



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

THE GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3115 P Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
gtownpres.org

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REPORT

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FINANCIAL REPORT

LETTER FROM REV. DR. CAMILLE COOK HOWE



Dear Georgetown Presbyterian Church,

Congratulations on a wonderful year of ministry! We have accomplished many noteworthy things while coming together to worship God week in and week out. This year's annual report will look very different from previous years. We wanted to show you instead of telling you about the great year we have had. Your lives of faith, your hours of service, your donations of money, your friendship to each other make this church strong and vibrant. GPC's bucking every mainline Protestant trend that is out there and we should be very proud of where we are today. I hope this annual report will fill you with pride and hope. I certainly feel proud of this community of faith and am incredibly hopeful about the year ahead. Thank you to all who contributed to the year gone past: my wonderful colleagues, the deacons and elders, the volunteers, the supporters in the pews, the friends on YouTube. Thank you! Georgetown Presbyterian Church 244 years and thriving. Thanks be to God!

Blessings to you and those you love,
Camille

2023 Facts and Figures

14 Youth in Confirmation Class

7 Baptisms in 2023

34 New members in 2023

9,409 GPC Youtube video views

140 Unique pieces of music sung by the GPC choir

7 New Small Groups and Bible Studies launched in 2023

480 Meals served during the winter GMC extends dinners

2023 GPC OFFICERS

Elders

Shelley Jennings

Leo Krusius

Tracy Davis

Susan Bell

Roy Henwood

Karl Mattison

Kim Sperduto

Katie Novaria

Lisa Baly

Cristian Lopez

Bradley Justus

Gretchen Davies

Clerk of Session

Liza Marshall

Deacons

Louise Rogers Sumner

Will Quinn

Jillian Kutner

Lauren Fish

Patricia Berl

Aaron Davis

Catherine McEaddy Holmes

Missye Brickell

Chase Lubbock

Casey Nolan

Victoria Pedrick

Bryan Scott

Veronique Dupont

Sherry Krokowski

Alan Wisdom

Trey Fields

NEW MEMBERS IN 2023

Kathryn McAbee

Charlie Pruitt

Jack Gillum

Karen Truluck

Rob McLeod

Walker Truluck

Sally Atwater McLeod

Ashley Craft

Jack DiMatteo

Erin Collier

Warner Lamar

Jenna Faude

Piper Akol

Diana Jordan

Brett Weiss

Sarah Merritt

Lattie Reddoch

Alex Merritt

Brian Goodell

Keshia Engwenyi

Charlotte Goodell

Sithembile Chithenga

Beau Brewer

Adrienne White

Betsy Byrne

Fleet White

Benjamin Vick

Stefanie Scott

Taylor Vick

Chip Scott

Abby Wise

William Howlett

Joanne Stratton Tate

Libby Wallin



LETTER FROM REV. MEGHAN BROWN

Dear GPC Community,

What a rich and full year we have had together! It's hard to believe that 2023 has already come to a close, but when I look back, the year was filled with opportunities for learning and connection, worship and fellowship, service and leadership development. When I think back on the year, the church feels alive with possibilities and growth. Here are some of my favorite moments:

Vibrant worship: From starting the year off with Star Words, to gathering around a communal table on Maundy Thursday, to an overflowing Easter celebration in the Courtyard, to a thoughtfully led Youth Sunday, to children and youth leading the Call to Worship all summer, to blessing our beloved pets, to lighting candles in remembrance of loved ones on All Saints Day, to a holy and joyful Christmas pageant, to a moving and reflective candlelight Christmas Eve service, worship has brought us together in the fullness and expansiveness of God's spirit.

Lenten Ribbon Project: During Lent, our courtyard transformed into a sea of purple ribbons, as we asked the question, “What are you seeking?” This project offered a space for reflection for all, blurring the boundary between the interior and the exterior of the church and inviting participation from members and anyone passing by who are part of our larger community.

Sacred Spaces Series: We took our fellowship and faith engagement beyond the walls of our church and into the landscape around us as we gathered to reflect on the War Memorials for Memorial Day, in fellowship and celebration of water at Fletcher’s Cove, and with a visit to a labyrinth in June.

Growing Small Groups: As of this fall, we have three women’s small groups and a large-format intergenerational men’s ministry group that have formed with a desire to build deeper relationships across the congregation. In addition to a Young Adult Group, Youth Group, Adult Issues Classes and periodic virtual Bible studies, we hope there is a place for all to connect and engage!

Prayer Team Anniversary: Our Prayer Team celebrated their 3rd anniversary with a week of devotions on prayer, inviting us all into the spiritual practice of praying for ourselves, our congregation, and the world.





Confirmation Class: 14 youth and their adult mentors have been exploring their faith together in study, service, and fellowship. It has been a joy to hear their beliefs and their questions and to know that this congregation values multi-generational learning and community.

St Nick's Celebration: In a tumultuous world, it is important to gather in joy and play together as well. We did just that at St Nick's this year, as more than 135 gathered to break bread together, sing Christmas carols, visit Santa Claus, make crafts and connect with new and old friends.

GMC Extends: Our community showed up to serve our neighbors in need. Members of all ages and across all groups in the congregation worked together to serve meals to our unhoused neighbors—providing not only warm and delicious meals, but a safe and welcoming place for all.

What a year—and what a wonderful time to be a part of the life of this church. After Deacon meetings and Confirmation Classes, staff meetings and pastoral visits, premarital counseling sessions and coffee meetings, I am filled with joy and gratitude for this congregation and this call. May God fill us with love, purpose, and joy as we seek to be Church together in this new year.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Meghan

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

After GPC's 2023 baby boom, the Bride's Room got a refresh, and is now fully stocked with supplies like diapers and wipes, for parents and caregivers who need to step out with a little one. There is also a TV in the room that can stream the worship service, so you don't miss a moment.



This year, our children and youth participated in worship by ushering, preparing communion, reading the call to worship, lighting Advent candles, reading scripture, singing with Joyful Noise, planning and participating in Youth Sunday, and sharing their gifts in many other ways.



"As a mom, I love how GPC incorporates its children into all aspects of life at the church. As I scrolled through my camera roll looking at pictures of my kids at church from the past year, I had pictures of preparing communion bread, packing sandwiches for GMC, walking the labyrinth during one of the Sacred Spaces events, a pew of children with hymnals open singing, Sunday School setting up punch bunch and more. I love how church isn't just a Sunday morning routine, but a place where my children's faith comes to life through the Children's Ministry at GPC."

- Paige McDermott

Lots of joy at the Blessing of the Animals!



The lemonade stand raised \$500 for mission funds



Music Department



“I feel incredibly blessed and honored to lead the music ministry at GPC. We are a thriving, unique (in the best sense of the word) church, with an amazing congregation and staff. To quote my late predecessor John Lintner, “music polishes the glass of the window to the divine” and I feel it a great privilege to hold the bottle of Windex.”
-Mark Willey



The GPC choir learned and sang over 140 unique pieces of music during the church year in 2023. That’s approximately 4500 measures of music, or about 90,000 notes (not including accompaniment).



The oldest piece of music we experienced in worship dates to the 9th century, approximately. The newest was written about a day before it was performed.



Our tech volunteers helped us live-stream over 50 hours of worship.

LETTER FROM REV. JESSICA TATE



Good People of GPC,

A lot of us walk around thinking that GPC is a pretty great place (in our humble opinions!) There's good reason for that! In my areas of work with you, I can report the following:

- the congregation committed its focus to being spiritual, relational, and missional - through the work of the Long Range Planning report that rolled out last winter,
- the leadership of the church is spending energy focusing on some foundational pieces of our life together, even though they aren't the most flashy: an honest assessment of capital needs, increased communications and connections within the congregation, and creating a culture of generosity, just to name a few,
- 34 new members joined our community and we have a dozen or more visitors in worship each week,
- a fantastic new bunch of church elders and deacons launched into leadership and have taken on their roles with joy, with faithfulness, and with tremendous work ethic,
- the mission committee - and many of you through volunteer hours and increased generosity - deepened GPC's commitment in both time and monetary support to our largest mission partners, and
- Jennie Lopez and children's ministry continued to offer meaningful spiritual formation for our youngest members.

This just scratches the surface of all that we do as a community, of course. There are many more reasons (many of them named in the pages of this report) that we might say GPC is such a wonderful community. The Congregational Assessment report we received via the Long Range Planning committee in the summer of 2022 identified GPC as being both high energy and high satisfaction, which means we are a congregation that serves as a place of meaning and purpose for its members. I want to put in context for you how unique this is across the Presbyterian Church (USA). If we look at congregations we would consider GPC's peer group (250-499 members), between the years 2017 and 2022,

- Peer churches decreased in membership -29.10%
- GPC increased by +8.26

Church membership isn't the only number that matters in the health and faithfulness of a congregation, of course, but putting that alongside the encouraging Congregational Assessment report and the ways I watch you commit to your faith and serve the community week in and week out, it's no wonder many of us find this is a good place to grow in discipleship. I am grateful for you and glad that my contract to serve alongside you is renewed through the end of 2024.

Peace,
Jessica



CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Adult Education



Women's Small Group



Intergenerational Men's Group



Young Adults Group

Our Christian Formation Committee provided rich opportunities for discipleship, study and fellowship among the the congregation throughout the year. In addition to incredible weekly Adult Education on Sunday Mornings and monthly Young Adult gatherings, new small groups for women of all ages launched in October, a large format Intergenerational Men's Ministry began meeting regularly, a Men's Bible Study gathered weekly, and we hosted two virtual Bible Studies in the Fall.

If you're interested in getting involved in a GPC Small Group, reach out to Pastor Meghan.

MISSION COMMITTEE



GPC's Music Director Mark Willey took a trip in February to Niger with Kara VanderKamp, the founder of Remember Niger. The goal of Mark's trip was to record video footage and interviews highlighting the Nigerien people and Remember Niger's work to raise awareness and funds for the organization. Upon his return he created a wonderful video of the trip, providing GPCers with an on-the-ground view of the organization's work and the lives of the children they serve.



MISSION COMMITTEE

Several volunteers prepared Thanksgiving gift boxes for Excel Academy families in need, which involved procuring the groceries and going to the school premises to sort and pack the food into 100 boxes. We also provided holiday gift cards for each girl in the school, covered the expenses for a field trip to the see *The Lion King* on Broadway, and provided some much-needed cash payments to a few families.



We resettled two refugee families from Afghanistan, with volunteers delivering and setting up donated and purchased furniture and household goods into apartments. Volunteers also continued to provide help to previously settled families with navigating life in the US, including securing used cars.

As much as a quarter of our congregation participated in three weeks of dinners for homeless individuals in our area, organized by Georgetown Ministry Center. Numerous GPC groups, including officers, committee members, staff, and others each took a night to host and serve the dinners. GPC also hosted monthly Saturday dinners for the homeless throughout the year.



STEWARDSHIP

“Our budget is larger than before and so our giving must keep pace if we are to deepen our impact in the ways we hope.”

-Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe

In 2023, we asked for gifts of time, talent, and treasure. To keep up with our growing ministry, we increased our congregational giving goal by over \$200,000. THANK YOU for supporting all of the wonderful work featured in this annual report. Without stewardship, none of the rest of our ministry would take place.



Sharing God's Story: Scan here to fill your
intent for 2024

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We end 2023 with the church's property, including the manse, in good physical condition and having avoided major capital outlays.

Expenses in 2023 were below budget by roughly \$36,000 and far below 2022 levels, with material savings in the repairs and maintenance, utilities, and insurance line items.

We invested significant effort to cultivate a detailed outlook for the church's potential capital needs over the next five years. In 2024, we intend to pursue the most immediate needed work as well as low cost, high value projects that better position the congregation to carry out GPC's ministries.



LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

▶ The mission budget was increased by \$25,000 in 2023, as the first step in the goal of doubling GPC's mission budget by 2025, moving us from a budget of \$125k annually to \$250k annually.

▶ The Long Range Planning committee partnered with Karl Mattison and various committees to create a series of videos that highlight GPC's ministry and thank the members and friends of GPC who make it possible. To date we have completed a video on mission, worship, and buildings and grounds.

▶ The LRP committee partnered with the buildings and grounds committee to get an audit of our building and major systems in an effort to begin planning for consistent funding for building capital needs.



"We want to preserve and nurture what we love about our church, while focusing more intentionally on strengthening our connections with, and care for, one another. We want to continue to be grounded in scripture, and deepen our own understanding of what scripture calls us to do in the world today. We want to do more to lift up those who are suffering in our community and the world, but we recognize that to do so, we must be nourished by deeper congregational connections and strong spiritual grounding." - Where God is Calling Us Report

MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATING

At a meeting of the Congregation, December 10, 2023, the three slates of officers were elected as nominated. The slates include:

Members of the Session, Class of 2026

Liza Tanner Boyd

Rob McLeod

Jen Patterson

Josh Pitcock

Members of the Board of Deacons, Class of 2026

Piper Akol

Aran Clair

Jack Gillum

Meredith Lilley

Katy McBride

Katie Strohm

Members of the 2024 Nominating Committee

Megan Brew

Nicole Davis

Leo Krusius

John Marshall

Gerardo Martinez

Will Quinn

WORSHIP AND EVANGELISM

We are blessed with a community hungry for preaching the Word of God and celebrating through music – and feeling filled each week that we gather together.

Our Worship is bustling with all generations,
Our Worshipers continue to grow in numbers since the pandemic,
defying nation-wide trends,
Long-time members, many new members and faces continue our blend
of beautiful tradition and fresh perspectives.



*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
- Colossians 3:16*



ChatGPC, the Georgetown Presbyterian Church's podcast, launched in 2023! Join us every week as we dive into engaging conversations with the members of our church, exploring their unique stories of life and faith. Discover joys, challenges, and experiences that have shaped their spiritual journey. Listen on Apple, Amazon Music, and Spotify!

CARE TEAM



The Prayer Team prays weekly for GPC members and our broader community. In 2023, the Prayer Team celebrated their 3rd anniversary.



This year, the Care Committee launched the Care and Support form - available on the GPC website.



The Care Committee organized 5 meal trains for GPC families in 2023.

Complete the Care and Support form at
gtownpres.org/connect or scan below



"Through our launch of the GPC Care and Support form in 2023 and our goal of recruiting volunteers and resources to address care needs in 2024, we hope to make GPC a congregation that cherishes caring as part of our DNA!" - Casey Nolan



FLOWER COMMITTEE



A highlight of last year was the large participation of church and community members in bringing their garden flowers to decorate our life size Easter Cross!

If you are interested in donating to the flower committee fund in honor or memory of an event or person, please email info@gtownpres.org

ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

When A&P met with each pastor and lay staff members at the end of the year, each one expressed appreciation of the collaborative relationship among the staff. In their review one person commented, *“I am so incredibly grateful to GPC and for this community of co-workers.”* Others expressed similar sentiments. And in 2023, GPC joyfully welcomed Rev. Grace Woodward as our new parish associate.

In addition to the usual focus on providing reasonable compensation and benefits, A&P, with significant support from the “Sunday school families,” hosted a Punch Bunch to honor Regina Andrade for her 25 years of service to GPC as a member of the choir and now as the Director of Children’s Music.

In December, Jennie Lopez announced that she would leave her position as Director of Christian Education. During her tenure, Jennie transformed the Children’s Education program into a lively and exciting experience for children of all ages. Although Jennie’s leadership will be missed, she and her family will still be active members of GPC.



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

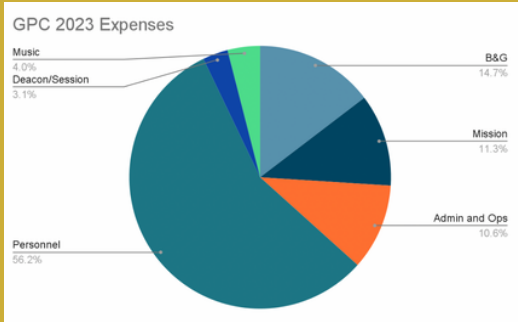
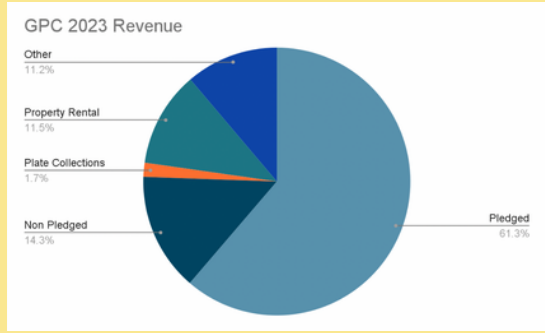
This committee works to ensure the congregation and guests feel welcomed at GPC! This year we helped support the organization of punch-bunches and worked to put on the Annual GPC Picnic and Saint Nick's Dinner!



Visit gtownpres.org/connect to sign up to serve punch bunch and learn more!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thanks in large part to the generous contributions from the congregation, GPC revenue increased in 2023 to \$1,104,102, an increase of \$57,087 from the full year in 2022 (5.4% increase). Most of the revenue collected came in the form of pledge contributions which account for 60%.



Thanks in large part to the fiscal discipline of the GPC staff, Session and Deacons GPC was able to maintain expenses essentially flat versus 2022. Expense totaled \$1,241,497, an increase of \$3,528 from 2022 (<1%). Expenses continue to be driven by maintenance of the church property, and administrative and personnel expenses.

Overall for 2023, GPC had an operational deficit of -\$137,395 this was significant improvement over 2022 where GPC ran an operational deficit of -\$190,954 in 2022. The 2023 operational deficit came well within the 2023 approved budget of -\$225,882.

GPC's investment accounts held in Chevy Chase Trust also had strong performance. The total amount held in the investment account grew to \$3,364,982, an increase of just over \$300K from the start of the calendar year. This increase occurred despite a \$120K withdrawal from the investment account to cover GPC's 2023 operational deficit.



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