



Alpharetta Presbyterian Church

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2016 Annual Report

Our Mission: *We are called to be a Christ-centered family of believers committed to growing spiritually, worshipping joyfully, and sharing God's love daily.*

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PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Oliver Wagner

I have many thanksgivings as I look back on 2016. Each season of the year brought unique gifts. Traveling to Purdue University with our youth for Triennium was a summer highlight and my two-week trip to South India with Columbia Theological Seminary a winter celebration. We had a wonderfully successful Country Fair and Barnyard Sale in the fall and in the spring hired Laura Moore as our new Office/Finance Manager as we honored Susan Schiltz who retired from that position after many years of outstanding service. In short time, we filled our "office assistant" position with two very friendly and capable women, Claudia Zehnder and Jenny Fettes, who are job-sharing.

Other highlights of the year were calling and installing Rev. Caitlin Phillips to full-time ministry as our Associate Pastor and renewing Dr. Jo Anderson's contract-called work as a part-time Associate Pastor. We elected a new treasurer in Rob Vacko and thanked Mary Shevlin for her many years of faithful service. We developed a clear and ambitious "Ministry Action Plan" and then lived within our budget thanks to your generous giving. We entered into a new partnership with the Ed Isakson/Alpharetta YMCA to strengthen congregational wellness and health and we continue to work ecumenically in the community with area congregations.

In addition to those highlights, there are the ongoing, day-to-day and Sunday-to-Sunday ministries I am privileged to share with you in worship, pastoral care, bible study, and fellowship. We have mourned losses together, welcomed newborns and new members, celebrated baptisms and weddings, endured health crises and supported each other through challenges of many kinds. As you look back and remember what by God's grace we have done, be sure to look ahead with hope and faith to the call that lies before us in 2017—the beginning of our fourth decade of worshipping joyfully, growing spiritually and sharing God's love daily.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Caitlin Phillips, Associate Pastor

What an honor it has been to serve as your Associate Pastor. I am thrilled to be working full-time and hope my leadership will help enhance the thriving ministries of APC.

2016 was an exciting year. We experimented with a new (very) Casual Saturday evening worship service. The hope is that this relaxed service will appeal to people of all ages. My kids loved "playing" the drums along with the talented musicians of the APC band M.U.G.S. (mandolins, ukuleles, guitars and singers) while children, youth and adults sat around tables to paint, color and discuss scripture. We launched our first ever "Barn Yard" sale which was a church-wide effort to raise money for our mission ministries. We marched with our Christian brothers and sisters from St. James UMC down to city center singing spirituals as we waved to cars passing by. We savored fried chicken at the church picnic, handed out candy at a rainy Taste of Alpharetta, and offered hot cider to cold neighbors at the Tree Lighting Festival. We learned about the Book of Jonah from a dynamic Emory professor (who knew that avoiding God's call and being swallowed by a fish could be so entertaining!). We gathered together to celebrate the wonder of God's creation alongside dozens of dogs, a few cats and one komodo dragon at the second annual Blessing of the Animals.

Hymns of hope were sung at funerals, the youth preached words of faith and challenge, and the children inspired us with their leadership in worship. APC is a joyful community of faith. We are diverse in age, viewpoints, and life experience but we are bound to one another by the love of Christ and our desire to make the world a better place. Alpharetta Presbyterian is a unique and powerful witness to the world, and it's a privilege to carry out ministry with you!

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Jo Anderson, Associate Pastor

Looking back over 2016, I am very grateful for the opportunities we have had to serve together at APC. In my part-time contract call position (25 hours per week), I coordinate the pastoral care of the church. This includes visiting members in the hospital, in rehabilitation and assisted living facilities, and in their homes. I am also fortunate to work with the Diaconate in their ministries of care and compassion. I also serve as the pastoral liaison with the Open Arms ministry led by a dedicated committee and staffed by our director, Mary Waters. Open Arms serves the needs of our members with special needs as well as helping to make elder care connections. In December I was privileged to support the Fellowship and Membership committees during Rev. Caitlin Phillips' maternity leave.

Teaching elders also have duties at the Presbytery level. This year I participated in a monthly pastors group organized by Greater Atlanta Presbytery, attended Presbytery meetings, and served on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry, the committee that guides those seeking to become teaching elders through the ordination process.

Part of our mission statement at APC includes "worshipping joyfully," and worship is an important part of all your pastors' responsibilities. I find meaning in helping to lead Sunday worship, in preaching, and co-officiating at memorial services. Our Longest Night service and Open Arms family worship services give comfort to many. I believe that the way we worship shapes our faith, and our faith shapes the way we worship.

I experienced two opportunities for continuing education this year. In January, I traveled with three other staff members to Chicago for the conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. In June, I attended the Montreat Conference on Worship and Music. Both events broadened my outlook on ministry.

Looking to the future, I anticipate joyful and meaningful worship and growth in the caring ministries of APC as we seek to follow God's guidance.

CLERK OF SESSION

Elder Beth Bowles

APC's session was privileged to lead the church in ministry during a year in which our varied ministries grew in efficiency and maturity while seeking to better serve the needs of our congregants and the community.

Highlights of the year included: eleven stated meetings, four called meetings, a session planning and social retreat; two congregational meetings and one APC corporation meeting; annual revisions of the *Manual of Operations*, the *Child and Youth Safety Policy*, and the *Sexual Misconduct Policy*; elders serving as commissioners to four meetings of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; undergoing an internal study of all committees; and continuing to employ our Ministry Action Plan.

DIACONATE REPORT

The Diaconate at APC leads in ministries of sympathy, compassion, service and witness. The primary concerns are for the sick, the needy and the friendless. In 2016, we had 34 deacons, including 2 youth deacons. Dr. Jo Anderson provided staff support.

Companion Care (8 deacons led by Robert Beal). This year our team made visits, took their care partners to church when needed, took care partners Meals to Heal, sent cards, made phone calls, sent emails to care partners who were not feeling up for a visit and delivered flowers. In 2016 the team supported 15 care partners.

Hospital & Recovery Care (8 deacons led by Keith Still). Members of this team visited APC members and friends of the church who were in the hospital, rehabilitation care or restricted to their homes due to illness or injury. They assisted with flower delivery and greeting before Sunday services.

Hospitality Care (9 deacons led by Cissy Moriarty & Margy Culver).

----**Welcome Desk** in the Narthex: We welcome visitors to APC, and provide them with information about the church. Giving directions around the facility continues to be a big focus, especially to the children's Sunday school wing. Dot Van Dyke and Florence White are Welcome Desk co-chairs. An APC grocery bag is given to first time visitors filled with appropriate brochures explaining our church.

----**Letters of Welcome:** Zoey Wagner sent 18 handwritten letters to third-time visitors in 2016. Lynn Adams sent seven letters to fifth-time visitors. The letters include information about opportunities available at APC, free breakfast/lunch coupons, and information regarding the next new member class.

----**Helping Hands:** Lynn Adams and Lieben Bogle organized and implemented a new ministry, Helping Hands, for APC members who need a helping hand with small projects around their home. We have 10 men who have volunteered to help these people when needed. We advertised this service last winter in *The Good News* and to our APC senior group, but to date we have not had any calls for help. We are renewing our efforts to advertise this service by putting a notice in *The Good News* twice a month, as well as occasionally in the church bulletin.

----**Membership Committee:** Margy Culver serves on Membership representing the Deacons. She procured the new APC grocery bags that are distributed at the Welcome Desk, presented information about our Deacons at the new member breakfasts, regularly attended all of the Membership committee meetings and participated in committee events.

Sympathy & Celebrations Care (9 deacons led by Cindy Laubenstein). This team supports families of APC who may be mourning a loss or celebrating an important event. Typical celebrations may include births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations and weddings. This team sent out approximately 130 cards to our members.

In addition to the care team ministries listed above; deacons participated in other ministries, including:

- In 2016, over 100 sanctuary flower arrangements were delivered to homes and hospital rooms to brighten someone's day. (Peggy Asher, coordinator)
- Staffing the "Greeters" on Sundays to welcome visitors to the church and make them feel at home.
- Providing transportation for APC members who are unable to get to doctor appointments or church. (John McPherson, coordinator).
- Delivered 42 prepared Meals to Heal to APC members and friends during periods of recovery or loss. (Judi McPherson, coordinator).

The deacons met 9 times in 2016. Our monthly meetings include dinner and a time for fellowship followed by our meeting where we share developments in our areas of ministry. *The Diaco-notes*, our monthly newsletter, provides the deacons with news and updates on our activities and interest.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Elder Mike Wasson, Elder Beth Bowles

Committee: Charles Moriarty, Gerald Jenkins, Jodie Barger, Dale Carter, and Ted Lynam. Staff support: Caitlin Phillips.

APC's Adult Christian Education Ministry offered several regular and special opportunities for participants to sustain their Christian growth through knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and on issues of faith and practice. In September we changed the name of our committee to more closely reflect our Faith Journey. Adult Christian Education is now "Spiritual Growth."

Adult Education, Sunday School

- **Crossroads Class** offered a relaxed atmosphere in which individuals can enter into thoughtful conversations on a variety of topics in history, theology, and faith. The class is focused on seniors, but all ages are welcome to attend. This year's class discussed the book and video series *Gifts of the Darkwood* which looks at how our faith is strengthened during challenging times in life. Richard Foster's book, *Seeking the Kingdom*, was also discussed. The class is designed so folks can drop in and participate. Class coordinator: Dale Carter
- **Faith and Families** continues to grow thanks to the efforts of several leaders. The class is informal and welcoming, targeting adults with young children, older children and no children! We discuss how to live out our faith amid the busyness of daily life using material from a variety of bible studies such as Rob Fuquay's *The God we can know: Exploring the 'I am' sayings of Jesus* in a 7 week DVD series, Adam Hamilton's *Half Truth* looking at common clichés about Christianity and using scripture to see what truth lies behind them in a 5 week DVD series, and *Faith Lens*, an online resource from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America that looks at current events and how they relate to the Sunday lectionary passages. Some weeks we read contemporary news articles that align with the weekly lectionary. No outside preparation is required and drop-in participation is encouraged. Class coordinator: Jodie Barger.
- **Courageous Conversations for Contemporary Christians** (4 C's) is in its 3rd year and continues to grow, offering a supportive environment in which individuals have the opportunity to engage difficult questions about life and faith. This class encourages honest and open discussions organized around a series of topics from *The Thoughtful Christian*. Class coordinators: Charles Moriarty, Judi McPherson.

Other Programs

- **Disciple:** This year, we had a new 24-week offering, *Disciple Fast Track*, along with the traditional Disciple offerings, as well as several advanced Disciple classes, such as *Disciple IV*, *Invitation to Psalms and John*, *Invitation to Genesis and Psalms*, *Invitation to Old Testament*, and *The Book of Revelation*.
- **Men's Monday Morning Bible Study** meets weekly at 7 a.m. in the pastor's office. It averages 4-6 attendees.
- **Friday Morning Bible Study** met at the church weekly at 10 a.m. to read newly released books on Christian faith.
- **Charles Moriarty's group** meets twice a month to discuss *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett, Brian Fikkert.
- In January, we led a 4-week series on the book of Jonah, with guest speaker Dr. Brent Strawn.
- In February, our own Rev. Dr. Deanna Womack led a discussion based on the book by Ben Daniel, *The Search for Truth about Islam: A Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction*
- We led a **Small Group** for Lent, reading and discussing *A Year Without Purchase*, with leaders each week including Beth Bowles, Jodie Barger, and Caitlin.
- We led a **Summer Series** focusing on living our lives of faith in the modern world using a series of TED talks, with leaders from the committee.
 - *The Happy Secret to Better Work* by Shawn Achor
 - *Why Would God Create Tsunamis?* By Tom Honey
 - *For Parents, Happiness is a Very High Bar* by Jennifer Senior
 - *Surprising Science of Happiness* by Dan Gilbert
 - *Reconnecting with Compassion* by Krista Tippett
 - APC Clergy talk about meaning of life in scripture.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Elder Melissa Schmitz, Elder Susan Manthey

Committee members: Meg Hardt, Alison Liu, Kari Minnich, Veronica Perri, Sheryl Wentworth.
Staff support: Kristin Hicks, Director of Children's Ministry.

Leadership training for Sunday school teachers was held in January & August as well as a mandatory Safety Training for all those working with children and youth.

After reviewing last year's activities and goals, the committee focused this year on high impact, substantive activities/events/experiences that were a wiser use of our resources (especially our human resources) for the children and their families. This included ways to include children more in worship and on a regular basis. Some of the events included: Children's Sabbath on Oct 16 (the children led and participated in all facets of the 11 am service), changing the Children's Choir time to 10:25-10:55 (between Sunday School & worship) to accommodate and encourage more participation resulting in doubling the number of members and adding boys! A family friendly Ash Wednesday service was added and the Palm Sunday Fair was held again. CM will continue to collaborate with the worship committee —i.e. suggesting kid friendly hymns/music.

The message has been communicated to Session & and the congregation that we need more hours for our director and more volunteer power to continue to offer quality programs and meet our safety requirements. We also continue to grow as the community expands so demand & and needs will continue to increase. (Great problem to have!)

We are grateful for the excellent service from Grace Hanson filling in as the Administrative Asst. for Children and Youth Ministries for the better part of the year. We were sad to see her return to Asheville, but wish her success in pursuit of her career goals. In August, we welcomed Kari Minnich as Grace's replacement. Kari brings valuable experience and insight to the role and is doing a great job!

Sunday School: Christian Education was provided on most Sunday mornings for the preschool to 5th grade age groups. Beginning on 8/14, classes started meeting from 9:30 to 10:30 am. We continue to have strong attendance numbers each week. New Sunday school teacher volunteers were approved by Session. All volunteers 1.) Have been or will be background screened and 2.) Will attend Child/Youth Safety Training (required every 3 years) or review and sign the safety document. We're excited that many of our male teachers returned to serve as Sunday school teachers! Thank you to Kristin for her hard work recruiting, coordinating and training everyone for the new Sunday school year. Bridging Curriculum was approved by Session and implemented in the 2nd Semester to bridge knowledge gaps for the 4th/5th grade class. No curriculum existed that was age and theology appropriate so Kristin created one. This came as a result of Kristin connecting with the Youth Director to insure children have acquired the knowledge needed for confirmation.

Worship and Sacraments class: A worship and sacraments class was held for 2nd graders and their parents on 2/20 to introduce the elements of worship and the sacrament of Communion.

KinderWorship: KinderWorship is a special education time offered to Preschoolers through 3rd grade during the 11 am worship service.

Nursery: The use of Nursery service continues to increase as the number of babies and new families continues to increase. Use of an outside agency for staffing continues to be successful. Expansion and improvements to the nursery are in process thanks to a donor and planning committee. It has been a struggle to secure a contractor with pursuits ongoing. We hope to complete the work in early 2017.

Vacation Bible School: Another successful year! The theme was "Cave Quest." Planning was better this year due to electronic registration & and the use of PayPal & and VBS Pro made better payment methods available. The new payment set-up will be good for other events in the future, resulting in less paperwork & and better communication.

VBS is often the first exposure to a church experience that an attendee will have therefore it is so critical that it be positive.

Club 45: A monthly youth group for children in 4th and 5th grades meeting during the school year. This has been well attended with a variety of “tween” topics & activities coordinated by Kristin Hicks.

Special Events:

- **Palm Sunday/Easter Sunday:** The Children’s choir sang at the 11 am service on Palm Sunday. There was a procession with palms and an Easter egg hunt following the service.
- **5th Grade Graduation:** A special breakfast was held in May for 5th graders to celebrate the transition from the Children’s Program to the Youth Program.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks:** On Aug 7, children brought their backpacks to the 11am worship service for a special Children’s Moment. This event continues to be a cherished tradition that the kids look forward to in preparation for the start of school. All students (including college and adult students) participated this year! Big impression on the little kids having the big students receiving a blessing with them!
- **Country Fair:** Thank you to Allison Liu and Kari Minnich for again serving on the Country Fair committee.
- **Angel Breakfast (Dec 3):** 2nd Annual Angel Breakfast successfully helped children experience the magic and joy of Christmas and the nativity story. Children of the church aged 2 years through kindergarten were invited. There were lots of decorations, crafts, and a chance to take pictures with an angel. Angel pancakes, fruit kabobs, sausage and egg casserole, and bananas were served. Thanks to Sheryl and the many women of the church who worked so hard to create such a beautiful setting.
- **Advent Workshop:** Focus this year was on being more intergenerational, calmer/more connected for fellowship. Large, beautiful coloring sheets were completed in addition to families making 4 ornaments—one for each Sunday in Advent. The casual, cheery atmosphere included a nice early evening dinner and a welcome start to the Advent season.
- **Children’s Christmas Service (12/24- 3:30 pm):** Child friendly service with children’s choir performing followed by a birthday party for Baby Jesus in Fellowship Hall with a birthday cake.
- **Youth Fundraiser:** Committee again donated a basket for the Youth fundraiser in February. The event was well attended by youth of the church and fun was had by all!

COMMITMENT COMMITTEE

Elder Dale Carter, Elder Carolyn Dillon

Committee members: Scott Doll, Jim Gray, Ted Lynam, Susan Smith and Dot Van Dyke with Dr. Ollie Wagner and support from staff. We had 8 face to face meetings during 2016. We started 2016 with calls to complete the 2015 pledge drive and a request for the congregation to consider adjusting their pledges to close the gap between the pledges received and the budget.

We developed a 7 touch point plan to encourage giving throughout the year. The 7 touch points were:

1. **Dave Ramsey Class in fall:** Ted Lynam organized a fall/winter class, but had to cancel due to low signups.
2. **Work with Endowment program:** Wendy Corey & Greg Raabe gave an introduction to the congregation on the last Sunday in August.
3. **Mini-MAPs included in the quarterly statements to highlight an area that benefits from our giving:** Ollie worked with Katie VanBrackle to provide inserts for statements.
4. **Comments about what the money does as part of call for the offering:** Pastors worked into the call as appropriate (we did not want to dilute the message or numb the crowd by repeating the same thing).
5. **Leadership Lunch:** on October 30 presented 2017 MAP and **iGive** brochure with personal testimony. Review of 2016 and look forward for 2017 = focused on activities and accomplishments with presentations from select groups.
6. **Pledge Drive:** Carolyn Dillon and Dot developed a visual indications of what is has been funded using a thermometer and offering plates for the different giving areas showing the people who benefit from our giving.
7. **Thank you notes for first time givers** Carolyn Dillon and Dot developed a thank you note template that is customized according to type of gift (member, visiting family, potential member, etc.).

For the 2016 Pledge drive we continued to utilize the Stewardship Discovery & Assessment report from consultants Joel Mikel and Dan Marengo of RSI and the OneVision resource material from RSI. We implemented the APC OneVision process. This process was designed to shift from “transactional” giving to a meet a budget spreadsheet to “transformational” giving to fund our vision.

The 3 phases leading to our November 12 commitment Sunday involved:

1. **Revise Ministry Action Plan for each committee represented in the APC budget.** Introduction/retraining done at July 26 session meeting. The committee MAPs collected September 30, rolled up into the 2017 APC MAP by staff and put into a 2017 brochure with the pledge theme **iGive**.
2. **Engage the Leadership.** A leadership luncheon was held on October 23 to introduce the APC 2017 MAP and solicit support for the pledge drive. We focused again Mission Statement themes in 3 parts : BLESS the lives of children youth and families + \$32,000; STRENGTHEN worship and outreach + \$78,000; and IMPROVE our facility and ministry + \$75,000. Each part was introduced by a speaker followed by members who gave testimony.
3. **Grow the congregation in the “what can I Give” program.** Our APC MAP brochure was mailed with pledge cards to the congregation and collected during commitment Sunday, November 12. Refrigerator Magnets with a picture of the stained glass window were given when the pledge cards were collected.

RESULTS FROM PLEDGES FOR 2017

- 246 Total Pledges for 2017 were \$963,744
- (2016 pledge total of \$886,000)
- 74 – pledges increased above amount pledged last year
- 44 New Pledges

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Elder Paul McChesney, Elder Susan Manthey, Elder Cara Doll

Committee Members: Paul McChesney (Chair), Ann Cooley, Tyler Jones

Staff Support: Director of Communications Katie VanBrackle

The primary focus of 2016 was the complete re-design of the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church website. The session granted us a special budget line item of \$5000 from the surplus of the 2015 budget. During the early part of the year the committee finalized the design choices and selected Bowhaus Design as the contractor for the redevelopment. Bowhaus will also handle web hosting when the new site goes live in the first quarter of 2017.

Later in the year, members of the committee adjusted, then purchased and installed equipment to revitalize the hearing assist system in the sanctuary and bring it up to proper standards. A new microphone body pack was purchased and Ollie's bodypack was retired and will afford us a spare, should another unit fail. A few other small purchases were made to ensure reliability and performance of the audio and visual systems at APC.

Members of the committee joined with members of the property committee late in the fall to form a Signage Subcommittee at APC. They worked together to examine the signage needs both inside and outside the church and on church grounds and put forth a proposal to Session. Due in part to the late nature of the year and the complexities of the issue the Session asked that the proposal be tabled and the matter brought back up in 2017.

DAYSCHOOL

Elder Ashley Shepherdson

Dayschool Board Members:

Nancy Fain (Dayschool Director), Jill Merrill (co-chairperson), Jen Zasio (co-chairperson), Nicole Turner, Alison Brown, Amy Hewitt.

Achievements for the Year:

APC Dayschool has enjoyed another successful year. Although the community demographics are changing, APC Dayschool continues to maintain its standing as a major resource for Christian preschool education in the area. Parent involvement continues to be strong and parent satisfaction is high as indicated by extremely positive responses to parent surveys. Tuition rates and registration fees remained the same for the 2015-16 school year to be competitive with other schools in the area. Class offerings and class sizes were adjusted to reflect changing demand at the various age levels.

Dayschool's website and Facebook page have been expanded and updated to make it an effective communication tool for the school community. Remind 101 (a free text messaging system) was added to aide parent/administration communication. The Dayschool continues to have an active Parent Organization providing support to staff and parents. Afterschool enrichment programs are enthusiastically received by parents and enjoyed by the children on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The school's "give back" to the community included a "Toys for Tots" drive in December.

Current Status:

Staff loyalty is one of our major strengths; the majority of last year's staff returned for the 2015-2016 year. More than half of them have seven or more years of tenure with our school. In spite of the increase in competition, the Dayschool has maintained healthy enrollment numbers and financial stability.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Laura Barnett, Elder Ashley Shephardson

Staff Support: Rev. Caitlin Phillips through November 28; Jo Anderson from Nov. 28 through the conclusion of 2016.

Committee Organization Changes: The committee was split into Leadership Team and Worker Bees with Leaders attending a quarterly planning meeting and chairing one or more events and Worker Bees signing up to help via Sign-up Genius (thanks to Tech Wizard, Jess Mizenko). An Elder-in-Training model was continued in 2016 to facilitate transition from year to year. Elder duties, event preparation timelines, and Ministry Action Plan documents were created and implemented. A “Cloud” drop box was created to house all relevant operational documents to Fellowship and past meeting notes. New event planning and follow-up documents were also created.

Active members for the 2016 year were: *Leadership Team*- Diane King Helfrich, Shannon Pickerel, Jan Hughey
Worker Bees- Carolyn Dillon, Jess Mizenko, Dot Van Dyke, Carol Bowlus, Ashley Bampfied, Patricia Rosenberger, Lisa Weathersbee, Serise Oliviar, Pari Samuel, and Martha Frutchey.

Small Group Chairs were: Martha Frutchey (KITCHEN COMMITTEE), Bob Cookson (ACT1), George and Susie Myers (George is the primary contact for STARS), Barbara and Richard Gibson, Marianna Raffensperger, Joyce Komala (STARS), Nancy Hill (PW), Dave McKemey (BASKETBALL), Richard Boston (SOFTBALL), Ted Lynam (SUNDAY BREAKFAST TEAMS), Judi McPherson (BOOK CLUB), Dot Van Dyke (SUPPER SIX), Caitlin Phillips (YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP), Caitlin Phillips (ALPHARETTA PRESBYTERIAN PARENTS), Lisa Gould and Lisa McKemey (TRANSITIONS)

Fellowship Committee Main Events for 2016:

Kick-off Lunch for Committee: Jan. 16 at Dot Van Dyke’s house to fellowship and plan for 2016 upcoming events.

Ordination/Installation Reception: January 10, to celebrate the ordination and installation of new church officers

Chili Cook-Off and Bingo: January 30, prizes supplied by The Lionheart School.

Easter Sunrise Coffee: March 27, a coffee fellowship after Sunrise Service.

Confirmation Reception: May 1, to celebrate the new confirmands.

Church Picnic: May 22, with Publix fried chicken, drinks, and desserts, and potluck side dishes from church families. Chef Doug supervised. APC’s youth and high school graduates were celebrated.

Ministry Fair: August 28, Fellowship represented 10 small groups and publicized Fellowship events.

Country Fair: September 24, Fellowship collaborated with other committees to host the third annual APC Country Fair.

Hanging of the Greens: November 20, Fellowship provided lunch after the 11 a.m. service in conjunction with the Hanging of the Greens and Children’s Ministry’s Advent Workshop.

Christmas Concert Reception: December 11, a reception following the choir’s annual Christmas Concert at 11 a.m., supervised by Chef Doug and organized by Shannon Pickerel.

Supper Six Dinners: Because of the low participation numbers, Supper Six was suspended again in 2016. This will be revisited in 2017.

Fourth Sunday Lunches: were held once a month (with Chef Doug preparing meals) after the 11 a.m. service with an attendance average of 50-70. The Square (electronic payment option) continues to be popular, and utilized more frequently with each lunch. Martha Frutchey directed the lunches in coordination with Chef Doug.

Affiliates under the umbrella of the Fellowship Committee provided Christian fellowship throughout the year. ACT1 is a strong outreach in the community and for the congregation offering plays throughout the year. **APC Book Club** attracts a steady stream of participants. **Kitchen Committee** continues to support the popular programs of Sunday morning fellowship breakfasts, men's breakfast teams, Fourth Sunday Lunches, and more. **Men’s softball and basketball** had a successful year with regular attendees and strong teams. **Presbyterian Women** has four active circles, hosts an annual spring gathering, participates in regular mission projects, hosted a highly successful fall barnyard sale, and provides a women’s retreat opportunity. **STARS (Seniors-Travel-Arts-Recreation-Social)** Active Seniors attended monthly luncheon meetings, regular field trips, and the annual Christmas Party. **Young Adult Fellowship** holds monthly gatherings at local restaurants. **Alpharetta Presbyterian Parents** gathers monthly so children can play and parents can chat with one successful Parent’s Night Out event. **Transitions** supports new empty nesters for fun and fellowship.

Date : 02/24/2017
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ALPHARETTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Budget Report
Fund: Operating Fund
January to December 2016

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Accounts	Total Actual (2016)	Annual Budget (2016)
Revenues		
Receipts		
Pledges and Offerings	\$991,660.70	\$985,000.00
Total Receipts	\$991,660.70	\$985,000.00
Other Income	\$82,860.69	\$94,000.00
Validated Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Offerings	\$23,118.87	\$20,000.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,097,640.26</u>	<u>\$1,099,000.00</u>
Expenses		
Administration		
Personnel Costs		
Salaries	\$477,080.38	\$462,211.00
Insurance/Annuity	\$58,343.10	\$58,883.00
FICA	\$17,589.33	\$16,406.00
Professional Expenses	\$17,310.45	\$19,500.00
Total Personnel Costs	\$570,323.26	\$557,000.00
General Admin. Expenses	\$139,408.96	\$134,803.86
Total Administration	\$709,732.22	\$691,803.86
Deacons	\$870.25	\$1,600.00
Session	\$930.34	\$1,000.00
Property		
Maintenance	\$120,247.58	\$104,700.00
Supplies	\$7,168.99	\$8,500.00
Utilities	\$82,893.44	\$104,500.00
Total Property	\$210,310.01	\$217,700.00
Education		
Childrens Ministry	\$10,592.64	\$10,900.00
Youth Ministry	\$12,477.03	\$15,000.00
Spiritual Growth	\$1,734.40	\$2,750.00
Total Education	\$24,804.07	\$28,650.00
Fellowship		
Fellowship Events	\$3,282.99	\$3,900.00
Kitchen	\$34,247.26	\$37,000.00
Total Fellowship	\$37,530.25	\$40,900.00
Membership	\$1,178.85	\$2,225.00
Missions		
Presbytery	\$35,520.64	\$35,521.14
Special Offerings	\$23,007.82	\$20,000.00
Other Mission	\$32,534.50	\$34,000.00
Total Missions	\$91,062.96	\$89,521.14
Commitment	\$609.82	\$1,500.00
Worship		
Worship/Supplies	\$3,648.15	\$7,200.00
Music	\$13,477.00	\$12,750.00
Total Worship	\$17,125.15	\$19,950.00
Open Arms Ministry	\$1,113.72	\$1,400.00
Communications	\$2,398.01	\$2,500.00
Strategic Planning	\$0.00	\$250.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,097,665.65</u>	<u>\$1,099,000.00</u>
Net Total	(\$25.39)	\$0.00

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Elder Patrick Liu

Committee Members:

Patrick Liu (Elder) – Chair, Ollie Wagner (Pastor), Rob Vacko (Treasurer), Jan Hughey, Doug Cruickshank, Larry Carver, Tara Hays

Meetings:

The Finance Committee generally met on the Monday before the Session meeting and during the following months – January, February, March, April, September, October, and December.

Financials:

The year-end financial report is attached to this document. The total budget amount for 2016 was \$1,099,000 compared to a total budget amount for 2015 of \$1,062,928.51. This represents a budget increase of \$36,074 or 4 percent. As of December 31, 2016 revenues were under the 2016 budget by \$1,360 and expenses were under budget by \$1,334. Pledged income was 102% of budget, although non-pledged income was below budget it was within our historical range.

Major Accomplishments:

- Balanced Budget
- Applied 2015 surplus toward building security, new APC website and capital reserve
- Approved the investment of APC endowment cash balance
- Refinanced mortgage with Atlantic Capital
- Conducted an internal review of APC's accounting functions
- Reviewed alternative methods of giving and payment processing
- Approved the outsourcing of personnel payroll
- Provided financial reports each month to Session
- Continued providing resources for "Money Counting"
- Preparation of 2016 Budget
- Completion of financial audit by outside agency
- Provided Finance's MAP to the Commitment Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Terri Stewart, Elder Dennis Barger

Committee members: Margy Culver, Kelly Kittle, Sherry Krnasky, Art Adams, Sabine Genet.

Staff support: Rev. Caitlin Phillips

The year started by reviewing committee's goals and role in church, and discussing ways to encourage current membership to be involved and participate in church activities. The committee hosted three New Member Classes throughout the year with gains for 2016 being 38 adults. 17 were by letter of transfer, 11 by re-affirmation of faith, and 10 by profession of faith (Confirmation Class). 14 children joined and 11 baptized this year. The committee selected a new gift for visitors: a re-usable grocery bag with church logo. The committee started a shepherding program for new members in which the staff paired new members with current members. The committee had a booth during the Taste of Alpharetta, assisted with the church's Country Fair, handed out hot cider and a smile during the Alpharetta Christmas Tree Lighting. The new member Christmas party ended the year with a celebration of our new members at Dr. Wagner's home.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Elder: Dale Carter, Elder: Tim Chisholm

Alpharetta Presbyterian Church embodies Jesus' call to love our neighbors. In response, the Mission Committee sponsors numerous outreach ministries to those in need. These Ministries are creatively structured to offer everyone opportunities to serve. Most of these activities are centered around Alpharetta. Many groups exist in APC such as Presbyterian Women and Youth who are also involved in missions work. Our primary target audience are those in need with our secondary being the congregation who needs opportunities to serve. The local missions (North Fulton Community Charity, Centro Familiar Cristiano (CFC), Family Promise, Drake house, The Place of Forsyth), are our first priority for funding and support followed by our international missions (Haiti, Kenya). This year saw the beginning of an official relationship with the YMCA. This relationship is mostly about fellowship but already Family Promise has benefited.

Committee leadership for 2016 included the following individuals: Dale Carter (will become liaison to Peace Makers in early 2017); Yvonne Chrimes (Family Promise); Tim Chisholm; Eva Wardrup (Angel Tree, The Place of Forsyth, Drake House); Marianna Raffensperger (Family Promise); Nancy Melcher (North Fulton Community Charities, will be moving in 2017); Peggy Turner (Whiz Kids); Sue White (Whiz Kids); Walter Dean (Kenya Habitat Aid Initiative); Judy Donnahoo (Drake House, Angel Tree); Sydney Schneider (Haiti La Gonave Partnership); Martha Frutche (Ice Cream Crankin').

Presbyterian International Peacemaker: _October 12 – 16, APC hosted Arda Aghazarian, from Jerusalem. Salpi Adrouny hosted Arda in her home during the stay. Tim Chisholm, Water Dean, Ollie Wagner, Stu Moring, Nancy Carter, Catlin Phillips, and Nancy Hill of APC and Rev. Kate Coussy-Estes of Agnes Scott College and Rev Dr Fahed AbuAkel of Atlanta 1st Presbyterian contributed to scheduling events. Arda spoke at the UPS Women's leadership Group in Alpharetta, Roswell Kiwanis Club, Agnes Scott College, Northside Kiwanis Club, and APC's Presbyterian Women, a joint adult Sunday school class, and Casual Saturday worship, during which the Mission Committee hosted a congregational dinner.

North Fulton Community Charities: For over 20 years, we have provided monthly support from the mission budget, and volunteer support throughout the year. APC supports NFCC with our Food for All mission, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, Coat Drive, and School Supplies Drive as well as special drives that NFCC sponsors.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: emergency response efforts in the United States and abroad.

The Place of Forsyth: A social services organization serving Forsyth County area, focused on core survival needs such as food, clothing, and emergency basic needs. We aim to serve Forsyth County with roughly 1/4 of our budget, since about 1/4 of our congregation lives in Forsyth County. APC contributes \$2,000 annually from our mission budget and provides food at least monthly through the Food for All and Harvest Food drives. We also gather school supplies, coats and used clothing throughout the year. Countless toys were provided for Forsyth County's Holiday House this year.

Whiz Kids Tutoring: Approximately 19 primary-grade students from Manning Oaks Elementary School benefited from this after-school tutoring program where APC volunteers work individually with young children deficient in math and reading skills. The program is supported by 17 tutors and 11 substitute tutors.

The Drake House: APC continues to support a 2-bedroom apartment (B-5) at The Drake House. We welcomed 3 families to the apartment during 2016 preparing to transition to more permanent housing. Sheryl Wentworth, Judy Donnahoo, Elizabeth Hughey, Eva Wardrup, David Wardrup and Art Adams serve as liaisons between TDH and APC through the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, interacting directly with the families that reside in the apartment. APC's contributions to The Drake House were approximately \$4,000 in 2016, from the mission budget. 2016 marked the 10th anniversary of the DrakeHouse. APC participated in Miss Mary's Ice Cream Crankin' that helped raise funds.

Haiti – La Gonave Partnership: A mission trip to our sister congregation in the Village of TiCollette on the island LaGonave, Haiti took place in early 2016, led by Sydney Schneider. Activities included a medical clinic where a physician, mid-wife and an intern provided care. Supplies were purchased and hauled by Land Rover to the village to enable the parents to build much needed school furniture. Over 120 solar powered lights were provided by Carolyn Schiltz who raised funding on the internet. Several household surveys were conducted and well as a meeting with our local LaGonave Partnership leaders. Time was also spent simply getting to know these great people in TiCollette.

Angel Tree: Generous members of our congregation provided Christmas gifts for slightly over 200 children in our community through APC's Angel Tree program, which supports North Fulton Community Charities, Holiday House of Forsyth County, The Drake House, Thornwell School for Children, and Family Haven. North Fulton Community Charities, The Place of Forsyth, and Family Haven have asked churches to contribute to a Santa Shop instead of buying for a specific child. This change allows parents to choose gifts most suited for their families, which also enables them to be a part of the entire process.

Habitat Aid Initiative: APC continued to support Habitat Aid's mission in Western, Kenya in 2016. Presbyterian Women raised \$5,600 for wells and latrines.

Family Promise: In 2016, our fourth year of operation, APC hosted four different weeks, averaging 3 families per week, except for one week where we had two moms and 7 children. Each host week, 60-75 volunteers were engaged in either helping with food donations or working various shifts totaling 500 man hours. We are blessed with four affiliate groups who continued another year providing meals, servers and overnight hosts: St Thomas Aquinas, St James UMC, and the Alpharetta YMCA. UPS provided a meal and servers during our last week, and we hope they'll continue in 2017. Centro Familiar also provides meals one evening each host week. UPS also provided restaurant gift cards totaling \$300 for the families' use between Christmas and New Year. APC provided \$3250 to assist with FPNFD's annual budget. During the summer, FPNFD suspended hosting families for 8 weeks due to the loss of their Executive Director, and to reorganize operations and fundraising. In late August 2016 we were among the first churches who resumed hosting families.

Spring Mission Day of Service, March 26. Activities included making sandwiches for the Open Door Community, a trip to MedShare to help sort donations and many cards and notes were written to shut-ins, college student and those serving in the military.

Centro Familiar Cristiano: APC continues to provide the Omega Building rent-free to Centro Familiar Cristiano, the Spanish speaking new church development of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. That congregation continues to be a great blessing to APC as we share in ministry together across cultures. A special offering was collected for CFC.

Presbyterian Special Offerings: APC participates in four special offerings each year sponsored by the PCUSA - The Mother's Day Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Peacemaking Offering and The Joy Offering. The Youth also conducted a Souper Bowl of Caring hunger offering.

Presbyterian Women is a separate organization within APC but contribute mightily to the missions of APC. In 2016, PW
 ---- collected \$5,600.00 for Habitat Aid Initiative for a clean water well in a western Kenya village.
 ---- sold baked goods at APC's Country Fair and Barnyard Sale
 ---- collected purses/toiletries for My Sister's Place, and dress clothes for Dress for Success
 ---- donated a basket to the Caring Hands Auction benefitting Presbyterian Homes of Georgia
 ---- collected Santa Express items and donated knitted Prayer Shawl blankets and throws to Presbyterian Homes of GA
 ---- prepared and served dinner and helped with child care at The Drake House

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee members: Elder Stu Moring, Elder Jennifer Owens, Chair – Jean Williams, Lee Jones, Peggy Turner, Valerie Fulkerson and Ollie Wagner.

Nominations: The Committee met throughout the year and submitted the following nominees for Session and Congregation consideration and election:

- **Elders** - Mary Margaret Baxley(youth), Alan Crowell, Tim Dietrich, Jerry Hopkins, Lisa McKemey, Wendy Seeman and Rich Vandever.
- **Deacons** – Jan Bernhardt, Susan Conway, Mary Culp, Cynthia Deck, Russ Gibbs, Myrna Gibbs, Gwenda Hanselman, Nancy Hathy, Kelly Kittle, Veronica Perri, William Stephens (youth) and Gary White

The nominees were ultimately accepted by Session on 1/22/17 and elected by the congregation. We at APC are blessed to have so many highly qualified individuals to assist us in our important ministries.

OPEN ARMS COMMITTEE

Elder Kris Moehring and Elder Dick Bean

Staff Support: Director Mary Waters; Dr. Jo Anderson (pastoral liason)

Active Committee members: Ellen Adolph, Martha Frutchey, Kari Minnich, Marian Cunningham, Mike Corpening, Polly Hyatt, Trish Kent, Sydney Schneider, Meredith Brogan, Kathy Cash, Bill and Libby Masters, Jessica and David Wardrup

Eldercare Support: OAM seeks to encourage those caring for elderly family members by sponsoring a support group and educational programs. The Elder Care Support Group was restarted this year and is facilitated by Martha Frutchey. It meets the second Monday of the month. Monthly programs are presented for those facing issues of aging, whether caregiver or care seeker. Ellen Adolf, in coordination with Martha, maintains a blog linked to the church website's Open Arms page.

Promise Class: Alpharetta Presbyterian's first experience with a special needs program began in 1998. A committee formed to introduce a Sunday morning program designed to provide Christian Education for children with special needs and respite during worship for their families. The Promise Class ministry has since grown to offer Vacation Bible School classes, worship opportunities, and partnerships with area organizations. Mary Waters, Director of Open Arms Ministry, coordinates and oversees these activities. In August we had an ice cream social with Alpharetta United Methodist Church's special needs group

Facility: Open Arms Ministry extends beyond ministry to children with special and elder care support. A key component of this ministry is making worship and the life of the church accessible to all, regardless of ability. OAM works with Worship and Property to assure that the church is physically accessible to those with mobility and sensory impairments.

Worship: Each September, OAM plans and supports an Open Arms Sunday day of worship. This was held on September 18. The committee helps to shine the light of God on the ministry and those we serve. This year we had a Saturday Christmas worship services for the special needs community in the sanctuary on December 12. Ollie and the MUGS guitar group played with Sarah Gould leading in song. This was followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Respite Care: OAM supports a quarterly "Parents Night Out" on a Saturday from 5 – 8 p.m. Volunteers entertain special needs children and their siblings, allowing the parents three hours of free time. We held PNO on February 27, April 16, and November 5.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Elder Greg Helfrich, Elder Jennifer Owens

Committee members: Greg Helfrich, Jennifer Owens, Ted Lynam, Rob Vacko, Nancy Hill, Christina Appen, Stu Laubenstein. Staff support: Ollie Wagner.

General: The committee dealt with the general administrative issues of our corporate-size church such as performance reviews, salary and bonus recommendations and hiring recommendations.

Staffing: The committee also worked to staff numerous positions at the church. Replacements were selected to be Receptionist/Youth and Children's Ministries Assistant, Kari Minnich. We renewed the contract for Rev. Jo Anderson on a part-time basis, and the congregation voted to install Rev. Caitlin Phillips as Associate Pastor on a full time basis. We hired a student from Lionheart School on a part time basis to prepare the sanctuary for worship. We have Claudia Zehnder and Jenny Fettes who share being the receptionist in the main office. Unfortunately, Anne Maust our youth director moved and we have just released a request for resumes to fill her position. Lisa Gould has been hired on a part time basis to maintain the program until a permanent person is hired.

Visioning: The committee also participated in our Ministry Action Plan (MAP) Process to lay out a vision for staffing growth and leadership in the coming years.

Policy: We have received changes as to who and what kind of health benefits we can offer pastoral staff at this time. These health benefits are also available to our full time employees.

Once again a very busy year, but we are blessed to have so many highly qualified individuals to assist us in our important ministries and a congregation that continues to support this ever changing staff.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Elder Dick Bean, Elder Richard Boston

Committee Members: Richard Boston, Dick Bean, Charles Moriarty, Ted Lynam, Jim Hecathorn, Greg Helfrich, Diane Helfrich, John McPherson, David Neal, George Bancroft, Hudy Mulia, Sharon Bean, Dave McKemey. Staff support: Gene Casey.

Community Events: APC opens its doors to the community. Our facilities are in constant use by the congregation and other groups such as Family Promise, ACT 1, Alpharetta Rotary Club, Centro Familiar, Windward Men's Bible Study, Windward Retired Men's Group, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, numerous musical groups who enjoy the excellent acoustics in the sanctuary, AA, NA, and AL-ANON. We continue to receive an ever-growing number of requests for weddings, funerals, and memorial services. The Property Committee and, in particular, Gene Casey are constantly challenged with coordinating room requests with available space in order to accommodate everyone. It is truly a good problem to have.

Activities: We had many routine activities in 2016 maintaining building and ground cleanliness and appearance, patching roof leaks, repairing water leaks, patching the driveway, changing light bulbs, planting knockout roses, removing dead trees and shrubs, and working to improve building security. The Property Committee is constantly monitoring energy use and examining ways to reduce the costs of operating our facilities. We also continuously monitor contracts for effectiveness and to insure we are receiving the best value for the money we are spending.

Key 2016 Accomplishments:

- Ran power to the sign on Academy Street from the cottage using property members to trench and install buried power cable. This action saved APC approximately \$4000.00 compared to having this done by a commercial company.
- Interior Design Committee has worked to improve interior appearance with the purchase of a credenza in the Narthex and will reupholster the sofa and chairs in the Narthex by the end of 2016.
- Replaced additional fluorescent tubes with high efficiency units.
- Worked with Eagle Scout and Cub Scout service projects, which enhance the APC Campus. Our thanks to the scouts for these projects.

- Improved security measures by upgrading to HD cameras and increasing DVR capacity.
- Enhanced APC access and security by making a total of 6 doors card access and rekeying exterior door locks.
- Repaired and painted APC exterior trim.
- Negotiated a 3-year natural gas contract to provide a long-term low cost gas supply.
- Removed a tree, which was leaning toward the upper parking lot and posed a potential threat, saving \$1,500.00 in costs for professional tree removal. Thanks Ollie and family!
- Beautified the APC grounds and interior to keep APC attractive and inviting. This involved not only on-going efforts but also two very successful property workdays.
- Painted Fellowship Hall. Thanks, Ken Bogle!
- Updated the Facility Use Document to align with/reference other committee documents online.
- Utility Management Service hired to monitor and reduce electrical costs.
- Ran new wireless cable into Fellowship Hall to improve signal and saved APC \$500.00.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Elder Carolyn Dillon, Elder Tim Chisholm

Committee Members: Christina Appen, Melody Cookson, Craig Molnar, Jan Hughey, and Ollie Wagner, Ex-Officio.

This committee met four times this year. Our meetings included discussions of the Organizational Chart and proposed changes. Changes this year included Caitlin Phillips becoming a full-time Associate Pastor and Laura Moore moving into the position of Office/Finance Manager following Susan Schiltz's retirement. The positions of Audio/Visual Services Assistant and Property Assistant remain unfilled due to budget restraints.

There also were several discussions about removing the Alpha trailer due to mold and moisture making a toxic environment unsuitable for use as classrooms. Unfortunately, we are still required to spend dollars for heating and air conditioning due to it being used for storage. Budget constraints prevent the trailer from being removed immediately. The Property Committee will determine when it is possible to do so.

In an effort to determine if the Values and Priorities in our current Strategic Plan are up to date and the congregation is in agreement, we distributed a questionnaire for members. This was done only on paper and 60 members took the time to respond. The answers affirmed our enthusiasm for being a welcoming and friendly congregation to all with a joyful celebration of worship, having a vibrant music ministry for all ages, offering opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship, being good stewards of God's gifts of our time, talents and treasure, being active in service and mission in the community and the world.

A survey was done for the month of September to determine how our property is used by APC members and by groups in the community. The survey was turned over to the Property Committee for evaluation. This will enable us to more effectively plan for a new building to be constructed in the spot where the trailers currently stand. There is a plan already drawn for a proposed building, which will be a good start when the time comes for final determination of its use. In looking at the number of groups from the community who use the APC facility on a daily basis, it is obvious that we play a vital role in downtown Alpharetta.

Another item for us to look at in the near future is how to effectively promote APC to residents of the new community coming in next door in order to grow our family of believers.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Stu Moring, Elder Larry Carver

Coordinating with staff and session, the worship committee has overall responsibility for everything associated with our various worship experiences. This includes preaching, music, liturgists, ushering, communion, weddings, funerals, sanctuary flowers and paraments, special services, acolytes, the memorial garden, sound and lighting, etc. These functions and others were handled routinely and rather well this past year due entirely to the hard work and Christian dedication of many people.

Subcommittee leaders of Worship are listed below, but they depend on dozens of others who continue to effectively serve supporting roles in every category mentioned above. Without them, meaningful worship in our church simply would not occur, and to all of them we extend our sincerest appreciation.

In addition to handling the many responsibilities listed above, noteworthy accomplishments and changes in year 2016 included the following:

- ***Worship service enhancements.*** A liaison was established with the ACT1 ministry to provide special worship activities from time to time. As a result, ACT1 coordinated a Last Supper reenactment during worship in the Easter season, and provided Biblical “characters” to provide commentary and light candles during Advent.
- ***Participation in community Thanksgiving service.*** APC choir members and ministerial staff with a variety of members participated in the annual Thanksgiving ecumenical service at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church.
- ***New storage racks in choir room.*** Thanks to leadership of Charles Moriarty, new racks accommodating robes, hymnals and sheet music folders have been installed in the choir room.
- ***Casual Worship Service created.*** The ministerial staff created a program of Casual Worship on selected Saturday evenings to engage young people and those attracted to such services.
- ***MUGS musical group founded.*** The MUGS (mandolins, ukuleles, guitars, singers) group was founded by Ollie in spring 2016 and has provided music for the Casual Worship Services, selected regular worship services, and other events through the year.
- ***Worship accepted responsibility for organizing Hanging of the Greens.*** The worship committee took over responsibility from the fellowship committee.
- ***October 16 worship service included a special message.*** Alda Aghazarian, a Palestinian peacemaker recognized by PCUSA and attending college on a Fulbright scholarship spoke to the congregation.
- ***The Church sought help with sanctuary preparation from Lionheart School.*** Hampton Sprinkle, a student at the school, has been providing part-time assistance to clean and prepare the sanctuary to great effect.

Please consider how you might help with one or more of the activities mentioned in the first paragraph above. There are many ways to participate, and we will always appreciate your help. Meaningful and excellent worship continues to be our goal and guides our decisions. We all thank God for the opportunity we have to serve in this special way.

Subcommittee Leaders: Larry Carver, Vice Chair; Paul McChesney, Sound & Lights; Elizabeth Hughey, Special Sanctuary Decoration; Lynn Hecathorn, Flowers; Dawn Bray, Sanctuary Preparation & Weddings; Melody Cookson, Strategic Planning; Mary Dantzler, Communion, Memorial Gardens; Barbara Ghent, Acolytes; Kelly Vandever, Liturgists; Ollie Wagner, Pastor; Ken Bogle, Ushers; Drew Bower, Sam DeCarlo, ex officio

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Elder Tom Gould, Elder Kris Moehring, Elder Caroline Tweedy

Committee members, advisors, and teachers: Jason Tweedy, Lisa Gould, Charlene Baxley, Rob and Laura Vacko, Lieben Bogle, Katie Mull, David Neal, Josh Maust, Tami Drotleff, Scott Doll, Dianne Berry, Phil Busman, Holly Zulauf, John Hicks, Elizabeth Shevlin. Staff support: Grace Hanson/Kari Minnich, Assistants to Youth and Children Ministries.

Youth Group:

- Youth Sunday, with mini-Sermons from Julia Jagmin, Anna Stewart, MacClain Baxley, and Elena Matchen, was well-attended and meaningful.
- Fundraising: The generous support of the congregation was manifested in many ways. The Youth Auction (circus themed) was again a success, raising ~ \$7,000 for current and future programs and mission. A Giving Tree campaign held in the fall raised upwards of \$2,000 toward the 2017 mission trips. A Parent's-Day-Out Drop 'n' Shop mission/outreach fundraiser raised ~\$300, and a special offering offset cost of Triennium attendees. Additionally, the Youth-led Souper Bowl of Caring raised over \$1,200 for NFCC.
- Members of the congregation again welcomed youth into their homes for FISH (Fellowship In Someone's House), the Super Bowl (Wagner's), and a trip to the Busman's farm.
- Small group discussions on topical issues and themes continue to be incorporated into Sunday evening programs.
- Other Youth Group activities through the year included the ever-popular college care packages, work at the Lionheart property and on the grounds, movie nights (with discussion) a church-ground-wide Easter egg hunt, Trunk or Treat, Ninja Warrior outing, Shoot the 'Hooch, and other unplugged evenings.
- Lock-in in August again generated good energy leading into the new church year.
- High School retreat to Red Top Mountain for the third year was again well-received and enjoyed.
- The Christmas party was again a success with its Ugly Sweater theme, with >30 youth celebrating Christmas and participating in a white elephant gift exchange. Youth donated gift cards to NFCC's Santa Shop.

Sunday School:

- Curriculum in 2016 was *Animate:Faith* and *The Bible Project* for High School and *Echo the Story* and *Reform* for Middle School.

2016 Mission/Summer Trips:

- **DOOR ATLANTA:** June 5 – June 9. 8 youth, 3 adults (J Hicks, A Maust, J Sutherland) spent the week in Atlanta, as middle school youth were engaged in local mission. With Joe Clifford in Charlotte, middle school youth will return to CROSS Ministries in 2017.
- **Americus:** June 26 – July 1. 15 youth and 3 adults (A Maust, D McKemey, J Maust). High school youth returned to the Fuller Center for Housing, with whom the youth worked on building renovations & repair. The youth were featured in the local press for (literally) uncovering a piece of Americana. Continued positive feedback and we will strongly consider returning in 2018. 2017 is an international trip year, and youth will venture to Peru.
- **Triennium:** July 19-23. 5 youth and 2 adults (E Shevlin and O Wagner) ventured to Purdue University with an Atlanta delegation for this triannual gathering of Presbyterian youth from across the United States. Strongly received and appreciated by youth to be part of the broader "family".

Confirmation Class: Ten youth completed the spring confirmation class and became members of the church in May. The minister/youth director led program was again used in 2016. A March multi-church retreat at Calvin Center was successful engaging the confirmands and building relationships.

Meals: The approach of sourcing youth group meals from local restaurants continued. Balancing supply vs. demand is a challenge but Youth ministry continues to monitor the cost vs. receipts to ensure the approach remains cost-effective.

Budget: Through December, actual spend is \$12,477 against YTD budget of \$15,000 (there may be some costs left over from 2016 that will post in 2017). Ideally, while budgets don't carry over year-to-year, committee is looking into soliciting some of remaining funds for 2016 mission. See further point under "Program Leadership"

Attendance: Sunday School: High School ranges from about 5-10 on any given Sunday. Middle School is strong, often with attendance in mid-teens. Youth Group: Kickoff of 40-45. Normal attendance of ~15-25, with special event attendance of ~30-40. The program reaches 50-60 of the youth in one form or another in any given month, between the above and other specific areas, such as confirmation and mission trips. This is down slightly from 2015, but is a consistent percent of those on membership rolls.

Communications: The Youth Newsletter that had been converted to a mailed version in 2015 was continued in that form. Committee found many benefits to the "old school" approach: 1) not all youth and parents are on the same social media platforms; this reaches everyone; 2) it is tangible and persistent (e.g., pinned to the refrigerator); 3) it is structurally/visually more appealing than email/social platforms. Electronic communication continues to be used as point-specific.

Program Leadership: The year ended on a bittersweet note, as Anne Maust announced her family was moving to Raleigh, as Josh had accepted a position that required relocation. We have been blessed to have had Anne be part of our family for the past three years, and will miss her greatly, yet know that she will do great things in her new home. Lisa Gould will again lead Youth Ministry in an interim capacity, and a search committee will commence search for a new Director. Committee is looking into if payroll savings during the interim period may be re-purposed for other youth programs and mission.

Future Direction: An extension of the youth committee considered and investigated alternate approaches to Youth Ministry, including how to best define and staff the Director role and what changes might be required to best engage youth. With a search now commencing for a new Director, those discussions will be rolled into that process.

In closing, the Youth Ministry Elders want to officially acknowledge Anne's meaningful and lasting contribution to the youth of APC, and wish her the very best.