



## **2024 Annual Report**

### **Ministries of Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church**

**4900 Kaplan Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606**

**(919)-851-4713**  
**[www.wbpresbyterian.org](http://www.wbpresbyterian.org)**

## **Pastor's Report – 2024**

As I reflect on the past year, there is much to be grateful for at Western Boulevard. Three things in particular stand out to me.

### Celebrating 75 Years

We had the great joy of marking 75 years of ministry as a congregation on June 2, 2024, welcoming many guests and friends, with several past ministers from WBPC joining in worship leadership that morning. It was particularly meaningful to me to learn so much about our church's history, having only been here for a few years. But what also lifted me up was to see the mixture of longtime members with new individuals and families who are present, a healthy balance of the past with the present. I was deeply grateful to all who made the effort to come, from near and far, and join us for that day of celebration!

### Comings and Goings

I completed my third year of ministry with you in 2024, and there has been a lot of changes during those three years. We have said goodbye to many people, as saints have entered the Church Triumphant, or friends have decided to seek a new faith community. The church's staff underwent a near-total turnover after I arrived, with 2024 being the first year since I've been here that we weren't searching to fill a staff position. And we have seen some longtime mission partnerships end or change, such as AventWest Children's Mentoring no longer being hosted by us during the week.

We have also witnessed many new things happening at WBPC. In the past three years, we have welcomed over 25 adults and 19 children into the active life of our congregation. This past year we confirmed nine youth to be active members at WBPC. We have not been afraid to try new programs or events to welcome more into this community of faith. For the first time in several years, our budget for 2025 will not rely on a surplus from the previous year. God is indeed doing exciting things at Western Boulevard!

### Discerning God's Leading for Our Future

The Session formed a Vision Task Force in 2024 to build on the Town Hall Meetings we held at the end of 2023, engaging with both our community and membership to discern what God is calling us to be and do in the future. Their recommendations included engaging with a local company to conduct a land plan study of our property, to consider all the different ways our space might be utilized in the future for various purposes. It also included evaluating our existing ministries as they live out our mission as a Matthew 25 congregation of the PC(USA), as well as how we might broaden and deepen our worship life to welcome even more into our church's life.

These are signs that we are not a church that is stagnant or declining; we are healthy and looking with anticipation to that next thing God will do through us. I am deeply honored to serve as your pastor, and it lifts up my spirit and soul to serve alongside you in ministry at this time!

With a full and grateful heart,  
Frank Mansell

## **Annual Clerk of Session Report for 2024**

Our year-end active membership was 225 including the following:

- 1 member passed away;
- 5 new members were received by Letter of Transfer;
- 3 new members were received by Reaffirmation of Faith;
- 9 communicants joined the church;
- 1 member moved to another city and transferred her membership.

We had 4 baptisms - 2 children and 2 communicants.

Gene Reese died on September 24, 2024, and entered the Church Triumphant.

The Session elected Judy Shelton as the Clerk of Session, Ronny Pittman as the Treasurer, and Will Holt as Assistant Treasurer at the January Stated Session Meeting.

The following finished their service as an Elder or Deacon. Their service is appreciated:

- Elder Kevin Fischer
- Elder Larry Shelton
- Youth Elder Will Fischer
- Deacon Martha Barrick
- Deacon Barbara Tierney

We appreciate those who served as an Elder or Deacon in 2024:

- Elder Becky Burmester (resigned)
- Elder Andrew Craven
- Elder Gene Curtis
- Elder Kevin Fischer
- Elder Chase Jones (resigned)
- Elder Ron Pittman, Jr.
- Elder Judy Shelton
- Elder Larry Shelton
- Elder Joyce Smith (resigned)
- Elder Suzanne Smith
- Elder Casey Vaughn
- Youth Elder Will Fischer
- Deacon Martha Barrick
- Deacon Libby Burton
- Deacon Lucy Dratman
- Deacon Nancy Simpson
- Deacon Joette Steger
- Deacon Barbara Tierney

## **Christian Education Committee – 2024**

In 2024 the Christian Education committee was blessed by the dedicated commitment of the following committee members: Beth Ware, Janet Rakes, Joyce Smith, April Goodman, Alaina Craven, Laura Zambanini, Sharon Mixon, Courtney Roquemore, Linda Brinkworth, Jesse Gilstrap, Angie Rutherford, and Sue McLaughlin.

This committee successfully offered a variety of Christian education classes and programming for all ages throughout the year. Many of these opportunities were provided beyond the Sunday School church hours throughout the week. These included both face to face and virtual Bible study. Some were seasonal such as Advent and Lenten studies and some were provided weekly such as Biblical Justice Forum and Wednesday morning Prayer and Bible Study. This Spring, Rev. Mansell and Courtney Roquemore completed leading a confirmation class for nine of our youth and their adult mentors.

This comprehensive approach to Christian Education depends on many talented teachers, leaders, and coordinators. Last Spring, we honored our volunteers in worship, allowing the congregation to join us in acknowledging the many hands that support our Christian Education program.

The Christian Education committee has been blessed this past year with a growing number of children as well as a growing number of adults in the church. We believe that people of all ages should have community and a focus on growing in, and nurturing their faith journeys, however they look.

This past year Christian Education has worked diligently to collaborate with other church committees. This included working with the Worship Committee on such events as Palm Sunday processional, Youth Sunday, elementary children singing during worship, and the continuation of our well-loved No Frills Christmas pageant. We also have tried to reach out to the larger community through VBS and Blessing of the Backpacks. In order to facilitate this type of collaboration, the committee has set priorities to improve our communication between committees, the congregation, and the larger community.

## **2024 Annual Report from the Diaconate at WBPC**

In 2024 the members of the Diaconate were Martha Barrick (class of 2024, co-moderator), Barbara Tierney (class of 2024, co-moderator), Nancy Simpson (class of 2025), Lucy Dratman (class of 2025), Libby Burton (class of 2026), Joette Steger (class of 2026).

During the past year, members of the Diaconate volunteered in mission areas which served the congregation and the community. These efforts included Stephen Ministry, providing meals, offering transportation, visiting the sick and elderly, celebrating newborns, sending cards of celebration and concern, delivering prayer shawls, providing baby blankets at baptism, communicating with college students and those entering the work force. We have reached out to church members who have volunteered their help through the Time and Talent forms.

The Diaconate looks to expand existing ministries and form new ones. We welcome two new members, Sally Curtis and Deane Irving, both class of 2027. Their compassion, creativity, and energy will be a blessing to all.

### **Evangelism: Outreach & Inclusion Annual Report – 2024**

The Evangelism Committee continued in its mission to welcome new people into our church's life and to do all we can to help everyone feel included in this community of faith. We hosted two inquirers luncheons after worship, one each in the spring and fall, where individuals and families could explore what membership in the church might look like for them. In June, we hosted a Food Truck Dinner in the parking lot, and had a great turnout from our church and community, despite the hot weather! Following up on that event, the Sowell Family held monthly produce stands in the fall, and we witnessed the majority of those participating came from our community, outside the church. We also continued what we began in 2023 by providing childcare for events outside of Sunday morning, including Wednesday Night Live, which was a key factor in growing the number of younger families attending our fellowship activities.

This year also brought about change. We said goodbye to Becky Burmester and are deeply grateful for the passion and energy she has brought our group over the last two years. We also recognized that much of our work supports and coincides with the work of the Fellowship Committee. As a result, beginning in 2025, our two committees will merge into one group, with separate sub-committees working on specific tasks and areas of ministry.

## **Fellowship Committee – 2024**

Fellowship members include: Gracey Vaughn (Co-chair), Ron Pittman (Co-chair), Jennifer Pittman, Sally Curtis, Nancy Wade, Cookie Littlefield, Jenny Fleming, Laura Zambanini.

### Highlights from 2024 include:

- Very successful Friends and Neighbors Day in October.
- Held our second Day-at-the-Lake event in three years in June, and had a great day of fun and food at Falls Lake.
- Increased attendance at Wednesday Night Live.
- Welcomed non-members/neighbors who attend several dinners and events.
- Held an indoor movie night in the winter months.
- Held a successful food truck rodeo in cooperation with Evangelism Committee.
- In cooperation with Evangelism Committee, began a monthly mini-Farmer's Market to convene local vendors selling food, coffee, and handmade goods.
- Held our Trunk or Treat and indoor Pizza Party in October – and had an overflowing crowd!
- Held second Mardi Gras parade in February despite the rain and added in a jambalaya luncheon and mini parades after church.
- Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church on June 2, with a special worship service that morning, and a catered barbeque luncheon afterwards.
- Began a strategic partnership with the YMCA to host a co-ed U7-U8 soccer team in the spring and fall seasons, with the need to double the size in the fall to accommodate popular demand.
- Held a Pop-up Run Club in November and December.

### Looking forward to 2025:

- Hosting events to bring in more community members to introduce them to the church.
- Merging with Evangelism Committee and collaborating with Mission/Outreach and Christian Education Committees to broaden our event outreach.
- Adding a second age group (i.e., U6) to our soccer collaboration with the YMCA.
- Exploring a partnership with the Dance Collaborative to host dance classes in our center.
- Exploring new events like summer yoga.
- Redesigning the Pop-up Run Club to be more inclusive of all ages and abilities.

## **Finance and Stewardship Committee – 2024**

Committee Members: Gene Curtis, Will Holt, Ronny Pittman, Lisa Lentz, and Casey Vaughn.

The committee is proud to fulfill another year with pledges reaching close to 100% of its goal for 2024. Our committee slightly exceeded our budget due to increased E-giving fees. The total budget for the year was met with a small surplus left to carry over into 2025.

Our Endowment Fund produced successful financial funds for many worthwhile projects which were not in our budget for 2024. The Scholarship Fund was able to finance expenses associated with secondary education during the calendar year.

The WBPC annual review for 2023 was done in April of 2024 and again was done by our own church members at no cost to the church. We hope to continue to self-sustain this in-house review.

In 2025, we will continue to support a year-round Stewardship program. We plan to fulfill 100% of our budget goal for 2025.

## **Mission & Outreach Committee Annual Report – 2024**

Members: Kevin Fischer (chair), Kathy Johnson, Susan Cummings, Frank Mansell, Joette Steger, Frank Fleming, Verna Wentz, Ron and Jennifer Pittman, Mel Holt.

Highlights from 2024 include the following:

- For the second year in a row, hosted a Black Authors Book Fair on May 4, and we had twice the attendance and vendors as the previous year!
- Held a Gala for Haiti on July 13 with music by Van-Anthoney Hall and many partner churches in attendance; raised over \$19,000 for Yahve Jire Children's Foundation!
- Supported several mission partners including Avent West Children's Mentoring, Family Promise, Urban Ministries, Center for Development in Central America and Loaves and Fishes.
- Participated in Habitat for Humanity of Wake County home builds throughout the year.
- Tried something new this year by holding an Alternative Gift Giving Worship Service on November 24, and had over ten mission partners share about their ministries in our community and world. Over \$11,000 was raised for these partners and benevolences of the church.
- Connected new Afghan Family in our neighborhood, the Ahmadi's, with the Sham's family and have sought to find transportation and other basic needs for them as they settle into their new life in our community.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is really excited for where God is leading us in 2025!

## **Personnel and Administration Committee – 2024**

Committee Members: Chair-Andrew Craven, Jenny Fleming, Blythe Clifford, Kate Trimble

The year 2024 was marked by significant development and growth for Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church. Several new staff members hired in 2023 have now fully settled into their roles, contributing greatly to advancing the church's vision. This meant staff reviews and enhancing job descriptions needed to be conducted to improve efficiency and clarity for the future.

One of the challenges this year was navigating the changes announced by the Board of Pensions regarding coverage plans for 2025. These adjustments, reflective of trends among other major denominations, aimed to make salaries/benefits more affordable for smaller churches to support their pastors. These changes had minimal impacts to WBPC and only affected Frank and the pastoral care package. The rest of our staff were not effected, continuing to enjoy the excellent coverage provided by the BOP, enabling them to focus on their work with positive morale.

This year, WBPC committed to a new website platform, Faith Connector, after thorough research and evaluation. This church-based platform offers an economical yet high-quality solution for website design, comparable to sites costing significantly more. While the process required extensive content input from WBPC, Emily and Frank played pivotal roles in ensuring its successful implementation. The new platform not only streamlines social media management and volunteer opportunities but also enhances our ability to connect with community and our growing congregation.

Perhaps the most joyful yet challenging event of the year was Emily's announcement of her first pregnancy. While the team celebrated this exciting news, preparations for her maternity leave, which coincided with the busy Advent season, required meticulous planning. Emily and Frank collaborated closely to ensure that every detail was addressed, and with the help of dedicated volunteers, the transition went smoothly. The birth of baby Emerson was the highlight, and Emily's eventual return was met with excitement, particularly from Frank, who was visibly thrilled to have her back.

As we conclude 2024 and look forward to the new year, WBPC is filled with gratitude for the growth and positive changes we have experienced. The dedication of our staff, committee members and volunteers continues to shape our vibrant community. Together, we eagerly anticipate the opportunities and challenges that 2025 will bring.



## **Property Committee Annual Report – 2024**

The members of this committee included: Larry Shelton (Chair), Todd Earnhardt, Denise Weeks, Jimmy Wade, Charles Smith, John Aldridge, Kevin Fischer, Will Fischer (Youth Elder), Jessie Gilstrap (joined in October) and David Rutherford (joined in October).

Our committee members and others who had signed up to assist our committee through their time and talent surveys worked monthly to accomplish routine and small repairs to our facility that included electrical repairs and LED bulb installations, installed baby changing stations in three bathrooms, lock and door control arm repairs, light landscape clean up, added two swings to the playground, replaced kiddie swing support posts, plumbing repairs, installed solar panels to charge our security cameras and performed monthly building safety inspections.

We completed a number of contractor performed major repairs and improvements to the property. These include tree removal in February in the playground in order to add additional swings, replace the wooden retaining wall on the southeast corner of the Education Building, made gutter and downspout improvements on the north gutters of the Education Building to improve run off collection, made drainage improvements on the north west corner of the Education Building and landscaped the bare slope by the Fellowship Hall door, Closed off a basement window in the Education Building with masonry block and waterproofing to stop leaks in the basement, filled asphalt cracks and sealed the parking lot, removed a huge colony of squirrels from the attic of the education building and sealed the soffit spaces to block re-entry of animal pests.

New LED dimmers were installed for the sanctuary lighting and the sanctuary was re-lamped with all LED bulbs. Additional electrical outlets were installed in bathrooms so we could install plug-in emergency lights in all bathrooms. The roof of the Education Building was repaired with approximately 50 new slate tiles and flashing repairs. The dishwasher in the kitchen was replaced. The large oak tree behind the garden that was slowly uprooting was taken down in December. In total, we spent almost \$60,000.00 from the Capital Improvements restricted fund in addition to our budgeted repairs costs.

In addition to all of the work above, we have expanded the use of our facilities by hosting additional music recitals in the sanctuary, Hosted events for Kairos Ministry, hosted the NC Association of Music Teachers Annual meeting and recital, YMCA youth soccer used our field for 20 weeks of soccer practices, Weatherstone Elementary Schools teacher conferences for Latino students that live in our community and was a voting precinct site for the 2024 elections.

The Picnic Shelter Committee, a sub-committee of the Property Committee was tasked by the Session in response to the results from the Vision Task Force Committee to solicit bids for preparing a Land Plan for our church property. Three bids were submitted, and a contract was signed in December with Grounded Engineering PLLC to perform this work. Preliminary plans are to be presented to the committee by the end of January 2025 with final plans submitted by mid-March 2025.

## **Worship Committee – 2024**

Current Members of Committee include: Suzanne Smith; Chair; Denise Weeks, Donna Herrin, Kate Trimble, David Johnson, Frank Mansell, Justin Berg

### **2024**

- Supported special services this year such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Poetry and Praise, Jazz Vespers, and the Blue Christmas service.
- Provide weekly activity bags for children during worship service.
- Had the sanctuary bible (given to the church November 1948) repaired.
- Purchased a new pulpit bible to be used during worship services.
- Grateful to property committee for the work involved to improve lighting in the sanctuary.
- Provided support for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- Reviewed results of WBPC Vision Task Force Report (August) and looked for ways to meet worship needs for our congregation.
- Prepared an information sheet for nonmembers to have when using our sanctuary for funerals.
- Repaired/restored the Chrismon's used on the sanctuary's Christmas tree.
- Purchased a large outdoor star that was mounted on a tree in church's front lawn to shine during advent season.
- Published a devotion booklet for the 2024's Advent season; written and illustrated by WPBC members.

### **Goals for 2025:**

Because many volunteers are needed to make our services meaningful, the worship committee hopes to find ways to get more volunteers to usher, serve as acolyte and liturgist as well as help with audio and video support. The worship committee will continue to look for ways to provide special worship services by word and music that transforms us and brings us closer to God. Specifically, will collaborate with property committee to improve sound and replace the organ in our sanctuary.

## **Western Boulevard Presbyterian Preschool – 2024**

Teachers Spring and Summer 2024: Bobbi Cross (director). Bobbie Reese and Sharee Powell (4-year-olds), Madison Bartholomew and Amira Samater (3-year-olds), Caylee Jones and Emily Howell (2-year-olds). Sharee left after camp to go full-time, Madison left to go to WCPSS, Amira left to find a job in her field, and Emily left to go full-time to nursing school.

Fall 2024: additions – Adrienne Adams and Annmarie Lutz (3-year-olds), Brianna Dobbin (2-year-olds), Elena Vegso and Tiffany Newton (young 2-year-olds)

We had a very successful year and a lot of growth in 2024! Registration for the 2024-25 school year began in January for currently enrolled families and church members. It opened up on February 1<sup>st</sup> to the public. We had not anticipated the surge in 2-year-olds for the new school year but were faced with needing another classroom. After talking with Frank and Larry, we were given the go-ahead to register more 2-year-olds and they would work on a space. After registration was done, we had fully enrolled younger and older 2-year-old classes! Praise God!

Activities for the last part of the school year included Easter Parties, Mother's Day and Father's Day programs, 4-year-old graduation, and a family-wide picnic at the end of the year.

The current school year started with sickness in classes and with teachers! Between RSV, Pneumonia, Walking Pneumonia, and Hand Foot, and Mouth Disease, there were not many days we had all of our kids and staff here. It was good to know that it wasn't only our preschool. Farmer Minor and Daisy came back to visit, firefighters came in to talk to us about fire safety, and Pastor Frank came in to talk about the birth of Jesus. We had a preschool family celebration around the world lunch where families brought their favorite food to share. Santa also paid a visit!

Registration for the next school year begins this week and we expect registration for next year to fill most spots in the preschool! We are planning a parents' night out, a moms' night out, and a Valentine's party for dads and their kids. We have several people bringing field trips to the school. We continue to offer Soccer Shots for those interested and possibly a dance class in the spring. We will end the school year with graduation. The last day will be May 21<sup>st</sup> Camp will begin in June.

Thank you to WBPC members for your continued support! We love getting paper, crayons and markers, other office supplies, toys, and other goodies for art projects. Thank you also for the scholarship support, and kind words you pass along to others about our program.

**Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenses with Budget**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Revenue		
Pledged Contributions	\$461,468	\$462,646
Open Offerings	\$23,507	\$30,852
Carryover surplus 2023	\$32,615	\$32,615
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$517,590</b>	<b>\$526,113</b>
Expenses:		
Education	\$3,343	\$8,250
Property	\$85,640	\$90,600
Mission/Outreach	\$52,487	\$52,520
Evangelism	\$3,544	\$4,400
Fellowship	\$17,940	\$18,750
Worship	\$8,263	\$10,300
Diaconate	\$1,469	\$2,925
Finance/Stewardship	\$9,848	\$9,851
Personnel/Admin	\$320,894	\$328,516
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$503,428</b>	<b>\$526,113</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$14,162</b>	

**Budget for 2025**

Revenue	
Pledges	\$513,830
Open Offerings	\$25,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$538,830</b>
Expenses	
Education	\$7,350
Property	\$94,878
Mission/Outreach	\$53,500
Fellowship/Evangelism	\$14,800
Worship	\$10,300
Diaconate	\$2,300
Finance/Stewardship	\$10,168
Personnel/Admin	\$345,534
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$538,830</b>

## Report of Changes in Minister's Compensation Package for 2025

(There is no need to return this form if there are no changes in compensation from 2022)

Instructions for this form begin on pg. 3.

Please fill out the compensation information for 2024 and 2025 according to the instructions. Forward completed copies to Presbytery of New Hope, Commission on Ministry, 2022 McDonald Lane, Raleigh, NC 27608-2118.

**PLEASE RETURN TO PRESBYTERY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO APPROVE THE NEW TERMS OF CALL.**

Church: Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church City: Raleigh

Minister's Name: Reverend William Franklin Mansell, III

☒ Pastor     ☐ Associate Pastor     ☐ Designated Pastor     ☐ Designated Associate Pastor     ☐ Co-Pastor

Call is: Full Time ☒ Half Time ☐ Other ☐

Date of the congregational meeting held to approve these changes \_\_\_\_\_

Use \* to indicate all changed figures

Salary & Benefits	2024	2025
Annual Cash Salary	\$ 39,264.20 *	\$ 38,686.55
Housing Allowance	\$ 29,083.00 *	\$ 29,955.49
Medical Supplement (flexible spending account for medical expenses)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Deferred Income (Annuity, Life, Retirement Saving, etc.)	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$ 72,467.20 *</b>	<b>\$ 74,642.04</b>
Social Security Offset	\$ 5,543.74 *	\$ 5,710.32
Travel Reimbursement	*	\$ 1,500.00
Professional Development	*	\$ 1,500.00
Books/ Other Reimbursable Expense	\$ 3,500.00 *	\$ 500.00
Board of Pensions Dues	\$ 28,262.21 *	\$ 30,406.93
Paid Vacation Leave (Weeks Annually)	4	4
Paid Cont Ed Leave (Weeks Annually)	2	2
A sabbatical leave of 3 months will be granted after 5 years of service	yes	yes
<b>Total Compensation Package</b>	<b>\$ 109,773.15</b>	<b>\$ 114,259.29</b>

