

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2025



Dear Rumple Family and Friends,

In the final book of the bible, Revelation, we read these words, “Behold, I am making all things new!” (Revelation 21:5)

It is hard to even begin to capture all of 2025 in the life and ministry of Rumple. In many ways, 2025 was a year in which so many things were new in our life and ministry at Rumple. We welcomed and dedicated the new (to Rumple) Ben Long Frescoes, and dedicated our new Gathering Space, and beautiful new spaces for children and youth. We heard about developing plans for a new Fellowship Hall/Multi-Purpose Building on which we will break ground in 2026.

And, as we celebrate all of our new and renovated spaces, we know that ministry is not measured by our buildings and spaces, but by lives transformed in the name of Jesus Christ.

So, I want us to celebrate that in 2025 Rumple also:

- Sent mission teams to Peru and Dominican Republic.
- Gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars to neighbors trying to rebuild their homes and their lives after Hurricane Helene.
- Hosted Buy Boone Lunch at FARM Cafe and celebrated our decades long partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- Led a weekly after-school program for a growing group of elementary school children and sent our high school youth to the Montreat Youth Conference.
- Spent a summer with the Old Testament learning and deepening our faith while learning God’s salvation story.
- Provided meals for grieving families and folks recovering from surgeries.
- Welcomed a Visiting Scholar and a Guest Composer, guest musicians for Grandfather Sunday and the Christmas cantata, and continued to support our wonderful choral scholar program.
- Enjoyed lemonade on the lawn and weekly coffee time before worship in the new gathering space.
- Launched our new fresco ministry and welcomed folks from all over the country to Rumple.
- Hosted our second annual Live Nativity, in the snow!
- Welcomed 27 new members and affiliate members into the Rumple family.

It is hard to measure all the lives who were touched through Rumple’s Mission and Ministry in 2025. The list above only mentions a portion of Rumple’s ministries. I give thanks to God who is continually making things new within and beyond Rumple. I am so excited to see what God has in store for us in 2026.

In Deep Gratitude,
Kathy

Committees:

Administration and Finance

Members: Jim Clabough (chair), Jenny Apker, Bill Cuthill, Wayne Holliday, Kim Price, Jeff Stewart, Bob Stout, Cullie Tarleton, Billy Worsham, Kathy Beach (Pastor), and Sonya Long (staff).

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

The 2026 Budget, which was approved by Session, is shown below compared to actual results from the last two years:

INCOME	2026 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
Pledged Contributions	\$ 657,460	\$ 572,591	\$ 500,613
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$ 200,000	\$ 193,850	\$ 216,027
Plate Offering	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,755	\$ 12,400
Unidentified Contributions	\$ -	\$ 37,534	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 10,000	\$ 18,883	\$ 15,705
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 887,460	\$ 843,613	\$ 744,743
EXPENSES			
Personnel	\$ 578,000	\$ 541,027	\$ 545,620
COMMITTEES:			
Christian Education	\$ 23,350	\$ 17,257	\$ 15,498
Congregational Care	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,669	\$ 2,935
Fellowship	\$ 2,250	\$ 1,362	\$ 988
Finance & Administration	\$ 76,450	\$ 70,744	\$ 58,978
Missions	\$ 89,000	\$ 75,950	\$ 74,387
Properties	\$ 100,000	\$ 79,925	\$ 58,156
Stewardship	\$ 875	\$ 1,288	\$ 344
Worship	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,153	\$ 14,638
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 886,925	\$ 801,375	\$ 771,542
Added to [Subtracted from]			
Reserves	\$ 535	\$ 42,238	\$ (26,799)

RUMPLE Additional DONATIONS IN 2025	
Donations for Designated Missions [Pennies for Hunger, One Hour of Sharing, Blowing Rock CARES, Food 4 Families, Grandfather Home, Habitat for Humanity, Hospitality House, Joy Gift, and others]	\$ 56,966
Missions Donations from Rumple Endowment Fund	\$ 23,870
Donations for Hurricane Relief	\$ 109,404
Donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 97,675

Christian Education

Adult Education:

Members: Holly D'Addurno (chair), Anne Bernhardt, Rick Richardson, Kim Rogers, Kathy Beach (pastor) and Hope Squires (elder liaison).

The Adult Christian Education Committee plans and implements educational events and classes, and suggests written materials to enrich members of the congregation seeking to grow in their faith. The committee meets monthly and is open to anyone with an interest in adult Christian education.

These Days: *These Days, Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*, a quarterly publication from PC(USA) is available to the congregation (can be picked up in Rumple House or mailed upon request). It is currently mailed by a volunteer to 15 members.

Discovery Class: Formerly known as the Discoverers' Class, this group of around 12 has met for many years on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour and was led by Kim Rogers until her passing in August, 2025. The class has been led by Bill Cuthill and Curt Salthouse since then, studying books by contemporary Christian authors through reading, videos and discussion. The class is open to everyone.

The After Party-Toward Better Christian Politics: This was a joint book study with Boone United Methodist Church, led by Pastors Kathy Beach and Ed Glaize, to encourage discussion and engagement among those with differing political perspectives. The group met monthly, alternating between Rumple and BUMC, averaging two dozen attendees. The group continued to meet through the year at BUMC, studying the book *One Anothering-Choosing each other in a politically divided world* from The Colossian Forum and including people from First Presbyterian Church and theHeart, both churches in Boone, consistent with our goal of reaching out to the community.

Lent Devotion: This year the committee decided not to use the material from Presbyterian Outlook and instead reviewed materials from four different publishers. We selected *CS Lewis and the Delightful, Diabolical Daring of Lent* from Salt Project, an Emmy award winning company that provides resources to Christian congregations. This was distributed daily via email and available in printed copy by request. We also provided information for those who wanted to follow Kate Bowler's daily devotional. Hope Squires led a Zoom discussion after Lent of C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*.

Richard Rohr Dave McCollum led two in-person, afternoon studies of Rohr's books. The revised and updated *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves*

of Life was held for six weeks in May with a good turnout of a dozen people and *The Tears of Things* was held in October for four weeks with less of a turnout.

The Right to Read: Continuing our efforts to engage in the community, we partnered with Boone United Methodist Church to show this film, preceded by dinner and followed by a panel discussion with Watauga's school board chair, NC's Reading League chair, Kathy Beach, whose dissertation focused on reading, and BUMC's summer reading program chair. Rumble has many members who are volunteers in the summer reading program's buddy program.

Poetry Workshop: Hilda Downer, the High Country's first Poet Laureate, led a Saturday morning poetry writing workshop *Writing About Trauma While Thinking About Flowers*.

Peru & Pizza: We held our second annual event after worship on May 18 to view slides and hear stories from those who travelled on a mission trip to Peru led by Dave Henry earlier this year. A sale of craft items made in Peru was held before worship to further the work of Medical Missions, Inc. in Peru.

Aging and Spirituality Webinars: In partnership with Congregational Care, we scheduled a series of six webinars provided by The International Conference on Aging and Spirituality and The NC Council of Churches. These focused on healthy aging, mental well-being, depression and other topics related to aging. Phyllis Cooper, RN, a nurse navigator who is a member of Rumble, then led discussions, followed by lunch at an area restaurant. Attendance did not warrant continuation after the first two webinars.

The Bible Tells Me So: The summer sermon series focused on the major stories and lessons in the Old Testament of the Bible. Weekly classes expanding on the sermon series were provided in person and on Zoom by Davis Hankins, Rumble member and Appalachian State Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies.

Montreat Women's Connection Conference: This year's conference, *Pull Up A Chair*, was another much anticipated weekend of learning and fellowship attended by around twenty women from Rumble, with other friends of Rumble joining us for both the weekend and the keynote speaker.

Friendsgiving: Rumble held its first Friendsgiving meal and book discussion the week before Thanksgiving. Dr. Brook Harmon, Rumble member and AppState professor of nutrition led a presentation and discussion of the book *The Just Kitchen: Invitations to Sustainability, Cooking, Connection, and Celebration* written by the

hosts of the Food and Faith podcast. Twenty-nine people attended. We supported our local farming community through the purchase of heirloom pumpkins from Fishel Organics, which were then sent home with attendees, and we also had the meal catered by F.A.R.M. Cafe using dishes from the book. As is our practice, donations from the event (\$315) were then given to them to continue the amazing work of feeding those in our community regardless of ability to pay. The month prior Presbyterians for Earth Care, the national eco-justice network of the PC(USA), held an online discussion of the book with the authors, which people were invited to attend.

How to Manage Holiday Stress and Depression: Dr. Warren Kinghorn, a psychiatrist with Duke Divinity School and Duke University Medical Center, led a Sunday morning conversation on getting through the holidays with minimal stress and offered pointers on saying yes and no to during overfilled holidays. His slides are available on Rumple's website and we hope to have him back again in the spring.

Finding Peace and Community in the Holidays: Dave Henry and Dr. Jackie Henry, a licensed clinical psychologist, led a small group conversation around the fireplace in Rumple House, including mindfulness exercises.

Advent Devotion: *Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy and Joy*, the Presbyterian Outlook's daily devotional, was emailed daily to everyone on Rumple email distribution list. Rumple also promoted *AdventWord 2025* from the Forward Movement as an additional Advent reflection and *Sacred Tension*, a book offering an additional individual opportunity for Advent study.

Youth Education:

Members: Lindsey Eaton (staff), Kate Mosley (staff), Grace Lloyd (youth intern), Becky Bishop, Shannon Clark, Nathaniel Hankins, Cindy Lentz, Olivia Tarnowski, Kate Rex, Tripp Rex.

Activities and events in 2025:

In May, Rumple celebrated Youth and Senior Sunday. The high school youth took their Annual beach/mission trip to Kiawah Island (thank you Richard and Debbie Swartzel for hosting). The middle school youth took a trip to Tennessee, Memorial Day weekend.

Throughout the summer, Youth participated in the mission trip to the Dominican Republic, attended the Montreat Youth Conference in July, and participated in the Back to School kick off cookout with children's ministry in August.

During the school year, the youth participated in a mission project with Hospitality house, volunteered during the Live Nativity, and served as Liturgists in worship throughout the year. Along with gathering together on Sunday nights, they would meet up for monthly youth breakfasts before school.

The youth welcomed their new youth room on the basement level of the education building and the comfort it provides for their weekly gatherings.

Children Education:

Members: Lora Davis (chair), Sue Meachum, Lisa Shaw, Susie Stewart, Becca Vickery, Jenny Apkar, Lou Moore

At the beginning of the year, the children participated in many worship services, from Epiphany, to Palm Sunday. They also raise money and release butterflies on Creation Care Sunday or Mother's Day.

During the summertime, children, ages K-5, participated in VBS during June. During August, Rumple hosted a Back to School cookout with youth group families and Blessing of the Backpacks to kick-off the school year.

Throughout the school year, a group of children meet for Wednesday After School for activities and fun, with a focus on a Creation Care curriculum. During their time together, they created bulletin art for special Sunday's, sang for worship and at the Foley Center.

In October, the new Children and Youth space, on the first floor of the education building, was ready to move into. This space has allowed us to expand our program with a dedicated space for the children to learn and grow.

During Advent, the children participated in the Christmas Parade in Blowing Rock, Live Nativity event, and Christmas Eve services.

Additional children's activities, not After-School related:

- Bibles gifted for milestones.
- Time with Children on Sunday's.
- Nursery on Sundays.

Congregational Care:

Members: Annie Tarbutton (chair/elder), Christy McKinney, Betty Womack, Dottie Watson, Diane Overcash, Debra Brenner, Margaret Headrick, Phyllis Cooper, Janet Stout, Shirley Harris, Lori Stewart, Barbara Julien, Susie Stewart, Jean Baskin, Rev. Dave Henry (staff).

Cong. Care includes the Welcome Committee, Prayer Shawl Committee, Visitation Committee, “Friends of the Carpenter,” and “Going Solo Together.”

Prayer Shawls: They had 8 members in 2025. They meet once monthly but do most of the work in their homes. They distributed 21 items in 2025 as follows: 12 knitted/crocheted prayer shawls for death or serious illness, 6 fleece blankets w/crocheted edges to high school graduates, 2 quilts- one for serious illness and one for birth of baby, and 1 crocheted blanket for birth of baby. They give these items both to bring comfort and as celebrations. (Ann Rhyne).

Memorial Donations \$25 each: 24 requested by Obit or family (Janet Stout).

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 to include: App State Holiday Scholarship music program with dinner at Over Yonder, Children’s Hope Alliance presentation and lunch at Town Tavern, Brahm private tour with lunch at Chetola, Lunch after church at Bistro Roca, Lees McCrae *Macbeth* with dinner at Banner Elk Café and Barter Theatre’s *Million Dollar Quartet* and lunch at Jacks 128 Pecan (Annie Tarbutton).

Additionally, we’ve been offering a monthly Card Day and lunch at a local restaurant (Betty Womack).

Also, Dave Henry is meeting at Town Tavern monthly with a growing “Men’s Connection” group and averaging 8 to 10 men gathering for great food and fellowship.

Furthermore, “**Friends of the Carpenter**” our short- term handyman program has completed approx. 12 projects for our members and others who live alone or couples that have compromised health/ability. (Annie, Dave Henry, Team)

Continuing, In Dec. Cong. Care joined with Adult Education to provide an evening “Fireside Chat” with Dr. Jackie Henry and Pastor Dave Henry with a focus on mindfulness during the holiday season. (Dave and Jackie Henry)

Also, Cong. Care provided an opportunity in Dec. for our college students to get together while on their holiday break, volunteering for an afternoon at the Foscoe Home Team center. In 2026, we plan to offer more chances for college-age young adults to meet for service, fellowship, and connection. (Dave Henry, Stephanie Hankins)

Last, we offered a Aging/Spirituality/Wellness Webinar Series in collaboration with Christian Ed. and had to cancel due to low attendance. (Annie/Phyllis Cooper/Holly D’Addurno)

Community Collaborations: Several members of Cong. Care served as Volunteers for the “Hope After Helene” event on September 27th, the one-year anniversary of Helene. They provided a welcoming spirit to those who came for this day of remembering, recovery and resilience. (Dave Henry and Volunteers)

Also, we served on the Planning Committee and participated in the NC Council of Churches local event of “Hope and Well-Being in the High Country: A Summit on Faith and Behavioral Health” on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Boone. (Annie Tarbutton, Phyllis Cooper)

Last, we continue to collaborate and are a member of AppFaithHealth (comprises approx. 25 churches) with UNC Health Appalachian. (Annie Tarbutton)

Visitation Team: This group consists of trained volunteers who visit members at home or in the hospital, help with Homebound Communion, and offer transportation when needed for worship services and medical appointments. This Team meets monthly for group collaboration and support. New training opportunities are provided. This year, gift bags were packed and delivered by members of the visitation team to homebound folks. Gift items included Peruvian hand cared crosses on stone pedestals, Stick Boy Christmas rum cakes, and cookies. (David Henry and Team)

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. In 2025, there was a larger need than in the past. (Annie and Volunteers)

Bereavement Basket: Provided when needed (Betty Womack).

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

Meals: Numerous meals provided as needed. We’ve offered frozen and fresh food from Myers in Blowing Rock or Maw’s Produce in Foscoe. We also use supermarkets and restaurants for purchasing food. Additionally, we offer gift cards when appropriate. Again, there was more need than in the past. (Annie and Debra Brenner).

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

Engagement and Stewardship:

Members: Jeff Stewart (chair), David Hardage (elder liaison), Stacy Rex, Jenny Apker, Olivia Tarnowski, Sonya Long (staff).

In 2025, the Church Engagement and Stewardship Committee focused on strengthening congregational connection, deepening gratitude, and supporting Rumple's ministries through clear communication and year-round engagement.

The annual stewardship emphasis centered on celebrating the impact of generosity, using testimonies, ministry spotlights, and coordinated worship elements. The annual Stewardship campaign was themed with "Rumple in Action". Throughout the third quarter videos were produced and presented at Sunday services highlighting the many avenues of Rumple's "Action". The videos produced featured:

- o Overarching Video
- o BR Cares
- o Adult Education
- o Frescoes
- o Fellowship Building
- o Youth/Children-
- o Community Ministries
- o Worldwide Ministries
- o Creation Care-Creation Care Sunday

Redesign of Time and Talent forms, Pledge request and Online giving were improved and much learned from the process. Updates of the campaign were provided as well as encouraging email reminders. Due to the generous giving of the Rumple membership, much of what was requested for 2026 will be funded.

Encouraged by the effectiveness of the committee, all members will return in 2026. Much was learned from what worked and what didn't. A Stewardship Task List has already been outlined and the committee will begin meeting on a year-round basis. The "Rumple in Action" theme served us well. The Engagement component has a foundation which will be developed to a greater degree in 2026.

Fellowship Committee:

Members: Karen Clabough (chair), Kathryn Holliday, Sylvia Tarleton, Shirley Harris, Eula Calvin, Betty Womack, and Debbie Clay (Elder Liaison).

To kick start 2025, in January we hosted a reception for new Elders after their ordination service. In May, we held a senior reception for students graduating, as well as a Mother's Day reception.

Throughout June to September, summer Salt Shakers, a dinner group that meets monthly to enjoy a meal and fellowship at a member's home, met consistently. Each month one member hosted the dinner and provided the entrée, other members brought a side dish to share.

In July, lemonade was served on the lawn by circle members, and free Ice Cream was given out on the lawn during the Fourth of July Parade. The Annual Church Picnic, held in August, with Publix's fried Chicken and the congregation provided side dishes.

During October, treats were provided for dogs, cats, etc. and humans at the blessing of the animals with St Mary's Episcopal Church. A Reformation Sunday/Kirkin of the Tartans reception was also held at the end of the month.

In November , a reception was held for Pepper Choplin, the visiting composer. Advent season kicked off with cookies and christmas punch provided by the congregation and refreshments for the public during the Live Nativity.

Missions Committee:

Members: Paul Horton (Chair), Stephanie Hankins (Staff Liaison), Bob Baker (Session Liaison), Jonathan Rhyne, Diane Cash, Brandon Ford, David Hardage, Russell Headrick, Bonnie McLamb, Cristy McKinney, Bob Stout and Billy Worsham.

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

Financial support for our endeavors came from multiple sources. The Missions Outreach budget, the RMPC Endowment, the Hurricane Relief Fund, Special Offerings, Pennies For Hunger and individual gifts from the congregation and elsewhere.

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, kinship care and disaster relief.

We provided financial support as well as congregation volunteers to 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; we collected composition books for the Back 2 School Festival, we served ten families whose children attended Hardin Park School via our Food 4 Families Summer program; conducted an Angel Tree program to purchase gifts for 19 children from the Western Youth Network: volunteers helped build a home with Habitat for Humanity, we gathered outerwear for the clients of Homestead Recovery, we packaged 20088 meals for the hungry of the world with St. Mary of the Hills via Rise Against Hunger.

These are some of the organizations and/or initiatives that we supported in 2025. Habitat For Humanity, Hospitality House of NW North Carolina, Western Youth Network, Dominican Republic Missions Trip, Hunger & Health Coalition, Blowing Rock Cares Food Pantry, F.A.R.M. Cafe, Children's Council of Watauga County, High Country Area Agency On Aging, OASIS, Community Care Clinic, High Country Caregivers, Children's Hope Alliance, W.A.M.Y. Community Action, Back 2 School Festival, World Relief Triad Refugee Settlement, Circle Four's Elderberry Project, Homestead Recovery, WeCan Crisis Assistance, Family Support Network, PECM Listening Post at ASU and the Hope After Helene Event.

This year was not only one of helping others but also one of transition. Paul Horton has been our Chair or Co-Chair for the last three years. He has been a great leader and we

are indebted and very appreciative of his service. Russell Headrick has succeeded Paul as our Chair and we are confident that he will continue to lead our committee to serve those in need locally and beyond.

Personnel Committee:

Members: Gary Scott (chair), Tres Abernethy, Kathy Beach, Dan McLamb, Martha Jane Rhyne, Debbie Swartzel, Mike Mayfield (session liaison), Sonya Long (staff).

During the calendar year of 2025, the Personnel Committee:

- Completed and submitted the preliminary annual Personnel Budget for 2026 to Finance on November 4, 2025. Finance postponed their final approval until January 2026.
 - Budgetary Changes for 2026
 - Custodial responsibilities were transferred from Properties and assigned to Personnel during the mid-year of 2025 and will be handled by the Director of Operations position going forward. The 2026 Budget includes estimated costs for campus cleaning and sanitation needs going forward.

Staff Changes:

- Sarah Parker, Director of Operations resigned on January 24, 2025, and Sonya Long was selected to fill the Director of Operations Position with a start date of March 3rd.
- Valerie Mailman, Office Manager, resigned on May 12, 2025; Avery Bechtol, Communications and Membership Coordinator was hired on September 2, 2025, to fill that vacancy.
- Lindsey Eaton, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry resigned on August 11, 2025. Current plans are under development to temporarily cover the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries position until a new person can be permanently hired. Our many thanks to Grace Lloyd, Becca Vickrey, Kate Moseley and Lou Moore who have readily volunteered to be collectively managing the open position since then.
- Completed 2025 staff performance reviews before submitting the preliminary 2026 Personnel Budget. December payrolls that will be paid in January 2026 will be adjusted accordingly upon final approval of the 2026 Personnel Budget.
- Welcomed Mike Mayfield to the Personnel Committee as Session Liaison. • Position Descriptions Review: Committee decision was made to review and update all position descriptions annually in the month of May going forward.
 - Personnel Committee members were assigned as ongoing liaisons for each staff position. Job Description reviews were updated for 2025.

Connecting with Staff: Each committee member was assigned to be a constant contact with an individual staff member to enhance communication, follow up on performance and position issues and to assist the individual as much as possible.

- Personnel Information for Church Leaders: Employee information was collected, formatted, and distributed to all staff. Updates will be distributed annually.
- Procedure Updates put on hold until 2026: Updates are required for the Rumple Manual of Procedures and the Personnel Employee Manual.

Sabbatical

- Dave McCollum: Completed all planning and musical support for Dave's six-week Sabbatical of June 22nd through August 2nd. Execution and coverage were completed with good success. Thanks to Evelyn Sudderth for her dedication supporting the choir activities.

Properties Committee:

Members: Kevin Shaw, John Calvin (Session Liaison), Trey Abernethy, Eric Overcash, Cap Clark, Becky Bishop, Leigh Derby, Marshall Womack, Johnny Lentz, Jim Crowell, Jay Stewart, and Sonya Long (Staff).

Replaced the Sanctuary HVAC units with more energy efficient models, installed a sump pump in the air handler room for the new HVAC units, and put in place a maintenance contract for all thirteen units on the church campus.

Replaced walkway lighting from Main Street to the gathering space in the Educational Building and replaced the exterior lighting that illuminates the Narthex. Installed light switches for the Sanctuary lighting outside the choir loft, no longer necessary to go into the choir loft to turn on the Sanctuary lights.

Mulched the entire campus, trimmed the overgrown Rhododendron on the walkway between Rumble House and the Sanctuary, and repaired loose rocks.

Repaired steps to the choir room and replaced and repaired multiple slate tiles on the Sanctuary roof.

Gutters cleaned out and storm windows installed on all windows in the Rumble House. Fire Extinguishers inspected and hung per Fire Inspector.

Had the after-school classroom on the 5th floor painted and re-arranged rooms to make more meeting space available on the 5th floor. Installed all new interior signs throughout the educational building and installed fencing in the parking lot to keep cars off the grass.

Worship Committee:

Committee members: Kathryn Scott (chair), Kathy Beach, David McCollum, Beth Abernethy, Rick Richardson, Barbara Julien, Robert Shirley, Jim Jones, Nancy Leonard, Rick Richardson (elder liaison).

The worship committee was responsible for overseeing appropriate observation of liturgical calendar events. The committee worked with Kathy to set the times for holiday services as well as the dates for the summer church service schedule.

Rick Richardson was head of the communion services. He established dates for communion with Kathy's assistance and committee approval. Communion was held monthly as well as on special event days. Rick oversaw ordering supplies, setting up the communion table, as well as cleaning up after the service, and creating the list of volunteers to serve communion.

David McCollum kept the committee aware of all events related to the choir and organist, plus all special services. He also kept the committee up to date on the choral Scholars and the handbell choir plus the status of the carillon. David also oversaw Composer Sunday with Pepper Choplin and a concert with Joseph Martin.

The committee oversaw evaluating/reviewing wedding and funeral/memorial service policies. The committee also assisted with any issues concerning the ushers for Sunday services and the usher handbook.

In 2025, the worship committee worked to establish a sub-committee consisting of Tracy Tilley, Nancy Leonard, Jim Jones, and Jean Baskin to come up with a calendar for appropriate seasonal decorations/flowers after Rumble received a donation to cover the cost of these arrangements.

The committee discussed and evaluated the worship elements and services as needed. There was a sub-committee that oversaw decorations of the sanctuary for the Christmas season. This committee was responsible for the purchase of all greenery, the tree, the flowers as well as the setup of the sanctuary during the 2025 season. They also purchased additional items for the outdoor wooden nativity scene. This committee consisted of Beth and Tres Abernethy, Kay and Kim Price and Jim Jones.

There were several special services in 2025: Ash Wednesday Worship, Maundy Thursday Service, Grandfather Home Service, World Communion Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, All Saints' Day, Kirkin" of the Tartan, 2 Christmas Eve services as well as the Live Nativity program.

Subcommittees:

Building Subcommittee:

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

The main emphasis for the Building Committee during 2025 was the completion of the remodeling of the Education Building.

The Blowing Rock Cares facility was completed and became fully operational as a stand-alone space. The Hallway from the Gathering Area to the New Fellowship Hall was also completed.

The Gathering Area was completed and put into use for fellowship before church services and activities at other times. The area also serves as a viewing area for the Ben Long Frescoes. The Gathering Area also now has a dedicated Nursery.

The first floor of the building was redone to create dedicated children and youth areas, with a new entrance to Ginny Stevens Lane.

All of the construction work was completed by Terry Lentz and his crew at reduced cost to the church.

New Fellowship Hall:

The committee spent many hours working with our consultants, ADW Architects, Municipal Engineering & Vannoy Construction, to develop a building that served the needs of the Church but was also economically feasible in the present construction environment.

The original concept of a below-grade building attached to the Keys Chapel was rejected due to the extremely high costs for excavation and parking lot issues and potential structural damage to the Keys Chapel.

The building was revised to be mostly on-grade with minimal excavation and disturbance of the parking lots. The proposed building will be separated from Keys Chapel by about 20 feet and have a new walkway between the two buildings. A second floor mezzanine was eliminated, while the lobby and the main area of the building was kept in place with little change to the floor area. A stage area was incorporated as well as bathrooms with showers and a full kitchen.

Circle 1:

Members: Adele Dunbar (chair), Alice Salthouse, Audrey Austin, Becky Steele, Deatra Sellers, Debbie Clay, Evalyn Sudderth, Jana Groothuis, Janice Burns, Karen Graham, Linda Steen, Lynn Henderson, Lou Moore, Marianne Hall, Mary Hutchens, Shirley Harris, Susan Becker, Susan Suddreth, Teresa Lentz, Fredanel Morris.

Circle 1 has 20 members. We meet once a month on the first Monday of the month at Rumple.

In March, during Lent, we helped prepare filters to purify water with “Wine to Water.” Each month we provide snacks and treats to Rumple staff as a Thank You for their hard work and help. During the school year, we send greeting cards and gift cards to three college students from Rumple to show our support and encouragement. At Easter and Christmas, we gave greeting cards and gift cards to 13 Ransom Street residents (subsidized housing). We included a box of homemade treats at Christmas.

Four times in 2025 we provided a meal for Hospitality House residents, using the money from our two parking lot collections to support this mission. In December we donated money to Blowing Rock Cares in memory of our Circle member Kim Rogers. During the past year we worked with Congregational Care to provide food and assistance for three memorial receptions.

Creation Care Subcommittee:

Members: Kim Kincaid (chair), Alex & Anne Bernhardt, Shirley Harris, Lynn Henderson, Mary Hutchens, Judy Lilly, Mike & Misty Mayfield, Bonnie McLamb, Kate Mosley, Missy Rankin, Hope Squires, Brandon Nelson, and Stephanie Hankins (staff).

As a subcommittee of the Missions Committee, our primary goal is to educate ourselves and our congregation about ways we can all better care for God's creation. We have done this by increasing awareness of issues and actions we can take, providing learning opportunities, organizing activities with local organizations, and staying involved with partner associations.

Awareness efforts have included monthly "Did You Know" articles for the Slate & Stone on such topics as Monarch butterflies, Crows, Making better food choices by eating less beef and supporting local farmers, learning how our warming planet affects weather, and being introduced to the concept of Green Burials. During early spring we continued our "Bubble Brigade" dishwashing group to help reduce single use items at church events; this activity was put on hold when the Fellowship Hall was under renovation. We are encouraged to see that all group functions at Rumble that include meals continue to offer vegetarian options. We have also begun putting "please recycle" labels on small water bottles that are available for folks to use during worship services.

During Lent we participated in helping replenish local stream banks by planting live stakes (starter trees) - organized by Watauga Riverkeepers. One of our members organizes quarterly "Holy Hikes" to local trails to encourage Rumble members to enjoy our natural surroundings. Committee members attended a film screening at BRAHM focused on the development of Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture (BRWIA) who have over the last 20 years developed a network supporting local farmers and providing access to our community to their harvests (through the Food Hub). Several members also attended a forum at ASU concerning the health effects of our warming weather trends and how the state is attempting to monitor and address this issue. One of our members participated in a regional webinar on Christian Climate Training. We encouraged and participated in several earth care focused activities for our younger children (both Wednesday After School and Vacation Bible School curricula were earth-care oriented). Several committee members participated in the daily VBS activities and our committee provided lunch on the final day and hosted the viewing of a film on bats. We also used some of our funds to purchase an additional year of the VBS earth care curriculum and donated several plants to the newly renovated youth and children's areas.

Throughout the year, we continued to collect and recycle batteries used from worship service microphones. In addition, several members remain actively involved in tracking

Rumple's energy usage and communicating with building and properties committees to consider eco-friendly, energy efficient options for our ongoing building/renovation projects.

With our neighboring church St. Mary's we promoted our recently installed "Stations of the Cross" and provided volunteer guides and booklets on Good Friday for the public to experience this moving walking meditation. During Advent, we organized our second annual "Alternative Advent Christmas Market" to encourage shopping and gifting from local vendors and offering items from Dave Henry's Peru mission trips. During June, we again celebrated "Creation Care Sunday" by decorating the sanctuary with many plant and animal items, hosting a guest speaker, Dr. Norman Wirzba, who not only filled the pulpit for both services but also provided an engaging discussion around his recent book Love's Braided Dance. Rumple folks may remember that it was Dr. Wirzba's presentations as a Guest Scholar during 2019 that prompted several members to initiate our Creation Care efforts as a congregation. Committee members also served as ushers that day, led Time with Children, and offered seed packets to the congregation.

To connect and exchange ideas with other like-minded congregations, we have maintained partnerships with both Presbyterians for Earth Care (PCUSA) and the Creation Care Alliance (Mountain True). We also helped sponsor the annual Blue Ridge Conservancy 5K race in September by providing locally grown apples for all participants.

Endowments and Scholarships

Members: John Beall (chair), Don Lucas; Deb Brenner; Mary Hutchens, Sonny Edmondson, and Peggy Shore.

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church Endowment

Purpose: To support Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church for distribution to the Missions Committee of Church

Current Balance - \$538,958

Grants Distributed in 2025 - \$23,870

Scholarship Committee Members:

Members: Cindy Lentz (chair), Becky Steele, Tracy Markland, Lora Davis, Kevin Shaw, Lou Moore, Janice Burns, and Johnny Lentz

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Endowment

Purpose: To further education and to encourage young men and women to prepare for relevant and fulfilling vocations.

Current Balance - \$785,339

Grants Distributed in 2025 - \$34,880

Number of grants awarded to High School Seniors - 8

Frescoes Subcommittee:

Members: John Green (chair), Johnathan Rhyne, Rick Richardson, Kevin Shaw, Avery Bechtol (staff).

The Ben Long Frescoes acquired by Rumple were opened to the public in March 2025. In 2025, the frescoes were seen by over 3,000 visitors and more than \$7,000 in donations were received.

Improvements to the frescoes include permanent outdoor signage on Main St and Jenny Stephens Lane and additional lighting over the murals.

The frescoes enjoyed several articles and viewings including articles in the Watauga Times, and a four page piece by Our State magazine. A segment about the frescoes was also aired on the NC PBS television channel.

The only project completed in 2025 was the publication of a rack card to be distributed at the 7 northwest North Carolina Tourist Centers and the 12 NC Welcome Centers. The committee is working on a handout for visitors to the Gathering Space.

The retention of existing and addition of new docents is a primary action item of the committee. The ministry currently has 10 docents with a goal of increasing this number to 20 in 2026. The committee is looking at App St. BR civic groups, senior citizen center and members of RMPC to secure additional docents.

Visiting Scholar Subcommittee:

Committee Members: Anne Bernhardt (chair), Shirley Harris (co-chair), Davis Hankins, Sarah Settemeyer, Betty Womack, Mary Hutchens, Curt Salthouse, Brooke Harmon, Adryona Nelson.

2025 was a banner year for the Visiting Scholar Committee. We were honored from September 20-22, to host Dr. Margaret Oget, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Oget came to our attention when a group, who was at the Montreat's Women Conference, heard her speak and enthusiastically recommended her to our committee.

During her time at Rumple, Dr. Oget not only walked us through the somewhat ignored book of James but explained in a relatable manner the process by which the Bible was crafted and how the many translations emerged using handouts and visuals. Her energy and wisdom were obvious as she helped us to continue our study of the Bible.

An added bonus to Dr. Oget's residency, was her pre teen son's attendance. Gabriel ate with some of Rumple's youth and a few of our members were able to engage with Dr. Oget over meals.

Many of our members consider Dr. Oget to be the best scholar we have had!

Welcome Team Subcommittee:

Committee Members: Linda Mauldin (chair), David Hardage, Kay Price, Diane Overcash, Curt Salthouse, Janet Stout, Laramie Williams, Judy Lilly, Jim Crowell, Mary Hutchens, chair of Ushers, Avery Bechtol (staff).

The Welcome team is to provide information for visitors if they need/want to become active members of Rumple.

Avery Bechtol joined this team as a new hire in the summer of 2025 as Membership coordinator on the Rumple staff. Avery provides a weekly list of worship attendees that are visitors and Linda Mauldin sends out notifications to team members to purposely ask someone to meet and greet these visitors.

After people join the Rumple family, team members meet with the new members to give them a 'New Member' notebook containing committees, activities at Rumple, BRCARES information, etc. and whom to contact if they would like to be involved.

In the fall of 2025, Kathy hosted a 'drop-in' for 55 people at the Manse inviting recurring visitors. Yearly, this connection creates an atmosphere when visitors become Affiliate or Full Members.

Overall in 2025, around 30 new members joined Rumple.