

# Annual Committee Reports 2024



Highland Presbyterian Church  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: J. S. Randolph Harris

Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman

Associate Pastor: Courtney Stevens

Pastor Emeritus: Steve McCutchan

Director of Music: Chris Gilliam

Organist: Susan Bates

Director of Christian Education: Heather Ferguson

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## **Celebrating Ministry in Highland's 75<sup>th</sup> Year**

In 2024, Highland Presbyterian Church celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. *Ages Past and Years to Come* was the theme for this celebration, recognizing that our looking backward at our past also propels us forward into ever-new expressions of ministry.

Founded in 1949, Highland has consistently lived into its mission of being a church that is grateful, vibrant, connected, and responsive. Celebrations of Highland's anniversary included three open house receptions in the Gathering Place that invited members to explore the riches of our Archive Room. These receptions featured slideshows of Highland members, activities, and spaces through our 75 years of ministry. Along the way, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee offered "swag" to commemorate our special year – car magnets, stickers, vests, ornaments, and even a glass etching workshop. In October we welcomed pastor emeritus Steve McCutchan to our worship leadership.

Other committees shared in our anniversary observance by incorporating "75" into their plans and goals, ensuring an anniversary that was truly celebrated in every part of our ministry.

Our grand anniversary celebration took place on Sunday, November 17. Worship was festive, and featured a brass ensemble, as well as a special anthem commissioned by Dan Locklair for the occasion. Following worship, the congregation was accompanied by bagpipes as we recessed to the Fellowship Hall for a special luncheon, catered by Milner's. During the luncheon, we celebrated our 2 remaining charter members, Gary Simes and Betty Sink; we presented a plaque in celebration of our Archive Room curators, Esther Preston and Caroline Wright, and shared a special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary documentary, produced by Cameron Kent.

Members of the Committee included Margaret Sehon and Katina Barksdale (co-chairs), Alice Milam, Skip Pickett, Elizabeth Skinner, Jordan Xu, and Steve Zorn, with Randy Harris (ex-officio).

## **Christian Education Committee**

Highland's Christian Education Committee, composed of children's ministry and adult Christian education teams had an exciting 2024.

### **Children's Ministry**

The Children's Ministry team began to see the turning of the tide away from the effects of COVID-19 on participation towards a more healthy ministry with the children and young families of Highland in 2024. With the addition of a new program for children ages 0-5th grade, 4th Friday Fun Nights, children, youth, and adults have gathered for spiritual formation, fellowship, and relationship building. These monthly experiences have affected the overall health of the ministry to children and families in a very positive way. Though we still need to be diligent in reaching out to new families and encouraging greater participation with the children and families of Highland who are currently on our roles, we feel more and more encouraged about the future.

In January Bibles were presented to six of Highland's 4th-grade children followed by a 4-week class titled, Bible 101, where children and one parent gathered following worship to share a meal and learn how to use their new Bibles. We continue to gather with children on Sunday mornings for church school using Godly Play and the workshop rotation model as our curriculum. Following a 45-minute time of church school, children gather for choir for 30 minutes with Highland's Children's Music Director, Haley Chapman.

The ArtRageous planning team sought to increase the number of opportunities in this year's lineup of art classes and tours that would appeal to children. We had children in approximately 12 class slots throughout the week. We tried yet another configuration for Vacation Church School to entice participation with a 3-

Sunday format and an art focus. Diane Plaisted led the group of four children and three adults in working with clay. The group enjoyed the time together and were grateful for Diane's leadership.

Over the summer months, the third floor received new carpeting in the hallway and classrooms and new flooring in the Art workshop. Several weeks were spent reorganizing these spaces but the results are beautiful and will certainly last for many years.

Beginning in the fall of 2024, the decision was made to advance our 5th graders to the Middle School youth group for Sunday school and youth fellowship. This was due to the demographics of the children's *active* roster.

Preschool (0-4 year olds) - 9

Kindergartners - 1

1st Graders - 5

2nd Graders - 3

3rd Graders - 0

4th Graders - 0

5th Graders - 6

During worship, following A Time for Young Disciples, children in 1st and 2nd grades have enjoyed Worship and Wonder, a program designed to help prepare them for full participation in worship. This year we have invited more children to be involved in worship by collecting 5-Cents-a-Meal offerings, becoming acolytes, and other forms of worship leadership.

We are grateful for Judy Parro, our paid Nursery staff who has been the consistent presence not only in the nursery on Sunday morning, but also supporting volunteers during the 4th Friday Fun Night gatherings.

#### *Advent Event in the Gathering Garden*

God was smiling on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, November 24 as we prepared for our annual Advent Event in the Gathering Garden, our new outdoor space still under construction but welcoming nonetheless. About 85 folks of all ages gathered for snacks, hot chocolate, Advent crafts, and Advent wreath making. There was music playing and even a fire pit to warm your hands. It was an outstanding event and one of the highlights was the craft table making stenciled 75th Anniversary ornaments out of slices of the old cherry tree that had to be removed from that area just a month before for the renovations.

Finally, one of the exciting endings to 2024 has been the 4:00 Christmas Eve worship service where the children and Youth lead the service with a beautiful drama, An Unexpected Christmas. Twenty children, youth, and adults participated in this drama and countless others worked behind the scenes on costumes, props, and details.

Children's Ministry Team members: Jim Swing (elder), Diana Smyrl (elder), Mary Anna Davis, Lola Culler, Sally Brown, and Lauren Eberle.

#### **Adult Christian Education**

The adult Christian education at Highland continues to offer challenging and enriching opportunities for faith formation to our members and visitors. This year has been no exception. Given the continued heaviness of loss due to the COVID pandemic and other significant deaths among our members, our year began with a gathering in the Chapel for guest speaker, Heidi Gessner (former end-of-life chaplain) reading from her book *Pockets of Grace: Lessons from Darkness, Lessons from Light*. There were approximately 15 in attendance. This led

to the development of a monthly gathering called *Dolorosa*, the sorrowful way that Jesus shows us through pain and suffering to healing and wholeness." *Dolorosa* is open to all who suffer loss in its many forms.

The Highland Forum continued in 2024 with Heidi Hart, author, arts researcher, musician, and Highland affiliate member as our winter speaker focusing on *Deep Hospitality for Our Earthly Home*. Our Spring Forum speaker was Professor Kevin Jung, Wake Forest University Divinity School with the topic of *AI, Ethics, and Theology*. The Fall Forum featured Cathrine DeLong, hospice chaplain, end-of-life educator, certified music thanatologist, and contemplative musician, *Music as Medicine at the End-of-Life*.

The Highland Men's and Women's retreats in Montreat were once again enriching and renewing weekends for all participants.

*Women's Retreat* - Theme: An Altar in the World (43 Participants)

*Men's Retreat* - Theme: Life Together: Renewing Relationships in a Tumultuous World (27 Participants, spanning ages 20s-90s!)

During the Lenten season, the Adult Christian Education team offered two movie nights (*Babette's Feast* and *As It Is In Heaven*) to complement the congregational book reading of Norman Wirzba's book, *Way of Love*. Discussions were led by staff on Thursdays at noon, Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings (Zoom), and Monday afternoons (Zoom) during the season of Lent.

*Sunday Morning Education for Adults*

Our ongoing adult classes, Present Word Class and Lectionary Cafe, continue to offer members consistent opportunities for in-depth bible study and fellowship. These are two classes that are always open and welcoming to visitors and new members. The Parents' Coffee & Conversation class offers a place where parents with children and youth can gather for coffee and fellowship while their children enjoy church school and choir. Periodically this class will participate in a more focused discussion. Parents are also welcome to join other classes or electives at any time.

The following electives were offered during 2024,

- The Sacred Nature of Animals
- Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life
- The Way of Love (Lenten Study)
- The Meaning of Belonging and Our Lives in Christian Community
- Re-Thinking Earth Day: Creation Care for Life
- Embracing the Diving Flow: A Trinitarian Spirituality
- The Healing Power of Music
- Big Questions of Life and Faith (Highland's Faith Formation Academy)
- Calling All Angels: An Advent Study on Fearlessness and Strength

In addition to Sunday morning offerings, eight classes or discussion groups are available for members and visitors throughout the week and/or month.

- Faith and Film
- Poverty Book Group
- Listening to Black Voices
- LGBTQ Book Group
- Men of the Church Bible Study
- Lunch & Learn
- Thursday A.M. Women's Study
- Laughter & Lamentation

## *ArtRageous: A Celebration of Art and Creativity*

The 2024 week of Artrageous was so full of ideas that we let it flow into Pop Artrageous events, stand-alone events throughout the year. This fall we offered Book-Making "Point of View Journals," Living A More Healthy Life with Plant-Based Diet, and Tours of Miles Abernethy's historic home in Salisbury and the Tannenberg Organ in Old Salem. There were over 130 participants in this year's Artrageous event.

Adult Christian Education team members: Tim Collins (elder), Grady Elliott, Barbara Bowman, Heidi Hart, Emily Collins.

## **Highland's Gathering Garden**

An update on the renovation to Highland's playground. The fall of 2024 finally brought about breaking ground for renovations on the playground at Highland. After many years of waiting through the pandemic and changes made to plans, Hardscape Concepts, Incorporated began their work moving dirt, removing the old broken concrete pad near the Memorial Garden, removing the old fencing, and leveling the surface of the area. The old cherry tree that had been propped up for so many years needed to come down, and though it broke our hearts, we decided to salvage as much of the wood as possible to use for future art projects.

Once the area was cleared it occurred to us that this would be the right time to replace old broken drain pipes to avoid future flooding and make sure the flow of runoff in the area would make its way to the Magnolia Street drains. This also allowed for the old catch basins to be placed in locations that were more conducive for walkways and play areas. They turned out beautifully.

A new flowing walkway now welcomes folks from the Cloverdale sidewalk into the Gathering Garden towards an area where we now have picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles. We hope that these will be places where members and visitors will gather for fellowship or meetings. A new fence was installed and beautiful, non-invasive shrubs were planted that are welcoming to birds. One of the most beautiful features of the hardscape additions is the curved retaining walls along the mulched play area and the walkway. A new concrete pad was installed near the Memorial Garden and has a beautiful pergola. More picnic tables are located here.

The ground has been seeded and grass has already begun to grow, giving the area a beautiful and inviting atmosphere. The play area has been mulched and work has already begun on the play structures that will fill that area. We will need to be a little more patient as these play structures are completed and hope to have this area in full use by the spring.

Great thanks and appreciation to the many people who have helped to get us this far with the Gathering Garden, including:

Don Thorup, Jim Bass, Megan Bryant, Lola Culler, Mary Anna Davis, Grady Elliott, Natalie Sevin, and Jim Swing

## **Community Service Committee**

In celebration of Highlands 75th anniversary, the Community Service Committee held various activities using '75' as the goal. The church and congregation were very successful in participating in and reaching these goals:

- 750 jars of spaghetti sauce during the March Madness drive for Crisis Control. We received 771 jars.
- 7500 diapers during the diaper drive held between Mothers and Father's Day. We received 10,762 diapers and 4,362 wipes. Approximately 600 lbs. in diapers. These were distributed to the Shalom Project and Clemmons Food Bank.

- 75 pots and pans were gathered in July for the Family Services Domestic Violence Shelter assisting families as they are once again able to become independent.
- 75 pillows were collected in October for Greenest's 'Up off the Floor' program which provides beds and bedding for children sleeping on floors.
- 75 Cases each containing 8 backpacks for the Forsyth Backpack Program were put together on November 2. 77 cases were packed (616 backpacks) and distributed to Ashley Elementary school.

In addition to these projects, there were several other ongoing activities:

- Sponsored a monthly summer series of documentaries and discussions held late Sunday afternoons
  - June 30th focused on Education, Restorative Justice in Forsyth County and the need for resources to be provided equally among all students.
  - July 21st focused on Environmental issues with a focus on using native plants.
  - August 18th focused on mental anxiety issues which have increased since COVID and the impact on Generation Z
- Two cleanup and organization days at the Family Service Domestic Violence Shelter
- Providing cookies for Teacher Appreciation Day to Moore and Ashley schools in May
- Agency Mission Fair held on September 19th with 20 participating agencies. This worked well with the luncheon held after church that day. There was very good interaction between the congregation and the agencies.
- A volunteer group served dinner at Samaritan Ministries on November 2.
- Christmas Shepherds Center Dinner was held December 7th for approximately 60 low in-come seniors with approx. 20 to 25 volunteers. A good time was had by all.
- Christmas desserts (275) gathered and distributed to Samaritan Ministries for Christmas Eve lunch.
- Gifts under the Christmas tree focused on the El Buen Pastor after school program and its art needs.
- Our monthly pasta sauce donations totaled 2332 pounds for the year, with 1566 pounds resulting from the March Madness activity.

This has been a very active and fulfilling year for the Community Service committee. ~ Carolyn Birk, Chair

## **Congregational Care Committee**

In 2024, the Congregational Care Committee supported our Highland family by reaching out with love, care, and generosity in many different capacities - all to serve God.

Our care team provided meals, transportation to doctors' appointments for those unable to drive, visits to members, flower deliveries, caring cards, birthday cards & birthday phone calls to members 65 years and older, special birthday deliveries to members 90 years and above, and a yellow rose with baby books to families with new babies. We also sent volunteers from our committee to help support the Children's Ministry family Friday Fun Nights.

Here are the other ways that we showed our love and support to our congregation:

- In February, we mailed handmade Valentine's Day cards to Highland members who needed some extra love.
- In March, we wrote personalized messages in specially designed cards and mailed out to all 26 of our college age kids, with a \$10 gift card to enjoy at a local coffee shop while they were in Winston-Salem.
- In April, we delivered Easter lilies to Highland members.
- In May, we planned, and then in June, hosted a special program titled "Quieting a Noisy Soul" in the activity building. Guest speaker, Beth Harper, of Trinity Counseling Center, gave a 30-minute

presentation on managing anxiety and stress, followed up with a brief Q & A session. Attendees were then invited to choose from two 15-minute break out sessions, led by our own Congregational Care team.

The breakout sessions consisted of:

- a) Mindful Eating: Techniques to help build better eating habits and give awareness of experiences, physical cues and positive feelings about food.
  - b) Meditation: To reduce stress and anxiety when practiced on a regular basis.
  - c) Beading: Worry bracelets to help redirect mindful focus on our human senses, in turn, calming our mind.
  - d) Neurographic Drawing: This form of drawing and painting is a meditative and intuitive artistic process. While creating, your brain is encouraged to make new neural pathways and connections surrounding the problems in your mind.
  - e) Mindful Breathing: To help slow down and bring a sense of awareness to your breath. Participants learned how to use this practice to reduce stress, improve concentration and feel more rested.
  - f) Chair Yoga: To decrease levels of stress, anxiety and depression with many other health benefits.
  - g) Self-Guided Journaling & Prayer: Special journaling handouts were available for attendees to take home and practice.
- In July, we hosted a Back-to-School Fiesta for teachers and educators at the home of Summer Riley.
  - In September, we hosted the 80+ birthday celebration in the Activity Building, featuring special decorations, emcee Mark Queen, a music sing-along from Highland's ukulele group, along with birthday cake and lemonade.
  - In October, we hosted a Pastoral & Staff appreciation luncheon featuring a picnic theme.
  - In November, we wrote and mailed out 75 cards with special handwritten messages to our longtime Highland members.
  - In December, we shared the love and joy of the season by delivering beautiful poinsettia plants to congregational members. We also hosted a Christmas Caroling send-off party for our Highland Carolers. Our last meeting was a Christmas dinner hosted at the home of Becky Reynolds.

In Conclusion:

We are immensely thankful for the beautiful work from the Prayer Shawl Committee and the Caring Friends too, as they helped support our Congregational Care initiatives.

Special appreciation goes out to Debbie Layman, our supporting pastor over Congregational Care. We were so graciously blessed to have Debbie's love and support as she guided our committee throughout the year. We could always count on her being there with her ongoing thoughtfulness and dedication to our team! We also wish to note our sincere appreciation to Gidget Payne and Joy Hohmann for always having our back with assistance in so many capacities.

Our committee this year consisted of: Susan Doughton, Lucy and Jim and Lancaster, Emma Link (Vice Chair), Mary Mendenhall, Elaine Minton (Chair), Kathy Morgan, Patricia Murphy, Jan Penick, Becky Reynolds, Summer Riley (First Year Deacon), Carrie Scott, Sue Sevin, Diana Smyrl

Respectfully Submitted by Elaine Minton, Congregational Care Committee Chair



## **Fellowship and Communications Committee**

2024 was a very busy year for the Fellowship Committee as we planned new activities as well as bringing back our Fling meals as Covid subsided. On January 14, we had our first Winter Walk along the Stuart and Emma Thompson Trail at Crossnor. Folks were encouraged to bring their well-behaved dogs. Our second Winter Walk was February 11 at Reynolda Gardens ending at Dough-Joes.

On February 18 we hosted the Acoustic Cafe with live music by Pastor Randy and friends. A coffee bar was provided by Alice and Jud Milam, and we enjoyed an assortment of homemade treats.

Lastly for February we enjoyed a night out at the Stained Glass Playhouse for *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

March third was our third Winter Walk downtown at the Innovation Quarter.

We decided to have lunch for the congregation on the third Sunday after Worship. The first was held on May 19 and cooked by Barbara and Mark Whitley.

In June we hosted a group to the Dash baseball game. June also saw the restart of Lemonade in the Shade. In June we attended a band concert in Old Salem. These were also enjoyed on July 4 and August 6. On August 25 we had our annual picnic at Bolton Park. In September we kicked off Fling meals on the first Wednesday of the month. This was catered by Olive Tree and was well received with about 100 in attendance. Our after-worship meal on the third Sunday in September was catered by The Loop restaurant.

October saw our second Fling meal on the first Wednesday, provided by Dawn Nelson, and a barbecue lunch, catered by Prissy Polly's, on the third Sunday after worship.

We were asked to help the 75th committee by choosing a caterer and menu for our 75th celebration on November 17. The Fling meal for November was provided by the Andrus family and was a taco bar with salad.

December Fling meal was provided by Marty and Steve Moore. Our last activity was to host a potluck breakfast on December 22. With only 9 members, we accomplished much, and I sincerely thank everyone for their support and help.

~ Alice Michalove, Chair

## **Finance Committee**

During 2024, the Finance Committee was responsible for the ongoing review and oversight of the annual budget and expenditures, as well as the preparation and presentation of the 2025 Asking Budget to the Diaconate and Session.

During the year, the committee monitored 2024 giving as compared to the budget. In 2024, our actual donations received were \$1,308,582, compared to \$1,199,683 in 2023. Our total expenses for 2024 were \$1,265,250, which is \$14,958 more than the budgeted amount of \$1,236,673. Despite this slight overage on expenses, we still had \$30,812 in excess revenue for the year. The Finance Committee is still considering the best use for this excess revenue but has decided to use portions of it to cover expenses related to Highland's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, as well as expenses incurred for infrastructure improvements made in preparation for the renovation and construction of Highland's Gathering Garden/Playground.

The Committee also worked with the Permanent Fund Committee to determine sources of funding for additional expenses related to the construction of Highland's Gathering Garden/Playground.

Despite the challenges of post-pandemic and larger macro-economic conditions, Highland is in very good financial health.

The 2024 committee consisted of Bill Kay, Patrick Simpson, Debbie Patton, Cathy Shaffner, Robin Spainhour, Robbie Grier, Erin Doyle (Chair), Neil Gargis (Vice-Chair), TR Bowers (1<sup>st</sup> Year Deacon), Miles Abernethy (Treasurer). Randy Harris (Pastor) and Joy Hohmann (Business Manager) are ex-officio members. My sincere thanks to each member for their service and the entire congregation for their generosity and continued support of our programs and ministry at Highland.

Respectively submitted, Erin Doyle, Committee Chair

## **Global Service Committee**

The mission of the Global Service Committee is to support mission work and ministry as well as members of the international community here and abroad. We help our church connect with others in the US and around the world in times of hunger, poverty, war, or natural disasters. We educate the congregation about the needs of people through Moments for Mission, coordinating Special Offerings, Highlights articles, organizing an Intergenerational Book Club, and Crop Walk organization.

Committee members this year included Jim Gallaher, Terry Sink, Andy Cundiff, Sue Sevin, Janny Gauss, Judy Noll, Janice Howerton and Debbie Layman. Former Committee members Sue Kent and Kim Fontenot aided the committee in helping with some of our endeavors throughout the year.

In 2024 this is how we endeavored to fulfill our mission:

In January, we spent most of the meeting reviewing and discussing chapters 7 and 10 of "Wait Is This Racist?" with a view of seeking how a better understanding of this challenge may enhance our endeavors to fulfill our committee's mission.

On the first Sunday of each month we collected Five Cents a Meal offerings. In January we developed guidelines for collecting to better coordinate with Deacons collecting the offerings. We used painted oatmeal containers, which children decorated, to collect these gifts. Many Sundays Committee members were assisted by children helping collect the offering. The August collection was special. In recognition of Highland's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we incorporated the theme of donating 7.5 cents a meal, .75 cents, \$7.50, \$75 or more to the collection. Jim Gallaher provided the Moment for Mission on July 28 for the 5 Cents a Meal anniversary Offering, and Terry Sink wrote the article for Highlights. The overwhelming response in this collection was aided through the wonderful and gleeful participation of Claire and Cora Eberle (assisted by their parents Adam and Lauren).

We continued putting Climate Corner articles in Highlights.

In March we supported One Great Hour of Sharing supporting Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Andy Cundiff provided the Moment for Mission for this Offering. On March 17<sup>th</sup> we sponsored a meeting, coordinated by Terry Sink, with Bread for the World NC State Coordinator Jason Blanton to focus on Bread For the World work, advocacy, and letter-writing campaigns and how Highland can support this work in our initiatives.

In April and early May we collected Feminine Product Hygiene Kits items which the committee separated on May 16 for the packing event on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Our goal, as part of Highland 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was 175 kits. In April we designated Pre-K Priority through Family Services as our local designated agency recipient of the Pentecost Offering conducted in May. Leslie Mullinix, Director of Pre-K Priority, provided the Moment for Mission for this Offering.

At our regular meeting in May, the Committee reviewed and discussed an initiative plan proposed by Jim Gallaher for the committee to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to focus on and promote Highland's endeavors in advocating for climate and environment awareness and solutions. In its presentation to the Diaconate in

May the Global Committee included promoting advocacy for hunger alleviation programs and providing an opportunity for Deacons to write letters to NC Representatives and Senators in Congress. This was part of our goal for our congregation, including young people, to write 75 letters (incorporating Highland's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme) to those representatives asking them to support aid for hungry people in our community. Also, members of the Global Services Committee joined with members of the Education Committee to present topics in the Sunday School classes "Revisiting Earth Day" series in April and May.

At our regular meeting in June, the Global Services Committee discussed the proposal concerning the Ad Hoc Committee on Climate and Environment and recommended a list of Highland members for Jim Gallaher to invite as initial members of this group. The committee also agreed to contribute some funding toward including Highland 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on the upcoming Forsyth County Crop Walk t-shirt.

On June 16 we offered the annual Children's Offering to support Children's Hope Alliance. Sarah Gray, the Alliance's VP of Development, provided the Moment for Mission for this offering.

At our regular August 1 meeting it was reported that Jud and Alice Milam delivered the assembled Menstrual Hygiene Kits to the drop-off location in Virginia. The Global Services Committee also reviewed agenda items for the upcoming Ad Hoc Committee on Climate and Environment meeting scheduled for August 4. This Ad Hoc Committee initial committee members include Barbara Bowman, Jim Gallaher, Janny Gauss, John Halverson, Heidi Hart, Annie Jenkins, Kathryn Michel, Nancy Payne, Terry Sink, and Darlene Williamson (in an advisory role).

At our regular September meeting The Ad Hoc Committee on Climate and Environment reported to the Global Services Committee through Janny Gauss and Terry Sink. This report highlighted that the committee chose to be designated as the "Earth Care Team" which also aligns with the PCUSA Earth Care program. Additionally, it was reported:

- Earth Care Application to be designated an Earth Care Congregation by PCUSA – Janny reviewed the application and the 4 areas of focus (Education, Worship, Facilities, Outreach). The Session will be given the information for the application process for their consideration and approval.
- Janny shared that the 4 areas were divided amongst the Earth Care Team members to look into how the church is already doing work in these specific areas as well as what needs to be done. The information will be discussed at the next Earth Care Team meeting on 9/22/24.
- Debbie noted that the Earth Care Team took the initiative at the Church Picnic in August to provide containers for compost materials and the amount of actual waste was significantly reduced from past years.

The hope is through ongoing education that our church events will utilize paper products that can be composted or recycled, to have compost bins and reduce actual waste volume.

In September Global Services, incorporating our Highland 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme, set a goal for Crop Walk of Highland having a combined 75 walkers and donors participating. Global Services also sponsored a Listening Session with Bread For the World NC state coordinator Jason Blanton. Terry Sink and Sue Sevin coordinated this session with help from Dawn Nelson through her Moore Pantry contacts. On September 15 Global Services sponsored the El Buen Pastor Offering.

In October we sponsored the Peace and Global Witness Offering designating the Shalom Project as this year's recipient. On October 6, Kris Norris from the Shalom Project provided the Moment for Mission for this offering. Global Services also received an Earth Care Team update from Janny Gauss including progress on the

Earth Care Team Application for Highland to be designated an Earth Care Congregation and progress on composting initiatives.

On October 13, Kathryn Michel provided our committee's Moment for Mission to encourage Crop Walk. On October 20, our committee was joined by many Highland members participating in Crop Walk. Highland exceeded our goal of 75 by having 86 walkers and donors and raising over \$13,000 for this cause in 2024.

In response to the devastation in Western North Carolina caused by Hurricane Helene, the Global Services Committee initiated efforts at Highland to put together 20 Clean-up Buckets and add to our upcoming Alternative Giving Market opportunities for Highland members to donate to Black Mountain Counseling and BeLoved Asheville. Additionally, with leadership provided by Sue Sevin our congregation helped meet the needs of a Climate Refugee from Asheville relocating to Winston-Salem.

In November Terry Sink organized a World Food Day letter writing initiative after church services on November 3 for people to write letters to our District Representatives and two Senators in Congress asking them to support legislation related to the Farm Bill.

In October, November, and December, we planned and implemented an Alternative Giving opportunity. This year we focused on hunger providing three options: Mangrove Trees in Madagascar, Black Mountain Counseling and BeLoved Asheville.

In our November meeting the Global Services Committee joyfully celebrated Debbie Layman's 20th Anniversary with Highland. The Global Services Committee formally endorsed the Earth Care Pledge and endorsed Highland applying in 2025 to PCUSA for designation as an Earth Care Congregation.

At our December meeting the committee received an update from Earth Care Team's meeting on December 1 covering their exploration of matters relating to composting, solar panels, and indigenous plants. We designated December 15 as Christmas Joy Offering Day. On December 19, Committee Officers Jim Gallaher, Terry Sink and Andy Culler met with Debbie Layman to review and consider year-end disbursements from Global Services allocated available funds. We agreed to make grants supporting missionary work; supporting Western North Carolina through Black Mountain Counseling, BeLoved Asheville, and Manna Food Bank in Asheville; and supporting hunger relief in Gaza through UN World Food Program, in Ukraine through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; and in Sudan through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Submitted by Jim Gallaher, Chair of Global Services Committee

## **Long-Range Planning Committee**

The Long-Range Planning Committee in 2024 did not focus on the "long-range" aspect of its name as it, like all the Highland committees, continues to emphasize the post-pandemic resumption of church activities and understanding the changes that may be needed or desired as we move forward. Despite our lack of focus on Planning, we were extremely proud to be able to work on and support Highland's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration as two of our members were active on that committee, and we enjoyed the opportunity to assist with staffing and logistics related to the receptions held downstairs for the video presentations and to honor the visit from Steve McCutchan.

The other matter with which the Committee dealt was a proposed bill before the North Carolina General Assembly. The bill, HB 271, proposed elimination of a cash bond option for Class 3 misdemeanors. Class 3 misdemeanors are non-violent and deemed to be the least serious misdemeanors. In May, Salem Presbytery voted to encourage the passage of this bill and to ask individual churches to do likewise. The committee was asked by the Session to review this request. The committee reviewed the resolutions cited by Salem Presbytery

regarding this matter, research regarding the harsh effect of a cash bond requirement for Class 3 misdemeanors on minorities and the poor, the crimes constituting Class 3 misdemeanors, and the status of the legislation. The committee agreed that the legislation did not appear to have any likelihood of being considered during the current session of the General Assembly (and it wasn't) and that campaign rhetoric regarding "bond reforms" was a part of the election discourse (although it was difficult to discern what specifically was referenced by such rhetoric). The committee recommended to the Session that Highland not act on this specific bill at this time but suggested that the committee hold an educational session after the election to inform those interested regarding the issues raised. It is hoped that such a session will be held in 2025. Anyone having more interest in receiving the information reviewed by the committee can contact John Bain.

Many thanks to committee members Alice Milam, Nancy Payne, Randy Shields, Ed Parker, Les Preston and Randy Harris.

Respectfully submitted, John Bain (Chair)

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee's primary purpose is to recognize and welcome visitors to Highland Presbyterian Church (HPC) and then to shepherd them through the membership process.

### **New Members:**

The Membership Committee focuses on potential new members by:

- Assigning a Visitor Greeter to the Narthex each Sunday responsible for recognizing folks who may be visiting and specifically greeting and helping
- Providing name tags for the first Sunday of the month and special events
- Seeking out and welcoming visitors during church services
- Making phone calls or sending emails to visitors based on visitor card information
- Hosting new member classes as needed (March, August, and December 2024)
- Welcoming groups of new members who join HPC (April and September 2024)
- Assigning Fellowship Friends as liaisons to help new members integrate into church life: social gatherings, Sunday school, book groups, etc.
- Sending emails to new members inviting them to specific events such as the annual church picnic or Meet and Eat groups
- Introducing new members to the congregation by displaying new member photos on the Gallery Hall bulletin board
- Maintaining the visitor information QR code card displayed in pew racks and on the Visitor Table in the Narthex

We hosted new members from 2023 at an all-church luncheon. It has been our annual tradition to host a luncheon attended only by new members who joined the prior year and a group of members of the Membership Committee. This year, however, we invited the new 2023 members to join us at the Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> all-church luncheon. We also invited members who had recently joined in April, 2024. As our guests, they were invited to join us at specially reserved tables, and the seven members who attended enjoyed themselves. The committee agreed that this is a good way to include new members in church social activities. Thus, we decided to go forward, twice a year, to invite new members to join us as our guests at the planned lunches.

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Outreach to Youth and Young Adults:**

In response to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme, "Ages Past and Years to Come," the Membership Committee focused on engaging with those who represent the future of the church: Youth and Young Adults. Recognizing the age gap between the committee and these young people, it was time to listen and learn!

Our Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, Courtney Stevens, and our Director of Christian Education, Heather Ferguson, were joined by Jim Swing Chair of the Christian Ed Committee; and Mark Queen, Chair of the Youth and Young Adult Committee as they educated us about GenX, Gen Alpha and GenZ. Each group has a distinct profile, lifestyle, set of challenges; and ways in which they prefer to engage in a worship setting or church activity. After further meetings with Courtney, the subcommittee developed ideas on how to engage and interact with both Youth and Young Adults. As a result, committee members were invited to join in the Young Adult's informal activities – meeting for ice cream on a hot summer evening or at a brew pub for discussions. As fall activities resumed, committee members provided a light breakfast for Youth and grades K through 5th grade prior to Sunday school classes.

### **Reaching out to absent members**

To ensure that no member's needs or concerns were being overlooked, Debbie Layman reviewed church roles for Highland members who had not attended worship or church activities in recent months. It was agreed that we should attempt to contact some of these members either by phone or email. The contact was a "soft touch": "your Highland family misses you. Can we be of any assistance to you or your family?" At each meeting Committee members volunteered to reach out to one or more members on the list until all had been reached out to. While not all contacts resulted in a response, those members who did respond appreciated being remembered. In some cases, members had moved or were attending another church, resulting in updates to HPC's roles.

Summary of the 2024 Membership Statistical Report:

- active members as of January 1, 2024: 713
- gained new members: 15
- transferred to other congregations: 7
- members transferred to the Church Triumphant: 7
- transferred to the inactive roll: 1
- active members as of December 31, 2024: 712

Committee members included: Chair Margaret Sehon; Vice Chair Jim Lancaster; Secretary Margaret Pendrich; Phil Payne, Katie Paterson, Susan Burroughs, Kathy Black, Peggy Dunlap, Myra Hannah, Lyn Hux, Gordon Jenkins, Alice Milam, Kathleen Hansen, Jamie Blankinship, Lucy Lancaster, Rebecca Schwartz and Barbara Whitley, with Debbie Layman, ex-officio.

~ Respectfully submitted by Margaret Sehon, Committee Chair

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is charged with nominating church members for election as Ruling Elders and Deacons. The committee also nominates people to serve on program staff search committees, elected by the congregation as needed. It is the only church committee that is mandated by the *Book of Order* and whose membership is clearly defined. The number of congregational members is always greater than the number of active officers on the committee. At Highland, the committee is composed of three active Elders, one active Deacon, and five congregational members. These congregational members serve staggered three-year terms and are elected at the annual meeting of the congregation. The Pastor serves as an ex-officio member.

We met in March of 2024 to begin discussing the process for compiling our slate of officer candidates for the class of 2027. To fulfill this responsibility the committee:

- solicited and received suggested names from the congregation,

- compiled a slate of candidates willing to be placed in nomination,
- developed an informational brochure about the candidates to share with the congregation,
- requested the Session call congregational meetings to place in nomination and to elect the slate of officers as listed below:

**Deacons, Class of 2027**

Megan Ayscue  
 Leslie Craig  
 Rebecca Schwartz  
 Andy Scott  
 Carol Templeton  
 Jim Wilson  
 Jim Xu  
 Steve Zorn

**Elders, Class of 2027**

Kathy Black  
 Ken Chalk  
 Emily Collins  
 Hannah Duane  
 Tory Gentry Daniel  
 Richard Howerton  
 Leslie Kamtman  
 Elizabeth Skinner

Randy Harris, Pastor, conducted officer training classes in the Fall of 2024. Officer candidate examinations and approval were held on December 10, 2024.

Other responsibilities completed by this committee in 2024 included:

- Assigned committee positions for all new officers
- Appointed members for the Permanent Fund Committee: Bryan Link to serve a 3-year at-large term; T.R. Bowers to serve as the Diaconate representative; and Scott Walker to serve as the Session representative
- Nominated Corporate Officers who were elected by the Session at the December meeting: Melanie Adams, President; Scott Walker, Vice-President; John Bain, Secretary; Miles Abernethy, Treasurer

At the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2025, the committee will place in nomination the name of one member from the congregation to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee, ending in 2027: Mary Mendenhall

Committee members, 2024:

Officers: Melanie Adams (Vice-Chair), Scott Templeton (1<sup>st</sup> Year Elder), Tony Kummer (Diaconate Representative); At-large members: Katina Barksdale (2024), Roberts Bass (2025); Becky Reynolds (2025), Spencer Ayscue (2026), Martha Neely (2026), and Randy Harris (ex-officio)

Respectfully submitted, John Loftis, Committee Chair

## Permanent Fund Committee

The Permanent Fund Committee met quarterly via Zoom to review the investment performance and asset allocation for the six funds shown below. A summary of the results of these funds are listed below:

Fund Name	12/31/2023 Balance	Income/ Loss Earned	Donations/ Bequests	Disbursed Funds	12/31/2024 Balance	2024 Annual Return
Permanent	949,426	(98,693)	711	202,198	850,173	(10.45%)
Global Service	88,907	14,260	-	-	103,167	16.04%
Education/ Scholarship	14,128	(99)	-	-	14,029	(0.70%)
Eleanor Weeks (Choir)	28,938	4,926	-	1,969	33,864	17.02%
Bus Fund	93,295	14,988	-	-	108,283	16.07%
Charles Gunn Fund	27,139	3,050	-	1,086	30,189	11.24%
Ministry Fund	242,094	29,401	-	-	271,495	12.14%
In All Funds: Aggregate benchmark with target allocation of 60% equities and 40% bonds/fixed incomes.						

In 2024, Highland was able to use monies from the Permanent Fund to pay off balances for new Sanctuary lighting and new Sanctuary Patio lighting, as well as provide for the replacement of windows on the second floor of the Education Building (church office spaces).

As of December 31, 2024, the fund floor amount was \$748,654, which provides \$101,519 to be available for disbursements for ongoing capital projects of Highland. The available amount fluctuates due to additional donations, bequests, and market changes.

We are most thankful to all that have contributed to these funds throughout many years to enable us to sustain and improve our church property here at Highland. The committee also extends its gratitude to John Hunt for his continued guidance over the years and for providing our fund performance reports.

2024 Members:

Patrick Simpson, Chair, At Large  
 John Loftis, Elder Representative  
 Jeff Reynolds, At-Large

Neil Gargis, Deacon Representative  
 Roberts Bass, At-Large  
 Randy Harris, Ex-Officio

## Personnel Committee

As a committee of our Session, the Personnel Committee works closely with our Pastor as Head of Staff to establish and implement the personnel policies of Highland Presbyterian Church. We endeavor to encourage and support each of our staff members as they serve the church in ministry. Each committee member is assigned to a staff member in the role of Advocate, charged with keeping in regular contact with that staff member and relaying to the Committee ways that we can offer support throughout the year.

In addition to offering regular staff support, in 2024 the Committee:

- Worked diligently throughout the year to update the Personnel Policy Manual in keeping with changes made by PCUSA General Assembly and Board of Pensions regarding pastors' compensation and benefits, and to further clarify Highland's own policies. This completed document should be presented to Session for approval early in 2025.



- In the spring, worked with the Organist Search Committee to hire Susan Bates following the resignation of Chris Heckman.
- Celebrated Courtney Stevens' tenth anniversary at Highland with a reception after church on Sunday, August 4th.
- Honored the entire staff with a breakfast buffet and gift cards on Monday, October 7th as part of Staff Appreciation Month. Also noted with appreciation Joy Hohmann's tenth anniversary at Highland with an additional gift.
- Announced in Highlights in November that Debbie Layman has served Highland with love, energy and dedication for twenty years. A formal celebration was delayed until 2025 due to the fullness of the calendar in light of Highland's own 75th anniversary.
- Submitted to Session a budget request to include a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.5% to staff salaries for 2025.

Highland is blessed to have such a dedicated, talented and creative staff. It is the great pleasure of the Personnel Committee to work with them and support them as they strive to bring their best to their jobs. We thank God for the gift of Highland and the family of ministry that we are together!

Respectfully submitted, Judy Bass, Committee Chair 2024

Elders Judy Bass (Chair,) Garry Russ, and John Barksdale; at-large members Miles Abernethy, Shelly Cobb, Kristine Elliott and Cathy Shaffner; and staff liaison Randy Harris.

## **Property Committee**

Property Committee Members: Dawn Nelson, Dave Campbell, Debbie Cesta, Marshall Harris, John Halverson, Jon McKinney, Ralph Burroughs, Jim Swing, Scott Walker, and Mark Whitley. Joy Homann (Business Manager) and Randy Harris (Pastor) are ex-officio members.

"The mission of the Property Committee of Highland Presbyterian Church has been to glorify God through the care and protection of God's house, and to be responsive to concerns of the congregation we serve. In so doing, we honor a facility that is a physical representative of our Lord in our community; and the decision of the Winston-Salem Presbytery in 1949 to establish a congregation in the Ardmore community whose members chose the name Highland, and whose generosity gave us our Sanctuary and Education Buildings in which we gather for worship, learning, and serving today. Our goals include responding responsibly to the needs and being accountable for treating God's physical gifts to us with respect and conscious good judgement."

The Property Committee worked on many projects this year. Among them are the following:

- Maintained pews in the Sanctuary
- Approved trimming multiple trees and removing large oak on Magnolia Street due to disease
- Organized Fall and Spring clean-up days
- Approved replacing windows on the second floor of the Education Building
- Approved/tweaking and updating Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall lights to LED light fixtures
- Approved installation of a new water cooler/filler in the Fellowship Hall
- Property and Security Team met with WSPD Officer Costner for security updates. (HPC is compliant and extremely proactive with security measures.)
- Assisted in the maintenance of our new Gathering Garden/Playground renovation by approving the replacement of the original drainage system and removal of the (dying) cherry tree; and adding a sprinkler drip system for new shrubbery and growing plants.
- Replaced the freezer in AB kitchen

- Approved Weston Landscaping to take over watering/ weeding of grounds due to Carol and Gary Simes' retirement of many wonderful years of grounds service
- Ensured maintenance of the roof to keep rot, peeling paint, and sliding slate shingles at bay
- Recommended that our 2 church buses be sold
- Approved new carpet for Sanctuary building third floor
- Celebrated the work of Jim Cesta and Mark Whitley, who built closets and added more shelving
- Approved new grass sod to be laid at Memorial Garden side and front of Sanctuary lawn
- Endorsed the recommendation that HPC become an official PCUSA Earth Care Congregation

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Nelson and Dave Campbell (co-chairs)

## **Stewardship Committee**

In 2024, the Stewardship Committee membership included Joyce Griner (Chair), Kyle Hansen (Vice-Chair), Pam Collette (First-year Deacon), Jim Gallaher (Member At-Large), Scott Walker (Member At-Large), and Randy Harris (Staff Liaison).

The Stewardship Committee is charged with: (1) the development and planning for the annual stewardship campaign, securing a commitment of money, time, and talent from the congregation, (2) coordination with the Membership Committee on Time and Talent Dedication Form submissions from all active members, and (3) evaluation of giving modalities and updating materials where necessary. The budget of this committee allows for its reading materials, printing and postage costs, and the annual review audit.

Early in the year, the committee spent time discussing the connections between stewardship and Highland's 75th Anniversary celebrations. We brainstormed activities and ways to encourage active participation of Highland members in the annual stewardship campaign. As a result, by March, 'From Generation to Generation' became the 2024-25 Stewardship theme, connecting to Psalm 78:4, "We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."

Reflecting on the informative Stewardship brochure from 2023-24, the committee explored options for congregational communication for the fall campaign. With more folks utilizing email, the idea of an online brochure was discussed during April's committee meeting. Randy provided a sample format where pages could be flipped and the variety of stewardship information, highlights, and photographs (past and present) could be incorporated into an interactive version, allowing for easy access, readability, and being potentially less expensive overall than mailing brochures.

In a Moment for Mission kickoff on September 29, Kyle Hansen announced the Stewardship Committee's 'From Generation to Generation' campaign. Randy's sermon, 'Faithfulness Sustains the Generations' furthered the beginnings of the stewardship season.

The campaign was supported throughout the fall via presentations from a variety of members, each sharing the impact of a continued history of Highland's faithful giving. The other Moments for Mission included: Children's Ministry (Jim Swing), Moore Elementary Food Pantry (Jenni Knudson and Dawn Nelson), Property (Dave Campbell), Congregational Care (Elaine Minton, Emma Link, Summer Riley), Stewardship (Joyce Griner).

We celebrated not only Highland's 75th Anniversary, but also Stewardship Dedication Sunday, on November 17, with excitement and anticipation of Highland's continued growth and service as we "share God's good gifts with generous and energetic commitment."

During December, we followed up via email with members of Highland who had returned a pledge in the past but had not yet responded in 2024. Per our report to the Diaconate/Session: as of December 31, we have received 224 Time and Talent Forms, 6 of which were submitted online, with many commitments to different areas of our ministry; and 201 pledges, 17 of which were submitted online, for a total of \$1,078,160.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Griner, Stewardship Committee Chair 2024

## **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee is responsible for the many aspects of worship at Highland Presbyterian Church, including acolytes, Communion, sanctuary decorations, baptismal arrangements, sanctuary flowers, the music program, the audio/video systems for in-person and online worship, ushers, monthly elder responsibilities and all special services. We have continued the process of serving Communion using the variation of Communion by intinction. It has worked well, using five stations as the congregation comes forward to receive the elements. Homebound Communion service resumed this fall with one or two homebound members receiving Communion as needed on the first Sunday of the month.

In September, committee members Hannah Duane and Leslie Kamtman were asked to recruit, train, and oversee the program we call Prelude Participation. Each Sunday, four volunteers help the congregation prepare for worship by lighting the candles on the Retable, placing the Bible on the lectern, pouring water in the Baptismal Font, and placing the Communion Chalice and Plate on the Communion table. Acolyte participation was expanded to include all ages. As we prepare these elements of worship, the congregation is reminded of the light of Christ, present in Word and Sacrament. Volunteers are asked to sign up using Signup Genius.

The Arts in Worship team continues to create beautiful banners for the sanctuary and outdid themselves for the 75th anniversary celebration.

The music program, led by Chris Gilliam, continued to bring joy to the entire congregation. Haley Chapman, who was hired in November 2023, provided leadership for the handbell and children's choirs. Our new organist, Susan Bates, who came on board permanently in May 2024 has enhanced our music program with her talent. Our chancel choir, under Chris Gilliam's direction, led congregational voices in resounding musical worship.

The Worship Committee was composed of Kay Chalk, Chair; Betty Jones, Vice-Chair; Scott Miller, Secretary; Susan Burroughs, Miriam Davie, Hannah Duane, Wendy Guerry, Leslie Kamtman, Pat Kirkman, and Sara Smith; Randy Harris and Chris Gilliam serve as ex-officio members. The committee strived to provide a welcoming, safe and inclusive worship environment for the Highland church family and visitors.

Respectfully Submitted, Kay Chalk, Chair

## **Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee**

Committee members for this year included Mark Queen, chair; Robbie Grier, vice chair; Terry Mixon, first year elder and at-large member Katina Barksdale.

In the Summer of 2024, Courtney established a Youth Advisory Council responsible for planning/facilitating youth activities. Members included - Senior High: Cate Marler Barksdale, Caroline Mendenhall, Sienna Lambert, Heidi Gillis and Jake Patton. Middle School: Parker Bragg, Robert Davis, and Maddie Grace Wagoner.

## OVERVIEW:

During 2024, our committee focused on building relationships throughout our church family with intergenerational offerings. As noted below, some of the highlights for this included the churchwide Souper Bowl lunch of grilled cheese sandwiches and soup provided by the youth; Membership committee participation in Youth Sunday School which was extremely well-received by the Youth; our end-of-the year Progressive Dinner going to the homes of three Highland families; walking in the annual CROP walk and participation in the annual Christmas Caroling.

The Y&YA Committee and Youth Advisory Committee worked closely with Courtney to plan ahead and establish a calendar for the parents and youth. With all of the demands placed on our Youth with school and sports activities, we strived to give parents a heads-up on our planned activities. We feel this gave us the best attendance possible for each of our gatherings.

Each month we strived to provide a mix of both spiritual/faith-based and fun activities. As part of our planning ahead process, we chose the one Sunday of each month as a time for family sabbath time. Other Sundays included a fun night, service project and lunch out after church for fellowship.

## YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

### Spring 2024

- Mystery Trip
- Volunteering/serving/worshiping at The Dwelling
- Souper Bowl of Caring Offering and Churchwide Lunch
- Youth Sunday
- Progressive Dinner for Senior Highs hosted by Church Members
- Graduate recognition

### Summer 2024

- Massanetta
- Senior High Service Trip to Northern Georgia
- Quest for the Best – Smoothie
- Middle School Service Week
- The Shalom Project's Big Chill

### Fall/Winter 2024

- Youth fall kickoff with family Kickball/cookout at Miller Park
- Youth Sunday school with participation from Membership Committee
- Gen Z Documentary
- Sunday Afternoon Youth Fellowship including Water night, cupcake decorating challenge, and Pumpkin carving
- CROP walk
- City with Dwellings Walk
- Middle and Senior High Retreats
- Christmas Shopping for Brenner Children's hospital at Marshalls
- Christmas parties
- Participation in Church Caroling

## **YOUNG ADULTS**

The Young Adult group continues to organize frequent opportunities for service and fellowship, meeting most Thursday nights. We are happy to see many of them stepping into leadership roles with Highland. Their participation is critical for the future of our church.

The Youth and Young Adult Committee is proud to be an active group, serving such a vital role within the youth and young adults of our church. We appreciate the support, both financial and through the active involvement of our church family.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Queen, Committee Chair



Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Loving God and Serving our Neighbors as  
a Grateful • Vibrant • Connected • Responsive people  
through the *grace* of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the *love* of God, and the *fellowship* of the Holy Spirit

As *grateful* people of God,  
we prayerfully shape our common life  
around corporate worship that is  
refreshingly traditional,  
musically alive,  
deeply biblical and  
joyfully intergenerational.

As a *vibrant* community of faith,  
we are a diverse priesthood of believers where  
inquisitive children,  
lively youth, and  
faithfully searching adults  
come together as we  
thoughtfully consider scripture, tradition, and  
what it means to live as God's people  
engaging pressing issues of our day.

As a *connected* fellowship of believers,  
we reach out enthusiastically with love and care.  
Rejoicing in times of celebration,  
bearing one another's burdens in times of struggle,  
we share in the wondrous workings  
of God's grace in our lives.

As a *responsive* household of faith,  
we are sent forth to bear witness  
to God's reconciling reign in our community and our world.  
Joining with Christ in his work of love, peace and justice,  
we seek to overcome the barriers that divide us,  
particularly the challenges of racism and poverty.  
Inspired by the Spirit, we share God's good gifts  
with generous and energetic commitment.