



HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Your Treasure, Your Heart

Stewardship of God's Gifts for 2024



Dear Friends:

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

With these words, Jesus invites his followers to consider the relationship between the treasures of our lives (our relationships, our time, our money) and the deepest values of our hearts. What do the two “books” of our lives—our checkbooks and our calendar books—tell us about what we value most?

During our previous stewardship season, we were guided by Jesus’s exhortation to his disciples to let their “light shine before others.” And indeed, the light of Highland’s generosity has shown brightly as we have strengthened existing aspects of our ministry, while simultaneously expanding and developing new areas of ministry in response to the Spirit’s call.

Jesus reminds his disciples that the way we use our time, our talents, and our financial resources reflects what we love most.

This year, we are reflecting on the treasure of our lives and of our life together, and the ways that this treasure reflects what our hearts love and value the most. Within these pages, we hope you will gain a new appreciation for the love that lives at the heart of Highland, and the ways that the treasure we share together enables this love to take shape in our varied ministries.

For nearly 75 years, Highland has striven to be faithful stewards of the treasure that God has entrusted to each of us. Highland’s abiding love of worship and learning, serving and caring has been evident from the beginning. We are ever grateful for the overwhelming generosity of Highland’s members and friends that enables this love to take shape year after year—and in the year to come! Within these pages are also descriptions of varied parts of our ministry, along with what we believe it will cost to support this ministry in 2024.

Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 12. We look forward to celebrating with you the variety of gifts and treasures that God has entrusted to members and friends of Highland, and the ways that the Spirit enables us not only to utilize these treasures to pursue the goals of our heart, but also to live into the desires of God’s heart for Highland. As we seek to follow Christ together, the coming year will surely provide us many opportunities to live out his good news of love, peace, justice, and reconciliation in our own lives and in the life of our congregation, our community, and our world.

Chad Archer, Chair, Stewardship Committee

Randy Harris, Pastor



Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:19-21

Community and Global Service, and the PC(USA)

\$300,861

Highland seeks to share generously in our community and beyond. The Benevolence portion of our budget provides resources and some staff support for local, national, and international efforts to bring faith, healing, hope, and relief to vulnerable persons.

Such ministry includes ongoing support for over 20 different agencies in Winston-Salem. It includes the food pantry that we operate jointly with Temple Emanuel—a partnership now celebrating its 10th anniversary! It also includes a focus on mental health and children's wellness among others.

These dollars also keep us connected in mission with sisters and brothers in Christ in the PC(USA) at home and abroad. Highland is one of the most generous supporters of Salem Presby-

tery, through whom we are partnered with nearly 140 Presbyterian congregations in the region, enabling us both to receive and to share in the ministry of these congregations.

Our giving supports the work of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), some global mission partners, as well as our denomination's seminaries across the country through our giving to the Theological Education Fund.

Beyond our financial support, Highland's Community Service Committee members are in touch regularly with each community agency we support and encourages other members to learn about

and become involved with these agencies. We also have strong support each year for disaster relief in our country and around the world, as well as for special events like our Christmas Alternative Giving, and the CROP Walk, a community event in which Highland leads the way in generosity year after year.



*Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.
✞ Matthew 6:19*

Administration

\$223,021



Our Administration budget provides coordination and logistical support for the ongoing life and work of the church from week to week.

Much of this portion of the budget provides for necessities that support other parts of our ministry: printing bulletins, newsletters, and other communications; financial account-

ing; committee support; coordination of outside groups seeking meeting space at the church; computer hardware and software, internet and streaming service and equipment; and staff members whose work is largely focused on the enabling of ministry.

Christian Education

\$130,393

The Christian Education budget provides for curriculum and program resources for all ages, and for the staff who serve to implement these life-transforming programs.

Much of this ministry happens steadily through each week: Sunday morning church school classes for all ages, midweek Bible studies, book and movie groups, documentary screenings, and more.

We have revamped our children's

educational ministry to create *God's Good Neighborhood*, helping our children grow as followers of Jesus who love God, and love their neighbors.

There are also special annual events, including Vacation Church School and ArtRageous! These events are truly multi-generational, drawing in not only members but also many visitors each year.



Congregational Care, Fellowship, Membership

\$126,920

“I cannot believe what a caring and friendly congregation this is.” “We have never been so warmly welcomed by a church.” Such words are shared frequently by members who have received the loving care of the church in their time of need, and by visitors who have found their way into our congregational life. Such hospitality and caring is at the heart of Highland.

That spirit of care and friendship is the result of the fellowship of the church that draws us together in both ordinary and extraordinary seasons of life. Special Sunday fellowship meals, Meet and Eat groups, Men’s and Women’s Retreats at Montreat, Acoustic Café music events, Christ-

mas caroling for homebound members, ice cream socials, birthday celebrations for our 80+ year-old members—these and more are ways by which we seek to nurture the ties that bind us together.

Our Presbyterian Church’s *Book of Order* reminds us that if there is no spirit of fellowship in the church, then little else will happen. Our worshiping, learning, and serving are never done in isolation, but always as part of the body of believers. This spirit of connectedness (referred to as *koinonia* in the New Testament) is of inestimable worth, as it feeds and sustains every other part of our church life.



Youth and Young Adults

\$105,899

The energy of Highland’s youth is contagious! Youth gather on Sunday mornings and evenings for fellowship, study, service and play that engages their hearts and minds as they live out God’s love. Following Christ into the world, they go out into the

community and around the country to serve others and learn about discipleship. Trips away to favorite places like the Montreat Youth Conference and the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference offer youth the opportunity to open themselves up to be challenged in their faith and grow in community. Our budget allows for us to nurture our youth and their families as we equip them for a lifelong faith that embodies God’s transforming love through Jesus Christ.

There is a vibrancy to Highland’s young adult ministry as it provides a variety of opportunities that respond to the practical faith wonderings of

those in this transitional age. Through fellowship and mission, this ministry continues to grow as Highland provides a welcoming place for young adults in our community.



Worship

\$181,578

The deep rumble of the organ and the sound of the voices of choir and congregation joined together that stirs our hearts during a beloved hymn. The sound of children's voices as they learn to sing their praise to God, and as they respond energetically during a moment for them. A sermon that speaks a challenging or comforting word into our lives. The life-giving harmony of the Chancel Choir

in a stirring anthem. The sharing of the Lord's Supper not only with one another, but with family around the world. Prayers that remind us of the deep connections we share with one another, and of the God who is ever at work for healing and hope. The spreading of candlelight on Christmas Eve, the darkened Sanctuary on Good Friday, and the dazzling light and sound of Easter Sunday. The marvel-

ous cacophony of love and care as we share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

Each of these, and all of them together, are a means by which the Living God draws near to us as we worship together in ordinary and extraordinary seasons of the church's life.

Our dollars allocated for Worship provide for this heart of the church's common life, including staff, choir support, music, special seasonal events, and more.



Property

\$191,365

The Property budget provides for the maintenance, repair, and improvement of our church buildings and grounds and equipment; utilities; and staff support. As we continue to make our way beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, we are delighted to see that the use of Highland's space is steadily increasing.

Be it children gathering for Sunday school in our 3rd floor *God's Good Neighborhood* rooms, an intergenerational square dance in the Fellowship Hall, adult classes in our 1st floor classrooms or the Activity Building, a congregational BBQ on our newly-refurbished Patio, Youth fellowship in youth rooms or the Fellowship Hall, or worship in our newly-lighted Sanctuary, Highland's spaces—both indoors and outdoors—allow for a full range of ministry.

We also share our space and our office resources generously with com-

munity mission partners. Groups such as AA, the Association for Children of Aging Parents, iCan House, the Winston-Salem Choral Artists, NA, PFLAG, and more benefit from Highland's support. The leadership of Salem Presbytery has also met regularly at Highland in recent years.

With increased use comes the need for ongoing maintenance, repair, and improvement, and the costs of such work are increasing as well. Highland's Property Committee is committed to the upkeep of our spaces, recognizing the impact of inflation on their work—but also that our buildings and grounds are one of the greatest resources we have to support our multifaceted ministry.

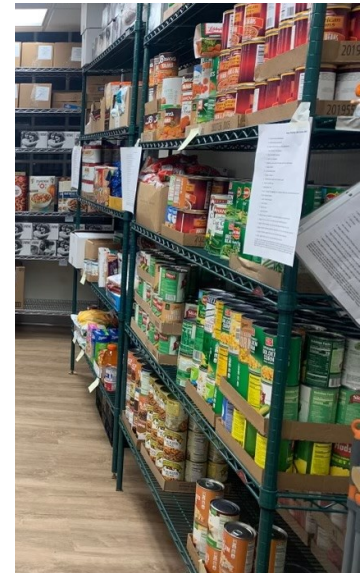
We remain committed to caring for this space that enables so much good ministry to happen not only for us, but for countless others, as well.



A 4.2% Increase

The 2024 Asking Budget of \$1,260,038 reflects a 4.2% increase over our budget for 2023. Most of this increase reflects the challenge of inflation. It simply costs more to do the things we do in Highland's ministry. This budget provides for a cost-of-living increase for the staff, and an increase in our property maintenance budget. We also maintain support for the vital ministry that has characterized our life together for nearly 75 years, avoiding reductions in other parts of our program. This Asking Budget also maintains Highland's longstanding commitment to support our neighbors in need through mission partnerships in the community, presbytery, and world.

Ministry Area	2024 Request
Benevolence (24%)	\$300,861
Administration (18%)	\$223,021
Christian Education (10%)	\$130,393
Youth and Young Adult Ministry (8%)	\$105,899
Worship (14%)	\$181,578
Congregational Care/ Fellowship/Membership (10%)	\$126,920
Property (15%)	\$191,365
Total	\$1,260,038



Growing in Our Giving—A Note from Miles Abernethy, Treasurer

As treasurer of Highland, I'm fortunate to understand in great detail the tremendous investments you have made over many years at Highland: in our incredible staff, vibrant programming, rich worship with joyful music, the wonderful campus of renovated facilities, and of course the many agencies we help fund that supported our neighbors both near and far. Our investments we have all steadfastly made are paying great dividends in the form of robust ministry and a healthy congregation on many levels.

There is certainly a business aspect to running Highland, and no business can thrive without continual annual investments. The 2024 Stewardship campaign represents our opportunity to provide this support to help Highland's ministry to not only survive, but to thrive. The last few years have been unique in that we have tried to economize as much as possible in our budget during the turbulent and uncertain years of covid. But at the same time we have been constantly fighting the challenges of burgeoning inflation, all the while witnessing a roller coaster stock market disrupting giving patterns. These factors have

put significant pressure on our budget. We certainly want to ensure our staff receives cost of living increases, to maintain our facilities even though maintenance and repair costs have soared, and to continue our commitment to benevolences.

Given this context, it may sound like a stretch to ask for a 4.2% increase in our budget for 2024, but this is our current economic reality as we try to perpetuate the special ministry at Highland. Can everyone afford to increase their pledges by 4.2%? Most likely not. But, can enough afford to increase their giving by more than

4.2% along with support from new members to help meet the budget? Potentially so, given Highland's long history of generosity. In my 25+ years as treasurer, we have always risen to the challenge.

The business model here at Highland is certainly divinely inspired and reverently supported. Year after year, members and friends of Highland have aligned the sharing of their treasure with their deep love of Highland. Thanks be to God for the heavenly dividends it pays.





A Statement of Highland’s Mission and Vision



Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Loving God and Serving our Neighbors as
a Grateful • Vibrant • Connected • Responsive people
through the *grace* of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the *love* of God, and the *fellowship* of the Holy Spirit

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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As *grateful* people of God,
we prayerfully shape our common life
around corporate worship that is
refreshingly traditional,
musically alive,
deeply biblical and
joyfully intergenerational.

As a *vibrant* community of faith,
we are a diverse priesthood of believers
where inquisitive children, lively youth,
and faithfully searching adults
come together as we
thoughtfully consider scripture, tradition,
and what it means to live as God’s people
engaging pressing issues of our day.

As a *connected* fellowship of believers,
we reach out enthusiastically with love and care.
Rejoicing in times of celebration,
bearing one another’s burdens in times of struggle,
we share in the wondrous workings
of God’s grace in our lives.

As a *responsive* household of faith,
we are sent forth to bear witness to
God’s reconciling reign in our community and our world.
Joining with Christ in his work of love, peace and justice,
we seek to overcome the barriers that divide us,
particularly the challenges of racism and poverty.
Inspired by the Spirit, we share God’s good gifts
with generous and energetic commitment.

Highland Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Highland Presbyterian Church
Winston-Salem, NC



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moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and
steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves
do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also. ☛ Matthew 6:19-21*

