

Celebration of Mission and Ministry in 2018

ST. GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Douglassville, Pennsylvania

Diocese of Bethlehem

“Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus”

(Prepared for Annual Parish Meeting January 27, 2019)

CONTENTS

Page 1	Minutes of Annual Meeting 2018
Page 3	Senior Warden's Report
Page 4	Deacon's Report
Page 5	Children's Ministry Report
Page 7	Youth Ministry Report
Page 8	300 th Property Committee Report
Page 9	Health & Wellness & Outreach Ministry Reports
Page 10	Just for Sew
Page 11	Mission Developer's Report
Page 12	Altar Guild Ministry Report
Page 13	Daughters of the King Report
Page 15	Hopewell Love Report
Page 16	Common Ground Community Report
Page 17	Good Shepherd Learning Center Report
Page 19	Treasurer's Report
Page 21	2018 Statistics

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

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 28, 2018

The Rev. David Green, Rector, welcomed everyone, pointing out that we are likely the only church that conducts their annual meeting in the context of a worship service, as we do our vestry meeting and called the 298th annual meeting to order at 10:38 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 Steve Fairbrother, seconded by Phoebe Kelleher, which was approved.

MINUTES - After a motion by Phoebe Kelleher, seconded by Dianne Walker, the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF VESTRY - Fr. David said we're thankful for those who served on Vestry and whose terms are expiring. Fr. David explained the By-laws changed when the Diocese adopted new Canons in 2016. One of the changes allows Vestry members to serve 2 consecutive terms, which helps for consistency. Jo Rivera, Mark Hessler and Danielle Troncelliti all agreed to remain on Vestry if elected, and their names were placed into nomination to serve new three-year terms on Vestry. There being no other nominations, Carol Heist moved and Linda Wray seconded to elect the candidates by acclamation. The motion was approved.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES - Fr. David stated two conventions will be held this year, the first in April to elect our new Bishop, and the regular convention in October. The following names were then placed in nomination to serve as delegates to convention: Steve Fairbrother, Danielle Troncelliti, and Carol Heist. Alternates: Jo Rivera & Ed McCorkle. Blaine Rittenhouse moved to elect the candidates by acclamation. After a second by Russ McClellan, the motion was approved.

RECTOR'S ADDRESS: - Fr. David addressed the congregation. He said everyone is a minister and missionary in their every day life. We are Salt & Light (banner made by Just for Sew group) and Light and Salty! ;-). He's been teaching GSLC kids in Thursday Chapel the word "Peace", which Jesus used, in different languages. Peace is not just absence of conflict. Jesus spoke with Authority: The power (Shalom & Agape) to choose and the liberty to act. Jesus passed that authority on to us, His church. Fr. David then said how much he appreciates everyone in the congregation, and he runs on gratitude and joy for his ministry here and in the Diocese of Bethlehem, especially with the children on Thursday mornings. He invited everyone to live with a grateful heart. There are challenges in the Diocese here and elsewhere...downsizing, but an opportunity to do things differently in new ways.

SENIOR WARDEN - Steve addressed the congregation. He said he is blessed to work with Fr. David and we're blessed to have him, and he's thankful for everyone present and all who are involved with ministries here.

Fr. David then acknowledged Steve Fairbrother as continuing to serve as Senior Warden.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Mark Hessler addressed the congregation. He said he is blessed and thankful for the outpouring of support from the property committee, Fr. David, Sally Heist, and others. Mark reviewed some of the work done in the past year in maintaining the buildings and facilities. He shared the example of God working every day in our lives: the rectory microwave needed repair, and Mark had the exact part needed!

GOOD SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTER - Director Pat Owsiany addressed the congregation and shared some “God Incidences” regarding the Learning Center. She thanked St. Gabriel’s and the board members, most of whom are members of St. Gabriel’s.

MISSION DEVELOPER - RUSS MCCLELLAN - Russ spoke about Hopewell Love. He directed people to his written report and the number of ways St. Gabriel’s has been a major supporter, and one of the original founders, of Hopewell Love’s ministry, for which he serves as their Executive Director.

COMMON GROUND RECOVERY COMMUNITY - Russ also made reference to his written report, and stated they’ve been meeting for sharing and worship on Thursday nights at St. Gabriel’s for a year, and since September is now meeting weekly. He directed people to their website and said all are invited to attend!

Fr. David then mentioned we’ll be embarking on a ministry called “Laundry Love”. More info to come!

TREASURER’S REPORT - Eric Miller addressed the congregation. He directed people to his written report but reviewed a few highlights. We finished the 5 year lock-in mortgage with NPB/BBT. The loan was reset for another 5 years at a lower rate and only a 15 year payment term and we rolled the Line of Credit balance into it. In 2018 we’ll be wrapping up the end of current 3-year mortgage campaign and will be looking for everyone to participate in the upcoming 3-year campaign.

2017 results - General Operating Budget - Eric said we met our goal for our giving. He reminded everyone it is our giving which funds all the ministries at St. Gabriel’s. We continue to have our St. Gabriel’s Endowment Fund, and Eric invited people to consider a gift to St. Gabriel in their will.

Fr. David noted the Diocese and churches are struggling with money. Many churches will have to close and move on, but he thinks St. Gabriel’s will continue to be a survivor and leader because we’re not afraid to adapt and be open to the spirit.

Fr. David closed the meeting with prayer.

There being no further business, Phoebe Kelleher moved to close the meeting. Following a second by Blaine Rittenhouse, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM. Holy Eucharist followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Heist

Sally E. Heist, Recording Secretary

Senior Warden's Report

Hello, St. Gabriel's Family.

2018 has been a year of change.

Most obviously, Father David is no longer with us. We wish him well and pray for the health and happiness of him and his family. The combined efforts of Deacon Sally, Sally Heist, and Russ McClellan have helped to keep things running normally.

We have a new bishop, The Rt. Rev. Canon Kevin D. Nichols. Having worked directly with Bishop Kevin, I am heartened by how pastoral he is.

We have a new Interim Vicar, The Rev. Nancy Packard. She is an excellent partner in our time of need and I expect the next four months will be much smoother due to her presence. She has great experience supporting other parishes in transition and I believe we are in good hands.

The Vestry has begun working with Canon Anne Kitch of the Diocese on the transition process, as we begin to seek a new Rector. Modifications to the process keep us hopeful that a much shorter time will be needed than in the past.

As part of the preparation for a search, Canon Anne advised that our website needed to be improved and up to date. I have been working on that for the last two months and hope to have it up and running shortly. Look for an announcement. If any of you are WordPress aficionados, give me a shout. We seek people who can help with maintenance and updates to the new site.

The Property Committee has continued doing a fantastic job of addressing the campus in advance of our 300th-year celebration. The 1801 Chapel now has a new HVAC system and got new interior paint. The Rectory has had needed repairs, a new coat of paint, and everyone came together to provide the items needed to make Rev. Nancy's stay there a comfortable one.

The Common Ground Recovery Service has become a community staple with the regular Thursday night service. The additional family service on Sunday mornings was a good experiment but ultimately it was decided to stop that. Villa services on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday morning continue.

Our ministries continue firing on all cylinders. The dedication of so many people to so many different ministries is wonderful. Hopewell Love's foray into Laundry Love has excited many. This is true "outside of the castle" stuff and an important chance to interact with the community. Contact Russ McClellan for more information.

Ministries to children continue to flourish with the Good Shepherd Learning Center and Sunday School. The GSLC and the Sunday School interact with the Villa, as part of our ministry to the elderly. The GSLC is an important ministry of St. Gabriel's. The love and caring of the staff, Miss Pat, and Miss Amy is amazing. As is so often true in our society, the most important jobs do not pay well. What's more important to you than your children? Please keep the GSLC in your prayers.

Please remember the church in your will.

Your brother in Christ,

Steve Fairbrother

Deacon's Report

As we turn the calendar page of another year we continue to live into the reality that neither a day, nor a week, nor a month, nor a year actually ends up the way we anticipated or expected at its beginning. Over the course of 2018 we as the family of St. Gabriel's experienced many changes, some of a joyful nature as in the birth of new little saints or in welcoming new faces among us and new ministries and outreach to others. Changes also brought the difficulties associated with health issues, job loss, the death of beloved friends and family and other issues. In addition we said goodbye to Fr. David, our rector and shepherd for the last five years. This year has been a difficult one. That said, I rejoice that the response of this worship family has not stalled in disappointment, but instead has chosen to both grieve the retirement of Fr. David while at the same time participate in the preparations to move forward in the welcoming of Rev. Nancy Packard as our interim vicar and to begin the process involved to call a new priest to St. Gabriel's. We continue to "Learn and do the work of Jesus" among us and to take that out beyond our walls to surrounding communities.

I applaud the myriad of ways in which this congregation serves Christ and others in their daily lives. And I thank everyone who has offered their time and talents to God and St. Gabriel's to keep us moving forward together during these uncertain times. I am confident that all will be well as we begin this new chapter in the life of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church.

As a vocational deacon I serve directly under Bishop Kevin. While assigned by the bishop to this parish, I work under the supervision of the rector, or interim clergy. My assignment to St. Gabriel's is an unpaid staff position. Vocational deacons work as volunteers, receiving no salary, health insurance or pension benefits. I am grateful that this church family reimburses my expenses.

I am in my fourteenth year of service as Pastoral Care Missioner for this parish, more than eleven years as your deacon. In addition to my various duties at St. Gabriel's I attend all diocesan clergy events as is required by a vocational deacon, e.g. diocesan conventions, monthly clergy bible study, quarterly clergy days for continued training, the annual clergy retreat, Chrism Mass, ordinations, clergy funerals etc.

"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.)

The Reverend Sally Bosler

Children's Ministry Report

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

We have 21 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.

2018 Highlights

- **Sunday morning change** – The Good Shepherd Eucharist was discontinued in the fall. While we hoped it would meet the needs of many families, the attendance declined. To better meet the needs of families all Sunday School Classes are now held 9:15 – 10:15. Families can choose to attend Eucharist at 8AM or 10:30AM.
- **Class reconfiguration:** In order to better meet the needs of the children and better utilize our teachers we now have two Sunday School Classes for children. The Primary Class (ages 3 to grade 2) has 9 registered children and 10 adults who teach or help in the classroom. The Intermediate Class (grades 3 – 5) has 8 registered children and 7 adults who teach or help in the classroom. Several additional children attend class from time to time.
- **The Primary Class** meets upstairs in a room set up just for Godly Play. This curriculum uses hands-on models for each lesson based on Bible Stories. The children respond to each lesson through art and play.
- **The Intermediate Class** meets in the original Parish Hall. The curriculum “Grapple” is used in which the children discuss age appropriate questions and find Bible related answers. Discussion, games, team-building, and prayer help them build their faith. The class baked pretzels to serve for Coffee Hour in Lent. Children earn Father David dollars for their attendance and for doing the work of Jesus at St. Gabriel's and beyond. These dollars are spent in our store in January and June.
- 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.
- Before Lent this year the **children created “love boxes”** 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.
- **1st Holy Communion Classes** were held for 6 children and their parents. During these sessions the children were taught the meaning and ritual of Holy Communion in preparation for receiving their 1st Holy Communion.
- Summer Sunday School involved **More Edible Bible Fun**. Each week a snack was created based on a Bible Story. 15 children enjoyed cooking and eating their creations throughout the summer.
- Adams Hall was transformed into **Rolling River Rampage** for Vacation Bible School this past summer. Under the direction of Carly Greenwald, 22 children experienced the ride of a life time with God through Bible stories, art, science, music, and games.

- **The Nativity Pageant** was presented on Christmas Eve under the direction of the Ministry Team. Olivia Darrohn, Payton Klein, and Chris McNerney read the Gospel as 16 children and youth enacted the story of Jesus' birth with Rowan Larkin as our baby Jesus!

CHALLENGES FOR 2019

We continue to pray about ways to reach more children within St. Gabriel's Family and beyond. Changes in leadership will be a challenge to be met in the future. We are seeking a dynamic leader who can inspire us to change!

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, 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.

Highlights of St Gabriel's Youth Ministry in 2018:

- The Youth Ministry team has shrunk a little more over the past year, but we are blessed and grateful for our 4 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.
- Two Youth Sundays with St. Gabriel's youth participating and an overwhelming response from the congregation demonstrated by high attendance.
- 10 Youth and 4 chaperones went on an urban adventure to New York that included participating in Nighthwatch at St. John the Devine and a tour of the World Trade Center Memorial.
- 2 Youth attended the diocesan Christophany Retreat.
- 4 Youth and 2 Chaperones attended the annual Kanuga retreat.
- The youth had a great turn out for the Crop Walk helping St. Gabriel's to beat their fundraising goal, for the first time in many years.
- Made soup to donate to the Soup Ministry.
- Fundraising to support youth events (Sweet Street Sale, Bingo, Car Washes) was successful in raising funds to support Youth Programming. The Youth tithed every fundraiser to the Church's general offering. 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.
- Outings included bowling as well as occasional Sunday morning visits to Michael's Diner.

We look forward to the upcoming 2019 youth events. **THIS YEAR MORE THAN EVER, WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE 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 (Laurie Arms, Mark Hessler, and Kelly Ash).

“300th Anniversary” Properties Committee Report

The Properties Committee has been active for two years. Currently we have 11 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 300th 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 monthly 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:

- Speakers installed in Adam’s Hall
- New flooring was installed in the rectory.
- Painted metal rails around grave sites.
- School age bathrooms painted.
- Replaced Church Basement Door.
- Rectory oil furnace replaced with Natural Gas.
- Rectory Driveway was resurfaced/resealed.
- Rectory Bathroom was renovated and remodeled.
- New HVAC system was installed in Chapel.
- Painted Exterior of the chapel.
- Rain spouts & drains installed.
- Repaired/replaced inside Chapel floorboards
- Cleaned Chapel
- Replaced window candles

In- Progress/Pending Projects:

- Painting Chapel.
- Trimming the Sycamore Tree outside of the Chapel.
- Fixing or replacing lights in the Sanctuary.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5th.

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

Health & Wellness Ministry Report

Blood Pressure Screenings were offered at the Saturday evening services. *Living Compass* Lenten & Advent Booklets were available for the parishioners to use for reflection and journaling. The Lenten Booklet focused on *Loving*, and the Advent booklet focused on *Generosity*. In addition, there are two privately run fitness businesses that rented Adams Hall in 2018; Pound Exercise Classes were held on Wednesdays and Karate Classes were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Outreach Ministry

Three Blood Drives were held in 2018. There was a total of 51 registered donors and 48 units of blood collected, which adds up to 144 lives were saved! Bob Chafin did an excellent job recruiting parishioners to donate to this worthy cause.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, led by Lydia Rieger, knitted prayer shawls throughout the year. Prayer shawls are distributed to parishioners, family members, and members of the community to provide comfort to those going through a difficult time, such as an illness or death, or for a happy event, such as a birth or baptism.

The Hat/ Mitten Tree was once again filled with coats, hats, scarves, and gloves donated by members of our congregation. All articles were given to Hopewell Love for distribution to the community.

Clothing was collected for the Daniel Boone Primary Center. Sweatpants and underwear were needed for the 'little' members of our community. Carol Heist, who volunteers at the school, delivered the items as they were donated.

Five Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Holiday food baskets, shopped for by our youths, were delivered to the Daniel Boone Primary Center. These baskets were distributed to families that otherwise would not have had a holiday meal. Monetary gifts and gift cards were provided by members of our parish to purchase the items needed to fill the baskets. Anna Miller and Ben Heckman lead the youth in fulfilling this project.

Under the umbrella of *Hopewell Love* is the 'Clothes Closet' that provides gently used clothing to members of our community. Other ministries include the collection of laundry detergent, toiletries, and toilet tissue that is donated to the Birdsboro Pantry for distribution. In addition, 2 Community Suppers were scheduled for 2018; one in May and one in November. Dianne Walker, the coordinator of this event, did a fabulous job organizing the meals that served approximately 120-150 community members each. Our parish provided monetary donations, made desserts, and offered their time to make the meals a success. The Can Ministry, under the direction of Ellen Moore, contributes to purchasing items for the Hopewell Love food pantry.

The annual 'Crop Walk', organized by Sally Heist, was held in October. 12 parishioners, adults & youth combined, walked and exceeded the team goal of \$1500.

Zeus and the Kitty Cats fund collected items such as food, cat litter, blankets, and toys for our animal friends.

Salvation Army tags were once again available for our parishioners to purchase Christmas presents for children and adults. The back of the church was filled with gifts; surely there were many smiles on Christmas morning!

We continue our 'Soup Ministry', 'Just 4 Sew', and 'Laundry Love' Outreach Ministries.

Thank you to all who took the time to share *your* time, talent, and treasure to make the Outreach Ministry a success. Your generosity, support, and dedication to helping those less fortunate is so greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Rivera

Just for Sew Ministry Report

In 2018 Just 4 Sew welcomed Claudia Mumau to our group of: Jeri Klein, Flo Mano, Cissy McKeon and Carolyn Nippert. Irene Hallowell joined us on occasion and donated a lot of her unused fabric for our use.

At the request of the Order of the Daughters of the King, we combined several meetings to draft, design, and plan a banner to represent the Chapter at conferences and conventions. Careful thinking by both groups led to a stellar banner that combined needlepoint, embroidery, sewing, and crafting. If you have not seen it on display, it is a bright royal blue and silver beauty.

When we searched for a community project, we decided to repeat the Pillowcase Project we did five years ago. This time, we promised to match pillowcases to the number of pillows, donated by our congregation. We are shouting a hearty Thank You for the 65 pillows you donated. Our donation to Safe Berks, in early November, carried them through 2018. Their need is real.

The Pillowcase Project left us with a lot of fabric scraps. Since our own Laundry Love was approaching their December event, we whipped up 35 drawstring bags and requested hotel sized personal care items from the congregation. The response was overwhelming and we thank all of you who donated, including

3 local dentists: Shawn Habakus, DMD, Diedra Alston, DMD, and Vanessa Adolf, DMD. We have enough items to fill 20 more bags for Laundry Love.

We look forward to continuing our service to St. Gabriel's and the community in 2019. We welcome everyone with and interest in sewing and experience is NOT a requirement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeri Klein

Mission Developer Report

It is with gratitude for what has been and with hope for the work God will do with us and through us and among us that I offer these thoughts on this last year as Mission Developer.

All of the work that I do in mission and ministry is collaborative and I acknowledge with joy all of the partners in ministry, the volunteers, the supporters and benefactors upon which the work depends.

Hopewell Love continues to offer the services of a clearing-house for people in need, offering them assessment and referral to local congregations and agencies that can address their needs. Our Community Table is beginning its twelfth year of offering a twice-monthly meal for anyone in the community who would like to gather to eat, talk, laugh and be family. Fourteen churches and community groups offer and serve a meal to around 145 people each time we gather. Hopewell Love also operates a food pantry serving around 400 individuals a month. A clothing closet is offered in Birdsboro and crafting groups for seniors are offered at the Community Center. Community gardens are planted in Douglassville and Birdsboro. Laundry Love is our newest offering. Each month we gather at a laundromat on High Street in Pottstown and offer free laundry, food and fellowship. Our work is supported by numerous generous volunteers and contributors.

Common Ground meets weekly at three locations in Berks County: Atonement Lutheran in Wyomissing, Trinity Lutheran in Reading and at St. Gabriel's. Our community here began meeting Thursdays in January 2017. Our Common Ground Eucharists offer those in any 12-Step Fellowship (and those who love them) a worship service in which we stand upon the common ground of our faith and our recovery. This collaboration with the Lutheran Church (ELCA) and the Northeastern PA Lutheran Synod is one of the greatest joys of my work. The ELCA has commissioned a number of us Episcopalians as Mission Developers to begin and continue various ministries operating jointly with the Episcopal Church and the ELCA. Thanks to the ELCA and Common Ground contributors I was able to attend conferences of Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church and the twice-yearly Lutheran Mission Developer Conferences, both of which offer valuable training and networking opportunities. With colleague Pastor Tom Scornavacchi I was able to offer a training on Recovery and Re-entry to Society to those at the ELCA conference.

I am on staff here at **St. Gabriel's** and part of the leadership team, working on liturgies, social service and pastoral care matters. I am grateful for the opportunity to preach about once a month at the weekend Eucharists. I look forward to working with our new Bishop Kevin and Canon Anne Kitch on ministry matters and the development of Recovery resources in our diocese. Look for the information pages on Hopewell Love and Common Ground elsewhere in your annual meeting booklet.

In the Love of Christ,

Russ McClellan

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

Members:

Carole Chafin
Judy Embriani
Carole Levesque
Florence Mano
Marilyn Rittenhouse
Katherine Rowe
Stephen 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
Steve Fairbrother
Judy Embriani

Daughters of the King Angelus Chapter 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 we are a religious order 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, is a “senior chapter” because our members are over 21. There are DOK Chapters that have junior members and accept girls from ages 7 to 20.

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

HIGHLIGHTS-2018

This year was a “Banner year” for the chapter. Our banner was created through the mutual cooperation and celebration of the talents of the Angelus Chapter of DOK and the Just for Sew ministry, led by Jeri Klein. Thanks to the outstanding talents of Marilyn Rittenhouse, a chapter member, who created the original drawing of the banner and created the counted cross stitch St. Gabriel’s Angel Design. And thank you to Florence Mano who created and designed all of the embroidered stitching of the official DOK Cross and assembled the banner.

On September 23, 2018 the Angelus Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King Banner was blessed by Fr. David Green at the 10:30 service. Afterwards, women who were interested in spiritual growth were invited to the coffee hour after the service,

Book Study 2018; The Angelus Chapter has been reading “In the Sanctuary of Women, a companion to Reflection and Prayer” by Jan L Richardson. It is a fascinating review of the women of the Bible beginning with a fascinating alternate view of Eve ‘s personality and motivations, and then the author takes us through a journey meeting the women of the church through centuries with history, prayers and meditations .

Prayer and Bible Study: “*Lectio Divina*” using discussions and selections from meditations of Jan L. Richardson’s book.

Communication with area Businesses: **The Angelus Chapter members have been** actively and prayerfully writing notes to Douglassville area businesses to insure they know St. Gabriel’s Church is praying for them. Due to the holidays we have postponed contacting area businesses but will resume activities in February.

Thanks to Lydia Rieger, who shared her the list of area businesses with the chapter we were able to “hit the ground running“ in this ministry

Lenten Quiet Day Lenten Quiet Day was held on March 17, 2018 “Opening to Grace” Introduction to Healing Prayer, and presented by- Reverend Wanda D. Craner, a United Church of Christ minister, and a Gestalt Pastoral Care minister.

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 Member attended the September 2018, Diocese of Bethlehem DOK Retreat

2019 plans

- Lenten Quiet Day, Saturday, Apr. 6, Presenter, The Reverend Joshua Caler, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Pottstown.
- Explore the major Women of the Bible, and reflect on their attributes and how to model them
- Tour the Padre Pio Shrine, Barto, PA as a place for spiritual renewal and peace.
- Invite women to attend the Angelus Chapter meetings to grow with us.
- Explore additional prayer and study possibilities.

The Angelus Chapter members are actively involved in the church. I am grateful for all of their efforts to strengthen the chapter. This year, we have reached out to the “Just for Sew Ministry”. We appreciate their support in the Angelus Chapter’s endeavors. We shared a mutual goal with their Women’s Shelter “Pillow project”. As “payment” for their help with our banner we provided pillows for them to use to help in their goal of donating to the women’s shelter. We look forward to additional opportunities to grow and serve in Community and Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted,

FHS

Carolyn C. Nippert,

President

Hopewell Love Report

Hopewell Love



Saint Gabriel's
Episcopal Church

Douglassville,
Pennsylvania

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 out at our Clothing Closet and at our Laundry Love ministry.
- ◆ 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 2018!

Hopewell Love + Russ McClellan, Executive Director

Common Ground Recovery Community Report

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. Common Ground Recovery Community offers programs that educate about addiction and recovery, small groups that provide support, Bible studies that deepen our faith, and worship experiences that inspire hope and healing.

We are a multi-location recovery ministry now meeting in three churches in the Berks County area.

Atonement Lutheran + Wyomissing Trinity Lutheran + Reading

St. Gabriel's Episcopal + Douglassville

Grounded in God's promises, we are a progressive faith community that seeks healing and wholeness through worship, prayer, meditation, and mindfulness for one another. We welcome everyone regardless of race, sexual identity, social or economic background; in fact we believe that our diversity reflects the tapestry of God's creation.

We're Common Ground Recovery Community. And we'd love to spend some time with you.

For more information, contact: *Russ McClellan* russ@cgrcommunity.org 610-451-4966

cgrcommunity.org

Common Ground Recovery Community

Where God's Grace embraces our brokenness



Good Shepherd Learning Center Report

Reflecting on the past year, the Learning Center continues to be blessed with dedicated, caring teachers and a conscientious board of directors. Recently our website has been redesigned which gives visitors important information about the center and a look into the many activities the children are engaged in. Currently we educate and care for 93 children ranging in age from 9 months to 12 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 our teachers using the *Living the Good News* curriculum where activities, art, and prayers are based on weekly Bible stories. On Thursday mornings the Preschool and Pre-K children have Chapel time with Father David where they hear Bible stories and sing songs. 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, \$23,300 toward our loan payment and \$8,050 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 November 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 educators a much deserved bonus and an extra \$6,000 to St. Gabriel's 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.

The Learning Center has had its share of challenges this past year as well. Teacher turnover was experienced when several teachers resigned due to moving out of the area and our toddler 2 teacher who had been with us for 15 years retired. We are currently facing another challenge as our assistant director is out on medical leave and has been since November. Despite these challenges we continue to make a difference in children's lives by supporting families, teaching and caring for children in a Christian environment and by spreading the Gospel. As Deacon Sally told us in her Advent/Christmas letter "there is no easy path through the wilderness and in all of our lives there are times of waiting some filled with distress, confusion or anxiety. But our waiting need not be anxious, because we wait with the assurance of those who know that our God comes into and fills every space we create for God within us, and all life and work will come to completion in God." Her words spoke to me and my teachers as we faced another challenge, feeling once again we had been thrown into the wilderness. We must continue to find courage and trust in God's provision for us.

I am thankful to the Center's teachers 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.

Blessings and Peace,

Patricia Owsiany

Director

Board Members: Ryan Beebe, Steve Fairbrother, Carol Heist, Lisa Maynard, Jessica Rozzi, Bill Strickland

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 \$812,285.72
Our giving to the capital campaign averaged \$5,687/month in 2018.

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 \$1,700 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.

2018 RESULTS – THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- General offering was 4% below our target amount.
- GSLC made all payments in 2018, and also made additional special loan payments.
- We paid 100% of our 2018 Diocese Assessment.

2019 BUDGET

Resources/Income

- Our estimate of giving pledges are lower than last year
- Total resources/income is targeted at \$360,250.
 - 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 \$359,402.

A detailed line item budget is available to review at all times on the bulletin board near the Church office.

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 2018 year-end balance in the account was \$200,175.18

Krause Trust

The Krause Trust was established in 1890. Income from this Trust supports our cemetery maintenance and other general operating expenses. The 2018 year-end balance of the Krause Trust was \$154,362.20

Thank you,

Eric Miller

Treasurer

Finance ministry team members:

Helen Baker, Lee Baker, Darlene Cooper, Sally Heist, Ellen Moore, Barry Muhlenberg, Winkie Reed

Statistics Officially Recorded in St. Gabriel's Records – 2018

BAPTIZED:

Isabella DeLong
Asher Olongo
Axel Dengler

TRANSFERRED IN:

William Nally – from St. Mary's Reading
Bill, Margaret and Megan Enos – from Trinity, Swarthmore

FUNERALS/BURIALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES:

Ronald Lee Care
Garson Wunderlich, Jr.
Martha Fairbrother
Margaret Baker Wood
Elizabeth "Betsy" Heslop
Stanley "Doc" Yoder
Jean Jones

MARRIED: (Note, this was omitted in last year's report)
August, 2017: Robert Chafin ("Jr.") & Chandal Bare