

Bearing Fruit That Lasts

Stewardship of God's Gifts for 2027

Highland Presbyterian Church



Dear Friends,

Jesus says to his disciples, "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." These words invite us to reflect on the ways God is at work through the fullness of Highland's ministry and the lasting impact of our life together.

The fruit Christ speaks of is not measured merely by numbers or programs. It is seen in transformed lives, deepened faith, caring relationships, and acts of service that witness to God's love in the world. Through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, our congregation continues to bear fruit that endures!

Together, we are cultivating ministries that make a lasting difference:

- In worship, we gather to praise God, proclaim the good news of God's unfailing love, and experience renewal that challenges and strengthens our faith.
- In our ministries of education and formation, children, youth, and adults alike deepen their knowledge of scripture and tradition, and explore
- the meaning of faith amidst the realities and challenges of the 21st Century.
- In congregational care, we offer visits, prayers, encouragement, and support for members experiencing illness, grief, loneliness, or life transitions.
- Through fellowship, we build meaningful relationships that nurture belonging, strengthen community, and reflect the love of Christ among us.
- In service to our community and beyond, we respond to human needs, advocate for justice, support mission partners, and share God's compassion with our neighbors near and far.

The fruit Christ speaks of is seen in transformed lives, deepened faith, caring relationships, and acts of service that witness to God's love in the world.

As we consider our stewardship commitments for the coming year, we are invited to remember that our financial gifts and our commitments of time and energy are investments in the ministry Christ has entrusted to us. Every gift, every commitment, helps cultivate ministry that blesses lives today and bears fruit for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithful generosity and partnership in God's work. May we continue, together, to bear fruit that will last.

Pam

Pam Collette, Chair,
Stewardship Committee

Randy

Randy Harris, Pastor

"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."
~ John 15:16

Community and Global Service, and the PC(USA) $340,477

Highland shares 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 support is more important now than ever!

These ministries include ongoing support for over 20 different agencies in Winston-Salem. It includes the food pantry that we operate jointly with Temple Emanuel, the women's shelter at St. Timothy's, as well as a focus on mental health and children's wellness among others.

These dollars also keep us connected in mission with the PC(USA) at home and abroad. Highland is one of the most generous supporters of Salem Presbytery, through whom we are partnered with 125 Presbyterian congregations in the region, enabling us to strengthen the collective ministry of these congregations.

Our giving supports the work of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), global mission partners, as well as our denomination's seminaries across the country through our giving to the Theological Education Fund. As an Earth Care Congregation, we are also increasing our efforts to care for God's creation through congregational practices, and through sharing information with members and neighbors alike.

Beyond our financial support, Highland's Community Service Committee members are in touch regularly with each community agency we support and encourage 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.







Administration $234,824

Much of the work of Highland's office happens behind the scenes, providing for necessities that support other parts of our ministry: printing bulletins, newsletters, and other communications; financial accounting; committee support; coordination of community events and outside groups seeking meeting space at the church; updating computer hardware and software, internet and streaming service and equipment. Much of the work of our staff members is focused on the enabling of ministry.



Every gift, every commitment, helps cultivate ministry that blesses lives today and bears fruit for generations to come.

Christian Education $158,416

Christian Education happens steadily through each week: Sunday morning church school classes for all ages, midweek Bible studies, book and movie groups, documentary screenings, seasonal forums, and more. Our studies deepen faith and engage pressing issues of the day.

Our children's educational ministry, *God's Good Neighborhood,* helps them grow as followers of Jesus who love God, and love their neighbors. They also enjoy special gatherings such as our Friday Fun Nights!

There are also special annual events, including ArtRageous!, which is truly multi-generational, drawing in not only members but also many visitors each year.







Youth and Young Adults $108,781

Faith takes root in relationships, and in our youth and young adult ministies we see it bearing fruit in lives shaped by God's love.

Our youth gather for learning, fellowship, and service discovering what it means to follow Jesus together. Through Christian Education, retreats, local service, and beloved traditions like the Mystery Trip, Montreat, Souper Bowl of Caring, young people grow in faith, friendship, and a sense of belonging that lasts.

Our young adult ministry continues to flourish through regular gatherings for Bible study, fellowship, and service. Whether sharing a meal, volunteering together, or supporting one another through life's transitions, young adults are cultivating meaningful relationships and finding a community in which faith can grow.

At the heart of both ministries is a commitment to building relationships, nurturing faith, and creating a community where everyone belongs. These ministries are sustained through generosity, encouragement, presence, and faithful commitment to the next generation where young people are known, valued, and supported.







Congregational Care, Fellowship, Membership $137,557

Hospitality and caring is at the heart of our life together at Highland. That spirit of care and welcome 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, Drinks for 4, Wind Down with Women, Christmas caroling for homebound members, W-S Dash baseball games, birthday celebrations for our 80+ year-old members—these and more are ways by which we seek to nurture relationships throughout the church.

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. Fellowship provides a means for us to nurture the trust and love upon which ministry is built.

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.







Ministry Area	2027
Benevolence (24%)	$340,477
Administration (18%)	$248,698
Christian Education (11%)	$158,416
Youth and Young Adult Ministry (8%)	$108,781
Worship (15%)	$208,225
Congregational Care/ Fellowship (9%)	$137,557
Property (15%)	$206,236
Total	**$1,408,390**





Our financial gifts and our commitments of time and energy are investments in the ministry Christ has entrusted to us.

Worship $208,225

Highland's Vision Statement reminds us that our worship is "refreshingly traditional, musically alive, deeply biblical and joyfully intergenerational." Worship is our grateful response to God, and it is the heart of our life together.

There are many, many elements to worship at Highland that make each gathering special. The sight of an intergenerational group lighting candles, placing the Bible on the Lectern, pouring water in the Font, and setting the Communion Table; the organ causing the floor to rumble as it sounds out the introduction to a beloved hymn; a hopeful or challenging word in a sermon; an anthem that stirs our hearts; the smile of a child during baptism; a prayer that names our hopes or worries; the energetic burst of sound as we share Christ's peace with one another. There is the awe of candlelight on Christmas Eve, the silence of the darkened Sanctuary on Good Friday, and the exuberance of light and sound on Easter Sunday.



Each of these, and all of them together, are a means by which God draws near to us as we worship together, giving us wisdom and courage for the living of these days.

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 $206,236

Be it children gathering for Sunday school in our 3rd floor *God's Good Neighborhood* rooms, an intergenerational meal in the Fellowship Hall, an ArtRageous class in the church kitchen, adult classes in our 1st floor classrooms or the Activity Building, a congregational picnic in our Gathering Garden and Playground, Youth Fellowship in youth rooms or the Fellowship Hall, or worship in our well-lit 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 community mission partners.

Groups such as AA, iCan House, the Winston-Salem Choral Artists, NA, the Audobon Society and more benefit from Highland's support. Salem Presbytery groups also meet regularly at Highland.

With increased use comes the need for ongoing maintenance, repair, and improvement. Highland's Property Committee is committed to the upkeep of our spaces. We recognize the impact of inflation on this work! But we also know 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.

The Property budget provides for the maintenance, repair, and improvement of our church buildings, grounds and equipment; utilities; and staff support.





Principles for Congregational Stewardship

from *The Presbyterian Outlook*

1. Stewardship announces that everything we are and have belongs to God. It is an antidote to the power of avarice and consumerism. It guards against the idolatry of things, from being possessed by our possessions. We are managers, not owners, of all the Creator has entrusted to us. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24:1).

2. Stewardship's first and final standard is Jesus Christ. A faithful response is not measured by what we gave last year or what our neighbor might give. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming again of Jesus Christ are stewardship's only sure standard and measure. "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus … who emptied himself" (Philippians 2:5).

3. Stewardship's primary goal is the spiritual growth of our members. Stewardship is more than a program to underwrite our annual budget. As our gifts are uncovered, nurtured, multiplied, and deployed, we become Christian disciples. Faith is deepened when we offer our substance in response to the graciousness of God. "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:24).

4. Stewardship reminds us we are accountable for how we use what God has given. What we do with what we have is the truest test of Christian commitment. The time is both now and to come when everyone will give an accounting of their stewardship. "After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them…. 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave … enter into the joy of your master'" (Matthew 25:19, 21).

5. Stewardship invites us to celebrate God's abundance. God's generosity is lavished on us. Sin tempts us to think otherwise, to be seduced into a theology of scarcity (not enough leadership, not enough time, not enough members, not enough money, etc.). Assuming God is stingy becomes a convenient excuse to justify apathy, non-action, and the maintenance of the status quo (see Matthew 25:24). "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

6. Stewardship is the most basic and the most challenging work in the congregation. It is the most basic because it delivers the indispensable gifts (time, talents, treasures) on which all the ministries of the church depend. It is the most challenging because it confronts our culture's most powerful idol, money and what money represents. "You cannot serve God and wealth" (Matthew 6:24).

A 6.5% Increase

The 2027 Asking Budget of $1,408,390 reflects a 6.52% increase over our budget for 2026. Most of this increase is related to inflation, along with increasing costs for insurance coverage. This budget provides for a cost-of-living increase for the staff, and sustains support for the vital ministry that has characterized our life together for 77 years. It provides generous support for every part 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.







Highland Presbyterian Church—bearing fruit that lasts!

Grow One Step

The generosity of the saints of Highland has sustained the church's ministry for 77 years. As we look ahead, we recognize the need for continued growth in that generosity!

The table below provides a window into ways in which that growth might take place. Your Stewardship Committee encourages you to identify the row that most closely approximates your household income. From there, identify which column is nearest to your current level of giving.

If you have not given or made a commitment before, pick a place to start! If you have been giving the same amount year-to-year, consider growing a step. If you annually increase your giving, consider using this chart to identify a new goal. The key is growth. Grow one step! This sort of generosity guided the generations who came before us at Highland, and will sustain the church for future generations as well.

Monthly Gift

Annual Income	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
$10,000	$25	$33	$42	$50	$58	$67	$75	$83
$20,000	$50	$67	$83	$100	$117	$133	$150	$167
$30,000	$75	$100	$125	$150	$175	$200	$225	$250
$40,000	$100	$133	$167	$200	$233	$267	$300	$333
$50,000	$125	$167	$208	$250	$292	$333	$375	$417
$60,000	$150	$200	$250	$300	$350	$400	$450	$500
$70,000	$175	$233	$292	$350	$408	$467	$525	$583
$80,000	$200	$267	$333	$400	$467	$533	$600	$667
$90,000	$225	$300	$375	$450	$525	$600	$675	$750
$100,000	$250	$333	$417	$500	$583	$667	$750	$833
$125,000	$313	$417	$521	$625	$729	$833	$938	$1,042
$150,000	$375	$500	$625	$750	$875	$1,000	$1,125	$1,250
$175,000	$438	$583	$729	$875	$1,021	$1,167	$1,313	$1,458
$200,000	$500	$667	$833	$1,000	$1,167	$1,333	$1,500	$1,667
$300,000	$750	$1,000	$1,250	$1,500	$1,750	$2,000	$2,250	$2,500









HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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A Statement of Highland's Mission and Vision

Highland PRESBYTERIAN

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.

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

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 **thoroughly** 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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Winston-Salem, NC

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John 15:16