

North Raleigh Presbyterian Church

Annual Report • 2021

Dear Friends,

Is it a pole or a pillar? A plinth or a pedestal or a post?

If you've seen the handprint-laden vertical artwork in the flower bed near the Sanctuary entrance, maybe you know what I'm talking about. Whatever we end up calling it, this installation is both a practical *and* inspirational addition to NRPC's campus.

On the practical side, it marks a potential tripping hazard where garden edging is raised high enough to contain the mulch in that planting area; we've had visitors trip on that pesky corner. On the inspirational side, it proclaims the Spirit's work of uniting a collection of individuals into a single congregation.

I think it was at our September Homecoming gathering when Ann Neely helped us add handprints to the fence post that would eventually be planted in the NRPC garden. And it was all the way back in the winter of 2020 when Ann Antoun and the Sacred Arts team first hatched the idea of adapting the notion of Peace Poles into something uniquely NRPC. Earlier this month Dick Christensen and Bob Bailey installed the pole at the sidewalk corner and it's a delight to see the finished piece standing tall outside the Sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who had a "hand" in bringing this vision to reality.



The e-mail chain that discussed naming this garden installation was fascinating. The full range of pole, pillar, plinth, pedestal and post were offered! I sat on the sidelines of that conversation and silently amused myself by thinking, "They really ought to name it *Ebenezer*." Not as in Scrooge, mind you, but as in "Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come" – the first bars of the second verse of *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*.

Now, if you find "Here I raise my Ebenezer" a strange line to sing, the same was apparently true for a 1987 hymnal editor who changed the phrase to "Here I find my greatest treasure," a disappointingly vapid edit that entirely misses the point of Robert Robinson's 1758 text. Raising an Ebenezer is about proclaiming thanksgiving for and pledging fidelity to God's good work. Formally translated "stone of help" – here it helps to imagine modern-day stacked river stones – the name harks back to Samuel commemorating God's help after the Israelites had turned back the Philistines. An Ebenezer is both a monument to the past *and* a motivation for the future.

No matter the formal name we give NRPC's garden post plastered with handprints, I invite you to join me in greeting *Ebenezer* whenever you pass that corner. When you do so, you'll be giving thanks for what God has already done in this community even as you pledge to be present for your part in what this church continues to do together in God's name.

Grace and peace,

*The mission of North Raleigh Presbyterian Church is
to be a welcoming community serving Jesus Christ through engaged discipleship.*

WORSHIP

Worship • Sacred Arts • Spirituality

Worshipping God is at the core of everything we do at NRPC, but 2021 forced us to reimagine and redefine the structure of worship on Sunday mornings in light of a COVID pandemic that has never left us. We had to consider each component of the worship service and carefully and prayerfully review whether those components could be implemented in person and still care for the health and well-being of God's children, both within the sanctuary and outside the sanctuary. Worshipping God took on, perhaps, a deeper meaning as we created worship experiences that grew from the same root but took on different looks for different branches – a new view of worship, grow, and serve!

We implemented in-person worship services, again, on Sunday mornings while, slowly, over the year, bringing back in different components of the service, particularly the music components. This meant re-defining the roles and responsibilities of those supporting worship during these COVID times. However, even when meeting in person, we also continued to offer worship via LiveStreaming, and we invested in better equipment to keep the LiveStreaming component a more permanent piece of the worship experience. The countless hours of help and expertise provided by the LiveStreaming team cannot be underestimated as that small team kept us worshipping together, even when we could not meet in one place.

We expanded our view of how we worshipped God. NRPC Elders led two different worship services throughout the year, including one that was a community-wide response to the grief that we felt as church facing the challenges of 2021. We also moved worship services outdoors at various times throughout the year. What started as a temporary response to the COVID situation taught us to see

that, at times, just a change in location can help us appreciate all aspects of God's world and bring us closer to God's people, including our children. Our flexibility was, at times, tested by the wind and the elements but our learnings were also highlighted across our Presbytery so other churches could benefit from our experience. In the fall, coffee and hot cider provided by Fellowship and our Deacons helped to keep us warm! All of these different experiences would not have been possible without the energy and support of our incredible staff.

As we brought back musical elements into worship, we also equipped the choir with special masks to minimize COVID-19 exposure and spread. We were able to do this because of the care and commitment and time that our new, full time Director of Music gave to building up the music component of worship, while keeping people safe. We are so blessed to have such a committed and caring director, who also provided vision and leadership to our outdoor Christmas pageant. Our outdoor pageant shared the Christmas story with 132 people and involved a cast and crew of 63 NRPC folks.

Sacred Arts/Spiritual Practices

Our intention has been to illuminate our faith by emphasizing important days in the church calendar as we enjoyed the gifts and talents of our church family members online and in person. Projects:

- Distributed materials to make our Lenten Journey Spiral Candleholder
- Online video Lenten series in which members shared their talents using: interpretive dance, photography, oral reading, Bible reading, singing and art
- Creation of our Pentecost pole with doves
- Creation of a community garden pole covered with the handprints of our church family
- Creation of our Lord's Prayer Walk
- Opportunities for prayer and meditation in our beautiful sanctuary on several Thursdays
- Online Advent video series spotlighting children of the church: lighting the Advent candles, reading a Christmas story, performing a puppet play, singing a song and sending photos of themselves sharing the love of Jesus

GROW

Education • Fellowship • Caring

Intergenerational Education

- Outdoor MAX (including Trunk or Treat)
- Advent Wreath Making
- Advent Bible Study

Children's Education

- Sharing God's Story at Home
- First Communion Class
- Children's Church

Youth Education

- Confirmation Class
- Youth Group (in person and Zoom)
- Youth outreach - Note In The Pocket
- Youth Sunday Worship Service

Adult Education

- Adult Sunday School classes (in person and on Zoom)
- Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- Movie Night monthly on Zoom
- Men's Retreat
- Covenant Bible Study
- College Student Holiday Gathering



Delivering the Youth-sponsored Socktober collection for Note in the Pocket

Trunk-or-treat



Confirmation



SERVE

Discipleship • Outreach • Administration

Outreach:

- Donated nearly 140 coats and \$200 in donations to One Warm Coat Drive
- Hosted NRPC's first Virtual Yard Sale and held a BBQ and Bake Sale for missions
- Held several collections for food, cleaning supplies, diapers, etc. for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC and North Raleigh Ministries
- Created and delivered 30 clean-up buckets for disaster relief to Church World Service
- Provided 46 backpacks full of school supplies and 70 Christmas gift bags full of presents to Wake County for children in foster care
- Delivered clothing and shoes to the Nutbush Presbyterian Fall Clothing Give-away in Vance County
- Delivered clothing, healthy snacks & books to neighboring elementary schools for children in need.
- Picked up donated baked goods from Lowe's Foods and delivered them to Healing Transitions four days a week throughout the year.



Nutbush Presbyterian Church

Helen Wright Center:

NPRC prepared and delivered dinner for approximately 30 women four times throughout 2021.

Appalachia Service Project:

A team of 7 volunteers go to Kentucky in July to help make homes warmer, safer and drier and provided monetary donations.

NRPC Walk for Hunger

Held on October 31 at Blue Jay Point; about 18 walkers raised nearly \$1000.

2022 Contributions from our congregation, over and above our budgeted benevolence:

\$5,000 to the *Women's Center*, an organization that serves and assists marginalized, at-risk and homeless women seeking to break the cycle of trauma, abuse, violence, and homelessness.

\$1,000 to the *Women's Center* in small Walmart Gift Cards

\$5,000 to *Helen Wright Center*, an emergency shelter for single, adult women experiencing homelessness without children in their custody

\$9,000 to *Hearts With Haiti*, a local church-based nonprofit which supports the St. Joseph's family in Haiti, which includes Wings of Hope and Lekol Sen Trinite in Jacmel and the SJ Community Outreach Center in Port-au-Prince.

\$9,000 to *Healing Transitions*, a local organization providing shelter and rehabilitation services to people with addictions.

SERVE

Discipleship • Outreach • Administration

Human Resources: Beginning September, 2021, Terri Nicotera is NRPC's full-time Director of Music.

Congregational Assessment: The Mission and Vision Team was tasked to administer the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) to the congregation to help Session answer three questions: what do we need to do better, what do we need to stop doing, what drives our satisfaction? The CAT was presented to the congregation in September 2021 by a team consisting of Charmane Dail, Mike Ganey, Meredith Goodin and Janet Livengood. The congregation wholeheartedly participated in the assessment and results were collected and sent to Holy Cow Consulting, Inc. the creator of the CAT. New Hope Presbytery provided consultants to help with the interpretation of the CAT. After meeting with Session on the interpretation of the findings from the CAT, the Strategic Planning Team will present the CAT findings and recommendations to the congregation in February 2022.

Faith Ministries Building Renovation: In 2019, Session requested the formation of a committee to investigate remodeling and updating the FMB kitchen. As the Kitchen Renovation Team met with builders and architects to develop a scope of work, it became apparent that due to the age of the FMB, any structural modifications to the kitchen would create code compliance issues in the building. Due to the breadth of both jobs, the Kitchen Renovation Team requested Session form a second committee to address updating the FMB.

Session approved the request but also called for the new committee to address incorporating new office space, better meeting space, and a dedicated entrance/welcome space into the plans. After many meetings by both teams where research of past, present, and future use reports was developed and analyzed, a scope of work for both projects was developed. In 2020, NRPC hired EA Studio Architect + Design LLC, to render design plans to renovate the kitchen and the FMB. The FMB Teams will present the construction plans to Session in Spring 2022. A Renovation Campaign Team was designated to address the funding of the project.

2021 Financial Summary

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Total Income:	403,052	494,014
Total Expense:	434,065	465,866
Income Detail:		
Pledges Paid:	328,002	330,739
Other Offerings	72,050	69,411
Other Income	3,000	93,864
Expense Detail:		
Benevolence	42,999	72,664
Human Resources	286,021	281,790
Program/Property	105,045	111,412
Program/Property Expense Detail:		
Worship	7,825	6,605
Grow	11,700	12,074
Serve (incl. Property)	85,520	92,734

2021 Membership Summary

In the Church Triumphant: Ruth Brandau, Trish Coman, Fred Holt, Rick Jenkins, Gwen Ratchford, Robert Regan
Baptism: Rebekah Judy
New to Our Fellowship: Chris & Renda Welch, Stuart & Carol Davis
Confirmands: Mary Addison Askew, Henry Barlow, Izze Fisher, Rebekah Judy, Max Karnatz, Alyx Sarver, Stella Stallworth

Total Membership: 288
Children: 59 **Affiliates:** 5

NRPC Annual Meeting

February 27, 2022

<u>2022 Budget Summary</u>	2022 Session
INCOME	WORSHIP
CONTRIBUTION INCOME 403,012	<i>Worship Planning:</i> Beth Morgan
Pledges 326,332	<i>Livestream/Soc:</i> Michael Patterson
Other 76,680	<i>Sacred Arts/Spirituality:</i> Ann Antoun
OTHER INCOME 15,800	
Total Budgeted INCOME 418,812	GROW
	<i>Education:</i> Debbi Freer
	<i>Fellowship & Engagement:</i>
	John Grovenstein, Matt Bales
	<i>Care:</i> Diaconate
EXPENSE	SERVE
BENEVOLENCES 43,299	<i>Outreach:</i> Dave Albert
MINISTRY EXPENSES 29,875	<i>Stewardship:</i> Candy Tedrick,
Worship 7,725	Bob Lippard
Christian Education 8,500	<i>Mission/Vision:</i> Charmane Dail
Discipleship 600	<i>Finance:</i> Keith Livengood
Diaconate 1,400	<i>Building & Grounds:</i> Danny Heater
Fellowship 1,200	<i>Risk Mgmt & HR:</i> Jennifer Worth
Session Expense 10,450	
SALARIES & BENEFITS 325,460	
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES 74,470	
Administrative 16,100	
Buildings & Grounds 58,370	
Total Budgeted EXPENSES 473,104	
Net INCOME/(LOSS) (54,292)	
Stewardship snapshot: 86 pledges for 2022 (56% of households) totaling \$326,332.	
	2022 Diaconate
	Janet Livengood, Moderator
	Leigh Anne Carter Rosemary Lunsford
	Will Collins Sandra Milholland
	Judy Dove Carol Nicholas
	Karen Fink Pecky Pynch
	Judith Ganey George Snead
	Tiffany Hook Kim Stall
	Jen Judy Krista Wright

Ministers: All the Congregation

Pastor: Lisa Hebacker
Assoc Pastor: Brandon Melton
Director of Music: Terri Nicotera
Church Organist: Ju Hyun Kim
Office: Caroline Parker

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