

Annual Report 2022



**The Chevy
Chase
Presbyterian
Church**



Table of Contents

Senior Pastor's Report	Page 3
Associate Pastor's Report	Page 5
Session Clerks	Page 6
Board of Deacons	Page 10
Administration and Finance	Page 12
Personnel Committee	Page 15
Christian Education	Page 16
Mission Advisory Council	Page 19
Worship and Music	Page 23
Stewardship	Page 25
Biographies of Nominees for Church Offices	Page 28

The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church seeks to be a congregation where **God is the center** of our lives; we **celebrate children and youth** and equip them with faith to meet life's challenges; and we **work for justice** in local and global communities.

Christ our Center. Children our Blessing. Justice our Passion.

Senior Pastor's Report

The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert

***...those who wait upon the Lord shall
renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like
eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31***



This past year Jesus Christ has walked with us as we have ventured into a new world. We had been sheltering from the COVID storm for two full years. In 2022 we began clearing our eyes, looking around us, seeing where we are, and listen for the voice of God to help us discern the direction in which we need to go.

January put us back in the COVID storm when the highly contagious Omicron variant overcame our nation and we were forced to return to on-line worship exclusively. Although our building was closed for a time, our ministry and mission never stopped. We welcomed a family from Afghanistan who had flee when the capital city of Kabul fell to the Taliban. In worship, we celebrated a Season of Climate Justice.

In early March, the Session granted me six weeks of emergency family medical leave to care for one of my children who became very ill in the fall of 2021. It was a terrifying time for my family and I am deeply grateful for the congregation's support and generosity. My daughter is doing well. I am grateful to Pastor Keith for holding the reigns even though he had only just arrived as our Acting Associate Pastor.

Easter Sunday worship was a true celebration of resurrection. Our church is rising up to new life. The flowers were radiant, the music sublime and people filled the pews. We felt a kind of return to "normal" for the first time in more than two years, even as we continue to learn what "normal" is. A wonderful part of our new normal is on-line worship. People attend worship in the sanctuary, participate in worship on our zoom platform, and stream worship live on Facebook. God's Word cannot be held back. God's Word goes forth and gives life to more people than we will ever know.

Senior Pastor's Report

The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert (continued)

All year we prepared to call a permanent Associate Pastor. Taking our lead from National Capital Presbytery, we engaged in the Church Assessment Tool survey. The information we learned fit with insights from our Inclusion and Racial Justice report, as well as our Going Deeper strategic plan from 2018. We long for more community and a deeper sense of belong. We seek to grow spiritually. We tend to rely heavily on staff and yet desire more engagement from members of our congregation. Our committee structure has fallen into disrepair. The session reorganized its structure and created a new Congregational Life Committee to invite and welcome new members, build community, help people find the place in CCPC where every member can connect with others and with the Spirit of Christ that is in this place.

Also in response to our learnings from the CAT, our worship team developed a new planning structure for the worship team to build community and share the Holy Spirit in different ways - via music, liturgy, faith sharing and voicing joys and concerns, all with a goal is to foster relationships. The worship team has focused intentional messages of good news for an individual's spirituality in addition to our well established messages of good news in community and corporately. Pastor Keith and I preached on the Fruits of the Spirit all summer long. Director of Music, Julie Vidrick is an amazing partner in ministry whose creativity continues to grow and inspire.

As we approached Home Coming Sunday, we took new steps in opening up our building and bringing some dormant ministries back to life. In our worship, we celebrated Kintsugi – the Japanese Art of Golden Repair. We worshiped the ways in which God is putting our own lives and the life of CCPC back together with seams of gold. Sunday School began again for the children. We have been like a flower opening to the sun. We have been as those who wait upon the Lord for new strength and fresh energy, and we are receiving it!

All Advent we prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ, the birth of Emmanuel, God is With Us. We welcomed seven new members along with their families. I wrote a new story - "The Christmas Goat". The goat made an appearance at a packed Family Christmas Eve Service. Jesus was born in our hearts as we read the sacred story, sang the sacred music and shared the light of Christ.

God promises strength to those who wait upon the Lord. We have faithfully trusted Christ's presence with us. We have experienced new life in the Holy Spirit. We shall run and not be weary; we shall walk and not faint; we shall mount up with wings like eagles in the love of God, the grace of Christ Jesus, and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

God's Blessings,

Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert

Associate Pastor's Report

The Rev. Keith Thompson



Friends, I am so deeply grateful for all the ways we have gotten to know one another over the last year. At last year's annual meeting, I was only three months into my time at CCPC. I almost felt like I had no clue what was going on. What a joy it has been to spend this year building relationships grounded in a deep spirituality and hope for this faith community.

In the spring, we confirmed our first group of students since the before the pandemic started. We had seven students in last year's class who went before session to share their faith statements and join the church. We had a dinner for them and their families and mentors, and it was a wonderfully joyous evening of fellowship and seeing hope through the eyes of the young people of CCPC. Last summer, with Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, we filled a house at Montreat for their high school youth conference. Let me tell you: spending a week in the mountains with these youth will fill your spirit and heart until they are overflowing.

I am already so so excited for this summer: we will take a group to the middle school conference at Massanetta Springs, high schoolers to Montreat, and we'll go on an all-youth mission trip to CROSS Missions in Charlotte, NC! We still have spots available on each of these trips. Let me know if you want more information or the link to register!

As we continue to learn what it looks like to regroup after some years of living apart, it is exciting to see the energy people have to connect with one another. In the fall, we launched a new monthly playdate for our families with kids up to age 6. Over the last months, but even more so going into the rest of this year, we have started to share meals and other fellowship opportunities as a community. I was able to meet many for the first time at our men's steak cookout. We share dinner at youth group each month. And a few wonderful church leaders are working to plan meals for our entire congregation. We'll enjoy the first one after our annual meeting.

It is clear that we have not moved beyond covid. We still see people getting it: sometimes mildly, sometimes keeping them homebound for weeks. And yet, I am excited that we are prioritizing thinking in creative ways to spend time together. The more often I see more of you, the fuller my spirit feels. Gentle reminder: I am always open to grabbing coffee or lunch, or to go on a walk around the neighborhood. Spring is arriving and is practically begging us to enjoy her beauty. Let's get together!

Peace,
Rev. Keith Thompson

Session Clerks

Erik Woodworth & Tom Lutte

The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. (BO G-3.0201)

Are we? Is our congregation becoming a community of faith, hope, love and witness? The Book of Order (BoO), the second part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), defines many core principles of our denomination's polity, such as the one above, while leaving many details to each congregation to sort out. Our ultimate success in becoming a stronger community of faith, hope, love and witness will depend on each of us together truly being the body of Christ.

This provides both great promise and great responsibility.

First, a promise of unity in diversity:

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. (BoO F-1.0403)

Our Mission

Just as we are all invited to Christ's table, we each bear the responsibility of sharing Christ's passion:

The Church bears witness in word and work that in Christ the new creation has begun, and that God who creates life also frees those in bondage, forgives sin, reconciles brokenness, makes all things new, and is still at work in the world. To be members of the body of Christ is to be sent out to pursue the mission of God and to participate in God's new creation, God's kingdom drawing the present into itself. (BoO F-1.0302)

Congregational Survey and Committee Reformation

Are we drawing the present into God's Kingdom?

While we should each reflect on that, during 2022 we asked ourselves many more mundane questions. How has our congregation been affected by the pandemic? How has it changed over the past few years? Some 150 of us completed the "CAT Scan" survey and session received its results and interpretation, including comparisons to results from five years prior when we last conducted this exercise.

Session Clerks

Erik Woodworth & Tom Lutte (continued)

Overall, results weren't that different from 2017. Yet several recommendations emerged from this effort, including to:

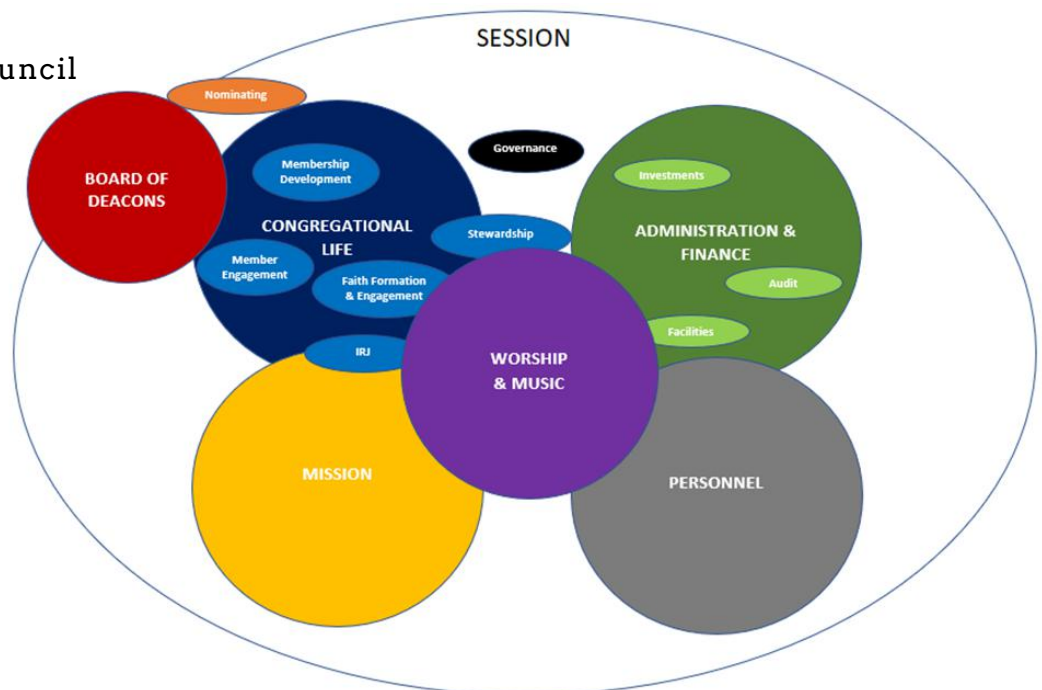
- o Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- o Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- o Create new opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example via small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc).
- o Involve members of the congregation to a greater degree in church decision-making and direction.
- o Accomplish the above goals with less reliance on clergy and much more dependence on member volunteers who take initiative and responsibility for building and maintaining the vitality of their personal spirituality and our faith community.

How do Presbyterians address such recommendations? By forming and reforming committees, of course!

In updating our committee structure, we sought to ensure that a small number of primary committees of session, along with key subcommittees, have strong linkages back to session via at least one Ruling Elder as member.

The primary committees of session are:

- o Administration & Finance
- o Congregational Life
- o Governance
- o Mission Advisory Council
- o Nominating
- o Personnel
- o Worship & Music



Session Clerks

Erik Woodworth & Tom Lutte (continued)

Congregational Life Committee

Of these primary committees, the new one is “Congregational Life” for which our Acting Associate Pastor, Rev. Keith Thompson, serves as the staff representative. This combines elements of the old ‘Connections’, ‘Inviting’ and ‘Welcoming’ committees, among others.

Congregational Life helps coordinate related groups in the realm of membership development (including outreach, welcoming, inquirers’ classes, new member mentors, etc.), member engagement (including volunteer recruiting and management, communications, planning gatherings, etc.), IRJ, stewardship and faith formation & engagement (which includes Sunday school, youth group and confirmation), with a focus on ensuring that all those who wish to actively participate in our faith community find ways to do so as we grow in personal and communal spiritual commitment. This committee started meeting in late 2022.

Ruling Elder Lynn Johnston has been leading its membership development efforts and helped organize the “Inquirers Class” in October after which we welcomed several new members in December (see Membership Development report). Most new members last year were either youth who made their statements of faith following completion of the confirmation classes led by Pastor Keith and Elder Mark Fernandez, or were families with young children who participate in the Sunday School program led by Ruling Elders Linda Ertz and Christina Hudson. These ministries are essential to sustaining the vitality of our congregation.

As Chair of IRJ, Ruling Elder Deanna Troust, who has great expertise in marketing and communications, outlined a plan for attracting and retaining new members in her report to session on the IRJ review. With the Chevy Chase neighborhood’s history of exclusion and discrimination, which the IRJ historical review team chronicled both in an Open Forum presentation and in a longer form narrative, it is vital that we be welcoming to anyone who comes through CCPC’s physical or virtual doors and make them feel at home.

Elder Mary Strauss, the leader of membership engagement efforts, has been working closely with Elder Rita Hadden who is reviving our tradition of preparing and sharing meals as a congregation and recruiting volunteers to bring food for coffee hour in Chadsey Hall after services.

Deacon Peter Cherukuri, as one of the volunteer Online Ushers has been focused on improving the Zoom service experience with valuable technical assistance from Chris Hersman. Having the option to join worship remotely is a privilege that many of us enjoy occasionally if not regularly and we are seeking to encourage greater participation in virtual coffee hour discussions after service.

Session Clerks

Erik Woodworth & Tom Lutte (continued)

2022 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Combined attendance in person and online during 2022 was relatively stable compared to prior year and has not returned to the higher pre-pandemic levels. As for our official membership rolls, we recorded a slight increase over the past year. Here are the 2022 membership statistics as reported to the Presbytery:

2022 Membership			2022	2021
GAINS		Age Group		
Prof/Reaf of Faith (18 &over)	8	17 and Under	12	n/a
Confirmands (17 & under)	7	18 – 25	36	n/a
Certificate of Transfer	1	26 – 40	68	56
Other	0	41 – 55	108	116
2022 Total Gains	16	56 – 70	116	118
LOSSES		Over 70	162	166
Death	4	Ethnicity		
Certificate of Transfer	3	Asian	19	19
Inactivity/Deletion	6	African American	11	12
2022 Total Losses	13	Hispanic/Latinx	10	10
Ending Membership	502	Middle Eastern	12	12
Female Members	299	Multiracial	1	0
Male Members	203	Native American	1	1
Non-Binary/Other Members	0	White	448	445

Finally, we thank Clara Fernandez (Youth Elder), Connie Rhind Robey and Larry Maxwell for their service on session as they finish their terms.

CCPC Elders

Class of 2023

Nancy Gwinn
Larry Maxwell
Connie Rhind Robey
Erik Woodworth

Class of 2024

Susan Dentzer
Tom Lutte
Christy Schmidt
Deanna Troust

Class of 2025

Linda Ertz
Christina Hudson
Lynn Johnston
Carolynn Race

Youth Elder 2023

Clara Fernandez

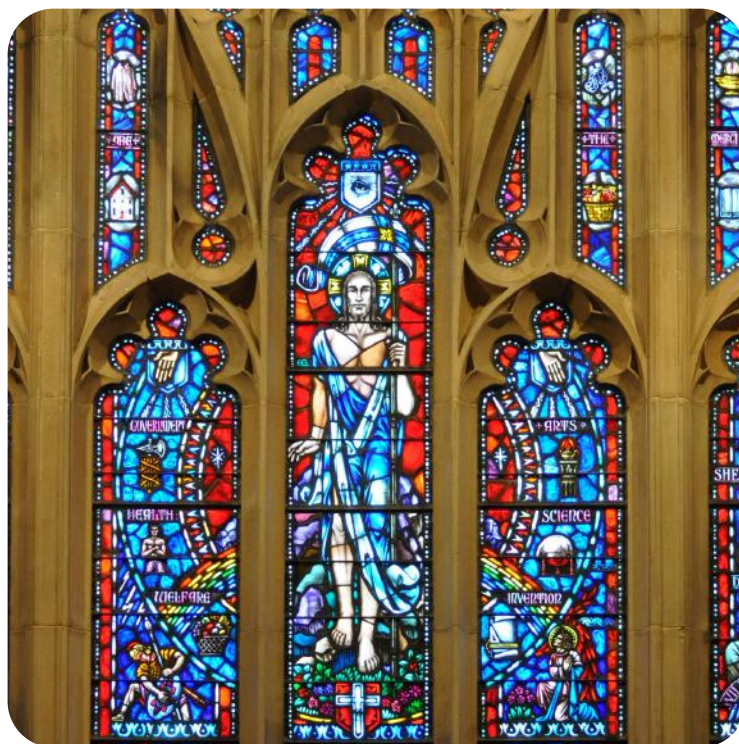
Board of Deacons

Marianne Toussaint and Scott Corkran

The Board of Deacons, led by current moderator Marianne Toussaint and assistant moderator Scott Corkran, under the guidance of Pastor Molly Teichert and Associate Pastor Keith Thompson, serves the church in many ways, but focuses on congregational care and outreach. Its mission includes providing care and compassion within the congregation, organizing meal delivery for those in temporary need, keeping contact with members no longer able to participate fully in the life of the church, and arranging logistics for key congregational events.

Deacon activity in 2022:

Marianne Toussaint was installed as Moderator of the Board of Deacons in April, and provided leadership and vision. Ken Lowenberg, Roz Hom, Jean McKeever, Hope Cullen, Carol Tucker-Foreman, Barkley Calkins, and Priscilla Huff joined or re-joined the Board for three-year terms. The Board welcomed two Youth Deacons, Roman Gehres and Lucy Smith, an increase from the single Youth Deacon of recent years. We hope to continue enjoying increased participation from our Youth Group program in the years to come.



Congregational Care:

With pandemic precautions largely receding, the Deacons were able to resume their full palate of activities and pastoral care duties. One major effort was the restoration of the Church Neighbors program, which had been significantly curtailed over the preceding two years. With great leadership and commitment from Peggy Hawkins, the Deacons were able to implement robust outreach programs focusing on maintaining contact with elderly and loosely attached congregants through calls and visits.

The Deacons were pleased to resume their organization of major church events including the Confirmands' Dinner and the 50-Year Members Reception. Both of these events were carried out with great success, and the Deacons plan to continue coordinating them next year. The 50-year event was particularly meaningful including stories of members' experiences during service and a coffee hour after service with music by the youth choir. Many members enjoyed reconnecting in Geneva Hall.

Board of Deacons

Marianne Toussaint and Scott Corkran

Other annual events included Lilly and Poinsettia deliveries at Easter and Christmas, respectively. The Deacons also provided meal deliveries for members in need, a program that has become a greater focus of the Deacons over the last couple of years. By organizing meal deliveries and by participating in delivery programs organized by other members of the church, the Deacons were able to serve congregants with short to medium term needs.

Weekly pastoral care efforts included the Deacons' traditional flower delivery program. Those selected for outreach include congregation members who may be homebound or otherwise unable to fully engage with our church community. Alternatively, other flowers are delivered to new members, guests at services, or to express gratitude and appreciation to congregants. In addition to flowers, Deacons made many phone calls and sent many notes and cards throughout the year.



Goals and Challenges for 2023:

In the year ahead, The Board will be thrilled to have Marianne Toussaint as Moderator for the second year of her term. Assistant Moderator Scott Corkran has reached the end of two consecutive terms as a Deacon, and will be stepping down as required. The Deacons hope to install a new Assistant Moderator as they welcome the new Board in April.

The Board of Deacons is eager to continue its service to CCPC, its congregation, and its wider community in 2023. In addition to its current missions, the Board is actively considering continue reviving previous activities, namely providing rides to service for those who can drive themselves. This has been dormant through the pandemic, and the Deacons will explore if congregants are interested in such a service. The deacons may also consider how to better serve and support our children and youth membership in the coming year. The Deacons have pursued this goal over the past year with moderate gains (most notably having two Youth Deacons this year). Our hope continues to be creating opportunities for more of our high schoolers to participate in the life of the church by working in conjunction with the Deacons.

Administration and Finance

Carolynn Race, Chair

The Administration and Finance Committee and its sub-committees are charged with oversight of the financial operations of the church, the maintenance and safety of the building and grounds, and the overall support of the other committees charged with carrying out CCPC's mission in the community and the world. In 2022, our focus areas included continuing to streamline our business management practices, concentrating on building operations capital improvements, shifting back to more in-person and hybrid engagements, and managing our endowment and investment holdings during an unstable financial period.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Budget and Actuals

As is highlighted in the table below, showing unaudited 2022 financial information, our actual income (\$1,340,873) was slightly above our budget (\$1,327,307) due in large part to increased transfers from the CCPC nursery school and afterschool programs for use of facilities and staffing support (e.g., custodial coverage). Our actual expenses (\$1,340,873) were slightly above our budget (\$1,327,307) due to increased personnel costs required to remain competitive in this labor market, increased benefits costs and slightly higher administration and finance costs due to increased expenses for insurance, computer supplies and maintenance, online giving fees, and e-communications. We drew \$4,003 from our reserves to cover the unanticipated expenses and balance the budget.

We are working with Anderson Davis, CPA to complete an annual audit, and will update Session on its findings this spring. As you can see from the annual UNAUDITED 2021 financial information that follows, actual overall expenses covered all obligations and matched overall income realized.

Annual Operating Budget Summary (Unaudited Data)

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Income		
Undesignated Giving	1,116,300	1,105,886
Investment Income	86,150	85,920
Use of Facilities	8,000	800
Other Income	116,857	148,267
TOTAL INCOME	1,327,307	1,340,873
Expense		
Connections	4,750	996
Christian Education	8,425	2,651
Youth Ministries	2,000	923
Worship and Music	28,000	27,935
Mission	50,000	50,595
Stewardship	3,500	1,839
Support Services	280,000	279,184
Administration and Finance	105,000	119,844
Personnel	830,776	861,093
Deacons	1,000	-
Y-E to Reserves	13,856	(4,003)
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,327,307	1,348,459

Administration and Finance

Carolynn Race, Chair (continued)

Employee Retention Tax Credit

Following guidance from our accounting firm, Anderson Davis CPA, we learned that CCPC was eligible for the Employee Retention Tax Credit. The tax credit was established by Congress in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to incentive employers to keep their workers on the payroll during the coronavirus pandemic. CCPC applied for this tax credit in late 2022 and anticipates receipt of the funding within six to nine months. Given trendlines for income and expenses, the Committee's strong recommendation is that we hold the vast majority of the tax credit in our reserve fund to be prepared for potential income shortfalls.

2023 Final Operating Budget

The Final Operating Budget for FY 2023, totaling \$1,364,250 has been approved by Session . We are projecting a reduction in undesignated giving given pledges received to date and included a placeholder for \$33,340 of unknown income (which could come in the form of increased pledges, open plate or other giving) to balance our budget. Given our forecast for reduced income and increased expenses, the Committee will be engaging this year in discussion to tighten spending on non-essential activities, engage with Personnel and Session on ways to manage benefits costs, and continue to collaborate with the nursery school and afterschool programs on appropriate transfers for space and staff support.

A&F Needs You!

The Committee welcomes new members, particularly those with an aptitude for finance, business acumen, problem solving, and bringing best financial and business practices to the church's operations. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Interested? Contact Carolynn Race at 202-440-7043 or craciedc@gmail.com.

INVESTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Investment Sub-Committee of the A&F meets at least annually with our investment advisor to review performance reports, market trends/forecasts, asset allocations (adjusting as prudent), and to set the annual 'earnings draw' for the next budget year. (The committee meets at other times during the year as necessary.)

CCPC holds its investable funds in three specifically focused accounts managed by Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services (VIAS) for the following purposes –

- To provide better synergies, flexibility and transparency of our endowment, memorial and other investment funds.
- To provide a predictable annual earnings stream to help underwrite the continuing costs of church program outreach, on-going routine facility maintenance, and longer-term facility capital needs.
- To provide a specific and visible framework for the Planned Giving Committee to better channel bequests and large-scale special gifts.

Administration and Finance

Carolynn Race, Chair (continued)

Fund	Description	Balance as of 12/31/22
Vanguard Endowment Fund	Investment holdings for this fund are postured for the long-term	\$3,545,479
Vanguard Short/Intermediate Term Fund	Maintained as a safety net should daily cash on hand fall below needed levels, while still providing a reasonable rate of return	\$406,858
Vanguard restricted fund	Sole asset consists of the more liquid portion of the Columbarium maintenance	\$10,113

For additional information and/or a copy of the Session-approved Investment Policy Statement, please see the Business Manager (businessmanager@chevyCHASEPC.org).

KEKER LIVING STONES LEGACY FUNDS

A portion of CCPC's investable assets have been designated the Keker Family Fund. This fund provides a perpetuating source of monies to underwrite the costs of anticipated and unanticipated failure/breakdown of major capital expenditures such as structural and mechanical/plumbing/electrical systems totally separate from the daily "Operating Fund."

COLUMBARIUM SUB-COMMITTEE

The active working group works on projects on our facilities to-do list to ensure the safety and attractiveness of our Columbarium area. In addition to needed capital improvements, the Columbarium Sub-Committee works with CCPC facilities staff and volunteers to keep the area clean and well-maintained as well as reviewing the rules and regulations that guide the activities of this important service to our community.

AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

Our Audit Committee meets with our outside auditor and CCPC Business Manager each year to supervise the accounts and records of the CCPC Business Office. In addition to this supervisory role, members of this committee conduct quarterly internal audits of selected CCPC accounting records following a very detailed list of procedures that have been outlined and approved by Session and our external auditor.

NEW BUSINESS MANAGER

We're delighted to welcome Valerie Burrows, who joined CCPC as our new business manager in March 2023. The committee will work with Valerie to review monthly financial reports, confirm funds are accounted for appropriately, keep ourselves apprised on income levels, and adjust as needed to balance our budget. We're also excited for Valerie's suggestions of ways to further streamline our operations and ensure congregation members have access to necessary pledge statements.

Personnel Committee

John Cox, Chair

The 2022 personnel committee consisted of John Cox, Chair, Tamera Luzzato, Christy Schmidt, Erik Woodworth, Greg Miller, and the Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert, Senior Pastor.

The committee meets monthly to address issues that impact church personnel. We conduct annual performance reviews for all staff. Input is received from church congregants. We are grateful for your input as many of you work directly with staff and provide great insight into their performance. The review process is based on written goals that are aligned with the CCPC Vision and Strategic Plan. The reviewers' individual comments are combined into one summary document. Each review concludes with the summary document, the staff's written assessment of their performance and the head of staff's comments.

Pastor Molly continues to lead CCPC throughout one of the most trying times the church (and the world) has seen in decades. She has encouraged the Congregation to grow and develop spiritually. She is constantly trying to identify ways to grow church membership and is visionary in her focus on ensuring the long-term health of the church. She has led the Congregation to embrace hybrid worship that has allowed members who prefer to engage in digital worship during the Pandemic continue to do so while ensuring the Church could welcome members back to the Congregation as safely as possible.

Pastor Keith, our interim associate pastor, continued to grow into the role in 2022. Keith has reinvigorated our youth program, including confirmation. We are grateful to Keith's for stepping up when the senior pastor took a leave of absence. His calm demeanor, empathetic presence is much appreciated by the staff and all the congregation.

Session has approved the formation of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. That process has kicked off. We expect to welcome a permanent associate pastor this fall.

WNS and ASP continue to operate effectively with ever changing COVID rules. We thank Noni Lindahl (WNS director) and ASP co-directors Ami Bawa, Kelly Abernathy and Kim Kasprzak for their leadership. Both programs are running at capacity and feedback from parents continues to be very positive. In December we welcomed Tony Baez as the new facilities supervisor. Tony brings a great background in facilities management. The entire facilities team continues to work hard to maintain our physical plant. We appreciate their efforts!

2022 was a year that the church and the nation began to emerge from the pandemic. We are grateful to the staff who continue to adapt and lead CCPC's now combined in-person and virtual worship. Julie Evans continues to shine with her music prowess and by pushing us all to be more involved in music. We celebrated the choir's performance of Ken Lowenberg's original work honoring the 50th anniversary of the CCPC concert series. We finished the year with a return to an in-person Christmas lunch celebrating the staff's 2022 efforts.

Christian Education

Linda Ertz, Chair

It was another unprecedented year for Christian Education in 2022.

To celebrate the Lenten Season, the Sunday School had its Easter Festival on Palm Sunday, on April 10, 2022, where we learned more about Easter symbols, participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and feasted on hand decorated cookies.

Sunday School kicked off on Sunday, 9/18 with a "1st Annual Welcome Back to Sunday School" in Chadsey Hall. Due to the pandemic, we created this first of its kind event for students to "get to know" their teachers, fellow students, and have fun. The festival started during Sunday School and extended after the services, for congregational participation, we did crafts, heard stories, decorated cards for our homebound members, had fun in a bounce house and decorated Mrs. Martin's famous cookies.

Under Keith's guidance, we adopted a new Sunday School methodology called Godly Play. The approach centers around children's spiritual formation based on creating a sacred space in which to present the stories of our faith, wonder about them together, and then allow the children open-ended opportunities to engage with the story on their own terms. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using the language of the Christian tradition to encounter God and find direction for their lives. Each week between 10-20 students meet with their teachers to develop trusted relationships with others, learn church is a fun, safe place and practice and discover more about their faith.

The Sunday School teachers worked together for this year's Deck the Halls, an intergenerational event to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree on December 4th. This year's theme "Lo, How a Rose" was well represented. We had about 60 participants create rose, paper plate angel decorations and a CCPC record long paper chain garland which wrapped around the tree more than 10 times. Keeping with the spirit of past Deck the Halls, we also had Mrs. Martin's cookies.

Dr Bobb Robinson blessed us all by working with our youth and producing an amazing Children's Christmas Pageant on December 18th.

If interested in learning more about volunteering with the Sunday School, please reach out to Linda Ertz at lindaertz@live.com or Christina Hudson at hudsonchristina4@gmail.com.



Weekday Nursery School 2022-23 School Year - Noni Lindahl

The Nursery School is thriving with full enrollment in 10 classrooms of children ages 18 months to PreK five-year-olds. Solid family engagement and a professional and loving staff of 25 teachers and administrators completes the picture. Automated billing and tracking of licensing forms along with a vibrant website and elevated communications tools make daily operations efficient and effective. This past year, we partnered with the church to install all new windows in the Education Wing using WACIF (Washington Area Community Investment Fund) grant funds and completed a much-needed full renovation of Westminster Hall. Through generous donations from our families, we recently converted our large playing field to turf, for years of care-free maintenance. Our large, nature-inspired playground draws prospective families from beyond the immediate neighborhood. Recent survey comments reflect the positive dynamic at the nursery school: "CCPC is a top-notch school that really gets early childhood, putting children and PLAY at the center." "We couldn't be happier to be part of this amazing community." "Our child has been able to grow so much in the safe, nurturing and magical environment that is CCPC."

After School Program

Ami Bawa, Kim Kasprzak, Kelley Abernathy-Directors

Now in our 35 year, the CCPC After School Program is bigger than ever! With the addition of a fourth classroom for the 22-23 school year, ASP was able to offer more spots than ever before. We are fully enrolled at our max capacity of 80 students, with 9 full-time staff members. We continued online billing for the second year, this was appreciated by parents and has streamlined our financial operations. New this year was the addition of our online application process.



The process has gone smoothly and again streamlined things for parents and our admin team. Our families continue to appreciate the support and care we provide, and students have thrived in our after-school environment. For the first time ever, we are fully enrolled for the 23-24 school year with all current families, proving the dedication we receive from the community. Here's a recent quote from one of our families: "Thomas met all of his best friends at CCPC so it is his favorite place (and ours!)"

To learn more about our program, please visit our website www.ccpcasp.com.

Faith Trek - Allen Blakey

With Zoom days behind us, FaithTrek meets again in person after the 10 a.m. service in the Conference Room on the 2nd floor. Members attend until noon for lively discussion of books that deal with contemporary and theological concerns. Readings included Case for Faith by Lee Strobel, Feast of Fools by Harvey Cox, Faith — A Journey for All by Jimmy Carter, and Sacred Nature by Karen Armstrong. We share thoughts on the day's news and find relevance and context in the insights of these writers, but most of all we enjoy being with friends as we maneuver in a changing world. Others are welcome to join us at any time. Contact Allen Blakey at allblakey@aol.com or 703-622-3886.

Friday Morning Men's Group - Pat Strauss

Men's Spirituality Group read the following books in 2022:

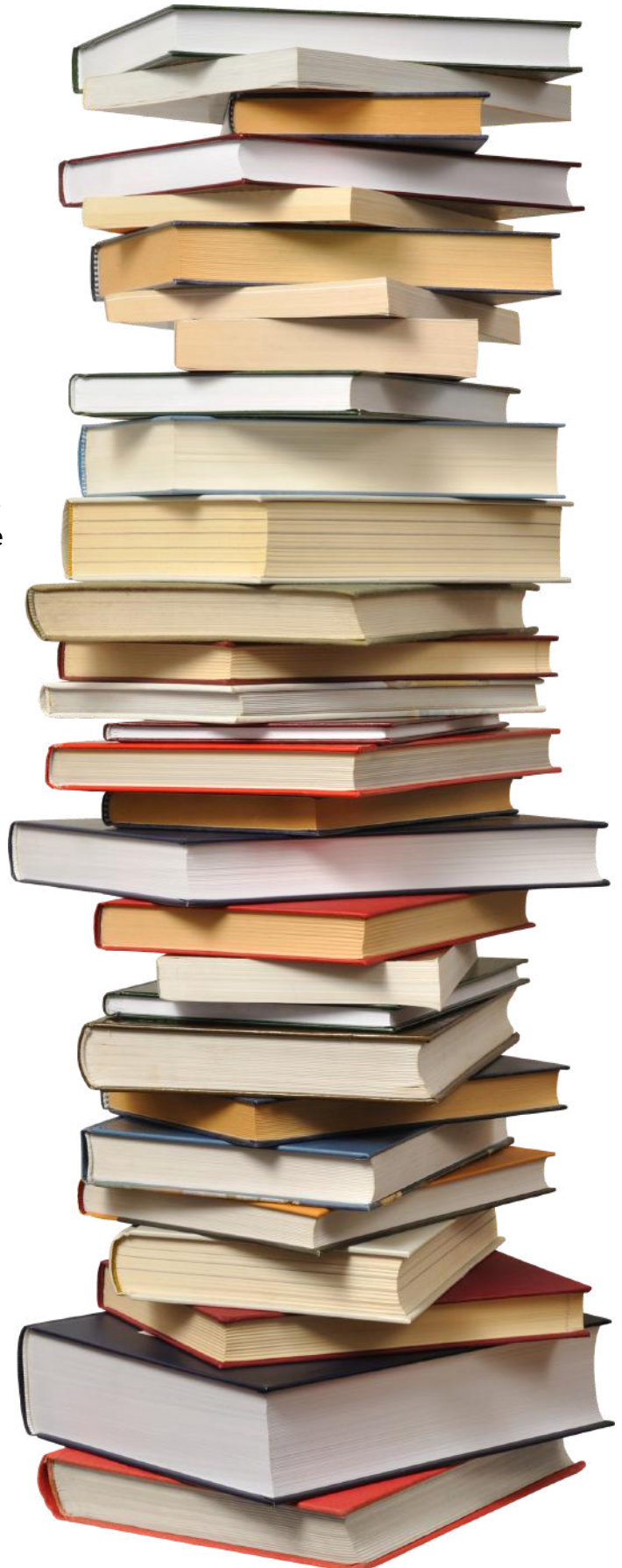
-The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Borg and Crossan

-The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem by Borg and Crossan

The group is now reading:

Speaking Christian: Recovering the Lost Meaning of Christian Words by Marcus Borg

Overall, the group is happy to be back meeting in person on Friday mornings at 7:45.



Mission Advisory Council

Christy Schmidt, Chair

The Session acts as the “Committee of the Whole for Mission” with an Advisory Committee (MAC) comprised of Christy Schmidt (chair), Ken Beam and Erik Woodworth. The MAC recommends policy and budget actions to the Session and coordinates across several mission program committees and groups including the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), the Welcoming Newcomers Steering Committee, Shikokho School and Feeding Programs, Earth Stewards, Washington Interfaith Network/housing issues, Inclusion and Racial Justice. Ad hoc committees organize special projects such as Gifts of Hope and our annual Season of Justice. Mission is also responsible for 4 denomination-wide offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.

CCPC has three signature programs that are long-standing and that we are known for: the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), Refugee Assistance and Shikokho.

TAP: has been a signature program for over 40 years. The program is well known in DC and clients are referred from social services agencies and non-profits as well as word on the street. During the pandemic, the program had to limit its hours but continued some services via phone and in-person. Even so, TAP clients made 470 visits during the year. We provided funds and guidance for purchasing 294 birth certificates and 270 photo IDs for clients and their children and helped with hygiene items and Smart Cards to new jobs or training. This work was supplemented by money distributed through the MAC to non-profits in DC and Montgomery County that supply food, clothing, and shelter to TAP-like clients.

REFUGEE SUPPORT: In early 2022, we assumed sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family of seven. Many hands and in-person hours helped them find a place to live, furnish and equip the home, enroll the children in school, navigate the health care system to address their medical and dental needs, accompany them to appointments, get a bank account, provide tutoring in English, access legal help, take field trips, learn the public transport system. find a car, get cell phones, get the children into summer programs, and make sure they had toys, books, and bicycles. We also worked to get free services and grants to help with their needs. Along the way, we forged strong friendships and found time to have fun social time together.

We had an intergenerational hands-on program to fill 25 backpacks with toiletries, blankets, and other supplies for migrants for distribution at the border crossings.

- The border full of art supplies and personal hygiene needs. The Woodworth family continued care of the Arturo and Gendri. We equipped, furnished and set up an apartment for an Afghan refugee family of six in September.

Mission Advisory Council

Christy Schmidt, Chair (continued)

- Our youth participated in a Rock Creek Park environmental clean-up and also joined the youth group at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church for a week-long project preparing and distributing lunches to the unhoused and meals for refugee families.

SHIKOKHO: Our only direct international program beyond disaster relief, the program started over 30 years ago, and supplies support for four teachers, 60 scholarships and an orphan feeding program for over 160. This program has become even more important due to a devastating multi-year drought and the war in Ukraine which has severely limited food available.

Other Programs:

DISASTER RELIEF: Our congregation provided the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Agency almost \$20,000 in direct disaster relief for Ukraine, floods in Pakistan and Kentucky and other disasters in addition to \$10,500 collected through One Great Hour of Sharing. Further, CCPC makes an annual per capita contribution of \$20,000 from the mission budget for national denominational mission activities.

English as a Second Language Program re-opened in person this year on Sunday afternoons and continued with zoom tutoring. There are 20 students each week.

The Needlework Group returned and are making and donating handmade goods to hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, etc.

The Earth Stewards provided valuable tips and collected Christmas lights for recycling.

Youth Mission activities: Worked with the youth group at St Mark's Presbyterian Church to prepare meals for the homeless and worked at Habitat for Humanity in Montgomery County.

Gifts of Hope Alternative Christmas gifts market which this year totaled \$18,500.

The Committee on Inclusion and Racial Justice reported the results of its work in two Open Forums. The first on the history of racism in our neighborhood and church and the second on recommendations for how our church community can move forward on justice and inclusion gleaned from focus groups of congregants.

Season of Justice: This year we focused on Justice for God's creation. We had several open forums on the environment and our biblical call to protect it. The 4 service season included 2 guest speakers and was highlighted by sermonettes from 5 CCPC youth.

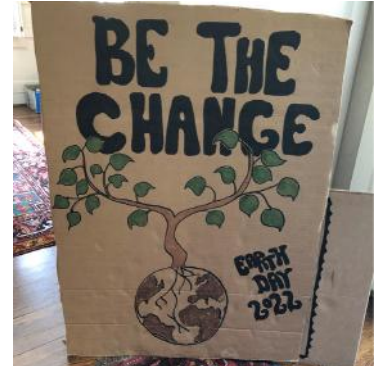
Mission Fair: We held a fair during Homecoming for members to learn about all our church volunteer opportunities including direct mission and choirs, flowers, ushers, congregational life and tech assistance.

Mission Advisory Council

(continued)

Earth Stewards - Lou Duff

For the Earth Stewards, 2022 got off to a quick start. The first task up was finishing a project from 2021: the recycling of more than 40 pounds of non-working holiday lights dropped off by church and community members, thereby saving reusable components and preventing the release of toxic metals into a landfill.



Other noteworthy activities followed, including:

- 1) Celebrating the Season of Justice on Climate Change in January. Pastor Molly invited the Earth Stewards to participate in a thought-provoking Open Forum on Zoom that focused on how to stay spiritually strong and hopeful in the face of troubling environmental news.
- 2) A Lenten Mini-Film Festival for the congregation consisting of two recommended films – The Story of Plastic and PBS Newshour’s “The Plastic Problem.” A Zoom discussion followed, intended to raise awareness of the danger plastics pose to planet earth and all its creatures.
- 3) The planting of a redbud tree in the church courtyard in memory of Louise White, one of the founders of the Earth Stewards, who passed away on December 26, 2020.
- 4) An Earth Day demonstration at Chevy Chase Circle, in conjunction with other nearby Creation Care church groups.
- 5) A special Open Forum and worship service on Earth Justice Sunday, led by Rev. Kolya Braun-Greiner from InterFaith Partners for the Chesapeake. Topic of her sermon: “Renew the Face of the Earth,” featuring the insightful message that understanding nature more broadly is essential to loving and protecting it.

While most environmental headlines are big picture, the Earth Stewards also tried to promote personal environmental agency. “Earth Stewards Tips” (ranging from how to clean refrigerator gaskets to where to recycle paint) remained a popular column in the weekly “News and Notes.” A reorganization of the Earth Stewards page on the CCPC website provided better access to more practical resources.

Plans for 2023 include book readings, a possible E-waste event, information on native plantings, and other activities designed to make us more aware of the beauty of God’s creation and the moral imperative to protect it.

Finally, we hope to grow the Earth Stewards membership in 2023. There is much work to do, and more hands are needed.

Mission Advisory Council

(continued)

Inclusion & Racial Justice Committee
Inclusion & Racial Justice Committee

In the spring, the Inclusion and Racial Justice Committee reported the results of its two-year review of inclusion and racial justice at CCPC. The team painted a picture of a congregation in a historically exclusive area that has pushed for inclusion over time, yet has work to do in nurturing a space where people of all races, ethnicities and lived experiences feel welcome and can thrive – at a time when new members are needed to sustain the community.

In a February Open Forum, the committee shared “Working Toward Inclusion and Racial Justice: A History,” a report created by a team of volunteer researchers who explored the history of racism and exclusion in our neighborhood, our congregation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination overall. Bill Hoffman and Fred Schafrick presented on how Chevy Chase is a white community by design, through redlining and concerted efforts to push Black communities out of the region, and our church’s leadership among Presbyterian congregations in supporting women and LGBTQ leaders.

- See [the presentation](#)
- See [the narrative history](#)

In April, committee chair Deanna Troust presented findings from the focus groups and interviews that were part of the IRJ review.

- See the summary slide →
- See [specific findings & recommendations](#)

Progress thus far is significant!

- We’re publishing the historic review documents on the CCPC website
- Rita Hadden revived Dinners for 6 and the meal program overall
- Susan Price and Bill Hoffman are leading our push for affordable housing in neighboring communities, with Washington Interfaith Network
- In November, we hosted a Black ensemble and a Black chorus that was part of a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser hosted by CCPC partner Reverend Tim Warner
- We hung banners supporting Pride month and Black Lives Matter
- New members have shared appreciation for our work on inclusion and justice

Next steps:

- We need additional volunteers to support the IRJ work! If interested please email dltroust@gmail.com
- Examine how our personnel, budgeting and communications systems can better support inclusion & justice
- Host workshops that can help congregants feel a sense of belonging at church and nurture the same in others

META FINDING/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE IRJ REVIEW:

We need more members to sustain the church, and currently our congregation does not reflect society at large. In our current church culture, though, there are some barriers to finding and welcoming new members, especially those who are different from the majority.

So the task before us is three-fold:

1. Work to create as inclusive a culture as we can, both in groups and individually (INREACH)
2. Put intention behind recruitment and welcoming (OUTREACH)
3. Harness the energy in the congregation to continue to take action for racial justice (ACTION)

Music and Worship

Julie Vidrick Evans, Director of Music

The year 2022 began with in person worship. Hurray!

In January we observed a Season of Justice and this year's theme was "Earth Justice in the midst of Climate Change". We heard from young people and other visiting speakers.

The Concert Series completed its 51st season with concerts by Marlissa Hudson, soprano and Marvin Mills, piano in a multi-media presentation of spirituals and art songs. There was a Fundraiser for Ukrainian Relief, A Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity and the 45th Annual Bach Marathon. The Spring Concert offered by the Chancel Choir was a performance of the Fauré Requiem conducted by Rob Tudor, who graciously stepped in at the last minute when Julie Evans was sick. (Dr. Bobb was a soloist!) The balance of the program (The commissioned work by Ken Lowenberg) had to be postponed to December due to its challenging organ part. Once again, Julie Evans soloed with Apollo Orchestra in the DC premier of Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani by Rachel Laurin. It was a challenging and exhilarating work. We finished out the season with a performance by the Katonah Presbyterian Handbell choir, on tour from New York.

On Homecoming 2022 we launched a Worship Series on Kintsugi: The Art of Repair. The congregation worked on a project in Chadsey hall creating a Mosaic of chalice and bread which was presented on World Communion Sunday. The sanctuary was draped in gold tulle to symbolize the "golden repair". The Worship Series on Spiritual Practices began shortly after: The Spiritual practices of Play featured Beechtree Puppets and subsequent weeks highlighted the themes of the series: Gratitude, Reverence, Generosity.

Right on the heels of our spiritual practices series came a fun Stewardship campaign with the theme of Love. Susan Dentzer and Susan Brooks made sure the theme was woven through each service in different ways, and the Beatle's Hit All You Need is Love, was presented in various ways. Fun!

We continued to engage volunteer musicians for preludes and offertories and members of the congregation shared their faith stories in worship which connected us so well to each other.

In October we held a Witness to the Resurrection for our dear long-time member, Norm Stant. We are grateful to John Cox for stepping up to the leadership of the Flower Committee who beautifies our space each week. There was a lovely flowering cross outside the church in the front of the sanctuary as an opportunity for members to place flowers, take photos and celebrate an Easter CCPC tradition.



Music and Worship

Julie Vidrick Evans, Director of Music (continued)



Ushers are central to our welcoming spirit and so we thank them and their teams led by Greg Fudge and Pat Strauss. We also give thanks for our sound and lighting volunteer, Mark Sniegowski who has weathered the zoom challenges generously.

The Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir and Chapel Choir (children and youth) rehearsed and offered music throughout the year, focusing on music to highlight the readings. We are very grateful for the leadership of Dr. Bobb Robinson who directed the annual Spring Musical May 1 as the young people presented "100% Chance of Rain" and a Christmas Pageant which involved so many of our children and youth. Once again, our Assistant Director of Music excelled at teaching and production, always with a smile and extreme patience! We are grateful for his ministry here of over 5 years.

We have not been without our challenges with the Zoom platform. Over the months the worship staff and volunteers have taken these challenges as opportunities to learn new skills and innovate. More volunteers are needed to run slides, cameras and be zoom "ushers". Inquire within...

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Vidrick Evans, Director of Music

Stewardship

Susan Dentzer and Susan Sonnesyn



We all need God's love!
We need all God's love!
We have all God's love, love,
All God's love we need!

With these words, set to the tune of an immortal Beatles song, the CCPC's Chancel Choir helped to launch our 2023 pledge campaign in the fall of 2022. Children and adults alike were encouraged to make the hand symbol of a heart (see image at left) each time the word "love" was sung. The theme of the campaign underscored the preciousness of God's love for us, and our obligations to extend God's love to others in return. As it is written in I John 3:1 and 4:7:

See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!... Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

To underscore our commitment to God and to each other, the Stewardship Committee began planning in the summer of 2022 to create a coherent set of scripture, sermons, music, and personal testimonies from church members over four Sundays in October and November -- culminating with "One Great Evening of Caring" dinners for congregation members on Sunday, Nov. 13. Among the highlights:

- Pastors Molly and Keith preached sermons focused on attributes of God's love, emphasizing the bounteousness of it and the grace that fills our lives. In one sermon, Pastor Molly urged the congregation to "consider in your life how you know God's love," and invited all present to take paper cut-outs of hearts located in the pew racks to write on them "How I Know God's Love In My Life."
- Director of Music Julie Vidrick Evans orchestrated an eclectic range of beautiful music celebrating God's love, ranging from traditional old hymns like "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling," to the Shaker hymn, "Love is Little," to rousing renditions of the campaign's theme song featuring soloists Wendy Baird and John Cox, and in one installment, Chris Ertz on the drums.
- Stewardship campaign co-chair Susan Sonnesyn Brooks led "Time for Children" in two Sunday services to enlist CCPC's Sunday School kids in thinking about the many aspects of our church's life that stewardship enables. They created a large picture-filled poster and filled up a large basket with emblems of church life.
- Several CCPC members, including Deacon Peggy Hawkins, gave powerful and emotional witness to how they have been called to show God's love in their service to the church. We also recognized the church's 50-Year Members, who echoed these joys and gratitude at the meaning of the church in their lives.

Stewardship

Susan Dentzer and Susan Sonnesyn

As the worst of the pandemic appeared to be ending, the Stewardship Committee also recognized church members' need to reconnect and reinforce the bonds that draw us all together. The result was a series of small-group dinners – the One Great Evening of Caring referenced above. Mary Strauss led an extraordinary effort to enlist 9 CCPC members to hold these dinners in their homes, creating special evenings for the roughly 90 people who attended.



The fall campaign served a dual purpose, which was to remind congregational members about fulfilling their 2022 pledges in addition to making pledges for 2023. A pledge brochure and pledge card were mailed to all members, and many emails were sent and phone calls made from November through February 2023. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped in this effort, and special thanks to Mary Frances Pearson, who provided enormous guidance and counsel, and to Dick Riegle, who stepped in as acting business manager to help record contributions when the previous business manager left the church's employ.

The final numbers for 2022 are now in: Pledges from 213 pledging units paid in 2022 yielded \$1,094,043 in support for the church in support for the church, just slightly behind the \$1,080,00 in pledges paid in 2021. For 2023, pledges as of March 1 from 200 pledging units stand at \$1,038,098.

We are all deeply grateful for the generosity of members who continue to support CCPC, and to support our collective efforts to further God's love and work in the world. But we must acknowledge an unfortunate reality: We need more people to pledge, and we need many people who are financially secure to pledge more.

Many active members of CCPC who are also financially secure give very little. We must remind these members that to operate and maintain our church – to pay our staff a decent living, to maintain our aging building, to conduct our vitally important mission activities in our area and beyond -- we need these people to pledge or increase their current pledges.

The stewardship campaign set a target for these members to consider giving the church at least \$4,000 per family – or roughly equal to \$11 a day, about the cost of a purchased sandwich and a drink.

Half of the CCPC members who now pledge contribute just \$3,000 or below annually to the church, so we clearly have a way to go.

Stewardship

Susan Dentzer and Susan Sonnesyn

The Way Forward

As we contemplate the Stewardship Campaign for Fall 2023, we will seek an equally inspiring theme to motivate all of us to do more, given all the blessings that God has showered upon us.

We will look for new ways to forge connections among members as we did through the small group dinners last year.

We will look for new ways to make giving to CCPC easier – for example, by sending text messages to members' mobile phones that allow them to reply instantly to CCPC's online giving site.

We will also encourage members to give regularly – for example, through so-called automated clearing house (ACH) payments, which allow money to be transferred directly from members' bank accounts to the church's account. This means of payment is far more streamlined than writing physical checks and bringing or mailing them into the church, and the small fees that the church pays to receive money this way are much smaller than credit card fees. We will hold after-church educational sessions to show members how to set up these transfers through their banks.

We will also hold an educational session to explain various tax-advantaged giving strategies, such as how to create a donor-advised fund to make gifts to the church, for those who are interested in doing so. We will also explain how members can "endow" their pledges by making large gifts to the church's endowment that will produce income – and in effect, annual pledge giving – over time. Endowing a pledge is a great way to leave a legacy behind for the church, and also know how much you should give to maintain your support for the church after you've gone to be with the Lord!

Above all, for the 2024 stewardship campaign, we will remind ourselves how the God of love has been with us through the ages –keeping God's covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love God and keep God's commandments, as is written in Deuteronomy 7:9. We will show by our actions that we abide by that greatest and first of commandments from Matthew 22:37: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."



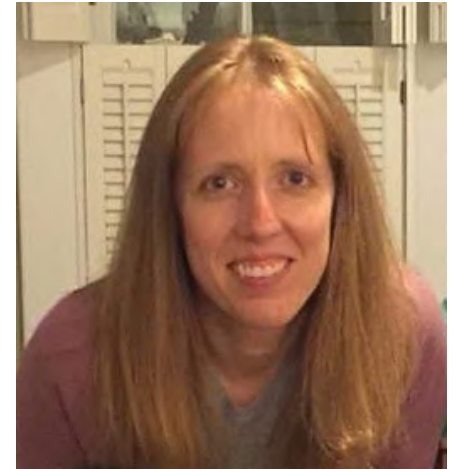
We all need God's love!
We need all God's love!
We have all God's love, love,
All God's love we need!

Biographies of Nominees for Church Officers

Ruling Elders – the Ministry of Discernment and Governance

The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. (Book of Order G-3.0201). At CCPC, there are twelve ruling Elders and one Youth Elder, moderated by Senior Pastor Molly Blythe Teichert. This deliberative body strives to ascertain God's will for our Congregation as we focus on questions regarding vision, mission, strategy, and goals for the church.

Kelsi Brown Corkran grew up in Vienna, Virginia, and met her husband and high school sweetheart, Scott Corkran, at Vienna Presbyterian Church's youth group. They got married after college, and as of last summer, they have been married over half of their lives! They joined CCPC in 2011 and have two children, MacGregor (16 years old) and Caiseal (12 years old), both of whom were baptized by Pastor Lynn. Kelsi has taught Sunday School at CCPC for over a decade. The Corkran family lives in Cleveland Park with their three cats, Thomas Shelby, Kady B., and Maja. MacGregor attends the Lab School and Caiseal attends St. Andrew's Episcopal School, where Scott teaches. Kelsi is the Supreme Court Director at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy & Protection, a public interest litigation firm affiliated with Georgetown University Law Center, where her practice focuses on defending constitutional rights and civil liberties before the Supreme Court. Her clients include victims of police brutality, prison abuse, and sex discrimination, as well as immigration detainees and migrant workers. She previously headed the Supreme Court practice at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, practiced with the Department of Justice Civil Appellate Staff, and served as a law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. and M.P.P. from the University of Chicago.



Ron Wick has been a member of CCPC for 25 years. In addition to having served previous terms as a deacon (twice) and elder, he also has worn a variety of other hats, including chairing the task force that prepared the 2018 strategic plan, co-chairing the task force that redesigned the Sunday morning worship schedule (before COVID redesigned it yet again), and serving on the music director search committee that brought the amazing Julie Vidrick Evans to CCPC. Ron has also sung with various CCPC music groups and has spent many a Communion Sunday morning preparing the communion elements. During the rest of the week, Ron is an attorney in private practice, focusing on antitrust law. His two sons, Nolan and Graham, are sophomores in college and high school, respectively.

Sawyer Massey (Youth Elder) is 16 years old and is currently a sophomore at Georgetown Day School. At school, he is part of the tennis team, throws the shot put, and is part of the school's multi-grade Buddy Program. He lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland with his parents, brother Lawson, and German Shepherd Harper. He has been coming to CCPC all his life. At CCPC, he has been in the WNS, the Children's Choir, and Sunday School, and currently works on the Shikokho mission in Kenya. Outside of church, he enjoys skiing and getting to travel around the world. He looks forward to continuing his work in the church and getting to serve as a Youth Elder!



Deacons – the Ministry of Compassion and Service

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress (Book of Order G-2.0201). Under the direction of the pastors and led by an elected moderator, the CCPC Board of Deacons assists with pastoral care and other service opportunities. Members of this ministry enjoy fellowship, friendship and service while supporting the broader work of the Church.

Mike Miller was born and raised in Winchester, Virginia, with his sister Chris. Chris and her husband Bill Leahy are long-time CCPC members. Mike graduated from Woodberry Forest School in 1965 and Princeton University in 1969. After college, at the height of the Vietnam War, Mike went into teaching and was hired by Episcopal High School, a boarding school in Alexandria, Virginia. He must have liked it because he stayed 50 years, until his retirement in 2019. Episcopal financed a master's degree at Georgetown, a PhD in Soviet History at GW, and travel all over the world. Mike taught various history courses and then got into introductory economics and helped develop the AP Economics exam for the College Board. While at Episcopal, Mike built his own log home overlooking the Patterson Creek Valley in West Virginia. This home is still his major retreat from the city life of Washington. After retirement in 2019, Mike and his wife Kay Marshall (who tutors Afghan immigrants through Solutions in Hometown Connections, which is supported by CCPC) moved to an apartment across from the Zoo on Connecticut Avenue. Mike has three children: Zack is a professor of economics at the University of Missouri and lives in Columbia, Missouri, with his family. Cassie is a counselor and mother living in London, UK, and Isabel is currently living with Mike and Kay after just graduating from the University of Louisville. Bill and Chris Leahy introduced Mike to CCPC, and he joined online during the pandemic.





Mary Strauss is a native Washingtonian. After growing up Catholic, she found her home at CCPC, where she and her husband Pat became members in 2014. Together they have three children, who all attended the CCPC Weekday Nursery School: Suzanna is now a third-year student at Smith College; Alex is a freshman at Lehigh University; and Peter is a sophomore at Jackson-Reed High School. Mary has been an elder and has served on the nominating committee in addition to other roles. She is very excited to serve our community by becoming a deacon. For the last five years, Mary has worked at Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital in volunteer development. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago.

Harrison Ertz (Youth Deacon) has been a member of CCPC since he was born in 2006. He’s always seen CCPC as a safe community that he has enjoyed attending, from CCPC’s Nursery School to the after school program to being a church member. He is a junior at Jackson Reed (formerly known as Woodrow Wilson HS) and is part of the School’s Varsity Ultimate team alongside Peter Strauss. In the past two years, he has been a Lead counselor of a local youth summer camp called Kids Elite. There, the kids taught Harrison how to think on his feet and work with people. He has also attended Montreat the past two summers, where he has strengthened his faith through sociable engagement. With these skills, he hopes to be a successful youth Deacon for CCPC.



Born and raised on the East Coast of Nicaragua, **Karen Bartice** started her post high school studies in Accounting in Tucson, Arizona continued at Brooklyn University in Brooklyn, New York. She obtained a second degree in Biology at Long Island University in Greenvale, New York. She accepted a teaching contract in the Cayman Islands and once her contract was satisfied, she moved to North Miami, Florida. After a few years, she obtained a degree as Bachelor of Science in Nursing, followed by a Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a PhD in Philosophy. Karen has spent various years in leadership roles overseas, leading several organizations, teaching Philosophy and Cultural Diversity, and doing social services in her hometown of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. Karen joined CCPC in 2012. Her first grandson, Cruz, attended preschool at the CCPC Weekday Nursery School, and her second grandson, Lincoln, was baptized at CCPC in 2017. Karen is the proud parent of Cher, the mother of her grandsons, and Adam, who has been a participating member here at CCPC and is now attending college at Hood University in Maryland. Karen currently works in the Health Care Industry in Virginia.





John Silson grew up in Pittsburgh, PA and attended a variety of religious services, from episcopalian to unitarian to synagogue. In college, John regularly attended Quaker meeting in Philadelphia. His spiritual journey reflects a variety of traditions as well as mysticism and philosophy. John works at the Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer, where he focuses primarily on development economics post-conflict economic stability. He has served overseas in Haiti, Afghanistan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He met his wife, Laura Kolar, between assignments in Haiti and Afghanistan. John is deeply interested in CCPC's work on social justice and engagement with marginalized communities, such as refugees.

Laura Kolar hails from southern Wisconsin, where she grew up and attended the United Methodist Church in her small town. After coming east for college, Laura taught high school in Louisiana and came to the Washington, DC area shortly thereafter to work for the federal government. While getting her Ph.D. in American history at the University of Virginia, Laura met her husband, John Silson in DC. She is a historian with the State Department. When she and John moved to Chevy Chase, DC in 2018, they immediately took to CCPC and joined the church with their two children, Ava and Andrew, who also attend the CCPC After School Program. Laura and her family have all deeply enjoyed this community of faith.



Auditor

CCPC has one internal auditor elected by the congregation, serving a 3-year term. The auditors review the work of CCPC's external auditing company, examine and certify as to the accuracy of the financial statements of the books and records of the church, and examine the assets, both real and personal, of the corporation. The auditors submit their report of audit at the annual meeting of the congregation.



Rebecca Fitz joined CCPC in 2021. She is a lifelong Presbyterian, raised between San Francisco, CA, Durham, NC, and Denver, CO. She lives in Chevy Chase with her husband, Alejandro, and children Eva and Diego. Eva is in 6th grade at Silver Creek Middle School, and Diego is a second grader at Rosemary Hills Elementary. Rebecca is a partner at Boston Consulting Group, where she spends her time focused on the financing of low carbon energy investment. She loves backpacking, kayaking, and spending time outdoors with family. As a new CCPC member, she is looking forward to the opportunity to serving the Church community in this role.

Nominating Committee

Seven CCPC members serve on the nominating committee: one must be designated from the current ruling elders; one must be designated from the current board of deacons; and five from the general congregation. Members are elected annually, and no member shall serve more than three consecutive years. Senior Pastor Molly Blythe Teichert is an ex officio member of the committee. The committee nominates elders, deacons, and auditors; and, helps fill other roles in the congregation as needed.



Susan Sonnesyn Brooks and her husband, Arnie Brooks, have been members of CCPC since about 2008. Susan served as co-chair of the 2022 Stewardship Committee, along with Susan Dentzer. She also is part of the Gifts of Hope committee, and has served as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, Connections Committee member, liturgist, and more. For nearly 20 years, she has been a local real estate agent, and recently moved to Long & Foster's Gateway office, where she is enjoying a larger office with more synergy, support, camaraderie, and challenge. Susan stays physically active with spinning, swimming, skiing (when possible), and hiking in the woods with her beloved foxhound. A few years ago, Susan & Arnie built a prairie-style home in the Glen Echo Heights area of Bethesda, where they enjoy hosting small dinners and large parties, sometimes with a band! They have three grown children, and are excited to become grandparents for the first time in May 2023. Susan, originally from Colorado, graduated from Colorado College and the University of Missouri. She is a lifelong Presbyterian and is immensely grateful for the balance and vision of CCPC, supporting justice and inclusion.

Chris Ertz has been a member of CCPC since he joined with his wife Linda in 2004 after they moved to Chevy Chase, DC. Chris grew up in the area as an Episcopalian attending Christ Church in Rockville. He studied economics at the University of Maryland and then moved to Los Angeles to join Microsoft in 1995 and held various technical sales roles until 2016. Currently, he is the Microsoft Cloud Practice Leader for Withum in Bethesda. During our time at CCPC, Linda and I served and benefitted from the youth programs for our two sons Charles and Harrison. It is inspiring to be part of a congregation that participates in so many local and international programs. While I have enjoyed playing drums occasionally with the "Revelations", I look forward to serving in the nominating committee to seek and learn how many others share their time and expertise.



Carol Lukaczer found CCPC while searching for a Church home for her kids - David (now 29), Gracie (now 25) and Marcus (now 19.) The first connection was made at a McDonalds playground in Rockville, where she ran into Melissa Jordan and her preschooler, Katherine, and learned about CCPC's active family programs. CCPC's youth and social justice programs have engaged the family as hoped, but it is the spiritual practice of worship that has been most sustaining. There, in the centering presence of Jesus and His people, she finds relief from our self-centered culture and hope in the Kingdom of God. Carol retired in 2020 from a long and really fun career in public health nursing. She now spends a lot of time being grateful, drinking tea and walking dogs in the woods.