From the Pastors

Rev. Dr. Heather Shortlidge, Transitional Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Rachel Pacheco, Associate Stated Supply Pastor

2020 has been one for the record books. When Capital Witness comes out with an updated edition, there will likely be an entire chapter dedicated to this year. When COVID-19 overtook our lives in March, in a matter of days, NYAPC moved its entire operations online. Despite the pandemic, the church kept being the church.

Recognizing that worship would need to shift dramatically, we built a tech team and recruited volunteers, who helped us through our first online communion service, our first online Easter, and our first online memorial service. The church owes Will Timmons, Jessica Tate, Joe Thierry, and John Moran a debt of gratitude for pouring themselves into creating a holy and high quality virtual worship experience.

We can all be proud of the 36 volunteers who picked up, delivered, and served hot, nutritious lunches in Triangle Park. Special thanks to Olivia Singelmann for making our initial connection with World Central Kitchen who freely provided the bulk of those meals.

Responding to the world around us, the church showed up for protestors who filled our streets demanding that black lives matter. A favorite memory is trying to figure out how to move ten pallets of bottled water from the New York Avenue sidewalk into the building once the electric pallet mover broke.
Through your continued generosity, the church surpassed its $700,000 stewardship goal for the coming year. In the midst of a global pandemic and great economic uncertainty, we raised more money than we had hoped, a loud and clear signal from you that the church’s ministries add meaning to your life. We still have significant financial needs on the horizon, including paying for a new HVAC system. However, this is a milestone to be celebrated. Thank you to everyone who has financially supported God’s work through this congregation during a turbulent year.

The Personnel Committee, under the steady leadership of Edie Snyder, has also worked faithfully to develop a staffing model for the present needs of the church, while being generous and compassionate toward current and outgoing staff. In one year’s time, they have hired two Associate Pastors and two Office Managers. Concurrently, they created and figured out how to fund a brand-new Facility Manager position. They made excruciating calls with great dignity and kindness, weathering a range of challenging feedback from the congregation.

We give thanks for the Diaconal Ministers, and the team they enlisted, who continue to make phone calls, send flowers, and write notes to members in need of care and prayer. In a time of physical separation and isolation, intentional efforts were made to connect with every member of this community. The relationships built by these connections bind us together and enable us, with God’s help, to forge a path through this season.

2020 has been a year full of grief and loss, illness and hate, painful decisions and goodbyes. This congregation has stood together through these challenges. It has also been a year that has shown us the vast resources and means we have to participate in God’s work in the world, even while we are apart. We are rich in physical assets that allow us to practice hospitality. We are rich in technical tools and skills that enable us to connect safely and visibly. And, we are rich in people, you, who gather to invest in the congregation, to carry out ministry and mission, and to be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that is both online and in person. For this, we give God thanks.

It has been our honor and privilege to minister alongside you this year. We can’t wait to see where God leads us in 2021.

Peace and Courage,
Heather and Rachel
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Church Staff as of December 31, 2020

PASTORS
Rev. Dr. Heather G. Shortlidge  
Transitional Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Rachel Pacheco  
Associate Stated Supply Pastor  
(began August 18)

OFFICE, FINANCE, PROGRAM
Maila Cardoso  
Temporary Office Manager  
(began September 29)
Lance Jamison  
Finance Manager
Catherine Schultheis  
Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts
Theo Brown  
Director, McClendon Scholar-In-Residence Program

FACILITY
Elias Bazezew  
Facility Manager  
(began November 30)
David Smoot  
Senior Custodian
Raymond Newman  
Custodian
Marcus Johnson  
Custodian  
(began January 24)

WORSHIP and MUSIC
Dr. Stan Engebretson  
Director of Music
Joe Thierry  
Online Worship Technician/Coordinator  
(began July 1)
Will Timmons  
Online Worship Coord./Video Production  
(began July 1)
Taisha Estrada, Jenete St. Clair  
Choral Associate and Youth Choir
Whitney McColley  
Choral Associate
Manuel Melendez  
Choral Associate
Nathan Moon  
Choral Associate

PARISH ASSOCIATES
Rev. Beth Braxton
Rev. Ann Rose Davie
Rev. John T. Mathison
Rev. Matthew Schlageter

OFFICE/NURSERY STAFF FURLOUGHED (in Sept.)
Mary Newman and Robin Williams, Front Desk
Jada Hendrix, Special Needs Aide
Afaf Adam  
Inoka Pulukkuttige
Aster Wolde  
Ayesha Yapahamilage

Staff Departures in 2020
Rev. Alice Rose Tewell  
Associate Pastor  
(departed March 15)
Rev. Billy E. Klutz  
Minister of Congregational Life  
(April 14 - July 12)
Jasmine Jowers Prout  
Church Administrator  
(departed May 11)
Nicole Johnson  
Church Administrator, Interim  
(January 28 - December 4)
Evelyn MacMillan  
Food Services Manager & Front Desk Staff  
(departed September 1)
John O’Brien  
Facility Manager, Interim  
(March - December)
Dalonte Buchanan  
Custodian  
(departed January 17)
### Board Members in 2020

**The Session**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Allison</td>
<td>Laura Brouse-Long</td>
<td>Adlai Amor</td>
<td>Elizabeth Winn Bowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Ashworth</td>
<td>Don Campbell</td>
<td>Miriam Dewhurst</td>
<td>Paul Dornan^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Dornan</td>
<td>Brian Dewhurst</td>
<td>Kristin Ford</td>
<td>Marilyn Seiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Feret</td>
<td>Kathryn Doan**</td>
<td>Brent Ling</td>
<td>Leonard Shabman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica Morgan</td>
<td>David Gillies</td>
<td>Meg Neill</td>
<td>Melissa Jane Taylor^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Jane Taylor</td>
<td>Meg House</td>
<td>Marie Meka</td>
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**Board of Deacons**

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<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martha Davis</td>
<td>Morgan Brown</td>
<td>Mary Nell Clark</td>
<td>Martha Davis^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Gillies</td>
<td>Anne Laroche</td>
<td>Karen George</td>
<td>Koloina Randrianarivony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Merritt</td>
<td>Sam Obermyer</td>
<td>Megan Janicki</td>
<td>Rob Thormeyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Norwood</td>
<td>Tracy Branding Pyle</td>
<td>Dan Stokes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsha Renwanz</td>
<td>Olivia Singelmann</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Yoder</td>
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**Board of Diaconal Ministers**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pruitt Ashworth</td>
<td>Gwenn Gebhard</td>
<td>Linsey Ogden Crowell</td>
<td>Pruitt Ashworth^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Dornan</td>
<td>Beth Law</td>
<td>Diane Douglas</td>
<td>Ann Bradley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Gagosian</td>
<td>Margaret Myers</td>
<td>Amy Gillies</td>
<td>Barbara Dornan^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John O’Brien</td>
<td>Eric Slaughter</td>
<td>Spence Gibbins</td>
<td>Glory Eyong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Savage</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bernice McIntyre</td>
<td>Jennifer Geurink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Shabman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle Poza</td>
<td>Martha Sykora</td>
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**Board of Trustees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ross Coe</td>
<td>Craig Berry</td>
<td>Hal Hiemstra</td>
<td>Karin Lohman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Spearman</td>
<td>Tom Dunlap</td>
<td>Aryn Myers</td>
<td>Richard Snyder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Webster</td>
<td>Karl Hoffman</td>
<td>Edith Snyder</td>
<td>Doug House*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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^Elected for a second consecutive term

*Nominated to be elected at the Congregational Annual Meeting (Part 2) on February 7, 2021

Nominating Committee

David Gillies, Chair

The Nominating Committee had a busy year, including calling the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and a new class of board members. Along the way, we spent time discussing the spiritual underpinnings of our work and what it means to be called. Guided by NYAPC’s Strategic Plan and against the backdrop of the pandemic, we sought to enhance our understanding of church leaders’ responsibilities and our own spiritual vitality and practice.

The work calling the PNC began in March and ended with the congregational meeting on June 28. We spent a lot of time discussing the qualities we felt were needed in the PNC, while cognizant that our job was to nominate individuals that we thought would serve faithfully and well – not prescribe the way forward. We asked the congregation for nominee suggestions, and asked potential nominees why they felt called to this work. Nine people accepted the call to serve: Adlai Amor, Helen Anthony, Heather Choi, Kristin Ford, Doug House, Beth Law, Rob Neill, Melissa Jane Taylor, and Matt Webster.

In September, we began considering board nominations for the Class of 2023, and put a particular emphasis on engaging newer members and others who had not served before. The following individuals were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting (Part 1) on December 6, 2020:

CLASS of 2023
- Deacons: Martha Davis, Koloina Randrianarivony, Rob Thormeyer
- Diaconal Ministers: Pruitt Ashworth, Ann Bradley, Barbara Dornan, Glory Eyong, Jenni Geurink, Martha Sykora, Carrie Reasonover,* Chris Kelly (2021),*
  Cameron McGlothlin (2022),* Grace Morgan (2021)*
- The Session: Elizabeth Bowman, Paul Dornan, Marilyn Seiber, Len Shabman,
  Melissa Jane Taylor
- Trustees: Karin Lohman, Richard Snyder, Doug House*

*Carrie Reasonover, Chris Kelly, and Doug House are nominated to be elected at the Congregational Annual Meeting (Part 2) on February 7, 2021.

The Nominating Committee continued to be involved in discussions about board sizes and responsibilities, and that work will continue in 2021. Moving forward, the Committee will place an emphasis on more collaboration with other church committees, and being a resource for committee leaders and others regarding persons interested in service opportunities, as well as the talents, both professional and personal, that reside in our congregation.

The Chair appreciates the conscientious and tireless efforts of the Committee, consisting of Miriam Dewhurst (Session), Dan Stokes (Deacons), Eric Slaughter (Diaconal Ministers), Aryn Myers (Trustees), and Catherine Cannon, Karen Feret, John Quinn, Cathy Schultheis, Len Shabman and Molly Smith representing the congregation at large.

The Chair also wants to thank Rev. Shortlidge for her guidance, perseverance, and steady hand through an incredibly trying year for everyone. With her leadership, and that of Rev. Pacheco, our congregation not only made it through 2020, but thrived. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.
Pastor Nominating Committee

*Heather Choi and Kristin Ford, Co-Chairs*

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected by the congregation on June 28, 2020. The PNC consists of a diverse group of nine NYAPC members tasked with searching for and recommending a new senior pastor to be called to serve the congregation. In August, the PNC elected Kristin Ford and Heather Choi to serve as committee co-chairs.

Since its formation, the PNC has met weekly using video conferencing to accomplish its work. Initially, the PNC, in connection with the National Capital Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM), familiarized itself with the discernment process, reviewed NYAPC’s Strategic Plan and a 2017 Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) survey report, reviewed other churches’ PNC materials, worked on deepening spiritual practices of PNC members, and learned about the theology of call.

The PNC developed a Ministry Information Form (MIF) for NYAPC’s senior pastor position in collaboration with the Session. To that end, the PNC conducted stakeholder interviews with members of the congregation; worked with the Session to plan and conduct a new CAT survey of the congregation; coordinated with the Personnel Committee; met with the Diaconal Ministers, Trustees, Deacons, and Session. The PNC developed collateral material and new website content to accompany the MIF. The PNC also developed an outreach plan and a process for its review of Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) to be received from prospective pastor candidates. The PNC regularly communicated its progress to the congregation through email, worship announcements, mailings, and other means.

After the Session’s approval of the MIF on November 22, and the COM’s review and approval of the MIF, the PNC forwarded the MIF to the PC(USA) to begin the process of soliciting PIFs from prospective candidates through the denomination’s Church Leadership Connection website. The MIF has been published and the PNC has begun reviewing PIFs.

Your continued prayers for the PNC and its progress are requested and appreciated.
The Session

*Miriam Dewhurst, Clerk*

The Session met often as the coronavirus pandemic called for many decisions: to move worship and church life online; to open or close the building for protests; to approve changes to the staffing structure; and to hire Rev. Billy Kluttz and Rev. Rachel Pacheco. The Session authorized the Church Assessment Tool and the Mission Information Form prepared by the PNC.

A great deal of meeting time was devoted to understanding the church’s financial position. The “Money Team” provided clarity about the church’s resources which influenced 2021 budget decisions. The church’s financial system is complex, and the Finance Committee worked hard to present budget issues clearly so that the Session could make informed decisions. It is clear that we must increase revenues or risk cutting back on ministry that is central to our call as a church.

At a time like this, new members are a special encouragement and we were very pleased to welcome the new members listed below. We also had a very meaningful meeting with the Confirmation Class. Leo Brigham, Malcolm Douglas, Linda Kelly, Penny Wagner, and Corinne White submitted statements of faith and met with Elders in small groups.

We grieve being unable to worship together in the sanctuary. An unexpected blessing has been connecting in worship with people near and far. Once we resume worship in the sanctuary, we are committed to making it possible for those who cannot be present in person, to continue participating in worship through electronic means. The Session is grateful to the NYAPC community for their commitment to continuing in ministry together, especially Transitional Pastor Rev. Dr. Heather G. Shortlidge for her excellent leadership in a very challenging time.

### 2020 Statistical Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year-End Membership</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Members</td>
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<td>443</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliate Members</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Members Added to the Active Roll</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Profession of Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaffirmation of Faith</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Transfer</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restored to Active</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Members Removed from the Active Roll</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Transfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removed from Active</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Affiliate Member Gain/Loss</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Baptisms</strong></td>
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</table>

### Reaffirmation of Faith

- Adrianne George Lind
-Letter of Transfer
- Kyle Cristofalo
- Jennifer Geurink
- Cathy Cash
- Calvin Cheng
- Confirmation
- Leo Brigham
- Penelope Wagner
- Deceased
- Joan Ensor
- Douglas Porter
- Carl Dees
- Robert Williams
- Guy Carocci
- Louise Pike
- Removed From Active Roll
- Cecelia Porter
- Brian Finlay

- Donald Crowell
- Chris Kelly
- Robert Thormeyer
- Annie Wong
- Linda Kelly
- Corinne White
- Suzanne Eberhard
- Robert Doan
- Barry Tindall
- Marion Wallace
- William Long
- Lucille Beaver
- Elizabeth Sciupac
- Susan Finlay
**Personnel**

*Edith Holmes Snyder, Chair*

“Pivot” was the operative verb in 2020, and the Personnel Committee pivoted constantly throughout the year.

The committee’s contributions to the Church strategic plan and its three current goals are embedded in the staff structure that Personnel proposed and the Session approved in September. This structure calls for the development of a management team covering the myriad office, facility, and finance tasks required for effective day-to-day operations, enabling the pastors to do the work for which they were trained and are called while making best use of willing and competent volunteers.

Additional work in 2020:

- Conveying to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Personnel’s view of the critical importance of calling a senior minister with experience in and appreciation for church management and administration.

- Developing a collaborative relationship between the Personnel and Finance Committees through ongoing communications about staffing decisions that impact the church budget and finances.

- Working to keep the church staff engaged throughout the pandemic, from committee member check-ins with staff to weekly Zoom calls to providing staff with the resources they need—whether a desk chair or a reliable Internet connection—to enable remote work to the extent possible.

- Collaborating with the Worship & Music Committee to define the evolving roles of the technology team for online worship and other services, including memorials.

- Recruiting an Interim Facility Manager to handle all building-related issues in consultation with the Trustees and to explore the requirement for a permanent, full-time facility position. John O’Brien served in this role for nine months (March 1 - December 4), demonstrating the need for this position. He helped recruit and hire Elias Bazezew, who began his employment as the Facility Manager on November 30.

- Recruiting a Stated Supply Associate Pastor following the call and departure of Rev. Alice Rose Tewell to Clarendon Presbyterian Church (Arlington, VA) in mid-March as the pandemic began. We initially hired Rev. Billy Kluttz as Minister of Congregational Life and Connection. Rev. Kluttz served in this role for three months before leaving for an associate pastorate at Govans Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD. The committee then recruited Rev. Rachel Pacheco as Stated Supply Associate Pastor, who began her work with NYAPC in August with a focus on working with children, youth, and families.
Personnel (continued)

- Temporarily filling the role of **Office Manager/Assistant to the Pastors** (formerly Church Administrator) following the departure of Jasmine Jowers Prout for maternity leave and then a new job with a law firm. Nicole Johnson assumed this role from January to September, and then Maila Cardoso was hired on a temporary basis when Ms. Johnson took leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) to care for her young son. At the expiration of 12 weeks of FFCRA leave, Ms. Johnson elected not to return to the Office Manager position. As 2020 ended and 2021 began, the committee hired Rose Kim to serve in this role, starting in January 2021.

- **Terminating or furloughing kitchen and front desk/office staff**, respectively, due to lack of work as a result of the pandemic, and developing with the Finance and Benevolence Committees a means of aiding staff members in need.

- Developing a recommendation for the **health care plan for employees**, as well as an expense reimbursement policy that applies to staff, contract employees, and clergy alike.

- **Renewing the contract between the Church and Transitional Pastor Heather Shortlidge for an additional year**. Rev. Shortlidge expects to remain with NYAPC until the PNC calls the next Senior Pastor.

- Revising and approving the **NYAPC Employee Handbook for staff members**, excluding clergy. The *Handbook* is effective as of January 1, 2021, and members of Personnel will walk the staff through the new manual and answer questions during the January 6, 2021 staff meeting. The committee also will develop policies specific to our pastors and contractors in the year ahead.

- Standardizing **annual performance reviews** using a template tied to employee job descriptions and setting goals for the year ahead with input and comments from both employees and supervisors.

- Assuming responsibility from the Deacons for the **annual collection from the congregation for gifts to the staff at Christmas**.

This work would not have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of the committee members who served for all or part of 2020, including Adlai Amor (Session), Cindy Dickinson (Diaconal Ministers), Tyler Feret (Session), Amy Gillies (Diaconal Ministers), Jonathan D. Lauer (Congregation), Doug Norwood (Deacons), John Quinn (Congregation), Mary Spatz (Congregation), Marsha Renwanz (Deacons), Caroline Donovan White (formerly on Trustees), and Rev. Dr. Heather G. Shortlidge. My deepest thanks to you all.
NYAPC 2020 Annual Report

National Capital Presbytery

Miriam Dewhurst, NYAPC Elder Commissioner and NCP Moderator (until June 2020)

NYAPC is a member of the National Capital Presbytery (NCP) 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 2020. NCP calls Stated Meetings six times a year 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, rather than of a church)
- 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.

The Presbytery moved its meetings online in 2020. The first online Presbytery meeting, June 30, 2020, was also my last meeting as Moderator. The outgoing Moderator usually places the Moderator’s stole on the shoulders of the incoming Moderator, who has already placed the Vice-Moderator’s stole on the shoulders of the incoming Vice-Moderator. These actions were simulated and Moderator Michael Rankin and Vice-Moderator Rev. Diane Hutchins were installed at the June meeting. (One of my last acts as Moderator was to participate in the ordination service of Rev. Rachel Pacheco, neither of us knowing at the time that she would be coming to New York Avenue a few months later.)

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 engaged this year 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, and an $11,000 grant to purchase equipment to allow for hybrid worship services when in-person worship resumes.

In addition to those Elders who served as Elder Commissioners in 2020, other NYAPC members serving in the Presbytery are Karl Hoffman, who chairs the NCP Investment Committee, and Paul Dornan, who serves on the Commission on Ministry.
Worship and Music

Don Campbell, Chair

2020 was a year of many changes for all of us, and saw a transformation in the role of the Worship and Music Committee. The congregation embarked on an unexpected journey beginning in mid-March and continuing through the year, just as we were beginning to look at how our foundational Sunday worship experience could grow and reflect the core value of deepening our spiritual lives.

As the year began, we considered ways that deeper faith in our individual lives and in our faith community could be cultivated. Language in the worship bulletin was restructured, and there were plans for congregation-wide engagement and personal meetings that had to be postponed out of necessity, as our world was changed with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, challenges provide us with opportunities, and opportunities can become blessings. The need for the congregation to remain at home provided us with an opportunity to reach each other virtually and engage in new ways that have enabled us to celebrate our faith in ways not considered before.

We began virtual services in March using the Zoom platform, with live-streaming on Facebook and YouTube. This has enabled us to worship as a community through our screens, and provided the blessing of allowing our worship to include members and guests from across the nation and across the world. We have incorporated music, slides, coffee hours, and even our annual children’s Christmas Pageant! The ability to have live worship participation from three continents is a remarkable development and something that previously would have been unimaginable. The long-distance reach of New York Avenue has become an essential part of our worshipping experience, and we look forward to incorporating elements of this form of worship even after we are able to resume services in the sanctuary. This connectivity is a blessing that has come out of this challenging time.

We had the opportunity to welcome guest preachers to our virtual pulpit this year, and value the sermons offered by General Presbyter of National Capital Presbytery Rev. John Molina Moore, Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams, Rev. Sara Varnado, and our Youth Confirmands on Youth Sunday.

Our lay liturgists continued to be coordinated by the valuable service of Raleigh-NC-resident and NYAPC member Mark Zaineddin, and we have enjoyed the contributions of many members in this worship leadership role. Anyone who is interested in leading liturgy is invited to contact Mark.

We began the year celebrating Communion on the first Sundays of January, February, and March, served by four elders on the chancel steps at both worship services. This format changed from the first Sunday in April going forward to celebrating Communion in our homes using elements at hand.

We are extremely grateful for the service, expertise, and equipment supplied by our Worship Team who make things run for every service: our pastors, Will Timmons, Joe Thierry, Dr. Stan Engebretson, Taisha Estrada, Rev. Jessica Tate, John Moran, and all the additional volunteers who have contributed to making the technical and worship elements of our services run smoothly and engagingly. We look forward to implementing more technical improvements in the coming year.

Thank you to all the 2020 members of the Worship and Music Committee: longstanding members Fred Dann, Stacey Gagosian, Koloina Randrianarivony, and Kathryn Sparks; new and vital voices Meg Neill, Beth Braxton, and Dan Stokes; and pastors Rev. Heather Shortlidge, Rev. Alice Tewell, Rev. Billy Kluttz, and Rev. Rachel Pacheco. Thanks to all who supported this work in 2020.
Music Ministry

Stanley P. Engebretson, Director of Music

Well, certainly the year 2020 was one for the books, in every possible way! In the world of music, singing became impossible due to the dangerous spread of breath aerosols, so we found ourselves pivoting to a “new norm” of virtual choir that means recording, editing, and producing weekly broadcast worship services, all new skills. Thanks to a wonderful worship team and Pastor Heather’s great leadership, we find ourselves enjoying what we can of this new world, while hoping for a return to the sanctuary and a more “normal” way of music in the future.

The youth groups led by Jenete St. Clair and Taisha Estrada are active, yet the amount of music they prepared was reduced due to Covid restrictions. The sanctuary choir recorded anthems using an audio application called “Sound Trap,” adding the video separately in post-process. We wish to thank our technical team, Will Timmons, Joe Thierry, and Taisha Estrada, for their long hours spent editing and designing the recorded musical worship. The choir still has regular “zoom” rehearsals where a wide variety of music is prepared from various traditions that reflect the varied interests of our congregation. In addition to regular anthems, they also recorded a more extensive list of music for Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and other Advent/Christmas music. A separate brass and organ recording session helped us enhance our Christmas anthems and hymns in December, and we are planning the same type of instrumental ensemble to record Easter music as well in 2021.

We are thankful for fine leadership from Meg Neill as President of the choir. The Choir Council and the Music and Worship Committee work diligently to plan and refine our worship experience. Our Choral Associates, Whitney McColley, Jenete St. Clair, Taisha Estrada, and Nathan Moon, all help lead our music on Sundays and throughout the week. Additional leadership is appreciated as well from many instrumentalists and vocalists from within the choir and throughout the congregation who provide a variety of music for NYAPC services.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who have “pivoted” with us in 2020 to provide special music that lifts up the services in our new online “Zoom” world.

The Instruments

With the closure of the sanctuary, the organ was essentially placed on hold. Before the air system expired this spring, the entire sanctuary had another mold attack and remediation was applied. There will be more work ahead once the system is restored when we can go back in and see what steps are needed to bring the organ back to life. The piano and harpsichord were not as significantly impaired by the mold but they will also need attention. James Davis continues to provide excellent care as our piano/harpsichord technician, while the Lewis and Hitchcock Company cares for the organ.
Diaconal Ministers

John O’Brien, President

The Diaconal Ministers are responsible for enriching the worship and congregational life experiences of our faith community. Before the pandemic, our visits to families and home-bound members were the most familiar tasks. We adapted to the pandemic shutdown by shifting to calls and written communications. We sent cards and notes to those we learn about having life difficulties, illness, special family milestones, or just to say we are thinking of you. This has been a period during which we were able to assist in going through our member directory to correct and update contact information. The updated member directory is available digitally and is continuing to be updated.

We conducted two communication campaigns this year. We wrote to every member family to assure them they are in our thoughts and to check on their well-being. We invited requests for other activities the Diaconal Ministers can perform to help support emotional health and faith development. We offer our own follow-up conversation or refer as necessary for counseling and pastoral care.

When we worship in our historic sanctuary, the Diaconal Ministers are responsible for preparing the space for worship, laying out the communion elements and providing the flower arrangements. After services, we deliver the flowers to people identified in advance for recognition, celebration, or consolation. Even though we are not coming together in worship currently, we continue to arrange for flowers to be delivered where they can extend the appreciation of our church family and support those especially isolated. Since we have been worshipping online, we have not received the normal financial contributions for holiday flowers. We made a special appeal for the Flower Fund and the response continues to support the Diaconal Ministers’ ministry throughout the year.

All 21 Diaconal Ministers do important work in serving the congregation. Often, there is a small group who take on a disproportionate share of our responsibilities. We are especially grateful for the dedication and efforts of Barbara Dornan, Diane Douglas, Stacey Gagosian, and Gwenn Gebhard. I invite you to consider how you might help extend our outreach ministry to even more of the congregation. It will both enrich your faith and strengthen our church community.

Columbarium

John Schultheis, Chair

The Columbarium in the Lincoln Chapel provides a permanent witness to the community of saints who have worshipped, worked, and lived among us. It holds in niches the cremated remains of persons who were 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, a short service, similar to a graveside ceremony, is held, usually following a memorial service in the sanctuary, the Chapel, or elsewhere.

To date, subscribers have reserved nearly twenty percent of the 288 niches. A niche currently costs $3,000 for a two urn niche and $2,000 for a one urn niche. Memorial tablets with inscribed nameplates are an alternative available for those whose remains rest in other places but wish to be remembered as part of the NYAPC community of saints. The current cost of a memorial tablet is $300.

The Committee (Rev. Ann Davie, Jim Davidson, John Schultheis, Dan Stokes, and Lenora Thierry) urges members and families to care for our community and honor loved ones through the Columbarium.
Evangelism
Paul Dornan, Chair

Perhaps one lesson that we can draw from our church’s encounter with the pandemic is just how much NYAPC’s efforts at evangelism – sharing the Good News of Christ with our neighbors – are typically bound up with our building. Once someone finds our doors and enters them, we are gracious and hospitable. We make important efforts to welcome visitors into our midst through friendliness, food, nametags, coffee hours and opportunities for service. We’re pretty good at such things.

When faced with doing evangelism without a building, though, we’re venturing into lesser-known waters. When the pandemic began, we rightly focused our initial efforts on honing technical skills, building virtual worship, and reaching out to members so that we could remain one in Christ. In 2021, we need to embrace a new future of evangelism, one that continues to take advantage of our location and culture of hospitality, but one also in which personal and collective witness reaches new people. We frankly do not know the shape this will take, but with God’s help, we will forge a new future.

In 2020, the Evangelism Committee led, encouraged, or participated in the following:

- Delegated responsibility to a new Communications Committee to improve our technical capacity to communicate our message to the public, especially through the website and social media
- Worked with the Trustees to install new outside banners on both sides of the church
- Supported and participated in Triangle Park and Protest Hospitality
- Contacted each member who joined the church in the last three years
- Designed and ordered face masks for hospitality
- Welcomed seven new members

Communications
Erica Morgan, Chair

When the world was thrown into online existence while physical gatherings were no longer possible, it was clear that the Communications Committee’s top priority would be to utilize and improve digital platforms. A website or email doesn’t cultivate deeper faith alone, but provides a platform for connection, which in turn can lead to a stronger faith community. The work of the church continued, and sharing the good news of these initiatives to our dispersed church was imperative.

The website’s Digital Church Hub was created with the essential information needed for participating in digital church life. The hub directs people to our lifeline of weekly worship, fellowship and education events, and ways to give online. Photos and videos were captured, collected, and shared via the website, social media, blog, virtual worship, and “Inspiring Moments” emails.

A huge thanks to Meg House, Will Timmons, Nicole Johnson, Maila Cardoso, and the Evangelism Committee.
Christian Learning

Kristin Ford, Chair

In this year of so much change, the Christian Learning Cluster bid farewell to Rev. Alice Tewell in March, deepened our virtual ministry with Rev. Billy Kluttz during his brief time with us in the spring/early summer, and finally welcomed Rev. Rachel Pacheco to our congregation in August. She has been a blessing to our congregation and especially our work with children and families.

We found new ways of living out our church values of “nurturing community” and “radical hospitality” after we shifted to virtual worship when faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Christian Learning Cluster worked to stay connected with our families of children and youth and support them in this very challenging year by:

- Checking in periodically on families individually,
- Offering virtual storytime to toddler and preschoolers while daycares were closed,
- Shifting our children and youth Sunday School program to Zoom,
- Hosting gatherings with parents of young children by Zoom,
- Leading an online Christmas pageant with Molly Johnson and Penny Wagner's support,
- Delivering Advent bags (with treats, tools for worship and spiritual reflection, and more) to our families all across the Washington, DC area.

We also continued to focus on how we support NYAPC members in deepening their own sense of spirituality, a key goal in our congregation’s strategic plan. We offered Adult Christian Education classes on Saturday afternoons and occasional weekday evenings by Zoom, including:

- a series on “Finding God in the Midst of the Pandemic” with Rev. Beth Braxton, Jim and Courtney Spearman, Morgan Brown, Phil Telfeyan, and Meg House;
- a series by Rev. Heather Shortlidge on the Enneagram,
- a series on discipleship in the Gospels led by Paul Dornan,
- and a faith stories class led by Hillary Webster.

Special thanks to our 20+ dedicated Sunday School teachers who were willing to figure out leading via Zoom. In September, we resumed twice-monthly Christian Education for children and youth. Teachers creatively brought digital images and physical movement to these virtual gatherings. Above all, they showed up each time and showed our young community members that they matter and are loved.

Christian Learning Cluster:
Kristin Ford, Paul Dornan, Melissa Jane Taylor, Morgan Brown, Pruitt Ashworth, Karen Dunlap
McClendon Scholar-In-Residence Program

Theo Brown, Executive Director

Like all other programs in 2020, the activities sponsored by the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program were significantly impacted by the restrictions necessitated by the global pandemic. These restrictions did not keep the MSIR from conducting programs, but merely changed the venue and format. After our initial event in February, all other programs were conducted via Zoom webinars or meetings. While Zoom webinars have limitations compared to in-person programs, they also make it easier for some people to participate and, as a result, we had the largest participation in our programs we have ever had in one year. We conducted a total of seven public programs and more than 2,000 people participated, including people in over 15 different states. Approximately 25% of the participants were NYAPC members, while others were from congregations throughout the Washington area and across the country. In addition, more than 1,200 other people viewed recordings of scholar presentations that were posted online. Here is a summary of the programs we sponsored:

- **February 25: "Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story"**
  This program featured a documentary film on the life of Dorothy Day and a presentation by Sr. Simone Campbell of NETWORK. This was the only in-person program held in 2020. Approximately 250 people attended the program.

- **July 25-26: "Storytelling for Survival"**
  Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams, professor of Old Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary, presented three programs during the weekend: a Saturday morning webinar lecture, a Zoom meeting discussion on Saturday afternoon, and a sermon during NYAPC worship on Sunday. Approximately 300 people participated in the Saturday programs, and 200 people in worship.

- **August 25, September 3, October 14: "After the Protests: What Do We Do Now?"**
  James Forman, Jr., professor at Yale Law School and son of the famous Civil Rights leader, participated in three webinars that focused on specific things we can do to promote racial equality and criminal justice reform. About 850 people participated in the three programs.

- **September 19: "A Spiritual and Moral Response to the Climate Crisis"**
  Karenna Gore, Director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, conducted a webinar for about 200 people and then participated in a Zoom discussion on the climate crisis with 25 young people from NYAPC and other congregations.

- **December 7: "One Nation After Trump: How People of Faith Can Help Save Our Country"**
  E.J. Dionne, syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*, gave a presentation in a webinar attended by about 400 people. He talked about the relationship between faith and politics and ways that people of faith can have a positive impact in the coming years.

As in the past few years, we continued our close cooperation with Emory Methodist, Mt. Lebanon Baptist, Luther Place Memorial, and Metropolitan AME, while also reaching out to and involving clergy and members from dozens of other congregations. 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 Director of the MSIR program also continued to manage a citywide Returning Citizens Assistance Network that is composed of fifteen congregations.

All of these programs were planned and organized under the supervision of the McClendon Scholar in Residence Council which is comprised of ten NYAPC members and led by Chair Paul Dornan.
Nurture and Fellowship

Meg Hanna House, Chair

It was mid-March, and on the calendar were several “Dinners for Nine.” This annual series of rotating dinners is one of the ways that the Nurture Committee helps NYAPC members and friends get to know one another, so that we can live our value of being a Nurturing Community.

But as the week wore on, the drumbeat of pandemic news continued. One participant offered to come to a scheduled dinner even though he was already working from home; he didn’t want to miss the chance or disrupt the dinner for others. But by the end of the week, it was clear: in-person dinners would be canceled. Fortunately, Dinners for Nine was able to continue in Covid-safe ways. Some groups shared meals via computers perched on kitchen counters and dining room tables; some met for virtual pre-dinner “cocktails;” and at least one group took advantage of warm summer weather to picnic.

First Sunday FaithTalk also transitioned online, drawing a few new faces, and in the fall, we started hosting “coffee hour” breakout rooms on Zoom after worship.

The year was challenging for a committee that relies on in-person gatherings to accomplish our goals. We canceled the Women’s Retreat, All-Church Retreat, Congregational Sundays, Summer Potluck, and weekly coffee hours. However, we collaborated with other committees to stay connected: partnering with the Diaconal Ministers to call and write notes to members, helping Christian Learning distribute Advent bags to families, and working with Communications to design and mail an Advent/Christmas calendar to the congregation.

Thank you to Melanie Dann, Miriam Dewhurst, Karen Dunlap, Molly Johnson, Sam Obermyer, Rev. Rachel Pacheco, Carrie Reasonover, Cathy Schultheis, Mary Spatz, Courtney Spearman, and Hillary Webster for all your work, ideas, and support this year!
Community Book Study

*Miriam Dewhurst*

In 2020, the Spiritual Reading Group, which has had several names over the past several years, continued to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00am as the Community Book Study. The Group became a resource as the church pivoted to the reality of being church during a pandemic. For years, the group met every other week, but in March we began meeting every week – and consequently read more books than in previous years. The “regulars” were joined by others, including a relative in southeastern Indiana. Our discussions have been nourishing in this time of deprivation and comforting in this time of stress. Anyone is welcome to join this group. This year, we read *Remarkable Ordinary* (Frederick Beuchner), *Christianity After Religion* (Diana Butler Bass), *The Universal Christ* (Richard Rohr), *Almost Everything* (Anne Lamott), and *Caste* (Isabel Wilkerson).

Docherty Center and Sizoo Library

*Tom Dunlap, NYAPC Librarian*

With our members zooming in from around the area, the nation, and the world, the Sizoo Library changed into an extremely safe and utterly quiet zone. When there are no readers, no borrowers, no meetings, no exchange of greetings or changing of diapers, the library morphs into more of a warehouse for great ideas, spiritual illumination, and stories of saints and saviors. The 17,000 books are awaiting readers of all kinds, missions and needs.

On a surprising note, the Docherty Center/Sizoo Library received a $3,374.35 bequest in honor of Leonora Marquis from the trust of Chalmers H. Marquis, Jr. Leonora served in the 1970’s and 1980’s on various boards and as Christian Education Director. She was instrumental in the design, funding, and furnishing of the Docherty Center. IMHO, it has been one of NYAPC’s most inviting rooms, used by our congregation for meetings and classes, by outside groups, and by individuals for a quiet place on Sunday mornings. We are open to suggestions on how to spend this generous gift.

History and Archives

*Len Shabman, History and Archives Programs Coordinator*

The History and Archives Committee is the steward of our congregation’s fascinating 200-year history. Our work cultivates deeper faith by telling stories about how members and leaders wrestled with scripture, seeking to discern what it means to be the church in the world at each moment in U.S. history. For example, John O’Brien has been corresponding with Lincoln scholars on Phineas Gurley’s influence on Lincoln’s drafting of a private faith statement.

The ability to tell our story now, and for future generations, is supported by archived items, such as church bulletins and board minutes. In 2020, much of our ministry has been recorded in audio/visual formats, so our work will include developing procedures for proper storage of digital material. We typically offer tours of the building following regular worship services, sharing NYAPC’s past and present as a justice-seeking congregation, and plan to develop virtual tour material for the website. This year, we contributed Christian Education Zoom presentations and articles for AveNews.

Early in 2020, we began expansion and reorganization of historical materials displayed in the John Quincy Adams room, the Lincoln Parlor, the Docherty Center, and other areas. We were again invited by the National Park Service to present a memorial wreath to celebrate Lincoln’s February birthday and were represented at the Lincoln Memorial by David Powell and Marsha Renwanz.
Deacons

Olivia Singelmann, President

The Board of Deacons is responsible for planning and interpreting the congregation’s social education and action ministry, as well as providing care for those in need. Though 2020 was extremely difficult, the missions overseen by the Deacons rose to the challenge:

- Deacons have continued leading participation in Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) efforts. On July 2, 80 NYAPC members joined 600+ people for a large WIN Action via Zoom, urging the DC Council to shift budget resources to produce genuinely affordable housing. Several joined a WIN Action on Sept. 2 to demand affordable units when Reservation 13 (the home of old DC General Hospital next to RFK Stadium and the DC Jail) is developed.
- Radcliffe Room (p24) volunteers transformed the usual indoor Sunday morning fellowship into an outdoor fellowship in Triangle Park. This ministry continued and expanded in the pandemic.
- Community Club (p25) tutor/student pairs continued to meet weekly as they have done for decades, but were able to do so safely and virtually via Zoom.
- 7-2-9 (p26) volunteers provided Christmas gifts for those individuals at St. Elizabeth’s hospital who would normally attend the in-person weekly program.
- We connected with our Njoro, Kenya Partners (p27) via video calls, and rejoiced with them in moving forward with building a library using grant money awarded in 2020.
- A team visited our Cuba Partners (p28), and a few presented to the Cuba Partners Network.

Finally, we mourned the loss of board member Barry Tindall. We remember fondly his devotion to Triangle Park, the site of so much of the Deacons’ expression of God’s love and engagement in God’s justice this year. We are grateful to have served with him, and will keep him in our hearts always.

Officers: Olivia Singelmann, Pres.; Elizabeth Merritt, VP; Tracy Branding Pyle, Secretary; Martha Davis, Treasurer

Peace and Justice

Marilyn J. Seiber, Chair

The Peace & Justice Committee had reduced activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we remained active via email and fundraising. Fritz von Fleckenstein continued his unswerving service of providing action emails on peace and justice causes to the church. The exception to a year of virtual activity was the effort to curb gun violence through monthly demonstrations at the headquarters of the National Rifle Association, led by Anne Laroche and joined by Rev. Jack Mathison and others.

We continued to fund worthy causes, including $500 each sent to three PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Cuba, Indonesia, and the Middle East. We made a donation to DACA and churches helping immigrants. NYAPC collected $4,108.50 for the PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering, 25% of which is retained for the work of the Peace and Justice Committee. This money may support a request from Baghdad Presbyterian Church for a new car ($25,000 Kia Sport). Marilyn Seiber shared this request with National Capital Presbyterian Churches with an interest in Iraq that resulted in a donation.

We again organized the Alternative Christmas Gifts program, using digital means. Fritz expanded the Alternative Christmas Catalogue with more information and photos. Donations totalled $11,548.

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Protest Hospitality

Erica Morgan

Throughout 2020, NYAPC used the building’s unique location, two blocks from the White House, to support protests for justice. Protests were held throughout the year, including the Women’s March, the March for Our Lives, Black Lives Matter protests throughout the spring and summer, and public celebration after the November election. Embodying NYAPC’s value of radical hospitality, volunteers ensured protestors have access to restrooms, water, cell phone charging and cooling stations, and a safe place to rest. During the pandemic, these services are in even greater demand with many other businesses closed.

The church also displayed protest art in a series of installations in celebration of Juneteenth. The congregation and friends submitted protest signs to be hung along New York Avenue, a main thoroughfare of the protests. NYAPC also partnered with a local artist and light designer, John D. Alexander, to display Enlight of Solidarity: Juneteenth “Power to the People” (pictured below) expressing commitment to social justice for Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ communities.
Radcliffe Room

The Radcliffe Room Leadership Team

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.

In 2020, we reinvented how we continue to welcome people experiencing homelessness to NYAPC. We moved the operation outside because of the pandemic, changed open hours to 11am-1pm (formerly 8am-10am), and recruited a host of new volunteers from the congregation and beyond. From March to September, we partnered with the Downtown BID and World Central Kitchen to deliver tens of thousands of nutritious and tasty hot and cold meals seven days a week to guests who have been cut off from their usual resources. Phil Telfeyan was there every day and Morgan Brown, Sam Obermyer, David Snyder, Dara Satterfield, and many others who regularly volunteered multiple times a week. (Read Phil’s report here: bit.ly/RRpandemic)

This year’s goals included increased involvement from members of the church and community - check; develop a network of volunteers to make clothing pickups - check; develop sources for healthy food - check. It has been a remarkable year, and none of us could have imagined on Christmas 2019 what this beloved ministry would look like a year later.

This year, we also:

- Planned Christmas packages to guests, including backpacks, hats, gloves, toiletries, etc.
- Partnered with Asbury United Methodist Church to host our annual Super Bowl Party
- Stayed within budget
- Improvised and overcame many logistical challenges to keep the operation going safely
- Continued to partner with Einstein Bagels in Falls Church, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe in Arlington, and Chesapeake Bagels in Burke, who share their leftovers
- Attracted the attention of Philip Morris while providing hospitality outdoors, leading to a $25,000 grant to further the Radcliffe Room ministry

Radcliffe Room volunteers and friends:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beth and Bob Braxton</th>
<th>Spence Gibbins</th>
<th>Elie Robins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Brown</td>
<td>Anne Laroche</td>
<td>Dara Satterfield</td>
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<td>Chess Campbell</td>
<td>Sandra McLean</td>
<td>David Snyder</td>
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<td>Carol Casperson</td>
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<td>Courtney Spearman</td>
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<td>John Clark</td>
<td>Doug Norwood</td>
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<td>Eddie Council</td>
<td>Jean-Baptiste Odounga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Davis</td>
<td>Kari Parsons</td>
<td>Phil Telfeyan</td>
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<td>Zack Parsons</td>
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<td>Cindy Dickinson</td>
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<td>Beth DuMez</td>
<td>Claudia Porter</td>
<td>Rosemary Segero</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Feret</td>
<td>Tracy Branding Pyle</td>
<td>Jim Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Gerhardt</td>
<td>Marsha Renwanz</td>
<td>Helen Williams</td>
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Community Club

Shamika Bradley and Tom Karr, Co-Directors

High school graduate Rinella Casseus (with tutor Dianne Rankin):
I never knew about such an excellent academic program until my freshman year of high school. I was encouraged to go to Community Club by track team members at my school as they said it would help students with their academics. Although I was super nervous about going to a new school and joining external programs, my life changed when I met Ms. Dianne. I was told that she was supposed to be my tutor, but I later discovered that she was more than that! She was a tutor, a teacher, a counselor, a friend, a motherly figure, and what I mainly refer to her as, my mentor. She is the added sprinkle of wonderful individuals in my life that I have been greatly blessed. Throughout my four years of knowing Ms. Dianne, she has always been a positive and spiritual woman to look up to. She would be that positive person to look forward to after a long day of school, especially the bad days.

This NYAPC ministry pairs DC public and charter school students with local professionals for weekly one-on-one tutoring and mentoring. In March, we stopped meeting in the building due to Covid-19, but continued providing Stay-in-School Scholarships and encouraged tutors to maintain contact with their students. In spite of the challenges, 100% of the senior class graduated and 90% started college. Twelve Club alumni confirmed college graduation and four confirmed earning graduate degrees.

In June, College Student Coordinator Laura Krapsho led a well-attended virtual college student meeting. This fall, we began virtual tutoring, utilizing Zoom breakout rooms for one-on-one and small group sessions. Orientation Coordinator Phil Telfeyan continued to train new tutors and we continue to recruit new students. We also had our mid-year college student meeting on December 29.

Tom Karr and Shamika Bradley (a former student) continue to co-direct the program. The class of 2020 was led by Mariatu Tejan, who took over as College Prep Coordinator this fall, and David Balan leads our Math and Science Zone. The pandemic caused enrollment in the program to drop, which currently stands at about 70 pairs, supported by 110 active volunteers. Seventeen new tutor-student pairs have been matched this year by our registrar, Brendolyn McCarty-Jones.

Stay-in-School Scholarships are monthly stipends for students with good grades and attendance that allow students to concentrate on their studies rather than work part-time jobs. Club alumni enrolled in college with good grades are eligible for semi-annual stipends. In 2019-2020, 36 high schoolers and 59 alumni received stipends, totaling over $50,000. The Club also helps students apply for outside scholarships. In the spring, nine Club alumni received Andrew Charles Dornan Scholarships (p37), and one high school senior was awarded the Jennings Scholarship. Also among our alumni:

- 5 Posse Scholars (full tuition)
- 2 DC Achievers Scholars ($5,000/semester)
- 2 Gates Millennial Scholars (full ride)

The Club received several large donations, including continued support from the New York Avenue Educational Foundation and grants from individual donors. Learn more at www.communityclub.org.
The 7-2-9 Club was started on Valentine’s Day 1979 as an outreach project of the Board of Deacons for residents of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital (St. E’s), a psychiatric facility in southeast Washington. Our mission is to help people with mental health diagnoses transition out of St. E’s and into a community setting, such as an apartment or group home. We meet every Wednesday (September through June) from 7pm to 9pm for bingo, karaoke, board games, food, and fellowship. The program was initiated by Rev. Jack McClendon and approximately 10 volunteers, including Charter Member Mary Prothro, who always summed up our goal as “to have fun!”

By reaching out with some of the most overlooked members of our society (those experiencing mental health disabilities), the program practices radical hospitality and genuine love of our neighbors. Members either currently reside at St. E’s or have been discharged and come on their own. Currently, we are serving fewer in-patients due to St. Elizabeth’s security requirements, which limit the number of individuals who may leave the institution’s grounds. Approximately 20 members and five volunteers typically gather every Wednesday.

While we rotate our activities every week, the most popular nights every month are bingo and the karaoke (hosted by members of the Washington Gay Men’s Chorus). We have three “special events” every year: a Christmas Party with gifts contributed by the Board of Deacons, a Valentine’s Day Party (which also marks the 7-2-9 birthday), and a June Picnic with a complete fried chicken dinner.

Fall 2020 marked the beginning of our 42nd year. Since the pandemic has prohibited us from meeting in person, we decided to simulate our special events by sending gift bags to our members at St. E’s. Volunteers assembled 30 gift bags for Christmas, including stockings, Santa hats, gloves, warm socks, and other beloved items.
Njoro, Kenya Partners

*Morgan Brown, Chair*

In 2020, as we have dealt with a global pandemic, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) program, our shared ministry with partners at the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (P.C.E.A.) in Njoro, Kenya, has given us the opportunity to find new ways of “deepening our faith” and “broadening our understanding of stewardship,” key goals of our church’s strategic plan.

Our communication and connection with P.C.E.A. Njoro (as well as friends from Old Presbyterian Meeting House and Goshen International Church in Richmond) have allowed us to reach out to our neighbors far away to build upon our “nurturing community.” We realized early in the year that the technology that allowed us to connect virtually as a church in DC would also allow us to connect with our friends in Njoro in a new way. Starting in May, we had bi-monthly cross-continental Zoom meetings with the OVC committee in Njoro. In these meetings, our friends’ deep faith, prayer life, and consistent reminders of God’s love helped us deepen our own faith and feed our spirits.

As in years past, the OVC program served 33 orphans and vulnerable youth through educational support, food, clothes, medical fees, home visits, and encouragement. Grounded in “radical hospitality,” the program truly offered a safe place for these children. This year, the program was restructured to meet the challenges of the pandemic. The children came twice a week (instead of just on Saturdays) in order to allow for smaller groups and social distancing. The program’s social worker, Susan Wambugu, and Rev. Tony Matiko continued home visits to check on and pray for each child and their family. The Njoro committee also increased the supply of food given to the families to ensure everyone had enough to eat while the children were out of school.

Because the children were out of school for most of this year, they also needed access to reading materials and a place to study. At the end of April as challenges and worries over the pandemic grew, our committees saw an immediate need for our planned library project. While the pandemic made it easy to worry about finances and the state of the economy, our friends in Njoro continued to give us an example of how to live out our value of “joyful stewardship” and to rely on God’s abundance. Instead of holding back, the OVC program chose to move faithfully and boldly forward, and through generosity of time, labor, and supplies, the OVC program has a new library! In February, Rev. Beth Braxton wandered around warehouse yards in Nairobi, Kenya, and helped pick out shipping containers that would become the library. The shipping containers were purchased with money from a National Capital Presbyterian Global Mission Grant that NYAPC was awarded. In early June, those shipping containers were delivered to Njoro, and by October students were able to come to the library in small groups to study and learn together.

Through more Zoom calls and emails, our committee looks forward to continuing our work with our friends in Njoro to improve the lives of the children in the OVC program in 2021.

Cuba Partners

*Marilyn J. Seiber, Coordinator*

Despite plans being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cuba Partners Committee had a full year of faith-enriching events with our Cuba partners. We overcame barriers of not being together with the help of technology that allowed us to nurture each other’s faith and worship together.

Fortunately, NYAPC’s annual visit with First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana occurred February 3-10, before Covid shutdowns. Four churches participated (NYAPC, Church of the Pilgrims, Immanuel PC, Old Presbyterian Meeting House). Everyone broadened their understanding of faith and stewardship through Bible study (led by Mitch Fulton and Marilyn Seiber), an annual Game Night (led by Katherine Leiden), and celebrating the 24th anniversary of the Marianao Mission (with Marilyn Seiber preaching). The NYAPC delegation presented the 2019 Alternative Christmas Gift of $781.

Other highlights in 2020:

- In June, the Moderator of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church, Rev. Arce, and General Secretary Rev. Edelberto Valdés sent a letter to PC(USA) Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson to reaffirm the solidarity of partnership between our churches and to “raise our voice... with yours to unequivocally condemn the assassination of George Floyd.”

- In September, the Cuba Partners Network convened its annual meeting via Zoom. The event was a tremendous success with more people attending across the country and the wonderful ability to have more Cuban participants (no visas needed!). NYAPC members Anne Laroche, Betsy Merritt, and Marilyn Seiber provided individual presentations on advocacy for Cuba.

- In the fall, the Cuba Partners Committee participated virtually in the annual NYAPC Mission Fair and World Communion Sunday. Aryn Myers used a backdrop of the First Havana sanctuary as though she were speaking from Havana. It was wonderful!

- NYAPC sent $1,000 to the Cuba Synod from the committee budget, and another $8,500 through an unexpected gift from the Boyd Foundation.

It has been a year of challenge but untold rewards of strengthened, meaningful partnership with First Havana and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba as we seek a better world in Christ’s love.
Trustees

*James Spearman, President*

In 2020, the Trustees continued to act as stewards of our church’s physical and financial assets and, like almost all elements of our church, did it faithfully in the new context of COVID-19.

Almost all of the Trustees work can be recognized as guided by our church’s Strategic Plan. Trustees participated in the quarterly strategic plan updates, and much of the board’s work this year can be tied directly to the Plan’s implementation goals of broadening our understanding and practice of stewardship, and optimizing the effectiveness of our leadership/staff structures and programs/ministries.

Facilities and Operational Life

**New staff structure, including the Facility Manager**

This year, Trustees participated in the Personnel Committee’s work (p10-11) to develop the job description and hire for the new Facility Manager position. Articulated elsewhere in this report, the Facility Manager will improve effectiveness on several fronts. Trustee Edie Snyder chaired the Personnel Committee this year and led this work. Interim Facility Manager and member/volunteer John O’Brien generously lived into the new role on a temporary basis, and we would not have come through the year nearly as successfully without him. Trustees Aryn Myers and Hal Heimstra participated directly in the hiring process. In just a few months, our new Facility Manager Elias Bazezew is already showing what a great long-term improvement to the church his role can be.

**Tenant Relations**

Trustees maintain the church’s overall relationships with tenants in our building (p29-31). Ideally, this is a collaborative relationship, both missionally and financially. COVID-19 brought a need to check in regularly at a high level with tenants about how they are doing. Trustees and staff closely monitored tenants this year, which produced insight into overall income situations. This led to a more pastoral approach, forgiving rent in some cases and expressing gratitude for continuing payments in other cases. Overall, the church’s income from tenants was down, but not by nearly as much as it could have been. It went smoothly in large part due to Hal Heimstra’s diligent high-level communications.

In addition to COVID-driven work, Trustees also dealt with negotiating and renegotiating several tenant contracts. While all Trustees participated to some extent, Ross Coe’s time, energy, and insights have been invaluable in this work.

A particular opportunity arose this year for a Warming Center in the church as an extension of existing tenant activity. It is short term, but required significant negotiation time from Ross Coe, Hal Heimstra, Karl Hoffman, John O’Brien, and others. The result is a great asset for the immediate next several months.

**Facility Infrastructure for the Future**

This year, Trustees continued to develop the scope, schedule, and budget for completing the HVAC replacement work that began several years ago with the fifth floor, then addressed the Park Level, and now is anticipated to address the sanctuary and other spaces. This project can provide benefits for decades to come.
Trustees (continued)

Tom Dunlap has been pursuing solutions to the HVAC system for years; Craig Berry has provided unique insights into utilities relationships and sustainability-based funding opportunities. Special deep thanks are due to John O’Brien for his work on this project and so many other activities in his role as Interim Facility Manager.

Another exciting facility element, still a bit under the radar at the time of writing, is a new contract for solar panels. Hal Heimstra and Tom Dunlap have identified and pursued an opportunity to replace the existing panels with more panels that are more efficient, at no cost to the church, through a power purchase agreement. The generative capacity of the church’s photovoltaic array will increase. This work is anticipated to be implemented in 2021.

The Homeland Security Grant we applied for in 2019 was awarded in summer 2020, and the performance period is two years. A Trustees group including Aryn Myers has begun working with staff to develop the projects and staff/volunteer training that will come out of this grant.

Facility infrastructure extends to the digital realm, and Trustee Matt Webster has prepared church computer systems to migrate from a combination of Office/Sharepoint/Dropbox to GSuite. The new Office Manager Rose Kim will take on implementation going forward.

Facility Operations for Today
The pandemic brought many disruptions and opportunities for facility operations. Trustees participated in many church leadership discussions of opening and closing the building, whether that was for “normal” operations in the pandemic, or special events like the protest hospitality work during the protests in the summer.

And yet, in the face of the pandemic, the quotidian needs of the facility did not stop. Preventive maintenance on existing HVAC systems required further removal of asbestos left from installation decades ago. Mold appeared, and was abated, in some spaces.

Small improvements including touchless faucets in all multi-stall restrooms, and a new access control system to manage stair and elevator access electronically via timer or access card brought benefits that are both pandemic-related and simply better for operations.

This year the Trustees identified, and Interim Facility Manager John O’Brien pursued, several new contracts for utilities through Community Purchasing Alliance, a partnership of non-profits to collectively buy commonly needed services at a discount.

Financial Life

Audit
Following up on the previous year, the audit of 2019 financial statements was clean with minimal recommendations. The experience of the Audit committee members, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and other Trustees, is that it is a very minor set of recommendations, and the fact that they are so minor suggests that the church’s accounting system is in generally excellent health in terms of external accounting standards.

The Audit committee, including Aryn Myers and Edie Snyder, accepted bids from other firms for the 2020 audit. Trustees have authorized a different firm, who is now beginning the 2020 audit. The firm was selected on the basis of value, including both cost and qualitative factors.
Trustees (continued)

Treasury
Trustees and staff provide the church’s basic Treasury functions, including receiving money and spending money through making deposits and making payments. In pre-COVID times, for example, two Trustees would sign every check.

The pandemic seriously disrupted some of these basic processes, but Trustees authorized special procedures enabling the Treasurer and Accounting Manager to continue these processes in a transparent and accountable manner. Special thanks to Finance Manager Lance Jameson for his diligence, energy, and perseverance through many challenges this year.

Lance and Karl Hoffman pursued and Trustees authorized a PPP loan, which is expected to be forgiven, and that will be a great benefit to the congregation.

Outside of pandemic-related events, an Assistant Treasurer role was created, and immense thanks are due to incoming Trustee Doug House, who served in that role this year without serving on the Board. Doug’s energy and insights brought clarity and consistency to many aspects of the church’s financial system, including managing the outside accountant consultant and aligning the chart of accounts more closely with the way our church works.

Treasurer Karl Hoffman continued his adept leadership by negotiating a new banking relationship with a regional bank more attuned to churches than our previous bank became. Along with this came a new approach to debt management, including a term loan for the principal cost of the basement HVAC system that is being paid by that tenant, in which the term is amortized to expire at the end of the tenants last renewal period.

Planning
The HVAC project has required serious time and consideration of the church’s financial position in the context of the need to do a major project now. Thanks to Karl Hoffman, Doug House, Lance Jameson, and all who put in time to develop the financing framework for this. Parallel with developing the HVAC project scope, schedule, and budget, Trustees have begun collaborating with groups in the church who are directly focused on fundraising. Thanks to Hal Heimstra and Tom Dunlap in particular for engaging this critical part of the project.

Trustees are aware and deeply grateful for completion of two long-expected bequests this year, and for one unexpected and very generous bequest this year. Trustees are involved in bequests to verify legal dimensions of accepting a particular bequest. Bequests are great statements of faith, because they witness a deep commitment to this congregation, and they extend the congregation’s capacity to live out our mission into the future.

Although Trustees are named by term year elsewhere in this annual report, they are also intentionally named within this narrative. Amongst this group there is diversity of approach and experience, and each Trustee has made unique contributions this year. Their collective energy and wisdom is inspiring.
Tenant Organizations in the Building

Hal Hiemstra, Trustee

“Radical hospitality” and “nurturing community” are two of the five overarching core values included in NYAPC’s Strategic Plan. Given the location of our large church building in downtown Washington, DC, how we use our building and the ways we make it available to various tenants helps us live out our ministries of hospitality and nurture.

More than ten organizations identify 1313 New York Avenue NW as their home besides our congregation. Like NYAPC, they too were initially shuttered when our church building was closed in mid-March. Most of these organizations have been operating virtually since then, looking forward to returning when it is safe to do so.

Prior to the pandemic, the Downtown Day Services Center had been serving 150 or more clients per day. In response to ongoing needs, in late spring, the Day Services Center began offering limited counseling services by appointment while meals were being served. When DC moved into Phase II reopening in June, the Day Services program expanded its own program – once again offering restrooms, showers, laundry, phone charging, and emergency clothing – though it has not yet been able to restart all of its counseling programs. The Center continues to operate at about 30% capacity at this time. In addition to partnering with NYAPC and World Central Kitchen to provide daily meals in the warmer months, we also began partnering in late December with the Center and the Mayor’s Office to provide access to the Radcliffe Room as a daytime warming center.

The McClendon Center (see following report) was also upended by the pandemic. Prior, the Center had expanded its program to use meeting spaces throughout the church and in one additional off-site building and was serving an estimated 4,000 clients annually. With the shut-down of in-person services, the Center became a virtual organization offering services to its clients via tele-health.

A third counseling program operated out of NYAPC is sponsored by Capital Clubhouse. The Clubhouse model provides mental health services in a clubhouse setting that offers members a path to recovery from mental illness through friendship, meaningful work, and access to education and housing. The Clubhouse had been meeting in the Radcliffe Room, but because their client base primarily travels by public transit, and because they work with clients in a group setting, CC leaders have not yet been able to safely restart in-person meetings.

The Downtown Cluster of Congregations, directed by Terry Lynch, has operated out of NYAPC since its founding in 1972. The Downtown Cluster is a non-profit ecumenical association founded for the purpose of cooperatively meeting pressing human service needs in DC. The Cluster has grown from a handful of congregations to a coalition of 50 congregations stretching across the city. From offices located just off the lobby of our church, the Cluster hosts two primary programs: a Homeless Services Unit and the Washington Area Community Investment Fund. The Downtown Cluster also actively assists a wide range of other programs including soup kitchens, community health care programs, shelters for battered women, and employment programs. Working mostly remotely since March, the Downtown Cluster has been engaged in coordinating congregational responses to the pandemic, as well as the tragic violence and political turmoil that Cluster congregations have faced this year.
Fabrangen, a Jewish fellowship founded in 1971, has been renting our sanctuary and holding its High Holy Day services at NYAPC for the last 35 years, though it was unable to do so in 2020. Fabrangen is a havurah, a fellowship that is led by its members, not by one rabbi, with services that are known for their vitality and depth.

Prior to the pandemic, two smaller congregations also typically held Sunday afternoon services at our church: Kingdom Life Ministries and Faith Temple. Pastor Pete Norm reports that Kingdom Life Ministries is doing well and thriving, but looks forward to returning when it is safe. The DC Concert Orchestra, which typically practices on Sunday afternoons in Peter Marshall Hall, and other independent tenants are part of the NYAPC community. They, like our own congregation, have been forced to discover new ways to operate during this pandemic, but every tenant is anxious to return when it is safe to do so. We encourage your continued prayers and support for these important community nurturing programs.

McClendon Center

Dennis Hobb, Director

The McClendon Center was created in 1980 and named after the Rev. Dr. Jack McClendon, making 2020 its 40th year!

The pandemic has upended how the Center operates. Though we are still serving 4,000 people annually, most of our services have become virtual and are conducted via tele-health. The Day Program, still located at NYAPC after forty years, has also re-invented itself in a virtual space. Whereas we were serving about 65 people in person every day pre-COVID, now we are serving the same number of people daily over Zoom.

This speaks to the innovation and creativity of our staff and Board, as well as the need to fulfill our mission: to prepare people recovering from mental illness to improve their quality of life. As a congregation, NYAPC can be proud of what you created so long ago. As I retire in January 2021, I am extremely grateful to have shared in this ministry with you. Now, on to the next forty years!

Art by Evelena, a Day Program client
Finances

Doug House, Co-Chair

The Finance Committee performs two primary functions: monitoring execution of the current year’s budget and coordinating the development of the next year’s budget to propose for Session’s approval.

This year, the finance committee worked closely with our bookkeepers, accountants, and Trustees to more clearly articulate and unify our financial management efforts. We adjusted the financial manual to simplify processes, budget more accurately, and manage dedicated funds more efficiently.

The NYAPC financial performance in the past two years has proven stronger than originally budgeted, for both 2019 and 2020, and is something to celebrate. It is especially notable that while 2020 was a crisis year, the church reached and even exceeded its revenue target.

### Budget vs Actuals - P&L Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 (final)</th>
<th>2020 (through 3rd Quarter)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$2,101,586</td>
<td>$1,180,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$2,445,551</td>
<td>$1,405,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>($343,965)*</td>
<td>($225,250)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Net income is calculated before endowment transfers. This is a revenue-side addition that is made at the end of the year and will reduce the net loss.

### 2021 Budget

The operating budget for 2021 includes $2,037,203 in expenses and $1,418,787 in revenue. The budget also includes an expected $435,995 in endowment transfers and administrative contributions, leaving an end “spendable money” net income of ($182,421). The only Capital expense that is not reflected in this budget is a large one: the full HVAC replacement project. This project is funded through debt, so the expense for this project will be seen in the 2021 and future budgets through the interest expense line. The sooner this debt is paid off, the cheaper it will be in the long run. The 2021 budget will be available online. To request access please contact Lance Jameson (lance.jameson@nyapc.org). Audited 2020 financial statements will also be made available through the office once they are completed.

Committee members included Doug House (co-chair), Martha Davis (Deacons), Laura Brouse-Long and Brian Dewhurst (Session), Sarah McGinnis (Diocesan Ministers), Karl Hoffman (Trustees), John Davies (At-Large), and Brent Ling (co-chair, Session). Lance Jameson served on the committee in his role as Accounting Manager. Special thanks to all boards and committees for their deliberation and input.
2021 Stewardship Campaign

Tracy Branding Pyle and Laura Brouse-Long, Co-Chairs

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign focused on celebrating how God helps us persevere through tough times, while also looking forward to how we can continue to engage in God’s transforming work in the future. The campaign highlighted how NYAPC continues to do God’s work, even during a global pandemic. Just as NYAPC has continued praising God, they have continued sharing their gifts with God, exceeding pledges received in 2019.

As of January 19, 2021, we received pledges of $713,539, an increase of $33,301 from 2020 pledges. This includes 100% board participation. Pledges were made by 131 giving units, with 16 new giving units and 72 increasing their pledge from 2020. The median pledge was $3,500. For giving units that pledged in 2020 and 2021, overall pledges increased 13%.

We are grateful to those who have already made 2021 pledges and encourage others to consider their 2021 commitment. Many thanks to Lance Jameson, Senior Accountant, Rev. Heather Shortlidge, and the Stewardship Committee: Brian Schimming, Cathleen Lauer, Karin Lohman, and Penny Wagner.

Investments

Karl S. Hoffman, Chair

NYAPC’s portfolio is managed by Ariba Asset Management. The custodian for NYAPC’s accounts is UBS. Committee members were Hal Hiemstra, Tom Dunlap, Karin Lohman, James Spearman, and Karl Hoffman (Chair).

As of 12/31/20:

- Total value of investment accounts (excl. dedicated working capital cash account): $14,646,939
- Investment portfolio allocation: stocks (65.3%), bonds (19.2%), other (7.1%), cash/equiv. (8.4%)
- Portfolio net investment gain: $2,868,556

The stock portfolio performed very well, handily exceeding the broad U.S. stock market indices. The performance on longer time frames continues to achieve satisfactory returns on a risk-adjusted basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of Dec. 31, 2019</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Incept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYAPC Equity Acct</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>14.46%</td>
<td>11.82%</td>
<td>8.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLD 400 Social Index</td>
<td>19.07%</td>
<td>13.38%</td>
<td>13.57%</td>
<td>7.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500 Index</td>
<td>16.26%</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
<td>12.94%</td>
<td>7.44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NYAPC’s fixed income portfolio consists primarily 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of Dec. 31, 2019</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Incept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYAPC Bond Acct</td>
<td>5.32%</td>
<td>4.34%</td>
<td>4.12%</td>
<td>4.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Cap. Agg. Bond Index</td>
<td>7.51%</td>
<td>5.34%</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Given the low/non-existent interest rates on cash, our advisor has placed a portion of our cash/fixed income holdings in a gold ETF, classified as “other” in the asset allocation description above. This decision has been implemented across accounts and has impacted (positively) the performance of both sets of returns listed above.
Planned Giving

*Catherine E. Schultheis, Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts*

*John Schultheis, Committee Chair*

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. Bequests are one of the many reasons our church is so vital today. Members of the congregation believe in sharing our faith and material blessings with others (one of the cornerstone principles of our Presbyterian heritage). We are supported in our work by the Presbyterian Endowment Education and Resource Network (PEER).

This year, $513,927 in bequests and special gifts were received. Our church is blessed by such generosity. It is a joy to meet with church members 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.

The highlight of a legacy-themed church school class was how a younger member with a terminal illness told the story of her personal journey in estate planning. When her attorney presented her with the final copy of the will, she expressed her great happiness about having it completed. He expressed surprise at her joyfulness about having a will completed at such a young age and because of a grim diagnosis. She responded that it gave her great comfort and joy to know that those she loved and what she loved—her church—would benefit from the gifts God had given to her during her lifetime. There was purpose in her life and continued blessing for others upon her death.

In 2012, the Birthday Fund was created to acknowledge and celebrate life while enhancing the church's missions. Since Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from celebrating congregants’ birthdays with homemade cupcakes after morning worship, we started sending cupcake birthday cards. This will continue until we are able to worship and enjoy fellowship in person.

We celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 1st during which we emphasized the Planned Giving aspects of our annual Stewardship Program. We named NYAPC members who died since last year, and we acknowledged persons for whom memorial gifts were given, bequests received, gifts from trusts, and proceeds from endowment funds for the past year.

From 2008 through 2020, NYAPC has received bequests and special gifts totaling $8,036,845. This sum includes the following 2020 receipts: $403,886 from the estate of Amy Ruth Gillespie for whatever purposes the church decides are appropriate (Amy did not believe in restrictions for a “love gift”); a $90,000 planned special gift from Nancy Dickinson for church building repairs; $16,667 from the estate of Rev. Robert Craig, DMin for whatever purposes the Session deems appropriate (considering Rob’s love of “the wonderful people of the congregation”); and, $3,374 from the Chalmers H. Marquis, Jr. Trust, for maintaining the George M. Docherty Center for Congregational Life.

The Church has also been notified of an additional substantial sum from the estate of David S. Brown, likely to be received during the first quarter of 2021.

The 2020 Planned Giving Committee included Carol Casperson, Melanie Dann, James Martin, Brian Schimming, Cathy Schultheis, John Schultheis, and Edith Snyder.
Benevolence Fund

Miriam Dewhurst

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. Any gifts or bequests specifically made to the Benevolence Fund are restricted and can be used only for the purposes of the Fund.

The Benevolence Committee received fewer requests for assistance in 2020, most likely because the church building was largely closed and people who might be seeking assistance would not have been able to easily access the application form or receive advice from a receptionist. Some people were able to email requests, however, and the Committee was glad to be able to give assistance. The committee follows a process that allows individuals, whether or not they are members of the congregation, 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 2020 Benevolence Committee consisted of Betsy Merritt, Olivia Singelmann, Rev. Heather Shortlidge, and the Session Treasurer as Chair.

Metcalf-Edgington Fund

Miriam Dewhurst

The generosity of William P. Metcalf and Frank Edgington continues to enable this church to support many in need. At the time of their deaths, these two loyal members set aside funds from their estates to create certain trust funds. 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. Heather Shortlidge, the Session Treasurer Melissa Jane Taylor, and the Clerk of Session, Miriam Dewhurst.

In 2020, in addition to requests from individuals, the Fund supported some personnel expenses including the health premiums of church staff, and some program expenses of the 7-2-9 program. Also, a donation was made to the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.
Andrew Charles Dornan Memorial Scholarship Fund

Paul B. Dornan

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 Upperclassmen Scholarships to help Club alumni as they complete their college careers. Eight years ago, the Bruce Davie Memorial Scholarship funds, given in memory of a constant supporter of Community Club, were combined with the Dornan funds to support the Upperclassmen Scholarships.

The scholarships are open to any Club alumni who have completed 70 college credits, maintain 12+ credits per term, and maintain a 2.0+ GPA. The scholarship responds to the reality that colleges tend to reduce or withdraw aid from upperclassmen to focus on incoming freshmen, as well as the reality that lower-income students do not have the luxury of dawdling through their college years. Statistics suggest that lower-income students who don’t complete their degree in four to five years are unlikely to finish. Most of our students are completing school within four years.

The Upperclassmen Scholarships supplement Community Club College Scholarships. More than $122,000 of Upperclassmen Scholarship funding has been awarded to 50 students over the last 13 years. In May 2020, nine students received Upperclassmen Scholarships totaling $18,500 ($2,000 of which came from the New York Avenue Educational Foundation):

- Grace Ajayi (George Wash.)
- Nadeeya Harrison (American)
- John Rosales (Trinity Washington)
- Kaylah Bias (Florida A&M)
- Mozique Howard (NC Central)
- Emmanuel Thomas (Rhode Island)
- Jordan Harmon (NC Carolina A&T)
- Kate Letsa (Univ. of Maryland)
- Myracle Weeks (Delaware State)

Andrew’s and Bruce’s families thank all those who have given so graciously to help our young people in Community Club and to remember Andrew and Bruce.

Virginia L. Cochran and David S. Brown Memorial Fund

Paul B. Dornan

Rev. Jack McClendon characterized Virginia as a generative person, who built up, nurtured, and nourished every person she met. “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.” Dave Brown, her great friend and co-founder of Community Club, shared that wonderful generative quality.

In May 1983, the Virginia L. Cochran Memorial Fund was established to commemorate Virginia’s commitment to the educational development of young people in the inner city and to perpetuate the types of programs that she fostered in the Community Club. Income from the fund is available to:

- Provide scholarships to assist Community Club alumni 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 to serve others.

The fund was renamed the Virginia L. Cochran and David S. Brown Memorial Fund 11 years ago to commemorate Dave’s 43 years as Director of Community Club, including 21 years co-directing with Virginia. This fund honors two great friends, stalwart members of the NYAPC community, and the founding mother and father of Community Club. Those of us blessed to know and love Virginia and Dave hope this fund continues to materially support the work to which they committed so much of their time, energy, and selves.