



MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

THROUGH OUR MINISTRY AND MISSION

Session Elders

Class of 2024

Lynn Gilliland

Grace Nichols

Class of 2025

Ellen Henschen

Lisa Rome

Class of 2026

John Casper

George Sawyer

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PASTOR'S REPORT

“Not to us, O God, not to us, but to Your name give glory” (Psalm 115).

In 2023, we continued to witness unmistakable signs of God's hand at work.

Our phenomenal session, officers, committee chairs, volunteers and in-person and online congregants have brought so many gifts to the mission of sharing God's love with the world and celebrating God together. Those who are ordained commit to fulfilling their office with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. I happily think back on examples I have seen of each of those spiritual gifts in action among our people in 2023.

I'll bet you can also think of specific times when specific people among us, in the living of their faith, have embodied those traits and others. Take a moment and remember a time this year when you have witnessed someone following Jesus into the world with dedication. Generosity. Compassion. Wisdom. Kindness. Patience. Endurance. Joy. Forbearance. Insight. Courage. I know you join me in giving thanks to God for all those people and each of sacred gifts.

One highlight of this year has been to see our live stream volunteers expanding our reach and making worship accessible for many. Another has been the addition of two new staff members, pastoral visitor Lynn Bledsoe and office administrator Bonnie Shoemaker, who each joined the team in early 2023 and have helped to transform the face of this church's ministry. They join director of music Vivian Hare as components of a tremendous staff team, and each of us is grateful for the support we receive from this amazing congregation.

Another highlight is a result of the faithful generosity of our congregation: the session was able to announce a \$100,000 gift set aside to help Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry address the homelessness crisis in our area. This is in addition to the robust commitment our church has made, through the budget, special offerings, and personal, hands-on involvement, to bolster the creative and effective work of ministries throughout our community and the world. Did I mention the amazing new members who have joined this year? Our mutually enriching relationship with the Montreat Conference Center? Our burgeoning choir and edifying Montreat Wednesday offerings?

The pages in this annual report are full of such evidence, and much more, of the Spirit at work within us.

Keith Grogg, January, 2024

Montreat Presbyterian Church Session 2024 Omnibus Motion

approved by Session January 16, 2024

Holy Communion/Special Worship Services, 2024

(HC) = Holy Communion

Sunday, January 7, 2024	Ordination & Installation (HC) (Approved Jan. 2022) – Anderson Auditorium
Sunday, February 4, 2024	First Sunday (HC)
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	6:30 P.M. Ash Wednesday service w/ BMPC at MPC
Sunday, March 3, 2024	First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, March 10, 2024	Daylight Saving Time begins – Keith out
Sunday, March 24, 2024	Palm Sunday (no communion)
Thursday, March 28, 2024	7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday AT BMPC - (HC)
Friday, March 29, 2024	12:00 P.M. Good Friday – Upper Anderson
Sunday, March 31, 2024	Easter Sunday (HC)
Sunday, April 7, 2024	First Sunday (HC)
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	Presbytery WNC Worship Service hosted by PWNC/MPC/MRA (HC)
Sunday, May 5, 2024	First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, May 19, 2024	PENTECOST - Last UA service before Summer Worship Series
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Kirkin' o' the Tartan – Anderson Auditorium
June 2 - August 4, 2024	MRA/MPC Summer Worship Series (ten Sundays)
Sunday, August 11, 2024	THIS SUNDAY ONLY AT 11:00 A.M. - MPC worship resumes - in UA
Sunday, September 1, 2024	Anderson Auditorium due to Central PC - Atlanta
Tuesday, September 10, 2024	HC (Moved to 2nd Sunday due to Sept. 3 location)
Sunday, October 6, 2024	World Communion Sunday/First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, October 27, 2024	Reformation Sunday/Stewardship Dedication (HC)
Sunday, November 3, 2024	Daylight Saving Time ends
Thursday, November 28, 2024	11:00 A.M. Thanksgiving Day service – Upper Anderson
Sunday, December 1, 2024	1 st Sunday of Advent – Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, December 8, 2024	2 nd Sunday of Advent (HC)
Sunday, December 15, 2024	3 rd Sunday of Advent - Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 22, 2024	4 th Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 24, 2024	5:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, January 5, 2025	First Sunday/Ordination & Installation (HC)

ALSO:

- Online midweek pastoral prayer services (no communion), as and when appropriate and feasible
- Taizé services March 6, 13 or 20; Aug. 28 or Sept. 4; Dec. 4

Stated Session Meeting Dates 2025

Stated session meetings ordinarily take place the third Tuesday at 4:00 P.M. in the Swannanoa Room.

Exceptions: no July stated meeting; Dec. 3 (Christmas).

Jan. 16; Feb. 20; March 19; April 16; May 21; June 18; Aug. 20; Sept. 17; Oct. 15; Nov. 19; **Dec. 3**
and Sunday, January 5, 2025, 11:40 A.M.-3:00 P.M. (Session Retreat)

Montreat Presbyterian Church Session 2024 Omnibus Motion

approved by Session January 16, 2024

Presbytery Delegates 2024

DATE	Host or Format	Delegate #1	Alternate
Saturday, January 27, 2024	Zoom	Lynn Gilliland	Ellen Henschen
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	Montreat Conference Center		
Saturday, July 7, 2024	Zoom		
Tuesday, October 29, 2024	Brevard-Davidson River PC, Brevard, NC		
Saturday, January 25, 2025	Zoom		

Special Offerings, 2024

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Daily Change	Monthly; Presbytery offering
Sunday, February 4, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, February 11, 2024 Souper Bowl Offering	SVCM (for local food ministries)
Sunday, March 3, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, March 31, 2024 One Great Hour of Sharing	(Easter Sunday) Denominational: PDA
Sunday, April 7, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, May 5, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, May 19, 2024 Pentecost Offering	Denominational/ 40% Collins Center (for at-risk children, youth/young adult ministries)
Sunday, September 8, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, September 8, 2024 Peace & Global Witness	Denominational/ 25% to Helpmate (for peacemaking programs and initiatives)
Sunday, October 6, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, November 3, 2024 Daily Change	
Thursday, November 28, 2024 Thanksgiving Offering	SVCM Fuel Fund
Sunday, December 8, 2024 Daily Change	
Sunday, December 15, 2024 A Service of Lessons and Carols	
Christmas Joy Offering	Denominational: minority colleges; retired church professionals
Sunday, January 5, 2025 Daily Change	

ALSO: Alternative Gifts opportunities at Christmastime

Wednesday Evening Church Dinners 2024

Jan. 17 (fellowship); April 17 (program); May 15 (program); Aug. 14 (E&M);
Oct. 2 (Stewardship kickoff); Oct. 30 (Stewardship Celebration)

Other Dates for 2024 Calendar (*SOME PENDING CONFIRMATION)

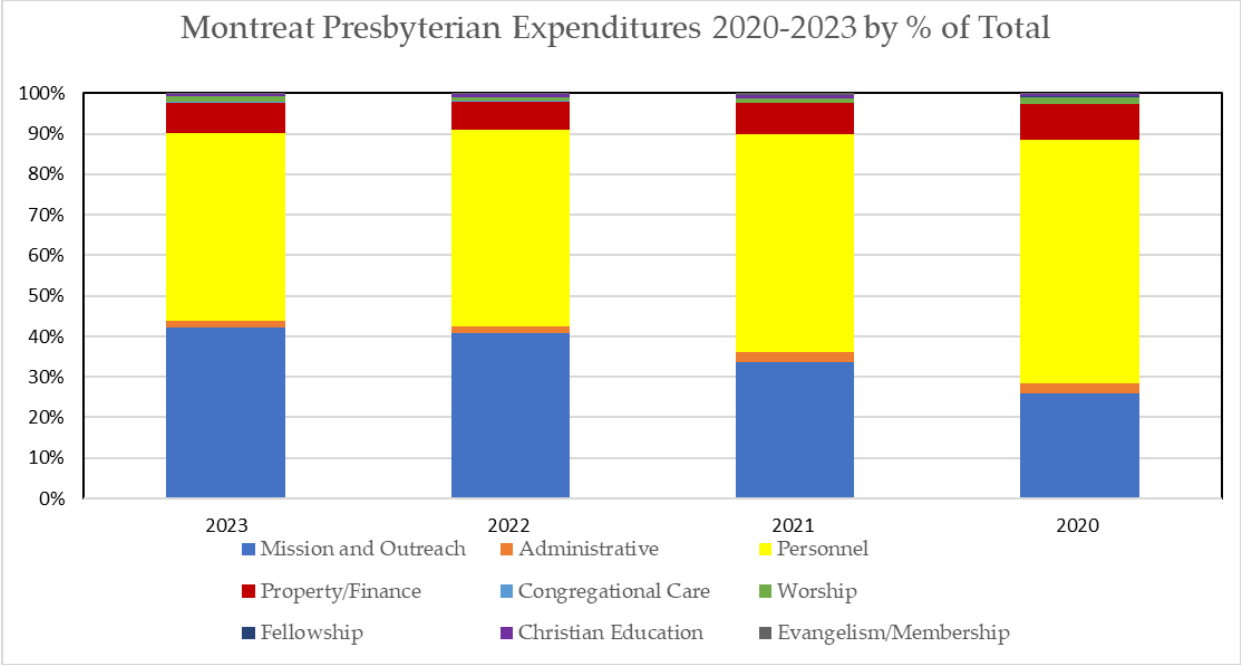
Sunday, January 28, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting (Last Sunday in Jan. per MAO)
(Optional) Committee Chairs & Session Liaisons Meeting (after worship)

Tuesdays, March 5-12, 2024 Pastor out (travel)

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 Presbytery meeting hosted by MRA/MPC

Sunday, October 13, 2024 SVCM Walk for Your Neighbor

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 Cookies & Carols, Assembly Inn Lobby



The chart above shows the distribution of resources to each of the major expense categories as a percentage of total expenses. Mission and Outreach for this year was 46% of our distributed income which included amounts in the budget as well as \$36,325 in Mission Designated Offerings (Daily Change, Alternative Christmas, PDA, Peacemaking, etc.) The actual dollar amount was \$30,000 over the prior year.

In addition, Memorial Gifts for the year were \$10,880 which will be added to the Endowment bringing it to over \$150,000. We are grateful to the family of Calvin Chesnutt for the significant gift in his memory.

Questions regarding the Budget or Financial statements are welcome and can be addressed to Lynn Gilliland at treasurer@montreatchurch.org.

Cash Accounts

004101 - Pledges	\$393,866	\$443,777
004201 - Plate Offering	\$5,000	\$5,492
004202 - Unpledged Contributions	\$40,265	\$13,627
004207 - Interest from Money Market	\$5,000	\$2,604
004210 - Endowment Distributions	\$6,050	\$5,760
2023 Excess Funds Designated for Mission	\$23,000	\$0
Total Sources of Funds	\$473,181	\$471,259

Uses of Funds**Mission & Outreach Committee**

005100 - Presbytery - Unified Benev. Budget	\$18,300	\$17,200
005102 - Camp Grier	\$6,900	\$6,300
005103 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$6,900	\$6,300
005107 - FEH - Bethesda Clinic	\$6,900	\$6,300
005109 - Nkhoma Hospital Malawi E051772	\$6,900	\$6,300
005116 - Friends Empowering Haiti	\$6,900	\$6,300
005117 - Parker Mission - D507569	\$0	\$9,700
005119 - Makari Mission D507586	\$0	\$6,300
005120 - Montreat Conf Center	\$10,500	\$9,600
005125 - Presbyterian Heritage Center	\$5,700	\$5,200
005135 - Warren Wilson College-Intl student	\$5,100	\$4,650
005142 - Outreach Dimmock Malawi Misson work	\$7,800	\$11,040
005150 - Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry	\$6,900	\$10,240
005151 - Bounty and Soul	\$6,900	\$10,240
005153 - Homeless/Resettlement	\$14,500	\$13,300
005161 - Special Focus Ministry	\$11,600	\$10,565
005162 - Hand in Hand of the SV	\$5,100	\$8,590
005163 - Budget Augmentation - Benevolences	\$23,000	\$0
005170 - Ministry of Hope - SCCW Chaplaincy	\$5,100	\$4,650
005171 - Black Mountain Counseling	\$6,900	\$6,300
005172 - Resources Resilience	\$5,100	\$4,650
005173 - Memory Care	\$5,400	\$5,000
005174 - Montana de Luz	\$0	\$6,900
005175 - Jose LaMont Jones Mission	\$6,900	\$0
005176 - Doug Dicks Mission	\$6,900	\$0
005190 - Collins Early Education Center	\$6,900	\$10,240
Total Mission & Outreach	\$193,100	\$185,865

Note: Year end distributions were made to a number of organizations under the Homeless and Special Focus accounts.

General Administrative Expense

005003 - ACS On- Demand Service (Software)	\$1,680	\$1,474
505000 - ACS Supplies	\$300	\$0
505100 - General Office Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,655
505310 - Memberships	\$150	\$190
505328 - P.O. Box Rental	\$250	\$210
505330 - Postage	\$250	\$206
505351 - Printing Copy Machine	\$3,000	\$2,543
505352 - Copy Paper	\$700	\$772
505353 - Ink / toner- local Printers	\$450	\$301
505380 - Session Expense	\$250	\$220
505390 - Stationery	\$500	\$352
505450 - Gen. Administrative Miscellaneous	\$200	\$160
560500 - Communications	\$400	\$358
560800 - WEB Site Maintenance	\$500	\$310
580320 - Office & Pastor Telephone	\$2,000	\$2,120
Total General Administrative Expense	\$12,130	\$10,871

Personnel Committee

505512 - HR Miscellaneous	\$500	\$659
505602 - Pastoral Visitor	\$10,080	\$9,547
505604 - Pastoral Visitor Expense Reimb..	\$2,000	\$1,214
505605 - Administrative Assistant (net)	\$23,275	\$19,216
505606 - Admin Prof. Dev. Reimbursement	\$200	\$0
505607 - Admin FICA/Med	\$2,150	\$2,101
505608 - Admin -FICA/Med church match	\$2,150	\$2,101
505609 - Admin Asst Federal W/H	\$2,200	\$2,136
505611 - Admin Assistant NC WH	\$500	\$560
505660 - Pastor Salary	\$90,000	\$85,680
505661 - Pastor Discretionary Reimbursement	\$1,200	\$1,132
505662 - Pastor BOP Benefits	\$36,000	\$32,509
505663 - Pastor Travel reimbursement	\$4,200	\$4,641
505664 - Pastor Prof. Dev. Reimbursement	\$6,800	\$6,942
505800 - Director of Music (net)	\$21,900	\$22,321
505801 - Director of Music BOP Benefits	\$3,400	\$3,075
505802 - Director of Music FICA/MED	\$2,600	\$3,297
505803 - Director of Music Retirement Saving	\$7,000	\$6,996
505804 - Dir. of Music FICA/Med church match	\$2,600	\$3,297

505805 - Director of Music Federal W/H	\$1,000	\$1,166
505806 - Director of Music NC WH	\$1,500	\$1,343
505900 - Payroll Services Expense (was Bookkeeper)	\$1,500	\$163
Total Personnel Committee	\$222,755	\$210,093
Property/ Finance Committee		
505200 - Insurance	\$3,600	\$2,453
505710 - Stewardship Materials	\$150	\$0
505720 - Stewardship Dinner	\$1,200	\$1,012
505730 - Treasurer-Expense and Adjustments	\$500	\$2,172
505731 - Vanco Processing cost	\$600	\$357
505732 - CPA Expense	\$300	\$340
580001 - Gift to MCC appreciation of service	\$6,000	\$6,000
580060 - Office/Mtg Allen Lease	\$14,520	\$13,200
580110 - Piano Tuning (2 x per year)	\$0	\$0
580310 - Computer & software	\$1,500	\$4,432
580900 - Miscellaneous - Property	\$200	\$11
Total Finance Committee	\$28,570	\$29,977
Total Administration	\$263,455	\$250,941
Congregational Care Committee		
550100 - Cong. Care Miscellaneous	\$200	\$0
550101 - Card Ministry	\$200	\$136
550103 - Meals	\$400	\$95
550105 - Library Books	\$0	\$92
550114 - Designated from A.K. Smith Endow	\$800	\$517
Total Congregational Care Committee	\$1,600	\$840
Worship Committee		
510001 - Music Copying License	\$1,000	\$951
510002 - Prof. Dev. - PAM	\$100	\$100
510003 - Prof. Dev - for Worship/Music	\$400	\$680
510010 - Flowers and Ferns	\$400	\$0
510011 - Choir Retreats	\$100	\$46
510020 - Music Library	\$2,000	\$1,810
510025 - Honoraria	\$1,500	\$800
510040 - Worship Supplies	\$1,400	\$743
510080 - Choir & Guest Musicians	\$1,100	\$700

Total Worship Committee	\$8,000	\$5,831
Fellowship Committee		
550000 - Beverages	\$400	\$345
550060 - Paper Goods	\$400	\$453
550080 - Special Events	\$650	\$1,003
550090 - Sunday Fellowship	\$150	\$123
Total Fellowship Committee	\$1,600	\$1,924
Christian Education Committee		
005200 - Earth Care Ministry	\$500	\$500
560012 - Adult Ministry Materials	\$100	\$16
560013 - Adult Ministry Mileage/Meals	\$100	\$0
560015 - Adult Ministry Circle	\$150	\$0
560016 - Adult Ministry College	\$300	\$97
560017 - Adult Ministry Honoraria	\$1,320	\$780
560019 - Adult Ministry Production	\$100	\$60
560021 - Children and Nursery	\$100	\$0
560022 - Children Worship Supplies	\$50	\$0
560023 - Children's Materials	\$100	\$32
560026 - CE Fellowship	\$100	\$0
560027 - Adult Training -working children	\$100	\$0
560028 - Adult Background Checks	\$300	\$128
Total Christian Education Committee	\$3,320	\$1,613
Evangelism/Membership Committee		
505160 - Church Directory	\$500	\$0
505161 - Online Directory	\$200	\$204
570000 - Evangelism & Membership Committee	\$100	\$94
570510 - Membership Dinners	\$350	\$204
570530 - Name Boards, Badges & Sign-in Pads	\$956	\$155
Total Evangelism/Membership Committee	\$2,106	\$658
Total Uses of Funds	\$473,181	\$447,672
NET TOTAL (Sources of Funds – Use of Funds)	\$0	\$23,587

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Gilliland, Treasurer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Peggy Williamson

Members: Mason Blake, Karen Brown, Hal Demarest, Corise Gambrell, Mari Gramling, Keith Grogg, Vivian Hare, Gary Henschen, Julie Simpson, and Sally Woodard

Session Liaison – Grace Nichols

Committee Purpose: To nurture, teach and grow all ages for discipleship, and to “equip the saints for ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12

Montreat Wednesdays: In coordination with the MRA, Montreat Wednesday programs continued to be held in the Walkup Building, which has been a very accessible location. Attendance has been excellent. A fellowship component for the programs continued through the generosity of Julie and jDub Simpson, who provided coffee as a gift each week, and the efforts of Grace Nichols and the Fellowship Committee, who brought sweets for each program.

Spring 2023 Montreat Wednesday Programs

- Jan. 25: Church Confessions: The Nicene Creed (Mark Achtemeier)
- Feb. 8: Calvin Part 2: His Legacy (Rusty Douglas)
- Feb.15: Christian Mission Field in Nigeria (Skip Taylor)
- Mar. 1: Choosing Health with Regard to Depression Part I: What and Why—Removing Mystery and Stigma (Karen Brown, Gary Henschen, Jean Sutton)
- Mar. 8: Choosing Health with Regard to Depression Part II: Moving Forward—Getting Help and Taking Action (Karen Brown, Gary Henschen, Jean Sutton)
- Mar. 15: When Addiction Hurts: Mobilizing Compassion for Ourselves and Others Part III (Katie Goetz, LCMHC, LCAS, CCS)
- Mar. 29: Relief Mission in the Ukraine: Serving on the Samaritan’s Purse Disaster Assistance Response Team (Allen Crawford)
- Apr. 12: John 6 Bible Study (Keith Grogg)
- Apr. 26: Food and Farming Part 2 (Beth Frith)

Fall 2023 Montreat Wednesday Programs:

- Sept. 13: Spirituality for the Long Haul: Everyday Spiritual Practices (Lynn Bledsoe)
- Sept. 20: The Ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Local, National, and International. (Bill Neely)
- Sept. 27: John's Revelation for Those Not Worried About Being "Left Behind" (William Pender)
- Oct. 11: Creation Care Update. (Cam Murchison)
- Oct. 18: Men in the Mirror: A Christ-centered Response to Family Dysfunction (Kevin E. Frederick)
- Oct. 25: The Practice of Hospitality at the White House. (Julie & jDub Simpson)
- Nov. 8: Guatemala Micro Loan Project. (Ellen H. Dozier)
- Nov. 15: Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry. (Kevin Bates)
- Nov. 29: Alternative Christmas Gifts. (Missions Committee)

Women's Circle: Women's Circle meetings met in the Walkup Building, an excellent venue. Corise Gambrell and Sally Woodard led this successful program with shared leadership for each program from MPC members.

Women in the Bible: Classes have been discontinued this year due to meeting space issues.

Earth Care: Subcommittee chairman Hal Demarest continued to participate in the WNC Presbytery Earth Care Committee.

College, Seminary, and Young Adults: Coordinators Corise Gambrell, Sally Woodard and members of Women's Circle sent Valentine care packages to college students whose parents are affiliated with MPC. Corise was honored with an Honorary Lifetime Membership for her significant work.

Children's Nursery: The pop-up nursery was initiated, but to date has been used only one Sunday. Weekly Bible study on Sunday before worship is offered for one pre-teenager. Volunteers certified for the pop-up nursery and for Bible study now volunteer to be on call for both programs on the same Sunday according to a pre-determined schedule. This new plan has been a good example of economy of effort.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Williamson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairs: Beth Fountain, Anne Stone, and Amy Blake

Members: Amy Blake, Anne Stone, Karen Brown, Beth Casper, Amanda Demarest, Joan Diefell, Kat Achtemeier, Dora and John Hinkle, Sheri Pender, Mary Nell Todd, Peggy Williamson.

Session Liaison - Gracie Nichols

Food preparations Subcommittee - Kat Achtemeier, Martha Campbell, Beth Casper, Amanda Demarest, Beth Fountain, Betty Douglas, Clare Frist, Linda Hobson, Gracie Nichols, Jean Norris, Lila Ray, Anne Rogers, Anne Stone, and Sally Woodard, Amy Blake, Jamie Bibee Lloyd, Joan Diefell, Lila Ray

Carpenters Subcommittee – Mark and Kat Achtemeier, Eric Nichols, John Hinkle, William Pender, Gill Campbell Committee

Purpose: This committee oversees and coordinates care efforts for the church family.

General: The year 2023 was characterized by the care of the congregation when individuals were facing challenging times.

1. The Greeting Card Ministry was led by Linda Hobson.
2. The Carpenters (a simple home assistance program) was led by Kat Achtemeier.
3. Food Ministry was led by Amanda Demarest and Beth Fountain.
4. Seasonal Remembrances was led by Peggy Williamson, Joan Deifell and Beth Fountain.
5. Specific Activities:
 - The food committee provided many meals for those who have gone through difficult times. Twenty-four families received a meal or two throughout the year.
 - Various volunteers delivered Advent calendars and Advent letters were delivered to 45 members of the congregation in late November.
 - Valentine’s Day cards and Easter Cards were mailed to the same 45 special individuals on the advent calendar list.
 - Approximately 65 cards have been sent to those going through difficult times.

- The Carpenters were asked to assist in small projects about 13 times during the year. See the detailed report below.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Fountain, Chair

CARPENTERS' REPORT 2023 – KAT ACHTEMEIER

January 31 – Kat and Mason assembled a transfer bench for the Huffs at their apartment in Asheville. Took about 20 minutes.

February 20 – Amy and Mason Blake spent 1.5 hours emptying out the Huffs' kitchen and two baths

February 22 – Linda Hobson and Jamie Lloyd spent 2.5 hours setting up the Huffs' kitchen and 2 baths.

June or July – Kat assembled the lateral file folder for Bonnie

August 8 – Bowdenvilla work to aid the Tour of Homes for the Presbyterian Heritage Center Gill Campbell, Mark Achtemeier, William Pender, Kat Achtemeier, and Jody Welker put in various amounts of work hours to clean up the Bowdenvilla property – lending a hand to Jere Bowden.

August 28 – John Hinkle picked up the 2nd lateral file folder to assemble for the church office.

August 28/29- Gill Campbell; Eric Nichols agreed to help with the movement of some desks and other furniture at the church office when it comes time to ready the office space for a new computer system.

Sept 19 - Kat received call from Aletha Roper. Carpenters had been suggested to her. Kat drove over to eyeball it and ended up spending 2 hours lending a hand. The job: (to prepare her yard for the installation of a new sewer line).

- ⊙ Move her VERY SIZEABLE chicken coop using two smallish pieces of PVC.
- ⊙ Move her 12' x 12' galvanized chain-link chicken pen to another part of the yard. The pen had chain link on all four sides and over the top— all in a galvanized pipe framework. (There was pig wire underneath the packed dirt of the pen attached to the fence walls with zip ties.) To reinforce the dog pen/chicken pen there were four 4x4 wooden posts outside the

corners of the chain link pen with 2x6 planks (2 on top of each other) that were 6 or so inches in the ground that would need to be dug up. Oh...and a real surprise...4' rebar bent in a curve and pounded into the ground to anchor the galvanized pipe frame. Kat stayed two hours. Aletha and Brenda (from choir) came out to help. We got the 4x4 posts up and managed to move the 2x6 planks, getting all that out of the way. Zip ties were either cut or snapped and we managed (with great effort) to pull up the pig wire (in some places buried under packed ground), roll it up, and get it out of the pen. With great effort and a crowbar, managed to get all four rebars up out of the ground. Looking at the challenges of moving things I told Aletha the Carpenters would not be able to handle anything of this magnitude. She had to make other arrangements, but I gather it got done.

October 5 – William Pender rendered aid by giving Charlene Woods a ride to Mission hospital (Giving rides is not ordinarily something we do, but it was a huge help to this family this time).

October 7 – Jody Welker (who has allowed us to add his name to the list of Carpenters) and Mark Achtemeier helped Joan Deifell and her family move furniture at Joan's house as they prepare for new flooring. (10:30 – 11:30)

October 10 – Mari Gramling needed someone to walk her fence (and the weeds and vines growing all around it) and find out how Bunny the dog could get out. Kat traced the fence, straightened it where a bear had trampled it, nailed it up in one place, pounded in posts and bolstered it with a mop handle from kat's saltbox. (10:15-11:30)

October 13 – William Pender and Gill Campbell went to Joan Deifell's home to move furniture back in after new flooring had been put in place. (1hour 15 minutes)

October 23 – Kat and Mark Achtemeier went over to Mari Gramling's to pull her autumn/winter clothes out of the attic and put three crates of materials back up in her attic. (30 minutes)

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine M. Achtemeier

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Ellen Henschen

Members: Amy Blake, Martha Campbell, Joan Deifell, Amanda Demarest, Betty Douglas, Carol Eckard, Judy Shuford.

Meetings: February 9, March 7, April 20, May 18, June 15, August 17, September 14, October 12, and November 9. Meetings were held in person.

During 2023, the Session received 13 new active members into the congregation. Additionally, people were received in affiliate, associate or supporting member categories.

The committee is responsible for welcoming visitors to worship services and reaching out to make sure folks are aware of and invited to other activities in the church. When visitors include their contact information on the friendship pads during worship, follow-up contacts are made. We are also responsible for setting up Sunday morning worship services in Upper Anderson. This duty includes putting out name tags, friendship pads, and information about MPC. Greeting visitors and the Sunday morning set up is shared by and rotates among committee members.

The committee hosted two welcome events for new members, newcomers, and potential members in the spring of 2023. An evening gathering at the home of Rusty and Betty Douglas and lunch after worship were held in late March and early April. These events were well received and will be repeated in 2024. E&M also takes responsibility for inviting newcomers to church wide fellowship and educational events.

During the summer months, the congregation of MPC joins the MRA Summer Worship program in Anderson Auditorium. On August 13, worship services returned to Upper Anderson and E&M Committee duties resumed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Henschen

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Purpose: Lead, develop, and promote church events, which are designed to enrich the spirit of fellowship in our congregation.

Responsibilities:

- Plan and conduct churchwide receptions, dinners/luncheons, and socials.
- Coordinate room arrangements and food service with other church committees, which have requested an event. Under the direction of the Fellowship Committee, the group that requests the event provide members to set up before an event, be responsible for table decorations, help during the event, and clean up afterwards.
- Enlist additional people to help and plan meaningful indoor and outdoor activities that provide opportunities for fun and fellowship among church members and guests.
- Setup Sunday morning coffee fellowship.
- Oversee Upper Anderson kitchen operations, equipment, and supplies.
- Monitor and purchase consumables for receptions, suppers, and Sunday morning coffee.
- Submit monthly reports to session and include any action needed for approval.
- Recommend Fellowship's annual budget to Session.

Activities:

- Fellowship Committee members planned and hosted three potluck suppers during late winter and spring. In February, Karen and Tommy Brown complemented the supper with a pasta bar, serving several sauces and pasta dishes. Jean Norris contributed non-gluten food.
- The committee provided refreshments for Christian Education's Montreat Wednesday programs throughout the year. Julie and jDub Simpson personally contributed Dynamite Coffee at each function.
- On April 25, MPC partnered with the Montreat Conference Center to cohost the WNC Presbytery meeting at Anderson Auditorium. Mary Jo Wright and Grace Nichols planned and recruited 25 church volunteers to provide breakfast/brunch food for approximately 135 delegates attending the morning meeting. In the evening before, Beth Frith and Grace set up the table display with pottery and wooden trays. Linda Hobson, Martha Campbell, Kat Achtemeier, Mary Jo, Grace, and the MCC staff assisted in

hosting the event in the foyer of Anderson Auditorium from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Wanda and Bill Neely provided brochures from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The brochure related the assistance needed for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. A special selection of Turkish and Syrian dishes, including baklava, were provided by Jean Norris.

- Committee members planned and hosted three congregational, covered-dish dinners in concert with the following committees:
 - August 16, the Evangelism and Membership Committee provided the after-dinner program.
 - October 1, the Stewardship Committee opened Stewardship Month with their theme “At Home in God; The World with God.”
 - November 1, Stewardship held a dinner celebrating the giving generosity of the congregation.
- Memorial services and receptions: Our committee hosted a reception in Upper Anderson after memorial services for three of our members.
 - Calvin Chesnut September 23
 - Jane Frist November 11
 - Rusty Frank December 30
- On December 13, MPC co-hosted, along with MRA, the second annual “Cookies and Carols” in the Assembly Inn Lobby. Vivian Hare and Keith Grogg led the singing of carols. Fellowship provided cookies, and MCC set up hot beverages. Over 75 people were in attendance.

Contributing to the work of the Fellowship Committee during 2023 were:

Kat Achtemeier	Clare Frist	Sara Scarborough
Amy Blake	Beth Frith	jDub Simpson
Karen Brown	Ellen Henschen	Julie Simpson
Tommy Brown	Linda Hobson	Sally Stansill
Gill Campbell	Jamie Bibee Lloyd	Genie Sullivan
Martha Campbell	Neal Lloyd	Sharon Welker
Joan Deifell	Eric Nichols	Jody Welker
Carol Eckard	Jean Norris	Mary Jo Wright

Advisory and additional contributors were Pat Connelly, and Susanne & Bill McCaskill.

Respectfully submitted, Grace Nichols, Chair

MISSION & OUTREACH 2023

Chair: Nancy Midgette

Members who served during 2023: Nancy Midgette, chair, Eric Nichols, John Hinkle, Ann DuPre Rogers, Linda Hobson, Beth Fountain, George Sawyer, Martha Campbell, Mary Jo Clark, Susan Haws, Skeet Ayscue

Session Liaison: William Brown

Montreat Presbyterian Church is blessed with people who willingly share their time, talent, and resources to address the needs of others both within our local communities and around the world. Locally, our members support and advocate for the Don Collins Early Learning Center, the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, Hope for Tomorrow, Resources for Resilience, Black Mountain Counseling Center, Hand in Hand of the Swannanoa Valley, Homeward Bound, Haywood Street Mission, and many others.

Our budget for the year was \$155,865. Of that amount, \$10,565 was in the Special Focus line, which is discretionary and provides the committee with an opportunity to respond to immediate, specific needs. Another \$13,300 was a line added the previous year to address Homelessness and Resettlement. While these funds are not dedicated to a specific agency, they are used to address only the issues in the title line.

At the heart of our international missions were Friends of Haiti Ministries in Bayonnais, Haiti; the health clinic Bethesda Centre de Sante in Bayonnais; Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi; and our PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Elmarie and Scott Parker in Iran and Lebanon, as well as Victor and Sara Makari in the Middle East. In 2022 we added the Outreach Foundation and its support for the work of Frank Dimmock. The Makaris have returned from the mission field and Scott Parker has also returned; Elmarie Parker will remain in a part-time liaison position. Hence for 2024 we have ended support for the Makaris, reduced the support for the Parkers, and added support for two additional field workers, one in Africa and the other in the Middle East.

Utilizing discretionary funds, the Mission Committee supported the following:

1. Alzheimer's Research and Care via Biltmore Rotary
2. Presbytery call to support disaster relief efforts in five different regions
3. MLK Scholarship Fund
4. Friends Empowering Haiti School Food Drive
5. Resources for Resilience
6. Ukraine relief efforts

From the Homeless/Resettlement funds we supported the following:

1. Black Mountain Counseling Center
2. Haywood Street Respite
3. Homeward Bound
4. Hope for Tomorrow (new programming to support women as they move toward sustainable employment and housing)

In addition to the annual funding that we provide to Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, we supported that organization in other ways, as well:

- Walk for Your Neighbor – We had a strong contingent of members attend the annual walk in October and provided funding of over \$2000 beyond our annual contribution.
- We continued to support the family (grandmother supporting her two young grandchildren) who moved into Hope for Tomorrow in September 2022. This support included Christmas and birthday gifts and an occasional Ingles gift card.
- We provided two programs for all of the families in Hope for Tomorrow apartments – Trunk or Treat in the Town Hall parking lot on Halloween and a Christmas Party on December 8 that included crafts (projects provided by Circle members), dinner, and Santa.

Our alternative gift program continued under the leadership of Eric Nichols, Mary Jo Clark, and Skeet Ayscue. This year people could choose cards from Hand in Hand, the program to provide washable sanitary pads for girls in Malawi that we started last year, and Montana de Luz (an orphanage in Honduras for children with Aids with which Skeet Ayscue is quite familiar). Exact amounts collected will be provided by the Treasurer.

At the end of the year the committee received an additional \$30,000 to distribute among organizations that meet the immediate needs of underserved people.

Part of that funding went to the Parker Mission and Montana de Luz to “pay forward” what we had hoped to include in our 2024 budget; remaining funding was divided between Hand in Hand, SVCM Fuel Fund, Bounty and Soul, the Don Collins Center, and the Frank Dimmock mission to help rebuild the Nasir Church for refugees returning to their homes.

Our budget for 2024 has been increased to \$170,100.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Midgette, chair

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Dan Dean

Committee Membership: Gill Campbell, Dan Dean (Moderator as of August 2023), Lynn Gilliland (Treasurer), Keith Grogg, Jim Henderson (Moderator through July 2023), Linda Hobson, Henry Neale, Ann Neel, Jack Sadler, Perrin Wright.

Review of Committee Activity:

1. The Committee met early in the year and adopted a Program of Work to be accomplished in four regular quarterly meetings, plus called meetings as necessary.
2. The primary agenda item at each meeting was a detailed review of financial statements as presented by the Church Treasurer, Lynn Gilliland. Throughout the year, revenue and expenses tracked or bettered the budget approved by the Session.
3. Most of the other activities of the Committee were recurring, annual tasks:
 - a. Tested beginning-of-the-year cash balance against the minimum required by church policy. Such test found the balance to be in excess of policy requirements.
 - b. Appointed a subcommittee to review 2022 financial activities and procedures. This review found no deficiencies or irregularities.
 - c. Appointed a subcommittee to review church insurance coverage. As of the end of the year, that review had not yet been concluded.
 - d. Approved Neal Lloyd and Jamie Bibee Lloyd as leaders of the Fall Stewardship Program. They and their team led a successful effort, and all of them are to be commended for their work.
 - e. Prepared and recommended to Session the 2024 Church Budget. Because of the generosity of church members, the budget included compensation increases for staff, met all requests of the administration and program committees, and provided an increase in the amount allocated to the Mission and Outreach Committee.

5. Effective with the August regular meeting of the Committee, Dan Dean became Moderator, upon the retirement of Jim Henderson following his many years in that role. Sincere and heartfelt gratitude was expressed to Jim for his years of dedication, hard work, and wise and effective leadership. Jim will continue to serve on the committee, where his vast experience and knowledge will continue to be relied upon by the entire committee.
6. Late in the year, as a consequence of the continuing generosity of the congregation, the Committee's review of actual performance against budget showed a budget surplus, which enabled the Committee to recommend to Session that the Mission and Outreach Committee be given an additional budget allocation of \$30,000, which recommendation was approved.
7. In keeping with church policy, \$10,000 of accumulated memorial gifts were transferred to the church's endowment fund. The balance in the fund at year end was \$153,500.
8. The committee is indebted to Treasurer Lynn Gilliland for her diligence, hard work and expertise in managing the financial affairs of the church throughout the year, and for her regular financial statements and informative reports to the committee.
9. The committee is also indebted to both Lynn and former long-time Treasurer Gill Campbell for their cooperative spirit and hard work which resulted in the successful and seamless transition between the two of them, for which the committee, and indeed the entire church, is very grateful.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Dean

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Lisa Rome

Members: Jane Alexander, Ellen Dean, Susan Maffett, Eric Nichols, Vivian Hare (music director), and Keith Grogg (pastor).

As chair of the Worship and Music Committee, I am extremely grateful for each of these wonderful folks and their willingness to discuss and provide feedback during our meetings and to take on and run with whatever tasks are needed to support worship at MPC.

Worship is at the heart of all that we do at MPC and I observed much to be excited about in our worship during 2023. It was indeed a joy to see everything and everyone that comes together to make worship at MPC special.

Music is definitely a worship joy at MPC! Our tremendously talented music director provides us with glorious music each Sunday and under her guidance the choir has expanded to a fairly regular group of at least 23 singers plus others who join in when available or for special occasions or during special seasons. The choir had two Saturday morning retreats during the year: one in the spring to spend time preparing for Lenten and Easter music; the second in the fall to prepare music for Advent and Christmas. During the retreats we also had time for a bit of fun, including eating and sharing of stories to help us get to know each other better. In addition to the choir, special music provided by a variety of talented musicians within the congregation enhanced our worship experiences on numerous occasions.

Another joy of worship at MPC comes from the many volunteers who participate in making worship what it is at MPC. The list includes liturgists who help to lead our worship each Sunday plus those who provide readings during special services. It also includes lead usher teams who take on the task of organizing the ushers during each month and ushers who assist with numerous tasks as asked on any given Sunday or for other special services. The list also includes the heroic members of our growing livestream team who work together to provide our worship virtually to those unable to join us in person. And it includes those (from this committee and also often from the choir) who help with the setting up of paraments and the communion table prior to worship

each Sunday. What a joy it is to see all of the activity and participation in worship from so many!

Other specific worship joys that occurred during 2023 include the return to the pre-Covid practice of coming forward to give to the Daily Change offering each month; the 4th Sunday afternoon worship at Givens-Highland Farms each month which is a blessing to so many who are able to attend, including the choir that gets to practice there and participate in those services; a Maundy Thursday service around tables set up as a cross that was particularly meaningful; a change to Easter tulips, rather than lilies, allowing those who suffer from allergies to better enjoy Easter worship; and the return, early in the year, to a working elevator!

And of course, the leadership of Keith and Vivian provide a special joy to worship at MPC!

It is truly this sharing of our many gifts among this community that makes worship here so special and that makes MPC seem like family even for those of us who have found our way here from outside of Montreat.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rome, Chair