



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

February 3, 2019

# LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

2018

## Session of Ruling Elders

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway      Moderators: Reverend Chip Low, Reverend Tami Seidel

The Session is the governing body of our Church. It consists of “ruling elders” elected by the members of the Church. One class of about six members is elected each year, serving for three years in a rotating membership arrangement. In addition, two Youth Elders are elected each year for one year terms.

### Class of 2018

Alyssa Bauer (Congregational Life)  
Karen Gerth (Worship)  
Heidi Haring (Education)  
Christie Herman (Worship)  
Fred Mintzer (Budget & Finance)  
Lynda Spring (Stewardship)  
TJ Chin, *Youth Elder*  
Kiera Wax, *Youth Elder*

### Class of 2019

Cheryl Burns (Communications)  
Arnold Cribari (MDT)  
Marsha Henderson (Worship)  
Ellen Miles (Mission)  
Vinny Wallace (Operations)  
John Winget (MDT)  
Natalie Swift, *Youth Elder*  
Jenna Shaughnessy, *Youth Elder*

### Class of 2020

John Bentley (Communications)  
Nancy Caswell (Congregational Life)  
Jeff Kephart (Mission)  
Liza Placido (Education)  
Matt Sheridan (Budget & Finance)  
Nance Thompson (Personnel)

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## Board of Deacons

Moderator: Judy Chessa      Vice-Moderator: Andy Torres  
Secretary: Katharine Frase      Financial Secretary: Bill Winsted

In the Book of Order:

*“The Office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.”*

The primary work of the Deacons involves responding to the needs of our congregation and our Food Pantry. Deacons also serve 3 year terms.

In addition, two Youth Deacons are elected each year for one year terms.

### Class of 2018

Judy Chessa  
Terri Froehlich  
Sue Nelson  
Bill Winsted

### Class of 2019

Katharine Frase  
Maura Delaney  
Martin Scatola  
Tony Tomicich

### Class of 2020

Patrick Burns  
Pam Darreiff  
Jean Post-Winget  
Andy Torres

Michael Blaney, *Youth Deacon*  
Sophie Low, *Youth Deacon*

Ryan Chin, *Youth Deacon*  
Aiden McAuliffe, *Youth Deacon*

# AGENDA

## OPENING PRAYER

### READING OF THE CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Clerk Gordon Braudaway

*“The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2019, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: To elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to review and approve the Co-pastors Terms of Call, to receive the Annual Reports, and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the meeting.”*

### REPORT OF MINUTES READERS FOR 2018 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 4, 2018 Annual Meeting

Ann Timmons and Alice Chin

Minutes of December 9, 2018 Special Meeting

Ann Timmons and Nancy Caswell

### APPOINT MINUTES READERS FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

### NECROLOGY REPORT (page 6) AND MEMORIAL PRAYER

### ANNUAL REPORTS

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### NEW BUSINESS

### ADJOURNMENT

### PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

## *The Ups and Downs of Moving Forward in Faith*

When our kids were younger, we often started dinner conversations by sharing our “highs” and “lows” from the day. Everyone took a turn sharing one of the high points and one of the low points from the last 12 hours or so since we’d gotten out of the bed that morning. As we shared the good moments and the not-so-good moments from our days, we each became more aware of what the rest of our family members had been going through, the ups and downs, the celebrations and the struggles. It was a helpful way to recap our days and often sparked further conversation about what was going on in our family and around our world.

As we look back over the past 12 months, 2018 was definitely a year of highs and lows in the life of our church. In fact, we can honestly say that neither one of us has encountered a year in ministry quite like the past one, so full of ups and downs, transitions, celebrations and challenges! Through it all, we have learned to trust in God’s presence with us and to approach even the challenges as opportunities to be responsive to the Spirit’s guidance and calling for our church.

Among some of the unexpected challenges were the security issue with our building, two staff transitions and a difficult decision.

- An unfortunate incident in January compelled us to do a thorough evaluation of our building’s security. Thanks to the Security Team (Vinny Wallace, Matt Hager, Randy Pratt, Lisa Flanagan, Chip Low and Tami Seidel), Operations and Session, FPCY now has a more comprehensive system in place for monitoring access and ensuring the safety of all who use our facility.
- In March, we said good-bye to our custodian of eight years, Jose Sandoval. We are very grateful to John Harrigan who filled in as custodian for nine weeks early in the year and to Jim Gerth who was hired as our interim custodian while Personnel re-evaluated the position and the growing needs of our church. It turns out that the solution was right in front of us in this very same team. Since August, the building has benefitted greatly from our new custodial team with Jim Gerth as full-time caretaker and John Harrigan as part-time custodian.
- In September, our music director Simona Frenkel resigned after 18 years leading our music program. FPCY was greatly blessed by her musical skill and artistry and the many ways that she enriched the musical life of our congregation, especially in worship, through our vocal and bell choirs, and with the Concert Series.

The Music Director Search Committee has been hard at work since October listening to the congregation, evaluating our church’s musical needs and hopes for the future, and developing a position description for a Director of Music Ministries. The position has been posted and the MDSC is receiving resumes. Many thanks to Beth Gruber and Christie Herman (co-chairs), and the rest of the committee – Debbie Amorese, Ryan Chin, Andy Cross, Carol Jensen, Nathan Perry and Ian Spence – for all of their hard work! Please continue to pray for the MDSC and for whomever God will call here to help FPCY “make a joyful noise to the Lord!”

In the interim time, we are so grateful to everyone who has stepped up and pitched in to make sure that our music ministry continues to thrive and our worship is full of beautiful, spirited music. Special thanks to Cheryl Burns, Katharine Frase, Christie Herman, Carol & Erik Jensen, Sophie Low, and Nathan Perry for their leadership and to all of the members of the choirs for their continued participation.

- In December, after a time of evaluation and discernment, the Session voted to close Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool. Since 1987, YPP has been committed to nurturing young children and their families as they prepare to go to school. In recent years, a number of complex internal and external factors have challenged the sustainability of YPP. An Evaluation Team was formed to review these factors and the current challenges and to make recommendations to Session. Special thanks to the Evaluation Team – Aloha Hicks, Kathy Hodgkinson, Sharon Larsen, Emily Monk, Liza Placido, Jean Post-Winget.

After reviewing the options and much thoughtful conversation and prayerful discernment, Session made the difficult decision that it was time for this ministry of FPCY to come to a close. We are so very grateful for all of the church members and staff who have worked hard, giving of their time and talents, sharing their faith and care, over the past 31 years to make YPP such a nurturing environment for young children and families. And we celebrate all those children who grew and blossomed as a result of this ministry. Endings like this can be difficult, but we trust that God will show us new opportunities to minister to children and families in the future.

In spite of the challenges, we have also had a lot to celebrate about 2018:

- new members and confirmands joining our church,
- a welcoming place to grow in faith for our children, youth and adults,
- the faithful generosity of our members,
- outreach opportunities through our Food Pantry, mission activities and a trip to Chicago
- the implementation of Realm, a new database system which creates real ministry (REAL-M) opportunities for our church family to connect with each other. Realm connects our church administration, accounting and community in one place; updates and expands our online giving possibilities; gives us the ability to connect over variety of electronic devices; and better ensures the security of our information.
- the joy of hosting the 50th anniversary of the Yorktown Cooperative Vacation Bible School in conjunction with St. Andrew's Lutheran and Yorktown United Methodist and turning our church into a Raging River Rampage, so over 150 children, youth and adults could go on the adventure of a lifetime with God.

...Just to name a few.

Perhaps the biggest adventure of 2018 was the exciting and inspiring capital campaign ***Grounded in Gratitude, Forward in Faith***. After 3 years of evaluation and discernment by our leadership (with the help of the Ministry Development Team), the Session voted in June to move forward with a capital upgrade and expansion of our facility and ministry. We committed ourselves to the following values:

**compelling worship**  
**lifelong faith formation**  
**intentional fellowship**  
**inspirational stewardship**  
**transformational mission**

all under the umbrella of **radical hospitality** that is rooted in God's hospitality to us.

Throughout the fall, through worship and prayer, we grounded ourselves in gratitude for all the ways God has blessed us and this congregation for almost four centuries. We celebrated the impact of our ministry over the years and challenged ourselves to live by faith into God's future and to give of ourselves sacrificially in response to God's amazing grace and abundant blessings to us. With lots of food and fellowship, we celebrated this wonderful community of faith and where God is leading us next.

Thanks to your faith, dedication generosity, we exceeded our campaign goal! **"Thank You"** does not begin to express the extent of our gratitude to everyone who worked on and participated in this campaign! Special thanks to our campaign co-chairs – Christie Herman, Ellen Miles and Jack Shaughnessy – and to our campaign consultant, Tom Norwood of Horizons Stewardship.

In November, Session appointed a Capital Campaign Project Management Team to oversee and implement the projects contained in the campaign. This team has been hard at work developing schematics and timelines and interviewing architects so that we can upgrade our facility and expand our capacity for ministry and mission. Many thanks to the team – Katharine Frase, Jim Gerth, Donna Gresh, Matt Hager, Kevin McAuliffe, Ellen Miles, Randy Pratt, Vinny Wallace. Please keep them in prayer and stay tuned for many more updates and to find out how you can help!

## FPC Yorktown Co-Pastor Responsibilities 2018

Commission/Task	Chip	Tami	Both
Budget & Finance	X		
Communications	X		
Congregational Life	X		
Deacons			X
Education		X	
Adult Education		X	
Church School		X	
Confirmation	X		
Vacation Bible School		X	
YPP			X
Youth	X		
GreenFaith		X	
Mission	X		
Nominating			X
Operations		X	
Personnel			X
Session			X
Stewardship			X
Worship Design			X
Presbytery			X
Public Ministries - 50/50			X
Worship Leadership			X
Preaching			X
Weddings & Funerals			X
Pastoral Care			X

(Continued on page 6)

A lot happened in the life of our church in 2018! And through it all, the highs and lows, the unpredictable weather patterns and power outages, the challenges and the celebrations, the spirit of this community of faith has remained vibrant, steadfast and full of hope and faith in the future God has in store for us. We are especially grateful to the staff and the leadership (elders & deacons) who worked so hard this past year and rode the waves of crisis and transition with such dedication, grace and faithfulness. Regardless of what life brings our way, we trust that God will be with us and this amazing congregation we are privileged to serve. And so, grounded in gratitude, we can't wait to move forward in faith into 2019 and beyond!

Your partners in ministry,

Chip Sami

## REPORT OF THE SESSION

### 2018 Statistics

#### MEETINGS:

12 Regular Session, 4 Special Session, 1 Session/Deacons Combined (retreat), 1 Session E-mail Advisory, 2 Congregational (1 Annual, 1 Special) and 1 Emergency Session

Active Members as of December 31, 2017: 393

<u>Gains (19)</u>		<u>Losses (1)</u>	
Profession of Faith	7	Deaths	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	9		
Letter of Transfer	3		

Active Members as of December 31, 2018: 411

#### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:

##### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Ethan Brown\*  
Christopher Cardillo\*  
Sofia Giglio\*  
David Golematis\*  
Dan Hager\*  
Jack Pagel\*  
Jeremy Sam-Brew\*

\*confirmand

##### REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pam Angione  
Peter Angione  
Kristen Caroprese  
Pete Eagleton  
Wendy Eagleton  
Lynn Edling  
Eric Kreuter  
Dana Mordue  
Janna Ryan

##### LETTER OF TRANSFER

Ryan O'Hare  
Sarah O'Hare  
Erika Rexhouse

#### BAPTISMS

April 15 Lucas Anthony Delano  
September 9 Clara Cross

#### DEATHS (\*= active members)

Bradley Leet  
\*Joan Strang

Respectfully submitted,  
Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Submitted by: Lynda Spring and Nance Thompson, Ruling Elder*

*Members at Large: Deanna Collins, Marianna Sherman, Linda Swift, Alice Chin and Charles Radke*

*Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway*

### **Officers of the Corporation:**

President: Ellen Miles  
Vice-president: Matt Sheridan  
Treasurer: Beth Gruber  
Secretary: Gordon Braudaway

### Staff of the Session of FPCY

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway  
Co-Treasurers: Gordon Braudaway  
Beth Gruber  
Tom Travis  
Financial Secretary: Lisa Flanagan  
Bookkeeper: Stephanie Hare  
Auditors: Tony Tomicich (2019)  
Michele Mosca (2019)  
Caroline Awour (2020)  
Gregg Nelson (2021)  
Eric Kreuter (2021)

Counters: Sue Caruso,  
Ruth Deemer,  
Pam Darreff,  
Debbie Hager,  
Donna Gresh,  
Kathy Hodgkinson,  
Nancy Paskin,  
Norean Radke\*  
Fran Schiel,  
Linda Swift

### **Ruling Elders Class of 2021**

Jane Amato  
Beth Gruber  
Matt Hager  
Bill Herman

Barbara Humphrey  
Emily Monk

### **Youth Ruling Elders**

Luke Torres-Rossi (09/01/19—08/31/20)  
Ashley Leftwich (09/01/19—08/31/20)

### **Deacons – Class of 2021**

Carol Cornish  
Wanda Diaz  
Debra Farrell  
Ryan O'Hare

### **Youth Deacons**

Ethan Brown (09/01/19 thru 08/31/20)  
Daniel Hager (09/01/19 thru 08/31/20)

*\*to be approved at the 2/5/2019 Session meeting*

**Action Items:** To nominate and elect Ethan Brown as Youth Deacon.

Thank you to all the hardworking members of the nominating committee and to the people who stepped up to serve. We feel very good about the wonderful new group of elders and deacons who are joining our church leadership.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lynda Spring and Nance Thompson, co-chairs*

## 2018 – 2021 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GROUNDED IN GRATITUDE FORWARD IN FAITH

**Leaders:** Co-Chairs: *Christie Herman, Ellen Miles, Jack Shaughnessy*; Coordinators: *Lisa Flanagan, John Winget*; Team Leads: *Bill Herman, Donna Gresh, Marianna Sherman, Ken Sherman, Heidi Haring, Gordon Braudaway, Bud Coccodrilli, Gloria Coccodrilli, Tim Lupfer, Connie Knapp, Jean Post-Winget, Liza Placido, Abby Cross, Nance Thompson, Matt Hager, Debbie Bernardini, Pam Darreffe, Stephanie Hare*

**Purpose:** We embarked on our Capital Campaign to enable us to improve our efficiency, upgrade our facilities, design & implement new space options and enrich our capabilities to worship, serve, and grow in faith. Your generosity, sacrifice and faith enabled us to exceed our target!

Thanks to all who participated so far! Your faithful response has enabled us to go Forward in Faith.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

At the completion of the Campaign, Session authorized a Capital Campaign Project Management Team (CCPMT) to begin working on projects associated with our Campaign objectives.

**Members:** *Katharine Frase, Chair; Ellen Miles, Vinny Wallace, Matt Hager, Donna Gresh, Kevin McAuliffe, Jim Gerth, Randy Pratt, Chip Low, Tami Seidel*

This team will act as an umbrella over all projects associated with the Campaign. Some projects will be directly managed by Commissions; while construction-related projects will be managed by the CCPMT. The CCPMT will oversee budgets, timelines, and priorities to ensure all projects are integrated and sequenced properly and that we achieve as many of our Campaign goals as possible. Regular updates will be given to Session and to the Congregation.

In 2019, we plan to engage an Architectural firm to help us reimagine space within our current footprint; replace the roof by the end of the summer, and time-permitting, install solar panels. Interior construction may start in the fall; so be prepared for some disruption.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ellen Miles*





## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

**Members:** Alyssa Bauer, Nancy Caswell, co-chairs; Caroline Awuor, Deb Bernardini, Diane Hawlk, Sue Mintzer, Pat Prauda, Kathy Winsted

**Purpose:** We extend our hospitality to our church members, visitors and strangers. We plan, participate in, and help organize events and activities for our extended church families to socialize, meet new people and unite our two services.

### *2018 On-going Support Activities*

**Sunday Coffee Hour** after our Sunday services we share fellowship with our congregation and visitors. Coffee, tea and refreshments are provided by volunteers that set up and clean up to make it all happen. This year we also had several special “celebration” cakes as a way to mark important milestones of our congregation (i.e birthdays, anniversaries) that occurred in each month. We appreciate everyone who signs up and helps out with this important ministry. Please consider signing up to support this special time in our church life!

### *2018 Highlight Events*

We are so fortunate to have volunteers that are willing and able to share their time and talents in support of many of our church/community events. Here are some events our team has had the pleasure of supporting this year:

- Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Feb)
- Easter Sunrise Service (April) - early service in Downing Park followed by breakfast back at the church
- Confirmation meets Session (April) - potluck dinner supplied by our Confirmation Class with sides and desserts provided by session
- Confirmation Sunday (May) - Congratulations to our Confirmation class!
- Progressive Dinner (June) - we once again offered a youth host site. Many thanks to Sue Nelson, Louise Fang, Jane Amato and Gloria Coccodrilli for coordinating.
- Young Adult Volunteers (Aug) - Thanks to Pat Prauda for coordinating lunch
- Parish Picnic (Sep) - The picnic moved inside this year due to chilly overcast weather but we still enjoyed traditional picnic goodies. Thank you to our grillers: Jim Gerth and the Froehlichs. Special thanks to Chuck and Noreen Radke and Ryan O'Hare for providing grills!
- Capital Campaign Celebration Brunch (Oct) - a catered brunch to celebrate the start of the Capital Campaign, held between the two services so all could attend
- Advent Luncheon (Nov) - Soup and salad luncheon to mark the start of advent

Thanks to our entire congregation for your support of these events! We welcome anyone who would like to join our team!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Alyssa Bauer and Nancy Caswell*

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**Members:** Cheryl Burns (co-chair), Linda Swift (co-chair), John Bentley, Donna Gresh, JoAnne Marsh, Barbara Santagata, and Rev. Chip Low

**Purpose:** The Communications Commission manages the internal and external communications of our church. This includes the website, Facebook, Instagram, digital newspapers, banners at the corner of Routes 202 and 132, online event calendars, press releases, advertising, brochures, the TV monitor in the Gathering Space, and community fairs. We tell the story of the church's activities -- from worship, to concerts, to Sunday School, to mission projects, to the annual Stewardship Campaign, to congregational get-togethers, and to many other church events and church mission work.

### Highlights of 2018 include:

**Transition to Realm**—One of our biggest projects this year was the transition of the myFPCY database to Realm software. The new system will make it easier for members to sign up for events and to join church groups of interest. It will also facilitate communication within groups. **Donna Gresh** and **Cheryl Burns** attended staff training sessions hosted by Realm employees in June, along with **Chip Low** and **Lisa Flanagan**.

**Streaming Sermons**—This year we began recording video of the sermons in addition to audio. **John Bentley** provided us with borrowed equipment to try out, and after favorable results we decided to purchase our own to use regularly. We are always looking for volunteers to operate the equipment on Sunday mornings (on a rotating basis) and can train anyone who is interested! The recordings were first posted to YouTube, but we found it was easier to livestream them on Facebook instead and then embed them in the weekly sermon posting. The videos remain available to watch later as well, and have been receiving reactions and comments from page followers.

**Website & Facebook**—Changes were made to the website this year to improve functionality and provide up-to-date content. The “go-to” icons on the home page now include Twitter and Instagram to reflect our activity on those sites. We will be looking into a fresh design for the website in the next few months. **JoAnne Marsh** designed a new Facebook banner with pictures of some of our ministries.

**New Member Survey**—A survey (created by **Linda Swift**) was emailed to people who attended New Member classes this year, asking questions about how they learned of the church and why they decided to come back, and requesting feedback on our website's ease of use. We found the highly visible location of our church is the biggest draw of visitors and prospective new members.

**Banners**—Following the results of the new member survey, we ordered a new generic banner to hang outside on the corner when no other events are being advertised. This will better utilize the valuable space that is evidently being noticed by the community. **Barbara Santagata** also designed and ordered a new Easter banner featuring green text and daffodils.

**Pew Paper Holders**—**Gary Santagata** and **Adam Santagata** are in the process of building new wooden holders to replace the ones currently holding brochures and offering envelopes on the back of each pew in the sanctuary. A prototype was installed on one pew so far; approximately 100 will need to be built to replace all of the existing ones. We are also looking into printing new informational brochures on thicker paper so they don't bend forward in the holders.

**Welcome Desk**—We would like to install a welcome desk in the Gathering Space. Volunteers who staff this desk can greet visitors and congregants on Sunday mornings, provide informational brochures about church ministries, and answer questions from passersby. As well, the desk can be utilized by other commissions as needed to promote upcoming events or distribute information. **Linda** is researching designs for the desk, which will be located in the corner between the front door and Fellowship Hall. While we were assessing the space, we decided to move the glass display case into the library since it seemed to fit better with the overall theme there.

**Community Events**—We decided not to host a table at the Support Connection Walk or the Yorktown Festival & Street Fair this year because of several other FPCY events happening on the same day. We will look into this again next fall when these annual events are held.

**Capital Campaign**—**Donna** and **Barbara** served as members of the Communications subcommittee of the campaign. They helped to create paper materials such as brochures and flyers that were distributed to the congregation for campaign events. The Communications Commission assisted them in distributing information virtually (on our website, social media, and online papers).

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Many thanks to **Barbara** and **JoAnne** for creating so many beautiful graphics; to **Donna** for keeping our website polished and up-to-date; to **Donna & Cheryl** for managing our Facebook and Instagram pages; to **Linda, Donna, John, & Cheryl** for posting the sermons to our website each week; and to **Linda & Donna** for promoting church events in community outlets. We would also like to thank **Chip** for keeping us posted on upcoming events; **Lisa** for creating the Disciple and Bulletin; **Tim Chin** for documenting so many church activities with his photos; the **Tech Team** for recording and uploading the sermons; and **Walter Oudheusden** for making and putting up banners and signs.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cheryl Burns and Linda Swift*

## REPORT OF THE DEACONS

The Deacons were busy in 2018, as you will read below. The hearts and hands of the Deacons reached out in so many directions: visiting the homebound, making meals, offering food with a smile at the Food Pantry, organizing the annual Toys for Tots distribution, registering blood donors for the Red Cross annual drive—and more. Being a Deacon means acting on God’s call: “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” *1 John 3:17 ESV*

**Contact to the Homebound**—Our visitation team, comprised of past and current deacons, visits church members (and church friends) at their home, in the hospital or in nursing homes. The team, in consultation with the pastors, reaches out with visits and calls to those who are unable to attend services, who are ill, recovering from surgery or who are experiencing uncertain times in their lives. Approximately 138 calls and visits were made in 2018. Members of the team, accompanied by the pastors, also celebrated communion during eight of the visits this past year. Thanks to Sue Nelson, Terri Froehlich, Christine Lazarus, Marianna Sherman, Chuck Radke and Heidi Haring for their continuing devotion to this ministry.  
*Jean Post-Winget, Visitation Team*

**Transportation**—Our Deacons provide transportation to those in our congregation who need rides to attend church services, the lunch bunch, physical therapy sessions, or medical appointments. This year we had five requests. The Deacons want you to know that we are here to help.  
*Marty Scatola*

**Loaves and Fishes**—Deacons Sue Nelson, Maura Delaney, Bill Winsted and Judy Chessa shared this ministry in 2018. The congregation provided over 21 meals to those recovering from surgery, experiencing an illness or personal difficulties. Thank you to the congregation for your “hands-on” support of this important ministry.

**Card Ministry**—A total of 323 cards were sent in 2018. Cards are sent to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or celebrating a special birthday or anniversary. Cards are also sent to our college students and to our seniors on various holidays.  
*Terri Froehlich*

**School Supplies**—2018 was another busy year for school supply distribution. During the two August Food Pantries, we distributed 106 Staples “Kits for Kidz” boxes: 45 (Gr K-2) and 61 (Gr 3-5). In addition, our congregation generously donated many items, which were used to assemble “upper grade” school supply bags. We handed out a record 91 to the older children. Because of the generous donations of school supplies and financial gifts we were below our annual budget goal for school supplies. We are blessed to have such a generous church family! Thank you for your donations. It’s always a joy to see the happy faces of the families receiving their supplies.  
*Pam Darreffe*

**Hat and Mitten Tree**—We distributed hats, scarves and mittens during the two December Food Pantries. Our busy and creative group, the “Knit Togethers,” contributed dozens and dozens of colorful hats, mittens and scarves for all ages. Mrs. Marti, a long-time knitting supporter, again donated bags of hats that she knitted for our Food Pantry children. Mrs. Marti makes several hats every day and gives them to our church as well as to other community outreach programs. She is in her 90s and a faithful supporter of our Pantry for several years. Thank you to all the knitters and all the buyers who helped fill the “Hat and Mitten Tree” in 2018. The families were thrilled to receive such beautiful and practical gifts!  
*Pam Darreffe*

**Bereavement**—The Bereavement ministry hosts receptions for grieving families, after a memorial service for a loved one. Families supply the food, and the Deacons host the reception. This year we were honored to host the reception for Joan Strang. Also, bereavement booklets are now sent to families who are mourning the death of a loved one. Six series of booklets were sent in 2018. The booklet series is meant to provide comfort and connection for the families.  
*Sue Nelson*

*(Continued on page 12)*

**Food Pantry**—Our first full year as a “full choice” pantry went smoothly. Our clients appreciate the ability to choose the foods their families like, or that complement what is already on the shelves at home. We continue to strive to offer healthy choices, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and to offer necessary items (personal hygiene as an example) that are not covered by government programs and thus contribute to food insecurity. The full choice model creates greater opportunity to establish ongoing relationships with our clients, creating a compassion-based ministry. We continue to serve about 100 families per pantry (the 2018 totals were 2,500 family visits encompassing 9500 individuals), including delivering food to residents of the Beaver Ridge senior community in Yorktown. We continue to receive excellent support from Feeding Westchester (formerly the Food Bank for Westchester), in advice as well as food and monetary support. With help from FW we have begun reaching out to other pantries to assist them in adopting client management software (written by Kevin McAuliffe of our team); for this outreach as well as the way we use our data to improve service to our own clients, our pantry was recognized with FW’s annual “Innovation award” in October 2018. We also received critical support from Yorktown Acme, Polymedco, JV Bagels, Panera and BJs, as well as a number of schools, civic organizations and houses of worship. As an example, Polymedco has for many years provided the funds we need to offer turkeys at the Thanksgiving pantry. The “item of the month” program within FPCY enables us to fill in items that are difficult, or unpredictable, to obtain from other sources, and is vital to our operations. Our financial model, blending individual and congregational donations, corporate donations, support from Feeding Westchester, and the food pantry matching grant, continues to work well. We are so grateful to the support of the congregation and the community to enable us to operate – certainly the need for food aid is not decreasing in our region – and we are thankful to be able to answer Christ’s call to feed the needy.

*Bud Coccodrilli and Katharine Frase, co-directors*

**Diaper Ministry**—The Deacons provide about a 5-day supply of diapers to an average of 50 Food Pantry clients once a month. The diaper ministry is funded solely by contributions; our cost per month is about \$300. Thanks to everyone who donated to the diaper ministry in 2018. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Pat Prauda, who was our coupon-user, savvy diaper shopper.

*Pam Darreff*

**Toys for Tots**—The Deacons were again privileged to be part of USMC Reserve Toys for Tots distribution in December. We were pleased to give toys to 114 families with 406 children. The breakdown consisted of 16% for children’s ages 0-2, 33% for ages 3-6, 26% for ages 7-10, 19% for ages 11-14, and 6% for ages 15-18. Also, this year we distributed winter jackets to approximately 25 children. Thanks to all the volunteers, gift givers and all who supported us in this endeavor.

*Bill Winsted*

**Blood Drive**—The Deacons, in conjunction with the Red Cross, held a blood drive on August 11. The drive resulted in 44 units collected, amounting to 132 lives potentially impacted. We plan on scheduling the Blood Drive as an annual event. Thanks to all who donated and supported the Blood Drive cause.

*Judy Chessa*

## **THANK YOU and FAREWELL**

Thank You and Farewell to our outgoing Deacons: Judy Chessa, Terri Froehlich, Sue Nelson and Bill Winsted. Your contributions to the Deacons ministry have been filled with energy and compassion in all that you do for others.

We extend a warm welcome to the new class of Deacons: Carol Cornish, Wanda Diaz, Debra Farrell, and Ryan O’Hare. Our new youth Deacon is Daniel Hager. The Board of Deacons is extremely grateful to the congregation for its support, caring, and generosity.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Judy Chessa, Moderator*

# MISSION COMMISSION

**Members:** *Jeff Kephart, Ellen Miles Co-Chairs, Lynda Spring, Heidi Haring, Nance Thompson, Stephanie Hare, John Winget, Jennifer Burns, Frank Hodgkinson, Chip Low.*

This has been a year of discernment for the Mission Commission. Over the past year, spurred in part by the Ministry Development effort, we have been rethinking our approach to Mission. We were introduced to a framework for mission by Ellen Sherby of Presbyterian World Mission that includes three modes of engagement: Hands-on; Empowered Partnerships and Advocacy.

- Hands-on – Serving others to meet basic needs
- Empowered Partnerships – Partnering with others for quality of life changes
- Advocacy – Solidarity with others for structural and personal justice and change

This framework resonated deeply with us. As we began to think of our activities in these terms, we realized that we have primarily offered Hands-on mission opportunities. To truly provide Transformational Mission opportunities and experiences for the congregation, we realized we need to provide a better balance of activities, while supporting the traditional mission work that is fundamental to what FPCY stands for.

## Hands-on

- Mission Trips (organized by **Stephanie Hare**, led by **Tami Seidel**)  
From July 15th - 20th, 2018, 12 representatives of FPCY traveled to Chicago to work with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection). Our team was made up of 8 youth and 4 adults who worked in a variety of hands on community projects such as services for people experiencing homelessness, in an elder care center, and they learned about causes and effects of domestic violence. The participants also took part in evening education and reflection programming facilitated by local community members giving a context and understanding to the roots and solutions of community problems.
- Knit Togethers (**Norean Radke & Lois Ostling**)
- Jan Peek monthly dinners (**Pat Prauda**)
- Caring for Hungry & Homeless Of Peekskill (CHHOP) support (**Lynda Spring**)
- Noon-time meal preparation (**Pat Prauda**)
- Midnight Run (**Heidi Haring & Nance Thompson**)

## Empowered Partnerships

- Exploring ways to expand our services to our Food Pantry clients
- Exploring ways to partner with Rural & Migrant Ministry

## Advocacy

- Amnesty International letter writing campaign (Ruud Haring)
- Exploring Gun Violence Prevention (**John Winget & Abby Cross**)

None of these initiatives would be possible without the support of the congregation and our fundraising activities. These include coffee sales, donations of recyclables, and pancake supper attendance. **John Winget** also coordinated a Talent Show. Our two major fundraisers, the Tag Sale and the Craft Fair, were coordinated by **Barbara Humphrey**.

## Special Offering distributions:

- One Great Hour of Sharing – 100% to PCUSA for global sharing programs
- Easter Offering – 50% to Midnight Run and 50% to Deacon's Diaper Fund
- Pentecost Offering – 60% to Presbytery and 40% to FPCY camp scholarships to Holmes
- Peace & Global Witness – 75% to PCUSA Peace & Global Witness programs  
and 25% to Rural & Migrant Ministry
- Thanksgiving Offering – 100% to our Food Pantry
- Christmas Joy Offering – 100% to PCUSA

The Mission Commission also gave financial support to the FPCY teens who attended the Montreat Youth Conference from July 28 - August 4.

**In 2019:** We will continue our journey of discernment on how to engage in more Empowered Partnerships and Advocacy opportunities. We encourage anyone interested to join us. We will again be organizing an international mission trip to the Dominican Republic in partnership with Bridges to Community.

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in, or supported, our mission activities this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ellen Miles, Jeff Kephart, Co-Chairs*

## WORSHIP DESIGN COMMISSION

**Members:** Jane Amato, Debbie Amorese, Cheryl Burns, Simona Frenkel, Karen Gerth (co-chair), Marsha Henderson, Bill Herman, Christie Herman (co-chair), Rev. Chip Low (co-pastor), Sara Mann, Barbara Santagata, Rev. Tami Seidel (co-pastor) Ann Timmons.

The Worship Design Commission oversees the needs of our faith community as it gathers for worship. The Commission serves as a resource and support to the pastors in developing themes for worship and to design and implement meaningful, thoughtful and experiential worship. This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the content and structure of worship, planning and implementing worship themes, designing special services, overseeing the Usher Ministry and lay leaders, making arrangements for the serving of the Lord's Supper, providing for the technical, audio-visual aids to worship, and planning for appropriate decoration of the Sanctuary (such as banners, candles, flowers, themed decor, and greens). Additionally, the Worship Design Commission oversees the musical life of our congregation, including service music, the Adult Choir, the Adult and Youth Bell Choirs and the Concert Series.

*The following special worship themes, events, and services highlighted our year:*

**Lenten worship** focused on **Love Is...**, a study of the different aspects of Love, with services celebrating Ash

Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning Services at 6:30, 8:30, and 10:45.

**Grounded in Gratitude, Forward in Faith** – in cooperation with the Stewardship Commission and Capital Campaign Leadership Team

**In Search of a Silent Night** was the theme for **Advent** and **Christmas**.

Other Special Services throughout the year included worship focused on:

Earth Day Worship led by the Green Faith Team

Women of the Church Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

Pentecost and Legacy Sunday

Children's Sunday

VBS Celebration Sunday

YAV Sunday

Labor Day Weekend – Blessing of the Tools

Annual Parish Day Picnic

Blessing of the Backpacks

Mission Trip Reflection Service

World Communion Sunday

Blessing of the Animals

All Saints Day and Celebration Sunday

Peace and Justice Sunday – Richard Witt preaching

Announcement Sunday and Celebration

Longest Night Service on the Winter Solstice

Christmas Eve Services (Family Service and two Candlelight Services)

*Highlights of our Year:*

- Special highlights of this year included the reflections on “Love is...” during Lent, special services during Holy Week, the Longest Night service with cello and candlelight in Advent, and the Lessons and Carols services on Christmas Eve. The year brought to fruition the two-year planning, design, and installation of a glass cross for the narthex designed and created by artist **Barbara Santagata**. We are grateful to **Debbie Amorese, Christie Herman, Jim Gerth**, and **Peter Eagleton** for their creative space and lighting design elements.
- **The Usher Ministry** under the coordination and ministry of **Karen Gerth** is now in its fifth year has grown to 21 ushers serving the 8:30 service divided among 6 teams, and 30 ushers for the 10:45 service divided among 7 teams. Fifteen congregation members are willing to serve as substitutes. The Elders and Deacons of the church provide ushering and Communion service. Members of the Wednesday night Disciple Group provide monthly preparation of the communion elements. Many thanks to all who serve in this vital ministry of hospitality.
- For the third year, Worship Design assisted in sending members and clergy (**Christie Herman, Sophie Low, Tami Seidel, Nance Thompson**) to the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina for an inspiring week of creative design, worship, education, and music.

- Many thanks again to **Lynn and Ken Shulman** for their leadership in the **Blessing of the Animals** service. This outdoor worship service drew approximately 50 people and their pets from the church and community. The pets enjoy treats, and their families express gratitude for this service that acknowledges the importance of animals in our lives.
- **The Tech Team** is responsible for running the sound board during worship **services**, operating the worship lap top computer, recording the services and sharing them on our website (audio and video) and livestreaming to Facebook (new this year!). Special thanks to our camera men John Bentley and Ben Low and to Alan Leftwich for his assistance with trouble shooting. Tech team also supports audio requirements for concerts and large meetings. Tech team members include **Karen Gerth, Benjamin Low, Bill Herman, Bill and Kathy Winsted, Marina Wheeler, Louise Fang, Gordon Braudaway, and David Golematis.**
- **Christmas Eve** services welcomed 431 worshippers. With gratitude for years of service, John and Judy Chessa passed the baton to new Greening coordinators Debbie and Matt Hager. Many thanks to the Chessas for their service, and gratitude to Matt and Debbie for stepping forward. Many thanks to the **Wilkens/Pratt** families for the gift of Christmas Trees, wreathes and garlands. The Christmas Eve Family Worship and Pageant moved to a new afternnon time on Christmas Eve, and the two evening Christmas Eve services offered a traditional Lessons and Carols worship. Many thanks to **Katharine Frase, Christie Herman, Carol Jensen, Tami Seidel, and Chip Low** for organizing this Christmas Eve worship tradition.
- The Worship Design Commission oversees The First Presbyterian Church Concert Series. Two concerts in 2018 were organized by task force members Simona Frenkel , Christie Herman, Carol Jensen, Stephanie Hare, Barbara Santagata , Ann Timmons, Ken Shulman, Amy Wallace, Beth Gruber, Judy Chessa, Ruth Deemer, Katharine Frase, and Bill Herman. In June, the Concert Series Task Force met to discuss putting the concert series on hiatus while studying the role of the concert series in the overall musical life of the church. Members of the church interested in being a part of the study task force identified their willingness to serve to the co-pastors. During 2018, the Concert Series offered the following performances:

March 17 “Songs of the Heart and The Wanderer”  
Featuring Kirsten Sollek, Contralto & Richard Lippold Baritone  
April 28 “Concertino New York” led by Simona Frenkel

In September, 2018, Simona Frenkel, our long-time Musical Director submitted her resignation after eighteen years of service. We are forever indebted to her musical leadership, musical education of the choir and handbell choirs, her excellence as a pianist and organist, and the many musical opportunities and mentoring she provided to the singers and musicians of the church. Interim responsibilities for maintaining the components of our musical worship program were divided between Sophie Low (Youth Handbells), Carol Jensen (Adult Handbells), Katharine Frase (conducting), and Christie Herman (music selection and keyboardist coordination). We are deeply grateful for the talents of Cheryl Burns, Nathan Perry, Mariana Sherman, and Carol Thorne Gaetani as our interim keyboardists. In October, a Director of Music Ministry search committee was formed; Beth Gruber and Christie Herman (co-chairs), Debbie Amorese, Ryan Chin, Andy Cross, Nathan Perry, Ian Spence, Amy Wallace, and Co-Pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel.

The Worship Design Commission is deeply grateful to the talents of those on the Commission as well as the spiritual leadership, support, and talents of Chip Low and Tami Seidel. We are thankful for the office support of **Lisa Flanagan**. We are tremendously grateful for **Carol and Erik Jensen and Sophie Low** who provide all the behind the scenes work for the adult and youth bell choirs. We are thankful for the talents of **Alan Briones**, a professional tenor who supported the choir lower voices until he “moved on” to other opportunities in June. Special thanks to **Barbara Wilkens** for selecting and hanging Banners, **Pat Prauda** for her care of the Paraments, and **Barbara Santagata’s** amazing graphic designs. We are blessed by the gifts of **Connie Knapp** for providing coverage and leadership in our worship. The Worship Design Commission also recognizes with thanks all those who have ushered, set and served the Lord’s Supper, created and provided signs, banners, and webpages to communicate our message to the community, donated the materials and decorated our worship space, provided lay leadership, and those who have stepped in to assist in countless ways; -- all of which contribute to the powerful worship experiences with which we are so blessed. We are thankful to have the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of our vibrant faith community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Karen Gerth and Christie Herman, Co-Chairs*

## EDUCATION COMMISSION

**MEMBERS:** Heidi Haring, Chair; Liza Placido, Co-Chair; Abigail Cross & Bridget Bentley, Church School Co-Superintendents; Stephanie Hare, Carol Jensen, Connie Knapp, Michelle Mosca, Suzy Rishel, Rev. Tami Seidel

**OVERVIEW:** The Education Commission is responsible for development, implementation and administration of educational programs that address the needs and interests of our entire church family. The various subcommittees of Adult Education, Childcare room, Church School for ages pre-K through 8th grade, Confirmation, Infant Nurture, Library, Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool, Youth and VBS strive to devise interesting programs/studies that nurture each group's faith development and faith journey.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** Our focus in Adult Education is on faith formation, for us as individuals and as a community. We engage the head, heart and spirit in a safe space to explore our questions, doubts, and struggles as we support each other in responding to Christ's call to be disciples. **Study groups** meet on Sunday mornings during the Church School hour, a Tuesday and Thursday mornings and some Sunday evenings. The studies are coordinated with the liturgical year (Advent, Lent) as well as themes that arise from the events of the day. During this past year on Sunday we learned about the lectionary, we examined what "Love is" for Lent, we explored the connection between "science, religion and an evolving faith" in a curriculum entitled *Painting the Stars*, and we spent four weeks exploring spiritual practices during the season of Advent. All are invited to attend these sessions which are led by members of the congregation. Our Thursday morning group studied prayer with Max Lucado's study *After Amen*, and looked at a faithful response to fear proposed by Adam Hamilton in his study *Unafraid*.

Our **Women's Circle** group meets monthly on the first Wednesday and follows Presbyterian Women's Horizon year-long curriculum. The Wednesday evening **Disciple Bible Study Group** requires more of a commitment than the other studies; members are expected to attend each of the weekly sessions and to read the week's assigned scripture. This year these two groups were led by Reverend Tami Seidel. A **Men's Breakfast** is held on the third Saturday of every month; the discussions are facilitated by Reverend Chip Low. Adult Education is coordinated by the Adult Ed Planning Team, currently led by Connie Knapp.

**CHILDCARE ROOM:** We strive to provide consistent and quality childcare during Sunday morning services and Church School hour for children ages birth through age 5. Michelle Mosca has been our long-time very patient coordinator who has worked hard to find quality and reliable care givers. We always need two adults over 18 in the room at a time and we seek to have at least a third person on the team so no one has to work every Sunday. As of now we have two good caregivers, and could use one more, as well as extra caregivers for Christmas and Easter.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our Sunday School is now comprised of 3 sections to best serve the educational and spiritual needs of all our children. We use the Sparkhouse curriculum: Spark for Pre-K through grade 4, Connect for grades 5 & 6 and Reform for grades 7 & 8. In general, our Sunday School has been shrinking in attendance due to demographic changes, fewer younger children, and competition with Sunday sports. This program is overseen by our Co-Superintendents who serve a two year term. They are responsible for running the Sunday School program which includes recruiting Center teachers, Shepherds, Gathering Time staff, creating rotation schedules, and planning special events. We wish to thank **Jessica Mayes**, who finished her 2-year term in June 2018, for her dedication to our children. We are quite fortunate to have **Abby and Andy Cross and Bridget Bentley** as our Co-Superintendents for this year. Thank you all for all your hard work!

**LIBRARY:** The church library is a resource to all for materials on a variety of topics related to spiritual and religious issues. **Carol Jensen** is our faithful librarian who oversees a growing collection with many new books each year, including copies of the current Adult Education studies. Feel free to browse and check out a book to enhance your faith journey.



**YORKTOWN PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL:** (YPP) offers separate morning classes for 3 and for 4- year-olds. Betsy Alberty is the Director and 4's teacher and Dawn Ianiri is the 3's teacher. There are 4 parents on the YPP Board and should be at least 4 congregation members on the Board. The Board Chair is Sharon Larsen and Julie Friscia is our other long-time representative. YPP has been in operation for nearly 31 years and has enjoyed a strong reputation county-wide as an excellent program.

However, in recent years, YPP as a ministry has fallen on hard times due to a number of complex external and internal factors. Externally, YPP has struggled with shifting demographics, the availability of universal Pre-K, and the changing needs and expectations of families today, many of whom have working parents who need a wider array of child care options. Internally, YPP has faced some organizational struggles, such as staff issues and transitions, budgetary deficits, and a lack of church members who are willing to serve on the YPP Board or children from our church in the program. All of these have placed an increasing demand and considerable strain on the pastors and other staff to manage the resultant crises and transitions, something that was not intended at YPP's founding.

An evaluation team comprised of former YPP founders, Board members and parents carefully reviewed the history and current issues and weighed different options for how the church could proceed. Many thanks to Chip Low, Heidi Haring, Aloha Hicks, Kathy Hodgkinson, Sharon Larsen, Emily Monk, Liza Placido and Jean Post-Winget for their sensitive work on this challenging situation. The team shared its recommendations with Session, and after thoughtful conversation and prayerful discernment, Session made the difficult decision to close YPP. After discussions with current staff, it was decided that this closure would happen at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all the church members and leaders who served on the Board and supported YPP over the years and enabled this ministry to reach so many children and families.

**YOUTH:** Thanks to the innovative and tireless efforts of our Director of Youth Ministries, Stephanie Hare, our Youth Group has been busy with an impressive variety of activities. See next page "Youth Ministries" for more details.

**VBS:** We hosted the Yorktown community VBS on July 9-13, which involved members from the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Yorktown United Methodist and our own church. We had a successful and fun program, Rolling River Rampage, with nearly 100 kids. Huge thanks go out to **Tami Seidel** and the team of decorators and volunteers, including **Nance Thompson, Connie Knapp, Debbie Hager, Heidi Haring, Liza Placido, Bill Herman** and those we may have not listed here (our apologies) and a number of our teens, led by **Stephanie Hare**.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Many of the children from Sunday School participated in the Christmas Pageant which took place at the 2:00pm worship service on Christmas Eve. Under the direction of **Bill Herman** and **Liza Placido** our children brought the amazing story of Christ's birth to life. Many thanks to the children and to pageant team (**Bill, Liza, Beth Gruber, Sophie Low, Ben Low, Bridget Bentley, Alice Chin, Beth Gruber and Nance Thompson**).

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** On May 6, 2018, seven youth were received into membership through the process of Confirmation. The 2017-18 Confirmation class was led by **Gordon Braudaway, Pam Darreffe, Stephanie Hare, Chip Low, Suzy Rishel, and Brett Yarris**. In addition to Sunday morning class meetings and activities earlier in the school year, our Confirmands participated in a Midnight Run, and cooked for the Pancake Supper. The students interviewed members of our church leadership and prepared statements of faith that were reviewed by the Session. The 2018-2019 Confirmation Class began in September, utilizing the new PC(USA) Confirmation curriculum, *Big God Big Questions* in their Sunday morning classes. The students have attended a Jewish worship service at Temple Beth Am and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, served as candle lighters and liturgists during Advent, and have begun preparations for their Midnight Run.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Heidi Haring*

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

2018 was another year of growth for our Youth program. Our Middle School and High School Youth Groups continue to meet twice a month. Our High School Youth Group has grown to include membership from grades 9 through 12, an increase over recent years.

Our Youth group activities focused on making connections within our congregation, our larger church community, and the world around us. We connected with Youth from our neighboring faith communities with an interfaith youth bowling night, which we are already planning to do again in 2019. Our Youth were well represented in the team for the **Chicago mission trip with DOOR** and have brought many of the lessons they learned there back to share with their fellow Youth.

Fifteen High School Youth from our congregation attended the **Montreat Youth Conference** at the Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. The theme of the summer was “Lift Every Voice”. Along with Youth from several states across the eastern US, our team engaged in conversation and activities with other youth that helped them discover how to use their own voices and listen to other voices that are sometimes hard to hear. Big thanks are due to **Alice Chin, Chip Low, and Andy Torres** for transporting and chaperoning our crew on this adventure.

In the fall, sixteen Youth from 6th through 12th grade participated in our “**24-Hour Mission Trip**”, at the Broadway Presbyterian Church in NYC. They prepped and served meals in the Broadway Community Soup Kitchen, organized and helped distribute clothes through the Clothes Closet, and learned about issues related to homelessness in the New York metro area. **Jen Burns, Margery Rossi, and Stephen Thompson** were our enthusiastic chaperones for this trip. As we transitioned into the 2018-19 school year, we have been thinking about *Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy* as our topics for exploration in all our activities and meetings, as we celebrate our many blessings from God and learn to share them with the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Stephanie L. Hare, Director of Youth Ministries*

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## STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

**Members:** Gloria Coccodrilli, Pam Darreff, Tim Lupfer, Marianna Sherman, Rev. Tami Seidel, Rev. Chip Low, Nancy Paskin, Lynda Spring, Connie Knapp

**Stewardship Campaign:** In the fall of 2018 the Annual Stewardship Campaign was combined with the Capital Fund Campaign. The theme was “Grounded in Gratitude Forward in Faith.” Led by a Prayer Team everyone was asked to join in praying, “Lord, what would you do through me?” We are grateful for the generosity of our members and the commitment of financial resources.

**Planned Giving:** In 2013 Session approved the establishment of an endowment fund for FPCY to support planned giving. Tim Lupfer has information on how members may consider long-term giving.

**Veterans Recognition:** A new program of Stewardship is to recognize and thank our members who are veterans of our military services. Tim Lupfer will be gathering names, photos and information so we can honor these individuals on Veterans Day.

**Outreach:** *College students and active military personnel* receive care packages during the year. Pam Darreff coordinates this project working hard to get correct addresses. Marianna Sherman has led the team that *Visit the Visitor*. Offering a loaf of bread and a copy of the Disciple. Many recipients have commented on the surprise of receiving this thoughtful gesture. Working with Marianna are Ken Sherman, Judy and John Chessa, Gloria and Bud Coccodrilli, Squeegee and Dick Mills, Alice and Tim Chin, and Jean and John Winget.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Besides knitting or crocheting prayer shawls, blankets and scarves, this group prays for those who request prayers. Through prayers of intercession we remember joys and concerns of members. If you have a request let Marianna Sherman know.

**Green Faith:** Green Faith The Green Team is co-led by Connie Knapp and Donna Gresh. In November 2017 we completed the requirements to become a Green Faith certified congregation; that process also certified us as an Earth Care congregation in PC(USA). Earth Care congregations are recertified annually. Our Green Team ensured that we met the criteria to be recertified in 2018. During this past year we coordinated the Earth Day worship service, held labyrinth walks over the summer, provided “green” tips for the bulletin and articles for The Disciple and worked to make recycling at the church easier by providing clearly marked bins. A Green Team representative, Donna Gresh, is part of the team coordinating the solar panel installation. Connie Knapp serves as our representative to the Presbytery “green team,” HRP Green. HRP Green initiated the Solarize Our Congregation campaign for the Presbytery, working with Abundant Efficiency, the company that organized the Solarize Westchester campaign.

**Membership and New Members:** Two new member classes were held in 2018 for a total of 19 new members. 7 of those were confirmands. No members were removed from the rolls in 2018.

**Stewardship Seminar:** Rev. Tami Seidel attended the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in September 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Stewardship is charged to encourage the graces of generosity and faithful stewardship of personal and financial resources and to care for our members and all of God’s creation.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lynda Spring, Chair of Stewardship*

## OPERATIONS COMMISSION

**Members:** Rob Baddeley, Don Blaney, John Chessa, Bud Coccodrilli, Deanna Collins, Pete Eagleton, Jim Gerth, Matt Hager, Kirk Larsen, Walter Oudheusden, Tami Seidel, Ian Spence, Tom Travis, Vinny Wallace

**Purpose:** The Operations Commission is responsible for maintaining and improving our facilities and properties; and in doing so, support FPCY's work in our community and beyond.

### 2018 Highlights:

- Special thank you to Jim Gerth for his head-first dive into his new position here at FPCY; his experience and enthusiasm are welcome additions to Operations.
- Coordinated with Personnel on new custodian/sexton job description; selected Jim Gerth for that position.
- Fall and Spring cleanup days were successful if not always warm & dry. Special thanks to Deanna Collins for reaching out to wrangle our volunteers.
- Many members pitched in on snow removal last year while we had no full-time custodian.
- Oversaw the installation of security system.
- Coordinated with Yorktown Fire Marshals for signage needs, CO monitors & minor operations changes.
- All tiled floors were cleaned and re-waxed.
- Sanctuary windows were repaired, cleaned and repainted.
- Continue to review basement pumps and drainage issues.
- Cross in Narthex hung and properly lighted.
- New gutter system on East Walk to help with water issues. Improvement (but not total victory) noted.
- Battles with critters large and small continue.
- Spring work party for the installation of area for recycling dumpster.
- Ongoing tree maintenance programs.
- Operations continues to work with the Capital Campaign Project Management Team on solar project, new roof, strategies for the exterior of the sanctuary and interior spaces throughout the FPCY campus.
- Ops continues to keep Sanctuary and buildings running properly with minor (and not so minor) repairs to doors, locks, finance, pipes, outlets, indoor lighting, outdoor lighting.

Our sanctuary is over 175 years old and other parts of the facility range in age from 18 to 66 years. Thanks to diligence of many ensuring its upkeep over the years, we do not face any known crises at this point. However, going forward, that could change at a moment's notice. We do maintain and regularly contribute to a maintenance reserve fund to for expensive improvements. Operations will continue the regular upkeep items and work to transform our spaces as operations is well represented on the Campaign Project Management Team.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Vinny Wallace, Co-Chair, Operations*

*(Continued on page 21)*

## PERSONNEL COMMISSION

The Personnel Commission acts as the human resources department of a corporation does, dealing with all aspects of the management of our employees and their needs. Much of what we do is of a confidential nature and therefore cannot be included in the annual report. When there is a need for hiring someone to fill a vacancy, or someone new is being hired, one of our functions is to take the lead in the hiring process or assist the other commissions with the hiring process. We evaluate job descriptions annually for each position and update as needed. Given the extraordinary circumstances of 2018, the Personnel Commission decided not to use the past evaluation process, but instead to devise a new process going forward. Actions we have taken this past year: re-evaluated our custodial staff needs which resulted in hiring a Caretaker, Jim Gerth and a part-time Custodian, John Harrigan; re-evaluated our music program needs and provided support to the Music Director Search Committee after the resignation of Simona Frankel; increased the Youth Director hours from 20 to 25 hours a week; hired a pre-school teacher, Dawn Ianiri; and two new child care providers for Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nance Thompson, Chairperson*

## BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION

**Members:** In 2018, Budget and Finance was Co-Chaired by Fred Mintzer (member of the Session) and Matt Sheridan (member of Session). Its membership also included Gordon Braudaway (Treasurer), Beth Gruber (Treasurer), Co-pastor Chip Low, Jack Shaughnessy, and Tom Travis (Treasurer). Budget and Finance is blessed by, and thankful for, their generous contributions of time and financial expertise.

The Budget and Finance Commission is responsible for recommending and implementing financial policies, goals, and budgets to the Session that support the mission, values, and strategic goals of the Church. The Commission reviews the Church's financial performance against its goals and manages the Church's investments. Budget and Finance was formed in 2015, and is still "on a journey" to truly fulfill those responsibilities.

### **Budget & Reports:**

Budget and Finance prepared a 2019 budget for consideration by Session, which was subsequently adopted by Session and is included in the accompanying financial statements. The Budget and Finance Commission provides the Session with reports on the Church's finances, including updated budget-to-actual performance and an updated balance sheet, at the Session's monthly meetings.

### **Commission visits:**

In 2018, Budget and Finance undertook a number of visits to FPCY commission meetings to demystify its work and FPCY's finances. The commissions visited included Communications, Congregational Life, Education, Mission, Operations, Stewardship, and Worship Design. We thank them for inviting us and offering us their hospitality. It is a joy to work with them.

### **Manse Renovation:**

With FPCY approval in 2017, Co-pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel began a renovation of the manse to better serve their needs. That project has now completed. Revision of the Manse Purchase Spreadsheet (of the Manse Purchase Agreement) is underway.

### **Solarization of the Church properties:**

In conjunction with the Capital Campaign, Budget and Finance considered financing options for the potential solarization proposal. Budget and Finance recommended solarization only of the worship complex at this time – and recommended taking advantage of a low interest (3.5% or lower) PILP loan, if available.

Respectfully submitted,

*Fred Mintzer and Matt Sheridan*

*2018 Co-Chairs, FPCY Budget and Finance*

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YORKTOWN

2880 Crompond Road  
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598  
Phone: 914-245-2186  
Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45am  
Church School and Adult Education: Sundays at 9:30am  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm  
Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool: 914-962-8712

**[www.FPCYorktown.org](http://www.FPCYorktown.org)**

Chip Low and Tami Seidel, Co-Pastors  
Stephanie Hare, Director of Youth Ministries  
Lisa Flanagan, Office Manager  
Jim Gerth, Caretaker  
John Harrigan, Custodian  
Bridget Bentley, Abby and Andy Cross, Church School Superintendents  
Gordon Braudaway, Beth Gruber & Tom Travis, Treasurers

## THE SESSION

### **Class of 2019**

Cheryl Burns  
Arnold Cribari  
Ellen Miles  
Marsha Henderson  
Vинny Wallace  
John Winget

Natalie Swift  
(09/01/18 thru 08/31/19)  
Jenna Shaughnessy  
(09/01/18 thru 08/31/19)

### **Class of 2020**

John Bentley  
Nancy Caswell  
Jeff Kephart  
Liza Placido  
Matt Sheridan  
Nance Thompson

Luke Torres-Rossi  
(09/01/19—08/31/20)  
Ashley Leftwich  
(09/01/19—08/31/20)

### **Class of 2021**

Jane Amato  
Beth Gruber  
Matt Hager  
Bill Herman  
Barbara Humphrey  
Emily Monk

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway  
Moderators: Chip Low, Tami Seidel

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### **Class of 2019**

Katharine Frase  
Maura Delaney  
Martin Scatola  
Tony Tomicich

Ryan Chin  
(09/01/18 thru 08/31/19)  
Aiden McAuliffe  
(09/01/18 thru 08/31/19)

### **Class of 2020**

Patrick Burns  
Pam Darreiff  
Jean Post-Winget  
Andy Torres

Ethan Brown  
(09/01/19 thru 08/31/20)  
Daniel Hager  
(09/01/19 thru 08/31/20)

### **Class of 2021**

Carol Cornish  
Wanda Diaz  
Debra Farrell  
Ryan O'Hare

Moderator: Andy Torres  
Vice-Moderator: Patrick Burns  
Secretary: Katharine Frase