



December 7, 2025 - Committee Reports Summary

- 2026 Committee Chairs meeting dates: TBD
- Committee Showcase:

January 11 - Hospitality	July
February	August
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	December

- Mark your calendar – Sunday, February 22 at 3pm-5pm: Active Survival Training Seminar offered by CMPD

Adult Spiritual Formation

Chairperson: Harry Lorenzo

Session Liaison: Gayle Ireland

Staff Liaison: Rebecca Guzman

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: The purpose of the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee is to invite our community into a relationship with God and one another through the practices of study, prayer, worship, and wonder.

Theme for 2025-2026: Cultivating Connection

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Great attendance at our Fall study: More Than Words by Eugenia Gamble.
- Great attendance at Writing Your Legacy with Melinda Ferguson.
- Third Thirty gatherings continue to be vibrant!
- All groups are going well.

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- **Advent Study begins Nov. 30/Dec. 1: Calling All Angels by Erin Wathen**
 - This Advent season, join us for a four-week study of Calling All Angels: Stories of Christmas and Angels in the Bible by Erin Wathen. Along with the book, we will engage with a companion video series that brings the stories of angels to life in a new way. Together we'll reflect on the surprising ways angels appear in Scripture and what their presence reveals about God's message of hope, peace, joy, and love. The study will be facilitated by Rebecca Guzman and Melissa White, who

will guide conversation and help us explore how these Advent themes connect to our own lives. All are welcome, whether you have joined a study before or this is your first time.

- **March 6-8, 2026: All Church Retreat: Created for Community**

- We are excited to announce that the All Church Retreat will be held at William Black Lodge in Montreat from March 6th (starting after dinner) to March 8th (ending around 11 am after worship). To register, you will pay a deposit of \$65 per person, covering the cost of 4 meals. Room rates for the weekend range from \$250 to \$310, and we will collect room payments at a later date. Financial assistance is available if needed.
- The theme of our retreat is "Created for Community", where we will explore how God exists in community (the Trinity) and how God designed us to be in relationships with God and one another. Our speaker, Rev. Laura Cunningham, will lead us through some thought-provoking discussions as well as a closing worship service. Apart from the study sessions, we will have time for fellowship, shared meals, games, and the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of Montreat.
- The retreat is designed for all ages! If we have young elementary or younger children, we will provide a separate option for them during study times. Older children will be invited to stay!

Action needed by Session:

- None

Board of Deacons

Chairperson: Crystal Myers

Session Liaison: Manny Villa

Staff Liaison: Melissa White

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: The Board of Deacons provides congregational care, and supports and supervises the caring ministries of the church. According to the Book of Order, "The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this ministry." -Book of Order G-2.0201

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Melissa White initiated her new role as Parish Associate September 2nd
- Need for additional volunteers for transportation ministry identified and 4 new drivers recruited - Tim Maguire
- Refrigerator magnets with deacon contact to provide to those with long term care needs created by Tom Massey & codesigned with Cheryl
- Class of 2027 deacons nominated - see nominating report

- New comprehensive four-session training program developed by Melissa for Class of 2027, Class of 2026 invited to attend
 - Session 1: Roles and responsibilities, spiritual practices
 - Session 2: Initiating caring relationships, hospital visit protocols
 - Session 3: Communication skills, boundary setting
 - Session 4: Specific caregiving situations, confidentiality requirements

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Board of Deacons, Class of 2025 roll off and Class of 2027 installation; first deacon meeting with new deacon integration January 6th, 2026

Action needed by Session:

- None

Children's Vision & Planning

Chairperson: Vacant

Session Liaison: Emily Brown

Staff Liaison: Rebecca Guzman

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: To nurture children into a life of faith through regular opportunities to worship, learn, fellowship, and participate in mission and community outreach events.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Successful implementation of the new Child, Youth, Volunteer, and Staff Protection Policy.
- Good attendance at Children's Worship and Bible and Music (BAM!)
- Parents' Morning Out in October was lots of fun!
- Thanksgiving Box Packing in coordination with the Youth Ministry

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Christmas Eve Family Worship at 3:00 pm.
- Third Grade Bible presentation and class in January 25/February 1st
- Fellowship events for 4th/5th graders
- Parents' Morning Out in March

Action needed by Session:

- None

Communications

Chairperson: Heather Briganti

Session Liaison: Lisa Kuszmar

Staff Liaison: Cheryl Perry

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: To communicate God's love and the mission of our church with clarity, creativity, and purpose through print, video, digital, and social media.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Supported all ministries, committees, and staff with intentional focus on
 - The pastoral transition details
 - Matt and Donna's retirement celebrations
 - Execution of the "Called to Community" communications plan
- Prepared Advent communications, including website and Advent newsletter

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Support the Retirement Celebration Committee with events (signage, advertisement, wrap-up, etc.)
- Introduce Dr. Sandy Hull to the congregation through clear communication via all of our channels
- Execute Advent communications
- Continue to create relevant, informative content on all of channels to tell the church's story and keep others informed

Action needed by Session:

- None

Funds Management

Chairperson: Andrew Brown

Session Liaison: Rich Fuller

Staff Liaison: Mary Katheryne Zagora

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: Provide the Session information and recommendations regarding the financial status of the church. Provide oversight to the cash management and accounting functions of the church; review monthly financial reports and fund balances.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

Action needed by Session:

- None

Hospitality

Chairperson: Jeana Lee, Leanne Royster

Session Liaison: Adrienne Jaquith

Staff Liaison: Melissa White

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: Organizes events that promote fellowship and connection among the congregation."

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- 9/14 BBQ Lunch on the Grounds – excellent attendance with very positive feedback. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and fellowship.
- 10/26 Commitment Sunday – provided and served three cakes

- 11/9 – Matt’s Birthday Celebration – served four cakes and provided balloons for the event

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- 12/6 Women’s Advent Tea (10:30am-12pm)- Mary Elledge speaking; catering will be provided by Community Culinary School of Charlotte. Set-up on December 5 at 2pm, event
- 1/11/26 Hospitality Committee Showcase – Committee will host a table in the narthex with information and photos about the Hospitality Committee
- Next meeting 1/7/26 at 11am

Action needed by Session:

- None

Nominating

Chairperson: Jon Myers, Kara Guy

Session Liaison: Jon Myers, Kara Guy

Staff Liaison: Sandy Hull

Committee’s Responsibility/Mission: Identify and nominate candidates for the role of Deacon and Elder, as well as church committee leaders.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Nominated incoming slate of Elders (class of 2028) and Deacons (class of 2027)
- Identified

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Working to identify new Chairs for Property and Hospitality Committees

Action needed by Session:

- None

Missions & Outreach

Chairperson: Carla Jaynes, Katherine Martin

Session Liaison: Bill Ramsey

Staff Liaison: Lindsey Odom

Committee’s Responsibility/Mission: *To be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ by transforming lives, nurturing relationships, and keeping our congregation engaged in our purpose and calling.* The Mission & Outreach Committee continues to support and strengthen partnerships with both local and global mission organizations, aligning giving and service opportunities with SMPC’s mission priorities: housing solutions, feeding the hungry, educational equity, racial equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and Haiti ministry. The committee meets monthly and coordinates numerous hands-on service and giving initiatives involving the congregation.

- See our M&O priorities that were approved by Session [here](#)

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- **Haiti Partnership:**

- Hosted Actionnel Fleurisma from OFCB/EWO in worship on September 28.
- Achieved 18 new child sponsorships through EWO, helping reach the overall goal of **700 children sponsored**.
- Approved sending remaining 2025 mission budget and benevolence funds to **Friends Empowering Haiti** to support staff salary and building repairs.
- Planned to dedicate half of the **Christmas Eve offering** to Haiti ministries.
- **Local Outreach & Community Engagement:**
 - Continued recurring ministries: Bread deliveries to Dilworth Soup Kitchen, Center of Hope breakfasts/desserts, Shelter “Pour” ministry, and Room in the Inn planning for winter months.
 - Conducted **Operation Sandwich**, producing 1,297 sandwiches for Roof Above.
 - Hosted a **successful blood drive** (the church’s 70th drive) with 29 units collected.
 - Supported **Ballantyne Families Helping Neighbors in Need, Crisis Assistance, Nourish Up, Center of Hope**, and **Roof Above** through budgeted and benevolence giving.
 - Provided new shoes and school supplies for **Sterling Elementary** students and prepared Thanksgiving meal kits for **Smithfield Elementary** families.
 - Partnered with **Time Out Youth** for future intergenerational engagement and inclusion events.
- **Alternative Gift Market (AGM):**
 - AGM scheduled for **December 7**, featuring 15 organizations including two new partners (Urban Promise Charlotte and Time Out Youth).
 - Ensuring each participating partner receives at least **\$1,000** through a combination of AGM proceeds and benevolence funds.
 - Moment for Mission scheduled for November 16 to launch the AGM season.
- **Education & Advocacy:**
 - Engaged with Presbytery-level **Anti-Racism Committee**; members attended “How the Church Can Move Toward Ending Poverty and Racism” event.
 - Promoting awareness through bulletin blurbs and opportunities such as the **Myers Park Presbyterian gun safety and faith event**.
- **Funding Allocations Approved (October–November):**
 - Distributed over **\$15,000** in mission and outreach funds to partner organizations including:
 - \$2,000 Sardis Presbyterian (Room in the Inn)
 - \$2,000 Ballantyne Families Helping Neighbors in Need
 - \$1,000 Augustine Literacy Project
 - \$2,000 Nourish Up
 - \$2,000 Crisis Assistance
 - \$2,000 Center of Hope
 - \$1,500 Roof Above
 - \$363 Sterling Elementary (shoes)
 - \$1,000 Freedom School (AGM partner)

Approved sending remaining **Outreach - Gift line (\$2,564.12)** to Nourish Up and Ballantyne Families Helping Neighbors in Need.

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- **Alternative Gift Market** will be held on December 7.

- **Angel Tree** collection and deliveries December 14–23.
- **Room in the Inn** hosting in January, February, and March, proposed dates are: Wednesday, January 7th, Sunday February 15th (youth helping), and Sunday March 1st (youth helping), (two dates coordinated with Youth Ministry).
- **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** will be held November 29, December 6, December 13, and December 20.
- Continue to expand congregation participation in outreach ministries and donor recruitment for **five blood drives in 2026**.
- Deepen relationships with existing community partners before adding new ones.
- Explore further involvement with Presbytery's Anti-Racism Committee, which Rev. Lindsey Odom serves on, and potential civil rights immersion trip ("Journey to Freedom" tour).
- Discuss ways to increase intergenerational engagement in mission work and awareness across the congregation as well as grow our missions and outreach committee with new members!

Action needed by Session:

- Approve the Christmas Eve Offering allocation: Half designated for **Haiti (Friends Empowering Haiti)** and half for **local organizations (Center of Hope and Nourish Up)**

Personnel

Chairperson: Janet Morgan

Session Liaison: Emily Brown, Bob Williamson

Staff Liaison: Sandy Hull

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: Ensures that the staff are well-supported, fairly treated, clearly supervised, and have the resources needed to be successful in ministry, while providing structure, accountability, and policy oversight for employment matters on behalf of the Session.

The Committee reports directly to the Session and:

- assists the Head of Staff (Pastor) with personnel issues, as needed
- ensures sound personnel management of all church employees
- acts as a secondary resource for all employees, beyond Head of Staff
- researches and recommends compensation and benefits changes to Session
- maintains Associate Handbook and all job descriptions
- communicates any changes to personnel policies and procedures to all staff
- participates in the search process for open positions

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

Action needed by Session:

- None

Property

Chairperson: Vacant

Session Liaison: Jon Myers

Staff Liaison: Steve Stevenson

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: Responsible for the oversight and care of all SMPC facilities and property. Overall management and maintenance of the church's real property including the upkeep of buildings and grounds.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Received Session Approval for removal of the Cottage. The building is in poor condition and has exceeded its anticipated lifespan. The removal should be scheduled in the next 30 days following disconnection of utilities.
- Received Session approval of a landscaping project that includes new plantings around the Office/Chapel Building, circle, and planters outside of Mecklenburg Hall.
- Iron handrails (Chapel Building and Sanctuary) and curb on the circle were recently painted
- Completed a Campus Workday on November 8

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Eagle project to hardscape around the new sign bases was approved by Session and is currently in the planning process
- Currently getting quotes to paint Meck Hall and the entry hallway
- We have one quote so far for replacing flooring in Meck Hall and the entry hallway

Action needed by Session:

- None

Scouts

Chairperson: Dean Elledge (Troop 119 Scoutmaster), Tim Morgan (Chartered Organization Representative)

Additional Scout Leadership:

- Marianna Ellett (Troop 219 Committee Chair)
- TBD (Pack 119 Committee Chair)
- Bryce Bettinger (Troop 219 Scoutmaster)
- Brian Hooper (Pack 119 Cubmaster)
- Various – GSA Troops

Session Liaison: David Gaines (Troop 119 Committee Chair)

Staff Liaison: Steve Stevenson

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: As part of SMPC's outreach to the community, we are responsible for providing Scouting activities to youth from Kindergarten through High School as a chartered organization representative of the various National Scouting programs. Programs reach approximately 40 Youth in Cub Scouts (K-5), 50 Female Scouts (6-12) in Troop 219 and 85 Male Scouts (6-12) in Troop 119. In addition, SMPC hosts several Girl Scouts of America Troops with an unknown number of young ladies in each troop. The vast majority of the youth involved in these programs are not SMPC members. Troop 219 is the largest Troop for girls in Mecklenburg County.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- BBQ/Chili Fundraiser for Troops 119/219 was held from August 18 through September 14 (including opportunities to purchase product before/after service on Sundays). Cook of product occurred the week of September 14 and final pick up of product was held on September 21. This was our most successful year for this fundraiser in which we raised almost \$19,000 for the troops. The Troops "tithe" monies to SMPC and such funds were used to purchase a new freezer and stove for use by the church.
- Scout Sunday was on September 21 when Scouts participated in various roles as ushers, greeters, acolytes, etc...
- A formal Eagle Court of Honor for a Troop 119 Scout was held on October 12
- A formal Eagle Court of Honor for a Troop 119 Scout was held offsite on November 1
- Three Scouts from Troop 119 and one Scout from Troop 219 each earned Eagle rank during the quarter. Included in this number, Troop 119 had its first Muslim Scout earn the Eagle Rank
- Scouts participated in SMPC campus cleanup day on November 8
- Completed two Eagle Projects on SMPC campus and two projects at other nonprofit organizations in the community. (Another Eagle project on the SMPC campus was recently approved by Session).
- Cub Scout year follows a school year calendar and kicked off their 2025-26 year in September with approximately 10 new Scouts

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Two Eagle Boards of Review for Troop 119 are planned for the evening of November 26
- Two Eagle projects are planned during the quarter (one on SMPC campus and the other offsite)
- A formal Eagle Court of Honor for a Troop 119 Scout is planned for January
- In addition to the above Eagle Boards, expect two-three additional Eagle Scouts during the quarter between Troops 119 & 219
- Will participate in the Scouting for Food Efforts that benefit Nourish Up in late January/early February as part of our give back to the community

Action needed by Session:

- Expect 1-2 additional Scout Eagle projects to be presented during the quarter for Session approval
- Will share dates for approval shortly for 2026 Annual BBQ/Chili Fundraiser
- We have begun initial discussions about upfitting the kitchen and adding a commercial grade dishwasher in the Palmer building (Looking to see if preschool is interested in sharing some of these costs). Once decisions have been concluded, we will look to Session for approval of this project (most likely will be further out than Q1 2026). The Scout portion of the funding for this project would come from the next several years of the Troop's tithing efforts from its annual fundraiser

Stewardship

Chairperson: Greg Hobby

Session Liaison: Lisa Kuszmar

Staff Liaison: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Sandy Hull

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: Plan and execute stewardship activities at SMPC with primary responsibility for the annual Operating Fund Campaign that we have historically run in the month of October.

Committee members (and tenure): Greg Hobby (chair/year 4), Blythe Kinsey (year 4), David Wooley (year 4), Lisa Kuszmar (year 4), Lee Martin (year 2), and Michael Choren (year 4).

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- We held the Operating Fund campaign for the 2026 calendar year in October with four Moments for Mission at the open of each Sunday's service. Two of the MFMs were presented by Stewardship Committee members along with one by a high school senior (Lily Claire Jacobus) and one by our Missions and Outreach Committee co-chairs (Carla Jaynes and Katerine Martin). Each of the MFMs were highlighted on our social media. We also had hard copy materials that were distributed to members and prior pledgers.
- Our first goal with the operating fund campaign is to inform the congregation about what the operating fund actually pays for at SMPC. This year we also had a goal to highlight the opportunity to expand SMPC's impact on our community through expanded Missions and Outreach. With the closure of our capital needs (mortgage on the building) we are hopeful that members will redirect that part of their charitable budget toward the church's Missions and Outreach efforts.
- As of November 17, we have received about 90% of the pledges that we expect to receive for the full campaign. This is in line with our prior campaign experience that we will need to do follow-up for the month of November (with some stragglers in December) to gain a complete pledge roll.

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- We will need to close out the Operating Fund campaign by early December so the Funds Management Committee and Session can prepare and approve the 2026 budget.

Action needed by Session:

- None

SMPC Preschool

Chairperson: Kelly Hardy, Katie Hartwell

Session Liaison: Emily Brown

Staff Liaison: Rebecca Guzman, Tammy Winchip

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: The purpose of the Preschool Committee is to provide guidance and offer direction to the Director and staff of the preschool on matters of general policy. Regular meetings will be held at school during the school day about 4-6 times a year. If necessary, the chairperson can call for special meetings or an online vote if the occasion demands. Goals and priorities for discussion will be set at the beginning of the Preschool year by the SMPC Preschool Director. Meetings will take place during the school day on a day of the week agreed to by the committee serving.

- Discuss and approve significant policy changes to Parent & Teacher Handbooks
- Address and approve of scholarship guidelines and applications

- Support preschool events as able
- Serve as a sounding board and providing church, parent, and teacher input/feedback regarding facility updates, programmatic changes, and major purchases.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Hired 1 new staff this year due to our previous teacher needing to get a full-time job. New staff have their 3-month reviews between Nov. 20-Dec. 4.
- Enrollment= 80 students. Accepting new students as where is space in classes.
- Held 2 Parent Coffees
- Hosted a Trunk or Treat Fellowship Event for preschool families on Oct. 24.
- Held annual costume parades
- Installed playground equipment funded by a donation: spring rider, balance beam, xylophone

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Teacher Breakfast Dec. 10
- We will have our Christmas Programs Dec. 15-18 in the Commons & Mecklenburg Hall.
- Winter Break-closed from Dec. 22- Jan. 4; Jan. 2 is a teacher workday
- Registration opens for the Fall of 2026, as follows:
 - Jan. 12-16 Current students and siblings
 - Jan. 20-23 Church Members and Wait List Families
 - Jan. 26 Open to all
- Brixx Night Out Fundraiser (church invited) Feb. 19
- Goal: To continue promoting enrollment through minute for mission and additional signage.

Action needed by Session:

- None

Worship

Chairperson: Wendy Sinclair, Patty Stevenson, Carol Watkins

Session Liaison: Gayle Ireland

Staff Liaison: Zach Bowyer, Sandy Hull

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: Plan and assist in providing and facilitating meaningful and spiritually enriching worship experiences for all who attend South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church.

Structure: The Worship Committee consists of numerous sub-committees responsible for the various areas that contribute to, and impact, worship services: Acolytes, Baptisms, Communion, Flowers, Sanctuary Setup, Ushers, Weddings, Sunday Opening & Closing.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Sunday Worship @ 10:10 am in Sanctuary and Livestream
- Communion by Intinction on 1st Sunday of each month (pre-packaged gluten-free elements at back of Sanctuary)

- Music Ministry
 - Pipe Organ Project
 - Committee formed; gathering quotes from multiple organ builders
- Ordered hand-held candles, additional candle holders & gluten-free elements for Christmas Eve Worship Services
- Baptisms
 - August 17 – Hallie Buchanan
 - October 12 – Fletcher & Cruz Earp
 - October 19 – Maisy Reynolds
 - November 9 – Jones Woodard
 - November 16 – Walter Ireland
- Inurnment & Memorial Service
 - October 25 – Don Thacker
 - November 8 – Ed Slezycki
- Memorial Service
 - October 30 – Mary Beth Lakshmanan
- Flower Arrangements
 - October 12 – Kristen & Jeff Colson
 - November 9 – Sue Slezycki
- Dr. Matt Brown's retirement
 - Matt's last Sunday with us will be November 23
- Transitional Pastor Dr. Sandy Hull's first Sunday will be December 7

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Ushers
 - 6 Ushers for Festival of Carols, December 14 @ 6 pm
- Advent Preparation
 - Decorate any time after Worship on November 23 and before 1st Sunday of Advent, November 30
- Christmas Eve Worship Services – Wednesday, December 24
 - Family Worship with Children's Nativity Pageant @ 3 pm
 - Candlelight Communion Services @ 5 pm & 8 pm
 - Everyone we spoke to felt that everyone attending the Candlelight Services should receive their Flame from the Christ Candle
- Music Ministry
 - Festival of Carols
 - Sunday, December 14 (6 pm – 7:15 pm)
 - Christmas Eve Worship Services – Wednesday, December 24
 - 3 pm (Family Worship with Children's Nativity Pageant)
 - 5 pm (Worship with Jubilate Choir)
 - 8 pm (Worship with Chancel Choir)
 - Zach's Sabbatical
 - April 6 – July 5, 2026
- Flower Arrangements
 - November 23 – Anonymous

- December 21 – Karen Sandeen
- Wedding
 - February 14, 2026 – Erin McCormick & Connor Heath
- Memorial Service
 - December 12, 11am – Jerrie Olson

Action needed by Session:

- Does Session approve Baptisms and Weddings as they are requested & the date is confirmed?
- Approval of Communion for 2026:
 - 1st Sunday of each month – Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, May 3, Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 2, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6
 - Note: No Communion on Apr 5 Easter Sunday
 - Special Services:
 - Ash Wednesday – February 18
 - All Church Retreat – March 8
 - Maundy Thursday – April 2
 - Massanetta (Youth) – June 23-26
 - Montreat (Youth) – July 12-18
 - High School Retreat – Sept 11-13 or Sept 18-20
 - Christmas Eve (2 services) – December 24
 - Homebound Communion

Youth Committee

Chairperson: Alicia Bickett (Chair), Kristin Angerer (Co-Chair, High School), Anna Vechnak (Co-Chair, Middle School)

Session Liaison: Alicia Bickett

Staff Liaison: Lindsey Odom

Committee's Responsibility/Mission: The Youth Ministry Committee exists to nurture a Christ-centered community where youth and their friends know they belong, explore and grow in their faith, and feel inspired to go and serve with Christ's love. We strive to create and sustain a ministry that offers what youth cannot find anywhere else — a safe, grace-filled space where they experience authentic community, unconditional acceptance, and relationships rooted in Christ. Through meaningful experiences, personal relationships, and the guidance of caring adults and peers in faith, we help youth build a lasting foundation in their relationship with Jesus — one that will sustain and strengthen them through every season of life.

General Information (no action needed):

Committee activity/accomplishments since last report:

- Successfully completed a summer full of youth fellowship, fun events, Bible studies, and mission opportunities through the Summer Magnet programming activities.
- Held two successful fall retreats:
 - **Middle School Retreat** at Bethelwoods with 21 participants.
 - **High School Retreat** at Lake Tillery with 17 participants.

- Conducted the **Confirmation Retreat** on November 7–8, combining bible study, mission, fun, and fellowship. We have **16 Confirmands** for the 2025–2026 program year, with **Confirmation Sunday** scheduled for **April 19, 2026**.
- Finalized and published the **2025–2026 youth calendar** in Realm, including event registration and parent volunteer signups.
- Established new **BYG (Big Youth Group) small group leaders** for some grade levels.
 - 6th + 7th grade = Anna Vechnak and Meredith Bates
 - 8th + 9th grade = Denise Davis and Geena Woodard
 - 10th -12th grade = Kristen Angerer + Dan Webb
 - Sub for all groups = Sharon Mitchell
- Implemented a **new parent volunteer policy** requiring families to serve at least twice per year in support of youth programs and retreats.
- Updated **Child & Youth Protection Policy** and initiated background checks through Verified First.

Upcoming Committee activity and future goals:

- Continue strong youth participation/engagement through vibrant youth programming, including:
 - **PJ & Pancake Night** (Nov. 9)
 - **All Church Serves - Intergenerational Thanksgiving Meal Kit Night** (Nov. 16)
 - **December BYG & Youth Christmas Party** (Dec. 7)
 - **Gift Wrapping Fundraiser** (Dec. 21, 12–3 PM), please bring your gifts and let SMPC Youth wrap them!! Also, if you are willing to donate wrapping paper, we need a BUNCH!!
 - **Envelope Fundraiser** during **Youth Sunday** (Feb. 8, 2026)
 - **Festival of Carols** (Dec. 14) and **Youth participation in the 5 PM Christmas Eve service** (Dec. 24)
- **Prepare for key spring and summer youth events:**
 - **Evenings for Youth to help out with Room in the Inn** (Sunday, February 15th and Sunday, March 1st), We will be moving March BYG to Sunday, March 22nd so that youth can help the night of Sunday, March 1st with Room in the Inn
 - **For Sunday, March 29th**, staff talked about doing an ***intergenerational Maundy Thursday light meal and worship service*** like we have done on Maundy Thursday in past years, but this year, we would move it to a Sunday so that hopefully more families will be able to participate.
 - **Confirmation Sunday – April 19, 2026**
 - **Senior Breakfast & Graduate Sunday – June 7, 2026;** will be splitting senior sermons between Youth Sunday and Graduate Sunday as will probably have 6-8 seniors who want to preach.
 - **Massanetta (June 23–26, 2026)** and **Montreat (July 12–18, 2026)** youth conferences
- Continue building a close-knit community, leadership, and faith development opportunities for youth and adult volunteers.
- Support recruitment and training of additional volunteers to join the youth committee and sustain the growing youth program, with the goal of even having adult volunteers

who don't have children or youth in the program but want to serve on the committee and give back to the youth program.

Action needed by Session:

- **Approval of Communion Dates** for the following youth retreat and conference events:
- **June 23–26, 2026** (Massanetta Middle School Conference)
- **July 12–18, 2026** (Montreat Youth Conference)
- **September 11–13, 2026** or **September 18–20, 2026** (Youth HS Fall Retreat weekend)