

THE 2017 YEARBOOK  
OF  
ANNUAL REPORTS

January 21, 2018



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United Church of Christ  
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## Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting

Grace

Luncheon

Recognitions

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members

Thanks to Outgoing Officers

Business

Review of Minutes of Congregational Meetings in 2017

Adoption of 2018 Budget

Other New Business

Adjournment

Benediction

## Minutes of Congregational Meetings

**January 15, 2017 12:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Randy Orwig. There were approximately 95 members and guests present. In the absence of the outgoing moderator, Randy introduced the new Moderator, Caroline Holmes, as well as the Council secretary and treasurer. New moderator elect is Tom Powell. Randy presented the ceremonial gavel to Caroline.

(Note: The Annual Meeting had been rescheduled from January 8 due to snow.)

Caroline called for applause to recognize the previous year's officers and board members.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Review of Minutes of Congregational Meetings in 2016**

Caroline called attention to the *2016 Yearbook of Annual Reports* which contains minutes of the two Congregational Meetings held in 2016. **A motion to approve the minutes of the Congregational Meetings was made** by Tom Powell **and seconded** by Sarah Foley. **The motion carried.**

#### **Adoption of 2017 Budget**

The treasurer, Bill Blanchard, called attention to the proposed budget that had been distributed in advance. **A motion was made to approve the 2017 budget** by Bill Blanchard

**and seconded** by Sarah Foley. Discussion followed.

A concern was raised by Marianne Smith regarding the 50% reduction in our church's level of support of UCC's OCWM ministry (item 1-5200 – Our Church's Wider Mission). She has served as chair of the Mission Board for the past 4 years. Katherine Floyd also voiced opposition to decreasing our support of this important work of the UCC Southern Conference. She listed herself among several former members of the Mission Board who had aimed for an annual OCWM contribution of 10% of our church income. (Dan Kuhn clarified that, in 2017, our contribution stands at 4.6%.) Russ Martin later spoke to this issue from his point of view as retired minister of another denomination, whose apportionments were not voluntary.

The concerns about the OCWM budget item were addressed by the treasurer and pastor. This significant reduction to Missions had been a difficult decision to make. It reflected the anticipated level of financial support (pledges) for 2017 and the need to adopt a balanced budget. Bill Brown pointed out that the budgeted amount of our 2016 contribution for OCWM had been paid in full; and Tanya Gold noted that this obligation was met even though the church did not meet our 2016 budgeted goal for income. (To meet this obligation, the Council approved taking \$10,000 out of the Reserve Fund to use as 2016 income.)

Rev. Randy outlined the Mitigation Plan, as follows: All four 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings during 2017 will be designated as additional donations to OCWM. An educational effort will coincide with the offerings, in order to provide an opportunity to renew and strengthen our relationship with the United Church of Christ. Overall, we hope this will allow us to maintain our previous level of support of OCWM.

Sarah Foley raised a question about the sizable increase in the HVAC Service Contract (item 1-5840). The Treasurer explained that this provides visibility into the total expense for HVAC maintenance (both in contract and out-of-contract costs). Previously, repairs were accounted for under Building Maintenance (item 1-5804).

Discussion being over, **a decision on the motion to adopt the 2017 Budget was called for** by voice vote. **Motion passed**, with one member opposed.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please take the Annual Reports home. Let the office staff know if you did not receive an electronic copy.

This is the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." A joint service will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church this Wednesday.

Now recruiting members for a long study with 5 other churches around the issues of racism (Jan. 29 – March 6, 12:30 – 3 PM).

Goal Retreat will be here on Saturday Feb. 25 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Come participate in setting goals for the next 5 years.

January 29 is first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of 2017. A special offering will be taken for OCWM that day.

Thank you all for voicing your concerns, thoughts, and questions. **A motion was made to adjourn** at 12:53 PM. **Motion passed** by consensus.

*Submitted by Tanya Gold, Council Secretary*

**December 10, 2017 at 12:45 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Randy Orwig. There were approximately 110 members and guests in the CLC for the meeting, which followed the annual Christmas Luncheon. Pastor Randy called attention to the *Nominating Committee Report 2018* which had been distributed, and reminded everyone how essential it is that members serve. He reflected back on the various ways information had been channeled to the Nominating Committee, including a special *Meet & Greet* introducing the Boards and Committees, and a two-page survey in the stewardship mailing entitled *Enlisting in Ministry*. The goal is to engage people into positions that match their interests and skills. Randy pointed out several TBAs designating openings to be filled. He will continue to make calls this week.

Tom Powell, Moderator-Elect, was introduced to conduct the business portion of the meeting. Mr. Powell stated that **the only item of business was accepting the report of the Nominating Committee**. He asked for volunteers to fill the open positions. With no additions made from the floor, **a motion was made to accept the Nominating Committee Report by Gene Ferrell and seconded by Bob Martin**.

**By a voice vote, the Nominating Committee report was accepted unanimously.**

**Announcements:**

Tonight is Church Night.

We need people to go Christmas Caroling and take poinsettias to our homebound members. Dan Kuhn is leading a group that will travel to various members' homes. Two other groups will head to Twin Lakes and The Hamlet.

Our next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2018, for adoption of the 2018 budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

*Submitted by Tanya Gold, Council Secretary*

Membership Statistics  
**Elon Community Church, United Church of Christ**

Members listed as of December 31, 2016:	267
Associate members as of December 31, 2016:	16
Members received during 2017:	29
Associate members received during 2017:	2
Deactivated Members (by request) during 2017:	2
Members transferred to other churches in 2017:	3
Members deceased in 2017:	10
Confirmed membership as of December 31, 2017:	281
Associate Membership as of December 31, 2017:	18

**Church Office Hours in 2017**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday

**Telephone:** (336) 584-0391; (336) 584-8147

**Fax:** (336) 584-7963

**E-mail:** [eccucc@att.net](mailto:eccucc@att.net)

**Web Address:** [www.eloncommunitychurch.org](http://www.eloncommunitychurch.org)

**The Church Staff**

Randy Orwig, Senior Pastor  
 Sharon Wheeler, Associate Pastor  
 Monica F. Nicholson, Office Manager  
 Lori Watson, Finance Director and CLC Ministries Coordinator  
 Mark Rumley, Organist and Choirmaster  
 Eden Brown, Bell Choirs Director  
 Elizabeth Lewis, Nursery Care Director  
 Delinda Anderson, Sexton

**Elon Community Church UCC - Nominating Committee Report 2018**

<b>Moderator:</b>	Tom Powell	<b>Secretary:</b>	Tanya Gold	<b>History Room:</b>	Betsy Stevens
<b>Moderator Elect:</b>	Carol Comfort	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bill Blanchard	<b>Memorials:</b>	Mimi Healy

<b>CLASS OF 2018</b>	<b>CLASS OF 2019</b>	<b>CLASS OF 2020</b>	<b>MUSIC COMMITTEE</b>
<b>BOARD OF DEACONS</b>			Tom Conally (choir)
Ray Pollard	Sam Fowler	Russ Martin	Sandy Griffin(choir)
Gary Weerts	Whitney Gregory	Connie Martin	Tanya Gold (bells)
Derek Tang	Rosilyn Dudley	Gretchen Bruesehoff-Wiles	Mary Jane Ferrell
			Carol Lehman Maggie Byerly
			Donna McCauley
<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>			<b>HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE</b>
Don Scott	Jack Lynch	Hal Clifton	Linda Brown
Ted Wheeler	Hunt Johnson	Linda Brown	RoseAnn McLelland
George Troxler	Jean Toms	Caroline Holmes	Gary Cooper
			Betty Reynolds
<b>BOARD OF EVANGELISM</b>			Kay Elder
Ellen Martin	Mimi Healy	Jackie Boada	Connie Martin
Howard Welborn	Gene Ferrell	Philip Ramsey/Kirstie Doehler	Sheri James
Kevin Bengel	Sheri James	Colleen Gutierrez	Sue Brown
			Mimi Healy
<b>BOARD OF MISSIONS</b>			Betsy Stevens
Ralph Waller	Louise Barnett	Racheal Stimpson	Janet Mayse
Lynne Horne	Jane Lane	Vivian Bengel	
Gayle Pollard	Loudelle King	Annie McLane	
			<b>UNIVERSITY RELATIONS</b>
<b>BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>			Dave Turnage
Manda Stiegel	Artie/Elizabeth Lewis	Tabithe Fisher	Gene Lentz
Ted Henson	Katie Tang	Kirby Moore	Joanne Lentz
Hugh Comfort	Virginia Leeds	Michelle Abelson	Dan Kuhn
			Donna McCauley
			Bob Martin
<b>PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE</b>			<b>JUSTICE AND WITNESS</b>
Derek Tang	Martha Spann		Sue Brown
Ray Pollard	Jean Blevins		Gary Cooper
Artie Lewis	Martha Wilson		Lola Ayers
			Bob Ayers
<b>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</b>			Jessica Johnson
Dolores Truitt	Jean Lawton		Bob Martin
Janet Mayse	Carol Oakley		<i>Green Church rep/Missions rep</i>
Harriet Von Oesen			
<b>ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE</b>			
Andy Feld	Ray Covington	<i>Also Includes:</i>	<i>Pastor, Trustees Chair, Moderator,</i>
Dave Turnage	TBA		<i>Past Moderator, and Treasurer.</i>
<b>BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>			
Mike Mayse	Millard Gold	<i>Also Includes:</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carole Troxler	Chris Gregory		
<b>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</b>			
Rosanne McLelland	Susanne Doolittle	Linda Fowler	
Betty Blanchard	Bill Brown	Faye Conally	
<b>STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE</b>			
Tom Conally	TBA		
Karen Drummond	TBA		
Luci Spivey			
<b>BOY SCOUT COMMITTEE</b>			
George Troxler	Jim Brown		
<b>FLOWER CHAIR</b>	<b>BEREAVEMENT CHAIR</b>	<b>NURTURE CHAIR</b>	
Cindy Hammond	Linda Brown	Dan Kuhn	

## REPORT OF SENIOR PASTOR

A year goes by at a breathtaking pace and it also leads us to new places. As I mentioned last year with the loss of many members who were such a central part of the congregation, we saw that trend continue this year as well. However, we also hit a milestone of receiving over 30 new members which remind us that as much as we miss our brothers and sisters we no longer see, there is so much excitement about the future as we greet new brothers and sisters in faith!

This last year saw the first full year of instituting our Vision 2021 goals with very active results! It is amazing how the Council and all the different groups involved have received and embraced the work of bringing these 5 year goals to completion much more quickly and timely than often happens. From the parking lot usage to updating the constitution, each of our goals is becoming a part of our everyday business. The hardest of the goals is the most innocuous, the acceptance and use of Christian Practices in our personal and communal lives. Mostly, because it is a change of language more than it is a change in behavior. But, we realize as time goes on that allowing ourselves to engage in these practices will create even more depth in being the church and living out our call as faithful servants of Christ.

The goal I am most proud of and hope will create lasting change in the church's future is the adding of a new committee called Justice and Witness Committee. In addition, the Mission Board will be renamed the "Mission and Outreach Board" which now gives us clear ministry arms to address the issues we must confront to be arbiters of equality, hope, and love in a world of unacceptance, inequality, and forces that lead to dehumanization and hatred. Simply put, we now have the "infrastructure" to do ministry that touches real lives. In addressing poverty, LGBTQIA issues, racism, the environment, and sexism that plagues our world in which we live, we have a place for theological discussion, but also to create action and programs (ministries) to take our talking to activity of change. The seed is now planted, we together can help to flourish and grow.

This year I took a mini-sabbatical that also allowed two other staff members, Sharon and Mark, to experience a mini-sabbatical as well. This was just right for me as it provide rest and extended time with my family that was my real need in this 4 week period. I did some personal study around Christian Practices which will be added to some excitement building among others members who will help to embrace this way of being the church. I took my mini-sabbatical in the Summer (June-July) which added very little disruption to the overall schedule. I want to thank Sharon for doing double duty and Revs. Russ Martin and Ray Pollard as back-up help. They both preached during this time which was an extra special gift and an even more special opportunity for Ray Pollard to celebrate 60 years in ministry! I want to thank the congregation for the opportunity of sabbatical as it does help provide the ground-work for a longer tenure in ministry.

The role of pastor is one of balance. Holding together administrative, pastoral, teaching, preaching, counseling, and a myriad of activities that one cannot predict make-up a list of actions to balance. I have been able to baptize, visit in the hospitals, be with all ages, go to many, many meetings that allow me to be a part of our local church, community, association, conference, and the many ministries that relate to the church. I became chairperson of the Johns River Valley Camp Board of Trustees, continue on The Eastern NC Association Church and Ministry Board, Chair the Housing services Committee for United Church Retirement Services, attend Town of Elon, Elon University, and pastor's groups; and bring together all this in helping to provide our community church as a site for many gatherings. Finally, I get to spend time with all of you in large and small groups, fellowships, one on one moments, and get to be a part of one of the most active, engaged congregations that I could only dream about in the past. I am very proud and humbled to be the pastor of Elon Community Church for almost 7 years. 2017 was a great year, but one of many as long as we stay faithful!

*Submitted by Rev. Randy Orwig,  
Senior Pastor*

## REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

- Youth Summit group—I planned meetings for visioning and setting goals for the 2021 Visioning process for our Youth Ministry
- Children’s Summit to work on goals for our children’s ministry.
- Organized a sabbatical plan and met with Pastor Parrish Relations and Church Council to present the plan.
- University Relations—helped organize and execute: Winterfaith, Chili and Bingo Night, Pet a Puppy, Band Dinner, and Dog Day Mixer
- Southern Conference of the UCC--ECC UCC hosted a Leadership Institute for the Southern Conference of the UCC. Assisted in the organization of this event, attended board meetings of the Southern conference in February and June. Participated in a Town Hall meeting at Melfield UCC sponsored by the SOC. Attended the Annual Gathering in VA Beach June 22-24<sup>th</sup>.
- Eastern NC Association (ENCA) of the SOC of the UCC—As President organized and led meetings of the Board of Directors of the ENCA in January, May, and August. Assisted in the planning and organizing of the Annual Gathering held October 14<sup>th</sup> at Burchett’s Chapel UCC in Manson. Attended events in our Association at United Church of Chapel Hill in January and March.
- Attended the Progressive Youth Ministry Conference at Montreat Retreat Center in Black Mountain, NC on March 8-10<sup>th</sup>
- Began my Sabbatical on March 7<sup>th</sup> and returned to church on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Youth Ministry— I Helped to lead the youth ministry with the help of the Stiegels on the first and third Wednesday nights during the school year. During the year the youth attended the UCC Southern Region Winter Youth Retreat, participated in Youth Sunday Worship, served a fundraiser meal for Valentine’s Day, served meals and played bingo with the resident at The Willows, attended an area UCC mission and fellowship event, bought gifts for the backpack children, and had great times of fun and fellowship sharing meals at the church and at local restaurants.
- Kid’s In Christ Kingdom (KICK) group ministry—The KICK group meets on the second and fourth Sundays of the month following chimes, bell, and children’s choir rehearsals. The group did a variety of activities including helping prepare meals for their parents, making cards and gifts for the homebound members, preparing a gift for Pastor Randy for Pastor Appreciation month, and just sharing in fun and games during this time. The activities such as Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat and Halloween Party and Advent Workshop are all extensions of this program that involve not only the children and the families. I assist in planning and organizing these events.
- Ministerial meetings throughout the year I attend include—The Burlington Areas Ministers, the Elon Ministers, the Burlington Youth Ministers, the Triangle UCC ministers, Triangle Youth Ministers.
- During the months of June and July this year I covered for Randy while he took a much needed sabbatical.
- I preached at designated times during the year including the day we celebrated my 10 years of serving at Elon Community Church UCC on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

This year was busy, reflective, fun and challenging all at the same time!

*Sharon Wheeler, Associate Pastor*

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2017

<u>Income Received</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Pledged Income	449,537.00	461,899.00
Unpledged Income	9,250.00	0.00
Unpledged Plate Income	2,750.00	3,782.00
Initial Envelope Offering	50.00	11.00
Sanctuary Fees	1,000.00	725.00
Facilities Usage Income	11,000.00	12,525.00
Sales Tax Refund	1,500.00	1,714.00
CLC Income	30,000.00	27,124.00
	\$505,087.00	\$507,780.00

<b>2017 Income</b>	507,780.00
<b>2017 Expenses</b>	<u>507,314.00</u>
	466.00

### Account Balances as of December 31, 2017

General Checking	\$157,248.00
New Building Fund Checking	\$71,700.00
New Building Mortgage Balance	\$612,181.00

*Submitted by Bill Blanchard, Treasurer  
and Lori Watson, Finance Director*

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Memorials have been given and acknowledged during 2017 for the following:

Paul Cheek	Ruth Cheek	Marie Parker
Melva Foster	George Von Oesen	Edith Brannock
Earl Danieley	Ken Richardson	Cindy Benson
Dee Atkinson	Verona Danieley	

Honors have been received and acknowledged during 2017 for:

Elizabeth Powell

Memorials and Honors are gratefully received and acknowledged. Many gifts are designated for special projects, i.e. New Building Fund, Music Programs, etc. Otherwise, gifts are placed in the Building Fund and used as deemed appropriate.

*Submitted by Mimi Healy  
Memorials Secretary*

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2017

It was my honor and privilege to serve as your Moderator in 2017 and I am pleased to report that it was a busy and productive year. The Church Council works on behalf of the membership of the church and oversees both the spiritual and business functions. We work closely with the appointed boards and committees to coordinate the church programs and make financial decisions as needed. Using the constitution of our church as our guiding principle, we perform many duties that are required of us.

Such duties include regular monthly meetings with board and committee leaders where information is shared regarding activities, special functions, and any problems they may be facing. The Church Treasurer updates us on the financial condition of the Church and the Trustees provide information regarding the condition of the facilities.

Last year, the Council accomplished several major tasks for the benefit of the congregation. We established a Call Agreement for Associate Pastor Sharon Wheeler, and updated her job description. We established a procedure for conducting annual performance evaluations of our ministers and completed the evaluations with the assistance of members of the congregation. We established an annual compensation form to be distributed to each of our staff that will specify compensation and benefits as approved in the annual budget. We charged a sub-committee to review the employment documents of our choir director and organist and expect that task to be completed early in 2018. We charged a sub-committee with the task of reviewing our constitution. This sub-committee spent many hours on this project and has successfully completed a revised document that will be voted on by the congregation at our annual meeting.

None of these accomplishments could have been achieved without the loyal and dedicated officers of our congregation. Treasurer Bill Blanchard devotes countless hours to managing our finances, and Secretary Tanya Gold is diligent in recording the actions of Council and providing valuable input to various committees. Every member of the Council generously gives of their time and talents and contributes to the smooth operation of our church. Please do not hesitate to compliment them on a job well done!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Caroline Holmes, Moderator*

## BOARD OF DEACONS 2017 REPORT

The Board of Deacons for 2017 has consisted of Colleen Gutierrez (Chairman), Ray Pollard, Derek Tang (Vice Chair), Jim McCauley, Bev Orwig (Secretary), Sam Fowler, Whitney Gregory, Rosilyn Dudley, and Joe Foley. Joe moved to Virginia and his position on the Board was filled by Gary Weertz.

During the year we have regularly reviewed our assigned duties with particular attention to Families in Care, Deacon on Call, ushers and communion responsibilities. As our Board has assignments with regard to assisting in worship, we have been involved with duties related to special worship events like Maundy Thursday, and Advent services including the Moravian Love Feast and Christmas Eve services. We have helped serve food at our Music Camp in August and at Allied Churches in September.

Deacons are part of the Worship and Music Task Group stemming from the Vision 2021 Goal Retreat Day. We have been involved with surveying the congregation regarding our current worship services' acoustics, lighting, and flow of the service. We were involved in timing the various parts of the service in September. The deacons will be working with Rev. Orwig to tally the results of the worship surveys in 2018.

All of the deacons would like to thank Rev Orwig for his wise guidance and counsel over this past year. I would also like to thank all of the board members for their service and devotion to Elon Community Church and it's members.

*Respectfully Submitted by Colleen Gutierrez, Chair*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017 REPORT

- NEGOTIATED A NEW PARKING LOT AGREEMENT WITH ELON UNIVERSITY FOR ANNUAL PAYMENT OF \$20,000.00, PREVIOUS WAS \$10,000.00. ELON UNIVERSITY, AT THE END OF A 7 YEAR PERIOD, WILL REPAVE THE PARKING LOT AT THEIR EXPENSE, A \$80,000.00 EXPENSE. THEY WILL ALSO MAINTAIN OUR LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDS.  
*\$10,000 will go into the General Fund as previously done, \$10,000 will go into a restricted fund for major improvements to the maintenance of the building. With lease payment, parking lot improvement and landscaping, the University thru direct funds and monies in kind NOW gives approximately \$56,000 annually to the church.*
- NEGOTIATED WITH TOWN OF ELON TO DESIGN AND ERECT THE NEW PARKING SIGNS FOR THE CHURCH'S LOT AT NO EXPENSE TO THE CHURCH. THIS WAS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER.
- REPAIRED THE VESTIBLE DOORS WITH A WORK CREW FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
- PURCHASED NEW BATTERY FOR DEFIBRILLATOR.
- AGREED TO TAKE OUT \$50,000.00 FROM THE CLC RESERVE FUND OF \$100,000.00 TO PAY DOWN THE PRINCIPAL ON THE CLC NOTE. MAINTAIN A BALANCE NOT TO BE LESS THAN \$50,00.00 IN THE RESERVE FUND.
- TED COOKED HIS FAMOUS "FISH FRY" FOR THE SHELTER ON AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>, SERVED THE MUSIC CAMP MEAL ON AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>.
- ADDED A NEW 220 CIRCUIT TO THE CLC STAGE THAT CAN BE LOCKED.
- APPROVED FOR LEMOM GLASS AND MIRROW TO REPAIR ALL THE GLASS DOORS IN THE CLC AND THE ATTRIUM.
- APPROVED A FUNDRAISER FOR PURCHASING OF NEW SOLAR PANELS HEADED BY THE GREEN COMMITTEE AND DAVID ANDES. COST IS APPROXIMATLEY \$46,000.00.
- APPROVED FUNDRAISER TO MATCH A \$20,000.00 GIFT TO GO AGAINST THE PRINCIPAL ON THE CLC NOTE. THIS WAS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUDED IN DECEMBER. JANUARY OF 2017 BALANCE OWED WAS \$762,550.00, BALANCE IN JANUARY 2018 WILL BE BELOW \$600,000.00. A REDUCTION OF \$162,000.00 IN THE FISICAL YEAR OF 2017. CONGREGATION IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR STRONG SUPPORT.
- REPLACED REFRIGERATOR IN UPSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP ROOM THANKS TO HUNT JOHNSON.
- WILL MEET ON JANUARY 7, 2018 TO APPROVE THE CHURCH BUDGET OF 2018. ADOPTED A MOTION MADE BY MILLARD GOLD THAT ANY FUNDS LEFT OVER FROM THE 2018 BUDGET GOES INTO THE FACILITIES RESERVE FUND. WILL TAKE TO COUNCIL THAT SAME NIGHT.
- TRUSTEES MEET FOR 11 MONTHLY MEETING AND 4 SPECIAL CALLED MEETINGS DURING 2017.

*Submitted by Don Scott, chair*

## BOARD OF EVANGELISM 2017 REPORT

The board of evangelism was very active during 2016. The year started out with the following members: Bob Martin, Connie Martin, Ellen Martin, Howard Wellborn, Kevin Bengal, Sandra Sarlinga, Fabian Lujan, Sheri James and Mimi Healey. Unfortunately due to work commitments Fabian and Sandra were not able to participate often.

At the first meeting officers were elected.  
Bob Martin was elected chairman

Ellen Martin was elected Co-Vice Chairman.  
 Sheri James was elected Co-Vice Chairman  
 Connie Martin was elected secretary.  
 Howard Wellborn was on elected financial liaison to the trustees.

Ellen Martin continued as coordinator of the six for dinner program. The program has been well received by the congregation in many members participate. The program was operating all through the spring and fall, taking the summer off as many congregants are traveling.

In the Spring, Bob Martin continued preparing a report to the board and the church council concerning an evangelism inventory and communications protocol. Bob took the information that was gained in the survey from last year and synthesized it and provided a report to the board. It was determined that any recommendations would be taken up at the visioning/5-year planning retreat.

In addition to continuing its work with nametags, the Board also instituted a Parking lot greeter program.

The board presented a BE THE CHURCH Rainbow banner to the Church.

Howard Wellborn kept an eye on the boards budget throughout the year, raising appropriate concerns and through his care and steady hand the board came in under budget for the year.

The board of evangelism took care to make sure the congregation was provided with tasty food at the meet and greet at the end of Music Camp. The board provided a wonderful spread of heavy hors d'oeuvres.

The board also participated, contributed and assisted in the winter faith luncheons as well as the football Sunday.

Connie Martin was in charge of writing personal follow-up notes to visitors and over the course of the year. Wrote approximately 47 notes.

The evangelism board provided yellow carnations for Mother's Day, new member bags as new members were accepted, and attended orientation dinners for new members.

Sandra and Fabian were very active in maintaining the progress that has been made in our farmers market.

Out of the Visioning 5 Year planning retreat, the Board developed three goals to pursue over the next 5 years

The ECC UCC will improve community awareness of our exceptionally welcoming church by: Creating a physical presence that is enticing, welcoming, user-friendly, and represents who we are. Enhancing the visitor experience. Using technology. Resulting in an annual growth of 30 members. This goal will be prioritized and benchmarks set by October 1, 2017

At the final meeting for the year, Bob Martin and Connie Martin resigned as their three year term expired

Sheri James was elected Chair

Jackie Boada was elected Church Council delegate.

Further elections to be held in January, 2018

*Submitted by Bob Martin, chair*

## BOARD OF MISSIONS 2017 REPORT

Board Members: Gayle Pollard, chair, Ralph Waller, Vice chair, Marianne Smith, Bob Kittenger, Loudelle King, Lynne Horne, Jane Lane, Louise Barnett and Richard Denault.

The board met monthly to direct and coordinate the outreach programs of the church. We solicited contributions of time and money for projects, special offerings, and programs which support people in need in our community and beyond.

We coordinated the schedule for church groups to serve the evening meal at the

Homeless Shelter the first Friday of each month. The church pays \$150.00 for the meal, which is prepared by the Allied Churches of Alamance County staff and volunteers. The Elon Women's softball team helped us by providing servers from October to December. We continue to pick up bread and desserts from Lowes Foods on weekends for the pantry. Gayle and Ray Pollard deliver the donations to the pantry. We appreciate everyone's help as we strive to do our part to meet the needs of the hungry citizens in our county.

The church supports 9 local agencies with funds and volunteers. Several agencies have used our Community Life Center for programs. The church sponsors Cub and Boy Scout troops, and also provides financial support for Blowing Rock Conference Grounds, NC Council of Churches, and Lancaster Seminary.

ECC was recognized for being a "5 for 5" church and one of the top giving churches in the Southern Conference. Generous contributions were given to Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. In addition, donations were made to Allied Churches Souper Bowl and Honor Cards, CWS Crop Walk, Good Samaritan Fund, Classroom Closet, and Elon Student Athletic Association Food Drive. Thank you for your generosity.

Traditionally, the Mission Board has partnered with Vacation Bible School to focus on a particular mission need. This year the money received through VBS was sent to the OCWM office in Durham. That office informed us that they have assisted in re-locating 230 refugee families this year and they were very grateful to have our contribution.

In August we collected 84 school kits and 20 health kits which were shipped to the CWS warehouse in Maryland by Bill Blanchard.

The Board led the Church in participating with seven other area churches in a 16-week Habitat Build. Ralph Waller, along with Howard Wellborn, served as coordinators for this congregation. The Board provided snacks on two occasions and Lynne Horne led the devotion on one occasion.

Our second year of the Backpack project went well. Nonperishable food was purchased and taken to Elon Elementary School each week for the social worker to put in the backpacks of 17 students who would have no food on the weekends. Church members donated money and their time to the program so these students come to school ready to learn on Monday mornings.

Attempts were made successfully to focus on racial reconciliation with two African-American Churches in the area, St. Mathews, A.M.E. and Elon First Baptist. The latter requested, and the Board gladly agreed to allow them to pick up bread and desserts at Lowe's once a month and store it in our CLC freezer for distribution through their food pantry. Subsequently, Elon First Baptist has secured their own freezer.

Out of the Visioning and Goal Setting retreat held on February 25, it was deemed important that our Church establish a Social Justice and Witness Committee. The Board recommended, and it was later approved by the Church Council, that this Committee be established and its work is to begin in January 2018. The Committee's responsibility is to address such issues as racism, immigration, LGBT concerns and the Environment (Green Committee). This Committee will fall under the auspices of this Board according to the Church's constitution.

Several members of the Board assisted with the December Second Hand Santa sale with profit going to purchase gifts for five Christmas Cheer families. A special word of thanks to Linda Brown, Sheri James and many others who worked so diligently to make it a tremendous success.

Five Christmas Cheer families were adopted this year. The Women's Fellowship provided \$75 food gift cards for each family, in addition to gifts for each family member. Twenty children, along with their parents, were very excited and extremely grateful to the Church for their acts of love and generosity. This has been a busy year. Our sincere gratitude to all who served so faithfully and to all the congregants who served beside us!

*Submitted by Gayle U. Pollard, Chair*

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2017 REPORT

Board Members: Hugh Comfort, Chair, Rachel Pool and Katie Tang, Co-Vice Chairs, Jennifer Clifton, Secretary, Dodie Denault, Tabithe Fisher, Ted Henson, Virginia Leeds, and Zo Tanczo. Rachel Pool had to resign midyear, due to a move, and was replaced by Manda Stiegel.

The Board of Christian Education (BCE) is involved with all the congregational education activities of both youth/children and adults, as well as related service activities. Many of these are ongoing activities, occurring on a weekly basis, such as Sunday School for all age groups and Worship Ways and Nursery for children. This year we continued to have two adult Sunday School classes, as well as age group classes for children and youth. In addition, youth groups for younger and older youth met periodically throughout the year. Children/youth activities are described in more detail in the Report of the Minister of Spiritual Growth and Christian Education.

Two adult classes met regularly. The Seekers Class, led by Ray Pollard, has as its goal to explore books by contemporary authors that offer insights into what is often called Progressive Christianity. Books used this year were:

- Amy Jill Levine's book, *Short Stories by Jesus*, a study of the parables of Jesus. Levine is Jewish, but teaches New Testament studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, bringing interesting insights into the Jewish use of parables that were so much of Jesus' teaching.
- Brian McLaren's book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*. McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift.
- Rachel Held Evans' book, *Faith Unraveled*. Emerging from the home of a fundamentalist pastor, she tells the story in this book how she wrestled with the questions she never dared ask as a young Christian.
- Philip Gulley's book, *If the Church Were Christian*, a challenging look at how much contemporary church life has been shaped by tradition and habit, and illustrates ways in which alternative approaches can help us rediscover the spiritual values exemplified in Jesus' life and work. In Progress.

The Pastor's Class, led by Randy Orwig, is a Bible-based study. This year two main topics were addressed. The first was a study of the evolution of Jewish faith and culture during the inter-testamental period between the Old Testament and New Testament. This was to provide background in understanding the Judaism of the Gospels and subsequent growing divisions between it and Christianity. The second was a detailed study of the Gospel of John, examining the differences between it and the synoptic gospels, in the context of the Judaism of the period, building on the previous study.

A number of our activities take place annually, while others are one-time or occasional events. The annual events of the Board this year were:

- Intergenerational Family Game Night - January 27
- Serving meals to the homeless at the Allied Churches shelter - February 6
- Valentine Dinner (youth fundraiser) - February 12
- Easter Egg Hunt - April 9
- Youth Sunday - April 30
- Pentecost Picnic - June 4
- Vacation Bible School - June 18-21
- Meet and Greet (for VBS Sunday) - June 25
- Music Camp: Served meal on the 1st night - August 7-11
- Rally Sunday - September 10
- Trunk or Treat/Halloween Party - October 29
- Advent Workshop - November 19
- Children's Christmas program - December 17

The Active Aging group, for which the BCE has oversight, featured four activities. The

group made a trip to the North Carolina Art Museum in Raleigh to see the Ansel Adams exhibit; enjoyed a presentation of "To Kill a Mockingbird" following a dinner; viewed a battle re-enactment at the Alamance Battleground; and went to the Barn Dinner Theater to see "Nunsense".

This year we initiated a Health and Wellness program, involving occasional presentations to enhance the physical and spiritual health of our congregation. Our first event, entitled *Active Aging with Grace*, was presented on February 26 by Rebecca Boggs, head of Physical Therapy at Twin Lakes, who described and demonstrated various techniques for assisting people with mobility issues. The second event on April 30th was a class on using the ECC's defibrillator, given by Tabithe Fisher, an ECC member and trained nurse. A third event, on the importance of physical exercise and balance to future health and to avoiding/delaying mobility issues, was presented on November 12 by Michael Cain, Wellness Director at Twin Lakes. These sessions presented information, together with demonstrations and audience participation, and addressed many questions from participants.

An important absence for our Board this year was a month long, well-deserved sabbatical (basically the month of March) by Associate Pastor Sharon Wheeler, giving us a renewed awareness and appreciation for all that she does in making the many activities of our Board operate smoothly. It took the extra work of many people to fill in for her absence -- many thanks to them.

We continue to seek to improve our efforts to address the Christian Education needs of this part of the Body of Christ and welcome suggestions from the congregation.

*Submitted by Hugh Comfort, Chair*

## UNIVERSITY RELATIONS 2017 REPORT

Networking and building relationships is the hallmark of the ongoing work of University Relations Committee. While we are starting to delve into our goal from Vision 2021, we are maintaining our regularly scheduled programs with steady success at contacting, welcoming, and growing with the students of Elon University. Over 2017 we have:

- Held a Chili Bingo Night sharing \$300 given to Elon student organization philanthropies. In addition we added the "Chili Cook-off" contest for church members with resounding success! We once again had a full CLC filled with sport teams, sororities, students, church members, and lots of Bingo with prizes and excitement!
- Instituted a second event for bringing our dogs in May just before final exams which brought out several hundred students for discussion, "pet-therapy" reducing stress, and a pleasant afternoon of relationship building with these wonderful young adults!
- In addition to one of the most successful football Sundays that the church has done, we support the Women's Softball team at Fake Break in January with many sharing a supper during this 4-5 day period. We also host now yearly the Elon Marching Band to a dinner and trivia Game that allows us to welcome these wonderful musicians. Our church is involved in many such interfaces with students and groups with these kind of activities.
- Had a hugely successful "Dog Day Mixer" in September that continues to bring hundreds of students and is a buzz around campus. This has become an incredibly welcoming event!
- We have many students who come to casually and regularly worship with us and we continue to encourage your positive interactions and welcoming. We still host 2 masses each Sunday as well.

All of this positive energy goes a long way to create networking that has brought groups of students to help us with our programs: feeding the homeless, our Halloween Party, Special Fridays, and a repeated sense that Elon Community Church is a safe and welcoming place. We are a busy group and need folks who want to help network and build relationships!

*Submitted by Rev. Randy Orwig*

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2017 REPORT

The Women's Fellowship met monthly this year with two circles composed of thirty-three members. Morning Circle meets at 10:30 am in the CLC Classroom and Evening Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. in the homes of members or the Church Library. The meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month. Anyone interested is invited to join either of the two circles.

Our program emphasis for 2017-2018 is "Cloud of Witnesses. The Community of Christ in Hebrews."

At the General Meeting on March 6, 2017, Whitney Gregory presented our program. She told us about her trip to India with 21 Elon University students for a rural health project.

At the June 5, 2017 General Meeting the program was presented by Rev. Randy Orwig, who presented the last lesson in our program of study, "Who is Jesus."

On September 18, 2017 at the General Meeting of the circles, Rev. Randy Orwig gave the program. He presented the first lesson in our new study for 2017-2018, "Cloud of Witnesses. The Community of Christ in Hebrews."

We also participated in the celebrations of Church Women United Tea in February, CWU May Friendship Day, CWU Human Rights Celebration in August, CWU World Community Day in November, prepared several Welcome Kits for refugees and their families through Church World Services, attended Church Women of the Southern Conference Summer Gathering in June, 2017 at Black Lake Conference Center in Asheboro.

The Women's Fellowship adopted a budget of \$3,800. which supports Educational Projects, OCWM, Service Projects, Education, Good Samaritan Fund, Christmas Cheer, World Hunger, and Operating Expenses. 2017 Honor Certificates went to (1) Jim and Donna McCauley, (2) Ralph and Dot Waller, (3) Cindy Benson (in absentia), (4) Susanne Doolittle, (5) Sam and Linda Fowler.

We prepared a meal for the homeless shelter, hosted a Meet and Greet, sent cards each month to homebound members, supported the work of Women's Ministries and supported other projects of our church.

At our November Bake Sale we raised \$561 and from the Second Hand Santa and Craft Sale in December, we raised \$883 for Christmas Cheer. We made a net profit of \$1,714 from the pecan sale as of November 30, 2017.

Our officers are: Co-Presidents, Jean Toms and Kay Elder; Vice-President, Katherine Floyd; Secretary, Rose Ann McLelland, and Treasurer, Caroline Holmes. Margaret McTaggart is Chair of the Morning Circle and Bev Orwig is Chair of the Evening Circle.

*Jean Toms and Kay Elder, Co-President*

## WOMEN MINISTRIES 2017 REPORT

The women of the church had a busy year. The many programs promote the missions of our church.

1. Women's Fellowship: The purpose of Women's Fellowship is to bring women of our church together in fellowship, education and service. We support mission projects in our local community and throughout our Church's Wider Mission. Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 10:30 am in the CLC Classroom and at 7:00 pm in a member's home or in the church library. Kay Elder and Jean Toms are the co-presidents.
2. Soaring High Book Club meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the church library. Many interesting, inspirational and enlightening books were read and discussed. The Diary of Anne Frank play was the highlight of the year. Katherine Floyd is the group leader.
3. Deepening Your Faith Walk is a small support group that embarks on an inward journey,

attempting to integrate our daily experiences with our understanding of God. Gayle Pollard is the leader.

4. Gifts of the Heart collected school kits that were sent to Church World Services. Marianne Smith was the coordinator. Thanks to Marianne for all her years chairing this project.
5. Women's Spirit Rising is an active group. It seeks to strengthen personal and spiritual journeys through reflection on scripture and spiritual tools. It is also a support group for each other.

*Linda Brown, Coordinator*

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE 2017 REPORT

The Hospitality Committee had another busy year: Hosting many Meet and Greets after worship, Congregational Potluck Dinner, Celebration Singers Lunch, Ray Pollard's Reception, Helping with VBS and Music Camp, Elon Football Team Lunch, Reformation Sunday, Secondhand Santa Craft Fair, Christmas Cookie Day. Thanks to the Boards, committees and individuals who provided Meet and Greets. Fellowship, not food, is our goal for Meet and Greet!

*Linda Brown, Chair*

## GREEN CHURCH COMMITTEE 2017 REPORT

This year was Green Church's 11th year of learning, educating, celebrating, witnessing, and planning. We celebrated our 10th anniversary at a meet-and-greet. Regular participants this year included Carol Troxler, Randy Orwig, Gary Cooper, Karen Lewis, David Andes, Rose Ann McLelland, Sue Brown, Jackie Boada, Connie Martin, Don and Barb Gerhardt.

We found inspiration to love and protect creation in scripture, prayer, readings, and environmental activism from many sources. We learned more about factory farms and their treatment of animals. We endorsed the UCC's "3 Great Loves" theme: neighbor, children, and creation. We emphasized continued learning through a couple of online newsletters: the Rachel Carson Institute's and the UCC's *Pollinator*. We went together to see the new Al Gore film, *An Inconvenient Sequel*. Bob Martin shared with us what he had learned from a conference on environmental law. We viewed the first couple of the Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher's *Come and See* videos, about hopeful approaches to reversing climate change. A new video is available online each week.

We continued our educational programs by showing the film *Before the Flood* and by hosting a quiz show that focused on the most promising methods to address climate change (as detailed in the book *Drawdown*). With our veggie potluck dinners, we continue to emphasize the importance of eating less meat and more fresh, local, organic foods. We sampled the UCC video program *Sustaining Creation: A Faith Journey for Small Groups*, and we decided to use this for our church's Lenten study groups in 2018. A Green Church suggestion appears each Sunday in our church bulletin.

We happily continued our support of the ECC Farmers' Market. Monica Nicholson took over as its administrator. Sue and Rose Ann continued as volunteer coordinators. Don did farm inspections. The market had a successful season, including some new vendors.

We sponsored two sales of Ten Thousand Villages merchandise at our church—articles produced by artisans in developing countries. We promoted the Alamance County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. We continued to collect and recycle foam products and used electronics. We maintained the compost and recycling bins in the CLC.

Additional solar panels for the CLC became a new focus for us. Gary and Jane Smith from a Raleigh UCC church came and presented an exciting program to us and others in our church on how they raised money to purchase solar panels for their church. We got an

estimate on the cost for adding 60 additional panels. We began some informal soliciting of funds and put a couple of articles in the *Torch* newsletter about it. With the approval of the trustees, we will begin formal fund-raising next spring.

We encourage our members and our congregation to stand up for environmental justice. Some of us attended the Caring for Creation conference in Washington, DC, and the People's Climate March that followed it. Some attended Moral Monday rallies. Some of us contacted legislators and other governmental leaders in support of environmental protections, such as the Jordan Lake Rules and the EPA clean air and clean water regulations. Thanks to our conscientious pastors, love and care of the earth are frequently encouraged in our worship services. We are part of the Interfaith Power and Light network, as well as our Southern Conference Creation Justice network. We are working toward application to the UCC to become an official Creation Justice Congregation.

*Submitted by David Andes*

## ECC FARMERS' MARKET 2017 REPORT

The Elon Community Church Farmers' Market operated on the church front lawn on Thursday afternoons from 3:00 to 6:30 every week between April 20 and November 16 of 2017.

The products sold were home grown flowers, produce, meats, cheeses, breads, cookies and eggs, as well as hand made culinary items, arts and crafts. All items were sold by the producers themselves, according to the market by-laws.

The church provided the space, facilities, the market manager, who is Monica Nicholson, the market manager assistants who were Susan Brown and RoseAnn McLelland; and hospitality services to the approximately 15 vendors and customers. The customers consistently included church members, Town of Elon and Alamance County citizens, as well as Elon University students, faculty, and staff.

The church members provided about 18 hospitality volunteers, one or two each week, who served complimentary lemonade, market news, information, and friendly greetings to all.

The Market communicates with the church and community through the *Torch* newsletter and its Facebook page, Elon Community Church Farmers Market which shares news, information, and enthusiasm to the whole Market community.

Special events and promotions this season included the Earth Day Celebration, Punch Card Reward Program, Children's Poster Contest, Tomatofest, Kid's Vending Day, and the Fall Festival.

On Market days, the vendors and customers always see friendly and welcoming volunteers of the church to assist in any way the welfare and comfort of all present.

We welcome and depend on the willing and able volunteers through the many weeks of the market season who give any amount of time at all. Just an hour or two helps greatly. Elon Community Church dedicates the Farmers' Market with which we are entrusted to the glory of God and for the blessing of God's creation.

*Submitted by Monica Nicholson  
Manager*

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2017 REPORT

### **Chancel Choir (directed by Dr. Mark A. Rumley)**

- Maintained an average membership of 18 singers in 2017
- Provided choral music for all Sundays except for June and July when choir members or other groups provided solo or ensemble selections. Learned and performed many new liturgical anthems during 2017.

- Provided choral music for the following special services/events: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January (Prof. Jane Wellford's Dance Troupe from Elon University); Palm Sunday with Timpani; Good Friday service that featured an extended prelude for oboe, clarinet, piano, organ, and timpani; Easter Sunday with timpani and special anthems; a September Sunday commemorating the life and memory of Melva Foster, through various anthems and responses provided by choir and soloists; a special service commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Reformation (incorporated timpani and The Cathedral Brass); made use of a professional dance troupe to enhance worship during the World-Wide Communion Sunday in October; sang various anthems and hymns at the annual Moravian Lovefeast, featuring all musical groups at ECC, The Cathedral Brass, a flautist, and timpani; and provided the annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols service, featuring all choirs and handbell groups in addition to harp, cello, and two flutes.
- Employed four professional and five undergraduate singers (Elon University) to serve as section leaders /soloists in 2017.
- Continued updating of the choral library system in 2017, purging old, outdated music as appropriate, replenishing worn / missing copies, and purchasing several new anthems.
- Purchased new choir folders for all choir members to replace extremely worn and unusable music folders that were approximately twenty years old.
- The Chancel Choir continues to have vacancies in all sections; congregational members who have an interest in liturgical music and who read music even a little are encouraged to join the choir as full-time members or during seasonal offerings.

#### **Organist (Dr. Mark A. Rumley)**

- Provided service music on Sundays and at all special services, except during vacations and work-related absences. Both Steve Martin and Mary Jane Ferrell (church members) served as substitute organists/accompanists in 2017.
- Worked in consultation with Fred Barr of Southeastern Pipe Organ Services (Charlotte, NC) to perform regular maintenance and tunings as needed throughout the year. Upon the retirement of Fred Barr in September 2017, employed the services of Mr. Morris Spearman (Spearman and Associates, Charlotte, NC) to become ECC's organ technician/tuner. He and his company have been on site two (2) times since the fall of 2017.
- Worked in consultation with David Feeny Pianos (Greensboro, NC) to perform regular maintenance and tunings of all church-owned pianos as needed throughout the year.
- Met monthly, or otherwise, as called meetings were scheduled with the staff and the Music Committee to plan for services and to discuss the music department's needs and wishes.
- Recruited and rehearsed regularly with university students and professional soloists to provide Offertory anthems and selections for special/seasonal services during the academic semesters (spring/fall 2017).
- Employed the services of outside musicians to enhance musical offerings during special or seasonal worship services (timpanist, trumpeter, brass quartet, harpist, flutists, celloist, clarinetist, etc.) throughout the church year.
- Special Note: The budgetary cuts made for the 2017 calendar year adversely affected the Music Department. Organ tunings have become much more expensive with the change in service personnel, and, as an example, an extra organ tuning session was required after the Sanctuary AC system's thermostat malfunctioned, resulting in very cold temperatures for more than a week. These types of unplanned for expenses cause already underfunded line items to be exceeded, resulting in over-budget expenditures.
- The pipe organ at Elon Community Church will soon be forty (40) years old. Presently, there are no funds available to conduct major maintenance projects (re-leathering wind chests, pipe refurbishment, as examples) between years 40 and 45. The console continues to operate from late 1970's technology, and due to normal wear and sheer age, these components are starting to become unreliable and will eventually fail. Previous requests to fund a long-term organ maintenance fund (discussed for more than 10 years)

have been deferred to fund other projects. Sooner than later, the request to plan for longer-term needs should be discussed again, and some priority must be given to these impending needs if ECC is to maintain a pipe organ as part of its worship experience.

### **Handbell & Chimes Ensembles (Directed by Eden Brown)**

Five bell/chime groups rehearsed weekly in January – May. All children and youth music groups share in worship on at least 2 occasions per semester. Chancel Ringers share approximately once per month in addition to special holiday services, Moravian Love Feast, Lessons & Carols, and Christmas Eve. Total, unduplicated counts of musicians involved are listed below:

1. **Little Lights**- preparatory music class based on the curriculum of God's Children Sing from Musikgarten. 6 (Spring) children served, ages 2-5. No class was held in the Fall. Pre-K children participated in colored bells ringing activities, music and movement and singing activities. Performed in worship once per semester, plus Music Camp Sunday and the Children's Christmas Musical.
2. **Genesis Chimes** - 7 children in grades K – 2 during the spring semester; 6 children during the fall semester.
3. **JuBELLation** (formerly known as Beginning Bells) 14 children, grades 2-4 in the Spring; 13 children during the fall semester.
4. **Young Ringers**- 10 Middle/High School youth during the spring semester, 7 during the fall.
5. **Chancel Ringers** - 13 adults in both the spring and fall semesters. Various guest ringers as substitutes and during special holiday services. The Young Ringers combined with Chancel Ringers in the Fall for a special presentation of a piece for two bell choirs.

### **Vocal Ensembles (Directed by Maggie Byerly)**

1. Children's Choir – 20 children who are also members of either Genesis Chimes or EmBELLishments. The Children's choir shared in worship 3 times in the Spring and 3 times in the Fall. The Choir also prepared extensive music for the Children's Christmas Musical.
2. Two youth prepared duets and shared twice in worship in the Spring and twice in the Fall.

### **Permanent Volunteer Staff**

Mrs. Maggie Byerly, a professionally trained vocal musician, continues to volunteer to direct the Children's Choir. In addition to volunteering her time and talent for ECC Music Camp and weekly rehearsals, Mrs. Byerly has prepared the group for singing during multiple Sunday morning worship services.

### **Weekly Rehearsals**

The Sunday rehearsal schedule has continued a consistent routine, and includes all children and youth music groups on a rotation schedule from 2:30-5:30pm. Two sets of handbells have allowed for simultaneous rehearsals, and easier set-up for performances. Groups meet each Sunday, with the exception of holidays.

### **Music Camp 2017**

- Music Camp for Grades K - 12 (50 children and youth attending; 40 adults assisting with instruction, supper and snacks) was held August 7-11th, 13th. Classes included instruction in singing, bell and chime ringing, liturgical movement, art, drama and music reading.
- Music Camp week was changed to one week earlier than it is traditionally held, to help compensate for youth who participate in band camp in the community. This resulted in many of our children that typically attend and attend throughout the year, not being able to participate. Music Camp week will return to its original week and remain in future years.

### **Annual Special Services**

Members of Chancel Ringers, Young Ringers, EmBELLishments, Children's & Youth Choirs and Genesis Chimes, and Little Lights provided music for the following special services: Palm Sunday, Music Camp Sunday, Moravian Love Feast, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve worship.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

- 24 children participated in the Children's Christmas Musical, and all music ensembles (24 children) provided the service music on December 17.
- Special thanks to Derek Tang for working with drama throughout the Fall semester, and Maggie Byerly for costume design.
- One high school musician from The Burlington School, and two ECC youth were hired to provide band instrumentation for the Christmas Musical (electric guitar, bass guitar, drums).

### **New Staffing Model**

With the departure of our co-director, the staff structure for Children's Music and Handbells has been modified.

Two Elon University music students were hired as interns for the program. They receive a monthly stipend in exchange for assisting with Children's music activities, completing some clerical work, and participating in the Chancel Ringers handbell ensemble.

### **Completed Goals for 2017**

Rehearsal and performance schedule was revamped to include one Sunday per month with no rehearsals for scheduled family time. Participation was slightly lower, but attendance was much more consistent and dependable.

Permanent volunteer staff through parents and Chancel Ringer members have been available and willing to serve throughout the year. Two representatives have been recruited to serve on the Music Committee for the church.

Handbells sets have been regularly polished. New tables have been acquired for Bell Room 1 due to a generous donation.

### **2018 Program Goals**

Coach the student interns to take on more self-guided responsibilities, and become lead teachers of their respective Children's ensembles.

Acquire additional pads to provide padding for both ensemble rooms and the sanctuary permanently.

Complete assessment, deep clean, and needed maintenance and minor repairs for both handbell sets, Summer 2018.

Implement a fundraiser to offset the cost of Music Camp, allowing us to better serve the children of Alamance County, and continue to offer the program free of charge.

Revive participation throughout the year for Middle School and High School students.



**Church Attendance Record 2017  
For the 10:30 Worship Service**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Monthly Average</b>
<b>January</b>	147	147	129	155	159	147
<b>February</b>	147	150	115	159		142
<b>March</b>	144	171	119	142		144
<b>April</b>	152	208+	270++	117	141	178
<b>May</b>	140	122	106	121		122
<b>June</b>	164	118	90	91		116
<b>July</b>	98	124	145	122	122	122
<b>August</b>	124	220	200*	165		177
<b>September</b>	132	153	151	155		148
<b>October</b>	138	162**	123	190	157	154
<b>November</b>	193***	148	152	131		156
<b>December</b>	151	220	170	132	151	165
					<b>Total Average</b>	148

<b>Year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Highest Attendance</b>	286	238	287	314	304	270
<b>Lowest Attendance</b>	78	95	97	75	63	90
<b>Average Sunday Worship</b>	145	148	156	150	147	148

- \*     Elon University Football Sunday
- \*\*    Elon University Family Weekend
- \*\*\*   Elon University Homecoming Weekend
- +     Palm Sunday
- ++    Easter Sunday

Moravian Lovefeast: 280

Elon Community Church, UCC  
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