The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Washington, DC

Annual Reports for 2016

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 12, 2017
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General Information

Statistical Report for 2016

Baptisms

Infant/Child Baptisms 3
Adult Baptisms 2

Changes in Membership

GAINS:  
By Profession of Faith 5
By Reaffirmation of Faith 8
By Letter of Transfer from Other Churches 4
By Restoration to the Active Roll 0

Total Added to Active Membership Roll 17

Affiliate Membership 0

LOSSES:  
Deceased 9
By Letter of Transfer to Other Churches 7
By Deletion from the Active Roll 1
By Adjustment to the Active Roll 0

Total Removed from Active Membership Roll 17

Affiliate Membership 0

Net Changes in Membership:

Church Membership: December 31, 2015 676
Affiliate Membership: December 31, 2015 10

Church Membership: December 31, 2016 676
Affiliate Membership: December 31, 2016 10
Church Staff

The Rev. Roger Joseph Gench  
Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Alice Rose Tewell  
Associate Pastor/Deputy Head of Staff

The Rev. Beth Braxton  
Parish Associate
The Rev. J. Gary Campbell  
Parish Associate
The Rev. Ann Rose Davie  
Parish Associate for Visitation
The Rev. Frances Taylor Gench  
Parish Associate
The Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter  
Parish Associate
The Rev. Linda LeSourd Lader  
Parish Associate
The Rev. Matthew Schlageter  
Parish Associate

Jasmine Jowers  
Church Administrator
Janet Maheras  
Accounting Manager
Cheria McMillian  
Office Associate

David Smoot  
Building Superintendent
Raymond Newman  
Sexton/Custodian
Darius Richardson  
Sexton/Custodian
Johnny Middleton  
Sexton/Custodian

Evelyn McMillian  
Food Services Manager and Front Desk Receptionist

Mary Newman  
Front Desk Receptionist
Robin Williams  
Front Desk Receptionist

Stanley P. Engebretson  
Director of Music
Parev Arslanbaatar  
Choral Scholar
Whitney McColey  
Choral Associate
Manuel J. Melendez  
Choral Associate
Nathan Moon  
Choral Associate
Connor Schaeffer  
Choral Scholar
Samantha Scheff  
Organ/Choral Scholar and Director of the Youth Choir

Kamanee Wickremeratne  
Nursery Staff
Danadaree Rajapakshe  
Nursery Staff
Ayesha Yapahamilage  
Nursery Staff
Stephanie Beltran  
Nursery Staff

Theo Brown  
Director of McClendon Scholar in Residence Program

Catherine Schulteis  
Director of Planned Giving

Kathryn Sparks  
Director of Liturgical Dance

Sarah-Dianne Jones  
Young Adult Volunteer
### Board Members Elected to Serve in 2017

#### Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2017</th>
<th>Class of 2018</th>
<th>Class of 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will Ashworth</td>
<td>Don Campbell</td>
<td>Helen Anthony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Asiala</td>
<td>John Davies</td>
<td>Fred Dann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Browning</td>
<td>Brian Dewhurst</td>
<td>Miriam Dewhurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Cannon</td>
<td>Kathryn Doan</td>
<td>Yongo Ding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Feret</td>
<td>David Gillies</td>
<td>Kristin Ford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam McColley</td>
<td>Margaret (Meg) House</td>
<td>Molly Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Spatz</td>
<td>Karin Lohman</td>
<td>Brian Schimming</td>
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#### Board of Deacons

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<tr>
<th>Class of 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ian Elder</td>
<td>Ashley Nunes Coe</td>
<td>J. David Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Milam Feret</td>
<td>Megan Erb Metcalf</td>
<td>Mary Nell Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betsy Merritt</td>
<td>Anne LaRoche</td>
<td>Amy Gillespie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcia Renwanz</td>
<td>Bonita Pennino</td>
<td>David Kroeker-Maus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Riley</td>
<td>Olivia Sigelmann</td>
<td>Alex Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Ruhkamp</td>
<td>Kathryn Sparks</td>
<td>Aryn Myers</td>
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<td>John Yoder</td>
<td>Barry Tindall</td>
<td>Koloina Randrianarivony</td>
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#### Board of Diaconal Ministers

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<tr>
<th>Class of 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Danewitz</td>
<td>James Davidson</td>
<td>Heather Choi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Gagosian</td>
<td>Glory Eyong</td>
<td>Cindy Dickinson</td>
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<td>Marie Noel Meka</td>
<td>Alison Kootstra Nowak</td>
<td>Diane Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Shabman</td>
<td>Whitney McColley</td>
<td>Elizabeth Dumez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Simpson</td>
<td>Nathan Moon</td>
<td>ShuXian McKenna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenora Thierry</td>
<td>Carrie Reasonover</td>
<td>John Schultheis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacancy</td>
<td>Laura West</td>
<td>Martha Sykora</td>
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#### Board of Trustees

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class of 2017</th>
<th>Class of 2018</th>
<th>Class of 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ross Coe</td>
<td>Tom Dunlap</td>
<td>Rebecca Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hal Hiemstra</td>
<td>Karl Hoffman</td>
<td>Mason Hubbard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Holmes Snyder</td>
<td>Matthew Wieseler</td>
<td>Caroline White</td>
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</table>
Reports of Pastors and Staff

The Rev. Roger Joseph Gench

My weekly responsibilities have regularly included pastoral duties, preaching and worship leadership, baptisms, weddings and funerals, adult education, cluster committees and sub-committees, staff meetings, oversight of church staff and the varied church ministries, and administrative duties. In addition, I have also engaged in the following work:

- Participation in the Biblio Divina group on Thursday mornings.
- Individual Spiritual Direction with members of NYAPC.
- Leadership of the Men’s Spirituality Group.
- Co-leadership with Theo Brown of the Engaged Spirituality Group of the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program
- Participation on the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program Committee.
- Leadership in McClendon Scholar in Residence Program with Douglas Ottati and Miroslav Volf.
- Participation on National Capital Presbytery’s Clearance Team.
- Leader of a workshop at the annual meeting of Next Church in Atlanta.
- Helped lead the Vision 2020 Capital Campaign of the NYAPC.
- Helped with the Young Adult Faith on Tap program at NYAPC.
- Leadership of retreats for the Board of Deacons and the Session of NYAPC.
- Co-leadership with Alice Tewell in a church-wide initiative on the Fruit of the Spirit as Political Virtues for a Polarized World.
- Co-taught with Frances Taylor Gench a course on urban ministry at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond.
- Participation on the Strategy Team of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN).
- Participation in two meetings of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board of the PCUSA.
- Participation in a writer’s workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics in Chicago.
- Continued work on a book on engaged spirituality (tentatively entitled The Cross Examen) – connecting the contemplative with activism
- Continued reading in theology and ethics as time allows.
- Hiked 120 or so miles in the Rocky Mountain National Park.

At the conclusion of 2016, I find myself grateful once again for the ministry of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and the good folk that do it!

The Rev. Alice Rose Tewell

2016 marked my second full year with you as Associate Pastor. No longer new to one another, 2016 brought some changes in my responsibilities, new opportunities to engage in ministry together, and, from my perspective, a deeper understanding of one another and how we can support each other as sisters and brothers in Christ. Here is what was new for 2016:

During the fall of 2015, Senior Pastor Roger Gench spoke with me about a potential shift in responsibilities between us. For months, along with the Session, we discussed this possible shift and agreed that it would be
beneficial for the church and for both of us. As a result of these discussions, it was decided that Roger would remain Pastor/Head of Staff and I would assume the title of Associate Pastor/Deputy Head of Staff. As a result, I assumed responsibility for staff supervision and general operations supervision in conjunction with the Office Administrator. Specifically, I will directly supervise the Church Administrator, the office functions of the Accounting Manager, and any future Christian Education, Youth or Children’s staff. Roger will continue to supervise me, the Director of Music, the Parish Associates and any other future Associate Pastors.

On a day-to-day basis, this shift in staff responsibilities means that I work much more closely with the Church Administrator, Jasmine Jowers, the Accounting Manager, Janet Maheas, David Smoot, the Building Superintendent, and the custodial and front desk staff that Ms. Jowers directly supervises. In this supervisory role, I work much more closely with the Personnel Committee, the Trustees, the Accounting Task Force and, on occasion, the Finance Committee.

Here is what I continued to work on in 2016 from previous years:

*Benevolence and Metcalf/Edgington Funds:* Along with a group of members from Session, the Deacons and the Young Adult Volunteer, we continued to manage and distribute the Benevolence and Metcalf/Edgington Funds for the church. In late 2016, for the Benevolence Fund, we anticipated changes for 2017.

*Blog:* Pastor Roger and I started a blog for our church website - “NYAPC Seeking God.” Particularly on children’s ministry, I wrote quite a lot through the end of Lent. Roger posts theological quotations every day.

*Christian Learning, Children, Youth and Adults:* For adult education, I continue to work with the committee led in 2016 mostly by Paul Dorman to develop Sunday morning offerings for our adults. I have occasionally taught an intergenerational class. For the confirmation class, I chaperoned and helped lead the Reformed Institute Confirmation Retreat in February. In May, we received three wonderful confirmation students on Youth Sunday.

*Children and Youth in the Radcliffe Room and Local Mission:* With others, I worked to introduce our youth to the Radcliffe Room ministry, including regular participation, involvement with toiletry and Christmas drive packs, and the first Dr. King Day of Service, where the youth from NYAPC and other local churches made and served lunch for our guests experiencing homelessness and cleaned up the clothing closet. Over the summer, Helen Anthony, Betsy Merritt and I took some of our teenagers to the Church of the Pilgrims for an overnight service weekend.

*Christmas Pageant and the Youth Choir:* Along with Molly Johnson and our youth, we wrote the Christmas pageant again this year, putting the pageant within a Lessons and Carols focus featuring our mission partners in Havana, Cuba, and Njoro, Kenya. Joining Molly Johnson, we are fortunate to have Samantha Scheff with us this year leading the Youth Choir.

*Communication and Curriculum:* We continue to use the Sparkhouse Holy Moly curriculum for our Lower and Upper Elementary Students. Our middle schoolers (5th-7th grade) use the Sparkhouse Connect Curriculum. I continue to develop curriculum for our High School class and primarily teach the Middle and High School classes. The Pre-K class writes its own curriculum, which I occasionally lead. Via a listserv, I try to email parents once a week, sometimes through a newsletter about the upcoming events for that week and month.

*Littles Ministry:* Especially with our growth of children under four and being mom to one of these littles myself, through gatherings at the church and at local parks, I have tried to create opportunities for those with our smallest children to join together for fellowship and support.

*Youth Sunday:* Led by our confirmation students, the children and youth did an excellent job leading worship for Youth Sunday. All parts of the service were written by the youth themselves.
Worship Play: When not preaching, I lead worship play, a time for those ages 3-10 to gather for a Bible reading and related story in my office. Karen Dunlap has been wonderful leading this effort.

Community Club: I have continued to serve as Chaplain, supervisor of our Young Adult Volunteer and as a resource for volunteers and families to connect to the church and other services.

Community, Interfaith, and Mission Involvement: Starting in mid-November, along with others, particularly Karin Lohman and Meg House, who were working on the inauguration hospitality, I began working on the steps to house guests for the Women’s March on Washington. I wrote about the experience here: https://nyapcseekinggodblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/26/a-love-letter-to-my-church-church-showing-up/. I also starting networking with local interfaith groups about how we can best work together as people of faith.

Cuba Partnership: I was fortunate to represent the church at the Cuba Partners meeting at Mantanzas Evangelical Seminary in Mantanzas, Cuba, from October 5-8. I traveled with a delegation from the National Capital Presbytery including Betsy Merritt and Aryn Myers from NYAPC, as well as Mitch Fulton from Church of the Pilgrims. After the meeting, I preached on October 9 at our partner church, First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Havana and attended a Havana Presbytery event on October 10, representing NYAPC, the National Capital Presbytery and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. During this trip (my second to Cuba), I worked on building the relationships between members and worked on furthering the friendships over email and social media communication. I look forward to a future trip February of 2017.

Nurture: I helped prepare for Spiritual Focus Congregational Sunday, which focused on spiritual practices, and, as in years past, I worked with the Nurture Committee to plan the All-Church Retreat, this year focusing on the Fruit of the Spirit series Pastor Roger and I worked on throughout the fall. I was also happy to help with the Chili Cook-Off, spearheaded by Ashley Nunes Coe, by cooking lots of chili for the Young Adults team. I was excited that our team won the “Most Spirit” award.

Pastoral Care: I try to provide care when needed and requested.

Radcliffe Room and the Jobs Club: As part of my work with the children, youth, and the Young Adult Volunteer, I got more involved in the Radcliffe Room, deepening relationships with individuals. I also started participating in and cooking for the Tuesday morning Jobs Club that started this year. The Jobs Club is a supportive group for members of the Radcliffe Room looking for support and community in their search for jobs.

Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study: On the first Tuesday of the month, I enjoyed getting together at different Presbyterian Women’s homes to study scripture and to enjoy fellowship.

Service to the Larger Church: Finishing out my term as Vice Moderator, I am now Moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. We are working on discernment of the question of what the Synod is called to be and do. I continue to serve of the Church Development Committee of the National Capital Presbytery, working with churches in transition, immigrant churches and new church developments.

Young Adult Ministry: I continued to enjoy leading Bible studies for the Young Adult group. We had 6-9 week series studying Encounters with Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John and Encountering God In Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women and the Authority of Scripture by Frances Taylor Gench, and Galatians and Empire by Brigitte Kahl. I continued to help plan Faith on Tap events. The Young Adult Group took on and lived new organizational leadership this year; I was very appreciative of this good work.
Young Adult Volunteer: I supervised our first Young Adult Volunteer, Angela Williams, with us from September 2015-July 2016. After her time with us, Angela began at Austin Theological Seminary, continuing to discern her call to ministry. I began supervising our second Young Adult Volunteer, Sarah-Dianne Jones in September 2016. The Young Adult Volunteers helps with ministries to the Radcliffe Room, Community Club, and the Benevolence and Metcalf/Edginton ministries. I meet with the Young Adult Volunteer once a week for reflection.

Worship: I continued to serve in worship, mostly with the children’s time, pastoral prayer and concern time. I continue to write/find most of the liturgy and preach about twelve times a year. I continue to enjoy leading or assisting with special services including the privilege to speak at our yearly Memorial Service honoring and remembering those who died while experiencing homelessness in this region.

The Rev. Beth Braxton

What an opportunity and adventure to serve as a Parish Associate at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. I am grateful to God and to you for this ministry. I believe it is my call for this stage of my life. Many people ask me – why do you drive the twenty miles to NYAPC to worship? The answer is complex, but certainly it is a place that both Bob and I feel we have come full circle. We started out in urban ministry together as seminary students in New York City. Below are the areas where I have been engaged this year:

Worship
- Continued leadership of monthly Taize Services; preparing a “permanent” generic bulletin
- Served the Lord’s Supper each month for the Radcliffe Room and assisted Rev. Gench in one service
- Led the Easter sunrise worship service and preached

Evangelism Committee
- Worked on “branding” for coordinating all printed materials (still in process); made a poster display of all our church brochures
- Did up-keep of the first-floor bulletin boards of staff and major ministries of the church

Njoro, Kenya Partnership
- Led regular meetings of the Njoro Steering Committee (of eight persons)
- Organized with the Steering Committee a labor-intensive visit of eight Kenyans from Njoro in late April and May, which included visits to schools, a hospital, a water treatment plant, a meeting with the Board of Deacons, and worship leadership. There was also a trip to Richmond, Virginia, to visit a foster care/adoption center and to visit with other Kenya friends.
- Had a joint meeting of our Steering Committee with the Njoro OVC Committee in May

Radcliffe Room Leadership Team
- Work regularly every Sunday serving guests in the Radcliffe Room
- Made more denim aprons for the Radcliffe Room with embroidery “to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God”
- Served communion and continued a Bible reflection time on a regular basis
- Held a Mini-retreat for the Leadership Team at my house
- Helped finalize a Radcliffe Room Manual.

Scholar in Residence Ministry
- Met regularly with the SiR committee and helped provide hospitality for SiR events
Miscellaneous

- Been church photographer for a number of church events
- Led workshop for All-Church Retreat
- Written for the Advent and Lent devotion booklets
- For the General Assembly PC(USA) I serve on the Coordinating Council of the Kenya Mission Network and helped plan the February Conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina
- For the National Capital Presbytery, I serve on the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Speer Fund Grant Committee

The Rev. Ann Rose Davie

As Parish Associate for Visitation, I assist the pastors on request; make calls to those in home or hospital or by telephone, especially those on the Care Prayer list; and assist Rev. Tewell with the Care Prayer list on a weekly basis. As the pastoral staff to the Columbarium Committee, chaired by Elder John Schultheis, I answer inquiries about the reservations of niches and maintains records of Columbarium use. I also served as liaison with the artist commissioned to create the fabric art piece for the Lincoln Chapel, and, in December, helped lead the celebration of its installation.

The Rev. Frances Taylor Gench

During 2016, I have been grateful for opportunities to make the following contributions to the life of NYAPC:

- Taught a 4-week Lenten Sunday School Series, “Classic Lenten Texts”
- Taught a 5-week Sunday School Class with Roger Gench, “Re-politicizing Paul: Fruit of the Spirit for a Contentious, Polarized World” (fall)
- Preparation of spring quarter Bible study curriculum on John 21 for Cuba Partners Shared Bible Study group (First Presbyterian Reformed Church of Havana; NYAPC and Church of the Pilgrims, Washington, DC; Westminster PC, Gainesville, Florida; Old First PC, Long Island; Fourth PC, Chicago; Winnetka PC, Illinois). Led NYAPC discussion of the Bible study.
- Leadership (with Kathryn Sparks) of the Women’s Spring Retreat, “Biblical Farce and Subversive Women (Vashti and Esther)” (organized by the ever-efficient Karen Dunlap and Meg House)
- Faith on Tap session with NYAPC Young Adults (book discussion of Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture)
- Co-hosted (with Roger Gench) Faith on Tap session for Young Adults (for discussion with McClendon Scholar in Residence Doug Ottati)
- Led worship and presided at Eucharist on October 30
- Served as biblical and theological consultant to the senior pastor!

I continue to be grateful for the privilege of affiliation with NYAPC as a Parish Associate!

Stanley P. Engebretson

Happy New Year! 2016 was a busy year for the music program. The Sanctuary Choir provided music ranging from traditional to contemporary, including gospel and spirituals, all mirroring the varied interests of our congregation. In addition, they prepared Mozart’s Requiem for Lent with orchestra and later sang Benjamin Britten’s Rejoice in the Lamb, a fascinating and colorful work that describes how each person, animal, and living thing (flowers, for
example) celebrates God in its own way. This piece was a delight to perform and featured several of our choir members as soloists or conductors.

On Easter our new Youth Choir led by Molly Johnson was featured. The Sanctuary Choir sang festival anthems along with the NYA Brass Quintet including the long-standing favorite of Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” for the postlude. The brass and organ also performed the finale from Camille Saint-Saëns’ Organ Concerto, a thrilling chance to display the might of the 62-rank Schlueter Organ. All of the pipes had a workout that day! Later in May, the annual service led by the youth again featured the Youth Choir, as well as solos on saxophone by young virtuoso David Clark. In July, the choir took their summer break, while soloists and ensembles provided music.

Fall highlights included choruses from Bach’s Lobe den Herren and “Laudate Pueri” from Mozart’s Vespers for the Confessor in November. In December, the youth presented a wonderful Christmas Pageant that transformed the traditional nativity story into something more contemporary, adding a focus on outreach ministries to Cuba and Africa. This fall, the leadership of the Youth Choir moved to Samantha Scheff, who has done a wonderful job.

On the 4th Sunday of Advent the Sanctuary Choir sang excerpts from J. S. Bach’s Christmas Oratorio, with three trumpets, timpani and a fine string quartet led by NYA member J. David Brown. The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services featured Mary Anderson on flute and Stephen Dunlap on saxophone respectively, plus the choirs and Whitney McCollery contributing her beautiful performance of “O Holy Night.”

I always enjoy celebrating our guitar ensemble that leads mid-week Taize services, Ash Wednesday, and Easter sunrise services. They are a delight and a welcome addition, as are all of the other instrumental ensembles that support us.

We would especially like to thank Meg House for her wonderful care of the choir as our President over the past several years. She will step down in January, passing her position to Meg Neill. Our other officers, including James Turner, Martha Davis, and Judith Roach, were re-elected to serve in their positions, along with other new choral representatives to the Choir Council.

Our Choral Associates Whitney McCollery, Manuel Melendez, and Nathan Moon all help guide music in addition to their active professional engagements throughout the area. Rhianna Cockrell, our former Choral Scholar, graduated from George Mason University in May and is enrolled at the University of Minnesota where she is obtaining her Master of Music degree. She will do very well in her professional career due to her talent, energy, and dedication. Connor Schaeffer, in his junior year at George Mason University, replaced Rhianna and serves as a major vocal addition to our tenor section and conducting staff, along with Choral Scholar Purev Arslanbaatar, who graduated in December with his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. Our Organ/Choral Scholar Samantha Scheff has grown so much in her abilities and now routinely presents prelude and postlude repertoire as part of her study from the University of Maryland. We are enriched by the vocal talents of many soloists within the choir including Meg Neill, Meg House, Martha Davis, Tamara Saltman, Eric Slaughter, Ian Elder, and David Williams (who celebrated his 50th year in the choir this fall)! We always remain very grateful to Daniel Stokes for playing organ for services, weddings, and memorials while also leading the Bell Choir. His talents, stewardship, and care for the music program in so many ways are all greatly appreciated!

Our A. E. Schlueter pipe organ is now seven years old and is holding up beautifully, with continued maintenance by the parent organ company. We still need to be very vigilant about humidity and temperature levels in the sanctuary to maintain good working order for this instrument, as the wood in any organ is always sensitive both in terms of tuning and its ability to function properly. James Davis maintains the sanctuary Steinway and the Herz harpsichord with excellent care. As to the other keyboards, the aging 6’ green Steinway in Peter Marshall Hall still needs a restoration and the old electronic organ in the Lincoln Chapel has deteriorated and is not worth repairing,
so there have been discussions of whether to replace it with one of our grand pianos to serve as the keyboard instrument for memorial services and other events.

The continued blessings of our choir and so many other musicians that work together bringing music to our services are amazing! It is a great joy for me to be a part of this magnificent congregation where we worship together in music and the word. We are all truly blessed by our fine pastors, staff, and congregation, so I am very grateful to be here with you as we serve in Christian leadership for our community, our country, and indeed, the world.

Reports of the Elected Boards

The Session

Miriam E. Dewhurst, Clerk; Daniel A. Stokes, Assistant Clerk

The following persons were members of the Session in 2016:

**Class of 2016**
Elizabeth Winn Bowman
Melanie Dann*
Leigh Hildebrand
David Inoue
Benjamin Lauer
Douglas R. Porter
Brian Schimming

**Class of 2017**
Will Ashworth
Laura Asiala
Rachel Browning
Catherine Cannon
Tyler Feret
Adam McColley
Mary Mace Spatz

**Class of 2018**
Don Campbell
John Davies
Brian Dewhurst
Kathryn Doan
David Gillies
Margaret House
Karin Lohman

*Elected in December 2015 to fill a vacancy

The Session has overall responsibility for NYAPC's mission and government; coordinates cluster and committee work; receives members; and maintains relationships with higher governing bodies. Session responsibilities include: Christian Education, Membership, Publicity, Finance, Worship and Music, Personnel, Annual Stewardship Campaign, Special Gifts and Memorials, Benevolence, Nominating, Nurture and Fellowship, Planning and Theological Interns. These functions are organized into Clusters - Christian Learning, Congregational Life, Funds Development and Administration. A Session member sits on the Peace and Justice Committee. Members of Session also serve as Commissioners to National Capital Presbytery.

The focus of several 2016 Session meetings was the church's budget. For many years, the church has been drawing on its endowment to cover each year's large gap between revenue and expenses. The current rate of this drawing down cannot be sustained and, with the help of the Finance Committee, the Session is beginning the difficult work of significantly narrowing the gap.

The Session began discussion of the emerging sanctuary movement and whether NYAPC should be a part of it. A task force was formed and in January 2017, the Session voted to join the movement (which includes more than 400 churches, some of them Presbyterian), affirming the following pledge:

"As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by
hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.”

The task force will consider other steps that the church might take and bring recommendations for further action to a future Session meeting.

When President Obama was first elected in 2008, the Session decided to hold an open house on Inauguration Day to provide hospitality to people coming to D.C. for the event. In 2013, another open house was held on the occasion of President Obama’s second inauguration. After some discussion, the decision was made to hold an open house during Donald Trump’s inauguration and also on the following day for the Women’s March. The Session also voted to allow participants in the march to stay overnight in the church.

Session meetings were enriched throughout the year by conversations with new members, (especially confirmands Jack Anderson, Lauren Gillies and Alex Moore) as we shared faith stories and talked about important elements of our faith. Session meetings began with spiritual practice, most often breath prayer, led by the pastors.

The Session is continually grateful for the creativity, dedication, and generosity of the congregation.

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**National Capital Presbytery Commissioners**

_Miriam Dewhurst, Elder Commissioner_

NYAPC is a member of the National Capital Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which is the 8th largest of the 172 Presbyteries in the denomination and is comprised of 108 congregations with 31,325 members located in DC and six adjacent counties each in Maryland and Virginia at the close of 2016. NCP calls Stated Meetings six times a year (all held at National Presbyterian Church in 2016) for the purpose of either conducting business or reporting on business that has been conducted within the Presbytery regarding:

- Minister members (all pastors are members of a Presbytery even though they pastor or attend particular churches),
- Inquirers and candidates enrolled in preparation for ministry,
- Mission interpretation,
- Camp and retreat ministries,
- New church development,
- Judicial business,
- Stewardship,
- Business transactions,
- Bills and overtures directed to the General Assembly, and
- Actions of the General Assembly requiring Presbytery approval.

Some specific items of 2016 business are noted below:

**State Meeting of February 13:** The presbytery installed Ruling Elder Therese Taylor-Stinson (Northwoode PC) as 2016 Moderator and Ruling Elder Bill Plitt as 2016 Vice-Moderator. The outgoing Moderator, Elder Rudy Cohen (Burke PC), conducted the installation. The Presbytery endorsed Rev. Tawnya Denise Anderson to stand as Co-Moderator at the 22nd PCUSA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, in June 2016, along with Rev. Jan Edmiston, currently associate executive presbyter for ministry of Chicago Presbytery, formerly pastor of Fairlington PC.
Stated Meeting of March 15: Several overtures to the upcoming General Assembly were approved, including overtures advocated against violence, advocated that the PCUSA become an HIV and AIDS competent denomination, and advocated for developing ways to support Native Americans. The Presbytery voted to concur with the Presbytery of Baltimore to continue efforts to dismantle racism, to concur with the Presbytery of the Cascades to be a church committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25; to concur with the Presbytery of Mission on celebrating the completion of the six-year discernment on peacemaking; and to concur with the Presbytery of San Francisco to divest from fossil fuel companies. The Presbytery did not endorse an overture to support the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine.

Stated Meeting of May 24: Commissioners to General Assembly were commissioned. They included Helen Anthony as an alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate. Most of the meeting was devoted to a “visioning exercise,” which called for those present to identify what they felt should be the priorities of the Presbytery.

Stated Meeting of June 28: Celebrated the Confession of Belhar, now a part of the Book of Confessions. NCP Commissioners from the recently concluded General Assembly met with small groups of commissioners to discuss actions taken at GA and to report on discussions in the committees to which they had been assigned. Rev. Denise Anderson and Rev. Jan Edmiston were elected Co-Moderators of the General Assembly, a first.

Stated Meeting of September 22: The 2017 Operating Budget of $1,084,860 was approved, as was an increase of the per capita to $38.75 ($30.45 to NCP). The 2017 Mission Budget of $796,194 was received for a first reading.

Stated Meeting of November 15: The 2017 Mission Budget was approved. The Presbytery also approved as 2017 Moderator Ruling Elder William Plitt (Trinity-Arlington) and Teaching Elder Quinn Fox (National PC) as Vice-Moderator.

NYAPC was represented at NCP’s 2016 meetings by NCP’s Pastors, Parish Associates and a balancing number of Elder Commissioners, including two elected by NYAPC’s Session: Miriam Dewhurst and Dan Stokes. Amy McKee and Rev. Ann Davie served as a member of the NCP Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Rev. Alice Tewell served on the NCP Church Development Committee. Dan Stokes serves on the NCP Session Records Committee.

PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program

In 2016, NYAPC actively continued its support of the National Capital site of the Young Adult Volunteer Program. The DC-based YAVs live in intentional community in a house in Brightwood and serve at DC Presbyterian churches and related organizations. During the 2015-2016 year, Angela Williams had a joint placement with NYAPC and NEXT Church. In the fall, Sarah-Dianne Jones became the Young Adult Volunteer serving at NYAPC and NEXT Church. At NYAPC, Sarah-Dianne is working with guests in the Radcliff Room and supporting the Community Club. Elder Elizabeth Winn Bowman served on the YAV board and Rev. Gench serves on the YAV advisory board. Rev. Tewell is the NYAPC YAV supervisor.

Nominating Committee

Mary Spatz, Chair

Our major effort began in the fall with the selection and contacting of the various candidates we felt would be good for the work of the different boards. The following were elected at the December Congregational Meeting:

Board of Deacons - Class of 2019
David Brown, Mary Nell Clark, Amy Gillespie, David Krocker-Maus, Alex Moore, Aryn Myers, and Koloina Randrianarivony
Board of Diaconal Ministers - Class of 2019
Heather Choi, Nancy Dickinson, Diane Douglas, Beth DuMez, ShuXian McKenna, John Schultheis, and Martha Sykora.

The Session - Class of 2019
Helen Anthony, Fred Dann, Miriam Dewhurst, Yongo Ding, Kristin Ford, Brian Schimming, and Molly Johnson.

Board of Trustees - Class of 2019
Rebecca Davis, Mason Hubbard, and Caroline White.

The members of the Nominating Committee were Mary Spatz (Chair), Don Campbell (Session), Bonnito Pennino (Deacons), Whitney McColley (Diaconal Ministers), Rebecca Davis (Trustees), and Molly Smith, Paul Gebhard, Len Shabman, Mason Hubbard, Amy Gillies, and Jim Spearman representing the congregation at large.

Benevolence Committee

Leigh G. Hildebrand, Treasurer of Session

The Benevolence Fund was established in December 1968 to expand the church's capacity for service in providing assistance for "unbudgeted benevolences." In October 1978, the Session authorized the Benevolence Committee to make final decisions concerning the expenditure of the income from the Fund, which determined that the income was "to be used basically for direct aid for emergencies such as catastrophic illness, evictions, lack of tuition to complete a year, etc., and for financial support of projects or individuals in need."

The Benevolence Fund was established to consist of designated gifts, including gifts through the Birthday Fund, and bequests from individuals who wish to make a substantial gift to the church beyond their annual contributions to the church budget in order to expand the church's capacity for service. Any gifts or bequests specifically made to the Benevolence Fund are restricted and can be used only for the purposes of the Fund.

In 2016, NYAPC again received a great number of requests for assistance – unfortunately too many with too many large requests to help everyone in need. In the past year, the church was able to carry out a ministry of service in the Washington, DC, metro area by spending $19,251 on such assistance as housing payments, tools to help individuals get meaningful work and support themselves, and maintaining utility service.

The committee follows a process that was handed down to us and continues to be revised to best fit the needs and available resources. Individuals, whether or not they are members of the congregation, are able to confidentially request funds or interest-free loans to assist them in dire and emergency situations. Each application is reviewed by the committee, weighing the need, the potential to achieve a more stable situation, and with priority for the DC community.

The 2016 Benevolence Committee consisted of Doug Norwood, Olivia Singelmann, Barbara Weiss, Rev. Alice Tewell and the Session Treasurer as Chair. We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Sarah-Dianne Jones, Young Adult Volunteer, for all her hard work in assisting us with applications this year.
The following persons were members of the Board of Deacons in 2016:

**Class of 2016**
- David Clark
- Jack Gillies
- Aryn Myers
- Doug Norwood
- Koloina Randrianarivony
- James Turner
- Fritz Von Fleckenstein*

**Class of 2017**
- Ian Elder
- Karen Milam
- Betsy Merritt
- Marsha Renwanz
- Joseph Riley
- John Yoder
- Todd Ruhkamp

**Class of 2018**
- Ashley Nunes Coe
- Anne Laroche
- Megan Erb Metcalf
- Bonita Pennino
- Olivia Singelmann
- Kathryn Sparks
- Barry Tindall

*Elected in December 2015 to fill a vacancy

This year has been very exciting for the Deacons! Last year the leadership team started a thoughtful exercise over the summer then included the entire board in the fall to explore our mission and role as a board. We pitched many ideas, some of them crazy-big-ideas, some of them not-so-big. We explored them together, took time to reflect on them, individually wrote about them and then discussed them in our meetings. The leadership team pull from the top 5 ideas to make a few process changes, which we have implemented:

- We created three smaller subcommittees (finance, mission statement, and spiritual) that worked to streamline the efforts of the group as a whole. They met separately, then presented their recommendations to the whole board for approval.
- We are making an effort to volunteer more within the church, since, as Deacons, we are called to serve. For example, instead of having a meeting in October, we set aside the month as a service opportunity.
- We’ve been struggling to fully staff the ushering function, so we voted to include other church members in some ushering duties (mostly previous Deacons who have already been trained) so we can get help in a pinch!
- We are resurrecting the Board of Deacons’ five-page manual to give to new Deacons. This will go along with our Deacon binders which give us context of Deacons with history from the history book, opportunities to journal and reflect on big topics, etc.

Some highlights of the year:

- **The Deacons provided roughly $50,000 in support to internal mission programs and third-party organizations.** Drawing on financial resources from the operating budget and restricted funds managed by the Deacons, the board provided financial support for several organizations including, but not limited to, Njoro Orphans and Vulnerable Children’s Program, PC(USA) efforts abroad, ONE DC, Open Arms, the Washington Interfaith Network, NYAPC Young Adult Volunteer Program, and Roots of Development.
- **Our new process (with subcommittees) allows us time to talk bigger picture.**
- **We are becoming more confident in understanding our budget and how it fits into the larger church given the work Session has been doing.** This is very important, because the Deacons received significant funding from an endowment managed outside our church many years ago, and we’ve been discerning how best to spend that interest in accordance with the donor’s wishes and the opportunity to help those in need.
- **Joe Riley graciously agreed to be head usher this year.** This has been tremendous in helping ensure morning processes are in place, we have enough ushers, we’re coordinated, etc.
We had guest speakers at some of our meetings. Marilyn Seiber explained the role of PC(USA) and Deacons/Pace and Justice relationships. We also heard from the Rev. Becca Stelle from Reunion, a group responding to “the injustices of mass incarceration,” that helps to integrate formerly incarcerated people into society through a network of racially and socio-economically diverse small groups—Freedom Circles—that meet in communities of various faith traditions throughout Washington D.C.

Hosting a dinner for the Kenyan visitors and Union Seminarian students in May.

7-2-9 Club

Spencer Gibbins and Britton Walker, Coordinators

The 7-2-9 Club was started on Valentine’s Day 1979 as an outreach project for the recovering mentally ill. This was the beginning of one of the most unique, gratifying, and stimulating experiences that we have had here in the church. The club meets every Wednesday night, September to June, from 7:00 to 9:00 (which is how the club got its name). The membership consists of three primary groups: approximately 25 persons who currently reside at and are being treated at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital; about 15 persons who have been discharged from the hospital and come on their own from community-based residence facilities and their own apartments; and four to six volunteers from the church and community. All these persons come to be with each other, share experiences, discuss problems, exchange ideas, and enjoy each other’s company.

Each week the volunteers plan an entertaining program. The first Wednesday of the month is Bingo night and is by far the most popular. Other weeks we play games, sing karaoke (mc’d by members of the Washington Gay Men’s Chorus), have talent shows or, perhaps enjoy a movie or travelogue done by a church member. After the program, light refreshments are served. Three major events are the Christmas Party with gifts distributed from NYAPC; the Valentine’s Party celebrating the anniversary of the club’s founding in which a “king” and “queen” are crowned; and the end of the year “picnic” in June (which began as an actual picnic on the grounds of St. Elizabeth’s) in which a fried chicken dinner prepared by Evelyn McMillan and NYAPC’s kitchen staff is served.

We have also been working more closely with the St. E’s staff who recruit and train volunteers. More volunteers are always needed and welcome. A volunteer staff of six to eight is ideal, and we are two or three volunteers short each week. Even volunteers who can commit to just once or twice a month would be helpful. We also welcome visitors who can perform or entertain for 30 minutes or so. Individuals or small groups who sing, dance, or perform magic, etc., are a real treat for us.

Current volunteers have various reasons for being faithful members of 7-2-9:

It is a fellowship like none other, wherein I learn as much from the members as we provide as volunteers. It is icing on the cake that the 7-2-9 volunteers are some of the best people I know.

After years of being part of the 7-2-9 community, I can always count on leaving the evening with my spirits always higher than when I arrive. It’s a magical two hours of laughter, relationship building, and friendship.

I like to sing with others.

It is a tangible way of implementing this church’s commitment to serving the disenfranchised. Because members of my family have struggled with mental illness (I am) aware that friendship and socialization are important in dealing with their problems.

Please stop in for a visit and join the fun!
2016 was a year of continued achievement for Community Club, which is a ministry of the church. The club brings DC public and charter school students together with concerned local professionals for one-with-one tutoring and mentoring in Peter Marshall Hall every Thursday night when schools are in session.

Former student Shamika Bradley was elected to another two-year term as co-director in June 2016, continuing to work with Tom Karr to direct the program. They are joined in leading the club by Chaplain Rev. Alice Tewell and the rest of the Core Council. Core Council consists of club leaders and Deacon (and tutor) Karen Milam. In the spring of 2015-16, Sarah Dinardo worked with Class Leader Laura Krapsho and that year’s graduating seniors on college prep and application activities, and this fall Core Council and NYAPC member Amy Gillespie returned to work with senior class leader Zacyoia Clark and the 2016-17 senior class. David Balan leads our Math and Science Zone, which provides additional help to students in those subjects, and former student and current tutor Titilayo Ogunyale leads the work with our current college students. We were also ably assisted by Young Adult Volunteers Angela Williams and Sarah-Dianne Jones in 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively.

Enrollment peaked at 127 students last May, and, following the graduation of a large senior class, had grown back to 120 by December 2016. They are supported by more than 140 active volunteers (including tutors, class leaders, librarians, food servers, etc.). Roughly 10% of our volunteers are church members. Community Club continues to do a great job recruiting new tutors through Craigslist, VolunteerMatch.com, referrals by tutors, and promotion of the program by NYAPC. Over 55 new tutor-student pairs have been matched this year by our “registrar,” Brendolyn McCarty-Jones.

Community Club continues to offer Stay-in-School Scholarships, monthly stipends for students with good grades and attendance. These stipends allow students to concentrate on their studies rather than work part-time. In 2016, 40% of the students in the program received stipends. Club alumni who are enrolled in college with good grades are eligible for semi-annual stipends. In 2016, 65 such alumni and alumnae received stipends from the club; in 2016, over $40,000 in stipends were awarded.

The club also promotes students for outside college scholarships and helps them apply for those scholarships. Among our current collegians are three Posse Scholars (full tuition), two DC Achievers Scholarships ($5,000/semester), and three New Futures Scholars ($1,600 per semester). In addition, in 2016 three Community Club students in their last two years of college received Andrew Charles Dornan scholarships, and one high school senior was awarded the Jennings Scholarship (started by the family of former pastor Mark Jennings). Ten former Community Club students graduated from college in 2016.

In addition to the core Thursday night tutoring, the club returned to holding overnight camp retreats in both May and October 2016. We are planning to hold another outdoor event this spring.

At Thursday night Study Hall, we maintain a library (directed by tutor Laura Dinardo) that provides study materials and books for students to use. We prepare nutritious meals in the hour before study hall and give awards to students with the best and most improved grades in each class. We also organize semi-annual roundtable discussions with club alumni now in college, and a well-attended graduation ceremony in May.

To help fund its activities and the scholarships it provided in 2016, the club received several large donations, including continued major support from the New York Avenue Foundation, a $10,000 grant and an $8,000 grant, respectively, from two generous donors, along with a contribution from Bloomberg LP (on behalf of a Bloomberg employee who is a veteran tutor). The club’s website, www.communityclub.org, is an excellent resource for those wishing to learn more about this program.
Radcliffe Room Ministry

Mission Statement: The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and justice-seeking church that recognizes the challenges of homelessness in Washington. The Radcliffe Room expresses our faith through hospitality by seeking to fulfill the message of Matthew 25:35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” The RR brings together people who otherwise may never journey together.

Overview: For more than 30 years, 75-125 men and women who live on the street or in shelters have been visiting the Radcliffe Room on Sunday mornings. The RR is open to guests from 8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and provides a space for guests and volunteers to socialize. In 2016, we have:

- Started a “Jobseekers’ Club,” in which Radcliffe Room volunteers and the Revs. Roger Gench and Alice Tewell meet with guests to discuss opportunities and obstacles in their struggle to regain their footing. It originally was meant to identify candidates for green jobs that Washington Interfaith Network negotiated with DC Water, but we let it take its natural course, and it’s really become more of a small community and support group. Everyone involved agrees that it has been a powerful experience.
- Been blessed with the presence of Sarah-Dianne Jones, New York Avenue’s Young Adult Volunteer, who has brought great energy, organization and caring to our ministry. Sarah-Dianne organized a great Christmas for Radcliffe Room guests.
- Partnered with Asbury United Methodist Church to host our annual Super Bowl Party, which gets bigger and better every year.
- Maintained our partnership with downtown hotels that allow us to put donation boxes in their lobbies so departing guests can donate Metro fare cards. We are currently in the Hilton Garden Inn, the Renaissance, the Mayflower and Embassy Suites hotels. Members of our buyers club pay $5 dues each week and get a card with a one-week bus pass (value $17.50). Every week, their spent card is exchanged for a freshly funded card. When donations are high, dues go into a savings account. When donations are low during winter, the saved dues are used to keep the cards funded at a stable level.

We have continued to partner with area restaurants, which donate leftover food that volunteers pick up on Fridays and Saturdays. The current lineup is Bean & Bite, Bruegger’s Bagels at 21st and L NW, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe, and Peet’s at the corner of 15th and M NW. Evelyn McMillan supplies the coffee, tea, punch, sugar, cream, peanut butter, cream cheese, jelly, napkins, cups, bowls, and plastic silverware, which are paid for by the Deacons from the Boyles Bequest. The Clothing Closet provides clothing and toiletries to guests. The church provides funding for wholesale sock and underwear purchases, which are augmented by donations from individuals and organizations. On Sunday mornings, volunteers play the piano and join guests in singing hymns.

On the first Sunday of the month, Communion is served. The Rev. Beth Braxton leads a weekly Bible reflection group. The RR also distributes bus tokens, which are paid for by the church. Books for America, a nonprofit provided paperback books for the RR “library,” but it closed this year. Volunteers again served food (beautifully prepared by Evelyn) at a reception for the Longest Night homeless people’s memorial service at NYAPC.

Almost everything that happens in the Radcliffe Room is made possible – or made better – by the work of the church staff, who treat our guests and volunteers with respect and patience. Mary Newman and David Smoot and his crew are capable and caring ambassadors for the church.
Initiatives and Goals:

- Increased involvement from members of the church and the community so every RR guest feels personally welcomed to NYACP.
- Find new sources for reading material for RR guests.
- Develop a network of volunteers to make clothing pickups.
- Develop sources of healthy food for the Radcliffe Room.
- Continue to find ways to make the Radcliffe Room more environmentally friendly and cost-effective.
- Expand our efforts to provide access to mass transit. The waiting list for the SmarTrip buyers club is three times longer than the membership roll. We hope to invert that ratio this year.

Radcliffe Room volunteers and friends: Beth Braxton, Bob Braxton, Chess Campbell, Gary Campbell, Carol Casperson, John Clark, Rebecca Davis, David Douglass, Cindy Dickinson, Beth DuMez, Tyler Feret, Jenna Fletcher, Spence Gibbons, Sandra McLean, Betsy Merritt, Doug Norwood, Jill Norwood, David Powell, Elie Robins, Dara Satterfield, David Snyder, Courtney Spearman, Jim Spearman, Phil Telfayan, Barry Tindall, Sam Waltzer, Suzie Waltzer, Rosemary Segero, Jim Wall and Helen Williams.

Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)

This report is available as part of the online version of the Annual Reports for 2016.

Njoro, Kenya Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program

Beth Braxton, Chair

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows" James 1:27

The Orphan and Vulnerable Children program is a ministry of the Njoro P.C.E.A. Church [Presbyterian Church of East Africa] in which NYACP has partnered since its inception in January 2007 and now serves 35 orphans who gather at the Njoro Church each Saturday for a full day’s program of activities: worship and fellowship, study and homework instruction, recreation and sports, singing and two hearty meals and bags of maize meal to take home for guardians. The children experience the joy of being together. The staff and volunteers encourage them. The program gives support for education, with school uniforms, shoes, medical fees and necessary supplies. Program leaders help with test preparation as well as school fees for those attaining high school age.

Beth and Bob Braxton returned to Kenya in February to attend the joint Kenya Mission Network Conference of the PC(USA) and the PCEA being held in Nakuru. Since Nakuru is no more than 15 miles from Njoro, they were able to pay a visit and observe a Saturday program in action. And more importantly they met with the OVC Committee of the Njoro Church and officially signed the four-year Memorandum of Agreement that each committee had drafted and approved. The MOA outlines our relationship to grow in prayer and faith caring for the vulnerable children in need. It indicates we will share in prayers, financing and visits between our churches.

In February, a Director/Social Worker joined the programs two cooks and two teachers. Her name is Cathy Wambui and she has been doing a terrific job of visiting homes of the students and their various schools. She is able to record and report on how the students are doing and assess what are the particular needs of each. The committees have been very pleased with her reports and communication. Ms. Wambui has completed a booklet with each student’s biography and we anticipate receiving our copy.
On Mother’s Day in May (which got postponed to Memorial weekend), we had our first Orphan Emphasis Sunday, to draw attention to the great need in support of these 35 children. It was Providential that this Sunday event was changed because we were able to have a visit from elder Francis Muchemi, who is the chair of the OVC committee in Njoro on this very Sunday. (Three years earlier his visa did not come through.) This year he came to Atlanta to see his wife’s graduation from Columbia Theological Seminary; and we flew him to DC to see and be part of our ministry. We had him pouring coffee on Sunday in the Radcliffe Room and watching the graduation ceremony of the Community Club!

The Chicken Project, begun in 2011, continues to provide improved nutrition and increased income to the families caring for the orphans. Each year the project provides 10 families with chickens, including a rooster. All of the families of orphans in the program now have chickens. This allows them to improve the family’s nutrition and earn some much-needed money. The chicken project has attained the status of a Community Based Organization (CBO), which allows it to get some help from the Kenyan government. This year we provided funds to elder Jeremiah Nduyu and he set up three training sessions for the parents and guardians with Walter Siro, from the Ministry of Agriculture to learn better poultry management skills.

Sad news is that the program expelled four teenage boys because they had quit attending the Saturday program, had been truant from school and had gotten in trouble with officials for stealing. This saddens us, but makes us even more resolved to continue to support our social worker who can now give more support and help to the students as needed. The Njoro OVC committee brought six new students on board (we were already down two).

The Deacons provide the bulk of American money for our side of this OVC program partnership, but also other churches in the presbytery contribute, as well as donations from individuals during the Alternative Christmas Giving. People may contribute at any time, and donations can be made through the NYAPC website www.nyapc.org, or by check to NYAPC, with "Kenya Orphans" on the memo line. Abundant thanks to members for your continual gracious support!

The Njoro Steering Committee: Beth Braxton (Chair), Bob Braxton, Karen Milam, Molly Lauer, Marsha Renwanz, Kathryn Sparks, Jim Turner (Board of Deacons liaison), Fritz Von Fleckenstein (Treasurer) and Sarah Williamson (Secretary)

**Peace and Justice Committee**

*Marilyn J. Seiber, Chair*

The committee continued its pursuit of programs and projects that contribute to attaining peace and justice in our community and worldwide. It sponsored PC(USA) Special Offerings of One Great Hour of Sharing and Peace and Global Witness, made peace candles available to visitors to take with them to spread the “light of peace,” and provided weekly Peace Candle “prayers for peace” in the bulletin. The committee continued its strong support of Heeding God’s Call for gun control. It promoted and participated in the annual Capital Pride Parade, and organized NYAPC’s annual hosting of Compassion, Peace, and Justice Training in the context of a weekend of Advocacy Days. The committee joined with the Cuba Partners and Triangle Park Committees to host an “Earth Day Cuba-Coffee in the Park.” Committee members also worked with the Washington Interfaith Network on highlighting the inequities of DC bus drivers. In October, the Committee highlighted PC(USA)’s Food Week and, for the second year, organized NYAPC’s hosting of a film (“My Name is Adil”) for the annual Immigration Film Festival. Finally, the committee organized NYAPC’s annual Alternative Christmas Gifts with seven mission projects which have direct connections with NYAPC: DC Geriatric Day Care, Open Arms Housing, Cuba Partners, Kenyan Orphans, Iraq Presbyterian Churches in Baghdad and Basrah, Syrian Presbyterian Churches in Homs and Damascus, and Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition. The program also supported the International Medical Corps in South Sudan and Palestinian farmers through sales of their olive oil.
The committee invited Syrian Presbyterian Miray Zaour to lead an Adult Christian Education class in February. As a result, Peace and Justice pursued a partnership with the National Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church in Damascus whose pastor, Rev. Butros Zaour, is Miray’s father. Revs. Gench and Tewell sent letters to Rev. Zaour along with a signed copy of Rev. Gench’s book and NYAPC brochures and postcards. Peace and Justice also sent $1,000 to the Winter Syrian Appeal of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon through The Outreach Foundation (Presbyterian). The Committee also worked with its partner Presbyterian Churches in Iraq, and specifically contributed substantially for a new generator needed by the Baghdad Church.


On September 28-October 3, 2016, the Committee sponsored International Peacemaker and Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Rami Al-Maqdasi, who is from Baghdad, was ordained in Damascus, and worked for ten years with refugees in Syria and northern Iraq. He led a Christian Education class and Time with Children, gave greetings to the congregation, and gave a presentation at a lunch on World Communion Sunday.

The committee always seeks new members and new projects that will promote its mission of peace and justice.

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**Board of Diaconal Ministers**

Alison Nowak, President

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The following persons were members of the Board of Diaconal Ministers in 2016:

**Class of 2016**
- Barbara Dornan
- Gwenn Gebhard
- ShuXian McKenna
- Margaret Myers
- Cecelia Porter
- Rosemary Segero
- Helen Williams

**Class of 2017**
- Mary Danewitz
- Stacey Gagosian
- Esther Moring*
- Janet Shabman
- Stephanie Simpson
- Lenora Theirry
- Marie Meka

**Class of 2018**
- Jim Davidson
- Glory Eyong
- Nathan Moon
- Alison Nowak
- Whitney McCollery
- Carrie Reasonover
- Laura West

*Resigned in December. Vacancy will be filled in early 2017.

The board, founded in 1949 as the Board of Deaconesses and changed in 2010 to its present name to reflect a more diverse membership and mission, provides care for members and friends of the congregation. Members of the board began being ordained as Deacons in 2011. The board attends to congregational needs by visiting the sick, the elderly, and those confined at home or in care facilities; giving aid and comfort to the bereaved; and helping, so far as possible, those in need of special care. We also arrange for and facilitate geriatric counseling when needed. In addition, the board: obtains and prepares the communion elements; coordinates and provides hospitality at memorial and funeral services held at the church; orders the Sunday sanctuary flowers and seeks donations in memory or honor of an individual or event; delivers arrangements of those flowers to individuals or families in need of care or celebrating a special event; decorates the sanctuary with plants for Easter and Christmas, and delivers them to those unable to attend worship; celebrates the birth of a child into the church family by placing a single rose on the communion table, then delivers the rose to the child’s family; and performs other duties as requested by the Session.
The Board carried on its role of providing care to the members and friends of New York Avenue Presbyterian with dedication and love. In 2016, board members sent hundreds of cards and delivered over 300 bouquets, baby roses, poinsettias, and Easter plants to members unable to attend church; those ill, grieving or in need of care; and members of the church and staff the board wished to recognize.

The board also hosted or assisted with seven receptions in 2016. These receptions followed the memorial services for Mary Mitchell, Dixie Ferry, Fredericka Cobren, Bill Noellert, Lawrence Porter, Bill McAfee, and Lena Williams. Members of the board also represented the church at the service for Jackie Parker and services held at other locations for Ed Eberhard and Jack Lentz.

In addition to its visitation and hospitality activities, the board prepared communion for services throughout the year, created a handbook to guide sanctuary flower dedications and ordering, and updated its manual and bylaws.

Earnings from the board’s funds provided sufficient income to meet its annual operating expenses. Donors were secured to cover the costs for sanctuary flowers for 19 Sundays, and donations from the congregation in memory or honor of loved ones helped defray the cost of Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias. The board’s Flower Fund covered the cost of providing flowers for the remaining Sundays and for the purchase of a new artificial Christmas tree to replace the Angel Tree featured in the rear of the sanctuary each Advent season. In addition, the board funded or approved funding for projects related to our goal of ensuring the church building is fully accessible to all those who attend. The first was the installation of a hand railing up the first few steps of the chancel near the baptismal font in the sanctuary this spring. The second was the allocation of funds to assist with the repair or replacement of the chair lift on the Park Level.

Joyfully, three members took leave from board responsibilities this year to welcome new babies. I would like to thank those that took on additional responsibilities during these months, especially Esther Moring who led the board while I took leave for three months this past summer.

I am so grateful for the women and men of this board for the work they do to care for the members and friends of our congregation. Serving as the board president this year has been an honor.

Board of Trustees

This report is available as part of the online version of the Annual Reports for 2016.

Investment Committee

NYAPC’s investment portfolio has been managed by Ariba Asset Management since April 2006. The custodian for NYAPC’s accounts is UBS. As of December 31, 2016, the total value of NYAPC’s investment accounts (excluding a dedicated working capital cash account) was $9,006,792. During the year, the investment portfolio was allocated between stocks (64.2% in value), bonds (21.0%), and cash and cash equivalents (14.8%). For the year, the portfolio had a small net investment loss of $18,398 due primarily to investment management fees. The members of the Investment Committee for 2016 are Hal Hielemstra, Tom Dunlap, and Karl Hoffman (Chair).

During the year we continued a policy of holding a large cash position to ensure sufficient available liquidity in the portfolio so that the church would not be forced to sell its stocks and bonds at an inopportune time when market prices were depressed. As the budget is completed in 2017, and the church leadership becomes more comfortable with our new accounting system, adjustments will likely be made to our cash position.

Karl S. Hoffman, Chair
In terms of performance, NYAPC's stock portfolio performed poorly for 2016 against broad U.S. stock market indices. While the portfolio's underperformance on a three- and five-year basis is disappointing, it is explained partly by the conservative positioning of this portfolio from 2009 until mid-2013 during a strong stock rally. It is worth stressing that our stock portfolio has been less volatile over the last five years than its benchmarks, meaning that we sacrificed some incremental upside for additional safety. From a longer perspective, we think the church has achieved satisfactory stock returns on a risk-adjusted basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYAPC Equity Acct</td>
<td>-2.39%</td>
<td>3.24%</td>
<td>8.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLD 400 Social Index</td>
<td>8.62%</td>
<td>5.93%</td>
<td>11.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500 index</td>
<td>9.54%</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
<td>12.23%</td>
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NYAPC's fixed income portfolio is primarily comprised of short duration, investment grade bonds. This intentional, lower risk tilt in bonds had not been rewarded in recent years, as longer duration and higher risk bonds outperformed in the low-interest rate environment. This year that changed and the bond portfolio saw outperformance versus the aggregate bond index we measure against. We remain comfortable with this portfolio’s defensive positioning as it remains a vital source of continuing liquidity in the portfolio across all market conditions.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYAPC Bond Acct</td>
<td>4.47%</td>
<td>1.90%</td>
<td>3.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index</td>
<td>2.65%</td>
<td>3.03%</td>
<td>2.23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, the overall performance of the entire investment portfolio was down -0.2%.

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**Accounting Task Force**

John H. Quinn, Jr. and Edith Holmes Snyder, Co-conveners

The Board of Trustees, in December 2014, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee and with the concurrence of the Funds Development Cluster, created the Accounting Task Force to engage the outside accounting firm, Your Part-Time Controller, to work with church staff, officers and committee chairs to (1) assist in engaging and training a new staff accountant, (2) prepare the church's 2014 records for audit, and (3) design a financial accounting and reporting system that would meet the church's needs and expectations, be responsive to the comments of auditors over the years, and ensure the trust of the congregation in the church's management of its finances. We reported last year that all three of these objectives were successfully accomplished in 2015.

In December, 2015, the Board of Trustees extended to mid-year 2017 the terms of Accounting Task Force members, and authorized new members who are currently serving on the Board of Trustees and Session, in order to finish the following tasks: (1) ensure the performance of the new accounting system in 2016 and address any issues and problems that arise; (2) revise the accounting and financial management manual that documents the policies and procedures used in maintaining church financial records, including identifying the board or boards responsible for establishing, monitoring and amending those policies and procedures; and (3) train all church staff, officers, and congregation members who have responsibilities for receiving and counting money, spending church money, and receiving reports of Church expenditures for program purposes.

During 2016 the Accounting Task Force successfully pursued the first of these objectives. The new accounting system became operational on January 1, 2016, at which point the church began to maintain its accounts on an accrual basis (as distinguished from the modified cash basis, which had previously been used), in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The church's Accounting Manager, with continuing support
from Your Part-Time Controller, used the new accounting system to maintain financial records and prepare reports for church officers. The Audit Committee has been advised that the church is on track for being ready for the 2016 audit with “smooth sailing” expected for timely completion of a “clean audit” without the auditor comments in the Management Letter, which have for many years appeared in that Letter.

Substantial progress has been made on preparing a draft of the accounting and financial management manual. Completing the draft and submitting it to the Board of Trustees for approval, and to the other church boards for information, is expected by the spring of 2017. As soon as the manual is approved, the Accounting Task Force will conduct training for all church personnel, including staff, officers and other volunteers, in how to use and rely upon the new accounting system and manual. The training program is currently in the planning stage.

In addition to the three tasks contemplated for the Accounting Task Force at the beginning of 2016, we also provided support to the Audit Committee and auditors in the timely completion of the church’s 2015 audit, and we welcomed the Rev. Alice Tewell to the task force in her newly assumed and assigned role of Deputy Head of Staff. Among her new duties is supervising the Accounting Manager. Karl Hoffman, Church Treasurer, from the Board of Trustees; and Session members, John Davies, co-chair of the Finance Committee; and Laura Asalia, chair of the Funds Development Cluster, joined the task force in mid-year, too.

The Accounting Task Force’s term expires in mid-2017, upon approval by the Audit Committee and auditors of the 2016 audit—the first full audit of the church’s financial statements using the newly established accounting system and GAAP-approved accrual accounting.


Reports of Special Activities

Cuba Partners Committee

The Cuba Partners Committee continued activities that have strengthened our partnership with First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, a relationship that began in 1998 when Rev. Héctor Méndez visited NYAPC for World Communion Sunday.

A delegation that included members and the pastor from Church of the Pilgrims and Bradley Hills PC traveled to Cuba April 4-11, 2016, for a week of partnership activities that concentrated on music mission. NYAPC Music Director, Dr. Stan Engebretson—his third visit to First Havana—and two choir members worked with First Havana’s Choir Director as well as Villazul Band (church members) to create a week of wonderful music and learning. A new feature of this trip was a NYAPC donation drive organized and led by Aryn Myers that resulted in ten suitcases of medicines, clothing, and linens donated by NYAPC members. In past years, members of the delegation bring donations, but on a much smaller scale. This church-wide donation drive was wonderfully successful, and Aryn will lead another donation drive for NYAPC’s visit in 2017.
On April 17, 2016, the Peace and Justice Committee joined with the Cuba Partners and Triangle Park Committees to hold an “Earth Day Cuba-Coffee in the Park.” The turnout was terrific and church members enjoyed baked goods, coffee, Cuban music and a beautiful day in the park.

During the visit to Havana, Rev. Méndez said that he hoped to repair and replace the aging roof of the church as a last major project before he retires at the end of the year. The delegation offered to help raise funds for the roof project and he agreed. The total cost would be $23,000 of which First Havana could provide $6,000. The committee held a “Raise the Roof for First Havana” campaign that included a fundraiser with Cuban food, music, and displays; two grants from National Capital Presbytery (one matching); and efforts to have other churches in the Presbytery also participate, which Church of the Pilgrims and Leesburg PCs did. NYAPC donations from the congregation reached more than $4,000; Cuba Partners gave $3,000; and grants and other participation made the total gift to First Havana $17,000—we reached our goal!

Three representatives from NYAPC—Rev. Alice Tewell, Betsy Merritt, Aryn Myers—attended the PC(USA) annual Cuba Partners Network meetings which are held in Cuba every fourth year. The meetings were held at the seminary in Matanzas with 40 Cuban Elders and pastors and 23 US Elders and pastors attending. It was a valuable time of exploring the meaning and importance of partnerships and how they can be improved. Rev. Tewell said it was clear how meaningful the NYAPC-First Havana partnership is.

Rev. Méndez retired in December 2016 and has plans to move to Miami to be with his daughters and their families. NYAPC pastors and members sent him letters of congratulations and best wishes.

The next visit to First Havana will be February 20-27, 2017, and will be the first time the delegation will fly a commercial flight to Havana and stay in private apartments.

**Triangle Park Committee**

*Marilyn Seiber, Courtney Spearman and Barry Tindall, Coordinators*

The Triangle Park Committee—Beth DuMez, Aryn Myers, Todd Ruhkamp, Marilyn Seiber, Courtney and Jim Spearman, Barry Tindall—worked through the year to maintain the church plant beds, Entryway pots, street tree wells, and to work with the National Park Service to keep the Triangle Park (NPS Reservation 172) clean and maintained. The rodent problem has decreased due to work with the National Park Service and Downtown Bid that has a working partnership with NPS.

On March 12, 2016, the committee did spring clean-up clipping liriope, sweeping trash, pulling weeds and dead winter debris, planting pansies, and pruning plants in the Entryway pots. Barry Tindall worked with NPS to ensure that Triangle Park was readied for the Easter Sunrise service on March 27 with the park cleaned and mulched, trees pruned, and benches repaired and power washed.

The committee co-sponsored an Earth Day Cuba-Coffee in the Park with Cuba Partners and Peace and Justice on April 17. Coffees were held after both services to highlight Earth Day, the second being in the park and both with food, Cuban music, and displays. Both coffees were well attended.

Throughout the summer Barry Tindall worked with NPS, requesting continued repair and attention to the park as needed, and in July sent a specified list of needs including brick and mortar repairs, bench bases, and re-laying bricks. He requested that NPS give attention to the growing weeds at the end of the park by spraying. He also re-mulched and clipped dead branches from the “Cuba bush” as well as removing dead evergreens in Entryway pots and replacing them with perennials.
On December 3, committee members endured a blustery morning of gardening to clean out the front plant beds of the church and plant 50 flower bulbs provided by Barry that will bloom in the spring. They also weeded and raked the areas inside the black-iron fencing.

NPS and Downtown Bid have collected trash daily, swept bricks, and cleaned benches. The trees and tree wells on H Street and New York Avenue need attention—some trees have died and two steel root covers are missing.

The committee will continue to keep tabs on the conditions of the Triangle Park, work with NPS to ensure continuous maintenance, garden the plant beds and Entryway pots, and generally oversee the appearance and condition of the park. The committee continues to explore installation of black iron fencing in the front of the church planting beds to match those found on H Street.

Reports of the Clusters

Christian Learning Cluster

David Inoue, Chair

The Christian Learning Cluster continued to see the development and strengthening of the programs offered for both our adult and children. The number of children continues to increase and we anticipate the parallel growth of programming for this segment of our congregation, particularly with an interest in retaining youth members as they age into the also-vibrant young adult group.

In 2016, the cluster accomplished the following:

- We planned and implemented a varied and challenging set of adult church school electives under the able and dedicated leadership of Paul Dornan. Topics included collaboration with the McClendon Scholars program, current events, history of the church, art, vocation, church mission, and bible study. Attendance on any given Sunday, with one or two classes offered, is typically 30 people, though sometimes as many as 50 or more. Classes are led by a combination of NYAPC members and guest experts.
- The weekly prayer group “Gathered for Prayer” continued.
- Children’s Sunday School continued to utilize the Holy Moly curriculum for elementary school.
- Intergenerational Sunday School classes continued with some Adult CE classes integrated with the senior high/confirmation classes.
- The children and youth led the Youth Sunday service and the Christmas pageant. A special thanks to Molly Johnson for producing the Christmas Pageant showcasing the talents of our youth.
- A consistent group of parents continues to gather in fellowship following the family gathering time during the Sunday School hour.
- We celebrated the service of instructors for adult, children, and youth Sunday School classes with an all-church picnic in June at Bluemont Park in Northern Virginia. Thank you to the Nurture Committee for their participation in organizing this event. We were once again blessed with beautiful weather.
- The annual assessment and report of the Child Protection Policy was completed with modifications and recommendations approved by the Session. In particular, the policy was amended to better match with the church alcohol policy and to account for the addition of the special education assistant role.
- The cluster hosted an all-church back-to-school picnic at Cabin John Regional Park in Montgomery County.
- A special education assistant was hired to provide respite care for special needs children. She informed us of her resignation at the end of the year and we are now seeking to fill this position again.
- A chair rail was added to the Park Level meeting space to protect the walls from damage.
We want to acknowledge the wonderful work of three groups within the church that fall under the auspices of the
cluster, but report separately in the Annual Report: the History and Archives Committees; the McClendon Scholar
in Residence Council; and the Sizoo Library.

Sizoo Library

The mission of the Sizoo Library is to enrich and expand the life of the congregation spiritually, intellectually, and
compassionately. The library has over 1,797 books on topics of Bible study, Christianity, faith journeys, church
history, Reformed theology and social/justice ministry. The collection also includes books written by our pastors
and members, reference books, as well as the Lincoln Commission Collection and the Diaconal Ministers' Care
Collection. Books may be checked out for a month or longer by members of the congregation.

The bibliographic database of the Sizoo Library is on the NYAPC website. All records can be downloaded, and one
may search it by author, title, date or subject headings. You may also download the database to your own
computer. To do so, log onto the church website (NYAPC.ORG), select the About Us button on the top bar. Under
About Us, select Library. On the Library screen, go to the bottom and click on SizooCatalog_in_MSW.doc button.
The catalog (1.8 MB) will be downloaded to your computer as a PDF file.

In 2017 the library plans to continue to develop the collection to make it more useful to the congregation.
Volunteers are always welcome, especially someone to help members find books after the 11 a.m. service.
Suggestions for new books are always welcome.

The committee includes: Louise Berman, Paul Dornan, Thomas Dunlap, John Quinn, Jr., and Dewey Wallace.

McClendon Scholar in Residence Program

The McClendon Scholar in Residence program was established through the insight and generosity of the late Rev.
Dr. Jack E. McClendon (Associate Minister, 1957-1991). It was created because of Dr. McClendon’s conviction that
justice, service and social action can only be sustained for the long haul when a congregation is encouraged and
equipped to grapple with the profound theological and moral issues of our time.

During 2016, we had an active set of programs. The five programs sponsored with scholars were:

- March 19-20: Dr. Douglas Ottati of Davidson University--The theme for these programs on Palm Sunday
weekend was "Following Jesus in a Violent and Disrupted World." Dr. Ottati made a presentation to
about 70 people on Saturday morning and then was the guest at a "Faith on Tap" session on Saturday
evening with 25 young adults. On Sunday, he spoke to about 50 people during the Church School hour
and preached at both worship services

- April 30-May 1: Dr. Willie Jennings of Yale University Divinity School--This weekend was sponsored
jointly with Metropolitan AME Church and a large crowd of over 175 people attended a presentation an
discussion with Dr. Jennings on Saturday morning entitled "Race, Faith and Place: Understanding our
Racial Geography." This program was followed by a luncheon discussion and a dinner meeting with 20
young people from the two churches that evening. On Sunday, Dr. Jennings preached at Metropolitan
AME in their early service and at our 11:00 AM worship service. He also participated in a panel discussi
with some church members during the Church School hour.

- October 5: Dr. Ron White, Author and Lincoln Scholar--Dr. White, a previous participant in the program
was invited back to talk about his new book on Ulysses S. Grant and the topic for his presentation was

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"Lincoln and Grant: Models for Presidential Leadership and National Reconciliation." About 60 people attended this Wednesday evening dinner program.

- **October 15-16: Dr. Miroslav Volf of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture**—The focus of this weekend was "After the Election: How Can Christians Help Heal our Divided Country." Dr. Volf gave a presentation on Saturday morning entitled "A Public Faith in Action: Working for the Common Good" to about 80 people. That evening, he led a dinner discussion with about 30 young adults and other church members and then preached on Sunday. He was also part of a question and answer session between the worship services.

- **November 14: E.J. Dionne of The Washington Post**—Mr. Dionne, an award-winning author and nationally syndicated columnist, spoke six days after the election on the topic of "A Country Divided: What Do We Do Now?" About 300 people attended this Monday evening program that was held in the Sanctuary.

Participation in these programs was strong from both NYAPC as well as other churches. We continued to work closely with many different congregations and developed a new partnership with Metropolitan AME Church. Representatives of more than 50 congregations attended at least one of our programs in 2016.

Another important aspect of the year was an increased focus on following up with those who attend programs and want to get involved and take some type of action. Three ongoing activities at the church have sprung directly from interested generated by recent programs:

- Several church members are now regularly involved in assisting those in the criminal justice system. This work began in 2015 and grew to include more people during 2016.
- The “engaged spirituality group” that formed in 2015 continued throughout 2016 to focus on how to grow spiritually and also be more effective in working for social justice.
- A new group composed of members from NYAPC and Metropolitan AME was started to continue the dialogue that began during the weekend with Dr. Willie Jennings and explore effective ways to work together. The group meets quarterly for dinner, conversation and project planning.

All of these programs were planned and organized under the supervision of the McClendon Scholar in Residence Council, which is led by Paul Dornan. The monthly meetings to plan programs were well attended and there was active involvement by members throughout the year.

**History and Archives Committees**

*Len Shabman, History and Archives Programs Coordinator*

The committee recruits and then schedules leaders for the tours offered following all regular worship services. During 2016 there was one meeting of tour guides to discuss the program and to share ideas. There were also several specialized tours offered to out-of-town groups. Those who take the tour want to learn about not only church history, but also about the congregation today, making the tour a part of NYAPC evangelism.

In 2015, the Bicentennial Interviews Project under Marilyn Seiber and Edith Snyder, conducted oral histories with long-time NYAPC members for publication in AVENUES and retention in the archives. The 2016 interviews were with John and Catherine Schultheis and Edward David Eberhard. An interview with Marian Carroll was conducted with the assistance of Karen Mills, Evelyn Ying and Olivia Lewis.

NYAPC Lincoln Legacy: In observance of Lincoln’s birthday at the Lincoln Memorial, on February 12, NYAPC was represented by Len Shabman and Barry Tindall, who presented memorial wreaths on behalf of the church and Hildene, the Vermont summer home of the Robert Todd Lincoln family. In addition, John O’Brien completed his research on the life and career of Rev. Dr. Phineas Densmore Gurley and it has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association.*
In collaboration with the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, a presentation on the history and implications of the presidential election of 1860 was held on August 13. History Committee member John O’Brien created the context by reviewing the political history of the 1850s. Dr. John Elliff, president of the Lincoln Group, drew on his research into the primaries and electoral process to describe the nature of the voting that won Lincoln his first term as president. The Radcliffe Room was decorated for the event with reproductions of campaign posters and banners for all four of the presidential candidates.

In October, the History Committee collaborated with the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program to bring historian Ron White to the church for the symposium on “After the Election: How can Christians Help Heal our Divided Country?” Dr. White is a great friend of our church and has been noted for his Lincoln biographies and recently published a book entitled American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant. He spoke on “Lincoln and Grant: Models for Presidential Leadership and National Reconciliation.” White described the influence of their faith in the strategies of both men to bring the country together at the end of the Civil War and during Reconstruction.

The church continues to respond to outside requests for information from the church archives about marriages and baptisms that have occurred over the years. In the past year there continued to be a high volume of materials submitted to the archives requiring time to sort through those materials and select the material to keep. The space available for the work of the archives is small. In the fall of 2016 the Trustees requested a report on moving the archives to make room for an expanded Radcliffe Room clothes closet. A proposal to the Trustees will be filed early in 2017.

New Activities: The committee had one telephone meeting in late 2016 and refined a task list and assigned priorities to that list. Progress on task completion has been slow to date. At the top of the list for 2017 is the reorganization of the history display in Lincoln Parlor, JQA and Docherty Center/Sizoo Library, to allow for more attention to the Peter Marshall era and to the period from 1950 to the present.

In May, a major event in memory of Peter Marshall ministry was held. The event included Marshall family members participating in morning worship, a presentation on a forthcoming book of previously unpublished lectures and new biographical insights, and a celebratory luncheon.

An “archives annex” space was created on the 3rd floor. Library materials related to A. Lincoln and NYAPC were culled and organized and extra materials were moved to a new storage room on the 3rd floor, awaiting a decision on sale or donation.

**Congregational Life Cluster**

The committees reporting below make up the Congregational Life Cluster.

**Worship and Music Committee**

*Benno Lauer, Chair*

In this second year of this writer’s chairing of the committee, it again met roughly every two months due to a scheduling conflict of his. This year, we met four times (2/17, 4/20, 7/19, 9/21) and eventually switched to an odd-numbered-month schedule in order to avoid the need to work around the difficult months of August and December.

Throughout 2016, Raleigh, NC-resident and NYAPC member Mark Zaineddin faithfully coordinated the church liturgist schedule through a web-based scheduling program, and liturgists old and new who have not been involved lately are invited to contact Mark to arrange participation.
Following a pilot year in 2014-15, the Dance Ministry led by Kathryn Sparks completed a well-received second year in the summer of 2016. Starting in January 2017 it will be planned out in one-year periods in synch with the calendar year in order to better coordinate with NYAPC’s budget cycle.

Taizé-style sung prayer services, started in 2014 and held more or less monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., continue as a regular if niche feature of the corporate worship of New York Avenue. Pastor Beth Braxton, Pastor Roger Gench, and Bob Braxton have continued to form the backbone of this ministry.

Starting in early April 2016, communion – which since 2014 or earlier has been served on the chancel steps at both worship services – is now served by four rather than eight (2014-2016) or six (before 2014) elders, since four is seen as adequate. Eight servers at times interferes with the positioning of the piano by the chancel steps, and six is seen as creating lopsided foot traffic in the center aisle. Elders currently on and off Session have continued to support admirably this writer’s efforts to coordinate serving schedules.

After tests of an 11:00 a.m. single-service worship time around Christmas 2015 yielded generally negative feedback, the committee proposed and Session approved a 10:00 a.m. single-service worship time for four weeks around Christmas 2016, a reversion to recent practice.

Following up on listening sessions held on two dates in July and August of 2015 in order to obtain congregational input on various issues, the committee has supported pastoral implementation of a number of minor changes to liturgy, including the use of different musical settings during communion and a change in the timing of the passing of the peace within the service (starting in late July 2016).

The question of the Sunday morning worship schedule (how many services, held at which times), which had begun to occupy the attention of the committee during 2015, remains a topic for discussion in 2017. Our committee hesitates to weigh in on this important matter without sufficient in-depth consideration of the topic, but hopes that consensus within the congregation about several years’ worth of worship schedules may yet be reached before long. For reference, the congregation currently worships once on Sunday morning about 37% of the time (for, on average, 15 weeks in a row from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, plus 4 weeks in a row centered around Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) and twice on Sunday morning about 63% of the time (during the rest of the year).

We continue to welcome suggestions from the congregation about our worship, both Sunday services and special services, and thank those who have taken the time to share their comments with us recently, whether by email, in person, or by written letter.

In 2017 the committee awaits some membership changes as Doug Porter (past chair), Jim Turner, and this writer all rotate off their respective boards. Special thanks to Doug for his long years of service! Thanks go to all the 2016 committee members: David Clark, Brian Dewhurst, Stacey Gagosian, Adam McColley, Douglas Porter, Kathryn Sparks, and Jim Turner, under the guidance of Pastor Roger; to unofficial committee secretary Jim Turner for his minutes and his thoughtful leadership; and to all those who in 2016 supported the smooth functioning of the committee’s work, whether mentioned above or not.
Gathered In: A Ministry of Dance
Matthew 18:20: *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

Mission Statement: Gathered in the unity of Christ, dance at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church proclaims God’s steadfast love through visual, embodied scripture and song. We serve God and our community by witnessing and testifying to the gift of the human body for deepening paths of prayer, awareness and fullness of life with God.

Below is a list of church activities involving movement or dance offered between September 2015 and December 2016:

- **September 27 and October 4, 2015:** Sunday school class led by Kathryn to practice Kenyan dance for World Communion Sunday
- **October 4:** Group danced Baraka za Mungu (song/dance from Kenya) as the opening hymn
- **December 13:** Beth Clark danced the part of Elizabeth in the Christmas pageant
- **January 3 through February 7, 2016:** Sunday school class led by Kathryn exploring the Transfiguration through movement
- **February 7, 11am:** Group* danced the anthem as a meditation on the Transfiguration and led the children’s sermon, involving the whole congregation in embodied prayer
- **April 2:** Kathryn led sacred movement at the women’s retreat with Frances Gench
- **June 19:** Beth and Mary Nell Clark led congregational, embodied prayer to ‘Spirit of the Living God’ during worship
- **September through November:** Kathryn and Beth Clark led embodied prayer following the passing of the peace.
- **October 23:** Kathryn danced Psalm 139
- **October through December:** Rehearsals took place to help prepare Beth to dance and lead the children in the Christmas pageant

*Dancers in worship were: Beth Clark, Mary Nell Clark, Dawn Hiemstra, Sarah Hoffman and Kathryn Sparks. Musicians were Stan Engebretson with choir and David Clark on sax. Frances Taylor Gench contributed a great deal but was unable to dance with us that Sunday.

I continue to believe that the people who make up the group Gathered In should be thought of as anyone who would like to join in dances for worship or retreat. The name reflects “community” and therefore can be thought of broadly to include the entire congregation; a small, dedicated group that works intentionally on creating a dance for worship; or, even, a soloist. Whatever number of dancers make up a particular dance, we dance on behalf of the entire assembly for the glory of God. This idea is essential to the meaning of Liturgical Dance and has been borne out beautifully over the course of the year.

*With gratitude to the Worship and Music Committee and the members of the church for supporting participating in a vision for Dance in our community!*
In 2016, the Evangelism Committee worked to tell members and visitors about the love of God and how that love is manifested through the church and its members.

The committee shepherded 17 people into church membership. In addition, the committee examined the format of the new members’ classes. The format has been three, two-hour sessions on sequential Sundays following the 11 a.m. worship service. The committee discussed alternative times for the classes, including a single class on Saturday and a series of sessions held during the Sunday School hour. After consulting with the clergy, it was decided that the first new members’ class in 2017 should be a single four-hour class held on a Saturday morning.

The committee also continued two initiatives begun in 2015—the institution of permanent nametags for the entire congregation and the welcoming table in the narthex. Both initiatives have been well received. Nametags promote community by allowing pastors, members and visitors to tie face with name. The welcome table, which is staffed before and after each Sunday worship service, offers visitors a specific place to ask questions and gather information about the church, its witness and its missions.

In 2016, the committee initiated several communications-related initiatives on messaging and branding. The goal is to have a single NYAPC look and message. To this end, the Evangelism Committee held a messaging retreat in September, and is currently working on a messaging plan. The committee also worked with a graphic artist to upgrade and standardize the church’s logo and digital assets. The high resolution, scalable image files will make it easier to create print and digital media with a standard NYAPC-specific look. The committee plans to present to Session for their review and approval the draft plan, updated logo and digital assets, and Pantone color palate.

We are grateful for the efforts of all church members to make NYAPC a welcoming place for new visitors, travelers, and new and current members. In addition, we are especially grateful for the dedicated work and tireless enthusiasm of Tracey Beeker, Beth Braxton, Catherine Cannon, Tyler Feret, Jack Gillies, Linda Lader, Jenean McKay, ShuXian McKenna, and Joe Riley on the committee this year.

The Nurture and Fellowship Committee works to provide opportunities for members to connect with one another. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm either in the Lincoln Parlor or via conference call. Each year, members of this committee coordinate weekly coffee fellowship, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week meals, Advent and Lenten Devotional Books, care packages for college students, Dinners for Nine, and other fellowship and nurture projects. We have also partnered with other groups in the church—the choir, young adults, Deacons, Cuba Partners, and would be interested in doing more partnership projects.

We sponsor special events throughout the year. In 2016 these events included:

- **January 31**: Congregational Sunday — Focus on Spiritual Practices
- **April 2**: Women’s Retreat on the Book of Esther at the National 4-H Center in Bethesda
- **April 23**: Games Night
- **June 19**: Church Picnic with Christian Learning Cluster
- **July 24**: Mid-Summer Celebration Potluck
- **September 11**: Congregational Sunday — Fruits of the Spirit
- **October 28-30**: All Church Retreat — The Good Samaritan at Meadowkirk Retreat Center
- **November 6**: The First Annual Chili Cook-off
If you are interested in joining, please contact one of us. The committee includes Meg House, Cathy Schultheis, Melanie Dann, Miriam Dewhurst, Karen Dunlap, Carrie Reasonover (Diaconal Minister representative), Paul Gebhard, Courtney Spearman, Ashley Nunes Coe (Deacon representative), Mary Spatz, Molly Johnson, and Associate Pastor Alice Tewell.

**Funds Development Cluster**

*Laura Asiola, Chair*

The cluster serves as a coordinating group to ensure effective collaboration for a ‘One Church’ approach to Finance, Annual Stewardship, Planned Giving, and Vision 2020 Capital Campaign Committees, as well as the financial responsibilities of Trustees, Deacons, and Diaconal Ministers. Representatives of each of these groups (generally the chairs, but sometimes their designees), along with key staff members, form the cluster. Our collective responsibilities are to:

- Provide a sound theological foundation to direct financial activities, seek the direction of the Holy Spirit and act upon it, and support one another in our tasks.
- Coordinate the various financial committees and activities of NYAPC in cooperation with the church accounting staff.
- Make recommendations to the Session on the disposition of undesignated gifts or bequests of $50,000 or greater.
- Provide guidance and oversight to the work of the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.
- Coordinate all NYAPC fundraising efforts, serving as a clearinghouse for ideas, providing help and support to efforts throughout the church, and formally recommending approval of specific initiatives to the Session.
- Serve as a conduit of information, direction, and requests to our respective groups.

2016 was a year of transition, in which we completed the move of our financials to the more generally accepted accrual based accounting system as well as new financial software. This herculean task was overseen by the Accounting Task Force (see separate report) and a brand new format for budget for 2016 was led by Mike Smith (former chair, Finance Committee) and Jim Spearman (former chair, Funds Development Cluster) even as their official responsibilities concluded with their terms on Session. We remain grateful for their leadership which has set the church up for future success by streamlining all church accounts into one system of reporting, which provides much improved clarity with regards to financial resources, opportunities and challenges.

Our group meets via teleconference the first Wednesday of the month, although we come together for in-person meetings occasionally, preceded by dinner, in order to further build relationships, which are critical to this type of collaboration.

The cluster made a variety of recommendations to Session this year related to fundraising activities. One of the challenges of coordinating these activities is how to provide for special needs as well as regular operations needs when all of it is clearly what members and friends are being called to address.

The cluster members include Amy Gillies, David Gillies, Cathy Schultheis, John Schultheis, Karen Milam, Alison Kootstra Nowak, Rebecca Davis, Brian Dewhurst, Miriam Dewhurst, Rachel Brownning, Roger Gench, Jan Maheras (Accounting Manager), and myself. Other staff and members sometimes join us for specific discussions.

I sincerely appreciate the time, effort, and work of this committed group.
Finance Committee

This report is available as part of the online version of the Annual Reports for 2016.

Stewardship Committee

Rachel Browning and Kimberly Johnson, Co-Chairs

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, we give to the Church not out of duty or passive obligation, but as a reflection of our dynamic relationship with God and the recognition that all we have comes from God. Indeed, the act of stewardship is an act of discipleship, an expression of our gratitude for God’s boundless generosity and our calling as Christians to live out our faith by serving others and enabling the church to do God’s work on earth. Pledging consistently allows our dedicated committees and staff to make better decisions for NYAPC, thereby broadening our reach in the local community and beyond. So, in that spirit, this year we asked everyone to pray and think about how NYAPC’s active commitment to service and its mission as an inclusive, justice-seeking church reflected their faith and values and to give accordingly.

The response to the annual stewardship campaign has been slightly less than our proposed goal of $679,000 for 2017. To date, we have received pledges of $616,130 (approximately $23,000 less than the amount received at this point in 2016). However, we still have individuals/families active in our family of faith, who have not yet taken the opportunity to record their commitment for 2017. We are grateful to those who have pledged this year, both to those who continue to pledge and those who are new pledgers this year.

Many thanks to Laura Asiala, chair of the Funds Development Cluster, for her early guidance and advice for organizing and implementing this campaign, as well as to Janet Maharas, Accounting Manager, and Jasmine Jowers, Church Administrator, for their invaluable administrative support without which we could not have accomplished what we have so far.

It was a privilege to serve as co-chairs of the Stewardship Campaign. Thank you for your support and confidence.

Capital Campaign – Vision 2020

David and Amy Gillies, Vision 2020 Capital Appeal Co-Chairs

The Capital Appeal entered its second year of a three-year effort in the fall of 2016, and continued to build upon last year’s strong start, currently having raised over $1.5 million toward our minimal goal of $2 million. To recap, following a rigorous conversation with the congregation regarding the desire and feasibility of a Capital Appeal over the first part of 2015, the formal Appeal was launched that fall with a goal of raising $2 - $8.5 million to cover the cost of maintaining and improving the outside of our church building and updating the HVAC system in Peter Marshall Hall, while also prioritizing additional interior upgrades depending on available funding.

Activities in 2016 have concentrated on keeping the Appeal in front of the congregation through church service announcements, email, manning Capital Appeal tables in the first floor entryway and the narthex during Advent and continuing outreach to individuals. Of note, whereas in 2015 the Appeal ran in tandem with the Stewardship Campaign, the two were separate efforts in 2016.
We thank the congregation for its continued positive response, the Capital Appeal core group for its commitment, and for the entire church staff, without whose efforts we could not function. We are blessed, indeed.

**Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts**

*Catherine E. Schultheis*

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church’s program for endowment, planned giving and special gifts has resulted in a significant increase in funds supporting the church’s missions. The congregation continues to respond positively and generously to planned giving communications and programs and our church is blessed by such generosity.

I work closely with the Planned Giving Committee whose report can be found elsewhere in the Annual Report. Our job is to inform members and friends of the stewardship opportunities available as each of us lives our daily life and of legacy opportunities for the future. We celebrated Legacy Sunday on May 1, 2016, and participated in worship services. On May 15, we held an adult church school class exploring planning for legacies and how this act of faith affects our daily spiritual journeys. We are supported in our work by the Presbyterian Endowment Education and Resource Network (PEER). We celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 6, 2016, and again participated in worship, emphasizing the Planned Giving aspects of our annual Stewardship Program. A special bulletin insert that day acknowledged persons for whom memorial gifts were given, as well as those from whom bequests, gifts from trusts and proceeds from endowment funds were received for the past year. Current and former members who had died since the prior year All Saints Sunday were also recognized.

John Schultheis and I have lots of fun baking and decorating cupcakes for the Birthday Fund Celebration each calendar quarter. We created the fund in 2012 to acknowledge and celebrate life while enhancing the church’s missions. Gifts to the Birthday Fund can benefit the church’s Endowment Fund (established over 100 years ago and which helps sustain the church’s missions in perpetuity) and increase the reach of the Benevolence Fund (used primarily for direct and immediate emergency aid to individuals in need in our community). We keep this program before the congregation on a quarterly basis by offering each member and visitor a homemade decorated cupcake packaged “to go” -- approximately 300 cupcakes per annum -- along with wishes from the Planned Giving Committee members for a Happy Birthday.

I have met with leaders from other churches and participated in seminars on fund raising and financial ethics within the church community. When appropriate I submit relevant articles for inclusion in the AVENews. It is a pleasure to meet with individual church members to discuss ideas regarding their planned and legacy gifts to the church. Since the Vision 2020 Campaign members are more aware of the use of stock transfer gifts, IRA rollovers and gifts of annuities and life insurance. I work with the Funds Development Cluster and, if requested, with the Stewardship Committee and the Vision 2020 Campaign.

During 2016, over $109,000 in bequests were received by the church. Additional bequests of over $145,000 have been received in early 2017.

**Planned Giving Committee**

*John Schultheis, Chair*

The Planned Giving Committee and the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts position were established by the Session in early 2007. The purpose of the committee is to further the mission, witness and work of the church through a sustained program of giving by members and friends of long term accumulated assets in the form of stocks, bonds, real estate, life income plans or other estate planning instruments.
We observed All Saints Sunday on November 6th. A bulletin insert developed by the committee acknowledged persons for whom memorial gifts were given, as well as those from whom bequests, gifts from trusts and proceeds from endowment funds were received for the past year. It also identified those current and former members who died since the prior year All Saints Sunday.

Since 2008, the church has received bequests totaling $5,204,736, including the following 2016 receipts: $51,701 from the estate of Gilbert Anderson (this represented the final payment from Gil’s estate which in total provided $211,701); $54,538 from the estate of Virginia (Ginge) Peddle; $2,000 from the estate of Mary Mitchell; and, $1,000 from the estate of Naomi (Toni) Davenport. During the first 15 days of January 2017, the church received two bequests totaling $145,380.

As Rev. Roger Gench has stated, "We do not give to The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church simply because we love our church and its ministry (although I hope we do), but because we desire to orient our hearts and our lives towards God."

The committee membership included Carol Casperson, Melanie Dann, James Martin, Brian Schimming, Cathy Schultheis, John Schultheis and Edith Snyder.

For additional information concerning planned giving activities in 2016 please refer to the report of the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.

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**Administrative Cluster**

*Jasmine Jowers, Church Administrator*

The administrative office has begun the process of phasing out the main onsite server. A new computer has been purchased to house the in-house version of Quickbooks, and all locally stored data was transferred onto the new computer. A new volunteer computer was also purchased after the previous one failed.

Our technical support company, 501cTech, merged with Tech Impact, retaining the Tech Impact name. NYAPC signed another one year contract with Tech Impact for IT support.

Tech Impact has proposed two cloud options for us to migrate all data to and be our new central data system. The two options are Box.com, which is basic and limited to data storage, and Office 365, which has the potential to become a communications hub for NYAPC, with data storage, personalized website for staff, committees, small groups and members, and all its features are free for non-profits.

We will move forward with one of those options in 2017. Before we do, we must upgrade our current analog security system to a digital, cloud-based version. We currently use Tyco Integrated Security and plan to receive an estimate on a new system that will pair well our new cloud infrastructure.

The Trustees approved a new copier contract with Commonwealth, our current vendor, which will suspend our current contract and lease beginning in February. We will receive a new copier and two additional free printers that have copy, scan and fax capabilities as well. Tech Impact moved all networked connections to copier/printer devices off of the onsite server, with computers now communicating directly with each printing device.
Columbarium Committee

The Columbarium in the Lincoln Chapel provides a permanent witness to the Community of Saints who have worshiped, worked and lived among us. It is a place to remember and honor our departed loved ones. It holds the cremated remains (also called cremains or ashes) in niches of deceased persons who at death were current or former members of the church, loved ones of members or people with ties to the congregation. The Columbarium offers a loving and Christian solution for sheltering earthly remains, a solution that is both financially and environmentally beneficial. When the ashes are immured (placed in the niche), a short service similar to a graveside ceremony is held in the Lincoln Chapel. Several of these services have been held immediately following memorial services at the church.

In December, a commissioned Resurrection-themed textile art piece created by Susan Tilt was installed in the Lincoln Chapel. The colors of the fabrics chosen were influenced by the beautiful colors in the stained glass Tiffany-style windows which frame the piece. To complete the project, appropriate enhanced lighting will be installed which will also limit fading of the material used.

As of December 31, 2016, there were 28 niche holders. Selection of a specific niche is based on the availability of unreserved niches at the time the subscriber has completed the Agreement and remitted the fee.

A memorial tablet alternative is available for individuals whose ashes have been returned to the earth (or scattered) or whose bodies rest in other places, but wish to be remembered as persons who were part of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church's Community of Saints. Names and dates of birth and death are inscribed on nameplates which are affixed to memorial tablets located in the Lincoln Chapel. This option also provides for recognition of individuals who dearly loved their years at the church but who had their remains placed elsewhere.

The Columbarium Committee (Rev. Ann Davie, Jim Davidson, Cecella Porter, John Schultheis, Dan Stokes and Lenora Thierry) urges members and families to care for our community and honor our loved ones by using the services provided by the Columbarium in the Lincoln Chapel.

Personnel Committee

In May 2016, David Smoot was named as the Interim Building Superintendent. In September, he was named permanent Building Superintendent. In July, Darius Richardson joined the staff as a Sexton/Custodian, and in September, Johnny Middleton joined the staff as a Sexton/Custodian. In October, Robin Williams joined the staff as a Front Desk Receptionist.

In early 2016, the Session approved naming Associate Pastor Alice Tewell to the position of Deputy Head of Staff. Rev. Roger Gench continues to serve in the position as Head of Staff. Alice, as Deputy Head of Staff, serves as the operational and managerial point of contact with the staff on personnel matters and reports regularly on personnel matters to Rev. Gench.

The committee members in 2016 were: Brian Schimming – Chair (Session), Edith Snyder (Trustees), Marcia Renwanz, (Deacons), Kathy Doan (Session), Jim Davidson (Deacons) and John Yoder (Deacons). Church staff who participated with the committee were Rev. Roger Gench, Rev. Alice Tewell, Jasmine Jowers and Janet Maheras.
Reports of Community Outreach Programs

McClendon Center Mental Health Rehabilitation Services Program

Throughout the year, the McClendon Center served 1,900 District residents with mental illness. This is by far the highest number of people served by the Center in any given year (1,166 were served in 2015). The McClendon Center operates from three locations: the Day Program at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Core Services Agency at New York Avenue and North Capitol, and Counseling at Dupont at Dupont Circle.

The Day Program, which rents space on the first, third, fourth, and fifth floors of the church, served 238 individuals during the year, with an average attendance of 71. Several new services were offered during 2016. The first was a Trauma Recovery Group which graduated its first class in October. At about the same time, the program began serving ten hearing impaired individuals from Deaf Reach in a new set of groups.

At the Core Services Agency, about half of the clients served there were enrolled in a new program called Health Homes. The intent of this program is to promote better health outcomes and to increase longevity. The Patient Discharge Coordinator program began serving clients with severe medical complications. It also added two new services, one in which our staff find high risk individuals and connect them to care, and the other that follows individuals out of emergency rooms. This Patient Discharge Coordinator program has received national attention. The Core Services Agency is continuing to host six psychiatry residents from George Washington University. There are also four master’s level social work and counseling interns from the University of Maryland, Catholic University, and the University of the District of Columbia.

There are now three full-time therapists at Counseling at Dupont, where 241 clients seeking psychotherapy services were served in 2016. Demand appears to be high and a fourth therapist will be added in January 2017.

The McClendon Center’s signature fundraising event, Art of Transformation, which highlights client art created mostly in the Day Program, was a success for the second year in 2016. About 150 people gathered for food, cocktails, a raffle, and the opportunity to support client artists by purchasing their art. The next Art of Transformation, will be held on April 27.

The Center’s largest funder, the Department of Behavioral Health, is again attempting to limit the participation of clients in the Day Program. They also have failed to allocate enough funds to pay for people who do not have Medicaid, both in the Day Program and at the Core Services Agency. As an avenue for advocacy presents itself, the Center will be glad to call on the members of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church to offer advocacy and support, as you have done in the past.

New York Avenue Foundation

The mission of the New York Avenue Foundation (NYAF) is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout Washington, DC. Founded in 1984 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), charitable organization, the Foundation seeks to promote a Nation’s Capital that empowers every young person to realize his or her potential and become a productive citizen. The NYAF financially supports, through grants, non-profit programs in the District of Columbia aimed at achieving its mission. The Foundation also provides supplementary funds for children who need incentives to stay in school and scholarship funds for additional education.
We raise money through letter solicitations, fundraising events and other sources. The Board of Directors conducts the work of the Foundation without any monetary compensation. As a result, almost all of the money raised is passed through to our grantees to help achieve the Foundation’s mission. The NYAF also participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #25839), which allows donors to designate funds to the Foundation on a year-round, regular basis or with a single donation. We are also listed on “Network for Good,” a national, online, charitable giving website that enables supporters to donate online to support our work. Donors may also donate through the Amazon Smile program.

The Foundation has a long-standing relationship with the Community Club, which brings DC public high school students together with concerned local professionals for one-on-one tutoring and mentoring throughout the school year. In 2016, the Foundation provided $45,000 in grants to Community Club.

We greatly appreciate the support of all the Foundation’s donors. We frequently hear from our grantees about the difference these donations have made to the success of their programs.

The current Board members are Brian Schimming (Chair), Cindy Dickinson (Secretary) Miriam Dewhurst (Treasurer), Amy Gillies, Tom Karr, Anne Laroche, Molly Lauer, Tracey Beeker, Michael Pete and Evelyn Ying.

Thanks to all of these talented Directors for their leadership and support as we move forward to grow and expand the breadth and depth of the Foundation’s mission. Special thanks to Cindy Dickinson and Miriam Dewhurst for their work preparing the foundation’s minutes, Amy Gillies for all her work organizing the foundation’s extensive donor records in the Foundation’s database, Tom Karr for his work in Community Club and maintaining the CFC donation program, Tracey Beeker and Miriam Dewhurst for preparing an AVENUES article and Miriam Dewhurst for all her hard work as Treasurer.

**NYAPC Members on the Ingleside Presbyterian Retirement Community at Rock Creek Service Board**

*John Schultheis, Board Member*

The Ingleside Service Board is dedicated to serving the needs of the residents of our local Presbyterian retirement community. We are grateful to other NYAPC members, staff and friends: for Jay Davenport for visiting residents and assisting in so many ways; for participants in Sunday chapel services (clergy, Dan Stokes with organ and piano accompaniment and several NYA vocal soloists) and for all who contributed to our major fundraising effort at the Board’s 110th Annual Silver Tea and Gala Cocktail Reception held on May 1. Donations given for this event, as well as income from the Ingleside Service Board’s Clothing and Treasures Shop, are used to help meet the needs of the residents.

NYAPC members who served the board in 2016 included Jim Davidson, Glory Eyong, Marcia Kozub, Bernice McIntyre and John Schultheis.

Members of the Service Board, along with the NYAPC’s Board of Diaconal Ministers, have regularly visited church members and friends residing at Ingleside. With the passing of Bill McAfee on October 10 at the age of 107, the church has no affiliated residents. Over the years, it has been a joy to bring the love of our church to Bill with many visits and the delivery of flowers from our Sunday services.

The Service Board decorates Ingleside at Christmastime. Over a matter of days and to the delight of Ingleside residents and staff, Ingleside is decorated and colorfully transformed. The board hosts a festive Christmas party (co-chaired by Jim and John in 2016), a highlight of the year for the residents. Board members baked cookies, welcomed and assisted residents singing carols and enjoying the musical entertainment and served each resident with a selection of cookies, tea sandwiches, candies and beverages. Jim made the arrangements for the entertainment portion of the party featuring an all-NYAPC program. David Brown and three other members of hi:
string quartet opened the program with a delightful Felix Mendelssohn composition. This was followed by our soprano soloist, Whitney McColley, who sang a wonderful variety of holiday-inspired choral selections. The final presentation represented a handbell quartet under the direction of Dan Stokes. His ringers (on both bells and chimes) included Barbara Dornan, Karen Dunlap and Miriam Dewhurst. The program was very well received.

John (Board Treasurer) and Jim (Assistant Treasurer) serve on both the board’s Executive and Finance Committees. The board uses its funds and endowment resources to support residents in need, make decorative improvements and fiscally assist Ingleside on special projects. Bernice McIntyre chairs the newly formed Faith Matters Advisory Committee.

Ingleside at Rock Creek begins a major capital initiative with construction starting in early 2017. This project will replace the current assisted living and health care facilities with more modern structures and provide additional independent living units. The total construction period will be at least through 2019 with assisted living residents being provided with interim living space and health center residents not needing to be moved until their new facility is ready for occupancy. The NYAPC board members will keep you informed as this work progresses.

Reports of Fellowship Groups

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church are affiliated with the national organization of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our purpose is to nurture faith, support missions, work for justice and peace, and build community. Currently, Barbara Dornan serves as Administrative Liaison and Lenora Thierry serves as Financial Administrator.

In Circle meetings held at member’s homes on the first Tuesday of each month, we join together for lunch and Bible study to deepen our faith and understanding of God’s will for our lives. This September we began a new study titled, *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker. This study was put together by a Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women and is used by women across the nation. Alice Tewell leads us in our monthly Bible study.

With regular offerings and the giving of the “least coin,” a special offering of pennies based on the parable Jesus told of the woman who gave all she had, we follow the tradition of 200 years of Presbyterian women supporting missions. This past year, our circle contributed $1,905.65 directly to mission. We pledged support to the missions of the National Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church and contributed to our Alternative Christmas Store projects, the Peacemaking Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and $63.65 to the Least Coin offering.

We would welcome other interested women to join us on our faith journey as we study and pray together, have a good time, and share ideas, concerns, and joys.

Biblio Divina

The Biblio Divinia Group generally meets on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of each month at 10:00 am in the Docherty Center. The group originated with people interested in participating in exercises in contemplative prayer, based on a discipline developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola. The exercises involve prayerful meditation upon
a series of scripture passages. Anyone interested in exploring these exercises is encouraged to contact Rev. Grench. For the past several years, the group has read and discussed a variety of books.

In 2016, the group read *Encounters with Jesus* by Frances Taylor Grench, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes* by Kenneth E. Bailey, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living* by Krista Tippett, and began *The Thirst for God: Contemplating God’s Love with Three Women Mystics* by Wendy Farley. *Encounters with Jesus* is a study of the Gospel of John as only Frances Taylor Grench can do it. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes* gives insight into first-century Middle Eastern culture and customs that shed interesting light on many passages in the Gospels. *Becoming Wise* is a collection of interviews of well-known and/or interesting people talking on important aspects of life. *The Thirst for God* is an introduction to the thought and writings of three women mystics, all of whom "portray with singular vividness the longing of the divine Love for humanity." Writing in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries, their insights challenged the teachings of the Church of their day.

The group sponsored two silent retreats at the church during the year and plans to sponsor others in 2017. These retreats take place on Saturday mornings in the church, from 8:30 am -12:30 pm, and include labyrinth walking in the Peter Marshall Hall, lectio divina scripture reading in the sanctuary, art reflection in the Lincoln Parlor, and spiritual conversation in the Lincoln Chapel.

The group is always pleased to welcome new members, and one need not be a member of the prayer group to participate in the retreats. 2016 participants included Rev. Grench, Louise Berman, Marilyn Seiber, Margaret Myers, Tom Dunlap, Miriam Dewhurst, Steve Dewhurst, Peggy Evans, and Elizabeth Young.

**Young Adults**

In 2016 the Young Adults continued to grow at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Throughout the year YAs hosted three Bible studies, four Faith on Tap discussions and regular game nights. These allowed us time to grow our friendships and delve further into our faith. In addition to these planned events, YAs often gather during coffee hour and solidify less formal plans.

Alice Tewell has been instrumental in planning and leading our Bible studies. Roger Grench and Linda Lader strongly support us in hosting Faith on Tap discussions. It is our hope to continue these more regularly in 2017 with increased interest in more regular gatherings.

The YAs continue to be active throughout all aspects of church life with many serving as Community Club tutors, on various committees and boards, and as Sunday School teachers. The group welcomes visitors and members alike to take part in its activities. Leadership continues to be slightly informal, with Helen Anthony, Phil Bolles, and Katherine Leiden as points of contact for anyone interested in learning more about or joining the group.

**Memorial and Scholarship Funds**

**Virginia L. Cochran and David S. Brown Fund**

In 1983, the Session established the Virginia L. Cochran Memorial Fund to commemorate Virginia’s commitment and service to the educational development of young people in the inner city and to perpetuate the types of programs and activities that she fostered in the Community Club. In 1985, the Session added monies provided to the church from the Cochran estate to the corpus of the fund. Income from the fund is used to:
• Provide scholarship grants to assist Community Club students in post-secondary education or training;
• Purchase uniquely beneficial educational materials for the tutoring program, such as historical materials on black history, encyclopedias and training aids;
• Offer grants for the development of special talents in young people seeking ways to serve others.

The name of the fund was changed eight years ago to the Virginia L. Cochran and David S. Brown Fund to commemorate Dave Brown’s nearly 43 years as Director of Community Club, of which the first 21 years were shared with Virginia as Co-Directors. It now honors two great friends who were (and Dave remains) stalwart members of the church community and the founding mother and father of the Community Club mentoring program. Those who have been blessed to know and love Virginia and Dave and to witness their ongoing gift to the children of this city hope this fund continues to materially support the work to which they committed so much of their time, energy and selves. The fund enjoys a balance of $130,930.53 as of the end of December 2016.

Community Club College Scholarship Fund  
Shamika Bradley and Tom Karr, Community Club Co-Directors

The year 2016 was another active one for the Community Club scholarship fund. The fund gives two types of scholarships; stay-in-school scholarships for high school students and partial scholarships for college students.

- Stay-in-school scholarships are given monthly to current Community Club high schools students who maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and regular attendance and good behavior at Community Club, with the amount increasing by grade and attendance. The amounts range from $12.50 for ninth graders to $25.00 for seniors for each week attended during the month. In 2016, Community Club gave over $17,000 to over 56 students.

Community Club also gives partial college scholarships to alumni currently enrolled in college with at least a 2.0 GPA who keep in touch with Community Club and attend semi-annual college meetings. In 2016, Community Club gave over $40,000 to 65 Community Club collegians, aided by grants of $10,000 and $8,000 from generous donors. Scholarship amounts ranged from $300 to $800 per semester, with amounts varying by GPA and by overall scholarship funds allocated for that semester.

Kathryn Heath Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Mary Spatz, Chair

Dr. Kathryn G. Heath, a church member for 59 years and a trustee, was interested in the church’s outreach programs and equality for women in the workplace. She left a bequest of $100,000 to form the basis for a fund to further the higher education of women. Under the terms of her will, one-half of the annual earnings from the bequest is to be made available for scholarships. The other half is to be reinvested so that the corpus of the fund will grow. Contributions in memory of Dr. Heath or in support of the goals of the fund are always welcome.

Since 1992, over 135 scholarships, ranging from $200 to $2250, have been awarded. The recipients are distinguished by their academic ability, vision, dedication, and financial need. They must have and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, demonstrate financial need, show an intention to pursue a program of studies leading to a professional or para-professional career, and be admitted to a recognized post-secondary institution.

The Committee was authorized to award up to $6,302 in scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Committee recommended scholarship awards to five women for the total amount of $6,302:
Katie Rosales (Trinity University) $1,750
Taylor Moten (Bowie State) $788
Omosede Irabor (Lincoln University) $700
Bre'Anna James (Trinity Washington University in DC) $1,750
Kimkia Hunter (University of New Haven) $1,314

Members of the scholarship committee in 2016 were Mary Spatz (Chair), Anna Davidson, Stacy Gagosian, Amy Gillespie, Laura Asiala and Molly Smith. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to Janet Maheras and Mike Smith for their assistance. We also want to recognize all the work Thelma Leenhouts has given to the committee in chairing and organizing the Heath Scholarship Committee since 1993.

Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund was established nine years ago as a memorial to our son, Andrew. In 2008, the Core Council of Community Club established the Upperclassman Scholarships to help former students in the Community Club program as they completed their college careers. Six years ago, the remainder of the Bruce Davie Memorial Scholarship funds, given in memory of a saint of this church and constant supporter of Community Club, was combined with the Dornan funds to support the Upperclassman Scholarships. The scholarships are open to any college student who graduated from Community Club, has completed at least 70 college credits and has maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average in his/her institution of higher education. The Upperclassman Scholarships are intended to alleviate some of the burden that can result when colleges reduce financial aid for upperclassmen in favor of freshmen, as well as supplement the regular Community Club College Scholarships. So far, more than $60,500 of Upperclassman Scholarship funding has been awarded to 32 worthy students. All of these students will have graduated by the spring of 2017.

Upperclassman Scholarship applicants submit a brief essay and official course and financial aid records to be considered; those submissions are reviewed by a three-person committee of Community Club leaders. In May 2016, three students, Katia Phillips (Bennett College), Xuan Trang (Sunny) Le (University of Wisconsin) and Crystal Iwohua (University of Southern Mississippi) received Upperclassmen Scholarships totaling $6,000. At the end of 2016, there was approximately $47,000 available for future allocation to worthy students. Andrew and Bruce’s families want to thank all those who have given so graciously to help our young people in Community Club and to remember Andrew and Bruce.

Elmer L. Hanson Testamentary Trust

Elmer L. Hanson, a long-time devoted member of the church, bequeathed a portion of his estate to NYAPC for the creation of an endowment fund. The income from the fund is to be used for “educational scholarships to be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled in seminary or otherwise studying Christian Education or training to become missionaries.”

The will provides that the Trustee shall oversee the investments of the endowment fund while the Session shall select the scholarship recipients. In 2016, the Trust provided funds of $5,400 to support student participants in our music program as part of their study of music ministry. At the close of 2016, the assets of the Trust were approximately $184,000.
The generosity of William P. Metcalf and Frank Edgington continue to enable this Church to reach out to many in need. At the time of their deaths, these two loyal members set aside funds from their estates to create certain trust funds. Mr. Metcalf's fund was established as a memorial to his parents, William E. and G. Helen Metcalf. Mr. Edgington did not specifically dedicate his trust fund. The income from their trust funds is used for the following purposes and in set proportions as specified in their wills: to provide medical care and nursing care for needy and deserving persons; relieving cases of special need or distress for deserving persons; and to aid those studying for the ministry or preparing for missionary work. Requests are approved by a committee composed of the following: Rev. Alice Rose Tewell, as designated by the Session Moderator, the Treasurer of Session, Leigh Hildebrand, and the Clerk of Session, Miriam Dewhurst. Sarah-Dianne Jones, Young Adult Volunteer, also assisted in reviewing applications and communicating requests to committee members this year.

In 2016, the Metcalf-Edgington fund provided $11,611 in total financial assistance, which primarily included support for medical expenses. All funds are gifts, and repayment is not expected. All requests and expenditures remain confidential.

We continue to be grateful for the generosity of both Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Edgington, and the ways in which their largesse allows us to conduct our ministry of assistance to those in need.
The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

An Inclusive, justice-seeking church

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Finance Committee

Purpose

The Finance Committee performs two primary functions related to the church's annual budget. First, the committee monitors execution of the current year's budget. Second, the committee coordinates development of the next year's budget and proposes that budget to the Session.

2016 Expenses

Preliminary accounting results indicate that operating expenses in 2016 totaled $1.72 million. This spending was supported through the receipt of just under $1 million of income from all sources. Remaining expenses were covered by drawing upon the church's financial assets and utilizing incoming bequests.

The church also spent approximately $49,000 on building restoration authorized under the final phase of the Capital Campaign.

2017 Budget

The 2017 budget includes both operating and capital components, with respective expenses of $1.67 million and $270,000. Income is expected to be roughly in-line with 2016 totals.

The operating component was developed using input on anticipated spending across church programs, and also through Session discussion of measures to reduce expenses. The following changes have been incorporated in the operating budget.

- Eliminating the 2017 General Fund contribution of $10,500 to the Deacons' Community Program, with Session revisiting the contribution amount in 2018.

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1 Includes interest expenses associated with the church's line of credit. Estimate does not include depreciation of the church's capital assets, which is estimated to total $211,000 annually and will manifest in the form of future capital costs associated with the building, equipment and furnishings. Estimate also does not include investment advisor fees associated with the church's financial assets, which are included in the calculation of investment performance. Trailing costs that were not captured in the most recent financial report may increase the estimated expense total.

2 Income includes general stewardship pledge receipts of approximately $600,000, plate receipts of $27,000, trust receipts of approximately $50,000, Community Club grants and contributions totaling approximately $75,000, directed program contributions totaling approximately $95,000, and approximately $150,000 in building and service revenues. Total does not include receipts of approximately $500,000 associated with the Capital Campaign, which are directed to reduce the debt associated with the church's line of credit.

3 Includes both unrestricted funds and earmarked program funds.
• Allocating $18,000 of Benevolence Fund distributions to support the Radcliffe Room, while holding total Benevolence spending constant.
• Eliminating support for the PC(USA) General Assembly Mission, which received $7,000 of funding in 2016.
• Providing raises of 2.5% for most church staff, with additional leave granted to those deferring the pay increase.

The budget's capital component was developed in consultation with the Trustees. This component authorizes total spending of $270,000 to pay for replacement of the church's roof, elevator repairs, and other capital projects to be identified by the Trustees.

Acknowledgements

Committee members in 2016 included Will Ashworth, Ross Coe, John Davies, Brian Dewhurst, Fritz von Fleckenstein, Karl Hoffman, and Mike Smith. JanMaheras served on the committee in her role as Accounting Manager. We express our gratitude to Mike Smith and Jim Spearman for their tireless effort in developing and implementing the church's new accounting system. We also thank Karl Hoffman for his dedication on behalf of the committee and support in finalizing the 2017 budget.

For Additional Information

The 2017 church budget is available by contacting the church office. Audited 2016 financial statements will also be made available through the office once they are completed.

John Davies and Brian Dewhurst, Finance Committee Co-Chairs
In 2016, the Trustees continued to act as stewards of God’s financial and physical assets through the activities specific to NYAPC’s physical plant and investments.

Once again the Trustees’ efforts fell into several key categories:

Revenue and Tenant Relationships

- **Renegotiation and signing of a multi-year contract with the non-profit McClendon Center**, NYAPC’s largest tenant. The McClendon Center is a day program that originally began as a mission of the church and now operates as an independent 501c3 organization, offering enrichment activities and community for people living with mental illness. With the leadership of Trustee Ross Coe, we signed a multi-year agreement for Monday through Friday use of the NYAPC facility, including Peter Marshall Hall, Room 127, spaces on the 3rd and 4th floor, and dedicated office space on the 5th floor. The contract includes graduated, annual increases in rental rates.

- **Incremental Revenue.** Trustees, led by Hal Hiemstra, led negotiation with Verizon for the use of space on NYAPC’s roof for the installation of a set of wireless antennas. In addition, building on the significant structural assessment work conducted as a part of the 2015 capital campaign assessment, the Trustees negotiated with Solar Solutions for the installation of solar panels on the roof, generating incremental revenue to the church. After these were installed in May, 2016, the organization estimated that these solar panels are providing up to 18% of the church’s electrical needs.

Building Needs

- **Roof Assessment.** Trustees Tom Dunlap and Hal Hiemstra continued a process begun early in 2016 to assess NYAPC’s roof, which has exceeded its 20-year warranty and has been showing signs of leaking. Tom and Hal worked to assess water damage and develop an understanding of roofing requirements. They then conducted an initial inquiry about roofing contractors. As a result of this work, we have contracted with Building Representatives JFW to conduct a RFP process with roofing contractors and anticipate a spring 2017 roof replacement project.

- **Ongoing Maintenance Needs.** The church had several medium-to-large maintenance needs through 2016. In April, we discovered a set of pipes that
had broken during the winter and required replacement prior to the air conditioning being turned on. In November and December, we worked with the church staff to facilitate the replacement of the Park Level elevator so that the church would remain ADA compliant and pass DCRA inspections.

- **Staffing of Building Engineer.** The new HVAC system installed in 2015 required certification skills that the NYAPC Building Staff did not have; Trustees contracted with a third party to complete required building engineering certifications for the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

**Financial Stewardship**

- **Audit.** For at least the fifth year, NYAPC’s auditor Raffa completed the audit on time with the help of staff team members. Successful delivery of the audit is a requirement of NYAPC’s line of credit. The audit was greatly enhanced by the work of the Accounting Task Force, which created a new chart of accounts and managed the required transition from cash- to accrual-based accounting beginning January 1, 2016. The audit had very few management notes, suggesting an improvement in controls processes; one that was included was a concern from Raffa that our 2016 budget was not approved by the Boards until June, 2016, as necessitated by the accounting transition. Copies of the audit are available upon request to church members. Please contact Accounting Manager Jan Maheras.

- **Line of Credit.** Trustees also managed the relationship with the lender of NYAPC’s line of credit, which was necessitated by the exterior building improvement projects beginning in 2014. Vision 2020, NYAPC’s Capital Campaign, had raised $1.5 million at the close of 2016 with the expectation that fundraising activities will continue until the Line of Credit funds can be repaid in their entirety.

**Notes of Thanks**

The Trustees have greatly appreciated Rev. Alice Tewell’s collaboration and partnership in her new role with staff supervision responsibilities, as well as the efforts of our partners Jasmine Jowers, Church Administrator, and Jan Maheras, Church Accounting Manager. Alice, Jasmine and Jan have attended Trustee meetings and their presence and guidance has been instrumental in the work of the Trustees. In addition we were very appreciative of David Smoot in his new role with increased responsibilities for church maintenance, as well as the continued collaboration from the entire church staff.

In addition to the work described in the report, we are also grateful for the work of Karl Hoffman, Church Treasurer and Finance Committee representative, to continue to optimize the relationship with Ariba, the church’s investment manager, in line with the investment strategy approved December, 2015; Hal Hiemstra, the Vice
President of Trustees and leader of the Building Committee; Edie Snyder, the Trustee member of the Accounting Task Force and Personnel Committee; Caroline White, the Trustee member of the Nominating Committee; Matthew Wieseler, the Trustee Secretary and Member of the Audit Committee; Tom Dunlap, who has done tremendous work in understanding the roof opportunities; and Ross Coe, whose expertise in real estate negotiation and pricing has been invaluable. The Trustees are deeply indebted to the members of the Accounting Task Force and their work to convert the financial systems of the church to a new chart of accounts and accounting system, as well as the ongoing efforts of the Vision 2020 team.

The Trustees look forward to 2017, a year when we will continue to build on the strong practices, processes and systems that so many church members, staff and clergy have created, in order to further the mission of NYAPC and continue to glorify God.

Rebecca Davis
President