



## 2013 Annual Report Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church

### *Trusting God, Living in Christ, Loving All!*

Through God's grace our church will be energized, engaged and open, and our community will experience our love and care.

Dear Friends and Family of Faith,

A friend of mine likes to say that you can always tell if God is in an endeavor, because there is always fruit and there is always provision. In 2013, Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church experienced the tremendous provision of the Lord in countless ways, and bore good fruit in its life and ministry.

Beginning the year with an intentional effort to transition our governance process to the Ministry Team model, provision took shape in open hearts and willing spirits as we tried a new way to carry out the work of the church. The fruit of that turning to a new model has been abundant. Teams are growing in scripture, deepening relationships with one another, and carrying out tasks with efficiency and joy. New teams are forming in response to the movement of the Holy Spirit, with provision taking shape in energy, fresh ideas, and new people raising their hand for service.

This summer, the congregation had its first experience with a recently adopted Sabbatical policy, sending Elizabeth Michael forth for a season of rest, education, and renewal. Provision took the shape of your love and support for Elizabeth during this time, your prayers and your commitment to digging deep in her absence. We are still enjoying the fruit of her return as we hear God's call through her experiences.

During the summer months while Elizabeth was away, God's provision also took the form of a Ministry Fellow from Davidson College, Tatum Pottenger (pictured below with a portrait of her, courtesy her new friend from the Genesis Home's Circle of Support program that Elizabeth and I participated in last year in

collaboration with colleagues in the community.). Tatum's tenure with us was filled with laughter and learning as she explored parish ministry, and her ministry bore fruit in our community, congregation and hearts as we were blessed by her presence.

God's provision and good fruit were evident as we said goodbye to Kathryn Lester-Bacon, who moved into an exciting new chapter of life and ministry, and welcomed Tommy and Mary Grimm into our fellowship. They were evident as we embraced old friends and met new ones, cared for one another as we grieved the loss of loved ones, and encouraged one another with the hope of the resurrection. God's provision and the fruit of our faith were evident as we enjoyed financial health thanks to your generosity, and now respond to Session's invitation to stretch our imaginations for what it means to be the church in the city- *this* city- in 2014.

Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ for so much gracious provision in 2013, and for the good fruit in our common life together that we have enjoyed. To God be the glory.

In Christ- Katie



Tatum and her new friend.



*Christmas Fellowship Night*

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## A Word From the Associate Pastor

by Rev. Elizabeth Michael

God has been good to us in 2013! The following are among the gifts I number of our life together.

A series of book studies on the topic of poverty last spring gave way to tremendous energy around forging relationships with our neighbors and working against the forces that keep people poor and vulnerable. I am grateful for Mary Gunderson's excellent leadership of our newly formed Poverty Ministry Team and for a summer cookout at Urban Ministries of Durham that proved rich in food and fellowship—a foretaste of the feast to come!

Mindful not only of our call to care for those in our community, but also to nurture our common life together, we have adopted the discipline of Word-Share-Prayer in all of our ministry team meetings, growing to know one another better and further grounding our work in the work God is doing. Our Care Team continues to faithfully surround those with chronic needs or illnesses; new member Andrea Rock is offering a grief support group for those recently bereaved. Our deacons continue to carry casseroles, communion, and other tokens of care as together we journey deeper in faith and reach further in love.

This year we have given thanks and praise for the 21 adults and fourteen children who joined our membership, and we've born witness to the resurrection of four beloved saints. And we have continued to draw nourishment from the word proclaimed, the baptismal waters poured out, and the bread of life broken for us, as we persist in our most important work, worship.

This summer, you offered me the tremendous gift of a sabbatical, and so I was privileged to spend thirteen weeks resting, reading, traveling, and witnessing the life and ministry of four vibrant Christian communities. In August, I came home with fresh insights and new hopes for our own community: that we might spend more time talking about the gospel, that we would attend to the intersection of faith and time and money, that we would continue to push against the false wall that is easy to erect between faith and mission, that we would know one another better and share of ourselves still more vulnerably, that we would risk more, and that we would wade deeper into the contemplative life. You were gracious to be partners in conversation and discernment upon my return, and I look forward to what more the Lord will do among us.

You've continued to support my work in the larger church and wider community. I'm grateful for another year of precepting preaching courses at Duke Divinity, for your willingness to host the second North Carolina Women's Preaching Festival, and for the opportunity to serve on New Hope Presbytery's Pentecost Project, a team tasked with re-visioning work for the presbytery.

Year by year as we walk alongside each other in faith and ministry, I cling to the promise Paul announces to the Philippians: "I am confident that the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." It is a privilege to bear witness to and play a part in the good work God continues to do among us.

# **Reflections on Parish Associate Ministry**

by Rev. Graham McChesney

As Parish Associate, in 2013 I continued to assist the pastors in their general pastoral ministry including:

- Visiting members in nursing and/or retirement homes, hospitals, and those we call “shut-ins, or who are not in good health, and assisting in memorial and graveside services, with follow-up visits with the spouse or family.
- Sharing in leading worship in the 11:00am service and, when needed, in the 9am Chapel service.
- I performed two pastor’s privileges in administering the sacrament of baptism to a child in January, and preaching at both worship services in September, coinciding with the celebration of the 68th anniversary of my ordination.
- The Session’s call to the Parish Associate role is for a part time position, but all pastoral relationships are actually 24/7.

**“And now abides faith, hope, and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love”  
-1Corinthians 13:13”**

## **Report of the Diaconate**

Submitted by Howard Wood, Moderator

Victoria Herring, Secretary

The role of Presbyterian Deacons as outlined in the Book of Order is as follows: “It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.” The deacons at TAPC achieve this goal through monthly meetings and various committees as outlined below.

The Diaconate’s standard meeting is the fourth Wednesday of each month. At the monthly meetings we review our work from the previous month and discuss and plan upcoming needs and events. We also host guest speakers on occasion as well as hold open discussions on our overall work and how it fits into each Deacon’s individual journey of faith. The Diaconate’s work can be divided into three categories: Hospitality, Fellowship, and Congregational Care

### **Highlights of 2013 are as follows:**

- Added a youth deacon (one-year term). Kendall Cates has served us well.
- The Home Communion Committee continues to provide quarterly visitation and spiritual support to our members unable to be part of Sunday services. Victoria Herring managed this important and meaningful outreach to our home bound members.
- The Bereavement Committee continues to put in tireless efforts to provide receptions after funerals and memorial services.
- Pat Boyce did a wonderful job managing the card ministry - regularly sending out cards to the sick and homebound.
- Dawn Wilcox was key in coordinating and participating in the casserole ministry.
- Coordinated the yearly Christmas Family Night on December 8.
- Coordinated the yearly “Lemonade on the Lawn” on Sunday, March 31.
- Coordinated the set-up and tear down of the Chrismons Tree in Dec./Jan.

What does it mean to be a member of the church? How is being part of the church different than joining other groups in our culture, like a civic organization, book group, or social club? Individuals that have gone through the new member program this year have considered these questions and discussed the sacrifices and benefits of life as a disciple of Christ and member of a church.

Membership is an outward commitment to the church and to the world saying: "Trinity Avenue Presbyterian is where I want to learn to follow Jesus, grow in faith, commit to community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ, and be surrounded by a cloud of witnesses that will remind me of the claim of the Gospel in my life, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit."

Thanks be to God for the new members and their commitment to a life of discipleship with us at TAPC. They have joined us not because we are a perfect Christian community, but because of what Christ has done for us all and what Christ is doing for us all. Their commitment is a sign of God's grace to us.

### In 2013 we welcomed:

Brian and Julie Burtram, Conor Criswell, Will, and Ben  
George and Cathy Cheely  
Jamey and Amy Height, Isla and Annie  
Jimmy and Leigh Fickling, Ava and Davis  
Russ and Kristen Kingsland, Sean, Connor, Mac, and Will  
Brian and Jenni Murphy  
Beth Owen  
Blair and Sarah Robinson, Emory Cate  
Andrea Rock  
Bonnie Shanahan, Matt and Mary  
Jim and Carol Sledge  
Al and Elizabeth Todd

### As a reminder, individual opportunities for hospitality include:

- Wearing your nametag
- Introducing yourself to folks worshiping near you
- 3 Minute Rule: It takes visitors three minutes to exit the church after worship, so use those first few minutes after a service to seek out those you do not know
- Use the language, "I don't believe we've met. Hi, my name is..." This is effective whether you're welcoming visitor or a member you do not yet know
- Consider expressing appreciation for the opportunity to worship together, inquiring how they found the church, or connecting them with other members
- Offering a visitor a tour of the church.
- Inviting someone to worship
- Praying that all who gather in our midst may feel the power of the presence of God through the welcome and love expressed to them.

In the coming year, this ministry team will transition to the leadership of the Deacons.

The congregational care team faithfully and joyfully served a few members of TAPC in 2013: Nelda LaBorde, the Drummond family, and Lois Cranford.

Members took Nelda LaBorde out for lunch or a fun activity; they sat with the Drummond family and helped with mundane tasks during Bill's hospitalization; and members read to Lois Cranford a few times a week. Members also met together several times during the year to support one another, learn about caring for others, and plan future service opportunities.

The goal of the care team is to form a circle of care around congregants facing illness, end of life, grief, or disabilities. When members of the congregation are willing to have others surround them with love and support for an extended period of time, several members of the team agree to enter into a long-term relationship with that friend. Sometimes they do tasks that the friend cannot do or would prefer not to do, thus allowing the friend to rest or to use his or her energy for more enjoyable activities. Other times, the team supports the friend socially and emotionally, creating opportunities for fun. In both scenarios, interactions between the care team member and the friend are mutually beneficial. The care team member is doing activities that he or she enjoys doing, and the friend benefits from the activity as well.

Care team members and friends alike find themselves blessed by the relationship that develops and/or grows. Ideally, the friendship is mutual in every sense of the word; as such, it can be emotionally, behaviorally, and spiritually transformative.

Anyone interested in serving others and making new friends should consider joining the care team. Care team members can serve as frequently or infrequently as their schedules permit.

## Reflections on TAPC's Music Ministry

by Harry Jansen, Director of Music Ministry

As Director of Music Ministry at TAPC, I'm happy to report that singing, ringing and making melody to the Lord continues to flourish!

The **Trinity Choir** continues to be the core of our music leadership in worship – highlights included providing festival choral music with the Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Festival Brass and other instrumentalist during Easter, Christmas and seasonal worship services. Their deep commitment to musical spirituality has moved our congregation to greater worship throughout this past year.

The **Trinity Ringers** handbell program added regular monthly musical participation and leadership during the church year, including the season of Lent, Advent and Christmas. The program has grown substantially with new ringers joining the ensemble this past September.

**Children's music** was re-introduced in the early spring and continued into the fall program with the enthusiastic leadership of Laura Clarke & Julie Burtram. They presented a short musical in December, as part of morning worship. Thanks to all the parents for your support!

Other notable musical leadership included the summer **Chamber Choir** with members of the Trinity Choir and TAPC summer college students. They provided excellent choral music during summer worship, along with our regular roster of vocal soloists.

Nine o'clock worship in the chapel has been supported musically by the monthly participation of the **Vocal Ensemble**, consisting of faithful 'early risers', singing early and singing well!

The Worship Ministry Team continued their excellent support for transition to the new hymnal, '**Glory to God**'. The choir secured their copies in September, and remaining funds were raised for the order of 320 hymnals for the congregation by year's end.

We look forward to growing in our faith through hymns and spiritual songs from 'Glory to God' in 2014!

The Worship Ministry Team meets on the fourth Monday of each month, and is responsible for overseeing and supporting all aspects of worship at TAPC. Areas of responsibility include: Communion, lay worship leaders, music in worship, guest preachers, wedding and funeral policies, worship services, Acolytes, Sanctuary Guild, Audiovisual and Ushers. The goal of the WMT is to support the congregation and pastors as we seek to worship God in a joyful, thoughtful and meaningful way.

The responsibilities of the WMT are divided into Sections, with each Section directed by a designated member of the WMT. This year, we brought the Audiovisual Team under the umbrella of the WMT, and included the coordinator as a member of the WMT.

Section responsibilities and accomplishments include:

- Budget (Mark Ahrendsen): Mark reviewed the 2013 budget requirements and, with input from relevant staff (Harry Jansen) and WMT members and approval by the WMT, presented a proposed 2014 budget to the Finance Committee in December. In January the budget was approved.
- Communion (Bridgett Ray): Bridgett coordinated many aspects of the communion process at TAPC worship services, coordinating with Session to create a schedule assigning Elders-in-Charge and servers for 2014. This year, we moved to gluten-free communion bread for inclusivity.
- Drama/Lay participation (Carl Badger): With the passing of our beloved member, Bill Drummond, Carl agreed to coordinate the lay leaders, and expanded the ministry to include other forms of drama in worship. Carl served as our liaison to the Drama Coordinating Group, which has members from several Ministry Teams. Director of Music Ministries, Harry Jansen, served as staff coordinator of this effort, with summer Davidson College Ministry Fellow, Tatum Pottenger, helping plans to take shape. The Maundy Thursday service included a spoken drama presentation, and the youth presented a mini-musical during Advent at the 11:00 Worship service.
- Music Program (Bob Yowell, Harry Jansen, Dir of Music Ministries): The initiative to provide music at the 9:00 worship service was fully implemented with a group of regular 9:00 choral singers/musicians. This year, TAPC successfully embraced the transition to the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory To God*. Funds to purchase hymnals were raised through individual donation, and the hymnals were ordered at the end of the year.
- Acolytes (Courtney Drummond, Kristen Shattuck): The WMT supported Courtney and Kristen, who recruited and organized acolytes for TAPC worship services, and monitored and maintained acolyte supplies. In 2014, Kristen will continue as coordinator.
- Sanctuary Guild (Gerda Medley, Lloydette Hoof): The WMT supported the work of the Sanctuary Guild as needed, helping to coordinate the various groups using the Sanctuary and Chapel space. In addition, the WMT continued to support Barbara VanDewoestine in her ministry to provide and maintain banners for the church exterior. In 2014, Gerda will be retiring, the responsibilities of the Guild will be divided among several volunteers, and a new coordinator will be appointed.
- Ushers (Art Ferguson): The WMT reviewed a new set of usher guidelines, put together by a small committee including pastor Elizabeth Michaels. In 2014, Art will be retiring as usher coordinator, and a new coordinator will be named.

## **Worship and Music (continued)**

### **Additional initiatives:**

- This year the WMT continued to explore the Ministry Team concept, as outlined by the Governance Task Force. Meetings are now opened with Word, Share, Prayer led by WMT volunteers.
- TAPCs designation as an Earth Care Congregation was promoted through worship activities, including earth care-sensitive scriptures, sermons and prayers.
- A pew card to educate the congregation about the elements of the worship service was placed in the pews in early 2013.
- The Thanksgiving Love Feast service was embraced as an annual event coordinated by the WMT in collaboration with the pastors and Director of Music. The Wednesday evening service of thanksgiving and fellowship, with the traditional elements of coffee and buns, was held the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.
- Employ the new church website for coordination and communication.

### **Future plans include:**

1. Promote TAPCs designation as an Earth Care Congregation through a paperless service.
2. Writing and approval of policies regarding guest preachers (invitation and compensation) and funerals.
3. Extend the Drama program in worship to include a Spring children's musical.
4. Continue to encourage the participation of children in TAPC worship services through child-friendly hymns, child lectors, child-written prayers and bulletin artwork, and dramas.
5. Design a pew card to educate children about the elements of the worship service.
6. Evaluate of the use of technology (podcasts, streaming) to extend worship opportunities, and the incorporation of the arts in worship.
8. Continue to consider opportunities for joint worship services (e.g. the joint 11am service on Jan 26, 2014 for our annual congregational meeting).
9. Employ the new church website for coordination and communication.

*Acolytes bid  
worshippers  
farewell following  
the service.*



## Outreach

Submitted by Steve Yova, Chair

Outreach Committee Members: Joanne Anderson, Pat Boyce, Arland Eyl, Art Ferguson, Brian Burtram, Susan Ross, Len Stockburger, Barbara Vandewoestine, Lynette Williams, Corlis Wood, Steve Yova and TAPC Staff representative – Katie Crowe

Outreach sees as its mission to reach out in the name of Christ to causes deemed worthy in our community, state, country and world, using the budgeted resources provided by you through your pledges in addition to other resources provided by specific offerings and other giving to TAPC. This year, through the efforts of the Outreach Team and many of you, we were able to raise an additional \$15K+ with our \$10K Challenge by providing several unique events for fellowship among our congregation as well as our greater community, that included a square dance, tea at the King's Daughters Inn, wine tastings, a talent show, and a fantastic Community Arts Festival that brought local visual and musical artists together and gave us the opportunity to welcome the community in.

In our efforts to be good stewards of these resources we fed many growling stomachs through our work preparing and serving delicious and nutritious meals at the Urban Ministries' community kitchen and through our donations to several other food distribution agencies (Backpack Buddies and Meals on Wheels). We built our relationship with Habitat for Humanity, both through donations and participating in local building projects. A committed group in our church drove nails and otherwise provided Carpenter's Assistance - performing 'inreach' to our church family and outreach to our community by working on projects that need doing for those who cannot do them. We helped "build people" through our work with and financial support to the YMCA through its "We Build People" program. We hosted four weeks of drama camp with a diversity of children from our community through the summer Durham Family Theatre. We sent a team to conduct disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We supported the local and global mission initiatives of the denomination through our Presbytery giving. We assisted in education with our support of the East Durham Children's Initiative and through work with and providing assistance to Presbyterian Campus ministries at both Duke and NCCU. We supported foreign missions through our support of the Harvey's mission work in Oxford, UK and the Collins family mission work in Chang Mai, Thailand (both of whom visited with us in 2013!).

Any report attempting to compile the entirety of the outreach efforts of the congregation at TAPC is difficult – because so many of our community of faith are out in the community performing functions and tasks and/or donating resources that are independent of any organized reporting. This report represents the formal documented outreach efforts at TAPC as best we could determine them. If you're also out there, doing and supporting - by all means, keep up your good work and let us know. We may be able to help!

Our Outreach team tries to identify where the Spirit is working through the efforts of one or more of you - our congregants – and we join in. If you have been prayerfully led to a ministry or cause, I invite you to either inform one of us of your efforts or come and present it to us. We may be able to help it become our TAPC community effort. Otherwise, prayerfully consider joining an existing Outreach effort by contacting a member of the team or, better yet, coming to join us!



*Serving up smiles at  
Urban Ministries*

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Budgeted Mission Giving              | \$89,404         |
| Special offerings and events         | \$34,784         |
| Endowment Funds Released for Mission | \$6,392          |
| <b>Total Giving</b>                  | <b>\$130,580</b> |

## **Poverty Mission Team**

Submitted by Mary Gunderson, Chair

The Poverty Mission team first formed in spring 2013 after a book study series on three books: *Nickelode and Dimed in America*, *Same Kind of Different as Me*, and *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty*. Studying these books broadened our knowledge of daily life for those living in poverty and planted "seeds of hope" within our group as to how we might answer God's call to serve the poor.

Our first event was the summer cookout at Urban Ministries in August. We shared good food and good fellowship with 200+ of our neighbors in Durham that magical summer evening. Since then, we have considered various ways that we might develop genuine relationships with our Durham neighbors living in poverty.

In 2014We have decided to focus on two priorities: 1) building relationships with our immediate neighbors near the TAPC campus and 2) providing support to EDCI (East Durham Children's Initiative).

Stay tuned for further activities and plans. New members are always welcome! We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 in the church parlor. Contact any of our members for more details.

PMT members: Jim & Ruth Petrea, Tom & Nancy Carstens, Barbara VanDewostine, Corlis Wood, Victoria Herring, Becky Nichols, Becky Bowden, Judi Bishop, Ralph & Mary Gunderson, Stephen Gunderson, Art & Susan Ferguson, Dana Campbell, Catherine Wilson, Ann Kirkland, Caroline & Beth Armacost, Brian & Julie Burtram, Joanne Anderson

## **Boy Scouts**

Submitted by Len Stockburger, Scout Chair

Boy Scouting continues to flourish at TAPC, where programs will be celebrating their 60th year this year- one of the longest continually-running troops in the country!

Both the Pack and the Troop have had an active year with good attendance at weekly meetings, monthly camping trips, and summer camp programs, with Scouts earning new merit badges along the way. Ours is a hearty troop- despite a 412 percent chance of rain on each camping trip, Troop 412 carries on with good humor, curiosity about creation, and connection with one another.

The Cub Scouts have enjoyed their Pinewood Derby and Rain-gutter Regatta racing events, and plan to repeat these events in 2014. The Boy Scouting programs at TAPC continue to have a meaningful impact on the lives of the boys and young men in our community.

In addition to the normal Boy Scout programs we also participate with a "Lone Scout" in Kurdistan via skype (and in person in the summer!) and a Venture program of high adventure activities for both young men and women ages 14 to 20.

To learn more, visit [www.trinityave.org/troop412](http://www.trinityave.org/troop412). Contacts include Ann Motten - Venture, Cub Master - Robert Stockburger, Scout Master Ken Ellzey, Scout Committee Chair - Len Stockburger

## Reflections on a New Beginning

by Tommy Grimm, Director of Family Ministries

I consider my 2013 with Trinity Ave a “Zacchaeus” experience. When Jesus passed through Jericho, Zacchaeus joined the crowds to learn what all the commotion was about. But being “short in stature,” he couldn’t get a good view of this prophet from Nazareth, and as a tax collector, he wasn’t about to be welcomed to a better view. So Zacchaeus ran ahead, climbed a tree, and waited. He was ready for Jesus, but he was surprised to find that Jesus was ready for him. Not interested in Zacchaeus’ curiosity or fascination, Jesus told him to come down from that silly tree. He’d much prefer they speak in a home as friends.

Since beginning service at Trinity Ave last October as Director of Family Ministries, I’ve felt a kinship to Zacchaeus. As members’ names, church acronyms, and various memories fly back and forth, I have had plenty of reminders of how short on experience I am here. In meetings and exchanges, I would gladly climb any tree I could to get a fuller, wider perspective of the conversation at hand. And let’s be honest: children’s and youth ministry leaders can often feel like the church’s tax collector. They come around when you least expect, armed with guilt tactics, asking, “Have you paid your due of required service to our young ones?”

But instead of being outside the crowds, I’ve been invited into homes. As I’ve scoured for perspective and vision, I’ve been trusted with longings and desires. As I wondered where my place was among this Presbyterian people, I’ve learned that your hearts were already open for me. And for that I’m deeply grateful.

It was a pleasure at the tail end of 2013 to come alongside Trinity Avenue’s youth and children as we explore and live into God’s open heart for us. Concerning the youth, we had a flour war and family bonfire at the Wolf property. We navigated a corn maze with fright and sang carols to church members with joy. We played games around the church and meditated over the story of Scripture. After two months with our youth, I’m thoroughly impressed by their maturity. They have received me with a grace far beyond what I had hoped for, a grace they no doubt have learned from their congregation.

Similarly, I’ve been blessed coming to know the children within this community. Subbing in Sunday School, telling stories in Godly Play, and participating in other children’s programming, I have become quite fond of the church’s little ones. More importantly, I have appreciated our many offerings aimed at helping our children know and respond to God’s open heart for them.

Jesus concludes his encounter with Zacchaeus by saying, “The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” Thank you for welcoming me here as your brother and friend, always making sure I’m never lost in the crowd, and thank you for your efforts by the Spirit to make sure not one child or youth is lost among us.



*Photos:  
(Left) Christening a new year of Youth at Trinity Avenue (Y-TAP).*

*(Right) Tommy and Katie celebrate new beginnings with a ‘press-conference’ style photo.  
The discernment team that brought Tommy to us was Silas Nuernberger, Ashlee Smart, Joanna Hall, Peggy Waters, Andy Riley, and Bert Wolf*



## **Children's Ministry Team**

Submitted by Julie Burtram, Chair

The Children's Ministry Team has enjoyed the opportunity to share with each other once a month our vision for TAPC children. With the leadership of all the participants on the team many opportunities to share the Love of Jesus have come to life. TAPC Children have the opportunity to grow in their faith journey through Godly Play, Sunday school, Camp New Hope and serve as a helper with the Preschool Camp. We are looking forward to a new year filled with opportunities for our TAPC children to grow in their faith and realize the abundant love our Lord Jesus Christ has for each one of them. We would like to spot light three programs from this last year.

Faithgirlz is comprised of girls' aged third grade and up. We meet once a month to spend time with one another, reading devotions, playing games and helping with special projects. This past year this fabulous group of girls performed a dance, singing routine for the Talent Show, made center pieces for the Housing for New Hope party, participated in Harry's December musical and spent time together in fellowship getting to know each other better. This coming year Harry would like to spend a little time each meeting singing with these girls.

2013 was a time of joyful fellowship, thoughtful conversation, and intentional service for TAPC Kids Club, which serves children in 3rd through 5th grade. Highlights included making and delivering Valentines for residents at Kindred Pettigrew Nursing Facility, hiking along the Eno, discussing what it means to be homeless with Pastor Katie, creating gift bags for the Housing of New Hope Christmas party, and being stumped by Tommy's super scavenger hunt around the church!

This past year Children's Music Team began a new program incorporating children's music at the beginning of the Sunday school hour. The children learned many fun songs for worship and participated in the play Good King Wenceslas during the Christmas Season. The Children's Music Team looks forward to continuing this program and incorporating the prayerful joy of singing for our TAPC children.



*Fun at the summer family picnic*

## **TAPC Weekday School**

Submitted by Lori Hardin, Director

The purpose of the TAPC Weekday School is to provide the congregation and the community a half day preschool. Our mission includes ensuring that all the children enrolled in our school are in an appropriate classroom setting and receiving the best possible education in an atmosphere of love and understanding. The staff is dedicated to providing an emotionally supportive and intellectually stimulating environment for our students. The school is in session from September through May and also offers three weeks of summer camp.

This year at the Weekday School, we enjoyed weekly music and signing courtesy the fabulous Mr. Don Hicks, who brings joy to our school with his enthusiasm for children. We made intentional efforts to grow our connections with the church, promoting the church's activities among our parents and encouraging family participating in special events.

We held two parent meetings at the beginning of the year, and rejoice that families from different cultures and diverse walks of life continue to make the Weekday School home during the week. We also enjoyed the performing arts as members of *Rags to Riches*, a very entertaining local troupe, made funny and poignant stories come to life. Our annual summer camp was a success, as was our annual book fair, carnival, parade, picnic, and 'moving up' ceremony at the end of the year.

If members of Trinity Avenue have children in their lives who they think would benefit from the Weekday School program, please contact Lori to arrange a tour!

### **Enrollment:**

2-year old classroom: 10 children, 2 teachers

2-year old classroom (2 day program): 6 children, 2 teachers

3-year old classroom (3 day program): 7 children, 1 teacher

4-year old classroom (5 day program): 8 children, 1 teacher

Kindergarten (5 day program): 6 children, 1 teacher

## **Presbyterian Women**

Submitted by Lisa Drummond, Moderator

The Presbyterian Women Circles continued to enjoy monthly Circle meetings and special events in 2014. Some Circles provided snacks for NCCU Presbyterian Campus Ministry exam weeks, while others provided food to children in our community through Backpack Buddies. Other Circles sponsored Angels on the Angel Tree, and hosted a fellowship opportunity following the annual music cantata in December. Summer events included hosting a fellowship fundraising tea at the King's Daughters Inn, and enjoying special speakers, including Dr. Julie Fann spoke about her dissertation and her work in reformation studies, and Suzy Gilbert and Debbie Pittman who shared their perspectives on the work of the school system from the perspective of a teacher and administrator. Circles also dug deep into studying the book of Exodus through the Horizons Bible study, and continue to extend an open invitation to all of the women of the church to come join in the fellowship, study, and fun!

## **Primetimers**

Submitted by Ruth Petrea, Facilitator

**Speakers:** Katie Crowe, A survey of emotions in the Bible.

Martha and David Bailey, Low vision specialists

David Hartman, Anchor of NBC Today Show

Elizabeth Michael, Presentation of her Sabbatical

Valerie Fox, Falls Prevention, Occupational Therapist,  
Duke Veterans Administration

**Music:** Harry Jansen, presented the new Presbyterian Hymnal

**Excursions:** Museum of Natural Science, Raleigh NC

Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, NC, Christmas tour

Forest Hills Picnic (Durham, NC) and Meredith Marley, Shimar Recycling with Lisa Joyner and Sally Lockamy, music

**Members:** 20-25 attend each meeting; average age 70 approximately

For members 55 and over who want to have fun, share talents and enjoy the fellowship of other TAPC members. Spiritual growth, education, fellowship and fun are our goals!

**Leaders:** Ruth Petrea

Lisa Drummond

Martha Aitken



## **Officer Nominating Team**

Submitted by Julie Fann, Chair

The Officer Nominating Ministry Team worked diligently in the last few months of 2013 to develop a slate of officer nominees. They found 5 people to serve as ruling elders (members of session) for three years and 5 people to serve as deacons for three years. They also sought to fill one vacancy on session and one on the deacons by finding 1 person willing to serve as a ruling elder for a year and 1 person willing to serve as a deacon for a year.

The Officer Nominating Ministry Team is striving to make the recommendation and nomination processes more transparent, less likely to hurt people's feelings, and as faithful as possible to The Book of Order, the administrative handbook, and (above all) God's will. Accordingly, it added educational and spiritual components to recommendation forms, church announcements, conversations with people whom the team selected, and nominees' autobiographical statements.

## **Leadership Support Ministry Team**

Submitted by Jim Kinney, Chair

The Leadership[ Support Ministry Team (LSMT) was formed in 2013 as a new ministry team with a focus on the governance of the church through coordination of goals and activities of the ministry teams of the church , communication between staff and church leadership, and counseling to ministry teams on their execution of the ministry team concept.

We adopted a vision for our team:

*“Our vision is to nurture and inspire the leadership and staff of TAPC while strengthening and our own capabilities through fellowship and discipleship.”*

We drafted a Ministry Team Handbook that describes the purpose, organization and administrative processes for effective ministry teams. The Handbook will be an important tool in helping ministry teams accomplishing their ministries, but equally important, offer best practices to incorporating discipleship into their meetings and activities, and building fellowship critical to team unity.

The LSMT conducted the first of its quarterly ministry team leader meetings in November, setting the stage for continuing implementation of the ministry team concept. We discussed a set of defining practices that will foster team discipleship:

The defining practice of witness: Providing an opportunity to learn and practice sharing faith

The defining practice of prayer: Praying for one another, the team, the church, the world

The defining practice of care: “Bearing one another’s burdens”

The defining practice of imparting the Word: Studying scripture

The defining practice of the “With Me” principle: Inviting others to join in team ministry

The defining practice of sending to ministry: Connecting people to people and other ministries

### **As we enter 2014, we will focus on several goals:**

Strengthening the ministry team concept by coaching the teams

Coordinating the goals created by each team and communicating them to the congregation

Establishing accountability for the accomplishment of goals

Ensuring that our commitment to be an Earth Care congregation is appropriately reflected by each team

Encouraging recruitment of new members for each team, and broadening participation by our congregation in the ministries of TAPC

### **Join a Ministry Team in 2014!**

Members of LSMT include Bob Clarke, Arland Eyl, Neal Fann, John Stelling, Julie Fann, Len Stockburger, Mary Martin and Peggy Waters. Rev. Katie Crowe serves as staff liaison.

## **Personnel**

Submitted by Tom Carstens, Chair

TAPC's Personnel Ministry Team was active supporting the many people needs of our church. We value the role of having a part in assisting in the development and management of procedures and policies that support our staff and their programs. Below is a list of the activities that we supported this past year:

- Reaffirmed our TAPC Staff Liaison Initiative by assigning a Personnel Team Members to each Staff Member as their advocate.
- Established a Sabbatical Fund for the support of future sabbatical activities.
- Supported the Staff in Continuing Education Initiatives.
- Assisted in the creation of a Ministry Fellowship Program, to support our ministry programs and develop candidates for future ministry work by offering summer internship opportunities at TAPC.
- Updated TAPC's Employee Handbook Manual for compliance to our current policies and procedures.
- Conducted an assessment of our Staff's Organizational Requirements and compared those needs to our capabilities in order to best serve our Members.
- Participated in TAPC budget planning process.

Our efforts in 2014 will be focused on refining the initiatives listed above and improving communications between Staff, Ministry Teams, and Church Members.

TAPC Personnel Committee:

Jane Robinson, Ashlee Smart, Len Johnson, Jim Kinney, Mike Foley, and Tom Carstens

## **Finance Ministry Team**

Submitted by Chris Perry, Chair

The TAPC Finance & Facilities Ministry Team is composed of fourteen members, each of whom serves or has served the church in at least one of the following capacities: Elder, Chair of a ministry team, or Treasurer of the church. The members of the Team for 2013 were Tom Carstens, Jim Elkins, John Faulkenbury, Art Ferguson, Mike Foley, Rick Freeman, Phil Hutchings, Chris Perry, Jim Petrea, Bridgett Ray, Bill Ross, Len Stockburger, Bill Telford, and Jim Vanderweide.

The Finance & Facilities Ministry Team's responsibilities include proposing the operating budget, monitoring actual fiscal activity in relation to the approved budget, and insuring proper controls for the safeguarding of the church's assets.

In 2013, TAPC was truly blessed with faithful members and visitors who were generous with their financial gifts. For the first year since 2010, the church's operating budget had a surplus. What was/were the reason(s) for the surplus? Maybe the surplus was due to a full year of stability in the pulpit and the supporting staff, and/or the work of the music programs, and/or the work of Christian education programs, and/or the love and commitment expressed for the church. Regardless, the Good Lord, with love and grace, had a hand in every reason.

## **Generosity Team**

Submitted by Mary Martin, Chair

Chairperson: Mary Martin

Members: Tom Berry, Judi Bishop, Phil Hutchings, Jim Kinney, Bert Wolf

Joanna Hall and Chris Perry have rotated off the Generosity Ministry Team, and the Team thanks them for their contributions during the charter year.

Early in the year the Generosity Team created a vision for their ministry: “To engage our congregation in serving Christ by generously sharing their God-given gifts of financial resources, time and talent.” The Team agreed that the best way to achieve their vision was to implement the ministry team concept adopted by the TAPC Session, and the Word-Share-Prayer model was deployed for all Generosity Team gatherings. The Team also updated the TAPC Administrative Handbook, replacing the Stewardship Committee documentation with the roles and responsibilities for the Generosity Ministry Team.

The pledging cycle for the 2013 TAPC budget year was completed in the first quarter, with Generosity Team members encouraging all congregation members to pledge. The Team began the practice of sending handwritten thank you notes to those who pledged as another way of expressing appreciation to all who share their gifts with the church. The 2014 budget year pledging cycle is currently wrapping up, and the thank you notes are being completed in January.

Conscious of the workload involved with the weekly handling of donation envelopes and eager to support TAPC’s efforts as a “greener” congregation, Generosity developed an “Opt In” approach for the envelopes. The approach was communicated from the pulpit, and through e-mails, Sunday bulletins, and newsletters. The Team also encouraged donors to contribute financial gifts through online bank drafts instead of hard copy checks.

The emphasis on a generous congregation sharing their gifts throughout the year continued, and Generosity explored ideas for assisting TAPC members with identifying their talents. Mary Martin participated in the Presbytery of New Hope workshop led by Stan Ott from The Vital Churches Institute, “Growing a Generous Congregation”, and she walked the Team through the workshop information throughout the second half of the year.

Representatives from the Presbytery of New Hope will be attending the Presbyterian Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in March. The TAPC Generosity Team has volunteered to participate in the conference and to offer TAPC as a pilot for a new approach to giving and generosity.

## **Facilities Ministry Team**

Submitted by Art Ferguson, Chair

The Facilities Ministry Team reports to the Finance and Facilities Ministry Team, with responsibility for ensuring that the maintenance and improvements of the physical campus are carried out in a cost effective manner. The Facilities budget is the second largest expense line item behind salaries and benefits. It has responsibility to the congregation to ensure we provide a safe, comfortable, and aesthetically pleasing environment for all of us to best utilize the facilities.

Facilities manage all service contracts such as cleaning, HVAC, security monitoring, and lawn care. It is also responsible for the insurance policy and the risk management items that allow us to retain the lowest possible insurance premiums. It establishes a maintenance checklist for ensuring the timeliness and effectiveness of all required items. It is responsible for identifying necessary capital projects and prioritizing them in order to best operate within the budget.

The Team also provides many of the maintenance functions through our utilization of our part-time Building Manager, organization of periodic work days, as well as a volunteer Wednesday work group. A special thanks to Jim Petrea who stepped down this year as chair after serving 7 years in that capacity.

### **Significant projects completed this year through management of contractors:**

Replacement of failed windows under warranty and provided in house painting of new windows

Carpet cleaning

Repair of flat roof on the Bennett building

Memorial garden completed

Acquired and planted additional 50 azaleas on the campus

Installed basement sump pump

Repaired/refurbished drainage system around and under educational building

### **In-house projects included:**

Wed am group provided ongoing building, playground, and grounds maintenance. Repaired chairs and pews.

Continued to look at earth care initiatives

Supported the 10K challenge

Supported Durham Family Theater – Summer Camps and performances

Painted Pastor's offices

Light fixture and ballast replacement

Replaced damaged ceiling tiles

Playground maintenance

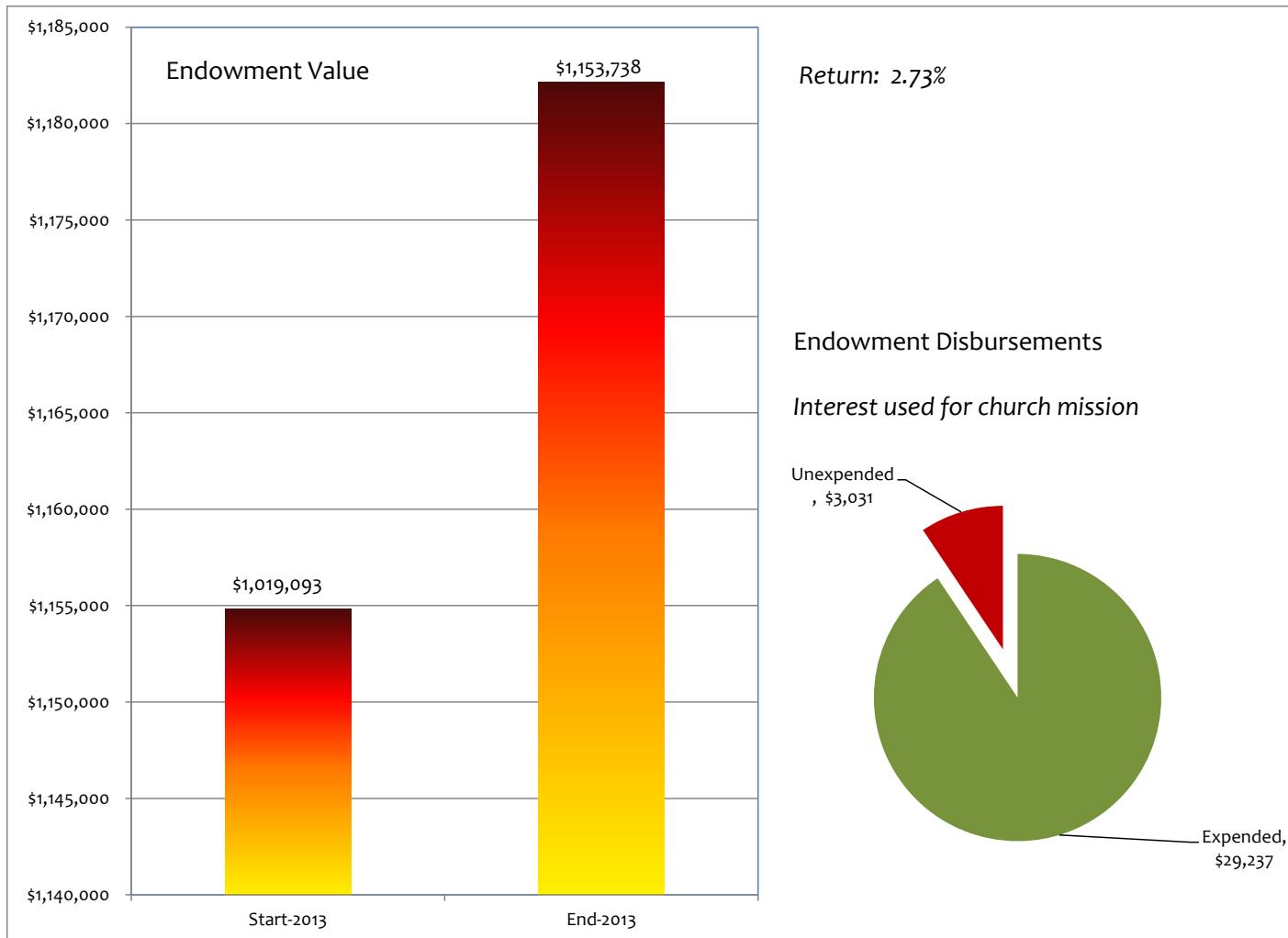
Team members: Art Ferguson, Chair, Martin Davis, Building Manager, Len Stockberger, John Faulkenbury, Lisa Drummond, Bill Telford, Jim Petrea, Bill Medley, Al Joyner, Dan Richards, David Thaxton, Aryland Eyl, Bobby Stockberger

## Endowment Ministry Team

Submitted by Neal Fann, Chair

The TAPC endowment is comprised of 25 individual funds totaling about \$1.1M in size. These funds help support eight areas of church life: outreach, music & worship, congregational care, education, Boy Scouts, the weekday school, scholarships, and maintenance. Over the past year, the team distributed approximately \$28,000 in proceeds from the endowment--providing resources to repair the church bells, purchase new hymnals, support two scholarships, procure new playground equipment, and meet other critical church needs.

Over the next year, the endowment ministry team looks forward to using the endowment as a tool to better support the mission of the church. The team believes that the endowment can help TAPC meet its goal of being a church that ministers to the people of Durham.



## Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church Staff

Janet Burney, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Katie Crowe, Senior Pastor  
Martin Davis, Facilities Manager  
Lisa Drummond, Hospitality Coordinator  
John Faulkenbury, Night Security  
Tommy Grimm, Director of Family Ministries  
Lori Hardin, Director of the Weekday School  
Harry Jansen, Director of Music Ministries  
Rev. Graham McChesney, Parish Associate  
Rev. Elizabeth Michael, Associate Pastor  
Tina Petrillo, Business Manager

## Weekday School Teachers

Lisa Drummond  
Tami Frenduto  
Audrey Gomes  
Lori Hardin  
Don Hicks (music)  
Vanetha Machock  
Andrea Michos  
Anne Pearson  
Vangie Poe

## Childcare Associates

Leah Hargrove  
Renita Harvey  
Ashley Macomson



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