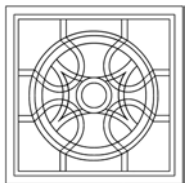


THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL



Annual Report 2017



Cindy's Year-at-a-Glance

This year I am just skipping through highlights on my calendar. The highlights do not include the relationships that are at the heart of what I do and why. The names of those whose hands held for the last time in death appear in another part of this report, but each month reminded me of so many that we miss so dearly. Likewise the names of hospitals remind me of so many who have struggled with illness this year, some for the whole year. Neither does this detail worship and preaching or weekly Bible study, the anchors of my own life. I am grateful for every, every minute I have been given with you.

January

In addition to the usual meetings of Session, Church life Committee, Adult Education, Social Witness Committee, Finance, Investment Committee, Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia and Presbytery, what jumps out at me from my calendar are a multitude of meetings for the Capital Campaign. I thought that was over two years ago! What an amazing group of folks who mounted a second effort and led us to reach our goal.

February

While the meetings continued as well as visits to the hospital, memorial services planned and led, visits about baptisms or to welcome new members, I added an interesting responsibility to my life for the next three years. I flew to Nashville to be trained as a mentor for the Company of New Pastors in the PCUSA. With Casey Thompson, minister of Wayne Church, I will work with five newly ordained ministers in the PCUSA, following them through their first calls. It was also fun to return to the halls of Vanderbilt Divinity School where all my professors are retired or dead.

I also noticed a meeting for faith leaders at Lutheran Theological Seminary with Rick Jacobs, head of the Reform Movement in Judaism. The topic was how to lead and tend our flocks during a time of division and distrust in our national life. It brought back to my mind how challenging those months were in a community that is as diverse as ours is politically.

March

March began with a most amazing Capital Campaign Kick-Off Brunch with eating stations all over the church where renovations were proposed. So many more meetings about the campaign filled my days. The youth Spaghetti Dinner is always a highlight of this month for me. But then I realized that it was a month like no other for me personally. My dear friend Lindsey Christiansen, who had been diagnosed with a glioblastoma at the beginning of October, died on Ash Wednesday as all of us ringed her bed singing hymns. Soon after that, I was simply sick for a few weeks, through the time of her burial and service. I was so sick, I had to cancel a much anticipated trip to Beirut for the Lebanese American University Board meeting.

April

The first highlight of April was the Lenten service and Luncheon at Normandy Farm. Then it was Holy Week, leading to a magnificent Easter Morning. Elders were trained and examined, the Session retreated for dinner at my house and Harris for a Saturday spent thinking about hospitality and our church home. More Capital Campaign meetings, culminating in Commitment Sunday the last Sunday of the month. But the highlight of the whole month was Angry Church Yoga at Melody and Comedy!

May

The first week in May was spent with my parents in Florida. Little did I know what the next two months would hold for our family. I returned to the pew on the first Sunday to be led in an incredible service of worship by Brian and the youth. The highlight of the month was Staff Planning Retreat in Cape May at the DiDonato's home. All of us were exhausted, but we managed to put together another challenging year with NO capital campaign! As always, lots was dreamed about that has yet to see the light of day. As important as anything is the time we have together to bond (mostly) and over-share. Then it was off to Maine!

June/July/August

As you all know, the month I had planned in Maine was spent mostly in Florida as my mother died. I am so grateful for the time and the freedom you gave me to be, as my mother said, “her minister” for once. Let’s just say, I am better at being your minister—or at least I hope so! It was a gift to spend some extra time with my father after my mother’s death, so that is about all I remember of June and the beginning of July. I was supposed to preach at the Proctor Institute in Tennessee for The Children’s Defense Fund but will do that this coming July. August, I flew back to Florida to bring my Father up for my mother’s burial in our Memorial Garden where I also will be someday. The best thing about the summer months you will find in Brian and Austin’s reports: the Youth Mission Trip was, of course, the best ever. Same is true for the Summer Music, Arts and Garden Camp for children. When I look at July and August, I smile at all the wonderful evening meals I shared in so many of your homes. What a great way to spend a life!

September

September began with a meeting of the Lebanese American University Board in NYC and, thanks to Austin’s tip, a night seeing Hamilton!!! Meetings began again in earnest with Homecoming a week later than usual. Brian, Austin and I have now made a tradition of sharing the sermon that day and hope you look forward to it as much as we do. Stewardship Committee exploded with new members and new energy, leading to quite a campaign this fall. This is the month I first talked with Personnel about the options now before churches when a minister is retiring. It felt a little like jumping off a cliff.

October

Our joint Elder/Deacon meeting was a raucous rehearsal the next Sunday’s kick-off adaptation of “Hello” from The Book of Mormon. Then the session had its first discussion about options for the church’s approach to pastoral transition, assuming I would retire August 2019 or later. The discussion was led by Personnel with staff in my office. The middle of the month was the first Company of New Pastor’s retreat at a lovely home in Cape May owned by a member of Wayne. A good but emotionally exhausting few days! The Youth Mission Trip Video has stars around it. Wonderful. But the highlight was Harry Potter Weekend organized by St.



Austin inside with the Youth doing amazing things on our church lawn. Wow. Just wow.

November

The highlight of the month if not of my 43 years in ministry was the Music and Arts Festival. From the tee-shirt memorial erected by the youth to the Souls Shot opening with a packed and diverse crowd astonished at the portraits to 26 Pebbles read exquisitely on Saturday night to the moving and magnificently sung concert on Sunday. The witness of this church on that weekend, a witness that continues as Souls Shot is exhibited throughout the greater Philadelphia region as well as in the State Capital this summer, is unequal to anything I have known. Stewardship Sunday culminated one of our most exciting campaigns ever. As I drove to Maine for a much needed week to catch my breath, I was breathless at the gift of this church to my soul and to this community.

December

Music continued to fill my calendar in December: Pennsylvania Girlchoir twice filled the sanctuary, The Crossing @ Christmas concert returned to PCCH, the carolers were few but mighty as they sang for older members and then arrived at my doorstep for dinner, an overflow congregation for the Family Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve and then, as many said, our most moving ever service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. I ended the year awash with gratitude for the privilege of being one of your ministers.

Cindy Jarvis



Youth Ministries, Senior Ministries and Adult Fellowship

Theology on Tap:

Since 2009 our numbers at Theology on Tap have grown from 4 on average to 12. We once had a high of 26, which admittedly, was too much of a good thing. We meet once a month from September through May in the Upper Room at Campbell’s Place on Germantown Avenue. We talk, debate and weave our way through conversations on War and Religion; The Modern Christian Family; Bio-Medical Ethics; and other important debates. This group has functioned as a gateway for new members to meet others in the congregation in an informal location yet over serious discourse.

High School Youth Group:

The 2009 Youth Mission Trip was cancelled on account of having only 2 interested teenagers; additionally the 2009 Youth Group averaged 6 in attendance. Comparatively, the 2017 Mission Trip featured 21 youth and 4 adults; and in 2018 there will be TWO mission trips, each totaling about 20 participants. Over the last several years the Youth Program has not only grown in number but also in outreach. We have recently partnered with West Kensington Ministry – our youth have joined theirs in worship, as well as in three dates of community service. We have also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and will continue to do so over the next several months. In house, you might find us eating pizza or painting murals, but you’ll also occasionally see us at local retirement homes on Senior Adult Visits and annually in Widener Hall as we serve the entire congregation the best plate of Spaghetti and Meatballs your capital gains can buy. Moreover, we initiated a new and exciting group a couple years ago that meets

under the moniker: Theology and Pretzels. Mirroring the format of the more-adult Theology on Tap, we meet once a month for brunch and discuss and debate current events, especially as they relate to the understanding of our faith and spirituality.

Junior High Youth Group:

Like their older brethren, the Jr. High Youth Group travels to West Kensington for worship and service and occasionally joins Brian on Senior Adult Visits. They are known to play high-energy games such as Manhunt and Dodgeball, followed by brief yet substantive conversations on scripture and its relevance in young life in 2017-2018. They are key contributors in helping to organize the Warmth Drive; and two of the last four preachers for Youth Sunday came from the 8th grade.

Brian Russo

Christian Education and Ministries to and by Children and Families

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”
I Corinthians 3:6-7

“[Jesus] also said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.’” Mark 4:26-27

Children and families of PCCH continue to grow and learn, thanks be to God! We all learn in different





- Through dropping folded up dollar bills and spare change into the children’s offering basket each week and collecting food and warm clothing for our neighbors, our children have learned that we love God by sharing what we have with others.

- Through Church School led by a dedicated team of teachers and shepherds, our children are learning that God’s stories are also their stories—and that the ancient words of the Bible continue to speak into our lives today. Many thanks to the women, men, and youth who graciously volunteer their time, energy, intelligence, imagination, and love in order to keep their baptismal vows to nurture our children in faith: Debbie Lambeth, Icilda James, Ken Lovett, Emily Camp-Landis, Claire Camp-Landis, Emilyanne Shelley, Micah Shelley, Sara Eastman, Steve Bishop, Julie Bishop, Amanda Raphael, Amy Raphael, Zach Raphael, Linnea Johnson, Justin Andrews, Brenda Phillips, Sharyn Walker, Jennifer Miller, Clara Hocking, Betsy Hocking, Greg Hocking, Deborah Robinson, Barbara Olson, Allison DeCaro, Cassie Paulk, Christen Webber, Rebecca DePasquale, Kelly Baughman, Karen Bausman, Bob Bausman, Lisa Burns, Lexi Clement, Kimberly Nye, Lila Kushner, Page Pendse, Sarah Wright, Sandra Connelly, Ali Frazier, Beth Lutz, Nicole Huertgen, Jim Spause, Emily Spause, Dom Rebeck, Anna Rebeck, Shelli Katrina, Matt Abernethy, Allison Abernethy, Elise Hocking, Mark Bernstein, Brian Russo, Jeannette Quirus, Linda Amsterdam, and Beth Hessel.

As the children learn, so do I. This past year, in an attempt both to save money and to tailor our church school curriculum to our own children, I began writing our church school lessons instead of using prepackaged curriculum. This shift has given us the flexibility to be creative in our lessons and to accept feedback and input from the children and teachers themselves.



ways. This year we have learned more about leading lives of faith as we have participated in God’s work in the world:

- Through the church’s participation in our second Harry Potter Festival, our children have learned to extend radical hospitality to our community.

- Through our second summer of Garden, Music, and Art Camp (a fancy name for our Vacation Bible School), our children have learned that God counts them, claims them, and calls them to count every other person as a beloved child of God.

- Through a re-imagined fellowship for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, our children have learned that serving God can be fun and can strengthen our bonds to one another.

- Through Dinner Church where our children gather around tables with families of all shapes and sizes, they have learned the importance of breaking bread together—and that everyone is welcome at God’s table.

- Through our annual Christmas Eve pageant, our children have learned that God’s story often confounds our understanding and bids us stand in awe of a God who would enter into the world as a helpless newborn baby.

- Through building and caring for a new community garden on PCCH’s front lawn, our children have learned the miracle of God’s creation—that seeds become plants and plants produce food that we can share with our neighbors. They have also learned that when we work together, we can accomplish more than we could on our own.

- Through collaborating with Dan, Ken, Cindy, and Brian and learning from them as we coordinate the music we sing with the scripture passages, prayers, sacraments, and church seasons that guide our weekly worship.

We hope to publish this curriculum once we have lessons for each Sunday in the three-year lectionary cycle. I am also learning through working with gifted colleagues—through hearing Cindy preach and watching as she molds a vision for PCCH; through presenting a workshop on curriculum and confirmation with Brian at Princeton Seminary’s Institute for Youth Ministry; through collaborating with Dan, Ken, Cindy, and Brian and learning from them as we coordinate the music we sing with the scripture passages, prayers, sacraments, and church seasons that guide our weekly worship; through partnering with Leslie and the Center on the Hill to further the mission of the church through our participation in the Harry Potter Festival and the collection of plastic bags which will be woven into mats for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and through supervising Cassie Paulk, our seminary intern, as she learns more about ministry in the church.

Outside of my work at PCCH, I serve the greater church by serving on the presbytery’s Commission on Ministry, by providing pulpit supply and leadership of confirmation retreats, and by writing and editing for *Fidelia*, the online magazine of Young Clergy Women International (as well as for *The Christian Century* and *Connections* magazines and for an upcoming book on social justice by Phil Snyder). Most of all, I learn from building relationships with the people who are The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, for whom I am grateful.

Austin Crenshaw Shelley

Music

The church maintains a vital presence in Philadelphia’s cultural world. We are home to the Grammy



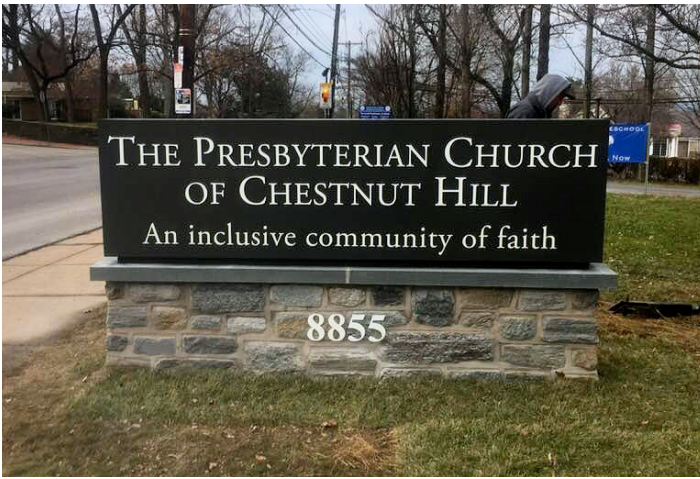
Award winning choir The Crossing, Tempesta di Mare, Piffaro, Pennsylvania Girlchoir, and of course our own Gallery Choir which provides the music that is so vital to our worship services.

This November’s Festival of Music and Arts was a testament to our Music and Arts ministry at PCCH. Our church was home to a landmark art show, *Souls Shot*, which focused on the victims of gun violence in Philadelphia. Curated by PCCH members Laura Madeline and Rebecca Thornburgh in partnership with Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence, the project paired each of the twenty-five artists with the family of a victim. Through their conversations and sharing of pictures and memories, a portrait was created representing each subject at the pinnacle of their life. The impact of seeing so many souls that were taken away abruptly impacted each of the hundreds that gathered in Widener Hall on opening night.

Saturday featured a play reading of *26 Pebbles*, a reaction to the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Organized by Margaret Spencer, members of the church presented this exploration into the impact that a mass shooting has on members of a community based on interviews with the people of Newtown, CT.

The Philadelphia-based Prometheus Chamber Orchestra joined the Gallery Choir and Soloists, conductor Daniel Spratlan, and organist Ken Lovett for a brilliant performance of Mozart’s *Requiem* on the final day of the Festival. The concert also featured the world premiere of *Unspoken Words* by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Lewis Spratlan. This direct, impassioned response to the gun violence epidemic was commissioned for the Festival along with its libretto by poet Paul Kane.

Dan Spratlan and Ken Lovett



Administrator's 2017 Report

Since accepting the job as church administrator mid-August, I have found that no two days are the same at PCCH. I can be climbing the steps to the steeple in the morning and rummaging in the basement in the afternoon!

I so enjoy working with the entire staff here and appreciate everyone's willingness to help me 'learn my job'. The flower guild and hospitality committees are two groups I've come to know and work with and so appreciate their "roll up their sleeves" attitude toward getting things done at PCCH. The flower guild has stepped up to take over the beautification of the large urns outside the building (and will be saving us much needed funds) and the hospitality committee has been gung ho in their work of scheduling and planning the fall and spring events. Several members of PCCH have stepped in to help with my transition and have answered some of my non-ending questions. A special thank you to you!

A new property committee has been formed and we hope to come up with more suggestions on how to continue to keep PCCH as beautiful as it is currently, as well as making some improvements, but all with a mind to doing so a bit more economically.

In addition to the daily work of sorting income, expenses, repairs, rental agreements and more, we have been able to carry through on Jo Ann West's preparatory work and install a beautiful new monument sign for PCCH out front as well as some wayfinding signs around the property. The new sheds in the parking lot have been put to good use, and the new section of the memorial garden will provide many more plots for years to come. Further work on the older sections of the garden will take place in the spring to stabilize the

drifting stone heads and to bring those sections of the garden up to the standard of the newest section.

We continue to be grateful for PCCH's relationships with our resident music groups: The Crossing Choir, Piffaro, Tempesta di Mare, The Pennsylvania GirlChoir, and Philo-musica in addition to the many groups that use our building weekly. We have also recently acquired two dance groups (Mostly Waltz and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society) that will be using the Burleigh Cruikshank Chapel as well as Widener Hall throughout the year. Both of these groups are very vocal in their praise of those spaces.

A huge thank you to the staff at PCCH, for their hard work, dedication and unfailing goodwill. And to all of you at PCCH who volunteer your time and energy to make the church a beautiful, welcoming place to worship, serve and fellowship – many thanks! As we make our way through this coming year I look forward to meeting more of you.

Esther Cole

Center on the Hill

The Center on the Hill, the place for active adults at PCCH, provides a variety of programs, activities, and resources to enrich the lives of seniors in the greater Chestnut Hill area. This past year has been a year of tremendous growth in the number of course offerings as well as the number of participants enjoying the Center's offerings. In addition to our weekly classes like Golden Yoga, T'ai Chi, Folk Dancing, Zumba Gold, French Conversation, Mah Jongg and bridge play, local seniors enjoyed:

- Afternoon movies
- Mindfulness and meditation series
- Health and wellness lectures



- Alzheimer's/Dementia awareness programs
- Estate and Long-Term Care Planning seminars
- Online Safety and Security for Seniors workshops
- Two Dessert with a Docent programs featuring a docent from the Philadelphia Museum of Art

● Continued our longtime partnership with Chestnut Hill College for Griffin's Give Back Day, where college students volunteer their time to help seniors with light home projects

- Android and I-Phone classes
- Writing Your Life Story workshop series
- Learning to Look art appreciation classes
- Our first ever Center on the Hill Antique Roadshow with the help of The Antique Gallery of Chestnut Hill
- Wednesday Diabetes Workshop
- New SEPTA ID card program (Key cards)
- Two Balance and Stability workshops with a local chiropractor

● Co-hosted (with a local retirement community) the "I Will Never Forget" program, a book reading and discussion led by Elaine Pereira author of *"I Will Never Forget - A Daughter's Story of Her Mother's Arduous and Humorous Journey Through Dementia"*

- Trips (many using our church van) to the Princeton University Art Museum, Chanticleer Gardens, Mural Arts Philadelphia, the Museum of the American Revolution, the Philadelphia Zoo, and Bartram's Garden to name a few.

● And much more.

Our Speaker Series on the Hill (formerly the Men's Luncheon) series continues to be a successful monthly (September – May) event for PCCH members and the surrounding community. Under the capable hands of Stan Elwell and John Lawton, the Speaker Series on the Hill has invited thought-provoking and engaging speakers such as:

- Emmanuel Nkundunkundiye (University of Penn student who survived the genocide in Rwanda)
- Jenny Rose Carey (Director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society which hosts the Philadelphia Flower show)
- Sam Katz (Public Historian and Civic Entrepreneur)

● James Chan (Businessman and expert in doing business with China)

● Harry Groome (Retired Healthcare Chairman and Award Winning Author)

And in 2017, Chris Wheeler, beloved and longtime presenter at the Speaker Series, passed the torch to Mike Sielski (Sports Journalist at the Philadelphia Inquirer) as Chris began his retirement in Florida. Our 2018 speakers are sure to not disappoint.

We continued to engage in intergenerational programming and our partnership with the PCCH Preschool. Inspired by Martin Luther King's day of service, Pat Dennis, Director of the Preschool, and I coordinated a snack bag project benefiting seniors in the Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels program. We collected and packed snack bags including goodies like raisins, crackers and cookies and a sweet note from the preschooler (handwritten with the help of a senior). Together they created almost 60 care packages. We partnered a second time

to help the Preschoolers make their Mother's Day gifts, a delicious chocolate treat for Mommy. In 2018, we plan to work together again on a Valentine's Day craft.

In 2017, the Center on the Hill continued providing Memory Cafés due to the gracious and generous grant given by

the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Memory Cafés are a European innovation that is slowly taking hold in the U.S. It provides a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment for people with dementia (and their caregivers) to socialize as well as offering a range of fun and engaging activities. We held three Memory Cafés (one per semester) each with a different theme or activity. One café included dancing led by a professional dance instructor, then we had some pet-therapy with Comfort Caring Canines, and finally a therapeutic movements program led by a recreation therapist.

This past year the Center on the Hill seniors played an even more active role in PCCH's part of the Harry Potter Festival. We had seniors volunteering at the registration desk for the Friday movie night, similar to the previous year, and we also had senior volunteers helping sell water, pizza and Harry Potter themed items on



our front lawn during the day on Saturday. The most exciting and wonderful Harry Potter themed items sold were the hand-crafted Harry Potter pillows. These pillows were individually sewn and painted by Velma, a 91-year young senior who frequents the Center on the Hill. Vel (as she is known by friends and family) continues to create these pillows and other crafts for the 2018 Harry Potter Festival. What a generous soul to give of her time and talent to help PCCH's mission partners!

Seniors who come through our doors continue to impress me with their dedication to improving their health and wellbeing and their willingness to learn something new. They're a true inspiration. I feel truly blessed to serve our seniors and for the opportunity PCCH has given me through their forethought and creation of the Center on the Hill. I also feel extremely fortunate to work with such a talented, compassionate and dedicated set of staff here at PCCH.

Leslie Lefer



The Session

Class of 2018

Emily Camp-Landis
Katherine Connelly
Landon Jones
C. Thomas McClintic
Daniel Pretz
Kevin Raphael
Dominick Rebeck
Anne Standley

Class of 2019

Bradley Kim Kern
Melissa Montgomery
Jeffrey Podraza
Margaret Poteet
Taylor Slaughter
Harry M. Spaeth
James Walker
Julianne Watson

PCCH Preschool: State of the School

The Preschool is enjoying another great year. Our rooms are filled with active, happy children who are eager to learn and teachers who are committed to offering a fun and innovative curriculum.

Our website, which not only provides information about our school and programs but allows parents to fill out forms online and submit them from the site, is bringing in lots of enrollments. We added six new children just this month. We added signs to the front of the church and one at the entrance of the school to increase our visibility.

The enrichment program for children who stay until 3pm that emphasizes science and math is a great success. The work they do is fabulous!

Our children continue to partner with the Center on the Hill and Leslie Lefer. This year we will work together on a Valentine project.

We continue to offer a variety of program options to keep up with the changing needs of our families. We welcome all children throughout the school year and look forward to another successful camp in May.

Patricia Dennis

Class of 2020

Rebecca Bernstein
Elise Hocking
Kristin Lawton
Katherine Magid
Laurie Menyo
Matthew Ward
Christen Webber
Kevin Welsh



PCCH New Members

James Aitken	Alison Rudolf
Samantha Aitken	Michelle Shachtman
James Burns, Jr.	Robert Shachtman
Rebecca DePasquale	Anna Storm
Cheryl Huddleston	William Storm
Cristian Macelaru	Emily Werner

PCCH Member Deaths

Dorothy Albert
Janet Cross
B. Graeme Frazier
Theodore Hillsley
Morris Stout
William Tasman
Roslyn Tate
A. Peter Torello

PCCH Baptisms

Charlotte Cavanaugh
Maeve Gippich
Arthur Joseph
Valerie Pennington
Samuel Pretz
James Sebright
William Redding Storm

February

- Kicked off a mini capital campaign called “Keeping the Faith” to raise \$600,000 over a two year period, including a mission tithe, which has already begun funding projects like the removal of the old boiler, front walk and steeple repair, and purchase of a new sanctuary piano, kitchen equipment, and signage
- Received Jim Burns, Rebecca DePasquale, Cheryl Huddleston and Cristian Macelaru into membership

April (March cancelled due to weather):

- New elders and deacons were examined and approved for ordination/installation
- JoAnn West announced her retirement as of the end of July
- Session Committee Manual was distributed

May:

- 19 confirmands were examined and approved for membership and praised Brian Russo for his work developing the innovative curriculum which leads to such rich statements of faith
- Capital Campaign reported \$575K pledges in hand/ Session voted to go forward with the purchase of the sanctuary piano
- Session voted to approve the resolution recognizing all standing committees of session as outlined in the “Session Committee Manual 2017-2018”
- Melody and Comedy reported an income of \$550!

September:

- Engaged the firm of Clifton, Larson and Allen to conduct our 2017 audit in 2018.
- Approved expansion of Memorial Garden (\$5K)
- Capital Campaign reported \$629,370 in pledges with \$233,415 received to date
- Session will explore adding a Property Committee and a Hospitality Committee to standing committees

October:

- Cassie Paulk welcomed as our seminarian from Palmer Theological Seminary
- Personnel Committee led the session in a preliminary discussion of two options before the church concerning how to handle pastoral transition when Cindy’s retires: the interim minister and the co-minister model
- A committee was formed to address the enrollment issue facing the Pre-School

November:

- James and Samantha Aitken, Alison Rudolf and Emily Barth Werner were received into membership
- Music and Arts Committee reported that the Music and Arts Weekend was a “rip-roaring success”
- Pre-School Committee reported that the initial meeting was productive and included parents
- Session engaged in a second discussion concerning pastoral transition plans and approved the following motion: “The session of PCCH directs the clerk of session to send a request to the Committee on Congregations and Leadership for approval to create a position of co-pastor”
- Margaret Poteet had her annual review reflecting on her first semester at Princeton Seminary
- Harry Potter weekend was a great success, clearing \$4K for mission

December:

- Personnel Budget for 2018 was presented and staff increases were approved

Katie Connelly, Clerk of Session

Deacon's Report

In 2017 the Board of Deacons has continued their mission of sympathy, witness, and service to those in need. The deacons minister to those who are sick or any who are in distress or in need of a helping hand.

The deacons currently are a group of 21 guided by Brian Russo, Director of Youth and Senior Adults. Each deacon is paired with one or more members 85 years old or over, whom they visit several times during the year. Flowers are delivered to recognize birthdays and for Christmas and Easter, or just to brighten someone's day.

This ministry also includes providing meals to support families with newborns or those who are ill or recuperating from illness or surgery. The deacons are also available to provide transportation to Sunday services if needed.

As you enter the church on the lower level, deacons are there with a friendly greeting to provide assistance or directions as needed. They make everyone feel welcome.

Lastly, the deacons are responsible for preparing and serving the delicious, annual Deacons' Brunch, an event enjoyed by a large number of the church congregation in January.

Elsbeth Wrigley



Church Life

The Church Life Committee continues its commitment to encourage and welcome visitors, increase church membership and the life and liveliness of our church family, and nurture and involve current members.

The committee also continues to explore how and

why visitors to our church become members, and is expanding our social media and communications efforts to attract visitors and support them through their membership journey. We seek to create a welcoming environment, greeting visitors after worship and at Second Hour on Sunday morning and following



up with them after their initial visits, and looking at the best way to integrate them into the life of our church.

In October, with the help of Session members, staff and congregation members, the committee staffed a booth at the annual Chestnut Hill Fall for the Arts Festival. We featured the church's many music, arts and children's education opportunities as well as the programs offered by the Center on the Hill.

The Committee has coordinated a variety of fellowship events this year, which were very well-attended and gave members and friends opportunity to meet others and build relationships. The Committee cooked for both the Shrove Sunday Dinner Church and the Harry Potter Festival, and brought back the Kentucky Derby party, which was great fun! Other events included a family hike at Stover State Park in Bucks County, a trip to see 1812 Productions' "This Is The Week That Is" at the Plays and Players Theater downtown, and the first annual Family Board Game Night. We welcome your suggestions for other events, and your participation!

We thank everyone who helps to create and maintain a welcoming environment at PCCH, and we encourage your thoughts and comments relative to activities and programs of interest to you and your family!

Jeff Podraza

Social Witness

In 2017 our congregation bore witness to God's love through mission work to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, witness lives lost to gun violence, bring joy to children in poverty, welcome refugees, provide a safe harbor for victims of domestic violence, educate children, free the innocent, and so much more. The di-



rect efforts and financial contributions of our congregation...

Began a new partnership with Face to Face Germantown where we assisted in preparing and serving free meals to the Germantown community, gave \$3,250 to support their work, and taught two 6-hour financial literacy sessions as part of their THRIVE life-skills program... Continued our support of Our Brother's Place men's shelter by providing sloppy joe dinners prepared by our congregation each month... Gave \$7,500 to Broad Street Ministry to further their radical hospitality approach to ministry and witness... At Christmas, shared grin-inspiring gifts with 25 children who are guests of ACHIEVEability's transitional housing program for homeless families and four families who are supported by Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN), as well as gave \$2,000 to West Kensington Ministry to "Stock the Pantry"... Supported the wonderful efforts of the Music and Arts Committee's Festival of Music and Arts weekend dedicated to ending gun violence which raised nearly \$3,000 for Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence.... Committed \$5,000 to help the Souls Shot exhibit travel and be replicated in other communities... Cooked and shared meals with 3 homeless families who were guests of PIHN, donated 50 backpacks chock full of school supplies for pre-K and school-age children they work with, and gave the organization \$5,000 to support their work... Gave \$3,000 to Dawn's Place to improve the lives of women who have been victimized by commercial sexual exploitation... Continued our participation in a faith coalition created to support a young Syrian woman who came

from a refugee camp in Turkey to study at LaSalle University ... Gave \$12,000, monthly groceries, Thanksgiving dinner fixings, and household supplies and food from our reverse Advent boxes to Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry to support our neighbors in need in Germantown... Welded hammers and assorted power tools at several Habitat for Humanity Saturday workdays, and gave them \$3,250 to support their efforts... Gave \$3,000 to help fund the PCCH Youth Mission Trip to Calgary... Attended The Welcome Church's outdoor worship service on the Parkway and hosted the "coffee" hour afterward, which has a special focus on hungry and homeless Philadelphians... And gave, did, and inspired so much more as witnesses to God's love of each and every person!

Emily Camp-Landis

Adult Education

2017 saw the establishment of the Adult Education Committee as a standing committee here at PCCH. The purpose of this committee is to provide educational opportunities that work to increase the spiritual growth of the congregation.

Thanks to the leadership of Margaret Poteet, we saw over two dozen members contribute to the inaugural 2017 Lenten Devotional series. Each participant was assigned a passage from the Lenten lectionary and reflected on the meaning before crafting their devotional. These devotionals were sent out via email during the season of Lent and provided so many of us with a daily opportunity to examine Scripture, faith, and what it is to be Christian during this important church season.



With enthusiastic participation again this year, we look forward to making this an annual church tradition!

As we have considered program opportunities, we decided that we wanted to focus on the careers and talents of congregation members. One new educational offering came from the Second Hour series we are calling "Faith at Work". Through this series we have seen nearly a dozen members share the ways in which their faith intersects with their professions. From music to education and beyond, this series has allowed us to see the many ways in which faith shapes our lives and has helped us to better know one another as a church family. In the same spirit of harnessing the gifts of those who call PCCH home, our very own Beth Hessel will be leading us in a Second Hour series this year that is inspired by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We thank all those who presented, participated, promoted and supported us in our work!

Greg Dickinson and Margaret Poteet

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild, now in its fourth year, brings together nineteen dedicated volunteers who create the Sunday chancel arrangements and the special Easter and Christmas floral displays. The Flower Guild's ministry is to bring the beauty of God's world into our worship space.

Taken together, guild members provide over 150 hours of arranging time a year. This year, the Guild has also taken over responsibility for maintaining the out-



door urns, and we are anxiously awaiting a real thaw so replanting can occur.

New in 2017 was an October event at which contemporary flower arrangements were demonstrated. Watch for some of these unique designs to appear on the pedestals in the months ahead.

Thanks go to all the church members and friends whose Flower Fund contributions make the Guild's work possible. Sponsoring Sunday flowers and donating to the Christmas and Easter Flower funds provide members a meaningful way to remember loved ones, to celebrate family events or to honor special individuals and programs.

Did you know? After the service, flowers from Sunday's arrangements are re-arranged in smaller glass containers and taken by the Deacons to church members who have birthdays, to those who are homebound or those who are hospitalized or recuperating. Additional arrangements are made up to brighten various locations around church.

Special thanks go to Ken Lovett, our continuing source of creativity and expertise. Thanks also to these Flower Guild members whose enthusiasm and talents are greatly appreciated:

Sarah Alison Kern
Mari Bernhagen
Katie Connelly
Sandy Connelly
Joan Demme
Debby Evans*
Barbara Frazier
Linnea Johnson
Sally Johnston
Jane Kaufman

Cathy McKinney
Barbara Olson*
Liz Podraza*
Linda Petengill*
Alison Rudolf*
Sue Shuchat
Barrett Stewart
Mary Ann VanBlarcom
Susan White
Suzan Willcox

*New Members

***Grace Stewart and
Diane Cornely***





Investment Committee Report 2017

The Investment Committee comprised of Harry Spaeth, Michael Elwell, Cindy Jarvis, Mark Nottingham, Matt Abernethy, Brian DiDonato and John Lawton continued to faithfully oversee the Endowment Funds of our church. Our committee is responsible for investments that are managed by Merrill Lynch and PNC.

The 2017 Endowment Funds provided funds of \$129,927 to support the operating budget and \$104,594 to support the Senior Adult ministry of the church. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Investment Committee, please contact John Lawton at 215-527-5775. We meet four times a year on the fourth Monday after Quarter End to discuss performance and set strategic direction.

John Lawton

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report

The Finance Committee and the Treasurer are responsible at PCCH for overseeing the Operating Budget, the Senior Adult Ministry Budget, the Capital Campaign, the Pre-school, and the various restricted funds that help the Church in its mission. Once the budget is established for the year, the Finance Committee meets monthly to review our progress. Cash flow management for the church is also reviewed and monitored to coordinate with the Investment Committee the timing of the draws from the endowment that need to take place. The Finance Committee's review and recommendations are then reported to Session at each monthly meeting. The congregation will see a financial summary for both the Capital Campaign and the Operating Fund updated regularly in the Church bulletin throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Finance team: Harry Spaeth, Tom McClintic, Kristen Webber, Stephen Bishop, Jim Walker, or Graeme Frazier. Thank you one and all for your continued dedication to stewardship of the Church.

Tom McClintic and Harry Spaeth

The Stewardship Committee— Ask. Seek. Knock.

"Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened"

—Matthew 7: 7-8

HELLO! Our Tony Award-winning 2018 Stewardship Campaign began on October 15 with elders and deacons singing the opening song from Broadway's Book of Mormon, with clever new lyrics and a rousing chorus of "A pledge can change your life!" As in the past two years, we challenged the congregation to increase their pledge by 1% of their household income. For four consecutive Sundays, leaders in the congregation gave 1-minute Stewardship messages focusing on four key aspects: social witness, music and arts, Christian education and youth, and worship and pastoral care. We included special announcements in the bulletins each week and hung ASK SEEK KNOCK banners from the front portico. We simplified our Stewardship brochure and mailed it with a letter from Cindy about a week prior to mailing pledge cards. Stewardship Sunday, November 19, included a celebratory pancake breakfast for all.

Our 2018 pledge goal was \$690,000, including mission dollars. As of the writing of this report, we are at 92% of our goal, with \$633,000 in pledges. Of the 156 pledges received, 69 increased, 60 stayed the same, 16 are down, and 11 are new. About 34 pledges are yet to come in and a call campaign is underway for follow up.

Thanks to our amazing Stewardship Committee for their energy and enthusiasm on this successful campaign—Hello!

Laurie Menyo





Keeping the Faith

Capital Campaign Update: As of December 31, 2017

Capital Campaign Goal including Tithe:	\$ 650,000
Total Amount Pledged:	\$ 629,470
Pledge Receipts to Date:	\$ 323,180
Gifts Received to Date:	\$ 7,850
Total Sources of Funds:	\$ 331,030
Cash on Hand	\$ 241,620
Percentage of Pledges Received to Date:	51%
Amount of Pledges that have Not Been Received:	\$ 306,345
Total Campaign Tithe Amount for Mission YTD:	\$ 50,750

Projects Completed in 2017:

- ❖ Campaign Advertising, Printing and Administrative Expenses
- ❖ Removal of Old Boiler
- ❖ Steeple Roof Repair
- ❖ Acquisition of “Carrie” Steinway Piano
- ❖ Repair of the Front Walkway
- ❖ New PCCH Signage

Projects yet to be Undertaken Pending Further Receipt of Pledged Funds:

- ❖ Widener Restroom Addition and Kitchen Renovations
- ❖ New Glass Sanctuary Entryway Doors
- ❖ Replace Windows for Strouse Classrooms with Energy Efficient Windows
- ❖ Replace Backstage Windows
- ❖ Corridor Improvements
- ❖ New Rear Covered Walkway

Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

Session Approved 2018 Budget

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Revenue			
Congregational Response	\$747,558	\$726,594	\$764,464
Building Use and Other Revenue	\$111,400	\$137,003	\$122,200
	<u>\$858,958</u>	<u>\$863,597</u>	<u>\$886,664</u>
Draw Against Endowment Income			
Designated Draws	\$61,080	\$76,743	\$67,030
Other Draws	\$57,223	\$78,837	\$59,905
Total Endowment Draws	<u>\$120,162</u>	<u>\$155,580</u>	<u>\$126,935</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$979,120</u>	<u>\$1,019,177</u>	<u>\$1,013,599</u>
Expenses			
Ordained Ministers	\$217,757	\$216,327	\$316,983
Lay Personnel Salaries & Benefits	\$300,066	\$301,283	\$206,150
Other Personnel	\$55,975	\$61,423	\$57,487
Personnel Total	<u>\$573,798</u>	<u>\$579,033</u>	<u>\$580,620</u>
Music and the Arts	\$11,400	\$18,358	\$20,700
Church Life	\$19,750	\$23,905	\$22,500
Christian Education	\$15,772	\$14,330	\$17,000
Administration	\$103,700	\$103,248	\$113,079
Buildings and Grounds	\$169,200	\$177,782	\$173,200
Mission	\$85,500	\$102,521	\$86,500
Total Expenses	<u>979,120</u>	<u>1,019,177</u>	<u>1,013,599</u>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sr. Adult Ministry			
Carry over previous year	\$20,262	\$20,262	\$31,654
Gifts/Grants	\$10,000	\$22,674	\$5,000
Other Income	\$11,000	\$20,199	\$13,000
Draw from SAM endowment	\$104,594	\$104,594	\$112,226
Total Revenue	<u>\$145,856</u>	<u>\$167,729</u>	<u>\$161,880</u>
Expenses			
Payroll & Expenses	\$117,579	\$121,075	\$122,314
Contribution to Church Overhead	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total Expenses	<u>\$132,579</u>	<u>\$136,075</u>	<u>\$137,314</u>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	<u>\$13,277</u>	<u>\$31,654</u>	<u>\$24,566</u>

