



THE MAINSTREAM

SUNDAYS

WORSHIP IN PERSON
9:30 & 11:00 AM

WORSHIP BY LIVESTREAM
11:00 AM



CMF/CWF Luncheon

THIRD QUARTER | 2024



Children Assisting with Communion



VBS Children with Donations for the Little Food Pantry



*From the Heart of
Rev. LeAnn Hodges*

MISSION JUMPSTART AND THE PASTORAL SEARCH PROCESS

Dear GPC Members and Friends,

Earlier this year many of you sacrificed a beautiful Saturday morning to gather inside to participate in the Mission Jumpstart, a facilitated conversation about this congregation and the sharing of your hopes for your next senior pastor.

In late May we received the follow-up report, and in June the Session and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) met to review it together and share their reflections. I am pleased to report that, on the whole, everyone in the room said that the report painted a rather accurate picture of who GPC is and what you aspire to be. We also had a spirited discussion about some of the nuances.

Once the PNC received the input from the Session, they took the Session's recommendations and worked hard for most of July to create what is called a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), which was completed and posted online in early August for potential pastoral candidates to learn about this position and apply if they feel called to do so. As I write this article, the PNC was still working on that document, but I am hopeful that by now they have completed the first draft, and that it has gone to the Session for final approval.

Now is when the true discernment begins for the PNC—as they read through the applications from candidates and prepare to invite pastors to interview.

It is important for us to remember is that although we will follow many industry-standard practices in this process, the calling of a pastor is much more than simply hiring someone for a job. The task set before the PNC is one of discerning the will of God. It takes great attention to the holy nudges in the hearts of each PNC member as well as an attunement to collaborative discernment for the group as a whole.

Follow the PNC's progress on the checklist by the Welcome Desk. Please continue to pray for each PNC member in the coming months and encourage them in any way that you can.

PNC Members and Leadership Roles

Co-Chairs: Laurie Gira, Stuart Hayes, Yaw Obeng
PNC Chaplains: Grace Atanga Fuh, Francie Whitlock
Recording Secretary: Natalie Jorges-Castellanos
Corresponding Secretary: Akiko Taketani
Church Leadership Connect
Database Contact: Serge Kamba
PNC Administrator: Jerry Brown
Presbytery Liaison: Rev. LeAnn Hodges

In Faith and Hope,
—REV. LEANN HODGES
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

WAYS TO CONNECT



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[@gpchurch_moco](https://www.instagram.com/gpchurch_moco)

MANY BLESSINGS

Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.

November 24 will be my last Sunday with you, and indeed my last Sunday as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in active service. That will be a big change for both you and me. I can anticipate other changes, too. I will stop coloring my hair (my hairdresser says that I am mostly gray). A big change! My office will be the cleanest it's been since we moved in January 2004 into what some still call "the new building." My heart will be full of every emotion imaginable—grief and gratitude mostly, with a little curiosity about what comes next for GPC and for me, and, OK, a little relief as well, as I let go of the need to remember All the Things, all the details, of how this church works.

Here's what I'm excited about. I am learning so much in my Spiritual Guidance Program with Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Mostly what I'm learning is experiential. I'm growing in my ability to sense the quiet whispers of the Spirit. I am growing in my prayer and in my ability to see that my true identity is not what I do as Minister of Word and Sacrament, but who I am, Beloved Daughter of God. If you hunger for a stronger awareness of the Presence of God in your life, I urge you to search Shalem's website. They have a host of classes that you can take online, either in company with others, or self-directed at your own pace.

No doubt you will have your own list of changes this autumn season. You will change jobs, move to a different residence (please remember to send your address to the church office), begin or end a relationship, travel to visit family and friends, and, sadly, say goodbye to others. Change is inevitable. But not everyone grows through change. Those who do grow put their hand in God's and walk confidently with the Divine. If you do that, GPC—if you choose to walk with God into God's future—I know that you will be fine.

It has been a privilege serving with you these past 22 years. May you experience the fullness of God's love for you; may you grow as disciples of Jesus Christ; and may the Spirit guide your feet into the ways of peace, justice, and love.

—REV. MARY BETH LAWRENCE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR



TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER

Rev. Deb Vaughn, GPC member, ordained Baptist minister, and Board-certified chaplain, will become GPC's **Pastoral Care Assistant**, working 10 hours/week. Primary duties include staffing the board of deacons, officiating at funerals, and visiting the homebound. Her hours will vary each week.

Rev. Dr. Pamela Stanley, ordained Baptist minister, holds two master's degrees from New York Theological Seminary, including one in Religious Administration and Leadership. She earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University. She will become our spiritually gifted **Office Manager**, working 20 hours/week, Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please welcome these two gifted leaders to our season of transition!





Happy FALL



- Sept 4 – Welcome Back Parent Dinner
- Sept 8 – Youth Sunday Fall Breakfast Kickoff
- Sept 11 – Youth Wednesday Night Kickoff
- Oct 11–13 Youth Fall Retreat @ Camp Eder
- Oct 30 – Fall Children’s Festival (Youth Help)
- Nov 4 – Kingdom Worker Celebration Night
- Nov 13 – Friendsgiving Potluck
- Nov 17 – Confirmation Information Meeting



JOIN US!

Sunday Mornings | 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Nights | 7:00–8:30 p.m.



- Join us for our monthly events! Mark your calendars!
- Sept 14 – Bagels & Board Games | 9:00 a.m.
 - Oct 5 – Walk & Talk Hike at Sugarloaf | 8:00 a.m.
 - Nov 9 – Talk about Tacos | 12:00 p.m.
- Please contact Carrie for event-specific information.

Know >>> Show >>> Grow



Our Youth & College Ministry at GPC seeks to provide opportunities for our middle school, high school, and college students to **KNOW** one another, **SHOW** God’s love to others through service, and **GROW** together with God at the center.



EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

One of the things that I truly appreciate about being the Director of Children and Young Families is that I am constantly encouraged to learn new things and new ways to learn those things. One of the things that I apparently need to learn over and over is that I don't have to know, I don't have to have the answers. This isn't a place that I'm particularly comfortable with, but I'm learning.



“Sailing with the Spirit” sometimes means waiting for the wind to pick up. This doesn't mean that you are aimless, just waiting. There is an actual nautical term for lack of wind: it's

called being in the doldrums, which is a literal place—that area around the Equator where there is often little or no wind. I am choosing to not think about this time as depressing, but rather restful and restorative—a time to gather strength.

It is just past mid-July as I write this. GPPK is closed, VBS is over, Children's Sunday programming is down to a single class, and several adult study groups are on their summer hiatus. In years past I might have spent this time with my oars in the water frantically rowing around trying to catch a breath of wind and exerting an incredible amount of energy to little or no avail. This year, I think I'll wait. I think I'll see where the current takes us. I'll wait for the wind to pick up and try to use a little of that energy. The Holy Spirit knows where we are going, and how and when we are going to do it. We just need to open ourselves to it.

—CAROLYN HAYES
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN
AND YOUNG FAMILIES



SAVE THE DATES!

<p>September 8 Doughnut Sunday - First Day of Fall Programming</p>	<p>October 6 Intergenerational After-Church Picnic at GPC</p>	<p>October 30 Fall Festival</p>
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Adult Ed Offerings

Sunday Morning

- 8:00 – Small Group, hybrid, Room 32/33 - continuing with *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster
- 9:30 – The Present Word, hybrid, Room 206
- 9:30 – Christian Classics, hybrid, Room 202 - finishing the Book of Acts and *Be Dynamic* by Warren Wiersbe by mid-September; next selection TBD
- 9:30 – The Bible as a Whole, hybrid, Room 205 - selection TBD

Wednesday Evening

- 7:30 – Bible Study, hybrid on Google Meet, starting a study on Peter from Faith Alive in September
- 7:30 – Frederick Small Group, Zoom
 - September: Predestination (2-session study)
 - November: Young Adult Issues (2-session study)

Children's Offerings

Sunday School meets most Sundays after the Children's Message at the 11:00 worship services except for the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday) and some holiday weekends. We begin together in the Sanctuary and then, following the Children's Message, are excused. The younger children meet for Godly Play in Room 14 and children from 1st to 5th Grades meet in Room 11.



MUSICAL NOTES

I am thankful to everyone who stepped up this summer to provide a variety of beautiful music for our worship services.

Chancel Choir rehearsals will begin after Labor Day. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please let me know. New members can join at any time and are most welcome.

Beginning on Sunday, September 15, we will start a children's choir program for elementary-aged

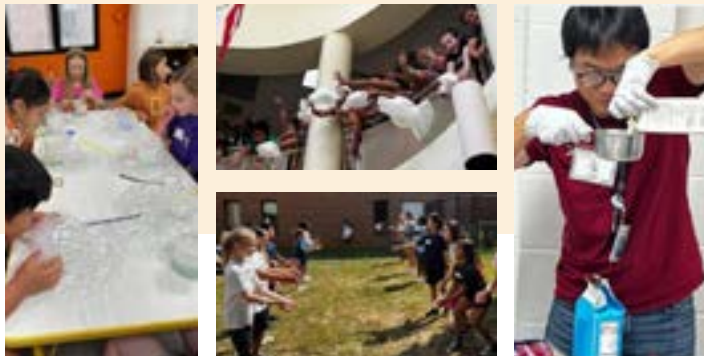
children. They will enjoy a short snack time after the 11:00 worship service and then practice will begin at 12:15 and go to about 1:00.

Other musical activities and experiences are in the works, so please stay tuned. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at kwilliams@gpchurch.org.



VBS 2024 *Sailing with the Holy Spirit!*

This year 53 children enjoyed participating in VBS. A few activities are shown below: releasing parachutes in the atrium, small group classes, science class, and a water balloon toss. The children also contributed 225 cans of food for the Little Free Pantry. Thank you very much!



UPCOMING ORCHESTRA CONCERTS AT GPC!

The Montgomery Philharmonic will hold the first concert of its 18th season in our Sanctuary on **Sunday, October 13**, at **6:30 p.m.** The program will include *Symphony No. 25 in G minor* – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Avartan* – Reena Esmail, and *Dabke* – Kareem Roustom. Other Sunday concert dates in their 2024–2025 season are **December 1**, **March 9**, **April 27**, and **June 2**. The orchestra will also perform at Asbury on **Sunday, January 26**, at **3:00 p.m.** Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted.



MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATION WITH CMF AND CWF!

After a long hiatus caused by the Covid pandemic, GPC's Christian Men Fellowship (CMF) chapter was formally chartered on Sunday, July 21, at the 11:00 worship service. **Joseph Nana**, who had been dedicated previously, is the Group Coordinator. New CMF members are **Aaron Caruso, Malvin Duncan, Gabriel Etoo Ndjongo, Paul Njofang, and Victorien Nyetam**.

At the same service, two new members—**Rose Hendje** and **Veronica Mouafo**—were dedicated, and two other members—**Magdalene Awa** and **Grace Ngeh**—transferred to GPC's chapter. CWF's new officers were also announced.

Adding to the very special service, we were honored to welcome numerous guests from around the country, many of whom were **alumni of the Presbyterian Secondary School Mankon in Bamenda, Cameroon**, who were in the area for a reunion. We are very grateful for their special gift to GPC to fund scholarships for our youth to attend summer camp.

Our Sanctuary was bursting at the seams with worshipers and overflowing with joy and exuberant singing! Following the service, CMF and CWF members, local and international guests, and congregation continued the dedication ceremony and celebrated in a beautifully decorated Lindsay Hall with a delicious luncheon.

—BARBARA OLDROYD
—PHOTOS BY MIKE PRATT



Joseph Nana, CMF Group Coordinator



Joseph Nana, Group Coordinator (L), and new CMF members (L to R): Aaron Caruso, Victorien Nyetam, Paul Njofang, Malvin Duncan, and Gabriel Etoo Ndjongo.



Christian Men Fellowship/GPC Banner



Grace Fuh Atanga, GPC member/elder and National President of CWF-PC(USA)



Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, Associate Pastor



Guest choir – alumni of the Presbyterian Secondary School Mankon in Bamenda, Cameroon



Scholastica Muluh, CWF Secretary, Song Ministry Member, and Worship Leader



New Members of CWF (L to R): Magdalene Awa, Grace Ngeh, Rose Hendje, and Veronica Mouafo



CWF members singing during 11:00 worship service





MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

FIRST SATURDAY | 8:00 AM | LINDSAY HALL

The group enjoyed breakfasts at Sofie's in the Airpark again this summer, but now they are back at GPC. On **September 7**, Dorothy Harrell, with Outreach Services for Montgomery County Public Libraries, will provide information about the resources they offer. On **October 5**, Jerry Brown and Yaw Obeng will share their experiences working with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County last April. The speaker for **November 2** is being confirmed. Information will be shared in weekly emails and Sunday bulletin announcements as it becomes available. As always, women are welcome to join the group. Questions? Contact Ted Farrand (*call the church office*).



VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

FIRST THURSDAY | 11:30 AM | LINDSAY HALL

VIPS begins the Fall season on **September 5**, with a 40th Anniversary Celebration of the creation by area churches, including GPC, of The Lord's Table. Our speakers will be Mary Canapary, Founder of the organization and a faithful contributor for the entire 40 years, and Suzanne Rambo, CPA, the current Kitchen Organizer and Treasurer. They will share details about the formation of The Lord's Table and the services it provides.

Our **October 3** meeting will feature a presentation by Mark E. Ward, Senior Expedition Leader of OceanX, entitled *Making Ocean Exploration More Accessible*. OceanX's mission is "To explore the ocean and bring it back to the world." The organization's goal is to "access the most unreachable parts of the ocean aboard the most advanced exploration and media vessel ever built." (For more information about Ocean X, go to www.oceanx.org.) The following week, VIPS will hold a Retreat on October 10, led by Pastor Mary Beth Lawrence (venue and other details to follow).

November 7 will find VIPS acknowledging Thanksgiving. Jina Tirrell, a gifted pianist, will share her beautiful music and assist us in our thanksgiving. VIPS welcomes all who are 50 or over to join in Christian fellowship with other seniors. Questions? Contact Nancy Sanders (*call the church office*).



CRAFT GROUP

FIRST SUNDAY | 12:15 PM | LINDSAY HALL

The group continues knitting and crocheting to support requests for prayer shawls and prayer squares by local service organizations, such as Holy Cross Hospital, The Equity Center, and JSSA (Jewish Social Services Agency). You can help too – just let Barbara know! Any pattern is fine, and yarn and patterns are available, if you need them. Prayer squares are 4"x4" so that a prayer card can be attached. All donations must be washed and placed in a plastic bag. Arrangements for pick-up can be made, if necessary. The next three meetings will be on **September 8***, **October 6**, and **November 3**. Questions? Contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*).

*Note that the September meeting will be on the second Sunday of September.



CUB SCOUTS

TUESDAYS | 7:00–8:00 PM | LINDSAY HALL & DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOMS

Cub Scout Pack 64 has had a busy summer! In June, 21 scouts attended Jungle Cruise Day Camp. July brought baseball games and hiking, and in August we had a kickball game, a pool party, and even a Montgomery County Fair meet-up. Upcoming events this fall include participating in the Gaithersburg Labor Day Parade, a Fall Festival party in October, and the Annual Scouting for Food and pack meeting with awards in November. **Den meetings restart for the school year on Tuesday, September 3**. We welcome any Kindergarten through 5th Grade boy or girl to join us. If your child is interested in joining, contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*).



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

SECOND SATURDAY | 10:00 AM – NOON | ROOM 30/31

This group is for GPC members and friends who are caring for loved ones with mental illness. Upcoming meetings will be held **September 14**, **October 12**, and **November 9**. Questions? Contact Cathy Lyon (*call the church office*).



GPC SPANS the GLOBE

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOGO: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

GPC benefits from and takes pride in the international diversity of its members. This is the fourth in a series of articles written by our internationally born members to share some of their home-country cultures and traditions, along with photos of the author and the featured country. We hope that these new, continuing articles in *The Mainstream* will help us build even stronger understanding and connections.

Background

The Bremen Mission sent Lutheran and Calvinist missionaries from Germany and Switzerland to Togo between 1847 and 1921 to spread the good news. This mission work led to the creation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo. After the First World War, the Paris Mission took over the missionary work and sent new missionaries from France and Switzerland to continue leading the work from 1929 to 1959. Since 1960, the pastors of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo have been mainly from Togo.



Foundation

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo is a member of the Universal Church of Jesus Christ. The church's identity is rooted in the authority of the Bible. It confesses Jesus Christ as its Lord and Savior, believes

in justification by Faith, proclaims the Universal Priesthood, and recognizes two sacraments—Baptism and the Holy Supper.

The Sacraments

Baptism is administered by sprinkling water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Adults who have been baptized become involved in at least one ministry in the congregation according to their calls. For newly baptized children under 12 years of age, parents instruct them to attend Sunday School.

The Holy Supper (Eucharist) is administered with two elements—bread and wine. In regions where bread is

not part of their staple food, the church uses what is available, such as corn or bean cake.

Language

Church services are celebrated at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday and the main language in which the church service is celebrated is Ewe. In certain areas of the northern region, however, church services are celebrated in the Kabye language, which is the dominant means of communication. More than 30 years ago, some young members of the church started worshiping in French, and most of the time this worship service begins around 7:30 a.m. The service is called the French community service, even though 99.99% of the members are Togolese. Less than 20 years ago, some Presbyterians from English-speaking countries across the continent living in Togo—particularly in Lomé, the capital of Togo—started gathering and worshiping in English.

It is important to understand that in Togo, the Bremen Mission has promoted the spreading of the Good News through Ewe, a native language of Togo. The German Evangelists learned the Ewe language, culture, and traditions. This helped the Presbyterian Church in Togo have the Bible and hymnal translated into Ewe sooner and made the mission work easier and faster. The Presbyterian Church in Togo is the first church to celebrate the entire worship service in Ewe. The Catholic Church started celebrating its entire church in Ewe in the early 1990's, even though Protestant and Catholic mission work in Togo had started at almost the same time.



Music

Togo natives had their own types of music and instruments before the arrival of the Bremen Mission. Their music tells stories that are part of their history, describes their ancestors' courage, and educates them about the importance of love. Their music provides confidence, faith, and trust, and teaches freedom from doubt. In sum, Togo traditional music tells the way of life of the people. The peculiarity of this music is the rhythm. There are different beats and the type of beat used is determined by the message to be communicated to the congregation. For example, some songs can be accompanied by claps only, while others can be accompanied by drums.

With the arrival of the Bremen Mission in Togo, only the organ or the piano was allowed. In the beginning, the local people tried to cope with the situation, but a few decades later they suggested blending church music with local musical instruments and rhythms. Many of the Bremen Missionaries did not welcome this idea. According to their understanding, local musical instruments carry spiritual entities behind them that are incompatible with the Christian faith. Therefore, they are not holy and cannot be used in church. As time has passed, many Bremen Missionaries and anthropologists have tried to understand the culture and worldview of the local people and have acknowledged the need to mix traditional and religious music and instruments together.

The values of harmonizing both types of music are numerous. Harmonized music brings more ambiance to the congregation, and the vibe brings more members, especially young people, to the church. New members started integrating groups or forming new groups in church. It is important to note that it is the youth groups who like to learn to play musical instruments, such as organ, piano, and drum, or play in a band. Several decades later, the number of musicians in church has increased. They lead the choirs and play various musical instruments.

One peculiarity of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Togo is the vibe that flows when the congregation sings from the hymnal during the worship service. It combines musical instruments such as organ, trumpets, trombones, drums, guitars, and human voices directed by one master musician; in short, it is real co-symphony music. Also, during the offertory, instead of the ushers collecting money from the members, the members enjoy moving to the rhythm of the choir music while bringing their gifts to the basket. Offertory time is the time to move and enjoy the ambiance after sitting still for 45 minutes.

The Benefit of Blended Music

In 1960, the Togo government wanted to create a band within the national police department. They made a public offer to recruit musicians for the police band, and 80% of the musicians that they recruited in the entire nation were young Presbyterians.

Gospel music is one of the most popular forms of modern music in Togo today. Gospel music singers are from different religious backgrounds, such as Catholic, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, etc. However, people know that the pioneers of gospel music in Togo were Presbyterian youth, and most of those youth were choir members in a congregation.

The Re-Evangelization Process

Some 40 decades ago, the Bremen and France Missions started complaining that the numbers of youth in European churches were decreasing, especially in Germany and France, where 95% of the church members were over 50. After 150 years of mission work in Togo, the Presbyterian Church in Togo is growing amazingly; the number of youth, especially, is increasing exponentially. Missionaries in recent visits to Togo have noticed that most of the church members were the youth. The missionaries like their commitment to the church, such as prayer, Bible study, other church activities, and especially the blended music. The missionary pastors arranged a partnership between the youth groups and choirs of Togo Presbyterian Church and the youth group of France Presbyterian Church. The partnership goes beyond the youth group, and now a dozen Togo pastors are serving abroad, especially in France and Canada. This is called the re-evangelization process.

—KODZO NUMATEKPO



Kodzo Numatekpo grew up in Togo, where his late father served as senior pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Togo for 38 years. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Robert Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland and works as an accountant. Kodzo earned his master's degree in IT database systems in May 2024 and is now looking to switch to a career in IT. He and his wife, Apolline, live in Frederick with their two sons – Jason (7) and Jaden (5).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOUR HOME COUNTRY,
CONTACT PETER FOFUH AT OFFICE@GPCHURCH.ORG.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION CONTINUES!



“Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church Honors Its Past and Celebrates Its Future!”

On May 17, 2024, GPC celebrated its 60th Anniversary. In the May issue of *The Mainstream*, we interviewed some of our longest-serving active members. In this issue, you'll learn more about three members who are currently serving on our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) – Jerry Brown, Natalie Jorges-Castellanos, and Francie Whitlock. The length of time they've been members of GPC varies, but as PNC members they have committed, with God's support, to helping shape GPC's future!



JERRY BROWN

This will be the third time that Jerry has been a member of a PNC at GPC. There's a good reason for that. He and his beloved late wife, Maxine, are part of the strong roots of GPC. Their experiences

and humble, Godly service, along with Jerry's openness to new ideas, allow him to share what's worked before as well as what might be different as we move forward.

Jerry, Maxine, and their son, Aaron, came to GPC in 1978 because of GPC's Boy Scout Troop 207. And although it was Aaron and the other boys in their Cub Scout Pack who unanimously chose GPC's program as the one they wanted to join for Boy Scouting, Jerry and Maxine (who were both raised as Baptists) didn't hesitate to make GPC their church home.

When they joined in 1980, there were only a few other black member families. Jerry & Maxine had never been in a Bible study before, but enthusiastically joined in with others like Marge & Wally Leach and Marolyn & Bill Crosswhite. From there they started making breakfasts for SOME with Marge & Wally. They served as ushers even before they joined GPC and were both former Session members. As Jerry said, "It was not hard to find things to do! Maxine counseled many young

ladies in the youth group about their life decisions. She had been a schoolteacher and knew how to connect with them." One of Jerry's most appreciated services was driving the three GPC buses that the church used for many years. He drove for youth group activities, but also drove the Chancel Choir to New York City to participate in a Carnegie Hall concert in June 2009. One of the Browns' community outreach contributions included the five years that Maxine served as the Vice Chair for The Dwelling Place, the former homeless services organization. GPC offered them free classroom space for their weekly life skills classes and Jerry drove the GPC bus around Gaithersburg to provide transportation for the women who attended the classes.

He also supported GPC through his professional skills, honed from an extensive career in personnel management working for the Air Force, the Civil Service Commission, and NASA's Langley Research Center. With NASA, Jerry and another personnel specialist were responsible for personnel management of more than 500 Senior Executive Service positions throughout the Agency.

Jerry said, "I've always found GPC to be a great church with great sermons and services that adhere to a strict one-hour length. If you grew up Baptist, you know that Baptist services can go on for a very long time!"

Over the years, the biggest change Jerry has seen is in the composition of our congregation. "We have almost equal amounts of white and other colors of



members, and everyone accepts everyone else.” The youth group is much smaller than it used to be when he and Maxine were adult leaders. They chaperoned trips to Ecuador, South Africa, and the Bahamas. He remembers those trips as the highlights of their GPC service. But, because this writer has been on many Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) building trips with Jerry, I must add that his presence has been a highlight for every PDA work trip he has undertaken. Before Maxine’s health deteriorated, she was a most welcome participant as well.

Now, Jerry has once again accepted the task of PNC member. (He was a member of the PNCs that called Dr. Greg Seckman and Rev. Ted Wright.) He said, “It’s an interesting experience and each one is different.” As of this writing, the PNC is just getting started and is putting together the Ministry Discernment Profile (information that will be posted about the position) by discerning what kind of pastor and skillset would seem the best fit for GPC’s future.

Jerry can provide historical background, but says, “The group can either take it or leave it. I won’t try to push in any particular direction.”

With over 45 years of involvement at GPC, he says it defies the imagination that GPC has grown so globally and that we come from so many different places with so many different native languages. “For me, it has been a great place to be. I don’t think I could have picked a better place. Maxine loved every minute of it!”

Based on an interview by Lucille Baur in July 2024.



NATALIE JORGES-CASTELLANOS

Natalie adds a fresh voice and young family perspective as she takes on the critical role of PNC member. She is guided by a message that she followed when she was in college and a state officer with the Future Homemakers of America – “We face the future with warm courage and high hope.”

She and Austin (her husband, whom she met in high school) and their daughter, Zora Anne, moved to Gaithersburg from Georgia in 2021. They now also have a two-year-old son, Walter. How did they choose GPC? As Natalie carefully researched churches in this area, she read Pastor Mary Beth’s staff profile and learned that she had been a pastor at Natalie’s previous church, Marietta First Presbyterian in Georgia, where Natalie had lived and taught after graduating from Agnes Scott College. She felt it was a sign from God that GPC should be their church home. “We visited on our first Sunday in Gaithersburg and had a wonderful experience!”

Natalie said, “GPC was incredibly welcoming. It was literally individuals coming up and wanting to connect with us.” She had never lived anywhere other than Georgia and they wanted to build community in this new place taking them away from family and long-time friends.

They wasted no time in getting involved. Natalie had been a very engaged high school teacher and loved working with kids. She asked Carolyn Hayes if she could be involved in crafting some of the children’s sermon messages. Soon after, she was invited to join the school board of GPP&K, which her daughter attended. Natalie is also a member of the Equipping Disciples committee. She was an effective and enthusiastic volunteer this year and last for GPC’s Vacation Bible School programs. Austin enjoys attending Men’s Breakfast Group programs and getting to know other young dads when he takes part in activities with their two children.

As Natalie and her family transitioned into a new home and city, it was very important to her that she build a community for their family. Some real positives that she sees about GPC include the fact that it is a good size to get to know people and form connections. “There are a lot of ways to get involved with GPC and I love that I have been able to do so.” She also treasures the opportunity to expose her children to varied perspectives, experiences, and cultures. “This is another way in which GPC excels! The diversity is really beautiful!” She also loves hearing music from around the world.

You may remember that Natalie endured breaking both ankles this past January and couldn’t get to her kitchen for over a month. She recalls with gratitude the thoughtfulness and caregiving that was showered on them in their time of need by GPC members who provided almost every meal during that period. This reassured her family that she does, indeed, have a community and a “church family.”

The Jorge-Castellanos family has only been with us since the 2020’s, but she notes changes even in that short time. “I have seen a growth in children being involved in Sunday worship and the children’s music program is growing. I have loved the re-emergence of programs that had to be curtailed during Covid.”

Natalie takes her role as a member of the PNC very seriously. From the time she was born until she graduated from high school, her church split up three times and they had three different pastors. Her father was on a PNC at least once. “One of my joys of being on the PNC is sharing that experience with my dad.” They chat after each meeting she attends, while ensuring the confidentiality of the meetings, and she values his counsel. She appreciates this time of discernment, making decisions on God’s time, not out of a sense of urgency to get it done. “That is not to say that the PNC is not moving along with its duties, just that there is

a reasoned approach to each task we take on.” Natalie has also used this as an opportunity to connect with college classmates who attended the Presbyterian Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. They are excited by the wonderful opportunities at GPC and are spreading the word among alumni.

Although Natalie and her family have only been at GPC a short time during GPC’s 60-year history, she thinks that there is something beautiful about how we already are. “While some people may feel anxiety about GPC’s future, I believe GPC is already great! We should embrace who we are. It is wonderful to be a mid-size church where people can really get to know one another. Smaller groups have deeper wells of connection.” If you are worried about GPC’s yet unknown next path, reflect on Natalie’s enthusiasm and guiding motto: “We face the future with warm courage and high hope!”

Based on an interview by Lucille Baur in July 2024.



FRANCIE WHITLOCK

Francie Milliron Menzies was starting a new chapter of her life when she moved to Montgomery Village. “I needed a new church home. I saw the three churches on the hill, one of which was Presbyterian, so I came. The Sanctuary was unusual but warm and inviting, and I felt comfortable. It was 1975.” GPC leadership couldn’t have dreamed at that time how much this, then red-headed, dynamo’s contributions to GPC would grow over the years to come.

She felt that GPC was flourishing under Rev. Dr. Jey Deifell. “His sermons really reached me, as well as the music. It seemed like a vibrant church. Fran Moore was the choir director, and her husband was the associate pastor. Rev. Deifell married Ward Whitlock and me in 1976.”

Francie saw GPC become even more vibrant under the leadership of Dr. Donald Kinloch, Associate Pastor Rev. Alan Mugler, and Choir Director Nancy Powell. “Membership grew exponentially. Rev. Mugler was instrumental in starting the Wells/Robertson House and in working with other churches in the area to form Gaithersburg HELP. Both social service organizations continue today. These three leaders also sparked the congregation to step up and participate. Sunday school and other activities flourished. The church library was added at this time as well.”

Nancy directed not only the adult and children’s choirs, but also several musical theater productions, including “Godspell.” Ward was invaluable working behind the

scenes. Nancy also orchestrated a Madrigal Dinner at Christmastime (with all choirs participating) for the congregation and community at large. “I sang with the Chancel Choir for 20 years.”

Francie served as an elder three times. “In my first term, I chaired the Congregational Life and Nominating committees, and was on the Human Resources committee as well. Later I served as an elder under Dr. Greg Seckman and Rev. Ted Wright. I also chaired the Witness and Communications committees.”

Under her dedicated leadership of the Communications committee, and with the support of Associate Pastor Norm Gordon and a professional marketing group, the original GPC website was created. A study about church signage was conducted and new signs were installed. Communications committee member and professional graphic artist Holly Buehler created our GPC logo and suggested the font style and marketing colors, with input from the rest of the committee.

Francie continues to be an active member of this committee and encouraged the implementation of our electronic Prayer Chain and the addition of the Membership Portal to the church website. She’s not slowing down as she continues serving with The Lord’s Table, attending the Sunday School class “Bible,” and participating in a monthly Covenant Bible Group.

Regarding her 49-year active membership she says, “I’ve seen a wonderful change in the make-up of the congregation. We are a mix of many nationalities, races, and languages. We are a Heinz 57 congregation. This brings news ideas, new traditions, and knowledge of world views, but most of all an understanding that our faith in God is the same with all of us. It picks no sides. We are all one in the eyes of God. We are a family!”

“Yes, membership is down, but church membership is down everywhere. This is a changing world and we must meet the challenges.”

Francie finds being on the PNC “humbling and a heavy responsibility, but with God-given faith, the committee will find the pastor that God has already selected. Our job is to listen, listen, listen, and discover.”

Even with all the personal time that she has devoted to being a wife and a successful real estate broker, and raising three sons (James, Ryan, and Lee Menzies), she gives the following advice: “Become active in the church. Join committees, join the choir, be an elder when called. We all need to participate. The church will grow if we ALL are willing to work side by side!”

Based on an interview by Lucille Baur in July 2024.



FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP — THE MONETARY PIECE

Last week I heard an old jazz song on the radio: “And every time it rains, it rains Pennies from Heaven . . .” Then I thought how I wished that the pastors and staff of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (GPC) were paid pennies (or more) from Heaven, even when it does not rain. I wish that Pepco, WSSC, and other utilities and suppliers would reduce or forgive our bills because our church has a strong community outreach and support for missions. Unfortunately, my wishes are only fantasy.

The reality is that the burden of GPC’s operating budget falls into the laps and wallets of our congregation. Without your annual giving, we would not be able to pay our pastors or utilities, nor contribute to such community missions as Interfaith Works, Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, SOME, and The Lord’s Table. The budgets of our internal church ministries (including adult, youth, and children’s Christian education) also depend upon your heartfelt giving. GPC has had a long tradition of gracious giving, and the Stewardship committee thanks you for your continued generosity. As stated in our mission and vision statements, we are a caring community of faith, exalting God, engaging our neighbors in central Montgomery County, and equipping each generation for Christian discipleship.

This fall the Stewardship committee will embark on its annual campaign to seek donations from the congregation for GPC’s operating budget. The campaign

is entitled “**Faith in Action**,” and **October 20** has been designated as **Consecration Sunday**. If we all participate, this Stewardship campaign will be successful.

In addition to the operating budget, we must remember the Capital Maintenance Reserve (CMR) fund. This is a pot of money designated to pay for church maintenance and repairs that are costly and beyond the annual budget of the Buildings and Grounds committee. It is my understanding that several maintenance projects must be performed soon, including sealcoating and striping the parking lot, painting the underside of the ramp to the Sanctuary, and paving the Alden Avenue manse driveway. The estimates for these three projects approach \$24,000; therefore, the CMR will need to be replenished. Remember that donations to the CMR are separate from the operating budget.

Realizing that an offering is an act of worship to the glory of God and part of our goal to help humankind, we challenge you to give faithfully. We are grateful for the generosity of our members, which enables GPC to conduct its programs and contribute a tithe (10% of its operating budget) for mission outreach beyond the church walls.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
—2 Corinthians 9:7

—GARY SCHUMACHER
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MUCH—NEEDED GPC IMPROVEMENTS *are made possible by your support!*

Annette Ward, Chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) committee, and Andy Gosnell, GPC Facilities Manager, are pleased to share that the projects listed below and proposed by B&G at the July Session meeting have received approval. The committee looks forward to updating you in the Sunday bulletins as each project begins and progresses.

- Sealing and restriping the north and south parking lots
- Replacing the ten windows in the Sanctuary with clear, multi-paned, insulated glass
- Repainting the underside of the ramp from the south parking lot up to the Sanctuary
- Repaving the driveway at the Alden Avenue manse (Pastor Mary Beth’s residence)

Additional funding is needed for other necessary improvements, including new carpet in Spencer Hall, brighter Sanctuary lighting, and new flooring on the stairs up to Lindsay Hall and on the first floor of Buildings 3 & 4 (the long hallway between the Sunday School rooms and the north entrance).

Thank you so much to everyone who provides critical financial support by contributing to “Within These Walls” for the upkeep and improvement of our GPC facilities and grounds!

—ANNETTE WARD



LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM

Former GPC Associate Pastor **Norm Gordon**, as many of you know, is now the Chief Catalyst for the Germantown Global Connection (a spiritual community in Central Montgomery County). Two years ago, as part of GGC's outreach, he established the **Let's Read! Literacy Tutoring Program** at Stedwick Community Center in Montgomery Village. Now the program is expanding to other schools and has received support from other area churches. GPC hopes to offer a similar tutoring program in the future. (For more information on GGC and the program, go to www.germantowngc.org.)

The Literacy Tutoring Program attracted several GPC members this past school year who wanted to be involved: Alice Alexander, Gary Aller, Charles Duncan, Mary Lou Dungan, Mary Masselink, Fred Mosher, Sally Rush, and Carole Tukes.

Two GPC volunteers, Carole Tukes and Mary Masselink, shared what being a tutor has meant to them.



"The best hour and a half of my week!" exclaimed **Carole Tukes**. She feels privileged to be one of only two GPC members who has volunteered for both years of this tutoring program. Gary Aller also has tutored for two years and at both the Tuesday and Thursday weekly evening sessions.

Why does she give her time to this cause? "The idea of tutoring children of color is really important to me! I had done some tutoring before, but I knew that I wanted to do more of it after I retired." Her motivation is powerful. Carole had read that social scientists believe that if a black child can't read well by the end of third grade, that deficit puts them into a pipeline to jail. "Knowing how to read and being a confident reader can save their lives." She saw Norm's program among a list of volunteer options included on Montgomery County's volunteer webpage, and she received a letter from Norm about his plans for the program. She felt that God was leading her to take part.

Carole, a retired nurse and psychotherapist, said, "What you really need to volunteer for this program is a love of children. There is a specific curriculum as well as books to learn the program, which is based on phonics. After an orientation you take the books home to familiarize yourself with them, but mostly you learn in the process of tutoring, and you always have Norm and/or the program administrator, Malli Thanicatt, to guide you. The children decorate their own work folders and name tags, they are given a snack and individual lesson plans, and Malli reviews each session's work."

Carole has enjoyed the benefits of her two-year participation. The first year followed the pandemic and she saw just how far behind the children were in their reading skills. This past year she was amazed at how much progress they had made with an emphasis by the school system to make up what had been lost.

"The Literacy Tutoring Program is special because it feels like a community that is coming together with the purpose of teaching and improving the lives of these children. One man volunteers each session to set up the tables and chairs, many parents attend the sessions, and the kids and their parents join the volunteers to take everything down and put it away. Norm really knows how to build a community."

There are some challenges of course. The program runs from approximately 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. and that is a long day for the children, who have already spent a full day in school. "Some are tired; others are hungry and really count on the snacks. But they see that there is a community supporting them. Most of them really enjoy it!"



The program is planned so that each volunteer works with a variety of children. In Carole's first year, one little boy really wanted to work with her. She met his parents, he was eager to learn, and he sought her out to be his tutor. She has also enjoyed getting to know several of the children and is so proud to watch and be a part of helping them advance their skills. She summed up her experience by saying enthusiastically, "I love it!"



Mary Masselink started the interview pointing out that “It is often said that you teach students in K through Grade 2 to ‘learn to read,’ so that in Grade 3 and up they can ‘read to learn.’” She is a retired schoolteacher who heard about the Literacy Tutoring Program through notices put out last summer about the need for volunteers. Mary said, “I connected with

Norm personally, since I had taught for 39 years. I saw the program as a way to use my skills and give back to my community.

Mary confirmed that you don’t need to have teaching experience, but it certainly can help. She already had the phonics knowledge that is used to work with students. The kids in the program have been identified as “at-risk readers” because they are struggling. “During their 2nd Grade year it is crucial to give them one-on-one attention to bring them up to grade level.” Her recipe for being a good tutor: “You need to learn how to teach phonics (workbooks that lay it out very plainly are provided) and you also should enjoy working with children, so good doses of patience and creativity are beneficial.”

She found that “The most fulfilling part of tutoring is seeing the progress that some children make almost immediately with the extra help that they receive.” But Mary also noted that it can be challenging to work with kids with low motivation or poor attention. That’s where the creativity comes in; you need to “make each session something like a game that’s actually fun to play.” For instance, Mary used the timer on her cell phone with one child who was a very reluctant reader. “The child responded well to the motivation of being timed to get the work accomplished.”

Like Carole, Mary encountered a particular child who really wanted to work with her. As the child was making great progress, she knew that she should start working with other children who were not advancing as quickly. It was difficult to learn that one student was lacking the motivation to read because she said that her teacher just yelled at her because she couldn’t read. In the Literacy Tutoring Program setting, she was given the patience she needed and learned that this “was a classroom where tutors didn’t yell.”

Mary’s advice to someone considering becoming a volunteer: “Try tutoring these at-risk readers, since reading is the key to learning. You will discover more about yourself and your willingness to learn new things. It is very rewarding to empower young children so that they can strive to reach their potential.”

This is a portion of how Mary summed up her thoughts: “This Bridges tutoring program has long-lasting effects for our community since reading is such a key skill to possess. When kids realize that they can learn to read, they acquire many other benefits. They expand their vocabularies, their knowledge of the world around them, and their empathy. Reading also serves to relieve their stress levels and to improve their mental health, making them more productive members of their communities!” Does Mary believe in the value of the Literacy Tutoring Program? Absolutely!

Carole Tukes and Mary Masselink were interviewed for this article by Lucille Baur in July 2024.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS are making a difference!

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Little Free Pantry! Current needs include peanut butter, bagged rice/quinoa/farro, oatmeal (instant or regular), beans (dried or canned), fruit (canned or dried), and vegetable oil (small bottle). Protein is a winner; canned vegetables are not needed at this time.

Donations may be placed in the pantry or in the wooden bin in the Gathering Space (Narthex). To make a monetary donation, you may do so via check or online, designating “Little Free Pantry” as the fund.

—ANNETTE WARD

SUMMIT HALL ES welcomes clothing donations

The Linkages to Learning staff continue to be grateful for the donations of gently used children’s and adult clothing. Many families arrive in Maryland without the needed resources for clothing to meet our climate changes. As the families come to the school for counseling and support, they are able to choose, from our donations, things they need for their new life in Gaithersburg. Items may be placed in the large SHES container under the mailboxes, where they will be collected and delivered to the school.

—MARILYN MORRISON

EVER-EVOLVING . . .

OUR GPC WEBSITE!

Your Communications committee hopes that you will enjoy and take even more advantage of all that our GPC website offers!

A new version of the website debuted in December 2022. It was designed to serve all ages of folks in our congregation, as well as people “shopping” for a new church. We’ve gotten great feedback from guests and new members crediting the website with enticing them to come to GPC.

We’ve also been listening to suggestions from current users and are beginning to incorporate changes and additions that we believe can benefit www.gpchurch.com, including the following:

- Directly under the “Welcome” message on the Home page, you will now find **new navigation bars** highlighting “Ways to Connect” to GPC. The titles “Member Portal & Online Directory,” “Read Blog,” “Quarterly Mainstream,” Prayer Requests,” “Join Weekly Email List,” and “Download Mobile App,” were not as prominently displayed just a couple of months ago.
- Formerly, the **“Online Directory”** (a very valuable connection tool for our congregation) was not named on a navigation bar. A user needed to already know that it could be found on the “Member Portal” page. Now it is jointly labeled with the Member Portal.
- Now that GPC’s **Blog** is more prominently featured, we are going to freshen that page with additional content, beginning with the great information that we regularly receive from the Creation Care committee.
- We will also change the navigation bars at the top of the Home page. **A new “Beliefs” bar** will include not only our Presbyterian beliefs (currently listed under the “About” bar), but also new comprehensive information from our Racial Justice Ministry. Other areas of beliefs information are currently under consideration for inclusion as well.

If you have Blog topic suggestions or would like to give any other input about the GPC website, contact Paul Whitehead or Lucille Baur on the Communications committee.



REASONS TO SMILE!

We still need member photos for our Online Directory! We want our directory to be filled well before our new GPC pastor arrives. You can add a photo yourself (directions and a video are on the Online Directory page of our website). Or, if you are a GPC member but now connect through livestream worship, please email a single or family photo to pwhiteh@hotmail.com. If you attend services in person, a volunteer photographer will be happy to take your photo in Lindsay Hall after a church service. **Even more reason to smile . . . stay tuned this fall to hear about the chance to win a restaurant gift certificate for having your photo in the directory!**



TABLE FELLOWSHIP for individuals and couples



Sign up for Table Fellowship as an individual, with a friend, or as a couple. This **new** program does not require everyone to host. As eight adults sign up, groups are created. After you participate in one group, you can sign up to be included in a different group. For questions or to be added to a group, contact Clara Pratt at office@gpchurch.org.



RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY UPDATE

The recent seminar “**A Pathway to Homeownership**” was a great success! Our Racial Justice Ministry (RJM) hosted the Montgomery County chapter of the NAACP in presenting the workshop, which was held in Lindsay Hall on June 8. The 45 participants learned valuable information from bankers, real estate agents, and counselors to guide them as first-time homebuyers. It was an uncommon opportunity for people of color to learn how to navigate buying their first home. According to the Census Bureau, in the last quarter of 2023, 74% of White Americans owned their homes, compared to 50% of Hispanics and 46% of Black Americans. Homeownership is an important step toward developing personal wealth that can be passed on to future generations. GPC is proud to participate in efforts to achieve greater equity in our community, and we hope to partner with the County chapter of the NAACP in more ways in the future.

In other RJM news, we want to thank you for the books and money contributed during Lent to help establish a Racial Justice section in GPC’s library. This fall you will be able to check out books and increase your knowledge in many ways. The Racial Justice page on our GPC website—also coming this fall—will give you many more opportunities to explore racism and social justice through online resources. And be on the lookout for information about “Drop-in Conversations.” If you are curious about terminology surrounding the topic of racial justice, this is the place to ask questions and talk with others about their understanding and interpretations. So, stay tuned!

—DONNA DANNELS
RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



MoCo Interfaith 5K Walk and Run

GPC is proud to participate again in the annual MoCo Interfaith 5K Walk and Run to be held **Labor Day Monday, September 2**, at the Soccerplex in Boyds. This exciting event brings together many communities of faith in our county for fun and fellowship.

Walkers and runners are invited to register and join our team—**GPC Striders**—(runsignup.com/Race/MD/Boyds/MoCoInterfaith5K). **Registration fees are \$40 per participant.** Online registration closes at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 1.

Note: There is NO Race Day registration!

All proceeds will benefit **Gaithersburg HELP** (www.gaithersburghelp.org) and **C-4 Clothes Closet** (c4clothescloset.com).

If you do not want to run or walk, you may volunteer to hand out information about GPC at our table or just come cheer us on. Email Sandy Menzies at Sandy@SandraMenzies.com if you would like to volunteer or have questions. For more information, you may also go to mocointerfaith5k.org.

Once again, David and Ginny Allsopp will host a post-race gathering and brunch at their home near the SoccerPlex.

—SANDY MENZIES

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Addresses and phone numbers
are available through the church office.

 Address change

Phone number change 

Erica Chizmar 

John & Linda Hastings 

Fiona Holland 

Marcellin Womeko 



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Magdaline Awa Halle

Grace Geh

Chukwudi Igboeli

Nneka Igboeli

Clovis Mbah

Levinus Mbah

Vinai Vinlander



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

45 YEARS

Steve and Suzie Ward
August 25, 1979



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

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

Kofi Kumi

his brother, Kwabena Opong Kumi,
in Accra, Ghana
March 28, 2024

Joan Simmons

her brother, Franklin Marsh, Sr.,
in Germantown, MD
June 2, 2024

Corinne Kuypers-Denlinger

her sister, Miriam "Mima" Bellere,
in West Hurley, NY
June 27, 2024

*We mourn the loss of
members who have died.*

Robert Von Moss

husband of the late Mary Jane,
in Gaithersburg, MD
May 7, 2024

Robert Hortin

husband of June,
in Silver Spring, MD
May 18, 2024

Betty Vargo

wife of the late Al Vargo,
in Rockville, MD
July 2, 2024

Yvonne Miller

her sister, Melody Clark,
in Orlando, FL
July 2, 2024

Malvin Duncan

his brother, Earthol Duncan, Jr.,
in Des Moines, IA
July 19, 2024



SANCTUARY FLOWER ORDERS

WANT TO DONATE FLOWERS *for Sunday worship service?*

You may give flowers in honor or memory of someone, or to celebrate a special occasion.

The weekly altar flowers cost \$50, and you may take them home after the 11:00 service.

Scan the QR code below to access the flower form or visit gpchurch.org/flower-form to place your order.



THE MAINSTREAM

Distribution of Newsletters and Submission Deadlines for Articles

The Mainstream is published quarterly. It is sent electronically and hard copies are mailed in February, May, August, and November.

Submissions should be sent to jobermiller@gpchurch.org and bmoldroyd53@gmail.com by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

Questions? Contact the church office.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

July 2024

	2024 YTD	% OF BUDGET
INCOME		
Envelope Pledged.....	\$428,689	57%
Envelope Unpledged	\$169,439	68%
Loose Offering	\$12,426	83%
Other Income	\$1,626	54%
Room Rent.....	\$0	0%
Interest & Dividends.....	\$7,465	62%
Manse Rental.....	\$15,680	58%
Mizo Church – Offering.....	\$0	0%
Capital Maintenance Reserve.....	\$0	0%
Carryover.....	\$0	0
Total.....	\$635,325	60%
EXPENSE		
NCP Membership.....	\$14,107	50%
Human Resources.....	\$345,890	54%
Buildings & Grounds.....	\$117,672	51%
Office Operations.....	\$17,811	48%
Communications.....	\$2,501	56%
Stewardship	\$2,244	32%
Comm Engagement	\$55,730	56%
Eq Disciples.....	\$8,991	46%
Vital Worship	\$2,956	28%
Congregational Life	397	13%
Other.....	\$0	0%
Session	\$739	51%
Total.....	\$569,038	53%
NET	\$66,287	

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

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

610 South Frederick Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877-1297

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CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 20!



FIND IT FAST!

- Good News About Staffing! (p. 2)
- Montgomery Philharmonic Concert Season (p. 5)
- CMF/CWF Multi-Cultural Celebration (p. 6)
- GPC Spans the Globe (feature article) (pp. 8-9)
- GPC's 60th Anniversary – memories (pp. 10-12) and thoughts shared by PNC Members Jerry Brown, Natalie Jorges-Castellanos, and Francie Whitlock
- Focus on Stewardship – The Financial Piece (p. 13)
- Session Approval for B&G Improvements (p. 13)
- GGC Literacy Tutoring Program (pp. 14-15)
- Our Ever-Evolving Website (p. 16)
- Table Fellowship (p. 16)
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- MoCo Interfaith 5K Walk and Run (p. 17)