

# **Celebration of Mission and Ministry in 2017**

**ST. GABRIEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Douglassville, Pennsylvania**

**Diocese of Bethlehem**

*“Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus”*

(Prepared for Annual Parish Meeting January 28, 2018)

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**SAINT GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Douglassville, Pennsylvania  
Diocese of Bethlehem

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
January 29, 2017

Fr. David Green, Rector, welcomed everyone, pointing out that we are likely the only church that he knows of which conducts their annual meeting in the context of a worship service, as we do our vestry meeting. He called the 297<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to order at 10:42 AM, during the 10:30 AM worship service.

**Election of Secretary for the Meeting:** Sally Heist was elected by acclamation to serve as recording secretary, after a motion by Phoebe Kelleher, seconded by Dory Reed which was then approved.

**MINUTES** - After a motion by Chuck Nippert, seconded by Renee Pusey, the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

Father David then acknowledged and thanked those from Vestry whose terms are ending: Carol Heist, Warren McKeon and Dianne Walker.

Fr. David spoke of how well-managed and spiritual the Vestry are; they are true leaders of the parish.

**ELECTION OF VESTRY** - The following candidates were placed into nomination to serve three-year terms on Vestry: Steve Fairbrother, Carly Greenwald, and Suzanne Siebert. Blaine Rittenhouse then moved and Mark Hessler seconded to close the nominations and elect the candidates by acclamation, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Fr. David then acknowledged Steve Fairbrother as continuing to serve as Senior Warden. As per new By-laws passed at the Diocesan Convention which replace all individual parish by-laws, the Senior Warden now has to be appointed from among the Vestry, so therefore Steve needed to be elected to vestry.

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES** - The following were placed in nomination to serve as delegates to convention: Steve Fairbrother, Sally Heist, and Mark Hessler, and to serve as alternate: Carol Heist. Barb Hannevig moved to close the nominations and elect the candidates by acclamation. After a second by Russ McClellan, the motion was unanimously approved.

**RECTOR'S ADDRESS:** - Fr. Green addressed the congregation. He reminded everyone we are a people of Dance in Three Movements. Upward, Inward then Outward. We are members of the body of Christ. We are ALL partners in ministry. Each one of us are missionaries and ministers. Wherever we work and play is our mission field. He thanked the congregation from the bottom of his heart for all we do here at St. Gabriel's. God's love is being experienced here to transform others.

**SENIOR WARDEN** - Steve addressed the congregation. He said he really appreciates everything people in this congregation do.

Warren McKeon was not present for the meeting. Fr. David stated that Mark Hessler will be moving into the Junior Warden role, and stated there is a new committee that's formed to begin getting the buildings and property in shape for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He invited Anna Miller & Mark Hessler to come forward and share a few things that were accomplished and still need to be accomplished. Anna said there is a committee of 15 people, and Mark invited people to come forward to help with the various projects.

Fr. David said he'll be celebrating 30 years of ministry the end of this year (he stated he does not want a party) and was reflecting on his first Vestry meeting 30 years ago, which ended up with the treasurer throwing down books and storming out of the meeting! He then introduced Eric, our treasurer, who Fr. David said doesn't do that!

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Eric Miller addressed the congregation.

Mortgage - this spring our 5 year lock-in rate expires so he will be contacting our new bank, BB&T, who said they can likely give us a better rate. We continue to not receive enough contributions to totally fund the required monthly payments.

Budget - A new income category was added for 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Contributions - Donations are invited to help fund the ongoing projects.

Endowment Fund - This fund was begun in 2014. Esther Shelley's estate bequest provided a big boost for the Fund. Names of donors (and those who have named St. Gabriel's in their will) will be placed on the Memorial Tree on the hallway wall.

Eric then referred people to read the written report.

**GOOD SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTER** - Director Pat Owsiany addressed the congregation, giving a snapshot of some of the things that happened in the classrooms over the past year. Several alumni are now on staff, including someone who grew up at St. Gabriel's and someone who was in the very first "School Age" class when the GSLC opened in 2000.

Fr. David thanked the church staff: Pat Owsiany, Deacon Sally Bosler, Sally Heist, Charles Glandorf, Barb Hannevig, Pappy Ben Heckman, and John Schwegmann

He reminded everyone that Vestry meetings are open to everyone interested to attend...the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30.

**HOPEWELL LOVE** - Director Russ McClellan addressed the congregation. He invited people to take a sheet detailing what we've been doing to help Hopewell Love and also what others do. St. Gabriel's has been the most helpful financially, with volunteers, prayer support, etc.

**COMMON GROUND RECOVERY COMMUNITY** - Russ said they just started holding services here at St. Gabriel's the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 PM. The services are open to anyone in 12 Step programs AND the people who love them, so open to EVERYONE!

Fr. David said Russ is just about ready to enter the discernment process in the Diocese on the path to priesthood.

Fr. David closed the meeting with prayer.

There being no further business, Anna Miller moved to close the meeting. Following a second by Darlene Cooper, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM. Holy Eucharist and a luncheon followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally E. Heist,  
Recording Secretary

## Rector's Report

Dear saints of Gabriel,

I'm filled with joy and gratitude, as I reflect back on my fourth year as Rector of St. Gabriel's! It certainly was a challenging and creative year of learning and doing the work of Jesus.

In 2017, we had the highest average attendance figures in five years, due in part to the creation of alternative worship communities like Common Ground and Villa Independent. We also had a great year of helping our ministry partners like you go deeper into whole-person growth, through offerings like the DOK retreats and Living Compass.

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep", don't *count* my sheep! Well, our diocese and national church expect us to count the sheep and feed the sheep. I believe numerical growth and spiritual growth are not mutually exclusive. In the midst of a culture and economy, in which the organized church continues to decline, St. Gabe's is committed to growing and thriving.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your ministries in everyday life, as well as through the focused ministries of St. Gabriel's. Thank you for your generosity of time, talent and treasure that allows us so effectively to transform lives through the love of Christ. I am exceeding blessed to work with such a loving and committed corps of Spirit-filled laypersons!

I'd also like to thank our amazing St. Gabriel's staff. Heartfelt thanks go to Deacon Sally, our pastoral care missionary, Sally, our administrator, Pat and Amy, our GSLC administrators, Barbara, our secretary, Charles, our organist/choir master, Phoebe our Music Associate, Russ our mission developer, and John, our sexton. I'm blessed beyond measure to be working with such a talented, devoted staff!

In two short years, we will enter our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 2020. As we approach that important time of remembrance and celebration, our excellent building/grounds ministers will continue to bring all our buildings up to good repair. We will also continue to grow the parish numerically and spiritually, developing new and creative expressions of worship and outreach.

St. Gabe's might be compared to the old oaks at the rectory or the old sycamore in front of the graveyard: We have deep roots in history, as well as expansive branches and leaves reaching through and beyond this world into the heavens. We are so blessed!

In the love of Christ,

The Rev. David Robert Green, D. Min., AOJN  
Rector

## Senior Warden's Report

Greetings St. Gabriel's Family.

Another year has rushed past as St. Gabe's continues to amaze.

Father David has led the vestry in new directions as we now open each Vestry meeting with a meditation conducted by one of the Vestry members. The Rector of All Dougllassville has taken the show on the road. He ministers to the community and has encouraged us to think about different ways we can be present to those around us and bring the Good News to people who may otherwise not darken our doors.

The Property Committee has been doing a fantastic job of addressing the campus in advance of our 300<sup>th</sup>-year celebration. They have also been making needed repairs and updates to the rectory.

Suzanne Siebert and Jo Rivera have brought the Living Compass class to St. Gabe's. I am attending now and encourage all to investigate this excellent program.

The recovery service on Thursday nights and the new family service at 9:00 on Sundays are welcome additions to the community.

Ministries to children and the elderly continue to flourish with the Good Shepherd Learning Center and services at the Keystone Villa. The GSLC also interacts with the Villa, bringing joy to citizens there.

The Daughters of the King continue their good works and the annual silent day has become something to which I look forward with anticipation. I encourage all to attend the next one and experience the spiritual refreshment found there.

As we look forward to 2018, exciting changes await. In April we will elect a new bishop and later bid farewell to Bishop Sean, the bionic Bishop. Imagine being Bishop to two dioceses simultaneously and ones that are not geographically contiguous. He has piled up the miles on his car and has done a great job of preparing the Diocese of Bethlehem for the road ahead.

As we look forward to the 300<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration, we will also have the challenge of Father David's subsequent retirement. We will celebrate his time with us and then start the work of a new search. I found that work to be tremendously rewarding the last time and the contributions of the search team to be entirely faith driven.

I wish all parishioners a happy and healthy 2018. Continue your good works and if stuck, walk the labyrinth. It is a unique place with a fantastic power to help you center and emerge refreshed.

Your brother in Christ,

Steve Fairbrother

## Deacon's Report

Years ago I taught with a woman who had an immense gift. Daily she lived out her understanding that every child was special, simply because they existed. She did not love their particular misbehaviors, she loved the child. She gently guided each child and corrected misbehavior with patience and with love. You could always find young children near her engaged in learning. She radiated unconditional love, so much so that the children did not try to monopolize her but shared her willingly with each other, somehow sensing that there was more than enough love for them all, wanting each other to experience that love. I observed small children inviting other small children into that experience of being unconditionally loved.

St. Gabriel's is also very blessed with gifts. Our spectrum of ages includes all from infants to those nearly one hundred. Within this diverse group, independent of age, I see serious commitment, I hear prayerful gratitude, I witness generosity of many kinds, I watch compassion flow, and I celebrate the joy that results! Volunteers, for the love of Christ Jesus, offering their skills and interests and time for the greater good. Their question isn't, "What can this church do for me?" Their question is "This is what I can do, how can I serve others in the community and beyond? We too at St. Gabriel's wish to share the unconditional love God has poured upon us!"

As stated in the Catechism on page 855 of the Book of Common Prayer: "The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons." That is all of us. We are all children of God, not a single one of us is more special than the other. The gifts of God are infinitely diverse and often surprisingly displayed within and among us, in the church and the unchurched. With God's help, we can be the hands and feet and hearts of change in the world.

Author Madeleine L'Engle described 'wonder' as a child's first prayer. Who, or what, has made you pause in wonder today? Where did you encounter the "face" of Christ in a most unexpected place? God with us! Share that wonder with others, invite others to see and know the unconditional love of God.

In God's service,

The Rev. Sally Bosler  
Deacon/Pastoral Care Missioner

*"As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself."*

*(Page 543 Book of Common Prayer, Ordination of a deacon.)*

As a vocational deacon I serve directly under The Bishop of Bethlehem. While assigned to this parish I work under the supervision of the rector, Father David.

## Parish Administrator's Report

2017 was just as busy, if not busier, as recent years with all the activities and ministry taking place in our buildings. The buildings are being used day and evening almost 7 days a week, which is a wonderful thing. Just take a look at our calendar! Our Good Shepherd Learning Center is here from 6 AM – 6 PM Monday through Friday. In addition, each week we host six AA meetings, an Al-Anon meeting, a women's barbershop chorus, three Girl Scout troops, a Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scouts, Venture Crew, Common Ground, and (new this year) Karate Classes. Those are in addition to our church ministry groups and activities: Worship services, Daughters of the King, Choir, Just For Sew, Prayer Shawl, occasional study groups, Bingo, Saturday Breakfasts, etc.

My job has changed and evolved over the years as needed, and now much of my time in the office is spent serving as "the cog in the wheel"... coordinating the calendar schedule to be sure there are no conflicts for space/use of the building, sending various info to people and groups that need to know, serving as a consultant to ministry heads (including Fr. David) and groups, etc. I also oversee the cemetery, maintain the church database and record books, work with the treasurer, bookkeeper and payroll company and write the weekly checks, pick up and sort the mail and review invoices, pick up the bank deposit bags, edit and compile (and sometimes write for) the monthly Messenger newsletter, order supplies, supervise the sexton and Barb, contact contractors and repair people, serve as "rental agent" for Adams Hall & our Church and Chapel, serve as recording secretary for Vestry, compile & produce this report...the list goes on.

I continue to be deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve God in my home church, and for the great staff and volunteers with whom I have the privilege of doing ministry in this time and place. I look forward to what God has planned for us in 2018 and beyond!

In His service,

Sally Heist

## Children's Ministry Report

### “Teaching children to learn and do the work of Jesus”

We have 22 talented and caring adults who make up the Children's Ministry Team along with other volunteers who help with special projects and events. The children are blessed by the sharing of their time and talents.

#### 2017 Highlights

- Our morning routine changed a bit with the implementation of the Good Shepherd Eucharist for families beginning at 9:15 each Sunday. Children's Sunday School begins after that to allow families to attend the service and then come to Sunday School.
- We reconfigured the three Children's Sunday School Classes. The 3-6 Class is now called the Pre-school Class and is for children ages 3 to 5. The 6 to 9 Class is now called the Elementary Class and is for children in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The Junior Youth Class keeps the same name and is for children in grades 3 to 5. This arrangement will allow children to just flow into the Youth Program when they reach 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The Pre-school Class has 7 registered children and 9 adults who teach or help in the classroom. The curriculum is “Godly Play” which uses hands-on models for each lesson. The children respond to each lesson through art and play.
- The Elementary Class has 11 registered children and 6 adults who teach or help in the classroom. The curriculum “Deep Blue Kids Rotation, which is new this year. Children experience Bible stories and characters through a variety of stations: art, cooking, missions, games, science, drama and spiritual practices.
- Under the leadership of Carly Greenwald, the children have visited the Villa one Sunday each month to share a project or craft with some of the residents in the Personal Care Section. This interaction has been a wonderful experience for the children and the Villa residents.
- The Junior Youth Class has 14 registered children and 6 adults who teach or help in the classroom. The curriculum is “Grapple” with which the children discuss age appropriate questions and find Bible related answers. Discussion, games, team-building, and prayer help them build their faith.
- Before Lent this year the children created “love jars” under the direction of Lydia Rieger for families to use to collect their sacrificial Lenten offerings. Each week during Lent these offerings were brought into church and placed in the well. After Easter the money collected was given to Hopewell Love to use in their work with people in need in our community.
- Danielle Troncelliti and Carol Heist taught 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Classes to 6 children. During these sessions the children were taught the meaning and ritual of Holy Communion in preparation for receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion.

- Carol Heist organized Summer Sunday School around the theme: "Courageous Heroes of the Bible" using the Deep Blue Kids Summer Curriculum. We learned that 'God will make you strong' through stories, songs, and activities.
- Adams Hall was transformed into Hero Central for Vacation Bible School this past summer. Under the direction of Carly Greenwald, 30 children discovered their strength in God through learning about Bible heroes via stories, art, science, music, and games.
- The Nativity Pageant was presented on Christmas Eve under the direction of Carol Heist and the Ministry Team. Olivia Darrohn, Joshua Emery, and Hadley Miller read the Gospel as 10 children enacted the story of Jesus' birth.

### **CHALLENGES FOR 2018**

We hope to involve children in more activities.

God's peace,

Carol Heist, on behalf of the Children's Ministry Team:

Lydia Rieger, Laurie Tomme, Lindalee Blohm, Diana Doherty, Beth Orr, Jessica Rozzi, Jeni Green, Erin Nase, Aimee Bryan, Carly Greenwald, Alia Emery, Danielle Troncelliti, Kelley Klein, Peter Amstutz, Tammy Miller, Cathrin Nester, Rebecca Chesnet, Linda Wray, Mollie Larkin, Alan Rieger, and Phoebe Kelleher

# Youth Ministry Report

## Evolving St. Gabe's Youth Program for the New Millennium

The objective of St. Gabe's youth ministry is to encourage our teens to explore and experience "Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus" in order for them to grow into their individual calling as Christians.

As society continues to evolve around us, begun to experience some challenges with our current approach, including:

- Staffing classes and events with the appropriate amount of adult leaders
- Youth attendance on Sunday mornings/Keeping the youth engaged in church amidst multiple competing priorities
- Cost of overseas pilgrimages – extensive fundraising interfering with true spiritual formation

To address these challenges, the Youth Ministry Team has spent the last year prayerfully considering how to evolve the program. To discern the Spirit's direction for the program, we've gathered feedback from the youth, parents, long time Youth Ministry Team members, and piloted new things. Based on what we learned, we implemented the following changes to the program:

- Moved to a two-class approach, Junior High (grades 6-8) and Senior High (grades 9-12).
- Incorporated more time for Christian Fellowship into Sunday mornings to encourage bonding between our teens and ensure that our time together is viewed as a "safe place" in a challenging adolescent world.
- Incorporated more real-life experiences into our activities in order for our youth to explore their own calling in doing Jesus work.
- Continued to leverage the J2A curriculum for classroom discussions and activities.
- Leveraged existing diocesan and national church activities as a means of providing opportunities for spiritual retreat, mission, and pilgrimage, as opposed to taking on the daunting and financially challenging task of developing our own parish specific activities.
- Continued to be self-supporting ministry while tithing back to the church from our earnings.

## **Highlights of St Gabriel's Youth Ministry in 2017:**

- The Youth Ministry team has shrunk again over the past year, but we are blessed and grateful for our 5 adult leaders who remain committed to making a difference in the lives of youth. We are thankful for the encouragement and participation of the parents of the youth. Their continued support allows this ministry to sustain year after year!

- Partnered with the Outreach Ministry team and Monocacy Elementary Center to sponsor holiday meal baskets for five families at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- Three Youth Sundays with St. Gabriel's youth participating and an overwhelming response from the congregation demonstrated by high attendance.
- 2 Youth attended the diocesan Christophany Retreat.
- 8 Youth and 2 Chaperones attended the annual Kanuga retreat.
- Renee Pusey and Josh Heckman attended the national Episcopal Youth Event.
- Approximately 8 youth served lunch to 75 residents of Opportunity House in Reading.
- Ben and Jacob Heckman Participated in the Crop Walk.
- Mad soup to donate to the Soup Ministry.
- Fundraising to support youth events (Sweet Street Sale, Basket Raffles, Car Washes) was successful in raising funds to support Youth Programming. The Youth tithe every fundraiser to the Church's general offering which totaled \$115.40 in 2017. A big THANK YOU to our parish family for your continued support of our fundraisers. The Youth Ministry is completely "self-funded" via these fund raisers and we couldn't do it without your support.
- Youth group outings included bowling as well as occasional Sunday morning visits to Michael's Diner.

We look forward to the upcoming 2018 youth events. This year more than ever, we are looking for more new adult leaders to get involved in the program. We ask for God's guidance as we continue to work on creating energy and excitement in Youth Ministry as we find ways to Learn and Do the Work of Jesus with St. Gabriel's Youth.

Submitted by Ben Heckman on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team

(Fr. David Green, Laurie Arms, Anna Miller, Mark Hessler, and Kelly Ash)

## **“300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Properties Committee” Report**

The Properties Committee was formed a year ago. Currently we have 12 active members and are always looking to recruit more members. Our mission is to inspect the church properties and make sure they are in great shape and ready for our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2020. Each of the four properties (1887 Church Sanctuary, 1801 Chapel, Rectory, and Office/Classroom/Adams Hall addition) continues to be inspected and a punch list created.

The committee meets quarterly to discuss projects that have been completed, in progress, and not scheduled. In addition, they determine the priority, budget and funding of each of the projects. Unfortunately the budget is minimum compared to what is needed. Therefore, we are in need of donations to help offset the cost. An account has been established strictly for the 2020 Celebration. If you would like to donate, please contact Anna Miller.

### **Completed Projects:**

- Small Storage Room was renovated (Josh Heckman Eagle Scout Project)
- The 1801 Chapel’s exterior was painted
- Rain Gutters and down spouts were installed on the Chapel
- Chapel Door was repaired
- Five trees were trimmed and one removed from Rectory
- Rectory Lawn was excavated
- The wall sconces and window globes in the 1801 Chapel were replaced by battery-operated LED candles
- Crown molding was repaired on the Chapel
- Chapel floor was repaired and stone pointed
- Stained Ceiling tiles throughout the church were replaced
- Refurbished the old church sound system and assemble them in a portable cabinet for use in Adams Hall

### **In- Progress/Pending Projects:**

- Maintenance of church bell
- Fix water leak (Air Conditioner Unit) in Adam’s Hall
- Obtain quotes for painting Chapel Interior
- Obtain quotes for running natural gas for Rectory and ductless splits for chapel
- Paint rectory basement
- Seek resources to help with issues with spalling and moisture in the walls in Adams Hall
- Install sound system speakers in Adam’s Hall
- Install new carpet in Rectory

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the library. Please consider joining this important ministry.

Submitted by Anna Miller on behalf of the Properties Committee members (Father David, Dan DeMarco, Jim Elliott, Mark Elliott, Steve Fairbrother, Sally Heist, Mark Hessler, Anna Miller, Eric Miller, Pat Owsiany, Barry Parsons, Josh Rozzi, Bill Strickland).

### **Just for Sew Ministry Report**

The Just for Sew ministry includes Jeri Klein, Florence Mano, Cissy McKeon, and Carolyn Nippert.

Just for Sew met monthly in 2017 from Feb. through August for continuing service projects and completing some personal projects.

During the summer we enjoyed an enriching day trip to many fabric and notion stores in Lancaster County, while enhancing our fellowship.

One goal we did not meet in 2017 was the return and unveiling of the beautiful banner we made in 2016, as it is displayed at North Parish in Schuylkill County.

We are grateful for the continuation of our group and look forward to attracting new members in 2018.

Jeri Klein

Submitted on behalf of the Just for Sew ministry

## Daughters of the King Report

The Order of the Daughters of the King was founded in 1885, by Margaret at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in New York City. As members of the Order of the Daughters of the King are a community and we commit to the Rule of Life, Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service in our daily lives. Prayer, Service, and Evangelism is the essence of the Daughters of the King.

The Order of the Daughters of the King, Angelus Chapter, meets the Last Wednesday of the month at 7pm-8:30 pm. All women are invited to join us in prayer and study.

**Book Study 2017:** We have read and discussed the wisdom within the Book of Joy written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

**Prayer and Bible Study:** “*Lectio Divina*” is one method for prayerful reading of Scripture that we have studied this year. *Lectio Divina* involves spiritual practices of reading, listening, meditation, prayer and contemplation, to gain insights into God’s Word.

**Lenten Quiet Day:** “Let Yourself Be Loved” was held on March 25, 2017 was given by Dr. Phillip Bennett who gave a presentation based on his book, giving insights on self – acceptance though our sins and foibles, and know that God is with us.

**Emergency Prayer list:** Angelus Chapter of the Daughters serves as one of the communication points for the Emergency/ Urgent Prayer Chain: It is our pledge and privilege to pray daily for those on the emergency prayer chain and monthly prayer list.

**Diocese of Bethlehem Activities:** Angelus Chapter Members have attended and participated in:

Aug. 2017 Diocese of Bethlehem DOK Retreat : Angelus Chapter hosted the Book Swap at the retreat it was a success.

Fall 2017 DOK Assembly Sally Heist and Marilyn Rittenhouse, gave a presentation about Elizabeth , Mother of John the Baptist.

### 2018 plans

- **Lenten Quiet Day Save the date March 17, 2018** “Opening to Grace” Introduction to Healing Prayer, to be presented by Reverend Wanda D. Craner, a United Church of Christ minister, and a Gestalt Pastoral Care minister.
- Actively and prayerfully communicate with area businesses to insure they know St. Gabriel’s Church is praying for them.
- Explore additional prayer and study possibilities.
- Create a banner for the Order of the Daughters of the King, Angelus Chapter.

We are actively involved in the church and look forward to additional opportunities to grow and serve in Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn C. Nippert, Chapter President

## Altar Guild Report

**Almighty God, grant we beseech thee, that we may handle holy things with Reverence, and perform our work with faithfulness and devotion that it may Rise with acceptance before thee and obtain thy blessing; through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

The Altar Guild is called to serve God by preparing and tending the places where his people worship Him. Their work is a thank offering of time and talents, a ministry of love undertaken in the name of Christ. Altar work goes on quietly behind the scene, usually unnoticed by the parishioners. The Altar Guild is the priest's partner in making the worship life of our parish run smooth.

Our thanks to all of the members who have given of their time and talents and have responded when called upon. The Altar Guild members are working behind the scenes and have everything ready for all of our services.

If you would like to join us in this rewarding ministry, we would welcome you. There is an Altar Guild Manual, which is frequently updated, that lists all that needs to be done for each service. Members work as a team for two months during the Sunday School year. At Christmas and Easter, special schedules are made to cover the extra services. In the summer months, each member does two weekends of their choice. We will train anyone who is interested in joining us.

We thank our team of volunteers for doing the linens faithfully for the Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted:

Marilyn Rittenhouse  
Stephen Rowe

### **Members:**

Carole Chafin  
Susan Dressler  
Judy Embriani  
Carole Levesque  
Florence Mano  
Marilyn Rittenhouse

Katherine Rowe  
Linda Wray  
Betty Webster

### **Polish Silver & Brass:**

Carol Young

### **Saturday Night Altar Guild:**

Sue Kerrigan  
Mary Mazzoni  
Jo Rivera  
Lisa Bealer  
Katie Strickland

### **Linens:**

Marilyn Rittenhouse  
Jo & Miguel Rivera  
Tammy Ferguson  
Tara Crawford  
Patricia Moody & Erin Brown  
Michele Chayson

## **Health & Wellness Ministry Report**

Our 2nd 'Living Compass' program was held in the Spring of 2017. Five parishioners participated in the program led by Suzanne Siebert and Jo Rivera. The group 'connected' as they shared their 'Faith Steps' and personal stories while getting their inner compass on course to live their lives as God intended. The facilitators look forward to the classes in 2018! Massages, provided by therapist, Linda Volpe, continued throughout the first half of 2017. In addition, Blood Pressure Screenings continued to be offered after the Saturday evening service by Jo Rivera and Karen Lippincott.

## **Outreach Ministry Report**

Three Blood Drives were held in 2017. We had a total of 76 registered donors, and collected a total of 72 units of blood which adds up to a total of 216 lives saved! A big thank-you to Bob Chafin for his hard work and dedication in making our blood drives a success!

The Hat/Mitten Tree collected many articles of clothing, including gloves, hats, scarves, coats, and boots, that provided warmth to members of our surrounding communities. Donations were given to Hopewell Love and The Monocacy Elementary Center.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, under the direction of Lydia Rieger, has 4 official members, as well as participants who knit at home. Approximately fourteen prayer shawls were knitted and distributed throughout the year to various members of our congregation, family members, and members of the community.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Food baskets were purchased and given to needy families of children that attend the Monocacy Elementary Center. Our youth, under the direction of Anna Miller, shopped for, and put together five baskets each for both holidays and delivered them to the school. Thank you to Anna and the youth for devoting your time and interest in this project. Thank you to all our parishioners who donated monetary gifts to purchase the items needed to make the baskets. In addition to the food baskets, we also collected blue T-shirts for the boys and girls at the school.

Hopewell Love continues to support the members of our community in several ways. The Clothes Closet continues to provide gently used clothing to our community members. Our parish also collected laundry detergent, toiletries, and toilet tissue throughout the year for distribution. Under the direction of Dianne Walker, St. Gabe's provided two community meals at the Birdsboro Fire Hall. Each meal served over 100 people, and our parishioners provided monetary donations, desserts, and time to make this a huge success! The Aluminum Can Ministry, facilitated by Ellen Moore, continued with proceeds going to purchase items for the Hopewell Love Food Pantry. In the fall, we held the "Harvest Blessings Collection," which collects non-perishable items to be given to the Hopewell Love Food Pantry as well.

Our 'Crop Hunger Walk,' with our team organized by Carly Greenwald, was held in October. St. Gabriel's 'sponsored' parishioners and friends participated by walking to help end hunger.

The Salvation Army Angel Tags have been one of St. Gabe's favorite programs that we have participated in for many years and is enjoyed by all! Members of the St. Gabe's congregation filled the back of the church with gifts that surely put a smile on many faces, young and old, on Christmas morning.

Throughout the year we also contributed to the "Zeus and the Kitty Cats' fund that collects food and other much needed items for our four-legged friends in need. We also collected items to help support the animals that were affected by the hurricanes. Members of our congregation provided monetary donations to buy books for the children in Kajo-Keji.

Two other very important ministries under the Outreach Umbrella are the 'Soup Ministry' and the 'Just 4 Sew' Ministry. Carol Young, who heads up the Soup Ministry, reports St Gabriel's Soup Ministry donated 774 quarts of homemade soup in 2017! The people who received it at St. Paul's UCC Food Pantry and Hopewell Love's Food Pantry loved it and are grateful. Just For Sew, headed by Jeri Klein, submitted their own report.

The Outreach Ministry wants to thank every one of our church members for all your consideration, dedication, support, generosity, and time as we continue to assist those less fortunate than us. Our community members surely appreciate all that we do for them!

I look forward to 2018! We already are planning events for Adams Hall! Starting in January, Karate classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Have a Blessed New Year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jo Rivera, Outreach Ministry Chair

## Good Shepherd Learning Center Report

Reflecting on the past year the Learning Center continues to be blessed with a dedicated, caring staff and a conscientious board of directors. Currently we educate and care for 106 children ranging in age from 4 months to 10 years. Education occurs mainly through hands on activities and play. We believe that play is a child's work and is essential to a child's development. Christian education is also an important part of our curriculum with children attending weekly chapel time with Father David. Our teachers use the *Living the Good News* curriculum where activities, art, and prayers are based on weekly Bible stories. During Advent and Lent I visit the classrooms presenting Godly Play stories to ready the children for Christmas and Easter.

This year's giving to St. Gabriel's included \$26,400 for use of the building, \$15,800 toward our loan payment and \$12,800 toward the Capital Campaign. We continue to meet our vision of giving each child a warm, safe, Christian environment in which to have fun, learn, be nurtured and be respected as one of God's children. In August we were again re-designated a STAR 4 facility in the Keystone STARS Quality Initiative. Due to changes at the state level STAR 3 and STAR 4 centers no longer receive grants. Awards are now given to STAR 1 and STAR 2 facilities to improve their quality. This change will impact us going forward in that any large purchases will need to come from our budget alone. Our financial picture continues to remain stable and due to that fact we were able to give all of our staff a much deserved bonus and an extra \$5,000 to St. Gabriel's toward the Capital Campaign in December. With our designation, employees with early childhood education degrees still receive their Keystone STAR's education and retention award from the state.

The Center has been blessed with yet another year of our continuing partnership with the Keystone Villa and we are very thankful for this wonderful partnership. By participating in the many multigenerational activities both the lives of the senior residents and the lives of our Learning Center children have been enriched. Outreach activities this past year have included raising money for Kajo Keji, hopping for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, participating in the Trike-A-Thon for St. Jude Children's Hospital and the coordinating of the Salvation Army Angel gifts. We continue to make a difference in children's lives by supporting families, teaching and caring for children in a Christian environment, and spreading the Gospel.

Generosity also abounds with the Learning Center assisting families who are in need of help with tuition using a scholarship fund which was put into place in 2015. Staff members show their generosity yearly by purchasing gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree instead of exchanging gifts between themselves. We have been truly blessed!

I am thankful to the Center's staff and the Board of Directors for their continued work and commitment to quality Christian based early childhood education.

I am filled with gratitude for God's many blessings and the partnership we have with St. Gabriel's enabling the Learning Center to fulfill our ministry to the Douglassville community.

God's Peace,

*Patricia Owsiany*  
Director

Board Members: Ryan Beebe, Steve Fairbrother, The Rev. Dr. David R. Green, Carol Heist, Lisa Maynard, Jessica Rozzi, Bill Strickland

### Good Shepherd Learning Center 2018 Budget

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Activity Fees		9750	9750	9750
Fundraiser				4000
Registration		900	900	900
Tuition Charges		618500	614715	607080
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>629150</b>	<b>625365</b>	<b>621730</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Activities		9750	9750	13800
Advertising		1800	2400	2100
Art/Classroom Supplies		3600	4200	4200
Bank/ Audit Fees		2570	2450	1910
Capital Campaign		7800	7800	7800
Class Pets		240	300	1320
Cleaning Supplies		960	960	960
Education Equipment		2200	1550	1550
Electric		26400	26400	26400
Loan		13800	13800	13800
<i>Employee Benefits</i>				
	Health Plan	30600	29400	28200
	Life and Disability Insurance	240	240	240
	Pension Plan	10400	7800	
	Other	1445	925	600
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>		<b>42685</b>	<b>38365</b>	<b>29040</b>

Fundraisers			3000
Workers Comp. Insurance	5285	6695	6695
Office Equipment Lease/Supplies	5500	5500	5500
<b>Operations</b>			
Gloves	1500	1500	1500
Paper Towels/Toilet Paper	3600	3600	3600
Postage, Mailing Service	240	240	240
Supplies	2100	1800	1800
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>7440</b>	<b>7140</b>	<b>7140</b>
Payroll Expenses	2400	2580	2580
Repairs/Outside Maintenance	1970	1800	1800
Salaries	455000	449800	440830
Snacks	4800	4800	4800
Taxes-Payroll Taxes	34770	33150	33150
Telephone	2160	2160	2160
Training/Staff Development	2600	3600	3900
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>622945</b>	<b>624900</b>	<b>614435</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>6205</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>7295</b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Vestry and I are thankful to everyone that contributes Time, Talent, & Treasure to continue the ministries that are changing lives in our community.

### The Mortgage

The mortgage campaign fund is used to pay the monthly mortgage associated with the expanded and remodeled facilities at St. Gabriel's. We refinanced our mortgage in 2017 to a new 15 year term at an interest rate of 4.5%. The new mortgage payment is \$6,881.50 each month and our interest rate is locked until April 2022.

Our mortgage balance as of December 31, 2017 was \$856,700.12  
Our giving to the capital campaign averaged \$5,400/month in 2017.

In 2018 we will have a new mortgage campaign to fund the mortgage payments for the next 3 years. For those who have not participated in the past, please prayerfully consider a onetime or recurring gift to help support the mortgage payments. Together we all share the responsibility to support the mortgage campaign – we enjoy the many blessings of the expanded facilities at St. Gabriel's. More importantly, we are able to host many ministries that help those in need in our community.

***We continue to pay a monthly mortgage - your support and contributions to the mortgage campaign help St. Gabriel's fulfill ministries now – and for future generations!***

### The General Operating Budget

The general operating budget is used to pay all daily expenses associated with the ministries we support as we 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord!' These ministry expenses include the salaries and associated health/pension/professional benefits of the clergy and lay staff. All utilities, taxes, outreach, office supplies, cleaning services, lawn care, Communion bread & wine, music, rectory, and building maintenance costs are supported by the general operating budget. OUR contributions to the general offering make it possible for St. Gabriel's to continue to make a difference in many lives in our community!

While the budget is primarily supported by our giving, there are other areas of income that include fundraisers, fees for use of the facilities by outside organizations, and monthly contributions from the Learning Center.

**THANK YOU** for supporting our fundraising! The Grocery card (Giant & Redner's) and the Gift card programs have raised over \$1,400 this year!

St. Gabriel's DOES NOT receive financial assistance from the Diocese. OUR giving is the source of our ability to meet financial obligations.

While every effort is made to keep expenses below budget, we are not immune to higher costs and other fees that are a direct result of maintaining our church and supporting our mission – Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus.

### 2017 RESULTS – THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

- General offering was just above our target amount.
- GSLC made all payments in 2017, and also made additional special loan payments and contributions toward the mortgage.
- We paid 100% of our 2017 Diocese Assessment.

### 2018 BUDGET

#### Resources/Income

- Our estimate of giving pledges are about the same as last year
- Total resources/income is targeted at \$378,750.
  - Weekly envelopes include a ‘faith offering’ contribution category. If you receive a tax refund or find that you have additional funds available anytime during the year, please remember St. Gabriel’s when considering how to spend the available funds!
  - St. Gabriel’s can also accept shares of stock or other assets. Please see a member of the finance ministry team if you are interested in this type of giving.

#### Ministry Expenses

- The diocese must receive their funding – we are making every effort to continue paying them ‘first’ every week.
- All ministry expenses have been reviewed closely. Reductions in expenses are taken where possible. Some increases have also been required.
- Our expenses are estimated at \$386,458.

### The St. Gabriel’s Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was opened in 2014. Annual distributions from this fund help support our ministries. Please see a member of the Finance Ministry team if you have any questions about the fund, or how to make contributions. The 2017 year-end balance in the account was \$220,417.46

### Krause Trust

The Krause Trust was established in 1890. Income from this Trust supports our cemetery maintenance and other general operating expenses. The 2017 year-end balance of the Krause Trust was \$170,777.67

Thank you,  
Eric Miller, Treasurer

Finance ministry team members:  
Helen Baker, Lee Baker, Darlene Cooper, Sally Heist,  
Ellen Moore, Barry Muhlenberg, Winkie Reed

**LEARNING AND DOING THE WORK OF JESUS**  
**2018**  
**The Ministry Story Behind the Numbers**

<b><u>RESOURCES</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>
<p><b>Pledge and Plate Income</b>            These funds represent the primary source of income to St. Gabriel's. They represent the tithes and offerings of God's people. The Finance Ministry team uses the annual Partnership participation forms as a guide to our budget decisions.</p>	<b>\$249,500</b>
<p><b>Parish Organizations/Fundraisers</b>            These are funds generated by different events or programs such as grocery cards, gift cards, and others arranged as possible. These funds are generally used to support our general mission of the parish.</p>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<p><b>Special Purpose/Offerings</b>            These funds come from many different sources. They include the flower fund, weddings, Holy days, debt reduction, offerings taken for special mission activity (UTO, Kajo Keji), and designated gifts. The contributions toward the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary projects is included here as well</p>	<b>\$45,250</b>
<p><b>Communion Alms</b>            These funds are the loose plate offerings on the first Sunday of each month. This money is then used to support the Discretionary Fund of the parish to help parishioners and community members with special needs.</p>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<p><b>Good Shepherd Learning Center</b>            The Center pays a monthly amount (\$2,200) to offset the utility costs incurred by the use of the building during the day, Monday through Friday. GSLC is also making monthly payments to St. Gabriel's to repay a loan from the Church in 2007.</p>	<b>\$40,200</b>
<p><b>Endowment and Investment Income</b>            These funds are from a few different sources. The 1890 Krause Trust and our new St. Gabriel's Endowment Fund. Proceeds are allocated to ministries and also to care for the cemetery.</p>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<p><b>Income from Use of Buildings/Grounds</b>            This income is comprised of donations from outside groups like AA, Ringing Hills Chorus, and others who use our facilities for their meetings and activities.</p>	<b>\$6,500</b>

**Youth Income** **\$4,300**

Fundraising by the youth classes help to offset the expenses for pilgrimage and retreat trips. Youth payments toward the pilgrimage and retreats are reported as youth income.

**Miscellaneous Income** **\$5,000**

Funding for this account comes from ad-hoc gifts and income. The figure is an estimate based on the experience of previous years.

**Faith Offering** **\$3,500**

This represents additional contributions given over and above the amount pledged for a given year. The giving envelopes include a category to allocate a 'faith offering'.

**Estimated Resources Available to Fund 2018 Ministry** **\$378,750**

*The following categories group **expenses**, as much as practical, by ministry function. In specific cases they include a portion of the staff salaries of persons who support the ministry.*

**MINISTRY DESCRIPTION**

**BUDGET**

**Stewardship**

**\$38,936**

A steward's job is to take care of places, people, and things. While relationships with people mostly take time and energy, buildings and equipment need upkeep and insurance. Thriving ministries, attractive buildings, and energized parishioners show that Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus is taken seriously.

Ministry growth will happen with willing people and some funding. Collective energy, giving time, and meaningful funding has taken place here for almost 300 years.

Good stewardship will keep our healthy parish growing into the future.

**Christian Education-Children/Youth**

**\$41,034**

Our children start their Sunday mornings participating in a simplified worship service based on the Prayer Book Liturgy of the Word. The children then meet in their respective age groups to listen and participate in Bible stories coordinated with the church calendar through the use of curricula called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Godly Play. Various projects are available for the children to do in order to reinforce what they have heard. Throughout their exploration and learning, the children are involved in fellowship and outreach programs such as support for Kajo-Keji, the Christmas pageant and Vacation Bible School. In recent years, the program has been expanded to provide year-long Sunday School for the children.

Our pre-teens and teens examine Christian life in a secular world using scripture, prayer, and the Rite 13, Journey to Adulthood, and Youth and Church programs. Many outreach and fellowship activities are planned and done by the youth. The youth group Urban Adventure and Kanuga retreat are included in this category.

### **Christian Education-Adult**

**\$15,390**

Adults continue their spiritual journey by participating in singing, praying, listening, and learning, on Sunday mornings and at special Book studies. The women have an annual retreat for their renewal.

### **Evangelism**

**\$14,098**

Reaching out to those who do not know the presence of Christ, and making the presence of St. Gabriel's known by carrying the Good News of Christ into the community is everyone's job. If we study the results of the Parish Driven Mission meetings and the various new groups and projects that have emerged in recent years, it is obvious that St. Gabriel's is a Mission and Ministry oriented church. What that means is that we, the members of St. Gabriel's, want to share the Good News with others. A large cross draws attention to our parish. The website, social media and our new electronic road sign inform the community about who we are, and visitors get a packet of information that tells about our parish. The major fundraisers and special events and services are all advertised and draw people from the community. Providing low cost meeting space for groups allows a gentle reintroduction to church for people distanced from God's word. Anytime one of us tells our story to another we are evangelists.

### **Worship**

**\$149,550**

There are many people who participate in all facets of our worship ministry. Some are up front and easily visible while others play major roles behind the scenes. Every week the organist meets with the choir to rehearse, and he and the choir provide music at the 10:30 service and special services. The secretary prepares bulletins and worship pamphlets. The Altar Guild orders and prepares the communion supplies, candles, and other items needed for the services. We provide nursery care so that parents of young children can attend services and feel comfortable that their children are in safe hands. There are special musicians throughout the year, and Phoebe provides music at the Saturday service. When Father David needs to be elsewhere, we need supply clergy to take his place. Our sexton ensures that our buildings are clean and ready for us. The Clergy conduct worship on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. During the week they prepare sermons, officiate at special services (e.g. Holy Week, Christmas, weddings and funerals), and plan our various liturgies. They lead a Healing Service and Eucharist at the Villa Personal Care Building on Wednesday mornings, and Eucharist at the Villa Independent Building on Sunday afternoons

## **Outreach**

**\$60,050**

St. Gabriel's does the work of Jesus most effectively when it touches the lives of God's people in ways that bring healing, restoration and encouragement. There are many ways we do this. We give to agencies that help others. We support the activities and social ministry of the Southeast Berks Ministerium. We provide office space and financial support to Hopewell Love ministry. As noted above in Worship, Eucharist is regularly taken to local senior housing facilities. We provide direct aid to parishioners and members of our community through the discretionary fund, and such programs as the Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags. St. Gabriel's, through its parishioners, prepares and delivers soup to a local food bank, sews pillowcases to be given to hospitalized children, and knits prayer shawls to comfort those in need. The parish and several individual parishioners have adopted schools and provided support to special projects for Kajo-Keji in South Sudan and Uganda. The Good Shepherd Learning Center, while essentially self-supporting, is an outreach mission of St. Gabriel's. We also maintain an active relationship with our larger family, The Diocese of Bethlehem and the Episcopal Church, through our tithes and offerings and through the participation of our lay members and clergy who work with Diocesan leaders in program ministry and governance.

## **Pastoral Care**

**\$18,400**

Pastoral care is the support provided by both the clergy and lay persons for our St. Gabriel's family members as they approach life decisions and meet times of emergency and crisis. Our Pastoral Care Missioner, Deacon Sally Bosler, ensures our parish's ability to offer pastoral care beyond the capacity of one priest and helps us learn that pastoral care is the work of everyone in the parish. Pastoral Care uses about 10% of this budget. The Rector and office staff expenses for salaries, buildings, and benefits also figure into the costs. Because Deacon Sally is able to do some pastoral care visits, Fr. David is able to meet other responsibilities, reducing the pastoral care costs. Additional savings result when home communion is given to shut-ins by Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

## **Communication**

**\$39,700**

Many people participate in the different forms of communication. Our Parish Administrator and our Secretary create the Messenger, bulletins and booklets for services. Mailings that go out are printed, copied, stuffed, stamped and mailed by our office staff and volunteers. Responding to visitors, telephone calls and emails take a great deal of time. In a busy Parish, the administrator and secretary field all of the initial queries; Clergy and parishioners take time to write articles and notices for publication. Sally Heist, our administrator,

helps with finances, creating and distributing checks, works with our bookkeeper and financial secretary, and generally assists Treasurer Eric Miller in overseeing income and expenses. As part of her duties, Sally serves as a consultant to the Rector and various ministries as needed and serves as Recording Secretary for Vestry meetings. She is also responsible for maintaining the church database, overseeing the website and Facebook page, posting information on the electronic highway sign, editing and publishing The Messenger, arranging for most of our advertising for regular and special events, and scheduling the use of facilities and maintaining the parish calendar. Many contacts between St. Gabriel's and the Diocese go through Sally. Barb Hannevig, our secretary, oversees our prayer list and scheduling sponsors for the flowers, bulletins and candles. Barb's responsibilities include preparing the many forms of worship aids such as the bulletins and lectionary sheets, paperwork for Baptisms, and announcements for various Ministries.

**Leadership**

**\$4,300**

Developing leaders allows a growing parish to increase its ministries. The Clergy go on retreats throughout the year to stay focused, and at least once a year the vestry and lay leaders spend a weekend together for work and renewal. Activities such as ushers, greeters, fundraising, altar preparation and congregational planning only happen because the leaders and their dedicated volunteers have made them happen. The same is true for Vacation Bible School, Christmas pageants, and the Lenten Wishing Well. Both clergy and some lay leaders represent St. Gabriel's in Diocesan activities. Each year our convention delegates vote to shape the direction of the Diocese. Continued care and development of leaders is essential to our vibrant parish life.

**Miscellaneous**

**\$5,000**

There are always those unexpected, uncategorized needs in any family spending plan.

**Estimated Resources Needed to Fund 2018 Ministry**

**\$386,458**

*Please note: a detailed 2018 Budget is available upon request.*

## **Common Ground Recovery Community**

***Common Ground Recovery Community*** is dedicated to supporting individuals and families recovering from addiction, abuse, mental illness, loss and the hurts and hang-ups of life. We offer programs that educate about addiction and recovery, small groups that provide support, Bible studies that deepen our faith, and times of worship that inspire hope and healing. We are an emerging and compassionate gathering of people who embrace the worthiness and brokenness of our sisters and brothers as well as ourselves. Many, but not all of us, are part of 12-Step Fellowships and together we are exploring the “common ground” that lies beneath our 12-Steps and a welcoming, inclusive Christian tradition.

Grounded in God’s promises we are a progressive faith community that seeks healing and wholeness through our worship together, prayer, meditation, service and love for neighbor and self. We welcome everyone regardless of race, color, religious background, sexual identity, social or economic background; in fact, we believe our diversity reflects the tapestry of God’s creation!

***Recovery Worship Services*** + *Where God’s grace embraces our brokenness.*

St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, Douglassville, Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing and Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading

**Speaker Series** + Common Ground, together with Caron Treatment Centers, presents The Healing Power of 12-Step Spirituality Speaker Series about the spiritual aspects of recovery at Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing

**Small Group Programs** + offered at **all three** locations: Boundaries, Forgiveness, Letting Go of Secrets, Step 11 Prayer and Meditation, Anger Management

**Social Programs** + Coffeehouse/Open Mic Nights and Fellowship Suppers

***We are Common Ground Recovery Community.  
And we would love to spend some time with you.***

For more information and complete details, please see our website, **[cgrcommunity.org](http://cgrcommunity.org)**

**Russ McClellan, Mission Developer, at [russ@cgrcommunity.org](mailto:russ@cgrcommunity.org) and 610-451-4966**

**“Common Ground to me is connecting people to people with hearts full of hope, healing, faith and love. It is a beautiful journey that we take together.” —Pat**

*A ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
and the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem*

## **Hopewell Love Report**

### **Hopewell Love Food Pantry at the Birdsboro Community Center**

Average number of families served each month: **152** representing an average of **402** individuals. An average of **20** volunteers serve per distribution date. (Second and fourth Tuesdays)

### **The Community Table at the Birdsboro Community Center**

An average of **145** people served at each of the second and fourth Tuesday meals.

**14** churches and **10** community groups provide the meal and volunteers to serve, set up and clean up.

### **The Clothing Closet at Birdsboro Nazarene Church**

Formed with Hopewell Love and members from **4** different churches. **40 to 50** are served at each of the Saturday distributions. (second and fourth)

### **Clearinghouse**

Average of **40** calls per month. All are referred to a local church, social service agency or ministry to meet need. This represents an average of **125** individual lives touched each month in response to request for assistance.

**Volunteers** from local churches serving Hopewell Love in all capacities (Board members, drivers, crafters, cooks, servers, pick-up and delivery, clothing sorting, etc.) average **80** per month for volunteer hours of more than **500** hours per month.

## **A Partner in Ministry**

### **Saint Gabriel's supports the mission of Hopewell Love in the following ways:**

Hopewell Love is included in the prayers at Saturday evening and Sunday Eucharist.

Office space and use of office equipment (copier, Risograph, etc.) is provided to us.

The Vestry includes Hopewell Love in the annual budget as well as offering other financial support when possible.

Parishioners donate time and talent and money so that we can serve those in need.

Individual Sunday School, VBS and other classes have donated dollars and items (personal care kits, hats and gloves, food, etc.) for us to distribute to those in need.

Collections for recycling of aluminum cans is donated regularly to Hopewell Love.

Parishioners volunteer at our Food Pantry in Birdsboro in numerous ways and help at our Clothing Closet.

St. Gabriel's parishioners cook, serve and donate funds for the meal at The Community Table in Birdsboro twice a year.

The Good Shepherd Learning Center conducts fundraisers to support our work.

St. Gabriel's is one of four churches that came together to establish and maintain our Clothing Closet in Birdsboro.

St. Gabriel's provides space in the shed for items donated to Hopewell Love.

The Soup Ministry of St. Gabriel's provides quarts of homemade soup to our pantry.

Members of St. Gabriel's have served on our Board of Directors since our beginning.

***We are grateful for all of this support in 2017!***

***Hopewell Love + Russ McClellan, Executive Director***

## **Statistics Officially Recorded in St. Gabriel's Records – 2017**

### **BAPTIZED:**

Benjamin Michael Rozzi  
Nora Rachel Emery  
Rowan Vaughn Adamitis  
Ethan Lee  
Benjamin Alfred Hawkins

### **FUNERALS/BURIALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES:**

Mary Brower  
Raymond Allen Bailey  
Lloyd Elliott McClellan

(There were no marriages or membership transfers in 2017)