

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2024



Adult Christian Education Annual Report 2024

Members: Holly D'Addurno-Chair, Anne Bernhardt, Rick Richardson, Kim Rogers, Kathy Beach-Pastor and Alice Salthouse-Elder Liaison

These Days: *These Days, Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*, a quarterly publication from PC(USA) is available for the congregation in Rumble House and mailed to anyone who requests it. Currently, mailed by a volunteer to 17 members.

Discoverers Class: For years, this class of about 10 people, led by Kim Rogers, meets weekly during the Sunday School hour and studies books by authors such as Adam Hamilton and Max Lucado. The class is always open to everyone.

Life Worth Living: A four week book study led by Kathy Beach on Zoom, started in January and attended by 10 people.

End Gun Violence: This six article study, started in 2023, of *The Presbyterian Outlook's Gun Violence-How people of faith can stop this uniquely American epidemic* continued jointly with St. Mary of the Hills congregation. Attendance varied from 10 to 30 depending on weather. The group decided to continue with a Guns to Garden gun surrender program in 2025, dependent on Session and Vestry approval.

Lent: *The Presbyterian Outlook's* daily devotional *Local Pilgrim* was emailed to the congregation each day throughout Lent. Kathy Beach led a six week Zoom study of Kate Bowler's Lent devotional. Attendance averaged 10 people.

Bedlam: Rumble hosted the local mental health community for dinner and the movie, *Bedlam*, with 40 attendees.

Men's Bible Study: The committee met on Zoom with a group of men that had expressed interest in a Bible study and others. A representative from a longtime successful Bible study in Davidson joined us and shared his best practices, curriculum, etc. The group suggested that a survey be developed to gauge interest, which the committee did. Only three men responded and although a teacher volunteered to lead a class, there was insufficient interest to continue.

Montreat Women's Connection: In August, 19 women from Rumble attended the weekend women's retreat *In the Arms of God* for a time of worship, workshops and fellowship with keynote speaker Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms and a Chaplain at Vanderbilt. Prior to the weekend, Brook Harmon led a discussion at Rumble of Stevens' book, *Love Heals*, attended by 14 people.

Peru & Pizza Dave Henry led a slide show and presentation of his years of leading mission trips to Peru. Twenty-one people attended the pizza dinner, presentation, discussion and Peruvian crafts display and sale.

Building Committee Annual Report 2024

Committee Members: John Calvin, Alex Bernhardt, Richard Swartzel, Ann Rhyne, Jim Crowell, Chris Squires

Blowing Rock Cares: The dedicated space for Blowing Rock Cares was completed in November and placed in operation soon thereafter.

Stairway/Hallway: The new stairway from the Blowing Rock Cares level to the new gathering area was completed. A hallway from the stairway to the new fellowship hall was also completed and will tie in with the new building when completed.

Gathering Area: The Gathering Area on the second floor of the educational building is nearing completion. The flooring has been installed as has the ceiling and light fixtures. All trim work has been completed and final painting/staining will begin soon. We are awaiting delivery of the countertops which should be shortly. We anticipate the area to be available for use in early February.

Frescoes: The two frescoes have been installed as well as the trim around them. A video was made of the three-day installation process showing the frescoes being unloaded on Ginny Stevens Drive and lifted by crane through the wall opening in the gathering area. The large fresco which is 7'x15' weighs 3000 pounds and the small fresco which is 6'x8' weighs 900 pounds.

Nursery: The nursery off the gathering area is essentially complete. Counter tops and plumbing will be installed soon as well as a mural on the Ginny Stevens Drive wall. The nursery should be available for use in early February.

Stormwater Retention Area: Modern regulations require that stormwater discharge from a site be treated first via a retention system. The church will install this system through a system of underground pipes in the lower parking area.

New Fellowship Hall: Rumble's architects, ADW, are 50% complete with the construction drawings for the new fellowship hall. The Building Committee has selected a local contractor who will work with the committee and the architects in developing the final design of the project. This process, called construction manager at risk, will allow the contractor, working with the architects and the building committee, to identify the most efficient and cost effective building for the church and will assure that the church's budgets are met. It is anticipated that the final design of the building will be completed in the spring and construction will begin soon thereafter.

Congregational Care Annual Report 2024 from Annie Tarbutton Chair

Members: Annie Tarbutton-Chair, Christy McKinney, Betty Womack, Dottie Watson, Diane Overcash, Debra Brenner, Margaret Headrick, Phyllis Cooper, Janet Stout, Shirley Harris, Lori Stewart, Linda Mauldin (Welcome), Ann Rhyne (Prayer Shawl), Visitation Committee, and “Going Solo Together” **Cong. Care Part Time Staff:** Dave Henry

Prayer Shawls: 15 made this year and distributed to Cong. Members. Additionally, they give to Local Community Ministries (Ann Rhyne).

Memorial Donations \$25 each: Approx. 20+ requested by Obit or family (Angie Alexander, Janet Stout). Also, the Welcome Committee is donating \$30 monthly only when new members join to the Blue Ridge Conservancy Middlefork Greenway.

Congregational Care and Music Caroling: a small group went Caroling in Dec. 2024 to specified members at homes, Foley, Brian Estates and Glenbridge.

Community Collaborations/Cong. Care Programming: “Going Solo Together,” a group that seeks to provide community for all those who live alone, gathered for a variety of fellowship opportunities. Visits to Farm Cafe, lunch at Moon in BR, Valentine’s Jazz with Todd Wright at Rosen Hall, App State, and dinner at Basils, Ashe County Community Theatre Fiddler on the Roof and picnic lunch, lunch at Bistro Roca celebrating Barbara Julien’s 90th Bday, and a Christmas Program at Ensemble Theatre in Banner Elk and dinner at Sorrentos. (Annie Tarbutton). Additionally, we’ve been offering a monthly Card Day and Lunch (Betty Womack). Also, Dave Henry is meeting at the Town Tavern monthly with a Men’s Connection group. Last, Cong. Care hosted and provided lunch for a program called “Caregiver Conversations” in collaboration with AppFaithHealth (Larry Lawhon). We had 15 attendees and partnered with St. Marys of the Hills Episcopal Church.

Visitation Team: Trained members offering ongoing and short term visitation needs. This Team meets monthly for group collaboration and support. New Training opportunities will be provided. (David Henry)

Homebound/Home Communion – Distributed every two months during the year (Susie Stewart, Dottie Watson, Worship, Volunteers)

Funerals/Receptions/Bereavement: Usher and host families at funerals, host funeral receptions, provide meals for the family, and support PW Circles for the families when needed. (Volunteers)

Bereavement Basket: Provided when needed (Betty Womack).

Cards: Provided Cong. Care cards to members listed on the weekly email newsletter. (Diane Overcash)

Sunday Flowers Worship: Assist, when available to distribute Flowers left over from Sunday Worship. Additionally, the Pastors at the end of the service make an announcement to the Cong. that people are welcome to take and distribute. Last alternative, the flowers are discarded.

Meals: Numerous meals provided as needed. We've offered frozen and fresh food from Myers in Blowing Rock. We also use supermarkets and restaurants for purchasing food. Additionally, we offer gift cards when appropriate. (Volunteers)

Visitation/Calls/Emails/Texts: Outreach to many (Volunteers, Visitation Team).

Welcome Committee: Approx. 10 new members reported. Periodically throughout the year, a tour of Rumble with refreshments, and comments about various committee activities are hosted by the Welcome Committee. A member from the Welcome team partners personally with a new member. They also host two open houses a year. Additionally, they offer updated visitor folders and new member booklets as a resource. (Linda Mauldin)

New Initiatives: Compiling a list of people who live alone, emergency contact information, for Pastors when needed. Also, "Friends of the Carpenter," handyperson providing short term, home improvement projects for members who live alone. This is a volunteer position. If the person using "Friends of the Carpenter" wants to financially compensate the handyperson, they can make a donation to Kathy's discretionary fund. (Annie Tarbuton)

Creation Care Activities at Rumble in 2024

- We were recertified as an Earth Care Congregation early in 2024.
- In February, we hosted a four-week hybrid (in-person and on Zoom) Creation Care expert series, including speakers from ADW Architects, Duke Law's Ryke Longest, NOAA's Deke Arndt, and Creation Care Alliance's Sarah Ogletree.
- We partnered with St. Mary of the Hills to host an outdoor Stations of the Cross experience on Good Friday and welcomed members from both churches, as well as the community and tourists to walk through the 14 stations of the cross. This was the start of an effort to create a permanent installation of outdoor stations on both church campuses, and in late December, Jim Crowell led a dedicated team of helpers (Walt Baggstrom, Marshall Womack, and Trey Abernethy) to install Rumble's 7 station pieces.
- We celebrated Creation Care Sunday on April 21 with a special sermon and lots of symbols and items of nature decorating the sanctuary.
- To celebrate Earth Day, committee members Judy Lilly and Mary Hutchens created an Earth Day activity booklet for Wednesday After School, complete with a drawing for a gift certificate at The Incredible Toy Company .
- The committee's co-chairs (Misty and Hope) attended a confirmation class session to teach about creation care.
- We wrote a monthly "Did You Know" series for Slate and Stone every month except for October and November when we paused for storm recovery news.
- We gathered for Holy Hikes in February, March, April, May, and November. Those hikes included trails up to Rich Mountain, the Apple Barn, Trout Lake, the NAMI walk in Boone in May, and the Moses Cone cemetery.
- We add creation care info to the new member handbooks.
- We started a "Bubble Brigade," a dish washing group to help reduce single-use throwaway items at church events.
- After Heather left, we began taking the used-up batteries from worship service microphones to the convenience center and Lowes for recycling.
- We promoted "Shred Day" participation in August.
- We were one of the sponsors for the Blue Ridge Conservancy 5K in Blowing Rock in September.
- In mid-November, two committee members (Kim and Hope) attended the Salem Presbytery's Earth Care meeting in Reidsville, NC, to collaborate with other Earth Care congregations in the presbytery.
- In late November, we hosted an Advent Alternative Christmas Market with local vendors and some items from Dave Henry's mission trips to Peru.
- We joined Presbyterians for Earth Care and Creation Care Alliance as official partners in December.
- We've continued to track Rumble's energy usage and asked the building and properties committees to consider eco-friendly, energy efficient options for the new building design and for existing building repairs/maintenance/upgrades as they happen.

Engagement & Stewardship Committee Annual Report 2024

At the beginning of the year, the Stewardship Committee was renamed the “Engagement & Stewardship Committee”, representing our call to encourage and support the contributions of Time and Talent in addition to Treasures in furtherance of God’s work in our church and beyond, and in recognition that an engaged Christian is often a more generous Christian.

Members of the E&S Committee were Jenny Apker, Ron Curtis, Judy Lilly, and Jeff Stewart, with the significant participation of Sarah Parker and Kathy Beach.

The theme of the 2024 Stewardship program was “On the Threshold...” which was to capture the remarkable things happening throughout Rumble and to signal an exciting future that will result from the gifts of our resources to this growing Ministry. Working with committee chairs, we created videos and told the stories of being “On the Threshold...” of a growing Children’s program, of a new Fresco ministry, of an expanded campus, of BR CARES in its own space, among many others.

One of the early goals established by the E&S Committee was hosting a series of Engagement Gatherings, which would serve both 1) to introduce people who have joined the church over the past few years to longer-term members (and to re-introduce longer-term members to each other!) and 2) to create an environment where people are encouraged to share/find programs and activities where they can get more actively involved. The dual challenge created by Kathy’s sabbatical and Hurricane Helene resulted in these gatherings being cancelled in 2024. It is the hope of this E&S Committee that such programs can take place in 2025.

The kickoff for the Annual Stewardship campaign was celebrated on Sunday, September 8, 2024. Folders containing the Stewardship Appeal letter, a redesigned Time & Talent Commitment form, a financial Pledge card, the 2024 Narrative Budget, and highlights of a 3-year Forecast Budget were handed out to people in the sanctuary that Sunday and subsequently were mailed to households who were not in attendance. Everyone was given the alternative to reply to the pledge and commitment requests online or by returning the paper forms. Email messages were used to remind a few regular contributors to get their pledges in before the end of the year.

Results for this year’s appeal were mixed: total dollars pledged increased year-over-year by 10%, to \$563,000, while the number of pledging units dropped to 85 households, extending a recent trend of decreasing numbers of households making pledges each year. It is noted that Non-Pledged Contributions have increased in each of the past several years.

Finance Committee General Fund Annual Report 2024

Finance Committee GENERAL FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Members: Jim Clabough-Chair, Jenny Apker, Bill Cuthill, Scott Fogleman, Wayne Holliday, Sarah Parker, Kim Price, Jeff Stewart our Recording Secretary, Bob Stout, Cullie Tarleton, Billy Worsham, Sarah Parker and Pastor Kathy Beach

Throughout the year the committee reviewed and discussed monthly activities, cash flows, changes in bank balances, and actual expenses verses the budgeted amount.

The 2025 Budget, which was approved by Session, is shown below compared to actual results from the last two years:

INCOME	2025 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Pledged Contributions	\$ 565,000	\$ 500,613	\$ 519,599
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$ 235,000	\$ 216,027	\$ 128,641
Plate Offering	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,372
Sunday School Offering	\$ 200	\$ 205	\$ 245
Other Income	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,705	\$ 1,243
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 827,700	\$ 744,948	\$ 662,100
EXPENSES			
Personnel	\$ 552,715	\$ 545,620	\$ 438,615
COMMITTEES:			
Christian Education	\$ 23,350	\$ 15,498	\$ 22,071
Congregational Care	\$ 3,700	\$ 2,935	\$ 3,502
Fellowship	\$ 2,250	\$ 988	\$ 1,145
Finance & Administration	\$ 64,050	\$ 58,978	\$ 64,379
Missions	\$ 80,700	\$ 74,387	\$ 70,900
Properties	\$ 87,700	\$ 58,156	\$ 65,892
Stewardship	\$ 875	\$ 344	\$ 804
Worship	\$ 12,500	\$ 14,638	\$ 12,399
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 827,840	\$ 771,542	\$ 679,707
Added to [Subtracted from]			
Reserves	\$ (140)	\$ (26,594)	\$ (17,607)

RUMPLE OVERALL DONATIONS IN 2024	
Donations to the General Fund	\$ 729,243
Additional Donations for Designated Missions [Pennies for Hunger, One Hour of Sharing, Blowing Rock CARES, Food 4 Families, Hospitality House, Grandfather Home, Habitat for Humanity, and others]	\$ 52,960
Additional Missions Donations from Rumble Endowment Fund	\$ 24,200
Donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund [Not including Hurricane Relief donations]	\$ 23,922
Donations for Hurricane Relief into Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Missions Committee	\$ 256,960
Total Missions Donations Over and Above the General Fund	\$ 358,042
Missions Outreach Donations in the General Fund	\$ 74,387

Missions Committee Annual Report

For Year Ending December 31, 2024

The Missions Committee would like to express our gratitude to the Rumble Congregation for your generosity and for allowing us to act on your behalf as the hands of Jesus Christ within our community and beyond.

Support for our endeavors came from multiple sources. The Session approved Missions budget, the Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church Endowment, Special Offerings, Pennies For Hunger and individual gifts from the congregation and beyond.

Our mission work involved providing food security, shelter, personal safety and restoration, physical and mental healthcare, crisis assistance, home repairs, care and development for infants, youth and elderly, refugee settlement, Christmas gifts for the less fortunate, and kinship care.

We provided this assistance through volunteer efforts of Congregation members with our agency partners. Our volunteer efforts included providing a monthly dinner at Hospitality House which sometimes included serving the guests the meal, volunteering at F.A.R.M. Cafe's "Buy Boone Lunch" program where means to pay is unimportant, we helped furnish the Homestead Recovery Home for Men via furniture purchases and donations, we collected composition books for the Back 2 School Festival, we shopped for Christmas gifts and/or provided gift cards; so children could have some gifts. We had to postpone our Rise Against Hunger event and Habitat Workday due to Hurricane Helene but these are on the agenda for 2025.

The organizations that we worked with and financially supported have helped so many people in so many ways and especially this year due to Hurricane Helene. As difficult as this experience has been, it has helped us to work closer with these agencies and often directly with those who are the beneficiaries of our mission work.

These are the organizations and/or initiatives that we supported in 2024.

Habitat For Humanity, Hospitality House of NW North Carolina, Western Youth Network, Hunger & Health Coalition, Blowing Rock Care Food Pantry, Children's Council of Watauga County, Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry at ASU, High Country Area Agency On Aging, OASIS, Community Care Clinic, Watauga Community Housing Trust, High Country Caregivers, Community Care Clinic, Children's Hope Alliance, WAMY Community Action, Back 2 School Festival, World Relief Triad Refugee Settlement, Homestead Recovery, High Country Community Health, WeCan Crisis Assistance, Watauga Compassionate Community Initiative, National Alliance of Mental Health (HighCountry Chapter), Family Support Network and the Women's Fund of the Blue Ridge.

Our Missions Committee is comprised of the following congregation members: Paul Horton (Chair), Stephanie Hankins (Staff Liaison), Johnathan Rhyne (Session Liaison), Bob Baker, Diane Cash, Brandon Ford, David Hardage, Russell Headrick, Bonnie McLamb, Cristy McKinney, Bob Stout, Billy Worsham

Personnel Committee Annual Report 2024

Committee Members: Tres Abernethy, Kathy Beach, John Calvin, Ed Cummer, Dan McLamb, Martha Jane Rhyne, Gary Scott, Debbie Swartzel.

Session Liaison: J. Calvin

Guests: R. Curtis, S. Parker

During the calendar year of 2024, the Personnel Committee:

- Completed and submitted the annual Personnel Budget for 2025 which was approved by Finance in December of 2024. This afforded the ability to upload all 2025 payroll data in the first pay period of the 2025 year on December 16th.
- Scheduled and completed all 2024 Annual Staff performance reviews during late October and November due to priorities required of all in support of the Hurricane Helene relief activities.
- Recognized and celebrated the tenth-year anniversary of our Minister of Music- Dave McCollum.
- Accepted resignation of committee member Ed Cummer. Tres Abernethy agreed to fill the vacancy.
- Staff changes: Nursery Attendants turnover (4), Custodian resignation-responsibilities passed to Properties, Office Manager resignation-responsibilities passed to Director of Operations until we hired Valerie Mailman.
- Updated Rumble's "Covenant Agreement for Employee" documentation.
- Completed Staff Contingency Fund Policy Guide
- Engaged "Shepherds Watch" as Rumble's contracted supplier for all new employee candidates drug screening and background checks.
- Personnel committee members participated in staff meetings during Kathy's sabbatical to assist with informational flow.
- Annual staff performance reviews completed in November and 2025 Personnel Budget submitted to Finance.
- Proposed, submitted to Session and received approval for additional payroll to key employees for their Sabbatical pastor coverage, extra Missions work and Hurricane Helene disaster recovery.
- Proposed, submitted to Session and received approval for one additional week of vacation for Pastor Kathy. This makes for five (5) weeks of vacation in 2025.
- Ongoing action items:
 - o Personnel Info for Church Leaders
 - o Staff Appreciation Recognition, held several at end of the year, needs procedure finalization in 2025
 - o Employee Manual of Procedures review and update

Gary Scott
Personnel Chair

Rumple Help Team Report 2024

After Helene hit September 27, Rumple staff and members went to work immediately to help friends, neighbors, and strangers. We created a hurricane recovery fund to receive donations.

At Session's request, we formed a small Help team consisting of Stephanie Hankins, Paul Horton, Hope Squires, and Bob Stout. By mid-October, we created an official online request form, a dedicated help email address, and voicemail box for help requests. Rumple liaisons spread the word with local agencies that we welcomed referrals. The Help team has been meeting weekly to address incoming requests and to advise how to distribute money.

To date, Rumple has received \$250,000.00 in donations and has given out close to \$95,000 to individuals/families and \$62,000 to agencies (or in partnership with agencies for their client families). Here's an overview of how, with your generosity, Rumple has been able to help:

- Hotel rooms for individuals/families displaced by the storm.
- Money toward a car to replace one destroyed in the flooding.
- Two trailers for displaced families (Partnered with High Country Caregivers and Harvest House).
- Partnered with WYN and High Country Caregivers for their additional, unexpected Angel Tree additions.
- Many home repairs including new roofs, HVAC replacement, driveway repairs, heaters, generators, appliance replacement, new floors, and more.
- Rent help.
- Farm equipment.
- Insurance deductibles.
- After-school fees.
- Legos/school supplies to multiple schools across our local counties.
- Supplies for Banner Elk Presbyterian Church's preschool, which lost everything due to flooding of their space.
- Heaters, propane, and camping stoves for Foscoe Grandfather Community Center to distribute.
- Stateline Resource Station rental containers: This enabled the skate park to reopen as a business while still supplying much-needed donations to the surrounding community.
- \$30,000 for Hospitality House property/building repairs

Gift cards distributed

We have also distributed a number of gift cards.

- One set came from a church in Jefferson City, MO, that sent \$240 worth of cards (Lowes, Wendy's, and McDonalds) to Dave Henry for individuals in need after the storm. We gave those cards to High Country Caregivers to distribute to their clients.
- Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh collected \$300 in Food Lion gift cards, and we have given those to an extended family of 10 who lost homes, appliances, and more during the storm.

Visiting Scholar Committee

Our visiting scholar for 2024 was Jason Byassee. Jason is presently the pastor at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto, Canada, and formally was at the Boone United Methodist Church where he still has many admirers.

Preceding his visit, which occurred September 21 to 23, his friend and colleague, Davis Hankins gave two lectures during the Sunday school time which included some tricky questions about the Bible which left the group challenged! We were delighted to have more people at these two classes than we had had previously.

Dr Byassee was interviewed on Sunday morning by Davis, And later preached a sermon entitled "Oh yes, we do need we do want a king."

There were two other presentations by Dr Byassee: one on Sunday afternoon and one on Monday morning. These two focused on revitalizing the church and the nature of prayer. Again, we were surprised and excited by the number of people who attended these lectures although we admitted that some of the attendees came from the Boone United Methodist Church.

We believe that everybody enjoyed and profited from our scholar's intimate knowledge of how what makes a church vital and how to reach and inspire a congregation. Having a preacher come as a scholar was a new experience as we usually invite scholars from an academic setting.