

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Annual Report



Embracing Journeys. Engaging Faith.

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2020 at Bradley Hills

David Gray
Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

One of our members recently posted a list of lessons from 2020 on Facebook. **#1 on the list** was “The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.”

Who could have predicted all that 2020 brought? A global pandemic. A racial reckoning. An economic disruption. A divisive election. We were able to follow some of our plans. Many of our plans as individuals, families and as a church changed.

Yet God is good. **In God’s amazing grace, our congregation has stayed together, stood strong, and walked through hard times by faith.**

I am incredibly proud of you as a congregation. Proud to be your friend, your pastor, your fellow journeyer through this past year.

On Sunday March 1, 2020, one of our usher captains said to me as I was shaking hands with members after worship, “So, are you ready to start cancelling worship services?” I answered, “What are you talking about? Why?” That morning, while we were in worship, news had broken that an unusual virus had spread from Asia to Italy.

Two weeks later, we began altering worship and programs. Session soon moved to suspend activities in our building. For most of 2020, our BHPC campus has been closed to outside activities. Our Friends Club, Nursery School, Jewish and Muslim building partners, music concerts, and many building programs, have been closed to in-person activities.

Yet God’s light has continued to shine through our congregation. Investments we made in previous years to livestream our services proved valuable as we were well prepared for virtual worship. People throughout the country began watching our services online. Some of them have started becoming involved in our church beyond worship. Many people, including our flower guild, have continued to help on Sundays. We are grateful to Bruce Liffiton, Min Lee, Bruce Hunter, Jim Kettler and Max Kuzmyak for their amazing livestreaming of our Sunday worship services.

Our programs have continued over Zoom, with many meetings taking place virtually. We have had many youth, school, worship and individual activities outside. **Many have used this “forced sabbath” for reflection.** I reflect on the Apostle Paul and his writing from prison **about the calling of God’s people “to rejoice in all things.”** He was separated from those he loved, yet Paul was able to be positive.

We are separated from each other. We miss being in our church sanctuary. **We have said “see you later” to church members who have graduated to the church eternal this year.** We have supported members with Covid, in financial, spiritual, emotional and physical challenges, and through many heartaches. Yet we rejoice that God is good. I love Bradley Hills because our people are wonderful. Committed, caring and supportive. Loving their God and seeing the image of Christ in each other.

You have stayed together as a community, walked along side each other in trying times and found God walking along side you.

And now 2021 is here! The days are getting longer. The light at the end of the tunnel will come with vaccines. **Christ’s light** has shined in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

What a celebration we will have when we all return to church. **We can’t wait to be back in the sanctuary together later this year.** What a Welcome Back Sunday we will have.

Until then, many thanks for your love and support of our church. It is such a privilege to be your pastor and to be in ministry with you.

In Christ’s love,

David



Y. Eunice Yang - Interim Associate Pastor

Thank you to the Bradley Hills PC community and Pastor David for welcoming and accepting me to serve among you during this extraordinary time of our life in a pandemic. As an interim associate pastor, my focus in the first 3 and a half months since SEP 15 of 2020 was on connection, small groups, pastoral care, and supporting deacons and the work of mission. I truly appreciate your patience and understanding as I manage to know people through mostly and solely virtual means. Though virtual is not the same as in-person togetherness, we count our blessings to have every possible ways to “see” and talk with one another. I have reached out to the whole congregation through various ways and connected directly with many. I was grateful when folks reached out to me for a casual chat or for other ministry needs. I look forward to getting to know many of you more and better in 2021.



Matthew Robertson - Director of Music

Happy New Year! Like many of you, I am happy to close out 2020, and look forward to brighter horizons to come. This is indeed one of the most bizarre annual reports I have written!

This past year began as I was on Part 1 of my 2020 sabbatical. This proved to be a relaxing, rejuvenating, and reenergizing time for me and my family. I’m grateful for this time, thankful to Bradley Hills for providing it, and thankful for my sabbatical substitute, Sonya Sutton, for ably leading music at Bradley Hills during this time. I returned in late February, only to have the world shift on its axes as the Covid-19 pandemic began. The summer 2020 portion of my sabbatical has been postponed. Despite this, I’m grateful to Gabriel Simerson who was slated to be my replacement, and instead was able to substitute for me when I went on a vacation for a couple of weeks.

Throughout the pandemic, I’m proud of how Bradley Hills has worked hard to take care of its staff, its musician contractors, and the congregation as a whole. I’m proud and grateful that as indoor worship services ceased, we were able to pivot nearly seamlessly to livestreamed worship.

While I am always appreciative of the excellent work and musicianship that our section leaders bring to Bradley Hills, that appreciation has risen dramatically since the beginning of the pandemic. They have ably led worship every single week, bringing a tremendous amount of beauty into our worship services.

I’m also particularly grateful for Marie Marquis, who has joyfully led our Alleluia Singers, our choir for our youngest singers. Alleluia Singers has been meeting every week through virtual means. I’ve joined for a number of those rehearsals and the joy on these kids’ faces is a delight to see! Our Lantern Chorale and our Adult Choirs have met virtually every couple of weeks during the pandemic, and it has been a wonderful to experience community with these two groups. Our Lantern Chorale even voted on what prior performances to include in our 4:00pm Christmas Eve service, and our Chancel Choir virtually recorded a beautiful piece which we shared on Christmas Eve and throughout December. I’m grateful to them, and I look forward to when we can safely sing and ring in person!

The Sutherland Endowment and Bradley Hills Presents have never been more active than they’ve been in 2020! The Sutherland Endowment commissioned two new pieces for Bradley Hills in 2020: Lori Laitman’s *Snowy Night* which set a text by Mary Oliver, and the Black American composer Jonathan Woody wrote *Light a candle* which was premiered on Christmas Eve. Despite some early and necessary cancellations, Bradley Hills Presents has continued to present concerts during the pandemic, and we’ve welcomed C Street Brass, and even had a live-streamed performance of Messiah! We look forward to welcoming Denyce Graves, Brian Ganz, and more in 2021!

I’m grateful to Worship & Arts, Friends of Music, Bill Perry, Phyllis Bryn Julson, Margaret Rick, Naomi Kettler, Karen Pettigrew and countless others for their leadership and advocacy. It is these people who have committed to the idea of what the Music Ministry at Bradley Hills can be, and it is these people who are responsible for a vibrant and full year. Lastly, I’m cognizant and thankful for the members of Bradley Hills staff who have been with me here since I began back in 2013, in particular David Gray, Linda Reynolds, Amy DeCourt, and Farid Beltran – its such a joy to work with these kind and capable colleagues and friends.

2020 has also been a year of loss, and I would like to take a moment here to offer a moment of written silence for all of the losses in 2020; of friends, of family, of gatherings, of employment, of missed opportunities.

In closing, I’d like to offer my prayer that God may continue to shine their benevolent grace upon Bradley Hills and each and every one of you.



Matt Nabinger – Director of Christian Education

2020 has been a year of pivoting for us all. As your Director of Christian Education, I have sought to help our members, particularly children and youth, maintain a sense of connectedness to the church community throughout the pandemic.

When social distancing efforts began in March, nearly all of my responsibilities moved online. We began doing Zoom church school classes and Zoom youth group sessions. In the late spring, after the death of George Floyd, our youth group committed to going deeper in the work of anti-racism. Approximately 15 youth came together to make connections between our Christian faith and anti-racism. We created an art installment that was displayed by the labyrinth for several months.

Our confirmation classes also shifted due to the pandemic. The class originally scheduled to be confirmed in May was instead confirmed in late September after finishing their class online. They shared beautiful Expressions of Faith with the church session that spoke of devotion, doubt, and sincere commitment to church community. You—the congregation—welcomed 15 youth into active membership after they shared their Expressions of Faith with the church session.

Just one week after these 15 youth were confirmed, our seminary intern Sara Sadler and I began a new confirmation class for 10 youth in 8th and 9th grades. We have met socially distanced in person and on zoom for the past several months. This group of youth are doing an amazing job connecting with each other in creative ways as the pandemic prevents us from doing many of the activities we would normally do for a confirmation class.

As we continue our journey together into 2021, I look forward all that God will do in and through us, even in the midst of days such as these.



Joanie Friend – Community Nurse

When I followed my calling as a Faith Community Nurse, I never dreamed I would still be serving our congregation in this manner 21 years later! As the saying goes, “Time flies when you’re having fun” and serving you in this way continues to bring me great joy. That said, this has been a really different year and, like everyone else, I am yearning to be able to make in person visits to our members in their homes, hospital room, assisted living facilities or nursing homes. As a replacement for in-person visits, I have spent many hours on the phone contacting members and, of course, also spend time on the computer with e-mail and Zoom calls.

I have continued to maintain my nurses license and get many e-mails with medical information in addition to attending webinars to further educate myself. I have enjoyed being able to participate in Adult Education Classes and especially listening to the experts who have spoken to us about Covid.

I have continued to loan out walkers, wheelchairs, canes, and other devices to those who have needed them during this time.

I have continued to work with the Deacons, especially as they have reached out to bereaved families by providing a meal or donation following the death of a family member. It was a particular joy to participate in the Blue Christmas service this year. I have continued to send out the prayer chain to over 100 people by e-mail and that is really how I shape my ministry of contacting people. You will find an article in the BHX monthly. Due to the pandemic restrictions, I was not able to have flu shots administered at church, but I hope you got one anyway!

I am still available to serve you in whatever way I can personally or by pointing out community resources so please don’t hesitate to contact me. I pray that the vaccine will soon enable us to celebrate, learn, worship, and grieve together as we have in the past. I look forward to seeing your smiling faces.



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee (NC) is a working group of the congregation that helps recruit and lift up elders, deacons, Nominating Committee and lay ministry leaders.

Spring 2020:

The NC surveyed the then current lay ministry leadership, confirming chair terms, membership needs and collected comments. The NC worked to find chairs for two lay ministries: Property Management and Stewardship. Congregation members were encouraged to join lay ministries and teams through pew brochures, emails and phone calls. A new chair for Property Management was successfully found, however a new chair for the Stewardship Committee was not and the current chair agreed to stay on until a replacement is recruited. The nominees were elected by the congregation at the September 13, 2020 congregational meeting. The committee also discussed membership with lay ministry chairs and generated lists of potential lay ministry members for chairs to contact. Session accepted lists of current lay ministry members for the 2020-2021 program year.

Fall 2020

The NC met to develop a slate of nominees for elder and deacon openings in 2020. The committee solicited and considered suggestions from members through pulpit announcements, pew brochures, emails and phone calls. In late-October the committee published its slate, which reflected a balance in gender and diversity within the congregation. At the December 6, 2020 congregational meeting, the following nominees were elected unanimously:

Elders: Doug Anderson, David Burgett, Stacey Milne and Shizuko Sei
Youth Elder (for one-year term): Jackson Biggs
Deacons: Carol Frenkel, Mark Kindig, Cliff Ty and Tamae Wong
Youth Deacon (for one-year term): Allie Coffey

The Deacon & Elder Handbooks were updated for 2020-2021 prior to searching for elders and deacon nominees.

At the December congregational meeting, Carol Whitley and James Scroggs were elected to join the Nominating Committee, joining those elected last June, which include George Petrides (outgoing chair), Brigitte Burgett, John Low, Julie Hunter, Abby Imus and David Gray (no -voting).

George Petrides, Jr.
Chair, BHPC Nominating Committee

Joel Fickett (outgoing),

Mark Kindig (outgoing)

Personnel Lay Ministry

The Personnel Lay Ministry (PLM) supports all aspects of personnel management at the church, including organizing job descriptions of all positions, organizing search committees when positions become vacant, celebrating and recognizing the church's staff, and gathering information for annual performance reviews.

PLM would like to recognize and thank our staff for perseverance and flexibility in a very challenging year. COVID and the closure of the church building required many changes in our staff's work – sometimes in the tasks they performed and sometimes in the way they worked. PLM's chair notes that this COVID pivot was



PLM supported several efforts in 2020 relating to the Associate Pastor position. PLM worked with the Associate Pastor Search Committee as its search commenced and later paused in connection with COVID. PLM continues to provide support as the church prepares to resume the Associate Pastor search, working to align the search effort with the church's needs.

Over the summer, PLM organized and led efforts to celebrate Chris Foster's service as our interim Associate Pastor. PLM also supported the AP search committee's work in bringing Eunice Yang to serve as a temporary Associate Pastor beginning in September after Chris Foster returned to Rhode Island.

PLM also encouraged the church to explore opportunities to continue providing seminary students with internship experience, including, if possible, securing a Wesley student to succeed Sara Sadler as she completes her internship in May 2021. PLM also supported exploring a new seminary relationship with Union Presbyterian Seminary following dialogue between Pastor David Gray and Union's President Brian Blount.

PLM led annual information-gathering for annual staff performance reviews. The annual in-person meetings with lay ministries and staff were not possible due to COVID, and PLM relied instead on email and scheduled phone conferences in their place.

PLM continued to monitor changes in the Board of Pensions benefits plan. With PLM's support, the church added a temporary disability benefit newly available in 2020 to the menu of options available to the church's eligible employees.

PLM also welcomed three new members to its Lay Ministry in 2020, with Neil Imus replacing departing Session liaison Sam Wilson, and Jennifer Kline and Judy Webster joining PLM as Paul Martin and Cindy Stauffer departed.

Financial Lay Ministry

The Financial Lay Ministry oversees the development and management of our annual budgets, manages the church's investments, coordinates the church's special offerings and other fundraising appeals, and supports the efforts of the Stewardship Lay Ministry.

2020 was a challenging, but ultimately good year financially for Bradley Hills, thanks to the contributions of our members and staff.

- Our beloved church staff members, including our music section leaders, found ways to sustain and enhance programs and missions during this challenging time with tight financial resources.
- Our many Lay Ministry members and chairs who responded very helpfully to a multiple-month spending freeze, paring back on spending as much as possible while keeping vital activities and missions going forward.
- We were also blessed during the course of the year to receive a number of unexpected generous gifts from members who wanted to make sure that staff would continue to be paid, and worship and other programs would continue to be offered in spite of a closed sanctuary.

With these and other sources of extraordinary giving and economizing, our \$1.3 million operating budget ended the year with a surplus of \$90,432, something we barely credited possible earlier in the year.

- Pledged contributions totaled \$938,591, which was \$37,222 below budget. Unpledged contributions, budgeted in line with recent years' receipts at \$63,000, came in at \$123,453 -- twice what was expected.
- Building Users income underperformed budget significantly (\$288,055 budgeted vs. \$200,539) due primarily to the closure of the nursery school and loss of outside groups after COVID arrived in the spring.

Total sources of funds ended the year with a modest deficit of \$11,154.

Savings on the expense side -- staff and lay ministry efforts to trim their spending without cutting back on programming, reduced normal lay ministry and facility expenditures by \$101,585 - a much appreciated savings in a tight year.

Our net expenditures (income less expenses) for 2020 totaled \$90,432, a true blessing that could not have been foreseen when the COVID outbreak began last spring.

1. Our capital reserve fund, which pays for all building and grounds maintenance expenditures over \$5,000, ended the year with a balance of \$380,783, well above the budgeted \$290,079. Our current capital reserve balance is the result of members' generosity to the 2014 Building our Future capital campaign. Future funding once the current balance has been spent down depends on transferring funds from the operating budget and/or running additional capital campaigns. Our goal is to gradually increase the annual transfer from the operating budget to the capital reserve so that we can avoid the need for another capital campaign in the near future just to adequately maintain our current facility.

The second volume of this Annual Report provides a detailed accounting of the church's revenues and expenditures in 2020. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Amy de Court.

Todd McCreight, Chair | Amy de Court | Naomi Kettler | Ed Hummers | Walter Hill, Session Liaison | Jon Winslow

Stewardship Lay Ministry

The story of the Stewardship Lay Ministry in 2020 has indeed been one of Abundant Blessings, Abundant Gratitude, and Abundant Giving. Under stark and difficult conditions, not only has our congregation survived, it has thrived in new ways. Members took seriously the need to sustain our ministries and staff as we moved church online. You responded with astounding generosity to the fall campaign, setting another annual record of over \$997,000 in pledges for 2021. With about 40% of potential pledging units making a commitment, we saw a slight increase over the total number of people who pledged for 2020.

Under the shadow of quarantine, we witnessed a new candor in discussions about giving among members and during worship. We saw people seeking out the Bradley Hills community from near and far, and seeking ways to help. As we look with hope to the rest of 2021, we are making plans for more outreach. We are resuming Monthly Stewardship Focus articles: look for these in the weekly emails and the BHX. We are contemplating what giving will look like in a post-pandemic, post-cash sanctuary. We are seeking to understand the needs of different constituencies around Stewardship, and we welcome input from all.

In the past weeks, we have welcomed new members Sam Blesi, Alvin Stenzel, and Lisa Wilson. If you feel called to serve in this way, please **speak to Amy deCourt or any of our members. (It's a lot of fun, and you don't have to make phone calls about money!)**

May abundant blessings be yours this year.

The Stewardship Lay Ministry

Rick Arndt	Bonnie Peyer (outgoing chair),
Sam Blesi	Frank Randall,
Amy deCourt	Alvin Stenzel
Rebekah Liu (Session liaison)	Lisa Wilson

Adult Education Lay Ministry

The pandemic and the tumultuous social events of 2020 have brought major mission, programmatic, and technological changes to the Adult Education Lay Ministry as they have to all other aspects of BHPC. We no longer consider our mission just to provide an educational forum; we also strive to provide a significant connectional opportunity to a much broader segment of the congregation than we did when we met in person. Our stated goal is to make the congregation uncomfortable as we grapple with complex and challenging issues.

After a short hiatus at the beginning of the pandemic, we restarted adult education sessions via Zoom in April, focusing on four major themes:

- the global coronavirus pandemic,
- **its local economic and social effects, particularly as seen by BHPC's mission partners,**
- mental health issues during the pandemic, and
- most significantly, issues of social and racial justice that the pandemic and events of 2020 have laid bare.



We are blessed to have a talented and articulate congregation and staff at BHPC who freely share their experiences and expertise. Too many have brought their talents to name individually, and they are the core of our curriculum. On behalf of the congregation, we thank them all for the sustained high quality of adult education at Bradley Hills.

Complementing the contributions of our colleagues and staff, in 2020 we had an unusually strong series of presentations by outside speakers. Dr. Bruce Douglass focused his three-week session in the fall on the history of race in the Presbyterian Church; it was so successful that we had to add a fourth week just to address questions. Dr. Holly Haile Davis presented a provocative session on the **“Doctrine of Discovery” and the treatment of native peoples in the U.S. and around the world.** The Reverend John Molina Moore, our General Presbyterian, and The Reverend Jimmie Hawkins of the Office of Public Witness both educated us on Presbyterian churches in the inner city.

Given the demographic we serve, we expect to be among the last groups to return to in-person meetings. When we do, we hope it will be in a hybrid form, with both Zoom and in-person options. We look forward to continuing to make the congregation feel uncomfortable in 2021.

Worship & Arts Lay Ministry

The Worship & Arts Lay Ministry supports the ministry staff in offering meaningful ways to enhance our worship experience. After the church closed in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Pastor David Gray, Interim Associate Pastor Chris Foster and Director of Music Matthew Robertson continued to provide outstanding leadership as we worshipped through livestream services; held in-person worship services outdoors on the Labyrinth and near the cross from August through October; held family worship services over zoom during Advent; held daily mid-day devotional services during Advent and Lent, held special services on Blue Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday and connected in fellowship on numerous occasions via Zoom, including through interactive family services, Wednesday evening contemplative services, Friday noon prayers, and virtual meetings of our adult and children's choirs.

During the year, David offered sermon series on "What Heaven is Like"; "The Five Letters Every Christian Should Write"; "Social Disruption: Walking in the Wilderness"; "Lessons from Exile"; "Discipleship in the Pandemic World"; and an Advent sermon series based on John 1.

In August, we bid farewell to Chris Foster and thanked her for her ministry as Interim Associate Pastor, and in September we welcomed Rev. Y. Eunice Yang as our new Interim Associate Pastor. Sara Sadler continued her ministry with us as our Seminary Intern, and we very much appreciated the services of our Parish Associates Marty Albershardt, Jong Mi Lee and Wally Harman.

Music Ministry:

Matthew Robertson's energy and creativity enabled us to maintain our high-quality music program throughout 2020 despite the pandemic. While the adult and children's choirs were not able to rehearse and sing in-person, they continued to meet periodically via Zoom, and the adult choir prepared a pre-recorded "virtual choir" performance of Lauridsen's *O Nata Lux*. The Bradley Hills Section Leaders also provided choral music throughout the year at our livestream services, including a complete performance of William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices* in several installments during our Sunday services in September and October.

During 2020, we bid farewell to Gabriela Solis, our Alto Section Leader, and David Artz, our Tenor Section Leader, and welcomed Claire Galloway Weber as our new Alto Section Leader. Special music and concerts included livestreamed performances by C Street Brass on July 11; Handel's *Messiah* on December 5; and an evening of readings and carols on December 20. We greatly appreciate Friends of Music Chair Phyllis Bryn-Julson and all others who helped Matthew with these concerts, which continue to provide an important outreach and ministry to our community.



Chancel Players

The Chancel Players, Bradley Hills' drama troupe, present readings, monologues, sermon sketches, and chamber/readers theatre selections on a regular schedule in worship services. The Players paused their activities for most of 2020 due to the pandemic, but are eager to resume performing on a regular basis in 2021, and remain on the lookout for additional members (no experience necessary).

Interfaith Service

On November 15, BHPC joined with the Bethesda Jewish Congregation, Idara-e-Jaferia Islamic Center, Maqaam e Ibrahim Islamic Center and Islamic Community Center of Potomac for a livestreamed Interfaith service. The service included a conversation on "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself – Even When You Think They Are Wrong," and readings from Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions, and was followed by an Adult Education and fellowship meeting via Zoom.



Ushers and Communion Teams

Under the leadership of Corky Hickey and Susie Wellman, the faithful service and commitment of the Bradley Hills ushers, both pre-pandemic and at the outdoor in-person worship services (ushering led by Lou and Pat Kallas) held after the church closed, enhanced Bradley Hills' value and reputation as a welcoming congregation. We are also thankful for the dedicated service of our Communion teams pre-pandemic, who organized and prepared the very meaningful sacrament that feeds our souls, and we look forward to their continued service once the church reopens.

Chancel Guild, Flowers, Visual Arts, Sound, Videography

The Flower Guild, under the leadership of Jean Sutton, Joy Panagides and Bie Fox, continued to beautify the Sanctuary throughout 2020 notwithstanding the pandemic. Once the church reopens, we look forward to Mary Hickey, Carol Butcher and the Chancel Guild ensuring that our sanctuary is beautifully presented and maintained. We are also thankful for Sarah Neubold bringing art exhibits to Bradley Hills, and we extend a special thanks to our sound and video ministry team (Bruce Liffiton, Jim Kettler, Min Lee, Bruce Hunter and Max Kuzmyak) for all of their support and assistance this year, particularly with the livestream services.



Deacon's Report

Our hearts go out to those in distress, to members who have suffered loss, to neighbors in the hospital, to friends who have lost their jobs, to new members who need a word of welcome, to members who are shut-in and lonely and cannot leave their homes, to people in the community who have lost their way and can no longer find God, and to any people who need to experience the love of Christ in concrete ways. Shepherded by the Pastors and Parish Nurse, your Board of Deacons acts as an internal ministry of hospitality, care, and support to the BHPC community and strives to connect with each member of the church family.

The pandemic made it extraordinarily challenging for deacons to serve the congregation in this rewarding ministry. Your deacons truly miss the in person conversations and connections and look forward to returning to more in person ministry.

Throughout 2020, your Deacons served compassionately in an array of ministries before and during the pandemic:

- Served as Deacon of the Week each Sunday morning to greet visitors, answer questions, support the Pastors, send bulletins and cards to members who are home-bound, recovering from illness, or celebrating a milestone. Deacons continued to send cards throughout the pandemic.
- Coordinated and served receptions following memorial services for the first two months.
- In lieu of receptions, delivered meals to those who lost a close family member, or donated to an organization of their choosing
- Overseeing, developing and growing the new visiting ministry.
- Organized transportation to church services for members who are not able to drive.
- Visited and provided home communion during the first few months to those members who were unable to attend church services.
- Hosted the all church Zoom Welcome Back Brunch in September.
- Made connections to all church members during the pandemic by phone, email and snail mail.
- **In lieu of the cake on Veteran's Day, deacons sent cards to all veterans.**
- Attended the Blue Christmas service.
- Provided meals to families experiencing long term medical treatment.
- **Wrote monthly Deacon's Corner column for the *Bradley Hills Expression* (BHX).**
- Maintained the Deacons bulletin board.

- Represented the Deacons as a member of the Nominating Committee, and the Lay Ministry Chairs meetings.
- Participated in a day-long Deacons' retreat which introduced new Deacons to our functions and sharpened the caring skills of those currently serving.
- Coordinated with Session on a regular basis to support our joint goals of member care.

With a new class of deacons to be ordained in February 2021, we wish to thank the Class of 2020 for their faithful and thoughtful service over the last three years. The entire congregation benefits from all of the former deacons who are always ready to help, even before being asked. And as ever, the Deacons extend their heartfelt appreciation to our guiding lights, Parish Nurse Joanie Friend and Associate Pastors Chris Foster and Eunice Yang.

Class of 2020

Curt West
Kim Brinkman
Joel Fickett
Carol Frenkel
Jessica Llewellyn

Class of 2021

James Scroggs
Bill Edelblut
Jana Coffey
Bie Fox

Class of 2022

Judy Ozone
Mike Frenkel
Judy Kyokobe
Frank Randall

Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry caters to youth in grades 6-12. Our Youth meets each Sunday to explore scripture, spiritual practice and service opportunities together. After March 13th the youth met via a Zoom on Saturday afternoons. In the Fall youth returned to meeting at BHPC and participated in socially distanced Youth Group.

Other activities the youth enjoyed during the year include: a HS Lock-In in January 2020, Netflix parties in April and May, socially distanced movie nights in the summer and for Christmas, a Black Lives Matter art creation and reflection event and Fall Call.

MS youth participated in a mini Massanetta event at the church in lieu of attending the Massanetta retreat this year. During the Christmas Eve Family service youth actively participated by providing readings.

Fifteen youth were confirmed as active members of the church in late September after confirmation activities had to shift due to the pandemic. Their expressions of faith shared with the church session were truly inspiring!

Ten new youth began their confirmation journey in October. They are currently meeting weekly by zoom, but hope to do some outdoor activities in the future.

Tara Eliason



Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry oversees our offerings to the youngest in our church, from infants to Grade 5 and their families, under the dedicated leadership of DCE Matt Nabinger. During this time of pandemic and social distancing, our focus has been on keeping connected with families and children, offering online church school, and occasional special in-person events.

In the early part of the year we hosted a Family Connections lunch that focused on family visioning and introducing children to Stewardship. 11 second graders and their parents participated in the Worship Workshop and received hymnals for use at home. Matt also prepared "Lent in a Bag" materials which families could use to observe Lent at home.

In the spring as we moved to online church, Matt led a 30-minute Saturday church school time for children. It included music, storytelling, and a chance for children to share with one another. After a lightly attended Family Connection event in June, we called and surveyed families about their preferences and found that online Family Connection events were too challenging.



We continued our Saturday children's program in the fall. In lieu of blessing back-to-school backpacks, we prepared signs and gift packages which lay ministry members delivered to 54 BHPC families' homes. We were happy to see that several families still had their signs up in December when Advent materials were shared with families! Matt continued his "Inviting God Home" newsletter with child-friendly resources on sharing faith, weathering the pandemic, and addressing racial justice issues. In October, over 35 people attended our "Trunk or Treat" event where children could trick or treat from cars decorated in the parking lot, then watch the movie Zootopia together—a welcome opportunity to gather in person. We ended the year with a family worship time on Sunday mornings in Advent (10-13 families participating) and an interactive Christmas Eve family service via Zoom with 91 "screens" participating.

It has been a challenging year for parents of young children. We welcome their input on other ways to offer support and look forward to being together again in 2021!

Property Management Lay Ministry

The Property Management Lay Ministry (PMLM) mission is to provide resources and oversee projects to maintain and improve the church facilities, negotiate agreements with building users, and support the staff that maintain the church facilities for all building users. PMLM oversaw a number of improvements to the building during 2020.

The largest project involved security enhancements funded by a grant the Nursery School obtained from the Maryland Department of Education. These improvements included a new access control system for entry points into the building and the Nursery School, new exterior and interior doors at the entrance to the education wing and the Nursery School, enhanced video camera coverage and a unified mass communication system to enable BHPC and building users to communicate effectively.

BHPC also took numerous steps to minimize COVID transmission. We installed HEPA filters on the HVAC systems, purchased a HEPA-filtered vacuum, installed toilet lids and exhausts in all our bathrooms, and enhanced cleaning protocols.

External building improvements included replacing the choir room doors, repairing the exterior doors leading to the Columbarium as well as some windows, installing walkway lights and some additional speed bumps, excavating and inspecting the sewer drain, grading and replacing a downspout to address some drainage issues, and removing some diseased and dead trees. (Montgomery County has agreed to provide approximately 30 trees to replace those we have had to remove over the last several years)

Interior building improvements included replacing the old kitchen freezer and icemaker, upgrading interior light fixtures to utilize more recent LED technology, installing fire alarm covers, extending HVAC ducts in the Sanctuary to provide better humidity control, installing air conditioning in the Friends Club and Youth Lounge, replacing interior downspouts that were failing, and repairing damaged ceiling tiles.

PMLM also negotiated the lease of the southwest parking lot to a WSSC contractor who is replacing water and sewer mains in the area.

Finally, BHPC once again was again certified by PCUSA as an Earth Care Congregation.

Due to decreased use of our building because of the pandemic, and the deferral of a few planned projects, PMLM was able to reduce its expenditures below the amounts budgeted for the year. We also benefited from the Nursery School grant and significant Pepco rebates for energy-related improvements. This year, some Capital Reserve funds for planned projects have also been set aside.

Submitted by Linda Kauskay (chair). Members: Doug Anderson, Tom Biggs, Kate Wise, Charlie Kauffunger, Sean Owens, Michael Kline, Tim Vanderver and Jeanne Tustian.

Mission Report

The Mission Coordination Lay Ministry (MCLM) leads the BHPC community's mission program of volunteer service, financial support, and peace and social justice advocacy. MCLM works with local, national, and global mission partners. Through mission, the BHPC community shares its talents and resources, and experiences God at work in the world.

MCLM set four goals for 2020. When the pandemic hit in early March, a fifth goal was added and quickly became goal #1.

Adapt and respond to the pandemic's implications for mission

Service: Youth mission trips and multiple service activities were canceled, as mission partner organizations were no longer allowing volunteers, and our church building was closed. **But where there's a will to serve, there's a way.**

BHPC's 2020 Lenten Day of Service was postponed from March due to the pandemic. As in prior years, members Terry and Kathy Brady had already purchased disaster relief kit supplies and were storing them in their home. After several months it became clear the church building would not be reopening soon. Without the usual help of more than 100 volunteers at church, the Bradys assembled 209 kits and delivered them to Church World Service in June. The supplies cost about \$4,000, funded from MCLM's budget, Alternative Gifts, and donations. The kits included 130 masks and 86 tote bags sewn by nearly a dozen BHPC members who also made hundreds of masks for the National Center for Children and Families.

The "Smart Sacks" program was suspended last spring due to school closings. This halted BHPC volunteers' weekly assembly and distribution of food sacks to MCPS students on the free and reduced-price meals program at four elementary schools. Since then, Linkages to Learning (BHPC's mission partner at one of the schools, Arcola) has sought to meet food security and other needs by collecting and distributing donated items and gift cards in the school parking lot several times a month. BHPC members have been donating regularly.

To get the word out about this and other donation and service opportunities, MCLM formed a "COVID-19 Response Group" on Realm in April. By the end of 2020, there had been 47 posts to this group of 59 participants.

Funding: With a 40% budget cut to all lay ministries, including Mission, when the pandemic hit in March, MCLM prioritized organizations on the frontlines serving those highly vulnerable to COVID-19 and its health and financial consequences, and organizations that had shifted to online programming but that had revenue shortfalls due to COVID. MCLM contacted each of its mission partners every few months to find out to what extent they fell into either of these two categories, and fully funded organizations that met either of these criteria. By year-end MCLM had fully disbursed its reduced budget of \$57,767, supplemented by \$28,700 from the Alternative Giving Program, \$12,191 from PCUSA Special Offerings, and \$18,310 from other special offerings and gifts, for total 2020 mission disbursements of \$116,969.

Seasons of Giving: This program includes the coat drive, Angel Gift Tree, Alternative Gifts, and sales of Palestinian olive oil and Fair Trade coffee and chocolate. Under the leadership of Elizabeth St. John and Rev. Chris Foster, the Seasons of Giving program was redesigned to accommodate limitations posed by the pandemic. This was a Herculean but successful effort as the BHPC community continued its tradition of generosity despite pandemic-related challenges. Requested gifts and supplies were delivered to the Women's Collective in DC and the Dennis Avenue Health Center in Silver Spring. The Alternative Gifts program raised nearly \$20,000, 8% less than in 2019 but about the same as 2018. The "Seasons of Giving" group on Realm established in 2019 now has 45 participants.

Make support for peace and social justice an integral part of BHPC's mission program

Despite the budget cut in 2020, MCLM was able to achieve this goal by forging new partnerships, and by forming a "Peace and Social Justice" group on Realm in May to share resources and information about virtual and in-person events on topics such as racism, gun violence, policing, criminal justice reform, and the pandemic's effect on low-income communities, especially people of color. In 2020 there were more than 70 posts to this group that now has 36 participants.

GenOUT Chorus – In January a partnership with GenOUT (a DC-area LGBTQ+ youth chorus) was launched with support from a \$2,400 grant from National Capital Presbytery (NCP). The partnership included a GenOUT concert to be held at BHPC in the fall of 2020, now postponed a year due to the pandemic. The grant funded a chartered bus for a choral festival day's performances in January 2020, and was also to fund space rental for an additional hour of rehearsal during the 2019-2020 season. With rehearsals virtual since early March, remaining grant funds will now help fund a racial justice curriculum for chorus members.

Interwoven Congregations – In April-May MCLM partnered with this nonprofit to publicize the launch of its anti-racism initiative called “Be the Bridge,” a series of monthly cross-racial, small-group discussions. About a dozen BHPC members signed up and have been participating (including two from MCLM), the most from any church in the Presbytery.

Faith Presbyterian Church – With about \$1,100 from the denominational Peace and Global Witness Offering in October, MCLM launched a partnership with Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia to help fund its new community garden, “EDEN at Faith.” In December MCLM increased support for this project with \$3,000 from Alternative Giving, originally intended for the Anacostia Children’s Center that later closed.

Continue to increase awareness of BHPC’s mission program

Adult Ed: Two Adult Education sessions in July featured mission partners: Becky Wagner of Interfaith Works, a nonprofit co-founded by BHPC nearly 50 years ago to address poverty in Montgomery County; and Indra Martinez and Janeynali Reyes of Linkages to Learning, BHPC’s “Smart Sacks” partner at Arcola Elementary School. All three spoke about how the pandemic was affecting the communities they serve and how their organizations are responding. At a November Adult Ed session, Bonnie Holcomb and Elizabeth St. John demonstrated how to use the

Churchwide Communications: MCLM ran “Mission News” articles more frequently in the monthly BHX and the weekly churchwide emails, and in May introduced a “mission logo” (shown above) designed by BHPC youth member Emma Schmiedigen.

Discern the congregation’s mission priorities

To discern the congregation’s mission priorities, MCLM convened a series of in-person mission conversations in February-March and via Zoom in September-October, and conducted an online questionnaire in November. In all, about 100 members of the BHPC community participated, including Session, youth, and Family Connections parents.

The February-March conversations focused on the question, “Where do you see brokenness in the world?” Responses included the political situation, breakdown in civil public discourse, racism, inequity, and mental health. These conversations were suspended when the church building closed in March. By the time the conversations resumed in the fall, the pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the ensuing national racial reckoning had shifted the focus to “How should BHPC respond to the inequities (especially racial) that COVID-19 has laid bare and worsened?”

Expand and diversify MCLM’s membership, and seek representation on the NCP’s Mission Coordination Committee

MCLM warmly welcomed three new members during 2020: Fran Cotter-Weaver, Patience Fielding, and Judy Ozone. MCLM member Norma Parker joined NCP’s Mission Coordination Committee.



Outreach and New Members Lay Ministry

This ministry supports church growth by (a) reaching out to the community and encouraging people to visit, (b) supporting the congregation in identifying and welcoming visitors, and (c) connecting new and potential members to ministry opportunities, (d) and cross ministry collaboration for effective membership outreach/drive.

Despite the pandemic, we had 37 new members join BHPC in 2020; 15 youth confirmands, 21 adult active members and one adult affiliate member.

Reaching & Encouraging

Social Media Expansion: We have continued to find ways to expand our use of social media for advertising and actively post upcoming activities, post-activity recaps, and other announcements of general interest.

Utilizing mainly Facebook has allowed for direct advertisement campaigns targeting the specific audience when appropriate and for objective statistics to be produced telling us who is viewing our advertisements

Building on our experience from the prior year, this year we have been better able to target advertisements to specific audiences.

Facebook views in the month of December alone: 2700

Website: Maintaining and enhancing our website is another of our critical outreach activities. We have now linked our website to advertising campaigns on social media and this tool has been effective for pushing targeted efforts to recruited new members.

Identifying & Welcoming

Marketing Meeting/Bring a Friend to Church December and Christmas Eve Candle campaigns where we provided a candle and flyer for members to invite friends or relatives to Dec. 24 online worship, lighting the candle during Silent Night.

Covid impacted our outreach work but made our online livestreaming services and presence more important than ever.

Successful outreach depends on everyone! You can help support this mission by inviting friends and family to worship services and events, sharing Facebook posts, and articles about Bradley Hills, and being sure to greet those you do not know on Sunday! If you would like to get involved, please let Fam SaeChao Chock know.

Thank you to everyone for making Bradley Hills a welcoming church!

Connectional Lay Ministry

Co-chairs: Sara Inati and Bonnie Holcomb

Session Liaison: Louise Meyer

Staff Support: Amy deCourt, Linda Reynolds

Connectional Lay Ministry facilitates the connectional life of the congregation. In the midst of the 2020 global pandemic Bradley Hills members and ministries effectively utilized the church-focused ministry app that had a long roll-out through 2018-19. In the absence of face-to-face worship and ministry meetings Realm became part of the toolkit, combined with Zoom, the BHPC website, livestreaming in Vimeo and email in welcoming and incorporating existing and new members to spiritual, educational, financial, service and worship opportunities. |

Following on the 2019 launch of online giving, a majority of members opted to handle at least some of their financial transactions or giving securely and conveniently with electronic payments. Connectional Lay Ministry worked with Outreach and Deacons to welcome and coach members to respond to a secure link unique to each individual sent from the church office, to create a password, to complete a profile in order to gain access to many facets of church life features including the online secure pictorial directory, customized notifications, accessing Adult Education presentations, etc. Throughout 2020 the advantages of a variety of online features, kept members and visitors connected through a broad range of church activities. We anticipate that many of the features and skills used during the pandemic to “knit together the body of Christ” will remain part of our connectional life after the quarantine is lifted and we are able to greet one another in person.

Racial Justice Work

In 2020, BHPC engaged in many activities related to racial justice. Below are some, but by no means all, of its many activities on the topic. With more to come in 2021.

As a congregation we participated in a 21 Day Racial Justice Challenge over multiple months in the summer, fall and winter.

Mission LM held conversations with the congregation, including about a number of topics related race and ended up investing in a community garden project at Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia.

BHPC had more participants in the Presbytery wide Be the Bridge discussion group on race than any other congregation.

We held several Minute for Missions on the topic.

We held Family Movie Nights, including on the "13th".

Session read the book "So You Want To Talk About Race" and discussed it.

Books groups engaged in discussions on the topic.

In 2019 and 2020 combined BHPC had three African American preachers and two Asian American preachers lead worship.

Our music ministry commissioned African American composer Jonathan Woody for our Christmas Eve work as part of our Sutherland Endowment.

Pastors preached about race several times and gave a Biblical understanding of our anti-racism work on Sundays from the pulpit for several months.

Pastoral leadership held many discussions with Presbytery leaders about anti-racism work and things BHPC could do.

Our youth leadership and staff led discussions with youth about racial issues and put together a series of artistic signs and anti-racism messages at the labyrinth as part of our signage.

We put together a list of racial justice resources with a link on front page of our website.

We talked with lots of potential partners, consultants, seminaries and facilitators to help support our work.

We helped organize local congregations to write letters condemning racism and participated in protests/marches.

Members of BHPC worked to practice antiracism by working together to send postcards and make phone calls to support education and combat voter suppression.

Continued our work supporting a Muslim congregation of color meeting at BHPC.

Prayer - We prayed together as we considered several long term projects related to racial justice.

Here are some of the racial justice topics discussed in adult education in 2020:

- January 12 Immigrant Experiences Roundtable
- February 2 Allyson McKinney Timm – Immigration and Human Rights (part of a three-week series on international human rights law)
- April 5 Sara Sadler – Civil Rights Journey through the South in January 2020, visiting major sites of the 1960s civil rights movement
- June 28 Nadia Schmiedigen – Personal Account of Injustice and Racism
- August 16 Fam and Atlee Chock – US attitudes toward Asian Immigrants
- August 23 Chris Foster – **The Poor People's Campaign**
- Sept. 13 Bruce Douglass – Race and Theology in the Presbyterian Church: Slavery
- Sept. 20 Bruce Douglass – Race and Theology in the Presbyterian Church: Split Churches
- Sept. 27 Bruce Douglass – Race and Theology in the Presbyterian Church: Desegregating
- October 4 Bruce Douglass – Q&A Discussion on the History of Race Relations in the Presbyterian Church
- October 11 Race, Theology, and Social Justice at BHPC: Panel Discussion Led by David Gray
- Nov. 29 The Rev. Holly Haile Davis – **The "Doctrine of Discovery" and Treatment of Native Americans**

"Be the Bridge" Cross-Racial Discussions

About a dozen BHPC members participated in cross-racial, small-group discussions on race, organized by Interwoven Connections, a new local nonprofit dedicated to promoting racial healing. Called "Be the Bridge," the initiative was open to all in the National Capital Presbytery. The goal was to develop a deeper understanding of the history and nature of systemic racism in this country, apply methods to engage in constructive cross-racial dialogue on matters of race, foster sustained relationship-building across the racial divide, and point towards steps individuals can take to address racism.

Last summer three "Be the Bridge" groups of 10-12 from different churches were formed and met monthly via Zoom. Two of the groups were diverse and followed a model developed by Rev. Latasha Morrison: a theological arc of lament thru confession to repentance and restoration (www.bethebridge.com). They will complete the curriculum next summer. The other group (all White) read and discussed Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be an Anti-Racist*. Each group had two co-facilitators, one of whom is a person of color.

In February-March the Mission Coordination Lay Ministry (MCLM) convened a series of mission conversations to discern the congregation's mission priorities. The conversations focused on the question, "Where do you see brokenness in the world?" These conversations were suspended when the church building closed in March. By the time these conversations were resumed in September-October, the pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the ensuing national racial reckoning had shifted the focus to "How should BHPC respond to the inequities (especially racial) that COVID-19 has laid bare and worsened?"

Social justice was identified as a high priority, in the areas of racial justice, housing, health, climate and earthcare, and LBGTO justice. Service priorities included food security and education. Many expressed how mission service brings them closer to God, so it is important for them to engage in it through their faith community. BHPC's youth mission trips as well as involving youth in mission service throughout the year were considered important. Funding priorities included food security, education, housing, and health, with emphasis on empowerment for eventual self-sufficiency. Recommendations included partnering with a Black church and forms that could take, and partnering with churches on shared mission priorities to leverage impact.

MCLM is taking this feedback under advisement, as reflected in its recent decisions to partner with a Black church in Anacostia (see below) and to increase funding for peace and social justice in 2021, and as it considers how to spend mission endowment income.

"EDEN at Faith" Community Garden Project

BHPC is partnering with Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia in Southeast DC 's Ward 8, to help support its "EDEN at Faith" project. This is a community garden project on Faith's property, on which Faith is collaborating with another Anacostia congregation. "EDEN" is an acronym for "Everyone Deserves to Eat Naturally." One of ten Black congregations in our Presbytery, Faith has an older congregation of about 75 members.

Even before the pandemic, Ward 8 had DC's lowest median income, highest unemployment rates, fewest healthy food options, and highest rates of obesity, as well as the most homicides. Project goals are to bring fresh produce, nutrition education, and food sovereignty to the local community through ecologically-conscious urban agriculture, and to provide transitional and summer employment opportunities and training to local youth and young adults. Funds will be used for materials and part-time, minimum-wage labor.

There is potential for a long-term partnership (possibly to include hands-on service opportunities post-COVID), and opportunity for BHPC to learn, heal, and grow in the context of its own racial reckoning work.

Use of Realm to Share Information on Racial Justice

In May MCLM formed a "Peace and Social Justice" group in Realm to share resources and information about virtual and in-person events on a range of topics relevant to racial justice. In 2020 there were more than 70 posts to this group of 36 participants. And in August a "21-Day Challenge" group with 26 participants was formed on Realm.

Strategic Visioning Report

Approved December 8, 2016, Session chartered the Strategic Visioning Task Force (SVTF) "to develop, in conversation with the congregation and the Holy Spirit and by the end of 2016 if possible, new mission and visioning statements for Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, and a specific set of goals and recommended next steps for Bradley Hills to take between now and 2022, to fulfill its mission and live out its vision in being the church Christ is calling us to be."

Since that time, we have been living out our **Mission: To reflect God's gracious love by following Christ's example to welcome, nurture, heal and serve**, and our **Vision: A vibrant caring community that draws and energizes people to grow in faith, serving together to make every breath count**

2020 was a most challenging year to live out our report goals with Covid-19 closing the church to most in person activities. Still, BHPC continued to live out the values and mission/vision of our report.



Strategic Goals and Objectives

Welcome: **“Increase the sense of welcome, belonging, and connection within the church as one of our congregation’s highest priorities, with the importance of strengthening the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership. We envision activities to connect our congregation and help match new members’ gifts, interests and needs with programs, small groups, and other activities within the church.”**

We welcomed 37 new members, including confirmands, into the church. Our Connectional, New Members/Outreach, Deacons and staff continued to connect new members, and all members, to the life of the community.

Nurture: **“Increase our capacity to nurture our faith across all ages.”** Our small groups and youth activities continued to be robust, even during the time of Covid.

Heal: **“Expand our capacity to contribute to the healing of the world through caring support and interfaith witness.”** We continued our partnership with BJC and our on-site mosque, although they all had to move to remote worship as well. We began an intentional visiting team to visit members of the church. Deacons engaged in reaching out to members of the congregation.

Serve: **“Change lives, have an impact outside our church, especially on those in need, and fulfill our calling to help others is our goal.”** With Covid, we could not do as much on site mission at BHPC, but still made meaningful investments, work on racial justice, hands on activities, work in the community and congregational conversations to plant the seeds for future service.

Uphold: **“Our Vital Signs Report and the focus groups with lay ministries showed a high degree of satisfaction with our church as it is now. To sustain our current health and vitality, we believe we must focus on membership growth, greater member involvement, and increased stewardship in annual and planned giving.”** In 2020, we continued our robust worship, care of our facilities, staff support and were so grateful to welcome another record financial year of gifts to the church.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the nursery school has been closed since March 13, 2020. The school administration is making plans to reopen. The school is currently accepting applications for a "Spring Term" between April and June 2021, our summer camp programming, and the 2021-2022 school year.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School, founded in 1957, is a play-based nursery school program for children ages 2 through 5 located on the lower level of the BHPNS building. As the children at BHPNS play, they learn friendship, social and emotional skills, independence, developmentally age-appropriate cognitive concepts, how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and to be good citizens. Daily the children are exposed to art, music, science, creative movement, literature, math, and many other learning opportunities. When in session, our hallways and classrooms are filled with children's voices, laughter, and excitement each day.

When the school closed in March, the program continued to support the children and their families in a variety of ways. We did not charge tuition for April and May. The teachers sent home weekly activity packets, and held class meetings over Zoom. The administration created a parent resource page for our website, sent weekly tips and ideas to support parents struggling to manage child care and other responsibilities, sent postcards to the children, and arranged for an end of year car parade to say goodbye.

Throughout September, October, November, and December, the nursery school has sent home monthly newsletters and postcards, held Zoom music classes, and hosted socially distanced, mask wearing, outdoor sing alongs and parades. These fun events have been well received.

In addition to lost 2019-2020 school year tuition, the nursery school refunded 2020 camp tuitions, and 2020-2021 school year deposits, totally more than \$300,000 in lost revenue.

Amy de Court, and BHPNS Assistant Director, applied for and were granted a PPP loan. Because of the PPP loan, the nursery school was able to pay their teachers their salaries through the end of the school year. Currently, only the school Director and Assistant Director are receiving their salaries.

Despite the school's March closure, we were able to fully meet our 2019-2020 user fee contribution of \$124,585. The nursery school is grateful to BHPNS for waiving the user fee since July 1, 2020. The school will resume payments once our program is operational in the spring.

During a typical school year, the Nursery School staff consists of a Director, Assistant Director, Treasurer, Office Assistant, and thirty-five classroom teachers. We have specialists who supplement our in-house programs with 2 music programs, creative movement, science, and Spanish lessons.

Currently we have an opening for a school Treasurer. Our long time Treasurer, Cindy Page, died unexpectedly this past May.

BHPNS has a very active Parents' Group who sponsor class coffees, lectures for parents, the back to school picnic, and hosts fundraisers to support BHPNS. Monies raised from our 2019 school gala were used to build the Outdoor Discovery Center. This natural play setting has become the new favorite play to play. Children can dig, run, skip, walk the balance beam, hop on rocks, perform in the amphitheater, draw on the blackboards and more! This new space is open to all community members for their activities as well.

During the summer of 2020 BHPNS's Director wrote a grant request for funding for security enhancements. The school was awarded \$47,000 through the State of Maryland's School Anti-Bias Hate Grant program. These funds will be used to finalize the security enhancements (from a 2019 grant) begun in the spring of 2020, including upgraded entry systems, additional cameras, enhanced door security, and a global mass communication system. All building users will benefit from these security enhancement.

The success of programming can be attributed to the dedication of our amazing staff, the support of our parents, and the support of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. We are looking ahead to the spring when the children will return to play, grow, and learn!

Thank you.



Update and Annual Report of Interfaith Refugee Family Support Project

Since 2016, moved by the world-wide refugee crisis, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda Jewish Congregation and the Idara-e-Jaferia have collaborated in helping two Afghan refugee families rebuild their lives in the U.S.

The Karimi family moved to Virginia in June 2019 to be closer to their extended family and is doing well.

The Yousufi family continues to live in Rockville. The husband Mubarak was furloughed from his job at a Marriott Hotel in April 2020 because of the pandemic. In June, he left this job and started a new, better paying job at a Montgomery County Public Schools high school. Our volunteers helped with navigating unemployment benefits and job search and continue to support him. He is looking into additional classes at Montgomery College.

The wife, Olfat, who spoke no English when she arrived, is talking, reading and writing English. She continues to attend a two-generation mother and child program virtually two afternoons per week with 2 year-old Farhat and she helps her 5 year-old daughter, Gulan participate in on-line Kindergarten classes and do her school work. Several of our volunteers enjoy tutoring Olfat and Gulan, virtually since the beginning of the pandemic.

In March just before the Pandemic lock down, we furnished an apartment for a newly arrived refugee family through KindWorks, a local non-profit. Many congregants contributed household items to this effort.

We also renewed our partnership with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to help with on-going refugee resettlement efforts. Because of social distancing requirements necessitated by the Covid 19 pandemic, we provide assistance virtually. Session approved spending up to \$5000 from the remaining funds to purchase new mattresses and bedframes for arriving families. According to federally funded Reception & Placement program guidelines, although good condition used furniture and household items can be used for apartment set-ups, mattresses must be new. Lutheran Social Services of the National Capitol Area recognized this contribution by designating our interfaith refugee partnership as their February Hero of the Month.

Our interfaith group continues to meet virtually every few months. There are currently \$15,125 left in the fund. We look forward to engaging with the Yousufis and new refugee families in person once we are able to and potentially renew our co-operation with KindWorks. We will send out more information to our congregations once it is safe to engage.

Brigitte Burgett and Evelyn Ganzglass , co-chairs Interfaith Refugee Family Project

Friends Club

Friends Club at Bradley Hills successfully pivoted to online programming in the spring and has maintained an active membership since that time. We offer two live Zoom sessions each week that include guided current events discussions, trivia, reminiscing, exercise, word games and a lot of laughter. We also host live music two to three times a month from our regular performers. We are proud to say that we have been able to offer all our virtual programs for free!

The Friends Club Caregivers Support Group has also moved to Zoom and continues its regular twice-monthly Zoom meetings. If a caregiver needs support, please reach out to Brooke Kenny, Executive Director.

Friends Club is hoping to properly celebrate its 30th Anniversary in 2021, which will actually be its 31st Anniversary, but who's counting?

We are always looking for new and innovative ways to support our families. Recently, we were able to use grant funding to provide hot meals that they picked up in the church parking lot. It eased the burden of cooking for a couple of meals and brought a (masked) smile to the faces of our beloved members.

We await the day we can once again safely meet in the lounge at the church. Until then, Friends Club wishes everyone a happy, safe and healthy New Year!

If you are interested in learning more about Friends Club or if you would like to get involved, please call Executive Director Brooke Kenny at 301-469-0070 or visit our website at www.friendsclubbethesda.org. Be sure to follow us on Facebook!





Mission Statement

To reflect God's gracious love by following
Christ's example to welcome, nurture, heal and serve.

Vision Statement

A vibrant caring community that draws
and energizes people to grow in faith,
serving together to make every breath count.

Staff & Volunteers

Main Phone Number: 301-365-2850

Pastor/Head of Staff	David E. Gray	500	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Interim Associate Pastor	Y. Eunice Yang	501	eunice@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Christian Education	Matt Nabinger	502	matt@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Music	Matthew Robertson	503	matthew@bradleyhillschurch.org
Manager of Financial Services	Amy C. de Court	505	amy@bradleyhillschurch.org
Manager of Facilities	Farid Beltran	506	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Office Manager	Linda Reynolds	507	linda@bradleyhillschurch.org
Faith Community Nurse	Joanie Friend	518	jfriend@pobox.com
Communications Specialist	Lisa Swann	508	lisa@bradleyhillschurch.org
Nursery School Director	Liz Sobrino	301-365.2909	lsobrino@bhpcns.org
Friends Club Director	Brooke Kenny	301-469-0070	brooke@friendsclubbethesda.org
Sextons	Juan Mendez, Leonel Bruno, Juan E. Mendez, Jorge Miranda		
Child Caregivers	Nora Mendez, DeCarla Shorter and Liz Allen		
Parish Associates	Wally Harman, Marty Albershardt and Jong Mi Lee		
Director of Music Emeritus	Donald S. Sutherland		

www.BradleyHillsChurch.org

6601 Bradley Blvd ~ Bethesda, MD 20817 ~ 301-365-2850