



PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning!

He will be Lord at the end!

Even now, He is Lord! (From A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA)

In the hearing of this good news, God calls us as individuals and as a church to live, in the pattern of Jesus Christ, a life wholly committed to God and wholly committed to our fellow human beings.

In response to this call, we are committed to:

1. The worship and praise of God.
2. Life together as sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ, practicing the disciplines of prayer and the study of the Bible and our Christian heritage.
3. Telling the good news about Jesus Christ to all people, inviting them to come and be part of our common life.
4. The giving of self and resources to the needs of our neighbors through promoting self-help, social justice, and community cooperation.

We believe this statement is a true reflection of our present task as the church of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge the necessity for continuing evaluation in this changing society.

Above is the **Statement of Purpose** which was adopted by your session many years ago. During each session meeting in 2015, as in the year before, we read this statement along with **The Great Ends of the Church** after preparing our hearts with a devotion. This helps your session to remain focused on our calling as a church. This congregation has members who are faithful and committed in their service to Jesus Christ in our community and world. Much has been accomplished this past year. I hope this annual report shows how this congregation has kept its commitment for the four areas stated above.

Glory be to God in the highest!

Rev. Nath Briley

Pickens Presbyterian Church Membership

As of December 31, 2015, we had the following on the membership role:

Active: 270
Baptized: 21
Affiliate: 2
Total: 293

Baptisms:

Kinley Grace Corwin June 14, 2015

Transferred to the Church Triumphant:

Lois Griggs January 25, 2015
Bill Taylor March 28, 2015
Susan Acker August 4, 2015
Wil Simmons August 9, 2015
Jeanne Hagood September 11, 2015

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds/Cemetery Committees

Overall, 2015 was a relatively quiet year for Buildings and Grounds. In 2014, a committee was established to replace the pew cushions in the sanctuary. The order was placed and in September of this year the new cushions were in place and are beautiful. Next project is to decide what to do about the shutters in the sanctuary. A sub-committee has been formed to address this. Other than routine replacement of light bulbs, another area of the sanctuary that bears attention is the ceiling. There are several cracks in the ceiling. Some were repaired in past years but new and old ones have re-appeared and will need to be fixed.

The maintenance of the buildings has gone well. After a rocky start, the janitorial crew and B&G got on the same page and overall cleanliness is good.

The elevator has been maintained and passed the State inspection. The Pickens Fire Inspector did an inspection of the church and although we passed, there were 4 failures. These have been corrected. We had one work day, and due to the low turnout some of our potential projects could not be completed.

The Bradford pear tree outside of ASH on the Main St. side of the church had to be removed. Its roots had undermined the sidewalks and raised them up above

the others. Two people had tripped and fell because of this. Also, it was determined that the tree was in bad condition and could eventually fall. So, it was cut down and the stump removed. We have contacted a concrete person who will fix the sidewalks.

We almost made it through the year in financially good shape in our budget until November. Then the air conditioning unit that supplies the Education Building went out and had to be replaced. Also, the ASH kitchen stove had to be repaired at a cost of over \$1,000.00.

During heavy rains, water has leaked into the hall by the elevator. We had new gutters and drain pipes installed outside of the wall by the elevator and hope that this will alleviate the problem.

Other than routine maintenance, other areas that will be in need of attention/replacement are: Gutters and downspouts; roofs; stove in ASH; outside air conditioners – some are over 25 years old. What to do with shutters in the sanctuary.

Dennis C. Schwab – Chair

Robert Simms – Co-Chair

Cemetery Committee

The Carey family plot was reworked by Bill Jones, of Gillespie Granite and Marble, of Anderson. He has done work at the church in the past. A new plastic liner and gravel surface was installed at a cost of approximately \$2000. Also Chil Francis' plot was reworked at her request while they were on site. The Carey family had previously donated \$5000 to the church for any work that needed to be taken care of in the cemetery. The Building and Grounds Committee decided to have their plot upgraded.

The only burial in the church's cemetery 2015 was Susan Acker. No new requests for plots have been received by the committee. Plenty are still available.

Roger Gettys – Cemetery Committee

Child Development Center Committee

This has been another rewarding year for the Child Development Center. We have a staff of 32 ladies that offer the children outstanding care, through their commitment to Christ; the children are in a setting each day that allows each child to develop socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually with the central focus remaining on the individual child.

The Child Development Center now has a total of 21 teachers who have earned an Early Childhood Credential through Tri-County Technical College. Out of these 20 teachers, 7 teachers have their 2 year Associate Degree in Early Childhood, and Ms. Theresa has her 4 year Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

Our 2015 ABC inspection was very successful. The CDC score average was 97%, which qualifies the center as a B+ center. We scored high enough to be NAEYC (National accredited) center, however we are not due to the low child to staff ratios that NAEYC requires. For instance, the infant room now is 1staff to 5 children. NAEYC requirement is 1:3. We also participated in a Pilot Program through ABC, to help our center prepare for the upcoming changes that the ABC program will be implementing within the next year.

The Child Development Center's 3 annual fundraisers have been beneficial this year; the Golf tournament, Fall Festival and with the Pancake Breakfast totaled \$14,033.00!

Enrollment has been good for 2015, especially during the last quarter. Enrollment has ranged from 119 to 130 this past year. We have served 43 children that received vouchers during 2014. Some of those children were enrolled for 1 to 2 weeks and others may stay have for 2 years. At this time, we serve 21 children with ABC vouchers. Thankfully, we meet the requirements to receive the ABC Vouchers, which pays tuition for children who have parents going back to school to learn a new trade or for children in foster care. In 2015, the CDC received \$129,983.00 in tuition from the state. First Steps has allowed the CDC to be a part of a grant that they received in 2015. Parents that do not qualify for ABC vouchers, but are low income qualify for this program. We have 5 children that are receiving funds from this program.

Please check out the Child Development Center's website- ppcchilddevelopmentcenter.org to see all the great things that are going on in the center.

Pickens Presbyterian Church Child Development Center continues to seek to be a faithful ministry that gives God the glory and serves the people of this community.

Karen Durham – CDC Director
Ralph Perkins – Chair

Christian Education Committee

CE established the following goals for 2015. 1) Develop a transition for youth leadership for 2015. 2) Challenge our teachers, students and entire congregation in their thinking, beliefs, and understandings of the church, God, and the

Christian life. 3) Help provide/facilitate meaningful discussion through our classes that will generate self-awareness and introspection.

Early in the year, the CE committee continued to collect responses to the RECHARGE survey, which began in 2014. In addition, the CE committee requested a round-table discussion for parents of children and youth and Session members, which was held in July and well attended. The information received at the round-table discussion was used during our planning for CE activities, class, and events throughout the year.

Nursery through toddler aged children were cared for on Sunday mornings during Sunday school and church by members of our paid staff, Ashley Erickson Riley and Kristin Garrett Wilkie. Each Sunday a volunteer served with Children's Church for preschool children in the Nursery-Toddler rooms. Worship bags, including parts of worship guides, crayons, coloring books, and other quiet activities, for use during worship were made available on Sunday mornings, in addition to the children's bulletins.

The Confirmation Class of 2015, Tori Cole and Hamp Roper, were confirmed by Session in April and celebrated on Confirmation Sunday, May 3, 2015. The Confirmation Class of 2016 began meeting in the fall of 2015 on Wednesday evenings. Gracie Dellinger, Maddie Cole, and Grayson Lamb are the eighth graders participating in this class. This class will continue to meet through the spring of 2016 with their leaders, Rev. Nath Briley and Jessica Varney, mentors, who were selected from active Elders, and various church members as guest teachers.

Our church hosted a week-long summer Vacation Bible School for children in our church, Child Development Center, and community. Jennifer Roper and Jessica Haines served as Co-Chairs. The theme was Cokesbury's G-Force: God's Love in Action. A closing program was held on Friday evening and Amy Briley and Meg Cole were announced as Co-Chairs for VBS 2016. The Sunday after VBS concluded, the children and youth led morning worship with prayers, scripture, and songs continuing the VBS theme. The children's choir sang VBS songs and our VBS Bible storytelling team offered the Children's Moment.

Sunday school classes were offered throughout the year. CE encouraged adult classes to choose specific studies for the season of Lent and Advent, which would provide new Sunday school attendees with opportunities to join and current attendees the opportunity to move between classes without having to stop or start in the middle of a study. Five adult classes were offered in the Spring: The ASHERS Class, The Fellowship Class, The Hope Class, The Seekers Class, and the class meeting in The Carmical room. Children in Preschool-2nd Grade were taught by Meg Cole, Dianna Morris, and Carol Owens. Third-Fifth Grade was taught by Tina LaFoy. The Junior High Youth class was taught by John Blackwood. Senior High Youth class was taught by Chad Roper, Jessica Haines, and Jessica Varney. During the summer an intergenerational Sunday school class was offered in All Saints' Hall for children, youth, and adults. Various Veggie Tales movies were shown, each focusing on a scripture and biblical lesson. A

majority of our adult Sunday school classes chose to continue to meet during the summer. The Worship Education Class was taught by Amy Briley and was attended by Ross Corn, Kolton Wilkie, and Cameron White. These children were presented with a Bible on Rally Day. Our committee celebrated Rally Day on September 13th and presented the upcoming Christian Education opportunities for all ages. Children and youth led worship on Rally Day and Jessica Varney and Carole Thomas presented the sermon. In the Fall, five adult classes were offered: the ASHers Class, The Fellowship Class, the Logos Class (the name chosen by the Carmical room class), the Seekers class, and the RECHARGE Class. The Hope Class chose to discontinue meeting. The newly-formed RECHARGE class was specifically aimed at those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. In the fall, Preschool-2nd Grade was taught by Meg Cole, Dianna Morris, and Carol Owens. Third-Fifth Grade was taught by Holly Harden and Liz Stokes. The Junior High Youth class was taught by John Blackwood and David Chamlee. Senior High Youth class was taught by a rotation of teachers: Jo Anne Gessell, Robin Giddings, Bill Ranson, Ken Roper, and Matt Varney.

Through much discernment, the CE committee selected new youth leadership for the Junior and Senior High youth, as Ginger Chastain, Debbie Carmical, and Liza Holder announced they were ready to step down from those positions following the summer conferences. Senior High leaders, Jessica Haines and Emily Harper, and Junior High leaders, Tina La Foy and Amanda Stokes, stepped into the roles in the fall. The transition between the youth leaders was very smooth and the youth expressed gratitude to their leaders and welcomed the new advisors with enthusiasm.

The Youth participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring in February, collecting \$563 and 147 food items for the church food pantry, and celebrated with Super Bowl parties that evening. Youth Sunday on February 22, 2015, themed "Rooted and Reaching," offered the Junior and Senior High Youth the opportunity to lead worship. Kristen Blackwood, Adam Chastain, and Noah Morris delivered senior sermons. Before their graduation from high school, all high school seniors who were members of the church were presented a personalized Bible on Senior Sunday, May 31, 2015, and the congregation celebrated with them during a reception after worship. The youth concluded the school year with a Senior High pool party at the Blackwood's and a Junior High outing to SkyZone Trampoline Park in May. In July, our senior high youth and their leaders, Debbie Carmical and Liza Holder, and upcoming Youth Leader, Emily Harper, spent a week at the Senior High Montreat Conference, "This is Our Story." Junior High Youth participated in the Montreat Middle School Conference at Maryville College, "Find and Seek," with Ginger Chastain and Jessica Varney. During the summer of 2015, plans were made for a Youth Mission Trip in the summer of 2016. Eight youth expressed interest in the trip and space for 10 participants was reserved at CROSS Missions of Myers Park Presbyterian Church for July 31-August 5, 2016. A Cookie and Milk social was attended by the youth and their new advisors in August, where the youth talked about their hopes for the year. The youth kicked-off the school year with a Parent-Youth dinner with their Senior High leaders,

Jessica Haines and Emily Harper, and Junior High leaders, Tina La Foy and Amanda Stokes, at the home of Richard and Jennie Harper. Youth continued to meet each Sunday evening with our DCE and their youth advisors and enjoyed lessons from the “Re:form” DVD curriculum. The youth have enjoyed preparing meals when Family Promise guests are housed at the church. Several fundraisers were held by the youth throughout the year to assist with the summer conferences and local service projects. Youth bought Christmas gifts for those in need by buying gifts for two families from the Child Development Center and The Santa Shoppe at the Dream Center of Pickens County. Christmas parties for junior highs and senior highs were enjoyed at the homes of Craig and Teri Lilland and David and Chandra Thrift, respectively.

In the spring, we had a Wonderful Wednesday Lenten Soup Series, which included a light meal and lessons. Nursery was led by Ginger Chastain, Children were led by Holly Harden, and Youth were led by Jo Anne Gessell. The youth completed a mural on the wall of the Youth hallway in the Education Building based on their Lenten study of Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus. The adult education opportunity focused on Presbyterian beliefs. Each week a guest speaker addressed a particular aspect of Presbyterian beliefs: “Election and Predestination” by The Rev. Dr. Allen McSween, “Creeds and Confessions” by The Rev. Tom Malone, “Sacraments” by The Rev. Mary Morrison, “Scripture” by The Rev. Deborah Foster and “Baptism” by The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tedder. In the fall, CE took a “backseat” to WW planning, and Evangelism and membership planned an adult series based on finding God in popular music. CE still provided programming for children and youth. Ashley Riley, our paid nursery staff, provided care for toddlers and preschoolers, Holly Harden led the children, and Ginger Chastain led the youth.

In 2015, we held special events for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. On the Easter Sunday, an Easter Egg Hunt was held at the church immediately following worship. A Halloween Costume Party on the Wednesday before Halloween during Wonderful Wednesday was enjoyed by many. For Advent, CE participated in the Advent Festival and Jessica Varney published the annual Advent Devotional Booklet. On Christmas Eve, a pageant, presented by the children and youth, shared the story of the birth of Jesus during the Early Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm. Twenty-two children and youth participated in the Christmas pageant! The Advent season came to a close with the second-annual Christmas Lights Outing on the Sunday before Christmas, organized by Rev. Nath and Amy Briley and Chad and Jennifer Roper.

Jessica Haines, Chair

Matthew Varney, Co-Chair

Jessica Varney, Director of Christian Education

Church Office and Administration Committee

I would like to thank the staff for their efforts in carrying out the activities of Pickens Presbyterian Church this past year; also for their advice and assistance in helping me to carry out the issues that are the responsibility of the Office and Administration Committee.

The Session continues to support our Pastor's work to complete his Doctor of Ministry program through the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. 2015 was the third year that Pickens Presbyterian Church has supported Nath in this program. He is embarking on the fourth year of studies with the support of the Session and the congregation. The financial support for the Doctor of Ministry in 2016 is budgeted at \$3,000. There are no changes in the Terms of Call proposed for 2016; however a three per cent inflationary increase was added to the Professional Expense line item.

In an effort to improve communications with the congregation, highlights of Session actions were added to the newsletter. We continue to review ways to effectively communicate with the congregation.

Donna Nabors retired as church organist in 2015. Her 40 plus years of service to Pickens Presbyterian Church were celebrated on June 7, and she was granted the honorary title of Organist Emeritus. Carla Padgett was selected as the new organist and we welcomed Carla to the Pickens Presbyterian Church staff.

Mackenzie Owens resigned in 2015. Cyndi Banks is serving as the Administrative Assistant on an interim basis while the Staff Time and Talent Task Force and the Session review the desirable permanent staffing levels.

In 2015, a Staff Time and Talent Task Force was formed by the Session to review the activities that Pickens Presbyterian Church performs to carry out the church's ministry. In an effort to be good stewards of the church's resources, the Task Force reviewed the staff time and talent available to perform those activities. The Task Force was comprised of a representative from committees of the church that were deemed to have the most impact on the church staff. These Committees were: Office and Administration, Worship, Buildings and Grounds, Christian Education and Mission and Outreach. The Pastor served as a resource to the Task Force. An Interim Report from the Task Force was presented to the Session late in 2015.

I would like to thank the members of the congregation who helped in the office with special tasks and who filled in when we were short-staffed. I would also like to thank those members who have served to assist with special projects that Office and Administration had to deal with this year, especially the Insurance Review Committee and the Time and Talent Task Force.

Larry Jennings, Chair

Congregational Care Committee

The year of 2015 was a very busy year for PPC and therefore for Congregational Care. Below are some of the things we either participated in or were responsible for the event. I would like to take this time to personally thank each and every one who helped us to make this past year the success it was.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

There is a lot of talent and time shown in our shawl ministry. We distributed 10 during this year to our sick, shut-ins, and graduating seniors. We started this in 2008 and year-to-date have given a total of 152.

CARE GIVERS

Our Care Givers group meets weekly and by studying, sharing, and supporting where needed, it continues to be a valuable asset to our church.

ABUNDENT LIVING

This activity is coordinated through Baptist Easley for and with local churches. We have 3 members of our church participating – Mary Gaillard, Katherine Gitto, and Tina LaFoy. These three attends meetings where they receive updates on community needs, medical help/needs, and illnesses such as diabetes, mental health, etc. bringing this information back to us through giving our congregation the opportunity to have their blood pressure or cholesterol checked, making presentations on topics such as Healthy Nutrition, etc. Healthy Nutrition was shared during our past Wonderful Wednesday programs by Katherine Gitto and was both informative and enjoyed by everyone attending. This group of ladies has won 5 awards for their efforts and these are hanging on the wall near Nath's office. Please make an effort to see them.

CIRCLES

We continued to have 2 circles, one meeting the first Tuesday of each month (day Sarah Emily Circle) and one meeting the first Monday of each month (night Eve Circle). One of the major efforts the circles do is give a quarterly monetary amount of \$100 each to Thornwell, Mary's House, PPC Food Pantry and our PPC CDC. Also, this year, we began making new Chrismons for our Sanctuary Christmas Tree.

MAINTAINING A CRISIS/CELEBRATION BOOK

This is a wonderful, but time consuming effort shared by many members of our congregation. Volunteer team captains and their team members plan, prepare, and deliver meals for those in need. This entails not only members who are sick or shut-ins, those having surgery, etc. but also covers funerals, receptions, etc.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

When the decision is made to have Wonderful Wednesdays, CC steps up and does the planning for all the meals including set-up and clean-up.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Congregational Care is also responsible for preparing meals for special occasions such as Lent, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Advent and Christmas. These events

allow our congregation to enjoy much fellowship with each other and aids in the development of closer friendships as a church family.

Kay Tilley - Chair

Evangelism and Membership Committee

This committee decided to study Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese. The questions posed in this book were designed to motivate individuals and a congregation to share their faith and ask how God can use us. As a result a prayer group was started and it meets each Sunday at 9:30 am. All members of the church were extended an invitation to join any Sunday they felt let to do so. Also a "Meet the Church" class was scheduled as needed teach more about Pickens Presbyterian Church and what it means to be a Presbyterian.

In an effort to encourage visitors to join PPC guest cards were used to initiate meetings with people who had expressed interest in joining. A dinner was planned and these people were invited, along with session members who were seated at each table to answer questions and share their faith journeys with guests. Packets were prepared for individuals and couples with more information about PPC programs and opportunities for worship. One new member joined the church in 2015.

The Wonderful Wednesday series no longer had a committee to take leadership. The E&M committee felt the need for this series to continue and took over this worship opportunity with the help of the Congregational Care and Christian Education committees. Each Wednesday night a catered meal was served and a program of music that inspired the faith journey of PPC members was presented.

The E&M members participated in the Advent Festival and other special events of the church. They also served as greeters prior to worship services to recognize visitors and welcome them. The session members were also assigned lists of names of PPC members and friends of the church to shepherd throughout the year.

The church directory was updated and the E&M bulletin board was kept up-to-date with activities of the church and its members and friends. Local committee involvement included participation in prayer groups for the City of Pickens organized by Marvin Short. The annual MLK march was held along with Griffin Ebenezer Baptist Church. And the bread ministry was continued through the year.

Mary Sue Day – Chair

Financial Oversight Committee

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2016 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

	Expenditures <u>2013</u>	Expenditures <u>2014</u>	Expenditures <u>2015</u>	Budget <u>2016</u>
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 34,744	\$ 51,469	\$ 44,155	\$ 50,453
Christian Education ¹	\$ 8,170	\$ 6,486	\$ 10,272 ¹	\$ 11,500
Mission and Outreach ¹	\$ 31,383	\$ 30,752	\$ 27,332 ¹	\$ 31,100
Congregational Care ¹	\$ 547	\$ 1,985	\$ 1,659 ¹	\$ 3,550
Membership	\$ 184	\$ 186	\$ 391	\$ 450
Office & Administration	\$ 207,973	\$ 196,249	\$ 200,499	\$ 204,343
Stewardship	\$ 52	\$ 299	\$ 19	\$ 525
Financial Oversight	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Info Technology	\$ -	\$ 1,024	\$ 818	\$ 900
Worship	\$ 1,072	\$ 2,923	\$ 1,351	\$ 2,550
TOTALS	\$ 284,125	\$ 291,373	\$ 286,497	\$ 305,371
INCOME FOR 2015				% of Estimate²
Pledges			\$ 229,111	101%
Other Weekly Contributions			\$ 51,146	124%
Other Revenues Received (loose offerings, gifts, interest, etc.)			\$ 3,805	
TOTAL REVENUES FOR 2015			\$ 284,062	
REVENUES – EXPENSES FOR 2015			\$ (2,434)	
INCOME PROJECTION FOR 2016				
Pledges Income Projection			\$ 222,352	
Other contributions			\$ 57,500	
Other Income			\$ 19,715	
TOTAL REVENUE PROJECTED FOR 2015			\$ 299,567	
Budget – Projected Revenue			\$ (5,804)	

1 – The expenditures for these committees are net expenses. Gifts and contributions to youth programs, family promise, Sunday School, Wonderful Wednesdays, specified gift, etc. are not estimated in the budget income, but are included as an expense credit. These gifts and contributions help reduce some budget expenses and add to (increase funding for) some budgeted programs. An additional \$22,630 in designated gifts was received that is not reflected in the expenditures. All three committees exceeded their budget for 2015. Information regarding other Church funds can be found in the financial folder in the Church office.

2 – Pledges and Other Weekly Contributions exceed the estimates used in setting the 2015 budget.

Note: Donations to some PPC mission activities are not routed through the FOC and cannot be captured; however, demonstrate the joyful giving and love of Jesus Christ at Pickens Presbyterian Church.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (Building Fund)

The current capital campaign began in 2005. An initial loan of \$1,000,000 was secured and the Child Development Center (CDC) was constructed, and several renovations on the other church buildings were completed. Approximately 80% of the loan was for the construction of the CDC.

In 2011, Phase II of the campaign started with a restructuring of the mortgage (refinance with lower interest rate) along with recommitments and new commitments from church members to retire the debt. Currently, approximately 73% of the loan is for the CDC debt.

At the end of 2015, the mortgage balance was \$247,467. Out of 113 families/individuals giving to PPC in 2015, 44 families gave to the Building Fund. Thanks to all who currently contribute to the building fund. We encourage others to consider becoming contributors in 2016. Let's retire this debt and "Burn the Note."

Members of the Financial Oversight Committee in 2015 were:

Nath Briley, Jonathan Haines, Richard Harper (Chair), Larry Jennings, Joe Padgett, Jay Pence, Ralph Perkins, Leo Tilley, and Tom Smith.

Mission and Outreach Committee

The budget of the Mission and Outreach Committee provides a structure for understanding the work of this committee, but the Christian heart of our church members goes beyond the numbers. Because of our response to God's grace in showing Christian LOVE, our church community has a broad, deep witness and service (1) at our church, (2) in our community, and (3) in the world.

Mission Work at Our Church:

Child Development Center: Our direct support of our Center is primarily through providing money for scholarships. These funds allow Karen Durham, the Director, to enable parents and guardians to continue to enroll their children during periods of unexpected economic difficulties.

Family Promise: Our church provided overnight hospitality and meals for homeless families for three separate weeks. We used 50-60 volunteers each week who set-up rooms, provided food, stayed overnight, did laundry and helped with other support. Volunteers included church members and friends, our youth, and folks from associate churches (Griffin Ebenezer Baptist, McKinney Chapel, Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens Seventh Day Adventist, Robinson Chapel). In the first year and a half of Family Promise Pickens County we were one of 20 congregations who helped provide emergency housing for 15 homeless families (17 adults, 37 children).

Jane B. Morris Service Fund: Each Tuesday persons who qualify can receive up to \$50 assistance on their utility bills. Assistance includes interviews which often lead clients to talk about the challenges in their lives and to a time of prayer.

Food Pantry: On Mondays and Wednesdays five boxes of non-perishable food are available for persons with emergency needs once a month.

Fuel Fund: Our church administers and contributes to the Ministerial Association Fuel Fund which provides 5 gallons of kerosene once a month (November – February) to persons using that fuel.

Congregational Support: Support for the General Fund Budget means that every one of us is a part of these ministries. In addition special offerings and gifts by individuals who have a heart for these programs totaled almost \$4000. But our volunteering (Time and Talents) is vital for the success and personal witness of these ministries.

Mission Work in Our Community:

Four ministries where our members volunteer are supported in the Mission and Outreach Budget. United Christian Ministries offers many kinds of help to needy people: housing, utilities, food, clothing.. The Gleaning House provides food county-wide especially for persons living in “food deserts.” Meals on Wheels offers a hot meal five days a week to elderly shut-ins. Family Promise Pickens County is the organizational hub for the weekly hospitality in each host church.

Winter Warmth: This ministry was founded in our church and has now expanded to include other churches. Warm clothing contributed during the year is sorted and stored until distribution occurs on the first Saturday in December. Many of our members volunteer to make this ministry possible.

MLK Day: From its onset our church has supported this celebration that is important for our community, especially African-Americans. In past years our church and Griffin Ebenezer held a joint picnic. 2015 was a transition year when a joint committee of the two churches sought a more community wide interracial experience.

Pickens United in Prayer: Our church was a leader in the beginning event on October 20, 2015, out of doors in Legacy Square. Through prayers of many pastors and laity, and hymns sung by all attendees, the Pickens community felt the active strength of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is working in our community. More events are planned.

Mission Work in the World:

Foothills Presbytery: Sixty Presbyterian Churches comprise our presbytery. Through this organization we participate in the wider cooperative ministry of the entire Presbyterian Church.

Samaritan's Purse: Church members and our Child Development Center packed 98 shoeboxes for distribution to more than 100 countries carrying in a tangible way the message of God's love.

The Simmons Family: Our church offers financial support for this couple who has devoted their lives to ministry in Peru and has raised a family there. Marilyn Simmons is Bob Allison's sister.

In addition to the Mission and Outreach Committee Budget and to volunteering by our church members, our mission is supported and expanded by offerings for local, national and international causes. National Presbyterian Church USA special offerings are four: One Great Hour of Sharing supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and other programs. The Pentecost Offering focuses on children at risk. The Peacemaking and Joy Gift Offerings focus on ameliorating points of tension such as racial stress.

Other offerings include 2 Cents a Meal for local and presbytery food programs. Souper Bowl of Caring supports our own church food pantry. Mother's Day Offering supports Presbyterian Retirement Communities in South Carolina. The Poinsettia Offering supports the Ministerial Fuel Fund.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is the vehicle enabling every church member to live out Christian love each day.

Jay Pence and Allison Ranson, Chairs

Worship Committee

Your worship committee began the year with a review of the events from our Advent and Christmas seasons, and plans for the upcoming Lenten season and Holy Week. The committee received many positive responses from the addition of a live Frazier fir Chrismon tree and live garland. Cyndi will present a plan to retire the original styrofoam Chrismons to Kay Tilley for the Women's Circles to review.

Youth Sunday was held on February 22nd with our junior and senior youth leading the service. We commemorated Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday on February 15th, followed by a very meaningful Ash Wednesday service on the evening of February 18th. PPC again participated in the Pickens Ministerial Association's Lenten Luncheon Series hosting the service on Tuesday, March 24th with Rev. Jake Lee preaching and the McKinney Chapel Choir providing special music.

The church celebrated Palm Sunday on March 29th with members entering the sanctuary with "palms" raised and the children waving palms branches. Following a meal, the Worship Committee presented the Maundy Thursday Service in All Saints' Hall on April 2nd using a program called "From Bethlehem

to Calvary”; Doc and Robin Giddings, Debbie Teeple, Robert Simms, Robert Wood, Kent Townsend, Donna Nabors, Ashley Dodgens and Cyndi Banks participating. The service concluded with sharing communion. We celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday April 5th beginning with our Sunrise Service at 8:15am followed by breakfast at 9am. Jessica Varney and Ashley Dodgens provided music for the Sunrise service.

PPC held a Service to Celebrate the Gifts of Women on May 17th. Rev. Beverly Kelly preached on “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds” and spoke on the many ways that women are involved in the life, nurture and leadership of the church.

At the February 22nd Session meeting, a recommendation passed for the worship committee to form a sub-committee to search for an organist to succeed Donna Nabors when she retires. Doc Giddings agreed to chair and our church was blessed to have Carla Padgett come to us with interest in joining our family as church organist. She officially began June 1st.

PPC commemorated Pentecost on May 24th and beginning June 7th, PPC began our summer worship schedule with our morning service beginning at 10:00am. Also on June 7th, the church celebrated the wonderful service of Donna Nabors’ 41 years as organist of PPC. She was blessed with the distinction of Organist Emeritus by the Session, and a lunch and many gifts were given in her honor. Again that summer, many of our members shared their vocal and instrumental talents by providing special music during our Sunday morning services while the adult choir took a hiatus from rehearsal during the summer months, and Carla became familiar with our organ and services.

On the evening of August 30th, many of our members including the Men’s Chorus, Women’s Chorus, and a number of instrumentalists provided music for our 5th Sunday Worship Service of Music, followed by a reception in All Saints’ Hall.

PPC returned to our 11:00am service time on Rally Day, Sept. 13th as the choir returned the same service to begin offering anthems for worship. We celebrated World Communion Sunday on October 4th and the Protestant Reformation on October 25th as our Confession banners were brought into the sanctuary for the service. Information was provided as to each banner’s origin and meaning. Dr. Charles Dougherty visited on October 18th while Nath was out of town and preached a sermon on stewardship for the upcoming stewardship season.

All Saints’ Sunday was held on November 1st when we remembered those of our church family who had passed during the year. November 22nd marked Christ the King Sunday, followed by the first Sunday of Advent on November 29th. Our church’s annual greening of the sanctuary again included a live Frazier fir tree for our Chrismons and live garland on the balcony railing.

The first Advent Sunday was also a day to commemorate the inclusion of a new set of Chrismons made by women in our church during a recent Saturday morning workshop. A history and recognition of the first set made was given

during the Children's Moment and information was provided as to each symbol's meaning. All members were invited to place Chrismons on the tree.

December brought our traditional events and services of Advent beginning with a wonderful Service of Christmas Music on the evening of December 6th, followed by a reception hosted by the Briley's in All Saints' Hall. Worship leaders of music included our Men's and Women's Choruses, the Adult and Children's Choirs, and members of our youth singing or providing instrumental music. The congregation also enjoyed singing a number of Christmas carol hymns. The Adult Choir provided their annual Lessons and Carols music program for Sunday morning worship on December 20th, joined by the Children's Choir. The music included various anthems, and selections from our hymnbook, organized by our music director Ashley Dodgens to tell the Christmas story.

Our church's calendar year concluded with wonderful and joyous Christmas Eve services with our Children's Pageant and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, as we looked forward to the Nativity of our Lord Jesus.

I would like to thank the members of the worship committee for their service and dedication of their time, talents and imagination: Nath Briley, Ashley Dodgens, Mary Gaillard, Robin Giddings, co-chair Len Josefson, Rev. Beverly Kelly, Donna Nabors and Carl Padgett. Also a much needed thank you to all of the volunteers who do so much to bring meaningful worship of our Lord to our church family.

Cyndi Banks, Chair

PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministers – All Members
Pastor – The Reverend Nath Briley
Parish Associate – The Reverend Beverly Kelly
Director of Christian Education and Communication – Jessica Varney
Interim Administrative Assistant – Cyndi Banks
Choir Director – Ashley Dodgens
Organist – Carla Padgett
Organist Emeritus – Donna Nabors
Treasurer – Jonathan Haines
Director of Child Development Center – Karen C. Durham
Nursery Caregivers – Ashley Erickson Riley, Kristin Garrett Wilkie

SESSION & COMMITTEES

<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Cyndi Banks	Jessica Haines	Teri Lillard
Mary Sue Day	Richard Harper	Jay Pence
Ralph Perkins	Larry Jennings	Aubrey Righetti
Allison Ranson	Len Josefson	Dennis Schwab
Matt Varney	Kay Tilley	Robert Simms
Trustee: Chil Francis	Trustee: Raymond Dawkins	Trustee: Jack Black

Moderator: The Reverend Nath Briley
Clerk of Session: Cyndi Banks

Building and Grounds: Dennis Schwab and Robert Simms
Child Development Center: Ralph Perkins
Christian Education: Jessica Haines and Matt Varney
Church Office and Administration: Larry Jennings
Congregational Care: Kay Tilley and Aubrey Righetti
Evangelism and Membership: Mary Sue Day and Teri Lillard
Financial Oversight and Stewardship: Richard Harper, Larry Jennings, Ralph Perkins
Information Technology: Matt Varney and Robert Simms
Mission and Outreach: Allison Ranson and Jay Pence
Worship: Cyndi Banks and Len Josefson

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION

Presbyterian Women Moderator – Kay A. Tilley
Sarah/Emily Circle Co- Moderators – Christa Schwab and Barbara Caruthers
Eve Circle Moderators – Sherry A. Schell and Deborah P. Carmical