

State of the Church

Quarterly Report to the Congregation

Submitted 23 November 2025 by Timothy Steele



Mission: To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Vision: To be a church where unchurched and churched people love to attend.

- **Environments:**

- **Worship**

- Upcoming Special Services: Advent Service (Nov. 30) Lighting personal candles of hope; Cantata (Dec. 21), Christmas Eve Candlelight (Dec. 24) 7:00 pm; Carols and Communion (Dec. 28)
 - Christmas Ornament – Designed and created by Wendy Elliott. Tailored to summarize “Light of the World” series. Distribute on Christmas Eve.
 - Upcoming Series: January – Asking the question that makes it easy to determine the answer to all other questions. February – Choosing to Lose equates to winning as a Jesus follower.

- **Kids and students**

- **Pingo Land** – Precious Puffins group (ages 3-5) and Caribou Kids (grades 1-5) will continue to meet every Sunday. Attendance has been steady and we’re investing in the faith of the next generation by ramping up frequency of groups meeting. Debbie Irgens and Dierdre Condone lead our groups.
 - **Xtreme** – Meets first Sunday of the month. Sarah Vitt leads our group.
 - **Confirmation** – Evan Bliese, Elle Penninger and Addisson Wiles began their first year. Michael Steele, Joseph Ziemann and Everrette Erickson finishing their final year.

- **Adults**

- **Converge** – Steady participation based on each topic offered. Continues to provide adults an opportunity to learn outside of Community Groups and be challenged to apply their faith.
 - **Community Groups** – Nine community groups continue to meet regularly. College group was newly formed with four UNCW students participating.

- **College Student Sponsorship** – Adults continue to provide sponsorship of UNCW college students creating meaningful connections with three students and providing a home away from home.

- **Be Rich** – Celebrating \$14,999 being given to Good Shepherd Center from your gifts, supporting six nonprofit organizations, serving 164 hours, and giving 1488 blessing bag items. Our goal is to make generosity fun and have people fall in love with specific nonprofit organizations so they will continue to serve them throughout the year.

- **Snack Packs for NourishNC** – A last minute opportunity has presented itself through our Be Rich Campaign this year. Pingo Land will be sponsoring an event on Dec. 7 for all kids (after an abbreviated Pingo Land on Sunday at 10:45 am) to pack 200 snack packs to be delivered to Nourish NC.

Snack Packs are a quick, ready-to-go snack option that contains a juice/milk box and three snacks for kids who need a little extra fuel. NourishNC provides supplemental food assistance to the 1 in 6 children in New Hanover County who struggle with hunger.

- **Cambridge Village Worship Services** – 30-minute service provided once a month for residents of the assisted facility located in Mayfair. Average 10-20 in attendance.
- **Endearment Team** – This team has gone through some changes this last year as we align closer to our church's strategy. The team embodies the ENDEARMENT part of Messiah's strategy: Making a first step for people to experience Jesus for themselves seeing our church support our community. We want the people and organizations in our community to know we're here, happy we're here, and better off because we're here.

The team is working on 2026:

- Scheduling regular service events with nonprofits (an extension of service opportunities offered with Be Rich)
 - Working to expand support for our local nonprofits (to include growth into Brunswick County)
 - Recommending to the council local, national, and international nonprofits to support each quarter using budgeted charitable contributions, to include telling the story of the impact each gifting as made through each nonprofit
 - Identify and coordinate larger community-wide events Messiah can support through time and service
 - Assisting Thrivent members to align Thrivent grants to support Messiah's projects.
 - Team members include: Judy Cluett, Debbie Irgens, Carolyn Jones, Karen Limback, Tim Marcis, Dalida Wichman
- **Invest and Invite** – great opportunity to invite people to church with you for our special Christmas services. Remember the 3 "Not's": 1) Not Going Well, 2) Not prepared for something, 3) Not in church