



Arlington
presbyterian church

welcome · nurture · serve · proclaim

“Moved by God’s love and through the power of the Holy Spirit, Arlington Presbyterian Church is challenged by the Word of God to welcome all, to nurture spiritual growth, And to serve with compassion. We proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord!”

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

THE SESSION

Class of 2014: Lorraine Gardner, Mary Helen Harris, Jay Kennedy

Class of 2015: Lauren Freed and Linda Peebles

Class of 2016: Jon Etherton and Kristine Gabster

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Sharon Core
Office Manager:	Maria Cervantes
Treasurer:	Robert Cooper
Minister of Music/Organist:	Steve Beck

CONTACT US:

Phone: 703-920-5660

Email: apc@arlingtonpresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

Arlington Presbyterian Church

3507 Columbia Pike

Arlington, VA 22204

7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's report	Page 3
The Session	Pages 4 - 5
The Vision team report	Pages 5 - 9
The Serve Ministry team	Pages 9 - 11
Stewardship	Pages 12 - 14
Discipleship	Pages 14 - 17
Crossroads	Page 17
Affordable Housing	Pages 18 - 19
Ronda Gilliam Clothing Bank	Page 20
The Presbyterian Women	Page 20
Disciple groups:	
The Moving Forward Disciple group	Page 21
The Theology Disciple group	Page 21
The Sunday Brunch Disciple group	Page 22
The Fun and Fellowship Disciple group	Page 22
Nominating Committee	Page 23
Usher Ministry	Page 24
Worship Team	Pages 24 - 25
Music Ministry	Page 25
Tellers	Pages 25 - 27

Pastor's Annual Report

Brothers and Sisters—

What a difference a year makes! When we began the year, the vision team was just finishing their work and in February provided a report to session and the congregation (see pages 5 - 9).

We then gathered later that month and heard specifics about the three areas of the newly discerned vision—discipleship, crossroads, and affordable housing. At the end of that time, those gathered blessed the continuing work of making the vision become reality.

Discipleship groups have been formed. Monthly, people are gathering in small groups to share with one another in times of prayer, service, and fellowship. We are exploring faith together, asking hard questions and seeking to find answers that will lead us into a deeper relationship with God.

Our understanding of Crossroads has led us to continue our Meals on Wheels, Clothing Bank, make Gatorade runs during the summer, distribute school supplies and make bagged lunches for A-SPAN. Partnering with Phoenix Bikes for the second year in a row, we watched as kids' faces beamed as they choose their own bike and got fitted with bike helmets.

With the congregational vote in November, we are moving forward with the affordable housing part of the vision. Truth be told, this is probably the most time consuming part of the vision and yet, the growth in our own discipleship and the ways we understand ourselves to be a part of the larger community is what undergirds the work on affordable housing.

In addition to making this vision reality, we continue to be a body that supports, encourages, and nurtures one another. Presbyterian Women meet monthly around bible study and prayer. The choir, under Steve's direction, offers divinely inspired music during worship and at the same time supports one another. Once a month we gather for dinner and worship, sharing in the breaking of the bread and the hearing of the Word. Our children and youth continue to hold an important place in our lives—from the nursery staff and volunteers to the youth leaders, we continue to learn from, listen to, and explore faith with these precious ones God has entrusted to us.

It has been an amazing year—one that none of us could have predicted when it began. Through it all, I have seen and experienced the presence of God, leading us, challenging us, strengthening us, encouraging us. My sense is 2014 will hold more God sightings and divine presence. And I look forward to sharing all of them with you.

Blessings,
Sharon

The Session

The Session and congregation offer our gratitude and blessings to outgoing elder Judy Robb from the Class of 2013, who has finished two terms and must now rotate off of Session. Elders Kristine Gabster and Jon Etherton, also from the class of 2013, will begin a second term as the class of 2016. We also welcome back those who are continuing service this year: from the class of 2015 Linda Peebles and Lauren Freed; and from the class of 2014 Mary Helen Harris, Jay Kennedy, and Lorraine Gardner.

Session spent most of 2013 focused on the new vision for Arlington Presbyterian Church. We began in January by receiving the report of the Vision Team that outlined a three-prong vision: Discipleship, Crossroads, and Affordable Housing. They presented recommendations for moving forward which were accepted by Session,

Following these recommendations we engaged the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to do a feasibility study of our property. APAH presented a study that touched on all three parts of our vision, with suggestions for each one.

During this time Session worked closely with Presbytery to ensure that all requirements from the Book of Order were followed. We also met with Patrick Hunnicutt, Chair of the Church Development Committee of Presbytery.

During 2013 Session made a change to worship: we are now meeting one Sunday a month in the evening, with dinner followed by worship. This has been an opportunity for fellowship with one another, and has been well-attended and appreciated by all.

We began discussion the meaning of church membership, using the “responsibilities of membership” as listed in the Book of Order as our guide. This conversation will continue in the new year.

On November 17 a congregational meeting was held to vote on the proposal from APAH. The vote was 34-19 with no abstentions to move forward. We begin the new year with excitement and hope.

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior....I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 1b-3b, 19)

Thanks be to God.

Membership:

Total on January 1, 2013 – 79

Total on December 31, 2013 – 80

Members Transferred:

Scottie Dalsimer
Ruth Garfield
Susan Howell
Dorothy Lobban
Maria Melton

Member Deaths:

None

New Members:

Kelly Donahue

Jay Etherton

Annellie Freed

Eleanor Freed

Nancy Hurst

Nancy Mbangue

Submitted by: Lorraine Gardner

Report of the Vision Team to the Session and to the Congregation From New Beginnings to Vision Team

In 2011, the congregation at Arlington Presbyterian Church embarked on the *New Beginnings* process culminating in the meetings of small groups over six weeks in May and June. At the end of the series of meetings, each of the small groups tallied the members to choose among different futures for APC. Three stood out:

Mission Redefinition – 19

Parallel Start – 14

Restart - 11

We had a congregational meeting on September 25, 2011 and decided to pursue Mission Redefinition to see if we could develop a consensus around a new mission for APC in South Arlington. We decided that if we were not successful, we would next turn to explore the Parallel Start or Restart futures. We agreed that in the Mission Redefinition process everything would be on the table, including the future leadership of the church. We decided that we would pursue Mission Redefinition as if we were starting a new church and that it would involve two major efforts:

1. Defining our beliefs as a faith community on the basis of the following questions:
 - Who is Jesus?
 - What is church?
 - What is salvation?
 - What is service?
 - What is evangelism?

2. Active and continuous engagement with the surrounding community.

Thirty (30) members of the congregation took part in the retreat on October 20-21, 2011, where we reached some common views of the answers to the basic questions. Those answers are on display in the sanctuary and are summarized here:

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God who embodies unconditional love, removes the obstacles between us and God and who through His death and His raising gives us new life. He is a radical teacher who shows us how to have a meaningful life with God—the impossible right way to live.

What is church?

Church is a community of ordinary people who follow Christ, who welcomes people to join them in the journey of faith and moves into the community carrying God's love and reconciliation.

What is evangelism?

Evangelism is the way the church demonstrates to others the power and presence of God in communal and individual lives.

What is salvation?

Salvation is true gift; unconditional love through Jesus Christ that frees us from sin.

What is service?

Service is the way the church is the eyes, ears, hands, feet and heart of Jesus Christ in the world.

We also began our walks outside the walls into the community.

The Session took further steps with developing our faith commitments and engaging the community and we had further conversations around this at our next congregational meeting on January 28. After the congregational meeting, the Session decided to hire an outside coach familiar with both the *New Beginnings* process and with the PCUSA (USA) Planting New Churches process to help us work through the next steps. Session began our conversation with our new coach, Rev. Shannon Kiser, on April 22, 2012.

On May 4, 2012, interested members of the congregation met with Shannon Kiser to talk about the next steps on our Mission Redefinition journey while Sharon was on sabbatical over the summer. Everyone in the congregation was invited to join the effort. The only requirement was serious commitment to follow a set of common practices along the journey. Seven members of the congregation agreed to form a Vision Team that would take the work that had been done over the fall and winter in our faith statement and engage in an intensive process over the summer. The team members are:

Judy Robb
Jon Etherton
Susan Etherton
Linda Peebles
Kristine Gabster
Lorraine Gardner
Michelle Lanier

Kristl Hathaway and Mary Helen Harris have also been active in working with the team over the summer. Kristl has been producing the Catch the Vision newsletter each week and handling other communications.

The Vision Team set out to listen for God's direction and to discern *for whom our hearts were breaking in South Arlington and why*. We all agreed to table any prior ideas we might have had around the "what" of our discernment (specifically, affordable housing) and focus on the "who" and "why". We also agreed that nothing would be assumed and everything was up for consideration, including leadership.

Each Vision Team member committed to do the following:

- Daily Bible Study – Using the framework that Shannon provided at the May 4 meeting with the daily readings from the *Sacred Space* website.
- Regular prayer- seeking God's will for Arlington Presbyterian Church, surrendering our plans for God's plans, and –at 9:38 each day- praying for field workers for the harvest (Matthew 9:38).
- Community conversations – at least once a week to have a substantive conversation with at least two people in the community.

- Participate in the Vision Team meetings (usually two times per month).
- Provide a weekly report to the rest of the team about the insights from the scripture reading and prayer as well as a report on the community conversations for that week.
- Serve in turn as an announcer at Sunday morning worship about the work of the Vision Team for that week so that our journey would be transparent to the congregation.

The Vision Team journey over the summer of 2012 and beyond

The Vision Team did not embark on our summer journey with much beyond commitments to follow our common set of disciplines, to share and to listen. We listened to God in daily scripture reading and prayer, in conversations with the congregation, with one another, in the silence, and in the conversations with our neighbors. We allowed ourselves to be led in faith in very small steps.

We talked to our neighbors. We met them in their workplaces. We talked to them on the street, in stores and at festivals, the farmers' market and the BBQ truck in the church parking lot on Saturday mornings. We met with numerous community leaders and non-profits, such as the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, the Greenbrier Learning Center, the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, AHC, local schools, local libraries, Just Neighbors, AFAC, A-SPAN, Doorways and the Shirlington Education and Employment Center. We served our neighbors by volunteering within these organizations and we allowed ourselves to be available for our neighbors in spontaneous service as God showed us the needs.

On August 26, members of the team shared their encounters with the Holy Spirit, with one another and with our neighbors at a luncheon with our congregation. Each of us who spoke had an emerging sense of the neighbors for whom our hearts were breaking and whom we are called to serve and why.

The three elements of our emerging vision

In our discussions along the journey, the Vision Team has returned again and again to the same three elements of an emerging vision for what Arlington Presbyterian Church is to become. As these became clear, we also found them aligned with God's Word for the church and its individuals.

The elements and supportive Scripture are:

1. A congregation of disciples

Growing as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ has to remain our main focus as we move into the future. It will define who we are in our relationships with our neighbors. This will involve continuing to discern what a committed community of disciples might look like -- e.g., a majority of members engaged in Bible Study, participating in worship, serving in the community, supporting the answers to the five questions posed above. We are called to live out the Great Commission as described in the Gospel of Matthew (below). If we take this seriously, what will it look like and how is that Good News to our neighbors?

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

2. A crossroads and gathering place in the community

Arlington Presbyterian Church is in the center of many different communities in South Arlington. Establishing a welcoming meeting place in the context of redeveloping the property in some manner to provide affordable housing could allow us to serve our congregation and our neighbors with a special gathering place for community and service. In addition, we will consider how we might continue to build relationships with other non-profits in the area including providing use of the building to organizations such as SEEC, Just Neighbors, Greenbrier Learning Center, AA, etc.

"Thus says the LORD:
Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls." - Jeremiah 6:16

3. Affordable housing

Although we had tabled this as part of our initial considerations, it became clear in our conversations that affordable housing was one of the major needs of those with whom we spoke and of our South Arlington community. We spoke to many business owners, public employees and working people who are unable to live in South Arlington because market rate rental housing is out of reach for them and their peers. There is widespread institutional, financial and political support available for affordable housing development in South Arlington, but dwindling area to provide it. In fact, while we were engaged in our visioning, Arlington County passed a Neighborhood Initiative that specifically calls for a focus on, and commitment to, affordable housing in our area. The nature of housing has changed over the past three years and the problem will only grow as economic development in South Arlington progresses. Some of our property could serve this need. In addition, there are organizations who work to provide housing for more marginalized segments of our community (elderly, developmentally disabled, mentally disabled, homeless transitioning to homes). We are hopeful that some portion of our property could serve this need as well.

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' - Matthew 25:34-40

Similarly, we believe that these three emerging elements are an expression in South Arlington in 2013 of the calling of the Church as expressed in the Book of Order (F-1.0301) of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

F-1.0301 The Church Is the Body of Christ

The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor. 12:27–28):

The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.

The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.

The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

Recommendations

The Vision Team believes that it is time to move to make the emerging vision a reality. We recommend the following:

1. The Vision Team needs to be discharged from its work to move to the next stage. But to preserve the energy and the working of the Holy Spirit that we experienced in 2012, a new team of similar size, the Future Church Team, should be formed with anyone who is willing to commit to daily common disciplines similar to those adopted by the Vision Team. This new team should be given a budget and discretion to pursue implementing the vision wherever it leads and should be empowered in dealing directly with NCP on the property and other issues that will have to be addressed to move forward with redevelopment, to speak for the session, consistent with the Book of Order.
2. The new team should be supported in forming three smaller sub-teams to work on making each of the three elements of the vision a reality. The teams should be charged with doing as much as we can now with what we have rather than waiting for the conclusion of a long-term redevelopment plan to get started.
3. The small group process led by members of the Vision Team needs to be strengthened as way of bringing our congregation into the conversation at every step and involving everyone in the work of bringing the vision to pass.

Submitted by: The Vision Team

The Serve Ministry Team

The Serve Ministry Team continued its work in 2013. The Serve Team has responsibility for:

Finance
Stewardship
Mission and Outreach
Staff HR

In 2013, the Serve Ministry Team consisted of Robert Cooper, Harro Wulf, Manfred Soughe, Jon Etherton (Session Liaison) and Judy Robb (Session Liaison). Meals on Wheels continued with Sharon Core, Susan Etherton, Kristine Gabster, and Michelle Lanier. The Serve Ministry Team met at least once a month throughout the year.

Finance:

A detailed financial report is attached. A summary of results for 2013 is as follows:

For 2013, Revenues from pledges exceeded the budgeted amounts by approximately \$6,384.49. Revenues from the use of the building were less than budget amounts by \$14,442.33. Overall revenues were less than the budgeted amounts by \$8,866.17.

The Operating Expenses for 2013 were over budget by \$40,767.72, primarily due to the expenses associated with redevelopment of the APC property.

At the end of 2013, our Balance Sheet reflected a total of \$256,410.05 in assets, including checking account funds of \$51,045.49, savings funds of \$100,334.08 and investment funds of \$105,030.88 (including unrealized gains or losses from those investments).

Submitted by: Jon Etherton

	2013 Approved Budget	2013 Actuals	2014 Proposed Budget
REVENUES			
UNDESIGNATED			
4110- PLEDGES & ENVELOPES	\$217,703.00	\$223,932.49	\$244,730.00
4120 - LOOSE OFFERING	\$5,500.00	\$4,577.37	\$4,500.00
4130 - INITIAL ENVELOPES	\$100.00	\$0.00	
Total Contributions	\$ 223,303.00	\$228,509.86	\$249,230.00
4210 - USE OF PROPERTY	\$106,254.39	\$89,872.06	\$74,895.74
Total Other Revenue	\$106,254.39	\$89,872.06	\$74,895.74
USE OF AVAILABLE ASSETS			
4340-Liquidation of Investment Assets	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Revenue & Cash Available from Other Assets	\$ 329,557.39	\$ 318,381.92	\$324,125.74
EXPENSES			
SERVE			
PASTOR & EXPENSES			
5101 - PASTORS SALARY	\$ 32,588.84	\$ 32,588.88	\$ 33,239.83
5201 - PASTOR'S ALLOWANCES	\$ 42,486.89	\$ 42,486.96	\$ 43,336.63
5202 - PASTOR'S PROF EXPENSES	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
5203 - PASTOR'S SERVICE PENSION & BENEFITS	\$ 23,016.46	\$ 23,036.32	\$ 24,897.13
5204 - PASTOR'S PROF EXPENSES - SABBATICAL LEAVE			\$ -
TOTAL PASTOR & EXPENSES	\$ 102,592.19	\$ 102,612.16	\$105,973.59
STAFF			
5102- MINISTER OF MUSIC	\$23,000.00	\$22,999.92	\$ 23,000.00
5105- OFFICE MANAGER	\$ 36,565.25	\$ 36,565.20	\$ 37,296.55
5109 - AUDITOR FEES	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00
5205- SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE	\$ 4,939.24	\$ 4,820.03	\$ 4,880.44
5207- INCENTIVE AWARDS	\$ 915.80	\$ 915.80	\$ 915.80
5211- STAFF EDUCATION	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -
5218 - Background Checks & Legal Costs	\$ 250.00	\$ 119.99	\$ 100.00
5219- Staff Health Insurance/Benefits	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 8,067.00	\$ 8,100.00
5235 - Nursery Care Service	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,442.50	\$ 3,500.00
Total STAFF	\$ 79,920.29	\$ 76,930.44	\$ 78,542.79
Total Staffing - Pastor & Staff	\$ 182,512.48	\$ 179,542.60	\$184,516.38
OTHER SERVE			
5107 - ACCOUNTING SERVICE	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
5241 - OUTREACH SERVICES	\$ 5,252.97	\$ 4,580.00	\$ 6,575.70
5242 - CLOTHING BANK	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
5243 - STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5244- FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5266- INSURANCE	\$ 7,065.00	\$ 6,712.00	\$ 7,321.00
5271 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,600.88	\$ 3,500.00
5272- OFFICE EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,702.25	\$ 6,000.00
5273- TELEPHONE	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,749.49	\$ 4,000.00
5274- POSTAGE	\$ 900.00	\$ 535.00	\$ 500.00
5291 - PRESBYTERY ASSESSMENT	\$ 2,806.65	\$ 2,806.65	\$ 2,792.65

5293 - INGLESIDE FOUNDATION	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
5294 - VOICE	\$ 2,177.03	\$ 2,177.03	\$ 2,447.30
5295 - GENERAL MISSION	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
5297 - MISSION CHURCH SUPPORT	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
5298 - MISSIONARY FAMILY SUPPORT	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
5302 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING TEAM PROCESS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,700.00
Total Other Serve	\$ 56,601.65	\$ 55,763.30	\$103,736.65

TOTAL SERVE \$ 239,114.13 \$ 235,305.90 \$288,253.03

NURTURE

5221 - CURRICULUM/RESOURCES	\$700.00	\$299.24	\$ 350.00
5222- YOUTH EDUCATION	\$150.00	\$94.98	\$ 150.00
5223 - ADULT EDUCATION/TRAINING	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ -
5224- CE SUPPLIES	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00
5225- SPECIAL EVENTS	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$ 250.00
5226- EQUIPMENT	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00
5227-LIBRARY&AUDIO VISUAL	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ -
5233- CAREGIVERS' TRAINING & RESOURCES	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$ 50.00
5234- YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	\$200.00	\$114.00	\$ 150.00
5245- Congr Discernment & Nurture	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$ 200.00
TOTAL NURTURE	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 708.22	\$ 1,350.00

WELCOME

5231 -FELLOWSHIP	\$ 400.00	\$ 101.45	\$ 200.00
5236- EVANGELISM MATERIALS			
5237- PUBLICITY	\$ 250.00	\$ 137.36	\$ 250.00
5239 - WEBSITE & INTERNET	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,226.00	\$ 1,000.00
5238- NEW MEMBER ACTIVITIES	\$ -		\$ -
5261- HEAT	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,976.43	\$ 7,900.00
5262- ELECTRICITY	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,577.04	\$ 6,500.00
5263 - ARL. COUNTY UTILITIES	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,097.01	\$ 3,500.00
5264 - MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	\$ -		\$ -
5265 -REPAIRS&IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 33,185.20	\$ 30,000.00
5267 - BLDG & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 7,664.73	\$ 7,000.00
5268- JANITOR CONTRACT	\$ 26,100.00	\$ 25,891.20	\$ 30,551.64
TOTAL WELCOME	\$ 84,250.00	\$ 87,856.42	\$ 86,901.64

PROCLAIM

5208- SUBSTITUTE PREACHER	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00
5251 - SPECIAL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5252 - MUSIC & BOOKS	\$ 100.00	\$ 48.92	\$ 100.00
5253- ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	\$ 600.00	\$ 143.95	\$ 200.00
5254- WORSHIP SUPPLIES	\$ 200.00	\$ 105.28	\$ 100.00
TOTAL PROCLAIM	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,098.15	\$ 1,600.00

SESSION

5292 - SESSION	\$100.00	\$87.15	\$100.00
5301 - FUTURE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
TOTAL SESSION	\$5,100.00	\$2,587.15	\$2,600.00

Total BUDGETARY Expenses \$ 332,964.13 \$ 327,555.84 \$ 380,704.67

Stewardship

The Serve Ministry Team focused on reminding the congregation how far we have come in living out our vision this year and how much we can do in 2014 to continue to prepare for our "future with hope" as a congregation of disciples. With these ideas in our hearts and minds, the team took its responsibility to encourage and educate this Christian community on ways to be faithful stewards seriously and actively.

Eight special offerings were taken in 2013— Souper Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, and the Christmas Joy Gift as well as a series of offerings throughout the year of:

Food for AFAC
Helmets for Phoenix Bikes

The Serve Team decided to delay Dedication Sunday for the offering of 2014 pledges until December 1, 2013 to allow the congregation the time to focus on the vote on November 17 on the redevelopment portion of the new vision. Despite the delay, the members of Arlington Presbyterian Church once again demonstrated their generosity and personal commitment to mission by increasing total pledges from 2013 to 2014 by 11 percent.

Service and Mission Programs (listed alphabetically)

Arlington Interfaith Council (Representative: Harro Wulf).

The Arlington Interfaith Council provides a tangible religious witness in the community through promotion of understanding and cooperation among member congregations. It develops and supports programs to alleviate suffering and promote justice for residents of Arlington. The AIC is comprised of 48 religious congregations working together in a joint, practical effort to meet urgent and ongoing human needs in our community. Each member congregation may be represented by two laypersons and one religious leader. Meetings are held monthly (except July and August) on the third Monday at 7:30 p.m. and are hosted by member congregations. The agenda includes presentations by community leaders and congregation representatives, as well as reports from "Helping Hands" agencies, many of which are familiar to us, such as Doorways and AFAC. The February meeting features presentations from the Arlington County Board and the Director of Human Services.

Ingleside Retirement Community.

A monetary contribution of \$1,000 from the annual budget was made directly to this facility formerly known as Presbyterian Home.

Mission Church Support: Eseka, Cameroon (Coordinator: Manfred Soughe).

In 2013 we continued to support the ministry of Reverend Samuel Bisse, who runs a diverse ministry in the Eseka Presbytery, including helping train young people at an agricultural training school. In 2013, APC contributed \$3,500 towards his work. Our contributions enabled 12 students to attend a year of school, one of whom graduated from the Institute of Youth and Sports in Cameroon. We also sent 100 New Testaments in French to support Rev. Bisse in his efforts to spread the gospel to young children.

Mission Family Support: Bangkok, Thailand (Coordinator: Cathy McCabe).

Through our annual budget and an additional contribution from the APC Presbyterian Women, we continue to sponsor Leith and Carol Fujii, a PC/USA missionary family serving in Thailand. Leith and Carol are both teachers at the Bangkok Institute of Theology, and Leith is an ordained minister. In addition to giving financial support, we correspond regularly with them. We hope Leith and Carol can once again visit APC during their scheduled home leave in the future.

National Presbytery Mission Giving (Coordinator: Serve Team).

APC continued to support National Capital Presbytery's mission programs in the greater Washington area through a \$10,000 General Mission contribution from the 2013 budget. The Presbytery sends some of these funds on to the Synod and General Assembly.

Peacemaking and Interfaith Dialogue (Coordinator: Dudley Sadler).

9/11 Interfaith Unity Walk 2013

APC continued to support the 9/11 Unity Walk in 2013 including supporting the event with funds from our Peacemaking account.

Pentecost Offering (Coordinator: Judy Robb).

The Serve Ministry Team coordinates this denominational offering (received on Pentecost Sunday) and works our youth to determine how to use the 20% that APC keeps. Contributions to this offering benefit children at risk and ministries with youth and young adults.

“Souperbowl” Sunday (Coordinator: Linda Peebles).

Each year, on Super Bowl Sunday, APC's youth stations themselves at the exits of the sanctuary and collect dollar donations from the congregation in large soup pots. These donations are then disbursed by the Serve Team to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which provides food to the hungry in Arlington County. This special collection is part of a nation-wide collection effort, called *Souper Bowl of Caring*, which began over fourteen years ago to help hungry and hurting people across the country. This year's collection yielded \$380 for AFAC.

VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) (2013 Coordinator: Sharon Core).

In 2013 APC continued its involvement with VOICE, a broad-based, non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-faith, citizens' organization, rooted in local congregations and other faith-based voluntary associations. Its goal is to make really meaningful change on social and economic justice issues affecting the lives of low-and-middle income residents in Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria and beyond. The major in the VOICE agenda this year was affordable housing in VOICE has been active supporting the affordable housing component of the Arlington Presbyterian Church's redevelopment partnership with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing.

The Serve Ministry Team and APC's Session have approved continuing the donation of one percent of our church's operating budget to VOICE. The funds were part of the 10% tithe that APC generously sets aside for mission and outreach support.

Other Outreach Disbursements

In addition to the many programs listed above, APC supports the following service agencies by making a direct financial contribution. Mostly local in scope, many of these relationships have been maintained over many years. In 2013, in a reflection of our desire to share God's love and engage more fully with our community, the Serve Ministry Team decided to focus on local services with which APC has developed relationship and on Presbyterian assistance services. Our outreach services contributions to these agencies totaled \$5,230.00. The newsletters and other information from these organizations are posted on our bulletin board.

APC Outreach disbursements in 2013

Arlington Food Assistance Center	\$ 650
Arlington Interfaith Council	\$ 80
Arlington Street Peoples Assistance Network	\$ 650
Doorways for Women and Families	\$ 650
Greenbrier Learning Center	\$ 650
Just Neighbors	\$ 650
Phoenix Bikes	\$ 650
Shirlington Employment & Education Center	\$ 650
Volunteers of America Residential Program Center	\$ 600
Total 2013 mission outreach disbursements:	<u>\$5,230</u>

Personnel

Personnel matters were discussed at each of the monthly Serve Team meetings.

Personnel Actions in 2013

At the beginning of the year, all APC staff were given a copy of their job description and asked to sign off on their *Terms of Employment*.

The team also began the process of preparing for a 2013 performance review for our Office Manager, Maria Cervantes. The pastor's performance review was to be completed by Session. This process is conducted with the intent to foster the achievement of common goals consistent with the mission statement of Arlington Presbyterian Church and the need to nurture the capabilities of our staff.

Submitted by: Jon Etherton

Discipleship

dis-ci-ple
/di'sīpəl/

Noun

A personal follower of Jesus during his life, esp. one of the twelve disciples.

Verb

Guide (someone) in becoming a follower of Jesus

Synonyms

follower - pupil - adherent - learner - apprentice

As Christians, we are disciples, claiming to follow Jesus in our words and actions. And like the first disciples, we learn within a community of believers. In scripture, Jesus speaks of the life of discipleship:

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples." John 8:31

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:8

Beginning in the summer of 2012, several of us who heard the call to be a part of the vision team, began to meet on a regular basis, one or more times each month, and we committed to daily reading of scripture, prayer, and time in the community. As we worked together to discern a vision for APC's future, we also got to know each other better, and deepened our relationships with each other. And over time, it became clear that our process mirrored the vision that emerged, and Jesus' description of discipleship.

Continuing in the word, as we read scripture and discussed it through e-mails and in Bible study at our meetings.

Loving each other, by taking time to get to know each other, growing closer through that time together.

Bearing fruit, through a lifestyle of action, participating in worship, talking to neighbors in our community, supporting organizations that serve our neighbors, and engaging in service ourselves.

As we began the move from vision to action at APC, we invited the congregation to share some of the experience we had in the Vision Team in 2012. We started in April by offering four different Disciple Groups, each with its own focus provided by its leaders, and all offering opportunities to continue in the word, grow in relationships, and bear fruit in a lifestyle of faithful action. All four groups met throughout 2013, and continue to meet.

The Theology Group, Led by Sharon Core and Jeanne Mackenzie, offers the opportunity to explore theology, "God's Words," and how we understand and experience God's Words in our lives.

The Dinners Group, led by Mary Helen Harris, offers the opportunity to get to know each other better over dinner at least once each month.

The Fun and Fellowship Group, led by Don and Linda Peebles, offers the opportunity for fellowship and recreation activities chosen based on interests of those in the group.

The Moving Forward Group, led by Judy Robb and Michelle Lanier, meets once or twice a month and offers a platform for discussion and discernment on the details of the future church that APC hopes to become through living into the new vision.

All four of the groups, involving over 30 members and friends of APC, have been offering opportunities for sharing scripture, prayer, and faith in action since May and plan to continue meeting throughout 2014.

In addition, we want to acknowledge and applaud the leadership of the Presbyterian Women, whose activities in 2013 are described elsewhere in this report, in serving as a model of a vital discipleship group for their members over so many years at APC.

We also celebrate the continued discipleship experiences shared by our teenagers, also described in more detail elsewhere in this report.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Submitted by: Jon Etherton

Growing in Discipleship- Nurturing Our Youngest

We are blessed to have four children in our church family in preschool – elementary school age range. In early 2013, a group of family members and other interested adults met to talk about how we might best nurture the faith of these, our youngest. We discussed different opportunities for including children in worship, and for providing other experiences to nurture their developing faith. While this is very much a work in progress, there were beginning steps made after that first conversation.

During worship, we have two gifted paid caregivers to care for APC’s children and other children who visit. To accommodate family schedules, faith-based experiences happen in the nursery room during the worship service. Led by an APC adult, these experiences have included Godly Play inspired sessions, and stories and activities based on Bible stories and other scripture passages. The children especially enjoy music, so we often take time to sing, sometimes with rhythm instruments and the autoharp. (And Emma led the singing of the congregational introit each week during Advent.)

While we are moving forward with a vision of how we nurture the faith of our children, there are many opportunities not yet explored, discussed and committed, and we welcome others to join in the conversation and action in the coming year.



Submitted by: Linda Peebles

Growing in Discipleship- Our Teens

APC’s teenagers are actively involved in many aspects of the life of the congregation. They participate in worship as ushers and worship leaders, and they decorate the Easter flower cross. They coordinate and collect the annual Souper Bowl of Caring offering, and they help during coffee hour after the worship service.

The biggest challenge continues to be coordinating time for our teens to spend together as a group, because they all juggle schedules full of school and community events, so they no longer meet every Sunday morning. When they do gather on Sunday mornings, however, they have time to catch up with each other, enjoy fellowship over breakfast, and share in a Bible study or discussion related to living our faith out in the world. They enjoyed participating in the Advent Word photo project, planning and photographing themselves to present words such as “Go,” “Flood,” “Prophet,” and “Mercy.” In 2013, the adult leaders were Brian Harvey, Linda Peebles, and Cathia Soughe.

And in October, 2013, four of our teens, Jay Etherton, Annellie Freed, Eleanor Freed, and Nancy Mbangue, participated in a weekend confirmation retreat with Sharon Core, Linda and Don Peebles, and Cathia Soughe. And each of them decided at the end of the experience to join APC in full membership.

We continue to be blessed by the presence of our young people, and seek ways to nurture their faith in ways that are inspiring and meaningful to them.



Submitted by: Linda Peebles

Crossroads

The Crossroads team has been hard at work this year. We thank all those who continue to volunteer their time, heart, and soul to the work of Christ through APC. Some of the things we having going on at APC, in addition to Meals on Wheels and the Clothing Bank, are fairly new. In the Spring, we had a school supply drive for Greenbrier Learning Center. Over the summer, we were able to continue the Gatorade runs for the immigrant day laborers of SEEC, in attempts to help keep the men hydrated during the hottest days as they waited with hope for work. In the Fall, we had another school supply drive, this time, for the children of SEEC. The leftover supplies were given to Greenbrier Learning Center. We gathered together one Sunday afternoon before Faith at Five, to help make bag lunches for A-SPAN. Making the bagged meals was part of a fundraising event for A-SPAN. In addition to making approximately 60 bagged meals, we raised over \$700, and helped A-SPAN reach their goal of 1,000 fundraiser participants, which meant they received an additional \$10,000 from Fannie Mae. During Advent, we had a food drive for AFAC, and wound up filling two very large bins with food. We wound up the year with our partnership with Phoenix bikes for a bike giveaway. There is nothing quite like seeing joyful kids riding bicycles in the Handy Chapel! Throughout the year, there are anonymous 12-step groups that utilize our building. SEEC used the fellowship hall, up until October of this year, for their green cleaning training sessions, helping women immigrants learn valuable skills so they, too, may find work in the community. Our hope and prayer is that we can continue to learn and grow in our commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ in being a crossroads for the community.

Submitted by: Kristine Gabster

Affordable Housing Team

In January of 2013, the Vision Team completed their work and submitted their final report to Session. The Session approved the report and authorized the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to begin a Feasibility Study around the redevelopment of the APC property. Three ministry teams were formed at that time around the three components of the vision discerned by the Vision Team. The Affordable Housing Team was formed to oversee the redevelopment of the Church property. The AHT members included: Susan Etherton, Judy Robb, Mary Helen Harris, Kristl Hathaway and Sharon Core. Later in the year, Jessica Peerwani was invited to join the team to primarily help us focus on design and Rebecca Neuburger was asked to join the team to focus on the childcare center. In August of 2013, the Session approved hiring Jill Norcross as Project Manager to the APC redevelopment. In addition, pro bono attorney, Mark Viani, of McGuire Woods, agreed to represent the church's interest in the redevelopment effort.

Feasibility Study

APAH commenced their work on the Feasibility Study in April of 2013. Biweekly meetings were held between APAH and the AHT throughout the Feasibility Study process. In June, the Feasibility Study was completed and the results were presented to the Administrative Commission on Congregational Property (ACCP) of the National Capital Presbytery to gather preliminary impressions from the ACCP and determine next steps for the redevelopment process. A key take-away from this meeting was for the AHT and APAH to move toward a transaction that would involve a long-term ground lease of the land rather than an outright sale. This key aspect would allow APC and the Presbytery to maintain possession of this very valuable piece of land, while permitting development of a new multi-use facility including new worship space, church offices, childcare center, retail space and 100+ units of affordable rental housing.

Pre-Development

At the request of the ACCP, the AHT and APAH worked with great determination to develop and present a package to the ACCP for their review and approval at their July 23 meeting. Part of the submission was the approval by the Session of the Pre-Development agreement which they approved on July 7, 2013. The entire package (including APC financials for 5 years, project narrative, Session minutes and the approved pre-development agreement) was submitted on July 9th, including a request to enter into said Pre-Development Agreement with APAH. The ACCP considered our request at their July 23rd meeting and concluded that they did not have the authority to approve the predevelopment agreement and "enthusiastically endorsed" going ahead with the next steps of the project at that time. Other questions also arose and the AHT moved forward to the predevelopment phase including a commitment to pay half of shared predevelopment costs in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. On July 30, 2013, the Pre-Development agreement was executed.

The pre-development work was immediately underway including establishing a timeline of steps and approvals necessary in order to move toward an application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (one of the key financing components for the affordable housing) in March, 2015. This work included survey and title work, environmental study, appraisals, preliminary construction cost estimates and draft design work. In addition, the lawyers were drafting a Ground Lease and a master global agreement outlining the relationships between the various entities and the financial terms of the transaction.

In late September, the AHT and APAH requested another meeting with the ACCP to check in and insure we were on the right track. Although the Chair of the ACCP was not available, the AHT and APAH met with Dick Lowery (NCP staff assigned to the ACCP) and NCP attorney, John Matteo. Generally, the latest version of the project (including draft term sheet and draft ground lease) was well-received and Dick Lowery agreed to take

the package to the ACCP. Currie Burris, on behalf of the ACCP declined to accept the preliminary package prepared for Dick Lowery and required instead that a complete submittal package including draft documents, an independent appraisal and more be submitted to the ACCP by November 18, in time for the December 3, 2013, meeting of the ACCP. Part of that submitted package would be Minutes from the Congregational Meeting called to vote on the Redevelopment.

The Vote

On November 17, 2013, the APC members voted 34-19 in favor of moving forward with the redevelopment of the church property.

Historic Preservation

In late October, 2013, APC received word that a request had been made by two or more people for the church property to be considered for historic designation. We know this request was made by at least Roberta Timberlake and Karl Veit. As a result of these letters, the Historic and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) was officially required to follow a very prescribed process to determine the property's eligibility for historic designation. The first hearing for this was held on November 20, 2013, wherein the HALRB, after receiving the staff's report and hearing testimony from the church and others, determined the property met at least two of the 11 criteria for historic designation. This determination triggered the next, more in-depth report and the next hearing which is scheduled for January 22, 2014. The AHT is working diligently with APAH, their attorneys and an independent consultant, Traceries, to wage our defense in opposition to historic designation. It should be noted that historic designation has never been decided by the County when it is in opposition to the owners' interest. We are hopeful that we will prevail and no designation will be made.

Looking Ahead

The year 2014 promises to be an interesting one for the Affordable Housing Team. Historic Preservation, Presbytery approval and amendments to the Form-Based Code top the list of challenges facing the team. We covet your prayers for our efforts as we continue to live into the vision before us.

*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit."
- Romans 15:13*

Submitted by: Susan Robbins Etherton

Ronda Gilliam Clothing Bank - (2013 Coordinators: Cathy McCabe, Annette Reilly)

The Ronda Gilliam Clothing Bank is one of APC's most visible outreach/mission activities. It is one of the few places where needy people in our area may obtain clothing without charge. Many of our clothing donors choose to give their donations to us primarily because we give the clothing away rather than sell it.

Most of our clients live in the surrounding south Arlington neighborhood. We assist homeless men and women, the working poor, recent immigrants, and retirees trying to make ends meet.

During 2013 the Ronda Gilliam Clothing bank distributed about **21,000 items** of clothing, linens, and shoes to over **1,700 customers**. Although our total volume was down from last year's high of 24,500 items, the number of customers increased by over 300 people this year.

Unfortunately we continue to struggle to find enough volunteers to remain open twice a week. However, we're thankful for our small but devoted group of volunteers, including several former APC members as well as Rosa Columbus, a community volunteer who faithfully serves every time we open. Additionally, several clients regularly help sort and hang clothes when they visit.

We are also thankful for those APC members who donated their own clothing or helped pick up donations from a variety of outside groups, such as other churches and preschools, who contribute their unsold yard sale items to our Clothing Bank.

This year a DC-based organization called **Gifts for the Homeless** provided our Clothing Bank with a large donation of newly purchased clothing, which we held in reserve primarily for our homeless clients. We contacted two nearby shelters, Residential Program Center (RPC) and Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH), so they can spread the word to their residents about this warm winter clothing (gloves, coats, jeans, sweat shirts, underwear, and socks) available at APC.

Submitted by: Cathy McCabe

The Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of APC meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship.

Blanket Sunday was commemorated in January. This collection benefits Church World Services.

We also enjoy coordinating special events.

One of our long time members, Elizabeth Freed retired from her responsibilities as coffee hour coordinator.

We were pleased to honor Elizabeth with a gift certificate and coffee hour in March.

We hosted a coffee hour in April to recognize the newly installed elders.

In June we recognize our High School Graduates with gift certificates and a coffee hour celebration.

We assisted with the celebration for Gabby VanCamp's 90th birthday in August.

We maintain bank accounts at BB&T; checking account balance for 12/31/13 is \$331.83, money market savings balance is \$2,205.76.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Cielinski

Moving Forward Disciple Group

The moving forward discipleship group was established in the spring of 2013 when it became clear that the members of the former Vision Team did not want to relax the bond that had developed so far between us. We wanted to continue to be in each other's lives, check in with each other, socialize with each other, and most importantly grow spiritually with each other.

We meet once or twice a month, sometimes around a meal in a restaurant, sometimes in the church. We always start with a bible study. Our focus this year, aside from the things listed above, was to be aware of the three prongs of our vision, what each area is working on, and how we can help each one to continue moving forward. We also have been discussing what it means to be church in the 21st century, and what direction we feel our congregation may go in the future.

Members have been Susan and Jon Etherton, Michelle Lanier, Mary Helen Harris, Linda Peebles, Judy Robb, Kristl Hathaway and Nancy Hurst.

We will continue to meet in 2014 and if this sounds like the kind of group you would like to be involved with, please feel free to contact anyone of us for more information.

Submitted by Judy Robb, co-chair with Michelle Lanier

Theology Disciple Group

One of Arlington Presbyterian Church's Discipleship Groups formed in the spring is the **Theology Group**. In May folks began meeting every other Wednesday at Bob Listou and Jeanne MacKenzie's home. The Rev. Sharon Core and Jeanne served as co-leaders. Bob Listou, Dudley Sadler, Robert Cooper, Kristine Gabster, Lorraine Gardner, Nancy Hurst, Judy Wang, and Amy Grupp have taken part in the discussions during which we attempt to put into words the mystery of our faith and our experience of God active in our lives. We also agreed to participate in daily devotions using d365.org or a similar guide.

Some of the topics covered were: What image or images of God do we carry around in our heads? How do we understand or experience God in our daily faith and life journey? Our theological understanding of love - what does it mean to be converted to love every day? Why is Christianity a "hard sell" in today's world? What is God calling us to do and to be in the world today? The meaning of "grace" and our experiences of grace. Notably, the group has drawn on its own experiences on our faith journeys rather than depending on systematic and scholarly treatises to guide our discussions.

At the beginning of 2014 we began to read and discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together and it's description of Christian community during Hitler's oppression of Germany. Surely the problem of evil will be part of these discussions. The group is open and you are invited to join with us in prayer and discussion.

Submitted by: Jeanne MacKenzie

Sunday Brunch Disciple Group

This group meets to share bible study getting to know each other in more depth. We meet on two Sundays, usually the second and fourth. The conveners, Clara Williamson, Libby Davidson and Mary H. Harris, have shared leadership.

Group members take turns sharing devotional resources that have given them spiritual direction. We welcome anyone who would like to join a discipleship group.

Submitted by: Mary Helen Harris

Fun and Fellowship Disciple Group

The Fun and Fellowship Group (“The Group”), coordinated by Linda and Don Peebles, has met at least once each month beginning in May, 2013. Group activities, chosen based on schedules and interests of The Group, have included:

- *Gatherings in homes
- *Gatherings in community settings, such as Mason Neck Park and National Harbor
- *Enjoying special events, such as seeing Nancy Robinette perform in the Shakespeare Theater Company’s production of The Winter’s Tale, and exploring all things Norwegian at the annual Norwegian Festival.
- *Sharing our faith through reading favorite Bible passages, discussing a specific scripture, and sharing and discussing passages related to “grace.”
- *Celebrating birthdays
- *Getting to know each other better through conversation, telling about things happening in our lives, showing and telling about a special item, sharing a Christmas memory, and reading favorite stories and poems around the fire on a chilly fall evening (there were s’mores too!)
- *Caring for and supporting each other

And through it all, we have shared our personal journeys of faith within a caring community of friends.



Submitted by: Linda Peebles

Nominating Committee

The 2013 Nominating Committee was charged with providing nominees for 2 elders for the Class of 2016 and the 3 congregational members for 2014 Nominating Committee.

The committee members reviewed the names of all congregational members and discussed the role of elder and congregational nominating committee member at Arlington Presbyterian Church. We believe that an elder and a member of the Nominating Committee must be an active member of the congregation through attendance and participation in worship, active interest in the church's mission and demonstrated faith.

We also believe that an elder

- strives daily to follow Jesus Christ
- serves faithfully
- exhibits stewardship
- shows a spirit of cooperation and participation
- shows a willingness to learn
- takes risks for the sake of the gospel
- is able to follow through on assignments and communicate well
- is open to new ideas
- is curious about what it means to be church in the 21st century
- exhibits maturity of judgment
-

We relied on and considered our own church document entitled "Called to Be An Elder." To read it in full go to the APC website or ask for a copy from the church office.

We looked for a nominating committee member who knows or be willing to learn more about members of the congregation. They must also be open to listening for God's word.

After much discussion, individual and group discernment and a lot of prayer, we nominated Jon Etherton and Kristin Gabster to be the 2 elders for the Class of 2016 on Session. They were elected by the congregation on September 22, 2013. We offered the names of Mattie Hunter, Michele Lanier and Manfred Soughe to serve as the congregational members of the 2014 Nominating Committee. The congregation will vote on their nomination at the annual meeting on January 26, 2014. We believe that they all will serve Arlington Presbyterian Church, Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God with faith, passion and diligence.

Respectfully submitted,

Blanche W. Anderson

2013 Nominating Committee
Blanche Wysor Anderson, Chair
Kristl Hathaway
Judy Robb
Clara Williamson

Usher Ministry

The Usher Ministry at Arlington Presbyterian church is committed to serving before, during and after worship to help the pastor, lay leader, and congregation focus on participating in and finding value in their worship experiences. To this end the lead usher and ushers provide bulletins to all and call worshipers to service through the gonging of the hour and lighting of the Christ Candle. They also greet regular and new worshipers and collect the attendance sheets for the pastor and office manager. They help worshipers with worship aids. They also serve at congregational meetings.

With the graduation of many of our high schoolers, there are fewer young people to serve as ushers. This has required asking more adults to help with ushering. This promotes a shared ministry with both adults and youth serving the church together. It is a great pleasure when young people who return from college serve the church by ushering again. I want to thank both the youth who are still ushering this year as well as the adults who offered to help and have been so faithful.

Lead ushers this year were Blanche Anderson, Nancy Cielinski, Jon Etherton, Mattie Hunter and Elmer and Marilyn Klumpp. Cathia Soughe was an alternate lead usher. In particular I want to thank Elmer and Marilyn Klumpp, who retired from being lead ushers this year, for their many years of faithful service.

Prayerfully submitted,

Blanche W. Anderson

Blanche W. Anderson
Usher Coordinator

Ushers

Robert Cooper	Jay Etherton	Anellie Freed
Eleanor Freed	Lauren Freed	Kristl Hathaway
Christina Hogan	Marc Arthur Massang	Daniel Mbangue
Nancy Mbangue		

Alternates

Mary Helen Harris	Brian Harvey	Jane Sadler
Cathia Soughe	Mary Thompson	Steve Tuttle

Worship Team

The Worship Team began meeting in the summer to brainstorm worship themes for the fall. As we wrestled with the question of, “What do we as Christians and APCers have to offer others that isn’t present anywhere else?” the idea that emerged was that of grace. Team members each contributed scripture passages around the idea of grace, and those were the basis of worship services from September to November. As part of worship, and throughout the week, the congregation was also encouraged to take note of moments of grace either witnessed, received, or given, and write those down on leaf cards. The leaf cards were hung in one of the sanctuary windows as an image of grace shining down on us, and those cards remain there now in January.

As part of planning for Advent, the team investigated several possibilities for sets of passages besides the Year A lectionary. The team was particularly struck by the Year D lectionary, compiled by a professor of homiletics at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary as a way to expand the common lectionary to include passages that are not heard often. The team also decided to expand the going-out-with-candlelight practice, so beloved on Christmas Eve, to include all four Sundays of Advent. Every household was provided

with a purple candle to light during the Sending, so that by the end of Advent each house has the candles for an Advent wreath at home.

Other topics that the team wrestled with throughout the year included: how is Faith at Five going, and how can worship be accessible to and inclusive of worshippers of all ages. The original purpose of Faith at Five was to provide a worship opportunity for those who are typically busy on Sunday mornings and cannot attend at that time. While it has served that purpose, worship team members noted that the change of time also came with a change of mood and feel to worship. The evening time had an intimacy not often found during the morning – an intimacy that many have seemed to appreciate. That being said, the more intimate environment could be an obstacle to newcomers who might not be able to enter that intimacy as easily as regular APC attendees. This is something to be aware of whenever a newcomer attends that service. On the subject of young children, there are very few who attend APC regularly at this point. Nevertheless, it has been a goal of the team to find ways to include them in natural, organic ways (rather than have a particular “Time for Children”). For example, Emma led the congregation in the opening song each Sunday in Advent. It was also noted that any time worship is less wordy and more multisensory it is easier for children to participate. This is something that the team will continue to work with during the next year.

Submitted by: Diana Lewis-Chun

Music Ministry

The music ministry at APC is small but mighty. We consider ourselves one of the discipleship groups, as we not only meet regularly, but have grown to know each other well, share what is going on in our lives, and occasionally have a reflection that one person or another feels called to share.

More wonderful than all of nature singing is the invitation extended to human beings to sing. "O Come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" (Ps 95:1). "Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name" (Ps 30:4). Jesus once said that if people would not praise Him, "the very stones would cry out (Luke 19:40).

I'm pretty sure that the members of our choir would not feel that worship was complete without singing, whether it be as a choir, or with the congregation.

We hope to continue singing and praising God into the future as sure as we continue to breathe and pray and worship God!

Peace, Judy Robb

Tellers:

Current state of affairs:

We are down to two tellers, Elizabeth Bull and Michelle Lanier. We do two deposits each Sunday, one to the corporate account, and one for the congregation. If one of us isn't there, the other does it alone. If neither of us is there, one of us comes in during the week and does it alone.

This is not an ideal situation: for one thing, the Book of Order says there must always be two people there when the deposit is being done; for another, while it's really not a lot of work in and of itself, it's a burden for Michelle and I to have to do it every single week, and takes us away from participating in other ways.

Proposed solution:

There are two solutions to this problem: continue as we have been, doing deposits every week, and find more tellers to help out; or do the deposits less often. I suggest both: do the deposits less often, and have more tellers trained.

I suggest we pursue online payments for our large corporate clients, and encourage any in the congregation who wish to, to pay online as well. Many people are already paying their bills online, and they could pay APC in the exact same manner – not using paypal, just paying the way they make all their other payments.

If this is not convenient for the “anonymous” groups, they could continue to send us monthly checks; the amounts are not large, and we could do a corporate deposit for them once a month. If any members of the congregation don’t wish to pay online, they could continue to put checks or cash in the collection plate. Again, we could do deposits monthly, or biweekly, depending on the amounts involved.

Research – an unexpected side effect:

We checked with our bank, and they have no problem with this.

At Fairlington Presbyterian, they have been doing primarily online donations for several years, and they have had no problems with it. They did, however, have an unexpected result: the collection plate was still passed, and almost no one put anything in it, which they felt confused and discouraged visitors.

Using the side effect to our advantage:

I suggest an insert to the bulletin that we all fill out and put in the collection plate as it is passed, in addition to any donations. This would include attendance, contact information for visitors, and prayer requests. It would replace the friendship rosters, which would then be discontinued. It would not replace Joys and concerns! But it would provide an outlet for prayer requests that people don’t wish to say aloud. A sample insert follows.

NOTE: I wrote the sample insert up as a full-page document, to make it easier to write on as I was showing it to others for comments, but I see it as a half-page insert in the bulletin.

Another idea – if someone checks the box for a private prayer request, to be seen only by the pastor and session, I suggest we distribute the request to members of session; after one week, we contact the person who made the request to say something like, “These two people (specific names) have been praying for your concern each day this week. What else may we do to support you?”

GREETINGS!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

How may we help you?

Prayer Requests: _____

Confidential request. Check this box if you wish your request to be seen only by the pastor and members of session.

How may you help others? In what ways are you interested in serving the community and the church?

How may we help each other? There are several groups that meet regularly – see the bulletin and website for more information, or ask anyone you meet here.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Bull