



MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

THROUGH OUR MINISTRY AND MISSION

Session Elders

Class of 2025

Ellen Henschen

Lisa Rome

Class of 2026

John Casper

George Sawyer

Class of 2027

Ginny Soll

Anne Stone

Class of 2028

Beth Frith

Bob Horowitz

INSIDE

Pastor's Annual Report	1
2026 MPC Church Calendar	2
2026 Approved Budget	4
Christian Education	9
Congregational Care	12
Evangelism & Membership	14
Fellowship	16
Finance & Property	19
Mission & Outreach	21
Personnel	23
Treasurer	24
Worship & Music	29

PASTOR'S REPORT

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

Feed my lambs (John 21:15).

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44).

Tend my sheep (John 21:16).

Love one another, just as I have loved you (John 13:34).

Feed my sheep (John 21:17).

Just as you did it to one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did it to me (Matthew 25:40).

Nothing will be impossible with God (Luke 1:37).

A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (I Corinthians 12:7).

God is our refuge and strength (Psalm 46:1).

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

In 2025—I was going to offer a handful of adjectives for the year just past, but God and history will determine the most appropriate ones, and you surely have your own anyway—Montreat Presbyterian Church continued to witness to God's unstoppable love in Jesus Christ in a world where, everywhere, even in the direst circumstances, places, and lives, the Spirit is already at work.

Our phenomenal session, officers, committee chairs, volunteers and in-person and online congregants brought countless gifts to the mission. As a church family, we continued to worship richly, give faithfully, and love God's world compassionately, always choosing to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

Keith Grogg, January, 2026

Montreat Presbyterian Church Session 2026 Omnibus Motion

approved by Session on January 4, 2026

2026 Holy Communion/Special Worship Services

unless otherwise noted - all services are held at 10:00 A.M. in Upper Anderson

(HC) = Holy Communion

Sunday, January 4, 2026	This Sunday only at 11:00 A.M. in UA; First Sunday (HC) Ordination/Installation
Sunday, January 11, 2026	This Sunday only at 10:00 A.M. in Anderson Auditorium
Sunday, February 1, 2026	First Sunday (HC)
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	6:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday service w/ BMPC at MPC - Upper Anderson
Sunday, March 1, 2026	First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, March 29, 2026	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 2, 2026	7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday in Upper Anderson - (HC)
Friday, April 3, 2026	12:00 P.M. Good Friday Service for Community – Upper Anderson
Sunday, April 5, 2026	Easter Sunday (HC)
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	Presbytery WNC Worship Service hosted by PWNC/MPC/MRA (HC)
Sunday, May 3, 2026	First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, May 24, 2026	Kirkin' o' the Tartan (Montreat Scottish Society) – Anderson Auditorium
Sunday, May 31, 2026	Last MPC Service in UA service before Summer Worship Series
June 7 - August 9, 2026	MRA/MPC Summer Worship Series 10:30 A.M., in Anderson Auditorium
Sunday, August 16, 2026	This Sunday only at 11:00 A.M. in UA
Sunday, September 6, 2026	This Sunday only at 10:00 A.M. in Anderson Auditorium
Sunday, September 13, 2026	Delayed First Sunday observance (HC)
Sunday, October 4, 2026	World Communion Sunday/First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, October 25, 2026	Reformation Sunday/Stewardship Dedication
Sunday, November 1, 2026	First Sunday (HC)
Thursday, November 26, 2026	11:00 A.M. Thanksgiving Day service – Upper Anderson
Sunday, November 29, 2026	1 st Sunday of Advent – Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, December 6, 2026	2 nd Sunday of Advent - Hope & Remembrance - First Sunday (HC)
Sunday, December 13, 2026	3 rd Sunday of Advent - Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 20, 2026	4 th Sunday of Advent - Service of the Greater Antiphons
Thursday, December 24, 2026	5:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (HC)
Sunday, January 3, 2027	First Sunday/Ordination & Installation (HC)

Online midweek pastoral prayer services (no communion), as and when appropriate and feasible

2026 Taizé services January 28; April 29; September 2; December 2

2026 Stated Session Meeting Dates

Stated session meetings ordinarily take place the third Tuesday at 3:30 P.M. in the Swannanoa Room.

Exception: no July stated meeting

Jan. 20 (Zoom); Feb. 17 (Zoom); March 17 (hybrid); April 21; May 19; June 16 (private home);

Aug. 18; Sept. 15; Oct. 20; Nov. 17 (Zoom); Dec. 8 (hybrid)

and Sunday, January 3, 2027, 12:30-3:30 P.M. (Session Retreat)

Montreat Presbyterian Church Session 2026 Omnibus Motion cont'd

approved by Session 01-04-2026

Presbytery Delegates 2026

DATE	Host or Format	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Saturday, January 31, 2026	Virtual	Anne Stone	John Casper	
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	Anderson Auditorium	Anne Stone	Ginny Soll	
Saturday, July 25, 2026	Neighborhood: Greenway PC, Lenoir	Bob Horowitz	George Sawyer	
Tuesday, October 27, 2026	First-Gastonia	Beth Frith	Bob Horowitz	
Wednesday, January 20, 2027	Virtual	Ginny Soll		

Special Offerings, 2026

Sunday, January 4, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, February 1, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, February 8, 2026	Souper Bowl Offering	SVCN (for local food ministries)
Sunday, March 1, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, April 5, 2026	One Great Hour of Sharing	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Sunday, April 12, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, May 3, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, September 13, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, September 27, 2026	World Communion Offering	racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, interfaith relations
Sunday, October 4, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, November 1, 2026	Daily Change	
Thursday, November 26, 2026	Thanksgiving Offering	SVCN
Sunday, December 6, 2026	Daily Change	
Sunday, December 20, 2026	Christmas Joy Offering	supporting church leaders past, present and future
Sunday, January 3, 2027	Daily Change	

ALSO: Alternative Gifts opportunities at Christmastime

Church Dinners in 2026

Jan. 21 (lunch); March 11; May 13; Aug. 12 (E&M);
Sept.23 (Stewardship kickoff?); Oct. 28 (Stewardship celebration?)

Other Dates for 2026 Calendar

Sunday, January 25, 2026	Annual Congregational Meeting (Last Sunday in Jan. per MAO)
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	Presbytery meeting hosted by MRA/MPC
October	SVCN Walk for Your Neighbor
Wednesday, December 9, 2026	Cookies & Carols, Upper Anderson

updated 02-05-2026

ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET FOR 2026	FINAL FOR 2025
Sources of Funds		
004101 - Pledged Offering	\$439,350	\$421,179
004201 - Plate Offering	\$6,000	\$6,533
004202 - Unpledged Contributions	\$24,000	\$47,920
004207 - Interest from Money Market	\$3,059	\$7,147
004210 - Endowment Distributions	\$27,500	\$8,091
299999 - Funds from Prior Year- to be Designated by Session	\$25,000	\$0
Total Regular Sources of Funds	\$524,909	\$490,870
Uses of Funds		
General Administrative Expense		
005003 - ACS On- Demand Service (Software)	\$1,860	\$1,740
505100 - General Office Supplies	\$1,600	\$1,325
505328 - P.O. Box Rental	\$250	\$226
505330 - Postage	\$500	\$317
505351 - Printing Copy Machine	\$3,600	\$3,273
505352 - Copy Paper	\$900	\$799
505353 - Ink / toner- local Printers	\$200	\$153
505380 - Session Expense	\$150	\$129
505390 - Stationery	\$200	\$158
505450 - Gen. Administrative Miscellaneous	\$750	\$546
560800 - Web Site Maintenance	\$500	\$77
560500 - Communications-Constant Contact & Zoom	\$550	\$491
580320 - Internet and Telephone	\$2,500	\$2,430
Total General Administrative Expense	\$13,560	\$11,664
Personnel Committee		
505602 - Pastoral Visitor	\$12,144	\$12,724
505604 - Pastoral Visitor Expenses (Mileage/Phone)	\$4,500	\$3,349
505605 - Administrator Salary	\$30,780	\$29,905
505606 - Administrator Professional Development	\$300	\$0
505608 - Administrator-FICA/Med church match	\$2,355	\$2,288
505660 - Pastor Salary + Housing	\$95,500	\$93,250
505661 - Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$600	\$600
505662 - Pastor BOP Benefits	\$45,000	\$39,756

ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET FOR 2026	FINAL FOR 2025
505663 - Pastor Travel	\$3,800	\$2,903
505664 - Pastor Professional Development	\$5,600	\$5,241
505800 - Director of Music Salary	\$37,000	\$36,250
505801 - Director of Music BOP Benefits	\$3,500	\$3,344
505804 - Dir. of Music FICA/Med church match	\$2,831	\$2,773
Total Personnel Committee	\$243,909	\$232,383
Property/ Finance Committee		
505200 - Insurance	\$3,600	\$3,369
505720 - Stewardship Dinner	\$1,500	\$1,165
505730 - Miscellaneous Expenses & Adjustments	\$1,200	\$1,309
505731 - Vanco Processing cost	\$1,200	\$1,074
505900 - Payroll Services Expense	\$1,800	\$1,641
580001 - Gift to MCC appreciation of service	\$8,000	\$6,500
580060 - Office/Mtg Allen Lease	\$16,200	\$16,200
580110 - Piano Tuning (2 x per year)	\$330	\$165
580310 - Computer/Software/ Support	\$1,200	\$1,047
580900 - Office Cleaning & Other Facility Expenses	\$2,800	\$2,532
Total Finance Committee	\$37,830	\$35,002
Congregational Care Committee		
550100 - Congregational Care-Miscellaneous	\$300	\$940
550101 - Card Ministry	\$200	\$86
550xxx - CC - MRA Summer Staff	\$3,500	\$0
550103 - Meals	\$300	\$163
550114 - Designated from A.K. Smith Endow	\$0	\$0
Total Congregational Care Committee	\$4,300	\$1,189
Worship Committee		
510001 - Music Copying License	\$750	\$992
510002 - Memberships-Director of Music	\$300	\$115
510003 - Professional Development-Director of Music	\$1,000	\$648
510010 - Flowers and Ferns	\$300	\$276
510011 - Choir Retreats	\$100	\$0
510020 - Music Library	\$2,500	\$2,256

ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET FOR 2026	FINAL FOR 2025
510025 - Guest Preachers	\$1,500	\$650
510030 - Online Worship Support	\$1,000	\$957
510040 - Worship Supplies	\$500	\$336
510080 - Choir & Guest Musicians	\$500	\$400
Total Worship Committee	\$8,450	\$6,631
Fellowship Committee		
550000 - Beverages	\$200	\$31
550060 - Paper Goods	\$550	\$505
550080 - Dinners and Special Events	\$2,500	\$1,903
550xxx - Fellowship at Givens Highland Farms	\$500	
550090 - Sunday Fellowship	\$400	\$126
Total Fellowship Committee	\$4,150	\$2,565
Christian Education Committee		
005200 - Earth Care Ministry	\$0	\$0
560012 - Adult Ministry Materials (EOL in 2026)	\$1,200	\$191
560013 - Adult Ministry Mileage/Meals	\$200	\$363
560015 - Adult Ministry Circle & Other Materials	\$200	\$0
560016 - Adult Ministry College	\$0	\$0
560017 - Adult Ministry Honoraria	\$1,400	\$900
560019 - Adult Ministry Production	\$0	\$0
560023 - Children's Materials/Worship/Nursery	\$100	\$0
560026 - CE Fellowship	\$0	\$35
560027 - Adult Training -working ch. & youth	\$100	\$0
560028 - Adult Background Checks	\$150	\$17
Total Christian Education Committee	\$3,350	\$1,506
Evangelism/Membership Committee		
505160 - Church Directory-2026 for supplement	\$400	\$2,416
505161 - Online Directory	\$0	\$0
570510 - Membership Dinners	\$200	\$0
570530 - Name Boards, Badges & Sign-in Pads	\$400	\$0
Total Evangelism/Membership Committee	\$1,000	\$2,416

ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET FOR 2026	FINAL FOR 2025
Mission & Outreach Committee		
005100 - Presbytery - Unified Benev. Budget	\$20,130	\$18,300
005102 - Camp Grier	\$7,590	\$6,900
005103 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$7,590	\$6,900
005107 - FEH - Bethesda Clinic	\$7,590	\$6,900
005109 - Nkhoma Hospital Malawi E051772	\$7,590	\$6,900
005116 - Friends Empowering Haiti	\$7,590	\$6,900
005120 - Montreat Conf Center	\$11,550	\$10,500
005125 - Presbyterian Heritage Center	\$6,270	\$5,700
005135 - Warren Wilson College-Intl student	\$5,610	\$5,100
005142 - Outreach Dimmock Mission work	\$7,500	\$0
005150 - Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry	\$7,590	\$6,900
005151 - Bounty and Soul	\$7,590	\$6,900
005153 - Homeless/Resettlement	\$9,075	\$8,000
005161 - Special Focus Ministry	\$4,965	\$10,524
005162 - Hand in Hand of the SV	\$5,610	\$5,100
005163 - Budget Augmentation - Benevolences	\$0	\$0
005170 - Ministry of Hope - SCCW Chaplaincy	\$5,610	\$5,100
005171 - Black Mountain Counseling	\$7,590	\$6,900
005172 - Resources Resilience	\$5,610	\$5,100
005173 - Memory Care	\$5,940	\$5,400
005174 - Montana de Luz	\$7,590	\$6,900
005175 - Jose LaMont Jones Mission	\$0	\$1,725
005xxx - Open Table	\$2,000	
005176 - Doug Dicks Mission	\$7,590	\$6,900
xxxxxx - Additional Funds-Distribution TBD	\$11,000	\$0
005190 - Collins Early Education Center	\$7,590	\$6,900
Total Mission & Outreach-regular budget	\$184,360	\$156,449
Session Directed Mission Expenses		
505381 - Session Directed-Summer Usher Lunch Tickets		\$1,140
505381 - Session Directed-Texas Flood Relief		\$5,130
505381 - Session Directed-Craig Summey		\$2,400
Total Session Directed Mission	\$25,000	\$8,670
Total Mission & Outreach	\$209,360	\$165,119

ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET FOR 2026	FINAL FOR 2025
Total Uses of Funds	\$524,909	\$458,474
NET TOTAL (Sources of Funds-Uses of Funds)	\$0	\$32,396
OTHER GIFTS AND SOURCES OF FUNDS		
Income from CD's (Rolled over-no distribution taken)		\$5,051
Memorial Gifts Received (Transfer to Endowment)		\$505,900
Gifts Received beyond Pledges* (Special Offerings included)		\$47,183
(*Note: Most distributed during the same year)		
	YE 2025	YE 2024
Endowment Value	\$703,869	\$180,235

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Corise Gambrell

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

Session Liaison: Keith Grogg

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 are held in the Walkup Building, which has been a very accessible location. Attendance has been excellent with a very positive response to starting them at an earlier hour. A fellowship component for the programs continued with many thanks for the efforts of Grace Nichols and the Fellowship Committee, who brought sweets for each program.

Spring 2025 Montreat Wednesday Programs

February 5 – Mystery, Promise, and Passion: The Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. *Presenter: Mark Achtemeier*

February 12 – What is it like to live with Alzheimer’s Disease, especially in your fifties? *Presenter: Mary Donnelly*

February 19 – Counseling through a Crisis while in a Crisis: *Presenter: Ellen Begley, Black Mountain Counseling Center*

March 12 – The Promise: For All the Families of the Earth: *Presenter: Laura Hollandsworth Jernigan*

March 19 – The Great Co - Mission: *Presenter: Frank Dimmock*

April 23 – Hidden in Plain Sight: The Biblical Disability We Have Overlooked: *Presenter: Christina Tutterow*

April 30 – Church Speak: Communicating Accessibility, Inclusion, and Solidarity: *Presenter: Christina Tutterow*

Fall 2025 Montreat Wednesday Programs:

September 10 – Rebuilding Montreat: Strength in Community. *Presented by Montreat Town Manager Savannah Parrish and MRA President Richard DuBose*

September 17 – Reflecting on Historic Floods in Western North Carolina from 1791 to 2024. *Presented by PHC Director Anne Chesky. At the Presbyterian Heritage Center*

October 8 – Interactive Bible study: *Presented by Anne Apple*

October 15 – Montreat Landcare and Firewise: Small Individual Action Produces Significant Change. *Presented by George Sawyer and Nancy Midgette*

October 22 – Howard Thurmond and His Role as Author, Mystic, and a Leader for Social Justice. *Presented by Jody Welker*

November 5 – Exploring Joara: The Power of Archaeology and History in the Community. *Presented by David Moore*

November 12 – Praying with Three Medieval Women Mystics: Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, and Mary of Oignies. *Presented by Keith Grogg*

November 19 - Alternative Giving: Alternative Gifts through Local and Global Outreach. *Presented by the MPC Mission Committee*

Women’s Circle: Women’s Circle meetings are in the Walkup Building, an excellent accessible location. Corise Gambrell, Ginny Soll, and Sally Woodard coordinate the logistics of hosting. Circle members volunteer to teach the lessons. Attendance varies from 16 to 22. In addition to participating in MPC’s food ministry, Circle members provided valentine gifts for college students who are children of MPC members, candy for the Ministry of Hope’s fall festival at the Women’s Correctional Center, and cash gifts for the Collins Early Learning Center staff.

Earth Care: Subcommittee chairman Hal Demarest continued to participate in the WNC Presbytery Earth Care Committee and to provide excellent suggestions for earth care programs on Montreat Wednesdays.

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. Keith Grogg stays in touch with Montreat College activities and young adult organizations such as Hands and Feet of Asheville.

Children's Nursery: The pop-up nursery continues to be offered every Sunday but has had very limited usage. 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 plan has been a good example of economy of effort.

CE Committee Leadership for 2025: Corise Gambrell will serve as CE Chair in 2026.

**Respectfully submitted,
Corise Gambrell, Chair**

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Anne Stone

Members: Anne Stone, Kat Achtemeier, Linda Hobson, Peggy Williamson.

Food Preparations Subcommittee: Ginny Soll, Beth Fountain, Corise Gambrell, Amy Blake, Jean Norris, Wanda Neely, Martha Campbell, Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Jamie Bibee Lloyd, Sally Woodard, Christina Tutterow, Linda Hobson, Ellen Dean, Betty Douglas, Mark Achtemeier, Nancy Midgette, Eve Carter, Bob Peel, Lynn Gilliland, Joe and Mary Standaert, Ellen Henschen, Hal and Amanda Demarest, Anne Stone, Sharon Welker, Joan Deifell, Beth Casper

Carpenters Subcommittee: Mark and Kat Achtemeier, Eric Nichols, John Hinkle, Gill Campbell, Anne Seamon, Ashely Manson, Bryan McEntire, George Sawyer, Will Stone, Jody Welker

The Greeting Card Subcommittee Ministry was led by Linda Hobson.

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

General: The year 2025 was characterized by the care of the congregation when individuals were facing challenging times.

1. The Carpenters (a basic home assistance program) was led by Kat Achtemeier.
2. The Food Ministry was led by Kat Achtemeier.
3. Seasonal Remembrances were led by Peggy Williamson and Anne Stone
4. Specific Activities:
 - The Card Ministry send a total of 57 cards.
 - The Carpenters accomplished 12 missions.

- The Food Committee delivered 45 meals.
- Easter and Advent cards were sent to select members with mobility issues.
- The committee provided cookies for a memorial service of a committee member.
- The committee provided dinner for the 2025 MRA Summer Staff (approximately 120 staff). Recruited church members to provide food and to serve as table hosts to engage the staff.
- The committee explored possible transportation options for members living in retirement communities. This was found to be prohibitively expensive.
- Planning meetings were held in April and September and November.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Stone, Chair

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Steward: Keith Grogg

Members: Amy Blake, Martha Campbell, Joan Deifell, Amanda Demarest, Carol Eckard, Beth Frith, Cindy Morgan, Christina Tutterow, Brenda Whiteker. Ellen Dean generously sat in with us a few times at the committee's invitation. Our past members built a strong, sturdy foundation.

Committee purpose: E&M's purpose is the ministry of **inviting, greeting, welcoming,** and **incorporating** members into the Montreat Presbyterian Church family. Evangelism means spreading the good news. As for membership, I Corinthians is our starting point: *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"* (I Cor 12:12, 27). To join one of the several membership rolls of Montreat Presbyterian Church is not only to become part of the life and ministry of a PC(USA) congregation, but to be a part of the worldwide body of Christ and the Church Universal.

When someone joins an MPC roll, the session invites them to share a word with us on what led them to the desire to join. Almost invariably, the warm welcome and embrace of the church as they walked into worship is at the top of the list. We oversee name tags and friendship pads on Sunday mornings and host events for new and prospective members. Making our church life as accessible as possible for as many as possible is our constant commitment.

While MPC's resident members come from a radius of more than 20 miles as the crow flies (including Asheville, Black Mountain, Fairview, Lake Lure, Montreat, and Swannanoa), we also have seasonal residents who are often far from Western NC. Our community includes many clergy who are, technically, members of a presbytery rather than a congregation, and many supporting members whose commitment is shared with other churches. Our

all-volunteer technical crew do an amazing job of bringing our congregational worship into homes across the country and the world, and our online prayer services continue to be joined by a considerable number of non-members, some quite distant. Most of our Montreat Wednesday offerings will be viewable via our website this year. In short, MPC is now both in-person and online.

New members are having serious and heartfelt conversations with the pastor about their commitment to being part of MPC. For a significant number, membership is not so much defined by status as made real in dedication. It is by no means uncommon that within couples, one wishes to join the active roll, one wishes to join a different one, and neither wants to join until both are ready to commit to the same roll. For these reasons, the numeric and spiritual growth in our congregation can be known and experienced more than measured by numbers and charts.

It has been my great joy to steward this committee through a transitional year, soliciting the input of members and others in regard to our purpose, mission, and ministries. The season of having the committee “stewarded” by a staff member was fruitful, but now it’s time again for real leadership, and I am delighted that Jane Alexander and Ginny Soll have felt the call to lead us forward.

Gratefully,
Keith Grogg

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Grace Nichols

Session Liaison: Ginny Soll.

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 requested the event, provides its 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.
- Set up 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:

- Provided refreshments for Christian Education’s Montreat Wednesday programs throughout the year. Julie and jDub Simpson personally contributed Dynamite Coffee for each function.
- Partnered with the Montreat Conference Center (“MPC”) on April 29, to cohost the meeting of Western North Carolina Presbytery held in Anderson Auditorium. Aletha Roper, Brenda Whiteker, Linda Hobson, and Grace Nichols planned and recruited 27 church volunteers to provide breakfast/brunch food for approximately 140 delegates attending the morning meeting.
- Coffee Fellowship before and after church services were maintained by Peggy Ann Frank.
- Memorial services and receptions: Our committee hosted a reception in Upper Anderson after memorial services for three congregation members.
 - Brad Hestir July 19
 - Margaret Rada August 3
 - Jack Sadler August 15
 - Ellen Ramsey December 29
- Committee members planned and hosted six congregational covered dish meals:

January 15, dinner	August 13, dinner
February 26, lunch	October 1, Stewardship Committee program
May 14, dinner	October 29, dinner
- December 10—MPC co-hosted, along with Montreat Conference Center, the fourth annual “Carols and Cookies” in Upper Anderson. Vivian Hare and Keith Grogg led the singing of carols. Ginny Soll hosted the refreshment tables. Fellowship provided cookies and hot beverages. Persons in attendance—55.

Contributors (35) to the work of the Fellowship Committee during 2025:

Kat Achtemeier	Linda Hobson
Elizabeth Ayscue	Wanda Neely
Amy Blake	Grace and Eric Nichols
Martha Campbell	Jean Norris
Beth Casper	Aletha Roper
Dan and Ellen Dean	Gayle and George Sawyer
Joan Deifell	Anne Seaman
Betty Douglas	Julie and jDub Simpson
Carol Eckard	Ginny Soll
Beth Fountain	Mary Standaert
Peggy Ann Frank	Anne Stone
Beth Frith	Sharon and Jody Welker
Corise Gambrell	Brenda Whiteker
Lynn Gilliland	Peggy Williamson
Ellen Henschen	Sally Woodard

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

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Nichols, Chair

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Dan Dean

Members: Gill Campbell, Dan Dean (Chair), Beth Frith, Lynn Gilliland (Treasurer), Keith Grogg (Pastor), Jim Henderson (Past Moderator), Linda Hobson, Henry Neale, Will Stone, Perrin Wright.

In April, 2025, the committee lost one of its longest-serving, most valuable and respected members upon the death of Jack Sadler. His friendship, wisdom, intellect and calm, kind, thoughtful demeanor will be greatly missed by the committee, the church and indeed by anyone who ever had any contact with him.

Review of Committee Activity:

1. The Committee met early in the year and adopted a Program of Work for the year, 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 year-to-date 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. In fact, even though the approved 2025 budget projected a deficit of approximately \$23,000 for the year, through the generosity of church members and supporters, as well as the frugal management of expenses, at year end there was a sizable surplus!
3. Other activities of the Committee throughout the year included the following:
 - 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. Received reports at each meeting regarding the church's endowment fund. Thanks to a very generous gift received during

- 2025 from the estate of a deceased member, at year end the endowment fund had grown to approximately \$700,000.00.
- c. Received regular updates and reports on the activities of the Legacy Subcommittee, led by Jim Henderson, which throughout the year publicized the church's endowment fund and encouraged gifts to it, especially legacy/estate gifts.
 - d. Appointed a subcommittee, chaired by Beth Frith, to review 2024 financial activities and procedures.
 - e. Appointed Will Stone to review the church's insurance coverages. Will did a very thorough review, at the end of which he gave a detailed report and recommended no changes to the current coverage. The committee agreed and made no changes.
 - f. Approved Sharon Welker as leader of the Fall Stewardship Program. Sharon and her team conducted a highly successful campaign, for which the committee and entire church are very grateful.
 - g. With the excellent expertise and assistance of Lynn Gilliland, Church Treasurer, the committee prepared and recommended to Session a balanced 2026 Church Budget. Because of the wonderful generosity of church members, the budget includes increases in compensation to staff, meets all monetary requests of the administration and program committees, and provides an increase in the amount allocated to the Mission and Outreach Committee.

As in past years, the committee expresses its sincere and immense gratitude to Treasurer Lynn Gilliland for her diligence, hard work and expertise in managing the financial affairs of the church throughout the year, for her excellent financial statements and informative reports to the committee and Session, and for her overall commitment and devotion to Montreat Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Dean

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair: Skeet Ayscue

Members: Mary Jo Clark, William Brown, Ann Dupre Rogers, Nancy Midgette, Linda Hopson, Eric Nichols, Beth Fountain, Martha Campbell, Susan Haws, George Sawyer

Session Liaison: George Sawyer

2025 was a year full of challenges and opportunities for the Montreat Presbyterian Church Mission and Outreach (M & O) Committee. With a budget of \$157,000, the M & O Committee sought to be good stewards of those funds and to continue to respond to the needs of the community still reeling from Hurricane Helene. In being good stewards, a member of the committee reviewed and reported on the organizations whose funding reoccurs in our budget each year. One or two organizations were reviewed most months. Upon review, we discovered that Jose LaMont Jones was no longer in the mission field, having retired. Session approved moving funds designated for Jones mission to the Special Focus Ministry Fund. With new requests for funding coming in throughout the year, we were able to address some pressing needs in our community.

With those funds, we were able to assist Open Table with the purchase of a dishwasher, and host Actionnel Fleurisma from Haiti. Actionnel represents OFCB, a ministry in Haiti that was founded in 1995. Montreat Presbyterian Church has had a significant history of support for this program and over 30 members and friends have been on mission trips there. We were also able to co-sponsor an Immigration Presentation in September, contribute to WPNC tool purchase project, purchase critical software and reading material for Owen Middle School, and support Full Circle Forestry Collective that provides free firewood from trees cut in the Helene cleanup. In addition, we were able to send bonus funds to Manna Food Bank, Bounty and Soul fresh food distribution, the Ministry of Hope at the Women's prison, Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry heating fund, and Montaña de Luz in Honduras.

Montreat Presbyterian Church commissioned Aletha Roper and Skeet Ayscue as representatives to Montaña de Luz for a mission trip in June. An anonymous church donor provided funds for the trip fees, and the entire church community contributed enough HIV test kits to fill three tubs. The funds and test kits helped Montaña de Luz in overcoming the loss of USAID funding.

The Alternative Gifts Project this year included Swannanoa Community Together, Hand in Hand of the Swannanoa Valey, Frank Dimmock's mission efforts in South Sudan, and Open Table. Each organization received \$2,000 or more.

The rest of the 2025 budget was dutifully distributed each quarter by Treasurer, Lynn Gilliland, who works closely with the M & O Committee on a regular basis. She not only keeps the budget payments straight, but she also passes along mission opportunities that she discovers during the year.

Session granted an approximately 10% increase in the Mission Budget for 2026. We have added Frank Dimmock as a line item to advance his work in South Sudan. We have also added Open Table as a line item in the 2026 budget.

During the 2025 year, Nancy Midgette and Linda Hopson, two long-time, faithful members of the M & O Committee, decided to retire from their duties on this committee.

Respectfully submitted, Skeet Ayscue, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair: Lynn Gilliland

Members: Ellen Henschen, Jim Henderson, and Keith Grogg (Head of Staff, ex-officio)

Montreat Presbyterian Church continued to be blessed in 2025 by its incredibly talented and dedicated staff. These four, both individually and collectively, are a team that leads and inspires our work every day.

Our staff members are:

- Keith Grogg, Pastor and Head of Staff
- Vivian Hare, Director of Music
- Bonnie Shoemaker, Office Administrator
- Lynn Bledsoe, Pastoral Visitor

Together, these professionals coordinate the worship and work of our congregation year-round. And, while we meet with Montreat Conference Center for worship during the summer, our office remains open, and the church continues to work at full speed.

There is little work for the Personnel Committee to do when there is a highly functioning team in place! Our main act of business for the year was to review and recommend salary changes to the Session for 2026. We felt it important to provide increases for each staff member in recognition of their excellent service in 2025. In addition, the committee provided a year-end bonus as an added thank you for a job well done.

A couple of special notes for the year. On March 9, 2025, we celebrated with Keith the completion of his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. Joining us in worship was the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence from Columbia Seminary, who had served as Keith's dissertation advisor. A reception was held following worship. Our congratulations to Keith on this milestone, which has enriched his preaching and our worship.

Keith also continued to produce the Tuesday Evening Prayer Service each week which has developed a following beyond our MPC family.

Special congratulations to MPC director of music Vivian Hare who achieved a major milestone in 2025. A choral work Vivian originally composed as a children's anthem for Palm Sunday was selected for publication by the prestigious Choristers Guild. Having been championed by noted composer Katie Houts, who assisted in the arrangement, not only was the piece chosen for publication, but it was one of fourteen "featured publications" in Choristers Guild's Spring 2026 releases. It is now available through all the major church music suppliers such as J.W. Pepper, which named it to their elevated "Editor's Choice" listings. This accomplishment reflects on Vivian's talents which we get to experience every week in worship and other settings.

Through the dedication and hard work of our Office Administrator, Bonnie Shoemaker, a new pictorial directory for MPC was published in the Spring of 2025. It takes patience and persistence to put together this kind of publication in-house while completing all the other jobs Bonnie does to keep our church office running smoothly. Thank you, Bonnie, for all you do!

Pastoral Visitor Lynn Bledsoe logged many visits and miles during 2025 while continuing to deal with the severe damage to part of her home from Hurricane Helene. We are grateful to have her as part of our church team. Lynn and her husband, Bill Ryan, felt blessed to receive funds from the PCUSA Joy Gift Offering to help cover the extensive repairs still going on. They were featured as part of the Joy Gift Offering information in December. We are grateful to Lynn for her ongoing service to our church family.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Lisa Rome

Members: Jane Alexander, Ellen Dean, Eric Nichols, Milt Bigger, Ginny Soll, and Vivian Hare as music director and Keith Grogg as pastor, and me as Chair.

I rejoice in continuing in my role as Chair of the Worship & Music Committee (WMC) and am grateful to each member of the WMC; I love how each member contributes in their own way, adding their own special touch to our committee. We enjoy meeting together and we continue to embrace ending our meetings with the singing of *The Doxology*.

The WMC functions as a sounding board for the pastor and music director, offering support and feedback for thoughts and ideas regarding worship and music within the church. We are also responsible for finding people to fill roles to take care of items for worship, such as ushers, liturgists, and the setup of special items for worship, including paraments, communion table items, candles and poinsettias during Advent/Christmas, and flowers at Easter.

While worship services at MPC often seem to flow easily and are filled with much spirituality, there is a lot of planning, preparation, practice, and possibly some sleeplessness too, that goes on behind every worship service. (And then the Spirit intervenes and things go differently than planned and practiced!) The success of worship depends on so many beyond the WMC members listed above. I am ever thankful for all of you as well -- for liturgists, for the Communion preparation team, for worship setup crews, for liturgical dancer(s), for advent candle lighters, for scripture readers, for the live stream team, for ushers, for greeters, for choir members, for guest musicians – including instrumentalists on flute, bells, guitar, brass, dulcimers, singers, and an amazing and growing harp circle, for guest preachers, and for worshipers.

As I review WMC minutes from the past year and reflect on our discussions, I am struck by the things that make worship at MPC something special. Foremost are the people and the music. There is Keith's thought-filled preaching and his spirit-filled leadership and Vivian's marvelous music and music leadership. This year has also included additional scripture readers, additional singing of hymns and special Taizé music, and contributions from Communion co-officiants from amongst our MPC family. These have all enhanced our worship experiences.

Adding to meaningful worship at MPC are many special services including quarterly Taizé services, an intimate Maundy Thursday service with us all seated around tables in the form of a cross in Upper Anderson, and the series of four Advent services -- Hanging of the Greenery, Service of Hope & Remembrance, Service of Lessons & Carols, and Service of the Greater Antiphons.

I'm also aware of flexibility within our MPC family. We may be forced to move about to various spaces or to adjust to an occasional different worship time, or to share in worship during the summer with the wider Montreat Conference and Black Mountain communities, but we go with the flow and wherever or whenever we are gathered, worship still occurs.

That also relates to the idea of "simplicity" that we often come back to in our worship discussions within the WMC. We continually recognize that we don't need to have a lot of "stuff" to make worship happen at MPC. All we need is God and us. May the blessings of such worship continue into 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Rome