



BANNER ELK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PC(USA) Congregation

2022 Annual Report



Prepared February 2023

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1: PASTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Dear BEPC Family,

The year just ended, 2022, was perhaps one of the most difficult years in the long history of this church. Looking back, we can identify several reasons which all seemed to come together this year. Among them was the 2019 retirement of a beloved and effective pastor, the cumulative and ongoing impact of almost two years of global pandemic, and the dissolution of a pastoral relationship that began with great anticipation and hope but ended quite painfully after only one year. The year 2022 was a very difficult year.

However, as our African American sisters and brothers remind us, God makes a way where there seems to be no way. And that is what I have witnessed among you since I arrived last fall. God making a way for members of this community to forgive themselves and one another. God making a way to fund BEPC's ministry and mission. God making a way to regather members who had been scattered. God making a way by providing staff and leaders and workers to carry out the mission. God reinspiring this community with joy in the present and hope for the future. God makes a way where there seems to be no way.

And now, we enter a new year having learned so much about God and about ourselves. We enter a new year with gratitude for God's healing and rebuilding work already accomplished. We enter a new year with much important work to do. We enter a new year with excitement for what is yet to come.

And during this new year, here are my marching orders as I understand them:

- Continue to focus on "the basics" - preaching, worship, pastoral care, finance and stewardship, administration, and support of our excellent staff.
- Provide training and support to our session, committees, and eventually to the Pastoral Nominating Committee.
- Support ongoing ministries of education and spiritual formation, caregiving, fellowship, and efforts to serve children, youth, and families.
- Guide the congregation through whatever "transitional work" might be helpful in preparing for the pastoral search.
- Be a positive and helpful representative of this congregation in our Banner Elk community and presbytery.

I think that's enough to at least keep me out of trouble. Allow me to thank you once again for welcoming me and Kris and my entire family into your church family. I am humbled by the amazing history of Christian witness this church represents. I am inspired by the depth of your faith and your commitment to this congregation. And I am privileged to serve as your pastor during this season of your life.

Blessings,

Whit

2: CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

New Members

Profession of Faith:

Youth Profession of Faith:

Reaffirmation of Faith: Lee Easter, Mary Easter, Pamela (Pam) Hardin (3)

Letter of Transfer: Elbert (Bert) Foster LaGrone, Julia (Julie) Randel LaGrone from First Presbyterian Church of Boone; Ann Childs McConnell from First Presbyterian in Greenville NC (3)

New Affiliate Members: Pat Anderson, Carolyn Anderson, Jerry W. Tietge, Carole Gatto (4)

Members Removed from Membership Roll: (0)

Members Placed on the Inactive List: (0)

Removed from Affiliate Roll: (0)

Members Transferred Out: Leslie Carter to First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, 3-16-22; Jimmy and Lyndsay Ennis with their children, Libby and Beau, to Newland Presbyterian Church, 9-21-22; Garry and Denise Powell (restored from Inactive) to Mt Calvary Baptist Church, 9-21-22; Elizabeth (Betsy) Hill to Blowing Rock Presbyterian Church, 11-16-22 (6)

Deceased Members: Charles Dolab 7-28-22; Carolyn West, 9-8-22; Lee Council, 9-24-22; Stephen Richard Bender, 12-18-22 (4)

Deceased Affiliate Member:

Deceased Friends of the Church: Marsha Jones 1-26-22; Chuck Messier 2-27-22; Rodger Wiedeback, 2-28-22; James Knowles, 3-7-22; Thomas Council, 7-19-22; Cornelia (Nitzy) Waters 8-9-22 (6)

Funeral/Memorial Service: Charles Dolab, 8-19-22; Sarah Helen Harper Toler, 11-12-22; Stephen Richard Bender, 12-28-22

Former Member Columbarium Internment: Irving V. Fryberger, 12-3-2022; Dorothy B. Fryberger, 12-3-2022

Births: Thomas Augustus McQueen V, son of Ken and Kristina McQueen (brother Gideon), 10-24-22

Child Baptism: (0) **Adult Baptisms:** (0)

Elder Ordinations/Installations: Ordination and Installation for Jesse Pope; Installation for Chappie Petree, McNair Tornow, and William Dethlefs on January 9, 2022 (4)

Member Wedding:

Affiliate Member Wedding: Jerry W. Tietge, Carole Gatto

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Carter, Clerk of Session

2022 Church Statistical Report

| Presbytery | Western North Carolina | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Membership | | |
| Prior Active Members | 184 | Adjusted membership 187 |
| Gains | | Losses |
| Certificate | 2 | Certificate 6 |
| Youth Professions | 0 | Deaths 4 |
| Professions & Reaffirmations | 3 | Deleted for any Other Reason 0 |
| Total Gains | 5 | Total Losses 10 |
| Total Ending Active Members | 182 | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Baptisms | | Average Weekly Worship Attendance | 146 |
| Presented by Others | 0 | Friends of the Congregation | 154 |
| At Confirmation | 0 | Ruling Elders on Session | 12 |
| All Other | 0 | Do you have Deacons? | No |
| Age Distribution of Active Members | | People with Disabilities | |
| 17 & Under | 1 | Hearing impairment | 1 |
| 18 - 25 | 10 | Sight impairment | 0 |
| 26 - 40 | 24 | Mobility impairment | 2 |
| 41 - 55 | 22 | Other impairment | 15 |
| 56 - 70 | 38 | | |
| Over 70 | 87 | Gender Distribution | |
| Total Age Distribution | 182 | Women | 103 |
| | | Men | 79 |
| | | Non-Binary | |
| Youth in Congregation | | | |
| Age 4 and under | 2 | Middle School (6th – 8th grade) | 2 |
| Elementary School (K-5th grade) | 6 | High School (9th – 12th grade) | 2 |
| | | Total Youth | 12 |
| Racial Ethnic | | | |
| Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian | | Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous | |
| Black/African American/African | 1 | White | 180 |
| Middle Eastern/North African | | Multiracial | |
| Hispanic/Latino-a | 1 | | |
| | | Total Racial Ethnic | 182 |
| Budgeted Income | 386,789 | | |
| Budgeted Expense | 386,789 | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| Regular Contributions | 414,970 | Bequests | 0 |
| Capital Building Fund | 0 | Other Income | 0 |
| Investment Income | 3,771 | Subsidy or Aid | 0 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Local Program | 329,341 | Investment Expenditures | 0 |
| Local Mission | 57,820 | Per Capital Apprt | 10,500 |
| Capital Expenditures | 0 | Other Mission | 31,652 |

3: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose and Responsibilities: Determine, define, and fill new positions for staff as necessary. Oversee and recommend activities, duties, and responsibilities for each staff member. Evaluation of each staff member to be conducted on an annual basis with some positions more frequently if deemed individually necessary. **Accomplishments this year include:**

- Organized “Celebrate Dedy’s 11th Year with Us” with a poster, Thank You cards from members and committees, 11 Reasons to Celebrate Dedy, Session approved gift of tickets to LMC Summer Theatre.
- Reviewed and received reports regarding Pastor Action Items.
- Received resignation of AC Marriott as Children/Youth Coordinator and Preschool Director.
- Retained Jarrett Koski as Interim Preschool Director and then Preschool Director.
- Solicited input from each Staff member to assure their position descriptions match the actual duties being performed.
- Revised position job descriptions to match the current duties performed based on the needs of the church.
- Conducted staff Evaluations using forms developed by the Personnel Committee that first requested a self-evaluation based on the revised Job Description.
- Worship Committee collaborated with Personnel Committee completing staff evaluations for music program members David Soyars Organist/Pianist, Nina Allbert Director of Choral Activities, Suzie Fisk, Hand Bell Director.
- Using the Employment Guidance for PC(USA) Sessions, developed a BEPC Employee Handbook.
- Maintained Nursery Caregiver position.
- Maintained Personnel files in the locked fireproof box in the church office.
- Continued the LMC Choir Scholarship Program under the direction of Nina Allbert.
- A December gift was given to each staff member as planned in the 2022 Budget.
- In December, a letter was sent to all church members informing them of the opportunity to send a Love Offering for Rev. Dr. Whit Malone. The offering was collected and presented during the December 18 worship service.

2023 Goals and Objectives

- Continue to refine and assess duties and responsibilities of staff to ensure efficient and equitable workload distribution.
- Recruit new committee members
- Participate as appropriate in the Call of the next Pastor

Members: McNair Tornow, Chair, Murry Haber, Susan Carter.

4: MISSION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

This has been another challenging year. In spite of pastoral changes, the mission committee was able to fund all of our budgeted benevolences. Again because of the sharp rise in heating oil and gas prices, additional funds were provided to RAM to help with these costs. In addition to the funds provided by our congregation and community, money from our discretionary fund was sent to Project Ruth to provide meals for displaced Ukrainians. Because of the many natural disasters this year, our Christmas Eve offering was again sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund. For many reasons, our 2023 budget has had to be reduced. This includes our discretionary fund. We are hoping as the economy recovers, that funds can be restored. As a committee we are very fortunate to have a compassionate congregation that responds to emergencies whenever necessary.

Submitted by Carol Larson, Interim Chair

5: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

- Created the “Moments of History” booklet with history of the church and historic photos. The first printing of 300 copies went quickly, so another 400 copies were printed.
- Created a general “BEPC” tri-fold brochures that focuses on our mission outreach. Printed in the church office.
- Promoted the Firehouse Fundraiser, Good Friday Service and the Community Carol Sing heavily to the community with flyers and press releases.
- Created a Lent/Easter postcard with list of services.
- Created a large postcard for Outreach Committee to mail to newcomers to the area.
- Created an Advent/Christmas postcard with list of services.
- Created the 2023 Stewardship Campaign brochure.
- Assisted with projected photos and videos during worship for Moments for Missions.
- Inventoried all church printed materials and streamlined.
- Began the weekly podcast for Pastor Whit on Buzzsprout.
- Development of annual calendar for better planning and budgeting.
- The church Facebook page reached an average of 3,000 people each month as followers shared videos of music from worship services, photos and other updates.
- The church website averaged 800 visits each month, with readers from all 50 states and 50 countries. It was discovered by many searching online for a church to visit.
- Promoted and Organized Community Fundraisers:
 - FOOD FOR UKRAINIANS: During October 2022, the church raised a total of \$9,111 to provide food boxes for hungry families in Ukraine. BEPC church member Pat Anderson delivered the check to Project Ruth in Bucharest, Romania. The "4:7 Care Boxes" feed a family of four for seven days. Since each food box costs \$44, we are funding 205 boxes - food enough for 17,220 meals!
 - FIREHOUSE FUNDRAISER: In August, the church continued its long legacy of being a beacon of help and hope in the community by presenting the first “Firehouse Fundraiser”. The three shows featured the very entertaining musical Always Nina. In addition to Nina Allbert donating her talents and time, many members helped prepare for the show, sponsored all expenses and welcomed the audiences. It raised \$8,181 for Banner Elk Volunteer Fire Rescue to purchase a much-needed rescue litter and a double clutch twin tension rope system kit - both used to rescue people in remote areas.

Submitted by Mark File, Chairman

6: MEDIA / TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Established stable equipment & environment to deliver consistent quality live streams of all services.
- Created job description for Media Technician position. Determined the position of Media Director was not needed.
- Interviewed candidates for Media Technician and filled position.
- Re-configured media workstation to facilitate direct view of pulpit and better ergonomics for sound and video capture.
- Installed new data switch to connect all media components to BEPC local area network.
- Dedicated new Alien Ware laptop to media only functions.
- Purchased new Sony camera and joystick module for better quality video capture.
- Upgraded Pastor microphone for better sound capture during services.
- Upgraded Dedy’s, (Office & Finance Manager), workstation due to obsolescence.
- Installed new OWL video conferencing system in Session conference room to facilitate ZOOM meetings.

Submitted by William Dethlefs, Chairman

7: WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Worship Committee has had a challenging year with minister change and health gathering concerns, but they have risen to the tasks! We added new members, and the year has progressed very nicely.

Members: Janet Speer (chair), Debi Tornow (vice-chair), Luanna Anderson, Sarah Brewer, Suzie Fisk, Martha Burns, David Soyars, Nina Allbert, Angela Todd, Barbara Sundstrom, minister.

The Worship Committee oversees all aspects of worship including

- Sunday Morning Services
- Special services
 - Funerals (three for the 2022 year)
 - Weddings (1 for the 2022 year)
 - Maundy/Thursday
 - Always Nina: musical presentation to support Fire Department
 - Community Carol Sing
 - Christmas Eve
 - Pentecost
 - Easter
 - Christmas
- For these services, the committee oversees
 - Music
 - Appearance (banners, layout of books, information, vestments)
 - Selection of Lectors
 - Selection of ushers
 - Selection of Acolyte
 - Hanging of the Greens and dismantling the greens
 - Flowers
 - Media (do not oversee this but work closely with Pete)
 - Communion
 - Advent Readers
 - Population count
 - Arts ministry events
 - Selections of times for Worship
 - Pentecost appearance
 - Kirkin'
 - Supply pastors: sometimes securing a supply pastor and making sure they are paid
 - Punch on the Lawn
 - Children's worship bags (do not supply bags but make sure they are available)
 - Oversee candles, making sure they are ready for services.
 - Making sure offering plates (including hunger offering) are in place
 - Making sure bulletin or programs are in place.
- Budget
 - 2022 budget was \$9800. Since we discovered that maintaining instruments in the music program takes us above that amount, we've asked for \$11,000 for 2023.
 - Public Relations: Mark File has created beautiful cards to show events during the Lenten and Advent seasons. He also works with online information both within our website and local sites.
- Times for summer services: There is an ongoing discussion about the times/needs for two summer services.
- Communion: We left the baggies and went to passing the tray until Christmas, when it was determined that we should return to the pre-packaged elements with the larger crowds.

- Budget: With the music program growing, and musicians who understand what it takes to keep expensive instruments maintained, we adjusted our budget in September. We also adjusted the ask for 2023 with these things in mind.
- Banners: Martha Burns designed and built two new banners for the sanctuary and music stand covers for Handbells.
- Arts Ministry: Our church hosted the Raleigh Ringers which included ringers from six area churches and a concert. Very successful event.
- Our church hosted Nina Allbert's musical as a fund raiser for the Fire Department. Very successful.

Submitted by Janet Speer

8: MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

It has been a pleasure to create worship music with our many talented musicians/vocalists. We've hit our stride working together to lead the music ministry and enjoy a fun and inspiring collaboration. We are both intentional about including diverse musical styles and genre to appeal to a variety of musical tastes. We're grateful to our many talented musicians for sharing their musical gifts to enrich our services. In 2022 we enjoyed the music of Allen Allbert, mandolin; Susie Fisk, flute; Eric Hillestad, saxophone; Dick Larson, guitar; and Laura Russell, piano/organ. In addition, our services were enhanced by guest musicians Michael Hannah, piano; Carol McClure, harp; Jane and Kathryn York, violin/cello; and Rebecca Whit, bagpipe. Our second annual Community Carol Sing in December was enjoyed by a full church and was a wonderful community outreach. The choir also led a community music service for Good Friday. We're grateful for the continued support, feedback and encouragement offered by so many in our church family.

We're thrilled that our choir renaissance continues with several new members and continued vocal/ensemble technique improvements under Nina's energetic direction. Weekly choir rehearsals begin with extensive vocal exercises before embarking on Nina's well-planned rehearsals. Nina also records rehearsal tracks for each vocal part of our anthems so members can practice their part at home. Our choral offerings this year have included arrangements of beloved hymns, traditional folk songs, contemporary praise music, spirituals, and classical literature. Singers are welcome to join as their personal schedule allows. Listeners are welcome at choir rehearsals too if you ever need a mid-week lift. We share an enjoyable and inspiring time as we prepare choral offerings to help lead in worship.

The historic Edgar Tufts pump organ (donated by Robert and Kimberly Tufts) was restored to a playable condition by Cornell Zimmer Organ Builders. They were honored to help us preserve it as part BEPC's rich heritage and also provided some additional historical context for the instrument. Chuck Portaro located a period-appropriate stool and graciously restored and donated it to the church. Chuck also plans to create a display celebrating the organ's history. It is a joy to include it in worship and hear its uniquely sweet tones waft over the congregation, reminding us of the many saints of our church it has ministered to and the power of music in worship.

David provides a wide variety of service music utilizing both piano and organ. He uses a variety of organ registrations to create appropriate musical moods for hymns, adding alternative harmonizations for interest, and endeavors to create a solid foundation for confident congregational singing. The piano received a spring and fall tuning as well as additional adjustment to the piano's action by Emil Schlee (piano technician for ASU). This improved the responsiveness of the piano, allowing it to be played with more expression. The organ was tuned in the spring by Cornell Zimmer Organ Builders. Several severely out of tune pipes were graciously tweaked in early fall by David's organ teacher, Dr. Joby Bell (no charge). The fall organ tuning/maintenance was postponed to early 2023 due to budget concerns. As noted in the 2021 report, given the age of the organ we should anticipate some larger repair expenses and begin preparing for that financially.

Submitted by Nina Allbert and David Soyars

9: MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

The members of the Membership Committee are Luana Anderson, Sherrill Fischer, Debbi Hagna, Jodie Kettle and Barbara Sundstrom. Mark File assisted the committee as a major contributor to the Marketing Plan.

In 2022, BEPC experienced major challenges due to the continuing Covid epidemic and pastoral transitions. In spite of difficulties, nine new members were added to the church family. The committee developed a Comprehensive Marketing Plan to attract prospective members and help newcomers in the community to find a church home which matched their personal beliefs. A postcard mail out program was initiated. The committee also assisted with two Inquirers' Classes.

Submitted by Don Hilsmier, Chair

10: FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Accomplishments of the Fellowship Committee, basically in charge of providing meals in any capacity to serve the congregation, officially began after the February session meeting. Due to lingering concerns of COVID, some of the congregation remained hesitant to gather at mealtimes. Session approved resumption of Fellowship programs beginning in May.

May 8, Mothers' Day Tribute Continental Breakfast was fully attended by members of the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

June 12, in conjunction with BEPC's traditional Kirkin' of the Tartans, a breakfast of Scottish Fare was on full display of authenticity.

July 10, as a tribute to State Breakfast Favorites, attendees were asked to salute the State of their birth or a favorite childhood memory, by preparing a representative dish to share.

August Annual Picnic found a large crowd assembled in Tate Evans Park Pavilion for an evening of combined catered and pot luck food. The Banner Elk Fire Department and their families were honored guests. Entertainment was provided.

August 25, Consecration Sunday featured a buffet luncheon catered by members, Michael and Gloria Marshall.

September 11, served as a tribute to a day of memories with a buffet luncheon at no cost to the congregation. It also was a farewell to our Summer Congregants.

October 9, a Continental Breakfast was served at no charge.

November 13, Waffles for Toys Annual Breakfast and Toy Drive, in collaboration with the Preschool and volunteers from our Youth and Parents, unwrapped toys filled two large containers to support Avery Project Christmas Store.

Three Celebration of Life Services and Receptions were held in collaboration with the Congregational Care and Worship Committees for family and friends of the following lost loved ones: Charles Dolab, 8-19-22, Sarah Helen Harper Toler, 11-12-22, and Stephen Richard Bender, 12-28-22.

Committee members volunteer generously whenever called upon, serving in any capacity necessary.

Submitted by Luana Anderson, Chair

11: CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

In January, on Saturday the 15th, we had our yearly retreat all day. Our theme was "Reach Higher". I helped our Pastor with decorating. We were coming out of post Covid 19 pandemic and transitioning to a new minister. It was a challenging year to say the least. It was the first year for the minister. Nothing seemed to fit which became evident as the year moved on. We were trying to hold our congregation together, and transition to an interim minister. We had to dissolve our relationship with our current minister and install the new interim minister with as little disturbance as possible. It worked with Divine assistance.

Our Shepherd Ministry did not miss any steps of caring for our congregation, with cards and calls. We had started calling groups during the Virus to check on members and help keep members connected as a church family. If anyone needed help, they knew they could call someone. We felt fragmented as a church family. We felt we needed to move into the 21st century with technology. We formed neighborhood groups, with a leader who was to text information within the neighborhood if a neighbor needed, some form of assistance. Our Sunday Worship flowers were delivered to anyone who would enjoy their beauty as a lift from their past week. We discussed doing maps and addresses so we would know where members live. The Elder who assumes this chairmanship should contact me and I will give the info we have put together to them. This committee works with the other committees as for receptions, funerals, and monthly lunches and breakfasts. Submitted by Deka Tate

12: PRAYER MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

The Prayer Ministry Team, consisting of 9 church members (six local and three virtual), sent out 264 letters to the families listed in our directory times two for a total of 528 letters and weekly focused prayer. Several times the committee met for a prayer luncheon. General weekly needs and private requests were also shared among the committee members whether public or private in nature. Many prayer requests were answered as indicated by the thank you and acknowledgement notes sent from church members back to the prayer team. Submitted by Chris Zimmer

13: STEPHEN MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT

Stephen Ministries continues to make its services available and public through newsletter articles, minutes for mission and information in the pews. Although we believe there are many more needs, we have tried to stay open to possible care receivers. There have been several short consultations (5-6) but none formalized. One case has been long term with a person outside the church. Meetings with this individual are not formalized but meetings are weekly; more if needed. Meetings usually occur in the church.

Stephen Ministers are Murry Haber, Joy Rimmel, Peter Stapleton and Don Hilsmier (inactive). Submitted by Janet Speer

14: COMFORT MAKERS ANNUAL REPORT

Comfort Makers began in 1990 and since that time has created over four hundred blankets which are dispersed to good causes. Their objective is to make full size comforters, plus lap blankets and children's blankets for those who need them.

Led by Debi Tornow and Mae Weed, members working with the group this year are Luana Anderson, Diane Earwood, Joy Rimel, Martha Burns, Beth Johnson, Luanne Guignard, and Janet Speer. Over the 2022 year the group made fourteen blankets which were dispersed to RAM, Habitat for Humanity, new babies, people experiencing health issues and recognitions. Comfort Makers meets from 10-12 on Wednesdays, and it is common for one of the ladies to come back in to finish a piece or take a blanket home for completion. Contact: Mae Weed.

Submitted by Janet Speer

15: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, in the parlor from 2:00-4:00, to create shawls and lap rugs which are shared with church members, friends, and family across the globe. We gifted 31 shawls in 2022. Our knitters and crocheters include Claire Fortune, Laura Russell, Susan Blalock, Susan Carter, Donna Dicks, Ellen Stapleton, Alice Johnson, Carol Larson, Carolyn Jones, Chris Zimmer, Emily Garrett, Sylvia Hahn. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is budgeted as a Sub-committee of the Missions Committee. Most of the yarn used is donated leaving the budget funds to purchase additional yarn, postage, card stock, envelopes, gift bags, and tissue.

Submitted by Alice Johnson

16: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Committee members: Alice Johnson, Julie LaGrone, Sherri McKinney, Nancy Owen, Ginger Toler, AC Marriott (co-chair), Donna Dicks (co-chair); Whit Malone

Programs and activities carried out this year (number of participants listed):

- Zoom studies, including Lent and Advent:
 - Lent: Lent in Plain Sight by Jill Duffield (12-15)
 - Advent: God is in the Manger, reflections of Advent and Christmas using Dietrich Bonhoffer's writings (15-18)
- In-person women's study using PW Horizons (What My Grandmother Taught Me) (12-14)
- Diving Deeper into Scripture: discussion group at 9:30am with Rachael (4-5)
- Resumed Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30-10:30am on September 25:
 - Preschool: Tristin Hall (2)
 - Elementary: Julie LaGrone (5-7)
 - Middle/High: Judy Hilsmier (4)
 - Adult, multi-generational: Dick Larson (12-18)
- Lent packet, sent home for our families with younger children; Faithful Families for Lent by Traci Smith, book and supplies. And please add the
- "Back to School Bash" on Aug. 14th with inflatable, games, food, etc.
- Children's music program mainly focused on Christmas "pageant" with chancel choir
- Waffles for Toys: AC Marriott, directed collection of toys for RAM
- Breakfast with Santa: AC Marriott, organized and collected donations for preschool

Goals for 2023:

- Continue to build on our success with SS classes for all ages
- Provide Zoom access to adult SS class (not on You Tube)
- Provide Lent/Advent studies
- Conduct Confirmation class for four youth
- Women's summer study
- Collaborate with 130th anniversary of our church; special speaker/classes
- Re-instate POPS group for parents and provide classes for children during this time
- Encourage integration of music participation as appropriate and available
- Conduct Waffle for Toys as support to RAM
- Provide Breakfast with Santa as fund-raiser for preschool

Submitted by Donna Dicks, co-chairman

17: PERMANENT FUNDS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

The Permanent Funds Ministry of the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church was managed by the Finance Committee with Jesse Pope as the chair of the PFM in 2022. The fund balance has continued to grow over the past few years, totaling \$167,686.67. Volatility in the investment markets have slowed the growth of the fund in 2022, but our conservative investment strategy has protected the value of the fund.

Permanent Funds Ministry 2023 Objectives:

1. Sponsor educational opportunities for members of the congregation, including at least one Minute for Mission in the summer season.
2. Re-establish a summer Wills Emphasis Sunday for 2023, working with Rev. Whit Malone.
3. Promote the PFM at church events throughout the year, and in church publications.
4. Identify two new members to serve on the PFM committee.
5. Continue to focus on growing the total fund balance to exceed \$200,000 for the first time in the history of the PFM.

18: BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

There continue to be challenges for the building and grounds of Banner Elk Presbyterian Church in terms of funding for long term needs. A Capital Improvement Fund has been proposed to fund projects such as replacing doors, carpet, and HVAC units. Also needed are funds to update interior and exterior lighting and for extensive tree trimming. Ideally, funds will be set aside to address future needs and for emergency expenditures. Routine maintenance and repairs will be ongoing as needs are identified.

Accomplishments This Year:

1. A maintenance request form and procedures were established for the Clerk of the Works.
2. The entrance handrails were repaired.
3. The security and surveillance system was expanded and eight cameras were installed at every entry door and at other key locations.
4. A new Parking Policy was established and approved.
5. Front doors were repaired.
6. The dumpster gates were replaced.
7. Fellowship Hall and Preschool doors were adjusted/repaired.
8. Exterior lighting was repaired.
9. A replacement AED was ordered to be compatible with Avery County fire departments and EMS.
10. Members of the Banner Elk Fire Department visited the church and assessed fire safety issues. A follow-up plan was established.
11. Lock boxes were mounted on the walls by the entrances for fire department access.
12. LMC students and faculty members helped during the college's "Day of Service" by undertaking the preschool playground as their project.
13. The balcony furniture and media center were rearranged.
14. The coil was replaced in the Fellowship Hall HVAC unit.

Committee Members: Rick Garrett, Chair; Larry Zimmer, Clerk of the Works; Bob Todd, Past Chair; Rod Sundstrom, Mike Marshall, Chuck Portaro

Submitted by Rick Garrett

19: PRESCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Preschool operates with a Board consisting of the Preschool Director, Pastor, with church, community, and parent members following a Session approved Policies and Procedures Manual. The program serves children ages 2-5, operates 9 1/2 months following an August-June school year calendar, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm. Eight weeks of Summer Camp is offered.

In January, the middle of the Preschool year, 23 students were enrolled. Staff employed were AC Marriott, Director/3's Lead Teacher, Teacher; Martie Dodd, 2's Lead Teacher; Jarrett Koski, 4's Lead Teacher; Lucy Corning, 3's Teaching Assistant; Britt Ammann, 2's Teaching Assistant. In February Martie Dodd accepted another position and Erin Beretsky joined the team in her position. Effective the end of May, AC Marriott accepted a full-time area business position and Jarrett Koski was appointed Interim Director. Session approved AC's request to remain as a valuable contributor to the Preschool Board. In November, Session approved Jarrett Koski as Preschool Director.

Cathy Richmond, founding Preschool Board Chair, retired this year and Sarah Whitfield now joins Susan Carter as Co-Chair.

The Preschool continues to rely on the October, 2021 Board adopted BEPC COVID-19 Policy & Guidelines and will change its masking and quarantine policies to match those of the most recent NC Department of Health and Human Resources Tool Kit. The Director will communicate with the parents regarding all changes by email and our Preschool Facebook group.

In February, the BEPC Office/Finance Manager returned to using QuickBooks Desktop for recording and balancing Preschool Finances. Caila Leonard joined the Board as Parent Treasurer.

In March, with a goal of continuing to pursue the possibility of having a collaborative full-day early childhood program, Jim Swinkola facilitated a meeting with Susan Carter and Dave Cohn, Director of Holston Center. The outcome of the meeting clearly outlines the financial, logistical, and NC state requirement obstacles that make impossible a full-day collaborative program for meeting the needs of Banner Elk area families.

During the scheduled 8 weeks of Summer Camp, week 5 was COVID canceled, with the seven weeks enrollment averaging 19 children per week. The Summer Camp weeks are reported to be joyful theme-based learning experiences, and the Camp is meeting a need for quality early childhood summer activities. The theme for 2022 summer camp was "Oh the Places You'll Go!" Dr. Seuss.

The SONshine Playground has provided active joyful outdoor play each day the weather permits. Letterland literacy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) inspired curriculum is implemented for the three classrooms.

The children have Chapel scheduled every Monday and Thursday 10:45 – 11:00am led by Mrs. Lucy and Mr. K. This is an opportunity for the students to sing various encouraging songs about the love of Jesus. Songs include; *I am the Church, I've got that Joy, Jesus is my Rock, The B-I-B-L-E, My God is so Big*, and many more. Various stories and lessons are also read.

In August, the beginning of the 2022-23 Preschool year, 21 students were enrolled with two-year-old teachers Sarah Bates and Erin Beretsky, three-year-old teachers Lucy Corning and Brit Ammann, and four-year-old Teacher/Director Jarrett Koski. Tuition remained at \$300.00 per month. In December, five (5) student Scholarships totaled \$450.00. Note: In January 2023, the enrollment increased to 24 students.

In June the Preschool received \$2,000.00 from the Banner Elk Kiwanis Club Foundation for Preschool Scholarships to assist with the dwindling Scholarship Fund. Parents, Jarrett, and board members coordinated a "donation" parking fundraiser at the BEPC Parking Lot during Woolly Worm weekend. A total of \$1,589.75 was collected to help balance the budget.

Sally Wimberly organized a group of energetic cheerleaders from Lees-McRae College who helped clean and repair the SONshine Playground during LMC Mountain Day of Service in October. The Board is very thankful for the close relationship to LMC. Turf was installed on the sloped area, sandbox removed, and the space covered with rubber mulch, plastic toys moved inside, and the storage shed relocated out of the play area. Cracks in the groundcover will be repaired in 2023 during warm weather months by the original installer.

The evacuation plan continues with documented Fire Drills, with the December 2022 drill completed in 1 minute and 30 seconds. Preschool Staff members are encouraged to take training classes online and attend any Blue Ridge Partnership for Children sponsored trainings. Director attends quarterly director meetings. Staff Development continues at faculty meetings and other opportunities provided by the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children.

In collaboration with the BE Chamber of Commerce, A.C. Marriott organized Breakfast with Santa as a Preschool Fundraiser. Donations were received. The event was a great success with LMC cheerleaders as elf assistants, parents and board members donated food and time decorating the fellowship hall, and serving pancakes, syrup, bacon, fruit, coffee, and juice. A total of \$1,477.00 was collected to help balance the Preschool budget. The Chamber of Commerce requested the Preschool repeat the plan for 2023.

Jarrett coordinated a Scholastic Book Fair, November 28 – December 9, also open during Breakfast with Santa. Our Scholastic Bookfair completed with a profit of \$353.00 for the preschool.

BEPC can be proud of the dedicated and educated Preschool Staff working each day to provide quality developmentally appropriate early childhood education.

Submitted by Jarrett Koski and Susan Carter

20. NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of the Nominating Committee, consisting of two current members of Session, and three members of the congregation, is to select the Class of 2025. A process was begun with in-person meetings, assembling nominations submitted by the congregation in written form, and tabulating votes. The process was completed on November 13, 2022, when the following were voted as Elders during the Congregational Meeting: Sara Brewer, Rocky Holscher, Debbi Hagna, and Ann McConnell. Laura Russell was also elected to serve the unexpired term for Alice Johnson, Class of 2023.

In the month of December, Rocky Holscher withdrew his name due to unforeseen circumstances being unable to serve at this time. The name of Nancy Owen will be put into nomination on Jan. 22, during the congregational meeting, to serve in Rocky Holscher's place.

Submitted by Luana Anderson, Chair

Deka Tate, Co-Chair, Ann Swinkola, Bill Ferguson, Nancy Owen.

21: TREASURER'S REPORT

December 31, 2022

BEPC OPERATING FUND (FUND 01)

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
| MONTHLY INCOME | 52,042 | 15,199 | 21,034 | 19,790 | 18,390 | 53,649 | 39,945 | 30,916 | 22,168 | 24,328 | 20,383 | 97,126 |
| MONTHLY EXPENSES | 21,581 | 23,451 | 38,195 | 22,766 | 29,094 | 40,697 | 28,308 | 39,947 | 28,980 | 27,081 | 43,432 | 43,307 |
| MONTHLY PROFIT | 30,461 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12,951 | 11,637 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 00,000 | 00,000 | 53,818 |
| MONTHLY LOSS | 0.00 | (8,251) | (17,161) | (2,976) | (10,704) | 0.00 | 0.00 | (8,581) | (6,812) | (2,753) | (23,049) | 00,000 |
| YEAR TO DATE PROFIT/LOSSES | 30,461 | 22,209 | 5,049 | 2,073 | (8,630) | 4,321 | 15,958 | 7,377 | 565 | (2,188) | ((25,237) | 28,581 |

Comments:

BEPC had a resounding successful month in December. The church had collections of \$97,126 resulting in a monthly surplus of \$53,818. These positive financial results enabled BEPC to finish the year with a surplus of \$28,581. These outstanding numbers will give BEPC a "shot in the arm" as we move forward in 2023.

Lastly, our stewardship numbers for 2023 are lagging our 2022 results. Our 2023 stewardship campaign results reflect 85 pledges for \$266,430.00.

Our cash available for church operations is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Checking account balance as of 12-31-22 | \$400,349.15 |
| Less: PFM Funds | (100.00) |
| Committed Funds Net of Session Disc. Funds | <u>(99,729.19)</u> |
| Total Cash Available For Church Operations | \$300,519.96 |

2023 BUDGET

| | | Budget |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| | GENERAL FUND | |
| | Pledges received | \$ 251,000.00 |
| | Expected pledges not yet received | |
| | Unpledged contributions | 112,000.00 |
| | Contributions for this year paid last year | |
| | Other | |
| | 4100 Total Contributions | <u>363,000.00</u> |
| | 4535 Gains, Interest, Dividends | |
| | TOTAL INCOME | <u>363,000.00</u> |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| | BENEVOLENCE | |
| | | <u>39,850.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL BENEVOLENCE | <u>39,850.00</u> |
| | PERCENTAGE BENEVOLENCE | 10.65% |
| | | |
| | MINISTER COMPENSATION | |
| | | <u>86,400.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL MINISTER COMPENSATION | <u>86,400.00</u> |
| | | |
| | OTHER PERSONNEL | |
| | ADMINISTRATION | |
| | MUSIC | |
| | CHILDREN/YOUTH | |
| | INTERIM MINISTER SEARCH COMM | |
| | JANITORIAL | |
| | OTHER | |
| | | <u>131,673.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL OTHER PERSONNEL | <u>131,673.00</u> |
| | | |
| | BUILDING & GROUNDS | |
| | | <u>48,100.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS | <u>48,100.00</u> |
| | | |
| | CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | |
| | | <u>4,500.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | <u>4,500.00</u> |
| | | |
| | CONGREGATIONAL CARE | |
| | | <u>5,000.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL CONGREGATIONAL CARE | <u>5,000.00</u> |
| | | |
| | FELLOWSHIP | |
| | | <u>1,800.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL FELLOWSHIP & NURTURE | <u>1,800.00</u> |
| | | |
| | WORSHIP | |
| | | <u>11,000.00</u> |
| | SUBTOTAL WORSHIP | <u>11,000.00</u> |

ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION | <u>39,400.00</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|

MISSIONS

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| SUBTOTAL MISSIONS | <u>1,950.00</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SUBTOTAL MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE | <u>41,800.00</u> |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| PERCENTAGE MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE | <u>11.17%</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 6740 PFM Committee Expenses | 500.00 |
|-----------------------------|--------|

Membership Committee

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 6810 Committee Expenses | 3,000.00 |
|-------------------------|----------|

COMMUNICATIONS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 6910 Committee Expenses | <u>1,000.00</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| SUBTOTAL COMMUNICATIONS | <u>1,000.00</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|

PRIOR YEAR INCOME ADJUSTMENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SUBTOTAL PRIOR YEAR INCOME ADJUSTMENTS | <u>(26,607.94)</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|

TOTAL EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>\$374,173.00</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|

SURPLUS/DEFICIT

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT | <u><u>\$ 15,434.94</u></u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
