

2018 ANNUAL COMMISSION REPORTS

GOOD NEWS

The Evangelism Commission saw many changes this year. We changed our name to The Good News Commission as we felt that it more accurately reflected the direction that the commission was taking. The thought behind the move was our baptismal promise “to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ”. Our work is not just to attract people to the church, but rather to transform lives within and without the parish by making the Gospel real to all.

The commission also experienced a change in leadership as Tom Cantrell resigned as chair and Frankie Ring and Kipper deGavre were appointed as co-chairs. We welcomed new members, evaluated our program, and set goals for the year. We decided that one way to make the Gospel real to people, would be to share stories of how God has touched our lives. Cheryl Kepner suggested that we video tape people telling their faith stories. Cheryl and Chaille Lindo have begun taping and you will soon start seeing them on our web site. Other changes included changes to our newcomer events, new ways to publicize activities at the parish and renewing other programs.

Our thanks go to Tom Cantrell for his leadership and encouragement, Heather Floyd for all her work on the Bake and Take ministry, we will miss her, and to Judy Kuhns for her great on-going work in welcoming new people to the parish.

Faithfully,

~ Kipper deGavre and Frankie Ring, Co-Chairs

OLD DONATION EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

School started on September 5th with 110 children enrolled including a full Kindergarten, with 16 children enrolled. We have had some changes regarding Social Services requirements this year. Beginning in September, all volunteers including parents, were required to be fingerprinted which made it necessary to change our fieldtrip policy. Each grade level now participates in an off-site learning day where the parents meet us at the location of the fieldtrip. The policy change allowed us to bring more in-house fieldtrips to the school, such as a pumpkin patch and an Indian Exhibit with First Landing Rangers. Another Social Services change that was implemented, is that they are making yearly visits to the school to make sure we are code compliant. During the visits they are checking our staff files, staff-child ratios, playground safety, and making sure our staff are following procedure. Our first visit was in November of this year and after our inspections we were found to have no violations and we were granted our religious exempt status for another year.

Every year we hold two fundraisers. We had the second annual art auction in March which raised \$5,733.00 for scholarships. This year we have three children receiving \$372.50 a month in scholarship. The art auction and the collection during Good Shepherd Sunday allow us to provide support for those families in need who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend our school. In October, we held our 8th annual Boo Bash which raised \$2,113.50 and helps to fund any big equipment items our teachers may need.

Another big change we have made this year is a change to our Day School Commission. In the past our Day School Commission has consisted of day school parents who have volunteered and served on the commission. This year we have established a Day School Commission and a Parent-Teacher Fellowship (PTF). The Day School Commission consists of parish members, Co-Directors, and parents and will serve as a Board for the school. The Day School Commission will help as we look at yearly budgets, teacher salaries, updating by-laws and overall support for the school. The Parent Teacher Fellowship is a group of volunteers who will help put together the annual fundraisers and volunteer for things throughout the school year, such as helping with library carts, picture day, and staff luncheons. We had our first Day School Commission meeting and PTF meeting in January and both were a success and I think each group will serve and support the school in a great way.

~ *Tricia Crawford*, Co-Director

HISTORIC TRADITIONS

The past year has been full of great news for the Historic Traditions Commission. Our mission and membership expanded in 2019, as the commission continues to thrive under the leadership team of Jackie Murray, Bob Perrine and Michelle Davis. Highlights include:

- On August 11th, we were pleased to host descendants of the founding members of our church, Adam and Sarah Thoroughgood, in Tucker Hall for lunch, greetings and a discussion about our shared history. We wore colonial attire, provided a church tour and photo opportunities. Mrs. Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, the Thoroughgood Family Reunion organizer, attended our 10:30 service the next day with her family. She was filled with emotion afterward due to the beauty and grace of the service. The church received an outpouring of thank you notes and donations from all attendees. The weekend was truly a blessing for everyone involved.
- We launched a “Young Historians” program this past year, which has grown to 7 members. On December 16th, we made a presentation to 4 Young Historians at the Gathering service. We presented certificates, a letter of gratitude and gifts to the 4 young members who helped give tours at the Oyster Roast. These youth are named “Junior Docents.”
- On December 1st, our Commission held an outreach event at Old Donation Apartments, just 2 blocks away from our Church. The event was a huge success, as we hosted brunch for 35 residents at the apartment clubhouse. During the event, we dressed up in colonial attire and shared interesting tidbits about local history, including the name “Old Donation.”
- Our Church Historian, Bob Perrine, finished the second edition of his book detailing the history of our Church. It will be available for sale this year. Make sure to order a copy today! All book sale proceeds will be donated to the General Fund of the Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

~ *Brad Croteau*, Vestry Liaison

LEGACY SOCIETY OF 1637

During 2018, **Pamela Painter** and **Carvell Taylor** became members of the Legacy Society of 1637. This brings the Legacy Society membership to 45 parishioners.

During 2018, the Trustees of the Old Donation Episcopal Church Endowment Trust Fund received a bequest (\$11,163) from the estate of **Ennis (Pete) M. Owens**.

As a Legacy Society member Pete gave with devotion and passion his time and talent in faithful service to this parish and the community. He left an inspiration and legacy by his bequest to Old Donation's Endowment Trust Fund. The 45 parishioners together through their future legacy gifts, no matter the size, will enable Old Donation to fulfill our mission to serve God's church and the community

Anonymous:

6 - Families includes

8 - Individuals

Kathleen (Kit) Brausewetter

James N. (Jim) Bulleit

Nancy and Tom Cantrell

Margaret E. (Pegg) Frank

Roberta (Bobbie) Gribble

Malcolm (Mal) B. Higgins

Joanne and Layton House

Patricia (Patsy) E. House

Danita and Joseph (Joe) Jacobs

Martha A. & Michael (Mike) H. Jones

Harold B. Kellam

Sharon and Joseph Kelman

Nancy V. Koch

Judy and Ned Kuhns

Joan and William Miller

Helen and Earl Morris

Pamela Painter

Cynthia Pare

Judith Lee Pravecek

Annie C. Rinehart

Betty and John Sherman

Carvell Taylor

Joseph (Joe) W. Trammel

Jonna and Will Walker

Patricia (Pat) and Vaughn Wilson

Roberta (Bobbie) * & Lowell Davis * 2016

Barbara Grubbs* 2004

Viewlette Harlow* 2012

Clarice * and Henry Keeling * 1999 - 2009

John Lamond * 2008

Margaret Milliken * 1999 - 2002

Frances Moscopolos * 2008

Ennis (Pete) M. Owens, Jr.* 2018

Ann N. B. Parks * 2003

Littleton Parks * 2008

Edward Peabody * 2016

Harry D. Reid * 2003

Barton Rinehart * 2009

Jack D. Stanley * 2007

Carl Sterzing, Sr.* 2014

Alice G Walter * 2004

(*) Year when a Legacy gift was received by the Old Donation Episcopal Church Endowment Trust Fund

32 Family Units

45 Individuals

16 Family Units

18 Individuals

~ Earl Morris, Planned Giving Member

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles *(adopted as of August 2018)*

Mission: Will provide care and comfort to our congregation in their times of need.

Vision: We envision a church community where God's children can come freely to one another for help, trusting that they have a church family who deeply cares for them.

Guiding Principles: (goals) Resolve to set up a Visitation Ministry; Encourage younger parishioner involvement in our ministry; and, Promote a stronger use of Web presence for our commission

Ministries Successful Outcomes Summary:

- **Care and Comfort** - Six (6) Funeral Receptions provided wonderful food and comfort to relatives and friends during their time of loss.
 - New Co-chair: Turdy Gross has agreed to serve as co-chair of this ministry.
 - \$550.00 was received from members in appreciation of the work of this ministry.
- **Stephen Ministry** - Stephen Ministers provide a caring Christian connection for people going through various crises. If you feel in need of the comfort of a Stephen Minister, contact the clergy. This ministry had a full docket of care-receivers. We are down to only one male care receiver.
 - **Training:** We were excited that we had a few male members signed up for training. However, due to some unforeseen developments, a couple of folks had to drop out of planned training. That resulted in our training class size dropping below our course minimum necessitating cancelation of any training this year. We will continue to promote the opportunity and hope to offer training next year.
- **Eucharistic Visitors** - Volunteers are trained and authorized to take communion to members of the congregation who are unable to attend services, are in the hospital or rehab facility. Requests for a visit can be made with a member of the clergy or the commission chair.
 - This ministry offers and on-going training for those interested. Karin Panini is currently training at least one member. Our need for Eucharistic Visitors hasn't reached a point of desperation, but we welcome those interested at any time.
- **Card Senders** - In 2018, this ministry mailed to those in the parish 186 cards (that is, 131 cards to individuals for various occasions and reasons such as birth, baptisms, and to members who have lost a loved one). Of these, 31 were sent for Easter and 24 for Christmas to shut-ins. That's an increase from 2017 total of 162, including 92 regular.
- **Healing Prayer** - Available during communion at all Sunday services. Carol Gurioli decided to relinquish her time and attention to this ministry.
- **Transportation Ministry** - Transportation is provided for parishioners needing rides to doctor appointments. A phone call to the parish office can get the process started. Our numbers of members available during the day makes it difficult and demanding to accommodate everyone.
 - If these appointments are ongoing for a considerable length of time, **alternative arranged transportation** suggestions are provided

- **Church Bus** transportation is also provided on Sundays to and from Westminster Canterbury and Bay Lake Retirement Community for the 10:30am services.
- **Hospital Visitation** - Made available through notifying the Church Office of hospital stay, this ministry has a team of members on rotation scheduled to be “on-call” for hospital visit once Clergy has notified the team. In Congregational Care Commission Steering Committee meetings, several of us have agreed and are willing to pay a visit to Rehab facilities or the homebound if we are aware of the need.
- **GriefShare** - Offers support and encouragement to those who have lost a loved one. GriefShare meets at Alfriend House each Wednesday night. It is a 13-week program with an average attendance of 8 per session. Last year offered 3 courses of 13 weeks each. Joe Hughes continues to offer this program and still serves around 5 people. He is thinking about taking a month or so off during the summer months. He did experience some health concerns but his still showing up every week to serve those who attend. Apprentice support is being sought as back up.
- **Parish Health and Wellness** - Parish nurses provide information on health issues. This past fall they arranged for flu shots and the Lifeline Screening tests. All defibrillators were checked and a new automated external defibrillator (AED) was purchased in April. Sandy Colvin offered a three-week course on Health and Healing in the Bible.
- **Knit Wits** - Knitted baby blankets are offered to the newly baptized.

Continuing Initiatives ~ Overview of Development Direction for the Commission:

Given the current and anticipated shifts in the congregation’s demographics and service area, the *overarching* desire the commission membership is to extend the good works provided above into to the future. The reinvigorated vision of Commission Development Thrusts is to put in place the following stretch initiatives:

- a) Develop a distinctive Congregational Care Commission online presence accessible through ODEC’s website;
- b) Include links allowing increasingly web-savvy potential congregants served by ODEC to more robustly explore (and gain *personally meaningful* awareness of) each of Commission’s ministries works – e.g., a description, ways to volunteer, photos capturing each ministry. Key Goal is to refresh membership demographics trending younger; and, finally,
- c) Develop tacit knowledge briefs/training reference materials for each of the ministries and their potential incoming leadership

Respectfully submitted,

~ Ralph “Chip” Saunders, Vestry Liaison

Stewardship

This past year has been truly a blessing and full of wonderful Stewardship moment events. Thanks to everyone who has donated their time, talents and treasures in all aspects and in every commission and their faithful members. Old Donation Episcopal Church would not be the community it is without you all!

The Stewardship commission has started a new leadership training program called the “Ministry of the Baptized” headed by Sharon Payne, with a goal of identifying parishioners through newcomer events, coffee hour, Christian Formation offerings, worship and all other means to enlist those with potential/interest for identifying the gifts and ways to get involved here at Old Donation. The next session will be scheduled in the spring, dates are still to be determined.

This year’s “Celebration of Ministry” fair was a great event. Held at the end of September, it was a wonderful opportunity to see all the commissions here at Old Donation and a chance for some sweet snacks and to sign up and get involved.

A special thanks to all that were involved in our “Stewardship Shorts” videos, spearheaded by Jeff Hood. These short one-minute videos went out on Saturday mornings to highlight a specific mission/ministry that our Stewardship and all commissions enable. There were 7 weekly videos that were leading up to the Annual Pledge Campaign with the Red Envelopes that were mailed and returned on 4 November, In-Gathering Sunday. The results of the Annual Pledge Campaign ended up with higher numbers than the last two years which is a wonderful blessing and allows the continual growth of Christ’s Work here at Old Donation Episcopal Church.

Again, thanks to everyone who is a part of this faithful community in our Lord, Jesus Christ

~ Brennon Pope, Stewardship Liaison

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Members: The Rev. Ashley Urquidi, Sue Stephenson (chair), Marta Cohen (Youth Minister), Rebecca Barrio (vestry liaison), Nancy Ries (outgoing Adult Team liaison), Becky Suchy (Adult Team liaison).

Average Sunday School Attendance:

Children: 20-25

Youth: 12-15

Adult: 45-50

Total number of Cycle Teachers: 11

Total number of Shepherds: 8

Total number of Mentors (Rite 13 and J2A): 10

VBS attendance: 85 children, including 7 in nursery; 28 teen helpers and 27 adult helpers

Number of Children in Christmas Pageant: 34

In the fall of 2018, the Christian Formation Sunday program for children, youth and adult started meeting at 9:15 and ending at 10:15am. This was an increase of 15 minutes to the existing program time. The added time, in addition to the ending of the 9:15 church service, proved beneficial to Christian Formation. With no competition from a 9:15 service, parishioners were able to attend formation offerings and church on the same day. Attendance has improved.

An annual happening for Christian Formation is our May Appreciation Brunch for all teachers, shepherds, mentors, and members of the Christian Formation Commission and Adult Team. We wish to acknowledge and give thanks for all the volunteers that give of their time and talents to

better form and inform our children, youth and adults in their faith. Food and fun was provided by the core commission members and a good time was had by all.

Elementary Sunday School:

In 2018, our curriculum of Workshop Cycles continued with great success. Teachers brought to their classes a love of teaching, shown through their own talents and treasures. The students greatly benefitted from the teachers' expertise and had fun in the process, learning faith lessons, bible stories, church liturgy and history through different eyes. And the benefit of learning from a variety of teachers each week.

Youth Sunday School:

In 2018, the Rite 13 group has been exploring faith and learning how to recognize God's presence in their everyday lives. The group has been focusing on their personal calling, prayer, and how they are made in God's image.

J2A has always been the process of leaning and preparing for confirmation. In 2018 our lessons come from a new program, '*Confirm Not Conform Episcopal*'. Along the way, we hope to explore where the youth are starting from and what they currently believe. We incorporate how to utilize the Bible, so they can thread it into their lives. We examine prayer, history of the Nicene Creed, and church history. Always focusing on our objective, helping the youth in our class discover religion as it will apply to their lives, and their faithful choices. To remember they have the power and choice to confirm not conform

In the summer of 2018, the J2A confirmation group went on pilgrimage to the south of England, France and Belgium. They were confirmed by Bishop Hollerith on 21 October.

EYC:

After returning from J2A pilgrimage this summer, two of our high schoolers, Grace Galvez and Kaitlin Piston, were so energized from the experience and motivated to get involved, they suggested a change in the way EYC is conducted. With help from clergy and Marta Cohen, the youth minister, a new format was started. The youth attend Sundays@5 in the Church, and after the Gospel, they proceed to their meeting place for reflection and discussion. A meal is provided for all and then fun and games for all ages. The average attendance has been 6-10 Middle Schoolers, and 5-6 High Schoolers. Other activities included an outing to Busch Gardens, The Hunt Club, and a Christmas Party. Youth actively participated in an outreach project with the Latino community, Dos Santos, on the Eastern Shore.

Adult Formation:

The Adult Formation team offered several offerings on Sunday mornings for our parishioners in 2018. Clergy, lay leaders and guest speakers provided expert witness to their talents and treasures in the Parish Hall. Epiphany brought a 4-part series on migrants and refugees. We travelled through the Gospel of Luke, with an excellent video series, for Lent. In the fall, Mother Ashley presented an informative series on Apocryphal Women and Father Bob gave an enlightening overview of the Book of Revelation. For Advent, Mother Ashley presented a four-part series on the "Way of Love". Also going on: Kipper deGavre taught "New to the Episcopal Church", the parish nurses connected our health and the Bible, and an excellent video series on the Old Testament traced our faith roots. Our average attendance on a Sunday morning of 45-50 highlighted the diversity of our formation offerings.

Wednesday Evening: In 2018, Wednesday evening offerings continued to be a huge success, with average attendance being 60-80, with some nights being close to 100. Wednesday evenings are generally led by clergy. "Faith and Race Matters" was the topic during Lent. The summer brought movies that could be enjoyed by the entire family, centered on faith and our lives. And in the fall the adult pilgrimage group shared their adventures in England with the parish.

Respectfully submitted,
~ Sue Stephenson, Chair

OUTREACH

2018 was a great year for Outreach at Old Donation.

Bayside Presbyterian Feeding of the Homeless – We provided and served dinner to 90 people on Tuesday of Thanksgiving week.

Beans and Rice – We provide beans and rice in the Church one Saturday a month to anyone who needs the extra help.

Belize Medical Mission – We provide financial support for parishioners to participate in this important mission to serve children in this impoverished part of the world.

Boys Home of Virginia – We provide financial support to this important ministry geared to making role models for the next generation of men.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts – We provide funding support to our Church Troops as well as provide meeting space.

Canterbury House ODU – We are one of eight Parishes in the Diocese that provide funding to this important campus ministry.

Covington Boys Home – We provide financial support to this Mission that supports young men that are at risk.

Dos Santos Eastern Shore – This ministry serves the migrant population on the Eastern Shore. We have participated in several events and more importantly paid the insurance bill for the van they use to transport children. New this year, we are also providing 50 lbs. of beans and 50 lbs. of rice to this community every month! Additionally, they were the recipients of many coats, hats, gloves, socks and toys for the winter in December!

Feed My Sheep – We provide a warm lunch the second Sunday of each month to the homeless and less fortunate in Norfolk at the Martin Luther King Memorial Park. In outstanding response to "John the Baptist Coat Sunday," we collected approximately 250 coats and sweaters to complement the blankets, socks and other warm clothing and passed them out to those we serve in this ministry in December!

Food Bank – We provide Food Lion cards to those in need every five weeks, and in 2018 we distributed \$3,650 in cards. Individuals received \$75 and families receive \$125 and are screened by the Department of Social Services. We had 8 volunteers helping in 2018.

Ghanaian Mothers Hope Reading Program – Zach and Janet Neumann went to Ghana to work the reading program so important to children in the villages.

JCOC – We provided and served 4 dinners at the shelter. We normally feed between 100 to 120 people at each dinner.

Little Free Library – Offers the free joy of reading to all those that are interested.

Mission of the Holy Spirit – The Mission serves at risk families from Norfolk and surrounding areas. We provide dinner the second and fourth Sunday of every month at St. Stephens in Norfolk and provide clergy for the second Sunday of every month. We provided a meal and candy for a Trunk or Treat in October at St. Stephens and provided Walmart Cards for 45 children to go shopping for Christmas as part of the Mission’s Elf Program. Besides meals and gift cards, we also provided backpacks and school supplies that helped the Mission to supply more than 60 children with backpacks full of school supplies!

Prison Ministry Jail Chaplains – We provide financial support for the Chaplains that do not receive a salary to help cover some of their expenses.

Prison ministry Onesimus Home—We provide funds to help support this half-way house.

Angel Tree—We provided Christmas Gifts to 90 children whose parents are incarcerated.

Prison Ministry Kairos and Onesimus for Men and Women—We continue to support the Women’s and Men’s Ministry. We send our parishioners to Prisons to support and help prisoners find God.

Seton Youth Shelters – We provide financial support for the shelters that care for youth from local neighborhoods that are at risk.

Virginia Supportive Housing—We provide financial support to this organization that serves the chronically homeless, who are often incarcerated or hospitalized and suffer from physical or mental health conditions.

The Outreach Commission could not do this terrific work without the support of all of you who give of your time, talent and treasure.

~ *Betts Werbiskis*, Outreach Chair

PARISH LIFE

No report submitted

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

No report submitted