The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
Washington, DC

Annual Reports for 2019
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General Information

Statistical Report for 2019

Baptisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant/Child</td>
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Changes in Membership

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<tr>
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<td>Gains: By Reaffirmation of Faith</td>
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Losses:

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<tr>
<td>Losses: By Adjustment to the Active Roll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Removed from Active Membership Roll</td>
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<td>Affiliate Membership</td>
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Net Changes in Membership

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Church Membership: December 31, 2018</td>
<td>447</td>
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<td>Affiliate Membership: December 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Membership: December 31, 2019</td>
<td>446</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliate Membership: December 31, 2019</td>
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Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Heather G. Shortlidge  Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Alice Rose Tewell  Associate Pastor/Deputy Head of Staff

The Rev. Beth Braxton  Parish Associate
The Rev. Ann Rose Davie  Parish Associate
The Rev. John T. Mathison  Parish Associate
The Rev. Matthew Schlageter  Parish Associate

Jasmine Jowers Prout  Church Administrator
Lance Jameson  Church Senior Accountant

David Smoot  Building Superintendent
Raymond Newman  Sexton/Custodian
Marcus Johnson  Sexton/Custodian

Evelyn McMillan  Food Services Manager and Front Desk Receptionist

Mary Newman  Front Desk Receptionist
Robin Williams  Front Desk Receptionist

Stanley P. Engebretson  Director of Music
Taisha Estrada  Choral Associate
Whitney McColley  Choral Associate
Manuel J. Melendez  Choral Associate
Nathan Moon  Choral Associate
Jenete St. Clair  Choral Associate

Afaf Adam  Nursery Staff
Aster Wolde  Nursery Staff
Jada Hendrix  Nursery Staff

Theo Brown  Director of McClendon Scholar in Residence Program

Catherine Schultheis  Director of Planned Giving

Kathryn Sparks  Director of Liturgical Dance
Board Members Elected to Serve in 2020

Session

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

Class of 2021
Laura Brousse-Long
Don Campbell
Brian Dewhurst
Kathryn Doan
David Gillies
Meg House
Marie Meka

Class of 2022
Adlai Amor
Miriam Dewhurst
Kristin Ford
Brent Ling
Meg Neill

Board of Deacons

Class of 2020
Martha Davis
Elizabeth Merritt
Douglas Norwood
Marsha Renwanz
John Yoder

Class of 2021
Tracy Branding
Morgan Brown
Anne Laroche
Sam Obermyer
Olivia Singelmann
Barry Tindall

Class of 2022
Mary Nell Clark
Karen George
Megan Janicki
Daniel Stokes

Board of Diaconal Ministers

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

Class of 2021
Gwenn Gebhard
Beth Law
Margaret Myers
Zack Parsons
Eric Slaughter
Vacancy
Vacancy

Class of 2022
Diane Douglas
Spence Gibbins
Bernice McIntyre
John Schultheis
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

Board of Trustees

Class of 2020
Ross Coe
James Spearman
Matthew Webster

Class of 2021
Craig Berry
Tom Dunlap
Karl Hoffman

Class of 2022
Hal Hiemstra
Aryn Myers
Edie Snyder
The Rev. Dr. Heather G. Shortlidge  
_Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff_

Rev. Dr. Heather Grace Schorlidge began her ministry as Transitional Pastor at NYAPC on September 17, 2019. Her role as Transitional Pastor is to help the church through a period of discernment and change as it searches for and calls the next Senior Pastor. Her words as she began her ministry at NYAPC were: “I want to hear your stories. Our time together will be brief, so I want to begin developing relationships right away. It is my job to keep things humming in worship, Christian education, and mission programs while helping you think about what is next for the church. I am confident that, with God’s help, we will figure this out together.”

Rev. Shortlidge’s primary responsibilities include preaching, moderating the Session, pastoral care and administration (boards, budgets, building and staff). She immediately began establishing relationships with the church staff and leadership, and with the McClendon Center and the BID Day Services Center, as well as with the Washington Interfaith Network. Challenges presented themselves almost at once, from security issues to breakdowns of equipment. Rev. Shortlidge worked with the Session and the Trustees on these matters.

Rev. Shortlidge has found NYAPC to be a high commitment place, with people investing a lot of themselves in the church’s ministries, especially the volunteers. A lot of time and energy are spent in keeping the church running. She has found Rev. Tewell to be a great colleague in ministry.

The Rev. Alice Rose Tewell  
_Associate Pastor/Deputy Head of Staff_

2019 was a year of growth, transitions, and discernment for The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and for me personally in my fifth total year as Associate Pastor and since 2016, serving in the role of Deputy Head of Staff, a role I took on during the last few years of Pastor Roger J. Gench’s ministry. In February of 2019, Senior Pastor Roger J. Gench announced his retirement planned for June 2, 2019, an announcement that was met by support from the congregation as well as support from me. After his announcement, the next five months was spent with him preparing to say goodbye and in my role helping the church say goodbye to him. As I reflected at his retirement celebration, from Roger I received my post-seminary theology education. With weekly conversations and an encouragement to read broadly, he helped broaden my theological legs giving me confidence to authentically share the grace of our Christian faith in worship, teaching and conversations.

From June to mid-September, I served as the Acting Pastor while the Personnel Committee, which I staffed, searched for a Transitional Pastor. During this season especially, I experienced growth as a leader of worship and of spiritual formation. Leaning towards almost 10 years of ordained ministry, I preached more frequently up to about three fifths of the time from June - December. Preaching more regularly has helped me find a better cycle to my reflection, research, writing, and delivery process with some intensive Biblical study, followed by extensive time reflecting on the passage using
books, nature, and the people of the church and surrounding communities as conversation partners. Representing the Session, I was able to invite many gifted preachers and leaders of worship both from the NYAPC and from the PCUSA community including Will Ashworth (NYAPC), Rev. Beth Braxton (NYAPC), Rev Anne Davie (NYAPC), Ms. Toyko (Darlyene) Direkston (The Downtown Day Services Center), Rev. Jess Cook (More Light Presbyterians), Miriam Dewhurst (NYAPC), Rev. Liumilda Hernandez (First Reformed Church of Havana), Rev. Jimmie Hawkins (Presbyterian Office of Public Witness), Meg House (NYAPC), Rev. Matthew Schlageter (Children’s Hospital and NYAPC), and Rev. Jessica Tate (NEXT Church). During this period as Acting Pastor, Eric Slaughter, a Diaconal Minister and licensed counselor along with Rev. Beth Braxton, Parish Associate, Miriam Dewhurst, the Clerk of Session, the Diaconal Ministers as a body, and the Nurture Committee were so important to helping our members feel cared for.

I helped the Personnel Committee navigate the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and conduct the process of searching for a Transitional Pastor to guide the church into what is next. In late September, Transitional Pastor Heather Shortlidge began at the church launching in right away to the full and complicated transitional work. Never have I seen such a hard working pastor! This work has often been hard: it has been hard to see a new way, hard to look into a mirror and see clearly, and hard to let go of something old to make room for new life to grow. There has been grief, which sometimes has come with anger, sometimes sadness, and sometimes outright confusion. I hear the words ringing in my head from the Apostle Paul — dying and rising again in Christ. Sometimes it has felt as though we are in that Holy Saturday territory, deep within the wounds. But as people who have seen and believe in the resurrection of God and God’s resurrection of our own lives, we are a people of abiding faith. We are in the process of letting go of things we no longer need so that we might participate in resurrection, the process of being born anew so that we might live abundantly and serve as a church called to support and challenge one another. In the hard work of staying present, firm, and filled with the hope of the Holy Spirit, I am so thankful for the leadership and spiritual guidance of personnel chair, Brian Schimming, a constant, committed, and unflappable supporter of the church staff and pastors.

As we are constantly being transformed, we are also being called into new possibilities. I think of this as my own call and job description with NYAPC. In 2014, I came to the church with the generalist Associate Pastor position with a focus on family ministry (and I’m so glad that that focus has remained!). In 2016, my job expanded to stretch beyond the call of a generalist Associate Pastor position taking on the pastoral staffing role for the Personnel Committee and for the Trustees. In 2019, learning more into that role, I started a newly formed course and cohort offered at Princeton Theological Seminary called Iron Sharpening Iron, a certificate program, providing executive training and coaching to female clergy within the first decade of ordained ministry. For continuing education, I also participated in the NEXT conference in Seattle as well as was a fellow for the Engle Institute for Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. I’m at the season of life where I am assessing the knowledge I bring and seeing where I can strengthen my ministry skills so I can be a more effective pastor.

The opening of the Downtown Day Services Center was one of my greatest joys in 2019. Though there are challenges, it is so good to see NYAPC open to so many people streaming through the doors each day receiving lunch, laundry, and social services. It is my hope that The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church would continue to be and lean even further into being a place of safety and
welcome for all who come through the doors. For the Center to come into being, I am so grateful for
the work of Rebecca Davis, President of the Board of Trustees, who gave thousands of hours of
professional time, along with Ross Coe, Courtney Spearman, and the Center Advisory Group. Church
Administrator Jasmine Jowers Prout formed relationships with the Blue Sky Construction and
Business Improvement District (BID) Senior Staff, especially essential when issues arose for each
person to see each other not just as a person across the table but also a person to be respected and
valued. Lance Jameson, the Senior Accountant, took on the extra role of tracking for all of the often
complicated bills and invoices.

David Smoot, our Building Superintendent, leading Raymond Newman, Delante Buchannan and
Gerald Thompkins, also took on more responsibility in the last year following up on the final stages of
construction of the Center as well as the punch-list and then leading or assisting the work on new
building maintenance and construction projects. The custodial staff along with the building
committee of the Trustees led by Tom Dunlap deserve our continued gratitude. The front desk staff,
Evelyn McMillan, Mary Newman, and Robin Williams have seen their jobs shift and transform with
greater front area traffic, a greater load managing interactions between groups, and being required
to learn new systems. I have been so impressed by their resiliency and well as insight. Cheria
McMillan, who was the Office Associate through December when her position was cut due to
budgetary reasons, helped provide a valued eye and ear to the Center operations, especially their
effect on church staff, members and other tenants. Together, members, staff and pastors (Gench,
Shortlidge and Tewell) worked together to also share the vision of the church to do justice, to treat all
with kindness and mercy and to walk humbly with God.

In December of 2019, after 18 months of continuous work and discernment, we finished Vision 2025
including the credo, vision, mission statement, core values and goals to be lived into for the next five
years. I am especially drawn to the intersectional nature of our stated core values: foundational
worship, radical hospitality, nurturing community, prophetic witness and joyful stewardship. Each
core value is lived out in every ministry of the church life from worship on Sundays, to young adult
faith formation, to ministry in and around the Radcliffe Room. As a church where each ministry has
often been siloed from each other, our core values remind and challenge us to rely on and to
embrace the deep connections within the church. I am thankful for the work of the group, and
especially for Meg House to rising up as the leader deeply gifted in the work of listening and asking
good questions.

The Stewardship campaign so ably and enthusiastically led by Helen Anthony and Laura Brouse-Long
integrated the work of the Vision and Strategy to help build up a more wholistic vision of the church.
Helen helped drive home the very important lesson that every person should be celebrated, loved,
and shown gratitude for showing up and investing as a member of the church. Thank YOU, Helen for
investing so much of your time inspiring and strengthening the church.

Time spent in pastoral ministry for the congregation continues to be what brings me the most joy and
fulfillment. The times I have been able to lead the newly formed Faith Talks have helped me know
more deeply your questions. The times with the Young Adult group have brought insight into the joys
and heartaches of being a young professional in such a busy but often lonely place as Washington DC.
The monthly Presbyterian Women’s group has helped me hear the pulse of the congregation.
Community Club has connected me to the deep commitment of the community for the youth who come here for tutoring.

I have also been so honored when you have called me to hospital rooms and other places of heartache and pain. I appreciate your trust especially in this year to lead-officiate over more memorial services than I have had before as one of your pastors. It was an honor to officiate at the memorial services of Peggy Evans, Rev. Dr. Gary Campbell, Elaine Foster, Amy Gillespie and Nancy Dickinson. Walking alongside Amy Gillespie and her family during the last weeks of her life was probably the single most profound experience of my ordained ministry. I was blown away by Amy’s sense of purpose and intention as well as the overflow of support and love that she received from the congregation. You cared deeply for her.

Children’s, Youth, and Family ministry at the church continues to bring me the most joy, where I feel the most ease, and where I believe I can be the most creative. The families that attend the church are so fiercely committed to attending and participating on a far higher levels that other churches (as determined by the Church Assessment Tool). Our Sunday school teachers from PreK to Adult, our volunteer youth group leaders (shout out to Helen Anthony and Sarah McGinnis!), Choir leaders, along with the Christian Learning Cluster are committed to sharing the love of God, the witness of Jesus Christ, and the Holy action and breath of the Spirit. The partnership between McClendon Scholar in Residence and Christian Learning Cluster led by Kristin Ford to bring in Dr. Rev. Jennifer Harvey was deeply illuminating and challenging to our conversations on raising children and how to show up and listen as allies against racism. I loved hosting many of the families and some of the youth at our home for Saturday night conversation, loved especially that the kids were outside enjoying a water-slide bounce house while Dr. Harvey challenged and guided the parents, teachers and youth inside. It was where fun and theology meet. It was a gift this year from Pastor Heather to lead the Saturday morning portion of the All Church Retreat leaving me time to focus on hands-on theology with the kids and youth. Karen Dunlap, Hillary Webster and I led the flock in making communion bread by hand participating in the ancient sacred ritual of making the bread of life for all to share. The feast at the end of the holy meal with tiny hands dipping in chunks of bread into dripping honey was the kingdom of God on earth. It is a vision that carries me through the joy, the complications, and the hope of 2020!

Stanley P. Engebretson

Director of Music

The Sanctuary Choir enjoys providing music from various traditions that serve the varied interests of our congregation. Music selections include arrangements of traditional anthems of the Presbyterian tradition, balanced by new pieces from contemporary composers or arrangements of spirituals and music from our folk idioms.

The NYA Youth Choir that originated under Molly Wagner continues to grow, augmented by leadership from Taisha Estrada leading the youth music program that now includes an additional choir for the younger singers. The services led by these worship leaders were highlights of the year.
both in the spring and in the annual Christmas pageant, complete with little sheep running amok, a congregational favorite!

We are blessed to have J. David Brown in our congregation who led a fine string ensemble from the Fairfax Symphony in excerpts from Messiah presented during Lent. Brass and organ were featured twice last year at Easter and again at Christmas, presenting Daniel Pinkham’s Christmas Cantata with guest brass led by Adam McColley. Special instrumentalists for Christmas included Mary and Jack Anderson on flutes, David Clark and Stephen Dunlap on saxophones, and our choirs performing multiple services. Our flute choir continues to flourish under the leadership of Beth Law and Mary Anderson with up to 8-9 flutes playing in ensemble music several times throughout the year.

A special event was Roger Gench’s retirement celebration that included the choir’s premiere of “Hello People!” sung to the tune of Hello Dolly at his reception in Peter Marshall Hall. It was a great event celebrating the many years of Roger’s leadership as our senior pastor. He is missed but we know he will find many rewards in his “encore” career!

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 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, Jenete St. Clair, Taisha Estrada, Manuel Melendez, and Nathan Moon all help guide music in addition to their active professional engagements throughout the area. Taisha leads the youth choir program but will be joined by Jenete St. Clair in spring 2020 as the youth prepare their first musical, Godspell Jr. This is an exciting new undertaking to be presented during the annual Youth Service on May 31.

Additional soloists included the vocal and instrumental talents of Meg Neill, Meg House, Martha Davis, Beth Law, Tamara Saltman, Manuel Melendez, Eric Slaughter, Nathan Moon, David Williams, and others.

We are grateful to Daniel Stokes for his amazing talents of playing organ for services, weddings, and memorials while also leading the Bell Choir. His care for the music program in so many ways is all sincerely appreciated!

The Organ and Keyboard Instruments

Our A. E. Schlueter pipe organ is now nine years old, going on ten, and unfortunately was attacked by a large mold growth as you all know from past years. The need for humidity and temperature levels in the sanctuary to maintain good working order for this instrument is critical, as the wood in any organ is always sensitive in terms of tuning and its ability to function properly (simply, humidity makes wood swell up, and the organ mechanism will stop working when the humidity is high – such as in the sanctuary in summer when the air conditioning was not working and humidity in the room was 80%! We could run our hands across the wooden case and come up with wet fingers, it was so bad). We will continue to explore stop-gap solutions but the real answer is to fix the AC and heat in the sanctuary. It’s not a cheap solution, but anything less than that will only add to the organ’s and
the sanctuary’s problems. It’s not only the organ that is at stake but also the comfort of the congregation, as attending a summer service in 80% humidity with 80 degree temperatures doesn’t make anyone comfortable!

Our pianos and harpsichord are under the expert care of James Davis, who maintains the 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 newer grand piano to serve as the keyboard instrument for memorial services and other events.

From the Director

So, last year, I wrote that I was beginning my 29th year and I remember writing – where did the time go? OMG – (to quote a phrase), we are now in my 30th year! What excitement, really! It was a great blessing for me to receive the call to come to NYA in January 1991, which has become such an important part of my life. I am eternally grateful to be with you, and I always appreciate our music and worship together!

Reports of the Elected Boards

The Session

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

The following persons were members of the Session in 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2019</th>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helen Anthony</td>
<td>Taylor Allison</td>
<td>Laura Brouse-Long</td>
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<td>Fred Dann</td>
<td>Will Ashworth</td>
<td>Don Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miriam Dewhurst</td>
<td>Paul Dornan</td>
<td>Brian Dewhurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Ford</td>
<td>Tyler Feret</td>
<td>Kathryn Doan</td>
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<td>Molly Johnson</td>
<td>Erica Morgan</td>
<td>David Gillies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Schimming</td>
<td>Melissa Jane Taylor</td>
<td>Margaret House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward Walrod</td>
<td>Marie Meka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Members of Session also serve as Commissioners to National Capital Presbytery.
2019 has been a year of significant changes including Rev. Gench’s retirement, Rev. Shortlidge’s arrival, and the opening of the Downtown BID Day Services Center. Significant Session actions in 2019 include:

- Authorizing the Personnel Committee to conduct the search for a transitional pastor and subsequently hiring Rev. Heather G. Shortlidge for that position.
- Authorizing Fred Dann and Doug House to review the kitchen’s operations and make recommendations about its future.
- Approving the recommendations of the Vision/Strategic Planning group, which developed a credo, vision statement and mission statement, identified five core values of the church, and set three goals for the Session to work on over the next year or two.
- Approving the 2020 budget, which involved some reductions including the painful step of eliminating the Office Assistant position.
- Approving a Photo Policy. Photos of congregational members help to bring the church’s message to life, offering a window into the vitality and friendliness of the community. The challenge is how to respect the privacy rights and concerns of members and protect the safety of children pictured as we use individual and group photos to convey who we are in various print and electronic media.
- Granting permission to Showing Up for Racial Justice to make the church their headquarters during an Alt-Right rally at Freedom Square. The group is dedicated to non-violence.
- Recommending to the congregation changes to the church’s bylaws, reducing the number of Deacons to twelve and the number of Session members to fifteen.

Continuing security issues related to the presence of the BID day services center occupied the Session’s attention at most of its meetings during the year. Both pastors, church staff members and several volunteers have spent many, many hours on these issues.

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 sharing responses to questions posed by the pastors – e.g., What is the most meaningful conversation you have had this month?

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

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**National Capital Presbytery Commissioners**

*Miriam Dewhurst, Elder Commissioner*

NYAPC is a member of the National Capital Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which is the 8th largest of the 172 Presbyteries in the denomination and is comprised of 104 congregations with 27,000 members located in DC and five adjacent counties each in Maryland and Virginia at the close of 2019. NCP calls Stated Meetings five or six times a year (all held at National Presbyterian Church in 2019) 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
• Campus 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. Meetings are attended by minister members, including those Honorably Retired, and by Elder Commissioners elected by their Sessions. At any given meeting, the number of ministers and elders is supposed to be equal. Each church in the Presbytery is entitled to send two Elder Commissioners plus one or more (depending on the size of the church). New York Avenue is usually allotted three Elder Commissioners.

Since June 2019, it has been my privilege to serve as Moderator of the Presbytery. The Moderator has essentially three functions: to moderate Presbytery meetings, to participate in the ordination/installation of pastors, and to represent the Presbytery as needed. The Moderator serves a three-year term on the Presbytery’s Leadership Council: one year as Vice Moderator, one year as Moderator and one year as past Moderator. The Council has a Chair and Vice-Chair and several other members, all of whom are elected to the Council at Presbytery meetings. The Council functions something like a Session: receiving reports from the various commissions and committees of the Presbytery; dealing with various issues as they arise, including closing churches and supporting new worshiping communities; and, with the Finance Committee, preparing an operating and a mission budget. The Council makes recommendations, but approval of the budgets and decisions about churches, among other things, are the prerogative of the Presbytery assembled. Elder Michael Rankin of Church of the Redeemer was elected in 2019 to serve as Vice-Moderator.

The Presbytery also has a staff, which provides leadership to the Presbytery and also facilitates the work of the commissions and committees. In 2019, Rev. John Molina-Moore was installed as General Presbyter and Elder Sara Coe was re-elected as Stated Clerk.

In 2019, the Unity Presbyterian Church, in Prince George’s County, made the difficult decision to close. The sadness of this action was tempered by the Presbytery’s decision to make Unity’s building available to the Prince George’s Community Church, a Presbyterian church that had been meeting in a local high school.

One of the Presbytery’s main functions is to serve its member churches. Support occurs in a variety of ways. The Church Assessment Tool survey that NYA took a couple of years ago, was made possible by the Presbytery, which paid part of the cost and provided someone to interpret the results. NYA
has applied for and received grants from the Presbytery, most recently receiving a $5,000 global mission grant to fund a library in Njoro, Kenya.

Serving the Presbytery in 2019 were three Elder Commissioners – Miriam Dewhurst, Dan Stokes and Edward Walrod. In addition, Rev. Alice Tewell served on the Church Development Committee. Dan Stokes chaired the Session Records Committee; Karl Hoffman chaired the Investment Committee; and Paul Dornan served on the Commission on Ministry.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was involved in a process in 2019 of reviewing board sizes and responsibilities. This began as part of the work of the Strategic Visioning team, was accelerated by transitional pastor Rev. Heather Shortlidge, and resulted in the Session voting to reduce the Session from 21 to 15 Elders and the Deacons from 21 to 12 members. A review of the appropriate size for the Board of Trustees and Diaconal Ministers will continue in 2020. After much consideration, it is believed that fewer members will allow the boards to address their work while allowing more time for people to either contribute to church committees and other activities or simply take a break and recharge for board or other service in future years. Beginning this year with the Class of 2022, the Session will have five-member classes and the Deacons will have four-member classes.

The Chair appreciates the dedicated efforts of the Committee, consisting of Miriam Dewhurst representing the Session, Matthew Ford representing the Deacons, Sarah McGinnis representing the Diaconal Ministers, Caroline White representing the Trustees and Adam McColley, Jeff Moore, Catherine Cannon, John Quinn, Cathy Schultheis, and Len Shabman representing the congregation at large.

The Nominating Committee looks forward to an eventful 2020, with a Pastor Nominating Committee expected to be called.

The following individuals were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1, held on December 22, 2019:

**Board of Deacons: Class of 2022**
Mary Nell Clark, Karen George, Megan Janicki, and Daniel Stokes

**Diaconal Ministers: Class of 2022**
Diane Douglas, Spencer Gibbins, Berniece McIntyre, and John Schultheis
Work continues to complete the slate in this class, there are currently three vacancies.

**The Session: Class of 2022**
Miriam Dewhurst, Kristin Ford, and Meg Neill
(Adlai Amor and Brent Ling were elected as Elders to the Class of 2022 at the Congregational Meeting held on January 12, 2020).
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 2019, 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 2019 Benevolence Committee consisted of Betsy Merritt, Olivia Singelmann, Rev. Alice Rose Tewell, and the Session Treasurer as Chair.

The following people were members of the Board of Deacons in 2019:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2019</th>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. David Brown</td>
<td>Matthew Asada</td>
<td>Tracy Branding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Nell Clark</td>
<td>Martha Davis</td>
<td>Morgan Brown</td>
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<td>Matthew Ford</td>
<td>Lauren Gillies</td>
<td>Anna Laroche</td>
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<td>Karen George</td>
<td>Betsy Merritt</td>
<td>Sam Obermyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Gillespie</td>
<td>Doug Norwood</td>
<td>Olivia Singelmann</td>
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Below are some highlights of the activities of 2019:

- **Self-Reflection and Transition:** In the summer of 2019, we gathered informally to get to know each other better and brainstorm and discuss our vision for the future of the Board of Deacons. One step that came out of that retreat and subsequent conversations in 2019 was a vote to reduce our size from 21 to 12, which the congregation supported through an official amendment to our bylaws.

- **Honoring and Mourning Amy Gillespie:** Deacon Amy Gillespie received the Community Club’s Award for Community Service, in recognition of her devotion and many contributions to Community Club, one of the core missions overseen by the Board of Deacons. Together we mourned Amy’s death and are grateful for having had the opportunity to serve with her and for her many contributions to the Board of Deacons and NYAPC. She is greatly missed.

- **Expanding Our Community Outreach:** The Deacons reinstituted the Deacons’ discretionary grant program at a modest level to allow the Deacons to give one-time support to some innovative initiative outside NYAPC.

- **Continuing to support and guide NYAPC’s outreach, social education, and action ministries with navigating their budgetary objectives and needs:** 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 principals to its budget recommendation to the Session for those ministries.

- **Completing 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. Through this initiative, the Deacons were able to continue to improve access to large print bulletins and liaised with the Evangelism committee to create new friendship pads which are more environmentally and user friendly.

- **Ushering and inviting the congregation to join us in serving as Ushers:** The Deacons continued our efforts to encourage the congregation to join in taking on ownership of the role of ushering during our regular Sunday and holiday services, a change that was voted on by the Board of Deacons at the end of 2017. Recruitment of additional ushers has been slow, but we are hopeful new volunteers will grow in number, particularly given the reduced size of the board.

- **Participating in conversations regarding the Downtown Day Center:** Martha Davis and Anne Laroche served on the Downtown Day Center Coordinating Committee and acted as conduits 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. The Deacons look forward to their role in helping implement the plan in 2020.
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 7:00pm to 9:00pm (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. Currently, we are serving fewer in-patients due to St. Elizabeths’s security requirements, which limit the number of individuals who may leave the institution's grounds. We continue to welcome as many as possible. 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. This year we even had a live skate board demonstration! 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. “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.

As we look forward to celebrating our 41st year we are grateful to our volunteers who 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.

This year two faithful and long serving volunteers, Spence Gibbins and Brit Walker, retired from 7-2-9. We are grateful for their service and their loss points out an urgent need for more volunteers. A volunteer staff of six to eight is ideal, so currently we are two or three short each week. Volunteering
for 7-2-9 is a pleasant and rewarding experience and does not require an onerous commitment of
time. 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.

Community Club
Shamika Bradley and Tom Karr, Co-Directors

2019 was a year of continued achievement and transition 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.

Tom Karr was elected to another two-year term as co-director in Spring 2019, continuing to work
with Shamika Bradley (who is also a former student) 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. In the first half of 2019, the seniors and their class leaders (Ariella Viehe and Tara Graham)
were assisted by our dear departed colleague Amy Gillespie in their college preparation and
application activities. David Balan leads our Math and Science Zone, which provides additional help
to students in those subjects, and Laura Krapsho leads the work with our current college students.
We were also ably assisted by Young Adult Volunteer Kasey Kelly (in 2018-19).

Following graduation of a large senior class, enrollment in the program had dropped substantially,
but has risen back to 85 paired students, and continues to grow. They are supported by 110 active
volunteers (including tutors, class leaders, librarians, food servers, etc). Roughly ten percent of our
volunteers are church members. Community Club continues to recruit new tutors, through Craigslist,
VolunteerMatch.com, referrals by tutors, and promotion of the program by NYAPC. Over 45 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 2018-19 school year, 44 of the students in the program received
these stipends. Club alumni who are enrolled in college with good grades are eligible for semi-annual
stipends from Community Club. In 2018-19, 59 such alumni and alumnae received stipends, totaling
over $47,500 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 five Posse Scholars (full tuition),
two DC Achievers Scholars ($5,000/semester), two Gates Millennial Scholar (full ride), two
Trachtenberg Scholars (full ride to GWU), two Georgetown University Community Scholars (nearly full
ride) and three New Futures Scholars ($1,950 per semester for associate degree programs). In
addition, in spring 2019 four 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 or fall
2019 nine 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 2019, along with a picnic in April 2019, and outings to the National Arboretum, the National Portrait Gallery, and a Washington Wizards basketball game. 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 25 collegians - and a well-attended graduation ceremony in May.

To help fund its activities and the scholarships it provided in 2019, the club received several large donations, including continued major support from the New York Avenue Educational Foundation, three large ($7,500-$10,000) grants from generous individual donors, along with several contributions in memory of Amy Gillespie and a contribution from Bloomberg LP (on behalf of a Bloomberg employee who is a veteran tutor). The club’s website, www.communityclub.org, is an excellent resource for those wishing to learn more about this program.

Radcliffe Room Ministry

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

Overview: For more than 30 years, 75-125 men and women who live on the street or in shelters have been visiting the Radcliffe Room on Sunday mornings. The RR is open to guests from 8:15 a.m. to 9:45ish a.m. and provides a space for guests and volunteers to socialize. In 2019, we have:

• Continued to live within our means, which meant halting distribution of bus tokens midyear. (We are going to try a different approach in 2020, outlined under goals below).
• Gave Christmas packages to guests including backpacks, hats, gloves, toiletries and other necessities. They were acquired with an outpouring of generosity from church members and friends of the RR.
• 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 buyer’s club pay $5
dues each week and get a card with a one-week bus pass (value $15). 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.

- And had a couple of setbacks. Our biggest one was having our beloved Barry Tindall sidelined by illness, though there is not a dish washed or a block of cream cheese sliced that we don’t think of him. He’s still very much with us in spirit. We also mourned with the rest of the church for Gary Campbell, a longtime friend to the Radcliffe Room. And a volunteer’s phone, which was being used to stream the Super Bowl at our annual party, was stolen. We replaced it, which had a minor effect on our bottom line. Our guests may have been more outraged about this than we were.

We have 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, which are 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 made better – by the work of the church staff, who treat our guests and volunteers with respect and patience. Mary Newman and David Smoot and his crew are capable and caring ambassadors for the church.

Initiatives and Goals:

- Increased involvement from members of the church and the community so every RR guest feels personally welcomed to 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.
- Take a different approach to bus token distribution by giving 80 tokens to 40 people on the first of each month instead of 40 tokens to 20 people every week in order to stay within our budget and provide year-round help. Since our budget cut a couple of years ago, we simply stopped tokens mid-year.

Radcliffe Room volunteers and friends: Tracy Branding, Beth Braxton, Bob Braxton, Morgan Brown, Chess Campbell, Carol Casperson, John Clark, Eddie Council, Rebecca Davis, David Douglass, Cindy
The Orphans and Vulnerable Children program is a ministry of the Njoro Church P.C.E.A. [Presbyterian Church of East Africa] in which NYAPC has partnered since its inception in 2007. OVC now serves 33 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 a bag of maize meal each to take home for guardians. The children experience the joy of being together. The staff and volunteers encourage them. The staff numbers six: the full time social worker Susan Wambugu; Saturday teachers: John Kuria and Josephat Kamau; two cooks: Naomi Nduta, and Mine Nyambura, and the computer teacher. The Saturday program gives support for education, with school uniforms, shoes, medical fees and necessary supplies. For those attaining high school age, the social worker and teachers help with test preparation, as well as covering school fees. In addition, the social worker provides counseling and home visits and follow-up with families.

There are ten children in primary schools and sixteen in high schools and, now, seven who are in technical colleges or university. The one student in Maasai Mara University is John Njoroge who visited here in DC in October, 2017.

The mentorship program is going well. Each of seven OVC committee members has four to five students they meet with regularly, to encourage them in their studies and to counsel with any home problems. Also Rev. Matiko is very involved with the OVC program, visiting in the homes giving spiritual encouragement. Susan Wambugu the Social Worker, now in her second year with the program, is performing well. She has a good relationship with the students and gives quarterly reports to our Njoro Steering committee.

Table Banking has been going on now for one year. The program involves training the guardians in running a small business and providing a small loan to start or boost a business. As loans are repaid, the guardians are eligible for larger loans. As Francis Muchemi, the initiator of Table Banking project along with a trainer from the Kenya Commercial Bank explains, “Table Banking is a group funding strategy where members of a particular group meet once in every month, place their savings, loan repayments and other contributions on the table or simply at the bank then borrow. This is a revolving fund strategy that grows an individual.”

Our biggest effort this year was hosting a visit of six members of the OVC program including the two students Matthew Mokua, who stayed with the Scott and Diane Douglas and their family, and Ann Njeri, who stayed with Corinne White’s family. Both attended the School Without Walls High School on the campus of George Washington University. The visiting Kenya group also visited a senior center in Alexandria, Sasha Bruce Youth Center in DC, the Capitol, Senator Sherrod Brown’s office, our own Radcliffe Room, and the Community Club. The group also went apple picking in Virginia at Stribling
Orchard, then wrapped up the visit with a few days in Richmond, VA with the Goshen International Church before leaving. In all, it was an intense and rich time together.

The NYAPC Steering Committee of this Kenya Partnership met on a regular basis throughout year 2019. Discussion focused on shared communication with the OVC Njoro committee, how the students are progressing, financial status and the future of the program. Supporting the OVC ministry amounts to slightly more than $1,000 for each student. We are grateful to the Board of Deacons which provided a very generous $19,586 in 2019, although they will be reducing that considerably in 2020 to $8,000. The Alternative Christmas Giving donors added $2,878, including one donor who gave $2,000. Additionally, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, Virginia, donated $1,251 in the summer of 2019. The Father’s Day donation and craft sale made $1,063. We sent $24,000 to Kenya for operating expenses, and another $5,000 to help defray costs of the trip to DC. With more students completing high school and going to college, university or technical school, the costs of the operating budget will go up. The continual challenge for us is how best to fund the OVC Program as well as how to fund hospitality when visitors travel here to be with us, The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. The joy of relationship and shared commitment to the 33 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 2018 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!

**Peace and Justice Committee**

The Peace and Justice Committee continued its work of providing support to organizations, churches, and individuals that promote peace and justice in our community and our world. We also provided the usual support for PC(USA) annual Special Offerings.

Locally we supported efforts to end gun violence, led by Anne Laroche and Rev. Jack Mathison, to encourage participation in monthly demonstrations in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters. Anne reported that the National Coalition to Stop Gun Violence gave an award to Rev. Jim Atwood for his work on this issue. Martha Davis and Anne have participated in meetings of WIN, Washington Inter-Faith Network, especially focusing on public housing issues in the District. Fritz von Fleckenstein worked with the Sanctuary Network of Congregations, now called Congregational Actions Network, to support refugees and immigrants in the region. Fritz continued email communications advising of issues, marches, and letter-writing needs for various issues that needed immediate attention.

Internationally Peace and Justice supports four Presbyterian churches in Iraq and Syria, works with the PC(USA) Mission Liaison Co-Worker, Rev. Elmarie Parker, and is a member of the Iraq Partnership Network with Marilyn Seiber being a member of the Steering Committee. The IPN initiated an Overture to the 2020 General Assembly on the issue of Depleted Uranium in Iraq that is a consequence of US, UK, and Iraqi bombs. The Overture seeks to have PCUSA call for the US
Government (with Iraqi Government consent) to take responsibility for analysis of effects, surveys of health problems, cleanup, and health remediation plans and support. The NYAPC Session approved the Overture and sent it to National Capital Presbytery where it will be considered and voted on in late January.

In September, Peace and Justice hosted Mission Co-Worker living in Lebanon, Rev. Elmarie Parker, Mission Liaison for Iraq, Syria, Lebanon. Rev. Parker led an NYAPC Adult Christian Education class, gave greetings to the congregation during worship services, and met with congregation members as she could. Her visits are a critical link to keeping NYAPC informed of what the issues, needs, and activities are of our sister churches in Iraq and Syria.

During the year, the Peace and Justice Committee provided funds to the National Evangelical Synod of Lebanon and Syria (NESSL) to support refugee schools in Lebanon; the Freedom Circle/Reunion; the Congregational Action Network; and the PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers for Cuba, Middle East, and Indonesia.

Among its traditional programs, Peace and Justice organized One Great Hour of Sharing, the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and training for Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day. In December, Peace & Justice organized three Sundays for the Alternative Christmas Gifts program that supports seven local and international programs and sells olive oil from Palestinian co-op farmers. The Committee continues to provide Peace Candles at the back of the sanctuary for visitors to take, and to provide Peace Candle prayers in the weekly bulletin.

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**Board of Diaconal Ministers**

*John Schultheis, President*

The following individuals were members of the Board of Diaconal Ministers during 2019:

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<tr>
<th>Class of 2019</th>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heather Choi</td>
<td>Eric Slaughter</td>
<td>Gwenn Gebhard</td>
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<td>Cindy Dickinson</td>
<td>Barbara Dornan</td>
<td>Margaret Myers</td>
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<td>Diane Douglas</td>
<td>Stacey Younger Gagosian</td>
<td>Janet Shabman</td>
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<td>Sarah McGinnis</td>
<td>John O’Brien</td>
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<td>John Schultheis</td>
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<td>Robert Savage</td>
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<td>Martha Sykora</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
<td>Pruitt Ashworth</td>
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We started the year with gratitude for the service of outgoing board president, John Schultheis. His leadership has supported the DMs in expanding their ability to support those in the congregation who are homebound or in living facilities. John has also led initiatives to enhance our holy day decorations and appearance. Most notable was the large Christmas tree that graces our front portico on Herald Square. Fortunately John is staying on the board as the treasurer for the DMS.

The board started the year with three vacancies in its approved roster of 21 members. The new president, John O’Brien, began a process of review and planning to identify potential support and
counseling needs for a broader group of our congregants, beyond our commitment to seniors. Eric Slaughter and Karen Dunlap were very helpful in relating their experiences with members who added or lost family members or change of professional or persona; life situations that could use compassionate support. The DMs have identified a need for some additional training in how to better provide emotional support. Eric has devised some training classes, along with print reference materials that are being scheduled for regular adult education on Sundays. Another objective is to identify needs among the younger members of the church and try to engage them in helping to support each other through DM program outreach. DM Beth Law has developed a form that will allow DMs to keep in contact with congregants in nursing homes and residential facilities while complying with patient privacy requirements. Gwenn Gebhard has improved the reporting process for following congregants who are actively in need of visitation.

Stacey Gagosian has led the major effort to assure that the beautiful flowers used in our services are distributed to church members who could be cheered by receiving them after services. Cindy Dickinson has been responsible for the purchase and design of our flower arrangements. She ended the year by managing our transition to a new florist.

The DMs are responsible for assuring the flowers at services, roses for new birth announcements, providing communion elements and supporting memorial services and other church events with refreshments and hosting. The largest event this year was the farewell service and departure reception for Rev. Roger Gench. All of these services were performed faithfully and well during the year.

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<th>Board of Trustees</th>
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<td><strong>Class of 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Davis</td>
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<td>Mason Hubbard</td>
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<td>Caroline White</td>
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<td>Aryn Myers *</td>
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<td><strong>Class of 2020</strong></td>
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<td>Ross Coe</td>
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<td>Tom Dunlap</td>
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<td>Jim Spearman</td>
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<td><strong>Class of 2021</strong></td>
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<td>Matt Armstrong</td>
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<td>Craig Berry</td>
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<td>Karl Hoffman</td>
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* Filled in upon Mason Hubbard’s resignation in summer 2019

The Trustees are grateful for the work of so many individuals throughout the church who have assisted in a year of many transitions for our congregation.

**Revenue and Tenant Relationships**

- **Downtown Day Services Center.** In February, after over a year of praying, thinking, planning, and construction, the Downtown Day Services Center opened in the park level. The event was well covered by DC media and included speeches by Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, Downtown Day Services Center Executive Director Neil Albert, DC Department of Homeless Services Director Laura Zeilinger, and was attended by many DC residents, NYAPC members, guests and friends. After an initial slow period, the Center now serves approximately 180 people per day with lunchtime meal service, social work services, a
health clinic, showers and laundry, a computer lab and social activities Monday through Friday, 8 to 5 PM. Center Manager Tokyo Direksten manages the Center and has become a partner to NYAPC staff. Jasmine Jowers Prout, Rev. Alice Tewell, David Smoot and all members of the front desk team have ably adjusted work flow. A small group of church members, including Ann Bradley, Beth Braxton, Paul Dornan, Martha Davis, Tyler Feret, Anne LaRoche, Eric Slaughter, Courtney Spearman, and Matt Webster, took an active role in managing initial startup issues.

- Serving a very high needs group with these services has proven a challenge. The Center has experienced several significant safety and security issues over the summer in the Triangle Park, and indoors in the last few months of the year.
- The church has negotiated heavily with the BID to ensure that it lives up to its security obligations, staffs the center at safe levels and maintains the space properly. The church will also be implementing additional security measures in the remainder of the building. Trustee Ross Coe was instrumental in continuing to provide guidance based on our contractual relationship (and the very strong contract he drafted for NYAPC’s relationship with the BID).
- Despite these challenges the Center has served thousands of people successfully and has become a welcome space for many. As the program continues to develop and grow we hope to return to additional opportunities for partnership and volunteering.

**Tenant Relationships** continued with McClendon Center, Capital Clubhouse, Downtown Cluster of Congregations, and Fabrangen for long- and short-term relationships. The relationship with the McClendon Center in particular has been strained due to the new tenants, and Trustees worked with the pastors and staff members to answer these concerns and find ways to serve McClendon, which is a large, important and long-time relationship of the church.

**Building**

- **HVAC.** Our aging HVAC system continued to keep our Building Committee on its toes. Ably led by Tom Dunlap, the Building Committee implemented several interim solutions over the summer and continued to patch components of the system as they failed, which adds to the church’s expense. Most recently the switchover to heating in the fall of 2019 required asbestos abatement in several key locations. Trustees recommissioned our engineering firm to create a narrative describing our requirements for replacement of the system. We are actively seeking estimates and timelines for a replacement system in the near future. The much more efficient, new system would deliver heating and cooling to floors 1-4, as well as to the sanctuary and organ. The Park Level and Fifth Floor have already been replaced. These estimates should come in early in the year and will require discernment on funding models.

- **Improvements.** Trustees were able to make several improvements to the building this year, including securing a new phone system for the office (with some hardware donated by the BID); new high-speed internet connectivity (thanks to the BID getting high-speed connectivity into the building); and, thanks to Courtney Spearman’s leadership, new wayfinding signs throughout the church. Other projects included a new sewage ejector, fixing the fourth-floor men’s restroom after a flood, clearing asbestos, and keeping vigilant about humidity in the sanctuary and organ, a real labor of love.
Financial

- **Audit.** As is required by NYAPC’s Line of Credit, the NYAPC audit was completed by third party Marcum (formerly Raffa) for the eighth year. Staff member Lance Jameson worked with Raffa to complete the audit successfully with only one deficiency related to how the new lease revenue was recorded. NYAPC Accounting made the correction required.

- **Line of Credit.** Treasurer Karl Hoffman continued to manage a relationship with our financial services institutions around the Line of Credit. Our first LOC, opened to facilitate the Capital Campaign, came due in May. Under Karl’s leadership, we replaced it with a new five-year LOC and a five-year term loan. This was used to pay for the Park Level HVAC and is being repaid by the BID in addition to their base rent. Karl continues to investigate financing alternatives for NYAPC’s plans and ongoing capital needs.

Trustees are grateful for the leadership of so many who served with us during the year. Thank you to the Kitchen Committee (Fred Dann and Doug House) for investigating opportunities for using that space wisely; to the Schultheises for their partnership on bequests; to the Finance Committee, including NYAPC Treasurer Trustee Karl Hoffman; Mason Hubbard for serving as Trustee Secretary, including staffing the Counters, as well as providing guidance to our outside counsel; Caroline White for serving as the Trustee representative to the Personnel and Nominating Committees; Craig Berry for serving on the Funds Development Cluster and for serving as Secretary after Mason’s departure; and Tom Dunlap, Jim Spearman, Matt Armstrong and Ross Coe for serving on the Building Committee. We are also grateful to the pastors and staff for their partnership and leadership in a year of many new roles and challenges.

NYAPC continues to be a source of growth, opportunity, and God’s peace. Blessings as we continue into 2020.

**Investment Committee**

Karl S. Hoffman, Chair

NYAPC’s investment portfolio is managed by Ariba Asset Management, which has managed the investment portfolio since April 2006. The custodian for NYAPC’s accounts is UBS. As of December 31, 2019, the total value of NYAPC’s investment accounts (excluding a dedicated working capital cash account) was $11,628,976. At the end of the year, the investment portfolio was allocated between stocks (67.5%), bonds (31.5%), and cash and cash equivalents (1.0%). For the year, the portfolio had a net investment gain of $2,129,787. The members of the Investment Committee for 2019 are Hal Hiemstra, Tom Dunlap, Karin Lohman, James Spearman, and Karl Hoffman (Chair).

In terms of performance, NYAPC’s stock portfolio performed well in 2019 slightly trailing 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>KLD 400 Social Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500 Index</td>
<td>28.88%</td>
<td>13.00%</td>
<td>9.43%</td>
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NYAPC’s fixed income portfolio is primarily comprised of short duration, investment grade bonds. This intentional, lower risk tilt in bonds 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.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Incept</th>
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<tr>
<td>NYAPC Bond Acct</td>
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<td>3.61%</td>
<td>2.89%</td>
<td>4.26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index</td>
<td>8.72%</td>
<td>4.03%</td>
<td>3.05%</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
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Reports of Special Activities

Cuba Partners Committee

Marilyn J. Seiber, Coordinator

The Cuba Partners Committee had a busy year hosting Cuban partners; visiting our partner church, First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, at Easter; attending the annual Cuba Partners Network meetings and participating through the year on its committee; and supporting First Havana’s missions through donation drives and the Alternative Christmas program.

A delegation of 22 people from five churches in National Capital Presbytery shared Easter Week with First Havana participating in beautiful and memorable Good Friday and Easter services. Three ordained pastors were on the trip, including Rev. Ann Davie, who gave Good Friday meditations during the service. Ann also provided art classes, while Susan Tilt, theological artist, offered sewing classes. Susan also created a gift Easter communion tablecloth and paraments, as well as a surprise Easter stole for Rev. Liudmila Hernández.

Anne Laroche, Betsy Merritt, and Marilyn Seiber attended the annual Cuba Partners Network meeting in New Orleans (June 19-22) that focused on Advocacy for Cuba and our partners and a new generation of Cuban church leadership. The Moderator and Vice Moderator (Rev. Hernández), of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, the President of the seminary in Matanzas, and other Cuban pastors attended. Anne, Betsy, and Marilyn are members of the Network’s Advocacy Committee and Betsy gave a presentation on “Plans for Advocacy.”

We were thrilled to host Rev. Liudmila Hernández on her first visit to NYAPC (June 27-July 5) following her participation in the Cuba Partners Network meetings. At Sunday worship she preached “Called to Unity and Moved by Love” as well as assisting Rev. Tewell with “Time with Children” and gave greetings to the congregation. Before she preached, Rev. Hernández presented Marilyn Seiber with a gift honoring her contributions to the partnership between our two congregations. The committee hosted a reception/lunch where Rev. Hernández was able to meet congregation members and give a presentation. She also toured the Downtown Services Center. Her visit included Fourth of July celebrations and being hosted by Anne Laroche and Adlai Amor for dinner and lunch, respectively.
Carmina Blasco visited NYAPC in August for the second consecutive year, meeting with, and hosted by, several NYAPC members in a variety of activities. Carmina is our translator and guide during our weeks in Havana, is an Elder at First Havana, and is the accountant for the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba. She gave greetings to the NYAPC congregation and was able to see many friends who have traveled to Cuba.

Aryn Myers led the fifth-annual donations drive and we packed 19 suitcases full of medicines, toiletries, and clothing. First Havana provides these items to members of the congregation and neighborhood. The Cuba Partners Committee participated in the annual Alternative Christmas program that is the only funding we provide to First Havana for its mission programs.

In 2020 we have a five-church delegation visiting First Havana in February. Marilyn Seiber will participate in National Capital Presbytery’s Open Space program in January with the author of a book on the history of the Presbyterian Church in Cuba and on the importance of our Cuban partnership.

Triangle Park Committee

Courtney Spearman and Marilyn Seiber

The Triangle Park (officially known as NPS Reservation 172) has had an eventful year, largely due to the opening of the Downtown Day Services Center in February 2019. The Center, which is operated by the Downtown DC Business Improvement District (BID) in the church’s Park Level, has operated at capacity almost since it opened, serving large numbers of people experiencing homelessness or seeking social services. As a result, we saw a dramatic increase in park use for the first several months after the Center opened. With the arrival of summer and changes in Franklin Park we saw a continued uptick in park usage, some of it unsavory and illegal, including drug use and even drug dealing. Behavior in the park was negatively impacting church tenants and our own staff as well as people passing by on the sidewalk, and there were concerns about safety particularly for our Community Club students coming back for tutoring with the start of school. At the end of August the National Park Service removed the benches in the park, which had an immediate effect. Reports from church staff were of greatly improved behavior, and McClendon Center clients are also more comfortable. Since August NPS has repaired broken patches of concrete in the park and the BID has plans to alter the planting design to make the space more open and visible from the street and sidewalks. Due to the current in-flux situation, NYAPC volunteer maintenance or planting has been minimal, but we hope to engage more directly in 2020 to make the park and other tree wells and landscape spaces adjacent to the church more appealing and welcoming to all.

Reports of the Clusters

Christian Learning Cluster

Kristin Ford, Chair

In 2019, our children and youth Christian education program continues to grow and flourish at a time of transition in the life of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.
Our Adult Christian Education classes engage as many as four dozen or so churchgoers some Sunday mornings. We had a dynamic class on Creation Care and Climate Change taught by Renee Berry, several classes on gentrification and housing taught by community leaders and organized by Martha Davis, a series on short stories led by Paul Dornan and Jonathan Lauer, several courses on Religion and Nationalism since the Protestant Reformation by Bruce Douglass, and Rev. Elmarie Parker visited us from her home in Lebanon to share more about what’s happening with Presbyterian churches in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. We also had courses on Shelly Rambo’s work on trauma, and she then joined as McClendon Scholar in Residence, plus Anne Laroche and Elie Robins planned a several-week series on criminal justice reform and supporting returning citizens. Len Shabman taught on fundamentalism at NYPAC, Rebecca Davis led a thought-provoking class on social media and scapegoating, and Eric Slaughter and Tamara Saltman shared some helpful insights and suggestions for ministering to others in a Pastoral Care 101 class. Finally, in 2019, we took full advantage of the scholarship of both Roger and Frances Taylor Gench before Pastor Gench’s retirement in May, as they tag-teamed on a multi-week course on Christian Faith and Practice. The Gathered in Prayer class also continues to meet each Sunday.

We were also delighted to be joined by Dr. Jennifer Harvey, author of *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, for a stimulating weekend of conversation and study. Dr. Harvey was our McClendon Scholar in Residence in September and helped us kick off our Sunday school year. In addition to joining us at NYAPC for Adult Education and preaching in worship, she also gathered with a group of families and youth from the church as well as Christian educators from the National Capital Presbytery at Rev. Tewell’s home. She also led a fascinating Saturday morning session with the McClendon Scholar in Residence program on Reconciliation and Repairing Harm.

We have over 50 children and youth participating in Sunday school from a dynamic preschool class all the way through high school. The Holy Moly curriculum serves us well for our early elementary through middle school classes. A group of middle schoolers attended the Massanetta Middle School Youth Conference in July with Sarah McGinnis and Helen Anthony, who teach Sunday school and lead the youth group. Rev. Tewell and Kasey Kelly, our Young Adult Volunteer, also organized a Service Week this summer. We launched our Confirmation class for 8th-10th graders in September 2019, which will run through late May 2020. We have five official confirmation students each with an adult mentor from the congregation and one additional high schooler participating who has already been confirmed. This year is about engaging in the Bible and theology, encouraging questions of faith, learning about other faith groups, engaging in church polity, and each leading an aspect of NYAPC congregational life.

As part of our move to accommodate the Downtown Day Center, our children’s Sunday school classes are now mostly on the 5th floor and our nursery is on the 3rd floor. The Christian Learning Cluster arranged for new kid-sized furniture in the room after Paul Dornan spruced up the room with a much-needed paint job last year. We have two new nursery teachers, Afaf Adam and Aster Wolde. Ayesha Malkanthi Yapahmailage and Inoka Pulukkuttige continue to staff the nursery as well. We also have a new aid helping two of our teenagers, Jada Hendrix. All are professional caregivers certified in CPR and trained in our child protection policy. Kamanee Wickremaratne who worked in the nursery for many years, as of late September, is no longer employed by the church.
We had a delightful Christmas pageant on December 15 with kids of all ages engaging in a very participatory and improv-style service and on May 19 the children and youth led worship (thanks to Lauren Gillies and Alex Moore for preaching) in a wonderful Youth Sunday service. After the service, the Christian Learning Cluster hosted the fellowship hour after the service to celebrate our children, youth, and families and honor all those who teach and care for them.

The “Littles” group, organized by Rev. Tewell for parents of children 5 and under, met several times throughout the year to support one another and deepen relationships. Karen Dunlap and Rev. Tewell continue to lead Worship Play for preschool and younger elementary school-aged children at both worship services and are often joined by dedicated volunteers. Train Day has become a big twice-a-year hit as Karl Hoffman and Jim Spearman transform Peter Marshall Hall into a mega train layout.

NYAPC’s two children’s choirs, one for the lower elementary school ages and one for older children, are a significant part of our children’s ministry, coordinated by Molly Johnson and Hillary Webster and directed by Taisha Estrada.

The Christian Learning Cluster (Kristin Ford, Paul Dornan, Melissa Jane Taylor, Morgan Brown, Jonathan Lauer, Karen Dunlap, Betsy Merritt, and Kathy Doan) is grateful for Rev. Gench spending time with us in study and reflection before his retirement and for the ongoing leadership that Rev. Tewell provides for our work together, especially in times of transition.

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**Sizoo Library**

*Thomas Dunlap, Librarian*

The mission of the Sizoo Library is to enrich and expand the life of the congregation spiritually, intellectually and compassionately. The library has over 1,800 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 2020 the library plans to continue to develop the collection to make it more useful to the congregation. Volunteers are always welcome, especially someone to help members find books after the 11 a.m. service. Suggestions for new books are always welcome.

The committee includes Louise Berman, Paul Dornan, Thomas Dunlap and John Quinn, Jr.
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 2019, we conducted five public programs that attracted more than a thousand people. Approximately half of the participants were NYAPC members and the other half from congregations throughout the Washington area. Here is a summary of the programs we sponsored:

- **February 5:** "Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story" -- This program featured the showing of a documentary film on Howard Thurman and a panel discussion by four local pastors from our partner churches. It was co-sponsored by Howard University School of Divinity and about 350 people attend.

- **March 23-24:** "Responding in Faith to Suffering, Violence and Collective Trauma" -- This Lenten program featured several presentations from Dr. Shelly Rambo of Boston University. She spoke on Saturday morning, had a luncheon discussion with those involved in healing ministries and then spoke again during the Adult Education hour on Sunday morning. She also preached at both workshop services. About 150 people attended her presentations in addition to those who heard her preach on Sunday.

- **September 7-8:** "Reconciliation & Repairing Harm" -- Dr. Jennifer Harvey of Drake University made several presentations focused on how to respond to the iniquities in our country caused by racism. She gave a Saturday morning presentation to about 75 people, met with a group of about 40 NYAPC parents to discuss how to talk to children about race and then spoke to a group of about 60 during the Adult Education hour on Sunday. She also preached at both worship services.

- **October 2:** "A Big Sing with John Bell" -- This program featured John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland who led a crowd of about 150 people in a series of hymns--many of which he wrote or arranged. He also spoke eloquently about his work around the world and helped participants to understand the power of music to convey a true picture of Jesus' ministry.

- **November 5:** "How Do We Heal Our Frayed Republic?" -- Peter Wehner, who has worked for three different Republican Presidents and is now an opinion writer for the New York Times, talked about the role Christians can play in helping to help the partisan divide in the country. He also engaged in a question and answer session with the 100 people who were in attendance.
As in the past few years, 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 other congregations. We also established a new Scholar Advisory Council to provide us with ideas for future programs. Additionally, we continued efforts that began after our previous programs on mass incarceration to assist formerly incarcerated individuals. A core group of NYAPC members are now involved in regular work with returning citizens and the MSIR program also continued to manage a citywide Returning Citizens Assistance Network that is composed of more than a dozen congregations.

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

History and Archives Committees

Tour Guide Program: The committee recruits and schedules leaders for the tours offered following all regular worship services. During 2019, 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. We have a dedicated and active cadre of tour guides, but in 2020 we will recruit others to join our ranks.

Archives: Work continued on sorting hundreds of photographs and newspaper clippings by topic so that they are more easily accessible. Another major project involved creating complete (or nearly complete) sets of minutes for the Board of Deacons, the Board of Deaconesses/Diaconal Ministers, and the Board of Trustees. This effort will continue in 2020. Because National Capital Presbytery reviews the Session’s minutes every year, these records are already complete and are not scattered in various locations. As happens every year, we received requests for membership, birth, and baptism information. One gentleman was extremely pleased to learn that he had indeed been baptized by Dr. Peter Marshall, as his mother had told him.

Oral History Project: The Bicentennial Interviews Project continued in 2019 by Edith Snyder who conducted oral histories with NYAPC members for publication in AveNews and retention in the archives. The project published an interview with Revs. Roger and Frances Gench in March, Jenean McKay in June, the Rev. Heather G. Shortlidge in September, and Warren and Mary Krug in December.

New Activities: Members of the committee met in small groups, or one-on-one, throughout 2019. Most of the attention was on identification of letters, photos and physical artifacts that can tell the NYAPC story for use in reorganizing displays in the Lincoln Parlor, JQA and Docherty Center/Sizoo Library. Modest changes were made in 2019 and more dramatic changes will be forthcoming in 2020. Under the leadership of David Powell the committee has prepared three visual narratives. The Peter Marshall story will be displayed in JQA. The history of NYAPC Architecture will be displayed in the
entry area. The congregation’s history in addressing slavery and then racial injustice is in final draft form and a place for display has not been decided.

**NYAPC Lincoln Legacy:** February 12 – Marsha Renwanz and Bonita Pennino represented the church in laying our wreath at the annual Lincoln Birthday celebration organized by the National Park Service at the Lincoln Memorial. The bells in the church tower were the gift of the Robert Todd Lincoln family in memory of the president. By tradition, Hildene, the Robert Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, VT, has requested that the church represent them at the Memorial. This year John O’Brien and David Powell presented flowers on their behalf.

May 1 – The Committee joined with the Lincoln Group of DC and Illinois State Society to dedicate the Lincoln Room in the US Capitol, a new memorial to the 16th president for when he served as a Congressman in 1846-7. A unanimous, bi-partisan resolution of the US House of Representatives has dedicated an area in Statuary Hall that had a mailroom in which Congressman Lincoln would retire during House sessions to read his mail and socialize. O’Brien spoke and thanked the delegation from Illinois that led the approval effort.

August 3 – The Committee presented an education seminar in collaboration with the Lincoln Group of DC. O’Brien, along with scholars David Kent and Ed Epstein discussed Lincoln’s Campaign for the Presidential Nomination in 1859-60. About 40 people attended of which 18 were church members.

August 16 – O’Brien was the lunch speaker at Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue. His topic was Lincoln’s use of faith principles as one of three strategies in his 1862 campaign to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Fifty members and guests attended.

History Committee member John O’Brien had an article published in the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association on the relationship between President Lincoln and our Civil War era pastor, Rev. Dr. Phineas Gurley. The article titled “Seeking God’s Will: President Lincoln and Rev. Dr. Gurley,” is now available online at the journal website.

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**Congregational Life Cluster**

The committees reporting below are part of the Congregational Life Cluster.

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**Worship and Music**

*Don Campbell, Chair*

**Liturgists:** Raleigh, N.C.-resident and NYAPC member Mark Zaineddin has served our congregation by coordinating the church liturgist schedule through a web-based scheduling program. This continued to be a successful way to schedule liturgists in 2019, 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 2019. Kathryn led embodied prayer in worship in many services throughout the year, and, leading other dancers, offered dance as part of worship on three additional occasions, and at the Solitude Retreat on March 16.

**Communion:** Communion continues to be served by four ruling elders (or three ruling elders and one pastor as a teaching elder) on the chancel steps at both worship services on the first Sunday of each month. In 2019 we celebrated Communion on the first Sunday of every month, and again on Christmas Eve. We coordinate communion serving through a 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 over the past two years, and we will continue this method in 2020.

**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 26th through September 1st, resuming the 8:45 am and 11:00 am schedule after that, and again a 10:00 am single-service schedule during Advent on December 15 (Christmas Pageant), December 22, and December 29, 2019.

We are grateful for the service, expertise, and equipment supplied by Joe Thierry for the audio-visual production during our services. With Joe’s guidance, we have been able to add new volunteers to operate the audio during worship, and have improved the quality of our microphones and audio equipment. We look forward to more improvements in the coming year.

We continue to welcome suggestions from the congregation about our worship, both Sunday services and special services, and thank those who have taken the time to share their comments with us.

Thanks to all the 2019 committee members: Fred Dann, Stacey Gagosian, Koloina Randrianarivony, and Kathryn Sparks, under the guidance of Rev. Roger Gench, Rev. Alice Tewell, and Rev. Heather Shortlidge; special thanks to all those who supported the committee’s work in 2019.

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**Dance Ministry**

_Kathryn Sparks_

**Gathered In: A Ministry of Dance**

Matthew 18:20: *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

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

Activities in which there was some movement or dance offered at New York Avenue during the year:

_Dance teaching and group rehearsals leading to three offerings of a dance to the anthem ‘Requiem’, sung by the choir:_

34
**February 10 – March 17**  
The Solitude Retreat, March 16  
Both services in worship, March 17  
((Requiem included dancers Frances Gench, Dawn Hiemstra, Sarah Hoffman, Cathleen Lauer, Beth Braxton, Betsy Merritt and Kathryn Sparks)

**June 2** (Psalm 90, spoken word with dance by Kathryn Sparks) *gift to the church in honor of Roger Gench; and movement for the whole community at the reception honoring the Genches*

**June 9** (Pentecost danced processional, embodied prayer & children’s sermon)*

**June 16** (embodied prayer, *Spirit of the Living God*)*

*Pentecost processional and Spirit of the Living God (embodied prayer) on June 9th was with Beth Clark, Alex Moore, Cecelia Porter and Kathryn Sparks. Leadership of embodied prayer on June 16th was by Beth Clark and Kathryn Sparks.

**July – December**  
Kathryn stepped away from leadership of liturgical dance for this time period in preparation for her marriage, which took place January 4, 2020.

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 central 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**  
**Erica Morgan and Paul Dornan, Co-Chairs**

The Evangelism Committee has been charged with leading the congregation’s efforts to share the Good News of God’s active and loving presence in the world and right here in the middle of Washington, DC. Our tasks involve encouraging the congregation as individuals and a community to be a welcoming presence not only on Sundays but every day of the week; honing our skills as a congregation to communicate what we do here and what happens here to the outside world and to ourselves; tracking visitors and welcoming them into membership; and beginning the process by which those new members find their niche in the life and ministry of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.
Many of the things the committee does are fairly routine but crucial: Sending a word of welcome to each new visitor who gives us an email address; tracking returning visitors from week to week; producing nametags upon request; staffing the welcoming table in the narthex before and after worship; hosting new member classes; designing and displaying outside banners for the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Among the special things we accomplished this year were:

- Hosted three new member classes and brought in nine new members during 2019;
- Revised the hospitality pads so that we could collect more useful information and use less paper;
- Conducted a systematic update of the church’s member directory;
- Hosted the third annual Recent Member Open House, an effort to offer one more opportunity for new member affiliation;
- Developed a church photo policy, subsequently passed by the Session, to formalize our policy for assuring attractive, up-to-date, compelling photography for the website, brochures, the AveNews, etc. and the privacy and confidentiality rights of those photographed;
- Intermediate improvements were made to the information (both quality and quantity) and formatting of the church website. Structures and plans were also created, discussed and refined for future improvements to the website in the coming year(s);
- Coordinated a series of photo days in which a professional photographer, Stephen Reasonover, photographed worship and leadership to provide updated photos for use on the church website and other digital/printed platforms;
- Participated in the congregation’s Visioning Task Force, which will give the entire church and this committee a proposed direction for policy and action over the next several years.

The following people contributed significantly to the work of the committee in 2019: Erica Morgan and Paul Dornan, Co-Chairs; Rev. Beth Braxton; Matthew Asada; Tyler Feret; Karin Lohman; Jenean McKay; ShuXian McKenna; and Rob Savage. Thank you.

Nurture and Fellowship Committee

The Nurture Committee continued to provide ways for us to connect and get to know one another. We coordinated church retreats, Dinners for Nine, special lunches, intergenerational Congregational Sundays, and coffee fellowship. 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.

In two new initiatives, we coordinated MealTrains with the Diaconal Ministers and began First Sunday FaithTalk, come-as-you-are gatherings in members’ homes to talk about faith in a small group setting.
Our 2019 schedule included the following events:

- March 3 – “Shrove Sunday” Pancake Lunch
- March 6 – Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
- March 31 – Congregational Sunday with Vision/Strategy Task Force
- April 6 – Women’s Retreat led by Frances Gench
- April 19 – Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
- April 21 – Easter Breakfast (coordinated with Evelyn McMillan)
- July 28 – Summer Social Potluck
- Sept. 29 – Congregational Sunday – Helped Stewardship with Mission Fair
- October 16-19 – All Church Retreat at Meadowkirk

Each year, we are grateful for what everyone does to help us live out the congregation’s value of being a Nurturing Community, whether it be talking to someone about what’s going on in their life during coffee fellowship, taking a meal to a family with a new baby, or playing games at the All-Church Retreat. We’re especially grateful to Miriam Dewhurst for continuing to solicit and publish devotions for Advent and Lent and for coordinating college care packages each December—important activities that take place without any planning by the committee itself!

Looking toward 2020, Nurture will continue to ask the question, how can we help people get to know one another? In addition, we will look at how what we do can best support the values and goals of the recently adopted Strategic Plan. Stay tuned!

We welcome new members to the committee: We meet the third Wednesday of each month, alternating in-person and conference call meetings. You can join for the year, or volunteer to help with a project or event. Email meghouse8@gmail.com.

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

**Funds Development Cluster**

Will Ashworth, Chair

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

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

The Cluster meets periodically (once every quarter or so, sometimes more frequently as necessary) by conference call. In 2019, 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. We discussed building issues and how the Downtown BID has impacted those. We did a deep dive into the current status of our Planned Giving program and discussed how we can increase its visibility and effectiveness. We also discussed alternative methods of giving, and how we can try to increase the visibility of those to church members and visitors. In 2020, we plan to launch a coordinated campaign to increase visibility and exposure through different channels (email and mail communication, church bulletin, church announcements, Website improvements, and the like) to all of the different ways one can give to the church (including but not limited to stewardship and planned giving).

The cluster members include Laura Brouse-Long, David Gillies, Cathy Schultheis, John Schultheis, Tracy Branding, Craig Berry, Brian Dewhurst, Miriam Dewhurst, Helen Anthony, Heather Shortlidge, Alice Tewell, and me. We are sometimes joined by other church staff and members for specific discussions.

Finance Committee

Brian Dewhurst, Chair

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.

2019 Results: In October 2019, Rev. Shortlidge established “The Money Team.” The team consisted of one member from the Session, Deacons, and Trustees, and one At-Large member. The goal of the team was to devise a method to answer the question “How is the church doing financially?” During its work, the team uncovered numerous errors in the church’s books. The QuickBooks database was tracking the right amount of money, but individual fund balances – particularly those that receive investment income as part of the endowment – were incorrect. At this point (February 17, 2020), work is ongoing to correct these errors. However, the 2019 books have not yet closed as a result of this activity, and so final year-end totals cannot be provided.

2020 Budget: The 2020 budget includes both operating and capital components.

The operating budget this year is $1,866,044, which does not include $330,000 of depreciation expenses. Income is expected to be relatively equal to 2019. The budget estimates General
Stewardship pledges totaling $660,000, which likely underestimates the final total. Total budgeted income (excluding investments) is $1,424,197 for 2020. This includes $90,000 for the second portion of a bequest that we know will come in 2020. An additional $258,446 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 ~$183,401) will be covered by further drawing on the church’s unrestricted investments, earmarked program funds, and bequests.

The operating budget was developed using input on anticipated income and spending across church programs, and also through Session discussion of measures to reduce expenses.

The budget’s capital component was developed in consultation with the Trustees. The Trustees expect to begin work replacing the HVAC system for floors 1-4 in 2020. This work is the only significant capital expense projected for 2020, and the cost of the work is not yet known. The Trustees are to bring a plan to fund the work to the Session for approval when they are ready to move forward.

Acknowledgements: Committee members in 2019 included David Brown and Martha Davis (Deacons), Laura Brouse-Long and Brian Dewhurst (Session), Sarah McGinnis (Diaconal Ministers), Karl Hoffman (Trustees), and John Davies (At-Large). Lance Jameson served on the committee in his role as Accounting Manager.

For Additional Information: The 2020 church budget is available online via the church’s Financial Dropbox. To be added to the Dropbox, contact Lance Jameson. Audited 2019 financial statements will also be made available through the office once they are completed.

Stewardship Committee

Helen Anthony, Chair

Sharing Strength – Building Faith – Gifts United in Christ

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
- 1 Peter 4:10

Throughout the 2020 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/).

As of January 20, we have received pledges of $680,238, an increase of approximately $4,000 from 2019 pledges, 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 2020 to consider doing so in the coming weeks.
2020 pledges have been made by 144 giving units, with 76 increasing their pledge from 2019 giving and 18 new pledging units. For those giving units that pledged in 2019 and 2020, overall pledges increased 17.25%. The median pledge was $3,000. As a comparison, in 2019 $676,053 was pledged by 151 giving units, with 60 increasing their pledge from 2018 and 42 new pledging units. For those giving units that pledged in 2018 and 2019, overall pledges increased 9.53%. The median pledge was $3,000.

Many thanks to Lance Jameson, Senior Accountant and Jasmine Jowers Prout, Church Administrator, for their invaluable administrative support without which we could not have accomplished an increase in pledges for 2020. More thanks to the invaluable members of the Stewardship Committee, Tracy Branding, Laura Brouse-Long, and John O’Brien for their support of new ideas and contributions to the 2020 campaign work. A final thanks to those who helped write thank you notes during the campaign, Megan Janicki and Gwenn Gebhard.

In 2020, the committee hopes to involve Stewardship more often into our church life, not just in the fall.

Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts

Catherine E. Schultheis

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church’s program for endowment, planned giving and special gifts has resulted in a significant increase in funds supporting the church’s missions. The congregation continues to respond positively and generously to planned giving communications and programs. We are supported in our work by the Presbyterian Endowment Education and Resource Network (PEER).

I work closely with the Planned Giving Committee whose report can be found elsewhere in the 2019 Annual Report. Our job is to inform members and friends of the stewardship opportunities available as each of us lives our daily life and of legacy opportunities for the future. We celebrated Legacy Sunday in May, exploring legacy planning and how this act of faith affects our daily spiritual journeys. We celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 3rd, 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 2020 by offering each member and visitor a homemade decorated cupcake packaged "to go" and wishes from the Planned Giving Committee members for a Happy Birthday.
It is a joy 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 the Stewardship Committee.

During 2019, over $491,342 in bequests were received by the church. One of the gifts was a “special gift” given during the donor’s lifetime. Our church is blessed by such generosity. I like to remember Roger Gench’s thoughts about the generosity of our members, that 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.

**Planned Giving Committee**

| John Schultheis, Chair |

The Planned Giving Committee and the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts position were established by the Session and began to function in early 2007. The purpose of the Planned Giving Committee is to further the mission, witness and work of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church through a sustained program of giving by members and friends of long-term accumulated assets in the form of stocks, bonds, real estate, life income plans or other estate planning instruments.

We observed All Saints Sunday on November 3rd. 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.

During the period 2008 through 2019, NYAPC has received bequests totaling $7,522,918. This sum includes the following 2019 receipts: $287,442 from the estate of Margaret (Peggy) Evans; $100,000 from the Frances L. Gray Trust; $23,900 from the estate of Kenneth (Ken) Carpenter; $20,000 from the Ellen Watson and Bainbridge Eager Family Trust; and a $60,000 planned special gift from Nancy Dickinson for church building requirements. The Church has also been notified of an additional substantial sum due from the estate of David S. Brown. As of December 31, 2019, those proceeds had yet to be received.

The Committee 2019 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 2019 please refer to the report of the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts.

**Administrative Cluster**
The committees reporting below are part of the Administrative Cluster.

**Columbarium Committee**

John Schultheis, Chair

The Columbarium in the Lincoln Chapel provides a permanent witness to the Community of Saints who have worshiped, worked and lived among us. It is a place to remember and honor departed loved ones. It holds in niches the cremated remains (also called cremains or ashes) of persons who were current or former members of the church, 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 seventeen percent 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 information about the Columbarium or to obtain a prospective subscribers application packet, please contact John Schultheis at 301/622-3149 or email at thenyapc@yahoo.com.

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

**Personnel Committee**

Brian Schimming, Chair

Staffing Changes: Afaf Adam, Aster Wolde, and Jada Hendrix were hired in September to assist in the nursery. The Rev. Roger Gench retired in May and the Rev. Heather Shortlidge was hired as Transitional Pastor in September.

Committee members included Brian Schimming – Chair (Session), Caroline Donovan White (Trustees), Taylor Allison, (Session), Cindy Dickinson (Deacons), and Doug Norwood (Deacons). The Rev. Alice Tewell, Jasmine Jowers Prout, and the Rev. Heather Shortlidge also participated in the committee’s work.

**Reports of Community Outreach Programs**
Throughout the year, McClendon Center served 4,477 District residents with mental illness. 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 215 individuals during the year, with an average attendance of 71. 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.

At the Core Services Agency, about 4,000 people were served in the past year. These services include our Patient Discharge Coordinator program, which coordinates care for people being discharged from psychiatric units; care management, provided on behalf of AmeriHealth Caritas DC; medication management; counseling; emergency room follow-up; brief medical case management; and a robust outreach team who finds thousands of at risk individuals in the community. The Core Services Agency is continuing to host five psychiatry residents from George Washington University, this being the tenth year of our partnership.

There are now four therapists at Counseling at Dupont, where 281 clients seeking psychotherapy services were served in 2019. These services are funded by CareFirst, Magellan, and private pay.

There are two issues that are most concerning for McClendon Center at this time. The first is the change we are starting to plan for that will greatly diminish the role of the Department of Behavioral Health, effectively transferring all behavioral health services to Medicaid Managed Care Organizations; this will happen in 2021. The other concern is with the Downtown Day Services Center on the lower floor of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Whereas the church was once a place of safety and joy for our clients, throughout the year our clients and staff have been threatened and harassed by DDSC patrons. In late October, a very serious assault was perpetrated on one of our deaf clients while he was using the restroom. McClendon Center, the church’s Board of Trustees, and the Downtown Business Improvement District are in frequent discussions about how to make our Day Program space safe for our staff members and clients.

The mission of the New York Avenue Educational Foundation (NYAEF) is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout Washington, DC. Founded in 1984 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3), charitable organization, the Foundation seeks to promote a Nation’s Capital that empowers every young person to realize his or her potential and become a productive citizen.
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 2019, the Foundation provided commitments of $42,000 in grants to Community Club and $6,000 of scholarships through the Dornan/Davie Fund. 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, Beth Law, 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), 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

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 NYA vocal soloists) and for all who contributed to our major fundraising effort at the Board’s 113th 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 2019 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 in 2019 featured entertainment by the Ingleside Singers. 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. The Center for Healthy Living, which includes assisted living, skilled nursing, rehabilitation and memory care units, opened in November of 2019. The expanded independent living apartment buildings were available for occupancy at the very beginning of 2020.

Reports of Fellowship Groups

Presbyterian Women

Barbara Dornan, Administrative Liaison

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

In circle meetings held at 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 Love Cared in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments, by Eugenia Anne Gamble. This has led to interesting discussions about the commandments in biblical times and for us in today’s world. This study was put together by a Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women and is used by women across the nation. Alice Tewell leads us in our monthly Bible study.

This past summer we invited a group of Muslim women from a Turkish Mosque in Fairfax to join us for a church pot luck lunch after a Sunday service. We talked about our faith and the many activities
at NYA. We also learned about them and their families and about living in our area as Muslims. This is the third year that we have met with this group from this Turkish Mosque.

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

**Spiritual Reading Group**

The Spiritual Reading Group (formerly Biblio Divina) 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. For the past several years, the group has read and discussed a variety of books.

In 2019, the group read *Falling Upwards* by Richard Rohr, *Living Into Death, Dying Into Life* by Peter C. Phan, and *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans. 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.

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.

Peter C. Phan holds the Ignacio Ellacuria Chair of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University. In *Living Into Death, Dying Into Life*, Professor Phan identifies sections of scripture that are relevant to death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and humankind. His writing is very accessible and his treatment of the topics is straightforward. This book is a good aid to thinking through these topics.

In *Searching for Sunday*, Rachel Held Evans describes her spiritual journey out of a conservative church upbringing. She was a very gifted writer and reading this book, knowing that she is no longer with us, was a bittersweet experience. Her popularity is well-deserved.
The group sponsored two silent retreats at the church during the year and plans to sponsor others in 2020, at least during Lent and Advent. These retreats take place on Saturday mornings in the church, from 8:30am -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 reading group to participate in the retreats. Participants in 2019 included Rev. Gench (until he retired in June), Martha Davis, Marilyn Seiber, Tom Dunlap, Miriam and Steve Dewhurst, Ann Bradley, Eric Slaughter, and Cathleen and Jonathan Lauer.

Young Adults

In 2019 the Young Adults continued to grow. Through the year YAs hosted seven 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. Shelly Rambo when she visited New York Avenue in March. These allowed us to continue to grow our friendships and delve further into our faith.

Heather Shortlidge, Alice Tewell, Roger Gench, and Frances Taylor Gench strongly supported the YAs in whatever capacity was needed, whether by 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

Virginia L. Cochran and David S. Brown Fund

In May 1983, the Session established the Virginia L. Cochran Memorial Fund to commemorate Virginia’s commitment and service to the educational development of young people in the inner city and to perpetuate the types of programs and activities that she fostered in the Community Club.

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

As a jointly-named fund, the Cochran/Brown Memorial Fund honors two great friends who were stalwart members of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church community and the founding mother and father of the Community Club mentoring program. Those of us who have been blessed to know and love Virginia and Dave and to witness their ongoing gift to the children of this city hope this fund continues to materially support the work to which Virginia and Dave committed so much of their time, energy and selves. The fund enjoys a balance of $xxx,xxx as of the end of December 2019.

Kathryn Heath Memorial Scholarship Fund

Dr. Kathryn G. Heath, a member of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church for over 60 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 150 scholarships, ranging from $200 to $2250, have been awarded. The recipients are distinguished by their academic ability, vision, dedication, and financial need. They must have and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale,
demonstrate financial need, show an intention to pursue a program of studies leading to a professional or para-professional career, and be admitted to a recognized post-secondary institution.

The Committee awarded $9,500 from the earnings of the Heath bequest for scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year. The Committee recommended scholarship awards to the following six women.

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Members of the scholarship committee in 2019 were: Mary Spatz (Chair), Anna Davidson, Stacy Gagosian, Amy Gillespie, and Molly Smith.

Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund was established twelve 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. Eight 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 $103,500 of Upperclassman Scholarship funding has been awarded to worthy students.

As of December 2019, 44 of our college students have received Upperclassman Scholarships over the twelve years of their existence. All of the students but three will have graduated [Five from Trinity University [Washington]; four from North Carolina A&T, three from Howard, Norfolk State, and Virginia Commonwealth; two each from Virginia Commonwealth, Bennett, Maryland, Temple, and West Virginia University; and one apiece from Benedict, Cheyney State, Tuskegee, Grinnell, Lafayette, Morgan State, North Carolina Central, North Carolina Wesleyan, Virginia State, Princeton, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, Southern Mississippi, Wisconsin, Georgetown, and Rhode Island College] by the winter of 2019. The remaining three students will graduate in Spring 2020.
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 2019, six students, Khufu Edwards (West Virginia), Jordan Harmon (North Carolina A&T), Mozique Howard (North Carolina Central), Omosede Irabor (West Virginia), Chinyere Ukaegbu (Howard), and Robin Williams (Virginia Commonwealth) received scholarships totaling $13,500. At the end of 2019, there was approximately $xx,xxx available for future allocation to worthy students. Andrew and Bruce’s families want to thank all those who have given so graciously to help our young people in Community Club and to remember Andrew and Bruce.

**Elmer L. Hanson Testamentary Trust**

Elmer L. Hanson, a long-time devoted member of The 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 2019, the Trust provided funds of $6,000 to support the Young Adult Volunteer position. At the close of 2019, the assets of the Trust were approximately $214,727.

**Metcalf-Edgington Trust Funds**

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: 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 continue supporting the 7-2-9 Program because of the program’s support of people with mental illness in Washington, DC. In addition, the committee agreed to support a portion of the Young Adult Volunteer stipend. The committee also agreed to support, in 2020, a portion of the compensation of front desk personnel, as a large part of their job is interacting with people who have challenging mental health issues.

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 2019, the Benevolence and Metcalf-Edgington Funds supported more than $12,280 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

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