

Chapter History of Asheville Threshold Choir 2026

Early Inspiration (2012–2016)

In 2012, Kate Munger, founder of the Threshold Choir movement, visited Asheville as part of her mission to spread the choir's vision of singing at the bedsides of those in need. Her visit directly inspired the creation of the first Asheville Chapter. Though that initial group disbanded after only a few years, one member, Ginny Moreland, remained connected to the wider Threshold Choir community. Her persistence bore fruit in the spring of 2017, when she helped organize a regional gathering in Montreat, North Carolina. That event rekindled interest and drew together half a dozen singers who would form the foundation of a new Asheville chapter.

A Rebirth and New Leadership (2017–2020)

The reborn Asheville Chapter officially launched in October 2017, with Teri Sandoval serving as the first Music Director and Ginny Moreland as Administrator. By 2020, the choir was actively singing at bedsides in several locations when the COVID-19 pandemic caused a hiatus in our operations.

Renewal After the Pandemic (2022–2023)

By early 2022 we were meeting again, initially out of doors. Around this time, Teri Sandoval relocated out of state, and Regina Webster stepped in as Music Director, guiding the choir for several more years. Membership grew steadily. In the early years, new singers joined one at a time, but by late 2023, interest surged. After welcoming a dozen new members, the chapter created a waiting list for the first time, with membership reaching about 18 singers.

Challenges and Growth (2024–2026)

In the fall of 2024, Tropical Storm Helene disrupted choir activities, causing another temporary pause. Yet, the group rebounded with renewed energy. By spring 2025, the Asheville Threshold Choir embraced a more "leaderful" approach, reaching out to over forty prospective singers who had expressed interest in the past year. Many responded enthusiastically, and the chapter's official membership rose to 28, with about 16 actively singing at bedside. The rising cost of living in Asheville also reshaped the group's geography. Singers began traveling from farther afield, leading to the formation of western and southern subgroups.

Practices and Musical Expansion

From its early days, the chapter offered four practices per month across two locations, asking singers to attend twice monthly. Most practices were held in the afternoons, but new sessions have now been added, allowing an early evening option in one location and a weekday morning in another. A music team collaborates to lead practices in the four different locations. Another sign of growth is the addition of tenor and baritone voices, expanding the choir's range after years of being exclusively treble. Singers from other Threshold Choir chapters who have moved to Asheville have also enriched the group's sound and community.

Service and Outreach

In a typical month, the Asheville Threshold Choir sings at bedside for 15–20 individuals, primarily in three nursing facilities and at Emberlight – the Center for Conscious Living and Dying. The choir also responds to individual referrals and occasionally sings at public events such as song baths, vigils, or memorial services. Currently, there are five trio leaders, with plans to add more. Strengthening the high and low harmony sections remains a priority as the choir continues to expand.

Looking Ahead

As of mid-2026, the Asheville Threshold Choir has grown to nearly 40 singers, with 32 officially registered members. The group is navigating new logistics, balancing growth with intimacy, and exploring ways to remain welcoming while sustaining its mission. The chapter celebrates community through quarterly potlucks, enjoys diversity across ages and life stages, and continues to welcome visiting Threshold singers from around the country. With new geographic reach, new voices, and evolving leadership models, the Asheville Threshold Choir enters 2026 as a vibrant, evolving community of song.



5th Tuesday Asheville Threshold Choir Potluck
07/30/2024. Michele Skeelee, Melinda Hershey,
Regina Webster, Tanya Schwalbe, Jeannie
McKenzie, Sarah Updegraff, Jennifer Worthen,
Ginny Moreland, Judy Kaplan.

Right: Asheville
Threshold Choir,
October 7, 2025.
Amelia, Lisa, Tanya,
Megan, Lisa, David,
Mary, Ginny, Betsy,
Sarah, Erin, Clare, Janet,
Bella, Virginia, Jen,
David.

