



# Alpharetta Presbyterian Church

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## 2018 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'll remember 2018 as a significant year for several reasons. The first is that the Wagners celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> year of ministry here at APC. You were very kind to recognize that anniversary with a lovely reception in Fellowship Hall. I still can't believe how fast a decade went by! Another stand-out accomplishment of the year is that we achieved the APC staffing plan set forth in our strategic plan several years ago. It is wonderful to be "fully staffed" for the first time in many years! A final memory of the year has to do with life's transitions: our youngest child graduated from high school and moved out of state for college, my mother-in-law died last year, as did many cherished and beloved church members whom we greatly miss. As a community of faith and care—we have laughed and we have wept together.

The leadership I provide for the APC Staff and Session continues to be very meaningful and impactful. Some really good things are happening in and through ministries of APC. We are blessed with a very capable and dedicated staff who support and serve our members and mission well. We welcomed Wendy Curl as our new Dayschool Director, Rev. Anne Fyffe as an Associate Pastor, and Bernie Spatz as an Assistant Property Manager.

In addition to participating in worship leadership, teaching bible study and participating in fellowship events, I offer staff support to several committees of the church. For the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, I continue to serve on the Committee on Ministry and its Transitions Team. In the larger community, I completed my second year of service as chairperson of the YMCA Advisory Board, continued to serve on the Board of Visitors for Agnes Scott College and convene the Alpharetta Clergy Association, coached youth basketball and offered beginner guitar lessons.

A new year with countless challenges and opportunities opens before us. Let us trust the leading and strength of God's spirit, and together, press on toward the goal of our calling.

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Caitlin Phillips

What a year this has been for APC! The addition of a new Associate Pastor for youth and young adults. The launch of neighborhood small groups and a spring community speaker series. New members who bring fresh perspectives and insights. The loss of beloved church members whom we miss terribly, but give thanks they now walk on God's celestial shore. Friendships forged at meetings, book club, softball games and Sunday meals. The immeasurable impact of your contributions to the coat drive and the food drive for NFCC. The meals you prepared and time you spent getting to know guests experiencing homelessness as they made APC their home through our Family Promise ministry. When we pause to reflect all that was accomplished in 2018 it is truly astounding. One person can only do so much, but when we join together as a community of faith the impact is substantial. The world is a different place than it was one year ago. I believe the world is a better place because of the hard-work, prayer and dreaming undertaken by this church family. Each of you is significant, and has an important role to play in this church's mission. Thank you for being a part and for joining with other brothers and sisters in faith to sow seeds of hope around our community and our world.

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Beverly Markham

My first full year of ministry at APC has been a real blessing in my life. As I've grown in relationship with members and staff, I have continued to be grateful for this call.

In my part-time contract call position (20 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 also coordinate with the other pastors who make many visits of their own to ensure we are supporting one another's pastoral care outreach. I am fortunate to work with the Diaconate in their ministries of care and compassion. During 2018, we began to discuss reorganizing the Diaconate and welcoming the Open Arms Ministry into the Deacons. For more information on the work of the Deacons, see the Diaconate Report.

I also serve as the pastoral liaison with the Open Arms ministry led by Mary Waters. Open Arms serves families in our congregation who have children with special needs as well as helping to make elder care connections. Open Arms held worship services for families who have children with special needs. On Open Arms Sunday, we welcomed Janet Norford as our speaker. Janet is a specialist in special needs in Fulton County Schools. Open Arms held 4 Parents' Nights Out during the year. Please see the Open Arms report for more information.

Participating in the joyful worship of our Lord each Sunday is an important part of my call at APC. I am grateful to have a role in our regular 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday morning services as well as occasional preaching responsibilities. I assisted in memorial services this year, and I led the Longest Night service.

Work on my Doctor of Ministry at Columbia Seminary continued this year, and I will continue to take classes toward that degree. I appreciate APC's support of me in this endeavor and my ministry.

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Anne Fyffe, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

It's hard for me to believe that it's already 2019 and I've already been here at APC for over four months. Time is truly flying by! Thanks to Lisa Gould's leadership and preparation I was able to step into the role of leading youth group, picking up what she had created and planned. I am grateful for her continued support as well as the involvement of the other youth advisers and Sunday school teachers who consistently show up for youth group, lock-ins, Sunday School, and other activities. It is such a privilege to get to know and work with the awesome youth of this church and I'm glad I get to do so with such dedicated adults. I've also enjoyed starting to get to know the young adults at APC and in the community and I look forward to planning more opportunities for us to get together, whether it's at a local trivia night or at the Alpharetta Food Truck Alley again when it starts back up.

I'm enjoying learning more about mission at APC, the partnerships we are involved in both locally and internationally, and how we as a church are being called to serve and act to meet the needs of our world. I'm also grateful for the opportunity to preach and participate in leading worship when we gather together as the community God has created us to be. I am so thrilled to be here at APC serving alongside all of you and am excited for what 2019 has in store.

## CLERK OF SESSION

Elder Steve Culp

In 2018, 23 Elders and the installed pastors of APC comprised the APC Session, serving as the council for the APC congregation. The Session, through its activities and the Elders' leadership of APC committees, seeks to support the congregation as a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.

With that objective in mind, the Session's activities in 2018 included the following: 10 Stated Meetings (scheduled monthly meetings); 7 Called Meetings (meetings for a special purpose, such as receiving new members); three Congregational Meetings (for all APC members); serving as commissioners to four meetings of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; providing annual revisions to APC's Manual of Administrative Operations; and oversight of policy updates for Youth and Child Safety, Sexual Misconduct, Finance Procedures, Operating Cash, Use of Computers and Networks, Computer Security, and the newly-created APC Minibus Policy.

The Elders of the 2018 Session were Dennis Barger, Mary Margaret Baxley, Ken Bogle, Richard Boston, Larry Carver, Tim Chisholm, Ann Cooley, Alan Crowell, Steve Culp, Tim Deitrich, Martha Frutchey, Jerry Hopkins, Elizabeth Hughey, Phil Jones, Cindy Laubenstein, Patrick Liu, Susan McBrairty, Lisa McKemey, Kris Moehring, Dasha Scarborough, Wendy Seeman, Ashley Shepardson, and Rich Vandever.

## 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 2018, we had 35 deacons, including 2 youth deacons. The work of the Diaconate is segmented into four care teams, each of which focuses on a specific area of service the deacons deliver to the congregation.

**Companion Care** team consisted of 7 deacons and was led by Diane Conklin. The goal of the Companion Care team is to extend friendship and support to individuals in the church family who are in need. This year our team made visits, took care partners Meals to Heal, sent cards, made phone calls, and delivered flowers. In 2018 the team supported 12 care partners.

**Hospital & Recovery Care** team consisted of 9 deacons and was led by Amy Hewitt. Members of this care team visited APC members and friends of the church who were in the hospital, in rehabilitation care or restricted to their homes due to illness or injury. They also sent cards and assisted with flower delivery and greeting before Sunday services.

**Hospitality Care** team consisted of 10 deacons and was co-led by Florence White and Lynn Adams. This team continues to be responsible for welcoming visitors to APC, and providing them with information about the church. Additionally, the Hospitality Care Team staffs the Welcome Desk, which is located in the Narthex. Volunteers at the Welcome Desk provided first time visitors with a coffee mug and had APC brochures to share with visitors as requested. Another way this care team connects with our visitors is to send letters of welcome on their third and fifth visits. The letters include information about opportunities available at APC, free breakfast/lunch coupons, and information regarding the next new member class.

**Sympathy & Celebrations Care** team consisted of 9 deacons and was led by Mary Culp. The goal of the Sympathy and Celebrations Care Team is to support families of APC who may be mourning a loss or celebrating an important event. Typical celebrations may include births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations and weddings. The team sent out approximately 100+ cards to our members.

## General

- In 2018, the deacons planned and hosted 8 funeral receptions, serving approximately 600 guests.
- Florence White was the deacon representative on the Nominating Committee
- The deacons met 9 times in 2018. Our monthly meetings include dinner and a time for fellowship followed by our meeting where we share developments in our areas of ministry.
- One of our deacons, John Zavitz, passed away in 2018. He was and will be missed.
- Deacon Gwenda Hanselman moved during 2018.

Rev. Beverly Markham works with the deacons to provide leadership and support.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Elder Wendy Seeman, Elder Cindy Laubenstein

**Committee members:** Sheryl Wentworth, Susan Burkett, Stacie Holloway, Leah Planchard, Katherine Heyen

**Staff support:** Kristin Hicks, Director of Children's Ministry.

**Sunday School:** Kick Off was held on August 12. Attendance continues to reflect the increase in families with young children at APC. There are consistent numbers each week in the Sunday school classes. We had several new teachers join the team this year. All the new Sunday school teacher volunteers were approved by Session. A Youth/Child Safety Training, taught by the Director of Children's Ministry, was held prior to the start of weekly Sunday School classes. This training is required every 3 years.

**KinderWorship:** KinderWorship is a weekly, curriculum driven educational time offered to Preschoolers through 1st grade during the 11 am worship service after the Children's Sermon. Attendance varies from 6-15 children.

**Worship and Sacraments class:** A worship and sacraments class was held for 2nd graders and their parents in January to introduce and help children understand the elements of worship and the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. This class is conducted for 4 weeks with a Parent Child Workshop held on the last Saturday of January

**Nursery:** The use of an outside agency for staffing continues to be successful. We continue to have 8-15 children in the nursery at the 9:30 hour.

**Children's Choir:** This group continues to meet from 10:25-10:55 a.m. (between Sunday school and 11 a.m. worship). Attendance varies from 10-20 children a week.

**Cherub Choir:** This program was new this year. This is a preschool choir for 3-5 year olds. The young children meet from 10:25-10:55 a.m. Attendance varies from 8-12 children a week.

**Vacation Bible School:** Another great year! This year's theme was Shipwrecked. As VBS is often the first exposure to a church experience that an attendee will have, it is so critical that it be a fun and positive experience. This year was a larger group as a local church wasn't hosting APC due to building renovations. We had over 150 participants.

**Club 45:** This is a bi-monthly youth group for children in 4th and 5th grades meeting during the school year. This has been well attended with 12-18 4th and 5th graders per week with a variety of "tween" topics and activities. Activities this past year included a fall food drive, ropes course, mud run, minute to win it games, scavenger hunt, etc.

**Youth Auction Fundraiser:** This had a New Orleans/Mardi Gras theme this year. The CM committee donated 2 baskets for the fundraiser-- a Sur La Table Cooking class/food basket and a Sweet Treat Baking basket. The event was well attended by adults, youth and families of young children of the church.

### **Special Events and Family Centered Worship:**

**Ash Wednesday Service for Families:** This event begins with a pancake dinner to introduce Shrove Tuesday and then moves into a time of worship that explores 4 interactive stations (Baptism, anointing of oil, lighting of candles, burying the Alleluia) and ends with the imposition of ashes.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** We held this event on a Saturday afternoon on the outside grounds of the church. In addition to the hunting of over 1000 eggs, we had a petting zoo with baby animals.

**Holy Week Fair:** We had four craft or activity stations that helped children learn about each day in Holy Week--Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This event took place during the Sunday school hour. The children's choir sang during the 11 a.m. service on Palm Sunday. There was a children's procession with palms.

**5th Grade Graduation:** A special breakfast was held in May for 5th graders and parents to celebrate the transition from the children's program to the youth program. Both youth and children's directors were there to answer any questions.

**Blessing of the Backpacks:** On August 5, children of the church brought their backpacks to the 11 a.m. 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 again this year.

**Children's Service:** This was held on October 14. The children of APC led all aspects of the service including call to worship, prayers, offering, ushering and the presentation of the sermon. The sermon topic was the prodigal son.

**Family Advent Celebration:** Held in mid-November, this time of fellowship included dinner, craft stations, an educational movie for the adults and cookie decorating for the children.

**Angel Breakfast:** Our 4th Annual Angel Pancake Breakfast was held on a Sunday in December. Our youngest children experienced the magic and joy of the Christmas Nativity story through this much loved event. Children of the church aged 2 years through second grade were invited. This beautifully decorated event was well received this year with the actual attendance exceeding the RSVP's.

**Praying in Color:** This year, an Advent-themed art and prayer experience ("Praying in Color") was offered for older children (3-5<sup>th</sup> grades) during the Angel Breakfast. This was very successful and was attended by 16 children.

**Children's Christmas Pageant:** On December 16th we used for the second time the Christmas pageant script written by Rev. Caitlin Phillips. This interactive format allows for a more participatory service and the cast of people and animals is multi-generational. The play includes a bit of humor while sharing the joy and struggles of the story the journey of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus.

**The Star:** On Sunday, December 21, during the 9:30 service, all the children's Sunday school classes came together in the theater to watch "The Star," an animated movie about the birth of Jesus through the viewpoint of animals in the Christmas story.

**Children's Christmas Service (12/24-3:30 pm):** Child friendly service with a performance by the children's choir followed by a birthday party for Baby Jesus in Fellowship Hall with birthday cake.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Elder Ann Cooley

**Committee Members:** Tyler Jones, Paul McChesney (A/V Specialist), Katie VanBrackle (Director of Communications)

2018 was a year of follow-up work on previous projects and on research and planning for future projects. In 2018, Katie, with the assistance of the committee, continued to update and improve the APC website, which was implemented in 2017. Also, we completed new signage projects for the interior and exterior of the church. In addition, we investigated new materials for church communications and researched a new welcome desk for the narthex. Many thanks to Katie for her hard work and vigilance on these projects.

Paul completed his first year as our A/V specialist on staff. He updated the wireless microphone systems well ahead of the March 2019 deadline dictated by federal law. Also, he and the Rotary Club negotiated new equipment for the Fellowship Hall. He managed a group of volunteers who staffed the sound booth for a large number of church services, weddings and funerals, and he maintained a growing array of A/V equipment.

In October, we reviewed and updated the APC Computer Security and Computer Use policies.

At the end of the year, we made the decision to disband the committee since the big projects, the website and new signage, had been completed and since half the committee is now on staff. Many thanks to these dedicated committee members for their hard work and diligence!

## DAYSCHOOL

### Leadership Team:

Wendy Curl (Director), Ollie Wagner, Mary Shevlin, Beth Bowles and Alan Crowell (Elder)

APC Dayschool completed a successful school year in May 2018. June 2018 brought about a time of transition with the resignation of the former Director. Although this was an unexpected event the Dayschool has continued to thrive with a very successful fall semester of the 2018 school year.

### Achievements for the Year:

- Eleven new staff members were hired
- Added an 18 month class offering
- Enrollment at capacity with waiting lists
- Began a monthly mission opportunity for our families by partnering with the APC Mission committee.
- Added new special events (Halloween Parade & Christmas Program Reception)
- Increased Chapel to a weekly offering
- Implemented several new staff appreciation events (team building boot camp, Christmas Dinner, monthly morale builders, etc.)
- Active parent teacher organization was re-established.

### Current Status:

Overall morale of staff and families seems to be at an all-time high. We have been flooded with interest for enrollment for next school year. Even in a time of transition, the Dayschool has maintained the quality of the loving, nurturing, Christian learning environment we are known for in the community.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Martha Frutchey, Elder Steve Culp

**Members:** Barbara Bacarella, Ashely Bampfield, Carol Bowlus, Arthur Colby, Sonia Colby, Deb D’Alberto, Carolyn Dillon, Jan Hughey, Jess Mizenko, Jill Norton, Shannon Pickerel, Patricia Rosenberger, Dot Van Dyke, Greg Helfrich

**Staff Support:** Rev. Caitlin Phillips

### Groups which are part of the Fellowship Committee, and their leaders:

ACT1 – Bob Cookson

APC Book Club – Judi McPherson

Men’s Softball – Richard Boston

Men’s Basketball – Dave McKemey

Parents of Young Children – Deanna Womack, Veronica Perry

Presbyterian Women – Mary Rogovin

STARS – George and Susie Myers, Barbara and Richard Gibson, Marianna Raffensperger, Joyce Komala

Sunday Breakfast/Kitchen Coordinator – Ted Lynam, Rick Caudle

Young Adults – Caitlin Philips

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch – Phil and Barbara Jones, Pat and Wes Connelly

### Fourth Sunday Lunch, Receptions and Seasonal Events

The Fellowship Committee members, their families and other members of the church all pitched in to staff the set-up, restock/replenish, and clean-up activities for the Fourth Sunday lunch and other receptions during the year. There were 7 Fourth Sunday lunches in 2018, plus 6 other receptions and seasonal events including the Church Picnic and Trivia Night. APC’s Chef Doug Pruett provides the amazing meals/food items for the Fourth Sunday lunches and most of the receptions.

### Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women (PW) year begins in June. In 2018, Jean Williams was the Moderator until June, and Mary Rogovin is the current Moderator. PW has four circles – Esther, Lydia, Martha and Ruth. 2018 membership was 69 members. The circles are studying the Horizon Bible Study “God’s Promise, I Am with You.” Additional activities in 2018 included the following: (March) contributed baskets to the APC Youth Silent Auction; (March) celebrated the Women’s Day of Service; (March) presented knitted/crocheted shawls, made by the Shawl Ministry, to the Confirmation Class members; (April) held a Women’s Retreat; (September) held the PW Fall Gathering, with a speaker on the topic of human trafficking.

### ACT1

What was the year like for ACT1 Theater? It was a year like no other in our history. We saw the first full year implementing a partnership with the City of Alpharetta; the culmination of a 3-year plan to grow and improve; more than a dozen award nominations; coordination on a program with adult education; new shows and formats; and a new “phenomenon:” still more people. The program rebranded while keeping its close ties to APC and its Christian foundations, all while serving as an outreach and bringing **ACCEPTANCE** to the community.

In 2018, ACT1 is black, white, brown, and yellow. We are gay and straight. We are male, female, and transgender. We are married, single, and divorced. We are both young (4) and old (72) and attract dozens of young adults. We involve more than 150 people to produce shows that attract nearly 3000 audience members. About 75% of both groups were from outside APC. And this year, we saw growth in participation by APC members. But how did **ACCEPTANCE** in the community affect lives?

Every year, ACT1 impacts individuals and 2018 is no different. Getting specific, **ACCEPTANCE** means that we helped multiple families in crisis (dealing with stress from divorce or unemployment; coping with personal health issues; supporting family members with mental health issues; and providing elder care), and those with wonderful life changes (marriages, adoptions, new parents, first homes, new careers, graduations, and retirement), to find fellowship and support in their demanding times. We saw several healthy love relationships develop for young adults in the program; extensions of the dozens of healthy, supportive friendships we've fostered among adults who were lonely. We worked with families to involve adults with mental health issues in our productions. We found opportunities to put senior performers on stage again. We helped people of all ages to gain confidence and self-esteem by giving them roles and new opportunities that challenged them. We reminded folks who have left the church that church is not like TV portrayals and even saw a former atheist baptized after appearing at ACT1. For the community and for individuals, we embody **ACCEPTANCE** for APC.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Dennis Barger, Elder Rich Vandever

**Committee members:** Margy Culver, Kelly Kittle, Art Adams, Sabine Genet, Dot Van Dyke

**Staff support:** Rev. Caitlin Phillips

**Overview:** In 2018, the APC Membership committee continued to focus on three areas: 1) Connect with the community around us, 2) Help members engage with APC and 3) Seek and support new members. Although these areas often overlap with activities of other APC committees, we found our greatest value was discussion. Monthly committee meetings became an opportunity for us to think about our future as a church and our connection with the community.

One significant outcome from our discussions was the concept of Acceptance. In order to understand our connection with Alpharetta, we had to identify what differentiates APC from nearby churches. Our desire to accept others without opinions or prejudice is the difference. In response, we created a campaign with one word – "Acceptance". The word was printed on stickers and delivered at community events like The Taste of Alpharetta. The response from church members and residents was very positive.

**Scheduled Events:** The following scheduled events were either sponsored or attended by the committee:

- Joining Sunday (4 times per year in 2018 plus Youth Confirmation Sunday)
  - Jan Class: 2 adults joined
  - April Classes: 16 youth confirmed as adult members; 21 adults and 8 children joined
  - July Class: 6 adults and 2 children joined
  - Nov Class: 9 adults and 1 child joined
- Taste of Alpharetta
- Due to inclement weather, APC did not participate in the Alpharetta Christmas Tree Lighting
- New Member Christmas Party – Open House at Wagner Home for members who joined in 2017 and 2018

**Membership number as of November 29, 2018:** 1096 (882 adults, 214 baptized children).

## MISSION COMMITTEE

Elder: Tim Chisholm, Elder Lisa McKemey

**Committee Members:** Yvonne Chrimes, Walter Dean, Judy Donnahoo, Karen Moore, Randy Schiltz, Sydney Schneider, Peggy Turner, Eva Wardrup

**Staff Support:** Dr. Ollie Wagner, Rev. Anne Fyffe

**APC Mission partners include:** Centro Familiar Cristiano (Spanish-speaking congregation), Christmas Angel Tree, The Drake House, Family Promise of North Fulton, FOCUS (for special needs children), Foster Care Support, General Assembly of the PC(USA), Habitat Aid Initiative (Kenya), Haiti's La Gonave Partnership, North Fulton Community Charities, LifeSouth (Blood Drive), Saint James Methodist Food Pantry/Day of Service, The Place at Forsyth, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Presbyterian peacemaking ministries, The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Whiz Kids tutoring program.

**Meetings** are held quarterly (as called). The committee plans to meet bimonthly in 2019.

### 2018 Activities by Mission Area:

**North Fulton Community Charities:** Support was provided for food drives, school supplies, and winter clothing. The Angel Tree provides Christmas gifts for children.

**The Place at Forsyth:** Experienced similar levels of support as North Fulton Community Charities above.

**Family Promise:** APC hosted homeless families 4 times in 2018 and provided financial assistance during the holidays.

**Habitat Aid Initiative:** A mission trip to the Habitat Aid Initiative schools and clinics took place in June. Congregational support was expanded to include Coins for Caring. At last count over 500 births have occurred without a maternal death. Medical supplies have flowed to Kenya through collaboration with Med Share.

**Presbyterian Peace Makers:** In 2018 APC hosted a Presbyterian Peace Maker from Syria, Dr. Mary Mikhael, who preached here during Sunday Worship and attended many meetings in Atlanta.

**Drake House:** APC hosted 3 families in 2018. Additionally, APC helped fund the Drake Village which offers longer term housing for families in need.

**Whiz Kids:** One on one tutoring by church volunteers is held at APC weekly during the school year for children from a neighboring elementary school.

**La Gonave Partnership:** A mission trip provided a medical clinic and scouted a location for a pavilion. Congregational support was expanded to include Coins for Caring.

**North Fulton Community Charities:** Since 1946, The National School Lunch Program has been providing low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. When school is out, children lose these meals. This year, APC helped stop summer hunger by organizing a summer food drive that benefited NFCC, TPF, and the Drake House. An insert was placed in the Sunday bulletin with a list of requested items. A link to the insert was included in the Good News. And, a copy of the insert was displayed on the monitors in the lobby. We collected donations for 4 weeks and took items to the food pantries on a weekly basis. We also held our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit NFCC and TPF. Rotary Club, APC Day School, and Boy Scouts also participated. Paper bags, with a list of requested items stapled to it, were handed out after November Sunday Services. Our drive lasted five weeks. Carloads of donations were taken to the pantries on a weekly basis. Each Sunday, the donations bins in the Fellowship Hall were overflowing. Mel Fortin, the director of the

NFCC pantry, as well as pantry volunteers helped unload our cars. They were overwhelmed at the generosity of our members. As with the summer food drive, a link to requested items was included in the Good News and the list was also displayed on the monitors in the lobby. NFCC and TPF also benefited from a Winter Coat Drive hosted by the Rotary. The coat drive was mentioned in Sunday Bulletins and The Good News. Rotary, as they usually do, took charge of this drive and drove donated items to NFCC.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Committee members:** Elder Tim Deitrich (chair), Elder Elizabeth Hughey (vice-chair), Florence White, Tom Cunningham, Tyler Jones, Nancy Hill, Julie Jagmin, and Dr. Ollie Wagner (staff support).

**Nominations:** The Committee met throughout the year and in preparation for the November 4, 2018 congregational meeting recommended for election:

- A) A new class of church officers - We were tasked with presenting nominations for a) 13 new Deacons and b) 7 new Elders for the class of 2021.
- B) Four at-large members of the 2019 Nominating Committee.

The nominating committee also thanks members of the APNC search committee who served faithfully and well in the search which led to the calling of Rev. Anne Fyffe as Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Those members were Mike Womack, Melissa Schmitz (Chair), Mary Busman, Daniel McKemey, Emma Prol, Vito Perri, Renae Force.

## OPEN ARMS COMMITTEE

Elder Kris Moehring

**Committee members:** Beverly Markham, Martha Frutchey, Kari Minnich, Marian Cunningham, Polly Hyatt, Trish Kent

**Staff Support:** Director Mary Waters; Dr. Jo Anderson/ Rev. Beverly Markham (pastoral liason)

**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 continued 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.

**Open Arms 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 and young adults with special needs and respite during worship for their families. The Promise Class ministry continues with this mission. Also offered are opportunities to participate in Vacation Bible School classes and worship opportunities. The committee also seeks to partner with area organizations. Mary Waters, Director of Open Arms Ministry, coordinates and oversees these activities.

**Cottage:** The committee worked with Envision Alpharetta in hopes of creating a coffee shop in the APC Cottage. While this did not prove to be feasible, the cottage is being used by Lionheart Works program as a classroom and worksite in support of persons with disabilities.

**Facility:** Open Arms Ministry extends beyond ministry to individuals with special needs 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.

**Open Arms Sunday:** Each September, OAM plans and supports an Open Arms Sunday day of worship. This worship service helps to shine the light of God on the ministry and those we serve. This year Janice Norford was the guest speaker. Ms. Norford is a behavior specialist for Fulton County Schools.

**Family Worship:** This year on Saturday, March 17, an Easter worship service was held for the special needs community in the outside chapel. The Christmas worship service was held on December 22 in the sanctuary followed by cookies in Fellowship Hall. Ollie and the MUGS blessed the services with joyful music.

**Open Arms Fellowship Group:** Parents, volunteers and all who wish to join are invited to participate in periodic gatherings for fellowship. Groups met for several dinners out and met over the summer several times to discuss the book, *In Praise of Slowness*.

**Respite Care:** OAM supports a quarterly “Parents Night Out” on a Saturday from 5 – 8 p.m. Volunteers entertain children and young adults with special needs and their siblings, allowing the parents three hours of free time. We held PNO on February 10, April 27 and November 3.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Elder Alan Crowell

**Committee members:** Ted Lynam, Rob Vacko, Nancy Hill, Christina Appen, Stu Laubenstein, Beth Bowles

**Staff support:** Ollie Wagner.

Each committee member continues to serve as a liaison to an APC staff member for support, feedback and increased communication through regular contact. The committee recommended cost-of-living increases for staff, set a new policy to guide the distribution of Christmas bonuses and did analysis of market salary rates for any needed position adjustments. The committee met with PC(USA) Board of Pensions staff to be updated on the benefits program of the denomination and handled various matters involving staff transitions which included:

1. Thanking Lisa Gould for her work as Interim Youth Director and welcoming Rev. Anne Fyffe as our Associate Pastor for Youth and Youth Adult Ministry
2. Renewing the annual “contract call” of Rev. Beverly Markham as Associate Pastor
3. Welcoming (p/t) Assistant Property Manager, Bernie Spatz
4. Accepting the resignation of Nancy Fain after many long and effective years of service as APC Dayschool Director and hiring APC member and long-time APC Dayschool Teacher, Wendy Curl, as the new director.
5. Facilitating the request of Jenny Fettes to transfer from the position of APC Office Assistant to Dayschool Administrative Assistant, and welcoming Nancy Hardwick to the APC office staff.
6. The committee organized a reception and presented a gift to recognize 10 years of service by Dr. Wagner as Senior Pastor.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Elder Ken Bogle

**Committee Members:** Dick and Sharon Bean, John McPherson, Greg Helfrich, Diane King, George Bancroft, Charles Moriarty, Pat Dennis, Ted Lynam, Hudy Mulia, David Neal, Steve Wardrup

**Staff support:** Gene Casey, Bernie Spatz

APC continues to host many congregational and non-congregational groups throughout the week. Just some of these are Family Promise, Act1 Theater, Centro Familiar, Alpharetta Rotary Club, Whiz Kids, Windward Men's Bible Study, Windward Retired Men's Group, Scouts, AA, Al-Anon, Circles and Disciple classes. APC is challenged to accommodate the many property usage requests that the office receives.

### Regular Activities

The Property Committee is constantly working to maintain the church and grounds and to keep the property a safe and inviting place of worship and learning. Gene Casey is proficient at keeping up with repairs and maintenance, extensive security measures and the requirements of operating a facility for public use. He has been on top of our utility usage and continues to negotiate rates for utilities and maintenance contracts. We organize two Property Work Days a year to tackle some of the exterior and interior projects not contracted out, such as mulching, removing tree limbs and debris, and general sprucing up.. These work days are facilitated by many young Scouts and Church members. Scouts have also been instrumental in Eagle projects to maintain and beautify the grounds. Sprinkler system repairs, striping the parking lot, refurbishing playground equipment, maintaining the Memorial Garden and fountain, and interior repairs and painting are just a few examples of the projects that Property, Gene and Bernie are involved with on a regular basis.

### Key Accomplishments for 2018

The year started off with a burst fire supply pipe that was quickly repaired. Gene was instrumental in the installation of a laundry room so that Family Promise can offer clean linens and a way for the guests to do their own laundry on site. Modifications have been made to the Property Use Form and we have established an overnight parking policy and permit. The Alpha trailer was removed and the grounds around it filled in and seeded. The Narthex and hallways were painted as well as the entrance to the Theater, Anne Fyffe's office and Katie VanBrackle's office. The center Sanctuary window was replaced. The sanctuary lighting system was given a complete overhaul this year and all lighting has been changed to LED, saving on energy usage as well as replacement and labor costs. The Fellowship Hall sound system was upgraded and was funded by the Rotary Club. The church kitchen received new ovens, ranges and a griddle to replace our failing appliances. The west property line fencing was replaced at no expense to the church by The Providence Group, the developer of the new neighborhood to our west. The Interior Design Committee reupholstered and replaced tired furnishings at the entrances and replaced plants and flowers at the exterior doorways. New benches and plaques were installed in the Memorial Garden and Scouts built more benches for the outdoor sanctuary. Lastly, we are thankful to have Bernie Spatz as Assistant Property Manager to assist Gene with his responsibilities.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

Elder Susan McBreairty

**Committee:** Jodie Barger, Dale Carter, Beth Bowles, Deanna Womack, Susan McBreairty.

**Staff support:** Caitlin Phillips.

APC's Spiritual Growth 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.

**Crossroads Class:** Coordinator: Dale Carter. This class focuses on seniors though all ages are welcome.

**Faith in Real Life:** Coordinator: Jodie Barger. Targeting adults who have children, older children, and no children. Attendees discuss how to live out their faith amid the busyness of daily life and use a variety of materials.

**Courageous Conversations:** Coordinator Julius Bobbert. Attendees engage in difficult questions about life and faith.

Other Programs:

- Various Disciple Classes – fast track, regular and advanced
- Great Courses Study Group
- Men’s Monday Morning Bible Study meets weekly in the pastor’s office 7:00 a.m.
- Monday Morning Bible Study
- Monday Morning Seekers
- Thursday Morning Bible Study
- Faith and Modern Life meets Friday mornings at 10 a.m. to read and discuss newly released books on Christian faith
- Small Groups study a variety of books
- In January 2018 we held a 4-week series centered on the book of Psalms, led by guest speaker Dr. Brent Strawn
- In March 2018 we held a 4-week series in coordination with ACT1’s production of ‘Same as Me, Different from Me.’ Each Sunday an expert on mental health issues presented.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Patrick Liu, Elder Phil Jones

**Committee members:** Rob Vacko (Treasurer), Dale Carter, Doug Cruickshank, Carolyn Dillon, Scott Doll, Jim Gray, Tara Hayes, Jan Hughey, Ted Lynam, Greg Raabe, Susan Smith, Dot Van Dyke, with Dr. Ollie Wagner (ex officio).

The committee met throughout the year to receive the monthly Treasurer’s Report and manage and oversee all church finances. Monthly financial reports were provided to Session. The committee received the 2017 Internal Control Review and the 2017 Internal Accounting Controls which were sent to Session for approval.

The committee executed on its Operating Cash Policy and funded the Capital Improvement Reserve with \$100,000. The Property Committee used a portion of those funds to help supplement a much needed update to APC’s sanctuary lighting system.

During the year, the committee, with Session’s approval, moved some of the church’s operating funds to the Vanguard Group, with the intent of increasing the church’s investment income and return.

The committee worked with the finance office to include “thank you” enclosures with all financial statements that share some of the impact of giving. Special thanks to Laura Moore, Office/Finance Manager and Katie VanBrackle, Director of Communications, for their outstanding work with us.

All ministries and committees of the church participated in the Ministry Action Plan through the summer/fall. This year’s pledge drive began with a Ministry Leaders lunch which culminated in Dedication Sunday. The theme was “Be a Blessing.” In support of our 2019 Ministry Action Plan, we received: 230 pledges totaling \$987,700 (2018=\$1,003,772 with 239 pledges and 2017=\$963,744 with 248 pledges); 100 pledges increased above amount pledged last year; 24 new pledges. The strong giving of the congregation coupled with the wise management of our finances allowed APC to finish fiscal year 2018 with a budget surplus of \$23,000. A full financial report of 2018 appears below. Glory be to God!

**Alpharetta Presbyterian Church  
January to December, 2018**

	<b>Total Actual 2018</b>	<b>Annual Budget 2018</b>
<b>Revenues - CHURCH OPERATIONS</b>		
Pledged receipts	\$ 1,008,236	\$ 996,554
Non-pledged receipts	96,094	100,000
Kitchen	14,097	13,700
Special offerings	15,370	20,000
Investment income (loss)	(2,361)	0
Other income (property use, interest income, etc.)	90,787	78,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE FROM CHURCH OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,222,223</b>	<b>\$ 1,209,189</b>
<b>Expenses - CHURCH OPERATIONS</b>		
Personnel	\$ 672,012	\$ 696,615
General expenses	82,280	83,325
Mortgage interest and principal	47,857	47,861
Deacons and Session	6,625	12,100
Property - maintenance	107,034	112,225
Property - supplies	6,548	8,500
Property - utilities	90,531	98,500
Children's ministry	13,825	13,825
Youth ministry	13,502	13,700
Spiritual growth	3,556	3,750
Fellowship	2,282	4,050
Kitchen	32,816	32,200
Membership	1,498	1,225
Presbytery (and per capita)	40,513	40,513
Special offerings	15,370	20,000
Missions	39,845	40,000
Commitment	1,325	750
Worship - supplies	2,582	5,800
Worship - music	15,456	15,600
Open arms	1,279	1,400
Communications	742	2,000
Strategic Planning	0	250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FROM CHURCH OPERATIONS</b>	<b>1,197,477</b>	<b>1,254,189</b>
<b>NET INCOME FROM CHURCH OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 24,746</b>	<b>\$ (45,000)</b>

## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Elder Jerry Hopkins

Committee Members: Christina Appen, Dick Bean, Ken Bogle, Melody Cookson, Alan Frutchey, Charles Heyen, Jan Hughey, Craig Molnar, Elizabeth Shevlin, Dasha Scarborough, and Ollie Wagner, Ex-Officio.

**Mission:** To develop a comprehensive plan for ministry, growth and vitality in order that APC might be faithful to God's call.

Our committee met twice this year. In February we met and discussed some property issues involving the Alpha trailer and the cottage. There were discussions on the use of these properties which were referred back to the appropriate committees.

The Strategic Planning committee worked through the year to propose updates and revisions to the APC 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. Demographic studies and City Center Alpharetta plans were consulted and will be added to the plan as appendices. The draft document was presented to the APC session in December. The committee looks forward to Session's input, discussion and changes before its final approval.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Larry Carver, Elder Elizabeth Hughey

The Worship Committee of the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church oversees all worship related activities and functions of the church, including planning and implementation of these activities, and assisting the pastoral and music leadership staff in these processes. These include core weekly worship services with scripture-based pastoral messages, participation in sacred music, communal prayer, as well as scheduled communion, and baptisms. Special worship activities such as weddings, funerals and memorial services are also overseen by the committee, as well as the planning and implementation of special seasons and times of worship, such as Lenten/Easter services and Advent/Christmas services. The committee also oversees other traditional elements of worship, such as liturgy, sanctuary preparation, acolyte functions, ushering, sound and lighting, flowers, and sanctuary garden planning and maintenance.

All aspects of worship, as described above, have proceeded very well over the past year. The following are some special highlights in which the committee and its membership have been involved in concert with other church members and leadership during 2018.

- At the beginning of the year, a comprehensive worship survey was developed by committee member Sam DeCarlo, reviewed and slightly modified by the committee and distributed to the congregation. The detailed results were analyzed and reviewed by the committee and shared with pastoral and music leadership, to help in the planning process for our target audiences for sermons, music and other elements of worship throughout the year.
- Partly as a result of the above survey, pastoral leadership was mindful of times when Lectionary based sermon planning could be grouped in a series type of clustering, which some church members expressed an interest in. An example of this was the successful Sanctified Art in Worship series in the Summer months of 2018.
- A highly successful Kirkin o' Tartans service was organized by committee member Melody Cookson and Act 1 staff.
- Committee member Paul McChesney accepted the part time position as sound and lighting coordinator, and has orchestrated substantial improvements in sound and lighting equipment and staffing over the past year.

- Committee member and APC Director of Music, Drew Bowers, and the APC Choir combined with the Chamber Orchestra of the Georgia Symphony to perform a stunning Magnificat service on a Sunday morning in Advent.
- APC One Voice youth choir performed at two advent services, which together with the addition of youth pastor, Rev. Anne Fyffe, is part of our increasing focus on activities and services for youth and young adults at APC.
- Worship Committee Co-Chair, Elizabeth Hughey, continued to upgrade special service equipment and preparation, including most recently, procurement of a new Advent wreath for the Sanctuary.

Number of 2018 Baptisms: 9; Weddings: 7

2018 APC Worship Committee Subcommittee Chairpersons:

Ministerial: Ollie Wagner

Liturgists: Kelly Vandever

Ushering: Ken Bogle

Music: Drew Bowers and Sam DeCarlo

Weddings: Dawn Bray

Strategic Planning: Melody Cookson

Flower Guild: Mary Nelson

Sound/lighting function: Paul McChesney

Acolytes: Jerri Temple

Memorial Garden: Mary Dantzler

Communion: Mary Dantzler

Special Worship (Christmas/Easter) Sanctuary prep: Elizabeth Hughey

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Elder Richard Boston, Elder Mary Margaret Baxley

**Committee members, advisors, and teachers:** Tom and Lisa Gould, Charlene Baxley, Rob and Laura Vacko, Lieben Bogle, John Hicks, Katie VanBrackle, Elizabeth Shevlin, Mike Womack, Tom Scarborough, Dasha Scarborough, Daniel McKemey, Shannon Pickerel.

**Staff support:** Lisa Gould (Interim Director of Youth Ministry); Rev. Anne Fyffe; Abigail Mittler (youth intern)

### Youth Group:

- Youth Sunday, with sermonettes from Allyson Curl, William Jones, Colynn Vacko & Zoey Wagner was well-regarded and meaningful.
- Fundraising: The generous support of the congregation was manifested in many ways. The Youth Auction (Masquerade themed) was again a success, raising approximately \$9,500 for current and future programs and mission. Additionally, the Youth-led Souper Bowl of Caring raised over \$1,300 for NFCC and The Place in Forsyth.
- Members of the congregation again welcomed youth into their homes for FISH (Fellowship In Someone's House), the Super Bowl (VanBrackles), and a summer picnic (Wagners)
- 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, movie nights (with discussion) a church-ground-wide Easter egg hunt, partnered with the YMCA to make sandwiches for homeless families, hiking Indian Seats, School Safety Night, Scavenger Hunt, the Amazing Race, Creative Worship, Pet Day, overnight Lock-in, Uncle Shucks Corn Maze, Trunk or Treat, and De-stress Night.
- The Christmas party was again a success with its Progressive Dinner theme, with youth celebrating Christmas and participating in a white elephant gift exchange.

**Sunday School:**

- The High School Curriculum in 2018 was Faith Lens and Animate Practices. The Middle School Curriculum was Collaborate (Old and New Testaments) and Ancestors (Old Testament) both by Sparkhouse.

**2018 Mission/Summer Trips:**

- **RHINO Missions (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans):** High School: June 11 – June 17. 13 youth, 6 adults spent the week in New Orleans helping with service projects.
- **CROSS Missions:** Middle School; June 17 – June 22. 18 youth, 5 adults spent the week in Charlotte with long-time partners Myers Park Presbyterian, as middle school youth engaged in local mission.
- **Montreat:** High School Youth (July 8-14); Middle School (July 18-22). These trips did not occur due to lack of interest and possibly due somewhat to cost. We will revisit this in 2019 to see if there is more interest.

**Confirmation Class:** Fifteen youth completed the spring confirmation class and became members of the church in May. The minister/youth director-led program will again be used in 2019. A January retreat to Life Teen Camp Hidden Retreat Center in Dahlongega was successful, engaging the confirmands and building relationships. The Confirmands also participated in community service through visiting a local nursing home and playing games with the residents. Their view of world religion was also supplemented with a visit to a Hindu Temple in Lilburn.

**Meals:** The approach of sourcing youth group meals from local restaurants continued, with tweaks. Balancing supply vs. demand is a challenge but Youth ministry continued to monitor cost vs. receipts to ensure the approach remained cost-effective and 2018 was under budget. The youth requested some home cooked meals, so the program began interspersing those every few weeks to cut cost and to provide variety.

**Attendance:**

- Sunday School: High School ranges from about 4-6 on any given Sunday. Middle School is stronger, often with attendance in the teens.
- Youth Group: Kickoff of 40-45. Normal attendance of 15-30, with special event attendance of ~25-35.
- The program reaches 45-60 of the youth in one forum or another in any given month, between the above and other specific areas, such as confirmation, mission trips, choir, and other related ministries.

**Communications:** Information about youth events continues to be emailed out on a regular basis and has been well received. Additionally, significantly increased and regular communication via social media – GroupMe, in particular, has continued with excellent results, by providing information in real time, allowing youth to sign up and see others signed up for activities, and to create community.

**Program Leadership:** Lisa Gould continued to lead Youth Ministry in an interim capacity as the search for a Youth Director commenced. A full time Associate Pastor, Anne Fyffe, was hired and started in September. Part of her duties include directing the Youth Ministry. Lisa stepped down and continues to help out in an advisory role. A youth intern, Abigail Mittler was hired in February and continues to serve in an advisory role.

**Future Direction:** Heading into 2019, the youth ministry team is excited about the upcoming ski trip and summer mission trips to Charlotte, NC and Lithia, FL as well as the weekly youth group schedule. We hope to maintain the strong youth participation for activities while seeking ways to try new things and grow in new ways. There are continued conversations about how to tweak High School Sunday School to attract more high schoolers as well as how to engage more high schoolers on Sunday evenings and throughout the week.

**Final Thoughts:** Thanks to Lisa's steady and positive leadership and the active engagement of youth advisers, the youth program at APC had a great 2018. The staff transition at the beginning of September went smoothly and Anne is very grateful for the continued support from Lisa and the other advisers. APC is blessed with an incredible group of young people and the youth ministry committee is excited to continue to discern how to best serve God by creating opportunities for youth to grow in their faith and their relationships with one another.

