eat Program (Farm/XDS)	Hunger		\$2,000	\$1,223	\$ (777)	\$3,029	\$4,252	\$ 2,252
HomeLink	Shltr/Hgr		\$500	\$750	\$ 250	--	\$750	\$ 250
Learning Trail (tutoring)	Literacy		\$500	\$750	\$ 250	\$800	\$1,550	\$ 1,050
Love Chatham	Shelter		\$600	\$850	\$ 250	\$700	\$1,550	\$ 950
Salvation Army Chatham County (added 2Q '22)	Soc Just		\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$1,125	\$1,125	\$ 1,125
West Chatham Food Pantry	Hunger		\$800	\$600	\$ (200)	\$700	\$1,300	\$ 500
Union Taylors Community Ctr Renov (added 4Q)	Soc Just		\$0	\$1,162	\$ 1,162	\$1,000	\$2,162	\$ 2,162
TOTAL LOCAL		\$13,400	\$13,400	\$12,002	\$ (1,398)	\$14,844	\$26,846	\$ 13,441
GLOBAL MISSIONS								
CEDEPCA (Guatemala - Cntrl Am Evang Ctr ...)	Educ	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,669	\$ 669	\$400	\$2,069	\$ 1,069
Missionary Support (Rev. Dr. Karla Koll)	Msnry	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,950	\$ 350	\$200	\$4,150	\$ 550
<u>Mission Projects (Global)</u>		\$8,800						
Benevolence Farm (Alamance Cty)	Soc Just		\$800	\$1,050	\$ 250	\$500	\$1,550	\$ 750
Francisco Coll School (Guatemala)	Educ		\$1,000	\$1,000			\$1,000	\$ -
Pachaj Health Post (Guatemala)	Health		\$1,000	\$400	\$ (600)	\$400	\$800	\$ (200)
Pennies for Hunger	Hunger		\$1,000	\$0	\$ (1,000)	\$843	\$843	\$ (157)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	Disast		\$2,500	\$2,000	\$ (500)	\$4,780	\$6,780	\$ 4,280
Presbyterian Hunger Fund	Hunger		\$1,500	\$1,200	\$ (300)	\$1,300	\$2,500	\$ 1,000
World Central Kitchen	Hunger		\$1,000	\$1,250	\$ 250		\$1,250	\$ 250
TOTAL GLOBAL		\$13,400	\$13,400	\$12,519	\$ (882)	\$8,423	\$20,942	\$ 7,542
OTHER MISSIONS								
UNC Campus Ministry	Educ	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$ 500	\$ -	\$2,000	\$ 500
<u>Miscellaneous M&S Expenses</u>		\$500						
Christmas gift Karla Koll	Msnry		\$100	\$100	\$ -	\$ -	\$100	\$ -
Christmas gift Mark Hare	Msnry		\$100	\$100	\$ -	\$ -	\$100	\$ -
Earth Care	Environ	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$129	\$ (871)	\$ -	\$129	\$ (871)
TOTAL OTHER		\$3,000	\$2,700	\$2,329	\$ (371)	\$ -	\$2,329	\$ (371)
SALEM PRESBYTERY SUPPORT			\$15,000	\$15,000	\$ (15,000)	\$ -	\$15,000	\$ -
M&S TOTAL (Local + Global + Other + Presby)			\$44,800	\$41,850	\$ (2,950)	\$23,268	\$65,117	\$20,317
As a % of TOTAL M&S EXPENSE BUDGET of \$44.8K				93%	-7%	52%	145%	45%

* In addition to the mission partners above donated to by the Mission & Service Committee, CITP donated an additional **\$36.8K** to causes from outside of the M&S Committee. These include: the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (which has focussed on alleviating individuals' homelessness and housing challenges); One Great Hour of Sharing; and our Afghan Resettlement Project. Thus, CITP's 2022 outwardly-focussed donations totalled at least **\$102K ! Praise be !** (Not all donations are specifically tracked.)

WELCOME & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Karen Fisher

Membership Committee: Karen Fisher, Chair; Christine Jordan, Millie Kabrick, Marcia Ladd, Leslie Strohm

As stated in the Chapel in the Pines foundational mission statement:

“We welcome into membership all who profess faith in Jesus Christ without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, worldly conditions, sexual orientation, ability, or any other human condition.”

This past year has been one of transition and transformation. The effects of the Covid pandemic remain, but we are moving forward and developing new ways of gathering and creating community, while remaining true to mission goals. We thank Keith Glidewell for his leadership as elder and chair of the Welcome and Membership committee until the end of his term in May 2022. At the same time his term ended, Karen S. Fisher came on as a newly-elected elder. Thanks to Keith's fine leadership and recordkeeping, this transition went smoothly. The committee is also indebted to the following committee members who transitioned off of this committee during the past year and into other work within the church; Stephanie Miller, Paul Isom, Mary Donna Pond, and Barbara Strange.

In early May the committee proposed the name change from Membership, to Welcome and Membership, to better reflect our mission. This change points to one of the three core tenets of the church: Welcome, Worship, Witness, which we strive to embody as action words. The committee name change was approved by the Session.

The committee continues to develop and improve ways to extend welcome. In 2022 the church expanded worship opportunities and platforms: an outdoor worship service on Sundays at 9:15 a.m., an indoor worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m., and live-streaming and recording of the Sunday 11 a.m. service (available to watch at any time).

This committee made a commitment to provide Greeters to every Sunday worship service. The “New Member Greeter” is in place to assist and welcome visitors to Chapel in the Pines. The job description for this responsibility has been expanded and clarified. Thanks to committee problem-solving, we made some adjustments to the welcome table that is used by the early outdoor service that resulted in a much-improved volunteer Greeter and visitor experience. The Green visitor cards have been updated to include some more vital information. When a visitor fills out a green visitor card, a member of this committee will send them a note, thanking them for visiting. A completed visitor card initiates a personal letter from Andrew, our pastor, and a series of other recordkeeping and follow-ups from Welcome and Membership Committee members.

Another church-wide commitment is to extend welcome to the LGBTQIA+ community. To that end, this committee scheduled a pronoun workshop for early January 2023 designed for Greeters and any other people who are extending welcome. Chapel in the Pines has always been welcoming to all, as stated in the foundational mission statement quoted above.

In the course of the year, we continued to add new members to the church membership rolls. In 2022, we had 16 adults and 12 children join our congregation. Many of the new members first encountered Chapel in the Pines online, via the recorded and live-streamed service. The outdoor service has been attractive to families with younger children since they can move about and make some noise without causing a disturbance. The outdoor services have also met the needs of members who wish to worship together, but are hesitant to be in close proximity with others due to the Covid pandemic. In addition, there are those who prefer the outdoor worship because of its beautiful setting under the trees with birdsong, along with music and singing.

The committee also made a commitment to host two three-session new member classes per year. These classes were on hiatus over the past couple of years due to the Covid pandemic. The first of these Sunday new member classes was called, "Get to Know Your Church; Get to Know Each Other," and was led by Pastor Andrew Taylor-Troutman and was held in August 2022. The class was well attended and provided a welcoming and informative time together for anyone, visitor or member, who wished to attend. For 2023, we have already scheduled two new member classes: one in February and the other in August.

In August 2022 this committee hosted a social event specifically for those who had attended the new member class. The committee has agreed to host a gathering event following each new member class, to take place on the Sunday following the last class session.

The committee continues to match a New Member Friend to each new member or new member family. A New Member Friend takes new members under their wings to help them meet others, learn about the many opportunities for service, and answer questions. As a New Member Friend walks alongside a new member, a deeper more meaningful engagement and relationship can form and this can help the new member find ways to integrate more quickly into church family life.

Membership rolls are normally reviewed each January, but in January 2022 the committee decided to wait until after all in-person worship services resumed. That being said, this committee will do a formal review of the membership rolls (for 2022) in January 2023.

This committee looks forward with hope for the next year. May we continue to extend welcome and be willing to learn new ways and improve older ways of making Chapel in the Pines such a welcoming congregation.

- Jane Ann Mallon, joined 1/16/22, certificate, then placed on inactive rolls December of 2022
- Sarah Daniels and Nick Daniels plus two children, joined 2/20/22, reaffirmation
- Mathew Maise and Elizabeth Maise, 3/6/22, plus 3 children, certificate
- Andrew Shirlen and Vanessa Shirlen plus two children, 3/13/22, reaffirmation
- Beth Vazquez, 3/27/22, reaffirmation
- Alexander French and Catherine French, plus two children, 5/8/22, reaffirmation
- Jim Harshaw and Rachel Harshaw, 6/12/22, certificate
- Leslee Shell, 8/14/22, reaffirmation
- Kelly Constant and Reny Matthew, plus three children, 12/11/22, reaffirmation
- Susan Mantz, 12/22/22, reaffirmation

Submitted respectfully by Karen Stevens Fisher, Chair, Welcome and Membership Committee

Total adults: 16

Total children: 12

The Personnel committee continued to meet monthly during the year on Zoom making recommendations to the Session on various personnel matters of compensation, staff policies, and various other personnel issues.

In mid-year Nana Morelli, our office manager who had been with us since when Chapel in the Pines was started, was forced to go on short term sick leave with some serious health issues. As the year progressed, it became necessary for her to go on long term sick leave with a plan to stay on LTD insurance until September of 2023 when she had planned to retire. While on sick leave we were able to hire on a consultant basis Jeanette Petersen who had been the office manager for University Presbyterian Church the prior year. Once it was known that Nana would not be returning, a subgroup of the committee was formed to hire a permanent replacement. In October, we were able to hire Teresa Balatico to be our new office manager. Teresa began training in November with the assistance of both Nana and Jeanette. She will not begin working her regular work schedule until the first of the year so the church she currently works at can hire her replacement. Teresa comes to us with both excellent recommendations from several of her past church employers and an outstanding resume having worked almost twenty years at six other churches around the country as office manager. We are truly blessed to have Teresa join us as office manager although we will sorely miss our family church member, Nana Morelli.

We also hired a video specialist to produce the live streaming of the second service during the second quarter of the year. This was an important hire in order to ensure a quality video of our digital ministry every week.

As we continue to grow in membership, it became obvious that we needed additional staff to handle our Christian Education ministry, particularly the youth which was growing even faster than our general membership. The Christian Education committee presented a proposal to restructure their activities consistent with their budget constraints for next year. After discussing it with the Personnel committee, the committee recommended that the Session approve these changes. The Session approved this recommendation in December, which will be implemented in early 2023.

The church growth and staff also required that Chapel in the Pines needed to update and more formalize our personnel policies and practices. This has occurred over the past six months of this year. The committee worked hard on creating a set of revised policies that are both fair and equitable to all members of the staff based on the wide variation of our jobs. We met with the church staff to get their input on the revised policies which led to a number of changes based on their input. The committee will present the revised policy manual to the Session for approval in January.

Also, as part of the formalization of our personnel policies and practices the committee started to issue formal letters of employment to the new hires this year. We have also established two-person teams composed of Elders, committee members, or direct supervisor of each employee. The first

objective was to review each job description and update any changes in duties that might have occurred in the past year or two by meeting with the staff person on that job. This was completed and the “new” job descriptions were reviewed and approved by the committee. The two-person teams will complete the process by evaluating the performance of individual staff members during the month of January.

With the departure of Betsy Sunde in September, the church was fortunate to have two members volunteer to join the committee. Thangam Arumughan and Betsy Szczypinski, both with excellent business experience were able to jump right in and join the evaluations teams in the fall. They are joined on the committee by Marcia Ladd and Sandy Williams who both also have a lot of experience both in church and industry work.

At the start of 2023, the Personnel committee will be staffed by an excellent group of members to handle the Chapel in the Pines personnel activities. Our goal for 2023 will be to continue the formalization process for our personnel policies and practices while administering those policies in a fair and consistent manner.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Roodkowsky, Cynthia Hilliard

Members in 2022 included for all or part of the year: Mary Roodkowsky (chair until May); Cynthia Hilliard (chair from May to August); Barbara Strange (chair from October onward); Pat Chappell, Braxton Malan, Jane Ann Mallon, Vicky Raymond, Zach Terry, Hope Weber.

When 2022 began, our sanctuary at Chapel in the Pines was closed due to a surge in COVID-19 levels, but by the end of the year, a new pattern of worship services had been established that made it possible for people to gather safely, and according to their own levels of risk. Online worship became an established option for every Sunday. Our Church has learned to create options to support different kinds of worship during the pandemic!

In January and until mid-February, the sanctuary remained closed. Online worship was offered each Sunday morning, along with a short early morning devotional done by Andrew.

In February, Session decided that the sanctuary should reopen for worship at both 9:15 and 11am, starting February 20. While indoors, congregants over the age of two were required to wear masks and the chairs were spaced out. Live streaming was available of the indoor, 11am service.

By March, COVID levels had lessened substantially, and many people asked that the requirement for masks be re-thought. On the basis of a recommendation by the Worship Committee, done in close consultation with public health experts, Session adopted a policy which began on March 27 and continued through 2022, that masks be required indoors when the COVID-19 community levels, as posted by the CDC, were medium or high risk. When the level is green, masking is optional. Whenever the early service moves inside due to inclement weather, masks are required, regardless of the CDC-determined levels. At the same time, the seating in the sanctuary was restored to the pre-pandemic arrangement, as with more people attending, this permitted better social distancing. Communion was offered regularly on the first Sunday of each month.

Guest preachers

There were two guest preachers during the course of 2022. Sara Daniels, a student at Duke Divinity School, and Tony Hoshaw, a minister-at-large and resident of Briar Chapel. In addition, worship was led by Austen Hartke as part of the More Light initiative.

Beyond the regular Sunday services

Two special combined services were held in October and November of 2022, to open and to close the Stewardship Campaign. The first, on October 23, was a joyous occasion as it marked the retirement of Nana Morelli, our Church Office Manager.

Contemplative worship services were held on a regular basis on Monday evenings in the sanctuary. We also began an interfaith partnership with the Baha'i community of faith at these services.

Holy Week Services comprised a communion service on Maundy Thursday, a joint service with Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Good Friday, and three Easter Sunday Services, at 7am with a procession outside, a 9am service outside, and an 11am service in the Sanctuary.

Throughout the *Christmas season*, Advent was observed on all four Sundays; the fourth Sunday was a traditional service of lessons and carols. On Christmas Eve, two services were held, at 4pm and 7pm. And on Christmas Day, Chapel in the Pines participated in a joint service at Mount Zion, at which Mount Zion hosted children from the Central Children's Home of NC and presented them with gift cards.

Children at our church

Under the leadership of Joelle Brummitt-Yale, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries, children ages four and up engaged in child-friendly faith formation during Sacred Art time held during the middle portion of Sunday worship services. When the weather allowed, the children met outdoors in Remembrance Garden and during inclement weather and cold temperatures, they gathered in the Hall for All.

Nursery care for children four and under resumed after young children were able to be vaccinated. Nursery is provided by two background-checked, trained adults during the 11:00am worship services.

Music at CITP

All of the services – from the morning devotional to the in-person services, to the recorded videos of early 2021, included music. Jeremy Nabors continued as Director of Music Ministries, guiding all the musical input to worship, including hymns, a variety of instrumental inputs including piano, handbells, and drums; Daniel Seyfried provided us with piano music in solos and to accompany hymns; and Katherine Brekke served as Director of the Handbell Choir and a member of staff.

Flowers

Hope Weber from the Worship Committee has spearheaded providing the flowers, for regular Sundays and for special occasions.

Worship Survey

Toward the end of 2022, the Worship Committee conducted a survey of church members and friends, to get a better idea of the best timing of worship, and how to improve the components of our services. There were 142 responses, and 71% of respondents voted to continue to hold two services, with a regularly scheduled combined service. Going ahead, there will be a 9:15 service outside, weather permitting; and an 11am service inside. On the second Sunday, there will be one combined service, followed by a potluck lunch.

Along with staff, the Worship Committee is dedicated to creating meaningful worship experiences at both services as well as for online viewers.

