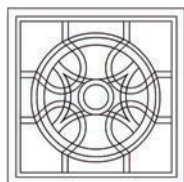
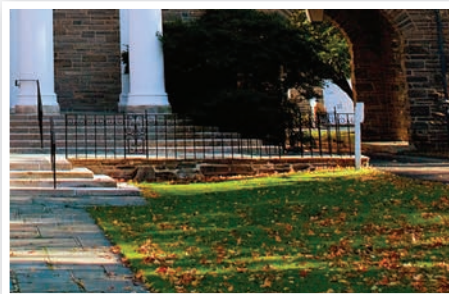


THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL



Annual Report 2019



Letter from the Moderator

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am marking my fourth month with you. It's probably a cliché, but it feels true both that I've been with you much longer than that and only just begun! Both are good signs.

I hit the ground running in late September, finding a program humming along nicely and a wonderful staff working away. Your tradition of worship and music continues to be an important commitment. I have "tweaked" things just a bit in terms of the order, while keeping the feel and flavor of it all. I have also enjoyed teaching in the Second Hour slot and in other settings – a great way to connect.

In those initial months, I invested significant time in getting to know people – through group gatherings and individual meetings. Thanks to those who hosted gatherings – they were great! I'd still be very glad to get together; please just give me a call or send an email. I also got to know you more deeply through a series of memorial services, as we remember members who have been pillars of this congregation. We made it through a good stewardship effort and a meaningful Advent and Christmas.

You all made the case to the presbytery to move ahead without an interim pastor following Cindy's retirement and you celebrated her ministry fully and well! I continue to believe that was the right decision. Though the pastoral tasks – meetings, visits, worship preparation – are similar to the places where I've previously served, the interesting challenge here is learning a new culture, with unique patterns and rhythms.

The good news is that this is not a congregation needing a massive infusion of change. Rather, there are things that need continued maintenance and some areas where my experience and perspective will come to bear.

Your Stewardship Committee made the good decision long before I arrived to organize around the theme "Vision 2020: A Plan, A Future, A Hope." This was prescient on many levels.

It is true for every congregation, including ours, that the first question, most urgent and most interesting, is "what's next." That is to say, what is our vision for the future and how do we hope to get there. We read about the so-called "decline" of mainline Protestantism, how faith practices are taking a backseat to other commitments, how religion has lost its pride of place in culture. And some of that is true, and beyond our control.

How we respond to cultural changes is not beyond our control, however. Engaging worship, education and nurture for all ages, meaningful service in our community – all of these will continue to be needed, even if for a smaller segment of society. PCCH has been given tremendous gifts to sustain these ministries. I believe that. That means, however, we continue to adapt and evolve. Our core values and profile will persevere; how we do what we do might look different.

That includes how we think about money, how and where we gather beyond Sunday mornings, how we welcome people in, how we reach out in our neighborhood and city, how we communicate with one another. These are big issues to tackle, but we have the capacity and energy to do it.

I continue to believe that the church's vision and ministry is needed as much as it ever has, in a world hungry for hope and reconciliation. Ours is a unique context and moment to think about who we are called to be and how we will serve God in this place at the start of a new decade.

I remain grateful for this new call and the opportunities to serve with you. I remain grateful for the loving support of my family, who continue to mean the world to me. I remain grateful to God for calling us together and sending us out, for such a time as this.

Faithfully,

John Wilkinson



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

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 opportunities for 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. In 2020, 26 of us will be in Northern Ireland on our annual Youth Work Camp. We will be working with multiple organizations, one of which is Habitat for Humanity in Belfast. It will surely be an incredible trip, followed by an equally incredible video to be debuted in Widener Hall sometime in October.

Junior High Youth Group

Like their older brethren, the Junior 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 2018-2019. 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 Junior High Youth Group will soon have their own *Theology and Pretzels* events, where they will discuss and debate the foundational issues of our faith.

Confirmation Class

This year's Confirmation Class has 20 students. Unlike previous years, this class will be meeting for a full academic year. In addition to our own youth, we have three students from a fellow congregation in our Presbytery, and their minister has joined Brian in helping to lead lectures. In previous years, students have written faith statements averaging five pages in length, though the last iteration produced a 12-page thesis! Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for May 17. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers and be sure to show your support when they are welcomed into our congregation as joint members in Christ.

Brian Russo



Christian Education and Children and Family Ministry



Music

2019 was another active year for the music program. The Gallery Choir and soloists continued to lead worship on Sundays, and presented several concerts in addition to their weekly duties. We welcomed the Fairmount Strings as Ensemble in Residence, who joined us for our Festival of Music and Arts in April. Jeffrey Stockbridge's photography exhibit "Kensington Blues" was displayed in Widener Hall, and the Gallery Choir and Fairmount Strings presented a concert featuring Arvo Pärt's *Stabat Mater*, and a premiere by composer Lewis Spratlan. Our four installments of the Cantatas and Chamber Music series featured performances by the Franklin Trio and soloists of the Gallery Choir. *Souls Shot* returned for its third year during our Fall Arts Festival in November, with new portraits of victims of gun violence in Philadelphia. That Sunday, the Gallery Choir performed Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* as part of the worship service.

Our recently expanded after-church program for children and youth continues to offer singing experiences for our church school students. Julie Snyder leads our youngest members – Joyful Noise – while Ken Lovett leads the middle and high school youth choir. These groups sing in worship once each month, and assist our children and youth in finding their singing voices and becoming leaders in our worship services.

The church continues to be a destination for performers world-wide, and the home for many wonderful ensembles such as the two-time Grammy winning choir The Crossing, Piffaro, Tempesta di Mare, and the Pennsylvania Girlchoir. 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 impactful music to our worship services, and share PCCH's mission with our community through the arts.

Dan Spratlan and Ken Lovett

Every year our goal is this: to worship and enjoy God, to nurture our children in faith, to teach them to believe in what they cannot see, to journey with them as they grow and to help them to practice loving God and loving their neighbors as they love themselves. A mentor and friend of mine who is also a children's minister once imparted this advice: *Love God. Love the kids. Tell the story.* She claimed that everything else could be taught, but that faithfulness to loving God, loving the children who are entrusted to our care, and telling God's story were crucial touchstones for ministry with children. Week in and week out, we are telling God's story and sharing God's love with each other and with the world outside the walls of PCCH's buildings.

The children are learning to tell God's story through many avenues: from our annual warm clothing drive for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry 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 Joseph's colorful coat; from performing in PCCH's Melody and Comedy fundraiser to interacting with the Souls Shot Art Show portraits; from splashing in the baptismal font to receiving bread and juice from the Lord's Table; from January's celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy to December's Christmas Eve pageant—the children of PCCH



Administrator's Report 2019



are learning that God's story is also their own. 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 Snyder, Kimberly Nye, Amanda Raphael, Jennifer Miller, Clara Hocking, Greg 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, Max Huertgen, Lyn Huertgen, Sara Eastman, Matt Eastman, Dom Rebeck, Virginia Rebeck, Anna Rebeck, Grace Rebeck, Lisa Burns, Lexi Clement, Alison Abernethy, Savannah Abernethy, Mark Bernstein, Emily Camp-Landis, Claire Camp-Landis, Luke Violante, Jesse DeSoo, Alison Rudolph, Laura Madeleine, Amy Raphael, Zach Raphael, Kevin Raphael, Austin Shelley, Brian Russo, Jeannette Quirus, Linda Amsterdam, Isaac Hessel-Robinson, Lydia Hessel-Robinson, and Beth Hessel.

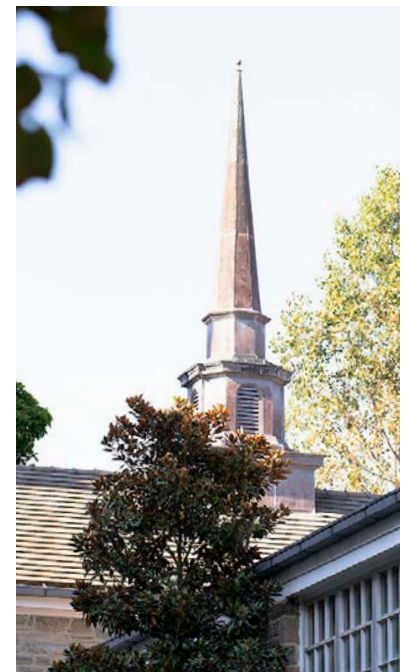
Austin Crenshaw Shelley

The end of 2019 proved to be the most 'interesting' portion of the year. PCCH is always bustling in December with the Flower Guild and Felix erecting Christmas trees, wreaths and generally sprucing up the building. But this year a heating coil for the sanctuary tried to change the focus from preparations for Christmas to "where and how we will worship if this can't be fixed by December 22nd?" We learned the heating coil was a custom made part made in Tennessee and fairly expensive. With a little extra "rush money" the company was able to get us that piece on Thursday, December 19. Repairmen worked two full days in order to get the heat up by the end of Friday and heat to the sanctuary for Christmas Sunday, The Crossing Concert and most importantly the two Christmas Eve services. I attended the 10 pm service with my husband. What a glorious night of music and scripture that was!!

The rest of year pales in comparison, but was nevertheless busy. The end of the summer and all the fall was noisy and hectic with all sorts of contractors, electricians and plumbers coming and going. But the new kitchen is finally in!! We've already had a couple of caterers use the kitchen and they love it! Let's hope it gets lots of use this year.

A new accessible bathroom and two beautiful new entryways for the back of the church capped off the project. I think most of us were thrilled when the old, dilapidated walkway was removed and to see what a lovely aspect the new columned entryways adds to the church. Many of the people who attend events during the week have commented on the improvements.

Many different groups continue to enjoy PCCH's facilities, from morning until late at night. These groups include Center on the Hill's varied classes, Boy Scouts, AA, several different dance groups, music classes etc., and of course our regular resident musical groups including



The Crossing and the Pennsylvania Girlchoir. With all the use the building is getting there seems, at times, to be a revolving door or repair people coming and going – plumbers, carpet cleaners, locksmiths, roofers and more. Most of these incidences have been minor and to be expected with a building of this age, but some, including plumbing and heating issues, have been more costly.

One of my main jobs is to see that the church is properly maintained. Outwardly PCCH presents a beautiful face –with Felix keeping the lawn looking beautiful, even through a hot summer and the Flower Guild filling the urns out front with interesting and beautiful flowers throughout the seasons. Springfield Greenery nurtures our Memorial Garden and Sabia Landscaping does some spring mulching and fall cleanup. Outside PCCH looks great! Inside is sometimes a different story. I’m really hoping that this year will be the year of the volunteer. And it’s already started - there is a group of you who have volunteered and by the time you read this the kitchen will have been “put back together.” Thank you. There are also many other things you as a volunteer could help with – washing windows, weeding, painting some scuffed base-board and the list goes on. Let me know if you’d like to help.

Looking forward to a full year with John at the helm and spring around the corner!

Esther Cole

Center on the Hill

The Center on the Hill, the place for active adults at PCCH, continues to provide a wide variety of programs, event, activities, and resources that enrich the lives of seniors in Chestnut Hill and surrounding areas. This past year has been a year of change and growth as I began my journey with the center in January. I spent the month of February getting to know the people who walked into our doors, as well as plan for my first quar-



ter of programming in the Spring. This was quickly followed by the Summer where a lot of time was spent engaging and developing relationships with organizations and professionals in the community who were interested in presenting a talk or workshop. Many new programs were added this year and they attracted people who had not previously been to the Center on the Hill. In addition to the ongoing weekly classes like Qigong, Golden Yoga, T’ai Chi, Folk Dancing, Painting and Sketching, Zumba Gold, Diabetes Workshops, Italian and French conversation, Bridge play, and Scrabble, local seniors this year enjoyed other programs like:

- ❖ Live Cabaret performance of Judy Garland songs
- ❖ Methods of Meditation
- ❖ Health and wellness lectures on topics like: Treating Back Pain, What Is Physical Therapy, Successful Aging, Easy Reflexology, Dizziness and Balance, Pain Management and Injury Prevention.
- ❖ Classes on smart phones and how to avoid online scams
- ❖ Photography for smart phones
- ❖ Pokeno
- ❖ Healthy cooking classes
- ❖ Individual nutrition counseling
- ❖ Presentations on learning to look at art
- ❖ Name that tune- interactive music appreciation
- ❖ Making glass mosaic art
- ❖ Answering the call to write
- ❖ Community luncheons
- ❖ Learn to play Mah Jongg
- ❖ Veterans Day Celebration
- ❖ Strengthening your voice and music reading classes
- ❖ Grief support, Well Spouse support and Alzheimer’s support groups



We took trips (*on the Regional Rail, which is free for Seniors*) to locations downtown this year. In the spring we went to the Penn Museum for a private tour of the Ancient Cities of the Middle East exhib-

it. Then we took a trip to Old City in the Fall for a docent lead walking tour of French influenced architecture in Philadelphia. On that trip we took the Flash Bus (*also free for seniors*) to visit different locations throughout downtown where the French influence is highly visible. The tour ended with lunch at a French Café near Sister Cities Park on the Ben Franklin Parkway. Both trips made for enjoyable days out and about together.

In 2018 the Center on the Hill had started an exciting philanthropic project to help homeless individuals in Philadelphia by crafting sleeping mats out of plastic bags. This project concluded this May with a total of 38 mats being made this year and donated to the homeless downtown through local churches and shelters.

The goal for my first year was to get to know the people I was serving at the Center on the Hill, and attract new people by offering as much diverse programming as I could think of. By expanding the offerings of music and performance, along with unique art workshops and inspiring health and wellness lectures, I feel like I have reached this goal and developed a solid understanding of what the active adults in our community are drawn to and want to participate in. Planning programs and events for each quarter is one of the main highlights of my work here, and I look forward to bringing even more diversity of offerings in the year ahead.

Everyone I have encountered in my first year here has been incredibly welcoming, supportive and encouraging as I settled into my role as Director of The Center on the Hill. Their thoughtfulness, ideas and words of wisdom have meant so much to me and helped make my transition into this role feel so effortless. Spending my days here at PCCH engaged with all the wonderful people I work with and meet is incredibly rewarding. I am ever so thankful to have this opportunity to work here with the church and the active adults in our community.

Mariangela Saavedra

Speaker Series on the Hill

The Speaker Series is a monthly event (September-June) presented in collaboration with The Center on the Hill which appeals to our neighbors and the members of PCCH as well. It is a part of the Church's outreach efforts and is a means to offer relevant and thought provoking information presented by speakers who are knowledgeable and accomplished in their particular fields. PCCH's 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. This year we hosted speakers who presented on topics like journalism, fighting hunger, the Travis Manion Foundation, animal conservation, famous musicians from Philadelphia, Hong Kong past and present, and the development of new medications. Attendees bring their own brown bag lunch and desserts and beverages are provided. They are also encouraged to visit with their friends and mingle with the speakers before and after the lecture. Those attending the series this year included church members, and residents of Germantown, Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill, and nearby communities in Montgomery County.



Stan Elwell

PCCH Preschool: State of the School



Having opened its doors close to 70 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 Alumni! Our school is operating at full capacity of 85 students, 13 teachers, and three specialists, and we also have a significant waitlist at this time. I am so grateful to be a part of this thriving community.

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 a celebration of multiculturalism, creative arts, and project-based opportunities for early literacy, sciences and mathematics.

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 interdisciplinary Spanish program. For example, the students engage in weekly celebrations of multicultural leaders in our curriculum called Famous Folks, wherein the school emphasizes heroes of color, remarkable women, inspiring scientists, famous artists, movie musicians, and social justice up-standers throughout history! The afternoon classes are facilitated entirely in Spanish by teachers from Chile 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 nine weeks of 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 technology. 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 2020 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 requests for tours every day and we invite you to visit us and to learn more about our creative and inclusive community.

Carla DiOrio James

The Session

Class of 2020

Rebecca Bernstein
 Kristin Lawton
 Kate Magid
 Laurie Menyo
 James Walker
 Matthew Ward
 Christen Webber
 Kevin Welsh

Class of 2021

Steve Bishop
 Larua Brobyn
 Katie Connelly, Clerk
 Lisa Guyer
 Jim Lutz
 Dan Pretz
 Kevin Raphael
 Beth Nell Vaccaro

Class of 2022

Martha Agate
 Ryan Cavanaugh
 Matt Eastman
 Ryan Mann

Melissa Montgomery
 Jeff Podraza
 Alison Rudolf
 Taylor Slaughter

PCCH New Members

Jason Brown
 Jessica Brown

Kelly Garner
 Rob Travis Jackson

Church Member Deaths

Elizabeth Campbell
 Jane Conti
 Richard Hassold
 James Jones
 Florence Kleckner

Ada Parry
 Barbara Sheble
 Jean Smith
 Peter Van Blarcom

PCCH Baptisms

Gabriel Eastman
 Julia Eastman
 Emily Myrick
 Hobie Sebright





January

- ❖ Approved the 2019 operating budget.
- ❖ In anticipation of Leslie Lefer's upcoming departure as Director of the Center on the Hill, voted to call Mariangela Saavedra as her successor, and to support Leslie's transition in thanks for her service and leadership to the church.

February

- ❖ At the annual meeting on February 10, 2019, the congregation voted to approve both the slate of Elder and Deacon candidates to be installed in April 2019 and the terms of call for all three ordained and installed pastors, and voted to receive the 2019 operating budget.
- ❖ Heard the Preschool Committee's brief describing a recent security incident and response, and reviewed their recommendations for increased security and a multi-tiered response policy for use with future incidents.
- ❖ On February 24, 2019, The Reverend Austin Crenshaw Shelley was installed as *Associate Minister for Christian Education*.

March

- ❖ New elders and deacons were examined and approved for ordination and installation.
- ❖ Agreed to recommend Margaret Poteet for candidacy in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- ❖ Approved several recommendations by the Finance Committee to utilize funds for chapel floor repair, travel expenses, and candidate support.

April

- ❖ Supported the Church Life Committee's recommendations to implement use of nametags

to assist with strengthening our connections with one another in anticipation of upcoming leadership change.

May

- ❖ Engaged in an effort to clarify requirements and desires of upcoming kitchen project.
- ❖ Approved the recommendation by the Preschool Committee to fund construction of a physical office for the Director of the Preschool within the current space.
- ❖ Approved a motion by the PNC to set a congregational meeting for June in order to introduce and vote to install the candidate called as Pastor.

June

- ❖ At a special meeting of the congregation on June 23, 2019, a motion was approved to call The Reverend Dr. John Wilkinson as the new Pastor, as were his terms of call. Dr. Wilkinson and his family received a warm welcome.

September

- ❖ At a special meeting of the congregation on September 1, 2019, a motion was approved to dissolve the pastoral relationship between PCCH and The Reverend Cynthia Jarvis, to be effective September 30, 2019.
- ❖ Established a task force to investigate the church's needs and requirements for a van.

October

- ❖ Kicked off 2020 Stewardship campaign, "Vision 2020: A Plan. A Future. A Hope."

November

- ❖ Approved support for new pageant costumes

December

- ❖ Discussed and approved the 2020 personnel budget.

Katie Connelly, Clerk of Session

Deacons' Report

In 2019 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 26 guided by Brian Russo, Associate Minister of Youth and Senior Adults. In 2019 the Deacons continued with the revised organization of the group into smaller units of 6 people each. This arrangement has worked well during the year as the groups' duties have rotated from month to month with everyone contributing their services as needed during their "duty" month. 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 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.

Other outreach includes 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 or February.

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 continues to expand our social media and communications efforts, and we have started an initiative to look at how to better use technology to contact members, provide a more robust directory, and better track visitor and worship attendance. We continue to look at new ways 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. We are working closely with John Wilkinson to develop new ideas on visitation and membership growth.

In this year of leadership transition at our church, Church Life took the lead in coordinating "Conversations with Cindy" and meet-and-greet John Wilkinson events. We have initiated the use of name tags by worship attendees, to make it easier for John to learn a lot of new names but also to foster fellowship between members and visitors.

The committee has coordinated a variety of fellowship events this year, which were very well-attended and gave members and friends the opportunity to meet others and build relationships. Groups from PCCH attended "The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)" at Allens Lane Arts Center and enjoyed a post-show talkback with the cast and director Mariangela Saavedra. We continued the successful Family Game Night, had a great crowd at a Lehigh Valley Iron



Pigs game in August, and helped with social functions – Church Life LOVES a party! Speaking of which, the Kentucky Derby party will make its return this May after a one-year hiatus. We have also just announced a Theatre Horizon event in March.

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 2019 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 direct efforts and financial contributions of our congregation...

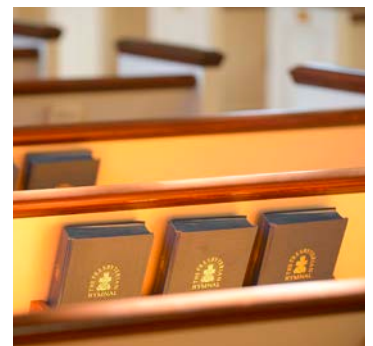
Continued our partnership with Face to Face Germantown where we assisted in preparing and serving free meals to the Germantown community, gave \$1,900 to support their work... Continued our support of Our Brother’s Place men’s shelter by providing sloppy joe dinners prepared by our congregation each month... Gave \$4,725 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 two families who are supported by Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN) and gave \$3,150 to West Kensington

Ministry to “Stock the Pantry”... Hosted the latest *Souls Shot* exhibit... Continued our relationship with Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence with a donation of \$1,000... Cooked and shared meals with three homeless families who were guests of PIHN, donated 70 backpacks chock full of school supplies for pre-K and school-age children they work with, and gave the organization \$3,150 to support their work... Gave \$1,900 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... Wielded hammers and assorted power tools at several Habitat for Humanity Saturday workdays, and gave them \$1,600 to support their efforts... Gave \$4,000 to help fund the PCCH Youth Mission Trip... And gave, did, and inspired so much more as witnesses to God’s love of each and every person!

Melissa Montgomery

Adult Education

The mission of the Adult Education Committee is to provide educational opportunities that work to promote the spiritual growth of the congregation. Most of our programming is scheduled for Second Hour each Sunday and we strive to provide a variety of options that speak to different aspects of our faith and common life together. We began 2019 with a series led by Patty Rich that shed light on the history, theology, and enduring legacy of Karl Barth. We also offered a three-part series that brought leaders from local Buddhist, Jewish, and Muslim communities of faith to promote mutual understanding and interfaith dialogue and cooperation. The period of Lent brought with it a six-part series exploring the history and literature of the last days of Jesus led via a DVD program from Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School. We explored the intersection of music and our call to healing and reconciliation in the



world in a Second Hour led by Jeffrey Stockbridge, creator of “Kensington Blues” and Lewis Spratlan, Pulitzer Prize winning composer (and Dan Spratlan’s father) as they discussed the impact that music and art can have on our nation’s opioid crisis. Autumn brought with it the excitement of a new pastor and our Second Hour provided many opportunities to meet John Wilkinson and experience John’s love of learning in discussions covering a variety of topics from the Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith to how our confessions, liturgy, and music reflect how we know Jesus. Additionally, Ken Lovett led us in an exploration of how the lectionary shapes and supports our worship life and Dan Spratlan led a discussion of Maurice Duruflé’s *Requiem*. In addition to our Second Hour program, the Adult Education Committee coordinated the Lenten Reflection series in which dozens of members reflected on lectionary passages and shared their insights so as to inspire us all to deeper and more regular study of scripture.

Alison Rudolf and Greg Dickinson

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild’s mission is to bring the beauty of God’s world into our worship space.

The Guild, now in its sixth year, comprises twenty-two dedicated volunteers who create the Sunday chancel arrangements and the special Easter and Christmas floral displays. In addition, flowers from Sunday’s arrangements are re-arranged by guild members to be taken by Deacons to church members who have birthdays, to those who are homebound or those who are hospitalized or recuperating. Guild members also maintain the outdoor urns and window boxes.

In November, the Guild held a workshop event led by Ken Lovett, Diane Cornely, Jane Kaufman and Sue Shuchat. The team demonstrated the creation of the Thanksgiving display and reviewed tips and techniques for newcomers and experienced arrangers alike.



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.

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

Mari Bernhagen	Barbara Olson
Jill Bown	Linda Pettingill
Katie Connelly	Liz Podraza
Sandy Connelly	Alison Rudolf
Joan Demme	Sue Shuchat
Debby Evans	Barbara Spause
Barbara Frazier	Barrett Stewart
Linnea Johnson	Mary Ann VanBlarcom
Jane Kaufman	Susan White
Ken Lovett	Suzan Willcox

Together Guild members provide over 175 hours of arranging time a year.

Grace Stewart and Diane Cornely

The Stewardship Committee

VISION 2020:
A Plan. A Future.
A Hope.



A Plan. A Future. A Hope.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. They are plans for good...to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Our eye-opening 2020 Stewardship Campaign, VISION 2020: A Plan. A Future. A Hope, kicked off on Sunday, October 20, with an introduction by Laurie Meryo and Jim Lutz. Children held up poster board letters as the congregation joined in a cheer for V-I-S-I-O-N. The theme took advantage of a unique play on words with the year 2020 and the clear sight that 20/20 vision provides, supported by a scripture verse from Jeremiah 29:11. The logo, designed by Laura Madeline, featured wire-rim glasses with the church steeple reflected in the lens. This was the first Stewardship Campaign with John Wilkinson as minister, and messaging focused on the exciting plans that God has in store for PCCH.

For four consecutive Sundays, leaders in the congregation gave one-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 Stewardship announcements each week and we hung VISION 2020 banners from the front portico. We sent out two physical mail-



ings. The first was a letter from the Stewardship Committee with a full-color narrative budget brochure. The second mailing was a letter from John with pledge cards. Stewardship Commitment was November 17, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We handed out 2020 novelty glasses to the congregation and asked them to wear them as they brought forth their pledges during the singing of the final hymn. We celebrated afterwards with a bagel-inspired breakfast in Widener Hall. Hand-signed thank you notes were mailed to all pledgers.

Our 2020 goal, including mission giving, was \$720,000 in pledges. As of the writing of this report, we are at nearly 80% of our goal with nearly \$540,000 committed. 57 pledges were increased over last year, representing a gain of nearly \$20,000. 42 pledges remained the same and 14 pledges were new. A call campaign is underway to the remaining 30 households expected to pledge.

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

Laurie Menyo, 2020 Stewardship Chair

Investment Committee Report 2019

The Investment Committee comprised of Stephen Bishop, John Wilkinson, 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 2019 Endowment Funds provided funds of \$118,470 to support the operating budget and \$104,715 to support the Senior Adult ministry of the church. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Investment Com-

mittee, 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 PCCH Finance Committee and the Treasurer are responsible for overseeing the Operating Budget, the Senior Adult Ministry Budget, the Capital Campaign cash flow, financial oversight of the Preschool, 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.



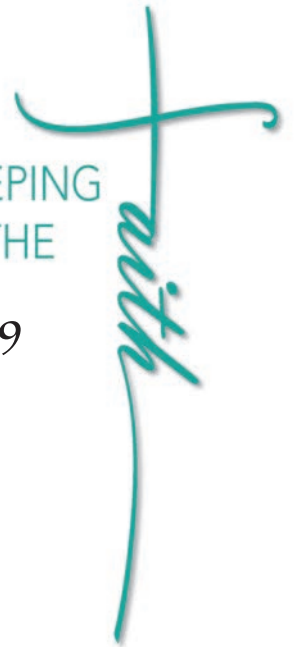
A summary of the 2019 financial results as well as the Session-approved budget for 2020 are included for review and comparison. In 2019, despite pledge receipts falling a bit short of our budgeted goal, various offsets such as higher-than-anticipated plate and building use funds as well as many expenses coming in favorable to the budget yielded a relatively small \$9,586 bottom line shortfall to budget for the year. This is especially remarkable given that 2019 was a particularly difficult year to budget with many unknowns related to pastoral transitions, surprise HVAC issues, and the like.

As always, unfilled pledges from 2019 or any prior year are always welcomed in subsequent years. Should you have any questions, please contact any member of the Finance team: Steve Bishop, Christen Webber, Harry Spaeth, Jim Lutz, Jim Walker, or Graeme Frazier. Thank you one and all for your continued dedication to the financial stewardship of the Church.

Steve Bishop and Christen Webber

Keeping the Faith

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Capital Campaign Update: As of December 31, 2019

Capital Campaign Goal including Tithe:	\$ 665,500
Total Amount Pledged:	\$ 630,720
Pledge Receipts to Date:	\$ 608,082
Gifts Received to Date:	\$ 9,160
Total Sources of Funds:	\$ 617,242
Cash on Hand:	\$ 75,525
Percentage of Pledges Received to Date:	97%
Amount of Pledges that have Not Been Received:	\$ 21,438

Total Campaign Tithe Amount for Mission YTD: \$ 53,165

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 Completed in 2018-2019:

- ❖ Widener Restroom Addition
- ❖ Kitchen Renovation
- ❖ Rear Entrance Update/Renovation
- ❖ Capital Campaign Tithe

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

- ❖ New Glass Sanctuary Entryway Doors

Projects to be included on any New Capital Campaign:

- ❖ Replace Windows for Strouse Classrooms with Energy Efficient Windows
- ❖ Replace Backstage Windows

Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

Session Approved 2020 Budget and 2019 Recap

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Revenue			
Congregational Response	\$779,770	\$725,357	\$746,400
Building Use and Other Revenue	\$138,200	\$146,969	\$142,200
	<u>\$917,970</u>	<u>\$872,326</u>	<u>\$888,600</u>
Draws Against Endowment Income			
Designated Draws	\$63,211	\$64,199	\$65,081
Other Draws	\$57,015	\$54,271	\$54,320
Total Endowment Draws	<u>\$120,226</u>	<u>\$118,470</u>	<u>\$119,401</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,038,196</u>	<u>\$990,796</u>	<u>\$1,008,001</u>
Expenses			
Ordained Ministers	\$305,609	\$299,052	\$265,287
Lay Personnel Salaries & Benefits	\$203,364	\$209,818	\$242,267
Other Personnel	\$85,223	\$78,432	\$63,977
Personnel Total	<u>\$594,196</u>	<u>\$587,302</u>	<u>\$571,531</u>
Music and the Arts	\$20,700	\$19,625	\$20,700
Church Life	\$43,000	\$33,442	\$25,000
Christian Education	\$19,950	\$21,871	\$20,250
Administration	\$103,350	\$96,186	\$109,000
Buildings and Grounds	\$169,500	\$164,009	\$169,500
Mission	\$87,500	\$77,946	\$92,020
Total Expenses	<u>1,038,196</u>	<u>1,000,382</u>	<u>1,008,001</u>
Revenues in Excess/(Shortfall) of Expenses	\$0	(\$9,586)	\$0
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Sr. Adult Ministry			
Carry over previous year	\$39,264	\$39,264	\$30,016
Gifts/Grants	\$5,000	\$408	\$5,000
Other Income	\$13,000	\$20,548	\$13,000
Draw from SAM endowment	\$104,715	\$104,715	\$107,606
Total Revenue	<u>\$161,979</u>	<u>\$164,935</u>	<u>\$155,622</u>
Expenses			
Personnel	\$96,781	\$96,781	\$95,593
Operating Expenses	\$15,000	\$18,138	\$15,000
Contribution to Church Overhead	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Expenses	<u>\$131,781</u>	<u>\$134,919</u>	<u>\$130,593</u>
Revenues in Excess/(Shortfall) of Expenses	<u>\$30,198</u>	<u>\$30,016</u>	<u>\$25,030</u>

