



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH ^{OF} PINEHURST
ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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COUNCIL REPORT

Chair, Paula Shelton

Our 2024 Council membership was committed and resilient: Wayne Janoe, Betty Chapman, Jay Sumner, Kristen Anderson, Charlie Williams, Kasmin Davis. In May, Wayne Janoe was transferred to Oklahoma to continue his career in the Army. Wayne continues to attend our services remotely from afar. We welcomed Andy Bayard as a new member on our CCP Council. Many of our council members served on church committees and reported monthly progress on our church goals. We are so fortunate to have each one of these members on our Council to share their knowledge and gifts. Thank you for all your contributions to our congregation.

An Overview: We met monthly on Zoom with Pastor Phil each month except July and December. We received the monthly Pastor's Report and discussed the church's financial and operational business. The Church's e-blast published our monthly council minutes to share with our congregation.

Each Council member was a resource of ideas, direction and solutions.

Wayne Janoe served as Vice-Chair from January through April. Wayne served and reported on the Mission Peace and Justice Committee. He was always researching topics, while we were actively discussing which expedited our decision-making.

Kasmin Davis served as Secretary from January to April provided updates from the Worship and Education Committee, of which she is a member. In May, Kasmin agreed to retain her role as our Council Secretary and also serve as Vice-Chair. We thank her for her flexibility in serving in both roles.

Betty Chapman, Treasurer, provided monthly financial reports, and has kept us up to date on our long-term financial goals. In addition to creating our 2024 Budget, Betty has a gift of making her financial slides easy to digest and understand.

Jay Sumner serves on the Worship and Education Committee which includes being the coordinator of volunteers for our nursery every Sunday. Jay has been our resource for placing our church ads in The Pilot.

Charlie Williams is the chair of our Grounds Committee and oversees many projects including the church wide, clean-up days.

Kristen Anderson serves as a council member and has provided us with wonderful perspective and insight on our projects.



Andy Bayard joined the council in May and is a member of the Mission Peace and Justice Committee.

Some Highlights,

- In April of 2023, our Treasurer, Betty Chapman, presented a 5-year budget plan to change Pastor Phil to full-time status by the beginning of 2025. We received monthly updates of our treasurer reports, and we had the opportunity to have Pastor Phil convert to full-time 3 months earlier than scheduled. Financially, we were able to approve this transition. When we presented this plan to the congregation we had a standing ovation. Pastor Phil's transition to full-time was certainly a 2024 highlight for our congregation.
- We continued our focus on the 5 areas identified by our 2023 council retreat: Christian Education, Community Building, Finances, Marketing and Volunteerism. This continues to support the Strategic Plan that was developed in 2021 from a congregation member survey.

Here are some of the activities that supported our goals in 2024:

- In 2024, we welcomed 23 new adult members and their children to our congregation. In the last two years we have experienced tremendous growth. We welcome the challenges that growth brings with open arms.
- As a result of our 2025 Stewardship Drive led by Kasmin Davis, Marian Maroney and Sandy Waterkotte, we met our 2025 Pledge Goal. Thank you to all for your heartfelt pledges.
- CCP had a booth at *Pride in the Pines* at the Weymouth Center. Our members worked the tent and spread the good word at this and other community gatherings.
- Ron Adams and the IT team work diligently every Sunday to make sure our members that are at home, traveling, and even the volunteers in the nursery can listen.
- Bev Valutis has served as the chair of the Building Committee and reported to the council on any building issues.
- CCP continues to look for cost saving methods that are long term. In 2023, we installed the solar panels, and in 2024 we converted our energy source from propane to natural gas.
- Our coffee hours after service are becoming a very popular time for sharing fellowship with our fellow congregants. Marian Maroney and the Fellowship Team have been quite successful in recruiting host volunteers.
- Martha Nilsen and the Worship and Education Team very quickly embraced the task of expanding children's programming at our congregation on Sundays. The enrollment expanded very quickly and we are thrilled.
- Kathy Nekton and the Mission Peace and Justice Committee continued our support of the North Moore Resource Center and other local outreach.



- Week after week we walk into our Sanctuary and benefit from the care, talent and detail Garry Taylor and the volunteers of the Altar Guild share with us.

The CCP Council is so grateful to work with such a talented staff, Pastor Phil Hardy, Robert Cox, Aaron Carlyle, Sandy Waterkotte, and Maddie Broome.

On behalf of the Council, thanks to each of you for your support and actions throughout the year.



PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor, Phil Hardy

2024 became a year which I will long remember. I completed my role at Johns River Valley Camp as its Executive Director and became the full-time pastor of the Congregational Church of Pinehurst in October. It is with much gratitude and anticipation that I begin this part of our journey together.

During the year we enjoyed the second consecutive year of substantial growth. We celebrate that growth and all of the people who have become a part of our family. In addition to the adults, we are grateful for the children and youth who are among those additions.

The growth has come with challenges regarding worship space and storage. We began dialogue with "The Garden" Montessori School regarding ways in which the two organizations can address these challenges together. Our new Council looks forward to 2025 as a time in which these challenges will be a central focus of our endeavors.

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Numerous volunteers have stepped forward to create programming which is aimed at enhancing our ministry to the growing numbers of children and youth. Our hope is that those endeavors will continue and that these young people will continue to brighten our Sundays with their youthful energy.

Beyond the programming for youth, we have added the “Growing Together” series as a part of our adult Christian Education program. This series includes book studies, films and discussions which allow us to deepen our sense of community as we share elements of our spiritual journeys with one another.



**WINNERS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL PASTOR'S INVITATIONAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT: SAM WALKER, DAVE KINNEY, REV.
PHIL HARDY, AND CHRIS STEVENSON**

It is always a joy and an important part of the life of a faith community when Members in Discernment have their church home among us. Members in Discernment (MIDs) is a United Church of Christ term describing women and men who are on a path to ordination into Christian vocational ministry.

Jill Haram is on this very path. 2024 finds her close to completing her seminary

education which is one of the requirements of ordination. We have increased her role at CCP by inviting her into the pulpit and providing leadership within our worship services. After her graduation in May of we will look forward to her ordination service which will be held in our sanctuary. She will go from there to be a Chaplain in the United States Army.

We look forward to walking with her toward the completion of this journey and to blessing her as she begins her life as an Army Chaplain.

We enjoyed strong financial support from our congregation this past year and are thankful for the endeavors of those who made the 2024 Stewardship Campaign a success.

We will enter 2025 with momentum and optimism regarding the possibilities before us.





TREASURER'S REPORT and PROPOSED BUDGET for 2024
 Treasurer, Betty Chapman

Operations Budget: The 2024 budget year concluded with a surplus of \$48,374, an amount created by stronger than anticipated pledged and collection plate contributions as well as increased income from money market funds and investments. An \$8,000 one-time contribution from Elliotts Restaurant in exchange for use of right of way for a utility upgrade was part of this surplus. On the expense side, some savings in the operating expenses were used for an increased pastor contract. The favorable 2024 budget position and a strong 2025 pledge campaign allowed the Church to increase the pastor's position from half time to full time in the final quarter (October-December) of 2024.

Balance Sheet: In terms of the overall financial status of the Church, property tax valuations for the land and building assessment remained at \$1,549,130. Endowment increased from \$36,370.45 to \$47,680.28 in 2024. Balance in liquid assets such as checking, savings, and investment grew from \$146,724.40 to \$244,489.61 in 2024. (It should be noted that of this increase in liquid assets, \$44,489.84 is from 2025 pledges, prepaid in 2024 which is an increase over the \$35,000 prepaid in 2023.) Please note that donations to the restricted accounts appear on the balance sheet but not in the annual operations budget. The 2025 proposed operations budget includes these significant changes:

Primary goal achievement: Permanent increase from half time to full time pastor!
 A 10% increase in the projected income from pledges. Our successful 2025 pledge campaign exceeded this goal.
 Reduction by 30% for utilities. Recent conversion to natural gas coupled with our solar panels for electricity should allow us to continue to control rising utility expenditures.
 A larger set aside for building repairs & maintenance to: a) complete the repair of sanctuary chairs, b) address bathroom upgrades and c) repaint the exterior of the building.

Most of the ordinary expenditures were calculated at 4% inflation rates. Items where actual costs were known, or where under or over expended, were modified accordingly. Finally, 4% pastor and staff raises are provided. Modest contract hours were increased for office staff to recognize the need for additional support.



See Appendix 1: the 2025 Budget Worksheet including Budget Performance for 2024 (page 23)
See Appendix 2: the Balance Sheet with Previous Year Comparison. (page 27)



COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Chair, Bev Valutis

In 2024, we had an opportunity to partner with external "friends" of CCP to accomplish improvements and a donation. A special thanks to The Garden School and Elliotts on Linden.

There were two Fire Dept Inspections; Siren Boxes were replaced or repaired. The follow up inspection was good.

Unifour Fire and Safety inspected our Fire Extinguishers in April.

Terminix treated as needed for exterminating.

A plumber was called for faucet and toilet repairs. CCP did replace all the toilets in the building with more environmentally-friendly units..

Central Security Systems inspected our system in April. They also replaced the keypad in December.

The Carpets were cleaned in the Hearth Room and the Narthex.

The Hearth Room was painted in the summer. CCP paid for the paint and the staff and friends of The Garden School actually painted.

The AED pads were replaced prior to their expiration date.

The main entry doors were not closing properly and were repaired.

Elliotts on Linden restaurant asked to lay a sewer line on the perimeter of our property. This was done in the summer and they donated \$8000. to the church for the access.

Four tons of rock was replenished and grated in the back parking lot. We paid for the rock and a family member of The Garden School used their tractors to grate the rocks.

Four Heavy Duty benches were purchased with the Ron Sickenberger Memorial Funds for use in the Narthex and the Hearth Room.

CCP converted from a propane energy source to natural gas. This process took several months, and involved several vendors, including Piedmont Gas, but the conversion was

completed during the last week of the year. After absorbing the cost of the installation, CCP will enjoy a savings in our energy costs.

There have been 44 chairs in the sanctuary that have been reupholstered and more that have been cleaned by Neil and Kasmin Bergman-Davis. This project is being carried over to 2025.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Chair, Charlie Williams

- **January** - Charlie and Neil Bergman repaired the deteriorating Well cover with waterproof tape. Neil has kindly offered to purchase a new well cover.
- **March** – Stations of the Cross were posted in the back acreage trail. Pam Cole supplied fresh mulch to church perimeter. Pre-School via Mary Travis has requested that the trail not be blown as it exposes roots and increases erosion.
- **April** - Spring Grounds cleanup after two rainouts was held April 15th. Memorial Garden was power washed by Tim Maroney. Richard and Anne Agnew had earlier



in the month tended to Audrey's Garden which is the circular garden plot between Linden Road and the front of the church. Ron Adams donated and spread gravel in some of the potholes in the church driveway.

- Charlie took down the Stations of the Cross and stored them in the shed. Except for one, all signs held up well.
- The path in the back acreage appears to being kept clear of fallen limbs by the school staff and Pastor Phil has not reported any tree concerns from the school.
- Charlie put extra shut off valves on 2 of 3 outdoor water spigots. All hoses (about 5) were laid out and checked and recoiled. One hose was in bad shape and was put behind the shed with other items that were taken to the dump. One hose is on so tight that it cannot be removed for fear of breaking the spigot.
- A new well cover, funded by a church donor, has been placed over the church well.
- Charlie and Phil met with Pre-School personnel regarding the placement of two fig trees to be planted in memory of a preschool parent. Pastor Phil met with the Pre-School to ensure that there will be no further burning on church property. Burning is not permitted in the Village of Pinehurst.



- Existing exterior church lighting is very adequate for safety needs. The Duke Energy proposed new lamp posts would be very costly and are not needed. We were misled on costs. Duke Energy flag markers and stakes were removed.
- Enhancement of Church Office Entrance was completed at no cost to the church. Charlie, Neil and Kasmin dug up the existing overgrown herb garden by the office walkway. Seven Encore Azaleas were planted in place of the herb garden and seven Sunshine Ligustrum were also planted to the right of the office entrance. New mulch and fertilizer were placed in the two beds where plants were placed. Plants were selected for year-round foliage, color, hardiness – full sun and summer heat, and less maintenance. Two hydrangeas were planted but were destroyed by the deer.
- **May** – Temporary fenced installed by Charlie around the Azaleas as they were being eaten by deer.
- **June** – Decorative fence installed around Azaleas by Neil and Kasmin
- **July, August, September, October, November** – new plantings watered, mulched, fertilized and weeded by Charlie, Neil and Kasmin.
- **October** - Fall Grounds Cleanup held October 19, 2024. Tim Maroney power washed the Memorial Garden. Bushes were trimmed around the church perimeter and the Agnews spread some fresh mulch around the side entrance. Charlie blew the church grounds with a backpack blower the day before and collected many branches that had fallen down. Pam Coles, who cuts the church lawn areas, removed the large piles of yard waste.
- Charlie and Ron Adams reset the timer for the 8 outdoor light posts due to the end of daylight-saving time. Charlie took photos of the outdoor lighting around the church, which is quite good.
- One light post is out and has been for a long time with estimated cost to repair \$500. This is not a critical need. If and when other light posts go out might be a better time to have them repaired (may just need replacement bulb estimated \$50 bulb) due to cost of having to bring a lift truck to get up to the light fixture.
- Charlie met with church member, Judy Biddle, on Oct. 24, 2024 about her wish to plant pink dogwoods on church grounds. The planting area would be in the in the grassy area between the church and Linden Road. Charlie had previously researched the availability of 15-gallon pink dogwoods with 3 plant and garden centers. None were available until March 2025. Judy called Reaves Nursery Farm to reserve 8 pink dogwoods (15 gallon) for March 1, 2025, and has used Reaves Nursery Farm in the past. The Biddle's will cover the costs of the trees (8), proper planting and protective fencing to prevent deer damage as we have a lot of deer in our woods. All work will be done by Reaves Nursery. Cost is estimated at \$1000 or more. Council needs to give the final ok for this



- **December** – Natural gas line being run to church furnace to replace propane gas system. Council chairman Paula Shelton has details. Charlie placed new insulated covers over the outdoor Spigots

Future concerns:

- Pam Coles and son Samuel cut the lawn, trim bushes around the church, apply fresh mulch in the Spring before Easter, occasionally spray weed killer and have so far agreed to dispose of yard waste after Spring and Fall cleanup. Those arrangements were made by Ron Sickenberger 5 years ago primarily for grass cutting and bush trimming. Budgeted for \$3000 annually.
- Pam hopes to do this for 2- or 3 more years, health permitting. The Church grounds need a regular landscape service who can come after 3pm or Saturdays due to school restrictions. Pam is very understanding should the Church decide to contract with a larger landscape company.
- It has been suggested by a church member to contract with local landscaper to do a thorough weeding (deep roots), edging and trimming around the church perimeter twice a year at approximate cost of \$450 per visit. This will be revisited in the Spring 2025
- Church storage shed is very full as several folding tables and the large holders for the folding chairs that were in the church (heavy metal) are now stored in the shed. Storage will continue to be an issue as Pre-School needs increase.
- Gravel driveway should be top dressed.
- One hose is locked onto an outdoor spigot.

IT/COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Chair, Ron Adams

The IT/Communications team activity was relatively quiet this year. We had to upgrade the production software we use for the Sunday Facebook live stream, but the equipment upgrades we did to our equipment on the tech table for those productions were very generously donated by Dave Leuck.

Just before the close of the year we purchased a new Windows 11 computer for Sandy Waterkotte, as her old Windows 10 machine will be eight years old next month and was incapable of upgrading to Windows 11. Microsoft has indicated it will not support Windows 10 after this fall, and many new software applications require Windows 11 to work as intended, so we felt it was time.

Conversely, both the music director and live stream laptops, purchased in 2020, were capable of being upgraded and show no signs of needing to be replaced at this time.



We are still looking for someone to take over maintenance of the web page, as we lost Wayne Janoe last summer. The application used for the web page is called WordPress, and is reputedly fairly intuitive to use, so if you, or someone you know of, might be interested in performing that part of our ministry, please contact anyone on the IT team or the church council to let us know.



One Sunday ... 10 new members

MISSION, PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chair, Kathy Nekton

The Congregational Church of Pinehurst (CCP), UCC is an open-minded spiritual community characterized by a passion for justice, delight in diversity and interest in making a difference. The Mission, Peace and Justice (MPJ) committee has been committed to carrying out the very essence of this statement. The group meets the first Tuesday of the month and since the pandemic the meetings are held by Zoom at 5:30PM. Here are some highlights of the MP&J work each month:

January

- Gave thanks for Paula Shelton's work on MP&J as she transitions to Council Chair
- PFLAG began meeting in the church. Paula Shelton, Mary Scott Arnold and Kathy Leuck acted as greeters for the first meeting
- More LGBTQ books and literature added to the John Arnold library

February

- Welcomed Devlyn McCreight and Andy Bayard to the committee
- King: A Life was chosen as a book study for Lent



- Devlyn created questions for discussion to prompt how the book could spur action personally and communally
- Black History month: February 11th Reconciliation Sunday service dedicated to this
- Spread word about the list of films being shown at the Sunrise Theater.
- A list of environmental initiatives for individuals and families in process of being created by Kathy Leuck and Mary Scott Arnold for the month of April.

March

- The book of environmental initiatives presented to the congregation. Weekly suggestions for how we can easily institute things in our homes to lessen our climate footprint were put in the bulletin each week. *(Please see the report which follows for an overview of our Environmental Efforts to Heal the Earth.)*

April

- Book study mentioned above held after a service and was met enthusiastically by all who participated
- "Voices of CCP" highlighted environmental issues already undertaken by members and was coordinated by Wayne Janoe, Kasmin Davis and Kyle Sonnenberg presented during April 28th service. Laurie O'Loughlin from the Climate Crisis group in Moore County offered a helpful presentation as well. Informative literature was set up in the Narthex.
- Wayne Janoe reported his article on our installation of solar panels was accepted by The Pilot newspaper. It was our hope that this might stir other houses of worship to begin a similar project
- Crop Walk was held April 14th at Union Pines High School. Five members of CCP participated .

May

- *Fever in the Heartland*, initially banned in Pinehurst Resort, was discussed on May 19th after the service
- Environmental eco hints listed in the narthex
- Members invited to sign up and list what they are doing at home to reduce/recycle
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors-a reverse yard sale asking people to clean out unwanted clothes, furniture and useful items to be passed on to Friend to Friend and the Aberdeen Thrift shop.

June

- A goodbye dinner and gratitude for Wayne Janoe's contributions as he left for a new post in Oklahoma.



August

- Stuff the Mini bus for HOPE Academy
- Amazon list of school supplies requested by the teachers and fulfilled by the congregation

September

- Neighbors helping Neighbors launched with meeting Sept 15th after the service. All contributions in by October 20th. Individuals helped with sorting, transporting and picking up items
- Action for Voting season
Some members attended NC Trusted Election Tour Sept. 9th at the Sunrise Theater
- Zane Reed (nonpartisan) Sept 22nd (after service) presented ideas on how to ensure fair voting. Handed out voter registration forms at various locations.



Wayne Janoe, Jay McCreight, Sarah McCreight, Evie McCreight, and Kathy Nekton at the 2024 Crop Walk.

October

- Supported Freedom Fest October 19th
- Prayer for Peace ecumenical service held at CCP October 27th organized by O'Linda Watkins, NAACP.
Many faith leaders contributed 2–3-minute prayers
Passed out information on how to check if a name had been purged from the records (vote.org)

December

- Sent in a Cool Congregation entry for the Energy Saver category to Interfaith Power and Light contest. Our entry centered around our solar panel installation
- Angel tree for North Moore Family Resource Santa's shop
 - 40 angel gifts returned
 - Several members helped at Santa's Workshop
 - Members helped Clare Ruggles shop at Walmart for needed items.
- Western North Carolina clothing drive completed. Delivery to a special church was done by Pastor Phil, Stephanie Hardy, Dave Leuck and Ron Adams.



Ongoing all year:

- UCC Five for Five offerings
- Fruit for HOPE Academy contributed once a month

Submitted by Kathy Nekton for MP&J members
Kathy Leuck, Nancy Kingfisher, Mary Scott Arnold, Devlyn McCreight, Andy Bayard, Jan Sutton, Wayne Janoe, Pastor Phil Hardy

Environmental Efforts to Heal the Earth Team Report:

Submitted by Kathy Leuck / Team Member Mary Scott Arnold

Members of the Mission, Peace and Justice Team voted to highlight and promote habits that could make a difference environmentally during the month of April. We used as a reference book *The Climate Action Handbook-A Visual Guide to 100 Climate Solutions for Everyone* by Dr. Heidi A Roop and published in 2023. A loose-leaf binder was assembled of some 80 plus actions and an explanation of why this habit was good for the climate. Members were invited to choose 1 or more actions and commit to doing that habit for at least 6 weeks. Thirty-seven households participated in the initiative and most committed to being actively involved in developing the habits they chose. Several reported that they learned new and adaptable habits, and all made a conscious decision to be more aware of environmental issues and to discuss the project with family and friends.

Each week a new environmental tip was printed in the electronic e-blast and in the Sunday bulletin under the heading Climate Corner. The Climate Corner will continue through October of this year. During the month of April members of the congregation spoke on a habit they believed was important for earth health. The topics included the climate benefit to composting, and the benefits of eating less red meat. We learned about a company located not far from us that produces charcoal and the pollution it causes. A fourth Sunday, the Climate Crisis Action Group of Moore County presented an impressive talk on climate healing actions they have undertaken and promoted. Pastor Phil Hardy emphasized several scripture verses which reinforces the need to be good stewards of the earth we are allowed to inhabit. Several tables with information were available to the congregation following the church service. The children also had several Sunday activities which helped them understand the reason for healing the earth. One of our children created a painting of healing the climate which was part of our monthly ongoing display.





In the fall of 2022, our wise and prudent Treasurer spoke to the congregation about the possibility of raising money to install solar panels on our church's roof. She explained the savings we could reap by producing our own energy for electricity. She spoke from personal experience, having installed her own solar panels on her home. The congregation enthusiastically accepted the idea and contributed to make the dream a reality. In the spring of 2023, the panels were installed! A celebration was held! Our church submitted an article to the local newspaper explaining the journey we had been on, and the benefits that we were enjoying. We are proud to be the first church in our county to install solar panels.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, Tammy Morris

Each year, this committee is charged with finding and nominating members for the church Council. The process for our work is collaborative and confidential, and it works! This year three new members were needed, and the committee chose three excellent candidates Andy Bayard, Sarah McCreight, and Chris Couch. Andy began her term mid-year 2024 and will complete the term of the member she replaced, while Sarah and Chris will begin their respective terms in January 2025.

This year also saw a change in the makeup of the Nominating Committee itself. Roger Nekton and Karen Anderson both left after many years of Nominating work. Since mid-2024, the Nominating Committee has consisted of the following: Chair, Tammy Morris, and Members Marian Maroney and Sam Walker.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair, Kasmin Davis

The theme of this year's stewardship drive was "Imagine Together", and started at the beginning of October and continued through the end of the month. The fiscal goal set by the church treasurer was \$185,500. The actual pledged amount exceeded the goal set by the committee and totaled \$186,700 as of the writing of this report.

I wish to thank our inspired Sunday speakers during the stewardship month which included Sarah Mc Creight, Don Harnum, Keith Eldridge and Pastor Phil. I also wish to thank





Sandy Waterkotte and Marion Maroney for their exceptional organizational skills and their shared experience regarding stewardship.

Appreciation also goes to Don Harnum for his leadership in the penning of the stewardship letter. Lastly, I wish to thank all of the church members who made financial commitments to the church for the coming year. They say that it takes a village and nothing could be truer when it comes to church stewardship. We have been so blessed in the past year to share the gifts of the older members with the new gifts and life brought to us by new members!

The church council looks forward to showing the fruits of your stewardship in the coming year!

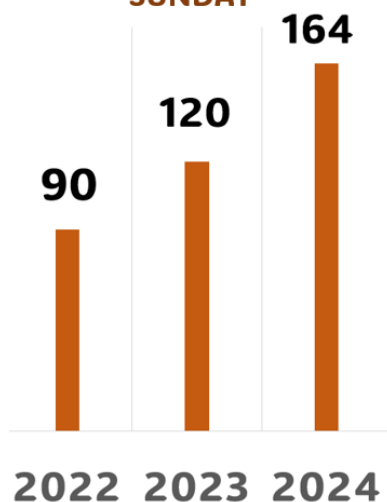
WORSHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair, Martha Nilsen

Committee Members: Pastor Phil Hardy, Garry Taylor, Robert Cox, Jay Sumner, Katherine Stevenson, Darlene Vickers, Marian Maroney, Kasmin Bergman-Davis.

In 2024, Worship and Education programming experienced remarkable growth in response to the significant growth of our membership, including the arrival of families with young children. It's breathtaking to witness to the explosive growth of our church, thanks primarily to Pastor Phil, but also to all those who contribute to making our worship inspiring and inclusive of all ages.

3-YEAR COMPARISON OF ATTENDANCE ON EASTER SUNDAY



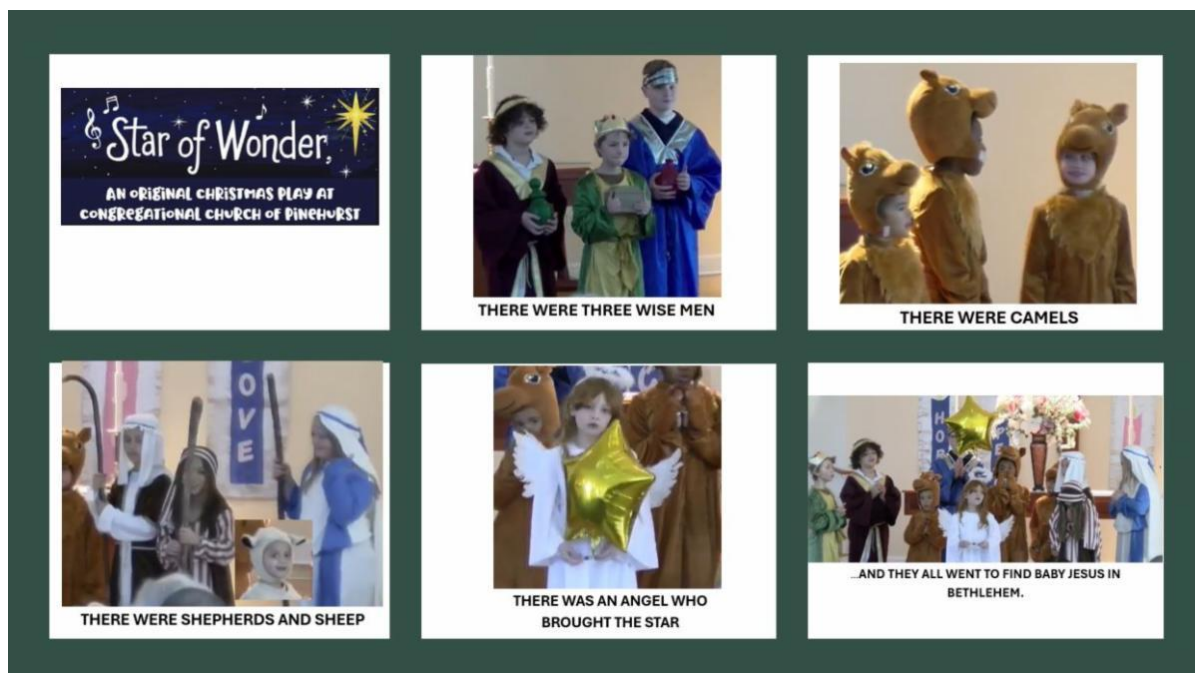
Pastor Phil's Contributions

- Phil began the use of prayer request cards during worship. It has been well received and integrated seamlessly into worship.
- Jill Haram, who is near the completion of her seminary training, participated in worship and preached.
- Pastor Phil proposed starting a *Growing Together Series* at CCP. This series seeks to bring together people through book studies, film, and the sharing of our faith stories. On October 6, Phil led the first (internal) *Growing Together Series* program, a book study of the book "Falling Forward." Subsequently, Phil has created a pamphlet of GT events through July 2025.

- On October 27 we hosted our first (external) *Growing Together* event: Maggie Bonecutter from FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care gave an informative presentation.

Music at CCP Under Robert Cox's Leadership

- On April 14, Aaron Carlyle joined the church staff as our pianist. Since then, he has trained himself on the organ! Sandy Tremblay continues to serve as the accompanist when needed.
- Under the vision of Sandy Tremblay, the church now has children's choir, "Rays of Sunshine" and a high school youth Chime Choir. These young voices and musicians are a celebrated part of worship.
- Aside from the "Rays of Sunshine" and the "Chimes Choir," James Miller, and Keziah and Evelyn Hively, played during the Preludes.
- Members of the Men's Barbershop chorus sang on April 21.
- Robert led the Cantata on December 15. A superlative expression of joy this Advent season!
- On Sunday, December 22, the Church School and Youth Church, under the superb direction of Sandy and Paul Tremblay, presented the delightful play "Star of Wonder," written by Paul. A cast of 14 engaged youth and wandering sheep, adorned in adorable costumes provided by Darlene Vickers, along with a team of adult helpers, told a story about the Christmas Star that will long be treasured.





Sanctuary Beautification and Communion

- EVERY Sunday, Garry astounds us with magnificent alterscapes, masterful floral arrangements, and religious symbols tied to the Christian calendar. What a ministry!
- Garry prepares Communion every month. Ray Morris and Martha took turns assisting.
- Garry oversees the setup of the Narthex, the Butterfly Room, and starts the coffee EVERY Sunday.

Nursery

Jay and Holly have done a wonderful job in creating a space for the youngest ones in the Butterfly Room. Too, they published a schedule of adult childcare providers. Childcare is an ongoing task, but a necessary one. More childcare providers will be needed in 2025. Jay created the "Butterfly Room Nursery Guidelines" for caregivers to ensure nursery coverage.

Church School

Darlene has done a fantastic job running and teaching Church School (4–7-year-olds) full-time! She has been using a curriculum entitled "Joyful Path;" it will continue through July 2025. There was no Church School (CS) during the month of July. In September 2025 she will use a different curriculum.

As more children come to CCP, I'm certain that W&E we will need to provide Darlene with a weekly teen/adult Assistant(s). We will look to the congregation for volunteers to fill that crucial position.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday, November 24, at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church. Both Katherine and Martha, in conjunction with Mindy Fineman (Sandhills Jewish Congregation), played a major role and making this service possible. Jeremy Fiebig

Thanks to Kasmin, Jeremy Fiebig, an FSU theater instructor and author of Control Burn, came on July 28 to present a program called "Thin Places." It was well received. Hope was expressed that he returns to CCP for a follow-up presentation.

Martha's Update

- Aside from July, when there were no Youth Church (8–12-year-olds) classes and December when classes were replaced by play



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



rehearsals, Martha taught YC twice a month. She has had as many as 7 youth. She creates her own curriculum which focuses on the person and ministries of Jesus.

- The YC led a collection of dog and cat supplies and money which Martha, and the youth and their parents, delivered to the Humane Society.
- The YC placed donated hygiene items into gallon bags that were delivered to people in Western NC following Hurricane Helene.
- When able, Martha has given Children's Message during worship. She crafts these messages, most often tying them to the lectionary lessons or in response to some news event or calendar holidays.
- With the help of Ron Adams, an All-Church Family Lenten Movie Night took place on March 9th featuring the film, The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse.
- For the Children's Message last Easter, Martha wrote an Easter puppet presentation.

MINISTRY REPORTS

ALTAR GUILD

Chair, Garry Taylor

Garry Taylor's stunning Altar creations enhance our worship service each Sunday and beautifully reflect seasonal and holiday celebrations and special services throughout the year. But let us not take for granted the many other tasks that Garry and his team assume throughout the year: walking congregants to and from the church; greeting each of us and handing out bulletins; "carrying the light" into and out of the sanctuary; collecting the offerings and prayer cards; teaching our young people to help in the worship service; preparing Communion; decorating the church for special celebrations; and more!

CONGREGATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE MINISTRY

Leader, Pastor Phil Hardy

The Congregational and Spiritual Care Team is designed to provide support to church members and friends during times of illness, grief, or life transition. They help the pastor to be informed of the needs of congregants as they become aware. They also endeavor to help new members assimilate into the life of the church.

2024 was not as active of a year as we would have liked as the pastor had not yet transitioned to his full-time role. After losing some team members who moved away or were suffering through their own health challenges, the group has been reconfigured to



now include 9 members to address the needs of our growing membership. The first meeting of 2024 will be held on February 24, 2025 when we will assess our goals and directions for the coming year.

Members include: Mary Scott Arnold, Dave Bayard, Pam Dodge, Carol Kavanaugh, Gwen Koehler, Tammy Morris, Marian Maroney, Beth Walker, and Jill Haram.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Chair, Marian Maroney

The fellowship time we spend after church each week is an important extension of our worship services. It's an opportunity to catch up with friends, welcome visitors and share food and conversation. Thank you to Fellowship Team members Mary Scott Arnold, Nancy Kinney and Garry Taylor, and to everyone who hosted coffee hour and provided food for special occasions throughout the year!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Minister of Music, Robert Cox

We added Aaron Carlyle as our accompanist. Paul and Sandy have been tremendous drivers of the success of the Music Ministry. They have begun in earnest a children's choir. That choir provided a mini musical at Christmas which Paul wrote. Sandy and Paul have also donated tone chimes and Sandy has begun a bell choir which is wonderfully multi-generational. They are doing a great job. We have lost a few members in the Adult choir. Ron Sickenberger passed away. David Klauder has moved to Florida for at least a half year, so we hope to see him again in the summer. We have added Jan Eldridge and Sol and Meagan have been able to be more active. We added a few "friends" for the cantata, and they are always welcome. Perhaps they will return periodically. Choir members had been willing to bring Tobe on Sunday morning so that she can be as active as possible. I hear a rumor that there is an alto from the Burlington area that may join the choir as well. I'm very grateful to our members who provide ministry amongst themselves and within the congregation.



SAFETY TEAM

Chair, Marian Maroney

Our church's safety measures, established in 2022, remain in place: doors and windows are locked during worship services; surveillance cameras are active 24/7 at all entrances and monitored several times a week; dead bolts are on bathroom doors and other designated areas; a fully stocked first aid kit is mounted in the choir loft; and a phone chain is in place to notify congregants if church services or events are canceled due to weather or other emergencies

WELCOME TEAM

Visitors are warmly welcomed at our Visitor's Center, and Garry Taylor greets all who enter the sanctuary with a smile. Thank you to all who participated in these welcoming activities this year. The steadfast team who rotated Sundays throughout the past year includes: Kristen and Annie Anderson, Andy and Dave Bayard, Neil and Kasmin Bergman-Davis, Don and Jane Harnum, Sam and Beth Walker, Charlie and Mary Williams

No matter who you were, or where you were in life's journey, you were welcomed here!