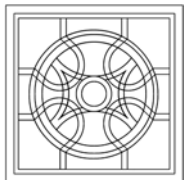


THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL



Annual Report 2018



Cindy's Year-at-a-Glance

What follows are the events written on my calendar that trigger memories of the year just ended. What is missing are the multitude of conversations, dinners at homes, visits to the hospital, telephone calls in the night and spur of the moment meetings that are the heart and soul of why I believe this thing called ministry is still worth my life. The privilege of being your minister cannot fit into words on a page, only into sighs too deep for words!

January

When I think of the beginning of this year, I think of the session meeting where the elders met with our Presbytery Executive, Stated Clerk and representative of the Committee on Ministry to discuss a new sort of transition. The session had been deliberating since October of 2017 and asked that PCCH be given permission to be the fourth church in the Presbytery to call a new minister without an interim period between ministers. The permission was granted, pending a vote of COM. That night I felt as if I had entered a new sort of time with you, a time of celebrating what has been and anticipating what will be: no more long range planning and a slow, imperceptible relinquishing of responsibility for the future.

Another personal highlight of January was a Lebanese American University Board retreat outside of London in a lovely estate followed by 24 hours of theater in London. LAU is also in the midst of transition with the retirement of President Joseph Jabbra. I was all ears as a consultant began the process that I was beginning with you!

February

The month was filled with the usual meetings: Church Life, Social Witness, Capital Campaign, Finance, Session, Music and Arts plus our beloved Wednesday Bible Study. But this was also the month when you joined the journey toward the future at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. You received the report and rationale of the session concerning the co-minister model of transition, elected an APNC to search for an Associate Minister for Youth and Senior Adult Ministry, voted to install Austin as a part-time Associate for Christian Education and elected a Mission Study Committee to prepare the way for a pastoral search. Phew!

March

March included the beginning of conversations that led to a change in the PCCH Preschool, a change that involved a considerable amount of my time over the next few months. Elder training began that month and was part of helping the APNC begin their work. My ministry outside of the congregation included a three week Jewish-Christian Dialogue at St. Joseph's, The Crossing Board, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia Board AND a trip to Beirut for a meeting of the Lebanese American University Board. Wow! The month ended with Holy Week.

April

Easter Sunday fell on April 1, beginning the month with glorious music, gorgeous flowers and two full congregations to celebrate the resurrection. Easter Monday I flew to Florida to visit my remarkable Father, returned for 48 hours and boarded another plane for Louisville to be trained as the Moderator of the Way Forward Committee for the meeting of the General Assembly of the PCUSA in St. Louis in June. Elder training culminated in a Session Retreat where the subject was "Leadership in a Time of Transition." What an incredible group of elders you have to carry you through this time! After session retreat I drove to Stone Harbor for the Company of New Pastors, a program of the PCUSA where old heads (me) mentor new ministers. I ended the week writing three essays for a commentary on the lectionary that I had totally forgotten were due May 1!!

May

May was another month of all the usual meetings (including the Trustees of Philadelphia Presbytery which is my committee assignment as a sometimes faithful

presbyter) and an additional meeting of the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee before the summer began and people scattered. The Mission Study Committee continued its work and promised to report to the congregation in June. A search committee chose Carla James as the new Director of the PCCH Preschool! The annual staff retreat happened the last three days of the month in Cape May at the DiDonato's home with much talk about how to spend the year preparing for a future that was more in God's hand than in our own.

June

After a ten days in Maine, I flew to St. Louis for the meeting of the General Assembly of the PCUSA. The Way Forward Committee arrived two days early, given the gravity of our assignment. My remarkable leadership team and the 70 elders and ministers on the committee worked into the night for about five days with a multitude of political shenanigans swirling around us, reminding us of the humanity of the church! Exhausted, I landed in Maine after midnight on June 23 and drove back to Philadelphia six days later to be in the pulpit and then run to Princeton for the retirement luncheon of my dear colleague Joyce MacKichan Walker. My typical vacation month!

July

July highlights included Brian's examination before the Presbytery of Philadelphia for ordination. He was a STAR!!!! Then I spent an incredible week as one of the preachers for the Proctor Institute at Haley Farm for the Children's Defense Fund. The week was a gift that renewed my spirit and gave me hope that the struggle for racial justice was alive and well in spite of the drumbeat of despair in the news. It was a privilege to hear such prophetic preaching as well as renew old friendship while making new friends from all over the nation. Oh, and Lillian was born!!!!

August

This was a mercifully quiet month that began with the high celebration of Blair Thornburgh's wedding and ended with a lovely week in Florida chilling with my father and seeing my good friend Nancy Muth.

September

Every Sunday in this month was a bell-ringer, beginning with Brian's ordination followed by a celebration



in Widener Hall that was beyond remarkable. Homecoming was next with our usual three-part sermon and perfect weather for Dinner-on-the-Grounds. The next Sunday we met with HIAS and members of First United Methodist Church of Germantown to begin to consider our witness in response to the growing refugee crisis. On the last Sunday we framed a Habitat House on our lawn as people walked by on the way to the Fall Festival on the Avenue. This was the month when the Pastor Nominating Committee began its work in earnest. They have been meeting weekly ever since!

October

The first week of October I packed about 30 boxes of books and drove them to Princeton Theological Seminary for the annual book sale. I still go looking for some of these friends missing from my shelves. I flew to Indiana via Chicago to preach at the ordination service of a second career minister whom I had mentored through my work on the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Our amazing Gallery Choir helped us launch our 2019 Stewardship Campaign, "Living ABUNDANTLY Sharing," by rapping King George style: "We are blessed, can't you see! We are living life abundantly!" Then the Social Witness Committee led a powerful service of worship on Reformation Sunday, the Sunday after a mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue. Once again, our church lawn became a memorial with Stars of David for those killed at the synagogue as well as the tee-shirt memorial for those murdered this last year in Philadelphia.

November

The Fall Festival for the Arts began the month with

the Second Annual Opening of Souls Shot with families, artists, neighbors and church members filling Widener Hall; another incredible play reading in the chapel gave us a much needed evening of laughter; and an amazing service of worship with The Gallery Choir and the Fairmont String Quartet spoke to our breaking hearts. The first Conversation with Cindy happened at the Kaufman's the next Sunday. On Thanksgiving Sunday we offered our pledges in thanksgiving to God for the gift of this ministry we share. Then, for me, a week in Maine that caused me to miss a trip to the Philadelphia Orchestra to see Cristian Macelaru who conducted and then joined thirty-one grateful PCCH audience members afterward for a talk and a toast.

December

I ended November and began December at a CREDO Conference in Florida sponsored by the PCUSA Board of Pensions. It was a week to renew and reflect on the next chapter of my life. Advent was filled with incredible music by the Gallery Choir, the Pennsylvania Girlchoir (in the dark on the Sunday when the power was out for worship as well!), The Crossing @ Christmas and a concert by a former soloist Marco Panuccio. I clocked many hours meeting with the Personnel Committee before and after the Session meeting. There was a meeting with architects and with the Kitchen Task Force to restart the renovation of the kitchen. Christmas Eve services welcomed more worshippers than ever, with standing room only at the early service! The week after December we began interviews for a new Director of the Center on the Hill as we sadly accepted the resignation of Leslie Lefer so that she could move to South Carolina to care for her mother. On December 30 the second Conversation with Cindy at the Raphael's was a lively and intergenerational conversation about change behind us and ahead of us.

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 such as: 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, in 2018 we went on TWO Mission Trips (one to Houston, Texas, the other to Bozeman, Montana) featuring a total of 21 participants. Over the last several years the Youth Program has not only grown in number but also in outreach – which is most important of all. 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 caroling to the Retirement Homes 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 substantive conversations on scripture and its relevance in young life in 2017-2018. They are key contributors in helping to organize the Warmth Drive; MLK Jr. Service Projects; Letters to Our Homebound; and two of the last four preachers for Youth Sunday came from the 8th grade. Due to the increase in desire for substantive conversations, the Jr. High Youth Group will soon have their own *Theology and Pretzels* events, where they will discuss and debate the foundational issues of our Faith.

Brian Russo



Music

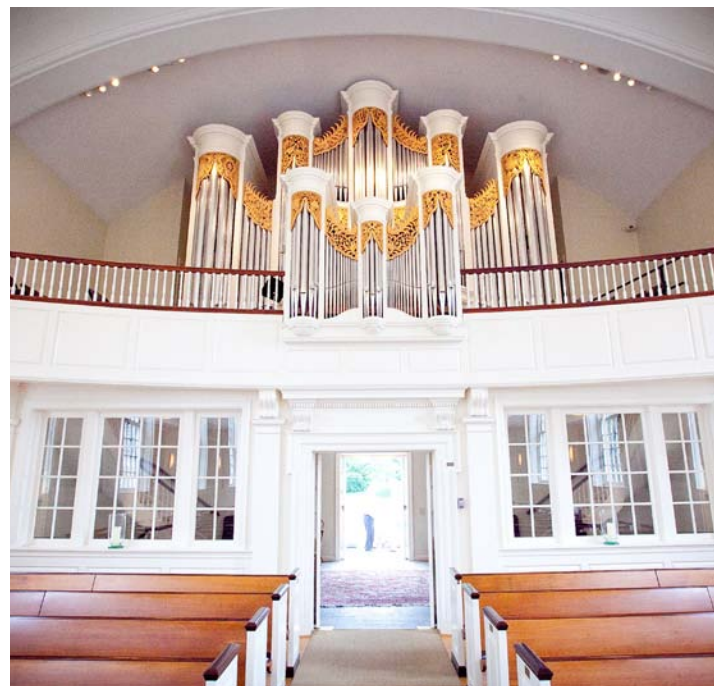
The music and arts program at PCCH continued to thrive in 2018. The Gallery Choir and soloists led worship throughout the year, and held several concerts and special music services. They performed the Brahms Requiem in concert with Laura Ward and Ken Lovett on four-hand piano, and sang movements of the Fauré Requiem in Sunday morning worship with the Fairmount String Quartet. The highlight of the year came in December when the Gallery Choir collaborated with the Baroque orchestra *Tempesta di Mare* for two per-

formances of Handel's *Messiah*, one at PCCH and one at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. Over 400 people packed our church to hear the choir in our beautiful Sanctuary, many of whom had not been to the church before.

We welcomed the Fairmount String Quartet as Ensemble in Residence, and continue to be the home for many wonderful ensembles such as The Crossing, Piffaro, and the Pennsylvania Girlchoir. In September we expanded our "Church School Sings" program to include a group for young people in grades six through high school that bridges the gap to the Gallery Choir. Ken is leading this new group, which meets each Sunday after worship. At the same time, we welcomed Gallery Choir section leader Julie Bishop to her new role as leader of the younger children's group. *Souls Shot* returned for its second year, with new portraits of victims of gun violence in Philadelphia. Exhibited in Widener Hall for the month of November, there was an opening reception with a program of speakers that are embedded in the struggle to end gun violence. Curated by Laura Madeline and Rebecca Thornburgh, this project engages the community and represents our mission as well as any Music and Arts program ever has.

Along with Ken Lovett, the Gallery Choir, the Music and Arts Committee, and the support from our Staff and congregation, we hope to continue to bring beautiful and reflective music to our worship services, and share our mission with our community through our art.

Dan Spratlan and Ken Lovett



Christian Education

Austin Crenshaw Shelley

From January's warm clothing drive to the Easter Sunday egg hunt on the lawn; from sewing pillowcases for children who are hospitalized to learning to care for one another in the church nursery; from drawing or acting out each week's Bible story to leading worship through Church School Sings; from watering our gardens to performing a musical about Jonah and the big fish; from writing the names of those lost to gun violence on t-shirts to interacting with the Souls Shot Art Show portraits; from splashing in the baptismal fountain to receiving bread and wine from the Lord's Table; from August's Yoga, Music, Garden, and Art Camp (VBS) to December's Christmas Eve pageant—the children of PCCH are learning that God's story is also their own. (Take a look at what we're doing in the photos below!) Much of this learning would not be possible without the generous support of volunteers and church staff who teach and care for our children throughout the year.

Dedicated teachers and shepherds remind our kids 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 by teaching church school and leading our children's and youth choirs: Debbie Lambeth, Icilda James, Ken Lovett, Julie Bishop, Kimberly Nye, Amanda Raphael, Jennifer Miller, Clara Hocking, Sharyn Walker, Emilyanne Shelley, Deborah Robinson, Jack Violante, Linnea Johnson, Lindsey Pennington, Greg Dickinson, Micah Shelley, Allison DeCaro, Sarah Finbow, Rebecca DePasquale, Barbara Olson, Sarah Wright, Steve Bishop, Beth Lutz, Helen Lutz, Brenda Phillips, Christen Webber, Jillian Quirus, Kelly Baughman, Nicole Huertgen, Sara Eastman, Matt Eastman, Dom Rebeck, Anna Rebeck, Lisa Burns, Lexi Clement, Alison Abernethy, Savannah Abernethy, Mark Bernstein, Emily Camp-Landis, Claire Camp-Landis, Luke Violante, Austin Shelley, Brian Russo, Jeannette Quirus, Linda Amsterdam, and Beth Hessel.



Administrator's 2018 Report

In last year's report I said "...I have found that no two days are the same at PCCH" – and that has held true this past year. It's part of what makes my job here so interesting. I can show the boiler inspector the basement, have a meeting with a parishioner about the property committee, watch new stage curtains being hung on the stage in Widener (yes, we have beautiful new back curtains now!) and then settle down to count Sunday's offering with Evelyn – and that's just in the first hour or two in a day.



There is much calendar work and juggling for rooms as PCCH continues to be a favorite place to dance in town for The Royal Scottish Country Dancers, Mostly Waltz, folk dancing and our newest addition, Adictango. We

are also renting space to MALT, Penn Mindfulness for – yes – mindfulness, and our newest musical group – Music Monkeys, for very young children in the community. If you stop by PCCH during the day or evening the lights are probably on and activity high. I have always felt that a home does better with someone living in it and I feel the same way about a church – churches love being used!

The work on the Memorial Garden and stairway to the chapel has been completed and that area looks more beautiful than ever. The repairs on the chapel floor after the water damage this past August were finished at the end of January and the walls repainted. A bonus while the workers were in the chapel is that PCCH was permitted to dump 'whatever' into the dumpster that sat outside the church. And dump we did! Many closets were gone through by the Flower Guild, Leslie and the Preschool and Felix made many, many trips to the dumpster. Thank you all!

I look forward to working with the Property Committee this year and addressing some neglected corners of our church and property. We've already had one person volunteer to do some weeding in the spring and there will be some opportunities for you to volunteer to help in some way as well.

Thank you to the entire staff at PCCH and the volunteers we see on a regular basis. You make this a fun and

rewarding place to work! Looking forward to another good year at PCCH.

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 at the Center. In addition to our weekly classes like Golden Yoga, T'ai Chi, Folk Dancing, Zumba Gold, bridge play, and Scrabble, local seniors enjoyed:

- ❖ Afternoon movies
- ❖ Mindfulness
- ❖ Health and wellness lectures on topics like: getting quality sleep, common foot problems, dementia, sugar, pain management, and more
- ❖ Financial scams targeting seniors
- ❖ Estate planning
- ❖ Programs to help understand both iPhones and Android phones
- ❖ Puccini's 'La Boheme': Then and Now and Viva Verdi classes
- ❖ Two Dessert with a Docent programs featuring a docent formerly with the Philadelphia Museum of Art
- ❖ Weekly Wednesday diabetes workshop
- ❖ Nutrition and brain health
- ❖ Bringing your family history to life using Ancestry.com



- ❖ Strategies to declutter your home
- ❖ Living with loss
- ❖ Haiku poetry
- ❖ Community luncheons
- ❖ AARP driver courses
- ❖ Trips (using our church van) to the American Jewish History Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Princeton University Art Museum, Grounds for Sculpture, Laurel Hill Cemetery, and Winterthur to name a few.
- ❖ And much, much more.

We continued to engage in intergenerational programming and our partnership with the PCCH Preschool. Seniors from the Center on the Hill worked with the preschoolers to create a Valentine's Day craft.

In 2018 the Center on the Hill started a new and exciting philanthropic project to help homeless individuals in Philadelphia by crafting sleeping mats out of plastic bags. Thanks to senior and Center on the Hill instructor, Leigh Munro, we learned about this sleeping mats project. We offered two informational sessions and approximately 75 individuals showed up to learn about the process! The group of volunteers decided to meet twice per month. We started off slow, learning how to cut the plastic bags, loop them to make plastic yarn (plarn) and then crochet the plastic yarn to make a comfy mat that could be rolled up and transported from place to place. After only 5 months, we had 22 completed mats and it was time to deliver the mats. A group of ladies loaded into the PCCH van and dropped off the mats at Project Home. The ladies took a two-month break during the summer. During this break, a call was put out to PCCH church members for plastic bags, and the church overwhelmingly responded to the call. In September, the group started meeting again and found out that several seniors continued their crocheting work over the summer. At the end of 2018, the group had over 25 completed mats. Our goal is to create 55 mats

by May 2019 in order to donate mats to the Sunday Love Project at Holy Trinity Church on Rittenhouse Square.

Last but definitely not least, the Center on the Hill facilitated its second letter writing fundraising campaign. Letters were written to those individuals on the Center on the Hill mailing list (over 2,000), asking them to consider supporting our presence in this community and helping us to fulfill our vision of offering more and more quality programs and of welcoming more and more people to "the place for active adults". Much to our delight, the response was overwhelming. This fundraiser brought in almost \$11,500!

The 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.

As this is my last annual report as Director of the Center on the Hill, I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity to work at PCCH and to be the facilitator for this congregations' continued mission to serve the active older adults in our community. These past five plus years have been the most rewarding years of my professional life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Leslie Lefer

Speaker Series on the Hill

The Speaker Series is a monthly event provided by The Center on the Hill which appeals to our neighbors as well as members of PCCH. It is a component of the Church's outreach efforts and a means to offer relevant information presented by men and women with significant accomplishments in their particular fields. Our history of inviting guest speakers goes back nearly forty years. Subjects presented by our speakers over these years have included the arts, science, athletics and current events. Members of our audience bring their own brown bag lunch (desert and beverages are provided) visit with their friends and meet speakers that they may have only heard or read about. Those in the audience, in addition to church members, are residents of Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill as well as residents of the nearby communities in Montgomery County.

Stan Elwell



PCCH Preschool: State of the School

We could not be more excited about the state of our beloved Preschool! Having opened its doors over 60 years ago, we find ourselves thriving more than ever, with long roots in the community such that many families have three generations of PCCH Preschool attendees! Ever humbled by and grateful for this history, we continue much of the school's long-standing traditions such as community service collaborations with Center on the Hill, annual Halloween and winter holiday musical pageants, and a curriculum deeply steeped in learning through play.

However, much like PCCH itself, we are a community of lifelong learners who embrace progress, creativity, innovation, and striving to better reflect our global citizenry. As such, our curricular program has expanded and deepened to include a playful project approach to learning and an inter-disciplinary Spanish program. For example, the students engage in weekly celebrations of multicultural leaders in our curriculum called Famous Folks; wherein the school emphasizes a celebration of heroes of color, remarkable women, inspiring scientists, famous artists, movie musicians, and social justice up-standers throughout history! We are also quite proud to be the home of Philadelphia's first five day interdisciplinary Spanish preschool program! The afternoon classes are facilitated entirely in Spanish by teachers from Argentina and Spain respectively. With their guidance, we learn together through the lens of Latin American culture about music, science, cooking, fine arts, early literacy, mathematics, and dance! Energy and enthusiasm around this special program has been contagious as enrollment has grown exponentially throughout the school year.

We are extremely energized by our opportunity to continue our innovative curriculum through the summer months, offering six weekly summer camp sessions, complete with Interdisciplinary Spanish adventures, in June and August, for children ages 3 to 6! This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to broaden our connection to surrounding communities, as new families join us for a week at a time! See our website, PCCHPreschool.org for more information and please spread the word!

Our dialogues with preschool parents has been greatly enriched by a new technology application that we have on-boarded called, Brightwheel. This has made billing, communication, and student safety much improved for the school and better reflective of 21st-century tech-

nology. Our website has expanded significantly to include information about our curriculum, faculty biographies, family testimonials, upcoming celebrations within our community, and links to enroll online. Links to enrollment for September 2019 and summer camp have already gone live!



It is indeed a fabulous and fascinating time to be a part of the PCCH preschool community. We receive multiple requests for tours every day! We invite you to visit us and to learn more about our creative and inclusive community.

Carla James

The Session

Class of 2019

Martha Agate
Ryan Cavanaugh
Melissa Montgomery
Jonathan Nottingham
Jeffrey Podraza
Taylor Slaughter
Harry Spaeth
James Walker
Julianne Watson

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2021

Stephen Bishop
Katherine Connelly
Lisa Guyer
James Lutz

Daniel Pretz
Kevin Raphael
Anne Standley
Beth Nell Vaccaro

PCCH New Members

Sarah Finbow
Michael Mann
Ryan Mann
Gregory Myrick

Lauren Myrick
Katherine Pie
David Rohde
Elizabeth Sturrock

PCCH Member Deaths

Christopher Branda Jane Elliott
William Briggs George Lyons

PCCH Baptisms

George Matthew Aitken Lucy Kathleen Foster
Mackenzie Mae Boyd Myra Cecilia Motz
Camryn Rose Cavanaugh Olivia Anne Shachtman
Adeline Mitzi Decktor

January

- ❖ Met with members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia's Committee on Ministry to discuss pastoral transition and mission study processes
- ❖ Agreed to nominate a Mission Study Committee in anticipation of Rev. Cindy Jarvis' 2019 retirement.

February

- ❖ Congregation was educated on the details of the co-pastor transition option, and briefed on the Session's decision to utilize this method of transition instead of an interim minister.
- ❖ Mission Study Committee convened and engaged with Holy Cow consulting.
- ❖ The slate for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was accepted.
- ❖ Full-Time Associate Minister for Youth and Senior Adult Ministry and Part Time Associate Minister for Christian Education positions were established.

March

- ❖ Session approved several recommendations resulting from ongoing financial and budget audit efforts.
- ❖ Preschool leadership transition process begun in anticipation of the Director's announced retirement.

April

- ❖ New elders and deacons were examined and approved for ordination/installation.
- ❖ APNC voted to call Brian Russo to the newly established Full Time Associate Minister position.
- ❖ Preschool Committee voted to extend the position of Director to Carla James.

May

- ❖ Property and Preschool Committees were officially established
- ❖ At a special meeting of the congregation, Brian's call as Associate Minister of Youth and Senior Adult

Ministry was approved, and the PNC slate was approved.

September

- ❖ On Sunday, September 9, 2018, the now-Reverend Brian Russo was ordained, and installed as our Full Time Associate Minister for Youth and Senior Adult Ministry.
- ❖ Mission Study Report was received by the Session and socialized to the PNC and congregation.
- ❖ Session approved recommendations resulting from the completed financial audit.
- ❖ Session voted to approve the Mission Information Form (MIF) as presented by the PNC.

October

- ❖ Kicked off 2019 Stewardship campaign, "Living Abundantly"
- ❖ Our first "Social Witness Sunday" was positively received.

November

- ❖ Session completed Margaret Poteet's annual review of her seminary progress.
- ❖ Leslie Lefer announced her resignation effective January 2019; a search committee was tasked with finding her replacement.

December

- ❖ Treasurer reported a deficit in both fulfilled 2018 pledges and in 2019 pledge commitments, but a highlight in reduced expenses, all of which will be factored into the 2019 budget. Credit is due to Esther Cole for identifying opportunities to spend wisely!
- ❖ Preschool has enjoyed ongoing success since the installation of its new Director, who has implemented tools and processes to support financial stability, enrollment, and family and staff satisfaction.
- ❖ Session partially approved the recommendations of the Personnel Committee, with plans to continue discussion in January 2019.



Katie Connelly, Clerk of Session



Deacons' Report

In 2018 the Board of Deacons continued their mission of sympathy, witness, and service to those in need. The deacons minister to those who are sick, and anyone in distress or in need of a helping hand.

The Deacons are currently a group of 22 guided by Brian Russo, Associate Minister of Youth and Senior Adults. In 2018 the group was organized into 4 groups of 5-6 deacons each who alternate being "on duty" for a month's duration. During the month the group visits those who might be ill or in the hospital, sends out birthday cards to members 85 and over, helps out with meals for a family that might have a newborn baby or for those who are recuperating from illness or surgery, and also helps out with laundering the table linens from coffee hour.

All deacons are also paired with one or more members 85 years 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.

Other services include greeting at the rear lower level entrance to the church on Sundays where they can also provide directions or assistance if needed. In addition, the deacons are available to provide transportation to Sunday services. Lastly, the Deacons are responsible for preparing and serving the annual, delicious Deacons' Brunch, an event enjoyed by a large number of the church congregation, usually 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 September, 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. Groups from PCCH attended the Philadelphia Orchestra twice to hear the Orchestra conducted by member Cristian Măcelaru (and enjoyed a post-concert reception in the Kimmel Center Green Room), enjoyed a Russian banquet dinner at Lanjeron Restaurant, and attended a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs game. We've also continued the Family Board Game Night, Kentucky Derby Party (what hat creation will Matt Ward come up with THIS year??), and family hike. We welcome any and all suggestions for other events, and your participation! (The long-rumored Axe Throwing Night may come to fruition this Spring!)

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, so as to encourage relationships within our PCCH church family.

Jeff Podraza





Social Witness

In 2018 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. This year, Reformation Sunday was a day to celebrate this witness with the Committee leading worship. This provided the entire congregation with a renewed sense of the call to witness God's love through personal stories of involvement, as well as providing opportunities to get involved with our mission partners. The direct efforts and financial contributions of our congregation...

Began a new partnership HIAS PA, which provides legal and supportive services for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all backgrounds and planned our first project for early 2019...Wielded hammers and assorted power tools at several Habitat for Humanity Saturday workdays, as well as a congregation-wide event of framing a house on our front lawn and contributed \$5,000 to support their efforts...Continued our 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, ... 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 families who are supported by Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN)... 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... Cooked and shared meals with 3 homeless families who were guests of PIHN, donated 65 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 ... 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!

Melissa Montgomery

Adult Education

The Adult Education Committee seeks to foster the spiritual growth of the congregation. The committee's programs are usually scheduled during the Second Hour. The year started with members of the congregation



exploring how their faith shapes and is shaped by their professional work. Two members discussed their commitment to serving as stewards of the environment in their work. Several members explored the intersection of their faith with their work in financial services.

Subsequent adult education programs covered a range of topics. Inspired by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our own Rev. Dr. Beth Hessel led three conversations on the Protestant Reformation. In an effort to stimulate discussion about the meaning of home, we invited a representative of HIAS PA to describe its work on behalf of refugees. Jeff Jarvis, Director of the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism at the City University of New York and Cindy's brother, talked about the current and future state of journalism.

We also continued the tradition of sending devotionals, prepared by members of the congregation, to the entire congregation during Lent. Over two dozen members wrote reflections on scriptural passages to which they had been assigned. This exercise offered an opportunity for the congregation – both the contributors

and the congregation as a whole – to think about the meaning of these passages and, more broadly, about their faith and what it means to be a Christian.

Anne Standley and Greg Dickinson

Flower Guild



The Flower Guild, now in its fifth year, brings together twenty one 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. Christmas is always an exciting challenge

as the Advent preparations require extra volunteer time. The Guild has also taken over responsibility for maintaining the outdoor urns. Debby Evans and Jane Kaufman have become our outdoor urn leaders.

New in 2018 was a November event at which Ken Lovett and Diane Cornely demonstrated the creation of the Thanksgiving display, with the help of Liz Podraza and Barbara Olson.

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:

Mari Bernhagen
Katie Connelly
Sandy Connelly
Joan Demme
Debby Evans
Barbara Frazier
Linnea Johnson
Jane Kaufman
Ken Lovett
Cathy McKinney

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

Grace Stewart and Diane Cornely



*The Stewardship Committee—
Living Abundantly Sharing*

"So that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly"

II Corinthians 9:8

Our 2019 Stewardship Campaign kicked off on October 21 with a Broadway-inspired theme song, Living Life Abundantly, a remix of Hamilton's You'll be Back, sung by the Gallery Choir with enthusiastic chorus sing-alongs by elders and deacons. Our campaign logo, designed by Laura Madeleine, was meant to capture the energy and excitement of our congregation in a time of transition and change as we search for a new senior pastor. As in the past three years, all messaging included the challenge for pledgers 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. The bulletins featured the Stewardship logo and we hung LIVING ABUNDANTLY SHARING banners from the front portico. We sent out two physical mailings. The first letter went out on October 22 from the Stewardship Chair and the second, mailed No-

ember 12, included a letter from Cindy, narrative budget brochure, and a pledge card/envelope. Stewardship Sunday was November 18, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. During the singing of the final hymn, members brought forward their pledge cards; a celebratory pancake breakfast followed in Widener Hall.

Our 2019 goal, including mission giving, was \$720,000 in pledges, a 4.3% increase over the 2018 goal. As of the writing of this report, we are at 82% of our goal, with \$591,000 from 143 pledges; 67 pledges are increased from last year. About 30 pledges are yet to come in and a call campaign is underway for follow up.

Thanks to our Stewardship Committee (Trish and Courtney Franklin, Jim Lutz, Laura Madeleine, Mark Nottingham, and Mark Bernstein) for their dedication to this year's campaign!

Laurie Menyo

Investment Committee Report 2018



The Investment Committee comprised of Harry Spaeth, 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 2018 Endowment Funds provided funds of \$100,963 to support the operating budget and \$112,226 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 cash flow, oversight of 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, and on an as-needed basis with a representative from our third-party accountants. 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 monthly review and any recommendations are then reported to Session at each monthly meeting. The congregation is provided a financial summary for the Operating Fund via regular updates in the Church bulletin.

A summary of 2018 financial results as well as the Session-approved budget for 2019 are included below for review and comparison. In 2018, despite pledge receipts falling short of our budgeted goal, various offsets such as higher-than-anticipated plate and building use funds as well as many expenses landing favorable to the budget yielded only a relatively small \$15,000 bottom line shortfall to budget for the year. As always, unfilled pledges from 2018 are always welcomed in subsequent years. Should you have any questions, please contact any member of the Finance team: Harry Spaeth, Steve Bishop, Tom McClintic, Christen Webber, Jim Walker, or Graeme Frazier. Thank you one and all for your continued dedication to the financial stewardship of the Church.

Steve Bishop and Harry Spaeth

Keeping the Faith

KEEPING
THE



Capital Campaign Update: As of December 31, 2018

Capital Campaign Goal including Tithe:	\$ 665,500
Total Amount Pledged:	\$ 630,720
Pledge Receipts to Date:	\$ 521,113
Gifts Received to Date:	\$ 16,673
Total Sources of Funds:	\$ 537,786
Cash on Hand	\$ 422,321
Percentage of Pledges Received to Date:	83%
Amount of Pledges that have Not Been Received:	\$ 109,607
Total Campaign Tithe Amount for Mission YTD:	\$ 51,750

Projects Completed in 2017-2018:

- ❖ Campaign Advertising, Printing and Administrative Expenses
- ❖ Removal of Old Boiler
- ❖ Removal of Oil Tank
- ❖ 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 (Summer of 2019)
- ❖ New Glass Sanctuary Entryway Doors (Spring of 2019)
- ❖ 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 2019 Budget 2018 Recap

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Revenue			
Congregational Response	\$764,464	\$705,134	\$779,770
Building Use and Other Revenue	\$122,200	\$138,368	\$138,200
	<u>\$886,664</u>	<u>\$843,502</u>	<u>\$917,970</u>
Draw Against Endowment Income			
Designated Draws	\$67,030	\$67,031	\$63,211
Other Draws	\$59,905	\$61,733	\$57,015
Total Endowment Draws	<u>\$126,935</u>	<u>\$128,764</u>	<u>\$120,226</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$1,013,599</u>	<u>\$972,266</u>	<u>\$1,038,196</u>
Expenses			
Ordained Ministers	\$316,983	\$309,526	\$305,609
Lay Personnel Salaries & Benefits	\$206,150	\$213,031	\$203,364
Other Personnel	\$57,487	\$62,933	\$105,223
Personnel Total	<u>\$580,620</u>	<u>\$585,490</u>	<u>\$614,196</u>
Music and the Arts	\$20,700	\$12,326	\$20,700
Church Life	\$22,500	\$16,549	\$23,000
Christian Education	\$17,000	\$17,553	\$19,950
Administration	\$113,079	\$98,782	\$103,350
Buildings and Grounds	\$173,200	\$168,613	\$169,500
Mission	\$86,500	\$87,907	\$87,500
Total Expenses	<u>1,013,599</u>	<u>987,220</u>	<u>1,038,196</u>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$0	(\$14,954)	\$0
Sr. Adult Ministry			
Carry over previous year	\$31,654	\$31,704	\$39,264
Gifts/Grants	\$5,000	\$11,485	\$5,000
Other Income	\$13,000	\$17,257	\$13,000
Draw from SAM endowment	\$112,226	\$112,226	\$104,715
Total Revenue	<u>\$161,880</u>	<u>\$172,672</u>	<u>\$161,979</u>
Expenses			
Personnel	\$107,314	\$107,314	\$96,781
Operating Expenses	\$15,000	\$11,094	\$15,000
Contribution to Church Overhead	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Total Expenses	<u>\$137,314</u>	<u>\$133,408</u>	<u>\$131,781</u>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	<u>\$24,566</u>	<u>\$39,264</u>	<u>\$30,198</u>

