

February 2019

# Sixth Sense

## From the Pastor

Joe Charny is our neighbor.

He lives across the alley in the condominiums next to Sixth. He is a retired psychiatrist, who has raised a family and experienced significant highs and lows in his 91 years. He barely survived the Tree of Life shooting, painfully witnessing some of his closest friends die as they were gunned down when the shooter roamed the halls.

In spite of this and other difficult tragedies, Joe nevertheless calls himself a "jocular realist." "Some people say life can be summed up in eight words," he said to me recently at his apartment. "'You are born, you suffer, and you die.' Life indeed can be painful. But life is also filled with joy. It is an opportunity to make a contribution to this world, to try and learn new things, to go on a path of discovery. Life is an opportunity to laugh, to be creative, to dream. So I say, 'You are born, you laugh, and you die.' That is why I call myself a 'jocular realist.'"

I have been saying recently in preaching that disciplines like prayer and paying attention to Scripture "curate" my heart and mind. The word means "to sift, to organize, to look after." Just as someone in a museum sifts through and organizes a collection of artifacts for an exhibit in a museum, so prayer and Scripture and worship curate our lives to be open to what God has in store for us. They open a window to the world where we are free to make the existential choices of love, gratitude, and mercy, in a world that slowly grinds our dreams away. Huston Smith, a scholar of religion, once described a "spiritually realized being" as simply a person with "an acute sense of the astonishing mystery of everything." That describes Joe to me.

Joe lead minion twice a week for the Tree of Life community while they live in diaspora, waiting for the federal investigation of the shooting to conclude, so they can decide what to do with the facility at the Tree of Life. But something tells me Joe has always been grounded and at home in the shadow of God.

Peace!

Vincent

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*Notes from Session will resume in the  
March 2019 newsletter*

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SIXTH  
*presbyterian*  
CHURCH

## February Worship and Preaching

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February 3 – I Corinthians  
13:1-13, "Patient and Kind"

February 10 – Luke 5:1-11,  
"Savior on Board"

February 17 – Luke 6:17-26,  
"Holy Ferris Wheel"

February 24 – Genesis 45:1-  
11, "Faith in the Mystery"

## What the Pastor Is Reading

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*White Fragility: Why It's So  
Hard for White People to Talk  
About Racism*, Robin  
DiAngelo

*God Save Texas*, Laurence  
Wright

*Make Peace Before the Sun  
Goes Down: The Long  
Encounter of Thomas Merton  
and His Abbot*, James Fox,  
Richard Lipsey

Save the Date!

## Family Overnight Retreat at Camp Crestfield

May 18-19

## Youth Group Happenings, February

**Sunday School**—Sunday school class for junior and senior high will be held each week (10 - 10:45 am) upstairs in Jenny Newman's new office. Join Amy Whipple and Katrina Kennel for discussion on the week's scripture passages, current events, and other assorted topics.

**Youth Fellowship at Crazy Mocha**— Youth are invited for coffee and conversation at Crazy Mocha on Murray Ave. from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursdays, February 7, 14, and 21.

Questions? Contact **Jenny Newman** at (412) 720-6392 or [Jenny@Sixthchurch.org](mailto:Jenny@Sixthchurch.org)

## Ukulele Club

Ukulele Club for children and youth who want to learn. We will meet twice a month before Sunday school from 9:15 to 9:45 am. Kids in Kindergarten and up are welcome to participate!

We have some classroom instruments for those who are interested in trying it out or feel free to bring your own!

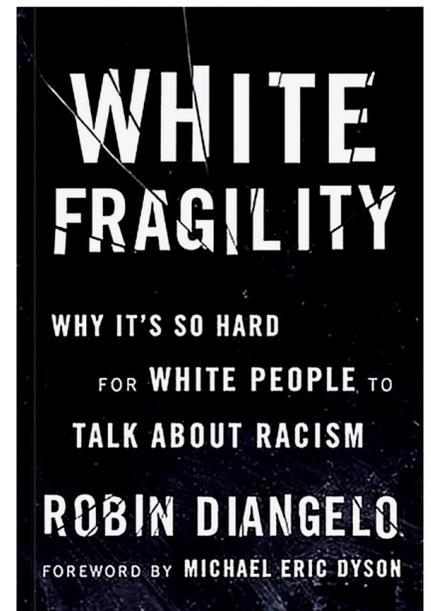
**Upcoming dates:** February 10, 24; March 10, 24

## Adult Education Opportunities

**Wynona Harper will be joining us Sunday February 10 at the 10 am Adult Sunday School Class.** Wynona lost her son to gun violence and she is working to help kids to stay in school and build a future. She is on the street talking to kids, collecting school supplies, distributing sleeping bags and other needed items to the homeless. Her Peanut Butter and Jelly Club Ground Zero is getting ready for action again this year. Her 501C3 organization is Jamal's Place of Peace, named for the son she lost. She is a fireball and you won't be sorry to attend. In 2018 we donated \$200 to support her efforts.



**February 17 and 24, join Pastor Vince during the Sunday School hour (Parlor) for a study of Robin DiAngelo's best-selling book, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*.** In these polarizing times, it is important for us at Sixth to keep talking about race, our blindness to privilege, and how those of us who are sympathetic to race issues can be the biggest obstacle to reconciliation.



**Hello!**

**Please take the time to read the following committee reports. Our committees work hard throughout the year to do their best by Sixth – and the chairs to write these reports.**

**Thanks!**



## **Capital Campaign**

The Capital Campaign Coordinating Committee is delighted to report that Sixth raised \$741,932.80 in pledges and outright gifts. A total of 80 church members, church families, friends of Sixth contributed to the campaign. We are now in excess of \$161,932 over our original campaign goal of \$580,000. Much thanks goes to the Capital Campaign Coordinating Committee, including Bill Beggs, Marnie Bertolet, Peter Kaplan, Leslie Kaplan, Rev. Vincent Kolb, Marcus Robinson, and Campaign Consultant Joe Bull. Many peer solicitors also helped ensure the campaign's success, and we are now certainly in a time of "no turning back" as we move to restore our church home.

This winter, the new Session will contemplate what to do with the pledged surplus. There are many options on the table for discussion, such as considering whether surplus pledges should be placed in the endowment or used to cover new special projects or held in reserve for unanticipated facility emergencies or cost-overruns on already-targeted capital projects. We also may want to hold extra pledged funds in reserve in case we see that pledges are not fulfilled, and we will be considering whether some of the surplus should be applied to church mission and, if so, how much.

Indeed, the church is faced with many questions about managing the generous pledges made by so many! Session members are happy to take suggestions from members of the congregation before February 27, when we hope to outline a path forward to use these funds wisely and in keeping with our faith and ministry. More updates about our plans and progress will be outlined in March.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Ward, chair

## Christian Education

It was another active and full year for Christian Education at Sixth Presbyterian in 2018. We thank the many dedicated Sunday school teachers and volunteers that give countless hours to ministry to our children youth, and adults.

Nursery care was provided each week during Sunday school and worship. In addition to Sunday school classes for all ages, Extended Session was held each week during worship (following the Time for Children) for kids through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. In September, Malena Howe and Megan Fogt began volunteering to host Extended Session time for older kids (3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) who are not yet ready to stay in the sanctuary for worship. This year we continued providing additional nursery and child care for parents during committee meetings and church events. Children and youth actively participated in worship throughout the year in multiple ways. These include serving as acolytes and water bearers, lighting peace candles, and part of our lively Time for Children.

Sunday school students participated and volunteered for Squirrel Hill clean-up day in the spring. In May, church families attended a successful and fun family overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield. A ukulele club was formed in September and meets twice a month before Sunday school for children and youth.

Also this year, we have been working hard to help our children adapt to the rhythm of our weekly service. In March we began making new children's bulletins each week in an effort to teach the kids to read along.

In October, we held our annual Worship and Sacraments Class which is a special time for kids ages preschool and up to learn about communion and baptism and help bake bread for World Wide Communion Sunday.

In the spring, families were invited to attend our Palm Sunday family dinner where we began Holy Week with a meal together, crafts, activities and Holy Week Prayer Stations. Our Sunday school students presented their annual Christmas pageant and families attended our annual Advent/Ornament dinner organized by the Christian Education committee with a meal provided by the Fellowship committee. Resource tables with calendars, books, and at-home activities were provided to families for Advent and Lent.

For three Sundays in July, vacation Bible school took the form of Sunday Fundays. Kids were invited to stay after church for three consecutive Sundays to hear Bible, sing songs, and participate in fun crafts and activities. Bible stories shared included Jesus sending out the disciples (Mark 6: 1-13), Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4: 35-40), Jesus walking on water ( Mark 6: 45-52 ), and Jesus Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-21). Our activities included a walk to the Children's Institute playground, making crafts and edible slime, a visit from pet therapy dog Luna, and making pretzels to share with neighbors.

The youth group participated in many activities and events throughout the year including weekly coffee shop gatherings, movie and game nights, and packing care kits for the homeless during Sunday school. Youth also



participated in worship throughout the year by serving as ushers and participating in dramas for Palm Sunday, Epiphany, and other services.

The Christian Education Committee also help to support and host adult education programs at the church throughout the year. Our adult Sunday school class led by Bill Guy continued to meet throughout the year with a dedicated group studying the synoptic Gospels. Pastor Vincent Kolb leads a weekly Bible Study, a lectio divina group and studies during advent and lent.

In May, in partnership with the church's More Light committee, the educational program LGBTQ+ 101 was presented by guest speaker Ted Hoover, PERSAD Community Safe Zone Coordinator. The program provided basic training covering fundamentals of the LGBTQ experience featuring terms, definitions, and vocabulary; and an examination the social context of discrimination and examine some the disparities experienced by LGBTQ youth.

The Christian Education committee also supported programs offered throughout the year by the church's Social Justice/PIIN Core Team and the Church and Communities committee.

Sixth Church Elder Peter Gilmore presented a talk based on his new book "Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania, 1770-1830." Poet Alina Vinyarsky held a poetry reading and conversation on the topic of trust.

Our church leaders and families supported community event throughout the year. Families marched together the city's annual Pride parade held in June. Church staff and youth attended the March for Our Lives, and rally organized by area high school students to protest gun violence, and our families brought their children and youth to attend and support vigils and events held here at Sixth Church for Immigrant families and following the Tree of Life shooting tragedy.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Newman on behalf of the Christian Education Committee

## Church and Community

During 2018 the Church and Community Committee (C&C) actively supported, through its local mission allocations and the active engagement of its members, a variety of important charities and organizations advocating for social justice. This year's report on those activities is co-written by Tom Twiss (Church and Community), Sue Koehler (CROP Hunger Walk). Diana Marston Wood (Assistance to Neighborhood Academy), and Jane Fox (Wilkinsburg Community Ministry). Thanks again to everyone who helped with this report and all members of C&C for another year of remarkable contributions.

### Allocations

This year in our allocations Church and Community did some difficult trimming of the list of organizations we support. This made it possible for us to increase our contributions proportionally for the other charities and social justice organizations we support, increasing our impact. At the same time, we were able to further strengthen our commitment to social justice through a new contribution to Pittsburgh United – a coalition of community, labor, faith, and environmental organizations committed to advancing the vision of a community and economy that work for all people.

| <b>Locally Directed Mission Budget</b>   | <b>2018</b>     |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Committee-directed</b>  |                 |
| Wilkinsburg Community Ministry   | \$2,650         |
| Neighborhood Academy   | \$2,610         |
| Just Harvest   | \$1,185         |
| MHY Family Services (formerly Mars Home for Youth)   | \$1,135         |
| Crestfield Camp and Conference Center  | \$1,085         |
| El Porvenir Community, Nicaragua   | \$1,080         |
| Lazarus Fund   | \$1,080         |
| Global Links   | \$1,050         |
| Anti-Racism Transformation Team, Pittsburgh Presbytery   | \$975           |
| Church World Service   | \$930           |
| Pittsburgh United  | \$800           |
| Table Ministry of the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community   | \$545           |
|  |                 |
| <b>Directed by other entities</b>  |                 |
| Social Justice Core Team (Training & PIIN dinner contribution)   | \$1,735         |
| Gun Safety Group (Mom's Demand Action- \$350; Ceasefire PA- \$350; Black Women for Positive Change-\$400; Jamar Place of Peace- \$200) | \$1,300         |
| Earth Care (Penn Environment & League of Conservation Voters)  | \$1,300         |
| Youth Group: FamilyLinks Street Outreach Program   | \$540           |
|  |                 |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$20,000</b> |

Also, at the request of Session, Church and Community recommended the mission allocations to be made with 5% of the anticipated funds from Sixth's capital campaign. One organization was recommended for each of four different categories: More Light, Earth Care, Charity, and Justice. The organizations selected and the final amounts to be allocated will be announced by Session.

### **Programs**

With Adult Christian Education, Church and Community continued to organize the program series on social justice topics. In each case, we attempted not only to educate about an issue, but also to suggest opportunities for members and friends of Sixth get involved in making a difference. Programs in 2018 included:

- Tues., July 24, "Resisting Faithfully: New Sanctuary Movement Pittsburgh." Presentation and discussion led by Opal Middleton.
- Tues., Sept. 18, "Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point." Film with discussion led by Rev. Myra Kazanjian.
- Sun., Sept. 23, "Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS)." Video with discussion led by Dr. Leila Richards.
- Sun., Oct. 28, "The Goals and Significance of Ongoing Academic Union Organizing." Presentation and discussion led by Professor Stephen Sarma-Weierman, Computer Science, Pitt Johnstown.

- Tues., Nov. 27, *Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania, 1770-1830*. A Book Talk by Dr. Peter Gilmore.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel one other program, "Pittsburgh's Affordable Housing Crisis," scheduled for Tuesday evening Oct. 16, due to the illness of one of our speakers. We will try to reschedule that program in 2019.

### **Sixth again gives great support to the CROP Hunger Walk – Sue Koehler**

The Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk (on October 9) raised \$21,094, and the contribution of the Sixth Church team was very important to that success. Our walkers and their sponsors contributed an impressive \$5,600.

The funds raised will go primarily to the hunger and development projects of Church World Service, which is faithfully and effectively engaged in combatting hunger and poverty around the world. A smaller portion of the funds will return to help fund hunger programs in Pittsburgh - 10% to the East End Cooperative Ministry and 15% to the Wilksburg Community Ministry.

### **The Neighborhood Academy – Diana Wood**

Sixth Church supported a meal program for this school from about 2004 to 2017. By the later date the school had become so successful that we could no longer cook a meal for about 200 people and transport it to the school. We have continued to support this grade 6-12 faith-related school through our Church and Community budget. But also, there are tutoring opportunities. Diana Wood participates regularly and can provide you with detailed information. Contact her at [dmwood@pitt.edu](mailto:dmwood@pitt.edu).

### **Wilksburg Community Ministry – Jane Fox**

The year 2018 was a very busy one for the Wilksburg Community Ministry. And Sixth Church, with its outpouring of generosity, continued to be an important part of WCM's extended family. Groceries were distributed to 95 families for Thanksgiving and another 65 families for Christmas. Each family received a bag of groceries sufficient to feed their family for the day, plus eggs, some cereal, some hearty soups – much coming from Sixth community donations – and some extras. We also received enough gift cards to carry us through the holiday seasons. Jane Opgaard and her son, Sterling, helped distribute food for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and Jane's daughter, Carlisle, also helped at Christmas. Jane Opgaard was elected to the Board of WCM in January.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Twiss, chair

## **Deacons**

It was a busy 2018 for the Deacons. The year started with a training session on caregiving. This training created a shared foundation of caring for new and veteran Deacons alike. A Deacon's main responsibility and calling is to provide support for those in need within and outside of the walls of Sixth Church. By providing rides to medical appointments, help with meals, or just some caring support - the primary work of the Deacons has been attending to our care list of church members in need.

Throughout the year the Deacons have also helped in the life of the Church. By serving home and Sunday Communion, helping with rides to Sunday service and Bible study, an emphasis was made to promote pastoral care that ensured those in need never felt forgotten. Everyone should feel the power of a caring neighbor to support them whatever their need.



To help those outside of our community, many Deacons performed interviews, took intake calls, and provided monetary support to the Lazarus fund. The bulk of this work was completed through in-person interviews where Lazarus applicants could share their story in a supportive and caring environment. These interviews culminated in \$200 grants to approved applicants. Grants helped provide Section 8 housing security deposits and help with utility bill back payments.

In addition to the Lazarus fund, many Deacons were also involved in homeless ministry. In order to help some of the most vulnerable in our community, a care closet with warm clothes and hygiene products was maintained. Throughout the year care packages for homeless individuals were also made. These packs contained food, hygiene products, and basic clothing.

From maintaining a care list to homeless ministry, I have been humbled, inspired, and privileged to serve such a caring group. Thank you for your service, leadership, and model of caring.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Shifflet, moderator

## Earth Care

Sixth has been a certified Earth Care Congregation for three years now, and we continue to be faithful stewards of the earth in increasingly dire times. In March, Sixth hosted a presentation by leading regional environmentalist Larry Schweiger, who discussed climate impact, the Shell plastics plant, fracking, and political and legislative efforts to combat climate change. More than 100 from Sixth and the community came to hear Schweiger, who previously headed the PennFuture environmental advocacy group and currently chairs the Climate Reality Pittsburgh and SWPA chapter. The event drew significant attention, including media coverage.

Guest preacher Sarah Robbins delivered an inspiring message on Earth Day in April, which was followed by an assortment of earth-friendly foods and sharing of climate-themed facts during fellowship. While we continue to lament and learn more about the problems befalling our region's recycling system, Sixth continues to serve as a robust collection point for hard-to-recycle items. In 2018, we've started collecting plastic bottle caps (of which we've already collected more than two cubic feet) along with printer toner and ink cartridges and CFL fluorescent light bulbs. Sixth collected and recycled nearly 600 pounds of electronic and tech waste this past year.

In June, Keith Gillogly became chair of the Earth Care Committee, succeeding founding chair Nora Johnson, who remains a tireless environmental proponent at Sixth and within the greater community.

In October, some Sixth congregants attended the Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light annual conference, which Sixth supported and sponsored. The event, held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, brought interfaith-based action and thinking to a variety of earth-care issues and featured a series of workshops, speakers, and ways to connect with environmental advocates and organizations.

Plastics have become an increasingly vital topic to address, and many from Sixth have begun to learn more about plastics mitigation through No Plastics Please ([noplasticsplease.net](http://noplasticsplease.net)) and the recent What's SUP campaign launch, initiatives that target single-use plastics and plastics reduction. Plastics will be a big topic in 2019 – and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Gillogly, chair

## Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee provided nourishment for the usual events this year: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Maundy Thursday light supper with communion, special fellowship following worship on Easter Sunday, the Church Picnic, Stewardship Breakfast, Christmas Tree decorating with supper, the Annual Christmas Dinner, and the Cookie Reception after Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve.

On two occasions, the committee chairs provided supper for Session members before a monthly meeting, enabling a time of community and sharing before business commenced.

One of Sixth's beloved members passed on this year and Fellowship provided a reception after the Memorial Service.

Fellowship Committee has continued to take into account Sixth's efforts as an Earth Care community, and we have taken this commitment seriously. At nearly all events we have used non-disposable dishes, glasses and cutlery.

All in all, it was a busy year for our committee. We are grateful for the stalwarts who tirelessly, year after year, enable the greater family of Sixth Church to have good and yummy times together.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Myers-Newbury, chair

## Gun Safety

Sixth was a community gathering place the day of the Tree of Life shootings. Members of Sixth have been very active in lifting up these tragedies and educating ourselves about legislation that has the potential to reduce gun violence.

Another local group we support is **CeaseFirePA**, a statewide organization (with ties to the federal movement) that has been doing gun violence prevention work with a legislative focus for the past 18 years. CeaseFirePA works with mayors, police chiefs, faith leaders, community organizations, and individual Pennsylvanians through outreach, education, coalition building, and advocacy, to reduce gun violence and gun tragedies in our communities, stop the flow of illegal guns onto our streets, and keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

Rob Conroy--who is a lawyer, their statewide Director of Organizing, and their lead staff person based in Pittsburgh--comes to almost every one of our committee meetings and geographically builds support for gun violence prevention initiatives in every corner of the western part of the state through advocacy trainings, informational meetings, and events. At our meetings, he shares the insider's view of what is happening in Harrisburg with all facets of gun legislation, both good and bad, and is a resource that we call upon for the history behind current bills and representatives' voting records/level of affiliation with the gun lobby. Several of us have traveled on CeaseFirePA-provided buses to Harrisburg, attending rallies and advocating for common-sense gun legislation. A couple of us are planning on traveling with them for an upcoming rally

promoting the latest round of gun violence prevention legislation. We provided \$300 towards this work in 2018."

Members of Sixth have been very active in support of **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**. This group was founded by Lucy McBath who was recently elected to State House of Representatives in Georgia. Following the Sandy Hook shootings in 2014 she began a grass roots effort to reduce gun violence. She had lost her own son to gun violence just 2 years earlier. She modeled the organization on MADD, Moms Against Drunk Driving as a grass roots volunteer organization. Moms currently has 5 million supporters and 350,000 donors.

Sixth was an early supporter of Moms hosting meetings and for 2 years the Wear Orange Event was held in front of the church. Our local group continues to grow. On December 15, 2018 the Sandy Hook Memorial was held at Heinz Hall. Remembered that day were the victims of Sandy Hook, those killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue, as well as every other person lost to gun Violence in Allegheny County through the year. Myra Kazanjian lead the group in prayer and our own Olena Tumanova read poems she has written about surviving tragedy. In 2018 Sixth donated \$300 to this effort.

For the first time in 2018 we also supported **Black Women for Positive Change**. There is a local group of this national organization in Pittsburgh. Established in 2012 Black Women is a multicultural, interfaith civic network. The 2018 Week of Positive Change, Non-violence, and Opportunities was celebrated worldwide. In Pittsburgh our Chairs were Karen Hacker, Director and Roderick Harris, Deputy Director of the Allegheny Health Department as well as Mayor Peduto. A film entitled "Drop: A Story of Triumph" which is about the struggle to keep a black student to stay in school was produced by the group. There was a contest for High School students who saw the film to submit essays. Two of the winners were from Pittsburgh City Schools. Sixth contributed \$400 to the local organization this year.

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> after church. You are invited to join the meeting and/or sign up to receive email messages about our meetings, current legislation and local events.

Looking forward, this year we will be advocating for legislation including Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Universal Background Checks as well as working with local on the ground efforts to eliminate some of the root causes of gun violence.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Kazanjian, chair

## House Committee

**Roofing and Drainage, interior repairs:** MTG roofing fixed leaks in the sanctuary roof in March, and then we sought help from our insurance company to repair the plaster and repaint the areas that were damaged inside by the leaks. The project ended up including the entire sanctuary, the office and the east stair hall. Our insurance copay was \$2500 of a total project cost of \$136,559.61. The repairs were completed in August. While the scaffolding was up, Peter Koehler replaced lightbulbs (some LEDs) and cleaned the pendant fixtures.

Since the interior was being replastered and painted, we investigated the other causes of water infiltration into the building. This led to replacing two rusted out drainpipes, rotoring out and unclogging two exterior drains, rerouting the east side drain piping into an interior basement drain to alleviate furnace room flooding, repairing a floor drain, cleaning out the gutters and clogged scuppers and rehangng gutters so they flowed

the right way. We hope to avoid the buildup of ice that has plagued our building in times past.

In 2018, the church received a \$5000 matching grant from Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Religious Properties Fund for coping mortar repair/resealing/repainting. The coping is the top layer of stonework at the roof level. The contractor got backed up and could not get to our project. We have requested an extension of the grant from PHLF for 2019. The scope will be somewhat smaller, total of \$10,000 rather than \$15,000 worth of work.

**Kitchen:** Fixed the fire suppression system for the range hood. Peter Koehler fixed the spray head on the dishwasher, and the exhaust fan in that part of the kitchen. Peter also fixed the plaster that had failed in the Ridinger room.

Hunt glass was hired to reseal and recaulk two fallen panes in the outside protective covering of a sanctuary stained glass window. The session approved a contract with Hunt Glass to restore one sanctuary 2-lancet window. The work will begin in the Spring of 2019

**Electrical:** Peter Koehler installed a new efficient AC unit in Jenny Newman's office and changed the electrical breaker and outlet for this A/C from 230 V to 115 V. With the help of Greg Winner he replaced two motion sensitive floodlights over patio on Condo side and ran a new electrical power line to them. He repaired the Sodium vapor light above the Condo side entrance door and replaced the electrical power line to it; installed a digital timer switch so it only turns on at night. Replaced the outdoor light above the exit door from the Chapel and installed a digital timer switch so it only turns on at night.

Mendelson electric was hired to clean the circuit boards, evaluate the electrical system, and recommend improvements. One board will need to be replaced in 2019. The knob and tube wiring system is in good shape. Peter Koehler traced and documented most of the loads that are connected to the breakers in the 3 breaker panels located in the Breaker Closet, the breaker panel located near the dishwasher in the downstairs kitchen, and the breaker panel located on the Murray Ave wall in the crawl space under the sanctuary. He also replaced the 3 outlets in the baseboards of the Parlor with grounded 3-prong outlets, and installed 4 overhead lights and 1 dual outlet in the attic as a first step to make it safer and easier to access the space above the sanctuary ceiling when a bulb needs to be replaced in one of the floodlights. With the help of Joe Deluca replaced the bulb in Floodlight #2.

**Safety:** Peter Koehler conducted inventory of all fire extinguishers throughout the building. Found a total of 15, some of which had been missed in recent annual inspections. Arranged for the inspector to come in and check them out.

Peter Koehler purchased and installed a video security camera on the Murray Ave. entrance door with a video monitor and intercom link on Amy's desk. This way she can confirm the identity of persons who request admittance, He also purchased an additional 19" LCD Monitor and installed it on Jen's desk; He connected it via a long signal cable (that runs from the Organ Room via the Breaker Closet and the rear wall of the storage closet next to Vincent's office up into the attic and drops down through the ceiling into the storage closet next to Jen's office). This enables Jen to see the same display of the 4 security cameras that Amy has on her desk. (August)

**Other:** The house committee organized a Church garden clean-up and planting day in May. Peter Koehler purchased and assembled 2 new large, extra quiet pedestal fans to replace the existing fans in the rear of the sanctuary. (August)

Kirk Howe has been looking into options for various types of personal sound amplifiers for an assisted hearing system for sanctuary. We anticipate progress on this in 2019.

This year it has become clear that more routine maintenance of the structure and systems should be regularly done, for example cleaning of gutters and carpet cleaning, both of which were done this year.

Much time was spent working on the Capital Campaign, especially in developing projects and soliciting bids.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Kaplan, chair

## Personnel

Sixth Church is truly blessed to have five amazing and high performing staff members. I believe I used the same words in last year's report from the Personnel Committee saying we struggle each year at performance appraisal time to conduct a meaningful review!

This year, Phyllis Rupert suggested an article she read called "Ten Attributes of High Performing Leaders." We asked them all to read it and to come to our sessions prepared to say how they identified themselves based on those attributes. The discussions were illuminating and confirming with some common threads.

**Passion:** "They are passionate communicators and use powerful language to infuse hope and optimism."

**Curiosity:** "They are continuously looking at...how to build greater effectiveness...through people... and technology"

**Ownership:** "High performing teams have members who take responsibility not only for the performance of the team, but they also take complete responsibility for the quality of their personal and professional lives."

Vincent, Amy, Jenny, Harry and Gail: congratulations on a fantastic 2018!

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Parees, Carol Emerson, and Phyllis Rupert, Personnel Committee

## Stewardship (Annual Campaign)

As of January 8, 2019, we have received 105 pledges for the coming year. Only three households have not yet responded, and we expect a pledge from only one of these families. The 105 pledges that we have received to-date total \$333,336.20, which translates to an average pledge of \$2,070.41.

It is striking that this year's pledges are almost identical to the pledges for 2018. The 108 pledges received for 2018 totaled \$329,345.75, and last year's average pledge was \$2,175.14, nearly equal to this year's average.

Given the fact that the church was simultaneously conducting an ambitious capital campaign which received pledges of over \$700,000, the Annual Campaign did well.

The Stewardship Committee deserves credit for its persistence. At the outset of the campaign we identified 107 households to solicit, and we received pledges from 105 of them, with one more pledge likely to come in. Some people were contacted multiple times until we obtained a response.

Our hardworking committee consisted of Millie Barnes, Carol Emerson, Erik Fogt, Patty Halverson, Peter Kaplan, and Lauren Ward. They deserve the thanks of the Session and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

The Stewardship Committee

## Worship

“Worship is at the very heart of the church’s life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God’s call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith.”\*

Our Worship Committee worked with our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb, and our musician, Gail Luley, to help plan and implement our services that celebrate the liturgical year and the Sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism. In addition, our responsibilities involved many aspects of worship, including preparation of the worship space, training and scheduling of liturgists and acolytes, preparing communion elements, the annual church picnic, hosting guest preachers, and so forth.

Sacraments continue to be central to our worship. We have celebrated Eucharist and the Baptisms of infants, children, and adults. In addition to our monthly celebrations of the Eucharist, we celebrated the Lord’s Supper on Epiphany Sunday, during Lent on Maundy Thursday, on Easter, Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, All Saints’ Day, Christmas Eve, and at the Women’s Weekend and Family Retreat at Crestfield.

We have continued to incorporate youth in our worship services in several ways including the participation of acolytes who bring in the Light of Christ, children who pour the baptismal water each Sunday, and “Time for Children” offered during most worship services.

We have both youth and adults participate in Liturgical Dramas to highlight Biblical passages throughout the year, and our children & youth present an annual Christmas Pageant.

We have celebrated the seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas and several special worship services including Epiphany of the Lord, Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration of the Lord, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, the Day of Pentecost, our annual Worship in the Park, World Communion Sunday, and All Saints Day.

Worship provides us with an opportunity to “glorify and enjoy God” with a community of faith and to offer our service as part of the body of Christ, serving as a corporate priesthood.

We want to thank all members of the Worship Committee who have been devoted to creating meaningful worship for our congregation: Pam Howe, Margaret Miller, Jenny Newman, Verna Robinson, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Pam Twiss, Pamela Bower, Gail Luley, and Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bower and Verna Robinson, co-chairs

\*Book of Common Worship

## February 2019 – Events and Birthdays

| Sunday  | Monday            | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                          | Saturday                                  |
|---|-------------------|---------|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
|   |                   |         |  |  | 1                               | 2<br><b>Chris Berg</b><br>7:00 pm, NA     |
| 3<br><b>Doris Bell</b><br>10:00 am,<br>Conservation<br>Consultants<br>10:00 am,<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 am,<br>Worship<br>12:15 pm,<br>Church &<br>Community<br>(Parlor)<br>7:00 pm,<br>Group of Ten<br>8:00 pm, NA | 4<br>7:00 pm, NA  | 5       | 6<br>10:30 am, Bible<br>Study<br>3:00 pm,<br>Fiberarts<br>Guild<br>6:00 pm,<br>What'sSUP | 7<br>6:00 pm,<br>Youth Group<br>(Crazy Mocha)<br>6:45 pm, Lectio<br>7:30 pm, Choir   | 8                               | 9<br><b>Kit Ayars</b><br>7:00 pm, NA      |
| 10<br>9:15 am,<br>Ukulele Club<br>10:00 am, E-<br>Giving<br>Tutorial<br>(Pastor's<br>Office)<br>10:00 am,<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 am,<br>Worship<br>Moment for<br>Parkland<br>8:00 pm, NA                           | 11<br>7:00 pm, NA | 12      | 13<br>10:30 am, Bible<br>Study   | 14<br><b>Peter Kaplan</b><br><b>Glenna Van<br/>Dyke</b><br><b>Aldora Watt</b><br>6:00 pm,<br>Youth Group<br>(Crazy Mocha)<br>6:45 pm, Lectio<br>7:30 pm, Choir | 15<br><b>Kathleen<br/>Myers</b> | 16<br><b>Maria Guyette</b><br>7:00 pm, NA |

# February 2019 – Events and Birthdays

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday                 |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>17</b><br>10:00 am, White Fragility<br>10:00 am, Sunday School<br>11:00 am, Worship<br>12:00 pm, Gun Safety<br>8:00 pm, NA                                   | <b>18</b><br><b>Cyril Fox</b><br><b>John McCall</b><br>7:00 pm, NA | <b>19</b><br><b>Greg Cooper</b><br>7:00 pm, 14th Ward Democrats | <b>20</b><br><b>GG Loyd</b><br>10:30 am, Bible Study<br>7:15 pm, Deacons        | <b>21</b><br><b>Linda May</b><br>6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha)<br>6:45 pm, Lectio<br>7:30 pm, Choir | <b>22</b><br><b>Louise Ford</b><br>7:00 pm, Three Rivers Tibetan | <b>23</b><br>7:00 pm, NA |
| <b>24</b><br>9:15 am, Ukulele Club<br>10:00 am, White Fragility<br>10:00 am, Sunday School<br>11:00 am, Worship<br>12:30 pm, Christian Education<br>8:00 pm, NA | <b>25</b><br>7:00 pm, NA   | <b>26</b><br><b>Jan Myers-Newbury</b><br><b>Amy Whipple</b>     | <b>27</b><br><b>Janet Kanaskie</b><br>10:30 am, Bible Study<br>7:30 pm, Session | <b>28</b><br>6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha)<br>6:45 pm, Lectio<br>7:30 pm, Choir                     |  |                          |



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**Dated Material – Do Not Hold**

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*We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.*

## Food for Thought...



**The Deadline** for the March newsletter is Feb. 15th. Please email articles and announcements to Amy in the church office (office@sixthchurch.org).

You can also put printed copies on her desk.

Thank you!

blessed be the longing that brought you here  
and quickens your soul with wonder.

may you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire  
that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.

may you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease  
to discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

may the forms of your belonging – in love, creativity, and friendship –  
be equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.

may the one you long for long for you.

may your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.

may a secret providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling.

may your mind inhabit your life with the sureness  
with which your body inhabits the world.

may your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage.

may you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.

may you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

–John O'Donohue