The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
Washington, DC

Annual Reports for 2017

1808–1917

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH YEAR BOOK

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

REv. WALLACE R. B. RADCLIFFE, D.D., LL.D., Pastor
THE NASSB
1220 B Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 4, 2018
Cover: The illustration is taken from the cover of the congregation’s annual report for 1917. Reports were provided by the Woman’s Missionary Society, the Wednesday Evening Missionary Society, the Little Light Bearers, the Christian Endeavor Society, the Girls’ Guild, and several other groups.
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## General Information

### Statistical Report for 2017

### Baptisms
- Infant/Child: 9
- Adult: 1

### Changes in Membership

#### Gains:
- By Profession of Faith: 3
- By Reaffirmation of Faith: 15
- By Letter of Transfer from Other Churches: 10
- By Restoration to the Active Roll: 0
- By Adjustment to the Roll: 1

Total Added to the Active Membership Roll: 29

#### Affiliate Membership
- 4

#### Losses:
- Deceased: 9
- By Letter of Transfer to Other Churches: 6
- By Deletion from the Active Roll: 246
- By Adjustment to the Active Roll: 8

Total Removed from Active Membership Roll: 269

#### Affiliate Membership
- 2

### Net Changes in Membership

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<th>Category</th>
<th>December 31, 2016</th>
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<td>Church Membership</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>436</td>
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<td>Affiliate Membership</td>
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### 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. John T. Mathison**  
*Parish Associate*

**The Rev. Matthew Schlageter**  
*Parish Associate*

**Jasmine Jowers**  
*Church Administrator*

**Lance Jameson**  
*Church Senior Accountant*

**Cheria McMillan**  
*Office Associate*

**David Smoot**  
*Building Superintendent*

**Raymond Newman**  
*Sexton/Custodian*

**Delante Buchanan**  
*Sexton/Custodian*

**Evelyn McMillan**  
*Food Services Manager and Front Desk Receptionist*

**Mary Newman**  
*Front Desk Receptionist*

**Robin Williams**  
*Front Desk Receptionist*

**Stanley P. Engebretson**  
*Director of Music*

**Whitney McColley**  
*Choral Associate*

**Manuel J. Melendez**  
*Choral Associate*

**Nathan Moon**  
*Choral Associate*

**Samantha Scheff**  
*Organ/Choral Scholar*

**Kamanee Wickremaratne**  
*Nursery Staff*

**Stephanie Beltran**  
*Nursery Staff*

**Dilka Mudiyanseelage**  
*Nursery Staff*

**Danadaree Rajapakse**  
*Nursery Staff*

**Ayesha Yapahamilage**  
*Nursery Staff*

**Theo Brown**  
*Director of McClendon Scholar in Residence Program*

**Catherine Schultheis**  
*Director of Planned Giving*

**Kathryn Sparks**  
*Director of Liturgical Dance*

**Clare Forrister**  
*Young Adult Volunteer*
Board Members Elected to Serve in 2018

**Session**

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

**Class of 2019**
Helen Anthony  
Fred Dann  
Miriam Dewhurst  
Yongo Ding  
Kristin Ford  
Molly Johnson  
Brian Schimming

**Class of 2020**
Taylor Allison  
Will Ashworth  
Paul Dornan  
Tyler Feret  
Erica Morgan  
Melissa Jane Taylor  
Edward Walrod

**Board of Deacons**

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

**Class of 2019**
J. David Brown  
Mary Nell Clark  
Matthew Ford  
Karen George  
Amy Gillespie  
Alex Moore  
Koloina Randrianarivony

**Class of 2020**
Matthew Asada  
Martha Davis  
Lauren Gillies  
Elizabeth Merritt  
Douglas Norwood  
Marsha Renwanz  
John Yoder

**Board of Diaconal Ministers**

**Class of 2018**
James Davidson  
Glory Eyong  
Alison Kootstra Nowak  
Whitney McColey  
Nathan Moon  
Carrie Reasonover  
Laura West

**Class of 2019**
Heather Choi  
Cindy Dickinson  
Diane Douglas  
Sarah McGinnis  
ShuXian McKenna  
John Schultheis  
Martha Sykora

**Class of 2020**
Pruitt Ashworth  
Barbara Dornan  
Stacey Gagosian  
John O’Brien  
Cecelia Porter  
Robert Savage  
Janet Shabman

**Board of Trustees**

**Class of 2018**
Tom Dunlap  
Karl Hoffman  
Matthew Wieseler

**Class of 2019**
Rebecca Davis  
Mason Hubbard  
Caroline White

**Class of 2020**
Ross Coe  
Kendrick McCabe  
James Spearman
Reports of the Pastors and Staff

The Rev. Roger Joseph Gench
Pastor/Head of Staff

My weekly responsibilities have included pastoral duties, preaching and worship leadership, baptisms, weddings and funerals, adult education, cluster committees and sub-committees, staff meetings, help with 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 Kelly Brown Douglas.
- Leadership in the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program with Lionel Edmonds, Joe Daniels, Karen Brau, and Bill Lamar.
- Leadership in McClendon Scholar in Residence Program with Walter Brueggeman.
- Participation on National Capital Presbytery’s Clearance Team.
- Helped lead the Vision 2020 Capital Campaign of the NYAPC.
- Helped with the Young Adult Faith on Tap program at NYAPC.
- Co-leadership with Alice Tewell in a workshop on the Fruit of the Spirit as Political Virtues for a Polarized World at the Next Church national gathering in Kansas City.
- Leadership in the Next Church Community Organizing Training.
- Participation in the Next Church Cohort group.
- Participation on the Strategy Team of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN).
- Participation in two meetings of The 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.
- Six Week Study Leave in Colorado (mid-August through September) to 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 over 250 miles in the Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

At the conclusion of 2017, I find myself grateful once again for the ministry of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and the good folk that do it!
Overview: My major responsibilities continue to include resourcing and teaching Sunday school classes, serving as a weekly worship leader, staff supervision, managing the Benevolence and Metcalf-Edington funds, supervising our Young Adult Volunteer, serving as Chaplain to Community Club, providing pastoral visits, and resourcing the Nurture committee. Roger Gench and a newly formed young adult leadership team took over the bulk of my responsibilities with the Young Adults, though I do still serve as a resource. Instead of focusing my time serving as a resource to the Deacon as I had done in 2016, I attended Trustees meetings to serve as another connection between the church staff and the board. More than in previous years, I also participated in some of the discussion: around budgets, financial outlook, and the building. New this year, along with many others, I also integrated my faith with somewhat regular political action.

Christian Learning/ Sunday School: Christian Education is one of the areas of ministry that I continue to enjoy the most. This year, I was pleased with the growth in all our Sunday school classes from Pre K through Middle School, as well as a positive response to a few classes geared towards talking about raising and mentoring justice-seeking children and youth. I have been appreciative of Karen Dunlap’s taking the lead on Worship Play, which continues to flourish during the sermon portion of the services. We continued with a second full year of the Littles group, a play and parenting group now meeting quarterly for those families whose youngest child is 1st grade and younger.

I was pleased with the positive turnout for our 3rd Annual Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Day of Youth Service and the introduction of a panel of those experiencing homelessness into that day of service. Influenced by a new-found passion for Biblical Storytelling, for Youth Sunday the children and youth, kindergarten through 12th grade, collectively learned the book of Jonah by heart, telling the whole book without notes as an extended scripture reading. Alex Moore, a 10th grader at the time, played an excellent rendition of Jonah. For the Christmas Pageant we used the form of Lessons and Carols for the children and youth to tell the Christmas story. I was particularly pleased with the newly established children’s choir led by Hillary Webster and the longer established youth choir led by Molly Johnson. Both choirs brought excellent commitment and leadership to the pageant. Late in the year, three wonderful young adults, Sarah McGinnis, Helen Anthony and Taylor Allison, committed to establishing a youth group for NYAPC to begin in early 2018. We also received a $3,000 grant from the Mission Coordinating Team of the National Capital Presbytery to support the 2018 Dr. King Day of Service, as well as a few other major projects for NCP youth attending church in Washington DC.

For Adults, we thanked Paul Dornan for his long service as Chair of the Adult Education committee, and welcomed Phil Bolles and Mac Skelton as co-chairs. I continued to lead a few Adult Education classes, a few Young Adult Bible studies, the Bible study portion for the Presbyterian Women’s Bible study group, and, along with Miriam Dewhurst, started two new women’s Bible study groups that will meet monthly in 2018.

Continuing Education: I participated in the NEXT Church conference this year, helping Roger Gench with a presentation of Fruits of the Spirit in a Polarized World. At that conference, I tried to focus my time on management resources. From that conference, I joined a leadership training group from the
National Capital Presbytery. I also attended the National Biblical Storytelling Conference in Washington, DC. I meet monthly with a women’s clergy group from the National Capital Presbytery.

Cuba Partnership: In February, I returned for my third visit to First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Havana. This visit was my first “regular” church visit with those from NYAPC, as in previous years I had visited as part of special events. Very special to me, my husband, son, and mother joined in the trip. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the NYAPC community engaged in our Cuban mission partnership and to introduce my family to those I dearly love in Havana.

Denominational Participation: I finished my term as Moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic in September. I continue to serve on the Church Development Committee of the National Capital Presbytery.

Nurture Committee: I worked again on the Annual Church Retreat, this time taking a leadership role in introducing the major content, Biblical Storytelling, during the large group session. Along with others, particularly Karen Dunlap and John Yoder, I continued to lead the children’s portion of the retreat including some from the delegation from Njoro, Kenya. I found the honoring of the members who have been in the church for 40 or more years very inspiring.

Pastoral: I continue visiting members at home, in the church, and in the hospital as requested. I support Jim Davidson and the office staff in the compilation of the weekly Care-Prayer list. Roger Gench and I share the pastoral responsibilities towards the Diaconal Ministers.

Politics: As the country’s political scene shifted, along with many other in the church, I discerned that my faith is tied to the rest of my actions into the world, including politics. Taking a cue from Liberation theology and Roger’s theology of the cross, I started the year by working with our church, particularly the Nurture and Evangelism committees, to prepare our hospitality for the Inauguration and the Women’s March on Washington. Session discerned that we would stay open for the Inauguration as we had in years past to provide hospitality to anyone who came through our doors. I’m so glad we remained open. Those days were like nothing I’ve ever experienced in DC or in the church before. On Inauguration Day, our many church hosts (including some very welcoming children) welcomed those from every point on the political spectrum: Trump supporters, those in town early for the Women’s March, peaceful protesters, other protesters engaged in less peaceful protest, the media, and the police. All were offered a retreat from the cold, bathrooms, and refreshments provided in large part by church volunteers.

That night and the next day, we hosted overnight and daytime guests in town for the Women’s March on Washington. Hosting overnight guests was a huge undertaking, as it wasn’t something we had done in many years. Many members and the church staff worked to accommodate over 100 overnight guests sleeping on the Park Level and 5th floor. Church Superintendent David Smoot played an above and beyond leadership role in making the days a success. Many church members stayed overnight as hosts as well. I slept in my office. The morning of the march, I proudly took to the streets with many others from the church. Those who stayed at the church provided amazing hospitality to what may have been thousands of people coming through the church use the
bathrooms, warm up from the cold, and to be amazed by refreshments. With these two events, I really felt as though we were the church showing up where we could to be present for those in need.

I was proud that Session voted in late 2016 to become a Sanctuary Church. In the last year, I have become more educated in the situation in this country for immigrants. Along with others, I have shown up at demonstrations and protests against the ban on travel for those from majority Muslim countries and helped circulate a petition throughout our denomination to stand up for respect for all. I was pleased that at one of these protests in late January, many families from the church came! Further into the year, in support of the DC Sanctuary movement, we showed up at protests and press conferences calling attention to the needs and unjust treatment of immigrants.

In the spring, we hosted and provided overnight housing for a large group from the Youth Convening Group as part of the People's Climate Change March. Radcliffe Room participants set up a lemonade stand in front of the church to provide hospitality as well. It was good seeing our church open and showing up!

Session: Along with others, I worked for our Session to approve NYAPC's taking the Church Assessment Tool (the CAT), which the National Capital Presbytery recommends and supports for churches wanting to learn more objectively about themselves. Through a series of online questions, the CAT measured our strengths and areas where we could grow. In October, 170 people from around the church took the CAT, and the results were interpreted to the Session by two volunteer and trained interpreters from National Capital Presbytery in November. Early in January 2018, the results were interpreted back to the congregation. I also worked on the steps to get the church started on a security study for 2018, applying for a grant from National Capital Presbytery as well as starting significant conversations in the Session.

Staff (Personnel) and Trustees (Building): We begin 2018 with a strong staffing team. Our strength is due to staff taking on above-and-beyond responsibilities in 2017. In 2017, we experienced heavier than normal turnover (please see the Personnel Committee report). Due to these transitions, I spent more time on staff supervision, including becoming more knowledgeable about the particular nature of each staff member's work. I spent much more time learning our new financial system, including getting regular updates about the new financial manual and the transition to Quickbooks. I also spent more time getting to know the tremendous work of our custodial staff, especially that of Church Superintendent, David Smoot. I worked with David, Jasmine Jowers, the Church Administrator, and the Trustees to better understand the deferred and ongoing maintenance issues that our building faces. Most significantly, starting in the early summer, we faced growing levels of mold in the church, including the Sunday school classrooms, the sanctuary, the Lincoln Parlor and John Quincy Adams Room, and, most significantly, in the organ. I helped support the team to decide how to remove the mold, and am working with the team on how to address our future HVAC needs.

Roger Gench was away for an extended study leave from the middle of August to the beginning of October. His time away brought more responsibilities, particularly in the area of pastoral care and worship leadership. In late January of 2018, it is expected that I will give birth to our second child. The Session approved 12 weeks of maternity leave for me with options for adding vacation on either end. I spent the latter part of 2017 planning for my maternity leave.
Worship: My weekly role is writing or providing the Call to Worship, Confession, and Prayer of Dedication, as well as leading the Children’s Time, Prayers of the People, the Concerns, and Worship Play. I preach about monthly. This year, I have worked to incorporate Biblical Storytelling in worship and to make my preaching more conversational and to begin to get away from the manuscript.

Young Adult Volunteer, Community Club and Benevolence/ Metcalf-Edgington Funds: I continue to supervise the Young Adult Volunteer meeting with Sarah Dianne Jones (September 2016-July 2017) and then Clare Forrister (September 2017-present). Both YAVs have worked to support the Radcliffe Room ministry, Community Club, and the Benevolence and Metcalf-Edington Funds. Both women have been interested in Christian Education, so their YAV experience has involved them in our children’s and youth ministry as well. I meet with the YAV each a week to both supervise the work she is doing at the church and to support her as she discerns where she is called into ministry.

The Rev. Beth Braxton
Parish Associate

Call is an ever-growing, ever-changing phenomenon is our Christian lives. My call this year was to serve as one of your Parish Associates. Call is from the mystery of God, but validated by the community. You gave me affirmation for which I am grateful. Below are the areas where I have been engaged this year:

Worship
• Served Lord’s Supper each month for the Radcliffe Room
• Led the Easter sunrise worship service and preached for the service
• Organized and preached for the “Njoro Emphasis Sunday” in June
• Prepared artistic materials with staff, Kathryn Sparks for the Pentecost service
• Assisted the pastors in both Christmas Eve services
• Continued leadership of monthly Taize services, which were put on hiatus this fall

Evangelism Committee
• Continued working with Evangelism Committee on “branding” and coordinating all printed materials (still in process)
• 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
• Organized with Steering Committee hosting the visit of ten Kenyans from Njoro in late October. The group included four OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) students. The students attended Bishop O’Connell High School for two days while the adults shadowed persons in their career fields. They attended the All Church Retreat, National Museum of African Arts, The Air and Space Museum. They had supper with the Deacons and at Community Club. Their last three days were spent in Richmond, Virginia, with the Goshen International Church.
• During the visit we had two joint meetings of our Steering Committee with the Njoro OVC Committee and signed again a three year Memorandum of Agreement with codicils.
Radcliffe Room Leadership Team
- Worked regularly every Sunday serving guests in the Radcliffe Room
- Said “Good-bye” to long term servant, Beth DuMez
- Served Communion on first Sunday of the month in Radcliffe Room
- Chaired meetings of the Radcliffe Room Leadership Team
- Set-up and served for “The Longest Night” lunch

Scholar in Residence Ministry
- Met regularly with the SIR committee
- Helped provide hospitality and photography for SIR events

Miscellaneous
- Did “Welcome” for the Interfaith Conference MLK service in January
- Served on Planning Team for All-Church Retreat
- Met with the Arts Advisory Committee
- For the General Assembly PC (USA) I served on the coordinating Council of the Kenya Mission Network and attended their triennial meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in February
- For the National Capital Presbytery, I serve of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Speer Fund Grant Committee

The Rev. Frances Taylor Gench

During 2017, I was grateful for opportunities to make the following contributions to the life of NYAPC:

- Taught 2-week Adult Sunday School Series, “Jesus Was A Mammal: Reading the Gospel of John Ecologically” (November)
- Taught 5-week Sunday School series ("Pilgrimage to the Promised Land: Engagement with Hebrews 11 through Bible Study, Embodied Prayer, and Creative Dance") with Kathryn Sparks
- Led Cuba Partners Bible Study
- Preparation of spring quarter Bible study curriculum (Matthew 5:38-48) 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, “Reading the Bible with People on the Move” (organized by the ever efficient Karen Dunlap and Meg House)
- Co-hosted (with Roger Gench) Faith on Tap session for NYAPC Young Adults (for discussion with McClenond Scholar in Residence, Kelly Brown Douglas)
- Presided at Eucharist (July)
- Dance Ministry
- Biblical and theological consultant to the senior pastor!

I continue to be grateful for the privilege of affiliation with NYAPC as a Parish Associate!
The Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

Parish Associate

This has been my first year as a parish associate at New York Avenue, and I’ve been busy getting to know all of you and learning the rhythms of our life as a church. Often I find myself offering words of explanation because many people aren’t aware that the role of a parish associate isn’t just limited to retired pastors; it can include folks like me who serve in specialized ministry, in my case, as a full-time chaplain at Montgomery Hospice. In addition to my work with over 500 home hospice patients and families in the last year, I’ve also provided pastoral support at New York Avenue. I’ve provided worship leadership for three services this year, including preaching over the summer during Pastor Roger’s time away. Along with Pastors Roger, Alice, and Matthew, I led a young adult Bible study based on Amy-Jill Levine’s Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. I’ve also led sessions for two other young adult studies, one on biblical women and the other on Rowan William’s Being Christian. Since I particularly enjoy opportunities to share my writing, I’ve also submitted Advent and Lenten devotionals which were well-received by the congregation.

In the coming year, I’m looking forward to having greater involvement in the young adult “Faith on Tap” events. For example, I’ll be facilitating a discussion around prayer and miracles based on my experience as a healthcare chaplain, which I’ve titled “Waiting on God: Prayer, Miracle, Healing, and Hope.” I’ve also recently become more active in the Radcliffe Room, assisting with set up and clean up as well as filling in for Pastor Beth to provide pastoral leadership for the devotional time and Communion each month whenever she is away.

I’m excited to continue to get to know you all even more in the coming year and to find new ways to share my gifts and experiences as part of New York Avenue’s pastoral staff. I’m grateful to be part of such a vibrant and engaged church community!

Stanley P. Engebretson

Director of Music

In 2017, the Sanctuary Choir provided music ranging from traditional anthems to contemporary styles including gospel and spirituals, all mirroring the varied interests of our congregation. They also prepared excerpts from major works with orchestra that were delightful to sing, featuring several of our choir members as soloists or conductors.

The NYA Youth Choir that originated under Molly Johnson continues to grow, augmented by leadership from Samantha Scheff. The services led by our young worship leaders were highlights of the year both in the spring and at the annual Christmas pageant, complete with many little sheep running amok, a congregational favorite!

In March, Jan Schumacher, professor of choral conducting at Frankfurt Musikhochschule, led the Sanctuary Choir and orchestra in Franz Joseph Haydn’s eloquent St. Nicolai Mass. Fall highlights celebrated Mozart with his Coronation Mass in November led by guest conductor Georg Grün from Saarbrücken, Germany. On the 4th Sunday of Advent the Sanctuary Choir sang excerpts from Handel’s
Messiah with a wonderful string quartet led by NYA member J. David Brown. On Christmas Eve we featured Mary Anderson on flute, David Clark and Stephen Dunlap on saxophone, and our choirs that had the unique opportunity to sing for three services in one day!

In Addition

We wish to thank Meg Neill for her wonderful care of the choir as our President. Our other officers, including James Turner, Martha Davis and Judith Roach, along with other new choral representatives to the Choir Council, have all served admirably to foster the choir which now has several new members. If you have been tempted to sing with us, please come and join us!

Our Choral Associates Whitney McColley, Manuel Melendez, and Nathan Moon all help guide music in addition to their active professional engagements throughout the area. We miss Choral Scholar Purev Arslanbaatar, who moved to the Annandale United Methodist Church at the end of December. Organ/Choral Scholar Samantha Scheff is auditioning for graduate study, so we are keen to feature her in special repertoire while she is here before she leaves to complete her Master’s. We are enriched by the vocal and instrumental talents of many soloists within the choir including Meg Neill, Meg House, Martha Davis, Beth Law, Tamara Saltman, Eric Slaughter, Ian Elder, and David Williams (who celebrated his 50th year in the choir last fall).

We are always 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!

The Organ and Keyboard Instruments

Our A. E. Schlueter pipe organ is now eight years old and unfortunately was attacked by a large mold growth last summer/fall. The need to be very vigilant about humidity and temperature levels in the sanctuary to maintain good working order for this instrument is now critical, as the wood in any organ is always sensitive in terms of tuning and its ability to function properly. Regarding our pianos and harpsichord, 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 the grand pianos in the building to serve as the keyboard instrument for memorial services and other events.

From the Director

It is always a great joy for me to be a part of this magnificent congregation, as I now begin my 28th year! We are continually blessed by our fine pastors, staff, and worship leaders, so I am thankful to be here as a part of our team to reach out with Christian faith for community, 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 2017:

**Class of 2017**
- Taylor Allison*
- 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
- Meg House
- Karin Lohman

**Class of 2019**
- Helen Anthony
- Fred Dann
- Miriam Dewhurst
- Yongo Ding
- Kristin Ford
- Molly Johnson
- Brian Schimming

*Elected in August 2017 to fill Asiala vacancy  **Resigned in 2017

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.

In January, the Session voted to join the sanctuary movement (which includes more than 400 churches, some of them Presbyterian), affirming this 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.”

In addition to affirming the pledge, member congregations agree to take on at least one of the following actions: (1) accompany undocumented immigrants to ICE hearings; (2) serve on a rapid response team; (3) host an undocumented person subject to deportation; or (4) helping immigrants to know their rights. Elder Will Ashworth’s law firm provided a legal memorandum outlining the possible risks run by the church, its pastors and officers if the decision were made to host a person facing deportation. To date, the church has not been asked to host anyone. Some members have accompanied undocumented persons to ICE hearings and have joined in public demonstrations.
In other actions, after being asked to approve requests from several groups to stay overnight at the church, the Session developed a policy for overnighting groups – who would be allowed to stay, how much they would pay, etc. The Session authorized the Church Assessment Tool survey, which revealed many interesting things about the church, including that the church is very healthy. The Session will be following up on actions/ideas suggested by the CAT results. The Session also authorized a Security Task Force, which is looking at ways to prepare for the possibility of an active shooter event and other emergencies, including an updated fire escape plan. Regarding the church’s financial situation, all four boards are working to narrow the gap between revenue and expenses.

Session meetings were enriched throughout the year by conversations with new members 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.

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 2017. NCP calls Stated Meetings five times a year (all held at National Presbyterian Church in 2017) 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
- Actions of the General Assembly requiring Presbytery approval

All Stated Meetings of the Presbytery are conducted in the context of a worship service and include hymns, sermon and the serving of communion. Some items of business during 2017 are noted below:

**Stated Meeting of January 24**: NCP installed Ruling Elder William Plitt (Old Presbyterian Meeting House) as 2017 Moderator and Teaching Elder Rev. Quinn Fox (National PC) as 2017 Vice-Moderator. The outgoing Moderator, Elder Therese Taylor-Stinson (Northwood), conducted the installation. Rev. Fox, Chair of the Bills and Overtures Committee, presented for endorsement several overtures to the 222nd General Assembly.
Stated Meeting of March 21: NCP approved a change to its schedule. Beginning in 2018, the Presbytery’s program year will run from September 1 to August 31. Officers and committee and commission members of the Class of 2017 will serve eight additional months (January-August 2018). Beginning in 2019, the Moderator and Vice Moderator will be elected in May and be installed at the June Presbytery meeting. Committee and commission classes will be elected in May and June with their terms beginning the following September. NCP’s fiscal year will continue to be January to January. The Presbytery also adopted a new 5-year mission statement.

Stated Meeting of May 23: NCP adopted a revision to the Administration Commission on Congregation Property Manual. The Presbytery reluctantly voted to approve the dismissal of the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Stated Meeting of September 19: NCP approved the 2018 Operating Budget of $1,092,256 and approved raising the per capita by 3% to $39.91 ($31.33 to NCP). The 2018 Mission Budget was received for a first reading. The Presbytery also approved the Authoritative Interpretation Request of whether the Session has authority to set policy regarding weddings conducted on church property and, if so, whether there are things that may not be included in such a policy.

Stated Meeting of November 14: NCP approved the 2018 Mission Budget. The Presbytery also regretfully dismissed the Centreville Presbyterian Church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Elected Teaching Elder Quinn Fox (National PC) as Moderator for 2018-2019, and Ruling Elder Miriam Dewhurst (NYAPC) as Vice-Moderator.

NYAPC was represented at these meetings by NCP’s Pastors, Parish Associates, and a balancing number of Elder Commissioners, including three elected by NYAPC’s Session: Miriam Dewhurst, Kristin Ford, and Dan Stokes. Amy McKee and the Rev. Ann Davie served as members of the NCP Commission on Preparation for Ministry, the Rev. Alice Tewell served on the NCP Church Development Committee. Dan Stokes served on the Session Records Committee, Karl Hoffman served on the Investment Committee, and Paul Dornan served on the Commission on Ministry.

PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program

In 2017, NYAPC actively continued its support of the National Capital site of PC(USA)’s Young Adult Volunteer Program (YAV). The DC-based YAVs live in intentional community in a house in Brightwood and serve at DC Presbyterian churches and related organizations. During the 2016-2017 year, Sarah Dianne Jones had a joint placement with NYAPC and NEXT Church. Starting this fall, Clare Forrist is the Young Adult Volunteer serving at NYAPC and NEXT Church.

At NYAPC, the YAV works supporting the work of the Radcliffe Room and Community Club, and helps interview applicants who are applying for Benevolence and Metcalf-Edginton funds. The YAV supports the Radcliffe Room through building intentional relationships and working on the women’s clothing closet. The YAV supports Community Club by maintaining the tutor database, running the substitute zone, and helping lead Community Club special events including fall camp and the spring
event. In 2017, the YAV has also helped more intentionally connect our upper elementary and youth Sunday school classes to the work of the Radcliffe Room though helping organize the Dr. Rev. King Youth Day of Service and a toiletries drive. Rev. Tewell is the NYAPC YAV supervisor.

Nominating Committee

Mary Spatz, Chair

Due to several people moving out of the area or not being able to continue their terms, we had to begin replacing officers earlier in the year. This was accomplished at the Congregational Meeting held on August 6:

Board of Diaconal Ministers: Pruitt Ashworth (Class of 2017) and Sarah McGinnis (Class of 2019)

Board of Deacons: Matt Ford and Karen George (Class of 2019)

The Session: Taylor Allison (Class of 2017)

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 Congregational Meeting held on January 7, 2018:

Board of Deacons (Class of 2020): Matthew Asada, Martha Davis, Lauren Gillies, Betsy Merritt, Doug Norwood, Marsha Renwanz, and John Yoder

Board of Diaconal Ministers (Class of 2020): Pruitt Ashworth, Barbara Dornan, Stacey Gagosian, John O’Brien, Cecelia Porter, Rob Savage, and Janet Shabman

The Session (Class of 2020): Taylor Allison, Will Ashworth, Paul Dornan, Tyler Feret, Erica Morgan, Melissa Jane Taylor, and Edward Walrod

Board of Trustees (Class of 2020): Ross Coe, Kendrick McCabe, and Jim Spearman

The members of the Nominating Committee were Mary Spatz (chair), Adam McColley representing the Session, Kathryn Sparks representing the Deacons, Whitney McColley representing the Diaconal Ministers, Caroline White representing the Trustees and Molly Smith, John Quinn, Cathy Schultheis, Jeff Moore, Taylor Allison, and Jim Spearman representing the congregation at large.

Benevolence Committee

Molly Johnson, 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 2017, NYAPC again received a great number of requests for assistance. It also established a monthly budget and flexible guidelines to aid in decision making including number of requests over an annual period and relationship with the church. In the past year, the church was able to carry out a ministry of service in the Washington, DC, metro area by spending more than $4,665 on such assistance as housing and utility payments.

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 2017 Benevolence Committee consisted of Betsy Merritt, Olivia Singelmann, Rev. Alice Rose Tewell, and the Session Treasurer as Chair. We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Sarah-Dianne Jones and Clare Forrister, Young Adult Volunteers, for their hard work in assisting the committee with applications this year.

Pastor Evaluation and Compensation Committee

Miriam Dewhurst

The committee was established in 2015 to provide for a consistent and orderly review of pastor performance and a timely recommendation on the pastors’ Terms of Call. The committee consists of three members of the Session and is responsible for creating a survey encompassing pastor responsibilities and distributing the survey to Session members, other church officers, and church members. The committee uses the responses as the basis for a meeting with each pastor during which issues that have been raised through the survey are addressed, positive feedback is shared, and the pastors have an opportunity to raise their own issues and concerns. The committee did not administer the survey in 2017, but engaged in conversations with both pastors regarding their compensation. The committee provides its recommendation for the pastors’ Terms of Call to the Finance Committee during the time when the church operating budget is developed, and to the Session for its consideration, and to the congregation for approval.

Those serving on the Pastor Evaluation and Compensation Committee in 2017 were Miriam Dewhurst (Chair), Mary Spatz, and Catherine Cannon.
The following people were members of the Board of Deacons in 2017:

**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

**Class of 2019**
- Alex Moore
- Amy Gillespie
- Matt Ford
- Mary Nell Clark
- David Brown
- Karen George
- Koloina Randrianarivony

The Deacons spent much of their time this year broadening their understanding of the entire budget of the church that deals with mission. Radcliffe Room, Community Club, 7-2-9, and Kenya – the four main missions of the church, along with several other missions that the church supports (e.g., Geriatric Daycare Center). Deacons educated themselves on these budgets, talked with their respective leadership committees or leaders, and studied the new financial manual to better understand the big picture of mission at NYAPC.

Deacons also focused on God’s abundance, trusting that God provides, and working together as a board to approach this mindset as one church. It was a wonderful year of thoughtful conversations, big decisions, and being open with each other. Some highlights of the year included:

- We reduced the budget request to Session from the previous year.
- We are becoming more confident in understanding our budget and how it fits into the larger church given the work Session has been doing.
- Deacon Joe Riley continued to serve as head usher this year. This has been tremendous in helping ensure morning processes are in place, we have enough ushers, we are coordinated, etc.
- Under leadership of Deacon Anne Laroche, a Freedom Circle now meets at NYAPC – Reunion is a group responding to “the injustices of mass incarceration,” and 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 D.C.
- Hosted a potluck dinner for the Kenyan visitors in October.

**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 and was initiated by Reverend Jack McClendon and 10 church member volunteers. 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 reside at and are being treated at St. Elizabeths 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. Three major events are the annual 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. Elizabeths) in which a fried chicken dinner prepared by Evelyn McMillan and NYAPC’s kitchen staff is served.

Volunteers come to set up the coffee and refreshment tables and to initiate and participate in the games, presentations and social activities. Sandwiches and cookies provided by the NYA kitchen are served near the close of the evening. Each week the meeting ends in a circle during which announcements and member birthdays and achievements are announced. Our club song and “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds” are sung.

More volunteers are always needed and welcome. A volunteer staff of six to eight is ideal, so presently we are two or three volunteers short each week. Even volunteers who can come 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, perform magic, etc., are a real treat.

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

*It is a tangible way of implementing this church’s commitment to serving the disenfranchised.*

*It is a fellowship like none other, wherein feel 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.*

*I like to sing with others.*

*Because members of my family have struggled with mental illness (I am) aware that friendship and socialization are important in dealing with their problems.*

*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.*

Please stop in for a visit and join the fun!
2017 was a year of continued achievement for this 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.

Tom Karr was elected to another two-year term as co-director in spring 2017, continuing to work with former student Shamika Bradley to direct the program. They are joined in leading the club by Chaplain Rev. Alice Tewell and the rest of the Core Council, which is made up of club leaders and Deacon Amy Gillespie. Amy, assisted by Sarah Dinardo, worked with Class Leader Zacoyia Clark and the graduating seniors on college prep and application activities. Amy continues this work with senior class leader Tara Graham and the 2017-18 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 Sarah-Dianne Jones (in 2016-17) and Clare Forrist (in 2017-18).

Enrollment peaked at 122 students in May, and, following the graduation of a large senior class, has grown back to 125 in late January 2018. They are supported by 140 active volunteers (including tutors, class leaders, librarians, food servers, etc.). Roughly ten percent of our volunteers are church members. Community Club continues to do a great job recruiting new tutors through Craigslislist, VolunteerMatch.com, referrals by tutors, and promotion of the program by NYAPC. Over 60 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 jobs. In 2017, 44% of the students in the program received these stipends. Club alumni who are enrolled in college with good grades are eligible for semi-annual stipends from Community Club. In 2016-17, 56 such alumni and alumnae received stipends totaling over $45,000.

The club also promotes students for other college scholarships and helps them apply. Among our current collegians are three Posse Scholars (full tuition), two DC Achievers Scholarships ($5,000 per semester), and three New Futures Scholars ($1,600 per semester). In spring 2017 six 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). Eleven former Community Club students graduated from college in 2017.

In addition to the core Thursday night tutoring, the club held its traditional overnight camp retreat in October, along with a picnic in April. We are planning to hold another outdoors event this spring.

At Thursday night Study Hall, we maintain a library 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 – the one this past December attracted over 40 collegians - and a well-attended graduation ceremony in May.
To help fund its activities and scholarships, the club received several large donations, including continued major support from the New York Avenue Educational Foundation, grants of $7,000 and $8,000 from two generous donors, and a contribution from Bloomberg LP (on behalf of a Bloomberg employee who is a veteran tutor). Learn more about the club at www.communityclub.org.

**Radcliffe Room Ministry**

**Radcliffe Room Leadership Team (Point of Contract: Doug Norwood)**

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 ministry 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 am to 9:45 am and provides a space for guests and volunteers to socialize. In 2017, we have:

- **Continued with 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. Everyone involved agrees that it has been a powerful experience, and late in the year we decided to put it on hold while we try to make it an even better experience with more members from the Radcliffe Room community and the congregation.
- **Been blessed with the presence of Sarah-Diane Jones and Clare Forrister, New York Avenue’s Young Adult Volunteers, who brought great energy, organization and caring to our ministry. In 2017, Clare 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 boxes in their lobbies so departing guests can donate Metro fare cards. Partners include 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 bus pass worth $17.50. Every week, the 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 help to keep the cards funded at a stable level.**
- **Said farewell to our sister and longtime Radcliffe Room volunteer Beth DuMez, who moved to Michigan to be closer to family but remains with us in spirit.**

We have continued to partner with area restaurants, which donate leftover food that volunteers pick up on Fridays and Saturdays. Donors include Bean & Bite, Bruegger’s Bagels at 21st & L NW, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe, and Peet’s at the corner of 15th & 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 purchased by the church. 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.

Initiatives and Goals:

- Like every mission in the church, the Radcliffe Room is becoming more cost-conscious as it works to continue and grow its traditions in the face of a $2,000 cut to its non-food budget (a 21% cut). It will be a challenge for a barebones group like ours, but we pray that we can find creative ways of meeting the challenges in 2018.
- Increased involvement from members of the church and the community so every RR guest feels personally welcomed to NYAPC.
- 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 ministry 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.
- Continue discussions with church leaders and the Downtown BID about a day center that would connect homeless people with services and be a centralized location for multiple groups to coordinate their efforts on behalf of homeless people (for instance, churches that bring food and clothing to Franklin Square, which will soon undergo renovations).

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 Telfeyan, Barry Tindall, Sam Waltzer, Suzie Waltzer, Rosemary Segero, Jim Wall and Helen Williams.

**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 NYAPC 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 staff numbers six: a social worker, Cathy Wambui, three teachers: John Kuria, Tabitha Maina, Josephat Kamau, and two cooks: Naomi Nduta, and Mine Nyambura. The program gives support for education, with school uniforms, shoes, medical fees and necessary supplies. The social worker and teachers help with test preparation as well as school fees for those attaining high school age.

This year the plan had been for there to be a mission trip to Njoro in August, but due to the fact that their Presidential election was to be held in August, it was advised not to go. Therefore our partners at the PCEA Njoro Parish asked if they could come here to visit us with four of the OVC students. We were incredulous about their being able to get all the birth certificates, passports, visas for the students, but it was managed and it certainly was the highlight of our year to have them with us in October! The students were: John Njoroge, Peter Bua, Rebecca Andisi and Virginia Wanjeru and they were accompanied by six members of the OVC committee: Phillip Mathenge, Francis Muchemi, Rev. George Kariuki, Milicent Githaiga, Esther Wanjiru and Catherine Wambui the Social Worker.

The students were hosted in the homes of Jeff Moore (with “parental” help from Karen and Tyler Feret) and David and Amy Gilles. Other hosts were: Habib and Martha Davis, Ruth and Fritz von Fleckenstein, Jenean Mc Kay, Carol Casperson, Paul and Barb Dornan, and Beth and Bob Braxton. The students attended two days of Bishop O’Connell High School with Alex Moore hosting and in the afternoons the girls did activities with Lauren Gillies. While the students attended school the six members of the committee did some shadowing in their own career fields. They all toured the National Museum of African Arts, the Air and Space Museum, and the Susha Bruce Youth Center; had lunch with the NYAPC staff; attended Community Club; and were hosted for a meal by the Board of Deacons. The highlight of the visit was being part of the All Church Retreat at Meadowkirk. The four students played “Amazing Grace” on their recorders (given by the McColley family in 2015) and John Njorge shared a poem of gratitude for our support that brought tears to our eyes.

We were able to have two meetings of our committees during this stay and we signed another three-year Memorandum of Agreement.

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The NYAPC Steering Committee of the Njoro Partnership met on a regular basis in 2017. Discussion focuses on shared communication with the OVC Njoro committee, how the students are progressing, financial status, and the future of the program. We had a meeting with the Finance Committee of the church to hear the changes being developed. Supporting 35 orphans and vulnerable children has a $24,000 per year cost (about $645/student). We are grateful for the Deacons, who provide $12,000, the Christmas Alternative gift program where we glean a few thousand dollars more, and the special annual von Fleckenstein gift of $2,000. In addition, The Old Presbyterian Meeting House of Alexandria, Virginia, made a $500 contribution. The continual challenge for us is how best to fund the OVC Program and to fund hospitality to visitors when they travel here to be with us, the church. We do not have a line item for Kenya visits to DC. However, the joy of relationship and shared
commitment to the 35 orphans and vulnerable children is worth every penny! Our prayer is that more members of the congregation will experience personally this unique relationship.

Primary opportunity next to build relationships with OVC students is August 3-16, 2018, when we take our next two-week trip to Njoro, Kenya.

The Njoro Steering Committee includes Beth Braxton (chair), Bob Braxton, Molly Lauer (secretary), Karen Milam (liaison with the Board of Deacons), Marsha Renwanz, Kathryn Sparks, Jim Turner, Fritz von Fleckenstein (treasurer), and Sarah Williamson.

Peace and Justice Committee

The committee worked to promote peace and advocate for justice through its traditional programs, promoting and participating in peace and justice-seeking activities, donating to projects that work toward these goals, and hosting the Presbyterian pastor from the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad.

The committee organized and oversaw PC(USA)’s annual One Great Hour of Sharing and Peace and Global Witness Offering, as well as the Advent Season’s Alternative Christmas Gifts, the latter including seven local and international projects connected with NYAPC and the sale of Palestinian farmers’ olive oil. The Committee provided votive peace candles for visitors to take and wrote weekly Peace Candle prayers for the bulletin.

Committee members worked to promote, participate, and organize activities for Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence (e.g., 350 people demonstrated in July at the NRA headquarters) and programs for the Washington Inter-Faith Network (e.g., 750 people of which 25 were from NYAPC to ask the Mayor to fulfill promises for housing, jobs, and transportation). Members assisted with organizing training hosted by NYAPC for the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days and Training held April 21-24; and they promoted and participated in the Peoples’ Climate March on April 29. In October, the Committee promoted and publicized PC(USA)’s Food Week of Action and International Food Day through announcements, a food display on the Communion table, a food-themed “Time with Children” and liturgical dance at both services, and collection of food for the hungry.

In July, the pastor of our partner church in Iraq, the National Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church in Damascus, Rev. Farouk Hammo, visited Washington, DC, for the first time and was hosted by the Peace and Justice Committee Chair. Rev. Hammo toured NYAPC and had lunch with Revs. Gench and Tewell and members of the Peace and Justice Committee. Rev. Hammo will be participating in the PC(USA) General Assembly in June 2018, and it is hoped that he will visit NYAPC following the GA.

The Peace and Justice Committee also helped to publicize the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship’s annual national awards dinner on October 21 hosted by NYAPC in which the award was given to a National Capital Presbytery pastor for her work on Palestine-Israel. The awardee had been to NYAPC on several occasions to lead Adult Christian Education classes on Palestine-Israel.
The committee also awarded grants to three projects: $500 to Luther Place Memorial Church’s Steinbruck Center to help house DACA/Dreamers who participated in a vigil at the White House; $750 to the National Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church in Damascus (Syria) to help repair its roof that was damaged by unexploded ordnance that hit the church; and $750 to the National Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church in Basrah (Iraq) to enable the new pastor to purchase a used car to help with his parish duties and take his young children to school. The committee also voted to provide $500 each to the PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Iraq/Lebanon/Syria, Cuba, and Indonesia ($1,500 total).

The Peace and Justice Committee will continue its work and expand it in 2018, and seeks new members to help fulfill its mission.

**Board of Diaconal Ministers**

*John Schultheis, President*

The following individuals were members of the Board of Diaconal Ministers during 2017:

**Class of 2017**
- Pruitt Ashworth
- Mary Danewitz
- Stacey Gagosian
- Marie Noel Meka
- Janet Shabman
- Stephanie Simpson
- Lenora Thierry

**Class of 2018**
- James Davidson
- Glory Eyong
- Alison Kootstra Nowak
- Whitney McColley
- Nathan Moon
- Carrie Schenkel Reasonover
- Laura West

**Class of 2019**
- Heather Choi
- Cindy Dickinson
- Diane Douglas
- Sarah McGinnis*
- ShuXian McKenna
- John Schultheis
- Martha Sykora

* Replaced Elizabeth DuMez who moved out of the Washington, DC, region during the summer.

The board, founded in 1949 as the Board of Deaconesses and given its present name in 2010 to reflect a more diverse membership and mission, provides care for members and friends of the congregation. Board members began to be ordained as Deacons in 2011. The board attends to congregational needs by visiting the sick, elderly, handicapped, and those confined at home or in care facilities in the area. It also keeps "in touch" with those who have moved out of the area but still appreciate receiving cards, the AveNews, and other material about the church and its members. The board also gives aid and comfort to the bereaved and help to those in need of special care. We arrange for and facilitate geriatric counseling when needed. We obtain and prepare the communion elements; coordinate and provide hospitality at memorial and funeral services held in the church; order the Sunday sanctuary floral arrangements and seek donations in memory or honor of an individual or event; deliver arrangements of those flowers to individuals or families in need of care or celebrating a special event; decorate the sanctuary with plants for Easter and poinsettias and greens for Christmas and then deliver them to those unable to attend worship; celebrate the birth of a child into the church family by placing a single rose on the communion table and giving the rose to the child’s family following worship and perform other duties as requested by the Session.
Earnings from the board’s invested funds provided sufficient income to meet all of our 2017 expenditures. In addition to covering operating and flower costs, the board contributed $10,247.50 toward the replacement of the Park Level lift.

During the board’s operating year (February 2017 through January 2018), we hosted post memorial service receptions for Margery Carpenter, David Brown, and Marian Carroll. In May, the Church of the Pilgrims held a memorial service and reception for Rev. Jeff Krehbiel (their former pastor) at NYAPC. Board members worked with volunteers from the Church of the Pilgrims during the reception.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Trustees</th>
<th>Rebecca Davis, President</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class of 2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class of 2018</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ross Coe</td>
<td>Tom Dunlap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hal Hiemstra</td>
<td>Karl Hoffman</td>
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<td>Edith Snyder</td>
<td>Matt Wieseler</td>
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In 2017, 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**

- **Tenant Relationships.** This was the first full year of a renewed lease with The McClendon Center, NYAPC’s largest tenant. The McClendon Center is a day program that began as a mission of the church and now operates as an independent 501c3 organization. It offers enrichment activities and community for people living with mental illness. Trustees continued quarterly meetings with McClendon Center leadership. The contract renewed in November 2017 with a graduated, annual increase. In addition, with the guidance of Trustees, Church Administrator Jasmine Jowers negotiated rental agreements for short- and long-term tenants, including Capital Clubhouse, DC Concert Orchestra, and Esther Productions.

- **Incremental Revenue.** Trustees continued to identify and facilitate alternative sources of revenue. In 2017, NYAPC hosted participants in the Women’s and Climate Marches. Under the direction of Rev. Alice Tewell and a group of volunteers, NYAPC accepted payment through Square and created contracts and processes for accepting visitors from around the country. In addition, Trustees, led by Hal Hiemstra, completed negotiations with Verizon for the use of space on the roof for the installation of a set of wireless antennas.

**Building Needs**

- **Roof Replacement.** After a 2016 review, Trustees led by Hal Hiemstra and Tom Dunlap commissioned a detailed specification for roof replacement, which had exceeded its 20-year warranty and was leaking. Trustees hired Building Representatives JFW and conducted an RFP process, ultimately selecting CRS to replace the roof. This project was completed in September.
- **Mold Remediation.** In August 2017, staff members from NYAPC noticed mold growing on hymnbooks and pews in the sanctuary. This started a process of evaluation and remediation. Trustees hired a hygienist to test the situation throughout the church, including the Lincoln Parlor, Park Level, Sanctuary, and offices, and after a bidding process contracted with a third party to perform mold remediation in all of these spaces. In addition, we discovered that mold had breached the organ. Trustee Tom Dunlap led renting dehumidifiers and installing sensors in the organ that report humidity and temperature remotely. Tom and Hal Hlemstra engaged the organ builder to supervise mold remediation in the first level of the organ. We installed HEPA filters to ensure that air pumped through the organ was cleaned and would not cause additional contamination. The sanctuary was then tested to ensure mold spore levels were in a healthy range. As the weather cooled, we successfully reduced humidity levels and staved off further mold growth. We are actively working on a solution to keep humidity levels low as the temperature rises, and will be supervising cleaning levels 2 and 3 of the organ in 2018.

- **Reserve Study.** Trustees commissioned a third party, Reserve Advisors, to assess the building condition and systems. Reserve Advisors created a high-level maintenance schedule for 2017 through 2037. Trustees briefed the Session on the assessment and their recommendation to create a Reserve Fund to support ongoing building needs.

- **Sanctuary Discernment.** Trustees participated in discussions with Sanctuary Task Force on the ramifications of hosting a family or individual seeking sanctuary from potential deportation.

- **Ongoing Building Needs and Opportunities.** In January, repairs were done on a flood in the elevator bank from December 2016, an expense covered by NYAPC’s insurance. In addition, Trustees Caroline White and Tom Dunlap participated in the Arts Advisory Task Force, who are discerning a process for making NYAPC more welcoming to people of all backgrounds. This was the group responsible for the “Black Madonnas” in the sanctuary during Advent.

**Financial Stewardship**

- **Audit.** For at least the sixth year, NYAPC’s auditor Raffa completed the audit on time. Successful delivery of the audit by June 30 each year is a requirement of NYAPC’s line of credit. The audit conducted in 2017 was for 2016, first year of accrual-based accounting. The audit had only one management note, about an improvement in controls processes for bequests. Copies of the audit are available upon request to church members; please contact Lance Jameson.

- **Line of Credit.** Trustees continued to manage the relationship with the lender of NYAPC’s line of credit, which continues to provide NYAPC financing flexibility for projects such as the roof replacement.

- **Accounting Processes.** Members of the Trustees, in particular Edie Snyder and Karl Hoffman, served on the Accounting Task Force and worked to establish a regular cadence of closing the books and reporting in 2017, as well as publishing a detailed Financial Manual.

The Trustees have greatly appreciated Rev. Alice Tewell’s collaboration in staff supervision responsibilities, as well as the efforts of our partners Jasmine Jowers, Church Administrator, and Lance Jameson, Church Senior Accountant. Alice, Jasmine, and Lance have attended Trustee meetings and their presence and guidance have been instrumental in the work of the Trustees. In addition, we appreciate David Smoot’s collaboration around HVAC and mold remediation issues. Church member Eric Slaughter also provided invaluable counsel to Trustees on the HVAC maintenance.
In addition to the work described in the report, we are also grateful for the work of Karl Hoffman, Church Treasurer and Finance Committee, to continue to evaluate 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 led the roof replacement and Arts Advisory Task Force; Mason Hubbard, who provided guidance on legal issues; 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 2018. We are grateful for the foundational work of the many good stewards of NYAPC. Thanks be to God!

Investment Committee

Karl S. Hoffman, Chair

NYAPC’s investment portfolio is managed by Ariba Asset Management, which has managed the investment portfolio since April 2006. The custodian for NYAPC’s accounts is UBS. As of December 31, 2017, the total value of NYAPC’s investment accounts (excluding a dedicated working capital cash account) was $9,988,450. During the year, the investment portfolio was allocated between stocks (72.8% in value), bonds (20.0%), and cash and cash equivalents (7.0%). For the year, the portfolio had a net investment gain of $1,231,789 comprised of $1,110,364 in capital appreciation and $179,031 in investment income. The members of the Investment Committee for 2017 are Hal Hiemstra, 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. In terms of performance, NYAPC’s stock portfolio performed well in 2017, matching broad U.S. stock market indices. While the portfolio’s underperformance on a three- and five-year basis is disappointing, from a longer perspective, we believe the Church has achieved satisfactory stock returns on a risk-adjusted basis.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Incept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYAPC Equity Acct</td>
<td>9.20%</td>
<td>5.55%</td>
<td>11.09%</td>
<td>7.26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>KLD 400 Social Index</td>
<td>9.33%</td>
<td>8.64%</td>
<td>13.62%</td>
<td>6.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500 Index</td>
<td>9.42%</td>
<td>9.10%</td>
<td>13.39%</td>
<td>6.30%</td>
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</table>

NYAPC’s fixed income portfolio is primarily comprised of short duration, investment grade bonds. This intentional, lower risk tilt in bonds has not been rewarded in recent years, as longer duration and higher risk bonds outperformed in the low-interest rate environment. 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.
In summary, the overall performance of the entire investment portfolio was up 14.75%.

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<tr>
<th>Bond Index</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Incept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYAPC Bond Acct</td>
<td>3.13%</td>
<td>2.25%</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
<td>4.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Capital</td>
<td>3.54%</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
<td>4.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggregate Bond Index</td>
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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 books and records for audit, and (3) design a financial accounting and reporting system that would meet the needs and expectations of the Church, be responsive to the comments of the auditors over several years, and ensure the ongoing trust of the congregation in the Church’s management of its finances. We reported 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 financial 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 Church money, investing and spending Church funds, and receiving reports of Church expenditures for program purposes.

During 2016, the Accounting Task Force successfully accomplished the first of these objectives. The new accounting system became operational on January 1, 2016. With this system, the Church began to maintain its accounts on an accrual basis in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), rather than on the previously used modified cash basis. The Church completed the 2016 audit on time (by June 30, 2017) and received an “unqualified opinion” from outside auditor Raffa. For the first time in many years, Raffa’s comments in its Management Letter detailing improvements the Church might make were minimal.

At the beginning of 2017, Accounting Manager Jan Maheras left the church, and Your Part-Time Controller helped NYAPC hire a temporary bookkeeper. After working for the church for several months and following an extensive search process, Lance Jameson was hired as NYAPC’s permanent, full-time Senior Accountant. This change in personnel and the need to complete the church financial manual led the Board of Trustees to extend the term of the Accounting Task Force and its members a second time to mid-year 2018.
The Task Force focused throughout 2017 on its second key task: completing a draft of the financial manual. This manual was presented to all four boards in November and December 2017, along with proposed motions involving specific policies and funds pertinent to each body. The Board of Diaconal Ministers endorsed the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church Financial Manual at its meeting on January 13, 2018. At a joint meeting of the Boards on January 20, 2018, the Session and the Board of Trustees formally approved and the Boards of Deacons officially endorsed the manual.

The Accounting Task Force expects to gather additional feedback regarding the manual and to propose an omnibus motion with any and all changes to it by late spring/early summer 2018. Meanwhile, the Task Force further refined the monthly whole-Church and program-specific financial reports that are now being produced and distributed to officers and other users of financial reports throughout the Church. In addition, the Accounting Task Force is now working to complete its third and final task: planning training for all Church personnel, including staff, boards, program leaders, and the congregation, in how to use and rely upon the new accounting system and financial manual. We anticipate that this training will be conducted in the April/May timeframe.

The Accounting Task Force again expects to provide support to the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees and auditors in the timely completion of the Church’s 2017 audit. The Task Force’s term expires June 30, 2018, upon approval by the Audit Committee and auditors of this audit, and the completion of initial training in the accounting system and financial manual—training that we anticipate will be ongoing with ever-changing Church and program leadership.


Reports of Special Activities

Cuba Partners Committee

Marilyn J. Seiber, Coordinator

The Cuba Partners Committee worked throughout the year to maintain and enhance its partnership with the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana through a visit to Havana in February, participation in the PC (USA) Cuba Partners Network, hosting Pastor Emeritus Héctor Méndez who preached on World Communion Sunday, and being part of the Alternative Christmas Gifts for Cuba.

On February 20-27, 2017, participants from four churches in National Capital Presbytery traveled to First Havana, including NYAPC Associate Pastor Rev. Alice Tewell who brought her husband, son, and mother to First Havana. Rev. Tewell preached at the Sunday service. The delegation also brought
nine suitcases of donated medicines and clothing to First Havana organized by Aryn Myers. This was the first time that an NYAPC delegation flew commercially to Cuba and stayed in private apartments close to the church. Our delegation was also the first group of partner-visitors to be at First Havana since Rev. Méndez had retired. We learned in December 2017 that First Havana had called Rev. Liudmila Hernández to be its next pastor who would be installed in January 2018.

Betsy Merritt and Marilyn Seiber attended the annual PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network meeting in Chicago September 12-15, 2017 held at the Cenacle Retreat Center. The theme was “Deepening Mutual Mission,” and four Cuban pastors attended, a miracle accomplishment because Hurricane Irma had just hit the island on September 8 (and Harvey hit Houston where we were originally to meet). The group reviewed a new PCUSA/IPRC report, “New Hopes and Realities in Cuban-American Relations: A Nuevo Momento.” Betsy and Marilyn gave a presentation on “An Update on Current US Policy Toward Cuba,” explaining the June 2017 Presidential Executive Order and its “on the ground” effects for U.S. travelers (especially religious travel) and on Cubans. Marilyn also announced a newly organized professional association of U.S. travelers to Cuba, RESPECT, dedicated to practicing and promoting ethical and socially responsible travel to Cuba. The Cuba Partners Committee voted to be a signatory to the Principles, and the Cuba Partners Network is considering being a signatory.

The Cuba Partners Committee invited Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Héctor Méndez to preach at NYAPC on October 1, World Communion Sunday. Rev. Méndez preached at both services assisting with Communion, led an Adult Christian Education class, and gave an informal presentation after the second service. The Cuba Partners Committee organized a luncheon/reception in the Radcliffe Room and the Diaconal Ministers provided flowers from the sanctuary for the reception.

Plans for 2018 include a visit to First Havana, March 19-26, where we will worship together on Palm Sunday and meet First Havana’s new pastor. Four churches will be represented on the delegation. We also hope to hold an “Earth Day Cuba Coffee in the Park” in the spring and participate in the Alternative Christmas Gifts program during Advent.

**Triangle Park Committee**  
*Marilyn Seiber, Courtney Spearman, and Barry Tindall, Coordinators*

Members of the Triangle Park Committee (Aryn Myers, Todd Ruhkamp, Marilyn Seiber, Courtney Spearman, and Barry Tindall) worked via email and individually in the park to attend to issues and upkeep. Barry Tindall worked with the National Park Service to ensure that the park was cleaned and mulched for the Easter Sunrise Service, and to urge NPS to give attention to removing weeds at the end of the park during the summer.

In the spring, NYAPC was approached by the Downtown DC BID (Business Improvement District) with a proposal to renovate the triangle park by removing the historic benches and replacing the shrubs with seasonal flowers. After thoughtful consideration and consultation among members of the Triangle Park Committee, the Trustees, the pastors, and Radcliffe Room ministry team, it was determined that the BID’s proposal was not a good fit for how NYAPC envisions the park’s ongoing use. Conversations continue with the BID on other issues around supporting the needs of those experiencing homelessness in the area and around rat eradication. The BID has an agreement with
the National Park Service and DC government to help eradicate rodents in Triangle Park. This effort has lapsed recently and Barry Tindall is currently talking with both parties to address this problem.

Park beautification continues by the committee with cleanup efforts in the spring and fall. Barry Tindall received more than 1,000 daffodil bulbs from a donor and planted them in the park. An effort that needs addressing is maintaining the tree wells on either side of the church, on both New York Avenue and H Street. The Committee remains committed to securing black wrought-iron fencing for tree beds and wells and to fill the area of the lost grate of one tree on New York Avenue.

The Committee invites anyone who enjoys outdoor garden work to join the Committee and work with the National Park Service to keep Triangle Park, the beds by the church, and the tree wells beautiful with flowers and weed-free!

Reports of the Clusters

Christian Learning Cluster

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church’s Christian Learning Cluster spent the year growing together in faith through our Christian Education program.

Our adult education courses continue to be a vital part of our congregation’s spiritual growth. Attendance on any given Sunday, with one or two classes offered, is typically 30 people though sometimes as many as 50 or more. We launched a new series focused on Raising and Mentoring Justice-Seeking Children and Youth as part of our adult education program, which was well-received and well-attended in the fall and which we’ve extended to an additional seven weeks in early 2018.

In addition, Phil Bolles and Mac Skelton, our new adult education coordinators, planned a full lineup of classes including a series on Death and the Afterlife and a visit from Dr. Rev. Hector Mendez, the former pastor of our sister church in Havana, Cuba as well as classes by our own Frances Taylor Grench. Earlier in the year, we learned more about our church’s capital appeal and Roger and Alice led us in a study of Kelly Brown Douglas’s book Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God. We also coordinated with the McClendon Scholar in Residence program to offer wonderful adult education classes taught by Kelly Brown Douglas in the spring and Howard Divinity School professor Dr. Alice Ogden Bellis and noted scholar Walter Brueggemann in the fall. The Gathered in Prayer class also continues to meet each Sunday.

Our children and youth Sunday school program is bigger than ever and continues to use the Holy Moly curriculum, with approximately 50 children and youth participating. On May 14, the children and youth led worship for our annual Youth Sunday and the following week, families and teachers gathered for a celebratory lunch to thank all the teachers and caregivers for their leadership throughout the year. In September, the Christian Learning Cluster also co-sponsored an all-church picnic with the Nurture Committee at Alcova Heights Park in Arlington, Virginia. Then, in December,
dozens of children and youth participated in our annual Christmas pageant, bringing the news of Jesus’s birth to the congregation with music and drama ably led once again by Molly Johnson.

Parents continue to gather in fellowship on the Park Level following the family gathering time at the start of the 10 a.m. Sunday school hour and Paul Dornan and Joe Riley installed shelving in the Park Level space to showcase art from our church’s children. A new group for Parents of Young Children (5 and under), the Littles group, has met several times to play together and share the challenges and joys of parenting and has additional gatherings planned for 2018.

Karen Dunlap and a team of dedicated church members offer Worship Play for elementary school-aged children at both worship services and the number of children in the nursery continues to grow. When mold was discovered in several spaces in the church, the Trustees and Alice led the process of identifying the problem and thoroughly cleaning all the affected spaces, including the nursery, which is once again fully cleaned and safe for children.

This year, Alice, sharing her newfound love of Biblical storytelling, worked with the children and youth to share scripture in a new way. We also launched a new children’s choir, focusing on the lower elementary school ages and led by Hillary Webster, joining the older children’s choir led by Molly Johnson. We look forward to hearing more music from the children in the coming year!

Sizoo Library

Thomas Dunlap, Librarian

The mission of the Sizoo Library is to enrich and expand the life of the NYAPC congregation, spiritually, intellectually, and compassionately. The library has over 1,800 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. Anyone may have an electronic copy of the library catalog on their home 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 2018, 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.

Committee members include Louise Berman, Paul Dornan, Thomas Dunlap, John Quini, Jr., and Dewey Wallace.
The McClendon Scholar in Residence program was established through the insight and generosity of the late Rev. Dr. Jack E. McClendon, Associate Minister of NYAPC from 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 2017, we conducted nine programs--far more than ever before--and had attendance at our events of more than 1,250 people. Here is a summary of the programs we sponsored during 2017:

- **January 18: Pre-Inauguration Service of Commitment** - This program was led by several pastors in Washington who we have worked with in previous years and attracted about 300 participants. The program was also covered by the news media and was the opening story on the NBC news in Washington.

- **March 18-May 20: "Learning from Howard Thurman"** - Four local pastors gave a series of presentations that focused on the teachings of Howard Thurman and more than 250 attended the programs. Pastors serving as scholars were Rev. Lionel Edmonds, Rev. Karen Brau, Rev. Bill Lamar and Rev. Joe Daniels.

- **June 24-25: Kelly Brown Douglas** - Professor Douglas gave a presentation on "Standing Up To the Violence We Often Ignore" to a group of about 80 people and then was the guest at a Faith on Tap session that evening with about 20 young adults. She also spoke to about 40 people at Adult Church School on Sunday morning and preached at both worship services.

- **July 18: "An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story"** - A film about the life and teachings of the famous theologian Reinhold Niebuhr was shown to an audience of about 150 people in the church sanctuary. After the film, commentary was provided by the filmmaker, Martin Doblemeier, Carolyn Davis of Public Religion Research Institute, and Maureen Fiedler of the PBS show, Interfaith Voices.

- **September 9-10: Alice Ogden Bellis** - Prof. Bellis made three different presentation under the general theme of "Exploring Race and Gender with a Biblical Scholar" and spoke to a total of about 100 people. She also preached at both worship services on Sunday.

- **October 28-29: Walter Brueggemann** - Dr. Brueggemann was the first McClendon Scholar back in 2006 and we were pleased to have him return. He spoke to about 150 people on Saturday morning on the topic of "What's in Your Wallet: What the Bible Says About Money" that also featured three short responses from church members. He also spoke Saturday evening to 125 people at a dinner in his honor, gave a presentation on "What It Means to be Prophetic" to a group of more than 100 on Sunday morning during the Adult Sunday School, and preached at both worship services.

As in past year, program participants were from both NYAPC as well as many other churches and organizations. We continued our close cooperation with Mt. Lebanon Baptist, Luther Place Memorial, Emory Methodist and Metropolitan AME while also reaching out to and involving clergy and members from at least 50 congregations.
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 after Bryan Stevenson was a McClendon Scholar and grew to include more people during 2017.
- The “engaged spirituality group” that formed in 2015 continued throughout 2017 to focus on how to grow spiritually and also be more effective in working for social justice. About a dozen people participated.
- After Dr. Willie Jennings was with us as a McClendon Scholar in 2016, we started a group comprised of members from NYAPC and Metropolitan AME which continued to meet regularly throughout 2017 for dinner, conversation and discussion of ways to work together. About a dozen members of each church are involved.

All of these programs were planned and organized under the supervision of the McClendon SIR Council which is comprised of a dozen NYAPC members and led by Chairman Paul Dornan. The monthly Council 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*

**Tour Guide Program:** The committee recruits and schedules leaders for the tours offered following all regular worship services. During 2017 one meeting of tour guides was held to discuss the program and to share ideas, and several specialized tours were 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.

**Oral History Project:** The Bicentennial Interviews Project under Marilyn Seiber and Edith Snyder continued to conduct oral histories with NYAPC members for publication in AveNews and retention in the archives. The project published interviews with Fritz and Ruth von Fleckenstein in the September newsletter and David and Helen Williams in the December issue.

**NYAPC Lincoln Legacy:** *January 22* – John O’Brien’s presentation on Pastor Phineas Gurley and the Lincoln relationship. Article accepted for publication by the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association for summer 2018. *February 12* – Lincoln Birthday wreath laying at the Memorial. David Snyder placed a wreath on behalf of the church and John O’Brien placed a wreath on behalf of Hildene, the estate of Robert Todd Lincoln in Manchester, VT. John and Marilyn O’Brien were able to visit the Lincoln estate in July during a driving tour of New England. *May 23* – Assisted the Gettysburg Foundation to schedule a tour for 38 Lincoln enthusiasts. The group was led by Gettysburg College professor and author Matthew Pinsker. *August 26* – Church Book Sale and Joint Program with the Lincoln Group, “The Secession Crisis of 1860-61.” O’Brien and Dr. John Elliff discussed the politics and faith issues that animated the drama leading up to the Civil War. Tom Dunlap and Len Shabman organized a project to clear a large number of surplus volumes from the library. *November 2-5* –
Hosted 45th Annual DC Conference on Washington History for the Historical Society of Washington. Four hundred people attended. NYAPC and Docherty/McClendon roles during 1967-8 were featured.

Archives: The church continues to respond to outside requests for information 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 for sorting and selecting the items to keep. The committee considered moving the archives to a different location, but chose to remain in the current location, move shelving and files to a 3rd floor closet and install a work table. The 3rd floor closet will be used to store materials until they have been reviewed for possible inclusion in the archives.

New Activities: The committee met in December and refined a task list and assigned priorities to that list. Tasks for 2018 include: increase Capital Witness book sales; include a “Did you know?” section in the NYA weekly; archival preservation and display only copies of letters and portraits; make a series of visual narratives for display throughout the church; standardize pastor pictures in size and format; prepare a material culture inventory and database; reorganize displays in the Lincoln Parlor, JQA, and Docherty Center/Sizoo Library to allow for more attention to the Peter Marshall era and the period after 1950 to the present.

Congregational Life Cluster

The committees reporting below are part of the Congregational Life Cluster

Dance Ministry

Kathryn Sparks

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.

List of activities in which there was some movement or dance offered:

- **January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 19:** Kathryn led embodied prayer (Take O Take Me as I am) in worship following the passing of the peace. She was often joined by Beth Clark.
- **January 8 - February 19:** Sunday school class and rehearsals led by Kathryn and Frances Taylor Gench which resulted in a group* offering in worship on February 19 (Hebrews 11-12, selected verses).
- **March 5 and through the season of Lent:** Kathryn led embodied prayer (Breathe on me, breath of God) in worship following the passing of the peace. She was often joined by Beth Clark.
- **Saturday in May:** Kathryn led sacred movement at the women’s retreat with Frances Gench.
• **June 4**: Processional and danced scripture on Pentecost Sunday: Kathryn and Sarah Hoffman with Jim Spearman flying the dove.

• **September 10 – October 29**: Kathryn and Beth Clark led embodied prayer (*Halle Halle*) in worship following the passing of the peace.

• **October 15**: Kathryn and Sarah Hoffman danced the anthem (*Celtic Rune of Hospitality*).

• **December 17**: Beth Clark danced in the pageant (she choreographed her dance this year).

*Dancers in worship were: Beth Clark, Mary Nell Clark, John Clark, Sarah Hoffman, Frances Taylor Gench, Brian Shimming, Laura West, Betsy Merritt, and Kathryn Sparks with readers David Clark and Elizabeth Young. Dawn Hiemstra and Beth Braxton contributed to the rehearsal process but were unable to dance with us.*

I, Kathryn, 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 NYAPC for supporting and participating in a vision for Dance in our community!*

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**Evangelism Committee**

*Karin Lohman*

In 2017, the committee worked to tell members and visitors about the love of God and how that love is manifested through the church and its members. We are grateful for the efforts of all church members to make NYAPC a welcoming place for visitors, travelers, and new and current members.

The committee shepherded 30 people into New York Avenue membership. Beginning in January, the committee changed the format of the new members’ class to a single four-hour session held on select Saturday mornings. Previously, the format had been three, two-hour sessions on sequential Sundays following the 11 a.m. worship service. The new format has been well received, both by individuals seeking to join the church and committee members.

The Committee continued its work on several communications-related initiatives begun in 2016. One of the initiatives was to improve the branding so as to have a single NYAPC look and message. The committee, with the assistance of a professional graphic artist, updated and standardized 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 also embarked on a project to update church informational brochures using a standard template that incorporates the updated logo and standard color palette. The existing brochures, of which there are many, have very few common design elements (e.g., church logo, layout, color, font). The committee worked with a graphic designer to develop a template. Efforts are underway to produce new brochures for the main church ministries (e.g., Kenya Ministry, Community Club, Christian Education) and various groups (e.g., Young Adults, Families and Children).

The committee has been in continuing dialog about the church website, including its content and design. The committee expressed concerns about the timeliness and relevancy of some content and the ease of finding information. It was decided that there are numerous opportunities for improvement, including some “quick wins.” In 2018, the committee will work with the ministers, office staff, and others on web-related issues.

In summary, in 2017, the Evangelism Committee revised the format of the new member classes, shepherded new members into the church, and worked on a number of communications and publicity-related issues and projects.

Nurture and Fellowship Committee

Meg Hanna House, Chair

The Nurture and Fellowship Committee had a busy year in 2017. The year began with our committee working with Evangelism to provide hospitality during the Inauguration and Women’s March and included sponsoring a Mission Fair, our first “Shrove Sunday” Pancake Lunch, a celebration of long-term members, along with coordinating a series of “neighborhood dinners.” We also continued many of our usual programs: weekly coffee fellowship, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week meals, Advent and Lenten Devotional Books, care packages for college students, congregational Sundays and retreats. In addition, we reached out to inactive members via mail and email as part of an effort to review the rolls of the church, which resulted both in “right-sizing” our membership rolls and reconnecting with members who had moved away. The following events took place during 2017:

- January 19-20: Inauguration and Women’s March Open Houses
- January 29: Congregational Sunday – Mission Fair
- February 26: “Shrove Sunday” Pancake Lunch
- March 1: Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
- April 13: Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
- April 16: Easter Breakfast
- April 30: Congregational Sunday – with the Sanctuary Task Force
- May 6: Women’s Retreat
- July 23: Mid-Summer Celebration Potluck
- September 16: Picnic (co-sponsored with Christian Learning Cluster)
- October 20-22: All Church Retreat – Storytelling at Meadowkirk Retreat Center
- November 12: Celebration of 40+ year members
- November 26: Congregational Sunday – activities for Advent
Our overall goal is to provide opportunities for members to connect and get to know one another. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm either in the Lincoln Parlor or via conference call. In 2018 we will be looking at what opportunities the recent Church Assessment Tool highlights for our committee, along with continuing with many of the programs we held during 2017 (pancake lunch, retreats, potluck, Congregational Sundays) along with a return to Dinners for Nine.

We are an active and fun committee that welcomes and supports new ideas and enjoys the individual strengths of each member. If you are interested in joining, please contact one of us. The committee includes Meg House (chair), Cathy Schultheis, Melanie Dann, Miriam Dewhurst, Karen Dunlap, Carrie Reasonover, Paul Gebhard, Courtney Spearman, Ashley Nunes Coe, Mary Spatz, Molly Johnson, and Associate Pastor Alice Tewell.

**Funds Development Cluster**

Will Ashworth, Chair

The Funds Development 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 (this will no longer be the case in 2018 under the new Financial Manual).
- 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.

2017 continued a transition period for the financial processes and leadership of the church and the Cluster specifically. I replaced Laura Asiala as the chair of the Cluster in the late spring. The Accounting Task Force also continued to work on, and in late 2017 completed, the new Financial Manual for the church, which the Session approved in January 2018. The manual removed from the Cluster responsibility for making recommendations to the Session with respect to bequests. The church also continued the fundraising efforts of its Vision 2020 Capital Campaign, and the effort undertaken by the Finance Committee to develop a sustainable framework for the church’s finances continued throughout the year.

The Cluster meets regularly (around every two months, sometimes more frequently as necessary) by conference call. On these calls, the Cluster began a conversation with respect to church fundraising activities, with an eye on whether the church can identify sources for additional revenue outside of
the stewardship and capital-campaign efforts already underway – for example, additional revenue from the building. The Cluster hopes to build on those efforts and make recommendations to the Session related to them in 2018. The Cluster also made recommendation to the Session with respect to one bequest and engaged in discussion with the Trustees and others regarding another.

The cluster members include David Gillies, Cathy Schultheis, John Schultheis, Karen Milam, Rebecca Davis, Brian Dewhurst, John Davies, Miriam Dewhurst, Rachel Browning, Roger Gench, and me, although we are sometimes joined by other church staff and members for specific discussions.

**Stewardship Committee**

*Rachel Browning and Kimberly Johnson, Co-Chairs*

*If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind... For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.* Philippians 2:1-2, 13.

In this passage from Philippians 2, the Apostle Paul speaks of the concept of joy as a mindset and a virtue, the manifestation of God’s love and movement towards us, through us, and into the world. During this year’s Stewardship Campaign, we invited members to reflect on the circumstances of the past year – whether personal, societal, or political, challenging or rewarding. We asked them to recall specifically those moments when they sensed being caught up in something larger than themselves – those holy experiences of joy in which they stood with the vulnerable, the oppressed, and all those longing to know God’s love and the fullness of life God intends for them. And we asked them to contemplate how NYAPC has facilitated this connection as they considered whether and how much to pledge.

The response to the annual stewardship campaign has been slightly less than our proposed goal of $650,000 for 2018. To date, we have received pledges of $547,709 (approximately $80,000 less than the amount received at this point in 2017). However, we still have individuals/families active in our family of faith who have not yet taken the opportunity to record their commitment for 2018, and we feel confident that they will do so in the coming weeks. We are grateful to those who have already pledged this year.

Many thanks to Lance Jameson, Senior Accountant, Jasmine Jowers, Church Administrator, and Cherla McMillan, Office Associate, for their invaluable administrative support without which we could not have accomplished what we have so far.

It has been a privilege to serve as co-chairs of the Stewardship Campaign for the last two years. Thank you for your support and confidence.
Capital Campaign – Vision 2020

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

Fall 2017 marked the beginning of the third and last year of the Vision 20/20 Capital Appeal, with a total of $1.57 million pledged toward our minimum goal of $2 million. We announced that we would hold a Dedication Sunday on December 10 for all pledges to the Appeal, and continued outreach to the congregation in several ways, holding two Christian Education courses with the Trustees and Finance Committee to further explain the ongoing building needs of our church building, meeting with small groups, trifold updates, and reaching out corporately and individually via email.

After Dedication Sunday, we now are just shy of $1.7 million from 130 pledge units, including over $58,000 in new pledges from 30 pledge units collected on December 10. Thank you for your strong, continued support of the Appeal! We will be working through this summer to turn all pledges into gifts - currently we have received approximately $1.1 million in gifts - and taking in new pledges. Remember - it is never too late to make a pledge!

It is important to note that while this Appeal is drawing to a conclusion, our building needs are only growing. Our $2 million minimum goal was to pay for work already completed - maintenance and beautification of the outside of the building and HVAC work in Peter Marshall Hall. Also, over the last two years substantial new projects have arisen - replacing the roof and dealing with mold issues (extent of mold damage to be determined). The church has a low interest line of credit that has been used to pay for this work, and its current balance is $1.3 million. The Trustees and Finance Committee have done tremendous work cataloguing our building needs and rationalizing the church budget and capital costs within it, and on an annual basis it is estimated we need to commit $200,000 toward maintaining our building. We will be leading continued discussions with the congregation in 2018 so that everyone remains informed about all of these efforts.

Thanks again for your support of the Capital Appeal!

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. We are supported in our work by the Presbyterian Endowment Education and Resource Network (PEER).

I work closely with the Planned Giving Committee. 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 in May, exploring legacy planning and how this act of faith affects our daily spiritual journeys. We celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 5, 2017, emphasizing the Planned Giving aspects of our annual Stewardship Program. A special bulletin insert that day acknowledged persons for whom memorial gifts were given, bequests received, gifts from

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trusts and proceeds from endowment funds for the past year and identified those current and former members who had died since the prior year All Saints Sunday.

In 2012 the Birthday Fund was created 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 325 cupcakes per annum—along with wishes from the Planned Giving Committee members for a Happy Birthday. While arm and hand surgeries in 2017 prevented me from decorative baking, John Schultheis and I will don our aprons and be baking again in 2018.

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. We try to educate members about stock transfer gifts, IRA rollovers, gifts of annuities and other retirement accounts, donor-advised funds, trusts and life insurance policies and more. I work with the Funds Development Cluster and, if requested, with the Stewardship Committee and the Vision 2020 Campaign.

During 2017, over $1,569,824 in bequests were received by the church. We have been advised of other gifts to be received in 2018. Our church is blessed by such generosity. As Roger Gench has so eloquently stated, our members give to The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church because they desire to orient their hearts and lives towards God and they love our church and its ministry.

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Planned Giving Committee

John Schultheis, Chair

The Planned Giving Committee and the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts position were established by the Session and began to function in early 2007. The purpose of the Planned Giving Committee is to further the mission, witness and work of The New York Avenue Presbyterian 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 5th. A bulletin insert developed by Committee members acknowledged persons for whom memorial gifts were given, bequests received, gifts from trusts and proceeds from endowment funds during the past year and identified those current and former members who died since the prior year All Saints Sunday, along with their dates of death.

During the period 2008 until the close of 2017, The NYAPC has received bequests totaling $6,774,560. This sum includes the following 2017 receipts: $125,380 from the estate of Lois Steffey; $20,000 from the estate of Ruth Fitchett; $1,250,000 from the estate of William (Bill) McAfee; and, $174,444 from the estate of Mary Jean Cowden. The Church has been notified to expect additional
distributions from the following estates in 2018: William (Bill) McAfee; F. Lucille Cady; and, David S. Brown.

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 Schulteis, John Schulteis and Edith Snyder.

For additional information concerning planned giving activities in 2017 please refer to the report of the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.

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Administrative Cluster

Jamine Jowers, Church Administrator

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**Data Storage Cloud Migration:** In 2017, the Trustees voted to support the administrative office's decision to transition off the current main onsite server to the cloud. Of the two options proposed by Tech Impact, our IT company, for the new central data system, Office 365 and Sharepoint was selected over Box.com.

Office 365 was the optimal choice for NYAPC. The church is mission-based and very active with many different groups doing important work within the church, through local community outreach and with international partnerships. Each group utilizes a mixture of storage and communication platforms, such as Google Drive, Google Groups, Google Docs/Sheets Dropbox, SignUp Genius etc., which could get confusing and cumbersome when you serve in several different groups. The benefit of Office 365 is having a single platform that offers all of the features that groups seek in one central location. Instead of jumping from one platform to another for one or multiple group's information, you can browse within Office 365 and Sharepoint with ease. Office 365 also has many levels of security to protect all of our data that will be useful going forward. SharePoint allows you to set up "intranet," or internal web pages, that can be configured to the specific needs of your organization. These will serve as the resources for each board, committee, cluster, mission, etc. For example, the various church boards, committees, and programs can have their own intranet website to store their own documents, communicate, build calendars etc.

Jasmine Jowers, the Church Administrator, facilitated the email migration Tech Impact completed from Google to Office 365. That process moved all @nyapc email addresses to the new Office 365 host. The next phase of the project is the building of Sharepoint sites and the customization of Office 365 to accommodate NYAPC as an organization and needs for data storage. She is currently designing the new platform with Tech Impact, with the goal of providing effective space for all boards, committees, clusters and missions to have useful and personalized space to communicate, share, and save data unique to them. Of course, this process will take time and will require some updates and tweaks to be user friendly and serve as a high quality resource. All board, committee, and mission chairs should expect to receive a questionnaire to identify what would be most useful to their group and what their desired all-in-one space would feature. When the data
migration is complete, there will be training that members and officers can attend to get acquainted with the platform.

**Technology Upgrades:** The administrative office is currently experiencing a shortage of computer workstations, due to the age of current CPUs and a few hard drives crashing. The replacement CPUs will be from Dell with a life expectancy of five years, assuming normal wear and tear from an eight-hour workday. We will be purchasing new machines at a significant discount through TechSoup, under the advisement of Tech Impact. In addition to employee workstation replacement, we will purchase another computer that will be used by volunteers.

**Internet Contract Renewal and Upgrade:** The Trustees building operations cluster and administrative office have recently signed a contract with Allied Telecom, our internet provider, to upgrade our current 10 Mb dedicated internet to 40 Mb dedicated, at no additional cost. This will ensure us 40 Mb upload and 40 Mb download speeds. We will now have better and faster internet for the staff and other users. This move will also aid in improving NYAPC’s live webcasting of Sunday services.

**Security Camera Update:** A Security Task Force has been formed with the purpose of analyzing NYAPC’s current security protocols and risks and determining what should be done to ensure we employ best practices to protect the church, staff, members, visitors and other building users. With security cameras falling under the purview of the new task force, we have taken steps to identify and work with a company to conduct a full security study. This company would also work with us on finding the best and most affordable camera and alarm system, identify concerns for egress, and help us develop emergency plans and training for evacuations and other emergency scenarios.

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**Columbarium Committee**

*John Schultheis, Chair*

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 departed loved ones. It holds in niches the cremated remains (also called cremains or ashes) of persons who were current or former members of the church or loved ones of members as well as people with ties to the congregation. The Columbarium offers a loving and Christian shelter of earthly remains, which is also 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 immediately following a memorial services held the sanctuary, the Chapel or elsewhere. To date, subscribers have qualified for and reserved over ten percent of the 288 niches.

A memorial tablet alternative is available for individuals whose ashes have been returned to the earth (scattered) or whose remains rest in other places, but wish to be remembered as persons who were part of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church’s Community of the Saints. Names and dates of birth and death are inscribed on nameplates which are affixed to memorial tablets in the Lincoln Chapel.

For more detailed information about the Columbarium services or to obtain a prospective subscribers application packet, please contact me at 301/622-3149 or by email at thenyapc@yahoo.com.
The Columbarium Committee (Rev. Ann Davie, Jim Davidson, Cecelia 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

Johnny Middleton’s employment ended on June 15 and Darius Richardson’s employment ended on October 27. Delante Buchanan was hired as a temporary employee (sexton/custodian) in September. His employment became full time and permanent on October 31. Jan Maheras’ employment as the church Senior Accountant ended on February 16. Lance Jameson was hired as a temporary replacement and in July he was formally hired as the permanent Senior Accountant.

The Personnel Committee members were: Brian Schimming — Chair (Session), Edith Snyder (Trustees), Marcia Renwanz, (Deacons), Kathy Doan (Session), Cindy Dickinson (Deacons) and John Yoder (Deacons). Church staff who participated with the committee were Rev. Alice Tewell, Jasmine Jowers and Rev. Roger Gench.

Reports of Community Outreach Programs

McClendon Center Mental Health Rehabilitation Services Program

Throughout the year, McClendon Center served 3,180 District residents with mental illness. This number represents continued growth in services offered by the Center (1,900 served in 2016). 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 has a rental license with The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church that allows the program to operate on the first, third, fourth, and fifth floors of the building. The program served 227 individuals during the year, with an average attendance of 78. This number includes between ten individuals who are deaf and require interpreting services. Staff have also been trained to provide group therapy for clients with challenging developmental disorders. Unfortunately, the Department of Behavioral Health has proposed a drastic cut in how these services are all reimbursed, effectively cutting the rate in half. This will mean a loss of nearly one million dollars for the McClendon Center.

At the Core Services Agency, 1,100 people were served in 2017. The Patient Discharge Coordinator program, which coordinates care for people being discharged from psychiatric units, also is charged with screening patients who have visited emergency rooms. Five full-time outreach staff screen 250 recently discharged patients each month. (This program was highlighted at last year’s National Council for Behavioral Health conference in Seattle.) Additionally, the Center added five Care Managers working on behalf of AmeriHealth Caritas DC to provide care coordination for AmeriHealth
members. The Core Services Agency is continuing to host five psychiatry residents from George Washington University, this being the ninth year of this partnership. There are also four masters level social work interns from the University of Maryland, Catholic University, and Smith College.

Four full-time therapists serve at Counseling at Dupont, where 379 clients seeking psychotherapy services were served in 2017. These services are funded by CareFirst, Magellan, and private pay.

McClendon Center’s signature fundraising event, Art of Transformation, which highlights client art created mostly in the Day Program, was a success for the third year in 2017. 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 26-2018.

Please contact me any time to visit any of our locations, especially our Day Program which operates with gratitude and joy in Peter Marshall Hall.

New York Avenue Educational Foundation

Brian Schimming, Chair

The mission of the New York Avenue Educational Foundation (NYAEF) is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout Washington, D.C. 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. NYAEF 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. A volunteer 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 NYAEF 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. Donors may also donate through the Amazon Smile program.

In 2017 the foundation adopted changed its name from New York Avenue Foundation to its current name, refined its mission and goals and created a new logo and promotional brochure. 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 2017, the Foundation provided commitments of $46,000 in grants to Community Club and $4,500 of other scholarships to students through the Andrew Dorman/Bruce Davie memorial fund maintained by the foundation.

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, Phil Telfeyan, Michael Pete, and Evelyn Ying. Thanks to all 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 and Tracey Beeker for all of their creative and dedicated hard work coordinating and implementing the foundation’s rebranding effort and the design of its promotional materials, Tom Karr for his work running Community Club and maintaining the CFC donation program, Jared Gray for his creative and valuable work in the design of the foundation’s logo and brochure and Miriam Dewhurst for all her hard work as Treasurer and role as organizational and managerial core – the foundation’s foundation.

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

John Schultheis, Boards Member

The Ingleside Service Board (previously known as the "Women’s 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 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 111th Annual "Silver Tea" and Gala held on May 6th. 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 2017 included Jim Davidson (Treasurer), Glory Eyong, Marcia Kozub (pianist), Bernice McIntyre (Chair, Faith Matters Advisory Committee) and John Schultheis (Asst. Treasurer). Members of the Service Board, along with the NYAPC's Board of Diaconal Ministers, have regularly visited NYAPC members and friends who have resided at Ingleside. At the present time, the Church has no NYAPC affiliated residents.

The Service Board decorates Ingleside at Christmastime. Over a matter of days and to the delight of residents and staff, Ingleside is decorated and colorfully transformed. The Board hosts a festive Christmas party (Committee co-chaired by Jim and John in 2017), a highlight of the year for the residents. Board members bake cookies, transport residents in wheelchairs from the Health Center to the party room and serve and socialize with the residents. The party included choral presentations of Christmas seasonal music sung by residents of Ingleside at Rock Creek community.

Jim and John serve on both the Board's Executive and Finance Committees. The Board uses its funds and endowment earnings to support residents in need, make decorative improvements and fiscally assist Ingleside on special projects.

Ingleside at Rock Creek began a major capital initiative with construction started in early 2017. This project will replace the current assisted living and health care facilities with more modern structures and provide additional independent living and new assisted 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 Service Board members will keep you informed of how this effort is progressing.

Reports of Fellowship Groups

Presbyterian Women

Barbara Dornan, Administrative Liaison

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 members’ 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 Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews, written by Melissa Bane Sevier. 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.

This past Spring we met for lunch with a group of young Muslim mothers. We had a delightful conversation about how they practiced their Muslim faith and about the lives of their families in the DC area. They seemed to have positive experiences living very full lives here. They were all from Turkey and felt they could not go back there at this time because of the oppressive government.

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 over $2,200 directly to mission. We pledged quarterly support to the missions of the National Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church. We also contributed to our Alternative Christmas Store projects, the Peacemaking offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, least coin offering, Syrian refugees, and the Geriatric Day Care Center.

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

Miriam E. Dewhurst

The Biblio Divinia Group generally meets on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of each month at 10:00am 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. Gench. For the past several years, the group has read and discussed a variety of books.

In 2017, the group read *The Thirst for God: Contemplating God's Love with Three Women Mystics* by Wendy Farley, *Stand Your Ground* by Kelly Brown Douglas, *Without Buddha I Could Not be a Christian* by Paul F. Knitter, *Good Citizens* by Thich Nhat Hahn, and began *Theologia Crucis* by Robert Cady Saler. *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. *Stand Your Ground* proved to be a very moving book, reinforced by the visit of Kelly Brown Douglas as a Scholar in Residence. The book and Dr. Douglas' visit prompted a consideration of how the space at New York Avenue could be "de-whitened" and made more immediately welcoming to people of color. An Arts Advisory Task Force has been formed to be a clearinghouse for ideas of various groups in the church, especially the History Committee, for how the wall space throughout the church might be better used to tell the church's story and to make the space more welcoming for all. Martha Davis had two banners of dark-skinned Madonnas created to hang in the sanctuary during Advent. A similar effort will be undertaken for Lent.

*Without Buddha I Could Not be a Christian* was also very thought-provoking. Paul Knitter is Catholic, but has studied and practiced Buddhism extensively. His book is interesting in that it uses elements of Buddhist teaching to inform Christian beliefs and practices. Thich Nhat Hahn's *Good Citizens* was a good follow-up to Knitter. *Theologia Crucis* is a very accessible exploration of Martin Luther's theology, especially Luther's and later Bonhoeffer's critique of the church's tendency to shy away from God suffering on the cross, a God who is found with the marginalized and powerless, and to find a theology of glory more comfortable.

The group sponsored two silent retreats at the church during the year and plans to sponsor others in 2018. 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 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. 2017 participants included Rev. Gench, Martha Davis, Marilyn Seiber, Tom Dunlap, and Miriam Dewhurst and Steve Dewhurst.

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**Young Adults**

_Helen Anthony_

In 2017 the Young Adults continued to grow at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Through the year YAs hosted three bible study series, eight Faith on Tap discussions, and various social events. These allowed us to continue to grow our friendships and delve further into our faith. Alice Tewell and Roger Gench strongly support the YAs in whatever capacity is needed, whether that be opening their homes for Faith on Tap or planning Bible studies. It is our hope to continue to grow the Young Adult group and we are grateful for the money budgeted to support our efforts.
NYAPC YAs continue to be active throughout all aspects of church life with many serving on boards, committees, as Sunday school teachers, and Community Club tutors. The group welcomes visitors and members alike to take part in its activities. Leadership continues to be somewhat informal, but Taylor Allison, Helen Anthony, and Sarah McGinnis serve as points of contact for anyone who is interested in learning more about or joining the YA group.

Memorial and Scholarship Funds

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

In May 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.

“Virginia L. Cochran’s shadow enriched the individuals and institutions upon which it fell during her 74 years. Her all-embracing spirit enabled her to see the strengths of each person she knew, and her creative affirmation of those strengths nurtured self-confidence and the ability for greater service. She was dedicated to opening opportunities which could make a positive difference in the lives of others.”

In May 1985, the Session added monies provided to the church from the Cochran estate to the corpus of the fund and decided that the fund would be administered by the Board of Deacons. Income from the fund, as invested by the Board of Trustees, is made available consistent with the guidelines established for the Fund. These guidelines provide that income is to be 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 nine 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. Our beloved Dave passed away in 2017. As a jointly-named fund, the Cochran/Brown Memorial Fund honors two great friends who were stalwart members of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church community and the founding mother and father of the Community Club mentoring program. Those of us 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 Virginia and Dave committed so much of their time, energy and selves. The fund enjoys a balance of $143,061 as of the end of December 2017.
The year 2017 was another active one for the 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 2017, 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 2017, Community Club gave over $45,000 to 56 Community Club collegians, aided by grants of $7,000 and $8,000 from generous donors. Scholarship amounts ranged from $300 to $700 per semester, with amounts varying by GPA and overall scholarship funds allocated for that semester.

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 the church to form the basis for a fund to further the higher education of women. Under the terms of Kathryn Heath’s 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.

In 1991, a special Kathryn G. Heath Scholarship Committee developed procedures for the awarding of scholarship grants, approved by the Session. The first scholarships went to four young women for spring semester 1992. Since then, over 135 scholarships, ranging from $200 to $2,250, 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 awarded $9,500 from the earnings of the fund for scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Committee recommended scholarship awards to the following six women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samatra Harrington</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Ajayi</td>
<td>George Washington University</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaylah Bias</td>
<td>Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbin Williams</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozique Hunter</td>
<td>North Carolina Central University</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crishawn Anderson</td>
<td>Eastern Nazarene College</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Members of the committee were: Mary Spatz--Chair, Anna Davidson, Stacey Gagosian, Amy Gillespie, and Molly Smith.

Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund was established ten 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. Seven 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 scholarship responds to a reality of college financial aid, that colleges tend to reduce and withdraw aid from upperclassmen as they focus aid attention on incoming freshmen. As a result, college juniors and seniors must identify new sources of aid or assume additional student debt as they move on to graduate degrees or out to the working world. The Upperclassman Scholarships are intended to alleviate some of that burden of debt and the anxiety that accompanies it. The Upperclassman Scholarships are intended to supplement the regular Community Club College Scholarships. So far, nearly $75,000 of Upperclassman Scholarship funding has been awarded to worthy students.

As of December 2017, 39 of our college students have received Upperclassman Scholarships over the ten years of their existence. All of the students will have graduated [Five from Trinity University in Washington; two each from North Carolina A&T, Virginia Commonwealth, Howard, Bennett, and Temple University; and one apiece from Benedict, Cheyney State, Tuskegee, Grinnell, Lafayette, Morgan State, North Carolina Wesleyan, Norfolk State, Virginia State, Princeton, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, Southern Mississippi, Wisconsin, Rhode Island College, and the University of Maryland] by the winter of 2017.

The Upperclassman Scholarship requires applicants to maintain at least 12 credits per term in the year for which you are requesting assistance. That requirement speaks to a reality for our Community Club students; lower income students do not have the luxury of dawdling through their college years. Schools are just too expensive, and the statistics seem to suggest that, if you as a lower-income student can’t complete your schooling within four to five years, then you are simply not going to finish it. Based on the recent record of our students, most of them are completing school within four years.

Upperclassman Scholarship applicants submit a brief essay and official course and financial aid records for consideration; those submissions are reviewed by a three-person committee of Community Club leaders. In May 2017, six students, Michael Aniekwe (George Mason University), Kaiara Massey (North Carolina A&T), Maya Young (Norfolk State), Samititra Harrington (Maryland), Myrracle Weeks (Delaware State), and Emmanuel Thomas (Georgetown) received scholarships totaling $13,500. At the end of 2017, there was approximately $52,500 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**

**Douglas House, Fund Trustee**

Elmer L. Hanson, a long-time devoted member of The New York Avenue Presbyterian 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 2017, the Trust provided $5,400 to support student participants in our music program as part of their study of music ministry. At the close of 2017, the assets of the Trust were approximately $210,278.

**Metcalf-Edgington Trust Funds**

**Molly Johnson, Treasurer of Session**

The generosity of William P. Metcalf and Frank Edgington continues to enable this Church to support many in need. At the time of their deaths, these two loyal members set aside funds from their estates to create 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. Funds are generally to be provided to those in need in the Washington, DC, area. 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, Molly Johnson, and the Clerk of Session, Miriam Dewhurst. Sarah-Dianne Jones and Clare Forrister, Young Adult Volunteer, also assisted in reviewing applications and communicating requests to committee members this year. In 2017, the Metcalf-Edgington fund provided over $23,205 in total financial assistance, primarily for medical expenses. All funds are gifts, and repayment is not expected. All requests and expenditures remain confidential.

The committee also reviewed requests from the Board of Deacons that may help to fund critical programs while upholding the mission of the Metcalf and Edgington funds. The committee voted to support most notably the 7-2-9 Program because of the program’s support of people with mental illness in Washington, DC. Other suggestions were deferred because it was determined that the funds guidelines would not be upheld. The discussion with the Deacons also prompted a healthy review of the language stipulated in the respective wills and a better understanding of the history of the fund.

The committee and its benefactors continue to be grateful for the generosity of both Dr. Metcalf and Mr. Edgington, and the support and extension of ministry it allows us to provide to those in need.
The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

An Inclusive, justice-seeking church

1313 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 393-3700
www.nyapc.org
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.

2017 Results

Operating budget
Preliminary, unaudited accounting results indicate that operating expenses in 2017 totaled $1.78 million, compared to a budget of $1.67 million.\(^1\) Two factors significantly contributed to the gap between actual and budgeted expenses:

- Accounting fees from the church’s accounting consultant (Your Part Time Controller) totaled $93,741.25, compared to a budgeted amount of $21,600. This gap reflected the need for additional support as the church phased in a new staff accountant and implemented its new accounting system. Technical and information requests from the Accounting Task Force, Finance Committee, and individual programs also contributed to unbudgeted expenses. The 2018 budget for services from YPTC has been set at $50,000 based on the expected need for greater support than was budgeted in 2017.
- Maintenance expenses totaled $95,194, compared to a budget of $31,185, primarily because of costs associated with mold remediation.

Operating income (excluding bequests) totaled approximately $1.16 million in 2017 compared to a budgeted amount of $1.02 million.\(^2\) Income was higher than expected as General Stewardship payments exceeded budgeted pledges\(^3\) by approximately $60,000; the church also received approximately $25,000 more than expected in other contributions and approximately $20,000 more than expected in

\(^1\) 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 $285,487 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 totaled $58,740 and 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 across all spending categories.

\(^2\) Sources of income included approximately $684,000 in regular budget giving, $74,000 in other individual contributions, $30,000 in plate offerings, $102,000 in directed program contributions, special offerings and per capita contributions, $177,000 in building use income, $67,000 in trust receipts, and $23,000 in other income. 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.

\(^3\) The 2017 budget included General Stewardship pledges that were made by late January 2017.
building revenue. In accordance with the church’s endowment spending policy, an additional $209,000 in investment income was made available to support the operating budget. The remaining gap between operating expenses and income (approximately $410,000) was covered by further drawing upon the church’s financial assets, including both unrestricted investments and earmarked program funds.

*Bequests*

The church was also the beneficiary of approximately $1.6 million in bequests that were booked in 2017. These resources will be available to support expenditures in future budgets.

*Capital Expenses and Capital Campaign Payments*

Separate from the operating budget, the church budgeted $270,000 for capital improvements in 2017 and spent approximately $244,000. These expenses increased the church’s debt and were financed through its line of credit. Roof replacements costs accounted for virtually all of the expenses incurred. Actual costs remained under budget as the church received an insurance payment that largely covered anticipated elevator repair expenses.

The church received approximately $397,000 in Capital Campaign payments in 2017. This income will be used to reduce the line of credit balance, which stood at $1,369,743 as of December 31, 2017.

*2018 Budget*

*Operating budget*

The 2018 budget includes both operating and capital components. The operating budget this year is $1,951,862, which includes $200,000 of depreciation expenses. Excluding depreciation, the budgeted expense total of $1,751,862 is about $28,000 lower than actual expenses for 2017.

Income is expected to be somewhat lower than 2017. As of January 26, 2018, General Stewardship pledges totaled $528,157; approximately $620,000 in pledges had been made as of late January 2017. Total budgeted income (excluding bequests and investments) is $1,009,389 for 2018. An additional $220,740 in investment income will be made available per the church’s endowment spending policy. The remaining gap between operating expenses and income (expected to total $521,733) will be covered by further drawing on the church’s unrestricted investments, earmarked program funds and bequests.

The operating budget 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.

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4 Reflects a 5% drawdown of a 5-year moving average of the underlying funds
• Increasing the budget for the church’s accounting consultant to $50,000 from $21,600 in 2017.
• Eliminating the church’s support for the Geriatric Daycare Center, which has totaled $4,000 in recent years.
• Eliminating the use of Stewart Trust fund receipts to support the Njoro program.
• Reducing the Radcliffe Room budget from $17,500 to $15,500.
• Reducing contributions to the Washington Interfaith Network from $3,500 to $2,500.
• Reducing benevolence expenditures from $17,950 to $16,700.
• Reducing the Evangelism budget to $13,750, from $20,000 budgeted in 2017.
• Reducing the Cuba Partnership budget from $4,000 to $3,550.
• Using $14,446 in Metcalf-Edington funds to cover kitchen labor expenses associated with the 7-2-9 program. (Meals-on-Wheels funds had been used for this purpose in 2017.)
• Reducing the use of Meal-on-Wheels funds to cover other program kitchen-and meal-related expenses. $14,446 in MOW funds have been budgeted to support the Community Club in 2018, down from approximately $34,000 to support a variety of programs in 2017.
• Using $7,541.50 in Community Club funds to cover the program’s accounting-related expenses.
• Increasing Scholar-in-Residence program expenditures to $118,000, from $110,000 in 2017.
• Allocating $1,000 in General Funds to support the Young Adults’ Faith on Tap program.
• Increasing expenditures on Christian Education to $6,500, from $5,300 in 2017.
• Providing a median salary increase of 1.5% to church staff, with individual raises varying from 0 to 7 percent.

Capital Expenses and Capital Campaign
The budget’s capital component was developed in consultation with the Trustees. This component authorizes $300,000 in non-operating expenses to pay for improvements to the HVAC system or cover other capital expenditures. These expenses will be covered by the Engel and Anderson funds.

Acknowledgements

Committee members in 2017 included David Brown (Deacons), John Davies, Brian Dewhurst and Taylor Allison (Session), and Karl Hoffman (Trustees). Lance Jameson served on the committee in his role as Accounting Manager. We offer special thanks to David Brown, Karen Milam and the Deacons for their tireless effort developing the local outreach component of the 2017 budget. We also thank Karl
Hoffman for his valuable historic perspective on the church’s financial system and hard work improving its accuracy and transparency.

For Additional Information

The 2018 church budget is available by contacting the church office. Audited 2017 financial statements will also be made available through the office once they are completed.

John Davies and Brian Dewhurst, Finance Committee Co-Chairs
Worship and Music

This year the committee met on a less frequent schedule, communicating by email and addressing issues on an as-needed basis. I anticipate the committee will meet once every two-to-three months in the coming year, most likely working around the months of August and December.

Raleigh-N.C.-resident and NYAPC member Mark Zaineddin has continued to coordinate the church liturgist schedule through a web-based scheduling program in 2017. This past year the Committee was asked to consider expanding the liturgist pool to our younger members, fifth grade and up, which we unanimously approved. An invitation was sent out to youth if they'd like to participate as a liturgist in worship, and we received enthusiastic responses. Anyone who is interested in reading liturgy who has not done so recently is invited to contact Mark to arrange participation.

The Liturgical Dance Ministry led by Kathryn Sparks continued in its third year throughout 2017. Kathryn led embodied prayer in worship in many services throughout the year, and, accompanied by others, offered dance as part of worship on three occasions as well as at the women's retreat.

Taizé-style sung prayer services began in 2014 and had been held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. through 2016, and continued on that schedule through July 2017. Due to decreasing attendance, the Wednesday services have been discontinued. In the summer months Taizé was also incorporated into the early service. Rev. Beth Braxton and Rev. Roger Gench led this ministry, and are evaluating when to do it again.

Continuing what began in 2016, communion continues to be served by four elders on the chancel steps at both worship services. Elders currently on and off Session have continued to participate in the serving schedules.

The Session approved a 10:00 a.m. single-service worship time from May 14th (Youth Sunday) through September 3rd, resuming the 8:45a.m. and 11:00a.m. schedule after that, and again a single 10:00a.m. service on December 17 (Christmas Pageant), December 24, and December 31, 2017.

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, whether by email, in person, or by written letter.

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