



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 2016

THE SESSION

Class of 2016: Jon Etherton and Kristine Gabster (end 1/8/17)
Class of 2017: Kristl Hathaway and Manfred Soughe
Class of 2018: Laura Gehrenbeck and Miles Townes
Class of 2019: Diana Lewis-Chun and Judy Robb (begin 1/8/17)

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Sharon Core
Clerk of Session:	Kristl Hathaway
Treasurer:	Judy Robb
Minister of Music/Organist:	Steve Beck

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's report	Page 3
The Session	Page 3
The Serve Ministry Team	Pages 5
Nominating committee	Page 8
Affordable Housing Team	Pages 8
Moving Forward Team	Page 8
Congregational Connections Team	Page 10
Theology discipleship Group	Page 11
The Fun and Fellowship Disciple group ("The Group")	Page 11
Presbyterian Women	Page 11
APC Book Group	Page 12
APC Writing Group	Page 12

Pastor's Report

Brothers and Sisters—

What an amazing, faith-filled year 2016 was! In January 2016, leaving the building became more real and yet still far off. As we moved closer to June 5, the excitement increased—as did the anxiety!! There was much to be done and we wondered how, if, it would all get done. And what I kept remembering during that time was that we had trusted God on this journey—and when things didn't quite go as planned, the trust remained strong. And so, while there might be some anxious moments, I had no doubt that “everything” would be accomplished. And it was.

I continue to remember the June 5 worship—the people present, the stories shared, the memories voiced, walking from 3507 to the chapel, setting the table and then carrying the elements to the new space. It was a blessed day and I believe that day of movement is a characteristic of this faith community—attentive planning and then action. Indeed it has been a hallmark of your life together and will continue to be so.

As I prepare to leave, I want you to know that I have been blessed beyond what I thought possible. Your grace, courage, faithfulness, energy, commitment, perseverance takes my breath away. I am emboldened by the time we have spent together—knowing what is possible—not the specific act of ministry, but the ethos of the community.

Several Sundays ago, during the “sharing what we have heard today” part of worship, you all were reflecting on Isaiah's vision and Joseph's dream. The comments offered showed attentiveness, wonderment, commitment, and intentionality. And I thought to myself “They are going to be just fine.” And you will be—God is in the midst of you, guiding you, keeping you, empowering you, sustaining you. You are an amazing group of disciples living with open hearts, hands, and minds. “I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil 1:6) And actually, I think God is working on it now. And for your willingness to be a co-creator with God, I am grateful, so, so very grateful.

With much love, peace, blessing,
Sharon

The Session

The Session and congregation offer our gratitude and blessings to outgoing elders Jon Etherton and Kristine Gabster from the Class of 2016. New elders Diana Lewis-Chun and Judy Robb from the class of 2019, join Kristl Hathaway and Manfred Soughe from the class of 2017, and Laura Gehrenbeck and Miles Townes from the class of 2018.

During 2016 Session continued to support the Affordable Housing Team's work with APAH to move forward with the redevelopment of the property, which culminated in July with the closing of the sale of property at 3507 Columbia Pike. In December Session approved a recommendation by the Affordable Housing Team to not sign the Letter of Intent to APAH to commit to moving into new space in Gilliam Place.

In June we moved into new worship space at the Arlington United Methodist Center (AUMC) on Glebe Road, and settled into two offices and the “Parlor” which serves for child care, coffee fellowship and meeting space.

At our final worship in the 3507 building we had many visitors from Presbytery, APAH and the community. We concluded that worship with communion in our new space. Everything was successfully removed from the old building by July 30. We decided to donate our organ to Calvary Presbyterian Church in Alexandria Virginia. The Ronda Gilliam Clothing Bank became a separate entity, with space also in AUMC.

Our long-time office manager Maria Cervantes was honored during worship on June 26, as she left us for a new position.

We supported the search process for a Neighborhood Pastor, as part of our development of a new mission plan, with a committee of Sharon Core, Miles Townes, and Susan Etherton.

On October 23 we held a Congregational Retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge.

In November Sharon Core, our Pastor of 18 years announced that she has accepted a new call to be General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. Session had been praying about and discussing issues of future leadership, working with David Ensign from the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. We began a search for a short-term supply pastor in December working from a list provided by Wilson Gunn at National Capital Presbytery. In December we met with members of the Committee on Ministry, Betty Douglas, chair, Harriett Hopkins, incoming chair, and David Ensign.

During Advent we had three small group meetings to discuss the newly approved Belhar Confession.

We received Kaytlin Butler into membership by Letter of Transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Snellvill, Georgia. Elmer and Marilyn Klumpp transferred to Burke Presbyterian Church. Roberta Timberlake and Cathy McCabe asked to be removed from the membership rolls.

We celebrated the sacrament of baptism for Oliver Ali Peerwani (son of Jessica and Naumann Peerwani) on May 15 and Maritsa Claire Rajashekar (daughter of Amy Grupp and Chris Rajashekar) on August 28, and the wedding of Cathia Soughe and JD Levite on April 1.

“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)

Membership:

Total on January 1, 2016 – 63

Total on December 31, 2016–59

- I. Members removed from rolls: Roberta Timberlake and Cathy McCabe
- II. Members transferred by letter: Ellen Marrone, Elmer Klumpp, Marilyn Klumpp
- III. New members: Kaytlin Butler

Submitted by: Kristl Hathaway, Clerk of Session

Serve Ministry Team

In 2016, the Serve Team had responsibility for:

- Finance
- Stewardship
- Funded mission and outreach
- Building and grounds maintenance
- Staff HR

In 2016, the Serve Ministry Team consisted of Robert Cooper, Manfred Soughe and Jon Etherton (Session Liaisons) and Judy Robb. The Serve Ministry Team met once each month throughout the year. Given the very transitional nature of APC in 2016, several activities broke with past practice as we coped with the changes driven by the move from our former property in the summer.

Finance:

A summary of results for 2016 is as follows:

Through the generous and faithful giving of members and friends of Arlington Presbyterian Church, in 2016 revenues from pledges, envelopes and loose offerings were more than the budgeted amounts by \$6,039.52. Revenues from the use of the property exceeded the budgeted amounts by \$9,663.18. Overall revenues, including interest and dividends, exceeded the budgeted amounts by \$19,960.68. In addition, as part of the terms of the sale of the property, APC was reimbursed \$118,787.00 for its share of the costs associated with the sale.

The Operating Expenses for 2016 were under budget by \$112,419.25, because of the offset from the reimbursement for the sale costs noted above.

At the end of 2016, our balance sheet reflected a total of \$347,477.68 in assets, including a checking account funds balance of \$80,894.37, savings funds balance of \$40,431.83, and an investment funds balance of \$226,151.48 (including unrealized gains or losses from those investments).

	2016 Approved Budget	2016 Actuals
REVENUES		
UNDESIGNATED		
4110- PLEDGES & ENVELOPES	\$216,510.00	\$222,040.63
4120 - LOOSE OFFERING	\$2,000.00	\$2,539.57
4130 - INITIAL ENVELOPES		\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$218,510.00	\$224,580.20
4210 - USE OF PROPERTY	\$79,417.79	\$89,080.97
Total Other Revenue	\$79,417.79	\$89,080.97

USE OF AVAILABLE ASSETS

4340-Liquidation of Investment Assets

\$-

Total Revenue & Cash Available from Other Assets**\$297,927.79****\$313,661.17****EXPENSES****SERVE****PASTOR & EXPENSES**

5101 - PASTORS SALARY	\$33,239.83	\$33,306.02
5201 - PASTOR'S ALLOWANCES	\$44,203.36	\$44,203.42
5202 - PASTOR'S PROF EXPENSES	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
5203 - PASTOR'S SERVICE PENSION & BENEFITS	\$25,964.16	\$25,965.98
TOTAL PASTOR & EXPENSES	\$107,907.35	\$107,975.42

STAFF

5102- MINISTER OF MUSIC	\$11,500.00	\$18,150.00
5105- OFFICE MANAGER	\$21,756.32	\$20,097.99
5109 - AUDITOR FEES	\$750.00	\$-
5205- SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE	\$2,777.43	\$3,131.41
5207- INCENTIVE AWARDS		\$420.00
5218 - BACKGROUND CHECKS & LEGAL COSTS		\$46.00
5219- STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE/BENEFITS	4958.33	\$4,454.35
5235 - NURSERY CARE SERVICE	\$3,050.00	\$3,658.50
Total STAFF	\$44,792.08	\$49,958.25

Total Staffing - Pastor & Staff**\$152,699.43****\$157,933.67****OTHER SERVE**

5107 - ACCOUNTING SERVICE	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
5241 - OUTREACH SERVICES	\$3,551.00	\$4,000.00
5242 - CLOTHING BANK	\$100.00	\$-
5266- INSURANCE	\$4,660.50	\$4,613.75
5278 - RENT	\$16,100.00	\$19,600.00
5279 - MOVING EXPENSES	\$1,500.00	\$19,405.41
5271 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,750.00	\$4,607.01
5272- OFFICE EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS	\$3,000.00	\$5,349.98
5273- TELEPHONE	\$2,000.00	\$4,442.30
5274- POSTAGE	\$500.00	\$490.62
5291 - PRESBYTERY ASSESSMENT	\$2,925.00	\$2,925.00
5294 - VOICE	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
5295 - GENERAL MISSION	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
5297 - MISSION CHURCH SUPPORT	\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00
5298 - MISSIONARY FAMILY SUPPORT	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
5302 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING TEAM PROCESS	\$10,000.00	\$(109,512.50)
Total Other Serve	\$73,286.50	\$(15,378.43)

TOTAL SERVE**\$225,985.93****\$142,555.24****WELCOME/NURTURE**

5221 - CURRICULUM/RESOURCES

\$45.25

5245 - CONGR DISCERNMENT & NURTURE

\$128.58

5231 -FELLOWSHIP	\$300.00	\$(142.96)
5237- PUBLICITY		\$168.00
5239 - WEBSITE & INTERNET	\$1,587.00	\$1,982.43
5261- HEAT	\$8,000.00	\$4,590.14
5262- ELECTRICITY	\$4,000.00	\$4,339.11
5263 - ARL. COUNTY UTILITIES	\$2,500.00	\$3,193.58
5265 -REPAIRS&IMPROVEMENTS	\$10,000.00	\$11,028.28
5267 - BLDG & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$5,000.00	\$4,819.56
5268- JANITOR CONTRACT	\$17,821.79	\$20,487.76
TOTAL WELCOME	\$49,208.79	\$50,639.73

PROCLAIM

5208- SUBSTITUTE PREACHER	\$1,200.00	\$400.00
5253- ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE		\$250.00
5254- WORSHIP SUPPLIES	-	\$209.16
TOTAL PROCLAIM	\$1,200.00	\$859.16

SESSION

5292 - SESSION	\$100.00	
5301 - FUTURE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT	\$40,000.00	\$1,201.61
TOTAL SESSION	\$40,100.00	\$1,201.61

Total BUDGETARY Expenses \$316,494.72 \$195,255.74

Net Income/(Deficit) \$(18,566.93) \$118,405.43

**2017
Approved
Budget**

REVENUES

UNDESIGNATED

4110- PLEDGES & ENVELOPES	\$194,730.00
4120 - LOOSE OFFERING	\$2,000.00
4130 - INITIAL ENVELOPES	
Total Contributions	\$196,730.00

USE OF AVAILABLE ASSETS

4340-Liquidation of Investment Assets	
Total Revenue & Cash Available from Other Assets	\$196,730.00

EXPENSES

PASTORS & TEACHERS (SHEPHERDS)

PASTOR & EXPENSES

5101 - PASTORS SALARY	\$1,384.99
5201 - PASTOR'S ALLOWANCES	\$1,841.81
xxxx - SUPPLY PASTOR	\$40,331.10

XXXX - PENSION & BENEFITS FOR SUPPLY PASTOR	\$14,720.85
5203 - PASTOR'S SERVICE PENSION & BENEFITS	\$1,177.78
TOTAL PASTOR & EXPENSES	\$59,456.53

STAFF

5102- MINISTER OF MUSIC	\$18,800.00
XXXX - NEIGHBORHOOD PASTOR	
XXXX - BONUS PASTOR	\$6,500.00
XXXX - OFFICE SUPPORT	\$3,840.00
5109 - AUDITOR FEES	\$750.00
5205- SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE	\$2,587.23
5207- INCENTIVE AWARDS	\$900.00
5218 - BACKGROUND CHECKS & LEGAL COSTS	\$100.00
5219- STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE/BENEFITS	
5235 - NURSERY CARE SERVICE	\$4,680.00
TOTAL PASTORS & TEACHERS	\$97,613.76

APOSTLES

5107 - ACCOUNTING SERVICE	\$4,800.00
5208- SUBSTITUTE PREACHER	\$1,200.00
5241 - OUTREACH SERVICES	\$973.00
5253- ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	\$500.00
5266- INSURANCE	\$2,794.46
5271 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$3,000.00
5273- TELEPHONE	\$3,600.00
5274- POSTAGE	\$250.00
5278 - RENT	\$33,600.00
5291 - PRESBYTERY ASSESSMENT	\$2,441.25

TOTAL APOSTLES **\$53,158.71**

DISCIPLES

5245 - CONGR DISCERNMENT & NURTURE	\$10,000.00
5294 - VOICE	\$2,500.00
5295 - GENERAL MISSION	\$10,000.00
5297 - MISSION CHURCH SUPPORT	\$6,000.00
XXXX - NEIGHBORHOOD MISSION ACTIVITIES	\$10,957.53
5301 - FUTURE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT	
TOTAL DISCIPLES	\$39,457.53

EVANGELISTS	
5225 - SPECIAL EVENTS/FAMILY RETREAT	\$2,500.00
5231 - FELLOWSHIP	\$500.00
	-
TOTAL EVANGELISTS	\$3,000.00
PROPHETS	
5237- PUBLICITY/COMMUNICATION	\$2,500.00
5239 - WEBSITE & INTERNET	\$1,000.00
TOTAL PROPHETS	\$3,500.00
Total BUDGETARY Expenses	<u>\$196,730.00</u>

Net Income/(Deficit) \$-

Stewardship

The Serve Team worked with Pastor Sharon Core on Sunday worship discussions around the theme “of “rocking the boat.” Dedication Sunday for the offering of 2016 pledges was on October 30, 2016. Compared to 2016, budgeted pledge income is down for 2016 by \$15,000 (\$196, 000 from \$213,000) or about 9 percent.

One special offering was taken in 2016 for the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Service and Mission Programs (listed alphabetically)

2016 was an extraordinary year in mission and outreach decision and support. APC responded to several one-time needs and decisions associated with the move from the property at 3507 Columbia Pike. As a result, total mission and outreach expenditures greatly exceeded our 10 percent goal, totaling \$36,913.30 in 2016 as described below.

Funshine Nursery and Pre-school (Coordinator: Serve Team)

Session approved forgiveness of \$10,000 of the July 2016 rent to assist Funshine during their transition to new space.

Meals on Wheels (Coordinator: Sharon Core)

In 2016, Meals on Wheels continued with Sharon Core, Susan Etherton, and Michelle Lanier.

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

As in prior years, in 2016 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 2016, APC contributed \$6,000 towards his work.

Mission Family Support: Bangkok, Thailand (Coordinator: Serve Team).

Through our annual budget contribution of \$1,200.00, 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.

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 2016 budget. The Presbytery sends some of these funds on to the Synod and General Assembly.

The Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank (Coordinator: Cathy McCabe, Jon Etherton)

After much discussion and discernment within the congregation over 2015 and 2016, the session decided to spin off the Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank as a separate entity no longer under APC sponsorship and management. Nonetheless APC worked to support the continued ministry of the clothing bank by helping to find a new location for the ministry in the Arlington United Methodist Center and by paying the moving expenses of \$4713.30. In addition APC has agreed to provide the remaining funds from the Clothing Bank account line item to pay for the monthly rent for the clothing bank through next summer.

VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) (2016 Coordinators: Jon Etherton, Sharon Core and Laura Gehrenbeck).

In 2016 APC continued its support of 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, including affordable housing. A delegation of eight APC members and friends participated in the large VOICE Northern Virginia meeting with senior government and church officials on October 16 at Oakton High School. At the event, Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter of National Capital Presbytery, pledged presbytery support for affordable housing initiatives. APC has been in discussion VOICE representatives on ways of future partnership within our broader ministry plan using the proceeds of the sale of our property.

APC donated \$2500 to VOICE in 2016 as part of our mission and outreach support.

Other Outreach

In addition to the many programs listed above, APC supported the following service agencies by making a direct financial contribution. Mostly local in scope, many of these relationships have been maintained over many years. The outreach services contributions to these organizations are noted below. The newsletters and other information from these organizations are posted on our bulletin board.

Arlington Food Assistance Center	\$500
Arlington Street Peoples Assistance Network	\$500
Doorways for Women and Families	\$500
Greenbrier Learning Center	\$500
Just Neighbors	\$500
Phoenix Bikes	\$500
Shirlington Employment & Education Center	\$500
Volunteers of America Residential Program Center	\$500

Total:

\$4000

Personnel

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

Personnel Actions in 2016

At the beginning of the year, all APC staff were given a copy of their job description and asked to sign off on their 2016 *Terms of Employment*. Serve Team recommended and session agreed to new compensation terms for minister of music, Steve Beck, effective July 1, 2016.

Nominating Committee

The members of the Nominating Committee (Sharon Core [ex officio], David Gehrenbeck [chair], Kristl Hathaway [Session representative], Jay Kennedy, and Cathia Levite) met throughout the year to discern the future leaders of the congregation. We started with Bible study. (Did you know that the most common Greek word in the New Testament for “elder” is “presbyteros”? According to Vine’s New Testament dictionary, the use of this word to describe those appointed to have oversight over the earliest churches suggests their “maturity of spiritual experience.”) We then moved on to discussions about what it means to be a leader in the church in general, the transitional state of this congregation, and who might be best suited to lead us into our next era. Each conversation began and ended with prayers for guidance and wisdom in our effort. We reached a clear consensus that those charged with leading us forward should be active, committed members of the congregation who reflect our diversity -- in particular regarding their history of involvement in Arlington Presbyterian, so as to maintain important links with our past ministry while preparing for the future. Asked to identify two nominees for Session, we extended an invitation to consider the call to Judy Robb to return to service as elder and to Diana Lewis-Chun to undertake service for the first time. After careful consideration, both accepted the call and were elected by the congregation on December 4, 2016.

The Nominating Committee will submit its nominees for the 2017 Nominating Committee in early 2017.

Affordable Housing Team

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” – Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-10

The Affordable Housing Team continued to work with Jill Norcross as we moved toward a closing of the sale of the property on July 31, 2016.

Several other groups worked to coordinate the clearing of the building including a community-wide giveaway held in mid July.

On July 28, Susan Etherton and Kristl Hathaway met with the APAH principals in their offices and signed the final closing documents for the sale. The proceeds of sale were transferred to an account held by the Presbytery (for APC) and APC was reimbursed for the over \$110,000 spent in pre-development costs.

On August 1, APAH personnel, Susan Etherton and Jill Norcross completed a walk-through of the property at 3507 Columbia Pike and turned over the keys to APAH. On that same day, we received a term sheet from APAH’s representative, Street Sense, for returning to a retail bay at Gilliam Place after construction completion.

In October, Susan and Jill met with both a space-planning organization and a commercial broker to assist in considering the term sheet and the space offered at Gilliam Place. The Session assigned the Moving Forward team the task of making a recommendation regarding the lease terms.

In late October we negotiated an extension of the term sheet until 12/31/16 and in December, at a congregational gathering, we gathered to discuss the options regarding the lease terms and our right of first refusal in the sales contract. With the help of our broker, Brian Dickerson, we agreed to allow the right of first refusal to lapse while continuing to pursue returning to Gilliam Place as our first choice of space. The Moving Forward team will continue this effort in 2017 along with the help of Jill Norcross.

The Affordable Housing Team would like to recognize and thank all who were involved in making this happen, including but not limited to, Jill Norcross, Sharon Core, Mark Viani (attorney), our friends at APAH (Nina Janopaul, Carmen Romero, Laura London), our friends at NCP, Jon Etherton, Kristl Hathaway, Judy Robb, and the Session of APC.

Once again, we give thanks to God for this journey of faith. Through continued trust in God, we have seen the fruits of our labor. We look forward to new ways and blessings in 2017.

Gratefully submitted, Susan Robbins Etherton Affordable Housing Team, Chair

Moving Forward Team

The Moving Forward Team began each monthly meeting in 2016 with bible study and prayer as we reflected together on the “What’s Next?” for APC. This year our team expanded to include Laura Gehrenbeck, Liz Ruedy, Steve Tuttle and Kaytlin Butler. After many years, Linda Peebles discerned it was time to step away and focus her energies on other areas of APC’s ministry. The remaining members include: Jon Etherton, Susan Etherton, Kristl Hathaway, Judy Robb, and Michelle Lanier.

In 2016 Session asked the Moving Forward team to research, report and recommend whether or not APC should sign a non-binding letter of intent to invoke our right of first refusal to lease part of the commercial space on the ground floor of Gilliam Place (the street location of our former church home) to APAH (Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing). In response Moving Forward met monthly to study scripture and envision together what our new church presence might be in our Columbia Pike neighborhood, and if that presence would be in the ground floor of Gilliam Place. Our guiding principle was the call to be a crossroads for different populations in our rapidly-changing area. Another helpful image was that of being a hinge in the neighborhood that could act as a lever between different services and neighborhood needs to enhance impact. We affirmed that creating and nurturing honest relationships with our neighbors is at the heart of what we want to be: it was what inspired the affordable housing project and continues to inspire our desire to remain present on Columbia Pike.

One possible form of presence in the neighborhood is as a shared worship and community resource space. On Sundays this flexible space would be set up as a sacred worship space. During the week it could be a space for community groups to meet, for small business development consultation or legal assistance, as a volunteer clearinghouse where those who wish to volunteer could link up with local organizations, or perhaps as a space for after school tutoring, language classes or career training. We are drawn to the idea of building upon our partnerships with effective neighborhood non-profits and support organizations. We also met extensively with

NOVA Catholic, a mission-oriented congregation in South Arlington, about co-locating and working together to develop such a space. We had a semi-concrete consensus that we wanted to do this and we wanted to do this in Gilliam Place, which we feel is still a part of us.

As our idea took shape, the concrete needs of square footage, rent prices and build-out costs became real. We were soon beyond our scope of knowledge and needed professional help to elucidate actual costs and what spaces might look like when code requirements, tables, chairs, etc. are put in place. Engaging Brian Dickerson, a local commercial real estate agent, helped us better understand our position relative to both the APAH offer and other opportunities in the neighborhood. We learned that allowing the right of first refusal to pass enables us to retain a strong negotiating position for better terms while concurrently allowing us to explore other opportunities close by. At the December 11 congregational gathering Brian presented his thoughts and the congregation, which with a show of hands conveyed the corporate desire to allow our right to lapse. At its next meeting Session voted to not sign the letter of intent.

Moving Forward team will continue to meet and develop the community space idea. We are eager to work with the new Neighborhood Pastor with faith that a new perspective and a fresh store of energy will inspire and lead us towards a new leap of faith. Whatever the shape of our new presence may be, our APC congregation must embark together upon its creation. We will all need to recommit ourselves to our new project, not only with weekly worship and daily prayer, but also with volunteer hours and feet on the ground. Only together can we be the hands and feet of God at the crossroads of an ever-changing community.

Submitted by Laura Gehrenbeck

Congregational Connections Team

Members: Sharon Core, Jon Etherton, Cathia Levite, Don Peebles, Linda Peebles

The Congregational Connections group was formed in the midst of the moving transition as a way to maintain and strengthen relationships within members and friends of the APC faith community.

Activities planned during 2016 were:

- Community Picnic—August 28
- Fishbowl
- Belhar Conversations during Advent
- *Walking Up White* Conversations
- Church Retreat—October 21 – 23

This group has also pondered ways to invite all who consider themselves a part of the APC faith community to participate more fully. You are invited to consider your own involvement and ideas for ways the community can continue to remain connected to one another in this time of transition. Please speak to Jon, Cathia, Don or Linda with questions and ideas.

The Theology Discipleship Group

Members of this group - Robert Cooper, Sharon Core, Kristine Gabster, Bob Listou, Jeanne MacKenzie, Dudley Sadler, and Judy Wang - spent the year reading Grounded: Finding God in the World A Spiritual Revolution by Diana Butler Bass.

Bass examines of where the presence of God might be experienced in our natural habitat - dirt, water, sky. And, within our human geography - roots, home, neighborhood and common areas. She closes with Revelation saying, "the book of Revelation is not a heavenly escape story. Instead, it tells the opposite tale. We do not go to heaven. Heaven comes to us. The end of history is not destruction; rather, its end is sacred restoration."

Much of our reflection was how what we were reading related to the transition and journey of our congregation. You are invited to join us at 7:30, the first Wednesday of the month at the home of Bob Listou and Jeanne MacKenzie, 3440 S Jefferson Street #1125, in Bailey's Crossroads.

Submitted by: Jeanne MacKenzie

The Fun and Fellowship Discipleship Group

The Fun and Fellowship Group ("The Group"), coordinated by Linda and Don Peebles, continued to meet each month during 2016. We shared meals in homes and local restaurants, enjoyed two Polyhymnia concerts, played games, laughed, sang Christmas carols, laughed some more, celebrated birthdays (including Robert's 19th), talked about our favorite books, took advantage of a Christmas train preview, had devotionals, and engaged in freewheeling conversations about topics of current interest.

We also cared for each other and prayed for each other, through good times and challenging times, a community of friends on a shared faith journey.

And a few final words offered by Group members:

Mirth

Glorious

Fellowship

Hospitality

Community

Cohesive

Good to be there

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of Arlington Presbyterian Church met monthly (except for summer months) for Bible Study and fellowship. We enjoy each other's company and share pot luck lunch.

PW held a wedding shower for Cathia Soughe in January. A good time was had by all.

We were pleased to sponsor and assist with several coffee hours including ones to honor Maria Cervantes, session members, our high school graduate, Eleanor Freed and the baptism of Ollie Perwani.

We decided to give away the items in the PW closet and to divest our funds. We donated \$2,112.32 to Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church, USA with instructions to use the funds where they will do the most good.

We plan to continue to meet for Bible study and fellowship and to help APC as we are able.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cielinski

APC Book Group

During 2016 the newly established APC book group met monthly at 10:00 before worship for discussion. We decided to read books listed in the book 25 Books Every Christian Should Read, working in backward Chronological order. This year we have read:

The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri J. M. Nouwen, Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis, The Seven Storey Mountain by Thomas Merton, A Testament of Devotion by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Regular members include Kristl Hathaway, Robert Cooper, Jon Etherton, Don Peebles, and Steve Tuttle.

APC Writers' Group

The Writers Group meets on alternate Wednesdays in members' homes. The host decides the topic. We sup together and then have a Bible study/discussion. We gather around the table again for dessert and then share our writings for the evening. The topics we have shared have been personal statements of faith, animals, communion, death, food, prayer, and, this coming Wednesday, books. Hosting is not required and neither is providing food. If you are curious, talk to Kristine Gabster or David Gehrenbeck. In the words of the aging hipsters, Write On!