
Towson Presbyterian Church

2018 Annual Report



The Mission Statement:

*Towson Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community
of faith growing as disciples of Christ*

The Principles of Discipleship:

***Worship** that praises and glorifies God
Study of Scripture that engages the mind and heart
Prayer and care that nurture the human spirit
Hospitality that expands the Christian community
Service that seeks justice, kindness, and mercy in the world
Lives that affirm the distinct and transforming love of God*

*400 W. Chesapeake Ave.
Towson, Maryland 21204
www.towsonpres.org
410.823.6500*

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OFFICIAL BOARDS and STAFF

SESSION

Class of 2019

Lenore Chapman
Alan Randolph
Amy Hemingway

Class of 2020

Ann Lehwald
Kevin McKenna
Alison Peer

Class of 2021

Dotsie Bregel
Tim Burkett
Craig Miller

Moderator: Rev. Rob Carter, Clerk of Session: Phyllis Gray

DEACONS

Class of 2019

Jeff Bowerman
Beth Bugg
Kristie Burkett
Charlie Conklin
Alex Foley
Barbara MacFadyen
Jennifer Sheggrud
Dianne Thompson

Class of 2020

Ross Bregel
Mike Just
Jim Kuhlman
Cass Mairs
John Mealey
Rosemary Nicolosi
Joyce Nuttall
Bill Sherman

Class of 2021

Mary Blann
Sandi Burt
Pat Keller
Viraj Mehta
Patty O'Brien
Liza Salemi
Susan Shockley
Liz White

Moderator: Mary Blann, Jim Kuhlman

STAFF

The Rev. Rob Carter

Pastor, Senior

The Rev. Joel Strom

Pastor, Associate

Stephen Harouff

Director of Music and Organist

Jeness Hall

Director of Children and Family Ministry

Tara Flynn Runge

Administrative & Communications Coordinator

Kathryn Bojanowski

Business Administrator

Leslie Foretich

Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool

Walter Austin

Sexton

The Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole

Pastor Emeritus

STATISTICAL REPORT

Active Members (12/31/18)	504
Homebound	32
Relocated	30
Attendees	96

NECROLOGY 2018

Beverly Mier

Ilien Pearce

Rose Anna (Bobbie) Kottler

J Timothy Mascari

John Rietz

Sylvia Fenton

Charlotte Downey

Virginia (Ginny) Price

Evelyn McLay

Jayne Nuttle

Kenneth Volk

John (Jack) Mier

Robert Messimer

Pastors' Reports

Rev. Rob Carter

Senior Pastor

The past year has been one filled with great reflection and vision, most easily evident in the 2018 Visioning Report that Session released in December. The result of over a year's worth of information gathering and discernment, the report tackles the questions of who TPC has been, who TPC is today, and who TPC is called to be. If you haven't yet read the synopsis, please be sure to check it out. It reveals four new initiatives that Session believes are important to the future to which God is calling TPC: Adult Spiritual Formation; Communications Evolution; Intergenerational & Family Ministry; and an exploration of an inclusive, loving approach to Evangelism.

To these ends, it's exciting to note the work that has already begun towards these new initiatives. In 2017, Session formed a new team dedicated to facilitating adult spiritual formation. In 2018, this team continued to build on the vibrant small group program it has developed. From the ever-popular wine-tasting group, to outdoor running and hiking groups, to Bible studies and more, there is an increasing array of opportunities for disciples to engage in faith formation at TPC. Two pivotal studies this year were the fruit of the Mission and Adult Spiritual Formation Committees teaming up together to offer church-wide explorations of the very important topics of systemic racism (*Waking Up White*) and the epidemic of gun violence (*Trigger*).

Session also created a brand new Communications Committee that has begun development of a new website (soon to be launched), while laying the foundation for improved usage of social media platforms. But perhaps more importantly, the team has been exploring ways to help TPC articulate its identity more clearly and concisely. For example, while our mission statement is a beautiful one—"an inclusive community of faith growing as disciples of Christ"—it does not significantly differentiate TPC from many other churches in our area. It's very true that the word "inclusive" is an important identifying characteristic of our church, but it's also far from the only identifier belonging to TPC. Our church is also "curious" about how the gospel shapes the way we're called to see the world. TPC is "compassionate" as we seek to not simply sympathize with those suffering, but work to alleviate their needs. And TPC strives to be "courageous," understanding that living as inclusive, curious, and compassionate disciples will, at times, set us apart from the rest of society.

Still, that's not all. As the following pages make clear, in 2018:

- The newly transformed Stewardship team continued living into its new vision of stewardship as connections, relationships, and values on display. In 2018, TPC *exceeded* its stewardship goal of \$650,000. How exciting is that?! Not many churches in the 21st century get to celebrate such a stewardship success! Way to go, TPC!!!
- Youth group took a new look this fall, seeking to offer a fuller faith experience. Music is now incorporated into weekly youth group gatherings. And Jr. High youth are now whole-heartedly embraced in the entirety of the worship service.
- A brand-new Children's Choir also began rehearsing in Sept. after worship on Sundays; and we've been blessed to witness their gifts a few times already.
- New curricula and new equipment is in each church school classroom (and getting strong reviews!).

And this is just the proverbial tip. I'm so excited by and grateful for all the work you have accomplished this past year, TPC! I'm grateful for the work of Session in its faithful discernment and visioning. I'm grateful for a wonderful staff. I'm grateful for a great colleague in Joel (also sometimes called *Josh*). And I'm eager to dig into 2019 to see what unfolds as we live into these new initiatives and continue following where the Spirit is leading.

Rev. Joel Strom

Associate Pastor

As another year of ministry and life together comes to a close I am once again filled with gratitude. Gratitude for the way in which you strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community of faith; gratitude for the numerous gifts of time, talent and treasure you have offered once again; and gratitude for your desire to continue becoming who God is calling you to be. However, when I look back upon this past year, I can't help but look straight ahead with hope and optimism. From my vantage point, the road ahead for us will have its challenges – that is to be expected – but what excites me is that it is filled with vision, purpose and energy.

Pastor Rob and I have both shared from the pulpit how challenging it is to be the church, and especially the mainline church (Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal), today. Church participation is no longer an expectation in our society and it's not going back to that way of life anytime soon. It is the new norm. And while that poses a great challenge for us, when I look around at TPC right now I feel hope in the air. I can sense this feeling among you that we are moving in a good direction. I'm noticing a growing collective belief that deep down in our bones we know we have a message to share that is needed and life-changing. I've been with you now as your associate pastor for almost five years and I sense a different feeling in the air than I have in the past. I feel a communal energy, purpose and hope in what lies ahead for us at TPC.

Where do I see this hope right now? All around, but for the sake of time let me highlight just a few with you. Throughout the fall and winter, as I witnessed our children make their way up front for the Children's Message, each week I noticed new faces who were becoming a part of our community. Our Adult Spiritual Formation program continues to expand and offer new opportunities for relationships to form and faith to grow. We continue to address tough and at times uncomfortable subjects, which connects the life of faith with the world we live in. And the "Testimonies" from TPC members offered once a month in worship have pointed to God's Spirit at work in each of our lives. If I had more time I could on and on, but I see this communal energy, purpose and hope all around us, and it fills me with excitement for what lies ahead as we move into 2019.

As you look back upon 2018, where do you see new life springing up in the midst of our community? Where is there hope for you at TPC? And where is the new life and Good News of the Gospel finding a home in your life? These are good questions for us to ponder as we look back, and then look ahead. God's ever-present Spirit is moving and alive in each of our lives, and I am grateful to be on this journey of faith with you!

WORSHIP

Worship that praises and glorifies God

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Contacts:

- Lorene LaBerge, WMA Committee Chair
- Rob Carter, Pastor
- Stephen Harouff, Director of Music and Organist



Easter Service

WMA Committee Members:

Lorene LaBerge, Rob Carter, Joel Strom, Stephen Harouff, Carol Appleby, Lenore Chapman, Barbara Heinfeldt, Patricia Jackson, Judy Rice, Pat Keller

Worship, Music and Arts (WMA) Committee Mission Statement

To ensure a rich, inclusive, worship experience for all that praises and glorifies God,

- encompassing communion and baptism, relevant sermons, joyous music, lay participation and moments with children,
- enriching member's lives, and
- equipping them to take God's word out into the world

Worship Services

- Two Sunday services held at 8:30 AM and 10 AM.
- June 24th service at BeeTree Preserve
- Special Extra services
 - ✓ Ash Wednesday
 - ✓ Maundy Thursday
 - ✓ Good Friday
 - ✓ Christmas Eve (4:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:00 PM)

Elements of Worship

Communion and Baptism

- Communion offered on the first Sunday of each month and on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Camp BeeTree
- Wholeness and Healing service anointing stations

Relevant Sermons

- Sermons given by Rob Carter and Joel Strom
- Mother's and Father's Day sermons by TPC Members Lenore Chapman and Chuck LaBerge
- Special guest sermons by Debbie Schmidt and Rev. Jim Atwood

Moment with Children

Given by our ministers, Lay people, Cherub Choir and Jenness Hall

WORSHIP

Worship that praises and glorifies God

Elements of Worship (cont.)

Lay Participation

- Special Sundays (Wholeness & Healing, Earth Sunday, Graduation, HS Reflection, Music Recognition, BeeTree, Youth, World Communion, All Saints, Harvest, Mother's and Father's Day)
- Scripture readings, Prayers
- Minutes for Mission
- Member Testimonials
- Sermons

Art

- Alpha and Omega banner with tears for remembrance
- New nativity banner and communion cloth for Advent
- New sanctuary Christmas tree trimmed with trees of life
- Seasonal decorations, including poinsettia and Easter flowers
- Sanctuary bouquets provided by member donations

Joyous Music

- Piano music in our Chapel services
- Organ preludes and postludes
- Chancel Choir Anthems (Sept – Jun)
 - April 29th Concert to benefit ACTC
 - Vivaldi *Gloria* with Orchestra
- Third Thursday Choir
- Vocal and Instrumental Solos
- Cherub choir (Preschool – 1st grade) participation at Christmas, Palm Sunday, and other services
- New Children's elementary age choir
- New music with Youth Group
- Tom Teasley, percussionist, participated in World-wide communion worship and presented a workshop afterwards.
- Children's Chimer ringers
- Adult Handbell Choir
- Brass and percussion ensemble for Easter
- Strings for Christmas Eve Services
- Lay percussionists
- Youth Handbell Choir from The Presbyterian Church in Morristown, NJ
- Organ demonstration and singalong with TPP.

Thank you to the many Members in Ministry that contributed their time and talents to the Worship Ministry at TPC through voice, instrument, song, prayer, and art.

FELLOWSHIP

Prayer and care that nurture the human spirit

DEACON MINISTRIES

Contacts:

- *Mary Blann, Deacon co-Moderator*
- *Jim Kuhlman, Deacon co-Moderator*
- *Pat Keller, Secretary*
- *Joel Strom, Pastor*

[“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2](#)

Deacons are called to minister to the lonely, sick, and needy. You will find TPC Deacons at all church events - greeting and assisting members and visitors in any way that they can. TPC Deacons serve as friendly reminders of God's presence among us.

Deacons

Led by the Holy Spirit and our own spiritual leader, Joel Strom, the Board of Deacons continues in 2018 to expand and enhance our role in Member Care.

A brief synopsis of customary duties and responsibilities of a Deacon are:

- Preparing the Chapel and Sanctuary for Sunday services and Memorial services,
- Assisting with the mechanical lift and elevator,
- Greeting attendees,
- Receiving the collection,
- Tidying up after the services,
- Assisting with Memorial receptions,
- Planning and coordinating various fellowship opportunities,
- Serving Communion and visiting homebound members,
- Attending monthly Deacon meetings as well as additional committee meetings,

In compliance with the recommendations of the Emergency Response Task Force, the team configuration was changed from 4 teams of 6 to 3 teams of 8. The addition of 2 Deacons, newly available each Sunday, provides complete coverage of our lift and elevator service, before and after the service.

New in 2018:

- 6 Walkie Talkies for communication use before, during and after services.
- 2 Deacons and 6 staff received AED/CPR training and certification
- Photo Gallery of current Deacons on display to assist members and guests in identifying current Deacons. (Thank you, Jim Kuhlman)

FELLOWSHIP

*Prayer and care that nurture the human spirit
Hospitality that expands the Christian community*

MEMBER CARE MINISTRIES

Contacts:

- *Cass Mairs, Deacon
Member Care Chair*
- *Dianne Thompson, Deacon
New Member Care co-Chair*
- *Beth Bugg, Deacon New
Member co-Chair*
- *Joel Strom, Pastor*
- *Karen Williams, Special
Deacon*

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Contacts:

- *Jennifer Shuggrud, Deacon
Fellowship Chair*
- *Joel Strom, Pastor*

[You can spot the Deacons on Sunday morning by their red name badges and their big welcoming smiles.](#)

Member Care

- Hospital and home-bound members received 135 visits from Karen Williams.
- Unclaimed Sunday flowers, Easter lilies, and Christmas poinsettias were delivered to hospital and home-bound members.
- Card Ministry continues to be active with Eleanor Macqueen sending notes and cards to members with ongoing needs. On an as needed basis, Tara provides a list for the Deacon team on duty to write notes or cards to those with recent issues.
- Led by Lorene LaBerge, a group of knitters met twice a month and provided 9 prayer shawls to TPC members who were hospitalized or otherwise in need of a reminder of the warmth and caring prayers of our congregation.
- Home communion and visitations continue in the Fall and Spring.

Fellowship

- Deacon Susan Shockley has continued to organize the weekly Coffee Hour by securing the pastries and requesting volunteers to serve.
- Annual Homecoming for 2018 was a huge success, with 146 attendees. There was a tremendous variety of Pot Luck dishes to share. During the meal, a slide show of churchwide opportunities was presented.
- July 20th was the date of our First Outdoor Movie Night. Several neighbors joined TPC families in the parking lot for a fun event. This activity was co-sponsored with Children's and Family Ministry.

Thank you to the Board of Deacons and to the many Members in Ministry that contributed their time and talents to the Fellowship Ministry at TPC through hosting events, contributing food, and opening your hearts to the presence of God through fellowship.

MISSION

Service that seeks justice, kindness, and mercy in the world

MISSION MINISTRIES

Contacts:

- *Margaret Skinner, Mission Chair*
- *Joel Strom, Pastor*

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the TPC Library and all are welcome.

Committee Members: *Carol Appleby, Jen Bolster, Charlie Conklin, Linda Lotz, Patty O'Brien, Alan Randolph, Ruth Ann Randolph, Judy Rice, John Sheehan, Margaret Skinner, Chair, Joel Strom*

Mission Outreach Committee Mission Statement

Mission Outreach fosters opportunities for members of Towson Presbyterian Church to join hands with Jesus Christ in furthering God's Kingdom of love, peace and justice, here in Baltimore and throughout the world.

2018 Highlights

Towson Presbyterian Church Mission Outreach Committee continues to feel called to feed the hungry, both physically and spiritually, providing meaningful opportunities to actively engage TPC's members of all ages in Creation Care (Earth Corp), Mission, Community Outreach, and Peace & Justice ministries.

TPC was certified as an Earth Care Congregation demonstrating continued commitment to creation care and stewardship. Earth Corp opportunities continues to grow through small group study, recycling campaigns, environmental advocacy, raising awareness and a multitude of outdoor activities.

While TPC took a 1-year hiatus from travel to Honduras, we continued to support the mission work in Honduras through the alternative gift market, awareness campaigns and financial support. In addition, TPC strengthened its commitment to supporting communities in need through local and national mission opportunities and disaster relief.

Sunday Community Lunch continues to be a wonderful ministry offering not only meals for those in need but opportunities for fellowship and community building that fosters connection across racial and social boundaries. The Intergenerational Garden completed its 9th season, providing opportunities for creation care and fellowship, as well as supplying fresh vegetables to the Assistance Center Of Towson Churches (ACTC).

2018 was a year of discernment and transformation for TPC's Peace & Justice ministries. With some trepidation, we invited TPC to engage in difficult conversations exploring issues of racial and social justice through a study of Waking Up White and small group discussions on Gun Violence Prevention. TPC members responded with a hunger to engage in honest conversation and faithful response to God's call for peace and justice in our world.

MISSION

Service that seeks justice, kindness, and mercy in the world

MISSION MINISTRIES (cont)

In 2018, your generous gifts enabled TPC to financially support the following local and global organizations:

- ✓ Presbytery Shared Ministry \$5000
- ✓ Habitat for Humanity \$2500
- ✓ ACTC \$5436
- ✓ Sister's Circle \$500
- ✓ Baltimore Station \$500
- ✓ Food for Thought \$2526
- ✓ Molave Feed the Children \$1000
- ✓ Honduras Mission \$8500
- ✓ Partners for Just Trade \$1000
- ✓ Medical Benevolence \$1000
- ✓ Bread for the World \$500
- ✓ AGE Africa \$1000
- ✓ Alternative Gift Mart \$6227

Special Offerings:

- ✓ Christmas Joy \$958
- ✓ One Great Hour of Sharing \$2140
- ✓ Pentecost \$887
- ✓ Peacemaking \$949
- ✓ Souper Bowl \$636
- ✓ Presbytery Disaster Relief \$175

Thank you to the many Members in Ministry that contributed their time, talents and treasure to the Mission Ministries at TPC.

Care of Creation

- Earth Care Congregation certification by the PCUSA. Requires demonstrated growth in environmental ministry in TPC's worship, education, facilities management and outreach.
- Worship service and Camp Bee Tree vacation bible school held at TPC's Bee Tree preserve, a 263-acre wetland and forest preserve adjacent to the NCR trail.
- Recycling Education Campaign
- Project Clean Stream – involving members of all ages promoting clean water and a healthy watershed through active clean-up of Roland Run.

Peace and Justice

- Ongoing prayers for each of the 283 people lost to gun violence in Baltimore in 2018
- Waking Up White small group ministry in partnership with Adult Spiritual Education.
- Facilitated discussion and training on issues of race & social justice
- Gun Violence Prevention 101: small group series on the epidemic of gun violence in the United States
- Hosting Reverend Jim Atwood to lead worship and convene a group discussion on faithful responses to the gun violence epidemic.

Local Mission

- Sunday Community Lunch offering Christian fellowship while serving a healthy lunch to our food insecure and homeless neighbors every Sunday afternoon throughout the year.
- Donations of dry foods and fresh from the Intergenerational Garden produce to the Assistance Center of Community Churches (ACTC).
- Food for Thought provides teens who are dependent on school lunch programs a backpack of food to see them through the weekends.
- Contributions to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency and to PCUSA special offerings continue to offer financial support to a world in need.

MISSION

Service that seeks justice, kindness, and mercy in the world

EARTH CORPS MINISTRIES



Contact:

- Carol Appleby, Chair

Earth Corps is a subcommittee of Mission/Outreach, but Care of Creation is integral to all aspects of the life of our church. So Earth Corps partners in some way with most committees and ministries at TPC. We see our role as being a catalyst – raising awareness and then resourcing, and supporting others' efforts, in addition to planning some of our own activities.

Earth Corps Committee: Carol Appleby, Charlie Conklin, Ann Phillips, Justin Gallardo (Conservation Corps intern), Joel Strom

Mission - Intergenerational Garden

- This was our 9th season in the Intergenerational Garden on the TPC Manse property.
- There were 52 deliveries of fresh, healthy vegetables from the IGG to ACTC (food pantry). (205 lbs. and 142 gal. size bags)
- In addition to TPC members of various ages, we had involvement from the BeeTree campers, TPC youth, a High Peake resident, and a season long community volunteer who will start a similar garden at her own church next year.
- Partnered with Southland Hills Greening Committee to sponsor 2 free, open to the community, gardening workshops. .

Youth Ministries

- Partnered with Youth Ministries to sponsor TPC's involvement with Project Clean Stream, collecting many, many bags of trash and recyclables from Roland Run.
- Hosted the MS Youth fellowship for a summer evening in the IGG.

Worship

- Helped to plan and resource Earth Sunday (April) and Harvest Sunday (November).
- Worked with staff to ensure inclusion of creation care focused elements in worship at other times through the year, including the use of eco-palms for Palm Sunday.
- Helped maintain the labyrinth on the manse property, an important tool for prayer and meditation for our members and the wider community.

BeeTree Preserve and Cemetery

- Continued exploration with the BeeTree Committee of the possibility of natural (green) burials in TPC's cemetery.
- Coordinated June Sunday morning worship service and fellowship event at BeeTree Preserve.
- Supported earth care components of Camp BeeTree.

MISSION

Service that seeks justice, kindness, and mercy in the world

EARTH CORPS MINISTRIES (cont)

We are called to both
CELEBRATE and CARE for
God's amazing CREATION!

Join EARTH CORPS for
planning, coordinating and
envisioning the many ways
that we can become better
stewards of God's amazing
creation. If you're interest in
exploring this rewarding
opportunity, contact Earth
Corps Committee Chair –
Carol Appleby.



TPC's Intergenerational Garden

Property

- Cared for the labyrinth, IGG, and other areas of the Manse property.
- Helped with the annual Blue Jean Sunday workday that involved members in projects to help spruce up our property and grounds.
- Worked with TU Big Event student volunteers to spruce up TPC grounds.

Christian Education, Advocacy and Action

- Recertified by PC-USA as an Earth Care Congregation (9th year!)
- Sponsored Baltimore Retrofit for a free, open to the community presentation on solar power and weatherization in March.
- Distributed Lenten Care of Creation calendars from Interfaith Power & Light with daily devotions and suggested actions as part of this Lenten discipline.
- "Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, Restore" bi-weekly series of green tips in the Friday "TPC News & Updates" email blast started in September.
- Supported with "Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, Restore" bulletin board displays in Thompson Hall, with information on the Baltimore County recycling program. Displays changed monthly. Topics so far – paper, plastics, green holidays.
- Welcomed Justin Gallardo, Conservation Corps intern from the Presbytery Uptown Metro Ministry Group to our Earth Corps team.

Thank you to the many Members in Ministry that contributed their time and talents to the Care of Creation Ministry at TPC.

FAITH FORMATION

*Study of Scripture that engages the mind and heart
Lives that affirm the distinct and transforming love of God*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Contact:

- *Jeness Hall, Director of Children and Family Ministry*

Thank you to the many Members in Ministry that contributed their time and talents to Children's Ministries at TPC.

Children & Family Ministry Committee:
Bob Bickel (chair), Amy Hemingway, Stephanie Hemm, Adam Palmer, Lauren Walbert, Kim Whittle, and Jenness Hall (ex-officio).



Church School

- New curriculum was selected for ages 4 year olds – 5th grade.
- September 2018 had four Church School classes plus Noah's Nursery. Children and Church School teachers are engaged and enjoy the new curriculum.
- Census is nearly 40 registered children through Grade 5
- We have 14 Church School teachers and 4 substitutes
- Several new families have visited and continue to worship at TPC since the Summer of 2018
- Two new professional child care staff members were hired in September for Noah's Nursery. Superior human beings who love our little ones.

Special programs throughout the year

- Lenten Festival
- Family Spiritual Formation co-facilitated by Katie Cashin & Jenness Hall in March - co-sponsored with Adult Spiritual Formation
- Family Movie Night in July - sponsored by Deacons and supported by CFM
- Parents Night Out in November – over thirty parents attended and sixteen children were cared for at TPC by our professional childcare staff members. Hosted by Kelly & Ed Joffe
- Advent Festival
- Caroling in December 2018 – this was a huge success this year. More than 65 children and adults took the bus/cars for caroling. Another 20-25 middle school and high school students attended their Christmas parties immediately after the caroling party. Chili and cornbread supper

Camp BeeTree

Camp BeeTree was a huge success with 42 children participating and 12 CITs plus 15-18 adult volunteers. The budget was met exactly. Assistant Director Anna Blake deserves huge kudos for making Camp BeeTree run so effectively.

FAITH FORMATION

*Study of Scripture that engages the mind and heart
Lives that affirm the distinct and transforming love of God*

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact:

- Joel Strom, Pastor

*Middle School Advisors: Beth Bugg, Kristie & Tim Burkett, Katie Cashin, Jessica & Derek Krueger, Cornelia McKenna
High School Advisors: Bob Bickel, Chrissie & Aaron Kahan, Martha Hayner*

Youth Group

- Themes that we're explored this past year at MS & HS Youth Group include Half Truths in Lent, Science & Faith, Gun Violence and Advent in December.
- In the fall MS & HS Youth Group transitioned to a new programmatic vision that included music with TPC's Music Director, a greater emphasis on Youth Advisor leadership and relationships, and Small Groups. Also in the fall, MS teens shifted from attending Church School to participating in worship.
- Youth Sunday's theme on February 25 was "STRENGTH."
- Fellowship and service opportunities included snow tubing at Roundtop, a Super Bowl Party, Project Clean Stream, Intergenerational Garden, ACTC, Maize Quest Corn Maze, HS Lock-In and participation in TPC's Christmas Caroling event.
- 7 teens and 2 Youth Advisors traveled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the MS Mission Trip with YouthWorks from June 24-29.
- 8 teens and 3 Youth Advisors attended the Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina from July 22-28. On July 29 they led worship and offered reflections that took the place of the sermon.
- At Camp Bee Tree multiple teens served as CITs (Counselors-In-Training).
- 13 HS teens were confirmed on Sunday, May 20. Confirmation included six classes, worship participation, reading the Gospel of Mark with a mentor, and writing a Statement of Faith.

FAITH FORMATION

*Study of Scripture that engages the mind and heart
Lives that affirm the distinct and transforming love of God*

ADULT MINISTRIES

Contacts:

- *Alison Peer, Chair*
- *Rob Carter, Pastor*
- *Joel Strom, Pastor*

Adult Spiritual Formation

Committee: Ross Bregel, Scott Krugman, Ann Lehwald, Tracy Morgan, Alison Peer, Patty Rath, Shilpika Simet, Rob Carter and Joel Strom

Small Groups are constantly forming at Towson Presbyterian Church. You are encouraged to give one a try. If you are interested in hosting a Small Group, please contact Joel Strom

Adult Faith Formation

Highlights from 2018:

- Offered a very successful “Waking Up White” church-wide study through small groups that met throughout the week. The series wrapped up with a combined discussion session facilitated by outside speakers.
- Offered multiple spiritual formation opportunities in the winter and spring including Winter Walk in the Woods, winetasting, running, Financial Peace University, God’s Gardeners, Theology on Tap.
- Hosted a sold out Women’s Retreat in March at the Mt. Washington Conference Center.
- Held a screening of the documentary 13th, including a discussion of the racial inequalities in the American prison system.
- Offered multiple growth opportunities in the summer, including seated yoga and the Wired Word.
- Offered a church wide screening in the fall of the documentary Trigger, followed by a church-wide study in small group format of gun-violence issues.
- Offered multiple spiritual formation opportunities for the fall including Monday Night Football, wine tasting, and a bible study.
- Introduced Faith Formation Playlists where individuals can independently engage in various practices for spiritual growth focused on a single topic.

PROPERTY – 400 W. Chesapeake Avenue

Contacts:

- Kevin McKenna, Property chair
- Dave Vanko, BeeTree

“For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” Hebrews 3:4

Committee Members: Kathryn Bojanowski (ex-officio), Rob Carter (ex-officio), Kevin McKenna (chair), Lyn Brooks, Darrin Furgason, Ed Joffe, Jeff Morgan, Nancy Sherman, Dave Vanko, Bob Waters, and Adam Wright

Property Committee Mission Statement

The Property Committee of Towson Presbyterian Church exists to serve the church by:

- Providing for the management and maintenance of church facilities and grounds
- Maintaining the facilities and grounds in a safe, functional, and attractive condition to facilitate the overall mission and programs of the church
- Enhancing the property and facilities with an emphasis on cost control, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship
- Helping to define and provide for current and long-term needs for facilities and grounds

2018 activities

- Replaced the Thompson Hall and alley exterior doors to enhance security and improve energy efficiency
- Replaced deteriorating smoke detection equipment in the sanctuary, the chapel, Thompson Hall, and the gym
- Made required repairs to the second-floor bathrooms
- Repaired or replaced two sump pumps, a chair lift, a boiler, a water heater, and leaking portions of the roof

2019 Tentative Plans

- Address courtyard drainage issues to allow for improved landscaping
- Upgrade to LED lighting through much of the building to continue to improve TPC’s energy efficiency
- Improve exterior lighting
- Repair/replace damaged alley sewer line

PROPERTY- BeeTree Preserve & Cemetery



Committee members: Shirley Albert, Andy Evans, Alex Foley, John Hobner, Ed Lehwald, Mary Jane and Ken Pennell, Bob Waters, and Dave Vanko

The BeeTree Committee, with the support of volunteers and professionals, strives to maintain, protect, and improve the grounds and facilities of the BeeTree Preserve, the BeeTree Cemetery, and the TPC Columbarium on behalf of the mission of Towson Presbyterian Church.

The Mission of the BeeTree Committee is:

- To provide for the faithful stewardship, management, and maintenance of BeeTree Preserve, BeeTree Cemetery, and the TPC Columbarium
- To maintain the Preserve, Cemetery and Columbarium in a safe, functional, and attractive condition to facilitate the overall mission and programs of the Church
- To facilitate community outreach to the general public at BeeTree Preserve
- To enhance the Preserve and Cemetery with an emphasis on environmental stewardship, environmental education, and the care of Creation.

2018 activities:

- Met six times
- Conducted needed maintenance, including two BeeTree work days
- Welcomed Boy Scout Troop 729 leadership to learn about BeeTree at a committee meeting, and attended a T729 meeting to talk to the scouts about BeeTree
- Attended a Boy Scout District Round Table event to publicize camping opportunities at the Preserve
- Received an updated Forestry Plan for the Preserve, prepared by the state of Maryland
- Hosted a TPC Sunday morning worship at the Preserve in June
- Hosted Camp BeeTree in July

PERSONNEL

Contacts:

- Lenore Chapman, Chair
- Rob Carter, Pastor

Personnel Committee members:

Lenore Chapman (Chair), Jennifer Bolster, Ann Lehwald, Mark Mercer, Bill Sherman.

Highlights in 2018:

- Compiled a comprehensive Personnel Policy Manual, which was given to each staff member.
- Supported a staff evaluation process in coordination with Rev. Carter in which all staff members set goals and were evaluated at the end of the 2017-18 program year.
- Scheduled individual conversations with staff members to review their self-reflections and their evaluations.
- Recommended increased building security on Sundays and during the week.
- Re-factored the Senior Pastor’s position, reducing the factor from 950 to 850.

STEWARDSHIP

Contacts:

- Cornelia McKenna, Chair
- Rob Carter, Pastor

Committee members: Lyn Brooks, Lenore Chapman, David Gilliss, Tim Lotz, Cornelia McKenna, Ann Miller, Melanie Ponsi, Ruth Anne Randolph, Rob Carter

Stewardship Ambassadors: Bob Bickel, Jennifer Bolster, Ross Bregel, Dotsie Bregel, Colynn Furgason, Phyllis Gray, Anne Hohl, Chuck LaBerge, Kimberly Light, Bill Sherman, Susan Shockley, Patsy Stein

The Stewardship Committee set an ambitious fund raising goal of \$650,000 for 2018. We joyfully report that you *surpassed* that goal with \$658,430 raised to support the General Fund of TPC. Thanks to you, TPC was able to fund all of the transformational ministries that have been growing and making a difference in people’s lives.

The Committee continues to work diligently to increase awareness on the **joy** of giving generously.

Pledging Trends:

Year	# of pledging households	Total dollars pledged	Average per households
2017	148	\$475,043	\$3,210
2018	130	\$486,372	\$3,741
2019	125	\$484,472	\$3,876

Giving Trends:

Year	# of giving households	Total dollars given	Average per households
2016	297	\$652,652	\$2,197
2017	280	\$642,380	\$2,294
2018	285	\$658,430	\$2,310

MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Memorial Commission is composed of a chairperson, Susan S. Hossfeld and three committee members. This committee has responsibility for acknowledging, recording, and disbursing the funds received by Towson Presbyterian Church in loving memory of, or in honor of TPC members or special recipients.

Memorial gifts and tributes in 2018 have been received for the following:

IMO: Warren, Jay	**GIFT: IMO Keller, Douglas C.
IMO: Strout, Kendall	**IMO: Rietz, John
IMO: McGibbon, Bernard	IMO: Galloway, Chris
IMO: McLay, Evelyn	IMO: Drake, Andrew
IMO: Kottler, Rose Anna	IMO: Messimer, Robert
IMO: Bredbenner, Katherine	IMO: Nuttle, Jayne
**IMO: Rietz, John	IMO: Mier, Jack
IMO: Malek, Floriene	IMO: Mascari, Timothy
IMO: Jim Hyde	

Funds in 2018 disbursed from the Memorial Fund:

Warren, Jay-Landscaping	Strout, Kendall-Landscaping, the plot between the Sanctuary doors and the Chapel Doors
Kottler, Bobbie-Landscaping	Mascari, Timothy-ACTC
Concrete Repairs, General Memorial Funds	Rudd, Ann-Christian Education, Videos for Older Children
Malek, Floriene-Community Lunch	McLay, Evelyn-Thompson Hall/Stained Glass Window Fund
Rietz, John-Casita Copan Orphanage/ School/ Honduras Trip Fund	
McGibbon, Bernard-Bicycle Rack	
Galloway, Chris-Thompson Hall/Stained Glass Window Fund	

Memorial Funds in Process, 2018

*Drake, Andrew	*Strout, Kendall
*Messimer, Robert	*Hyde, Jim - Thompson Hall/Stained Glass Window Fund
*Nuttle, Jayne	*Foley Family-Hall Monitors
*Mier, Jack	
*Bredbenner, Katherine	

*Restricted

** Directly to special designated accounts

A leather bound album, with alphabetical lists of those being honored along with their memorial gifts, is located in the Narthex and is updated as needed. It is always available for corrections and additions, which can be written on the actual sheets. In addition, there are other leather bound albums located in a locked cabinet outside of the Chapel. The most recent Memorial Book is located on top of the cabinet and contains a record of special Memorial Gifts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Contacts:

- Rob Carter, Pastor

Committee members: Dotsie Bregel, Lyn Brooks, Sandra Hallameyer, Lorene LaBerge, Cornelia McKenna, Tara Runge, Chris Walbert, Rob Carter (ex officio)

In January, 2018, a “Communications Task Force” was formed.

To explore ways to increase and improve TPC’s communication to its members and the community-at-large.

There is an almost overwhelming breadth and depth of areas to be explored and studied.

Highlights in 2018:

Thus far the team has explored:

- Website platforms, organization, and intended audiences
- Print Communication Best Practices
 - ✓ Bulletin Announcements
 - ✓ Brochures
 - ✓ Reports
- Electronic Communication Best Practices
 - ✓ Email
 - ✓ Newsletters
 - ✓ Social Media
 - ✓ Video
- Branding Best Practices
 - ✓ Branding Question: How can TPC effectively communicate who we are and what we value beyond our own community?

To these ends, the Task Force:

- Began working with Zest Social Media Consultants to create a new website geared to both members and (importantly) non-members
 - ✓ We anticipate the website will be revealed soon
- Developed a branding theme that helps communicate who TPC is while differentiating TPC from many other communities of faith:
 - ✓ Inclusive, Curious, Compassionate, Courageous
- Created recurring Vlogs (video blogs) that go out multiple times per month
- Became a full-fledged committee in November, 2018

Goals for the coming year:

- Unveil TPC’s New Website
- Develop a new social media policy and year-round social media schedule
- Develop new template for weekly Emails.
- Livestream worship
- Incorporate Video Testimonials in website
- Work with the newly formed team studying evangelism to communicate TPC’s “Brand” (who we are) throughout the community-at-large

FINANCE and ENDOWMENT

Contacts:

- *Craig Miller, Finance Chair*
- *Bob Waters, Treasurer*
- *Tim Lotz, Endowment Chair*

The Finance Committee shall assist the Session in its oversight of the congregation's finances. It shall ensure that routine financial reports are clear and helpful, and coordinate the annual internal review.

Finance Committee Members:

Craig Miller (Chair), Bob Waters (Treasurer), Andy Evans (Property), Tim Lotz (Endowment), Cornelia McKenna (Stewardship), Nancy Sherman (Preschool), Susan Hossfeld (Memorials), Tom Peer (at-large), Nancy Elson (at-large), Rob Carter (ex-officio)

General Operating Fund 2018 highlights:

- Expenses exceeded revenue in 2018 by about \$58,550. The shortfall was met through a planned draw on our Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

General Operating Fund 2019 Budget

- 2019 Expenses are budgeted to be approximately \$77,000 above budgeted revenue. The shortfall will be met through a draw of approximately 4.2% of the Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

Restricted Funds

- Ministries at TPC also use money available in restricted accounts to fund their plans and projects. In 2018, spending from restricted accounts totaled \$59,347.

Endowment Funds

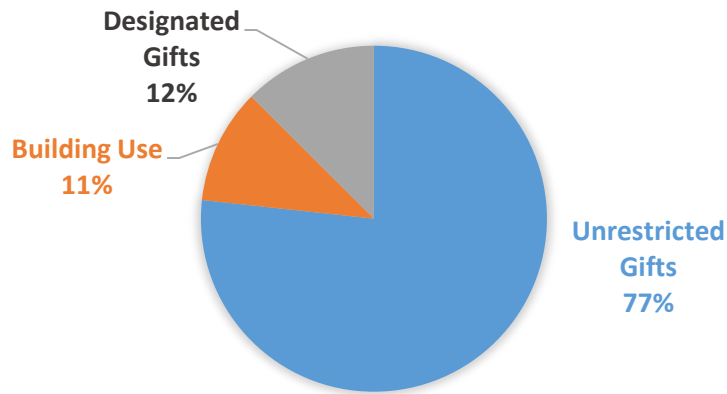
TPC is blessed with four endowed funds.

- Carr Music Endowment Fund
- Patterson Property Endowment Fund
- Snyder International Mission Endowment Fund
- Unrestricted Endowment Fund

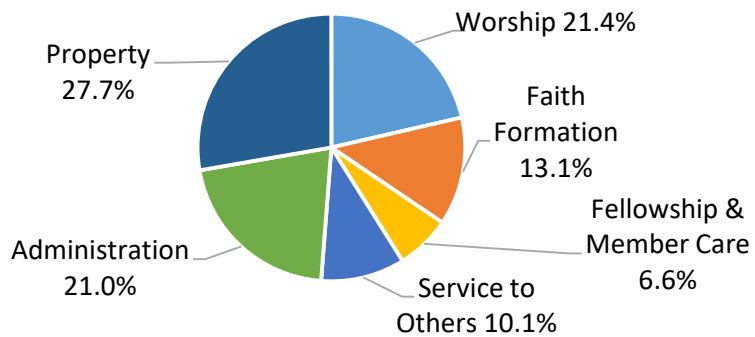
Assets are held in brokerage accounts at TD Ameritrade, and are invested in a diversified combination of equity and balanced mutual funds, fixed income mutual funds, individual corporate bonds, CDs and cash. Target asset allocation for invested funds is 55-65% equities and 35-45% fixed income and cash.

Income from the unrestricted endowment supports the TPC operating budget, with an allocation made annually according to a written spending policy.

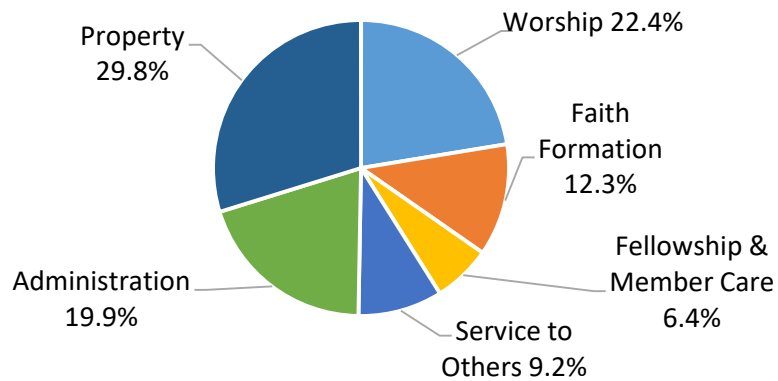
2018 REVENUE \$845,110



2018 Actual Expenditures
 General Fund \$797,622 +
 Restricted Funds \$52,943 = **\$850,565**



2019 Budgeted Expenditures
 General Fund \$832,317 +
 Restricted Funds \$99,829 = **\$932,146**



TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL (TPP)

TPP began its 60th school year in August of 2018 and continues to offer a strong, vibrant academic program that is accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education. TPP's enrollment has increased this past year, the overall number of students is 83 for the 2018-2019 year. Most importantly, the usage of the Full-time program has increased to previous levels: there are 29 children this year. Enrollment numbers for the last three school years are as follows:

School Year	Students Enrolled	Percent Full-Time
2018-19	83	29.0%
2017-18	80	24.0%
2016-17	77	28.6%
2015-16	78	23.1%

The summer of 2017 saw the successful completion of the fourth "Summer at TPP." Again, the program ran for a total of eight weeks from mid-June to early August. There are four, two-week themed sessions for the children to enjoy. Offering the summer option has strengthened the full time program, allowing parents to choose TPP for year-round child care.

TPP's most recent fiscal year ended August 31, 2018 with a surplus for the third consecutive year under the direction of Leslie Foretich. The additional funds have allowed TPP to recoup operating reserves that were depleted by the deficits experienced 2013-2015. Funds are now available to update classrooms and address needed repairs to the bathrooms used by the children. The financial outlook for 2018-19 looks promising.

The fundraiser held in 2016 at the Green Turtle in Towson has become an annual event. TPP families, staff and friends enjoyed a fun evening while raising money for new "gym" equipment. Soccer Shots returned this fall as an afternoon enrichment program and Twinkle Toes yoga will offer as eight-week session beginning in January 2019. The annual Holiday Party was held in late November; toys were collected again to donate to the Sykes Toy Project. Movie Night, Pancake Breakfast and an Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction have all become annual events for the TPP Community. This year we added the Thanksgiving food bag collection for ACTC and expect to continue that as an annual event as well.

As of December, 2018, the preschool's staff totaled 18: Leslie Foretich, Director; Nancy Sherman, Treasurer; seven teachers; one assistant teacher; seven classroom assistants and one office assistant. Lorene Laberge continues her dedicated service to TPP by serving again as TPP's music teacher.

The members of the current Board of Directors are: Dustin Thomas (TPC member and TPP parent), Alison Peer (TPC member and Session representative), Kimberley Light (TPC Member and TPP parent), Scott Lamb (TPP Parent), and Leslie Foretich, Director. Nancy Sherman also attends meetings. Dustin Thomas is the new Acting President of the Board.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 729

Troop 729 completed its first full year with TPC in 2018 after many years with Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Some of the highlights for the Troop in 2018 included:

- 44 Scouts and 22 adult leaders are active in the Troop
- The Troop has participated in many TPC activities
- Served Community Lunch
- Participated in Scout Sunday
- Donated sufficient bags of mulch for the mulching of the labyrinth and the Inter-generational Garden in the Spring
- Provided set-up and take-down of tables, benches and chairs at Camp BeeTree in July
- Created and mounted an informational bulletin board and Eagle Scout honor roll on the wall by the East entrance to Thompson Hall
- Eagle Scout candidates completed BeeTree improvement projects
- Collected 116 bags of food as part of TPC's contribution to ACTC for Thanksgiving
- Monthly camping and/or adventure trips including a caving exploration in Pennsylvania, Antietam canoeing trip, winter camping ski trip, backpacking weekends, Sky Zone adventure and TPC lock-in.

Began preparations for the addition of a TPC girls Troop in February, 2019. This will not be a "Girl Scout" Troop. The "Girl Scouts" are a separate, unaffiliated organization. This will be a girl Troop organized under the BSA and will carry the same overall Troop designation of Troop 729. Troop 729 is a self-funding part of TPC through its own fund raising activities.