

Mission Study 2015
Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Mission Statement

Called to worship, empowered to serve.
A mission church, bringing people in and
sending disciples out

A Brief History of our Church

Blowing Rock's spectacular mountain setting, cool breezes, and natural wonders began attracting summer visitors after the Civil War. Among them were Col. William J. Martin and his son and namesake, both professors at Davidson College. Others included Mrs. Emma Stewart, who ran a boarding house in Davidson during the school year and one in Blowing Rock during the summer. These Presbyterians joined with other local and summer people to build the first house of worship in the village, a small frame structure on the current site, dedicated in 1886. Concord Presbytery enrolled the church with eight members the following year, but regular worship must have been seasonal.

The church takes its name as a memorial to the Rev. Dr. Jethro Rumble, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, N.C. from 1860 to 1906, a frequent missionary preacher in the mountains, summer resident toward the end of his life, and a key initiator of the original project. Work on the present stone sanctuary started in fall 1905, following plans drawn up by Dr. William J. Martin, Jr., and took seven years to complete. Local people did most of it: stones were hauled from Flat Top Mountain and other nearby sites. Summer residents pitched in, providing support and money. The impressive slate roof and stone buttresses, along with clear chestnut ceiling, support beams, lamps, and other interior appointments, give it an English country church appearance. A bell in the tower still chimes the hour at the start of Sunday worship. The Tiffany-style stained glass window behind the pulpit, recently cleaned and restored, recognizes Dr. Rumble's role as founder and spiritual mentor. The professionally designed portico, added in 1929, holds a window memorializing the Rev. Edgar Tufts, founder of Lees McRae Institute (later College) and Grandfather Home for Children in nearby Banner Elk. The Rev. Tufts was the church's first called minister, serving part time from 1897 to 1923. Rumble Memorial called its first fulltime pastor, G. Sexton Buchanan, in 1931.

The contributions of two other prominent early summer residents and frequent preachers are also marked by windows in the sanctuary: Dr. James I. Vance of Nashville, Tennessee, by a depiction of Jesus the Good Shepherd; and Dr. Charles G. Vardell, founder and long-time president of Flora MacDonald College in Red Springs, N.C. by one of the Risen Christ.

A major mission effort of the church since 1918 has been support of the Grandfather Home. An annual summer offering for its work is still taken. Through the years members have served on its board, Women's Circles have supported its operations, and a portion of our missions budget has aided it.

Summer resident Annie L. Cannon, wife of Joseph C. Cannon, who taught Bible lessons to generations of children, generously supported construction of both our educational buildings. The 1936 shingled structure now houses the Keys Music Center, named for a former pastor, and a nursery on the ground level. The 1969 three-story Cannon Building houses classrooms, offices, and a fellowship hall. The building has since been reconfigured and remodeled inside, and got a rock facing during 2008. Its stained glass window honors Dr. James Stuart, minister from 1988 to 1997.

The church bought the adjacent historic house and cottage, now called the Rumble House and Youth Cottage, from the estate of George and Mary Kinnard in 2002. Regular and affiliate members provided the time, talents, and gifts to refurbish the property for numerous congregational uses. A manse, behind the church parking lot, housed the families of seven pastors and several interim ministers and is now rented out.

Rumble Memorial celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2012 with a number of memorable events including the dedication in the narthex of a beautiful ceiling mural by regional artist Brenda Council, and fresco pieces created by member Norma Suddreth. Copies of the centennial history, *For His Cause A Little House*, by Dr. Donald B. Saunders, are still available.

Blowing Rock Community and the Surrounding Area

Rumple is located in the small town of Blowing Rock, just off of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Watauga County. It is in the far northwest region of the North Carolina Mountains. Known for its delightful summer climate (65 degrees average), year-round outdoor activities, 35" of annual snowfall and winter skiing, and the charming village, it has been compared to the fictitious Mayberry for its friendly, small-town community ambiance. Its 1237 year-round population swells to 12,000 in the summer. Visitors and summer residents, many of whom have long histories residing in family homes, are drawn to the climate and activities, the natural beauty of the mountains as well as the many festivals, parades, museums and galleries, and shopping.

Blowing Rock is a friendly, caring community with a healthy economy, boasting a low 3.5% unemployment rate. Most of the jobs are based on tourism and are seasonal. The average age of our citizens is 59 years old. Many residents are active retirees. Blowing Rock School has approximately 350 students, from kindergarten to eighth grade. Median household income is \$54,271, with a per capita income of \$34,294. Median home value is \$252,000. Rumple's demographics are reflective of the village. To understand the ministry of Rumple, it is helpful to look at the county of Watauga, and the county seat of Boone, located just 10 minutes away.

Visitors are attracted by a variety of entertainment venues including Tweetsie Railroad, three Ski resorts, The Blowing Rock, shopping, music, museums, restaurants, beautiful scenery, and outdoor sporting opportunities. Weekly Farmer's Market run May through October in Boone and Blowing Rock.

Watauga County occupies 312 square miles in the northwest corner of North Carolina and is bordered by Tennessee. The Blue Ridge Parkway winds through the county from the southwest to the northeast bringing visitors to Blowing Rock for the natural beauty. Watauga's population of 51,000 is comprised of 6,000 youth under 18, and 6,500 over 65. The balance of 37,000 is adults and University students. They are 95% white, 3.5% Hispanic, and less than 2% each Black, multi-racial, American Indian, and Asian.

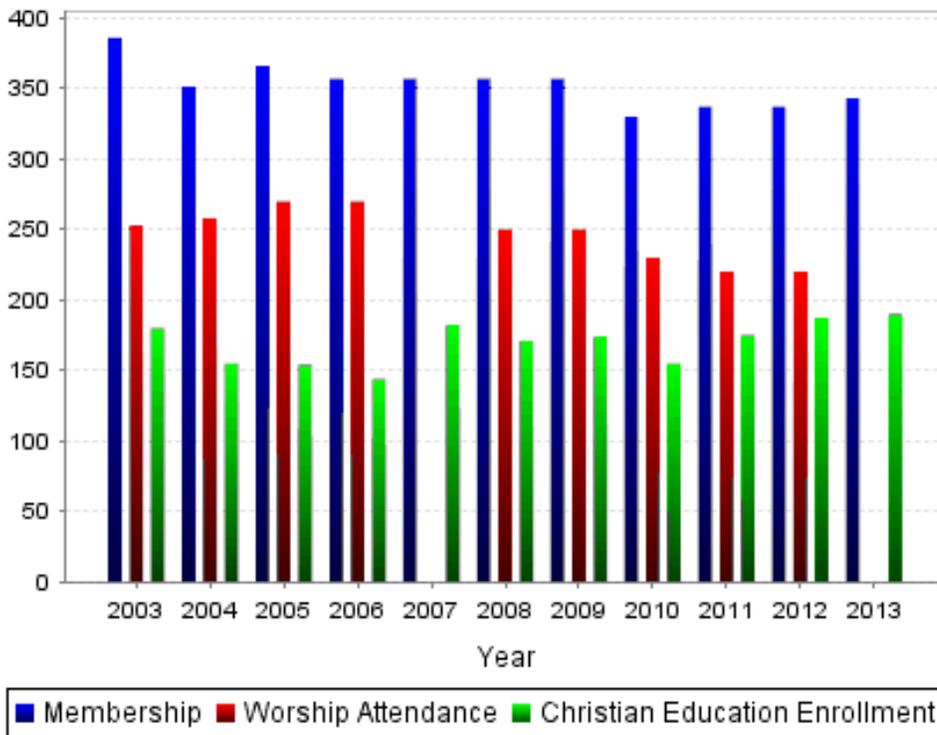
Education is valued and 89% of citizens over 25 are high school graduates, and nearly 40% have attained additional higher educational degrees. This number is bolstered by a large portion of school and university educators, and university students. The per capita income is \$21,854 and home values average \$228,700. Watauga is primarily a rural county, with the Town of Boone as the county seat, the village of Blowing Rock, and several smaller communities in outlying areas. In the eight Kindergarten- 8th grade community schools and county high school, over 50% live at or below the poverty level and qualify for free or reduced lunches and supplemental breakfast. Families in the outlying areas are frequently "generationally established" families, many of whom garden, farm, and hunt for sustenance. The median household income is \$34,293 compared to the state median of \$46,334. The county's poverty rate is 31.3% compared to 17.5% statewide.

The town of Boone, at elevation 3266 feet, has a population of 18,211. It is 99% urban, 1% rural, with approximately a 33% increase in 15 years. Boone's median resident age is 22 due to large population of Appalachian State University students which also factors into the median household income of \$ 14,319 and per capita income of \$12,419 which has been essentially static for 15 years. Boone residents are employed in food service (34%), education (23%), and retail (17%), with less than 5% each in construction, services, art, and entertainment, and manufacturing. Boone enjoys an unemployment rate of 5.8% and a low crime rate. It is a beautiful university town, with an old-time main street adjacent to the college, and many restaurants and pubs catering to the students. Watauga Medical Center, which was recently acquired by Appalachian Regional Healthcare, and the many physicians and specialists in Boone provide excellent healthcare and employment for residents. The average home price of \$282,080 has more than doubled in 15 years, reflecting the desirability of the "High Country." The quality of life is often cited as the reason residents forgo higher salaries elsewhere to make Boone and Watauga county their home.

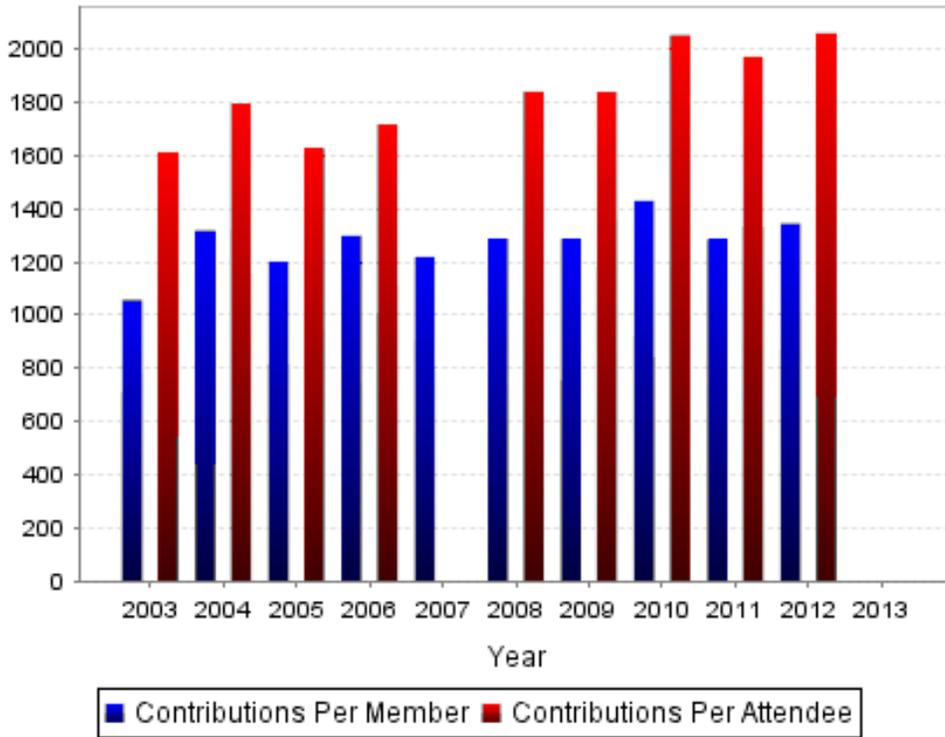
Rumple Demographics

Rumple’s 2014 membership roster boasted 324 members. Membership has hovered between 325 and 350 members for the past decade. Rumple also has 89 Affiliate Members. The average attendance in worship was 220 in 2012, the most recent year with reported data on the PC(USA) website. We are a community with many summer residents, so attendance increases in the summer and fall, and drops in the winter and spring, when we consequently decrease from two to one worship service. In 2014 the average attendance dropped to 180 per week. However, from May through October the average was 204, whereas the remaining months averaged 154.

Christian Education Enrollment in 2013 was 190, slightly more than 55% of our total members, and higher than any other year in the past decade. The PC(USA) offers the following graph depicting membership, worship attendance, and Christian education at Rumple over the eleven years from 2003-2013:



2012 annual contributions totaled \$452,875, and income over the past decade has hovered around \$450k. That is roughly \$1.3k of annual contributions per member and \$2k per attendee. Average annual contributions per member and per attendee have slightly increased over the decade from 2003-2012. Below is the PC(USA)’s graph depicting our contributions per member and per attendee:



Although most of Rumple’s members are enjoying their golden years, we remain an active group committed to the larger community and heavily involved in volunteer activities, local boards, the museum, arts council, etc. Our membership is socially and economically diverse, but racially homogeneous. Many members live in and close to Blowing Rock, but a number of members drive from Boone. Most members are professionals or retired from professional positions. Many work for or retired from Appalachian State University, the local school system, the hospital, local businesses, and larger corporations.

Finances

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Budget
Number of Pledges	118	120	113	107	82
Pledge Dollars	\$360,338	\$345,919	\$304,973	\$299,271	\$233,810
Actual from Pledges	\$345,267	\$337,717	\$330,316	\$299,843	
Other Income	\$135,453	\$159,643	\$176,910	\$148,875	\$152,890
Total Income	\$480,720	\$497,360	\$507,226	\$448,718	\$386,700
Missions Outreach	\$39,100	\$26,200	\$28,800	\$31,000	\$28,000
Missions (PCUSA)	\$13,013	\$13,876	\$12,000	\$13,013	\$12,000
Other Expenses	\$429,487	\$412,728	\$344,062	\$430,027	\$403,800
Total Expenses	\$481,600	\$452,804	\$384,862	\$474,040	\$443,800

Note: In 2012 Rumple restructured and eliminated administrative staff and closed the preschool, with the savings dedicated to the addition of a full time Director of Christian Education. The 2013 expense totals reflect these savings, but the additional expenses only took place in the latter part of the year.

*Rumple’s contribution to community, national and worldwide mission exceeds the budgeted amounts displayed here. Rumple demonstrates sustained support for mission and outreach, through special mission programs like Angel Tree and Elderberry Tree; the active mission work of the five Presbyterian Women Circles; and special offerings including Grandfather Home and Pennies for Hunger.

For additional information, please see the Missions section on page 12.

James G. Stuart Scholarship Fund

Rumple operates a college scholarship fund for active youth members of RMPC. This fund was established in honor of our past pastor Dr. James G. Stuart. Since 2000 this fund has aided over thirty youth from our congregation. All active youth enrolled on a full time schedule to a college, university or junior college are eligible at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee for up to a maximum of eight semesters. Additionally funds are available to Rumple’s youth who pursue a career in ministry during their enrollment in divinity school.

The Rumple Scholarship committee also administers additional funds through the NC Community Foundation for area students.

The current approximate balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$500,000.

Rumple Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund Plan was established by the act and resolution of the Session of the RMPC at its regular session meeting in November 1999.

The Rumple Memorial Endowment Trustees was established by the session in 2007 to raise funds for and manage the assets of the endowment.

The fund is a means whereby members and friends of RMPC may make contributions of a permanent nature, for the benefit of the church in future years. The fund is not intended to exist and be maintained in competition with the normal stewardship programs of the church. The current value of the fund is approximately \$299,000.

The Dunn Fund

In 1945, Dr. R.A. Dunn, who was a Presbyterian and a Summer attendee at Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church, died and directed in his will that a portion of his estate be administered by the Presbyterian Church of the United States and RMPC for the benefit of the youth of Blowing Rock.

The purpose of the fund is to assist worthy young people in securing adequate education by making awards to them. The fund is intended to assist local organizations in their efforts to support and nurture the children and youth of Blowing Rock. The Dunn Fund is administered by the Christian Education Committee.

Our Facilities

The Stone Sanctuary

Constructed from local stone and completed by 1912, the sanctuary includes updates for modern conveniences such as heat, air-conditioning, lighting, and sound system. The sanctuary seats approximately 220 people.



The Annie Ludlow Cannon Memorial Education Building

Completed in 1971 from the seed money of Mrs. Cannon's estate, as well as, barbeque suppers and bazaars, the Educational building is full of life on a daily basis and contains the church offices, Sunday school rooms, meeting rooms, and the Fellowship Hall. In 2005, renovations began which included improvements for an attractive welcoming lobby and office space, new choir rehearsal facilities, a nursery, and an elevator for handicap accessibility.

The Rumple House

Acquired in 2002 from the estate of George and Mary Kinnard, it was extensively refurbished by regular and affiliate members. Many provided time, talents, and gifts to bring the house up to its former beauty. Today, this facility hosts meetings, Bible study groups, social gatherings, and Sunday school classes weekly. Sometime in the next two to three years, we will need to add more insulation in the attic, new ducts for the heating system, and to seal openings around foundation and eaves. This project will likely exceed \$5000.00.

Youth Cottage

Acquired in the 2002 purchase from the estate of the Kinnards, the Youth Cottage is a facility enjoyed by the youth of the church. It has a room for fellowship and Sunday school, kitchen facilities, and a deck. Sometime in the next two to three years we will need to replace the floor and possibly some joists. This project will likely exceed \$5000.00.

The Manse

Completed in 1962 after two years of work by local residents led by member Owen Coffey, the church's second manse sits on two lots on South Wallingford Street behind the church which were purchased and donated by Mrs. Annie Cannon and another summer resident, Earl Searcey. The building project, and the fundraisers needed to pay for it, united the church as it had never been before and involved large numbers of members directly. About one fourth of the pews in the sanctuary today carry memorial plaques, purchased at this time by Sunday School classes and by many local members. The building was the pride of a generation for the congregation, but in recent years our pastors have used their housing allowance for other residence and the building currently is occupied by a long-term tenant.

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church Staffing

The following are the current authorized full-time (FT) and part-time (PT) church positions:

Solo Pastor (FT)
Director of Christian Education (FT)
Director of Music (FT)
Accompanist (PT)
Secretary (PT)
Custodian (PT)
Nursery Attendants (2) (PT)
Youth Intern (PT)

Additionally there are non-paid positions:

Ministerial Intern (PT)
We enjoy a working relationship with the Presbyterian Campus Minister at Appalachian State University who also worships at Rumple.

Church Programs

Sunday School - Rumple has four on-going Adult Sunday School classes, children and youth classes, and occasional short term studies. These classes meet in the Rumple House and in the Education Building.

- Discoverers: meets in the Session Room of the Rumple House, located next door to the Sanctuary. Adults of various ages are studying various short-term studies facilitated by Kim Rogers and Alice Salthouse.
- Explorers: meets in the Pine Cone Room in the Rumple House. Carolyn Nelson leads this group in the PC(USA) curriculum *The Present Word*.
- The Carter Lentz Men's Class: meets in the Rocking Chair Room of Rumple House. Fellowship is enjoyed prior to class with coffee and donuts. This group also gives to community needs and the church's scholarship program. In addition they support special church projects and provide breakfast for the community after the Easter sunrise service each year – and for other special occasions. Curriculum: David C. Cook *Bible and Life Series*. Several of the members serve as teachers for the class during the year.
- The Women's Class: meets in the church library. Taught by Mary Lentz and Debra Shore, this diverse group of women studies the Bible using David C. Cook *Bible and Life Series*.
- Children: A nursery is provided during both worship services and Sunday school. There is one multi-age class offered for children Kindergarten – 5th Grade
- Youth: A class for our Middle and High School youth is offered in the Youth Cottage and led by our Youth Ministry Intern.

Short Term Studies

Rumple also offers occasional short term studies during Sunday school and during the week that meet at various times throughout the year. Recent studies include: **Remembering Your Baptism** – led by Dave McCollum, Director of Music; **Listening To God** – led by various church members; **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** – led by Don Saunders; **Blood Brothers** – led by Don Saunders; Seasonal studies during Lent and Advent are also offered.

Wednesday Youth Programs

Each Wednesday during the school year, children and youth (K-8th grade) have an opportunity at Rumple for study, play and music. For the 2015-2016 school year we have 18 students participating.

- **KICKS:** Kids in Christ Keeping the Spirit, is a program for children in K-5th grade. They arrive right after school for snack and recreation. Then they experience 45 minutes of choir with the music director and volunteers and 30 minutes of program with our DCE.
- **Fusion:** a program for middle school youth. They too arrive after school. They are currently participating in a girl's bible study with our DCE and then have 30 minutes of choir.

Children's Church

Following the "Time with Children" during worship, children in Kindergarten – 2nd grade are invited to join volunteers upstairs for Children's Church. The purpose is to continue the teaching time and allow the children to learn, in their own setting, about worship.

Youth Group

Rumple has an active Middle and High School Youth Group. Under the supervision of our DCE, a Youth Ministry Intern leads, manages, and plans for our Sunday afternoon activities and off campus events. Our youth group attends the Montreat Worship and Music Conference as well as the Montreat Youth Conference each summer. In addition the High School youth participate in a week-long mission event each summer. Throughout the school year, our youth participate in various fellowship events, service projects and studies at the youth cottage. They serve as lay readers every 5th Sunday and lead the congregation in Youth Sunday each spring. Once a month the youth gather with advisors and leaders for a breakfast at the Youth Cottage before school.

Vacation Bible School

Every summer in June, children gather for Vacation Bible School at Rumple Church. Staffed by many Rumple adults and youth volunteers the children enjoy music, crafts, science, recreation and storytelling. VBS draws not only our own members but children from the community and grandchildren visiting their grandparents. It is held Monday – Friday 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and is a wonderful outreach for Rumple.

Music Program

The Music program at Rumple enjoys a large presence in worship and community life. The Director of Music oversees all aspects of the music program and is supported by a number of volunteers. Our KICKS group highlights the talents of elementary age children, grades K – 5. The FUSION ensemble features middle school voices. Both groups meet weekly after school on Wednesday afternoons. They have an opportunity to lead in worship with voice and song on a regular basis.

We are excited to have recently begun a Choral Scholars Program that reaches out to Music Majors or qualified students attending Appalachian State University. The adult choir benefits from a student of each voice part and the musicians are featured in solo and small ensemble performance opportunities in weekly worship.

The handbell choir features adults and young people. It is part of worship in late fall and throughout the winter and spring.

The adult choir is a mainstay in weekly worship. With the influx of summer residents the choir is on call year round! Their dedication to Rumble and its worship is unfailing.

Highlights of the year include special services for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. A special service honoring Grandfather Home is a longstanding musical tradition at Rumble. The annual Worship & Music Conference in Montreat, NC, is made available to the children and youth at Rumble.

Rumble is excited to have the new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*, in our pews in 2016. After a successful fundraising campaign, 200+ hymnals will be available for use in worship in January.

Rumble enjoys a traditional worship with liturgy, traditional hymns and anthems accompanied by piano and organ.

Presbyterian Women

Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves:

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study
- To support the mission of the church worldwide
- To work for justice and peace, and
- To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church USA and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom

Rumble has a large active Presbyterian Women's Group. Currently five circles, varying in membership and meeting times, exist to provide fellowship, Bible and Christian-themed book study, and service to the congregation and community.

Circle 1 meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Their projects include Easter baskets for Ransom St., Quarterly meals for Hospitality House, remembrance gifts for members of Rumble at Blowing Rock Extended Care, Student Ministry Meals, and the Church Mouse Program.

Circle 2 meets the second Monday of each month April – December at 2:00 p.m. They always meet at Mary Lentz's home. Their projects include The Health and Hunger Coalition, Haiti and the Church Mouse Program

Circle 3 meets the third Monday of each month May – October at 10:30 a.m. at the Rumble House.

Circle 4 meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. They serve snacks to Oasis once a month and sponsor activities with children from 2 cottages at Crossnore. They participate in the Church Mouse Program.

Circle 5 meets on the first Wednesday of each month April – December at 9:30 a.m. The circle supports the Church Mouse Program, volunteer for VBS, Student Ministry Meals, Grandfather Home – Campbell Cottage, Angel Tree, Elderberry Tree, PW Birthday offering and the Haiti Mission Trip.

The PW Coordinating Team (consisting of Co-Moderators, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Mission Coordinator and Circle Chairs) meets several times each year. An annual meeting is held each fall to install new officers and present the budget. The Honorary Life Membership for that year is presented to a female member of the church.

Missions

2015 Mission Committee Interim Report (10/24/15)

Below is the information that reflects the expenditures of the Mission Committee through October 24, 2015.

Following our annual grant process these ten grants were disbursed in June:

\$ 1000. Crossnore School
\$ 2000. Hospitality House
\$ 1500. Family Support Network
\$ 2000. Community Care Clinic
\$ 500. Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S.
\$ 2000. Habitat for Humanity
\$ 2000. Hunger and Health Coalition
\$ 2000. Oasis
\$ 750. Red Cross of Blue Ridge
\$ 1500. We Can
\$ 15,250. Total

Additional Missions Disbursements

\$3000 Presbyterian Campus Ministry
\$1600 Elderberry Tree
\$3000 Presbyterian Disaster Relief (\$1000 each to Assistance in Syria and Nepal and World Refugee Care)
\$2000 Presbyterian Missionaries (\$1000 each to Cindy Correll and Allan and Ellen Smith)
\$9600 Total

The Mission Committee sponsors an Alternative Gift Fair each November. Rumples members and visitors can purchase “gifts” from local charities. In 2015 the featured agencies included, Community Care Clinic, Wine to Water, WeCan, and Hunger and Health Coalition. Representatives and information about each agency was available at the event to encourage membership to learn more about them and encourage involvement.

In addition to the disbursements through the Missions Committee, over \$10,000 was raised to send a Mission Team of Youth and Adults to Cange, Haiti in August 2015.

ASU Campus Christian Ministry Relationship

Rev. Stephanie Hankins, ASU Presbyterian Campus Minister

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church supports Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry at Appalachian State University in a variety of ways. This year Rumple gave \$3000 annually towards our \$64,000 budget. Rumple church members and various Presbyterian Women Circles have made countless meals for our Tuesday evening gathering and Sunday evening Bible studies. Additionally, several church members have hosted our campus ministry group in their homes for our monthly "Moveable Feast" that includes dinner and a worship service. Circle 5 has also hosted an annual "Moveable Feast" at the church. Rumple has allowed our campus ministry group to raise funds for our mission trip by hosting Parents Night Out as well as several parking lot fundraisers. The ministers (Lynn Stall and Charlie Landreth) and session have graciously invited the campus minister and students to lead worship once each school year. Two members of Rumple Memorial Presbyterian serve on the Presbyterian campus ministry board. And finally, the campus minister receives spiritual support from the congregation and from the pastor. We are so grateful for the many, many way Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church supports our campus ministry.

Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. (Children Are Really Extra Special)

Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that began in November 2009 from playground discussions about unmet needs in our community. Originally located at the Blowing Rock School, Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. has since expanded and evolved into a community food pantry located in Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church. The pantry is open every Monday from 9am to 1pm and is run 100% by volunteers, most of whom are Rumple Church members. All donations go directly to help those in need in our community.

In addition to the food pantry, Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. provides:

- local schools with snacks and food for children that need it
- special family meal packages for the holidays
- Christmas presents for children
- clothes and school supplies for students that need them
- assistance with heating during the winter months
- dental, vision and medical costs on a case by case basis

Committees

Much of the work of the congregation takes place in the nine standing committees. Each ruling elder serves as liaison to one committee and each are chaired by a member of the congregation.

Committee Mission Statements

Christian Education Committee

To develop and promote a comprehensive Christian Education program that provides meaningful educational and social opportunities for all church members through both age-appropriate and intergenerational activities.

Congregational Care Committee

To lead and support the church in serving the spiritual and physical needs of those within the Rumble Church community. By offering welcome, comfort, sustenance and healing, we strive to become the visible presence of God's love in our congregation.

Fellowship Committee

To plan and promote gatherings of Rumble members that foster friendship in faith. Through breaking bread together in celebration and recognition of events in the life of the church throughout the year, members grow in connection to others who share their Presbyterian heritage and beliefs.

Finance Committee

To support the work of the church through sound financial planning and fiscal responsibilities.

Missions Committee

To lead the church in a ministry of service to the needy and extend the ministry of Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church to persons and agencies outside the Church family.

Personnel Committee

To support the work of the church through effective organization and staff accountability.

Properties Committee

To maintain and manage the physical property of the Church including the groups, parking lot and equipment.

Stewardship Committee

To support the work of the church through an on-going stewardship program.

Worship Committee

To ensure that all services of worship are conducted in a meaningful manner and to develop a sense of reverence among the congregation corporately and individually

Rumple In Transition

Summary of Transition Team activity, December 2014 to present

Upon learning of Pastor Lynn Stall's decision to accept another call in December 2014, the Rumple Session selected five persons to serve on a Transition Team (TT): Alice Salthouse, Session liaison and personnel committee liaison; Linda Mauldin; Doug Holstein; Jackie Kirkland; and Don Saunders. It quickly became evident the expertise of a person familiar with the church's budget and finances was needed, so elder and finance committee liaison Jim Clabough joined the team. Terms of Call and an Interim Pastor Agreement were drafted. The TT met by conference call and in person over the next few weeks with Salem Presbytery's Committee on Ministry representative Rev. Ben Trawick in order to learn and follow Presbytery's procedures. The TT received and reviewed six Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). Following telephonic interviews and communication, three applicants were interviewed in person at the church. The Rev. Charlie Landreth, who had served previously as interim at Rumple Memorial, was selected, approved by Salem Presbytery, and began work in March 2015.

The TT's next task was preparing an online Pastoral Search Inventory, or survey, for members to complete, which would help the Mission Study Team (MST) and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Several meetings were needed to develop and refine the questions, with Rev. Landreth's guidance. In the meantime the congregational Nominating Committee prepared a slate for the PNC elections, which were held August 23. Members of the TT met with the PNC in mid-September and a MST as formed, taking persons from both the TT and PNC: Don Saunders and Linda Mauldin from the TT; Davis Hankins and Debora Smith from the PNC, and Jackie Kirkland, from both groups, chairperson.

Meanwhile, the survey was administered over two and half weeks at the end of September. The resulting data have been examined by Session and the PNC as well as the TT and MST. The results were summarized and made available to the congregation beginning in mid-October. With the completion of the survey summary report, the TT sees its remaining task as providing ongoing support to the interim pastor in whatever ways may be useful as the congregation proceeds along the path toward calling and installing a new pastor for the church.

Transition Team Members: Jim Clabough, Doug Holstein, Jackie Kirkland, Linda Mauldin, Alice Salthouse, Don Saunders

Pastor Nominating Committee: Jackie Kirkland, Davis Hankins, Misty Mayfield, Ann Rhyne, Jane Rogers, Debora Smith, Mike Steele

Time of Enrichment

In the summer of 2014, the General Assembly of the PCUSA met and made decisions. One of our own, Shirley Harris, attended as a commissioner. When she returned and news of the assembly was shared by the PCUSA, some members of Rumple were upset with the decisions regarding Divestment of Funds and Same-Sex Marriage. In an effort to hear from everyone and provide information to the congregation, two Church Hall meetings were held giving members opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings.

In January 2015, the Session formed a task-force to further explore these topics. When Charlie Landreth arrived in February, he met with this task force and brought Cameron Womack (DCE) in for further planning and study.

Taking the outline from the task force, Charlie and Cameron met weekly to refine the plan and explore resources and potential speakers.

In April 2015, A Time of Enrichment was approved first by the task force and second by the Session. Seven Sunday evening classes ran from May 31 until July 26 with two Sundays off. Some evenings a covered dish meal was served and others were just the presentation.

Each class was structured in a similar manner. Opening first with a devotion and song, the presenters then had about 40 minutes to present their topic. Following, Charlie Landreth facilitated a discussion time. Each evening concluded with a benediction and prayer.

The majority of the presenters were connected to Rumble: Davis Hankins, Rev. Stephanie Hankins, Rev. Charlie Landreth, Don Saunders, Jimmy Smith, Cameron Womack. Three were guests: Rev. David Long, Sam Marshall, Rev. Doug Van Neil.

The classes included the following:

- Biblical Interpretation
- Presbyterian Questions/Presbyterian Answers
- Presbyterian Polity
- What the Bible Says in Opposition to Same-Sex Marriage
- What the Bible Says in Support of Same-Sex Marriage
- Understanding Amendment 14-F
- Divestment of Presbyterian Funds

Once a common foundation was made in the first three classes, the series turned to three classes on the Same-Sex Marriage issue. One class was from an opposition viewpoint and a second was from a supporting viewpoint. The topic was concluded with a review and discussion of the Amendment 14-F from the 2014 GA. The final class was regarding the divestment of Presbyterian funds.

Some twenty-five to fifty people were in attendance each Sunday evening. Evaluations were completed following each class and at the end of the whole program and are available for review.

The Congregational Survey

1. The Process

A congregational survey was conducted with the help of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. The Transition Team took a sample of their Pastoral Search Inventory and edited it to fit Rumble's congregation and needs. The survey was distributed via a link on our church's weekly email newsletter. Hard copies were available to those who needed assistance and entered into the data base. The survey was promoted through the church newsletter and weekly bulletin announcements. Of the 266 people who received an email link and the 10 hard copies received, 149 people responded to the survey. Hartford provided a number of tools to Rumble for interpreting the results, including spreadsheets, graphs and charts.

2. Celebrated Features of Rumble's Identity

Our congregation is overwhelmingly satisfied with our worship, which most of us named as the principal reason why we settled and stay at Rumble. Our deep rootedness in scripture, sacrament, and tradition, our robust music program, our commitment to Reformed principles, our old stone walls, and verdant grounds provides most of us with meaningful experiences of God's presence and claim on our lives. At Rumble we feel both comfortable and challenged. It is a place where we experience a sense of belonging that won't let us be, because it challenges us to become more faithful and more joyful. Most of us feel that leadership positions are open to any among us with the time, talent, and conviction to assume them, and that any among us in need or facing problems will find help and support from Rumble.

3. Aspirant Goals of the Church

Here too the survey showed a clear and strong consensus among us. Most want Rumble to be more involved in mission, more engaged in our community, and more visibly present in service toward our neighbors. Our community struggles with many real needs, needs entangled and exacerbated by poverty, abuse, addiction, neglect, isolation, and more. Rumble contributes directly and indirectly to many efforts to address these needs, yet our members want more. The survey leaves open how we, soon under the direction of our new pastor, will respond to this sense of urgency among us.

4. Primary Expectations for Pastoral Identity

In accordance with our Presbyterian tradition's celebration of scripture, our congregation highly values the pastor's role in leading worship and proclaiming the Word. We prize sermons that inspire and challenge us to live Christian lives, with all the costs and joys of such discipleship. We also want our pastor to be available to visit and support us when we face crises or endure life's struggles. We expect our pastor to support Christian education at all age and developmental levels, and to be a gifted administrator. Finally we hope to find a pastor adept at building and facilitating interpersonal relationships both within and beyond our congregation. We want our pastor to be engaged in the broader community as he/she shepherds us toward the common good.

Congregational Survey Synopsis

In the following pages you will find a synopsis of the congregational survey completed by 149 Rumble members and friends in August – September 2015. The Transition Team has taken a close look at the raw data and written this summary to give each church member an overview of the responses. If you would like to see the complete report containing all of the raw data, copies can be checked out from the church office. Keep in mind this is a snap shot of our congregation at one time and place, and is one of many tools the Mission Study Team is using to formulate our church Mission Study.

Category 1: Your Church Participation

- The large majority have been members or affiliates for 5 years or more (119 out of 142)
- You live 15 minutes or less from the church
- You attend church worship 2, 3, 4 times a month
- 78% are not seasonal attendees
- You serve on 1 or 2 committees
- Involvement in the congregation has stayed the same for 65 of 142 persons
- 77 of the 142 has increased (35) or decreased (49)
- Of the increased involvement 26 of you accepted office or other new responsibility in the church.
- 26% have a more positive attitude toward church
- Of the decreased involvement 21 have a more negative attitude toward our church and 27 have less time available or health problems
- Family household financial contributions show 23 give less than \$1000, 75 give between \$1000 - \$3499, while 37 donate \$3500 or more yearly.

Category 2: Tasks of the Church

Tasks were listed that a local church is likely to perform. The respondents were to indicate the tasks that need more emphasis or are receiving too much emphasis.

Needs More Emphasis – Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched

Very Satisfied – Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved; Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition; Providing fellowship opportunities for members; Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need; Providing Christian education for children and youth; Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems; Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms.

Generally satisfied – Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups; Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God; Providing Christian education programs for adults; Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian

stewardship; Supporting the global mission of the church; Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service; Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition; Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues.

Which one does Rumble do the best? Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition

For the sake of your own personal involvement in Rumble, which one task would you most like to see strengthened? Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need.

Category 3: Organizational Characteristics

Organizational issues are making decisions, sharing information and developing resources –To what extent do you agree or disagree that each statement describes Rumble?

2/3 or more Agree – Members help each other in times of trouble. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service; Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions; Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the church are doing.

Close percentiles of Agree and Disagree – Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors. The activities taking place in the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning; It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area; The current morale of our church membership is high; There is a sense of excitement among members about our church's future; Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders and members

Category 4: Congregational Identity

- Our church is more influenced by history and tradition
- Members are similar to the people who live immediately around the church
- Our church is very involved with the community around the church
- Our church is oriented to serving our members and the world beyond our membership
- Our congregation feels like one large family
- Our church is known as a prestigious one in our area
- Our church's approach to social issues is educational, leaving any action to individual conscience
- Our congregation's approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture and gradual growth in faith
- Our congregation gives strong expression to our denominational identity and heritage
- Our congregation strives to create partnership w/ other local churches

From each person's perspective looking at Rumble's identity and vision, the majority agreed:

- Our church's identity, as it is, is one where I feel comfortable
- It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about Rumble
- I have a clear understanding of what the church stands for

- There is an effective effort made to instruct me in our church's mission
- I have a strong sense of belonging
- Being at church has made a difference in my spiritual life

Category 5: Worship

What qualities make a good worship service in order of highest to lowest percentage:

IMPORTANT

- Time to greet one another
- Worship that is emotionally moving
- Lay participation
- Use of old and familiar hymns
- Providing opportunities to participate in service to others
- Silent prayer/meditation
- Use of creeds or statement of faith
- Corporate prayer in which entire congregation participates
- Providing worship that is intellectually challenging

ESSENTIAL AND IMPORTANT

- Attention to sacraments
- Having parts of worship especially for children

NOT VERY IMPORTANT

- Use of inclusive, non-sexist language
- Use of new and unfamiliar hymns
- Providing worship times other than Sunday morning
- Use of contemporary worship styles, music and language

What qualities make a good sermon in order of highest to lowest percentage:

ESSENTIAL

- Challenging and thought-provoking
- Is biblically based and illustrated
- Sets forth a clear faith position as a guide for making decisions and living a faithful life
- Is spiritually moving and inspirational

IMPORTANT

- Makes me reflect on issues and events that go beyond my personal life and local community
- Obviously flows from the depth of the preachers own personal faith and spiritual convictions
- Is comforting and reassuring

- Is carefully composed and skillfully delivered
- Is based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority
- Touches directly on my everyday life
- Contains scholarly or literary illustrations
- Sets forth various sides of an issue without advocating one position as the only Christian position

Satisfaction of aspects of our church –

VERY SATISFIED

- The music (choir, anthems, and instruments) during Sunday worship
- God is glorified in our worship service

SATISFIED

- The way your spiritual needs are being met in the worship service
- Children’s sermons are effective
- Congregation’s Sunday worship other than music

Category 6: Tasks of the Pastor

VERY HIGHEST PRIORITY

Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons

VERY HIGH AND HIGH

Emphasizing the spiritual development of members
 Planning and leading worship sensitive to the needs
 of the congregation

HIGH

Supporting adult education programs
 Pastoral counseling of members having personal,
 family and/or work related problems
 Supporting Confirmation Classes

MODERATE

Participating in local community activities, issues
 and problems
 Visiting members at their homes

Category 7: Style of Ministry

Characteristics of a good pastor

STRONGLY PREFER

- Expertise in Biblical and theological matters
- Usually emphasizes the Bible
- Has a relaxed interpersonal style

SLIGHTLY PREFER

- Interactions tend to be thought provoking and challenging
- Welcomes new approaches
- Encourages congregational and lay leadership decision making
- The cost of goals sets priorities where means determine the end
- Helps people figure things out for themselves
- Outgoing and socially engaging
- Maintains a private life of family, personal and professional development

Category 8: The Choice is Yours

There are 10 images or dominate roles in terms of which clergy variously orient their ministry:

VERY IMPORTANT

- Minister of the Word/Teacher of the congregation
- Spiritual Guide
- Friend/Fellow Traveler
- Celebrant/Worship Leader
- Witness/Evangelist

NOT VERY IMPORTANT

* Community Chaplain

MODERATELY IMPORTANT

- Church Administrator
- Group Facilitator
- Counselor/Healer
- Social Activist

Category 9: Evangelism

Reasons for coming to Rumble(high to low %)

The Worship Style
The Minister
The Denominational Ties
My spiritual needs are met
My friends are here
The music program
Family ties and traditions

Reasons for staying at Rumble(high to low %)

The Worship Style
My friends are here
The Minister
The Denominational Ties
The music program
The Church's reputation

Category 10: Size and Conditions of Facilities

SIZE – ADEQUATE

- Office Space
- Worship Space
- Educational Space
- Fellowship Space
- Parking

CONDITIONS AND AESTHETIC SPACE

EXCELLENT

- Worship Space
- Exterior and Grounds

ADEQUATE

- Educational Space
- Fellowship Space
- Office Space
- Parking

Category 11: Personal Beliefs and Practices

Which statement expresses your view of the Bible –

- The Bible in both the Old and New Testament is, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church Universal.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God and its basic moral and religious teachings are clear and true, even if it reflects some differing human perceptions.

Rate your agreement or disagreement with the following belief statements –

VERY STRONGLY AGREE:

- Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an actual event
- I am confident that God made the Universe and all that is in it, even if evolutionary processes could be involved
- I believe that as a Christian church, we have a responsibility to strive to protect the integrity of the world God has created
- I accept the scriptures of the old and new testament to be the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal and God's word to me

STRONGLY AGREE:

- There is no other way to salvation but through belief in Jesus Christ
- It is necessary to uphold and affirm the basic tenets of the faith, the virgin birth of Christ, Christ's atonement for sin on the cross, His bodily resurrection and the inerrancy of the Bible
- There is truth and wisdom to be found in other religions

AGREE:

- Our denomination should take positions/actions on moral issues
- Social justice is at the heart of the Gospel
- The Presbyterian Church, USA is part of the Reformed tradition, is it important to you that the members of Rumble are taught this tradition?
- Our denomination should take positions/actions on social needs
- Our understanding of scripture can be changed by cultural influence

DISAGREE:

- It is often difficult to live out my faith in daily work, leisure and community life
- Our denomination should take a position/action on political issues

WE HAD FOUR QUESTIONS REGARDING ABORTION AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION WHICH WERE ANSWERED AS FOLLOWS:

I believe everyone has the right to his belief about abortion. (109 respondents)

65 members agree or strongly agree

30 members disagree or strongly disagree

Our Session should allow for the marriage of same-sex couples in Rumble's sanctuary (112 respondents)

44 members agree or strongly agree

58 members disagree or strongly disagree

We should call a pastor who will, in good conscious, agree to marry same-sex couples (112 respondents)

43 members agree or strongly agree

57 disagree or strongly disagree

Sexual orientation is no longer a criterion or consideration of ordination of pastors & elders (111 respondents)

51 members agree or strongly agree

49 members disagree or strongly disagree

Category 12: About Rumble's Members

- We are a congregation that uses the Web, email, Facebook but seldom visits religious Internet sites.
- We volunteer our time in social service a few times a month
- We are of the age group 55-75 and older
- We are white, married, with college and post graduate degrees, retired but have been professionals
- We have lived here 5 or more years and are very unlikely to move
- The majority of us grew up in the Presbyterian denomination; Next were Baptist and Methodist

Vision for the Future

Pastoral Identity

The Hartford survey indicated that Rumble's primary goal is to hire and install a pastor with the following characteristics and leadership competencies:

- **Preaching and Worship Leadership:** In accordance with our Presbyterian tradition's celebration of scripture, our congregation highly values the pastor's role in leading worship and proclaiming the Word. We prize sermons that inspire and challenge us to live Christian lives, with all the costs and joys of such discipleship.
- **Compassionate:** We want our pastor to be available to visit and support us when we face crises or endure life's struggles.
- **Teacher with Strategy and Vision:** We expect our pastor to support Christian education at all age and developmental levels, and to be a gifted administrator.
- **Communicator and Collaborator with Organizational Agility:** We hope to find a pastor adept at building and facilitating interpersonal relationships both within and beyond our congregation.
- **Bridge Builder and Motivator with Spiritual Maturity:** We want our pastor to be engaged in mission to the broader community as he/she shepherds us toward the common good.

Aspirant Goals of the Church

We hope our new pastor will arrive with vision and energy to shepherd the congregation, developing strategies to implement the following goals, as identified through the church survey:

- Involve the congregation in broader but also more targeted ways of knowing and serving our neighbors' needs in our community.
 - Develop connections with other congregations that integrate Rumble's outreach with the efforts of others beyond Blowing Rock and throughout the county.
- Develop strategies to reach visitors, non-members, and "nones," to share the gospel with them, and to invite them to share our call to serve God and neighbor.
 - Improve Rumble's web presence to publicize community events and outreach efforts more effectively.
- Enhance opportunities for spiritual growth, the formation of Christian discipleship, and congregational care so that all members become better equipped to use their gifts as Christian disciples.
 - Develop and support lay visitation programs for contacting visitors, reaching out to non-members, and witnessing and supporting the lives of congregational members in times of special need, bereavement, or illness, as well as in times of health and well-being.
- Maintain Rumble's well-established traditions of worship and music that, Rumble members agree, host the holy presence of God.
 - Help members to understand our rich Reformed heritage and how it informs our worship practices.
- Grow ministries of education and action for Rumble's younger members and families with children, as well as develop intergenerational patterns of cooperation and service.