



THE  
CHURCH-IN-THE-GARDENS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

50 Ascan Avenue, Forest Hills, New York 11375  
Phone: 718-268-6704 • Fax: 718-268-5477

www.thecitg.org e-mail: admin@thecitg.org

May 8, 2020

Dear Members of The Church-in-the-Gardens,

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! I pray that this letter finds you safe and well.

Due to the pandemic and the Governor's shelter-at-home order, we will gather as a congregation via Zoom, on Sunday, May 17, 2020, to conduct the business of the church at our Annual Meeting. The meeting will begin at approximately 11:15 am following the conclusion of the 10:00 am worship service.

TELEPHONE: Dial +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 799 735 7682 Password: 611374

ONLINE: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/7997357682>  
Meeting ID: 799 735 7682 Password: CITG2020

If you have questions to ask or new business issues to raise during the Zoom sessions, please use the "chat" feature at the bottom of your screen. If you will be a telephone-only participant, please call Janet Frey at 718-847-6863 with your questions or issues and they will be conveyed to the Zoom session.

Enclosed are (1) a copy of the annual reports and financials (sent electronically to those with email contact information), (2) the Officiary (sent electronically to those with email contact information), and (3) a ballot for voting for church officials and members of the church's boards and committees. Please send an email to Jacqui-Marie Russell ([admin@thecitg.com](mailto:admin@thecitg.com)) if you have not received the information via email. **Please vote by marking the ballot and returning it back to the church in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope, postmarked no later than May 20, 2020.** The ballots will be counted by the inspectors of election (tellers) who will be chosen at the Annual Corporate Meeting.

During the meeting, questions will be entertained from members regarding any of the reports, nominations or current situation of the Church. Members may also raise new business issues for discussion. Due to the nature of this virtual meeting, we will either postpone any decisions until an in-person congregational meeting can be held or refer them to the appropriate committee.

We look forward to being with you at the Annual Meeting!

Peace of Christ be with you,

Betty Chen, Clerk

## Table of Contents

### 2020 Annual Reports of The Church-in-the-Gardens

	<u>Page</u>
Book of Life	1
Officiary / Standing Committees	2-3
Trustees	4-5
Deacons	6
Worship and Music	7-8
Board of Christian Education	9
World Service	10
Congregational Update - follow up	
Church Council	11
Stewardship Committee	12
Transformation Team	13
House and Grounds	14
Finance	15
Women's Guild	16
Flower and Chancel	17

**BOOK OF LIFE  
MAY 2019 - APRIL 2020**

**SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS  
for the period May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020**

**MARRIAGES - 1**

**BAPTISMS - 5**

**DEATHS – 4**

**TRANSFERRED FROM INACTIVE MEMBERS TO FORMER  
MEMBERS - 1**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS – 226 (175 Active Members  
and 51 Inactive Members)**

## The Church-in-the-Gardens Officiary 2020-2021

\* Asterisks mark incumbents serving their 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

**Treasurer: Deborah Wible**

**Clerk: VACANCY**

**Assistant Treasurer (Appointed by the Trustees): VACANCY**

**Non-Trustee Member of the CH Board of Governors: Rob Hof**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Until May 2021

Hal Christensen

VACANCY

Glenda Maurer

Tom Hogan

Until May 2022

Daryl Everett

Janet Frey

Tom Webb

Deborah Wible

Until May 2023

**\*Alison Hyslop**

VACANCY

VACANCY

VACANCY

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Until May 2021

\*Rosa Agosto

\*Cassandra Hawkins

**Emely Mufute**

Until May 2022

\*Loretta Campbell

\*Laura Jett

Jack Quinn

Bette Sheets

Until May 2023

**\*Andrea Berta**

**\*Yang Hwang**

**Wendy Wang**

**Adam Wilson**

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Until May 2021

Andrea Berta

Denise Oest

VACANCY

Until May 2022

Penni Mbusi

Better Sheets

Rama Waworuntu

Until May 2023

**Amelia Everett**

VACANCY

VACANCY

### TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT

(Chaired by the Treasurer)

Until May 2021

Tom Hogan

Anne Seeler

Until May 2022

Jim March

VACANCY

Until May 2023

**Alison Hyslop**

VACANCY

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**NOMINATING:** 3 Representatives (one each from Trustees, Deacons, BOCE)

3 Elected Members: Cindy Herendeen to May 2021

VACANCY

VACANCY

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** 1 Representative from each Board and Committee

2 At-Large Members: Jeanne DeYcaza (year 3 – until May 2021)

**Betty Chen** (year 1 – until May 2023)

**FINANCE:** (Chaired by Treasurer): **Tim Evans, Daryl Everett, Cassandra Hawkins, Deborah Wible**

**FLOWER & CHANCEL:** **Judy Allen, Kay Finch, Cindy Herendeen, Suad Khalil, Jackie Stuart**

**HOUSE & GROUNDS:** (Chaired by a Trustee): **German Gutierrez, Glenda Maurer, Barbara Sheri, Bette Sheets, Jackie Stuart**

**LIBRARY & ARCHIVES:** **Cheryl Cuddeback, Jackie Stuart, Rama Waworuntu**

**STEWARDSHIP:** **Joan Barnes, Millicent Fairhurst, Kay Finch, Allen Maurer**

**WORLD SERVICE:** **Betty Chen, Hal Christensen, Liz Christensen, Richard Corson, Chris Craig, Millicent Fairhurst, Yang Hwang, Michael Indergaard, Jim March, Allen Maurer, Barbara Sheri, Wendy Wang, Tom Webb, Adam Wilson**

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** (Chaired by a Deacon): **Dianne Devitt, Harris Ferrell, Cassandra Hawkins, Glenda Maurer, Bette Sheets**

## **CITG Board of Trustees**

### **2020 Annual Report**

**Members:** Alison Hyslop and Hal Christensen (co-chairs), Betty Chen (Clerk), Janet Frey, Daryl Everett, Tom Hogan, Glenda Maurer, Monica Peart, Tom Webb, and Deborah Wible.

This year, like all other aspects of our lives, was divided between pre-CoVid-19 and the social distancing enforced by CoVid-19. We thank God that the Church came together and supported each other during this period of uncertainty and that many of our programs continued throughout this time.

It was our joy and pleasure this year to work with the Pastoral Search Committee and the New York Conference of the UCC and Rev. Marsha Williams in their process of calling Rev. Henry Shoenfield as the designated minister for our Church.

The Trustees continue to work with the congregation to ensure that our Church is on solid financial ground. This is due to the generous pledges of the congregation, the income derived from our facilities including the Manse coupled with close scrutiny of our expenses. In addition, the generous gift from the estate of Catherine Conti, will ensure balanced budgets for the near future. The Treasurer, Deborah Wible, and Assistant Treasurer, Daryl Everett, have worked with our bookkeeper this year to ensure that the Church's financial records are complete and up-to-date. We were pleased to support the UCC with the Christmas offering for Our Church's Wider Mission, the music program with the Thanksgiving Offering, and and the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing with the Easter offering.

This past year, the Nursery School and Pre-K program continued to serve the community and to keep the classrooms lively during the week. The teacher-directors, Carolyn Yasharian and Rebecca Morrell, ensured that the AM and PM Pre-K and AM Nursery classes were full. We also initiated a twos program to increase our visibility in the neighborhood. Recruitment for next year's classes was well underway before March 2020, and the directors are working to continue this process at this time. After in-person classes were halted in mid-March, the teachers continued meeting with their classes remotely and provided lessons and activities for the children. Hal Christensen, Daryl Everett, Janet Frey, and Alison Hyslop worked with the School Directors.

In March, the Church moved to completely remote access; the building was closed and access severely limited. All personnel except Sunny Knable, Jacqui-Maria Russell, Jimmy Whalen, Fei (Grace) Chen (the bookkeeper), Rebecca Morrell, and Carolyn Yasharian were furloughed. All groups that met in the Church building were asked to cease their activities in the building as well.

The Facilities Committee, led by Glenda Maurer, has streamlined and organized the facilities usage policy for the rooms in the building. We clarified and implemented standard fees and practices for the use of our facilities. Before the CoVid-19 shut-down, numerous groups were using the spaces during the week and on weekends, including the Pyung Khang Korean Church, the Counseling Center of the Church-in-the-Gardens, the Boy Scouts, various support groups, Mommy-and-Me classes, and the Garden Players. The Oratorio Society of Queens rents the former Women's Guild's office. When we return to using the buildings, we will work with these groups to resume their activities in a safe manner prescribed by the City.

The House and Grounds Committee, led by Tom Hogan, converted room 204 into the Twos classroom. Anne Seeler worked with a landscape designer to re-landscape the grounds around the Church, using money contributed to the Seeler Memorial Fund.

In consideration of the need for increased security, Tom Hogan, along with Janet Frey, developed a list of security recommendations provided by the New York Police Department. We began new procedures to enhance security throughout our buildings, including specified use of the entrance doors during the school days. To comply with new New York State regulations, the Trustees, led by Monica Peart, continued to implement the sexual-harassment policy and offered related training for staff and church leaders. This policy can be found in the Church office.

The Nominating Committee worked this year to develop the slate for the 2020-2021 Boards and Committees. Tom Webb served as the representative from the Trustees to the Nominating Committee.

We thank all of the Trustees, Deacons, BOCE, and the other committees for their hard work this year. Our church is in a stronger financial position, we move forward with hiring a new minister, and we are encouraged by the support that everyone has given the Church this year.

The Board of Deacons  
The Church In The Gardens  
Annual Meeting  
May 17, 2020

*This year we have:*

- ❖ Continued to work with a small group of pastors as guest ministers; and have held two services every Sunday, including Christmas services and Holy Week and Lent observances. Sunny has been the cornerstone for our worship services
- ❖ Celebrated the baptism sacrament for seven families
- ❖ Held two membership classes and inducted four new members
- ❖ Provided care to members and friends through the support of the Care Committee of the Board of Deacons
- ❖ Deacons Fund eligibility was slightly modified to allow for Care Committee to support friends of the church, while still following the policies and application in place.
- ❖ Revised and updated the Deacons manual to include a revised Liturgist training manual, revisions to the Deacons Fund and serving of communion
- ❖ Update resource list so that we can all have information of resources and organizations to share with those needing help
- ❖ Provided support to the World Service Committee and February and March first Sunday collections were solicited for their mission work
- ❖ Reviewed and voted on membership after sending letters, based on activity and consistent with our bylaws
- ❖ Instituted a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and summer one service schedule to encourage fellowship and other opportunities
- ❖ Successfully and rapidly pivoted to on-line services early March in response to COVID

Members of the Board of Deacons are:

Rosa Agosto, Andrea Berta, Loretta Campbell, Harris Ferrell, Cassandra Hawkins, Yang Oke Hwang, Laura Jett, Emely Mfute, Jack Quinn, Bette Sheets and Jackie Stuart

Jacqui Russell been among our greatest blessing and has a steadfast quiet force in all that we do.

Andrew Mowatt has been a guest in several of our meetings and has led us in prayer



## CITG Worship & Music Annual Report 2019-2020

### **Costs – \$1422**

Piano tunings: \$357

December \$142

February \$142

Piano regulation (partial): \$300

Ringers: \$350 (drummer for 6 dates, September - June)

Supplies: \$15 (music sheets)

Substitute pianist/organist: \$400

December: \$100

August: \$300

### **Income – \$1,100**

Fundraisers:

December "Christmas Oratorio": \$500

February "Cabaret Night": \$600

(April "7 Last Words of Christ")\*

(June TBA)\*

**Net costs as of May 8, 2020 – \$322**

## Membership of the Music Program 2019-2020

CITG Choir, Sunny Knable, Director

Sopranos: Michelle Geosits, Cindy Knauer, Agnes Mbusi\*, Jennifer McDonald\*, Judia Zhao

Altos: Dianne Devitt\*, Francis Ge, Yang Hwang, Glenda Maurer\*

Tenors: Tim Evans\*, Yves Mtabouti

Basses: Jeanne De Ycaza, Adam Wilson \*also vocalists in CITG Praise Band

CITG Praise Band, Sunny Knable, Director

Amelia Turner-Everett, voice; Harris Ferrell and Jeanne De Ycaza, guitar; Manuel Ciordia and Dan Olson, bass; Mike Jett, Keith Maurer, and Brandon Waworuntu, drums

CITG Garden Players Youth Choir, Betina Hershey, Director

Aryana Aquino, Kasandra Aquino, Jazlyn Castro Bilog, Ella Chan, Hudson Chang,

Rose Doonan, Caroline Itskov, Jack Kuniya, Luke Kuniya, Alyssa Lin, Sofia Lobue, James

Lukose, Aria Valentina Montierde, Michael Niyazov, Maria Cecilia Oliveira, Emma Polacik,

Lydian Russo, Seriana Russo, Diego Salas, Isabella Salas, Nicole Selkowe, Lena Siwinski,

Rebekah Summerville, Ella Wanamaker

*A note from Music Director Sunny Knable:*

The 2019-2020 church year for The Church-in-the-Gardens included many fine services as led by a rotating set of part-time Pastors. Despite the different approaches to preaching and some preferences in terms of wording of worship, in my view, the consistency of services was held together by the dedicated members of the Praise Band and Choir (as well as all the work of the boards and committees behind the scenes. The Praise Band continued to meet at 8 am before each 9 am service, practicing 3 praise songs and an offertory piece. The Choir continued to meet on Sundays at 10-11 am for rehearsal on their anthem of the day, then from 12:30-1:30 pm on upcoming anthems. This is in addition to a once-a-month meeting on the first Wednesday of the month which is when the choir has a chance to focus on the whole upcoming season. As the congregation can tell, it is a BIG commitment to be part of the music program at CITG, and this Music Director is very thankful to each and every member for their steady contributions.

Specifically, we had a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. The highlight for me was the performance of excerpts of J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. The individual movements were performed each week leading up to Christmas, and then was performed as a whole on a separate Christmas concert. This concert also included members of the Choir and Praise Band singing special Christmas selections in solos (Agnes' *To God Be the Glory* and Yves' *Ave Maria*), duos (Manuel and Dan's *Bourée in E minor* and Michelle and Jen's *Please Don't Talk About Me*), and a quartet (a memorable rendition of *Jingle Bells* as sung by Tim Evans with his back-singers, Diannc, Michelle and Jen). Jeanne played guitar on *Il est né*; the choir sang it's Bach; the Youth Choir sang beautifully as led by Betina; and the Praise Band led the congregation in rousing versions of Christmas carols. It was a wonderful event which raised \$600 for the church!

Another fundraiser concert was offered by Jen McDonald in the form of a Cabaret Night in February which raised \$500 for the church. The praise band backed up Jen while she sang her heart out. It was a great addition to the "CITG Concert Series". The season was to have at least two more concerts which would have raised more money towards the costs of the Steinway piano's regulation: one was planned around Easter, to perform *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, which the Choir had begun learning very well. The last was to be in June – a kind of review of all sorts of styles that individual musical members would offer. Unfortunately, with the realities of COVID-19, those plans could not go forward.

When CITG went online in March, I took over full responsibility of playing, singing, and leading (and formatting) the PowerPoint presentation each Sunday, which serves as our digital bulletin. With Rama helping in technical aspects, the liturgist of the week, and our guest ministers, we continue to provide consistency of church service despite the challenging times. As we go forward into an uncertain future, I endeavor to keep musical members of the church involved in any way I can. I'll continue to reach out to the Praise Band and Choir in the hope that we will all meet soon in the sanctuary. In the mean-time, thank you all for your service. We are the church, with or without the building itself.

Many thanks and blessings,



Sunny Knable

# The Church-in-the-Gardens Board of Christian Education (BOCE) 2020 Annual Report

Members: Cheryl Cuddeback (co-chair), Tanitha Hathcock (co-chair), Denise Oest, Penny Mbusi, Bette Sheets, Andrea Berta and Rama Waworuntu

The Board of Christian Education was created to supervise and direct the education work of the Church. These include administering Sunday School classes, and hosting various yearly activities. Rachael LaBue continues as our Sunday School Coordinator. Kelly Cook and Laura Ingenito continued to watch over little ones during our Sunday church services.

## **Sunday School**

The Children's Sunday School has been running on the love and support of four amazing volunteer teachers and a small host of special Angels. We have approximately 11 children attending Sunday School. Thank you to our teachers: Andrea Berta, Lori Myer & Rachael LaBue. Thank you to all of our angels - for always being available when we needed them!

## **Hosted Events**

### **Annual Picnic**

This year, our church's Annual Picnic that took place early September was combined with Sunday School registration. Games were provided and fun was had by all.

### **The Greening of the Church**

During this annual Christmas event, the adults decorated the church while the children decorated the lounge with handmade God's eye and other ornaments. Cards for shut-ins were also made and delivered.

### **Christmas Pageant**

Under the talented guidance of Rachael Boone the Sunday School students presented "The Good News Flash" from the book: One Rehearsal Christmas Plays by Kendra Smiley.

## **Other Activities**

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Intergenerational Brunch, Lenten Project and Easter Egg Hunt were cancelled. A vacation bible school this summer also seems unlikely at this point.

## **In Summary**

In 2020-2021, we look forward to continuing Christian Education for all age groups. Please join us as teachers, angels and participants so that we can continue to have a vibrant and engaging Christian Education program.

Humbly submitted, by Cheryl Cuddeback & Tanitha Hathcock

## World Service Annual Report

World Service again had a very, very busy year. We hosted several blood drives in the Community House receiving much needed blood. With volunteer help we sponsored several FLIP [Free Lunch in the Park] events making more than 200 sandwiches in record time. With 5 other local religious bodies we led the annual food drive here in Forest Hills. Together we delivered 53 boxes of food and \$1300 to the Queens Federation of Churches food pantry. We also brought additional food donated by members, cub scouts and Dr Mike Jett. The annual Briarwood Shelter Christmas party was exciting but due to poor scheduling was sparsely attended. Our members gave presents to each of the 220 boys and girls at the shelter. All in all, it was a success. A new and exciting project took place in Feb. where World Service hosted more than 25 non profit organizations in recruiting for volunteers. This Volunteer Fair attracted more than 250 potential volunteers. Working with the Deacons, World Service received more than \$900 and \$800 in donations from church members for Face to Face and the Hunts Point Alliance for Children. Our next meeting this spring will be used to explore new ways World Service can help in the difficulties brought by the virus.

## Church Council Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

The Church Council, which included fourteen chairpersons or designated representatives of boards and committees plus two members-at-large and our Clerk, met ten times in this fiscal year. During our second year of operating without pastoral leadership, we continued to work within our theme of "A.C.T." (Accountability, Communication, Transparency) as we attended to regular business and addressed new concerns. Some of our plans were put on hold for further discussion with our new minister, including a Five-Year Plan and Revenue Raising, administration of our website and communications, Tower Topics, clarifying vision and goals, church identity, board/committee functions, follow up on conflict resolution and bullying, among others.

Church Council hosted two holiday events, the annual Advent Luncheon which was attended by more than 80 people, and Christmas caroling in the neighborhood with more than a dozen members led by Sunny Knable on accordion.

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams from the UCC New York Conference was with us for a weekend in January 2020, to lead Part 2 of her workshop, "Conflict Resolution", and serve as guest preacher the following day. After the service, she hosted an informal congregational question-and-answer meeting in the sanctuary to address conflict resolution, grieving, search process, hurt, anger, pain and our denomination. She explained why Rev. Bonnie McDougall-Olson, our pastoral care minister, former Associate Pastor and long-time church member who was declined the position of Designated Minister, would need to withdraw from our church life for at least 18 months according to UCC guidelines. We thank Rev. Bonnie for her devotion to our church for more than 20 years and are grateful for the blessing of her many ministries to our church and community.

Church Council is responsible for answering all signed submissions to the "What Do You Think" box in our sanctuary. We received 33 submissions of which 21 were signed and answered monthly by appropriate board and committee members. Most concerns dealt with the search process, politics in the pulpit and the Immigrant/Refugee banner.

We continue to maintain communication with the Metropolitan Association and New York Conference of the UCC. Some of our members attended local and regional meetings during the year.

Any member of the congregation is invited to attend our monthly Church Council meetings as a non-voting guest. Our minutes are available in the office for all to access through Jacqui Russell.

We give thanks to those who served on Church Council, to boards and committees, to our church staff, and to all who contribute to ministry in our church. We look forward to a fruitful year and to serving God and our congregation in Jesus' name.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne De Ycaza, Chair

## Stewardship Annual Report 2020

This year many members at Thanksgiving committed financial support for our church music program. More than \$4200 was given for this wonderful ministry. The Christmas offering was designated to the United Church of Christ programs called Our Church Wider Mission and One Great Hour of Sharing. The \$4100 will go to help the hungry, the sick etc. The Easter offering was also dedicated to the One Great Hour of Sharing. The annual pledge drive has been successful and is still receiving additional promises. To date \$109000 has been pledged.

Thank you all.

**Transformation Team**  
**Annual Meeting Report**  
**May 2020**

**Members:** Harris Ferrell, Cassandra Hawkins, Cindy Herendeen, Yang Hwang, Cindy Knauer, Allen Maurer,

Our second LIFT (Living In Faith Together) event was held in June 2019 –“What a Friend we have in Jesus.” With more than 40 participants, it was a lively and warm discussion imagining different rooms of a house as a model in which we can see Jesus, as illustrated in "My Heart - Christ's Home"; what happens when Jesus come to the home of our hearts and we enter into an intimate relationship with Him.

In October 2019, the Transformation Team started Silent Prayer and Meditation on Tuesday evenings. A group of dedicated volunteers and participants met in the sanctuary to pray, mediate and contemplate for an hour. Quiet music and biblical scriptures slide show provided additional supports and prompts.

The positive response to Silent Prayer in October lead the Team to sponsor the event again for Lent in spring 2020. As restrictions on gatherings came into place, the Silent Prayer and Meditation moved to a Zoom meeting space on line to finish the Lenten season. We hope to continue this important ministry as we move forward in these challenging times.

The Transformation Team looks forward to the time when we can again gather together in person to continue with activities and growth as we transform.

**OUR DEEP WHY**

“The Church-in-the-Gardens exists as a community of faith, connection and inclusion rooted in the teachings, grace and love of Jesus Christ. We are called to be a beacon of hope and center for renewal in Forest Hills and the larger community. Through spiritual nourishment and harnessing our gifts, we seek to provide opportunities for missional service and pathways to promote social justice and action. We recognize that as members of the body of Christ, we accomplish more together than we can on our own.”

## House and Grounds Annual Report

### The Church-in-the-Gardens

May 2019 -- April 2020

All in all, a relatively quiet year.

#### Improvements

This year, the biggest House and Grounds project was outdoors. Anne Seeler worked with a landscape designer to re-landscape the grounds around the Church, using money contributed to the Seeler Memorial Fund.

Inside the building, the Women's Guild refurbished the lounge.

We had two of the school classrooms repainted, rooms 103 and 205.

We added an access ramp to the side entrance in the front of the sanctuary. This is a small aluminum ramp to aid in getting wheelchairs or walkers up the final 4 inch step from the top of the landing into the church.

#### Future Vision

As was mentioned in the Trustees report, Janet Frey developed a list of security recommendations informed by recommendations from the New York Police Department after they made an assessment of the premises. We were in the process of making an action plan for those when the shutdown occurred. Hopefully we can get back on track with that soon, although the meaning of security in a public space might change after COVID.

#### Routine maintenance and repairs

We had plumbing fixtures repaired in the parish house (various sinks). We had some more work pending (more sinks and a urinal) with our plumbing contractor when we had to essentially shut down the building for quarantine. We will resume that effort when we reopen.

We had some issues with the boiler pump in the parish house during winter break, so it did not affect the school.

We had an overflow of the heating system in the manse that resulted in a leak and some water damage that had to be repaired.

#### Current State

During this time of social distancing, we are not open for business as usual. Our maintenance man, Jimmy Whelan, is working part-time. He keeps an eye on things every day, takes in the mail, etc., and is working on small improvement projects while the building is unused.

Respectfully

Tom Hogan, Chair, House and Grounds Committee



**Treasurer's Report**  
**May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020**

Thanks to the Endowment/Finance Committee-Anne Seeler, Tom Hogan, Tim Evan, Daryl Everett and Jim March-for donating their time and talents this past year.

The highlights of the year's activities are below:

1. Endowment-Continued to receive monthly funds based on the power to adjust (PTA). Since the stock market was performing well up until recently the PTA has been substantial. We did not take capital gains from the fund.
2. Morgan Stanley, UCC Fund and Conti Fund-Jim March assisted in making contact with Morgan Stanley regarding various investment options for these funds. The objective is to select socially and environmental responsible investments with performance similar to the S&P 500. The selection process is scheduled for later in the calendar year.
3. Operating Revenue and Expenses-Significant revenue is derived from facilities usage. Daryl Everett worked with Glenda to roll out a revised fee structure. The Covid 19 closure has negatively impacted this revenue stream. Fortunately, expenses were closely monitored this past year. Heating bills were lower with the new boiler and it was a warm winter.
4. School-Daryl Everett and Deborah Wible have been working closely with the school directors to monitor income and expenses.
5. Grace Chin, Bookkeeper was instrumental in maintaining accurate and timely financial information for the church
6. Covid 19-When the building and the school closed in March staff were furloughed except the church administrator, music director, janitor (1/2 time), school directors and school clerk.
7. PPP Loan-The church and the Community House jointly applied for a Payroll Protection Program loan. As of May 8, 2020 the application is still being processed.

Thank you to Grace Chin, Bookkeeper and Jacqui Russel for all of their assistance this past year in working with me to maintain the church's financial reports and process payments. My special thanks to Daryl Everett who also served at the Assistant Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Wible, Treasurer

**Annual Report of the  
Women's Guild of the  
Church-in-the-Gardens  
May, 2019 to May, 2020**

Since 1928, the Women's Guild of The Church-in-the-Gardens has continuously worked for the enhancement of our church community, its programs and facilities as well as charities for local women's causes. Our numbers have been reduced to approximately twelve active members, but we enjoy the warm moral support of our church at large.

The Guild continues to raise monies for our endeavors by hosting monthly luncheons of home cooked meals and desserts. We thank Karin Del Greco, Rosemary Wedig, Jackie Stuart, Betty Chen, Cynthia Faria, Anne Sandager, Glenda Maurer, members of the Quilters and Knitters, and all others who provided delicious donated mains, sides and desserts. Before we were abruptly halted by the coronavirus shutdown in March, we enjoyed participation of approximately twenty plus guests, men and women, for food, camaraderie and companionship each month in the lounge.

Last summer the Guild planned, with the help of the House & Grounds Committee, and completely paid for the total renovation of the church Lounge. New carpeting was installed, walls were painted as well as the faux brick fireplace surround. We credit member Bette Sheets, a retired professional interior decorator, as the creative force behind this endeavor.

The Guild hosted and prepared our Christmas luncheon in December, before which we held our Annual Meeting to allot annual donations to a limited group of church employees and Friends of Station Square.

Sadly we have lost two of our long time members who go before us to their place in Glory: Betty Seeler passed away in the spring of 2018 at the age of 93, and just this past March, we lost Jessica Nelson, our oldest member at 103. Let us always remember them with affectionate gratitude for all the time and effort they put into helping our church grow and prosper. We also bid a fond farewell to long time member Helen Howey, who departed New York to live in a senior community in Texas, near to family members.

As of this moment, as we continue to face the pandemic of Covid19, we do not know what the future holds for us, but we trust that God has a future plan for our church, its members, its groups and our world.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Maurer, Pres.

Bette Sheets, Vice-Pres.

Adele Rystrand, Treas.

Rosemary Wedig, Asst. Treas.

Jackie Stuart, Asst. Treas.

**Annual Report for the Flower & Chancel Committee  
May 2020**

Committee Members: Judy Allen, Kay Finch, Cindy Herendeen (chair), Suad Khalil, Jackie Stewart

The Flower & Chancel Committee has been blessed to continue having such generous donors each week to keep our altar graced with flowers.

For all of us it has been a difficult adjustment to worshipping without our beautiful sanctuary where we have greeted each other with happiness and affection. When we return to our glorious sanctuary, flowers will complement our state of mind.

We have been delighted with our florist, Gerard of GJM Designs. Gerard himself stopped by the sanctuary early each Sunday morning to deliver and arrange the flowers. He has demonstrated great care for our congregation with a desire that the flowers be expressions of joy and natural beauty.

The annual "Greening of the Sanctuary" event in December 2019 continued to be a highlight in the church year. Volunteers worked with the children to create ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree in the lounge. With many, many helping hands, the sanctuary was transformed with balsam boughs, wreaths, ribbons, candles, poinsettias and pinecones and a Christmas tree as reminders of God's evergreen love for us and the light brought to the world by His Son. With the generous gifts of our members and friends, there were dozens of poinsettias at the altar.

With the requirement that we move to on-line worship services, we missed the palms and Easter lilies for the end of the Lenten season.

Special altar flowers will again grace the sanctuary throughout the year: on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to commemorate the tireless work by Dr. King and his message of equality; and on Palm Sunday with extra palms to remind us of Jesus' return to Jerusalem.

We are grateful for your generosity and dedication to our house of worship. We pray for God's continued blessings. We look forward to the future when we can meet in our lovely sanctuary to worship together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Herendeen