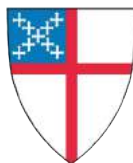




2018 Annual Report

THE FALLS CHURCH EPISCOPAL



The Falls Church Episcopal is a welcoming community, called to be an enduring beacon of faith, hope, and love to all.

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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of The Falls Church Episcopal,

A few weeks ago, when we had a small, combined worship service due to major snowfall, Rev. Kelly preached a homily about how the church community can be a bit like driver's ed: at its best, a faith community that acts as an experienced teacher, giving us, disciples or learners, real-time guidance in navigating life in a relatively safe setting.

To build on Kelly's analogy, I want to repeat something I shared years ago, a lesson we learn in driver's ed that is applicable to churches today.

And that's this: if you're driving at night, and someone is coming the opposite direction with their brights or high beams on, you must resist the temptation to stare at those lights.

As every driver knows, someone coming toward you with their brights on is annoying and distracting. It's terribly rude of them.

Worse, if we allow ourselves to be distracted, it can be dangerous. That's because **it is human nature to move toward that which we are looking at or concentrating on**. If you stare at the brights, you'll be drawn into them, perhaps resulting in a collision.

That's why they train you, in driver's ed, to **look away from the brights and concentrate instead on your own road ahead**.

There are so many annoyances and distractions in our life. Whether it is political polarization resulting from a breakdown in civic norms, religious and cultural superficiality, noise and information overload, or just our own chronic busy-ness, there are so many things coming at us, so many things we can get pulled into.

But we as a church must learn to look away from the annoyances and distractions and instead concentrate on the road on which WE are driving and the direction in which WE are going.

Here at The Falls Church Episcopal, thanks to the prayerful and hard work of the vestry, we completed, in 2017, a 3-5 year vision. We spent significant time asking what God's will might be for this particular faith community at this particular time. In 2018, we invested heavily in new staff by way of pursuing the strategic priorities which flow from that vision. This Annual Report gives you a good sense of not only how those investments are beginning to pay off, but of the continuing good work we have been doing the past several years.

The bad news about bright distracting lights is that they are always there. The good news is, we have agency -- choice -- in how to react to them. We don't want to ignore those lights, but neither do we want to concentrate on, or be drawn into, them.

The good news is, as this Annual Report shows, we're pedal-to-the-metal on our own road. We have, and I hope you agree, exciting directions to go.

The Falls Church Episcopal congregation is simultaneously one of the oldest, and one of the newest faith communities in the Diocese and nation. What an honor to be part of this new story. How exciting it is to invite others to join in.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Faithfully yours,
The Rev. John Ohmer, Rector



WHO WE ARE

The Falls Church Episcopal, established in 1732, is a welcoming community, called to be an enduring beacon of faith, hope, and love to all.

We belong to...

The Diocese of Virginia, a community of over 80,000 baptized members and 425 clergy in 38 counties and several cities of central, northern, and northwestern Virginia, serving the world through 180 congregations, six schools, two diocesan centers and six diocesan homes, and home to the largest Anglican seminary in the world.

Which belongs to...

The Episcopal Church, a community of 2.2 million members in 109 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Having its roots in the Church of England, The Episcopal Church belongs to the worldwide **Anglican Communion**, comprised of more than 80 million Christians who are members of 44 different Churches spread across the globe.



Our Vision, Mission & Strategic Priorities

In 2017, the vestry led a parish-wide process to discern God's will and to articulate a statement of vision, mission, and strategic priorities that honors both the unique history and the light-filled future of this congregation.

Vision: The Falls Church Episcopal is a welcoming community, called to be an enduring beacon of faith, hope, and love to all.

Mission: We seek to fulfill God's will on Earth by gathering believers and seekers, providing sanctuary, ministering with the community, being a force for reconciliation, and serving as a source for transformation in ourselves and in the world.

Strategic Priorities: We work to fulfill the vision and mission through:

- Stimulating **worship** services rooted in Scripture, tradition, and reason; combining liturgy, teaching, and music in ways that nurture, stimulate, and renew the mind, the heart, and the soul;
- Providing **education and Christian formation** opportunities for all ages that foster intellectual growth and prayerful reflection, helping us to become more like Christ himself;
- Leading faith-based **outreach and service ministries** that promote global peace and justice for all who feel threatened, marginalized, excluded, or in need of assistance from the community of humanity; and transform a broken world;
- Offering inclusive **invitation, hospitality, and connection** to welcome all children and adults at any place along their spiritual journeys, and enabling them to discover and devote their God-given gifts and potential to further the mission of this parish and the Episcopal Church; and
- Cultivating ethical and intentional **stewardship** of natural, human, and financial resources that sustains a culture of gratitude for the many gifts God has entrusted to us.

WORSHIP

The center of our life together at The Falls Church will always be our worship. Many people are unaware of just how many people it takes to put together our typical Sunday morning experience.

From Greeters to Ushers, Acolytes to Chalice Bearers, Readers to Sound Techs, Choir Members to Altar Guild, we are so grateful to the leaders of those ministries (**Paul Rosbolt, Steve Briese, Jacob Robbins, Michael Sargeant, Cary Cavness, Errin Matechak, Danielle Rampton, and Betsy Cline**) and the volunteers who fill their ranks. We also know that as our Sunday morning attendance continues to grow, we can always use more volunteers in all of those areas and if you are looking for a way to give time to The Falls Church, any of those are excellent opportunities (please email Rev. Kelly if you are interested in being connected to the ministry leaders).



In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship, there are other special services that are held throughout the year, including the multiple liturgies of Holy Week, and, in 2018 alone, 23 baptisms, two weddings, and six funerals/memorial services. All of those services require the assistance of volunteers, particularly the Altar Guild. Special thanks goes out to **Nancy Councilor**, who volunteers as the coordinator for all of our weddings and receptions for funerals.

-- The Rev. Kelly Moughy, Associate Rector



MUSIC



The Falls Churchlings have increased in numbers this past year. We spend our Thursday rehearsals practicing Offertory anthems for the 9 am service, learning the basics of music theory, and having fun through music games and fellowship (i.e., choir parties!). Special thanks to the parent volunteers who have stepped up to make our time together even more productive and enjoyable!

Gideon's Trumpet has also grown in size, with our core group of 4-year veteran singers keeping the group knit together. Our warm

and welcoming bunch meets on Sundays in the Main Sanctuary loft at 8:15 am to learn the hymns and service music, and present the offertory anthem 2-3 times a month at the 9 am service. We specialize in contemporary, folk, and world music and play a critical role in encouraging and supporting congregational singing – all are invited to join us, no prior experience necessary!



The Historic Church Choir bid farewell to a few members and awaited those on a temporary hiatus, all owing to major life changes, including health issues, shifts in career paths, and relocations. Undeterred, we have recruited a couple new members and still have a roster of guest singers to help us out as we continue our leadership of music and worship at the 11:15 am service. We focus on varied, challenging, and fulfilling repertoire at our Thursday evening and Sunday morning rehearsals. We are blessed to have **Will Theuer** and **Dani Relyea** continue their fine work as our Section Managers, and **Jonathan Rajaseelan** with his periodic assistance with extra keyboard and conducting needs.

Instrumentalists

There is an open invitation for parishioners to offer their gifts of instrumental music during either service, and especially over the summer. Youth are particularly encouraged to participate in the musical life of our parish.

Concerts

We continue to host rehearsals, concerts, recitals, and other musical events, with many groups considering our church their “home base,” including Choralis, Washington Sinfonietta, and Tysons McLean Orchestra. Our partnership with Stone Room Concert Series also brings in a steady stream of performers. This has increased our income, and our visibility and standing in the community.

The Congregation

If you do not directly plug into any of the aforementioned musical outlets, you still play the most important role in Sunday morning music by participating in congregational singing! Your personal involvement in singing the hymns edifies the praise and worship of our service. Singing can make one feel vulnerable or exposed, until others join in song with us – and that starts with you. Let's bring our individual voices together and rise up in song with one voice.

-- Julie Tucker, Director of Music



INVITE-WELCOME-CONNECT

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

I-W-C is the coordinating ministry for all newcomer activities. It is based on the work of Mary Parmer, of the Diocese of Texas, and is now a ministry of the University of the South (Sewanee).

Invite: Invitation is the offering of our community of faith to others. "They said, "Rabbi" (which means teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come", he replied, "and you will see." *John 1:38-39*

Welcome: Welcoming the stranger is welcoming Jesus. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." *Matthew 25:31-40*

Connect: We connect new members to ministries of the church, to enhance their sense of community, and to allow their gifts to serve the Lord. "For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them." Romans 12:4-6

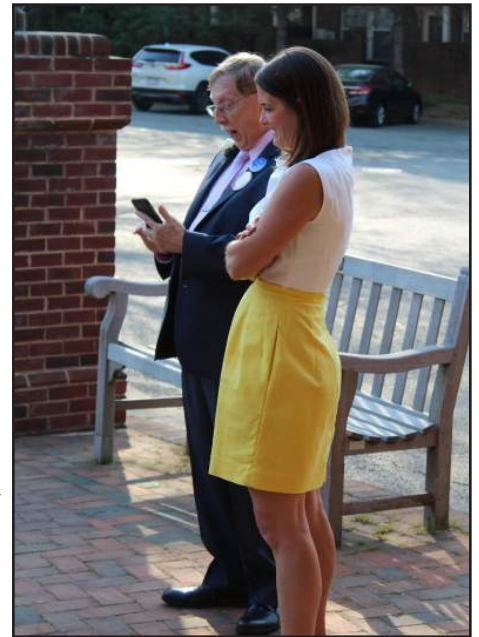
2018 was an eventful year for I-W-C. Our greeters ministry continued to do great work in welcoming newcomers (with red envelopes!), old timers, and everyone in between. Our greeters in 2018 were: **Barry New, Errin Matechak, Robin and Emma Gardner, Fred Thrasher, Paul and Robin Rosbolt, Tom/Casie/Jack Disantis, Jim Councilor, Stephen/Hollye/David Doane, Morgan Keilman, Megan Patrick, and Sharon Robbins.** All are ably supported by **Rev. Michael Hinson.**

Our I-W-C committee this year consisted of **Casie Disantis** (the REALM lady), **Erin Muhlbradt**, **Rev. Kelly Moughty**, and **Paul Rosbolt**. Our main focus was on Connect. A large part of that involved helping our ministry leads to make their ministries more accessible. To that end, we conducted Ministry lead meetings to exchange ideas, and changed the format of the annual ministry fair to make it easier to connect with interested parishioners. We have established, and will kick off this month, a "ministry of the month" series to help publicize individual ministries throughout the year. Did you know we have over 50 different ministries, groups and committees?



We continued to sponsor the quarterly newcomers class (ably taught by **Rev. John, Rev. Kelly, Paul Allvin, Cassidy Dale, Paul Rosbolt, and Casie Disantis**). We had 58 class attendees this year. REALM continues to be a great tool for us. We have 301 active accounts! New this year was establishment of the "TFC Connects" group, for exchanging ideas amongst the whole parish. Last but not least, our best statistic is this: **96** new members in 2018! Woo Hoo!

-- Paul Rosbolt, Rev. Kelly Moughty, Casie Disantis, and Erin Muhlbradt



CARING & HOSPITALITY



Whether it is your first time worshipping at The Falls Church or you are a regular, you are always greeted by ministers of hospitality. A smile and a kind word are enjoyed by those who come among us here on Sunday morning. You can depend on our ushers to provide whatever is needed, from a warm welcome to directions and advice about what is happening. There are not many places in society in which you are greeted with such warmth just for showing up. In addition, we mean it! We want you to be here with us because the work of Christ is exciting and enlivening.

I am always moved by the extended exchange of the peace and the healing rail ministry that puts us in contact with our friends in deep and transformative ways. Coffee hour continues to be a place of sacred community with delicious food, children running about, and adults speaking of accomplishments and challenges related to the coming week. Sharing our stories helps us serve and be served by one another.

I experienced the love in this church, on a personal level, not long back when my son was ill and hospitalized in Pittsburgh, PA where he attends Duquesne University. I was clearly distracted by the news I had received about his status on a particular Sunday morning, and many of you supported me in a compelling manner. As it turned out, my son was released from the hospital and he was finally diagnosed with Mono. Before I knew this, however, a number of my Falls Church Episcopal friends checked in with me that Sunday, and a couple of them reached out to me during the week about how my son was getting along. I felt the power of their love and prayers, as they walked with me and my while we were still unsure about his exact diagnosis. Indeed, this community offers both healing and wholeness in God's name.

-- *The Rev. Michael Hinson, Priest Associate*

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain Ministry is a group of parishioners who believe in the beneficial power of prayer and that praying for those in need is one of the core functions of the church. We also believe that in offering prayer when learning of another's need we are strengthening the connection of the church to its parishioners and of the parishioners to their church. Through the practice of prayer, the Prayer Chain members also grow in their own relationships with God and with others. The members of the Prayer Chain ministry are: **Margaret Bender, Steven Busch, Cary Cavness, Crystal Ham, Jill Kettler, Jonathan Lee, Bob McCan, Jinny McBride, Aliceann Muller, Janet Powell, Didi Smith, and Jessica Stoll.**



Prayer Chain members pray for the persons listed in each Sunday's Bulletin and for others, not listed, who have been made known to them. They may also pray for clergy, for the church, for the world, and for any other concerns. The style, form, and frequency of the prayer is up to each member. As the members meet fellow parishioners and socialize with them at coffee hour or elsewhere and learn of illnesses or other troubles, the member inquires if prayer by the Prayer Chain would be welcome and whether the recipient would like to be in the Bulletin or remain private. The information is then passed on to the other members of the chain and to the church office if a name is to be included in the Bulletin.

Some of the Prayer Chain members use Anglican prayer beads as an aid to prayer and to help focus the mind, but their use is optional. Anyone interested in learning about Anglican prayer beads and the variety of ways they may be used in prayer may contact our group. If there is sufficient interest, the Prayer Chain may host a workshop to demonstrate a variety of ways to use the beads.

-- *Aliceann Muller*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Children's and Family Ministry

2018-2019 brought both change and growth our Family Ministry Program. Thankfully, God is at work and the Christian formation of our children is flourishing. With over 100 kids registered for Sunday School and with Children's Chapel seeing a combined number of 90 kids, we are thrilled to see kids excited about their faith. Sundays bring a sense of wonderful anticipation for children as they are greeted by familiar faces. With a team of over 30 teachers and substitutes, God has brought faithful, loving, and inspiring teachers to help to love our amazing kids. Godly Play continues to inspire us to wonder together and illustrates scripture through interactive lessons. Children's Chapel has challenged kids to think differently about their role in the church and encouraged them to be full members of their church community.

We have studied prayer, worship, and liturgy, as well as helped kids find space to use their gifts in the church. Chapel has also created a space for kids to respond to God and scripture through art. During Advent, the children worked on a beautiful stained glass window project which hung in the Historic Church throughout the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Kids got to literally see their reflections in the scriptures highlighted through the seasons. In Lent and Holy Week, we will create more space for intergenerational opportunities to connect with God through art. We invite you to partner with us through prayer for our teachers, our ministries, and our kids. God is moving, we can see it in the eyes of the littlest member to the oldest member of our church.

Youth Ministry

Over the course of 2018, the Youth Ministry program at The Falls Church continued to expand. In the fall semester, there were 35 students in 6th through 12th grades who participated regularly in some way. Sunday morning between services we have Youth Forum, where students learn that asking questions is not only okay, it's encouraged in our faith tradition. Every Sunday evening we have Youth Group. The first and third Sundays are dedicated to High School Youth Group, while the second and fourth Sundays are for Middle School Youth Group. We also had students



who attended retreats at Shrine Mont, at both the Parish Retreat and the Diocese Retreat. This is the first year of a split program for our Middle and High School students. That split is providing each group with a time to challenge and think about the concepts and questions that are being posed to them. This shift has necessitated more volunteers to keep our programs growing, while also maintaining safe standards of practice. An advisory team has also been selected to meet regularly and begin to look at the program long term in order to keep programs sustainable, cast vision for the future, and set goals for the future.

Adult Formation

The development of more small group opportunities for Adult Formation continued over the course of 2018. The ongoing weekly Thursday Morning Mom's Bible Study was joined by a monthly Evening Mom's Bible Study. In addition, the monthly Men's Bible Study continued their Tuesday morning gatherings at Metro 29 Diner. There was also a second offering of our ARC class which tracks the narrative arc of the Bible in five sessions. Adult Forum classes included a series on the Book of Common Prayer and a deep dive on some of Paul's letters. 2018 was a big transition year in the area of formation at The Falls Church. With the addition of the new Children and Family Minister and Youth Minister, the clergy are now freed up in a different way to focus their energies on Adult Formation. Keep an eye out in 2019 for an intergenerational Women's Group that will begin meeting in February as well as upcoming programming for men, parents, and book groups to come.

THE DAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to the Day School! The Day School is celebrating its 55th year of continuous operation this school year. In October, at our fall family event, we had a cake and birthday balloons and hats, displayed our birthday banner and rejoiced in our school community. As an outreach ministry of the church, our mission is to serve as a lighthouse in our community, sharing our faith and joy and raising up God's children. We strive to provide a high quality pre-kindergarten and kindergarten experience at the lowest possible cost to our families. We currently have 170 children enrolled in one of 15 different classes, and thirty-one staff members.

As part of our Christian ministry, the Day School holds Prayer and Praise on Monday and Tuesdays, at 11:30 am. Chapel is on Wednesdays, 11:30 in the Historic Church. We hold 4 family services: the teacher commissioning at the beginning of the school year, a Thanksgiving service the Tuesday before Thanksgiving vacation, an advent service the week before Christmas vacation, a Palm service, right before Easter, and a send-off to summer service which includes a blessing of the children. In addition, we have two family fun nights, one in the fall and one in the spring, which normally includes a petting zoo.



We are a tight-knit community which celebrates with our families, and mourns in times of sorrow. We regard the support and love as an enormous component of our ministry. We offer scholarships to those in need; proceeds from the Wreath Sale, which the church community generously supports every November, help to fund our scholarship fund. In addition, the Evening with the Arts, celebrating the art work of all our students, is also a fundraiser for the scholarship, training and general funds. This year, we are also beginning our fundraising for a courtyard renovation project. The intent is to turn the courtyard into a natural play space which will benefit both the school and church communities. Church staff, vestry members, Day School parents and teachers participated in the design process, and we are all looking forward to implementation of our design.



Come on down and walk through our halls! The blue hallway houses our older students, 4's and K/5's. The yellow hallway has the classrooms for our youngest students, PMO, 2's and 2 1/2's, and 3's. The doors are locked during school hours, but we would be happy to give a tour to any parishioner interested. On Sundays, there should be easy access, and we invite you to take a look at the art work and projects posted outside the classrooms

-- Lisa Asuncion, Administrative Director, and Kathy Thomas, Program Director

OUTREACH

The Falls Church Episcopal participated in over 10 outreach events in 2018 including:

- supporting **Deb Miller's mission trip to Haiti**;
- toiletry bags for over 60 homeless men and women, made by **Young Family Fellowship**;
- **Rebuilding Together**, 20 volunteers repaired and upgraded a private home for a veteran in Bailey's Crossroads;
- school supplies drive for **Shelter House** to include 21 backpacks, 130 pocket folders, 174 glue sticks, 39 binders, 35 notebooks and 49 packs of pencils;
- a \$2,000 financial contribution for food donations to **Knox food pantry**;
- over 100 parishioners repacked 7,500 lbs of food for **Arlington Food Assistance Center**;
- Thanksgiving food baskets for 14 **Homestretch** families;
- holiday shopping sprees for children at Homestretch to buy gifts for their family members;
- **Angel Tree**, holiday gifts for over 100 Shelter House residents and children and families served by Northern Virginia Family Services;
- shopping spree for families at Homestretch as well as a \$2,000 donation; and
- 650 dinners for clients at **Bailey's Crossroads Shelter**, served monthly.



All outreach activities and events are now organized through the Outreach Committee. Outreach Committee members for 2018 were: **Tom Kearns** (Vestry representative), **Kelly Moughty** (Clergy representative), **Brian Kettler**, **Gretchen Snyder**, **Bob McCan**, **Carla Wilson**, and **Stephanie Pegues** (Chair). If you are interested in organizing and/or leading an outreach event or project, please contact one of the Outreach Committee members or email us at outreach@thefallschurch.org or through REALM.

Parish support and sponsorship continued in 2018 for an **Iraqi Kurdish refugee family of five** in partnership with Homestretch's Sacred Homes program, which provides housing, educational, and other social services to homeless families in transition for a two year period. The **Refugee Support Ministry** (RSM) helped to organize and mobilize around this daunting and important endeavor. The congregation rallied to furnish and set up a three bedroom suburban apartment for the family; provide school supplies, holiday gifts, and other items; tutor family members weekly in English; transport them to medical appointments; and provide volunteer opportunities to learn job skills at the Thrift Shop. The family has had to face some tough challenges, but with generous financial support from parishioners, the Jesse Ball duPont Fund, The Falls Church Endowment Fund, and Homestretch, the year ended with the wonderful news that the family graduated from the program. They are reportedly good tenants and continue to reside in the housing provided by Homestretch. The family learned English, the children enjoyed success in Middle and High School and one family member obtained part employment and a Driver's License.

-- Stephanie Pegues, Outreach Committee Chair



THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In January 1977, the Falls Church Endowment Fund was Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as authorized by the Vestry of The Falls Church. Its purpose is to serve as a permanent source of financial support for the Christian outreach efforts of the church, above and beyond the annual church budget. It also provides a reserve for unforeseen circumstances that may occur in the parish.

Funds are derived from the generosity of the Parish membership through its gifts and bequests. It is administered by five volunteer Directors who must be members of the church. The Vestry elects the Directors at the beginning of their rotating 5-year terms.

Now in its 42nd year, The Endowment Fund has received Gifts and Bequests during this period of about \$350,500. Reflecting investment income, it has been able to distribute total Outreach Grants amounting to \$899,000, with invested assets remaining at the end of 2018 of \$882,300.

In 2018, the following key events occurred. The Directors created a new Officer for the Board with the title of Development Officer. **Kim McCleary** was appointed to this volunteer position effective February 8, 2018.

In January 2018, we joined with the Vestry in a special fund raising campaign to support refugee resettlement through the TFCE Homestretch partnership. Together, we raised and distributed the \$25,000 commitment made to Homestretch for the year, with the Endowment Fund matching half the commitment. The additional amounts raised in the campaign were used to establish a dedicated reserve account that will carry forward to future years with distributions restricted for this purpose.

In December 2018, we awarded an additional amount of \$51,000 in outreach grants to the following organizations for use in 2019:

- The Community Service Council, Inc. of Falls Church
- Rebuilding Together of Arlington, Fairfax, and Falls Church
- Homestretch of Falls Church
- Falls Church - McLean Children's Center
- Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church
- The Arc of Northern Virginia
- Friends of The Falls Church Homeless Shelter

—*The Officers and Directors: John McDonnell, Mike Snyder, Tom Smolinski, Kim McCleary, Chris Thayer, and Tom Harter*

THRIFT SHOP



This was a great fourth year of operations at The Thrifty Church Mouse! Thanks to all the volunteers who make it happen, and to those who consign and donate. Our shelves and racks are full and offer a great selection of clothing, housewares, art, vintage and holidays items. We have regular and part time volunteers who give of their time as they can. We couldn't do this without them and we are always looking for more. We also supported high school students who need community service hours. They are great workers - even helping with hospitality, especially the pot luck dinners!

Our donations to the church from the shop exceeded \$60,000 this year. We also raised the \$5,000 needed to replace the deck and stairs on the shop. We provided needed clothing and household items to several homeless people and the refugee family and very reasonably priced items for those who could not otherwise afford things for their families.



We have a loyal following of people who are eager every week to see the new items that have come in. Lately we have been over blessed with inventory and had to take a break from donations and consignments. We have also limited the number of items that can be consigned or donated to 15 items per one visit per week. We have grown to 150 consignors and many more people donating items to the shop.

The Thrifty Church Mouse shop resides next to the church playground and is easily accessible from E. Fairfax Street. There is plenty of on and off street parking. Participating in this worthy mission is extremely rewarding to all.



If you would like to join us or have any questions, please call 703-626-7380, catch us on Sunday at Coffee Hour, or stop by the shop. We are open Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

-- Bonnie Kreidler, Thrift Shop Coordinator

ARCHIVES & HISTORY



Our Members

The members of the Archive Ministry are: **Lee Carrigan, Becky DeNitto, Joe Ewbank, Aliceann Muller, Kevin Rosbolt, Robin Rosbolt, Vickie Schmidt, and Sue Thackrey.**

Group Presentations and Docent Tours

The Archive Ministry made a presentation to the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) on March 10, 2018. One of the members of the chapter is a descendant of the Rev. Townshend Dade, a Revolutionary War era pastor of The Falls Church and a signatory to the Fairfax Resolves. On October 3, 2018, the Archive Ministry gave a presentation to the Seniors group from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Falls Church. The Archive Ministry offered tours of the church for the Watch Night Celebration on New Year's Eve 2018. Three tours were done concurrently in spite of the inclement weather. The Archive Ministry conducted docent tours after the 11:15 am service.

Oral History Project

The Archive Ministry conducted three oral history interviews which were voice-recorded. Interviews were conducted in February, March, and November.

Resources for 250th Celebration

The Archive Ministry is providing historical information for inclusion in each week's Bulletin throughout the celebration year. It has also identified what music was performed 250 years ago, and has provided relevant information to clergy for use in preparing for 250th celebration events.

Return of Civil War Artifacts

In May 2018 two scraps of fabric taken from church during the Civil War were returned by a descendant of the Union officer who had taken them. The descendant also included photocopies of the supporting letter with envelope the officer sent to his family just after the event.



Physical Improvements to the History Room

In late Fall 2018 the Archive Ministry began a cosmetic renovation of the History Room which will ultimately include completing the painting, replacing cabinet pulls and lighting wall plates, installing a new window treatment, and reorganizing displays.

--Aliceann Muller, Archive Ministry



FINANCE

In looking back at my report to you from last year, I believe the most important comment was about the decisions that were made at the end of the 3rd quarter in 2017 to accelerate our growth plans for 2018.

Those plans to increase our professional staff resulted in several key additions during 2018 and have well prepared us to continue to meet the growing needs of our youth and children's programs and of the services we can offer to the congregation and our community.

For 2018 our ASA (Average Sunday Attendance) was slightly lower (3%) than 2017 while the total of our pledges and offerings did increase by a modest 1%.

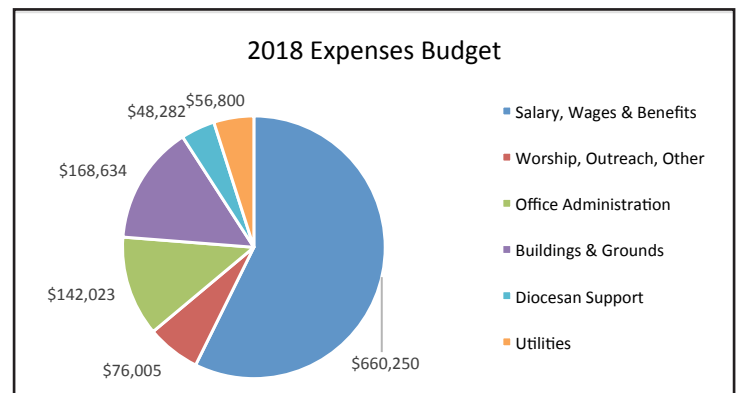
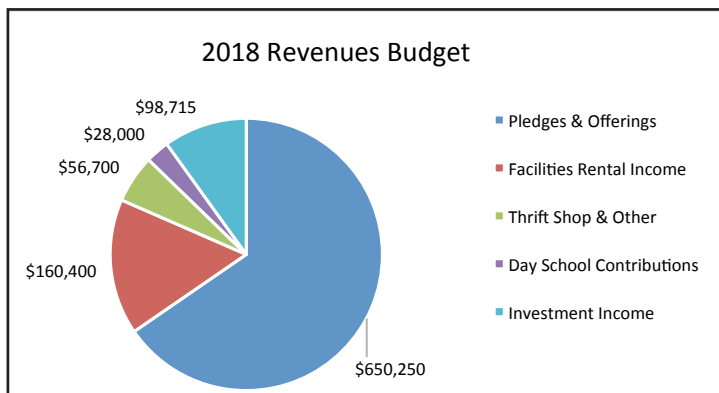
The net effect for the year was a deficit of \$120,754. The good news is that this was \$37,171 less than projected.

Our proposed budget for 2019 reflects the continued emphasis on the growth we are anticipating - investments in our staff will lead to the growth of our congregation beginning in 2020. We anticipate that revenues in 2019 will remain roughly the same as 2018 and that expenses will exceed revenues by approximately \$199,000.

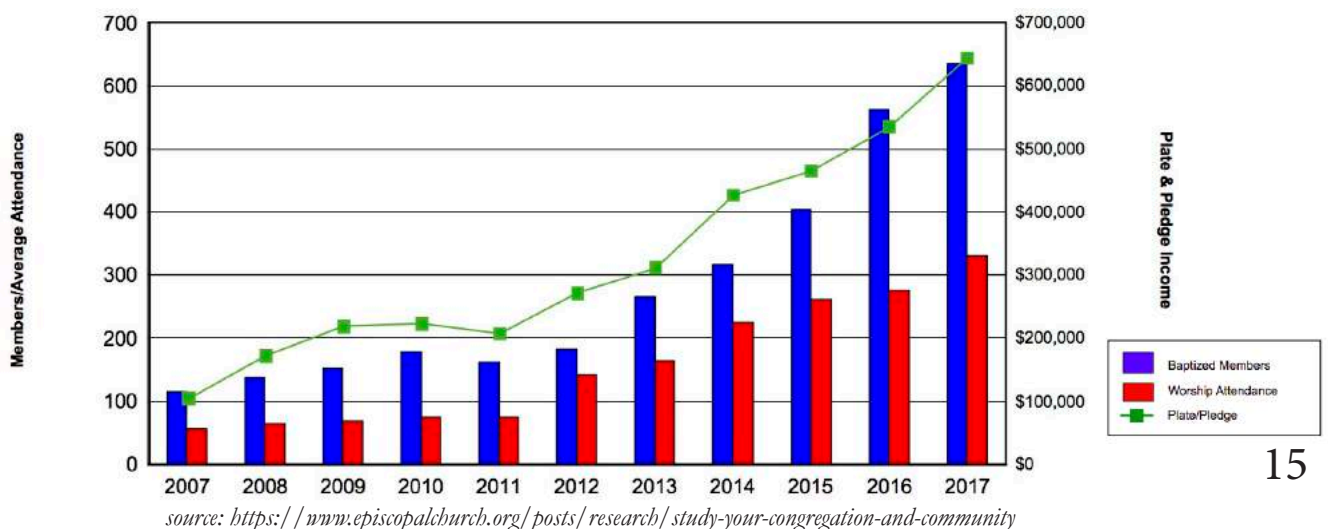
In summary, sometimes a visual presentation is easier to digest than a narrative. I believe the two pie charts below are a verification of this.

As in years past, I acknowledge with great appreciation the contributions to all those responsible for the oversight of our finances - the members of the Finance Committee: **Rhian Alvin, Steve Smith, Keith Powell, Justin Reynolds, Walt Cooper, Jim Councilor, Nikki Baltatzis, David Doane, and Tom Disantis.**

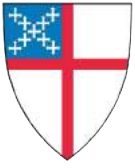
-- David Magnass, Treasurer



Participation & Giving Trends The Falls Church Episcopal, Falls Church, VA (6542-6942)



VESTRY & GOVERNANCE



The Falls Church Episcopal just might be the youngest, oldest church in America.

How can that be? A congregation founded in 1732 and worshipping in the same sanctuary since 1769 certainly qualifies as “old.” In fact, the historical structure is recognized as one of America’s 50 oldest active houses of worship.

But youngest? How can that possibly be so? As the Senior and Junior Wardens of The Falls Church Episcopal, we are two proof points to the youthfulness of this congregation. We, like the vast majority of the congregation, have been a part of this community for fewer than six years. And our families are part of a congregation, 40 percent of whom are under age 18. Our pews are bubbling every Sunday with the joyful noises and fidgets of youth, brought here by parents seeking a welcoming place for their young and effervescent families to find God.

One church member said recently she felt welcomed into The Falls Church Episcopal because she knew her brood would be welcomed, not dreaded, as they bring all of their youthful exuberance to Sunday worship, children’s chapel, and Godly play.

We are a church older than the Republic and as young as this year’s newly baptized, and within that beautiful dichotomy the congregation, and by designation the Vestry, has sought to make the most of this wonderful distinction.

Our newness

As we saw the ranks of our young families swell, we recognized two pressing needs in 2018: the need to meet the growing demands of this wonderful growth, and the need to free up our clergy to provide pastoral care to all members of the congregation who were in need of it, from those awaiting baptism to those in need of last rites, and everyone in between.

So we invested in critical new lay staff: **Heather Starek** came aboard as our Parish Administrator, to manage much of the “business of the business” that must be done but should not take time from **Revs. Ohmer and Moughty**, who are at their highest calling when they are preaching and engaging in pastoral care. And we hired both a Children’s Minister in **Lauren Breeden** and a Youth Minister in **John Wunderlich** to offer meaningful spiritual development, fellowship, and community to our large and ever-growing number of church members under 18.

The presence of these staff have been nothing short of transformational, and the benefits of their arrival were felt by members of the church almost immediately. We can now say with confidence that we are matching the recent rapid growth of the church with the staff capacity to adequately serve them, and continue to offer The Falls Church Episcopal as a welcoming community, called to be an enduring beacon of faith, hope, and love to all.

About being old...

This was also a year to begin celebrating the enduring presence of The Falls Church! Our historic sanctuary will turn 250 years old in 2019, and at the end of 2018 we kicked off a year of celebrations with a “family gathering” of church members that also resulted in donations of coats, hats, gloves, and mittens for local families in need of warm clothing for the winter. We will have much more to celebrate as we approach 2019 Advent, and mark the 250th anniversary of the first services ever held in the building – Christmas Eve.

VESTRY & GOVERNANCE

What's next?

That answer will be found in responses to three questions we are continuously asking members of our congregation:

1. Do you feel invited to arrive and to return to worship?
2. Do you feel welcomed when you come to The Falls Church Episcopal?
3. Do you feel connected to this faith community, either through a ministry that speaks to you, or to bonds of fellowship you have made here?

We commonly get a firm, confident “yes” to the first two questions. People are drawn to this community because it feels open and inviting, and they feel warmly welcomed to our services and programs. This takes loving work and dedication of volunteers, staff, and clergy alike, and those involved all say they find joy and the presence of God in their efforts.

That third question is a work in progress. With such rapid growth, we are working to support our existing ministries, and to pay very close attention to how we can inspire growth in our ministry offerings so that no one feels lost in a crowd, or left wanting to help others in ways that we cannot accommodate. Finding ways to better connect our congregants to one another, and to the surrounding community, is every bit as important as inviting and welcoming new congregants, because it gives deep meaning to our calling to do God’s work on earth.

In the year ahead, look for us to pay close attention to how we weave threads of connection throughout our church community to form a strong tapestry of believers and seekers, providing sanctuary, ministering with the community, being a force for reconciliation, and serving as a source for transformation in ourselves and in the world.

-- Paul Alvin, Senior Warden and Maury Wray, Junior Warden

Vestry	2016-2018				
		Cleve Johnson	Tom Kearns	Aliceann Muller	Katherine Secrist
	2017-2019				
		Paul Alvin <i>Sr. Warden</i>	Jeanine Bonds	Ginny Gomez	Maury Wray <i>Jr. Warden</i>
	2018-2020				
		Courtney Morrison	Erin Muhlbradt	Steve Smith	Fred Thrasher

THREE YEAR REVIEW

I am overwhelmed with gratitude when I think about the joy that serving on the Vestry for the past three years has brought. As a “graduating member” of the Vestry, I have seen so much change and growth in our parish over the course of my Vestry term, and yet, at the same time, I have seen our culture hold steady as group of people committed to being a welcoming, hope-filled and vibrant community. I have also rejoiced to see my family grow closer in our bonds to both God and the people of this parish. It has been an honor to serve at such a dynamic time.

The Vestry spent time during **2016** diligently stewarding our resources - analyzing how to maintain our building, deciding how to use our property at Southgate and beginning to build our ministries into more robust committees. I spent much of that year serving as the liaison to the Day School for the Vestry. I was blessed to have two out of three of my children attend the Day School and see the beautiful love of God that they and 180 other children gained there each week.

During **2017**, under the strong leadership of our wardens and other church leaders, we underwent a strategic planning period, with input from staff, Vestry and the parish, and identified the main areas for growth, both spiritual and organizational, in the years to come. Knowing that we are “A beacon of faith, hope and love” and that “We seek to fulfill God’s will on Earth by gathering believers and seekers, providing sanctuary, ministering with the community, being a force for reconciliation, and serving as a source for transformation in ourselves and in the world” guides all the the Vestry has planned and is planning for the parish. Having these pillars to harken back to provides a structure as we “grow up” as a church that is essential as we decide where to focus our time and resources.

In **2018**, again with new leaders joining seasoned veterans, we undertook hiring a Parish Administrator, Family and Children’s Minister and Youth Minister. This has freed up John and Kelly to “do what they do best” - preaching and teaching and ministering. I have seen first-hand the benefits of these hires. My middle-school daughter hasn’t once needed a nudge to get excited to attend Youth Group; my children report that Shrine Mont is on par with Disney World in terms of their favorite trips, and Kelly and John’s sermons and wisdom reverberates in our mind and house throughout the week, not just on Sundays.

Serving as Chair of the Annual Giving Campaign during this time has been a delight. Some friends have wondered if it has been difficult to ask others for contributions, and I always respond that it has actually been a pleasure. When people choose to give out of gratitude, a feeling of abundance and hope results, and it certainly has for my own family. I cannot think of a better place to give my time, talent and treasure because the gifts that I, and my family, have gotten in return are such much more than I will ever be able to give. For that reason, I am humbled and honored to have served on the Vestry and look forward to seeing what the next class of leaders will bring.

-- Katherine Secrist, Vestry member



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

2018 wrapped up a number of large projects for our facilities, but the buildings and grounds team continues to work on their high score while playing whack-a-mole!

I am almost hesitant to say that we are declaring victory on the leaking Main Sanctuary roof. Our roofing contractor CentiMark has done a great job of revisiting leaks as they appeared, and redesigning multiple drains. We haven't had a leak in the Main Sanctuary in a couple of months even with the weather really testing the facilities. This has been a 3-4 year process and even with professional engineering advice, it's been a bit of trial and error. These extensive and expensive roof repairs were paid for with a grant from the Diocese. I think we are now finally more focused on maintenance than repairs.

We are so confident in the roof repair we took on the task of repainting the Main Sanctuary ceiling! Thanks to funds from our insurance company, paint donations from **Bill Thornton**/Potomac Paint and Design Centers, and countless hours of lighting engineering research from Hank Hegener, we have replaced most of the lighting in the sanctuary with LED lighting. This was no small task and these two along with generous donations from parishioners allowed us to really clean up the space and upgrade our systems to more cost efficient lighting.

Using funds from a donor restricted gift, we also painted the exterior of the Main Sanctuary. Another fun endeavor was replacing the solenoid (the striker mechanics) of the church bell. You might have noticed it was down for a few months, but thanks to research and some brave members of the Parish and a generous financial gift from **Dave and Karin Magness**, we removed and replaced the old solenoid and got some great pictures of the church bell and grounds while up in the tower.

Joan Huber's pick-a-spot gardening team now has 14 parishioners. This team of dedicated volunteers has helped us keep up the various flower beds and gardens around the church campus. Thanks to all who volunteer! If you are interested, Joan still needs a few more green thumbs to join in. For more information email Joan: Joanhuber1@verizon.net.

Our facilities continue to provide the community a great resource as a venue for events, which also helps us in our continued need for increased revenue. We ended 2018 with very robust facility rental income of over \$175,000. The Southgate shopping center is now fully leased with high quality tenants, bringing life to the church property across the street. In addition to the Southgate lease and our ongoing rental to the Rock Christian Church, we routinely rent performance and meeting space to at least 7 different music organizations, and groups as diverse as a ladies exercise class, and a quilting guild. We also offer meeting space for a local AA group, ministry partners such as Rebuilding Together, and multiple Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.



Going forward, we are continuing our process of converting to LED lighting, and we have engaged a facility engineering firm to provide TFCE with the framework for a capital reserve fund. We are also pursuing the possibility of adding solar panels to sections of our roof.

Members of the Archive Ministry (Lee Carrigan, Aliceann Muller, and Sue Thackrey) have been repainting the History Room (next to the Parlor). This labor-intensive project is being completed at no cost to the church because once again, all the paint is donated by another parishioner. We can always use help from the congregation with people interested in building maintenance and a knack for handyman (or handywoman) jobs. An example would be the great work **Roger Cline** did to repair several broken and damaged pieces of furniture. Please contact me if you have any questions about these items or want to help out: Propertywarden@thefallschurch.org.



-- Matt Lee, Property Warden 19

OUR NEW STAFF



Lauren Breeden joined The Falls Church Episcopal as the Director of Children's and Family Ministries in August. She has over ten years of experience working with children in both church and non-profit settings. She most recently worked at Holy Comforter Episcopal in Vienna, VA as their Director of Children's Ministries. With extensive experience working with children and creating diverse and innovative curricula, Lauren has confirmed her calling to Children's and Family Ministries. Email Lauren at lbreeden@thefallschurch.org.



John Wunderlich joined The Falls Church Episcopal as the Director of Youth Ministries in August. He comes from Trinity Presbyterian Church in the Philadelphia suburb of Berwyn, PA where he served as the Director of Youth and Children's Ministries for two and a half years. After growing up in Frederick, MD, he attended Eastern University just outside of Philadelphia to obtain his degree in Youth Ministry. Email John at jwunderlich@thefallschurch.org.



Heather Starek joined The Falls Church Episcopal as the Parish Administer in June. Previously, she was the Office Administrator at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. She grew up in Des Moines, IA, and has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and a Juris Doctor degree from Drexel University. Email Heather at hstarek@thefallschurch.org.



Nikki Baltatzis joined the staff of The Falls Church Episcopal as our part-time Financial Administrator in May. She is also the Staff Accountant at The Falls Church Day School. Nikki graduated Magna Cum Laude from Case Western Reserve University with a BS degree in Management. Email Nikki at nbaltatzis@thefallschurch.org.



Jared Grant begins his field education with The Falls Church Episcopal this September. He is an MDiv. student at VTS and is a Postulant from the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. He has a degree in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Jared has served as a missionary for the Episcopal Church in both Lesotho and Italy through the Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps. Prior to seminary, he worked as the children's and youth minister at an Episcopal parish in Durham, NC.