

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Nominating Committee will place the following names in nomination:

For Ruling Elder: (3 year term)

Steven Kim
Alice Price
Lee Bowie
Ed Wikoff
Katherine Vance
Polly Shaffer
Chad Pilling

Youth Elder (1 year term)

Sam Perry

For Deacon: (3 year term)

Jeanne Norrie
Linda Doyle
Marilyn Carter
Jeff Barton
Rob Gearhart
Libby Boggs
Joyce McCormack
Alison Boise and
Kathryn Jablokow

(1 year term)

Irene Naughton

Youth Deacon (1 year term)

Gabby Arndt
Katie Salmon

Auditing Committee (1 year term)

Dave Wynn
Bill Sutton

At large member of the Nominating Committee (3 year term)

M. M. Harris

Respectfully Submitted

Polly Shaffer, William Thygeson, Doug Lynch, Jean McDevitt, Susanne DiMarco, and Sally Bowie

JUNE 17, 2012

**PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION:
2011 – 2012**

Pastor's Report:

When you read the session reports this year, noting all the activities and accomplishments of the past year, please keep in mind that for the last 12 months we have been operating with one less clergy. We have received more new members during the past year than the previous four years. We have not only continued with our monthly publications but have added a weekly email newsletter. We have updated the website on a weekly basis and have coordinated our communication efforts between the website, Facebook, our weekly newsletter, the *Inspire*, and the Sunday bulletin insert. How have we been able to do this?

1. **The staff at APC has worked harder** this year than in any of the eleven years that I have served. The congregation owes a debt of appreciation to Jack Norrie, Ruth Sall, John Sall, Janet Tebbel, Anne O'Shea, Jean Deans, Sally Bowie (our new Wedding Coordinator), Yola Stuligłowa, Ethel Geist, Tom Owens, Ed Ambrose, and Nelson Yeardeley. All of them have worked hard and gone well beyond their job descriptions to make sure that programs continued uninterrupted.
2. **Volunteers have stepped up.** Gary Koch puts in well over 20 hours each week, making sure that the business matters of the church are handled well. Jean McDevitt regularly helps to assure that matters relating to worship run smoothly. This year our youth program continued because members of the congregation stepped up and helped out. Our mission trip to Guatemala has been planned and coordinated by volunteers. The Board of Deacons has been consistent in reaching out to the membership and is our first line of pastoral care. This does not count the choir members, elders, musicians, kitchen helpers, committee members, landscapers, money counters, etc.

We anticipate that a Temporary Associate Pastor will be in place very soon, but we will still need the efforts of all the members of the congregation. In the coming 12 months we can expect the following:

1. **A fund drive to repair and upgrade the organ.** The organ has failed once in worship, (on Easter Sunday!). It has also failed for a funeral service, and at least a dozen times during the week. If we don't repair the organ immediately, our music and worship program will be severely affected.
2. **More work and plans for the 300th Anniversary.** We have already secured well known guest preachers from around the country to lead our worship services during 2014. We are working on other plans for an exciting celebration. We will need a great deal of help and support to accomplish the plans that we are putting into place.
3. **We need to develop "kitchen crews" much like our ushering crews.** We have not had a cook for five years, and most of the kitchen responsibilities are falling on very few people as well as our staff people. It is time to share the joy of working together to provide hospitality for God's people.
4. **The completion of a mission study.** Under the leadership of Dave Furchner, we have been involved in a study that will enable us to determine what type of pastoral leadership we will need in the future.

Let me conclude with an observation and a challenge. I have served Abington Presbyterian Church for eleven years and during that time I have noted that “the many are dependent upon the few.” APC is highly staff dependent and leans heavily upon a limited group of volunteers for most of the heavy lifting. This has worked effectively when there were ample resources to hire additional staff members. This will no longer work.

The trend in all congregations, (with a few exceptions) is that church staffs are getting smaller. Since 2008 we have seen a number of associate pastor positions across the country eliminated creating a job crisis for new seminary graduates. If we are to maintain the high level of programming and activity, we will need a new paradigm for ministry that empowers all the members of the congregation to do ministry. We also need to have an expectation that all of our membership will participate actively in the ministry and mission of the church. This is a huge change from the expectation that the church will provide spiritual services for the membership. This paradigm change will also mean a change in the manner that I and other ordained clergy perform their roles. Our calling will be to empower the laity in the church to take responsibility for the ministry and mission of the congregation.

Personally, I do not think this is a bad thing. I know that it is fueled by diminishing resources, but I also see the hand of God in it. God does not want lazy disciples who expect God, the church, etc, to do everything for them. God, through Christ, has called us all to be responsible for the ministry and mission of Christ’s Church. I truly believe that the economic and cultural changes that we are experiencing are part of God’s plan to have a leaner, mobile, and more effect church. My challenge for all of us: Spend time in prayer and discernment. Ask yourself, “What is God calling me to do as a disciple of Jesus Christ?” When we were baptized, we were baptized into ministry. It is time for all of us to fulfill the vows of our baptism. *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’* Isaiah 6:8

Grace and peace,



Brent J. Eelman

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES
REV. JACK NORRIE, HR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
2011 - 2012

In St. Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth Paul writes: "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 1: 4-7)

It has been my pleasure to be among you as Parish Associate for Older Adult Ministries for two and a half years now, and I have come to appreciate, as St. Paul did with his friends in Corinth, that as a congregation you have been strengthened by the presence of Christ and have a wealth of gifts to share with each other and with the world. Although my days and weeks as Parish Associate are limited in time I have had the wonderful opportunity to come to know many of you well, and to be a part of your lives as they have unfolded. Your experience, your wisdom and your love for the church have made my time here a most enjoyable experience.

Much of my time is spent in visitation, both in the hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities and homes. I wish that I had the time to visit all of you, but the size of the church coupled with the limitations imposed by a reduced ordained staff have made "triage" the word by which I do ministry. This means I treat the most severe needs first and must put off until another time the more general "getting out to visit" the rest of the older members.

My other duties include staffing the Older Adult Committee and the Congregational Life Committee. Over the past year the Older Adult Committee, with Dorothy Graham as chair, and members Marilyn Carter, Linda Doyle, Mary Findlay, Jane Gilliam, Grace Karschner, Doug Lynch, Ann Rife, and Kathleen Zimmerman, has worked hard to reach out to the older community with such programs as: poinsettia and tulip delivery at Christmas and Easter, Older Adult Sunday with worship and programming, a Christmas party at Rydal Park, Pot Pie sales, and visitation. In the future the committee is planning new programs around exercise for seniors, end of life issues, and how senior citizens can continue to support the life and work of the church. The committee is always open to your suggestions and would like to hear from you about how best the committee can serve.

I look forward to the Sundays when I can participate in worship (and sometimes preach), as well as the many opportunities I have to meet and to get to know all of you better. I thank all of you for the warm and open way you have accepted me into the life and work of Abington Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
RUTH SALL , INTERIM DIRECTOR
2011 - 2012

It has been a remarkable year in the life of Abington Presbyterian Church and our education program. I have been honored to serve as the Interim Director of CE and enjoyed a year of joyous challenge. I will highlight the year with the events and experiences that were personally of great delight for me.

- Homecoming – A great way to start the year: order 45 lbs of hotdogs and a moon bounce!! I put together our Christian Education brochure to hand out describing all the areas of learning available at APC. It was a wonderful eye-opener to me!
- Church School Start Up on September 18- the day I had been waiting for all summer!
- PresbyKids - the class for k-6th grade children that focuses on church architecture and art, the inner workings of the organ and the pipes, the meaning of the stained-glass windows, how to use the hymnal and how to write a hymn, making our own Christian symbols artwork and much more.
- Blessing of the Backpacks – the opportunity for all students of any age to bring their backpacks and receive a blessing for the year and a tag with a prayer to tuck inside.
- Children’s Moments – one of my favorite ways to connect with the children in the service and create a moment for them to become engaged with the scripture or theme of the day. I enjoyed the Heiffer project and Presbyterian Women’s blanket drive as two opportunities to share mission with the kids.
- Fall Youth Retreat – a heroic effort by the entire Youth committee as the date had been set before Scott Nowack’s departure and it was scheduled for early October. I helped create the schedule and theme for the week. We focused on “Sanctuary”. It was a wonderful weekend!
- Advent Fair and Hanging of the Greens – a new endeavor with the Worship and Music Council to combine decorating the church for Advent with crafts and activities for kids. It was a little rocky to put together as a new event but wonderfully successful in the end with over 90 participants!
- Christmas by Candlelight and “Calling All Angels” – always a joy to create joyous music at Christmas with the kids!
- Advent Candle Lighting Families- a fun task to find families willing to light the wreath and participate in Advent worship.
- Senior High Winter Retreat at Lake Champion – an idyllic winter camp with great facilities for a weekend of Christian growth. It was a joy to attend with nearly 20 youth.
- Music at Abington Children’s Concert- for a standing room only crowd of over 800! The Crusader Choir sang the “Angel Duet” from Hansel and Gretel and John Rutter’s “All Things Bright and Beautiful”.
- Celebrate the Gifts of Women choir

- Youth Talent Show and Silent Auction – a record-breaking year!
- Palm Sunday Children’s processional
- Helping to find children and youth readers for Holy Week
- Easter and the Easter Egg Hunt!
- The Chime and Crusader production of The Lost Boy both at Rydal Park on April 18 and in worship on April 22.
- Seeing more than a dozen APC kids and parent chaperones at the CAPT 24 hour relay!
- 2012-2013 Sunday School recruiting Phone-A-Thon
- Drama Club tableau performance of 1 Samuel as part of worship
- Sunday School party with creative and crazy games including a 200yard water balloon launcher!
- Youth Banquet on June 10 wrapping up and celebrating

This year has been full, if not overflowing, with events and activities that highlight our church’s commitment to Christian Education. The challenge I see before us is to grow our education program with regular attendance, a commitment to learning something new about ourselves and God every year, and the promise to volunteer in some way to nurture these programs. The momentum has started- the glitch in the program is only that we want to see more people come to classes and join in the fun. All of our teachers and volunteers pour hours into preparing for each class and event. They do it for the love of Christ and the community that we build when we worship and study. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be part of Christian Education this year!

Ruth Sall
 Interim Director, Christian Education
 Director of Children’s Choirs

MUSIC MINISTRIES
JOHN SALL, DIRECTOR
2011 - 2012

Within this booklet you will find reports from Kathryn Vance, chair of the Worship and Music Council, and Alan Keiter, chair of the Music at Abington Committee. I won't duplicate their report efforts, but rather thank them for their leadership, and refer readers to those highlights.

I first offer my annual note of thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who make APC's music ministries a joy for me personally and professionally and a highlight of our worship and community life. It is an honor and a humbling responsibility to learn of the individual stories of connection to the life and worship of APC which so many of you share with me. From the music of the congregation in singing hymns, to the sounds of the organ, choirs, and handbells which enliven and deepen worship, to the shared experiences of concerts as spiritual nourishment and connection I am blessed to lead music ministries in a place which encourages and values these arts as a part of its identity and expression. So I thank the singers, ringers, parents, spouses, sponsors, worshipers, and listeners who are all are part of this ministry which it is my continued joy to participate in, to lead, and to enjoy with you.

I am equally grateful to share the leadership of these ministries with colleagues who are called to share their professional talents and demanding standards in service of Christ through leadership in this church. Ruth Ideen-Sall, Ethel Geist, Janet Tebbel, and Allison Love (student accompanist for the Chime Choir) have provided APC with leadership and shared ministry for which I am personally thankful.

Two particular aspects of music and ministry have been forefront in my concern, imagination, and responsibility this year. The commitment of the this year's Chapel Youth Choir to making the once-new and now-familiar schedule of worship/choirs a success is inspiring. This is a testament to parents, teachers, and adult singers who have supported, affirmed, and welcomed this schedule and shared responsibility in part, but it is thanks in particular to leadership shown in the choir this year by a group of faithful seniors who have been a treasured and rare gift as a class. The other focus of music ministry this season has been the recognition of the 40th Anniversary Season for Music at Abington. For many outside of the APC congregation this might signal community commitment or the stability of leadership, volunteerism, and support. For me, this marks those truths, but also serves to witness to the vision of APC in creating a model for musical and worship leadership that continues to serve the congregation and the community in familiar and novel ways. The support for the creativity, professionalism, and community involvement of APC through music is evident in the 1,000 carolers who come to listen and sing at Christmas by Candlelight, the over 700 attendees at this year's children's concert, the participation of 200 volunteers in making music, the outreach of 40 youth and adults on the choir mission and music trip to Washington, D.C., and especially in the heartfelt, spiritual, joyful, somber, and prayerful music of worship through the year.

And so as I recently enjoyed in a festival of hymns, I hear the words of the hymn "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" ring through this place and my work here. When the various "choirs" of heaven and all creation join a crescendo of praise we finally hear the reminder that it is "through the church the song goes on." Indeed! To God alone the glory.

In Christ,
John Sall

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

Lifelong Christian Education is a hallmark of the Presbyterian Church and is especially important to the life and work of Abington Presbyterian Church. This year has been an especially exciting year as we moved into our second year of change in our worship schedule. We continue to design and implement new Adult Education programs as we further the mission of the Christian Education Council which is to provide quality Christian Educational opportunities for the Children, youth, and adults of the Abington Presbyterian Church and the surrounding Community. We use as a guideline the plan for Ministry to encourage "Bible-based education opportunities for Christian nurturing for all ages." The Council is divided into five Committees: Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Adult Education, Library, and Child Development.

The Christian Education Council of Abington Presbyterian Church exists to:

- Equip children, youth and adults with an expanding knowledge of the Christian faith.
- Provide the Church Community with the opportunity to explore what it means to be "Christ in our time."
- Cultivate a desire to reach out to, welcome, affirm, and love every individual as Christ first loved us.

Youth Ministry Committee: Julie Arndt chairs this Committee. This group oversees the Christian Educational programming and Ministry offerings for youth in grades 7-12 including the Confirmation class, Junior and Senior High Dialogue, Fellowship, retreats, mission projects and fundraising projects including the successful Youth Talent Show and Auction. The educational opportunities for youth are varied, youth in grades 7th through 12th are encouraged to come to Church School in the morning and then join together in the afternoon for Youth Fellowship. The Junior High Church School again this year used the "LinC: Living in Christ" curriculum published by Cokesbury that involves on-line features. The Senior High Class also used "LinC" along with "The Thoughtful Christian" from the Westminster John Knox Press and "Videos that Teach". The Confirmation class again used "Professing Our Faith" from the "We Believe Series" of the Presbyterian Church USA. Youth attendance has been consistent with past years with 8-12 Junior High Students at Sunday school and about the same number of High School Students participating in Senior High Dialogue. Youth Fellowship had an increase in attendance this year with 20-25 kids each week.

The Confirmation Class had 12 confirmands start the program and 10 finish and confirmed on June 3, 2012. The Class service project this year was putting together "spring break packs" for inner city kids. The Class participated in the Heifer Project by raising money and also raised \$590.00 during the "Souper Bowl for Caring on" Super Bowl Sunday with the money going to Philabundance. Youth Retreats were successful this past year with the "All Youth" Fall retreat themed "Sanctuary" at Refreshing Mountain attended by 33 youth and 5 adults. The Winter retreat was held in January for Senior High's at Lake Champion with twenty kids in attendance. Nine Junior High kids participated in their Winter retreat also held at Lake Champion in February.

Youth Fellowship has had a busy year; the youth participated in a "Crop Walk" in October and prepared and shipped over 50 "Care Packages" for APC college students around the country in December. The kids went to Rydal Park and sang Christmas carols in December and participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King "Day of Service" in January at West Kensington Ministries by setting up a nursery.

Fundraising continues to be a significant goal of this Committee and once again had a successful year. The Applebee's Pancake fundraiser was a success with over \$1000 raised for the Wendy Garbutt Fund. A "Parents Night Out" was held in December with APC youth providing babysitting at the Church on a Sunday afternoon so parents could do Christmas shopping. The major fundraising event this year was the APC Youth Talent Show and Silent Auction in March which was a huge success with \$1,650.00 in ticket sales and \$3929.00 raised in the silent auction for a total of \$5,579.00 which surpassed last year's total and is a new record! The proceeds will be used to reduce the total individual expenses of APC members going on the Guatemala trip this summer.

Children's Ministry Committee: Joanne Maransky chairs this Committee. This group is responsible for the educational programming and ministry offerings for children from nursery school age through the 6th grade. It is important that our children begin their educational experiences early in life and therefore we begin our Christian Education Ministry at APC at age 30 months. Michele Feil is the Sunday School Superintendent this year. This Committee is responsible for the recruitment of teachers and shepherds and other positions of leadership for the Sunday school which divided into Nursery and 3-4 year olds, Kindergarten through 4th grade, and Bible study for 5th and 6th graders. The Committee continued to struggle with the recruitment of sufficient teachers for coverage of all the classes. The current teaching teams will be encouraged to continue next year and a teacher/shepherd recruitment bulletin board has been put up in the hallway to attract new folks. A recruitment phonathon was held in May. The Workshop Rotation Model, which reinforces the Bible stories in a variety of settings and allows for a broad range of children's learning styles, was used for the tenth year. The 5th and 6th grade Bible study had increased attendance this year averaging over 20 children attending each week. The younger age classes have not been as well attended and we may have to combine sections in the future.

APC PresbyKids, in its second year, had increased attendance this year with 7-9 children participating. This program is designed for children ages 5-12 to learn together in alternative ways they would not necessarily experience in Church school while their parents attend adult education classes. Club@ APC continued this year as an after-school, Wednesday afternoon ministry for children in grades 3-6 and involves homework, play, music, and refreshments.

Our Children participated in the "Heifer Project" in the Fall and collected over \$700.00 that will be used to purchase farm and stock animals for those in need in Third World and developing nations around the globe. Third grade students were presented with their Bibles during the 10am service on November 20th. The Easter egg hunt was a success with over 60 children participating and lots of picture taking. Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 18th through June 22nd and will be run by Ruth Sall and Lori McMahan with the assistance of youth volunteers. The curriculum to be used is from Sparks House and the theme this year will be water - Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, etc. The Annual Noah's Arts Camp for Kids will be held July 9th through July 13th. This program is for rising 1st through 6th grade students. John and Ruth Sall will be again running this program.

Adult Education Committee: Lee Bowie chairs this Committee. Adult Education opportunities are vast and interesting at our Church. The second year of the new Sunday schedule continued to give us the unique opportunity to focus on and expand Adult Education. The 8:45am Adult Education classes presented many choices for our adults to grow in their faith, educate themselves both in Biblical understanding as well as Christian views in the world.

Dr. Stephen King continued his interesting and exhaustive examination of the Books of the Torah this past year. His knowledge, work, and teaching of the Old Testament are a true gift for our Congregation. After completing study of the Book of Genesis last year, Dr. Kim's Bible Study class focused on the Book of Exodus in the Fall and in the spring he continued his Torah Bible study with a review of the Book of Leviticus.

Adult Forum in the Fall started with an inter-generational dialogue between our youth and adults titled "Building a Christian Community". Our High School Dialogue Class joined Adult Forum in this module led by Alice Price. The sessions were energetic and were well attended averaging 12 youth and 36 adults. Pastor Norrie taught a month long course titled "The Historical Development of the Devil" in which he examined the historical development of the devil's place in Christian tradition and thought. In the Spring Pastor Norrie taught a class on Communion Practices for Presbyterians and he teamed up with Pastor Eelman in the Spring to teach a Lenten Adult Forum series. John Sall taught a three week course on Hymns and the Presbyterian Hymnal Project. Julie Wamser taught a Forum class in December on the Christmons or Christian Symbols. Lee Bowie presented a series in January on Economics and Faith as well as a presentation in May on the progress of The Arab Spring in the Middle East.

April Adult Forum had a variety of interesting topics including a presentation by John Miller and Ian Beck on the origins, principles, myths and misconceptions of Freemasonry, and a presentation on the Mormons by a Mormon Bishop the following week. April finished with review of the history, principals of faith, doctrine and current mission of the Swedenborgian Church located in Bryn Athyn.

Other Adult Education opportunities available for our Congregation include Presbyterian Women Circle Groups, the Wild@Heart Men's group, the men's Adult Bible Study, Wednesday in the Word, the Pastor's Bible Study and the Verse by Verse Expository Bible study group.

Library Committee: The Library Committee is responsible for purchasing new books and keeping the library up to date and interesting. We have an extensive collection of children's books as well as a fine collection theological books and resources for adults. The Council remains committed to reinvigorating this Committee because of the historical importance and tradition of the library to our Church and the need for library services for our Congregation. Accordingly, we have met with folks we have agreed to serve on the Library Committee and project having it in place in September.

Child Development Committee: Justin Feil chairs this Committee. The Committee serves as the liaison between the Church and the Abington Presbyterian Church Nursery School and oversees the needs and improvements for the Nursery School. The enrollment of the weekday School under the direction of Barbara Foy remained full again this year. The School continues to be in good financial standing and improvements and upgrades to School facilities are made from the School's reserve funds and benefit the entire Church community. This year the School spent almost \$10,000 in improvements including updating the downstairs playgroup room, fencing in the smaller playground and purchasing new tables, chairs, and a large area rug. The Committee has planned and gotten Session approval to have children's and maternity sale/fundraiser in the near future. The sale will raise money for scholarships for families of the School who may need financial assistance.

Summary: This past year was transitional year for the Christian Education Council with Pastor Scott Nowack, our Youth minister, leaving after many years of service to our Church. However, with the addition of Ruth Sall as the Interim Christian Education Director, and with her energy, commitment and guidance, this Council had a successful year and accomplished most of our goals we set for ourselves.

Respectfully submitted,
David B. Webb, Chair, Christian Education Council

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

The Congregational Life Council has oversight for a number of committees relating to congregational needs and welfare. It is committed to providing opportunities for fellowship and integrating new members into our faith family.

The Committee for Older Adults has played a very significant role in arranging many activities including overseeing Older Adult Sunday, the delivery of poinsettias at Christmas and tulips at Easter, the successful pot pie sales (which benefit the sanctuary sound system), a Christmas party at Rydal Park and visitations and birthday cards to the shut-ins.

The Memorial Gifts Committee continues to function in effectively using memorial gifts according to the wishes of the family of a deceased loved one to fulfill needs of the church. Recently funds went to improve the landscaping around the church. The outdoor pulpit area will be replanted and the cherry trees pruned along with our other plants and bushes. In general, funds have been used to upgrade church facilities.

Presbyterian Women hosted an event at Ten Thousand Villages in Chestnut Hill whereby they would receive 15% of their sales. The monies generated were donated to the PW local synod project, Root International. In spring a PW retreat was held which was well attended. Monies raised from "Celebrating Gifts of Women" Sunday were donated to Church World Service. They have plans to redecorate the nursery before the 300th anniversary celebration.

The 300th Anniversary Committee is meeting to plan an exciting and eventful 300th anniversary celebration.

A Fellowship Committee has been formed to have several pot luck luncheons this year to promote social interaction. The dates are February 26th and Nov. 4th. A pot luck dinner was successfully added to the Advent Fair in December.

New Member Luncheons have been enjoyed by the 30 new members who have joined the church since July.

The Grief Support Group continues to meet monthly, which is led by Pastor Christie Bruce.

The cost of the Inspire was significantly reduced by distributing thru e-mail rather than the US Postal Dept.

It has been determined that the time is right for a new church photo directory, and plans are being made to that end.

Dianne Faust, Chair
Congregational Life Council

BOARD OF DEACONS 2011 - 2012

Acts 1: 1-6 The Choosing of the Seven

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The Board of Deacons consist of 32 members - thirty adults and two youth deacons, who were elected by the congregation and have answered the call to serve by endeavoring to be "Christ in our time." We have the responsibility to tend to a parish - one of thirty districts in which our church family has been divided. The Deacons are at the forefront of pastoral care for the APC congregation, so when a parishioner is faced with challenging times, the Deacons respond with cooked meals, phone calls, emails, visits, and/or greeting cards of encouragement, sympathy, or well wishes.

This past church year we endeavored to strengthen "the tie that binds" by reaching out to our church family. We advertised who we are by hosting an information table at Homecoming, placed Deacon of the Week blurbs in the Sunday bulletins, and hosted Deacon Donut Sundays in Fellowship Hall during October and November.

Two Deacon Blood Drives took place this year, in October and in March; 40 pints of blood from each drive were received to help our local chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Deacons helped needy families in our community by offering 39 Food Baskets for the Thanksgiving Holiday in November and 30 baskets for the Easter holiday in April. Each Deacon Food Basket feeds a family of four for a week.

The Deacons were kept busy during the Christmas Season. Christmas cards, which included a donation to the Heifer Organization, were mailed to every APC family; our families joined us in singing Christmas carols to the Rydal Park Medical residents, and several of the Deacons assisted the Older Adults Committee with delivering poinsettias to the sick, bereaved and homebound. The Board of Deacons also coordinated with the Mission Council in assisting the needy in Abington to ensure a blessed Christmas by offering holiday meals and gift cards.

The deacons continued to participate in the schedule of delivering flowers after Sunday Worship to the sick and homebound. We also assisted the Older Adults Committee with delivering tulips at Easter time.

The Food Closet provides nourishment year-round for those community members who come to our door in need. When appropriate, gift cards to local food stores and Septa tokens are distributed at the discretion of the church office.

The Board of Deacons provided support for the upcoming Mission Trip to Guatemala in two ways: a scholarship fund was established to provide financial support to those church members needing

assistance to participate, and \$1,000 worth of vitamins were donated for distribution by the Guatemalan Health Center.

The Board of Deacons will continue to offer Christian summer camp scholarships, which are for \$200 per child and are non need-based.

Pastors Brent and Jack were in attendance at our monthly meetings to offer direction, encouragement and training in developing ministry skills.

The Board of Deacons, as congregational caregivers, are "the hands and feet" of APC. We are called to an office of compassion and care; ours is a ministry of presence - all to God's glory. Yet the Board fully depends upon and deeply appreciates the congregation's support which ensures a successful ministry.

The Board of Deacons humbly request three things:

- Connect with us. When your deacon leaves a message, please return the call. Join us for Homecoming and the Deacon Donut Sundays in the fall. If you are unsure of who your deacon is, please contact one of the moderators.
- Donate. Especially during these challenging economic times, continued donations of store gift cards and pantry items for the Food Closet make this ministry possible.
- Pray for us. As the earliest disciples prayed over the first deacons of the church, your prayers offer support and encourage us to "be full of the Spirit and wisdom."

Grace and peace,

Don Brooks & Kathleen Zimmerman
Co-moderators 2011-2012

EVANGELISM COUNCIL
2011 - 2012

The Evangelism Council wishes to express its gratitude to the tireless work of Barry Rowland. Each week, Barry goes through the list of visitors to our worship service and personally visits each new visitor, taking a packet of information as well as a fresh loaf of bread. When Barry is out of town, Shirley and Jack Waters perform this task. Their work has resulted in **38 new members** in the past year; (from June 2011 – May 2012). The Evangelism Council has held 6 New Member Classes during this time. We are also grateful to Katherine Brown and Cindy Miller for their assistance with these classes.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Keiter
Rick Bruce

MISSION COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

Mission Council Purpose:

- Direct funds to support PC (USA) mission work through the General Assembly, Synod of the Trinity and Philadelphia Presbytery.
- Direct funds to support local Presbyterian outreach programs: West Kensington Ministry at Norris Square (WKM), Presbyterian Children's Village, Mediation Network in Northern Ireland, and other selected local programs: Interfaith Housing Alliance, Citizens and Police Together (C.A.P.T.), Face to Face and Hearts in Motion.
- Receive special PC (USA) offerings: Christmas Joy and One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Respond to disaster relief, foreign and domestic, which we currently do through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).
- Raise mission awareness and coordinate mission activities at APC.
- Investigate and promote hands-on mission opportunities.

Investigate and Promote Hands-On Mission Opportunities.

We have continued our support of West Kensington Ministry at Norris Square. Many of our members perform various maintenance jobs and light construction projects to help restore this church which is serving a vital need in this neighborhood.

Georgene and Chad Pilling continue to function as members of the Covenant at WKM.

Our support of the **Interfaith Housing Alliance** ministry peaks in December when APC volunteers offer a week of home-cooked meals, child care, companionship and overnight duty to the families who stay at the Supplee Presbyterian Church, in Oreland, PA., until more permanent accommodations are available.

Special thanks to Jack Waters who has organized and led this very important outreach mission project for many years.

Lisa Goetz-Spitko has been working hard this year to coordinate a major mission trip to Guatemala. In June, 44 APC volunteers will go to Gualan in Guatemala to volunteer for a week at the Hearts in Motion center which serves the nutrition and medical needs of the very poor local population. Over the last few years APC has built the Nutrition center for H.I.M. and helped out in many ways including financial and hands-on. APC members such as Lisa, Georgene Pilling along with many others have traveled to Guatemala to help H.I.M. serve its mission. Also helping the Mission Council support the trip to Guatemala in 2012 has been the Women's Association through the Silent Auction; The Youth through the Talent Show and a Car Wash; The Stewardship Committee through Quizzo, the Deacons donating funds for medical supplies; anonymous supporters and the mission volunteers themselves. Many Abington Presbyterians have had a hand in this mission outreach to H.I.M. in Guatemala.

Raise Mission Awareness at APC.

Respond to Disaster Relief, foreign and domestic. Over the past year, APC mission dollars were sent through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** to Japan for the nuclear plant disaster, Tuscaloosa for tornado damage, the Philippines for typhoons, to Sudan for refugee relief, tornado assistance in Ohio and flood damage in Missouri among a number of other gifts toward disaster relief.

Thanks to Alan Keiter for monitoring PDA needs, and for his guidance on where APC Mission Council support is needed most.

We continue with our support to the **Mediation Network in Northern Ireland** through PC(USA) mission worker, Doug Baker, who has visited APC a couple of times in the past. His peacekeeping work involves the development of honest relationships and interactive dialog between political authorities, church leaders and also the people of various backgrounds in the communities of Northern Ireland.

We are very moved by the wonderful work we have been able to support through of the Presbyterian Education Fund. We thank Joyce McCormick for maintaining a strong relationship with Vida Jarvaid the head of Presbyterian Education in Pakistan. The Fund educates the poorest of the poor in Pakistan. They run a school for girls who would otherwise have no education. Additionally they have built an excellent reputation among Muslims who now want their daughters to attend the school. Now Christian and Muslim children are going to school together and beginning to socialize. Another way in which APC is helping people and bringing them closer together.

Direct Funds to Support Local Presbyterian Outreach Programs and Global Mission Needs as They Arise.

Funds from the Mission Council budget are directed to support ongoing Presbyterian programs: West Kensington Ministry at Norris Square, Presbyterian Children's Village, and Mediation Network in Northern Ireland. Funding was also directed to other selected local programs: Citizens and Police Together, Interfaith Housing Alliance, Face to Face, Hearts in Motion and the Presbyterian Education Fund.

In December 2011, APC Mission Council funds were directed to **Citizens and Police Together (CAPT)**. These funds were used by the Abington Police Department to help provide two families with heating oil and 26 families with food and toys.

In May 2012, Mission Council funds helped support the annual **CAPT 24-Hour Relay Weekend**. APC support helps finance programs of anti-violence, anti-drug, DARE, and other programs for the youth of Abington Township.

Mission Council recognizes Jean Coe, not only as our APC "liaison" to CAPT, but for her dedication and commitment to each of the CAPT activities.

We continue to maintain a relationship with Presbyterian Children's Village and support them financially. We thank Ruth and Bill Miller for keeping that relationship relevant and strong.

Special Presbyterian Church (USA) Offerings.

During our 2012 ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** (OGHS) campaign, we set a stretch goal of \$15,000. The OGHS fund is a major source of funding through which the Presbyterian Church supports its three major mission focuses: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. OGHS funds enable quick assistance to those affected by natural disasters and political upheaval. Much to our delight and a tribute to the generosity of this congregation, we came very close to our goal with a total of \$14,050!

Mission Council extends very special thanks and recognition to Ruth and Bill Miller for organizing creative and successful OGHS campaigns over the past several years.

The Mission Council wants to extend its sincere thanks to the Abington Presbyterian Church congregation for supporting the special offerings, the mission budget through generous stewardship, the fundraising requests and the hands-on mission projects.

And thanks to those who committed their time and efforts to serve on the Mission Council over the past year: Jean Coe, Reverend Brent Eelman, Alan Keiter, Joyce McCormick, Bill and Ruth Miller, Georgene Pilling, Joe Porter and Jack Waters.

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Pilling, Chair
Mission Council

MUSIC AT ABINGTON COMMITTEE 2011 - 2012

The 40th season of Music at Abington began on October 2, 2011 with a concert for flute and organ by Dr. John Romeri, organist and music director of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, and his son, John Romeri II, flutist. An audience of nearly 90 thoroughly enjoyed the surprising variety of music, remarking about its beauty.

On Friday, October 14, MAA switched gears and featured the Jim Ridl Jazz Quartet, which presented a concert expressing many moods, which included their most recent recording, "Jim Ridl's Blue Corn Enchilada Dreams". The change of pace was greatly enjoyed by everyone, including many new faces which are a welcome addition to the body of MAA concert goers.

The first week of November saw Tim Schwartz along with the Abington Symphony Orchestra bring us the Brahms Violin Concerto, directed by John Sall, as well as other enjoyable music. The audience was thrilled with the technique and expressiveness of the music.

Fall of 2011 concluded with the December 11th Christmas by Candlelight program, featuring the children, youth and adult choirs, orchestra, hand bells and organ. This concert opened with a candlelight procession which has become a tradition at APC. The afternoon and evening performances provided a much anticipated and uplifting entry into the Christmas season for many from our congregation and the community.

The year 2012 started off with a January 28 orchestral children's concert featuring Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf", played by the Abington Symphony Orchestra, and delightfully narrated by Peter Hamlin, who sketched scenes from the story as it unfolded. The concert was thoroughly enjoyed by an audience of over 700 children, parents, and others, which filled the APC sanctuary to overflowing. Enchanting publicity posters distributed to local elementary schools the week before the concert played a large part in attracting interest.

In February, MAA, once again, under the auspices of the American Guild of Organists, provided a series of four Organ Tuesdays, featuring APC's talented musicians as well as musicians from the area: Jonathan Riss, David Clark Little, Tim Evers and Rodney Long. Winter gave us a break this time around and the noon organ concerts were well attended by organ lovers from the surrounding area, who experienced a wide variety of exciting, beautiful and interesting organ literature.

On February 11, MAA held its third special fundraiser concert, "Candlelight Cabaret", which presented a pleasing variety of music and humor, displaying the notable talent within our own church and orchestra as well as from the local area. Held once again in our renovated Parish Hall with café style seating and a generous selection of desserts and beverages, this program provided much enjoyment to all as well as another boost to MAA's financial resources.

The annual Memorial Concert was held March 18th, presenting Mozart's Requiem. Excellent work by director John Sall, rehearsing the Oratorio Choir and the Abington Symphony Orchestra to near perfection, produced an excellent result. The audience was swept up by the beautiful performance. A larger than usual Oratorio Choir and a strong dress rehearsal enabled all to perform with confidence.

April 22nd brought a concert of Baroque Beauty, featuring vocalist Katie Young, accompanied by violoncello, oboe and harpsichord. The music, done with great beauty and finesse, brightened up a rainy afternoon for a very appreciative audience of eighty.

On Friday, May 18, the MAA celebrated its 40th Anniversary Season with the Spring Orchestra Concert, conducted by John Sall, which welcomed MAA founder, Stan Powell, who came up from the Atlanta area to join this event. One special feature of this concert was playing several pieces requested by the MAA audience who sent in their preferences earlier in the season. The opening “Canticle of Praise” by the Oratorio Choir was followed by Handel’s Organ Concerto No. 13, F Major, “Cuckoo and Nightingale” with Ethel Geist on the organ musically conversing with the orchestra, and producing many cuckoos with the organ’s flute stops. Not much later, Stan Powell stepped up to the podium and conducted the orchestra and choir in “How Lovely is thy Dwelling Place” from Brahms “A German Requiem”. Not long after the intermission, Ruth Ideen sang “Knoxville Summer of 1915”, by Samuel Barber. Then came the “Willow Grove Suite”, a commissioned work by a local composer, Peter Hilliard, who was again with us as the orchestra performed it. This work commemorates the 300th anniversary of the founding of Willow Grove, and photos of Willow Grove’s history were projected on the front walls of the sanctuary, synchronized with the music, to tell the story. The concert ended with the Oratorio Choir singing Aaron Copland’s “The Promise of Living”. The concert was followed by a reception in the Parish Hall, with a large cake commemorating the MAA 40th anniversary, with Stan Powell having a good time meeting up with friends who knew him from years past.

A fitting end to a great season was provided by three concerts in early June featuring chamber music of Brahms and Friends, played by violinist Kate Ransom and cellist Lawrence Stomberg, with piano accompaniment by Neal Kurtz, Anthony Sirianni or Read Gainsford. A wide variety of music by Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann and Neils Gade was expertly performed with great expression, technique and nuance to three very appreciative audiences.

Music at Abington, a self-supporting community outreach of APC, continues to provide an interesting and entertaining schedule of concerts of high quality thanks to the generosity our regular donors and the free-will offerings. Also, John Sall was again able to obtain additional support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts Program Stream Fund, which amounts to about 6% of our annual budget. This and the funds gained by the February fundraiser concert have enabled us to finally restore our financial operating reserve to a comfortable operating level.

It has been an enjoyable and exciting year for Music at Abington. John Sall has again led us through a most rewarding season, giving us the opportunities to explore new and different musical experiences. We look eagerly to the upcoming 41st season, when a special June fundraiser event is being planned. We thank the staff, the Worship and Music Council, and members of the congregation for their support, whether it be van drivers, ushers, offering counters, dinner servers, financial supporters or attendance at the concerts. And special thanks is given to the members of the Music at Abington committee who have served over the past year – George Bihn, Larry Coe, Carol Gabay, Ethel Geist, Karen Hoyle, Grace Karschner, Bernice Keebler, Katherine Love, Linda Maisenhelder, John Sall and Shirley Waters.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Keiter, Chair
Music at Abington Committee

**PERSONNEL COUNCIL
2011 - 2012**

No Report Submitted



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF APC 2011 - 2012

Presbyterian Women – Purpose: For given and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for peace and justice, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s Kingdom.

The year began with participation in Homecoming Sunday in September and provided an opportunity for women to become familiar with the circles and groups and activities for PW.

The Presbyterian Women (PW) of Abington Presbyterian Church (APC) participated in a variety of projects to support our mission endeavors. On November 29, 2011, a fundraiser was held at Ten Thousand Villages in Chestnut Hill. Proceeds from this community event yielded \$361.83 to support Roots International, the Synod of the Trinity project for 2012.

Two mission projects were undertaken to support Church World Service. During this past spring, PW completed 60 school kits. This almost doubled the number of kits that we contributed last year. The kits are valued at \$780.00 plus an additional \$120.00 was donated for shipping. This project totaled \$900.00. The Blankets+ Mission Drive held on Mother’s Day yielded \$1,475.00 and the proceeds have been forwarded to Church World Service.

The mission activities mentioned above are in addition to money that is given to PW Churchwide toward General Mission (\$1000.00), Thank Offering (\$182.50), Birthday Offering (\$22.00), and Least Coin (\$15.00). The sale of note cards continued this year. We were able to break even. Any additional money will go toward mission. Money was also given to the Deacons for a food basket (\$40.00). Coats, toys, and Christmas gifts were collected for the children at Presbyterian Children’s Village. This was a joint endeavor with the Mission Council.

The annual Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday occurred on March 25, 2012. Several women participated in this service. The Theme of the sermon was “The Story of Hagar.”

Two PW events were held and all women of APC were invited to attend. Attendance at the catered fall luncheon was limited due to the fall snow. An intergenerational Pottery Painting event was held in June to replace the mother-daughter dinner.

The circles and groups have had a busy and productive year. Sarah Circle, Dorcas Circle, and Ruth-Rebekah Circle have studied the Horizons Bible Study on “Confessing the Beatitudes.” Ruth-Rebekah Circle is disbanding due to the decreased size of the group. The remaining members are invited to join other circles. Amy Gould has been the group leader for eleven years. Irma Yerkes has been the Bible study leader. Dorcas Circle had an end of year annual dinner outing. Sarah Circle ended their year with a potluck dinner at Barbara Miller’s home.

Miriam Circle discussed "Compassion and Justice" in the fall and saw the film on Nicholas Winton, discussed Compassion (Luke 6: 27-38), and the Final Judgment, Life After Death (Revelations 22). "Troubling Texts: What do they mean? Why are they in the Bible?" was the theme beginning in

January. The following topics were discussed: The Measure of Worthiness; the Grace of God (John 14: 1-7), Mistrust and Imperfect Peace; the Mizpah Benediction (Genesis 31: 44-55), Vengeance and Forgiveness (Genesis 34 and Mathew 5: 38-48), The Flood; God's Judgment and Grace, and Homosexuality (Leviticus 18: 22 and Acts 8: 26-40)

Sophia Circle discussed the following topics: immigration, the Apostle's Creed, gendered language, archaeology and the Old Testament Part I and II, Genesis, and the Book of Susanna. They visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art and viewed the "Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus" exhibit. A discussion followed at Polly Shaffer's home about the "Images of Jesus in Art."

MYKids had a children's book exchange and sharing of favorite books, held their annual pumpkin carving, had a fun night of Bunco, attended the Healthy/Easy Cooking For Kids class at the Giant Food Market, had a potluck dinner and holiday gathering with spouses, had a plant exchange and discussion by horticulturalist Lisa Barton, had a potluck planning dinner meeting, and end of year family picnic and barbecue at Fort Washington State Park's Militia Hill Pavilion.

The Book Group discussed To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, The Cookbook Collector by Allegra Goodman, One Hundred Names for Love by Diane Ackerman, Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks, and the 9/11 novel Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foier. Future books will include: The Sense of Ending by Julian Barnes, The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson, Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand, and Still Alice by Lisa Genova.

Women's Fellowship held monthly meetings in members' homes. They also had their annual joint meeting with MYKids.

Julie Wamser represented APC at the annual World Day of Prayer held on March 4, 2012 (the first Friday in March). A lunch was served at 12:00 noon and the program began at 1:00 PM. The women of Malaysia wrote the service. Grace Presbyterian in Jenkintown was the host church this year.

With the assistance of Polly Shaffer the PW Bylaws have been revised.

The Synod of the Trinity presented a Leadership Enhancement workshop at the Philadelphia Presbytery office on March 17, 2012. The PW Moderator, Joyce McCormick, and Moderator Elect, Donna Hoffman of APC attended the informative program.

The PW of the Presbytery of Philadelphia conducted three gatherings. The fall gathering was held at APC on October 22, 2011. Suzanne Herger, Moderator of PWPP, spoke on "Exploring Africa." The Mission Luncheon Gathering on December 4, 2012 was held at the Oxford Presbyterian Church. The Annual Spring Gathering was held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on April 28, 2012. Rev. Jane DeFord, the Donegal Presbytery Global Exchange Partner, spoke on her experiences in India.

A Special Day of Prayer and Reflection was held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on March 27, 2012. Gernot Candolini, from Austria, a photographer, labyrinth designer, and author of Labyrinths: Walking Toward the Center shared his extensive knowledge on the Labyrinth with PW. Several women from APC attended this event and the gatherings.

As a project for the 300th Anniversary of APC, PW would like to remodel the nursery. A detailed plan facilitated by Ilene Fey has been developed and approved by the Session. It is in the process of being discussed with various applicable committees of APC. Fundraising will be involved based on the approval of the Session.

The PW Churchwide Gathering will be held from July 18-22, 2012 in Orlando, FL. The theme is "The River of Hope." Thousands of women from all over the world will come together to worship, learn, share, and build relationships.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce H. McCormick,
Moderator of PW at APC

RESOURCE COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

Introduction

The Resource Council is responsible for the stewardship of the tangible property and financial assets of the church. The Council is divided into four major committees: Budget and Finance, Property, Technology, and Endowment. The Property Committee is composed of several sub-committees: Facilities, Organ, Corner House, Cemetery, and Landscape. The Endowment Committee is composed of two sub-committees: Investments and Planned Giving.

The Council members include three ruling elders assigned to the Council by Session. The Elders currently assigned to the Council are: Joan Lane, Lynn Seeholzer (Treasurer) and Peter Johnson (Chair). The Property and Budget and Finance Committees meet monthly on the second Monday and Tuesday of the month, respectively. The Technology Committee and Planned Giving Sub-Committee meet as needed, and the Investment Sub-Committee meets quarterly.

The activities of each of the committees for the past program year follows:

Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for monitoring income and expenses for all funds of the Church. The Committee prepares the Annual Operating Budget, which is approved by the Session and reports to the Congregation. The approval of the budget transfers authority to each Council to expend funds for the purposes so designated.

The 2012 budgeting process was initiated in October, 2010 when each Council prepared a preliminary budget and presented it to the Committee for review. The Committee considered each request on a line item basis and compared the total preliminary expense amounts to income estimates received from the Stewardship Council. Based on the income projections, expense budgets were reduced until there was a balance between income and expenses. The 2012 Operating Budget is based on a minor decrease in income below the amount that was actually received in 2011.

Preparation of budgets and management of expenses have been challenging during the past five years, partly because there have been no transfers from the Property Endowment Fund to pay for necessary maintenance expenses, causing significant delays in addressing long-term maintenance needs. We have been able to perform necessary emergency repairs, such as roof leaks. The 2007-2008 stock market meltdown negated any transfers for 2008 through 2011. In addition, giving by members decreased for two years until 2010 and 2011, when increases were recorded in each year. The end result of these occurrences has been reductions in staffing (including professional staff and clergy) and expenditures to match income amounts, with the goal of having a minimal impact on the programs and initiatives that add value to the Church's multiple initiatives. We believe that we have achieved those goals, because our members have responded with increased financial support and volunteer support. In 2012, for the first time in four years, the Property budget will receive income from the Endowment Fund, all of which will be committed to repairs.

Property Committee

The Property Committee is responsible for the overseeing and maintaining of the physical plant of the church. The church owns and maintains two properties on Old York Road in Abington Township. On the east side of York Road is the church cemetery (1.277 acres). Funds for the

maintenance of cemetery come from the Cemetery Fund. On the west side of York Road are the church buildings sitting on a 3.67 acre site. The building includes the Sanctuary, Parish House, Education Building, Corner House and garage. Funds to repair and maintain the Corner House come from the Manse Fund. The funds to maintain the remaining property and facilities come primarily from Operating Income (giving by members). Income from the Property Endowment Fund is used to support repairs, long-term maintenance and upgrades to the Church's facilities. The Tuesday Morning Group (volunteers) provides invaluable service to the maintenance of the church facility.

Facilities: The Facilities Sub-Committee is charged with overseeing the three main church buildings (Sanctuary, Parish House, and Education Building) as well as the general grounds. Highlights of upgrades to facilities and grounds include:

- Parish House projects
- Tree pruning and removal
- Snow removal
- Other routine but necessary work include roof leak repairs, parking lot patching, plumbing fixes, painting, and basic general maintenance. Fortunately, we are blessed with the Tuesday Morning Group which performs a lot of the day to day fixing.

Technology: The Technology Committee encompasses two areas, office technology and the church's web site. John Dwyer is principally responsible for guiding our efforts and keeping the church's computers current and running.

Organ: The organ Sub-Committee is responsible for maintaining the Church's organ. The organ is a 1969 Möller that was reworked in 1995 and is under the direction of Alan Keiter with assistance from John Dwyer for on-going maintenance and care. A comprehensive report was prepared detailing the work necessary to maintain the organ setting the ground work for a fund drive to complete the work.

Corner House: The Corner House Sub-Committee is responsible for maintaining and restoring the Corner House. Since 1990, the church has made an effort to maintain the Corner House while preserving its historical integrity. Throughout the year, general miscellaneous exterior, electrical and plumbing repairs were made to the house. The corner house shutters were repaired by the Tuesday Morning Group and are in the process of being re-installed.

Cemetery: The Cemetery Sub-Committee is responsible for maintenance and care of the church cemetery.

Landscape: The Landscape Sub-Committee is responsible for church property landscaping. The main activities include planting flowers around the sanctuary and Corner House, trimming the bushes, and overseeing tree work. Lawn maintenance is done by an outside contractor. Every spring the committee plants the flowers and throughout the summer months, waters and weeds.

Endowment Committee

The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to provide for a comprehensive approach to developing the church's financial resources for the future. The committee has two sub-committees, Investment and Planned Giving.

Investment: The Investment Committee is responsible for managing the investments that comprise the church's financial assets. In 1993, the church consolidated all its investments into a Common Investment Portfolio (CIP). The CIP functions like a mutual fund, where each church fund owns shares in the CIP. The purpose of the CIP was to improve overall asset management and make consistent the investment performance of each of the church funds. The Investment Sub-committee's primary concern is the management of the CIP. Ralph McDevitt serves as our outside advisor and reports quarterly to the Sub-Committee on the performance of the CIP.

The Investment Committee is responsible for monitoring the CIP account via an Investment Policy approved by Session, and reports to the Session at least once per year on investment performance. Adjustments to this policy can be made if results do not coincide with risk tolerance or expectations. The Session reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.

The committee members are Peter Johnson, Bob Harbison, Jeff Henning, Jack Lowe, John Miller, David Rowland, Lynn Seeholzer (Chair), Buck Rose, Pat Drudy, and Dave Furchner.

Planned Giving: The Planned Giving Sub-Committee is responsible for planning and structuring a program of long-term giving for members of the congregation.

Conclusion

I am grateful to all those who have dedicated themselves to this Council and its work. I want to recognize and thank Elder and Treasurer Lynn Seeholzer, APC Financial Administrator Anne O'Shea, and APC Business and Facilities Manager Gary Koch, for their dedication and efforts to keep APC functioning and flourishing.

Peace and Grace,

Peter Johnson, Chair
Resource Council

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

The Stewardship Council continues its mission of supporting the time, talents and treasures of its members at Abington Presbyterian Church. Much of the Stewardship activities are related around planning and executing the annual Stewardship campaign and supporting our operating budget.

The council would like to thank everyone who supported the 2012 Budget Campaign. This year we delivered three different mailings which in many ways successfully impacted the receiving of our commitment cards. We also included our financial results each week in the bulletin during the month after Commitment Sunday. These activities we believed helped increase the number of our Financial commitments for 2012 higher than 2011. We also had another great year of support for the Endowment Campaign. These activities greatly helped Abington Presbyterian Church prepare for the 2012 budget.

Abington Presbyterian Church continues to be challenged by our limited financial resources. The Council continues to encourage members to contribute to the Endowment Fund which would alleviate the building maintenance from our operating funds. Our "Leave a Legacy of Love" brochure is available for anyone. At this time, members have not notified Abington Presbyterian Church that they have included a bequest to our church which prompted our latest mailing.

The Stewardship Council also held our 3rd Annual Quizzo event. This year our event helped support the Guatemala Mission Trip. This trivia experience is a great time to fellowship with new and existing members.

Abington Presbyterian Church is blessed by an active membership which supports its wonderful mission to serve Christ. At the same time, we are financially challenged with limited or decreasing financial resources. When our membership gets involved, we make a difference.

Richard Wysocki, Chairperson
Stewardship Council

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

We continue to use some of our meeting time to study current topics related to worship. This year these topics have included the significance of Christmas and Easter Decorations (from which a pamphlet: Symbolism of Christmas Decorations, was created as a handout at the Advent Fair for the congregation), Church Acoustics, and the upcoming new Presbyterian Church USA Hymnals.

The following Committees report to Worship and Music:

Chancel Guild- Lynda Smyth stepped down from this committee at the end of 2011, and we would like to express thanks to her for her years of dedicated work. Carolyn Koch and Sallie Bowie have volunteered their time and talent to chair this group, and have worked to increase the membership. They have worked very closely with Jean McDevitt to create an operating manual of the many tasks required to maintain the Sanctuary for weekly worship, as well as for special church occasions such as Christmas and Easter. Erma Yerkes has made some artificial flower arrangements for the Narthex, and the Sacristy has been organized and storage has been labeled.

Communion Guild- *Erma Yerkes continues to chair this group. They have a small dedicated group of volunteers who prepare the communion elements and Sally Bowie continues to bake bread for use in the service. Thank you to everyone who volunteers for these important tasks.*

Music at Abington- Alan Keiter continues to chair this committee, and this was another very successful year. Highlights include the Children's Concert (Peter and the Wolf), Christmas by Candlelight, and the 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert, which included participation by Stanley Powell. Attendance has been good and the performances well received both by our own congregation and the larger community.

Music- We have a new director of Hand Bells, Janet Tebbel, and there are choirs for every age group. John Sall provides organizational planning as well as the direction of our Youth and Adult choirs and the Orchestra. Ruth Ideen Sall manages and directs our excellent Children's choirs. The Youth and Adult Choirs continue to provide regular Sunday music leadership. In addition to weekly Sunday music, all the music groups had an excellent season, from the children's production of The Lost Boy, to the Memorial and 40th Anniversary Concerts. We have a strong music program both by long tradition and because of our excellent staff leadership who we appreciate very much!

Organ- We continue to have small but significant mechanical failures of the organ which are repaired by Alan Keiter and John Dwyer, for whom no amount of thanks can be adequate. Ethel Geist continues to provide skilled and exceptional music in spite of the challenges and we are always grateful for her leadership of worship from the organ bench.

Ushers- We are thankful to Barry Roland for his service as our current Captain of the Ushers and to the 43 men and women who comprise the usher teams. The teams of ushers are the first people any visitors meet and are capable representatives of our congregation.

Other Items-

The "APC Refrigerator" replaces the old nametag board. This is a stainless steel magnetic board dedicated to displaying work by children from our Sunday school classes, much as you would put up a child's projects at home.

Ellen Litwin, who made our Baptismal bowl, was commissioned to make new Communion Ware. This will soon be in regular use at both services.

We purchased new artificial Christmas Trees to use in the Sanctuary through Advent and Christmas. These replace the very expensive “half trees” which were made of cut live branches, and were also a fire hazard. The “Greening of the Church” was made a new event at the Advent Fair, which allows members of all ages to participate in the decorating at Christmas. This was a fun and successful activity, which brought the work force needed for us to mount our traditional and new decorations. Taking down the decorations is also another important event in which many hands are needed to make the work possible. We are very grateful for all who participated in these events, and for the way our Congregation pulls together to work as an extended family.

Special thanks to Eric Gildner for another year of his outstanding service as Secretary and all the members of this Council: Sally Bowie, Brent Eelman, Ethel Geist, Alan Keiter, Carolyn Koch, Allison Levine, John Sall, Lynda Smyth, Todd Smyth, and Erma Yerkes.

Kathryn Vance
Chair, Worship and Music Council