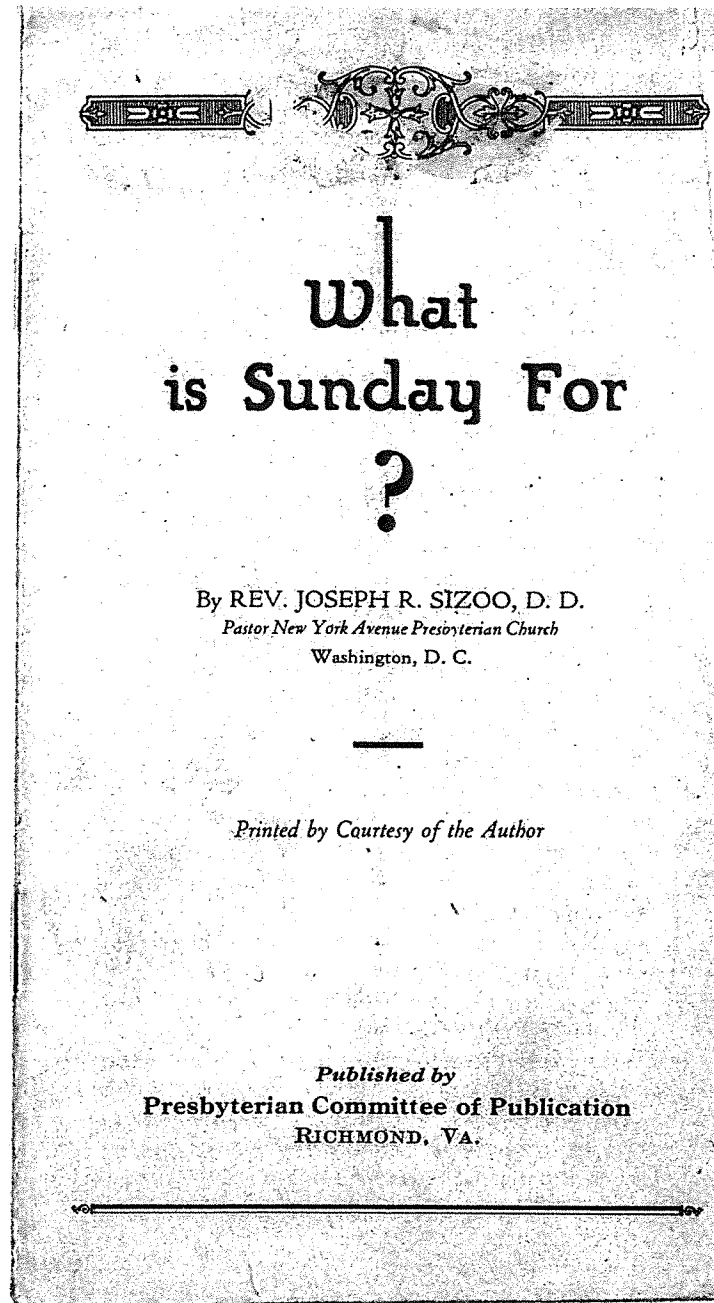


The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Washington, DC

Annual Reports for 2018



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 10, 2019

## Table of Contents

### General Information

Statistical Report for 2018.....	2
Church Staff.....	3
Board Members Elected to Serve in 2019.....	4

### Reports of the Pastors and Staff

The Rev. Roger Joseph Gench, Pastor/Head of Staff.....	5
The Rev. Alice Rose Tewell, Associate Pastor/Deputy Head of Staff.....	6
The Rev. Beth Braxton, Parish Associate.....	9
The Rev. Frances Taylor Gench.....	11
The Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter, Parish Associate.....	11
Stanley P. Engebretson, Director of Music.....	12

### Reports of the Elected Boards

<i>The Session</i> .....	13
National Capital Presbytery Commissioners.....	15
PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program....	16
Nominating Committee.....	17
Vision and Strategic Planning Task Force.....	17
Benevolence Committee.....	18
<i>Board of Deacons</i> .....	19
7-2-9 Club.....	20
Community Club.....	21
Radcliffe Room Ministry.....	22
Njoro, Kenya Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program.....	24
Peace and Justice Committee.....	25
<i>Board of Diaconal Ministers</i> .....	26
<i>Board of Trustees</i> .....	27
Investment Committee.....	28
Accounting Task Force.....	30

### Reports of Special Activities

Cuba Partners Committee.....	32
Triangle Park Committee.....	33

### Reports of the Clusters

<i>Christian Learning Cluster</i> .....	34
Sizoo Library.....	35
McClendon Scholar in Residence Program.....	36
History and Archives Committees.....	37

### Reports of the Clusters (continued)

<i>Congregational Life Cluster</i> .....	38
Worship and Music.....	38
Dance Ministry.....	39
Evangelism Committee.....	40
Nurture and Fellowship Committee.....	41
<i>Funds Development Cluster</i> .....	42
Finance Committee.....	43
Stewardship Committee.....	45
Capital Campaign – Vision 2020.....	46
Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.....	46
Planned Giving Committee.....	47
<i>Administrative Cluster</i> .....	48
Columbarium Committee.....	48
Personnel Committee.....	49

### Reports of Community Outreach Programs

McClendon Center.....	49
New York Avenue Educational Foundation.....	50
NYAPC Members on the Ingleside Presbyterian Retirement Community at Rock Creek Service Board.....	51

### Reports of Fellowship Groups

Presbyterian Women.....	52
Biblio Divina.....	52
Young Adults.....	53

### Memorial and Scholarship Funds

Virginia L. Cochran and David S. Brown Fund.....	54
Community Club College Scholarship Fund.....	55
Kathryn Heath Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	55
Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	56
Elmer L. Hanson Testamentary Trust.....	57
Metcalf-Edgington Trust Funds.....	57

## General Information

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### Statistical Report for 2018

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#### Baptisms

Infant/Child	14
Adult	1

#### Changes in Membership

Gains:	By Profession of Faith	3
	By Reaffirmation of Faith	7
	By Letter of Transfer from Other Churches	10
	By Restoration to the Active Roll	6

Total Added to the Active Membership Roll 26

Affiliate Membership 1

Losses:	Deceased	5
	By Letter of Transfer to Other Churches	8
	By Deletion from the Active Roll	2

Total Removed from Active Membership Roll 15

Affiliate Membership 5

#### Net Changes in Membership

Church Membership: December 31, 2017 436  
Affiliate Membership: December 31, 2017 12

Church Membership: December 31, 2018 447  
Affiliate Membership: December 31, 2018 8

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## Church Staff

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**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*

**Gerald Thompkins**

*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 for Music*

**Whitney McColley**

*Choral Associate*

**Taisha Estrada**

*Choral Associate*

**Manuel J. Melendez**

*Choral Associate*

**Nathan Moon**

*Choral Associate*

**Kamane Wickremeratne**

*Nursery Staff*

**Ayesha Yapahamilage**

*Nursery Staff*

**Inoka Pulukuttige**

*Nursery Staff*

**Theo Brown**

*Director of McClendon Scholar in Residence Program*

**Catherine Schultheis**

*Director of Planned Giving*

**Kathryn Sparks**

*Director of Liturgical Dance*

**Kasey Kelly**

*Young Adult Volunteer*

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**Board Members Elected to Serve in 2019**

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**Session****Class of 2019**

Helen Anthony  
Fred Dann  
Miriam Dewhurst  
Yongo Ding\*  
Kristin Ford  
Molly Johnson  
Brian Schimming  
\*Resigned in 2018

**Class of 2020**

Taylor Allison  
Will Ashworth  
Paul Dornan  
Tyler Feret  
Erica Morgan  
Melissa Jane Taylor  
Edward Walrod

**Class of 2021**

Laura Brouse-Long  
Don Campbell  
Brian Dewhurst  
Kathryn Doan  
David Gillies  
Meg House  
Marie Meka

**Board of Deacons****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

**Class of 2021**

Tracey Branding  
Morgan Brown  
Anne Laroche  
Sam Obermyer  
Olivia Singelmann  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Board of Diaconal Ministers****Class of 2019**

Karen Dunlap  
Cindy Dickinson  
Diane Douglas  
Sarah McGinnis  
ShuXian McKenna\*  
John Schultheis  
Martha Sykora  
\*Resigned in 2018

**Class of 2020**

Pruitt Ashworth  
Barbara Dornan  
Stacey Gagosian  
John O'Brien  
Cecelia Porter  
Robert Savage  
Janet Shabman

**Class of 2021**

Gwenn Gebhard  
Beth Law  
Margaret Myers  
Eric Slaughter  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Board of Trustees****Class of 2019**

Rebecca Davis  
Mason Hubbard  
Caroline White

**Class of 2020**

Ross Coe  
James Spearman  
Matthew Webster

**Class of 2021**

Craig Berry  
Tom Dunlap  
Karl Hoffman

## 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.
- Participation on the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program Committee.
- Leadership in McClendon Scholar in Residence Program with Taylor Branch.
- 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 Rafael Warnock.
- Leadership in McClendon Scholar in Residence Program with Ellen Davis.
- Guest lecturer at the Lexington Presbyterian Church, Lexington, VA for a weekend exploring racism and the theology of the cross. April 21-22.
- Helped with the Young Adult Faith on Tap program at NYAPC.
- Help with enabling the BID Homeless Center to become a reality at The NYA Church.
- Leadership in the Next Church Community Organizing Training.
- 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.

- Three Week Study Leave in Colorado (Mid-August) 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 120 miles in the Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

At the conclusion of 2018 (my final annual report!), I find myself grateful once again for the ministry of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and the good folk that do it!

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**The Rev. Alice Rose Tewell**

*Associate Pastor/Deputy Head of Staff*

---

2018 continued to be another eventful year as your Associate Pastor and Deputy Head of Staff. I'm not much of a poet, but here is my Haiku for the year:

Children grow up fast  
 Discern: Center and Vision  
 Faith alive today

**Maternity Leave:** Early in the year, I finished writing an extensive “maternity leave” plan preparing for a maternity leave provided by the church. I ended up splitting my maternity leave, slotted for 3 months-full-time into two parts. From the birth of our daughter (January 22) through just before Palm Sunday, I was completely away. From Palm Sunday through mid-April, I worked part time.

**The Center:** By the spring, fully back into the swing of things, a good portion of my time became dedicated to the planning for the opening of the Downtown Day Services Center. Along with President of the Trustees Rebecca Davis, Courtney Spearman, Pastor Roger Gench, Church Administrator Jasmine Jowers Prout, Church Superintendent David Smoot, and now a healthy cadre of volunteers in the BAG (BID Advisory Group: Ann Bradley, Martha Davis, Paul Dornan, Tyler Feret, Matt Webster along with the above people), I have worked most significantly on developing the relationship with the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) who will run the Center (NYAPC is in the role of the landlord). This relationship building initially included providing feedback on the structure of the program and feedback on the impact of the Center on the church. Since the launch of construction in the fall, I have been involved in learning about and then communicating the stages of construction. I want to thank Rebecca Davis especially for going far beyond her role as a Trustee President to being the first person in landlord-tenant decisions always looking out for the welfare of the church with careful attention to the mission of those we seek to serve.

During the construction process, we unearthed beautiful murals by Hank Prussing (son of former Music Minister Steve Prussing). Stephen Reasonover took excellent pictures of these murals for our historical records and perhaps to be reproduced in other spaces. I give thanks for Rebecca Davis and Ross Coe who have established an excellent contract between the church and the BID. As part of the Center construction, we have many internal improvements to the Park Level of the building including: a new HVAC system in the basement, a new sewage ejector pit, removal of asbestos, and a new

phone and internet system for the whole church. I rejoice in the new Voice Over IP system that is coming to the church! We look forward to mid-February when the Center will open Monday-Friday for many clients in need in Washington, DC.

**Christian Education:** On the Christian Education side, for children, youth and adults, we continue to grow. I was particularly happy with the beginning of our “Raising and Mentoring Justice Seeking Children and Youth” series that we launched last winter. I look forward to a segment of this series each semester as a way that we can integrate the everyday practices of parenting and mentoring children and youth into our everyday lives of faith.

I am thrilled with the establishment of a church youth group by Helen Anthony and Sarah McGinnis. The group provides a place to build deeper relationships among the church youth to hopefully provide them a base of friendships for theological discussion and questions as life moves forward.

Our Sunday school teachers continue to be creative, warm, and always flexible. I spent most of August moving our classrooms from the Park Level to be occupied by the Center to light-filled rooms on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th floors of the church. It is was a time-consuming move (*sometimes my dreams would be filled of which boxes were to go where!*), but well worth it. It is wonderful to have our children in the upper floors of the church shared by other tenants giving our “Sunday School kids” a window into the many ministries that happen at New York Avenue. Our nursery, PreK and Lower Elementary classes share space with our long-term tenant, the McClendon Center, our Upper Elementary class shares the Community Club library, the Middle Schoolers are in my office, and the high schoolers (who have been given the option of Rev. Gench’s office) have chosen to volunteer around the church in the Radcliffe Room and PreK classroom. Our children and youth continue to delight and challenge the church with excellent and full participation in the yearly Youth Sunday and the Christmas Pageant. Both services take a lot of my and other volunteers’ time but well worth it to teach and model their role as leaders in the church community. God gives all of us a powerful voice!

**Worship and Nurture:** I preached with a bit of risk, but with good reception on the #MeToo movement, Climate Change, and our call to welcome people, immigrants especially as people of God. I am thankful for Rev. Gench’s wisdom in both preaching and theological reading. I continued to work on the practice of Biblical Storytelling, putting the scripture to heart. I shared this practice a few times in worship as well as on our fall church retreat at Meadowkirk using the early stories from Exodus and the Micah 6:8 passage. Especially with a baby in the midst of the immigration crisis at the border, it was very meaningful to put the story of the Hebrew midwives, Shiprah and Puah to heart. Though a lot of work, the church retreat continues to be a time where church members can grow closer in relationship with each other and God.

In the vein of nurture and study, I continue to staff the Presbyterian Women’s Bible study, a fierce group of woman, who gather monthly at different members’ homes on Tuesday afternoons. These women hold each other up in hard times both personally and politically. I am grateful they include me among their force.

**Faith and Politics:** For another year, NYAPC took a major step in being host for protests, particularly where we believe that our faith seeks us to stand up for justice. Courtney Spearman and others



organized hospitality for guests for March for Our Lives on March 24. Our daughter, three months at the time, got to be part of her first demonstration! In June, we protested in words (letters) and by showing up at the Senate Office building policy detaining children and other immigrants who were trying to come to the US in detention centers. In August, the white nationalist group who had created uproar and violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, the previous year applied for a permit for a demonstration in DC. After extensive discussion and discernment with Session, we partnered with SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice) to be a safe place for protestors. The discussion was a hard one as in partnering with SURJ, we were also asking the police who we have trusted in such situations not to enter the church unless there was an emergency because those who SURJ supported did not feel safe with the police presence. We pledged to be part of reconciliation work of these different groups, which we do still need to do in 2019.

With some anxiety in the air, (Pastor Gench was away that weekend on his yearly vacation to Colorado), I very much appreciated the shared leadership in worship from Pastors and the Revs. Emily Rhodes Hunter, Jessica Tate, and Ann Davie. The membership of the church showed up in force that day providing excellent hospitality with very clean bathrooms, always hot coffee, and a loving presence that said with smiles and words something to the effect of "I know there is a lot going on out there, but here, we welcome you in to find a safe place."

While I am at a distance, I am appreciative of the work that the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program does on reconciliation. I was glad to be asked to give the final blessings when Senator Coons addressed the church in the late fall.

**Vision and Strategic Planning Taskforce:** Prompted by the Trustees retreat in early 2018, in the late spring, endorsed by the Session, we began the Vision and Strategic Planning Taskforce. The group draws its members from a broad cross section of the church members and boards. To prepare for the work of this group Meg House and I went to a Presbytery sponsored retreat called "The Well" in the spring as well as a related offering by "NEXT Church" later in the summer. For much of the summer Rev. Gench led the group in theological visioning exercises. I am hopeful that this work will be complete by the time Rev. Gench retires in the very late spring of 2019.

**Personnel and Space Use:** As the Deputy Head of Staff, I attend to the personnel concerns of the church, including staff supervision. This year, we celebrated Evelyn McMillan's 39th year working at New York Avenue as the kitchen manager and as a receptionist. We celebrated the work that David Smoot, the Church Superintendent, performed, voting to move him to be a manager in 2019. He continues to supervise our steady and hardworking custodial staff, especially during this time of great change and anticipation. With the move of the Sunday School classrooms, more renters, and shared space, the custodians/sextons are working hard doing extra set-ups and breakdowns.

Jasmine Jowers Prout, the Church Administrator, continues to well manage and supervise the church office as well as most day to day functions in the church. She secured new office furniture donated by Hal Hiemstra, an additional long-term church using the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons, and many additional renters. I worked with her to bring in the Capital Clubhouse, renting the Radcliffe Room and adjoining office three days a week. Esther Productions rented Dr. Stan Engebretson's and my

outer office space for much of 2018. Jasmine worked hard to keep these tenants in the church and satisfied, a desire that came out of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Part II in 2018.

Lance Jameson, the Senior Accountant, continues to do a noble job with the church finances, working in Quick Books, with Your Part Time Controller, and monthly reconciliations/ year end closes. He works closely with the Finance Committee as well as Trustees. Mostly, when we as a staff have a last minute request, it is so wonderful to meet a friendly face who knows the procedures and is open to new ideas.

I take great joy in supervising our Young Adult Volunteer. For the first part of 2018, Clare Forrister, finished as our YAV, though had to leave early. Kasey Kelly, joined us in September of 2018, for the first time as a full-time Young Adult Volunteer (please see YAV report).

**Presbytery:** On the Presbytery level, I continue to serve on the Church Development Committee, the umbrella group for New Worshipping Communities, the Church Transitions Team, and Immigrant Fellowships groups. Most of my Presbytery time was dedicated to the Racism Task Force, a three year initiative to dive deep into the feelings of race and racism throughout the Presbytery. For the first year, we mostly got to know one another's stories and experiences. For the second year, including a class in Adult Education at NYA, we explored stories that shape our perspectives and identities.

**Looking to the Future:** There is certainly change again for New York Avenue! We will continue to baptize more babies (lots ahead in 2019), strengthen relationships within the church, and welcome new folks to Washington DC. As the political and business climate continues to change sometimes with turbulence and sometimes at a steadier pace, the church is placed to welcome new members as well as being a landing pad for those seeking out those ever-present spiritual questions.

The Center will bring change, especially in our lobby space. It is change that I believe we have planned deeply for in terms of theological discernment and practical questioning. It is a change that will open us to new possibilities that we cannot yet imagine.

Of course, the retirement of Rev. Gench will bring significant change to the life of the congregation. I am thankful for his service to New York Avenue as well as his guidance and wisdom he has given me particularly in the areas of worship leadership and theological reading and discernment. He has brought New York Avenue a deep understanding of the relationship between politics and theology, as well as the cross and resurrection. He has provided an education and experience that I believe will serve the church well into her future.

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**The Rev. Beth Braxton**

*Parish Associate*

---

Gratitude is central to my ministry at NYAPC. Participation in the Eucharist, which in Greek means "thanks", is an act of gratitude for the abundance God gives. God has given me many opportunities to serve at NYAPC. Continuing to serve the Eucharist regularly in the Radcliffe Room is one of my joys as Parish Associate. Below are other ways I have served 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
- Assisted the pastors in both Christmas Eve services
- With Kathryn Sparks, helped organize a Worship Closet on the 2nd floor
- Enjoyed serving as liturgist several times during the year

## **Evangelism Committee**

- Continued working with Evangelism Committee on "branding" and coordinating all brochures for the different ministries (still in process)
- Did up-keep of the first-floor Bulletin Boards of staff and major ministries of the church
- Put philodendron plants in both front windows of the first floor reception area
- Purchased a 15-foot Christmas Tree for the portico in partnership with Catherine and John Schultheis
- Laminated many directional signs in the church

## **Njoro, Kenya Partnership**

- Chaired regular meetings of the Njoro Steering Committee
- Planned with the committee an "Njoro Sunday" and preached at the worship services.
- Planned and organized a Mission Trip to Njoro with seven others from various churches. We led a Vacation Bible School format of enrichment activities for 35 students. Visited in their homes and got to know a new social worker, Susan Wambugu and a new pastor, Rev. Tony Matiko.

## **Radcliffe Room Leadership Team**

- Worked regularly every Sunday serving guests in the Radcliffe Room
- Served Communion on first Sunday of the month in Radcliffe Room
- Chaired meetings of the Radcliffe Room Leadership Team
- Kept labels current in Small Kitchen and purchased a number of utensils needed.
- Assisted in organizing the assembly of the Christmas Gift Bags for our RR guests

## **Miscellaneous**

- Did "Welcome" for the Interfaith Conference MLK service in January
- Led workshop for All-Church Retreat
- Photographed various events of the church
- For the General Assembly PC(USA) I served on the coordinating Council of the Kenya Mission Network
- For the National Capital Presbytery I serve on the Global Mission committee
- For the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic I serve on the Speer Fund Grant Committee
- Enjoyed participating in the Play Reading group and the Women's Retreat

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**The Rev. Frances Taylor Gench**

*Parish Associate*

---

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

- Preparation of spring quarter Bible study curriculum 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 Cuba Partners Bible study (“Adventures in Footwashing: John 13”).
- Leadership of the Women’s Spring Retreat: “#MeToo Bible Study (Judges 11, 19) (organized by the ever efficient Karen Dunlap and Meg House).
- Introduced McClendon Scholar in Residence, Dr. Ellen Davis.
- Co-hosted (with Roger Gench) Faith on Tap session for NYAPC Young Adults (for discussion with McClendon Scholar in Residence, Dr. Ellen Davis).
- Co-hosted (with Roger Gench) Faith on Tap session for NYAPC Young Adults (led discussion on Jeff Sessions and Romans 13).
- Co-hosted (with Roger Gench) Faith on Tap session for NYAPC Young Adults (led Bible Study discussion of Philemon).
- Participation in Kathryn Spark’s Dance Ministry worship offerings.
- 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*

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This has been my second year as a parish associate at New York Avenue, and I’ve found many ways to deepen my engagement in the life of our church. Often, I find myself offering words of clarification and 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 in a variety of ways. I’ve provided worship leadership for four services this year, including presiding at table on February 4th, March 4th, and August 12th, as well as preaching on April 22nd.

Along with Pastors Roger and Matthew, I helped to lead this past year's Ash Wednesday service, particularly the imposition of ashes and reaffirmation of baptism. I also served in the Radcliffe Room multiple Sundays, including providing pastoral leadership for the morning devotional and communion on February 4<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>. I've also been involved with the young adult "Faith on Tap" series, including facilitating a discussion around prayer and miracles based on my experience as a healthcare chaplain, which I titled "Waiting on God: Prayer, Miracle, Healing, and Hope." Along with Pastor Alice, I also provided pastoral leadership as our church partnered with Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) to offer a safe space during the "Unite the Right" white supremacist rally on August 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition to providing hospitality, fellowship, and necessities like bathrooms, refreshments, and a safe place to rest, we also engaged in discussions about justice work with community partners, protestors, and volunteers. 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*

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In 2018, 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 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 early in the year. Taisha Estrada assumed Samantha's duties after she left for graduate school at Rutgers University and has done a wonderful job building the youth music program. 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!

We are blessed to have J. David Brown in our congregation who is able to lead fine string ensembles from the Fairfax Symphony in special music events throughout the year. We also had special instrumentalists for Christmas with Mary Anderson on flute, and David Clark on saxophone, plus having our choirs perform multiple services within days! The debut of our flute choir was a special enhancement for 2018 with up to 8-9 flutes playing in ensemble music led by Mary Anderson. Congratulations!

We wish to thank Meg Neill for her wonderful care of the choir as our President. Our other officers, including James Turner and Martha Davis, along with other new choral representatives to the Choir Council, have all served admirably to foster the choir that 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 were delighted to add Taisha Estrada to our group as a mezzo soprano who sings alto while also leading the youth choir program. We were 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, and David Williams.

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!

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. Tom Dunlap and Eric Slaughter have been God-sends in regard to keeping the organ working, adding humidifiers and de-humidifiers as needed, plus monitoring the continual health of the instrument. 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. The old electronic organ in the Lincoln Chapel has been replaced with a fine newer grand piano 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 29<sup>th</sup> year! (Where does the time go?... ) 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

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### The Session

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

---

The following persons were members of the Session in 2018:

#### **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

\*Resigned in 2018

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, and Nurture and Fellowship. These functions are organized into Clusters; Christian Learning, Congregational Life, Funds Development and Administration. A Session member sits on the Peace and Justice Committee. Members of Session also serve as Commissioners to National Capital Presbytery.

The world knocked on the church's door in significant ways in 2018, giving the Session much to consider. The March for Life rally on March 24th and the Alt-Right rally on August 12th provided opportunities to engage in hospitality. The church was asked to be a staging area for local Presbyterians participating in the March for Life rally and the Nurture Committee sponsored an open house that day from 9am to 5pm, providing coffee and water and bathroom facilities. For the Alt-Right rally, the church was approached by Showing Up for Racial Justice, a group dedicated to non-violence, and was asked to be their headquarters for the event. The group also asked that law enforcement personnel not be allowed in the building that afternoon as some members of SURJ had had unfortunate encounters with police. Acceding to this request was difficult because the church always welcomes police presence and usually is open to officers making use of the bathrooms. After much discussion, the Session agreed to ask police officers to find other facilities for the afternoon. SURJ provided de-escalators, medical personnel and "care bears" (people trained to offer aid to persons caught up in violent encounters), in addition to bottled water and snack items. Church staff were given the day off and church members wonderfully stepped in to provide hospitality and custodial services. The Rev. Tewell and the Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter were continually present. There were no major incidents and we all learned a lot.

The Downtown Business Improvement District's homeless services center occupied much of the Session's attention as Trustee President Rebecca Davis and others kept the Session apprised of negotiations. Ms. Davis, Trustee Ross Coe, Ms. Prout, Rev. Tewell and Rev. Gench have spent countless hours meeting with BID representatives and writing and negotiating the license agreement, which the Session approved in September and the Presbytery approved in October.

The Session authorized the formation of a Vision and Strategic Planning task force that is seeking to discern God's call to this congregation at this time in our history. The Session and the VSP task force continue to incorporate the results of the Church Assessment Tool survey in their discussions. With regard to the church's financial situation, all four boards are continuing to work on narrowing 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.

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 2018. NCP calls Stated Meetings five or six times a year (all held at National Presbyterian Church in 2018) 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 often the serving of communion. Some specific items of 2018 business are noted below.

At its March 20 Stated Meeting, NCP elected a search committee for someone to succeed Executive Presbyter Wilson Gunn, who retired in October 2018. The Presbytery also approved a loan to Garden Memorial PC and approved the appointment of an Administrative Commission for the Community PC of Alexandria.

At NCP's May 22 Stated Meeting, NCP adopted a Child and Youth Protection Policy. The Presbytery reluctantly voted to approve the dismissal of the Neelsville Presbyterian Church to the Evangelical Covenant Order. Wilson Gunn gave a State of the Presbytery report detailing the ways in which NCP is fulfilling its mission.

At NCP's June 26 Stated Meeting, NCP installed Rev. Quinn Fox (National PC) as Moderator and Ruling Elder Miriam Dewhurst (New York Avenue PC) as Vice Moderator. They will serve in these capacities until June 2019. The outgoing Moderator, Elder William Plitt (Old Presbyterian Meeting House) conducted the installation. NCP Commissioners to the just-concluded 223rd General Assembly reported on the work of the Assembly, in particular the work of the committees to which they had been assigned.

At NCP's September 25 Stated Meeting, NCP celebrated the ministry of Wilson Gunn as he retired from his role as Executive Presbyter. Rev. Gunn's remarks included a history of the presbytery and those who have led it from 1943 to the present. The Presbytery approved the 2019 Operating Budget



of \$1,094,498 and approved raising the per capita by 4.56% to \$41.73 (\$31.93 to NCP). The 2019 Mission Budget was received for a first reading. The Mission Budget is largely supported by Unified Mission Giving, funds given by churches in the presbytery over and above their per capita payments (which fund the Operating Budget). There is a trend of decreased giving to the Mission Budget and the Leadership Council has recruited a task force to work on developing a financial model tool that will allow the presbytery to see the impact of its funding decisions on its future financial resources.

At NCP's November 27 Stated Meeting, NCP approved the 2019 Mission Budget of \$951,563.

NYAPC was represented at NCP's 2018 meetings by its Pastors, Parish Associates and a balancing number of Elder Commissioners, including three elected by NYAPC's Session: Miriam Dewhurst, Dan Stokes and Edward Walrod. Amy McKee served as a member of the NCP Commission on Preparation for Ministry, the Rev. Alice Tewell served on the NCP Church Development Committee. Dan Stokes served on the NCP Session Records Committee, Karl Hoffman served on the Investment Committee, and Paul Dornan served on the Commission on Ministry.

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### **PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program**

*The Rev. Alice Tewell*

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In 2018, NYAPC actively continued its support of the National Capital site of PCUSA'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 YAV year, young adults come to DC for a year of discernment, leadership training, faith development and job experience.

During the 2017-2018 year, Clare Forrister was a part-time YAV with us with a joint placement with NYAPC and the Office of Public Witness. She had to leave the program early. Starting in September, the YAV program moved from Brightwood to the Carver-Langston neighborhood. We also welcomed Kasey Kelly as a full-time YAV to serve at the church from September 2018 through July 2019.

As a full-time YAV, Kasey works supporting the work of the Radcliffe Room. She is in charge of the clothing closet and also organized and led the effort to provide Christmas gifts for all of the Radcliffe Room guests. For the second portion of her YAV year, with the opening of the Center, she will become more involved there on a once-a-week basis.

Kasey also supports the work of Community Club tutoring and mentoring program by maintaining the tutor database, running the substitute zone, and helping lead Community Club special events including fall camp and the coming spring event. Kasey has also led several before-Community Club programs including American Sign Language BINGO, Christmas card making for the Radcliffe Room guests, and started a Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King essay contest.

Kasey also helps interview applicants who are applying for Benevolence and Metcalf-Edgington funds. She has also been involved in developing the NYAPC WIN action team.

Kasey has become more involved in the life of our youth ministry. She organized and led the 5th Annual Youth Day of Service (2019 but organizing in 2018), has been a helper in Worship Play, and led two children's time in Sunday worship. She will help plan Youth Service days for July 2019.

Rev. Tewell is the NYAPC YAV supervisor. As per the YAV covenant, they meet weekly for supervision and discernment. Rev. Gench also frequently meets with Kasey.

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## **Nominating Committee**

*David Gillies, Chair*

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The Nominating Committee worked on a compressed schedule in 2018 and the Chair is grateful to committee members who worked diligently to fill the slates for the board classes of 2021, and to fill some vacancies.

The following individuals were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Part I, held on January 13, 2019.

**Board of Deacons (Class of 2021):** Tracy Branding, Morgan Brown, Anne Laroche, Sam Obermyer, and Olivia Singelmann

Work continues to complete the slate in this class.

**Diaconal Ministers (Class of 2021):** Gwenn Gebhard, Beth Law, Margaret Myers, and Eric Slaughter  
Work continues to complete the slate in this class.

**Diaconal Ministers (Class of 2019):** Karen Dunlap

**The Session (Class of 2021):** Laura Brouse-Long, Don Campbell, Brian Dewhurst, Kathryn Doan, David Gillies, Meg House, and Marie Meka

Work continues to fill the vacancy in the Class of 2019.

**Trustees (Class of 2021):** Craig Berry, Tom Dunlap, and Karl Hoffman

**Trustees (Class of 2020):** Matthew Webster

The members of the Nominating Committee were David Gillies (Chair), Miriam Dewhurst representing the Session, Matthew Ford representing the Deacons, Sarah McGinnis representing the Diaconal Ministers, Caroline White representing the Trustees, and Renee Berry, Catherine Cannon, Karen Dunlap, John Quinn, Cathy Schultheis, and Len Shabman representing the congregation at large.

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## **Vision and Strategic Planning Task Force**

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In June, the congregation commissioned a taskforce to begin work developing a Vision and Strategic Plan for our congregation. Over the summer, the Rev. Roger Gench and the Rev. Alice Tewell led the group in studying stories from scripture and discerning what gospel values these stories hold for us

today. We also reflected on the history of NYAPC: on times of life, of brokenness, and on moments in our history when God brought new life out of this brokenness.

In our meetings, we have discussed what concerns each of us would like the Strategic Plan to address and participated in exercises coming from NEXTChurch's Cultivated Ministry seminar. During the fall, we drafted a tag line and vision and mission statements, as we continue working towards developing a full strategic plan.

Throughout the process we have solicited help and questions from the congregation through the Weekly Email, *AveNews*, by leading a Sunday School class on September 9, and by leading discussion during the September 30 Congregational Sunday. We have presented drafts of our work to the boards of the church for comment. And we continue to consider the results of the 2017 Church Assessment Tool Survey in our work.

Please contact any of us with questions or comments. We look forward to sharing more of our work early in 2019 and hope to complete our work by late spring/early summer, as we all look toward what the future holds for The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Thank you!

The Vision and Strategic Planning Taskforce: Miriam Dewhurst, Kathy Doan (through 2018), Paul Dornan, the Rev. Roger Gench, Hal Hiemstra, Meg House, Olivia Singelmann, Jim Spearman, Sarah McGinnis, Edie Holmes Snyder, the Rev. Alice Tewell, and Matthew Wieseler.

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## **Benevolence Committee**

*Molly Johnson, Treasurer of Session*

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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 2018, NYAPC again received a great number of requests for assistance. It also maintained the monthly budget and flexible guidelines to aid in decision making including number of requests over an annual period and relationship with the church. 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 2018 Benevolence Committee consisted of Betsy Merritt, Olivia Singelmann, the Rev. Alice Rose Tewell, and the Session Treasurer as Chair.

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## Board of Deacons

*Olivia Sealey Singelmann, President*

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The following people were members of the Board of Deacons in 2018:

### Class of 2018

Ashley Nunes Coe\*  
Anne Laroche  
Megan Erb Metcalf\*  
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  
Betsy Merritt  
Doug Norwood  
Marsha Renwanz  
John Yoder

\*Resigned in 2018

This year, the Deacons continued to support NYPAC's transition to the new financial management system implemented by the Accounting Task Force. Deacons attended training on the new system, and drew upon that training to apply the principles of the new financial manual to our budget recommendation to the Session. Because we were able to build upon the foundation laid last year with respect to familiarizing ourselves with the new financial management system, the Deacons were able to devote time to reflecting on new ways to articulate our role as coordinating the outreach, social education, and action ministries of NYAPC.

### Highlights of 2018 included:

- **Supporting and guiding NYAPC's outreach, social education, and action ministries through the transition to the new financial management system.** This included inviting representatives from those ministries to give in-person presentations to the Deacons regarding their objectives and budgetary needs, so that the Deacons could make informed decisions on how to apply the financial manual principles to its budget recommendation to the Session for those ministries.
- **Unveiling the "First Impressions Initiative."** Spearheaded by Matthew Asada, the initiative arose from a discussion with NYAPC members who had recently returned to NYAPC after several years away. To assist the church's staff and boards with planning future and current year spending, the Deacons identified a number of items that could be relatively quickly and less expensively addressed to improve a visitor's "First Impressions." Through this initiative, the Deacons were able to improve access to large print bulletins, as well as add to the momentum

surrounding efforts to renovate the first-floor men's bathroom. Longer-term improvements will be pursued in the coming year.

- **Ushering, and inviting the congregation to join us in serving as Ushers, and streamlining access to service opportunities related to worship.** The Deacons continue to take primary responsibility for the role of ushering during our regular Sunday services. However, this year we increased our efforts to encourage the congregation to join us in serving as ushers, a change that was voted on by the Board of Deacons at the end of 2017. The Deacons also worked to combine online-signups for Ushers, Liturgists, and Sunday Fellowship hosts in order to improve the congregation's access to opportunities to serve in these important roles.
- **Reflecting on the implications of gentrification in the D.C. area.** Led by Martha Davis, the Deacons spent time learning about and reflecting on the effects of gentrification in the DC area, which they see as critical to their role as Deacons. They did this through reflecting on passages from the book *CHOCOLATE CITY: A HISTORY OF RACE AND DEMOCRACY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL*, as well as participating in One DC's "Guided Walking Tour of Displacement and Resistance in Shaw."
- **Participating in conversations regarding the Downtown Day Center.** Martha Davis joined the Downtown Day Center Coordinating Committee and served as a conduit for input and information between the Committee and the Board of Deacons.
- **Participating in the Vision and Strategic Planning Taskforce.** Olivia Singelmann was among those commissioned to serve on the Vision and Strategic Planning Taskforce and served as a conduit for input and information between the Taskforce and the Board of Deacons.

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## 7-2-9 Club

*Spencer Gibbins, James Martin, and Britton Walker, Coordinators*

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The 7-2-9 Club was started on Valentine's Day 1979 as an outreach project of the Board of Deacons for the recovering mentally ill and was initiated by Reverend Jack McClendon and approximately 10 NYA member volunteers. This was the beginning of one of the most unique, gratifying and stimulating experiences that NYAPC has sponsored as a mission. The club meets every Wednesday evening in Peter Marshall Hall, September to June from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (hence the name!). Membership consists of three primary groups: persons who currently reside in and are being treated at St. Elizabeths Hospital (in-patients) along with several hospital staff members; persons who have been discharged from the hospital and come on their own from community-based residence facilities or their own apartments; and volunteers from NYAPC and the community. This past year has seen a significant decrease in the numbers of in-patients due to St. Elizabeths' increased security requirements limiting numbers of individuals who may leave the institution's grounds. We hope to alleviate this problem in the near future. All come to socialize with each other, share experiences, discuss problems, share accomplishments, exchange ideas and enjoy each other's company. One of our Charter Members, Mary Prothro, always summed up our goal as "to have fun!"

Each week is scheduled with some sort of entertaining program as well as time for informal chatting and socializing. The monthly Bingo Night is by far the most popular, followed by monthly Karaoke Night begun and sustained by members of the Washington Gay Men's Chorus. We have music nights with talent shows, rhythm band, game night and travelogue nights when volunteers show pictures of

their world travels. Three “special events” include the Christmas Party with gifts contributed by the Board of Deacons, the Valentine’s Day/Birthday Party at which a “king” and “queen” are crowned, and the end of the year “picnic” in June in which a complete fried chicken dinner is served, cooked by Evelyn McMillan and her kitchen staff. It is a “picnic” even though served in Peter Marshall Hall because it began as an outdoor event at the “Overlook” on the grounds of St. Elizabeths.

Volunteers come to set up the coffee and refreshment tables and to initiate and participate in the games and planned activities as well as sit and chat. Sandwiches and cookies are provided near the close of the evening. Each week the meeting ends in a circle during which announcements are made, members’ birthdays recognized and member achievements cited. Our club song and “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds” are sung at closing.

***This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the club to be celebrated on February 13 and during “Minute for Mission” at both services February 17.*** Current volunteers range from 3 years to 30 years in service to the club and a majority are not members of NYAPC. We are so grateful and blessed to have had the benefits of participating in this mission of the church and wish to recognize the contributions of so many NYAPC members down through those 40 years who were faithful members and the financial support of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons.

More volunteers are always needed and welcome. A volunteer staff of six to eight is ideal, so currently we are two or three short each week. Volunteers who can come just once or twice a month would be very helpful. We also welcome individuals or small groups who sing, dance, perform magic, etc. who can provide 30 minutes or so of entertainment.

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## **Community Club**

*Shamika Bradley and Tom Karr, Co-Directors*

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2018 was a year of continued achievement for Community Club, which is a ministry of the church. The Club brings DC public and charter school students together with concerned local professionals for one-with-one tutoring and mentoring in Peter Marshall Hall every Thursday night when schools are in session.

Shamika Bradley, a former student in the program, was elected to another two-year term as co-director in Spring 2018, continuing to work with Tom Karr to direct the program. They are joined in leading the club by Chaplain Rev. Alice Tewell and the rest of the Core Council. Core Council consists of club leaders and Deacon Amy Gillespie. In the spring of 2017-18, Amy worked with Class Leader Tara Graham and the graduating seniors on college prep and application activities. Amy continues this work with senior class leader Ariella Viehe (also assisted by Tara Graham) and the 2018-19 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 Obi Ukaegbu, with assistance from Laura Krapsho, leads the work with our current college students. We were also ably assisted by Young Adult Volunteers and Claire Forrister (in 2017-18) and Kasey Kelly (in 2018-19).

Enrollment peaked at 120 students last May, and, following the graduation of large senior class, has grown back to 105 by late January 2018. They are supported by 150 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 Craigslist, 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 the 2017-18 school year, 55 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 2017-18, 59 such alumni and alumnae received stipends, totaling over \$45,000, from the club.

The club also promotes students for outside college scholarships and helps them apply for those scholarships. Among our current and just-graduated collegians are three Posse Scholars (full tuition), two DC Achievers Scholars (\$5,000/semester), one Gates Millennial Scholar (full ride), two Trachtenberg Scholars (full ride to GWU), two Georgetown University Community Scholars (nearly full ride) and two New Futures Scholars (\$1,950 per semester for associate degree programs). In addition, in spring 2018 ten Community Club students in their last two years of college or in graduate school received Andrew Charles Dornan scholarships, and one high school senior was awarded the Jennings Scholarship (started by the family of former pastor Mark Jennings). Further, in spring 2018 eight former Community Club students confirmed graduation from college.

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 35 collegians - and a well-attended graduation ceremony in May.

To help fund its activities and the scholarships it provided in 2018, the club received several large donations, including continued major support from the New York Avenue Foundation, a \$7,500 grant, and an \$8,000 grant, respectively, from two generous donors, along with a contribution from Bloomberg LP (on behalf of a Bloomberg employee who is a veteran tutor) and from Reed Elsevier PLLC (on behalf of another tutor). The club's website, [www.communityclub.org](http://www.communityclub.org), is an excellent resource for those wishing to learn more about this program.

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## **Radcliffe Room Ministry**

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

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**Mission Statement:** The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and justice-seeking church that recognizes the challenges of homelessness in Washington. The Radcliffe Room expresses our faith through hospitality by seeking to fulfill the message of Matthew 25:35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger

and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” The RR brings together people who otherwise may never journey together.

**Overview:** For more than 30 years, 75-125 men and women who live on the street or in shelters have been visiting the Radcliffe Room on Sunday mornings. The RR is open to guests from 8:15 am to 9:45 am and provides a space for guests and volunteers to socialize. In 2018, we have:

- Cut \$2,000 from our budget, which meant halting distribution of bus tokens midyear. We will probably cut tokens by 50 percent again this year.
- Been blessed with the presence of Kasey Kelly, New York Avenue’s Young Adult Volunteer, who brought great energy, organization and caring to our ministry. In 2018, Kasey organized a great Christmas for 150 Radcliffe Room guests, and has proved to be a great friend to them one-on-one.
- Partnered with Asbury United Methodist Church to host our annual Super Bowl Party, which gets bigger and better every year.
- Maintained our partnership with downtown hotels that allow us to put donation boxes in their lobbies so departing guests can donate Metro fare cards. We are currently in the Hilton Garden Inn, the Mayflower and Embassy Suites hotels. Members of our buyers club pay \$5 dues each week and get a card with a one-week bus pass (value \$17.50). Every week, their spent card is exchanged for a freshly funded card. When donations are high, dues go into a savings account. When donations are low during winter, the saved dues are used to keep the cards funded at a stable level.

We continued to partner with area restaurants, which donate leftover food that volunteers pick up on Saturdays. The current lineup is Einstein Bagels in Falls Church, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe in Arlington and Chesapeake Bagels in Burke. Evelyn McMillan supplies the coffee, tea, punch, sugar, cream, peanut butter, cream cheese, grape 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 RR also distributes bus tokens paid for 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 better, by the work of the church staff, who treat our guests and volunteers with respect and patience. Mary Newman and David Smoot and his crew are capable and caring ambassadors for the church.

#### **Initiatives and Goals:**

- Increased involvement from members of the church and the community so every RR guest feels personally welcomed to 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 Radcliffe Room more environmentally friendly and cost-effective.
- Expand our efforts to provide access to mass transit. The waiting list for the SmarTrip buyers club is three times longer than the membership roll. We hope to invert that ratio this year.
- Follow the start of the Day Services Center on the Park Level, with hopes of identifying areas where we can work together and look for duplications of services so that we can lessen the impact of our budget cuts on guests.

Radcliffe Room volunteers and friends: Beth Braxton, Bob Braxton, Morgan Brown, Chess Campbell, Gary Campbell, Carol Casperson, John Clark, Eddie Council, Rebecca Davis, David Douglass, Cindy Dickinson, Beth DuMez, Tyler Feret, Jenna Fletcher, Spence Gibbons, Kasey Kelly, Sandra McLean, Betsy Merritt, Doug Norwood, Jean-Baptiste Odounga, Kari Parsons, Zack Parsons, David Powell, Elie Robins, Dara Satterfield, David Snyder, Courtney Spearman, Jim Spearman, Phil Telfeyan, Barry Tindall, Sam Waltzer, Suzie Waltzer, Rosemary Seeger, Jim Wall and Helen Williams.

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### **Njoro, Kenya Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program**

*Beth Braxton, Chair*

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

Wow! It was a terrific team that journeyed together in August 2018 and led a week-long enrichment program for "our thirty-five students" in Njoro, Kenya. This Mission Trip was the primary event of the committee this year. Planning the program and travel arrangements involved three long planning sessions. The major work was deciding on the biblical story and theme for each day and the activities surrounding these stories in crafts, drama and music and recreation. Then we packed special gift bags for each student and committee members. Though many of our New York Avenue members had to withdraw from the trip for some very good reasons involving mid-term elections and family commitments, the nine of us on the team were well equipped and represented the church with grace and energy!

To refresh your memory -- 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 full time social worker, Susan Wambugu, three Saturday teachers: John Kuria, a new teacher, 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. In addition the social worker provides counseling and follow ups with their families and home.

This fall there were major changes in the OVC program lead by new pastor, Rev. Tony Matiko. Rev. Matiko did some re-organization of the church boards more in line with their PCEA Book of Order, including the OVC. The best news is that new committee members began a mentoring program with the students. Each of seven committee members has five students to meet with and to coach. This personal relationship building enhances the students' feelings of being loved and cared for and provides the individual attention sorely needed. The new social worker, Susan Wambugu, began this July after Cathy Wambui resigned when she married and moved away. We experienced Susan, herself having grown up as an orphan, as being both compassionate and competent.

The NYAPC Steering Committee of the Njoro Partnership met on a regular basis for discussions focused on shared communication with the OVC Njoro committee, how the students are progressing, and the financial status and the future of the program. Supporting the OVC ministry is about \$649 for each student. We are grateful for the Deacons who provided \$12,000, the Christmas Alternative gift program where we gleaned \$2,246, as well as the special annual von Fleckenstein gift of \$2,000. In addition, The Old Presbyterian Meeting House of Alexandria, Virginia, made a donation of \$2,529. Mother's Day donation and craft sale made \$755. We sent \$25,971 to Kenya in three payments. With more students reaching the end of high school and going to a college, university or technical school, the costs will go up. 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. 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.

A song we learned on the mission trip was "*Ametenda majabu na siwezi kweleza.*" In English: "God has done so much for me that I cannot tell it all." Indeed, the Kenya partnership is a gift, and God has done so much for us that we cannot tell it all!

The Njoro Steering Committee includes Beth Braxton, *chair*; Fritz Von Fleckenstein, *treasurer*; Molly Lauer, *secretary*, Bob Braxton, John Clark, Marsha Renwanz, Hannah Cox, Sarah W. Kirwin, Kathryn Sparks; Rhonda O'Bannon, *Old Presbyterian Meeting House*; Kelvin Njoroge, *Goshen International*

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## **Peace and Justice Committee**

*Marilyn J. Seiber, Chair*

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The Peace and Justice Committee continued work on its traditional programs, hosted the Presbyterian pastor from the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, and began involvement with the Sanctuary Network of Congregations.

The committee supported Heeding God's Call to reduce gun violence, especially participating in monthly demonstrations at the National Rifle Association Headquarters. Committee representatives attended Washington Inter-Faith Network activities; helped to host the annual Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day at NYAPC for the Ecumenical Days held in April; submitted weekly Peace Candle prayers for the worship bulletin and made peace candles available to visitors; "dressed" the Communion table with fresh fruits and vegetables for PC(USA)'s Food Week of Action and World Food Day; and were responsible for One Great Hour of Sharing. The Alternative Christmas Gifts

program was held for three Sundays in December and added a new project, One DC, to make a total of eight programs plus sales of olive oil from Palestinian farmers' co-operatives.

On July 1, the Committee hosted Rev. Farouk Hammo, pastor of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Baghdad who had previously visited Washington, D.C. in July 2017. This year he was an invited participant to the PC(USA) General Assembly and came to visit NYAPC before returning to Baghdad. During the worship service, Rev. Hammo participated in "Time with Children" and gave greetings from the Baghdad congregation. The committee hosted a lunch reception for him following the worship service where he gave a presentation and slide show to congregation attendees. The committee also gave \$500 to the Baghdad Church for the expansion of its Good Shepherd Pre-K school. The school opened new grades 1-3 in October 2018 with great celebrations and enthusiasm!

In addition to supporting Rev. Hammo's visit and the expansion of the Good Shepherd School, the committee donated \$250 to the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and \$500 to the Sanctuary DMV Network of Congregations Fund for supporting visiting demonstrators and local families needing help. Finally, Fritz von Fleckenstein ensured that an array of peace and justice-promoting meetings and demonstrations and votes in Congress needing support/resistance were advertised and encouraged participation.

The Peace and Justice Committee will work in 2019 to support peace and justice-seeking projects, both traditional programs and those that arise during the year. Our Presbyterian Church partners in Baghdad and Basra, Iraq and in Homs and Damascus, Syria continue to be in our prayers and receive our support.

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## **Board of Diaconal Ministers**

*John Schultheis, President*

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The following individuals were members of the Board of Diaconal Ministers during 2018:

### **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

### **Class of 2020**

Pruitt Ashworth  
Barbara Dornan  
Stacey Younger Gagosian  
John O'Brien  
Cecelia Porter  
Robert Savage  
Janet Shabman

\*Resigned in 2018

The Board was founded in 1949 and named the Board of Deaconesses. The name was changed to its present designation in 2010 to reflect a more diverse membership and mission, providing care for members and friends of the congregation. Board members began being 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 Washington, DC region. It also keeps "in touch" with

those who have moved out of the area but still appreciate receiving cards, AveNews issues and other material dealing with the work of the Church and our members. The Board also gives aid and comfort to the bereaved and so far as possible 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 spring 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 endowed invested funds and donations for weekly sanctuary arrangements and holiday plants provided sufficient income to finance all of the Board's 2018 expenses.

The Board hosted post memorial service receptions for Max Roos, Kenneth Carpenter, Krista Nix Golden and Elizabeth Young.

Martha Sykora designed and produced a new cloth for the sanctuary communion table. The last cloth for that table was made by Nancy Nagelhout, Martha's mother, several decades ago.

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**Board of Trustees**

*Rebecca Davis, President*

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**Class of 2018**

Tom Dunlap  
Karl Hoffman  
Matt Wieseler

**Class of 2019**

Rebecca Davis  
Mason Hubbard  
Caroline White

**Class of 2020**

Ross Coe  
Kendrick McCabe  
Jim Spearman

In 2018, the Trustees continued our efforts to act as stewards of God's financial and physical assets for NYAPC. We are heartened by the extraordinary work of fellow members, staff, and partners in the community to make best use of all that we have been given! The Trustees started this year with an "offsite," in which we allowed ourselves to think more broadly about our wishes for the church community. This led to our recommendation to Session and the pastors that NYAPC engage in a Visioning process. We were grateful that the Visioning Committee started this process in 2018.

Revenue and Tenant Relationships

- **Tenant Relationships.** We continued our productive partnership with the McClendon Center, which is our largest tenant to date and serves approximately 50 clients experiencing mental illness. As an independent non-profit, they receive funding from a donor base and the District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health, and then pay rent to New York Avenue. We also welcomed a new tenant, Capital Clubhouse, which also serves people experiencing mental illness with job training and fellowship. Church Administrator Jasmine Jowers Prout ably managed these relationships, several smaller tenants, and short-term rentals.

- **Building Use.** The staff did an excellent job this year of re-thinking how the church building is used, facilitating a move of the children and youth Sunday School to the fifth floor. This idea was originally identified in architectural plans for the 2015 Capital Campaign, and it was wonderful to have Alice and team make this a reality. They organized multiple clean-out, clean-up efforts to ensure all of the materials required for Sunday School were identified and moved, and also worked out space sharing arrangements and processes with the McClendon Center. We were grateful for widespread collaboration and members' participation in these efforts. In addition, the staff worked with Trustees to make more efficient use of the space for the Downtown Cluster.
- **Downtown Day Services Center.** Our largest project of the year was the negotiation of a lease and the build out of the NYAPC park level for a new Downtown Day Services Center which will serve people experiencing homelessness. Our new tenant is the downtown Business Improvement District (BID), which won an RFP from the District of Columbia. Trustee Ross Coe took the lead on negotiating a favorable Letter of Intent and contract with the BID. Construction began in October and the Center is scheduled to open on February 12, 2019. It will offer laundry, showers, a clothing closet, case worker services, a health clinic, a lunchtime meal, a computer library, and access to critical city services such as the DMV and Department of Vital Records. We greatly appreciate the input and insights from the congregation, Presbytery, Session, Deacons and staff on this project. This relationship will generate additional revenue for the church, will eventually pay back the cost of the park-level HVAC, and will help NYAPC serve its neighbors more fully. The church has established a small committee for ongoing supervision of the project to help coordinate the program level efforts with the BID, including coordinating volunteers.

#### Building Needs

- **Interim HVAC Solutions.** As a follow-up to our issues last year with the mold in the sanctuary, Trustee Tom Dunlap facilitated additional equipment to help reduce humidity in the sanctuary. This included replacing the two inoperable compressors. NYAPC's HVAC system was engineered for four compressors, but two had been non-functioning for some time. This is a temporary solution for our HVAC replacement. As a part of the contract with the BID, NYAPC replaced the park-level HVAC system with a VRF system. This means that we now have VRF systems in the park level and 5<sup>th</sup> floor, reducing the burden on our remaining legacy system. Trustees plan to continue the project to replace the entire HVAC in 2019.
- **Organ.** Tom, David Smoot and church member Eric Slaughter continued to evaluate options to reduce impact of humidity on the organ, facilitating a visit and maintenance work from organ builder Schlueter to make recommendations.
- **High Speed Connectivity.** As a part of the BID construction project, Trustees helped organize new fiber-based internet service to the building for the church office use. We transitioned to Voice Over IP (VOIP) for the NYAPC phones, retaining four copper lines to be compliant with building codes. These lines will serve the security system, elevator call box, and a single redundancy line for the church.

#### Financial Stewardship

- **Audit.** Trustees facilitated the external audit from provider audit on time in compliance with our Line of Credit requirements. The audit conducted reviewed financials for 2017, our second

year of accrual-based accounting, and the first full year of having a complete Financial Manual that standardized our operating procedures.

- **Financing.** Trustee Karl Hoffman investigated additional options for the financing of our HVAC required by the BID contract. He presented options to the Trustees of a Term Loan in addition to our Line of Credit, which was approved by Trustees and Session. This will put NYAPC on a schedule to repay these vehicles and ultimately reduce our debt obligation, but give us some flexibility if we need cash for additional projects.

**Notes of Thanks:** This year presented tremendous opportunities and also a lot of hard work! We are thankful to the Rev. Roger Gench, the Rev. Alice Tewell, Church Administrator Jasmine Jowers Prout, David Smoot, and the front desk team for taking on additional responsibilities over the course of this year related to the BID relationship. This has required truly creative and new thinking. Lance Jameson continued to be a strong partner for us, including a great deal of work during the audit. Trustee Tom Dunlap ably led our Building Committee, which consisted of Ross Coe, Kendrick McCabe, and Jim Spearman. Despite a challenging travel schedule, Mason Hubbard served as Secretary and coordinated counters for the church. In addition, she did work to evaluate the church's need for some outside counsel, evaluated pro-bono opportunities and facilitated a new contract with an outside firm, which we used for various bequest related issues. Matt Wieseler and Jim Spearman served on the Visioning Task Force. Caroline White served on the Nominating Committee, and Matt and Caroline served on Personnel. We appreciate Trustees lending their expertise to this important work, as well as signing each of the checks for the church's expenditures, which number in the thousands each year.

The Trustees are grateful for the visionary work of all of the members, staff and friends of NYAPC. Glory be to God!

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## Investment Committee

*Karl S. Hoffman, Chair*

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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, 2018, the total value of NYAPC's investment accounts (excluding a dedicated working capital cash account) was **\$9,629,127**. At the end of the year, the investment portfolio was allocated between stocks (61.9%), bonds (35.6%), and cash and cash equivalents (2.5%). For the year, the portfolio had a net investment loss of (\$363,925). The members of the committee for 2018 were Hal Hiemstra, Tom Dunlap, Karin Lohman, James Spearman, and Karl Hoffman (Chair).

During the year, in reaction to the stingy interest rates being provided by our broker on our cash, we instructed our advisor to purchase short-term treasury bonds (maturing in less than a year), to provide better yields while still 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 2018, 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.

<i>As of Dec. 31, 2018</i>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>Incept</b>
<b>NYAPC Equity Acct</b>	<b>-6.08%</b>	<b>3.07%</b>	<b>4.27%</b>	<b>6.14%</b>
KLD 400 Social Index	-5.26%	7.08%	6.09%	5.45%
S&P 500 Index	-6.24%	7.04%	6.28%	5.25%

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.

<i>As of Dec. 31, 2018</i>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>Incept</b>
<b>NYAPC Bond Acct</b>	<b>0.97%</b>	<b>2.84%</b>	<b>1.96%</b>	<b>4.06%</b>
Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index	0.01%	2.06%	2.52%	4.11%

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## **Accounting Task Force**

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

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As previously reported to the congregation, 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 (ATF) 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 existing ATF members, and authorized new members currently serving on the Board of Trustees and Session, to complete the following tasks: (1) ensure the performance of the new accounting system in 2016 and address any issues and problems that arose; (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 ATF 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 ATF 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 at their monthly meetings 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 Trustees formally approved and Deacons officially endorsed the manual.

The ATF then gathered additional feedback regarding the manual and proposed an omnibus motion with changes, which all four Boards either approved or endorsed in June 2018. Final revisions to the Manual included how specific gifts, such as Metcalf, Edgington, and McAfee, may be used; a map or crosswalk of codes used in the Church’s donor and financial systems; additional definitions for specific terms, such as "whole-Church budget"; and a description of the central repository for Church financial system information, including the financial manual, on the web-based Dropbox ([https://www.dropbox.com/home/NYAPC Financial System](https://www.dropbox.com/home/NYAPC%20Financial%20System)).

In his role as Senior Accountant, Mr. Jameson has, since June 2018, maintained the official version of the manual and kept track of proposed changes to it that may be made in the future. The Task Force also further refined the monthly whole-Church and program-specific financial reports now being produced and distributed to officers and other users of financial reports throughout the Church.

The ATF provided 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 expired June 30, 2018, upon approval by the Audit Committee and auditors of this audit, and the completion of the ATF’s third task: the initial training in the accounting system and financial manual in spring 2018—training we anticipate will be ongoing with ever-changing Church and program leadership.

It has been an honor for all of us on the ATF to serve the Church in this way. We trust that the work we have accomplished has been to the glory of God and the future of God's Church on this corner of Washington, DC.

Accounting Task Force Members: For 2014-2018: John H. Quinn, Jr., John Schultheis, Michael Smith, Edith Holmes Snyder, and James Spearman. For 2016-2018: John Davies and Karl Hoffman. For 2017-2018: Will Ashworth. For 2016-2017: Laura E. Asiala.



Ex officio: Lance Jameson, Senior Accountant (2017-2018), the Rev. Alice Rose Tewell (August 2016-2018), and Janet L. Maheras, Accounting Manager (2015-2017). From Your Part-Time Controller: Harriett Cutshall (2014-2018), Daniel J. Ianni (January-May 2015), Melinda J. McGlohon (June 2015-December 2016), Robert L. McMurtry (December 2016-April 2018, and Rosalyn Unalivia (May-August 2018).

## Reports of Special Activities

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### Cuba Partners Committee

*Marilyn J. Seiber, Coordinator*

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The Cuba Partners Committee had an active year of hosting Cuban visitors, traveling to Cuba, attending Cuba Partners Network meetings, and participating in church-wide activities representing the Cuba partnership. We were also thrilled with the installation on January 14, 2018 of First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana's new pastor, Rev. Liudmila Hernández.

On January 16-18, 2018, the Vice Moderator of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, Dr. Reinerio Arce, and the President of the Cuban Council of Churches, Rev. Joel Dopico, came to Washington, D.C. for a one-day lobbying effort with Members of Congress and the State Department. The program and visit were sponsored by the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, the Washington Office on Latin America, the Latin American Working Group, and Church World Services. The visitors stayed with Marilyn Seiber and had appointments with four Members of Congress (including Senator Jeff Flake) and two State Department offices.

In August, Carmina Blasco, First Havana's organizer and guide for partner visitors, as well as the accountant for the Synod of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, visited Washington, D.C. and NYAPC where she led "Time with Children" and gave greetings from First Havana during the worship service. The Committee hosted a reception following the worship service where Carmina gave a presentation on news from First Havana and Cuba.

An NYAPC delegation along with members from two NCP Presbyterian churches visited First Havana on March 19-26, 2018 for Palm Sunday week when we met Rev. Hernández for the first time. We presented her with a stole made by Susan Tilt who had made stoles for Revs. Gench and Méndez. As a surprise and at the same time on Palm Sunday, the Cuba Partners Committee presented a matching stole to Rev. Alice Tewell. For this trip, Aryn Myers organized the fourth annual donation drive that filled 19 suitcases with medicines and clothing. Katherine Leiden led an Action Team Program, linking with the donation drive that garnered \$250 for a First Havana program.

Marilyn Seiber accompanied an Ecumenical Advocacy Group organized by PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and hosted by the Cuban Council of Churches on September 21-27, 2018. The purpose was to focus on the increasing need for church advocacy on behalf of Cuban church partners and the Cuban people that would encourage better U.S. policies toward Cuba. The group again met in Washington, D.C. in October to plan next steps for advocacy.

The PCIUSA) Cuba Partners Network convened its annual meetings in Leesburg, FL on October 24-27, 2018. Anne Laroche, Betsy Merritt, and Marilyn Seiber represented NYAPC. Marilyn and Catherine Gordon of the Office of Public Witness gave two workshops on advocacy that included background on why advocacy should be incorporated into partnership activities and how to do it. The Network established an Advocacy Task Force on which Anne, Betsy, and Marilyn are serving.

In December, members of the Cuba Partners Committee participated in the Alternative Christmas Gifts program as well as staffed tables for Iraq and Syria Presbyterian Churches.

The next NYAPC trip to Cuba will be for Easter, April 15-22, 2018, and 24 people are scheduled to participate including members and an Associate Pastor from Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

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### **Triangle Park Committee**

*Marilyn Seiber, Courtney Spearman, and Barry Tindall*

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The Triangle Park Committee had a relatively quiet year with several ad hoc cleanups. Barry Tindall and Bob Braxton planted over 100 daffodil bulbs in the fall for spring blooming. The Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) continues to coordinate with the National Park Service (NPS) on regular trash pickup five times a week as well as general maintenance. The BID or NPS has provided mulch for the park and cleaned it in preparation for the Sunrise Easter service. Also, BID with the DC government has worked on rat control and eradication, with modest success. Barry Tindall stays in touch with NPS when specific needs arise for park maintenance.

The opening of the Downtown Day Services Center in February 2019 is expected to have an impact on park use, which may lead to a different approach to management and maintenance. The Center, which will be operated by the BID in the church's Park Level, will draw a larger crowd of people experiencing homelessness or seeking social services who may use the park more frequently. The need for a ramp connecting the sidewalk to the park for wheelchair-bound patrons may become more acute with the increase in Center traffic.

The committee remains hopeful that decorative edging for the plant beds adjacent to the front of the church will be installed, but financing remains a challenge. Similarly, the two tree wells on the H Street side of the church need black, iron edging similar to those farther down the street. The tree wells on the New York Avenue side are either in disrepair or are missing grate coverings. These wells also require a redesign and/or edging, all of which are costly. The committee hopes that these outdoor capital expenditures might occur as the church capital campaign and improvements proceed.

## Reports of the Clusters

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### Christian Learning Cluster

*Kristin Ford, Chair*

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2018 was a busy and faith-filled year for the Christian Education program at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Our adult education courses continue to be a vital part of our congregation's spiritual growth, with several dozen members (and sometimes 50 or more people) attending. We had a number of classes in early Spring 2018 and a follow-up in Fall 2018 of the "Raising and Mentoring Justice-Seeking Kids" course, including classes on consumerism by Rev. Emily Peck McClain, racial equality with Elder Therese Taylor Stinson, LGBTQI inclusion with More Light Presbyterian's Alex McNeill and Jess Cook (sibling to NYAPC member Courtney Spearman), and a class with NYAPC Parish Associate Rev. Matthew Schlageter on supporting differently abled children and those diagnosed with serious illnesses. We also discussed the noteworthy book *Raising White Kids: Bringing up Children in a Racially Unjust America* with Kristin Ford, as well as parenting in the #MeToo era with Rev. Tewell.

Paul Dornan, Tom Dunlap and Gwenn Gebhard taught a wonderful poetry class for Advent, Phil Bolles led classes on the Confessions, and Rev. Gench led a Lenten study. A class by McClendon Scholar-in-Residence Ellen Davis was well-received and the Cluster is embarking on an even closer partnership with the McClendon Scholar in Residence program going forward.

We also offered classes to learn more about the new Downtown Day Outreach Center on NYAPC's Park Level to serve homeless guests and the church's Vision and Strategic Planning Task Force. Finally, classes on NYAPC's history are a perennial favorite, with standing-room only for Paul Dornan's class on "The Transformation of a Downtown Congregation: The New York Avenue Church in the 50s and 60s" as a highlight, along with Theo Brown's class on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy at NYAPC. The Gathered in Prayer class also continues to meet each Sunday.

Our children and youth Sunday School program continues to grow each year and uses Holy Moly curriculum, with approximately 50 children and youth participating.

Rev. Tewell and the Christian Learning Cluster spearheaded a move of Sunday school classrooms to accommodate the exciting new Downtown Day Outreach Center on the Park Level of the church building. As part of the move to the fifth floor, Gathering Time with children, youth, parents, and teachers is now held in Peter Marshall Hall and we kicked off the new school year in the new space with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, enjoyed by NYAPC members of all ages.

In July, several NYAPC middle schoolers traveled to the Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, accompanied by Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders Helen Anthony and Sarah McGinnis.

NYAPC member Annabel Rotchford also completed her confirmation process with a wonderful project tying together her statement of faith with a mural she and several classmates painted at her school.

On June 10, the children and youth led worship (a fantastic and joy-filled service!) and the Christian Learning Cluster hosted a celebratory coffee hour after the service to honor all the children and youth and thank our Sunday school teachers and nursery caregivers. In December, dozens of children and youth participated in our Christmas pageant in a new Christmas carol-centric format, ably led once again by Molly Johnson, and featuring a once-in-a-lifetime cameo by Rev. Gench as the angel Gabriel.

Parents continue to gather in fellowship following the family gathering time, with the space shifted to the alcove in Peter Marshall Hall. The “Littles” group, organized by Rev. Tewell, meets occasionally for parents of children 5 and under, offering fellowship and a chance to share the challenges and joys of parenting. Karen Dunlap and Rev. Tewell continue to lead Worship Play for elementary school-aged children at both worship services, joined by a cadre of dedicated volunteers. The nursery was relocated to the third floor as part of the move to prepare for the Downtown Day Center and the new nursery location seems to be liked by parents, children, and caregivers alike. A special thanks to Paul Dornan for painting the walls in the new space!

NYAPC’s two children’s choirs, one for the lower elementary school ages and one for older children, continue to flourish. The choirs are coordinated by Molly Johnson and Hillary Webster and directed by new choral associate Taisha Estrada, who brings great enthusiasm and talent!

The Christian Learning Cluster is grateful for the leadership of both Revs. Gench and Tewell and the flexibility of the congregation as locations and formats shift. We look forward to following the Holy Spirit into 2019 as we deepen our relationship with God and one another.

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## **Sizoo Library**

*Thomas Dunlap, Librarian*

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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 catalog of the Sizoo Library is on the NYAPC website. That file can be downloaded, and one may search it by author, title, date or subject headings. Anyone who wants to can have an electronic copy of the Sizoo 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) in MSWord format will be downloaded to your computer as a PDF file.

In 2019 the library plans to continue to develop the collection to make it more useful to the NYAPC congregation. Volunteers are always welcome, especially someone to help members find books after the 11:00 am service. Suggestions for new books are always welcome.

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

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## McClendon Scholar in Residence Program

*Theo Brown, Executive Director*

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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 2018, we conducted six separate programs and had attendance at our events of more than a thousand people. Three of those programs were part of a spring series commemorating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death. Here is a summary of the programs we sponsored:

- **April 28: "Understanding Dr. King's Message for Today"** -- This program featured Pulitzer Prize winner Taylor Branch and opened our series of programs on Dr. King's legacy. About 125 people attended.
- **May 19: "Lessons from Richard Allen and Martin Luther King"** -- This program was co-sponsored with Metropolitan AME Church and held in their Frederick Douglass Hall. Rev. Stephen Green from New Jersey spoke about the similarities in the ministries of Allen and King and a panel discussion followed which included the Rev. William Lamar and the Rev. Roger Gench. About 150 people attended the program and actively participated in the discussions that followed
- **June 9: "Embracing Dr. King's Message for Today"** -- Rep. Raphael Warnock, pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, spoke in Peter Marshall Hall to about 150 people. He emphasized specific things we can do to follow Dr. King in today's society.
- **September 25: "Dismantling Racism One Conversation at a Time"** -- This three-hour workshop led by Dr. David Campt provided the 75 people who attended with specific skills they can use to have more effective conversations with "racism skeptics."
- **October 20-21: "Prophetic Possibilities for Contemporary Ministry"** -- Professor Ellen Davis of Duke Divinity School was with us for the entire weekend and made four presentations where she spoke to a total of about 200 people. She also preached at both Sunday services.
- **November 27: "How Can Christians Help Bridge the Partisan Divide?"** -- Senator Chris Coons was the featured speaker and four Christian leaders who have diverse political views joined him for a panel discussion. The program was attended by about 200 people and also received significant television and newspaper coverage.

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. In particular, work that began after previous McClendon Scholars talked about the needs of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals expanded significantly during the year. A core group of NYAPC members are now involved in regular work with returning citizens and NYAPC also organized a new citywide Returning Citizens Assistance Network that is now composed of more than a dozen congregations.

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.

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## History and Archives Committees

*Len Shabman History and Archives Programs Coordinator*

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**Tour Guide Program.** The committee recruits and then schedules leaders for the tours offered following all regular worship services. 2018 saw new tour guides join our ranks. During 2018, as is the case each year, there were several specialized tours offered to out-of-town groups. Those who take the tour want to learn about not only church history, but also about the congregation today, making the tour a part of NYAPC evangelism.

**Archives.** One of the major projects undertaken during 2018 involved reviewing all of the records housed in the church archives and removing all of the photographs so that they can be stored together. This will make it easier to locate images that will be needed for displays and other projects. We often receive requests for information about births, deaths, membership, and baptisms, but one rather unique request was handled in 2018. An 82-year-old retired police officer remembered being part of a choir that sang at the church each Father's Day in the early 1960s. This choir was part of the Police Protestant Society and was directed by Steve Prussing, the church's music director from 1950 through 1988. We were able to provide copies of worship service bulletins from the years he was a member of the choir, which sang at a special 8:00 am worship service that was held in addition to the church's usual services at 9:30 am and 11:00 am.

**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 an interview with Steve and Miriam Dewhurst in the March newsletter. Plans for interviews in 2019 include Revs. Roger and Frances Gench and other long-time NYAPC members.

**New Activities.** Members of the committee met in small groups throughout 2018. Most of the attention has been on archival preservation and identification of letters, photos and physical artifacts that can tell the NYAPC story. These will be used in reorganizing displays in the Lincoln Parlor, JQA and Docherty Center/Sizoo Library, to allow for more attention to the Sizoo and Marshall era and to

the period after 1950 to the present. The committee is poised to move forward to create new displays, as well as update the history content on the website.

**NYAPC Lincoln Legacy.** *February 12:* The church participated in laying the wreath at the annual Lincoln Birthday celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. By tradition, Hildene, the Robert Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, Vermont, has requested that the church represent them. *April 16:* DC Emancipation Day was honored with a joint program offered by the church, the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia and the DC Black History Committee. John Elliff, president of the Lincoln Group, presented a paper on the relationship between Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. John O'Brien, of the church history committee, presented on how early-19th century DC was a laboratory for social innovation, where downtown churches and leading black citizens helped in making emancipation possible as early as 1862. Charles Hicks of the DC Black History Committee arranged for the music program and described the relationship of emancipation to the present movement supporting DC Statehood. The Artists Group Chorale of Washington under the direction of Mr. Kelvin Page, presented African American spiritual music. *June 26:* John O'Brien is elected president of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia. *July 19:* History Committee participated in a Congressional Reception sponsored by the Illinois Society and the Lincoln Group to propose that a room in the Capitol once informally used as a lounge by Congressman Abraham Lincoln be permanently designated as such in his honor. The House of Representatives approved this bi-partisan resolution. *August 20:* Church hosted the funeral of Dr. John T. Elliff, noted Lincoln scholar and past president of the Lincoln Group of DC. Many expressed satisfaction that Dr. Elliff had been honored in the church that he had long appreciated for its association with the 16th president. *August 30:* John O'Brien's article "Seeking God's Will: President Lincoln and Rev. Dr. Gurley," is published in the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/i/jala>. *November 18:* Sunday Adult Education featured a presentation on the life of Pastor Phineas Gurley and his relationship with President Lincoln. Arrangements were made for flowers to be placed at his grave stone in Glenwood Cemetery. His funeral procession was described as the longest in the history of the District to that time. *December:* The Bible presented by Elder William Ballantyne and inscribed with the date of the first service held in the completed New York Avenue Presbyterian Church was identified for display in the Lincoln Parlor.

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## Congregational Life Cluster

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The committees reporting below are part of the Congregational Life Cluster

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## Worship and Music

*Don Campbell, Chair*

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**Liturgists:** Raleigh, North Carolina, resident and NYAPC member Mark Zaineddin continued to coordinate the church liturgist schedule through a web-based scheduling program in 2018. This has continued to be a successful way to schedule liturgists, and we have enjoyed the contributions of many members in this role. Anyone who is interested in reading liturgy who has not done so recently is invited to contact Mark.

**Dance:** The Dance Ministry led by Kathryn Sparks continued in its fourth year throughout 2018. Kathryn led embodied prayer in worship in many services throughout the year, and, accompanied by others, offered dance as part of worship on three additional occasions.

**Communion:** Communion continues to be served by four elders on the chancel steps at both worship services on the first Sunday of each month. Elders currently on and off Session have participated in the serving schedules. This year we implemented a new web-based volunteer scheduling process, allowing active and resting elders to sign up in advance for services during which they wish to serve. This has worked well, and we will continue this method in 2019.

**Worship Services:** Services were held at 8:45 am and 11:00 am throughout most of the year. The Session approved a 10:00 am single-service worship time from May 27 through September 2, resuming the 8:45 am and 11:00 am schedule after that, a single 11:00 am service on October 14 (Church Retreat weekend), and again a single 10:00 am service on December 16 (Christmas Pageant), December 23, and December 30.

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.

Thanks to all the 2018 committee members: Fred Dann, Yongo Ding, Stacey Gagosian, and Kathryn Sparks, under the guidance of the Rev. Roger Gench and Rev. Alice Tewell; special thanks to all those who supported the committee's work in 2018.

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## Dance Ministry

*Kathryn Sparks*

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### 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 at New York Avenue during 2018 (All dance listed was offered in both services unless otherwise stated):

**Sundays, March 4 - 25:** 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.

**Thursday, March 29:** Kathryn and Sarah Hoffman danced on Maundy Thursday.

**Sundays April 22 - May 6:** Kathryn led a Sunday school class on Embodied Prayer. Sarah Hoffman offered helpful feedback in planning.



**Sunday, May 20:** Kathryn danced a processional with dove kite and led the congregation in *Spirit of the Living God* as embodied prayer.

**Sundays, September 9 - 30:** Kathryn and Beth Clark led embodied prayer (*Lord, When I Came into this Life*) in worship following the passing of the peace.

**Sunday, November 11:** Micah 6:6-8 was proclaimed through Dance in worship. Dancers participating were: Frances Gench, Dawn Hiemstra, Sarah Hoffman, Cathleen Lauer and Kathryn Sparks.

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*

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In 2018, the Evangelism Committee worked to tell members and visitors about the love of God and how that love is manifested through NYAPC and its members. We are grateful for the efforts of all church members to make NYAPC a welcoming place for new visitors, travelers, and new and current members.

The committee shepherded 21 people into New York Avenue membership. The vast majority of people who joined the church within the past few years fall in the “young adult” demographic. In an era when overall church attendance is declining, many souls continue to fill the pews every Sunday morning, and for that we give thanks.

The committee also continued its work on several communications-related initiatives. In August, the committee held a communications retreat, which focused mainly on the church website. Many opportunities for improvement were identified, and some “quick win” changes have already been made.

The committee continued its initiative to update the 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). One brochure has already been printed, and several more should be printed within the next month or two.

During discussions about content for the brochures, the committee started to grapple the issue of the use of photos in church publications and individual privacy. The committee discussed how some people may not want their or their children's pictures included in church marketing materials. The committee also discussed whether special consideration may be warranted for use of photos of vulnerable populations served by the church, particularly the homeless and mentally ill. The committee reviewed other churches' photo privacy policies and identified several that seem to strike a good balance between the use of photos showing church life and privacy. The Committee is in the process of drafting a NYAPC photo privacy policy that will be submitted to the Session for review.

During the summer, the committee met with videographers about the possibility of producing a short informational video about the church. Though there are a number of exciting avenues that could be pursued, the committee decided to table this project until later due to other competing priorities, such as the brochure project. Also, with Rev. Gench's recent announcement of his intention to retire, it may be desirable to keep this initiative on hold until a new senior pastor is installed.

Looking toward 2019, the committee will continue to shepherd new members into the congregation and continue working on various communications initiatives. Lastly, the committee will be under new leadership. Karin Lohman is stepping down as chair because she will be rotating off of Session.

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## **Nurture and Fellowship Committee**

*Meg Hanna House, Chair*

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In 2018, the Nurture Committee continued to provide opportunities for members to connect and get to know one another. As in past years, 2018 included coordinating church retreats, Dinners for Nine, special lunches, intergenerational Congregational Sundays, and coffee hour. Thank you especially to Karen Dunlap and Cathy and John Schultheis for getting coffee each week and to the many others who contribute goodies to make sure we can offer fellowship and hospitality each Sunday.

Our 2018 schedule included the following events:

- February 11 – “Shrove Sunday” Pancake Lunch
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
- March 24 – March for Our Lives Open House with Evangelism
- March 29 – Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
- April 1 – Easter Breakfast
- May 5 – Women’s Retreat led by Frances Gench
- May 20 – Congregational Sunday with the Accounting Task Force
- July 22 – Summer Social Potluck
- September 30 - Congregational Sunday with Stewardship and the Vision/Strategy Task Force
- October 13-14 – All Church Retreat

We also developed a “How to Get Engaged” flyer that was inserted into the bulletin and into new member packets, and we updated the Small Group tab of the website.

Nurturing happens, of course, without any committee planning, whether it is saying hello to someone you don’t know well, taking part in a small group, or reaching out to a broader group. And each year, we are grateful to Miriam Dewhurst for continuing to solicit and publish devotions for Advent and Lent and to the small team that coordinates mailing college care packages each December—important activities that take place without any planning by the committee itself!

2019 promises to be full of opportunities to nurture as our congregation moves through the transition of Roger Gench’s retirement, adopts a Strategic Plan, and continues to respond to the results of the Church Assessment Tool Survey conducted in 2017. The year will include many familiar activities; in addition, we are looking at adding a new initiative, tentatively titled “Faith on Tap 2.0,” a series of gatherings on various topics throughout the year modeled on the Young Adults’ Faith on Tap series.

We welcome anyone interested in being a part of our committee. We meet the third Wednesday of each month (except for July), alternating in-person and phone meetings. You may join to help with one activity, or several, depending on your interests and desires.

The committee includes Melanie Dann, Miriam Dewhurst, Karen Dunlap, Paul Gebhard, Meg House, Molly Johnson, Carrie Reasonover, Cathy Schultheis, Mary Spatz, Courtney Spearman, Hillary Webster and Associate Pastor Alice Tewell.

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## **Funds Development Cluster**

*Will Ashworth, Chair*

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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:

1. 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.
2. Coordinate the various financial committees and activities of NYAPC in cooperation with the church accounting staff.
3. Provide guidance and oversight to the work of the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.
4. 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.
5. Serve as a conduit of information, direction, and requests to our respective groups.

2018 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 of 2017. 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 periodically (once every quarter or so, sometimes more frequently as necessary) by conference call. In 2018, in addition to addressing planned-giving and stewardship issues, the Cluster continued its 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. Among other things, we had a walkthrough of the church with a professional event planner, which generated some additional ideas for building-related income, and had a meeting with folks from the Presbyterian Foundation regarding stewardship and fundraising issues. The Cluster hopes to build on those efforts and make recommendations to the Session related to them in 2019, after we have a chance to get a sense of how the Downtown BID services center is impacting the use of the building. The Cluster is also working on a Memorial Fund Policy that it expects to present to the Accounting Task Force and ultimately the Session in early 2019.

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

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## Finance Committee

*Brian Dewhurst, Chair*

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**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 Joint Boards of the church, for Session's approval.

### 2018 Results:

*Operating budget:* Preliminary, unaudited accounting results indicate that operating expenses in 2018 totaled \$1.76 million, compared to a budget of \$1.75 million.<sup>1</sup> While the budget was not

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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.

precisely adhered to at a detailed level, the alignment of the budgeted total with actual expenditures in an encouraging sign that the work of the Accounting Task Force has raised awareness of the church's finances among those who lead programs for the church. This is an important step in the effort to establish a more sustainable financial footing for the church,

Operating income (excluding bequests) totaled approximately \$1.09 million in 2018 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1.01 million.<sup>2</sup> The downturn in the stock market in December left the church's investment portfolio with a loss for the year, but those losses were offset by substantial increases in non-pledge contributions and building use revenue. In accordance with the church's endowment spending policy, an additional \$210,000 in investment income was made available support the operating budget.<sup>3</sup> The remaining gap between operating expenses and income (approximately \$460,000) was covered by further drawing upon the church's financial assets, including both unrestricted investments and earmarked program funds.

*Bequests:* The church did not book any bequests in 2018.

*Capital Expenses and Capital Campaign Payments:* Separate from the operating budget, the church budgeted \$200,000 for capital improvements in 2018 and spent approximately \$72,000. Engaging with the Downtown BID caused a change in plans for the year.

The church received approximately \$211,000 in Capital Campaign payments in 2018. This income will be used to reduce the line of credit balance, which stood at \$1,085,602 as of December 31, 2018.

## **2019 Budget:**

*Operating budget:* The 2019 budget includes both operating and capital components. The operating budget this year is \$2,369,266, which includes \$232,000 of depreciation expenses. Excluding depreciation, the budgeted expense total of \$2,137,266 is about \$308,000 higher than actual expenses for 2018.<sup>4</sup>

Income is expected to be significantly larger than 2018. As of February 6, 2019, General Stewardship pledges totaled \$673,301. Total budgeted income (excluding bequests and investments) is \$1,333,014 for 2019. An additional \$244,608 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 ~\$559,000) will be covered by further drawing on the church's unrestricted investments, earmarked program funds and bequests.

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<sup>2</sup> Sources of income included approximately \$550,000 in regular budget giving, \$208,000 in other individual contributions and plate offerings, \$130,000 in directed program contributions, special offerings and per capita contributions, \$270,000 in building use income, and \$51,500 in trust receipts. Total does not include receipts of approximately \$210,000 associated with the Capital Campaign, which are directed to reduce the debt associated with the church's line of credit.

<sup>3</sup> Reflects a 5% drawdown of a 5-year moving average of the underlying funds

<sup>4</sup> The budget was completed prior to the Senior Pastor announcing his impending retirement. The impact of the retirement on the church's budget is not clear at this time.

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

- Increasing the budgeted building use revenue to account for new tenants:
  - Downtown Day Center (\$180,000 in rent, plus \$36,000 in reimbursement for Park Level HVAC expenses)
  - Kingdom Life Ministries (\$21,600)
  - Capital Clubhouse (\$30,000)
- Increasing the budget for the church's Sunday Parking to \$12,420 from \$7,800 in 2018, to better reflect actual expenses.
- Increased Personnel expenses, including:
  - Providing a salary increase of 2.5% to church staff
  - Shifting David Smoot and Evelyn McMillan from hourly to salaried employees; and
  - Hiring an additional custodian.

*Capital Expenses and Capital Campaign:* The budget's capital component was developed in consultation with the Trustees. This component authorizes \$214,000 in non-operating expenses to pay for improvements to the church's capital assets. The budget also authorizes the addition of the cost of the Park Level HVAC replacement (~\$700,000) to the church's Line of Credit.

**Acknowledgements:** Committee members in 2018 included David Brown (Deacons), John Davies and Brian Dewhurst (Session), Sarah McGinnis (Diaconal Ministers), and Karl Hoffman (Trustees). Lance Jameson served on the committee in his role as Accounting Manager. 2018 was John Davies final year serving on Session and as co-chair of the Finance Committee. The Committee greatly appreciates his dedicated efforts and leadership in managing the finances of the church.

**For Additional Information:** The 2019 church budget is available online via the church's Financial Dropbox. To be added to the Dropbox, contact Lance Jameson. Audited 2018 financial statements will also be made available through the office once they are completed.

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## Stewardship Committee

*Helen Anthony, Chair*

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*Jesus said: "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." -- Matthew 6:19-21*

Throughout the 2019 Stewardship Campaign, we highlighted different missions and groups at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church that benefit from our annual giving. Utilizing the Moment for Mission time in the service, we were reminded of the reasons we feel connected to the community at New York Avenue, and why we are passionate about our church. You can find them all here (<https://nyapcseekinggodblog.wordpress.com/category/stewardship/>).

To date, we have received pledges of **\$665,982**, an increase of approximately \$68,000 from 2018, and we continue to receive pledges as members are able to indicate their contributions. We are grateful to those who have already pledged this year, and encourage those who have not yet taken the opportunity to record their commitment for 2019 to consider doing so in the coming weeks.

2019 pledges have been made by **147** giving units, with 57 increasing their pledge from 2018 giving and 40 new pledging units. For those giving units that pledged in 2018 and 2019, overall pledges increased **9.7%**.

Many thanks to Lance Jameson, Senior Accountant, Jasmine Prout, Church Administrator, and Cheria McMillian, Office Associate, for their invaluable administrative support without which we could not have accomplished an increase in pledges for 2019. More thanks to the invaluable members of the Stewardship Committee, John O'Brien, Craig Berry, Cathy Schultheis, and Marth Davis for their support of new ideas and contributions to the 2019 campaign work. A final thanks to those who helped write thank you notes during the campaign, Megan Janicki, Gwenn Gebhard, Laura Brouse-Long, Hillary Webster, and Karen Dunlap.

In 2019, the committee hopes to involve Stewardship more often into our church life, not just in the fall.

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### **Capital Campaign – Vision 2020**

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

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The Vision 2020 Capital Appeal team continued the process of winding down the campaign, working to bring in all outstanding pledges as gifts. This work will continue through May 31, 2019. If you have yet to fulfill your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. If your circumstances have changed, we certainly understand and please let us know that as well so we can have a full accounting of pledges. Thank you to the congregation for its generous support - raising \$1.7 million in pledges - which sustains our worship life and ministries by sustaining our building. If you have questions about your pledge, please contact our church accountant Lance Jameson ([lance.jameson@nyapc.org](mailto:lance.jameson@nyapc.org), 202-393-3700), and us ([dcgillies@verizon.net](mailto:dcgillies@verizon.net), 571.221.7805) with questions about the Vision 2020 campaign.

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### **Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts**

*Catherine E. Schultheis*

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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 whose report can be found elsewhere in this report. Our job is to inform members and friends of the stewardship opportunities available as each of us lives our daily life and of legacy opportunities for the future. We celebrated Legacy Sunday in

May, exploring legacy planning and how this act of faith affects our daily spiritual journeys. We celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 4, 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 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 will keep this program before the congregation on a quarterly basis in 2019 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.

It was a privilege and joy to participate in the 3-day annual Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference in St. Louis. This conference is planned by and for pastors, lay leaders, judicatory staff and anyone who is looking to learn more about stewardship in today's church. Two of its major sponsors are the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The conference was based on Romans 12:2, transforming the face of generosity. 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 NYAPC Funds Development Cluster and, if requested, with the Stewardship Committee and the Vision 2020 Campaign.

During 2018, over \$257,016 in bequests were received by the church. We have been advised of other planned gifts to be received in 2019, including a special gift for renovating the first floor bathrooms. 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*

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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 4th. 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.

From 2008 until the close of 2018, NYAPC has received bequests totaling \$7,031,576. This sum includes the following 2018 receipts: \$100,518 from the estate of William (Bill) McAfee (final total from the McAfee bequest amounted to \$1,350,518); \$19,403 from the estate of F. Lucille Cady; \$132,095 from the estate of David S. Brown, and \$5,000 from the estate of Mary Ellen Lucas. The church has also been notified of an additional substantial sum due from the estate of David S. Brown. As of December 31, 2018, those proceeds had yet to be received.

As the 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's 2018 membership included Carol Casperson, Melanie Dann, James Martin, Brian Schimming, Cathy Schultheis, John Schultheis, and Edith Snyder.

For additional information concerning planned giving activities in 2018, please refer to the report of the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.

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## **Administrative Cluster**

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The committees reporting below are part of the Administrative Cluster

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## **Columbarium Committee**

*John Schultheis, Chair*

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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, loved ones of members, and people with ties to the congregation. The Columbarium offers a loving and Christian shelter of earthly remains, which is both financially and environmentally beneficial. When the ashes are immured (placed in the niche), a short service similar to a graveside ceremony is held in the Lincoln Chapel following a memorial service held in the sanctuary, the Chapel or elsewhere. To date, subscribers have qualified for and reserved nearly 15% of the 288 niches.

A memorial tablet alternative is available for those 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 Saints. Names and dates of birth and death are inscribed on nameplates which are affixed to memorial tablets located in the Lincoln Chapel.

For more detailed information about the Columbarium services or to obtain a prospective subscribers application packet, please contact John Schultheis (301/622-3149 or thenyapc@yahoo.com).

The Columbarium Committee (the 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.

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**Personnel Committee**

*Brian Schimming, Chair*

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Staffing changes included hiring Gerald Thompkins as a part-time sexton/custodian on August 15, and hiring Inoka Pulukuttige as a nursery worker on May 9.

The Personnel Committee members in 2018 were: Brian Schimming – Chair (Session), Matthew Wieseler (Trustees), Caroline White (Trustees), Melissa Jane Taylor, (Session), Cindy Dickinson (Deacons) and Doug Norwood (Deacons). Church staff who participated with the committee were the Rev. Alice Tewell, Jasmine Jowers Prout, and the Rev. Roger Gench.

## **Reports of Community Outreach Programs**

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**McClendon Center**

*Dennis Hobb, Executive Director*

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Throughout the year, McClendon Center served 4,537 District residents with mental illness. This number represents continued growth in services offered by the Center (3,180 served in 2017). 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 225 individuals during the year, with an average attendance of 76. This number includes about ten individuals who are deaf and require interpreting services. Staff have also been trained to provide group therapy for clients with challenging developmental disorders. Though the city's Department of Behavioral Health has planned a reduction in our reimbursement rate, this has not yet taken place.

At the Core Services Agency, 1,200 people were served in the past year. 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 are screening hundreds of recently discharged patients each month. Additionally, the Center has added an additional Care Manager to the five already 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 tenth year of this partnership. There are also two masters level social work interns from the University of Maryland.

There are four therapists at Counseling at Dupont, where we serve clients seeking psychotherapy services. 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 2018. 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 May 2, 2019.

Please contact me any time to visit any of our locations, especially our Day Program which operates every day in Peter Marshall Hall.

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### **New York Avenue Educational Foundation**

*Brian Schimming, Chair*

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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 each and 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 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 to support our work. Donors may also donate through the Amazon Smile program.

The foundation has a long-standing relationship with the Community Club, which brings DC public high school students together with concerned local professionals for one-on-one tutoring and mentoring throughout the school year. In 2018, the Foundation provided commitments of \$41,000 in grants to Community Club.

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

The current Board members are Brian Schimming (Chair), Cindy Dickinson (Secretary), Miriam Dewhurst (Treasurer), Amy Gillies, Tom Karr, Anne Laroche, Molly Lauer, 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 for her work designing and creating the foundation's website ([www.nyaef.org](http://www.nyaef.org)), Tom Karr for his work running Community Club and maintaining the CFC donation program and Miriam Dewhurst for all her hard work as Treasurer and role as organizational and managerial core – the foundation's foundation.

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

*John Schultheis, Board Member*

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The Ingleside Service Board is dedicated to serving the needs of the residents of our local Presbyterian retirement community located at 3050 Military Road, NW. We are grateful to other NYAPC members, staff and friends for participation in Sunday chapel services (clergy, Dan Stokes and Chess Campbell with organ and piano accompaniment and several NYA vocal soloists) and for all who contributed to our major fundraising effort at the Board's 112th Annual "Silver Tea" and Gala held in the spring. Donations given for this event are used to support residents whose financial means no longer fully support their entire cost of living at Ingleside.

NYAPC members who served the Board in 2018 included John Schultheis (Treasurer), Bernice McIntyre (Chair, Faith Matters Advisory Committee), Jim Davidson (who with John Schultheis is co-chair of the annual Christmas Party Committee for the residents) and Marcia Kozub (pianist).

Members of the Service Board and 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 Ingleside residents and staff, Ingleside is colorfully transformed. The Board hosted its festive Christmas party which featured entertainment by a choir from the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church. Board members baked cookies, transported residents in wheelchairs from the Health Center to the party room and served food and socialized with the residents. The Christmas carol singing by residents, Ingleside at Rock Creek staff and Ingleside Service Board members concluded the party.

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 that started in early 2017 and is now nearing completion. The Center for Healthy Living is expected to be ready for operation by June of 2019. The remainder of the new facilities are to be ready for occupancy starting in January 2020. The NYAPC Service Board members will keep you informed of how this major effort is progressing.

## Reports of Fellowship Groups

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### Presbyterian Women

*Barbara Dornan, Administrative Liaison*

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Presbyterian Women of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church are affiliated with the national organization of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our purpose is to nurture faith, support missions, work for justice and peace, and build community. Currently, Barbara Dornan serves as Administrative Liaison and Lenora Thierry serves as Financial Administrator. In Circle meetings held at member's homes on the first Tuesday of each month, we join together for lunch, and in Bible study to deepen our faith and understanding of God's will for our lives.

This September we began a study titled, *God's Promise, I Am With You*. It was written by Amy Poling Sutherlun. 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.

The past spring we were invited to a Turkish Mosque in Fairfax to partake of a meal during the month of Ramadan. We learned a little about Ramadan and then were given a tour of the Mosque. After sunset, we were able to observe a service in the Mosque and then shared in a wonderful meal. There were about 100 in attendance. During the meal we learned more about the Muslim faith, their experiences in our area, and were made to feel so very welcome.

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 \$1,800 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, and the least coin offering.

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

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### Biblio Divina

*Miriam E. Dewhurst*

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The Biblio Divinia Group generally meets on the first and third 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 2018, the group read *Theologia Crucis* by Robert Cady Saler, *In Search of Paul: How Jesus' Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom* by John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* by Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell, and

began *Falling Upwards* by Richard Rohr. Continuing the effort begun last year to display non-white images in the sanctuary, Martha Davis had two banners of Biblical scenes created to hang in the sanctuary during Lent, and two others for Ordinary Time.

*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.

*In Search of Paul* examines the Roman Empire that Paul lived in and confronted as he spread the Gospel. John Dominic Crossan is a former priest and a Biblical scholar. Jonathan L. Reed teaches New Testament and Christian Origins and is a leading authority on first-century Palestinian archeology. Together they take the reader on a tour of first-century sites in the regions Paul visited, showing how Rome put its stamp on all the corners of its empire, and shedding new light on Paul's rebellious message.

*American Grace* surveys religion in the U.S. in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as it emerges from the shocks and aftershocks of the last half of the last century. Putnam and Campbell have done detailed analyses of surveys and intersperse their findings with accounts of their visits to particular church communities across the country. They provide a generally hopeful view of the state of religion in America and of its future.

In *Falling Upwards*, Father Richard Rohr offers a new paradigm for understanding how our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. In the first half of life we are naturally and appropriately preoccupied with establishing our identity – climbing, achieving and performing. But those concerns will not serve us as we grow older and begin to embark on a further journey: a journey of how the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves of life are actually stepping stones to the spiritual joys that the second half of life has in store for us.

The group sponsored two silent retreats at the church during the year and plans to sponsor others in 2019, including one scheduled for March 16. These retreats take place on Saturday mornings from 9:00am -12:30pm, 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. 2018 participants included the Rev. Gench, Martha Davis, Marilyn Seiber, Tom Dunlap, Miriam Dewhurst and Steve Dewhurst, Ann Bradley, Eric Slaughter, and Cathleen and Jonathan Lauer.

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## Young Adults

*Helen Anthony*

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In 2018 the Young Adults continued to grow at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Through the year YAs hosted eight Faith on Tap discussions and various social events. We partnered with the McClendon Scholar in Residence program to host a Faith on Tap led by Dr. Ellen Davis when she

visited New York Avenue in October. These allowed us to continue to grow our friendships and delve further into our faith.

Alice Tewell, Roger Gench, Frances Taylor Gench, and Emily Rhodes Hunter strongly support the YAs in whatever capacity is needed, whether that be opening their homes for Faith on Tap or other social events, or helping lead a discussion. 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 Helen Anthony serves as the point of contact for anyone who is interested in learning more about or joining the YA group.

## **Memorial and Scholarship Funds**

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

*Paul B. Dornan*

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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." At her memorial service, the Reverend Jack McClendon characterized Virginia as a generative person, who built up, nurtured, nourished every person she met. Dave Brown, her great friend and co-founder of Community Club, shared that wonderful generative quality.

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 last year.

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 Cochran-Brown Fund enjoys a balance of \$136,284 as of the end of December 2018.

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### **Community Club College Scholarship Fund**

*Shamika Bradley and Tom Karr, Community Club Co-Directors*

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The year 2018 was another active one for the Community Club scholarship fund. The fund gives two types of scholarships; stay-in-school scholarships for high school students and partial scholarships for college students.

Stay-in-school scholarships are given monthly to current Community Club high schools students who maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and regular attendance and good behavior at Community Club, with the amount increasing by grade and attendance. The amounts range from \$12.50 (for ninth graders) to \$25.00 (for seniors) for each week attended during the month. In 2018, Community Club gave over \$18,000 to nearly 60 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 2018, Community Club gave over \$45,000 to 59 Community Club collegians, aided by grants of \$7,500 and \$8,000 from generous donors. Scholarship amounts ranged from \$300 to \$700 per semester, with amounts varying by GPA and by overall scholarship funds allocated for that semester.

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### **Kathryn Heath Memorial Scholarship Fund**

*Mary Spatz, Chair*

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Dr. Kathryn G. Heath, a member of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church 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 140 scholarships, ranging from \$200 to \$3,000, 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 \$14,500 from the earnings of the Heath bequest for scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year to the following women:

Katherine Tirado	Montserrat College of Art	\$2,000
Samia Tallafero	North Carolina Central	\$2,000
Epiphany Washington	University of the District of Columbia	\$2,000
Robin Williams	Virginia Commonwealth University	\$3,000
Mozique Howard	North Carolina Central University	\$3,000
Jennifer Dail	University of the District of Columbia	\$1,000
Rathi Ramakrishman	Anne Arundel Community College	\$1,500

Members of the scholarship committee in 2018 were: Mary Spatz (Chair), Anna Davidson, Stacey Gagosian, Amy Gillespie and Molly Smith.

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### **Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund**

*Paul Dornan*

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The Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund was established eleven 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 do not replace the regular Community Club College Scholarships but are intended to supplement them. So far, more than \$91,000 of Upperclassman Scholarship funding has been awarded to worthy students.

As of December 2018, 39 of our college students have received Upperclassman Scholarships over the eleven years of their existence. All but three of the students will have graduated [Five from Trinity University [Washington]; three from North Carolina A&T and Norfolk State; two each from Virginia Commonwealth, Howard, Bennett, Maryland and Temple University and one apiece from Benedict, Cheyney State, Tuskegee, Grinnell, Lafayette, Morgan State, North Carolina Wesleyan, Virginia State, Princeton, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, Southern Mississippi, Wisconsin, Georgetown and

Rhode Island College] by the winter of 2018. The remaining three students will graduate in spring 2019.

The Upperclassman Scholarship requires applicants to maintain at least 12 credits per term in the year for which they 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. And, 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 to be considered; those submissions are reviewed by a three-person committee of Community Club leaders. In May 2018, ten students, Ashley Briscoe (Art Institute of Washington), Khufu Edwards (West Virginia), Kimkia Hunter (Full Sail University), Isohe Irabor (Howard), Kate Letsa (Norfolk State), Jordan Washington (Trinity Washington), Maya Young (Norfolk State), Samitra Harrington (Maryland), Myracle Weeks (Delaware State) and Emmanuel Thomas (Georgetown) received Upperclassmen Scholarships totaling \$16,000. At the end of 2018, approximately \$47,661 was 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.

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### **Elmer L. Hanson Testamentary Trust**

*Douglas House, Fund Trustee*

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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 2018, the Trust provided funds of \$6,000 to support the Young Adult Volunteer position. At the close of 2018, the assets of the Trust were approximately \$188,823.

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### **Metcalf-Edgington Trust Funds**

*Molly Johnson, Treasurer of Session*

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The generosity of William P. Metcalf and Frank Edgington continue 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 certain trust funds. Dr. 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: the Rev. Alice Rose Tewell, as designated by the Session Moderator, the Treasurer of Session, Molly Johnson, and the Clerk of Session, Miriam Dewhurst.

The committee also reviewed requests during the budgeting process 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 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.

In 2018, the Benevolence and Metcalf-Edgington Funds supported more than \$39,175 in total financial assistance toward primarily medical and necessary living expenses. All funds are gifts, and repayment is not expected. All requests and expenditures remain confidential.

## 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](http://www.nyapc.org)