



— THE —  
**GEORGETOWN**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
— CHURCH —

Annual Report  
2018

239th Annual Congregational Meeting  
February 3, 2019

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## Table of Contents

• Administration and Personnel	5
• Adult Ministries	8
• Associate Pastor for Discipleship	3
• Associate Pastor for Mission & Young Adults	4
• Buildings and Grounds	14
• Care Team	17
• Children's and Youth Ministries	20
• Communications	24
• Finance and Budget	38
• Hospitality	25
• Long Range Planning	26
• Membership and Nominating Committee	27
• Member Team	28
• Mission Committee	30
• Stewardship	34
• Vestry Letter	2
• Worship and Evangelism	36

# Vestry Letter

Dear Friends,

2018 was a chance for GPC to stride forward with intention, purpose, and hope. This was a year to respond boldly to God's leadings for our congregation and step out in faith. The Holy Spirit has been in our midst prodding our community towards new expressions of faith and new depths of community. To those blessings we responded by:

- Restructuring our staff, making Rev. Chris our full-time Associate Pastor for Mission and Young Adults and Rev. Rachel the Associate Pastor for Discipleship. Additionally, we welcomed Jennie Lopez as our Director of Children's Ministries. These three changes reflect growth we have seen and hope to continue to see in our children's programming, our young adults community, and the outreach potential few new members and the deepening of faith from long standing members. We feel that our staff is in a very strong position.
- Our Mission work continues to grow along with the generosity of our congregation. To that end, we established the Fishes and Loaves Fund to ensure that any excess funds from our church year is used to support new mission initiatives and respond joyfully to any abundance we experience.
- We have focused on improving our facility spaces to better match the needs of our church community. One significant change that we decided upon was to end our longstanding relationship with the French Maternal Preschool. We have invited a familiar neighborhood community playgroup, Blue Igloo, to join our space in September. This change will open up more space for our growing children's ministries and education programs.
- Our music program continues to be a drawing and uniting force. Mark Willey's leadership and inspiration led us through Handel's Messiah over the course of the year. Regina Andrade started an additional program for older children to learn about hymns and congregational singing.

These are simply a few highlights, which exemplify that our church is healthy and growing. We are grateful to God for these things and do not take them for granted. This has also been a year when the church has been able to practice being the church, a community of people connected by our mutual love for Jesus. That love has helped us to stay connected despite differences, reach out to others in compassionate acts, and strive for greater levels of love and faithfulness. I have been inspired by your witness as a community and in tangible ways to me personally in the last year. Thank you for being people of the light – shining that light in important and notable ways. I am proud to serve alongside you.

May God bless us as we continue to strive to do good work in Christ's name.

Onward...

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Murray

## Associate Pastor for Discipleship

There is a phrase in my job description that says, “*and all other duties as the Head of Staff requires.*” I really got to explore the meaning of that phrase this past year with Rev. Murray away on sabbatical. From preaching sermons to hiring staff to moderating the session and congregational meetings, I got to be “all things to all people” in the tradition of the Apostle Paul.

Pastor Camille did not leave me in a lurch, however, and it was through her able and faithful leadership and organization that the church continued to worship, serve, and grow over this past year. (That being said, I’m happy she’s back!)

While the cat was away on leave, the mouse embarked on an ambitious expansion plan for Children’s Ministry. The church has 72 children under the age of five (and at least four on the way that I know of), and that means that GPC needs to think big about its next steps in Children’s worship and education. In light of this, I worked with the session to hire Jennie Lopez as GPC’s Children’s Ministry Director, and negotiated the end of the French Maternal School’s lease of our Sunday school rooms (special thanks to some able GPC lawyers). This plan gives us full control and more space on the top floor for Children’s Ministries, which will grow in the coming years.

With our able A&P Elders, I contracted our wonderful bookkeeper, Jackson Njoroge at the beginning of last year, and to hire Jennie Lopez as our Children’s Ministry Director. I am glad to have them on board.

It was also so much fun to work on the *Born. United. Sent.* programming with my amazing colleagues. Few church staffs work together as well as we do, and I am grateful to God and to Chris, Latesha, and Mark for the good faithful work in service to Christ.

Part of this year meant re-evaluating the staff job descriptions, and as a result, my title was changed from Pastor for Christian Education to Pastor for Discipleship. I hope that this title change reflects the more expansive aspects of Christian *formation* that education and ministry are meant to provide to the congregation.

With these big projects in the works, and with my time more divided than usual last year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the deacons who operated more independently in 2018. Thank you for your tireless work shepherding new members and getting our picture directory out; hosting weeks of lunch bunch and huge seasonal meals; coordinating meals for over 10 families with new babies and visiting the sick and lonely; launching ambitious new programming around our *Born. United. Sent.* theme; and handling the growing number of kids and families. A special thanks to Cliff and to all the volunteers who pulled more than their share of weight to make all of these ambitious ministries a reality.

I hope you read with excitement the reports included by the deacons, as they reflect a community who is passionate about care and growth of faith in this congregation. Thanks be to God in Christ!

Peace,

Pastor Rachel

## **Associate Pastor for Mission & Young Adults**

How do we grow? That is, of course, an essential question for any organization, and a church is no exception. I continue to be proud to serve in a congregation that is continually keeping its eye on expanding the scope and reach of our ministries.

Looking back over 2018, there are a few numbers that help tell us an important part of the story - a snapshot of our impact. For example, in the area of mission, we were able to give an additional \$25,000 over the prior year's budget to our mission partners, which means new schools and classrooms in Niger, more resources for psychiatric care through the Georgetown Ministry Center, and support for a literary community for people returning to society from prison. These are real impacts and are making a big difference in people's lives around the world.

And in our young adults ministry, we received a significant grant for new and innovative programs through the Lilly Foundation, connect now with well over 100 young adults in the metro area, had our first ever retreat focusing on prayer and vocation with a dozen young adults, and are welcoming new people every month to events.

These numbers do matter. But in talking about growth, we ought to pay particular notice of more than just the numbers, which is only one aspect. We of course need to be thinking about quality and depth as well. And I am also exceptionally proud of the depth of ministry taking place. Young adults are meeting because they're hungry to read Scripture and discover their own sense of vocation. A group of members decided they felt called to serve refugees who have been resettled to our area, and are hard at work to engage the congregation in this important work. We are casting a critical eye on how this congregation is uniquely positioned to serve our community and the world, rather than simply adding new programming.

For these reasons and many more, I am proud to serve at GPC. This is a congregation that continues every year to be full of life and energy, that is looking for innovative ways to witness God's love to the world, and remains rooted in the steadfast love of God. Thank you for your partnership in our ministry together.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen

# Administration and Personnel Committee

The year 2018 marked the successful completion of a thorough overhaul of the staff, the better to meet the changing demographics and needs of the congregation. New jobs were defined and filled, existing jobs were refocused, responsibilities were clearly spelled out, and the mix of old and new were carefully blended and bonded. Particular attention was paid to improving overall communications and supporting the programs offered to a growing number of children and young adults. Overall, we're pleased to report that we believe GPC has excellent staff, well positioned to meet the ongoing needs of the congregation

Our process for reviewing staff performance remains central to A&P's work and, especially, to its recommendations regarding compensation. We meet with each staff member at least twice each year to review goals and achievements. Our compensation recommendations have been submitted to and approved by the Session.

## Camille Cook Murray—Senior Pastor

Camille continues to be an excellent leader—whether in the pulpit, leading the Session, directing the staff, one-on-one, young and old. Among her major accomplishments in 2018 are the following:

- Membership and revenue increased and GPC continues to accomplish its mission effectively and in a financially prudent fashion;
- Particularly notable are the increases in membership and participation by young families, young adults and children;
- Her sermons are excellent and she ably leads the congregation in worship.
- She supervised the successful overhaul of the staff mentioned above and continues to capably manage the expanded staff and deal with the full range of issues, predictable and otherwise, that affect an urban church with an old building in the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- She originated the process that led to the highly successful Born/United/Sent exercise with Bible study at its core but which coordinated other activities so that a wide range of linked issues were explored.
- She planned her three-month sabbatical carefully so that GPC ran without a hitch during her absence.
- She's a leader in her profession, for example, serving on the board of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

Camille faced and overcame serious challenges during 2018. We have every confidence in her ability to continue to lead GPC in ever more accomplished fashion in pursuit of its mission.

## Rachel Landers Vaagenes—Associate Pastor/Discipleship

Rachel had an excellent year, whether viewed from a day-to-day perspective or from a longer-range point of view.

- She stepped up and stepped in for Camille to assume heavy supervisory responsibilities as Acting Head of Staff when Camille was absent, first unanticipated when Camille took a leave after fire destroyed her home

and, later, during Camille's three-month sabbatical (during which absences, as noted above, GPC ran smoothly and successfully).

- She led a new program for officer training, a multi week opportunity for newly elected Elders and Deacons to learn the basics of their often complex and serious new responsibilities.
- She led in planning how best to meet the wonderful challenge and opportunity presented by the sharply increased number of children coming to GPC. This ultimately led to the creation and staffing of a new position, Director of Children's Ministry, now filled by Jennifer Lopez. Jenny reports to Rachel and this added supervisory responsibility, in part, led to the change in Rachel's title from Associate Pastor for Education to Associate Pastor for Discipleship.
- She was the leader in the implementation of the highly successful Born/United/Sent program mentioned above.
- Her frequent sermons were good and she ably leads the congregation in worship.
- She began carefully planning for a three-month sabbatical in 2019.

Rachel has been a mainstay of GPC's successful efforts in 2018. She's well qualified to continue in this leadership role.

#### Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen—Associate Pastor/Mission & Young Adults

Chris really came into his own in 2018—he rose to and successfully met every one of a broad range of challenges and, as a result, he was moved from part-time to full-time status and given responsibility for such areas as young adults as well as mission outreach. Among the specifics:

- Chris has breathed life into the young adults program, which under his leadership has offered new programs with encouraging results;
- GPC's mission outreach continues vibrant, actively supporting both international and domestic programs, ranging from Remember Niger to Excel Academy.
- Chris's sermons are thoughtful and well presented; he does a good job in otherwise leading the congregation in worship.
- Suggesting his versatility and willingness to do "what's needed", Chris studied the needs and responsibilities of our Office Manager with especially reference to pro-active communications. The result was the redefined position of Office Manager (now Communications Coordinator & Office Manager). Chris did much of this in 2017 but implementation and the benefits carried over to and first became tangible in 2018.
- Again, demonstrating his versatile usefulness, Chris was the leader in drawing up new Policies and Procedures relating to security at GPC.

Chris has our full support going forward.

#### Mark Wiley—Director of Music

This has been another strong and creative year for GPC's music department, thanks to Mark Wiley. He completed the program year of Handel's *Messiah*, and has begun a survey of religious service music for *Born.United.Sent.*, incorporating hymns and styles of music from the early renaissance to the modern era.

#### Jennifer Lopez—Director of Children's Ministry

GPC was excited to create this new position to help lead our growing population of young families. Jennie Lopez was hired in the summer and has had a positive start in her first months in the position. She has taken over nearly all of the Sunday school week-to-week coordination (with great success), and works closely with Rev. Vaagenes on larger issues such as the reconstitution of the Children's Ministry Committee, training of employees and volunteers, and incorporation of families into the Children's Ministry programming.

#### Latesha Kelly—Communications Coordinator and Office Manager

Latesha has completed her first full year growing in confidence and skill. She has shown herself to not only be a competent manager but an invaluable and creative part of the staff team. Highlights include her work on the implementation of the Communication Committee and staff's *Born.United.Sent.* promotional materials, the update of the website (to be relaunched this spring), her work with the Member Team on the picture directory, and countless other projects.

#### Parish Associates

##### Rev. Katie Francis.

Rev. Francis continues to provide training and support to the congregation through pastoral counseling, office training, and organizational support of the staff. She also preached once in 2018, and assisted in worship. She also provides outreach to students on the GU campus, and is a link between the University and GPC.

##### Rev. Olivia Lane

Rev. Lane, while a long-time attendee at GPC, only became an official Parish Associate this past year. She added to GPC's ministry through outreach on the GU campus, major leadership for the young adults' retreat and vocation program. She led a series of Adult Ed discussions regarding Advent. She preached and assisted in worship during 2018. In December, she moved back to her family home in Oklahoma for the next chapter in her life. We wish her well.

#### Other Employees:

We said goodbye to Grace Wentzel and Brett Voyles in 2018 as they stepped away from teaching Sunday school to graduate and focus on thesis writing, but we were grateful to have Casey Nolan return to her role as YCW/Sunday School teacher in the fall. We continue to be grateful for the consistent and thoughtful service from our Nursery Caregivers Gamage Perera and Swarna Nawarathna.

#### Contracted Workers;

##### Clifford Ford/Custodian



We are also most appreciative of Cliff's continued efforts to maintain our building and facilities to accommodate growing number of widely varied uses.

### Jackson Njoroge— Contract Bookkeeper

In March 2018 we were pleased to contract with Jackson Njoroge, who worked with staff and officers on reorganizing the budget account line items, moving our records to Quicken Online, and moving to paperless financial statements. In all his work, with staff, officers, volunteers, members, and outside business, Jackson has been a thorough, diligent, and courteous part of the team.

### Regina Andrade— Director of Children's Music

“Ms. ‘Gina’s” role at GPC expanded with additional Music for Tots classes, and the addition of a second children’s choir. [*Joyful Noise* and *The GPC Children’s Singers*]. Her creativity, diligence, and faithful service to this church continues to be greatly appreciated by young and old.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hopkins  
on behalf of the A&P Committee

## **Adult Ministries**

### **Mission Statement, Overview and Highlights**

- The aim of Adult Ministries is to plan and offer programs that help GPC members and visitors deepen our faith, strengthen our connection to the community, and empower people in service to God and the church.
- In 2018, Adult Ministries built programs around the pastors’ themes: Born United Sent. This meant terrific Adult Education programming on a wide range of topics, including refugees, prison ministries, and women in Ancient Israel.
- We broadened our reach by implementing for the first time GPC Bible in Your Inbox, a free and voluntary subscription to receive daily scripture readings that track the Born United Sent theme (Acts/Born; 1 Corinthians/United; Matthew/Sent; and Advent readings as well).
- A second Listening Workshop and dinner with Dr. Angela Huebner (PhD, Licensed Marriage Therapist) reinforced the United theme, and taught additional ways to deepen our connections with one another, bridging the partisan divide.
- Adult Ministries narrowed its focus in 2018, with GPC Café and Adults Raising Teens (ART) moving to Children’s Ministries, as those programs most affect parents with younger children.
- The Young Adults had our strongest year ever. We were awarded \$20,000 through the Wesley Innovation Hub, and our focus was on “*Vocation, and...*” and we welcomed Pastor Chris as our official *Pastor for Young Adults*.

## Adult Education

Adult Education's Sunday morning series had a banner year with a broad and deep range of issues of concern to our faith and our community.

- The year began with Elder Chuck Schilke discussing "Woodrow Wilson the Presbyterian" on the centennial of his 14 Points.
- David Greer gave a memorable interpretation of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail".
- Former GPC Member Melissa Overmyer discussed her latest book, "Born to Soar".
- Former Member, Ken Rutherford, gave a very personal talk, "The Land Mine Crisis: A Survivor's Tale".
- Moving into February, Resident Scholar Adrian Vaagenes led two fascinating, inter-active discussions regarding Dostoyevsky's "The Grand Inquisitor and Christian Freedom."
- Following the Guest Preacher, U.S. Senate Chaplain Rev. Barry Black, we had a panel discussion regarding some of the ideas raised by Chaplain Black with GPC Members Marissa Baly and Will Quinn as panelists and Alan Wisdom as moderator.
- Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of Presbyterian Office of Public Witness discussed "The PC (USA)'s Commitment to Justice Advocacy".
- GWU Prof. Jon Wood discussed "Reformation @500: The Anabaptists and the Radical Wing".
- Prof. David Little, just back from a fellowship in Hong Kong gave us his thoughts regarding "Human Rights in Hong Kong".
- Rev. Rachel Vaagenes outlined CE's plans for 2018-19, including thoughts about the major series later known as "Born, United, Sent"; this consists of 3 six-week parts focused on specific books of the Bible: Acts, 1 Corinthians and the Parables of Matthew, respectively.
- GPC Member Brian Boda led a highly instructive panel of GPC Members in a discussion of "Young Adults Ministry at GPC" including their role in a two-year Wesley Theological Seminary study program concerning what makes for a successful Young Adults Ministry.
- The Church Year concluded with perennial favorite, Dr. Bruce Douglass, Director, Reformed Institute, discussing "500 Years and Counting—Protestantism's next Chapter".
- We resumed after the summer break with Rev. Dr. Camille Murray's "State of the Church" report and forecast.
- Elder Alan Wisdom summarized the results of the 2018 General Assembly of the PC(USA). Rev. Dr. Murray came back to give us a recap of her 2018 sabbatical.
- Then, on the first Sunday in October, GPC began the six-week "Born" segment of its Born/United/Sent Biblical exploration, this segment focused on Acts. Adult Ed supplemented this series with speakers on relevant topics, starting with GWU Prof. Jon Wood discussing "The Early Church: Born by the Spirit and Growing in Grace."
- That was followed by Prof. Denise Hopkins discussing "The 'Ordinary Women' of Ancient Israel".
- We then had a two-part exploration of issues relating to prison reform. The first of these sessions was led by Hon. William Maddox, US Department of Justice, and Julie Abbate, formerly with DOJ and now

National Advocacy Director for Just Detention International. The second Sunday devoted to prison reform was led by John Koufos, Executive Director, Safe Streets and Second Chances Project, and Jenny Kim, Deputy General Counsel, Political Law, and Vice President, Public Policy, Koch Companies Public Sector.

- Our focus then shifted to matters concerning refugees with Rev. Dr. Nancy Fox, Chair, Outreach Foundation and Parish Associate at National Presbyterian, discussing the work of the Outreach Foundation and its work through local churches.
- Taking a break from “Born”, Elder Susan Page, Washington Bureau Chief, *USA Today* gave an SRO analysis of the midterm elections titled, “Now What”.
- Completing our Born series, Dr. James Cobey drew on his life-time work regarding international health issues, discussing “Taking Care of People in the Largest Open-Air Prison in the World—Gaza.”
- The calendar year ended with a series of Advent discussions led by Parish Associate Rev. Olivia Lane titled “A Turbulent World and the Practice of Advent.”

The members of the Adult Education Committee include Lucy Coble; Judi Crowson; Mary Margaret Hart; Judy & Steve Hopkins; Ann Hunt; Shelley Jennings; Nancy & David Roll; Mary Beth Ray; Chuck Schilke; and David Slentz. Rev. Rachel Vaagenes is the staff liaison.

### **Adults Raising Teens**

ART Class continued to build strong relationships with monthly gatherings on Sunday nights.

### **Bible Studies**

*While there were fewer general Bible Studies this year, we did have regular bible study in our Officer Trainings and Leadership Intensive (2 Timothy), which are recorded elsewhere in the report.*

Wednesday Morning and College Bible were taught by Rev. Vaagenes

Wednesday Evening taught by Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen

Sunday Morning Bible was led by Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen, Adrian Vaagenes, and Alan Wisdom

Winter/Spring: College, Sunday Morning, Wednesday Morning and Wednesday Evening Classes on Daniel in Lent.

Fall: Wednesday evening Studies on Acts in September-November (including an all-church Acts overview on October 7).

### **Heritage**

In 2018, The Heritage Committee began keeping an open door before and after church services. An estimated 60 visitors came during the year to see the church archives, ask questions, and offer information.

**Transcription and digitization of manuscript documents.** Our efforts to preserve fragile, faded-ink manuscript documents and to make their information accessible moved forward this year with the purchase and installation of a printer/scanner to aid transcription. Adrian Vaagenes lent technical assistance for

the set-up. The 1792 ledger transcription continues. We are now seeking readers and typists to speed this project to completion.

**Publication of an updated history booklet.** *Georgetown Presbyterian Church, Our Heritage and Legacy* was published in the fall. As of December, 125 copies have been distributed. Printing will continue contingent on demand.

**Displays.** Permanent displays of historical photographs, pew charts, the Civil War Register of our church as hospital, and many other artifacts are available for viewing in the Heritage Room.

**Ministry Fair Sunday.** Of special interest was our display of a prayer rug and a brief talk by Robert McFarlane about its provenance.

**Wall of History.** Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen gave us the idea for displaying history outside the Heritage Room on the wall of the long hallway. We installed six panels and produced revolving themes of displays: a timeline of our church in the context of U.S. history, a look at our church properties over more than two centuries, portraits of some of our outstanding pastors, with quotations from their sermons, and panels showing congregational events and activities.

**Conservation efforts.** Heritage added to a compilation of church furnishings and items that need conservation or even preservation: needlepoint artwork on chapel cushion covers, the Washington Room breakfront, and picture frames and glass replacements of archival quality among others. One item was professionally restored this year by the efforts and generosity of Liza Marshall and Jay Grauberger: the ornate silver 1888 baptismal bowl.

**Children's talk.** Two children's classes met with a Heritage Committee member in November, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. They listened to stories especially relating to children in the early days of our church, and they stamped cards with the church seal. The children had been studying the genealogy of Jesus, and presented to the Heritage Room a poster they had drawn illustrating some of Jesus' ancestors. And in the Heritage Room, they began to appreciate ancestors of our church, and to realize that one day they may be leaders of our church. Their poster was affixed to the Heritage Room door for a month, and then carefully placed in the archives.

**Gifts to the church under the protection of the archives.** This year our archives received a cache of documents, sound recordings, and memorabilia relating to a former music director, William Watkins as a gift from Dr. Neal Campbell, who came to our archives to research the history of our organ. Other gifts were archival materials, recordings, copies of a primer, copies of drawings, and a display case for the 1888 baptismal bowl.

**Research projects.** Compilation of brief biographies of Balch children and grandchildren began this year. Because sources disagree on some of the dates and details, we are attempting to confirm the facts. Sought original documents relating to the church seal. Inspected the church bell and researched its history. Toured the attic to view timbers of the 1821 church. Documented the scenes in the Georgetown Room painted by Nancy Weyl. Compiled a list of refugee families. Ann Hunt created a brochure on refugees aided by our church. Tried unsuccessfully to confirm several reports of U.S. Presidents' visits to our church.

Only one is documented: Eisenhower on Palm Sunday 1953. Information about Oak Hill Cemetery.

**Research for outside requests.** A Beall descendant sought information about his ancestors. A U.S. Commission for Fine Arts historian continues her research for a book about early churches in Georgetown. A Freemason officer asked about early members of the church who were Freemasons. A former member needed to know the date he joined. Several requests for information about ancestors who were members or who were buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery. Organist Dr. Neal Campbell sought information about our organ for a book on church organs that he is writing.

**Retention review.** Ann Hunt and Anna Schuhart reviewed two large containers of major gifts and estate files and set aside those to be archived. Anna sorted and standardized the filing system for records of special gifts to the church. Ann Hunt and John Schuhart organized finance records. Inventoried books for archival retention.

### **Weekly articles, in *Heritage Happenings*, reporting results of research on church history.**

Expenditures by the Heritage Committee were well within budget.

We are grateful to the pastors and to all others who worked with us in 2018, and look forward to another year when GPC will be making, preserving, and sharing its remarkable history.

### **Library**

The library has enjoyed its first year in the newly designed space. It has been a place for bible study, meetings, Sunday morning quiet, and occasional research. We have added several new commentaries from the *Belief* series, which offer contemporary theological takes on scripture.

### **Officer Training/Leadership Intensive**

Officer Training in January/February was our second round of this form of trainings for new elders and deacons at GPC. There were 5 new deacons and 4 new elders trained from January 10 to February 7, with a written exam presented on February 9. The course focused on articulating our particular Christian calling at this time and place. Topics included *Articulating Our Religious Pilgrimage; Being a Spiritual Leader; The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*; along with practical issues such as budget, how to run a meeting, and foundations of Presbyterian polity.

In the Spring we held the third annual Christian Leadership Intensive. During this time we studied 2 Timothy. The 6-week course had 10 participants, young and old, member and non-member. Projects to emerge were: exploration of vocation and prayer (evolving into the Young Adults Fall Retreat and vocation series); and questions about how to better utilize our kitchen in the community.

### **Young Adults**

GPC's Young Adults ministry is thriving. In 2018, the YAs looked to grow and improve, paying particular attention to a commitment to help each other become more complete followers of Christ. Each person plays a part in this important mission.

Marissa Baly, Brian Boda, and Deacon David Slentz formed the 2018 core leadership team. Later, Megan Brew and Priscila Rodriguez brought fresh ideas and provided sustainability. Doug Hillhouse liaised as it pertained to the Wesley Grant. Thanks to Mary Margaret Hart, Meredith Wilson, and others for heading special projects. Finally, thanks to Pastor Chris Chatelaine-Samsen. He was charged over the summer to add YAs to his portfolio, and he has contributed a supportive and strong organizational ability as well as great structural perspectives to our group. He facilitated several dinner discussions to great praise and excitement. We thank all the leaders for their contributions to the success of the group.

There are about 100 active YAs. Most events exceeded 20 people with a few bringing in well over 30. We continue to focus on supporting individual and small group faith needs, as appropriate. All of our events this year were hosted in private homes and apartments. Thank you to all the hosts for so graciously welcoming us. Highlights included:

- Continued monthly “dinner and discussions” that were programmatically rigorous and challenged each YA to articulate faith in one’s daily life. The first few hewn closely to the Bible as well as recent sermons and were guided discussions on the epiphany and transfiguration as well as what it means to be a witness to your faith. The latter part of the year featured the kickoff of our year-long study on vocation, including fascinating conversations on vocation and rest.
- Executed post-church brunches to explore special or unique aspects of the GPC community. Two notable programs were: “music at GPC” lecture and discussion hosted by music director Mark Willey as well as an Oak Hill Cemetery tour led by Superintendent and GPC member Dave Jackson. We once again joined Roni Haggart and Chuck Work for a fun day on the Eastern Shore.
- Submitted a final project and were awarded \$20,000 for the Innovation Hub grant through the Lilly Foundation and the Wesley Theological Seminary, one of only five young adult ministries in the greater Washington D.C. area to be selected. The team presented their initial plan and findings to an Adult Education class before church. Congrats and thank you to everyone who participated on this great effort. Special thanks to Edit Frenyo.
- Served and evangelized in many ways. The YAs hosted two dinner services for the winter shelter. We also were major supporters to the Georgetown Sunday Dinners and Georgetown Saturday Suppers. Over the summer, we joined a Habitat for Humanity build day and continued construction on a multi-unit dwelling in Anacostia. Finally, a group of young adults brought the joy of music to Ingleside residents as well as the homes of a few members with our own renditions of classic Christmas carols and hymns. We will continue this spirit of service in 2019.
- Retreated to the hills of Harper’s Ferry, where Pastor Chris, Parish Associate Olivia Lane, and Vicki Pedrick facilitated a three day retreat. As part of the focus on vocation, participants took part in conversations, one on one discernment, prayer, and other important faith exercises. Practicing these personal disciplines as well as sharing faith with others will help the YAs thrive in the future.

- **Looking ahead to 2019...**Continuing our year of vocation, the spring will feature an intergenerational mentorship cohort, bringing together young adults and adults further along in their careers together for a discussion of faith and how call is discerned and lived out in the real world. Intergenerational ministry is a natural gift of GPC's that we're excited to lean in to.
- We're excited to see new ministries naturally emerging, like a nascent women's book club.
- Young adult leaders along with Georgetown Sunday Dinner leaders will be piloting a boot/shoe ministry for our guests at the Sunday Dinners early in the year.
- We'll be revamping the Sunday Brunch discussions as a way to focus on creating easy entry points to connect for people who are new to the congregation.

**FINALLY, on behalf of the Adult Ministries leadership**, thanks to everyone on the committee, and the participants, for their incredible faith, hard work and cheerfulness.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Ray, Chair

Lucy Coble and David Slentz, Vice Chairs

Jolene Blozis, Brian Boda, Steve Hopkins, Laura Speer, Adrian Vaagenes, and Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Buildings and Grounds Committee

2018 was a busy year for the Buildings and Grounds Committee, as longer-term repair and capital projects began to be implemented, growing out of the recommendations of the engineering and facilities report commissioned by GPC in early 2017. Many other projects were undertaken as well, and they are noted here alphabetically.

**AED system:** GPC contracted with an outside vendor to help manage the defibrillator in the Georgetown Room. DC requires that the system be checked regularly for operational capability. The vendor's system will help GPC:

- Know when component parts like pads need to be replaced,
- File required disclosures with DC in the unlikely event the unit needs to be used; and
- Set up training classed in First Aid/CPR/AED use for GPC staff and others responsible for the congregation (ushers, Children's Ministry workers, etc.)

**Alarm System:** A proposal from ARK Systems to update and upgrade the older fire alarm/security system with a modern system including exterior cameras was finally received in the spring of 2018. However, as the Security and Emergency

Preparedness Task Force began its work at roughly the same time, the decision to purchase and install the system was put on hold until the Task Force could finish its deliberations and issue recommendations. About the time in late fall when the Task Force issued its recommendations, including upgrading the alarm system, two thefts occurred inside the Church. ARK was asked to amend its proposal to include interior cameras to deter future thefts. Session has also asked for additional bids to more fully evaluate ARK's proposal. ARK's current proposal is for roughly \$45,000, and B&G intends to pay for the alarm system (regardless of who supplies and installs it) out of the capital expenditure funds accrued in 2018. The Committee expects the new system to be installed by early 2019.

**Attics and Insulation:** Per the recommendations from the facilities report and energy review, the insulation in the Sanctuary attic needs to be augmented. Improving the attic insulation will decrease air loss through the Sanctuary roof and lower heating and cooling bills. In order to augment the insulation in the Sanctuary attic, the recessed lighting fixtures would need to be covered over with insulation from the attic side. This was not possible previously, as the existing light bulbs are incandescent that burn very hot, and they might ignite any insulation. The Committee, working with GPC member Bill Krowkoski, has initiated a project to replace the existing bulbs with LED bulbs, which run much cooler, and would allow insulation to be placed over the whole floor of the attic. The light bulbs are being changed out in January of 2019 and the new insulation will follow soon thereafter. Additionally, an old duct that is no longer in service, but runs the length of the attic, must also be insulated. This will require the expertise of a mechanical engineer. Finally, an existing exhaust fan has been found to be in good working order and will be reactivated in the spring. This will draw hot air out of the attic in the summer and improve the performance of the cooling units.

The insulation in the Balch Hall attic is in poor condition. However, the roof is made of concrete panels and the air loss is likely not as acute from that space. An exhaust fan should be cut into the roof or attic wall to draw out hot air in the summer.

**Basement Flooding:** During heavy rains, the west side of the basement would often flood the men's bathroom, the custodian's office, and down the hallway. Thanks to the recommendation of GPC member Donald Gibson, the Committee retained a structural engineering firm to examine the likely points of entry for water into the basement. The firm provided a list of likely fixes but did not recommend replacing the entire concrete walkway between the Manse and GPC. The simplest recommendations have already been implemented, and as a result, that portion of the basement has remained dry even during recent torrential rains.

However, the front of the basement, including the electrical and fire control room, did not remain dry during a heavy December rain. The Committee is working with a mason to identify any leak points in the concrete and masonry at the front of the church. Any needed work would likely be temporary during the cold winter months, and permanent repairs undertaken in the warmer months, when caulking and bonding materials perform better.

**Manse:** The Manse is still occupied by the same tenant and her family. The new management company, EJF, has been responsive and helped execute several



repairs, including the front doors and rear gate of the Manse, as well as the Manse HVAC system, which had to be replaced in August.

EJF has also verified that the Manse is subject to DC rent control laws, and now ensures that GPC can take the maximum rent increase allowed by DC law each year.

**Narthex:** The ceiling of the Narthex was repainted in the summer of 2018.

**Woodwork-**In several places throughout the Church and Balch Hall, wood surfaces have been damaged from age and water. The Committee retained a contractor to begin repair in several locations:

- Replacing the Columbarium Door (with a wood-clad steel door)
- Repairing wood rot on the window trim outside the Columbarium
- Painting the wooden window frames on the front of the Sanctuary and Balch Hall.

**Water valves:** The main gate valves that supply water from DC were discovered to be rusted during the kitchen project. In February 2018, they were replaced, resulting in improved water pressure throughout the building.

Several important projects remain for 2019 and beyond:

- Installation of upgraded security system (see above)
- Repair or replacement of Sanctuary front and rear doors. The middle front Sanctuary door was damaged recently during an attempt to open it, revealing significant age and wear. The Committee needs to find a vendor who can either add crash bars to the main doors, or determine if the doors are not in sufficient condition to stand up to the installation of crash bars and therefore be replaced.
- Any needed masonry and caulking repairs on front steps (see above)

Bricks on exterior rear wall of Balch Hall, and portion of exterior west wall of Sanctuary to be repointed.

Basement Engineering (flood prevention)	3,250
Electrical (repairs, upgrade Sanctuary lights)	5,475
Elevator (inspections and repair)	4,887
HVAC	12,173
Kitchen (supplies, plumbing)	2,602
Painting(Narthex)	3,878
Security (repair, maintenance, radios)	4,127
Woodwork/Repair	3,565

Respectfully submitted:

Jimmy Wilson (Chair)  
Tom Lotterman

## Care Team

### January 2018

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#### Prayer Chain:

- In January we sent out three prayer chains asking for prayers for four individuals and their families/communities
- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers

#### Meals Update:

- Six meals, over the next two weeks are being coordinated for a recovering member.
- We have two new babies at GPC and JP has followed up with each family. No meals to be coordinate as of now, but we will follow up with the families to see if they would like meals at a later date.

#### Cards Update:

- Cards were sent this month to three members/families.

### February 2018

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#### Prayer Chain:

- In February we sent out two prayer chains asking for prayers for four individuals and their families/communities
- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers

#### Meals Update:

- Six meals were provided to a recovering member.
- We reached out to a member regarding meals and they declined
- A member has requested meals and we will work on coordinating these with her in the coming weeks.

#### Pastoral Visits:

- Ashley completed a pastoral visit.
- Pastoral visits were distributed to the Care Team

#### Cards Update:

- Cards were sent this month to 3 members.

**Rides:** Several people have thought about wanting rides, but have declined.

### March 2018

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#### Prayer Chain:

- In March we sent out two prayer chains asking for prayers for three individuals and their families/communities
- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers

**Meals Update:**

- Meals are being coordinated for new parents, for 6 meals delivered twice per week, between April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- A family is expecting a baby girl in May. We have not scheduled meals yet but will touch base with them in May
- A member has requested meals and we will work on coordinating these with them in the coming weeks.

**Cards Update:**

- Cards were sent this month to two members.

**Flower Update:**

- Flowers were coordinated following Easter service.

**Rides:** Several people have thought about wanting rides, but have declined.

April 2018

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**Prayer Chain:**

- In April we sent out two prayer chains asking for prayers for two families
- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers.

**Meals Update:**

- Meals were coordinated for a GPC family. The last meals were provided the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- A family welcomed a baby in April. We have scheduled meals beginning the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>. We have reached out to the young adult group and the Georgetown group.

**Pastoral Visits:**

- Ashley visited 2 members while delivering Easter Lillies.

**Cards Update:**

- Cards were sent this month to one member

**Rides:** Several people have thought about wanting rides, but have declined.

May 2018

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**Prayer Chain:**

- In May we sent out one prayer chain asking for prayers.

- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers.

**Meals Update:**

- A member is having a series of surgeries. We have coordinated 4 meals so far, with an additional 2 more TBD.

**Pastoral Visits:**

- No visits during May.

**Cards Update:**

- 1 card was sent to a family

**Rides:** Several people have thought about wanting rides, but have declined.

**June 2018/July 2018/August 2018/ September 2018**

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**Prayer Chain:**

- In July we sent three prayer chains for four individuals and their families.
- In August we sent three prayer chains five individuals and their families.
- In September we sent three prayer chains for three individuals and their families.
- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers.

**Meals Update:**

- A member will be having surgery in October and November. Potential meals recipient or we will send a card.
- A family welcomed a baby on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be coordinated in October for this family.

**Flowers:**

- Flowers were sent to a member.

**November 2018**

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**Prayer Chain:**

- In November we sent one prayer chain for one individual.
- We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers.

**Meals Update:**

- A member will be having surgery in October and November. Potential meals recipient or we will send a card.
- New Baby – the Care Team reached out to coordinate meals. The family graciously declined as they have plenty of help.
- A family had a baby girl.. Care team is currently coordinating meals.

**Rides:** Organizing rides for a member

## **December 2018**

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### **Prayer Chain:**

In December we sent one two prayer chains for six individuals.

We followed up with each of the GPC members and asked if they needed anything in addition to prayers.

**Rides:** Organizing rides for a member

## **Children's and Youth Ministries Committee**

Throughout 2018, the Children's Ministries Committee continued to be guided by three primary goals:

- To increase the faith of our children and youth in the love of Jesus Christ
- To grow our children and youth's understanding of the Bible and Christianity
- To grow our children and youth's ownership of GPC as their church home

Over recent years, GPC has been blessed with growing numbers, including the addition of many new families and young children to our church community. 2018 was no exception. There are now more than 140 children and youth from age 0-18, almost exactly half of which are children ages five and under.

The Committee and a dedicated team of regular leaders and volunteers, as well as many one-off volunteers from throughout the congregation, have worked hard to offer programming that meets our children, youth, and families where they are, and supports them on their faith journey. We are thankful for the many ways in which God has made this work possible this year, and look forward to what the coming year brings.

### ***Acknowledgements***

The Committee recognizes the many ways in which the congregation has provided support, encouragement, and eager helping hands to nurture our children's programming this year. We are so grateful for the community of faith that exists here at GPC.

The Committee would especially like to lift up Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes who has continued to lead with wisdom, compassion, and good humor this year. Her tireless efforts on behalf of our children and families are truly a blessing. The Committee is also immensely grateful for the addition of Jennie Lopez to our team as Children's Ministry Director this year. Jennie has brought energy, insight, and a faithful dedication to serving GPC's youngest members to this role, and has made much of our new programming possible. We would also like to express our gratitude to Rev. Camille Cook Murray and Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samson for their leadership of Children's Church and their support across all children's education programming.

Children's Ministries has been fortunate to be served by an energetic and dedicated committee this year, and we are thankful for the many ways the members have given of their time and talents. Committee members for 2018 include: Regina Andrade,

Sean Buckley, Tracy Davis, Gonzalo Ferro (Deacon Representative), Tory Gentry (Deacon Representative), Claire Gillum (Deacon Chair), Megan Kennedy, Katie Novaria, Ginny Snider, Brian Stocker, Louise Sumner, Brett Voyles, Grace Wenzel, Esther Wisdom, Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes, and Jimmy Wilson. In addition to our Committee Members, there are also countless lay leaders supporting Sunday School, Youth Group, Young Children and Worship, and special event programming throughout the year. We are so grateful to each of you!

The following are highlights from Children's Ministry programming in 2018:

### ***Education Hour***

#### **Sunday School**

In 2018, we have continued to follow the same curriculum structure as we have been using in recent years. Each week this includes a Bible Story, an encounter (an interactive way to learn about the Bible Story, such as a craft or activity, led by a different member of the congregation each week) and a focus time (a more traditional way of thinking and learning about the story, such as discussion and questions). Starting in the fall, we were excited to join with the rest of the church in following the "Born" theme through our stories and lessons. Moving into 2019, we will continue to do so, with "United" and "Sent" themes to come.

The work that goes on behind the scenes when it comes to executing a morning Sunday School lesson, including coordinating new and engaging stories and activities each week, is remarkable. So many of our volunteers come from across the church, and most don't have children in grade school or any children. That so many congregants have shared a Sunday School story or "Encounter" session with our classes speaks to the vibrancy of the program, and the exciting way in which it is connecting people of all ages across the church.

We are thankful for the leadership of Esther Wisdom, Brett Voyles, Grace Wenzel, Emma Marshall, Casey Nolan and Jennie Lopez, all of whom contributed greatly to our Sunday School programming this year. We are also grateful for the musical gifts of Regina Andrade and her singing with the children each week.

### ***Worship Hour***

#### **Young Children and Worship**

In 2017 we expanded to offering two concurrent classes for YCW (pre-K and K-2<sup>nd</sup>). We were able to continue to do so throughout 2018, and have seen our numbers grow even further; many weeks each class has averaged 10-15 children.

To meet this increasing demand for YCW programming, we were fortunate to achieve the following this year:

- Brought in an official YCW trainer for a full 2-day training with existing and new volunteers. This allowed us to expand our pool of regular, trained volunteers, as well as to refresh the skills and enthusiasm of

seasoned leaders. The trainer also spent time reviewing our YCW spaces and providing suggestions to reorganize and create a more worshipful environment for our children

- Revitalized the Old Library space and adapted it into a YCW classroom for the pre-K class. This allowed us to create a second dedicated YCW space (the Colonial Room is used for the K-2<sup>nd</sup> class), rather than sharing a temporary classroom with FMS on the third floor
- With several seasoned YCW leaders leaving the volunteer rotation this year, we recruited and trained several new leaders who have quickly become wonderful additions to the program

We are extremely thankful for the time and energy devoted to this program by Katie Novaria, who coordinates the YCW scheduling, and to all of the individuals who served as leaders for this program in 2018: Ann Abanto, Sean Buckley, Kuang Chiang, Crystal Espie, Gonzalo Ferro, Michele Gast, Sharon Gibson, Claire Gillum, Sydney Lee, Emma Marshall, Gerardo Martinez, Casey Nolan, Katie Novaria, Priscila Rodriguez, Katherine Scott, Alex Scott, Jessie Sterchi, Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes, Michelle Wilson, Jimmy Wilson, and Laura Yost.

### **Children's Church**

Revs. Vaagenes, Chatelaine-Samsen, and Murray continue to take turns leading Children's Church in the chapel each week, assisted by the wonderful Ms. Regina Andrade. Children's Church added the practice of bringing up 2nd graders half-way through the program year (in January), which went smoothly.

### ***Other Programming***

#### **Nursery**

With the large number of infants in the church, we are extremely thankful for the diligent Nursery care provided by Gamage Perera, Swarna Nawarathna and Jennie Rivera on Sunday mornings. We are also thankful for Ginny Snider, who continues to provide refreshments for the nursery each week.

#### **Youth Group**

Youth Group was well attended for the first half of the calendar year/second half of the 2017/2018 program year, and we have been encouraged to see attendance increase further during the first half of the 2018/2019 program year. We recognize the many competing demands on our youths' time, and are thankful for the faithful dedication of our youth – and their families – to making a commitment to attend Youth Group each Sunday evening.

Highlights from Youth Group this year include serving two Georgetown Sunday Dinners; choosing to use their dedicated mission funding to sponsor two female students through our partnership with Remember Niger, and Youth Sunday on April 30. We had great participation and it was wonderful to see so many youth involved in leading the service; as always, it was especially inspiring to hear the meditations of some of the older members of the Youth Group. Sadly the Fall Retreat had to be cancelled due to a weather emergency but the youth still managed to enjoy fun and fellowship with a trip bowling and a cookout at Pastor Rachel's house.

We are immensely thankful for our Youth Group leaders and volunteers Tracy Davis, Brett Voyles, Grace Wenzel, and Jim Williams (for 2017-2018), Matt Nussbaum, Chris Griswold, and Lori Shoemaker (for 2018-2019), and to Tory Gentry for her faithful leadership throughout.

### **Confirmation**

2018 also began a new model for confirmation, a 17-week intensive where 5 youths were paired with mentors who worked with them each week. Congratulations to Mary Elizabeth Boatwright, Kakie Colclough, Stewart Campbell-Jourdan, Christopher Howe, and Elson Bankoff; and special thanks to mentors: Patricia Berl, David Howe, Carolyn Campbell, Tom Lotterman, and Marissa Baly for volunteering their time and efforts in mentoring this class.

### **Children's Library**

We appreciate Ginny Snider's faithful work to maintain a rotating selection of children's books, relevant to particular lessons or seasonal themes, on a display rack in the Chapel. In 2019 we hope to find ways to make the larger Children's Library collection accessible to more GPC families.

### **Children's Music**

Thanks to the dedication and talents of Regina Andrade and Mark Willey, we have been lucky to see continued growth in our children's music ministry in 2018. We had increased participation for the praise and singing time in the chapel, as well as the children singing during the worship service. Over the course of the year the children sang four times during the service, with the addition of two special performances from a group of older children who dedicated time to extra rehearsals to prepare their two pieces, "Go Now in Peace" and "One Star." It is such a blessing to hear music and the sound of joyful voices filling the chapel each Sunday morning as our children request their favorite songs and sing with great energy, alongside many parents.

In 2018 we continued our Friday morning Music for Tots program, designed for young children (6 months to 4 years) and their caregivers. This program involves a mix of religious and non-religious songs and activities to involve more the families of the church with little ones, as well as offer families in the wider community an opportunity to be introduced to GPC in a non-traditional way. We had three sessions of 9-10 weeks each throughout the year with attendance as follows: Winter (16), Spring (14), Fall (12). We also attended a free Christmas Music for Tots session in December, which was attended by an amazing 19 children and their caregivers. Special thanks are due to Regina Andrade for her leadership of this program!

### ***Special Events***

***Palm Sunday:*** The children helped us remember the wonder and celebration of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem by waving fronds during the palm processional on Palm Sunday. We thank the Flower Committee for their support of this special event.

***Easter Sunday:*** In the midst of many Easter Sunday events, which included Young Children and Worship programming for both services, we held the popular



Easter Egg Hunt for a record-breaking number of children. Special thanks to the Wisdom family for their leadership of this much-loved event.

**Youth Sunday:** We were blessed to have our youth lead a worship service this April, and enjoyed the opportunity to hear the youth read scripture, lead us in prayer, and give the morning message.

**Bible Sunday:** To end the program year, children in 1st, 5th, 9th and 12th grade were recognized with age-appropriate Bibles in the worship service.

**Pancake Sunday:** To begin the new program year, GPC children and families were invited to a Pancake breakfast before morning worship. We thank all those who attended and helped out with the event, including one volunteer who flipped dozens of pancakes with a broken foot.

**Advent:** Louise Sumner led the children's participation in the Advent services this year. This included the children learning and reading Advent passages and lighting Advent candles in the lead up to Christmas. We are so grateful to Louise for coordinating, and to all of the children who participated.

**Christmas Eve Pageant:** The Christmas Eve pageant took place during the Christmas Eve service and involved more than 65 children presenting the Christmas story before leading the congregation in singing Silent Night. Sincere thanks go to Jennie Lopez for coordinating, Mark Willey for music direction, and Tim Shand and Victoria Clarke, who lent us Alexandra, who played our youngest baby Jesus to date at just 6 days old!

**Pizza Wednesdays:** In 2018 we were excited to launch a new program for our GPC families. Each Wednesday evening we invite families to come as they are able to join together for pizza and fellowship. This is an exciting way in which we're looking to strengthen connections between our families outside of our routine Sunday programming. Over the first few weeks attendance has been good, with approximately 35 people attending, and we look forward to seeing this grow in 2019.

## Communications Committee

Building on goals and momentum from 2017, the Communications Committee has implemented a brand that is effective, uniform, and efficient. Communications helps GPC to produce effective messaging for evangelism and outreach.

Everything that we produce from our digital presence to printed materials, is an opportunity to consistently share information and build relationships with members, guests and the broader community. We continue to work closely with Josh Berman on our branding efforts. He is a member who specializes in design and branding and continues to generously offer his time and talents. In 2018, we launched:

- A new tagline, "Serving our city, united in Christ"
- Revised logo, which accurately replicates the original seal, and adds a turning page that symbolizes looking towards the future

- Brand guidelines, including standardized fonts, colors and more
- Refreshed bulletin

We are also working to overhaul the website to model our new brand. The new website will be more user friendly and mobile reactive. Stay tuned for more information!

Latesha Kelly continues to bring enthusiasm, attention to detail, and creativity as our Communications Coordinator and Office Manager. We have leaned heavily on her skills, and have invested in Adobe Photoshop and trainings to enhance our in-house graphic design capabilities to support committee needs and our uniform branding goals.

We have worked closely with many committees to support their outreach and publicity efforts through social media, emails, banners, mailers and more. For instance, we supported last year's Guest Preacher Event, the new GPC photo directory, Stewardship, Holy Week, Advent, "Born. United. Sent." and more. In 2019, we look forward to further coordinating with the Board of Deacons and Session to strengthen our outreach to the congregation and community.

In September we organized the annual Ministry Fair. We are grateful for those who have offered their time and talents. In particular, we want to recognize Adrian Vaagenes and John Struble, our resident photographers. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Latesha Kelly at [lmk@gtownpres.org](mailto:lmk@gtownpres.org).

We are grateful for strong pastoral support from all pastors, and in particular Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen. He provided valuable insights, leadership and direction to ensure a strong communication roll out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Crystal Espie, Chair, Elizabeth Avery, Steve Hopkins, Latesha Kelly, Rev. Rachel Vaagenes

## Hospitality Committee

In 2018, the Hospitality Committee helped to foster fellowship at GPC through shared meals. All of the committee's activities have relied on the help of countless volunteers who helped to set up events, provide food, and clean.

The Hospitality Committee's activities in 2018 included:

- Serving Lunch Bunch and Punch Bunch after every worship service.
  - o In the Fall of 2018, the committee made a decision to start serving Lunch Bunch free (Punch Bunch also continues to be free). This decision was made in order to make the communal lunch more accessible regardless of ability to pay. The committee will continue to accept donations to help fund Lunch Bunch, but will not require a payment. Since instituting the new policy, attendance at lunch bunch has increased.

- o The committee continued to host themed lunch/punch events based on holidays and seasons.
- o The committee started an “emergency supply” of non-perishable food to be used for Punch Bunch if there is no volunteer.
- Providing receptions or funerals, when requested.
- Hosting the annual church BBQ, with guests from Mt. Zion UMC.
- Hosting the annual St Nick’s dinner to kick off GPC’s advent celebrations.
  - o Well over 100 in attendance.
  - o The committee re-organized the traditional layout for St Nick’s by using the Washington Room to host Santa’s visit and to provide overflow seating, which helped the evening run smoothly.
- Ongoing re-organization of the new kitchen, including the creation of new kitchen rules and routine cleaning to discard of old food.

## Long Range Planning Committee

During 2018, the Long Range Planning Committee met on a quarterly basis. In addition, meetings with the Senior Pastor and the Music Director were held to discuss their respective visions for the church going forward.

The Committee goal in 2018 was to arrive at a consensus on how best to involve the congregation in the long-term planning process. During 2019, the Committee wishes to lead a visioning exercise to determine what should be done regarding organ repair and how to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2030. It will be a year of listening and research, ending with concrete proposals for the next decade.

Mission: Maximize the potential for GPC to grow and continue Serving Our City, United in Christ, for at least another 239 years.

Planning Horizon: A congregational survey and a series of meetings over the next year will be the first steps. Implementation and adjusting goals and objectives will continue over the next 3 years and beyond into the future. In other words, beyond the terms of all Elders currently serving on the Session.

The LRP Committee believes the focus should be on the church’s goals over time. We need to know what is important to the membership. Therefore, we should begin the conversation by asking the following questions:

1. Will the growth of the congregation continue? If so, will GPC have to change how it utilizes the limited physical space available to it? Should GPC expand its physical presence? If so, how? Will more than one service be needed or desired in the future?
2. How should GPC celebrate 250 years of Christian witness in Georgetown?

3. Where should we be in 2030, and what path do we want to plot for the next 250 years? In other words, what is the mission of GPC, and will we need new programs/services to implement it?
4. How will GPC finance any/all changes? What is the current disposition of GPC's endowment? Should GPC undertake a capital campaign to address new space and activity needs?

If you have experience in strategic planning, LRP invites you to lend your time and talent to the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted Cynthia Farrell Johnson, Chair, John Schuhart and Jonda McFarlane;

Congregational Member: Charles Schilke

## **Membership and Nominating Committee**

Membership:

GPC added 38 members to its rolls in 2018 over five new member classes. The biannual audit of the membership rolls will take place in 2019.

Nominating:

In July, Elder Jennie Lopez stepped down from her term to begin her job as GPC's Children's Ministry Director. The Nominating Committee put forth Jay Grauberg to fill the 18-month term, and he was duly elected by the congregation and installed August.

The membership and nominating committee began the nominating process early for 2018, with its first meeting in early August. Pastor Rachel presided, as Pastor Camille was on sabbatical. The congregation was very active in providing quite a few candidates for deacon and elder. The process was completed by September, with Pastor Camille resuming her duty. We ended up with a very strong slate of candidates.

### **Elders Class of 2021**

Jennifer Hillman  
Rick Lawson  
Priscila Rodriguez  
Dwight Smith

### **Deacons Class of 2020**

Margaret Carvin

### **Deacons Class of 2021**

Beverly Jones  
Claire Craig  
Mary Margaret Hart  
Doug Hillhouse  
Joelle Justus  
Brian Stocker

The committee also nominated the following slate for the 2019 nominating committee:

Crystal Espie  
Barry Phelps  
Tom Jennings  
Russell Porter  
Judy Crowson  
Victoria Tigwell

All of these nominations were confirmed at the Congregational Meeting on November 4, 2018.

As committee chair, I would like to congratulate and thank a wonderful group of committee members for their thoughtfulness, diligence and focus: Lauren Wright, Alex Bullock, Liza Marshall, Katie Seaman, Cristian Lopez, Alan Wisdom, Elizabeth Avery and Pastors Rachel and Camille.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheldon Ray, Chair

## Member Team

Committee Members: Catherine Johnson, Chair; Ed Lewis, Barry Phelps, and Rich Bennett

### **Year in review, brief:**

- Over the course of 2018, Member Team supported four New Member Conferences and four New Member Sundays. We welcomed and supported a total of 30 new members in 2018!
- Member Team's biggest project in 2018 was certainly the creation of a GPC photo directory, and Ed Lewis deserves enormous credit for the work he put into seeing this project through to completion this year!
- The Shepherds program was revamped in efforts to streamline getting information to GPC volunteer shepherds about ways new members were interested in potentially engaging within the GPC community.
- The Circles program was continued this year, and notably, we worked with the Care Team to distribute sign-ups for meal trains within the appropriate Circle.
- Birthday cards were continued in 2018 and all GPC members were sent birthday cards over course of the year. We were also very excited to introduce the five different cover designs created by Excel Academy students this year!

## **Photo Directory**

- Current status as of mid-January 2019: We are in the final stages of preparing the Directory. LifeTouch will have the completed draft back to us in a week. We'll complete a thorough quality control and distribute the final Directory to members by end of January. We'll also include an insert assigning each member to a circle. In February we can distribute login information for the online directory.
- Over several dates when LifeTouch came to GPC for photo days, we have had over 90 families/groups that have done pictures, and there are a handful more of people who submitted non-LifeTouch photos directly to Ed for inclusion in the directory. We are now in a cadence with LifeTouch that will enable us to schedule additional picture days for the congregation as desired and as needed to include new members in the directory.
- Ed has developed a great relationship with the folks at LifeTouch and contributed a herculean effort to get this project across the finish line for 2018. Thank you, Ed!

## **Shepherds Initiative**

- Catherine worked with Rachel to build out a structure under which the Deacons can contribute ideas of ways to engage our new member classes by reviewing the details provided in their new member survey questionnaires to make suggestions, as appropriate. These notes were then compiled and distributed to the shepherd(s) for each 2018 new member class so that the shepherd(s) was/were well-equipped to reach out to their new members and mention – as appropriate – potential areas in which these folks might want to get more engaged in the life of the Church. Our goal in this re-design was to eliminate any undue burden placed on shepherds to be ‘universal experts’ so that we can engage people for this role who are newer to the church and may have an interest in working with new members but feel uncomfortable with the responsibility of connecting folks to any/all initiatives within GPC.
- New member classes hosted, as previously, the welcome reception punch bunches for the subsequent class of new members. Shepherds were involved in these events in coordinating logistics for their groups and helping to set up everything for the receptions.
- Chuck Schilke has been increasingly engaged with the new members as a shepherd or co-shepherd, and he's worked with multiple classes of new members this year. Thank you, Chuck!
- Overall, this was a successful revamp of the program, and it is my sincere hope that the program is better positioned now to continue to flourish in 2019.

## **Circles Program**

- The GPC Circles database was shared with the Care Team to help streamline communication as they distribute information about special requests and meal-train sign-ups to the appropriate Circle group(s).
- New contact details were added to this database, especially as some of the less active Circle had Care Team-related requests arise and needed to contact those groups.

- A major initiative for 2019 is to continue to improve this database – information will be distributed to all members to confirm the Circle to which they belong, and the database will continue to be updated with new contacts and contact information as appropriate.

### **Birthday Card Program**

- Barry took over this effort in 2018 and did a wonderful job in distributing birthday notes to everyone in the congregation over the course of the year. Thank you, Barry!
- We were also very excited to introduce the five different cover designs created by Excel Academy students this year!
- Current cards and supplies on hand as of Dec. 31, 2018, are:
  - 132 cards (5 different cover designs featuring Excel Academy student artwork, with Numbers 6: 24-26 Bible verses, short pre-printed greeting, and blank space for personalized message inside)
  - 173 plain white envelopes
  - 70 pre-printed GPC return address labels with church seal
  - 79 postage stamps (Peace Rose “Forever” design)
- Barry also has 11 generic church post cards and 16 stamps for miscellaneous “thank-you’s” if/when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Johnson, Deacon & Chair, Member Team  
 Barry Phelps, Deacon, Member Team  
 Ed Lewis, Deacon, Member Team

## **Mission Committee**

Members: Elder Susan Bell (Chair), Elder Cynthia Farrell Johnson, Deacon Victoria Tigwell, Elder Katie Seaman  
 Staff: Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen

*Mission Statement: We seek to engage our congregation in addressing the needs of God's children through service and partnerships that change us and those we serve.*

### **Homelessness**

**Members:** Victoria Tigwell, Chair; Patricia Davies, Rick Lawson, Melissa Hunsiker, Veronique DuPont

**GSS/GSD - 2018 Expenses:** \$5,000, + thousands in in-kind donations of food - As we are entering the 4th and 5th years for the Georgetown Sunday Dinners and Saturday Suppers, respectively, we continue to have increasing numbers, welcoming as many as 100 people on a Sunday here at GPC and Saturday at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church for a hot meal. While this has been a strain on our physical space,

volunteers have continued to give generously of their time and cooking abilities, and we have never run short on volunteers and food.

We have continued the “Soul Food” program with regular concerts at the dinners (with a pause for a few months to reconfigure the space), and have also added professional security to every Sunday in order to free volunteers to serve guests rather than monitor and intervene with the occasional minor conflict. We believe that this change will continue to help GSD in particular to remain sustainable over many years.

Thanks to Patricia Davies and Victoria Tigwell for coordination.

**Winter Shelter - 2018 Expenses: \$1000** - This past year, as we have now for decades, GPC hosted three weeks of the Winter Shelter, a floating shelter managed by the Georgetown Ministry Center that rotates through Georgetown churches. We’re grateful every year for the volunteers and leaders who make this possible. This coming year, we are looking forward to working with the Georgetown Ministry Center as they go through significant leadership change, and anticipate a smaller shelter in 2019. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this possible, and a special word of thanks to Rick Lawson for spearheading this effort three years in a row.

**Georgetown Ministry Center - 2018 Giving: \$14,000** - Founded three decades ago, the Georgetown Ministry Center serves the homeless community in Georgetown and Foggy Bottom with street outreach, day services, physical and psychiatric care, and access to housing. We rely on GMC as an essential partner not only through the Winter Shelter, but as we seek to serve our guests through the GSS/GSD program effectively. With an annual budget of about a half million dollars, GMC relies on the support of Georgetown churches and individuals who partner to provide resources for unhoused people in our neighborhood. GMC is led by a board of directors comprised partially of representatives from Georgetown congregations. These include Alex Bullock, who has served as President this past year, and Victoria Tigwell, chair of the homelessness team, and a faithful and committed leader of the Georgetown Sunday Dinners.

## **Education and Families**

**Members:** Cynthia Johnson, Chair; Shelley Jennings, Alice Bell, Janaiha Bennett, Katie Seaman

**Excel Academy Public Charter School - 2018 Giving: \$3600, + \$5500 from “Share the Love”** - Our partnership with Excel has grown significantly of the last few years, but we remember that Excel serves a uniquely vulnerable population. Two-thirds of these girls of color in Wards 7 and 8 are economically at-risk, and ten percent at any given time are homeless. 2018 was a difficult year for Excel, which lost its charter school status, and after a period of uncertainty, it was arranged for DCPS to take over the school creating the first all-girls DC public school. We held a “Share the Love” event at GPC in March, an evening to raise funds and share fellowship with the Excel community. The Committee did a fabulous job making the room beautiful, including flower arrangements in the school’s colors and displaying the students’ artwork. The kindergartners performed a dance and we had a special



performance by Grammy-nominated Christylez Bacon and his beat box (with thanks to Mark Willey!). We had over 75 attendees, and everyone seemed to have a good time. The event raised money for the newly-established Family Assistance Fund. The combination of donations to underwrite the event, plus ticket sales resulted in GPC's being able to provide an additional \$5500 to the fund for the remainder of the school year.

**Habitat for Humanity DC** - *2018 Giving: \$5000* - Habitat's local chapter in DC has been an essential force in providing affordable housing and mortgages to low-income DC families. After a two year hiatus due to weather and schedule conflicts, we were able to return to work on homes in SE DC with a build day coordinated and led by the young adults.

**Central Union Mission's "Operation Backpack"** - *2018 Expenses: \$2500* - Operation Backpack provides hundreds of low-income DC students with backpacks for their back-to-school in the fall. GPC annually provides around 100 backpacks, and this year was no exception. This year, the cost of the backpacks came out of the mission budget, but we also received a generous donation that offset some of the cost.

**Aged Women's Home of Georgetown** - *2018 Giving: \$2000* - One of our longest-standing traditions is to bring Easter baskets to the women of the Aged Women's Home of Georgetown, a home for elderly women who might otherwise struggle with safe, affordable housing.

## International

**Members:** Susan Bell, Chair; Michele Wilson, Tessa Glenn, Stephen Worley, Katie Novaria

**Remember Niger Coalition** - *2018 Giving: \$17,000, + \$4000 raised for Rally for Niger* - Remember Niger is an organization that supports high-quality schools through the "EERN," or the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger. IN addition to GPC's donation to help where needed, we also held our annual Rally for Niger which raised around \$4,000 for the Hamsa Center, an innovative project in Tahoua, Niger, which will provide a safe learning space for adolescent girls and young women. Three members of GPC are now on the board of Remember Niger, Robert Bell, Michele Wilson, and Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen, which attests to our close partnership.

**Children of Uganda** - *2017 Giving: \$12,000* - Children of Uganda provides educational opportunities for low-income children in Uganda. Many members of GPC sponsor students directly with Children of Uganda, and in the past we have been able to host a touring choir of students from Uganda here at GPC. We are deepening our mission partnership with them, and this year decided to allocate a portion of our donation to sponsoring two additional children, which brings our total to three children: Mariam, Edward, and Shamim.

## Refugees

**Members:** Cynthia Johnson, Kim Sperduto, Sara Dimmick, Jen Patterson, Cynthia Bader, Adrian Vaagenes

*This year saw the formation of a refugee committee committed to exploring partnership with organizations that serve refugees who are here in the US and around the world. Possibilities have included sponsoring a family to the US, supporting work overseas, and aiding with families currently located in the DMV area.*

**National Capital Presbytery Refugee Network** - GPC became a member this year of our Presbytery's network for refugee care, enabling us to share ideas and resources. We also received a \$1000 grant to support the "Threads for Success" program through Lutheran Social Services (see below). Thanks to Adrian Vaagenes for being our liaison with the network.

**The Outreach Foundation** - *2018 Giving: \$5000* - The Outreach Foundation works with global partners for a variety of mission purposes. Our giving went directly to the Presbyterian Synod of Lebanon and Syria, which supports Presbyterian churches in the work of aiding internally displaced refugees. We welcomed Rev. Dr. Nancy Fox, chair of the board and member of the National Capital Presbytery to adult education to share about their work.

**Jusoor** - *2018 Giving: \$5000* - The international team decided to begin a partnership with Jusoor, a nonprofit that supports Syrian refugees in Syria and Lebanon as well as the US. Its focus is on education, youth that have been displaced by the civil war. We discussed with Jusoor opportunities for hands-on partnership, including a weekend in DC for college students in the U.S. interested in public policy, and a gift box for students going or returning to college away from their homes and families.

**Lutheran Social Services** - *2018 Giving: \$6000* - Lutheran Social Services is the primary provider of refugee resettlement services in the Metro DC area. We are beginning to partner with LSS in order to provide support to refugees that are currently settled in the area. In addition to funds given to LSS, we held a drive for supplies for refugee families, including for sewing machines for a vocational training program LSS is launching called "Threads for Success." Between congregational giving, mission funds, and a grant from the National Capital Presbytery, we were able to provide all the sewing machines needed for this class (over 30).

## Loaves and Fishes Fund

**Free Minds Book Club** - *2018 Giving: \$7,200*

The Loaves and Fishes Fund was approved in late 2017. Session agreed that if there was money left in the overall GPC budget at the end of the year, the priority would be to allocate the funds to the Mission Committee in order to provide additional help to those in need. This is not a binding decision; Session may decide in a given year that any remaining funds are needed elsewhere.

At year-end 2017, the Session Finance Committee allocated \$7,200 to the Loaves & Fishes fund. The Mission Committee prayerfully considered how to best use this bounty and agreed on a new type of ministry: supporting people in prison or recently released from prison. There are many organizations doing wonderful things in this area. This year we decided to use this money to make a contribution to the Free Minds Book Club, which supports area incarcerated youth, ages 16-18, who have been sentenced as adults. The Free Minds Book Club describes its mission this way:

Reaching more than 350 young people each year, Free Minds Book Club uses books and creative writing to empower incarcerated youth to transform their lives. Teens attend twice-weekly book club sessions (most report that they have never before read an entire book) and when they move on to federal prison at age 18 – mostly far from home – Free Minds sends cards, newsletters, books, and feedback on their poetry. The re-entry program offers apprenticeships, GED prep, and job skills training to support young men and help them stay on track. The recidivism rate for members is only 24% – one third the national rate.

One criterion the Mission Committee uses to make decisions about new partnerships is our ability to develop relationships. There are a few ways to get involved with Free Minds Book Club, including one very simple thing you can do at your desk. If you visit [www.freemindsbookclub.org](http://www.freemindsbookclub.org) and go to the poetry blog, you may leave comments on the poems and these comments will be conveyed to the author. These opportunities for incarcerated youth to receive outside contact and affirmation are rare and represent a huge boost for them. And chances are, you will be quite moved by the poetry.

### Other

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** - *2018 Giving: \$6000* - Presbyterian Disaster Relief is a PC(USA) organization that partners with local churches and presbyteries for disaster relief. We have given this year with a particular focus on hurricane and wildfire relief.

**Mission Market and Fair** - *2018 Amount Raised: \$4000* - Formerly known as the “Christ Market,” market is re-envisioned as an annual event to encompass not only a market for fair trade goods, but as an opportunity to learn more about our mission partners, and to think about “giving back” for the holidays with direct service opportunities.

## Stewardship

The continued generosity of the members of Georgetown Presbyterian Church enabled us once again to achieve record goals for pledging in 2018. Pledges totaling **\$673,000** were received, and exceeded our target of **\$650,000**. Highlights included pledging by **192 households**, by all of the church’s clergy, elders and deacons, by many new and young members, and by members who had moved away or are temporarily stationed outside DC (including as far away as Miramar). We celebrated our success with a reception on April 15, where a number of

Presbyterian-themed prizes were raffled off and received with good humor and grace.

In light of our success in 2018, we decided to raise the bar in 2019, setting a target of **\$675,000**, and we are well on our way to achieving that goal. As of January 10, 2019, we had received \$438,000 in pledges and are confident of reaching our goal in the next several weeks.

Many thanks to Roni Haggert, past Stewardship chair, who passed along her wise counsel, well-organized files, and enthusiasm, and who generously volunteered her time to ensure a smooth transition. And to Crystal Espie, current Communications Committee chair, who assisted in conveying the campaign's needs, status and goals. And of course many thanks to all who pledged in 2018 (and will pledge in 2019). Your financial commitment to GPC will ensure the continued vitality and growth of the church's many missions and activities.

We are humbled by, and most grateful for, your continuing generosity and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Tom Lotterman, on behalf of Elders John Schuhart and Susan Bell

As of January 10, 2019, we have collected 110 pledges for a total of \$438,000. This is 65% of our goal of \$675,000, and slightly ahead of last year's pace in terms of number of pledgers and pledged amount (95/\$430,000).

In the next few weeks, we will launch our efforts to wrap up the campaign. The activities will include (i) targeted emails to certain GPC groups (e.g., new members, young adults); (ii) calls by the Elders to past pledgers who have not yet pledged; (iii) last-minute emails by the Stewardship chair; (iv) a final Moment for Stewardship.

Here is our proposed schedule:

Late January	Elders begin making calls
Late February	Final Moment for Stewardship
March 1	Official campaign ends
March 29	Campaign closes
April 7	Brief Moment for Stewardship and reception to thank pledgers
May/June	Send thank-you notes to pledgers

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Lotterman

On behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee

# Worship and Evangelism Committee

## The Year in Worship

Our weekly worship services form the core of our ministry and mission, and we continue working through our evangelism efforts to attract and welcome both members and visitors to worship at GPC. In 2018, we welcomed an average of 213 members and visitors to our weekly worship services. We welcomed 38 new members to GPC during the year

*Lenten Season:* Our Taizé Ash Wednesday Service on February 14, 2018 marked the beginning of the Lenten season. Our Holy Week services followed the same format as previous years. We began, as always, with the processional of children shouting “Hosanna” on Palm Sunday and moved through the week sharing a communal meal on Maundy Thursday, listening to the passion story on Good Friday, and celebrating the resurrection on Easter morning, April 1, 2018.

*Born. United. Sent.* Following Rev. Dr. Murray’s summer sabbatical and as the congregation returned in early September for our Town Hall Meeting, our pastors launched our three-part program and preaching series entitled *Born. United. Sent.* for the 2018-2019 church year. The program centers around three, six-week intensives, each focused on a book of the Bible. The first segment, *Born*, ran from October 7 to November 1, 2018 and focused on the Book of Acts. Following Advent and the beginning of the new year, we began the second segment, *United*, focused on 1 Corinthians. This second intensive will run from January 6 through February 10, 2019. The third segment, *Sent*, will focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Thank you to our pastors for guiding the congregation through these three intensives. Thank you also to the Communications Committee, Children’s Ministry, Adult Education, and others for developing attractive supporting materials and programs to complement this series.

*Advent:* Our celebration of Advent season began with the always festive St. Nick’s Dinner on Saturday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup> and the sacrament of Communion on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the official beginning of Advent. GPC member Louise Sumner led our children and youth in Advent readings each Sunday during Advent. Under the leadership of Music Director Mark Willey, the choir and guest musicians gave a wonderful performance of Vivaldi’s *Gloria* on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed new members and heard joyful performances by our Children’s Choir on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had our Lessons and Carols Service and held a single Christmas Eve Service, complete with our Christmas Pageant and candlelight service, on Monday evening, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We have more than 400 people in attendance on Christmas Eve.

## Guest Preacher Weekend

Our Fifth Annual Guest Preacher Weekend took place on March 3 and 4, 2018. GPC hosted U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black. Nancy and David Roll hosted a dinner on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for GPC attendees who have, or are currently working on, Capitol Hill. Guests were able to share in fellowship with Chaplain Black and his

wife, and enjoyed a discussion on the importance of faith in our challenging world. On Sunday, March 4th, Rev. Black gave a lecture before church on “Becoming a Responsible Renter” based on Jesus’ parable of the wicked tenants (Mark 12), and preached a sermon entitled, “All In,” based on Jesus’ encounter with the rich young ruler in Luke 18. Thank you to the Guest Preacher Committee, including Chair Katy McBride and committee members Rev. Murray, Tracy Davis, Marjie Calvert, Bailey Edwards, Shelley Jennings, Jennie Lopez, Will Quinn, David Roll, and Alan Wisdom. Special thanks also to Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, Cynthia Johnson, as well as Mike and Marissa Baly for their help with Chaplain Black’s visit, and also to Nancy and David Roll for hosting the dinner on Saturday evening.

## **Music Program**

The music program at GPC continues to build on its strengths. The past calendar year has seen many highlights, including the completion of the Handel *Messiah* cycle in May, the start of an 18 Sunday chronological exploration of sacred music to coincide with the *Born. United. Sent.* series, the performance of Vivaldi’s *Gloria* for Advent 3, and a jubilant Lessons and Carols service with brass and timpani for Advent 4. This year, the choir celebrated the fruition of a romance, born in the loft, of Rebecca Steward and Tim Hunt, with their wedding on November 2, evidence of music’s powerful unifying force.

Behind the scenes, Music Director Mark Willey finished the design and building of a new cabinet for the choir’s music folders and continues to plan for improvements to the music library, which is currently at capacity. For many services throughout the year, particularly the Handel *Messiah* cycle and the *Born. United. Sent.* series, Mark created new arrangements and/or editions of music that was unpublished or otherwise unavailable, always with the goal of knitting all the musical elements into the fabric of our worship.

As we begin the second and third parts of the *Born. United. Sent.* series, the musical journey continues, arriving to music of our time on the first Sunday of April. A new piece of choral music has been commissioned especially for that service by Zachary Wadsworth, an exciting up and coming young composer based in Boston. We also look forward to the jubilation of our Easter services accompanied by brass and percussion.

## **Greeters Ministry**

Working to make GPC an ever more warm and welcoming place to worship, we continued to expand the number of members serving as Greeters on the front porch each Sunday. We especially appreciate the Young Adults group, whose members have committed to be part of the Greeter team each week.

## **Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness**

Following a presentation of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force to the Session in the Fall, the Worship Committee, the Buildings & Grounds Committee, Children’s Ministries, and others have worked together to implement new procedures and other changes to improve overall safety, security and emergency preparedness for our congregation and our church building. Under the leadership

of Pastor Chatelaine-Samsen, we have begun conducting one-hour safety, security and emergency preparedness training sessions each month for our usher teams, greeters, Children's Ministry, and other volunteers. We have retained a private security guard to be on site every Sunday morning as well as during the Saturday Suppers, Sunday dinners, and other special events. In addition, we are instituting the role of "Duty Usher," an usher who be designated and available in the narthex and throughout the church during Sunday mornings to assist visitors and members who need assistance during worship and to be a point of coordination and communication in the event of an unforeseen or emergency situation.

## **Gratitude**

Our annual worship program and each worship service reflects not only the leadership of our terrific pastors but also the work and dedication of so many volunteers. The Worship and Evangelism Committee wishes to thank Jennie Lopez, who provided energetic and innovative leadership of the Worship Committee during the first half of 2018 before joining the GPC staff. To the Elders and Deacons who help prepare and serve communion each month. To Tom Jennings for maintaining and organizing our usher teams each month, and to our Usher Captains and Usher Teams for ensuring that our worship services run smoothly. To Katy McBride, chair of the Guest Preacher Committee, for her leadership in bringing such distinguished guests to our pulpit. To our dedicated team of Sound Board volunteers, including Tim Shand, Lauren Mattison, and Daniel Wisdom. To our many Greeters, who warmly welcome GPC members and visitors alike as they arrive for worship each Sunday. To Lisa Baly, for tirelessly polishing our communion silver. To each of our members who shared their personal testimonies with our congregation this past year.

2018 was an inspiring year in worship, and we look to build on those successes in 2019 with a growing congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Grauberger, Chair  
Crystal Espie  
Sheldon Ray

## **Finance and Budget**

**2018 Budget:** For the year, total expenses (\$1,121,713) exceeded income (\$1,116,546) by \$5,166.

**Income:** Pledged Income was \$8,174 less than projected in the budget. Non-Pledged Income, however, was \$59,518 above the budget.

**Expenses:** Total expenses were \$30,815 less than budgeted, primarily because the Building and Grounds Committee did not spend any of the Capital Investment and Replacement Fund, which is set aside for the future.

**Invested Funds:** Although the Session approved withdrawal of up to \$101,500 to fund the 2018 operating budget, only \$40,000 was used to cover 2018 expenditures. Our invested funds totaled \$2,553,783 as of 31 December 2018, a net decrease of \$129,000 for the year. \$94,970 of the decrease was due to change in market value, which equals a loss of 3.5%. We are well diversified with investment ratios of 45% equities, 52% bonds, and 3% cash & equivalents.

**2019 Budget:** In December, the Session-approved a 2019 budget of \$1,207,659 which is approximately \$56,000 (3.5 percent) higher than the 2018 budget, reflecting Session decisions to strengthen Christian Education and Mission, and better manage GPC operations, including:

1. Creating a paid, part-time Director of Christian Education position. With more than 100 children, our CE program is bursting at the seams, so the Session hired Jennie Lopez to place additional emphasis on the program.
2. Terminating (effective June 2019) the lease for our current tenant (the French Maternal School) and leasing to a new tenant, the Blue Igloo play group. Although we will receive less rent, the tenant change will free much needed classroom space for Christian Education programs and bring a larger number of families into contact with GPC from which we will seek to recruit new members.
3. Converting Associate Pastor Chris Chatelaine-Sampson from part-time (60 percent) to full-time to enhance mission outreach programs and provide dedicated support to our growing young adult ministry.
4. Contracting with Your Part Time Controller to strengthen policies & procedures, provide additional oversight of financial operations, improve reporting and help us prepare for audit.
5. Increasing clergy salaries 3.5 percent to recognize their ongoing efforts to grow active GPC membership and to improve and expand programs for the congregation and community.

**GPC Financial Management Overhaul:** To ensure GPC's staff and officers are good stewards of God's gifts and that our growing ministry to the city is buttressed by sound business practices, the Finance Committee is overhauling GPC financial management by:

- Drafting comprehensive financial policies and procedures and a business continuity of operations manual, using Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church's as a template.
- Contracting with Your Part Time Controller, which specializes in providing "nonprofit executives with reassurance and security that their finance department is running the way it's supposed to." YPTC will help us prepare comprehensive financial management policies and procedures, independently oversee our bookkeeper, improve our financial reporting, and answer accounting questions and issues as they arise.
- Conducting the above steps in preparation for an audit for 2019 with the goal of obtaining an unqualified audit opinion for 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Schuhart