

**AGENDA**

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of  
THE LAMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
April 22, 2018**

1. Call to Order
2. Appointment of Clerk & Declaration of a Quorum
3. Report of the Pastor
4. Report of the Director of Music
5. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of April 30, 2017  
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Congregation of December 10, 2017
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8. New Business
9. Motion to Adjourn & Closing Prayer

## REPORT OF THE PASTOR

This is a report unlike any of the other reports in this booklet, because of course I have nothing to report for 2017. I didn't start my ministry here at Lamington until February 1, 2018. I would like to take advantage of the opportunity, though, to express appreciation for the welcome Claire and I have received, and to share a few priorities for the future.

We are very grateful not only to the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee, but also to all the church members who have so cordially welcomed us to this very special Christian community. We've only been here a matter of weeks, but we feel like we've been a part of the Lamington family for much longer — which is a testimony to the warmth of your welcome.

It's been a joy to work with Regina Morris and Jim Goldsworthy, in particular. I deeply appreciate the professionalism both of them bring to their work, as well as the ways they have been personally helpful in answering so many of my questions about how things are done here. Special thanks to Elder Duncan Rose and the Facilities Committee for their quick turnaround in getting the Manse ready for us during the month of January, 2018.

Mainline Protestant churches in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are facing unprecedented pressures, as the society around us is rapidly changing. While it may seem at first that not much changes in our idyllic rural location, that's hardly the case. We no longer enjoy the unquestioned support of the wider culture in ways we once did.

Our location provides a peaceful haven that's meaningful to many, but it also places us at something of a disadvantage when it comes to encouraging newcomers to cross our threshold. The unusually wide geographical dispersion of our membership is evidence that this is a magnet church, and has been so for many years: most people have got to be looking for Lamington Presbyterian in order to find it.

That means personal invitations to attend worship — or to enjoy special events like Basket Day or concerts — are vital to our church's future growth. Issuing such invitations, then winsomely sharing the ways your faith has grown here, is what makes all the difference. You'll hear me saying more about that in the months and years to come.

You'll also hear me speaking about the need to strengthen the church's financial base: not only annual giving, but also the endowment. In our two historic cemeteries we have a precious trust, but — as with most historic cemeteries — earlier generations did not always make financial provision for perpetual care of the property. We all want to see the cemeteries remain in good repair, and the way to ensure that this happens far into the future is by building endowment, so the annual budget must no longer bear most of that expense. I'll be working with the Session to explore new ways to enhance giving of all sorts, but especially planned giving.

There's room for growth in our church programming as well, particularly educational programs and mission outreach. Conversations are already under way concerning both those areas, and I'm eager to see what emerges.

So, thank you all for the welcome to Lamington Church. Claire and I feel blessed to be among you, and are looking forward to many wonderful years together!

*Carl Wilton*

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Week in and week out we continue to grow in faith as we grow as musicians of that faith in each note and rhythm we sing or play. Our congregational singing; the dedicated work and inspiring realizations of choral music by our choir; the professionalism, rich understanding, and expressive interpretations of our four section leaders/soloists; and special engagingly moving musical offerings by our own Ritika and Nivita Thomas, Emma, Owen, and Ivey Mistele, and guests, all bring music to life in ways that touch our hearts and provide greater meaning to our worship experience.

Our four section leaders/soloists – Katie and John Cloys, Bess Ploener, and Andrew Stack – serve as strong foundation to everything we do collectively as a choir, while acting as focal points of worship leadership in our Maundy Thursday and late evening Christmas Eve services. Their generous contributions as soloists across the year provide us all with opportunities to encounter their unique musical gifts, and be blessed by the clarity of inspirational message in their singing. This has been brought to even greater prominence this year with our four-and-a-half month expanse of singing the entire score of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*, HWV 56 in worship service setting, singing all portions of Requiem by Gabriel Fauré that contain solos (for All Saints Sunday and in Lent), and various other solo selections.

Special thanks goes to Chao (Michael) Tang for performing a magnificent recital of music by Frédéric Chopin on the afternoon of Sunday, 11 February. This was the second occasion of Michael performing in benefit for the Abbey K. Starr Endowment for music in worship. Having Abbey's granddaughter, Mary Ganzenmuller, along with many members and guests in attendance at the recital made for a very special afternoon of experiencing great works brought to life by a fine musician.

While we are blessed by the presence and beautiful singing of Bess Ploener as one of our section leaders/soloists each Sunday, she has now graciously offered her services as the leader of music for our Sunday School and director of our inter-generational bell choir. Having Benjamin Wilton join us in the choir and sing as soloist for our Ash Wednesday and 25 February Sunday services were wonderful additions to the musical life of the church. We are grateful to all those giving of their time and energy to bring greater meaning to the messages and life of music at Lamington Presbyterian Church.

***Jim Goldsworthy***

# THE LAMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation

Sunday, April 30, 2017 – The Sanctuary

1. **Call to Order:** The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of The Lamington Presbyterian Church opened at 11:25 A.M. with a prayer by Reverend Jacqui Van Vliet, Interim Pastor and Moderator. Reverend Van Vliet explained that Molly Falk, former Clerk of Session was standing in for Megan Grieshaber who was unavailable today.
2. **Reading of the Call:** The following call was read by the Former Clerk of Session: The Session of The Lamington Presbyterian Church calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation for Sunday, April 30, 2017 in the Sanctuary immediately following worship for the purposes of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee, the reports of the Session and plans for the coming year and such other business as is appropriate. Elder and Former Clerk of Session, Molly Falk acted as Clerk of the Annual Meeting.
3. **Declaration of a Quorum:** The Clerk declared a quorum, with 52 active members present, and 28 being required (one tenth of 280).
4. **Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting:** The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of The Lamington Presbyterian Church, previously approved by the Session at its stated February, 2016 meeting, were made available to the congregation for information. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved by the congregation.
5. **Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers:** Nominating Committee Representative, Fred Paine presented the names of those persons proposed for the following offices:

## **Elders/Trustees:**

*Ruling Elder and Trustee, Class of 2019:*

Tres Arnett  
Lynn Carter (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Megan Grieshaber (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Patrick Palmer (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Dorita Pawlikowski  
Duncan Rose (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Immanual Thomas

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved by the members to close the nominations for Elder/Trustee, after which the above persons were elected unanimously to the office of Elder/Trustee.

## **Deacons:**

**Class of 2017:** Filling out a 1-year, unexpired term

Sandi Ramsay

**Class of 2018**

Sallye Grubel  
Eleanor Halsey (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Mary Jenkins (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Joe Scott (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Hunter Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved by the members to close the nominations for Deacon, after which the above persons were elected unanimously to the office of Deacon.

Nominating Committee Representative, Fred Paine presented the names of those persons proposed for the following committees:

**Audit:**

*Class of 2017:*

Jim Grubel  
Fred Paine  
Rich Ramsay

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved by the members to close the nominations, after which the above persons were elected unanimously to the Audit committee.

**250<sup>th</sup> Fund:**

*Class of 2017:*

Warren Copeland

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved by the members to close the nominations, after which the above person was elected unanimously to the 250<sup>th</sup> Fund committee.

**Church Nominating:**

*Class of 2017:*

Megan Grieshaber  
Barbara Pereyra  
Shelley Ricco  
Debby Johnson

Following a call for nominations from the floor for a fourth member, Debby Johnson was nominated and accepted, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved by the members to close the nominations, after which the above persons were elected unanimously to the Church Nominating committee.

**General Endowment Facilitator:**

*Deferred until the arrival of a permanent Pastor.*

Following a call for a motion to defer the nominations for the General Endowment Facilitator until the arrival of a permanent pastor, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved by the members to defer this nomination and was unanimously accepted.

**6. Reports from Operating Committees:**

- a. Pastor: approved as written.
- b. Director of Music: approved as written.

- c. Director of Christian Education: approved as written.
- d. Nominating Report: approved as written.
- e. Clerk's Statistical Report: approved as written.
- f. Congregational Mission Study: approved as written.
- g. Finance and Stewardship and Investment: approved as written.
- h. 250<sup>th</sup> Fund: approved as written.
- i. Christian Education: approved as written.
- j. Congregational Life: approved as written.
- k. Worship: approved as written.
- l. Personnel: approved as written.
- m. Property: approved as written.
- n. Mission and Outreach: approved as written.
- o. Basket Day Committee: approved as written.

Reverend Van Vliet said a prayer for members and friends who have passed this past year.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the congregation unanimously accepted the reports of all committees.

7. **Finance and Stewardship Budget Details:** Treasurer for 2016, Lori Larsen and Finance Chair, Angus Miller discussed the finances of The Lamington Presbyterian Church. Mr. Miller presented the stewardship information and stated that we are \$78,000 short in pledges right now. Mrs. Larsen reviewed the 2016 year-end P&L and the 2017 budget approved by the Session and encouraged people to pledge if they haven't already. Mrs. Larsen stated that if we don't make the budget we will need to use Basket Day funds. The current operating budget is \$300,000 - \$320,000. The budget includes the pastor, music, part time church secretary and property. It is good to show a new minister that we have a strong budget. No Christian Ed director has been hired yet but a new permanent pastor will have the opportunity to hire someone.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, a motion was made to receive the budget, the congregation unanimously received the budget.

8. **New Business:**

Reverend Van Vliet explained that there were no terms of call for an interim pastor. She explained that she did not use much of the study leave budget as an interim but the new pastor should be encouraged to take study leave.

Thanks were given to the pastoral nominating committee and we were notified that resumes will be coming in shortly. Reverend Van Vliet expressed that she will be with us until the new pastor is here.

Discussion from the floor included the following.

Barbara Pereyra asked about more regular communication from the session. She also asked about the need for communications to the community about the need for pledging. Reverend Van Vliet suggested that something from the session could be posted in the bulletin and sent in an email.

A reminder was made that May 19<sup>th</sup> is the spring dinner and please attend. Basket Day is May 13<sup>th</sup> and all are encouraged to attend and participate.

9. **Motion to Adjourn:** There being no further business to come before the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of The Lamington Presbyterian Church, upon motion made and duly seconded, the Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:02 P.M.
10. **Closing Prayer:** Reverend Van Vliet closed the Annual Congregational Meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Interim Reverend Jacqui Van Vliet  
Moderator

Molly Falk  
Former Clerk of Session

**Minutes of the  
Special Meeting of the Congregation  
of the Lamington Presbyterian Church  
December 10, 2017**

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** The meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m. in the Sanctuary and opened with prayer by The Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, Interim Pastor and Moderator.

**Quorum:** Clerk Megan Grieshaber stated that a quorum was present.

**Reading of the Call:** Clerk Megan Grieshaber read the following call to the congregation: “A meeting of the Congregation of The Lamington Presbyterian Church (LPC), Bedminster, NJ has been called by the Session to be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 10, 2017 immediately following worship. The sole purpose of the meeting being to hear the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and to act on the recommendation of the PNC that the candidate be LPC’s next Pastor.”

**Business of the Meeting:** Ms. Van Vliet introduced the members of the PNC who gave their report to the congregation. Greg Halsey, Chair of the PNC, and PNC member Meridith Scott presented the PNC’s report. After that time, each member of the PNC summarized their rationale for unanimously choosing to present the candidate, the Rev. Dr. Carlos (Carl) E. Wilton, as LPC’s next pastor. Ms. Van Vliet opened the floor for questions to the PNC, after which Mr. Halsey presented Dr. Wilton, who spoke of his journey of discernment to accept the call. He also introduced his wife, the Rev. Claire Pula, who will remain in ministry within the bounds of Monmouth Presbytery as Coordinator of Bereavement Support for the Hackensack Meridian at Home Hospice Program. After Ms. Van Vliet opened the floor for questions, the candidate and his wife were excused so the terms of call could be presented and the election could take place on a single ballot. Mr. Halsey presented the terms of call to the congregation, as follows:

**Effective salary**

Cash salary:	\$68,500
Fair rental value of manse:	\$24,000
Subtotal - effective salary for Board of Pensions:	<u>\$92,500</u>
Social Security offset (7.65%):	\$ 7,076
Full medical, pension and death benefit (36.5%):	\$33,763
Optional dental	<u>905</u>
Total compensation:	\$134,244

**Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)**

Professional and automobile expense:	\$ 3,000
Continuing education:	\$ 1,800
Full moving expenses (two estimates)	

The question was then put to the congregation: “Whether The Lamington Presbyterian Church, under the will of God, shall approve the terms of call and elect the Rev. Dr. Carlos E. Wilton to be its Pastor.” Ballots were collected, counted and Dr. Wilton was overwhelmingly elected as the next Pastor of The Lamington Presbyterian Church. The Pastor-elect returned to the Sanctuary and was introduced and greeted with applause. It was moved and unanimously carried to dissolve the PNC with thanks. Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Ms. Van Vliet.

Attest:

Megan Grieshaber, Clerk of Session

## NOMINATING REPORT

Alison Paine  
Dorita Pawlikowski

Barbara Pereyra  
Shelley Ricco

Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR

This year the Committee was responsible for nominating six Elders and six Deacons for leadership positions in the church. One Elder and one Deacon name will be nominated from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Nominations for three Audit Committee members (one-year term) and one 250<sup>th</sup> Committee member (one-year term) will be taken from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Each nominee listed below was considered based on their specific gifts and talents relative to the current leadership needs of our church. The same criteria will be used with names nominated from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Nominations are:

### **ELDERS Class of 2019**

Meridith Scott

### **ELDERS Class of 2020**

Valerie Fraser

Jim Grubel

Greg Halsey

Alison Paine (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Georgie Schley (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Vacant*

### **Deacons Class of 2020**

Cindy Campbell

Monica Immanual (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Erin Mistele

Sandi Ramsay (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Laurel Rose (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Vacant*

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## SESSION & BOARD OF TRUSTEES & DEACONS

Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, MODERATOR (12/31/2017)

Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

Megan Grieshaber, CLERK OF SESSION (12/31/2017)

Meridith Scott, CLERK OF SESSION (2/12/2018)

### CLASS OF 2018

Scott Campbell

Angus Miller

Greg Mistele

Alison Paine

Georgie Schley

Ann Silk

### CLASS OF 2019

Tres Arnett

Lynn Carter

Patrick Palmer

Dorita Pawlikowski

Duncan Rose

Immanual Thomas

### OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Duncan Rose, PRESIDENT

Lynn Carter, VICE PRESIDENT

Megan Grieshaber, SECRETARY

Lori Larsen, TREASURER

### **DEACONS**

#### CLASS OF 2018

John Gordon

Monica Immanual

Julie Murray

Sandi Ramsay

Laurel Rose

#### CLASS OF 2019

Sallye Grubel

Eleanor Halsey

Mary Jenkins

Joe Scott

Hunter Lewis

The church is grateful for the dedication of the elders serving on Session and for the deacons serving each Sunday morning in worship during the past year. A special thank you to those who are retiring in the Class of 2018—Elders: Tres Arnett, Scott Campbell, Megan Grieshaber, Angus Miller, Greg Mistele and Ann Silk; Deacons: John Gordon and Julie Murray. A special thank you to the Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet who ended her term as Lamington’s Interim on December 31, 2017. Jacqui faithfully served our congregation since September 2015.

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**2017 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT**

Megan Grieshaber, CLERK OF SESSION

Communicant Membership Reported December 31, 2016	284
<b>Additions</b>	
By Certificate and Reaffirmation	3
By Confirmation	0
By Reactivation	0
Not Previously Reported	0
<b>Losses</b>	
By Death	1
Requested and Session Removals	0
Letter of Transfer	2
Previous Overstatement	10
<b>Total Communicant Membership December 31, 2017</b>	<b>274</b>
Child Baptisms	2
Adult Baptisms	0
Member Marriages	0

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**NECROLOGY REPORT**

MEMBERS

Collister Johnson

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**WORSHIP**

Ann Silk, CHAIR

James Goldsworthy, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Neale Jenkins, SANCTUARY GUILD

Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)

Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

The focus of the Worship Committee this year has been the following:

We have returned on occasion to the traditional manner of receiving the elements from the elders to congregants in the pews along with intinction in an effort to balance the way we offer Communion. Both Deacons and Elders, as ordained leaders of LPC, help in serving Communion to the congregation.

Additional highlights in 2017 have included a focus on Holy Week evening worship services of word and music for Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday and our superb music concerts. This will continue to be the pattern going forward.

Each week the Deacons ably and faithfully serve the community by preparing the sanctuary for worship and greeting those who come through our doors. They also prepare our monthly Communion.

We continue to encourage all members to participate in ushering, or serving as a liturgist.

Our choir has grown this year under the leadership of James Goldsworthy. They have helped lead us in worship with both moving and rousing pieces of music and hymns as well as special concerts enjoyed by congregants and guests.

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### MISSION AND OUTREACH

Scott Campbell, CHAIR	Patrick Palmer	Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)
Lynn Carter, CO-CHAIR	Meridith Scott	Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)
Eleanor Halsey	Chris Smith	
Melinda Nye	Pam Smith	

As in prior years, this report gives an overview of the mission projects undertaken in the past year. We support six projects, with time, money or both. The financials are in the Budget and Actuals

**Elizabethport Community Center (E-port):** By far, the largest amount of effort was on our Elizabethport activities. In August, E-port families came out by bus to share a fun summer day in the country with us. There was work to be done in the Lamington Giving Garden: planting, weeding, harvesting. Everyone harvested a bag full of tomatoes, peppers, and basil to take home. Pam, Dave and Gade Smith did a wonderful job working with the children (and adults). There was a walk on the Asia Trail and “seed bombs” were scattered to grow into flowers, which will attract pollinators and help the garden to flourish. Pam and Dave donated gardening gloves, drinks, and seed bombs. Next was a trip to Christie Whitman’s farm to meet baby goats, chickens, and other animals, and to collect eggs with Christie’s grandchildren. Lunch and a pool party followed at Julie and Paul Murray’s. To be sure everyone was safe, we hired a lifeguard for this event. Lunch consisted of pizza, brownies, watermelon, and ice cream and was donated by Lamington volunteers.

On October 15, the E-port families joined us for worship, and Nancy Manigo (from E-port) sang a spectacular solo as she has done for the past 2 years. Everyone had lunch together in the Gladish Room (donated by Chris and Dick Smith), then all caravanned to Melick’s Orchard to go apple picking, enjoy a hayride, and take home a pumpkin. This was funded by Lamington Church mission funds, and the cost was about \$300.

In November, several members of Lamington Church traveled to E-port to deliver Thanksgiving meals. They brought 35 turkeys and all the fixings, donated by Lamington families.

On December 17, donations were collected at coffee hour for an E-port Christmas celebration (\$350). Lamington youth “elves” helped to fill surprise bags with books, games, pencils, and other items that Alison Paine and Chris Smith bought for 60 E-port children. On December 21, Lamington members again traveled to E-port for a Christmas party with 60 E-port preschoolers (4 classrooms of 15 children each). Our “elves” read *The Night before Christmas* to the E-port children. We then did a craft project, decorating the surprise bags with snowmen, gingerbread men and Christmas trees. The children took the decorated bags home, to open on Christmas morning.

**The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN):** The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County has a proud record of providing a permanent solution to homelessness for local client families. This is possible when the approach to family crisis includes direct intervention services to specifically benefit children. Lamington Presbyterian Church is committed to being part of the IHN community of churches of all denominations that opens its doors to families in need.

Under the direction of Meridith Scott, our church hosted 6 families with 12 children in February, May, and September 2017. Each hosting date was a week long and consisted of church volunteers helping with the care for the children and assisting with homework. The second-floor classrooms are transformed into temporary bedrooms along with a dining room setup in the downstairs classroom. Six volunteers were needed each day to provide home-cooked meals, evening support, and an over-night presence throughout the week. We contributed \$1000 to IHN this past year.

Thank you to everyone for their involvement and support of our IHN families.

**The Giving Garden and Asia Trail:** Several beds were rented out to members of the community, so we had somewhat less food to go to the local food banks. None-the-less, under the leadership of Pam and Dave Smith, about twelve aboveground beds provided about 400 pounds of fresh produce to the local food banks in 2017 (compared to 600 pounds the previous year).

The Asia Trail remains a place for quiet reflection—stretching from the schoolhouse, from a stone bridge over a small brook, to the middle of the field directly across the street from the church. From the center of the field, one can see our church rising above the surrounding fields. This past summer, children from E-port scattered seed bombs along the path of the Asia Trail.

**Local food banks:** We provided financial support to two local food banks this past year, The Flemington Area Food Bank and The Somerset County Food Bank. Non-perishable foods and other items collected throughout the year from church members were also delivered to the food banks. We have budgeted \$3000 in contributions to go to the local food banks. An easy way to contribute to the food banks is to bring in an item or two each week from your pantry.

**Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP):** As we have done for over 20 years, volunteers prepare and deliver meals on the third Friday of each month to SHIP. Six to eight volunteers serve meals to the homeless, hungry and poor people in the Somerville area, at Saint John's Episcopal Church. This is an easy way to get involved without a large commitment of time, unless you find it rewarding, and do it monthly. The food was purchased using funds from the Mission budget—about \$2,000 was spent for the year. We additionally contributed \$2000 for operational expenses.

**Common Threads Ministry:** Involvement in the ministry had dropped off this past year, with several key members moving away. Although items were not sold during the Christmas season, about 10 prayer shawls were made in 2017, and delivered to recipients by Jacqui, as one of her last official tasks before the installment of Reverend Wilton. Membership is now again increasing. If you want to learn how to knit, this is a way to do so under the tutelage of several excellent teachers.

**Youth Mission Trip:** After 23 years, we did not have a Youth Mission Trip in 2017, due to conflicting travel schedules and a sudden job change of one of our long-time adult volunteers. The Mission Committee is discussing other opportunities for our high-school-aged church members. If you think that you might be interested in being an adult supervisor, talk to the chair of the Mission Committee.

Looking forward, we plan on continuing the above traditions we have with E-port, and hopefully more, in 2018. Several Mission Committee members, including Reverend Carlos Wilton met with Tom Eicher, who is Chairman of the Board of E-port in early April 2018. We discussed ways that we could expand our involvement with the families of E-port. This is an excellent opportunity for members of our congregation to reach out to others. Keep an eye out for announcements in the bulletin and other places for upcoming opportunities to join in our mission with E-port.

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Alison Paine, Co-CHAIR	Dorita Pawlikowski, Co-CHAIR	Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)
Dyanne Diaz-Piedra	Julia Beckmann (5/2017)	Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)
Megan Grieshaber	Bess Ploener (9/2017)	

**Sunday School:** Our season was again blessed with our volunteer teachers Dyanne Diaz-Piedra, Dorita Pawlikowski, Megan Grieshaber and Alison Paine. We continue to use “Feasting on the Word” as our curriculum. Julia Beckmann resigned from the position of Director of Handbells in the spring. Bess Ploener, LPC Alto Section Leader, became the new Director of Handbells in the fall. Bess helped our Sunday school learn songs for our Christmas Pageant and other special occasions. She continues to be a wonderful asset to our program.

Last spring we had our Easter egg hunt between morning services. Thanks to many volunteers for filling and hiding the eggs. Our fall activities included a visit to Melick’s Orchard with the children and adults from Elizabethport.

We continue to encourage the children and families to bring in food for distribution to the local food pantries.

In December, joined by some of our church families, we delivered gift bags and read *The Night Before Christmas* to the preschoolers at Elizabethport.

Our Christmas Pageant had many eager participants. We told the story of Jesus’ birth with the added help of narrators. Wonderful songs were sung to spread the story.

Our teachers create a warm, inviting and vibrant atmosphere for the children. We continue to encourage more volunteers to lighten the load for Dyanne and Dorita. We bid goodbye and much love to Megan as she moved to California at the end of the year. We continue to miss her input. It is a joy to be with the children, helping and encouraging them to listen and hear the Word of God.

**Adult Education:** During the fall, the Tuesday evening Adult Bible Group led by Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, studied Paul’s Letter to Corinthians 1.

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### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP)

Debby Johnson, CO-CHAIR	Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)
Shelley Ricco, CO-CHAIR	Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

**Fellowship:** The Spring Dinner was a huge success! We hosted about 60-70 people—it was a fun time for all!

The Welcome Back BBQ in September brought families and members together after summer vacation. All were energized to begin the year looking forward to a new permanent pastor. Thank you to everyone that contributed and came to celebrate.

The Big Band Concert also held in the fall was a great community affair with about 120 in attendance—including members and friends from the surrounding area. The fellowship committee assisted with the coordination and preparation of the food.

The Annual Wreath Decorating & Chili Cook-off and Brownie Bake-Off was well attended as the congregation sampled the entries and then voted. Chili Champion once again was Monica Immanuel and Brownie Champs were Ritika and Nivita Thomas. During the event, the decorating committee made our gorgeous wreath.

Thank you to all who helped make 2017's Congregational Life Committee a success.

**Membership:** One new member class was held in the late fall. A total of 3 new members joined. We welcome them to the community and ministry of LPC.

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### PROPERTY (BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, INCLUDING CEMETERY)

Nancy Hance	Duncan Rose, CHAIR	Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)
Paul Murray	Dave Smith	Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

The Committee continues to be proactive in its efforts to inspect the three buildings – Sanctuary and Education Building, Minister's house and the Schoolhouse, as well as the properties, including the cemeteries. This allows planning in terms of repairs and other maintenance that are needed as well as how and when to address them. Such steps help keep a checklist of regular maintenance requirements and a timeline, as well as develop a financial plan for maintenance repairs and upgrades as needed within the existing context of the larger ministry and financial goals of LPC.

Overall, these ongoing actions by the Facilities Committee enable LPC to operate and maintain our buildings and grounds with higher efficiency, better maintenance, lower operating and repair costs, resulting in good stewardship practices and better resources for ministry.

#### List of 2017 Major Maintenance and Repairs

- Purchased new commercial grill
- Took down dead tree in front of Sanctuary
- Obtained engineering and permits for school house septic
- Started Black Cemetery restoration

#### Major Future Needs

- New septic system for school house
- Sash repairs on school house
- Bat extermination above sanctuary
- Re-grade soil on north side of Gladish Room

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### PERSONNEL

Lori Larsen	Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)
	Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

The Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, who was hired as the Temporary Pastor in September 2015, successfully completed her time with Lamington Church on December 31, 2017. The Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton began as our new permanent pastor on February 1, 2018. During the month of January 2018 we used pastors from the pulpit supply list for Sunday worship and the Rev. Dr. James E. Morris served as the pastor on call.

James Goldsworthy, the Director of Music, continues to do an outstanding job in leading the choir in music and supporting the Congregation during worship.

Regina Morris, the long standing Office Manager, provided strong support to the Temporary Pastor and members of the Congregation during this period of transition.

There was a change in the Sunday childcare coordinator. We welcome Mary Ann and Susan Scott to Lamington's Sunday Nursery Care.

Bess Ploener, Alto Section Leader in the Lamington Choir, also became the Director of Handbells in the fall, taking over from Julia Beckmann.

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## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP & INVESTMENT

Lori Larsen, CO-CHAIR

Angus Miller, CO-CHAIR

Molly Falk

Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, INTERIM PASTOR (12/31/2017)

Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

Mary Fazzini

Hunter Lewis

John Marshall

Gail Martin

Greg Mistele

Georgie Schley

Consistent with the past several years, the Finance Committee continued to focus on **four main initiatives**.

**Our first and foremost initiative** is to increase pledges both in number and amount in order to provide full funding for the 2017 budget. We successfully raised over \$219,398 from 68 church family units from our *"Living Out Our Faith with Glad and Generous Hearts"* Stewardship Campaign. The pledge rate was approximately 51% of church family units compared to 60% for 2017 and a compared to our high of 81% in 2016.

The Budget for 2018 will be primarily funded from pledges, supplemented by income from Basket Day plus other giving and offerings. First and foremost, funds are needed to cover the basic core operating expenses including the new pastor, office/administrative support, property maintenance, and utilities required to staff and operate our three-building campus. Additionally, 2018 pledges are required to continue to provide for the wonderful worship, music, mission, education and fellowship programs serving our Church community. It is important to remember that a key underpinning of our stewardship charter is that we only budget according to received pledges and identified funding sources. Therefore, we are grateful for your continuous and generous support.

2018 will be a more challenging year financially with a decrease in pledges and a likely increase in expenses. 2017 achieved a balanced budget without the use of Basket Day funds primarily due to contributions in excess of pledges and lower than Budgeted expenses. Payroll, Christian Education support, Music Support, and Mission were all lower than Budget. This decrease is not sustainable for the future.

Again, we appreciate the support of the entire Lamington Community for the 2018 Stewardship campaign. During a period of leadership transition, it is important that Lamington is on a solid financial base to remain the *special place* it is today and for generations to come.

**Our second initiative** is to improve the church's cash flow by having Congregation members fulfill their pledges throughout the year, rather than waiting to the end of the year. This once again has been successful and we have maintained a healthy cash flow all year. However, we remind everyone to please fulfill your pledge as early in the year as possible to ensure that we have cash flow to sustain our basic operating requirement.

**Third**, we as a committee firmly believe a healthy endowment is needed to ensure long-term financial sustainability and support our fixed operating and capital costs. The Lamington Presbyterian Church General Endowment Policy was approved in 2009. The 2017 year-end balance of The Lamington Presbyterian Church General Endowment fund is \$181,225. The contributions during the year included generous donations from multiple people.

The Lamington Church General Endowment Fund:

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 168,545</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>11,165</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>3,630</b>
<b>Change in Value</b>	<b>(2,115)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 181,225</b>

**Our fourth initiative** as a Finance Committee and Investment Committee is to conservatively invest all of our General Endowment, 250<sup>th</sup> Fund and special purpose funds to maximize our earnings. We have continued to use CDs and Corporate Bonds for our investments, with the majority being in CDs. Last year, we earned \$14,892 of interest, approximately 1.8% of the total amount.

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### 250<sup>TH</sup> FUND COMMITTEE

Duncan Rose    Fred Katnack    Warren Copeland    Session Committee Chairs

In 1990, the 250<sup>th</sup> Fund was created to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church. Its purpose was to provide an initial endowment of \$250,000 as a source of funds to be used for the future needs of the church. The use of these funds is restricted by and subject to the bylaws of the Fund, which the committee oversees. The investment guidelines of the 250<sup>th</sup> Fund contained in the Investment Committee and Related Policy have been modified to align with the investments of The Lamington Presbyterian Church General Endowment Fund. The funds are fully invested in CDs and Money Market Accounts. The Treasurer filed this Report. There was no change in investment policy or strategy agreed upon in prior years. The committee did not convene during the year.

As of December 31, 2017, the balance in the Fund was \$434,587.66 before the transfer of 75% of realized earnings per the by-laws and with Session approval.

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 434,285</b>
Transfers for 2017	(4,686)
Realized Interest	7,795
Change in Value	(2,807)
<b>Ending Balance before Transfer</b>	<b>\$ 434,587</b>
Interest to Transfer (2018)	(5,547)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 429,040</b>

## BASKET DAY

Meridith Scott, CHAIR

Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, Interim Pastor (12/31/2017)

Rev. Dr. Carl Wilton, PASTOR (2/1/2018)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** Kim McGeary (*Boutiques*); Megan Grieshaber (*Kids Tent*); Dyanne Diaz-Piedra and Debby Johnson (*Common Threads*); Shelley Ricco and Debby Johnson (*Luncheon*); Melinda Nye (*Marketing*); Erin Mistele (*Patrons and Program*); Alison Paine, Chris Smith, Pam Smith, Ritika Thomas (*Plant Tent*); Cindy Nicol, Jansyn Tropea and Bob Wittpenn (*Preview Night*); Emma Mistele and musician friends (*Preview Night Music*); Eleanor Halsey and Susan Scott (*Presbyterian Palate*); Nina Koven and Erin Mistele (*Promise Tree*); Carol Cummins, Valerie Frasier, Georgie Schley, Susan Wingfield (*Silent Auction*); Julie Goetz, Dana Miller, Ann Silk, Monica and Immanuel Thomas (*Treasure Tent*).

Basket Day was held on Saturday—May 13, from 9:30AM to 4:00PM—to provide an opportunity for those who work and children and youth who attend school during the week to attend. Activities and crafts were offered for children, two lunch options, and a reconfiguration of the tents and a staging tent for donated items on the three consecutive Sundays prior to Basket Day.

Special thanks are extended to the creative talents of Julie Goetz, Dana Miller and Ann Silk for the creative staging of our Treasure Tent. We are especially thankful for the continuing support of our committee chairs, many have performed their duties for many years.

Basket Day remains an important fundraiser to supplement the operational budget of LPC and its varied needs, ministries and programs. Yet more than helping to be an additional source of budget revenue, Basket Day serves as a vital event in the life of the Lamington Church congregation and our neighbors as we open our doors to welcome, to community, and to serving others.

This year Basket Day raised \$19,970.97 after expenses.

Thank you to everyone involved in this work and ministry of this church event. Many hands, hearts, gifts, and talents make Basket Day a success.