



RECENT SCENES AT GPC



WORSHIP IN PERSON

9:30 & 11:00 AM
EVERY SUNDAY



LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

11:00 AM
EVERY SUNDAY



From the Heart of Pastor Mary Austin

LET'S STEAL!

I had church envy recently. Does that ever happen to you?

Reading about a community where people come three or four times a week, giving a large part of their time and money, made me wonder what we can learn from them. People make time to be there no matter what else is happening in their lives, and one couple picked their new home based on how close it was.

There are friendships, and social gatherings. When someone dies, the community mourns together, so no one is forgotten.

It's everything we all want in a church—except this was CrossFit.

The exercise program understands how to build a community—and keep people connected. Even the rituals for people who die are extraordinarily moving. And they have five million members, more than double the size of the PC(USA) right now.

On one hand, I'm happy that people have this rich source of support and friendship. On the other hand, it made me wonder what the church (any church . . .) can learn.

The world is full of lessons that we can adapt for the church. And people can steal our ideas, too!

At my favorite consignment shop, after I went once, the owner knew my name. When I needed something recently, she went to her storage unit to get it. The online interfaces for many businesses keep inspiring us to be more tech savvy. A business that explains things simply and clearly is an inspiration.

How about you? What great ideas are you seeing out in the world that would work at church? I'm eager to hear!

In hope,
Rev. Mary Austin
Pastor



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TAKING ANOTHER LOOK

While cleaning out some of my mother's possessions recently, I came across so many treasures—cards from her church friends, crafts from the grandchildren, photographs from long ago. One treasure looked familiar—a Mainstream article from 2018, I believe. Apologies to the other contributors, but she saved only my article. 😊 I had written about a favorite Bible passage that summarizes the life of a Christian disciple. Mark 3:13–14 reads, "Jesus went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, to be with him . . . and to be sent out."

That passage still speaks to me today. You and I are not on this planet by accident, but by God's eternal purpose and plan. Jesus calls us into deeper intimacy with God and longs to spend time with us, in Bible reading and prayer, in conversation with other disciples, sharing more of God with us every day. Then when Jesus thinks we are ready (not when we think we are ready), he sends us out into the world to serve others and to share our God-joy with them.

This fall, think about what Christ is calling you to do. Maybe it is to go deeper with God or maybe it is to go boldly with God out into some new mission. We begin the fall with studies and opportunities for prayer. And, as for mission and service, well, you know I LOVE to talk about that!

Many Blessings,
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Associate Pastor

FALL MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

September 5

Interfaith Walk

**September 18 –
October 2**

Winter Boots and Coats Drive for Rosemont and Summit Hall Elementary Schools

September 21

Workshop with Ed Travis via Zoom

October 2–7

PDA mission trip – back to New Bern, NC

November

There may be one more short mission focus before the end of November. Stay tuned.



YOUTH AND COLLEGE MINISTRY

Happy Fall everyone! Welcome to our 2022–2023 school year of youth and college events at GPC! I pray that you all had a great summer filled with much laughter, family, rest, and sunshine. Fall is here and we are hitting the ground running with plenty of events to keep our youth and college students busy. Our youth theme for the year is “Rooted,” based on Colossians 2:6–7: “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” We (I and the volunteers who serve our youth) are committed to helping our youth and college students have a relationship with Christ and grow in their walks with Him. Our teaching series throughout the year teaches not only God’s word but also the many attributes that are God. It teaches them to model Christlikeness in their lives and be able to share the gospel with others. We also want to give them opportunities to lead and learn the roles that God will have for them in the church in the future. In addition, we want to show the importance of relationship not only with Christ but also with their family, friends, and the church. We expect your youth to be involved with the group, participating in events, talks, Bible studies, fundraisers, missions, church events, etc. Active participation is vital for the growth of our youth. Information on events and activities this fall is included below. Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to be placed on our youth & college email list for updates and events.

Carrie Larsen

Director of Youth and Young Adults

YOUTH FALL RETREAT / SEPTEMBER 23–25 / MANIDOKAN RETREAT CENTER



Youth in 6th–12th Grades are invited to attend this weekend retreat. The theme is “One of a Kind” and the cost is \$25 for the entire weekend. Over the course of four unique retreat sessions, we’ll ask students the question, “Who are you . . . really?” Many of us are one person at home, another person with our friends, and someone else around our school’s principal. That’s not a bad thing, but having all the versions can make it difficult to know the REAL you. This weekend, we’re diving into who you are and who you were created to be. As we do, we may find ourselves stepping away from average, and moving past what is “normal” into a life that is one of a kind. For registration details, see Youth emails.

PARENT SYMPOSIUM / SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 / 9:30–11:30 AM / PATHWAYS BAPTIST CHURCH / TOPIC: THE COVID SHIFT

Parents of children and teens are invited to participate in a conversation with other parents about how the pandemic shifted your parenting styles. Post pandemic, what’s working, what’s not working. Let’s talk about it. The registration link can be found in parent weekly emails.

P A R E N T S Y M P O S I U M



SERVE TOGETHER WEEKEND / SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 / 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON / A WIDER CIRCLE

Mark your calendars for a weekend to serve together. We will meet with five other churches in our area to serve various organizations in our community that day. We will serve first and then have lunch together.

KINGDOM WORKER WORSHIP NIGHT / MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7 / 7:00 PM / JOURNEY’S CROSSING CHURCH

No matter your age, you are a kingdom worker! Join us for an all-county worship night to celebrate being a kingdom worker. For a more detailed account of our youth and college events, please see our weekly emails.



QUIPS FROM EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

When we are young, an open door is a clear invitation to adventure. I'm fairly certain that we all spent some amount of time trying to open doors that our beloved adults tried very hard to keep closed, yet here we are as adults somewhat more reluctant to open doors than we were at the age of 3. GPC's concept and word this program year is OPEN—open hearts, open minds, open doors, open arms . . . the doors are open for us to step out in faith, love, and hope . . . to walk out to invite others in—into church, into our inner circles, and into our hearts, minds, and lives. To encourage that spirit of openness we offer the following:



Small Groups

Monday evening Bible Study, Zoom, resumes September 12 at 7:00, Ecclesiastes

Wednesday evening Small Group, Zoom, 7:30, Genesis

Frederick Small Group meets in a variety of ways every other Wednesday evening at 7:30, topic TBA

Thursday Evening Book Study, Zoom, September 22 at 7:00

In September: *Travelling Mercies* by Annie LaMott

Sunday Mornings (all hybrid)

Steve Olin's Group, 8:15, *In All Seasons For All Reasons* by James Martin, to accompany the sermon series on prayer

Christian Classics, 9:30, the Apocrypha

The Present Word, 9:30, Fall Study

The Bible as a Whole, 9:30, Hebrews

Worship and Educational Opportunities for Children

Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00, children of all ages begin in the Sanctuary with their families. On the first Sunday of the month, as well as any Sunday that includes a school holiday, children stay for the entire service. The other weekends, at the 11:00 service, children are dismissed to attend Sunday School. For your child's safety, we request that a parent or guardian come to the classroom to pick up their child.

For children who remain in the service, we provide an extensive Children's Bulletin that reflects the scripture readings of the day. Children 4 years and younger are welcome to enjoy the Playground, a small space in the Sanctuary with quiet toys where parents can sit nearby. Our Nursery is available for our youngest children from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Carolyn Hayes

Director of Children and Young Families



MUSIC NOTES

One of the beautiful things about making music in church is the participation of the people and the direction of our focus. Ideally, our focus is on God and the opportunity to glorify God through our music. While we're doing this, we minister to one another through our music. It can comfort in times of pain, and it can celebrate in times of joy. Beyond this, though, the church is one of the final bastions of participatory music for most people.

At one time, it was not unusual to sing or play instruments with family and friends at home. Even before the nineteenth century soirées, it was a common pastime. As music has become increasingly commercialized, however, this has become rarer and rarer to the extent that some are afraid to sing out, feeling that music making is best left to professionals or trained amateurs. We've grown accustomed to manufactured music that was performed, edited, mixed, and mastered by a team of professionals seeking the most polished sound possible. It's everywhere, and it has changed our perception of what to expect from live music as well as the perceived level necessary to make music with others.

In reality, you do not need to make music at anywhere close to a professional level (let alone at the level of manufactured perfection produced by the recording industry) to have fun making music or to offer your music to God and other people. It warms my heart to hear the people of GPC, or any church, lifting up their voices together in song, no matter how polished or rough. A polished performance is always nice, but it isn't the goal of singing together.

Our goal is, of course, to glorify God but also to come together and unite as a community. Singing as a group creates bonds that are difficult to find in any other way. You can see it at sports games, when a team's supporters join in on the same song or chant. It is both a symbol of their community and nourishment for it.

If you would like to explore other ways that you can sing or play music in worship, the fall is a perfect time to join a choir, handbell group, or small ensemble! We start over in the fall. You are warmly invited to speak with me about your situation and circumstances, and I'm sure that we can find a way for you to get involved in making music.

Wade Meyers

Director of Music and Worship Arts

SAVE THE DATE FOR MUSIC!

Cello & Fiddle Duo



Ellen Gira and Jocelyn Pettit will be performing at BlackRock Center for the Arts on **Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 p.m.**

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to:
www.blackrockcenter.org/event-details/jocelyn-pettit-ellen-gira

Orchestra Concert

The **Montgomery Philharmonic** will present the second concert of its 16th season on **October 23 at 6:30 p.m.** in GPC's Sanctuary. Entitled "*Joy and Hope*," the concert will feature *Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo* by Copland, *These Worlds in Us* by Mazzoli, *Symphony No. 2 – Sinfonia India* by Chavez, and the *William Tell Overture* by Rossini.

Admission is free but donations are always gratefully accepted. Please reserve your seats on the home page of www.montgomeryphilharmonic.org



WE WELCOME GPP&K'S NEW DIRECTOR, CYNTHIA DOBBINS!



Born in Washington, D.C., to Haitian/Catholic parents, Cynthia grew up in Montgomery County. She developed a strong faith through her family's involvement in the church and her enrollment in Catholic schools. She met her husband, Chris, during high school, while both were on vacation in Nags Head, North Carolina. They have four beautiful daughters—Kaylee, Leah, and twins Elise and Isabelle—and a dog named Bentley.

Cynthia has been part of GPC for 18 years. Her mother-in-law, Sandra Newcomb, invited them to attend services. She loved the fellowship of the church and decided to become a member. The older daughters, Kaylee and Leah, have participated in the children's choir, VBS, and youth group.

In 2006, Cynthia received an Associate of Arts degree in Education from Montgomery College. She taught preschool for a couple of years and then became the director of an early learning center. While director, she earned a BS in Early Childhood Education Administration from Kaplan University. She has 15+ years of early childhood experience as an educator and leader and loves working with children and observing their curiosity for learning.

During her free time, Cynthia loves reading, listening to music, dancing, vacationing at the beach, spending time with family, helping others, and also enjoys gardening and watching her vegetable plants flourish. Cooking is another passion of hers and she loves trying new recipes.

Cynthia is thrilled to embrace the opportunity, as the new GPP&K Director, to lead the ministry that serves children in our community and she looks forward to joining the GPC ministry team.



GPP&K ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

If you know anyone looking for a Pre-school or Kindergarten, ask them to consider GPP&K. We offer:

- 3-year-old Preschool
- 4-year-old Pre-Kindergarten
- State-Accredited Kindergarten
- Academic Learning Experiences
- Extended Day until 3:00 p.m.
- Healthy Snacks
- Nut-Free School
- Christian Environment

For more information, please contact Cynthia Dobbins, Director (Cynthia@GPPK.com) or Carolyn Hayes (Chayes@gpchurch.org).



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ACCOUNTING MANAGER, DENNIS JANSEN!



Dennis grew up in Montgomery County and earned his BA, Economics & Business, from Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Michigan) and his MBA, Finance, from the University of Maryland, College Park. His professional career spans four decades with Ernst & Young, Marriott International, and Sunrise Senior Living. Most recently, his one-man advisory practice has performed assignments for a senior living private equity group and several smaller clients, including non-profit accounting for a large church here in Gaithersburg. He serves as a Deacon at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda.

Dennis and his wife, Susan, reside in Gaithersburg, where she serves numerous clients with life insurance needs. Their three grandchildren live in Falls Church, Virginia, with their oldest daughter, Nora, and Travis. Two of their other children (Peter and Emily) live in Austin, Texas, and their youngest son, Brett, serves in the Navy in San Diego, California.

Dennis is a longtime friend and neighbor of GPC members Gary and Joyce Schumacher. He can be reached at accountingmanager@gpchurch.org.

QUARTERLY GIVING STATEMENTS

Quarterly Giving Statements have a long tradition here at GPC, and they keep the staff and the congregation aligned in stewarding the Lord's abundant funds. Congregants are reminded of their commitments and God's provision in helping us keep these commitments. The staff uses the opportunity to ensure that our recordkeeping is on track and to express our deep gratefulness for your generosity.

In the past, these statements have been printed, stuffed, and mailed to you. We intend to keep that practice in place for those without email, but would like to move towards sending these out electronically starting after the third quarter ends on September 30. This will be far faster and will also yield savings in paper, envelopes, and postage! To that end, the church office will be collecting/updating email addresses for each giving "unit" beginning in August. If your household has multiple donors, please update them all!

Please let us know whether you'd rather continue to receive these statements via regular mail, but otherwise ensure that your email address is up to date. New email addresses can be sent to info@gpchurch.org.

CALLS THAT YOU MAY BE RECEIVING ON BEHALF OF GPC

Prayer Calls: Elder Doreen Turczyn-Toles is calling people listed in GPC's membership directory, so if you receive a voicemail message from her, rest assured that she is calling you on behalf of GPC. With your permission, she posts your blessings and concerns to our electronic Prayer Network; otherwise, conversations are confidential.

Directory Update Calls: As part of GPC's efforts to update its emergency response plan, Communications Committee member **Paul Whitehead** is contacting everyone in our directory to request their cell phone number to enable emergency texting. If you see a message from him, know that he is performing this service for GPC.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

On **Saturday, September 3**, the group will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Café Sophie (formerly the Airpark Café) one more time. (Each person pays for his or her own menu choice.) Other fall meetings will be held back in Lindsay Hall on **October 1** (Dennis Jansen, GPC's new accounting manager, will share about his background, journey of faith, family, and a few favorites) and **November 5** (speaker TBD). As always, women are welcome to join the group for Christian fellowship and a light continental breakfast. Questions? Contact Ted Farrand (*call the church office*).

VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

During August, VIPS took its usual summer break except for our regular Porch Angel Ministries deliveries and a trip to Fort Ritchie, Maryland, an important training facility for Intelligence Service Officers and enlistees during WW II. Returning to VIPS' normal schedule on **Thursday, September 1**, Susan Emery of the non-profit organization Circle of Rights will present "*Issues Related to Strokes – Prevention, Recognition, Response, Treatment, and Recovery*." On **Thursday, October 6**, Mike Conrad, Montgomery County Police (MCP), will share information about the "*KSS – Keeping Seniors Safe*" program, which was developed by MCP to increase awareness of safety issues affecting the senior community. On **Thursday, November 3**, as arranged through the Jewish Community Relations Council, Asher Gendelman, the son of Holocaust survivors, will speak about his personal experiences. VIPS meetings are held monthly in Lindsay Hall, with Gathering beginning at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunches or to participate in the shared lunch. Questions? Contact Nancy Sanders (*call the church office*).

CRAFT GROUP

The group has resumed meeting in person and its members continue to make prayer shawls and prayer squares for Holy Cross Germantown Hospital in addition to working on their own projects. If you would like to make either shawls or squares and need yarn, let Barbara Clark know. Volunteers are still needed to help sew dignity bibs from donated men's and women's shirts. Questions? Contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*). Their next meeting will be **Sunday, September 11, at 12:15 p.m.**

2ND FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

The group is still meeting via Zoom. They are currently reading *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibrahm X. Kendi. Their next meeting will be on **Friday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m.** You are welcome to participate anytime, even if you have not read the book. For more information, contact Cindy Cenname (*call the church office*).

CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scout Pack 64 has had a busy summer! In **June**, 16 scouts and 10 parents went to week-long local Cub Scout Day Camp at Lois Green Isaac Walton League in Gaithersburg. In **July**, the Webelos had a great time during a week of sleep-away experiences at Camp Heritage Boy Scout Camp in Pennsylvania. A small contingent visited the Agricultural Farm woods in nearby Derwood for a July hike. A number of scouts and their families attended the Frederick Keys Scout Night on July 24, but a thunderstorm ended the festivities. Our big summertime ending activity—the Parents vs. Kids Kickball Game at Candlewood Elementary School—was held the end of **August**. In **September**, Cub Scout Pack 64 will march in Gaithersburg's Labor Day Parade.

Regular meetings will resume in September on Tuesday nights, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Den activities are the first and second Tuesdays of the month, and Pack meetings are the third Tuesday. Boys and girls in Grades K–5 are welcome to join in the fun! Questions? Contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*).

KIND WORKS

GPC, in partnership with KindWorks, is continuing to help provide KindCasseroles for the Hillside Senior Apartments in Gaithersburg and KindSoups for various community agencies. In addition, the KindKitchens and KindWelcomeDinners projects provide groceries and welcome dinners for newly arrived immigrant families. Volunteers can be reimbursed for food purchases upon request. Questions? Visit www.DoKindWorks.org or contact Denise Schleckser (*call the church office*).



GPC'S VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



If you've entered GPC's well-inventoried and -stocked library, and found just the right book to read, did you ever stop to wonder how our library came to be? That answer would be filed under authors whose last names begin with "H"—"Hastings, Linda" to be exact.

It all started innocently enough when Linda and her husband, John, joined GPC in 1971. At a get-to-know-you gathering of new members, Linda mentioned that she was a librarian. Someone from GPC enthusiastically said, "We have a closet full of books and we want to start a library!" The rest, we might say, is GPC Library History—a devoted, 50-year history of Linda continuously volunteering to lead and advance GPC's library resources.

As Linda recalls, she was always a book person. Her mom and dad were both great readers. When Linda was 8 years old and thoroughly enjoying her community library in Rutherford, New Jersey, she left the Children's Room of the library one day and decided that when she grew up, she wanted to become a librarian.

She chose Simmons College (now Simmons University) in Boston because it offered a degree in Library Science, and because she wanted to go to college in New England where her parents had grown up.

Before and after having children, she worked for many years with the Montgomery County, Maryland, library system, including the Silver Spring, Noyes, and Rockville branches.

Back in 1971, Linda was on a break from working outside the home while concentrating on raising her 7-year-old daughter, Sue, and 2-year-old son, Tom. So, she took the bag of books home, catalogued them, and bought cards and book pockets. Those original approximately 20 books that had been stored in a closet in GPC's Fellowship Hall were placed on two shelves outside the entrance to Fellowship Hall for all to see and use.

Over the years there were plenty of donations of books and then a budget so that Linda could start buying books. She guided the library's content, growth, and locations in the church. When the church expanded with a new addition, a whole room was designated as the

Church Library. After it was furnished and stocked, a major setback occurred.

As Linda remembers it, it was a GPC Youth Group night, cold and rainy, back when Rev. Faye Serene worked with the youth. Sometime that night, after their meeting had ended and the church was closed for the evening, a fire started in the church library. The furniture and many books were destroyed, but many books were salvageable. The church office, located where the nursery is now, was also damaged. Linda learned about it the next day from a radio report.

As disheartening as that event was, it didn't deter Linda from taking on all the challenges that needed to be met to bring the library back. At that time computers were not prevalent, but a member couple living in Montgomery Village set up a cataloging database on their computer and offered it to Linda to use at their home for the arduous project of computerizing all the library records. After a lot of hard work, funding, and book donations, the library was restored.

In addition to her work maintaining the library itself, for many years Linda also wrote a monthly article for the *Mainstream*, suggesting various books that she thought would be of interest to members. The books in each article centered on a common theme and she listed them by title and included the authors' names and a short description about each book as well.

For the last several years, and most recently during these pandemic years, Linda says the library has sort of taken care of itself. But Linda wants more for her creation. This year she decided it was time to let others start a new chapter of library history.

Linda Hastings, now in her '80's, has officially retired from her volunteer position. What is she most proud of? "I got it started from a closet of books and brought it up to what it is today." And what does she hope for its future? "I just hope it continues to be used. I would love to know that people are still using and benefiting from our GPC book collection."

How can we thank Linda for all her wonderful work? Let's all agree to keep reading and using the GPC Library, because its story is far from over!

(Linda Hastings was interviewed by Lucille Baur for this article.)

COMMITTEES BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR GPC

We've got a theme running through this year's Mainstreams . . . each issue provides information about GPC Session Committees and their ministries. (Look back to the February and May issues to see which committees have already been highlighted.) Even as we move further away from the beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to wonder how the developing COVID variants will affect the future of GPC. Despite necessary restrictions and adaptations creatively developed by church leadership, we know you'll really appreciate how much progress our church continues to make due to the constant forward motion of our committees. This issue's spotlight is on the Congregational Life, Digital Ministry, and Stewardship & Planned Giving committees.

The Congregational Life Committee

*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me . . .*
—Matthew 25:35

The official mission of GPC's Congregational Life Committee has been to be "intentional about connecting groups within the church, specifically intercultural connections." More generally, our focus is on fostering hospitality within the congregation and the broader community. Food is always central to that effort. In the past, we have been responsible for planning such special events as FourthNight dinners, the Souper Supper, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and the Seder Dinner. Unlike many other committees whose responsibilities may have increased with the events of the past two years, our team has been limited by the challenges presented by lockdowns and the hesitancy to return to social gatherings. Recently, our emphasis has been on providing a sense of normalcy as COVID-19 becomes less dominant in our daily lives. We are excited to provide similar opportunities for our friends to connect as we cautiously return to face-to-face activities.

In addition to post-Sunday worship coffee fellowship, our group coordinates memorial and recognition events, often in conjunction with other committees and with support from our Angel Network volunteers. Very Important Presbyterian Seniors (VIPS) strive to encourage Christian fellowship by providing for the breaking of bread, for service to the seniors community and beyond, and for enlightenment through monthly programs and a variety of activities. Ted Farrand and John Slavcoff co-chair the Men's Breakfast Group, which meets monthly and features a variety of excellent speakers, in addition to providing opportunities for great fellowship.

New recruits are always welcome! We are also looking for folks who are willing to become more familiar with

the kitchen layout, operation, and safe food handling procedures, and who may be available on an occasional basis to support Sunday morning coffee hour as well as other events. The GPC kitchen is a mainstay of laughter and provides a great opportunity to make new friends.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Our staff liaison is Pastor Mary Beth Lawrence, and our membership includes Galina Abdoulaeva, Asenath Asang, JoAnn Barney (Chair), Malvin Duncan, Ted & Sue Farrand, Shari McCann, Joseph Nana, Kay Penn, Nancy Sanders, Charlotte Spencer, and Laurie Wallace-Lanham.

—JoAnn Barney

The Digital Ministry Committee

The mission of the Digital Ministry Committee is to develop community within GPC and provide outreach to welcome those outside the church through the use of technology.

Since its inception two years ago, this relatively new committee has created videos, updated links to the website, added engagement via social media (Instagram, FaceBook, Twitter, etc.), started prayer groups through WhatsApp, and much more.

Most recently, working with the Communications Committee, we did a "deep dive" into updating GPC's website. Our goal is to provide a welcoming and informative site that's easily navigable and user friendly for members as well as for those who are seeking a church home. Mainly, we hope to communicate the Love of God through this digital platform. The reveal date for our new website is yet to be determined, but we're hoping to roll it out to the public by the end of this year.



The members of the committee include Pastor Mary Austin, Corinne Denlinger, Carrie Larson, Emmanuel Mbaiti, Yaw Obeng, Jenna Obermiller (Communications Manager), Arfan Sandhu, and Terry Young (Chair). Contact information can be obtained from the church office. The committee meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in attending a meeting, sharing ideas of how we can spread the church's mission via technology, or joining the committee, please reach out to one of the committee members.

—Terry Young

The Stewardship and Planned Giving Ministry

The Stewardship and Planned Giving Ministry provides opportunities for members and friends of GPC to give thanks for God's blessings through current, deferred, and special designated financial gifts.

For the past two years, the ministry has conducted very successful annual stewardship operating budget campaigns. Despite the onset and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response of the GPC congregation to the campaigns has been heartwarming. One goal of the ministry is to encourage GPC members and friends to continue to express their love and thankfulness for God's blessings through their financial gifts as each is able.

Thanks to digital technology, it is possible for gifts to be made to the church without a checkbook or offering envelope! By using the GPC website or app, a donor can access the confidential "pushpay.com" feature, which will accept gifts by credit or debit card or from the donor's bank account. The donation is confidential; only GPC's accounting manager sees the transaction.

Another goal of this ministry is to help plant the seeds that endow God's work at GPC beyond our lifetimes. Planned giving is encouraged through seminars, speakers, and extensive literature available in the Gathering Place. Pre-COVID, the ministry was able to conduct periodic Sunday box-lunch seminars on topics related to planned giving, such as "A Christian Will," "Estate Planning," "Having a Family Conversation," and "Leaving a Legacy." Mr. Olanda Carr, representing the Presbyterian Foundation, has been a frequent visitor to GPC, providing support for Wills Emphasis Sunday and offering counseling to those interested in exploring legacy giving through the Foundation. Both the Foundation and the Presbytery have been sources of webinars that assist churches in managing stewardship and planned giving during the near isolation caused by the pandemic. A Legacy Giving video, provided by the Foundation and funded in part by

a legacy gift, can be found on GPC's redesigned website (coming soon).

A highlight for the ministry each year is the Living Legacy Fellowship Dinner, honoring present and past legacy donors. There is no charge to attend the dinner, which is held not only for Fellowship members, but also for those interested in learning more about the many ways that a legacy gift can be made to the church. The program includes memorial tributes to donors of recently established endowed gifts, presented by a relative or close friend. A speaker is featured, followed by a question and answer period. The Living Legacy Fellowship was established by the GPC Session in 2011 to recognize individuals who have made past, current, or future planned gifts to the church endowment.

The Stewardship and Planned Giving Ministry meets from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Ministry co-chairmen are Keith Rush and Phil Melberg, Pastor Mary Austin is the staff liaison, and members are Bruce Andrews, Jerry Brown, Pat Keziah, Phil Melberg, Grace Ndjongo, Kay Penn, Sally Rush, Gary Schumacher, and Charlotte Spencer. The ministry is open to new members, and visitors are welcome. Contact any member for the link to join the virtual meetings.

—Keith Rush and Phil Melberg

SAVE THE DATE



All things are possible for those who believe.

—MARK 9:23

Consecration Sunday

October 16, 2022



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

There is never a shortage of needs to be filled in our local, regional, and global communities. The Community Engagement Committee continues to work to help fill those needs with our church members' generous donations of time, money, and needed items.

Our Lenten collection for Living Water International has already resulted in wells being dug to provide safe water for communities in Uganda. Other beneficiaries of the Lenten collection were Summit Hall Elementary School and Gaithersburg Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten, at which each student received a new book to take home for summer reading.

Cleaning supplies collected during July for apartments for Afghan refugees have already begun to be distributed to recipients through KindWorks. Thanks to VBS participants and leaders for adding first aid supplies to the bounty! Getting some of these basics taken care of is an important financial relief for these new neighbors.

Recently, we made a donation to provide meals for migrants who have been relocated from Texas and Arizona to Montgomery County. These new neighbors are living in a nearby hotel. In addition to donating money for restaurant meals, the church provided kitchen space (as well as the invaluable kitchen leadership skills of our own Malvin Duncan!) for KindWorks volunteers to prepare homemade meals for them.

Community Engagement has gone out into the local community to introduce our vibrant church life to those who do not yet know us. In June, we hosted a table at the Rockville Pride event, handing out fun snacks and giveaways, taking written prayer requests, and talking with the attendees. On Labor Day weekend, we will host another table at the Interfaith 5K, while our walkers and runners participate in the event.

We are always looking for new ways to engage our neighbors. Contact us if you would like to help!

—Denise Schleckser



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH SOME!

Have you heard about SOME (So Others Might Eat)? For many years GPC prepared breakfast once a month for hundreds of our inner-city neighbors at this downtown, faith-based kitchen . . . until the pandemic interrupted on-site volunteer work. Now we have been invited to begin again! If you're interested in experiencing friendly and rewarding Christian service to some needy (and very appreciative) folks, join the GPC SOME Crew whenever you're available. Just sign up to receive the monthly invitation email from Steve Olin (*contact the church office*).

SEPTEMBER AT GPC IS ALL ABOUT PRAYER!

This month, our focus is on prayer. Like everything in the life of faith, some of us worry that we're not praying right, or that we don't pray enough. Perhaps we wonder why we should pray when God knows everything already. Why bother? Some people have had bad experiences with prayer, praying desperately for something that never happened, or feeling empty when they pray. There are a lot of barriers to prayer.

On the other hand, when we do pray, it connects us to God in a long conversation that changes us from the inside out.

Our Sunday worship services will focus on different questions about prayer.

On Wednesday mornings, Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence will lead **Morning Prayer**. The 15-minute service, via Zoom, will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. on September 7, 14, 21, and 28. Watch for the link in the emails each week.

This experience is open to everyone, but especially to those who are new to daily prayer. (Don't worry – you won't have to pray out loud.)

Another form of prayer that works for anyone with a busy brain is walking the labyrinth, where the physical movement of the body quiets the mind. A **labyrinth field trip**, to be led by Elder Kris Obom Maldarelli, will be offered during September.

If you want to read more about prayer, the following two books are down-to-earth guides to prayer.

- ***Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone*** by James Martin, SJ.
- ***Creating a Life with God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices*** by Daniel Wolpert.

I pray that you will find something meaningful this month!

—Rev. Mary Austin

P.S. In October, our theme will be *Practice Generosity*, and in November, our topic will be *Forgive*, just in time for family holiday gatherings.

OUR FALL SERIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND FRIENDS: ALIENS!

"For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever."
—Jeremiah 7:5–7

In honor of the 40th anniversary of *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, GPC young adults and their friends are invited to a fall series centered on aliens. Aliens! Do you remember the 1980s sitcom ALF? The title character's name was the acronym for "alien life form." We will use those categories as an entry point for exploring what it is for us to embrace our own alien identity as well as the alien identity of others, and how our accepting the fact that we are aliens shapes the way that we behave. Using scripture, pop culture, and conversation, we will explore what it means to be *in* the world but not *of* the world and how our own faith makes us alien people!

From September 11 to October 30, with the exception of three Sundays, we will meet either in person or on Zoom at 12:30 p.m., following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. On September 18, October 2, and October 16, we will meet at 4:00 p.m. for matinee viewings of *E.T.*, *District 9*, and a third film (yet to be determined).

—Rev. Whitney K. Fautleroy
Minister to Young Adults



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We mourn the loss of members
and friends who have died.

Doug MacLean
(former GPC Property Manager)
(in Olney, MD)
May 26, 2022

Donald Edmonds Kinloch
(GPC Pastor 7/81 – 4/92)
(in Elk Rapids, MI)
June 4, 2022

Geni Wixson **Stan Hitt**
(in Silver Spring, MD) (in Silver Spring, MD)
July 22, 2022 July 26, 2022

We extend our sympathy to the
members of our congregation
who have lost loved ones.

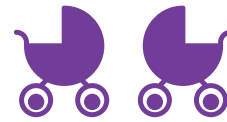
Paul Beltran
(his mother,
Georgette Mongaya Beltran,
in Gaithersburg, MD)
June 9, 2022

Laurie Wallace-Lanham
(her sister-in-law, Eileen Wallace,
in Philadelphia, PA)
July 11, 2022

Don Johnson
(his stepmother,
Muriel Stevenson-Johnson
in Naples, FL)
July 20, 2022

Joyce Schumacher
(her brother, Leslie Lynch,
in Durango, CO)
July 22, 2022

Elisa McClelland
(her sister, Carmen Ramirez,
in Oxnard, CA)
August 12, 2022



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Congratulations to:

Barb Thorne & Pat Keziah,
the proud grandparents,
and
Paul & Lena Thorne-Keziah,
the proud parents of
**JOSHUA COLLINS
THORNE-KEZIAH**
born on June 3, 2022

Austin Castellanos &
Natalie Jorges-Castellanos,
the proud parents,
and
Zora, the proud big sister of
**WALTER BYRON
CASTELLANOS**
born on June 15, 2022

Paul & Vanessa Njofang,
the proud parents of
KYLIAN NJOFANG
born on July 18, 2022

Lance & Bonnie (Gregory) Sullivan,
the proud parents,
Donna Gregory,
the proud grandmother, and
Olivia, Felicity, and Miles,
the proud siblings of
**COLE PATRICK
SULLIVAN**
born on August 7, 2022



HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

**60
YEARS**

John & Kay Travis
August 11, 1962

**50
YEARS**

Paul & Suzie Linz
June 17, 1972

**57
YEARS**

Don & Nancy Wilson
July 31, 1965

**42
YEARS**

Dick & Barbara Clark
May 6, 1980





THANK YOU

I am so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and lovely notes and cards which have been sent our way. Donald and I experienced "God's peace that surpasses understanding" throughout his hospice care and onward as he finally met his Savior face to face. I am enjoying reading all the kind words and sharing of memories of Donald in years past. Thank You! God is good – all the time!

—Susan Kinloch



Donald Kinloch's memorial service was held on June 25 at the First Presbyterian Church of East Jordan (MI). A Celebration of Life service was held later at The Village Presbyterian Church in Northbrook, IL, where he was interred.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Addresses and phone numbers are available through the church office.



= address change



= phone number change

Kingsley Anpoma

Paul and Mary Beltran

Lloyd Currie

Ruth DeVoe

Peter Fofuh Mughow &
Joelle Pokam Mouafo

Betsy Harward

Gaelle Mensah

Roisin O'Hare

Kendall Zammit

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

July 2022

	2022 YTD	% OF BUDGET
INCOME		
Envelope Pledged	\$419,747	55%
Envelope Unpledged	\$123,436	59%
Loose Offering	\$3,842	26%
GPP&K Rent	\$0	0%
Other Income	\$6,219	249%
Room Rent	\$0	0%
Interest & Dividends	\$545	273%
FourthNight	\$0	0%
Manse Rental	\$0	0%
Carryover	\$0	0%

Total \$553,78952%

EXPENSE

NCP Membership	\$18,849	75%
Human Resources	\$344,435	58%
Buildings & Grounds	\$132,490	62%
Office Operations	\$17,948	54%
Communications	\$29,995	69%
Stewardship	\$906	15%
Comm Engagement	\$58,375	58%
Eq Disciples	\$7,658	29%
Vital Worship	\$13,593	44%
Congregational Life	\$798	28%
Session	\$0	0%

Total \$625,04758%

NET -\$71,258

To request a complete financial summary, email accountingmanager@gpchurch.org.



GPC MEDIA POLICY

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (GPC) uses print and digital media of church life in communications materials to share the ministry of GPC with our congregation and community at large. GPC reserves the right to use any media taken at any activity sponsored by GPC, without the express written consent of those individuals included within the media. GPC may use any such media in publications, social media, and any website.



THE MAINSTREAM

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BACK TO SCHOOL AND BACK TO CHURCH!



OUR VISION AND MISSION

GPC is called by God to be: A global, caring community of faith, centered in Jesus Christ, training people to share His life everywhere we go.

Our top three priorities are:

- To worship the Lord with heart, soul, mind and strength
- To engage our neighbors in central Montgomery County
- To equip each generation for Christian discipleship