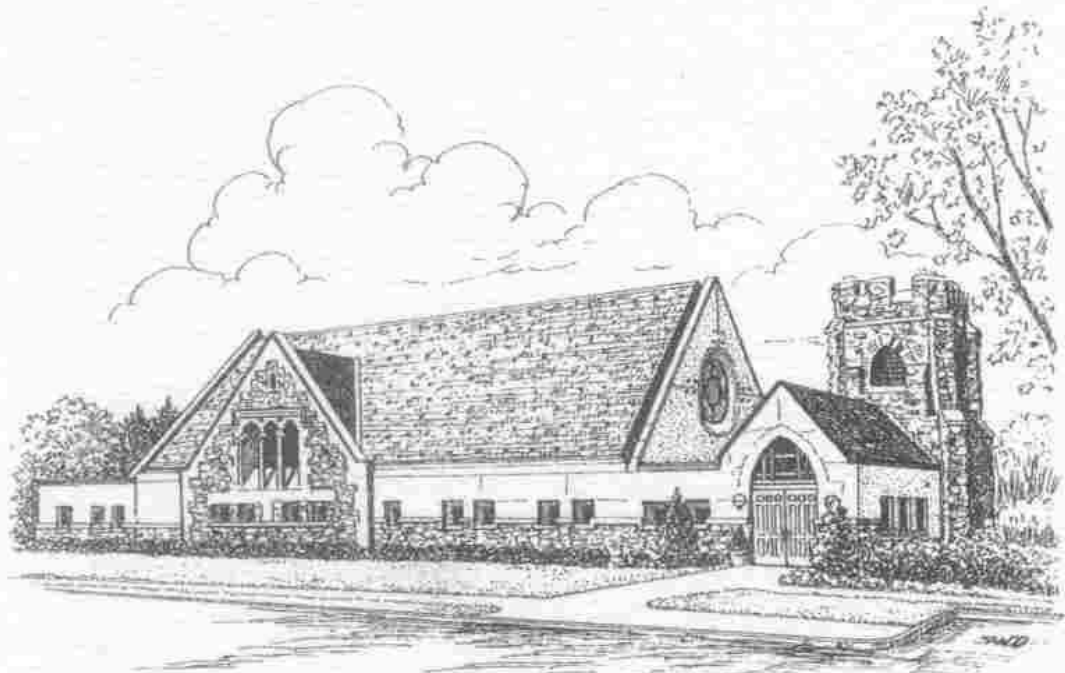




HITCHCOCK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6 Greenacres Avenue
Scarsdale, NY 10583
914-723-3311



*Hitchcock Presbyterian Church
Scarsdale, New York*

2014 Annual Report

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Final 2015 Operating Budget

The Staff

Ministers

All People of the Church

Interim Minister

The Rev. Jack Lohr.....JLohr@hitchcockpresby.org

Minister of Formation and Nurture

The Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett.....ESmith-Bartlett@hitchcockpresby.org

Minister of Music

Dr. John T. King.....JKing@hitchcockpresby.org

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Parish Nurse

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Church Music Intern

Daniel Ficarri..... DFicarri@hitchcockpresby.org

Facility Manager

Alexander Galindo.....AGalindo@hitchcockpresby.org

Sexton: **Alex Esquivel**

Clerk of Session: **Linda Camp**

Church Office: 914-723-3311

Fax: 914-723-3648

Website: www.HitchcockPresby.org

E-mail: HitchcockPresby@msn.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Summer Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship:

10:30 am

Summer Worship:

10:00 am

Co-Directors of Hitchcock School

Heather Miller hitchcockschool@hitchcockpresby.org

Susan Grant..... hitchcockschooladmin@hitchcockpresby.org

Hitchcock School: 914-723-0922

Fax: 914-723-3648

Website: www.HitchcockSchool.com

Report of the Interim Minister

*Those who put their strength in you are truly happy;
pilgrimage is in their hearts...
They go from strength to strength,
until they see the supreme God in Zion.*

--Psalm 84:5, 7 (CEB)



I am honored and delighted to be serving since last May as your Interim Minister!

The interim journey can be divided into two parts: Mission Study and Pastoral Search. In the first nine months of my ministry with you, we gave birth to the Mission Study and elected the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). It's possible that sometime in 2015, the PNC will present its candidate. As I've teased the PNC, "Don't be in any hurry! I'm having a great time." When Janice and I say goodbye, it will be with tears, but also in the confidence that Hitchcock Church is on a pilgrimage "from strength to strength."

We made such rapid progress thanks to the active involvement of the Interim Steering Committee: Betsy Bush, John Clapp, Jonathan Hwang, Jack Lohr, Liz Perrone, Alison Rose, Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett, Rene Thiel and Rudyard Whyte. We conducted the US Congregational Life Survey, gathered demographic data, published and revised drafts of the Mission Study. For a picture of where we are as we begin 2015, and the search for the next installed pastor, check out <http://hitchcockpresby.org/assets/Uploads/2015-Approved-Mission-Study.pdf>

I am grateful for the energy and commitment of all my colleagues in ministry, beginning with those we list every Sunday in the bulletin as "Ministers"—ALL THE MEMBERS. I am especially humbled by the commitment of the people whose service to Hitchcock brings them to the offices day after day and week after week: Alex Esquivel, Alexander Galindo, Alma Whyte, Betsy Broyd, Christine Lee, Daniel Ficarri, David Kroenlein, Diane Gismond, Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett, Heather Miller, Jeanne Billings, Jennifer Watts, Jensina Olson, Joanna Tsuyuki, John King, Kathy Gray, Kevin Dierking, Larry Tsuyuki, Lee Maiden, Lily Fan, Linda Camp, Liz Perrone, Margaret Black, Patricia Murphy, Ralph Watts, Rene Thiel, Steve Bush, Susan Grant, and Tracey Tsai. (*plus many more!*)

Mega-thanks go to

Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett, for her work far beyond her job description, leading and steadying the church from the time of John Miller's departure until my arrival, and for helping to orient me. She is a true colleague in ministry! Beyond her roles as Minister of Fellowship and Nurture (detailed elsewhere), she preached nine times during the year, led the Confirmation Class and resourced the Board of Deacons.

Dr. John King, whose musical gifts, leadership and gregariousness help set the tone at Hitchcock. He led the Chancel Choir in Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna" during Lent and Verdi's "Gloria" in Advent. He found a promising young organ scholar in Daniel Ficarri to ease our sadness at the departure of Greg Zelek. He is a joy to work with, even welcoming me into the choir for the "Gloria."

Rev. Dr. William Weisenbach, who was our regular preacher for eleven Sundays at the beginning of the year, and was a good friend to give me a reference with the Interim Minister Search Committee.

We were blessed in worship with one-time messages from former Associate Pastor Rev. Susan DeGeorge, Elder Bill Doescher and youth members Jack Bush and Jordan Hudock. A year's worth of inspiration is available on the HPC website: <http://hitchcockpresby.org/worship/sermons>. I've listened to many of the messages I missed, and I encourage you to do the same!

This is a time of challenge and opportunity for our world and our faith, as outlined in the year-in-review pages that follow. To symbolize our commitment, we looked back to a 1985 "Commitment to Peacemaking" adopted by the Hitchcock Session and chose the theme of peace for our 2014-15 program year. In September we planted a "Peace Pole", with English, Japanese, Hebrew and Spanish versions of the prayer, "May peace prevail upon earth." We added the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" to weekly worship. The Adult Forum brought us together to talk about many aspects of peacemaking.

Hitchcock continues to manifest a strong presence in the community, recognized by fulsome coverage in the *Scarsdale Inquirer*, and responses to our website, Facebook, and other technologies. We are truly a "community church," welcoming people for a great variety of programs beyond Sunday-morning worship:

- programs for children and youth, through church groups, Scouts, and Hitchcock School.
- exceptional church music programs and the New Choral Society.
- Mission involvements, Thrift Shop, and other opportunities for service.
- occasional social events that bring in people beyond our membership.

In my preaching and leadership I have sought to affirm the strengths of this church, while encouraging spiritual growth as God may call to us. I affirm the wisdom of our Mission Study which rejoiced "that our differences of opinion are a sign of a dynamic, intelligent congregational life," and called on us "to embrace them in a respectful, open and honest manner." Our diversity is indeed something to celebrate!

For more details of our busy year, consult

The Church Facebook page:

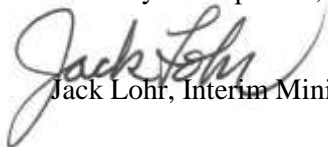
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=144443478949984>

Our webpage: <http://hitchcockpresby.org/>

and My Blog: <http://hitchcocki.blogspot.com/>

My prayer in the coming year, is that we may lay a firm foundation for the success of the next installed pastor of the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church!

Your loyal companion,



Jack Lohr, Interim Minister



2014 Was An Unsettling Year, And Religion Played A Starring Role

Religion News Service By Kevin Eckstrom

(RNS) For most of recorded history, Isis was an Egyptian goddess, a benevolent type who cared for widows and orphans, cured the sick and even brought the dead back to life.



This year, the world met the other ISIS.

The rise of the so-called Islamic State, variously known as ISIS or ISIL, dominated headlines in 2014 as a self-proclaimed caliphate sowed death and destruction across Iraq and Syria. For some, the group confirmed their worst fears about Muslim extremists, bent on killing religious minorities and subjugating women in a quest for domination that included leveling villages and beheading hostages.

The terror wrought by the Islamic State reflected a sense of turbulence that upended international news in 2014. But it was not the only source of unrest. The Ebola virus in west Africa put the world on edge, and a bloody war between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza, kidnapped schoolgirls in Nigeria and the slaughter of more than 100 children at a military school in Pakistan added to the mix.

At home, America wrestled with police brutality as grand juries declined to prosecute officers in the deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City. From botched prison executions to a stream of desperate migrant children flooding America's southern border, things felt troubled, disorienting, always on the verge of breaking apart.

Religion played a large role in those stories, and in other major headlines from 2014:

A banner year for church-state court decisions

A string of court decisions paved a way for greater accommodation of religion in public life, dealing a blow to atheist groups that warned that the separation of church and state was under attack. In *Greece v. Galloway*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld sectarian prayers at public meetings, and the justices also ruled 5-4 in favor of the Hobby Lobby arts-and-crafts chain in its bid to refuse a full range of contraceptive services to employees. That ruling also established religious rights for private businesses, a precedent that could have a range of ramifications. In addition, atheists lost bids to require religious groups to have greater transparency on donors; to remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency; and to end a tax break for clergy housing. A federal appeals court ruled that a cross-shaped relic can remain at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at Ground Zero.

Pope Francis wanted open debate, and he got it

Pope Francis hosted a headline-grabbing Synod on the Family at the Vatican that publicly pitted Catholic conservatives against his reformist allies who want to open Communion to divorced and remarried Catholics as well as create more space for LGBT Catholics and their families. In an unusually public debate, 200 or so bishops talked of acknowledging the "gifts and qualities" of gay Catholics, but later backed down and failed to pass a measure on welcoming them "with respect and delicacy." After the synod, Francis demoted Cardinal Raymond Burke, the outspoken American prelate who led the opposition to any changes. Attention now shifts to the synod's second act, scheduled to be held in October 2015, when final decisions may be made.

A whirlwind shift on marriage equality

Discussions on homosexuality echoed far beyond the Vatican, however. The number of states allowing same-sex marriage doubled, from 17 to 35 in addition to the District of Columbia, after the Supreme Court declined to review a number of pro-marriage rulings from lower courts. Within major denominations, the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted by wide margins to allow gay clergy, and a number of United Methodist pastors were vindicated after court battles over marrying same-sex couples. Among evangelicals, the giant relief organization World Vision said it would recognize the same-sex marriages of employees, but reversed itself within 48 hours after donors revolted. Southern Baptists held two major conferences on homosexuality, and while they held the line against homosexuality, top ethicist Russell Moore called "ex-gay" therapy harmful and "severely counterproductive."

Boldface names:

Among the names that captured the public imagination in 2014:

- * Seattle megachurch pastor **Mark Driscoll** resigned after facing a series of allegations involving plagiarism, bullying and an unhealthy ego.
- * Conservative activist **Bill Gothard**, an advocate of home-schooling, modest attire and large families, resigned after a series of abuse allegations.
- * German Bishop **Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst**, whose \$43 million housing renovation earned him the unwelcome nickname “Bishop Bling,” was fired by Pope Francis.
- * D.C. pastor **Amy Butler** became the first woman named senior pastor of New York’s storied Riverside Church, and **Libby Lane** was appointed the first female bishop in the Church of England.
- * Retired Episcopal Bishop **V. Gene Robinson**, whose election as the first openly gay bishop ruptured the Anglican Communion, announced his divorce from his husband, **Mark Andrew**.
- * Popes **John Paul II** and **John XXIII** were proclaimed saints by **Pope Francis**, and **Pope Paul VI** was beatified.
- * Sudanese Christian **Meriam Ibrahim** was finally freed after nearly being executed for apostasy, becoming an icon for many Christians.
- * Mormon feminist **Kate Kelly** was excommunicated for advocating for women in the priesthood.
- * Rabbi **David Saperstein** was confirmed as the first non-Christian U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.
- * **Blase Cupich** was installed as the new archbishop of Chicago, Pope Francis’ first major appointment to the U.S. hierarchy.
- * D.C. Rabbi **Barry Freundel** was fired after allegedly installing a hidden camera in the mikvah, or ritual bath, used by women at his prominent Georgetown synagogue.

Mormon misconceptions

In a series of online essays, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tried to carefully debunk popular caricatures of Mormon beliefs, a remarkable exercise in the real-time evolution of a distinctly homegrown American religion. No, the church said, Mormons don’t get their own planet in the afterlife, and no, there’s nothing “magical” about sacred temple garments. No, founder Joseph Smith didn’t literally translate an ancient Egyptian papyrus scroll as part of LDS scriptures, and yes, Smith practiced plural marriage — as many as 40 wives, the church conceded.

America, meet the Satanists

Satanists, curiously, had a big year in 2014. In Oklahoma City, the New York-based Satanic Temple unveiled plans to erect a monument to Satan on the state Capitol grounds (right next to a Ten Commandments monument); in Boston, the group held a controversial “Black Mass” near Harvard despite an outcry from local Catholics. Filmmaker Roma Downey, however, cut Satan from her biblical epic, “Son of God,” after some viewers pointed out that the actor playing Satan looked too much like President Obama.

Passages

Kentucky pastor **Jamie Coots**, a Pentecostal snake-handler and star of the reality show “Snake Salvation,” died of a snakebite at age 42; Westboro Baptist Church founder **Fred Phelps**, infamous for his “God Hates Fags” rallies, died at 84; charismatic evangelist (and friend of Pope Francis) **Tony Palmer** died in a motorcycle crash; Pentecostal preacher **Myles Munroe** died in a plane crash in the Bahamas at age 60; right-to-die activist **Brittany Maynard** died at age 29 after a public battle with brain cancer; and **the Alban Institute**, which had provided resources and consulting for mainline Protestant churches, closed its doors after 40 years.

"The year in review: 2014"

December 31, 2014 by Leslie Scanlon, The Presbyterian Outlook

<http://pres-outlook.org/2014/12/year-review-2014/>



It's been a wild year for news in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — including a General Assembly with fewer evangelicals but lots of passion, and an investigation into ethics violations in the denomination's 1001 New Worshipping Communities leadership. Here are 10 top news stories for 2014 (although readers may have their own additions or subtractions to the list).

Same-gender marriage. With doors opening to same-gender marriages in states all over the country, PC(USA) ministers now have the flexibility to perform such weddings in jurisdictions where they are legal — although they are not required to do so. The 2014 assembly approved an authoritative interpretation giving that permission. And presbyteries are now in the process of voting on a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) Book of Order the assembly also approved, to change the definition of Christian marriage in the denomination's constitution from being between “a man and a woman” to “two people, traditionally a man and a woman.” To take effect, that constitutional amendment needs a majority vote from the PC(USA)'s 171 presbyteries.

Divestment. The assembly approved by an extraordinarily close 50.6%-49.4% margin (310-303) a plan for the PC(USA) to begin phased divestment of about \$16.5 million in assets from three companies that provide equipment used by the Israeli military in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. The assembly also specified that its action was “not to be construed” as support of the global Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (B.D.S.) movement. In 2012, the assembly narrowly defeated a similar recommendation to divest.

Ethics violations. An internal investigation found that four PC(USA) employees involved with the 1001 New Worshipping Communities initiative had committed ethics violations, having set up an unauthorized nonprofit corporation without denominational approval and sending \$100,000 in PC(USA) funds to the new corporation, with a second check stopped only when the new corporation was discovered. The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board executive committee voted Nov. 14 to hire a Nashville attorney to do an independent investigation and to ask Linda Valentine, executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, to put the four employees on paid administrative leave until that investigation is completed, probably early in 2015. Valentine had earlier decided not to terminate any of the four (Roger Dermody, Eric Hoey, Philip Lotspeich and Craig Williams), saying that while “mistakes were made,” the employees returned all the money, did not take it for personal gain and were trying to support the ministry of the 1001 program.

1001 growth. The denomination's evangelism leaders say the 1001 program has been growing — with more than 270 new worshipping communities added to the list since the 2012 assembly, including everything from immigrant fellowships to gatherings of artists and young adults. Adding a community to the list is just a first step — with many questions regarding future sustainability, leadership and growth still to be worked out. In a denomination whose membership has been declining for decades, however, innovation and new ways of doing ministry are seen as signs of Presbyterian hope.



Departures. At the same time, however, evangelicals continued to leave the PC(USA), with the assembly's votes on same-gender marriage cementing the decision to depart for some congregations. The congregations leaving, primarily for ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (which now reports more than 160 congregations as members), included some of the PC(USA)'s largest — such as Menlo Park and St. Andrews Presbyterian in California and Highland Park in Dallas. For evangelicals who have stayed in the PC(USA), the Fellowship of Presbyterians and Presbyterians for Renewal will merge by Jan. 1 into an entity called Fellowship Community. Among the questions for the future: What, if any, connections will there be among these groups? What do these departures mean for the PC(USA) — and for ECO? What witness does this give to the world?

ISIL and international violence. Seeing ISIL attacks in Iraq and Syria, the fighting between Israelis and Palestinians, the abductions of girls and women, and attacks on churches and Christians, people of all faith traditions are questioning how best to respond and how to show compassion and grace to such troubled places. Refugee camps swell, filled with generations of displaced families; word trickles out of beheadings and mass shootings. Presbyterians and others of faith and compassion ask: What can we do? What is our task of peacemaking and repairing the hurt in this connected, complicated, crying world?



CONFESSION OF BELHAR

Belhar Confession and racial justice. For the second time, Presbyterians are considering whether to add the Belhar Confession from South Africa — a statement on the need for reconciliation, unity and justice — to the PC(USA)’s Book of Confessions. To achieve that, two-thirds of the denomination’s presbyteries (114 of 171) would have to ratify the confession and the 2016 General Assembly also would have to vote to add Belhar to the PC(USA)’s confessional statement. An earlier effort to include Belhar fell eight votes short (108-63) in the polling by the presbyteries in 2011. As Presbyterians vote on Belhar, they are also witnessing unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere regarding racial inequality in the U.S. — with civil disobedience (including the arrests of some Presbyterians) and people raising questions about race-based inequities in incarceration rates, performance in schools and more.

Mid councils. The assembly voted to reduce the number of synods in the denomination — from the current 16 to no more than 10 to 12 — and to report back to the assembly in Portland in 2016. How that will happen, what the exact numbers will be and how the reconfiguration will be achieved is up for discussion — with the hope answers will emerge from the grassroots.

Steve Hayner. After Hayner, then the president of Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he told the Columbia community that the news was bad: The cancer had spread. Since then, Columbia has named William E. Scheu as its interim president. Hayner has continued to minister with his hopeful, joyous, faithful embrace of the time he has left. “As long as I have life on this earth, I have a call,” he wrote in November. And: “Joy is not about my circumstances, but about being held and sustained by God’s love.” {Hayner died January 31, 2015.]

Fossil fuels. Another divestment measure failed at the 2014 assembly — an overture asking the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation to immediately stop any new investment in fossil fuel companies, and over the next five years divest any assets the denomination already has placed in oil, gas and coal firms. That proposal was strongly supported by commissioners concerned about global warming, but the assembly chose instead to study the issue for possible action by a future assembly. Look for this one to come back. With support from a coalition of environmental, college and faith-based groups, this issue probably won’t go away.



Minister of Formation and Nurture

In November 2014, I celebrated three years of ministry at Hitchcock. These three years have been rich with growth and change, with joy and challenge, with deepening relationships and partnerships. Thank you for sharing in this ministry in the wonderful ways that God has created and called you to serve! I have learned so much from being in your midst, and I'm grateful for this community and the ways that it forms and nurtures all of its members, young and old alike!

As my role encompasses several different programs, you will find more complete reports in the pages that follow, but I would like to highlight some of the joys of my ministry this past year:

- During the 2013-14 program year, I led seven of our youth in Confirmation class, baptizing one of them during their Confirmation in worship in May. They are an outstanding group of young women and men, and our congregation is blessed to have them in our midst. I am currently teaching a class of six, and am inspired by their thoughtfulness as they are engaging their faith and its role in their lives.
- 2014 marked a first in my ministry—being invited to officiate at the weddings of young adults who grew up at Hitchcock. Spending time with these couples as they prepare for a new chapter of their lives together has been a privilege, and leading their wedding ceremonies has brought a deep sense of joy to this calling.
- Finding new ways to incorporate creativity into the life and worship of the church has been a big part of my ministry this year. This has taken the form of creating a prayer wall for Lent 2014 (with the finished product becoming our communion table cloth on Easter), facilitating intergenerational workshops on themes of Lent and prayer practices for Lent 2014, making banners for Pentecost 2014 to represent the wind and fire of the Acts 2 narrative, and including an artistic response to the sermon during the Children's Sabbath service that was accessible to all ages.
- I'm co-chairing the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) of Hudson River Presbytery. CPM is tasked with guiding women and men seeking ordination to the office of teaching elder in the PC(USA) through the ordination process. I'm finding that this role feels like a natural extension of my role here at Hitchcock—that of formation and nurture of identity, call, and lived response to faith.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett
Minister of Formation and Nurture

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry of Hitchcock continued to be faithful in 2014—providing musical leadership that would enhance the spiritual focus of Sunday morning worship services and our offerings to the local community. We continued to offer musical programs to the community through organ recitals, community sings and outside concerts, and lifting up Hitchcock as a sought after and welcoming place for music making within our church community and the community at large. The participation in the music program continues to grow and remains a vibrant part of the life of this church, with more than 85 people in the various choirs and ensembles, and additional volunteer supporters.

The Chancel Choir has once again attracted new members. The Chancel Choir's primary focus is regular Sunday morning worship. As in years past, the choir members are committed to the rigorous weekly schedule of rehearsals, Sunday morning service participation, and its many additional rehearsals in preparation for special services throughout the year—Advent Choral Service, Christmas Eve Services, Choir Festival Service, Lenten Choral Service Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Service, and Easter Services. They presented Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Rutter's *Magnificat*, and Lauridson's *Lux Aeterna* with orchestra. In an effort to feed the spiritual needs of a sophisticated, yet diverse congregation, the repertoire was varied and featured music from five centuries. They presented everything from renaissance motets and classical selections to African-American spirituals, contemporary literature and Taizé music.

The Children's Choir program continues to grow, with many new families joining the program. They meet weekly for rehearsal and social time together. We have four children's and youth choirs--The Cherub Choir (3 and 4 year olds), led by Kathleen Mahan; The Primary Choir (K through 2nd grade), The Junior Choir (3rd through 5th grade) and The Youth Choir (6th through Senior Highs). The Primary and Junior Choirs sing frequently in Sunday worship, and provided music for several special services throughout the year—Christmas Eve Family Service, Choral Festival Service, Combined Youth Service. The Youth Choir sings occasionally on their own and sometimes with the Adult Choir.

We have many talented young instrumentalists in the congregation. They got together several times during the year to play for Sunday services, under the direction of Donna Elaine.

In June, we completed our eighth year of providing a Church Music Intern position. At that time, we said “good-bye” to Greg Zelek, who had been our Intern for four years and had become part of the Hitchcock family. He will be missed. In September, we welcomed our new Intern, Daniel Ficarri. Dan is a freshman at The Juilliard School, and brings with him a wonderful new energy and impressive musical skills. We are very fortunate to have him in our midst as he continues to enhance the life of the church through this program. He is fully integrated into every aspect of the church music program and beyond. His duties include: accompanying children's choir rehearsals, accompanying some Chancel Choir rehearsals, learning techniques of conducting through practical application, spending 2-3 hours weekly with the Minister of Music, learning the art of organ registration, hymn playing and anthem accompanying. He is present at all worship services and participates fully.

Over the summer months, we offered a vast array of musical presentations during worship, all from within our congregation. We owe them many thanks for their participation and for providing us with a wonderful balance and variety of musical contributions throughout the summer.

The Hitchcock Music Ministry also continues to reach far beyond our own walls and organizations. We held services once a month at The Kensington in White Plains, providing hymn singing and special music on certain occasions. We hosted the eighth annual "Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along" in December. We opened our doors to the entire community for a wonderful afternoon of casual carol singing for the entire family. Over 200 people came to sing and light the Outdoor Christmas Tree, followed by the Deacons Party and Children's Crafts. The "Marguerite Manley Memorial Lenten Organ Recital Series" continues to be a wonderful outreach to the community. This is our tenth year of presenting free organ recitals at noontime, followed by lunch on Thursdays during Lent. This year's artists were the "Rising Stars" of the organ world, all undergraduate organ students from Juilliard. With an ever increasing audience, we welcomed nearly 60 people at each concert and lunch from all over the area. With this increase in attendance, we had to move the lunches to the Upper Children's House. As we have so many times in the past, we opened our doors to church members and local organizations for concerts and student recitals. The New Choral Society continues to call Hitchcock home, presenting Haydn's *Creation*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Handel's beloved *Messiah* in 2014, bringing the community through our doors for these concerts, while experiencing the warmth and friendliness this church is so famous for. As a church, we are proud of the wonderful facilities we have and are blessed by our ability to enrich the community through their use. The arrival of the Rev. Jack Lohr as Interim Pastor in May has only enhanced the musical life of Hitchcock. Jack has a wonderful understanding, appreciation and love of music and understands its spiritual power in worship and beyond.

The success of this richly diverse, multi-generational program, owes many, many thanks to the volunteers and professionals who give so freely of their time and talents and to a congregation which so warmly supports it.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. King,
Minister of Music

THE SESSION

CLASS OF 2015

Chip Love, Steve Sorrow, Lisana Brown, Bonnie Hurry

CLASS OF 2016

Glenda Alvarez-Meyer, Martha Binder, John Clapp, Jonathan Hwang

CLASS OF 2017

Kevin Dierking, Rachel Hastie, Jensina Olson, Ralph Penny

YOUTH ELDER: Caroline Griffiths

MODERATOR: Rev. Jack Lohr, Interim Pastor

CLERK OF SESSION: Linda Camp

In the past year the Session continued to seek effective ways of working in a responsible and responsive manner within Hitchcock and our community.

The Session supports the continuing work on the church buildings and the continued work of our fine staff at Hitchcock, both of the administration, the educational programs, and the community outreach of the congregation.

With our presence and partnership within the Hudson River Presbytery, we are pleased to report that, given the declining membership of so many small congregations of the 83 churches, our support of mission and connection to the larger church remains strong.

During this transition period, The Rev. Jack Lohr is leading the congregation as our Interim Pastor. The Session led the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee who will serve the congregation in their search for a new called pastor of Hitchcock Church. The goal of the Session is to continue to support the ministry of this congregation both within our community and beyond.

The Board of Deacons

The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of Deacons first of all to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress.

The current Board of Deacons is composed of 18 members who are elected to serve a three-year term and one student Deacon who serves a one year term.

This year we don't have any student serving as Deacon.

The Deacons meet on the first Thursday evening of the scheduled month, with seven meetings scheduled from September through June.

The Board of Deacons was restructured during the 2012-2013 year

A summary of the restructure is as follows. Rather than two committees (Caring Committee and the Social Committee), the Board of Deacons is now divided into three ministry teams which are Care, Community and Connections. However, there are responsibilities that all Deacons share. Deacons have two weekly worship service responsibilities: delivering flowers to members of the congregation and providing a host at coffee hour whose role is to welcome visitors and new members. The parish assignments that had been designated to all Deacons have now been dissolved. The responsibility for providing coffee hour refreshments following Sunday morning services has been relinquished and given to the Hospitality Committee of Session. And lastly, the number of Deacons has been reduced to 18. One of that number may or may not (depending on availability) be a student Deacon. The terms of the Deacon and student Deacon will remain the same.

The mission of the Care Ministry Team is to assist in the care of church members who are in need. This might include but is not limited to arranging for the provision of meals during a time of crisis, loss, or illness, providing transportation to certain medical appointments, etc., sending notes, cards, etc. during times of loss or illness or at times of joyful celebration, visiting in the hospital setting to augment pastoral care as needed, coordinating with the pastor(s) and parish nurse as to who is in need of special care, and arranging for the weekly delivery of the Sunday morning flowers by a Deacon. Caring Mission cards are available in the pews for parish members to offer their support and indicate their willingness to serve as a volunteer member of the Care Ministry Team to help when a request is received. The Care Team is also responsible for arranging the delivery of Easter lilies to parishioners who are sick or shut-in, as well as to members of the congregation who have suffered personal losses.

The mission of the Community Ministry Team is to help foster a sense of community among church members and guests and to assist the congregation in its wider outreach to the community beyond the local church. This might include but is not limited to providing social gatherings in cooperation and coordination with the Hospitality Committee of Session and developing or organizing community outreach programs or activities which may be deemed appropriate for the Board of Deacons to be involved in, in coordination with the Community Outreach Committee of Session.

The mission of the Connections Ministry Team is to assist in helping members have a greater sense of connection to one another and to the congregation as a whole. This might include but is not limited to assisting the pastor(s) and parish nurse in a systematic visitation program for home bound members, working with the Membership Committee of Session to develop a systematic plan for welcoming new members into the church and engaging them in the life of the

congregation, arranging sign-ups for Deacon Host at coffee hour each Sunday, assisting the Membership Committee of Session in reaching out into the wider community via social media and advertising, arranging for the delivery of Christmas poinsettias to parishioners who are sick or shut-in as well as to members of the congregation who have suffered personal losses, and developing a church-wide calling system to be used by the Deacons when requested to do so by Session or in case of an emergency.

This year of 2014-2015 the Connections Ministry Team stopped doing Name Tag Sundays. It is currently working on a proposal for permanent name tags for our members and visitors.

During the summer of 2014, the Deacons held an ice cream social for the congregation on the church patio. On Rally Day in September the Deacons provided fruit and desserts for the festivities that kicked off the new church year as well . In December the Deacons helped to sponsor the annual Christmas party by providing desserts, setting up and cleaning up and assisting with craft activities for the children of the church and the larger community, and delivered the aforementioned poinsettias. To promote fellowship, the Deacons will host their fifth annual chili cook-off in March .The Deacons will support the annual Hitchcock Easter Eggstravaganza in April by providing refreshments and assisting with clean-up and will deliver the aforementioned Easter lilies.

The current Executive Board is as follows:

Moderator: Adriana Galhardo
Secretary and Treasurer: Jill Skelton
(substitute for March and April: Catherine Feintuch)
Nominating Committee Representative: Peggy Beretta

Respectfully submitted,

Adriana Galhardo

Caring Ministry Team

MISSION: The Caring Committee is the arm of the Board of Deacons that organizes a network of members to supplement and support the Pastor's and Parish Nurse's work by assisting in the care of church members who are in need. This might include, but is not limited to, helping to arrange for the following activities:

- Providing meals during a time of crisis, loss, or illness.
- Providing transportation to certain medical appointments, etc.
- Sending notes, cards, etc. during times of loss or illness, or at times of joyful celebration.
- Visiting in the hospital setting to augment pastoral care, as needed.
- Coordinating with the pastor(s) and parish nurse as to who is in need of special care.
- Arranging for the weekly delivery of the Sunday morning flowers by a Deacon.

The Caring Committee is comprised of six members. Every two months one of the members is responsible for arranging the delivery of the ministries listed above. The appointed member may either take care of the request themselves or reach out to others to accomplish this. We are particularly grateful to members of the congregation who have indicated their willingness to serve as volunteers of the Caring Committee via the "pew card" we have requesting such assistance. We updated the roster of congregation members willing to serve in February 2014.

Chair: Tracey Tsai

Caring Committee Members:

Clarisse Djomo, Rose Garnier, Martha Gonzalez, Edward Prince, Alison Rose

Community Ministry Team

Mission: The mission of this ministry team is to help foster a sense of community among church members and guests; as well as to assist the congregation in its wider outreach to the community beyond the local church. This might include, but is not limited to, helping to arrange for the following activities:

- Providing for a variety of social gatherings (such as Chili Cook-off, Ice Cream Social, Christmas Party, etc.) in cooperation and coordination with the Hospitality Committee.
- Develop or organize community outreach programs or activities which may be deemed appropriate for the Board of Deacons to be involved in, in coordination with the Community Outreach Committee of Session.

Chair: Catherine Feintuch

Committee members: Lisa Moffit, Karen Collins, Nicole Chappell, Jill Skelton

Connections Ministry Team

MISSION: The Connections Ministry Team enables members to have a greater sense of connection to one another and to the congregation as a whole. This might include, but is not limited to, helping to arrange for the following activities:

- serving as the Deacon Host at coffee hour each Sunday,
- working with the Membership Committee of Session to develop a systematic plan for welcoming new members into the church and engaging them in the life of the congregation,
- assisting the Membership Committee of Session in reaching out into the wider community via social media and advertising,
- arranging for the delivery of flowers to parishioners who are sick or shut-in as well as to members of the congregation who have suffered personal losses,
- assisting the pastor(s) and parish nurse in a systematic visitation program for homebound members, and
- developing a church-wide calling system to be used by the deacons when requested to do so by Session or in case of an emergency.

One of the main goals of the committee is to ensure that everyone who enters the doors of our Church feels welcome. To that end, our main focus these last few months has been strengthening our Deacon Host program. It is the responsibility of the Deacon Host to look out for new and returning guests and ensure that they do not feel isolated or alone. In addition, we are now delivering flowers to parishioners and neighbors on a weekly basis in order to better connect with them. In addition, we have spent a significant amount of time exploring the idea of implementing permanent name tags for the congregation as well as bookmarks for visitors. The team has looked into the design, cost as well as the logistics of implementing the aforesaid initiative and presented the preliminary conclusions to the Deacons.

Chair: Bob McFarlane

Connections Committee Members: Peggy Beretta, Terri Brooks, Steve Fitzgerald,
Adriana Galhardo, Hyun Hwang and Alphonso Leonce

Scarsdale Boy Scout Troop 4

Hitchcock's Troop 4 was re-instated and re-chartered to Hitchcock Presbyterian in the spring of 2006 in order to provide rising Webelos from Pack 440 an outlet to continue their scouting endeavors. Historically, Troop 4 has a rich history in the Greenacres neighborhood of Scarsdale, having served the area from the 1930's until it became defunct in the late 1970's. At its reinstatement, Troop 4 began with a mere 5 boys and has grown to approximately 30 registered boys. The Troop continues to have scouts from many Scarsdale neighborhoods, as well as surrounding communities. In addition, the troop has initiated a concerted recruitment campaign of inviting Cub Scouts from the various packs in the area/district to special troop meetings and activities. Boy Scouting is available to boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award in Cub Scouts, or have completed the fifth grade, or who are 11 through 17 years old.

We are particularly proud of our scouts' many accomplishments. In recent months, John Kaspers, Connor McCarthy, and Alex Reisel have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. In total, since 2006, Troop 4 has produced 25 Eagle Scouts, some of whom are still active in the troop. Troop 4 is also proud to currently have 2 youth and 2 adults as members of scouting's honor society, the Order of the Arrow. Additional members of the Order of the Arrow will be selected in the near future.

Troop 4 engages in a variety of activities throughout the year. They include: camping, hiking, ski trips, color guard presentation at Opening Day of the Scarsdale Little League Season, marching in the Scarsdale Memorial Day parade, Camping on the Green (in Scarsdale Village), and Merit Badge Seminars. The Troop has performed many community service projects including donating warm clothes to Open Arms Men's Shelter in White Plains for the holidays.

Additionally, members of the Troop worked on many individual Eagle Projects led by senior scouts, including: (a) the installation of 14 stand-mounted stations of the cross around a church, (b) clean-up and replanting a sustainable garden along the Old Croton Aqueduct, and (c) installation of a roof over a stone chamber at Cranberry Lake Preserve. Each of these Eagle Project efforts was conducted with scout and adult volunteers giving more than 400 service hours.

Each summer, Troop 4 sends scouts to Camp Read in the Adirondack Mountains for one week in July. During that week, the scouts camp in platform tents, work on merit badges and advancement, go ziplining, whitewater rafting, and swimming. In August, 2014, Troop 4 is sent 3 scouts and 2 adults to a High Adventure camping trip called Northern Tier which is along the Minnesota/Canada border. They hiked, camped, and portaged in this remote region. This summer, Troop 4 is sending 5 scouts and 3 adults to another High Adventure trip – in St. Thomas. There, they will live and work on a sailboat for one week while exploring St. Thomas by land and sea.

The troop also fundraises to support its many activities. This past year the troop sold hand-decorated Christmas wreaths.

The Scoutmaster, Joe D'Angelo, has one dedicated Assistant Scoutmaster, Kevin McCarthy, and five additional Assistant Scoutmasters: Rob Ceske, James Kinsley, Bill Reisel, and Les Jacobowitz. Tod Cooperman serves as the troop's Committee Chairperson and is the liaison between the troop and the session at Hitchcock.

The troop holds regular meetings on Mondays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Lower Children's House at Hitchcock. If anyone is interested in joining or has questions, please consult the Troop's website: <http://www.scarsdale4.mytroop.us/>

We are very grateful to the leadership and members of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church for being the troop's charter organization, for all the support of our scouts and their program, and for graciously allowing the troop to use the church and its facilities.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Jim Buck, Chairman

Committee Members: Betsy Bush, John Clapp, Alexander Galindo, Chip Lee,
Lee Maiden, Ed Morgan, Adam Rubin

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has responsibility for the maintenance and security of and improvements to our buildings, manse and grounds. It also has oversight responsibility relating to requests for use of our facilities made by individuals, outside groups or community organizations. Our facilities staff, headed by Alexander Galindo, our facility manager and Alex Esquivel, our sexton, has been continuously maintaining and upgrading the physical plant.

Since the last reporting period, we finished the installation of low energy lighting as suggested in a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority audit that will reduce our energy costs and improve energy efficiency. In addition to any technical assistance received, NYSERDA offers financial incentives to eligible customers seeking to implement energy efficiency projects. There are also incentives/rebates available from Con Ed. We were able to greatly lower the expense of the installation, labor and material because of this program. We have hired Greg Dilian to act as our representative to oversee this process.

We will be replacing two boilers that service the Children's House and Memorial Building. The existing boilers have been requiring increased maintenance and have only been given a serviceable life span of one to five years each. We had considered using boilers that could use both natural gas and oil. However, that proved to be prohibitively expensive due to the cost of installing larger pipes to bring the volume of gas required into the building. Also, when we met with Con Ed over the summer to see about an installation date, they gave us a date of December 23rd. We declined.

We have two outstanding bids for the oil burning boilers and are looking for a third. The new boilers will be installed in the very near future.

We hope to complete work on the installation of a sign at the foot of Greenacres Avenue indicating to those coming off the parkway that they have arrived at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church.

While the winter treated us with its fury, we escaped relatively unscathed. There is only one incident to report. The roof over Room 38 used by the Day School developed a leak but it is now under repair.

Community Outreach Committee

English as a Second Language classes at White Plains Presbyterian Church

We are entering into our third year of partnering with our fellow Presbyterians at the White Plains church as we reach out to our Hispanic neighbors who desire to improve their English skills. This is a program supported by an initial Vision 2020 Fund grant from the Hudson River Presbytery, and a second grant for \$10,000 in 2014 to continue the program.

The class is taught by a professional ESL teacher working along with volunteer mentors/tutors who would work one on one with each of the students. HPC members provide dinner for students and volunteers, and child care for those who need it.

While there are several ESL options for adult learners in the White Plains area, our offering is unique in that it offers dinner and free child care, as well as a warm and welcoming friendly atmosphere.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett.

Chair: Betsy Bush

-----FINANCE REPORT-----
(Unavailable at this time)

Hitchcock Endowment Development Committee (HEDCO)

The Hitchcock Endowment Development Committee aims to strengthen the Hitchcock Memorial and Endowment Fund assets by developing new capital gifts. Session affirmed the recommendation of the Finance Committee that a capital gifts development function be added to the existing subcommittees for Stewardship and Endowment (management). The new subcommittee was made permanent by Session in 2007.

Initially, HEDCO collected and summarized relevant history of Hitchcock capital gifts, assembled an exhaustive catalog of existing memorial plaques and other objects, developed a plan to advocate endowment gifts, surveyed endowment practices of denominations, churches and other charitable institutions, and explored new ways to increase Memorial Fund gifts through the Memorial Flowers Tradition, as well as funeral gifts (in lieu of flowers).

HEDCO and Session received the initiative of the Hinsey Family to give a Memorial Wall that could exhibit plaques by donors of memorial capital gifts. After the wall was installed, dates of Hitchcock members who had made major bequests previously were added. Also, the Memorial Wall displays photographs of members who have died recently. A Tribute to the Hinsey Family also is affixed to the Memorial Wall. A brochure was distributed on how to make a capital gift to memorialize a loved one. The congregation dedicated the Memorial Wall during Easter Service, 2007.

HEDCO drafted a comprehensive list of major forms of bequest, estate plans and retirement plans so as to define paths by which donors could provide their own or their family's support until they die, while guaranteeing residual support for their Church, and others, afterward.

An Endowment Report that summarized the above information was prepared in 2008 and distributed to Session and to the Congregation in April, 2009. Gifts have been received from a number of longstanding members over the years. Recently, Hitchcock has received more gifts. Joseph and Phyllis Hinsey gave \$10,000 to the Memorial Fund in 2013. In 2014, Hitchcock received proceeds from an insurance policy on the life of William G. Paddock in the amount of \$10,755. In 2014, we received a gift in the amount of \$138,219 from the estate of Jane and Eric Bessels. These gifts will be added to the Memorial and Endowment Fund.

Members of HEDCO are Betsy Broyd (in 2007), Kevin Dierking, Lee Maiden, Joanna Tsuyuki (in 2007) and Ralph Watts. Merrell Clark and Karl Lasseter "retired" from HEDCO in 2011 after serving as Co-Chairs since the committee was formed. Additional committee support has been provided by James Sligar (on wills and estates) and by Ralph Penny (on Memorials).

Kirk's Fund

Mission Statement: To provide children with their own Bibles and hymnals so that they may be encouraged to learn about God, and grow in their faith at Hitchcock Church.

In 2007, rather than birthday gifts, Mrs. Kirk Richardson asked her friends to contribute to a special fund, "Kirk's Fund" which was approved by the Session at Hitchcock Church. The first year all Sunday School graduates received Bibles engraved with their names, a Children's Picture Bible was gifted to all newly baptized children, Hymnals were given to all children graduating from the Children's Choir, and a book to all confirmands to be selected annually by the Senior Pastor. These are now annual events supported by "Kirk's Fund".

As donations to Kirk's Fund increased, Mrs. Richardson asked Dr. John King for his suggestions regarding the Children's Choir music program. In 2008 Hitchcock conducted its first musical competition for writing a new song for the Children's Choir, which used verses written by Mrs. Richardson. Margaret Tucker, a musician from Texas, was selected as the winner and she wrote the music for "Come To Me," which was sung for the first time at Hitchcock in 2009. This new song has now been published, sung in at least 6 other states, and twice more at our services. In 2011-2012 a second national competition was held for a Children's Choir anthem honoring mothers. The winning composition, "God Is There" was composed by Larry Schultz of North Carolina. This song has been published as part of a new series by Chorister's Guild.

As Kirk's Fund grew, so did the requests for the use of monies from Kirk's Fund to support more Church projects. In this regard, Kirk's Fund has upgraded the recording system in the Sanctuary, funded new paraments, contributed to the project for the refurbishment of the Hancock Room, funded a portion of the budget for the Church Music Intern, purchased classroom Bibles for the Sunday School classes, and also commissioned a new hymn text for Hitchcock's *Celebrate 100!* Centennial Celebration. Professor Thomas Troeger, from Yale Divinity School, wrote the Centennial Hymn, *Strength Made Our Founders Fearless*, which was sung as the closing hymn of the Centennial Worship on October 6, 2013.

Since 2009, Mrs. Richardson has matched all donations to Kirk's Fund from her family and friends, dollar for dollar. Sadly, on June 1, 2013, Mrs. Kirk Richardson passed away at the age of 90, after a brief illness. Mrs. Richardson will be greatly missed. We at Hitchcock will always hold her in a special memory, and truly appreciate her generosity, creativity, and commitment to Hitchcock and our ministry.

Kirk's Fund continues today, as part of our Memorial and Endowment Fund. Gifts to Kirk's Fund are still received and accepted. We know that her hope was that Kirk's Fund will continue to grow and will be supported not only by her family and friends, but by the parents of all those children who have received their Bibles and Hymnals -- and by those who will receive them in the future. The church office will be happy to tell anyone how to make a contribution.

Health Ministry

Hitchcock Presbyterian Church is a caring and compassionate community with an active health ministry. During times of difficulty, crisis, illness or bereavement, pastoral care is provided collaboratively by the Pastors, the Deacons, the parish nurse, and many members of the congregation.

A parish nurse seeks to promote health and wholeness--body, mind, and spirit--in the context of a faith community. A parish nurse may be involved in:

- H**Health counseling
- E**ducation
- A**dvocacy and referrals
- L**istening
- T**raining and recruiting volunteers
- H**ome, hospital and nursing home visits

Since 2004, Jennifer Watts RN, MSN has served as parish nurse for the Hitchcock congregation. Her activities during the past year included visits to members at home, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals; attendance at staff meetings; consultations, counseling and bereavement support; telephone calls and e-mail communications with church members and their families; internet research; and volunteer coordination. The parish nurse accompanied members to medical appointments and hospitals, and provided support during times of transition.

The annual Flu Shot Clinic was held on October 24, 2014. The Eighth Annual Hitchcock Church Community Blood Drive took place on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

Hitchcock School

Heather Miller: Co-Director of Programs

Susan Grant: Co-Director of Administration

Donna Love: Chair

Board Members: Kathy Gray, Rachel Hastie, Carol Lavis, Kristen Beades

Hitchcock School (“HS”) offers a nurturing, developmentally appropriate program that provides a variety of experiences, levels of challenge, and individual growth. We offer morning programs for three-year olds either three or five days a week and for four-year olds five days a week. Optional afternoon programs are available for our three and four year olds known as “Lunch Bunch” and “Extended Day” respectively. Class sizes range from ten to fifteen children, with two teachers per class. Special programs such as Ez Write, Musical Munchkins, Gym-on-Wheels, gym, cooking, science programs and field trips augment our curriculum. Need based financial aid is available and funded by the Heather Thorp Scholarship Fund.

In September 2010, Hitchcock School officially opened its first two year old program for 2, 3 or 5 days. The program is at full capacity for both the current and following school term. As per NYS standards, 10 students are allowed in the classroom with two certified teachers in a classroom that follows proper egress and structural requirements. The twos classroom is located on the same floor as our threes and fours where they are fully integrated in the school. The twos also participate in many of the same art, music, gymnastics and outdoor play activities that the older students enjoy.

The school is voluntarily registered with the New York State Department of Education and licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. In response to the medical needs of students with allergies, several staff members have received Medication Administration Training (MAT) Certification. This certification, along with the establishment of a new Health Care Plan, licenses HS to administer medication.

Our staff is comprised of seasoned early childhood educators. Many of them have been with the Hitchcock School for many years. The lead teachers are all certified and meet state requirements, while the assistant teachers have extensive experience in the preschool setting. The staff retention rate was 100% this past year.

All staff is required to complete thirty hours of continuing education every two years, guaranteeing that they remain up to date with the latest research and trends in early childhood education. Among the courses that our teachers take are First Aid Training and CPR Training. Current enrollment this year was at 100%. Full enrollment for HS is 84 students. The school can accommodate up to 30 children in our fours program, 36 children in our threes and up to 10 children per day in the twos. The educational program of the school follows the curriculum guidelines of the New York State Learning Standards. Enrichment activities are part of the curriculum and include a weekly movement program, a weekly music program and in-school field trips throughout the year that include nature, science and museum programs.

HS welcomes parents to be involved in their children's preschool experience. Parents are always invited to special occasions that the Hitchcock School Parent Association ("PA") organizes. The PA is a volunteer based organization comprised of active parents dedicated to supporting the school community through programs such as community outreach, family functions, multicultural luncheon, teacher appreciation events, and Halloween Parade.

Hitchcock School makes a yearly financial contribution to the Church as compensation for facility expenses and certain additional services provided by church staff. During the 2014-2015 school year, the School's contribution to the Church was \$50,000. Hitchcock School has maintained a balanced budget with positive cash flow and an accumulating reserve fund which is also funded by the popular Hitchcock School Summer Camp. Many expenses were eliminated in order for the budget to stay balanced through creative and practical means without compromising the quality of the school. The School also conducted a successful fundraiser which included several parent donations. Each classroom received funding from the sale for their 'Wish List'. These teaching materials include items such as puzzles, manipulatives, dramatic play, science materials, math materials, and books.

The Summer Camp runs Monday-Thursday for six weeks from the end of June to the beginning of August of each summer. Two, three and four year olds may enroll in 2, 3 or all 4 days. Enrollment is limited to 46 children and opens to the community at large although Hitchcock School students are given first priority. Sue Grant is the director overseeing all aspects of the camp.

The School continues to serve the community's high demand for quality pre-school education and afternoon programming. It has a working relationship with the Minister of Formation and Nurture of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Living in America members and coordinators, and the Committee on Special Education through Greenacres Elementary School. Hitchcock School has an excellent reputation in the neighboring areas as well which adds to the geographical diversity and enrichment of its entire student body. Much of the school's publicity and marketing comes from an effective website that is well maintained and frequently updated. Current and prospective parents appreciate this vehicle for information and news as well.

The Hitchcock School Board of Directors is in its fifth year and acts as a reflective part of the Church and School communities. The Board meets once a month or as necessary to discuss the operations and finances of the school.

Overall, Hitchcock School is in a positive place this year thanks to strong leadership, decisive cutbacks and increased enrollment. The success of our twos program, the vision for the school that began five years ago is now becoming a working reality where quality pre-school education also means providing relevant afternoon options that meet the demands of the families we serve.

Hospitality Committee

MISSION: The Hospitality Committee is part of the face of Hitchcock Church to its members and to the community at large. Hitchcock is known for its open hospitality and the quality of the events it sponsors, all reflecting the call to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure. The Hospitality Committee and its work provide us with the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from each of these gifts. We truly break bread together.

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for “The Kitchen” which includes:

1. Kitchen Cleanliness
2. Food Purchases
3. Food Preparation
4. Food Menu
5. Cleanup of Kitchen
6. Equipment Maintenance (with B&G as needed)

The Hospitality Committee was responsible for “The Kitchen” for all-church events (such as Rally Day and the Community Carol Sing) as well as special events (such as The Lenten Dinner Series and Lenten Organ Concert Luncheons. The committee provided the luncheon for the Officers’ Retreat in October. The committee was also responsible for the weekly Coffee Hour following Sunday worship, undertaken by a different member of the committee each month and with occasional participation from members of the congregation at large.

There were several children’s events (Pancake Supper, Ice Cream Socials, etc.) and several Youth Events (Intergenerational Dinner, Confirmation Dinner), created in conjunction with Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett.

The committee was responsible for the planning and execution of Rally Day, the all-church Stewardship luncheon and the Community Carol Sing.

Following the purchase and installation of new commercial refrigerator and freezer units, the church kitchen received licensing from the Westchester County Department of Health.

Steering Committee: 2014

Chair:	Jensina Olson
Liaison to Church Committees	Lee Maiden
Liaison to Session	Linda Camp
Committee Members:	Jane Buck, Peggy Berretta, Hea Park, Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett (<i>ex officio</i>), Jack Lohr (<i>ex officio</i>)

Living in America

Living in America, an English conversation program for international adults, meets at Hitchcock Church on Thursday mornings. More than 4,940 adults have studied English and learned about American customs in this outreach program that began in 1976 and receives an annual grant from the Community Outreach Committee.

The program was established to reach out to Japanese women living isolated lives in apartments on Hartsdale Avenue before extensive Japanese support services arrived in the area. Now the program targets adults of all ages, nations, faiths, levels of education and English language skills. Most students come from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe and live in central Westchester. Incoming students may register any Thursday morning from September to May. To date, over 80 students from 7 countries have registered in 2014-2015. Students are grouped by English speaking ability into one of seven small classes ranging from very basic English to American literature with emphasis on speaking and listening. Each class is taught by two or three qualified volunteers from Hitchcock Church or the community. Students pay an annual registration fee and a modest amount weekly if they use childcare for their small children. While there is no charge for classes, students buy their textbooks if their class uses one. Financial help is available for those who need it.

The program's leadership is shared by teachers and students with an emphasis on volunteering. Students help with registration, translation and childcare. Each spring, students organize the Cultural Arts Festival where they showcase their cultures through performances, fashion, demonstrations, exhibits and food. This year's festival will be held on Thursday April 23, 2015. Over the course of the year, students visit American homes for coffee, take a trip to a local place of interest and attend a year-end party hosted by the teachers at one of their homes. Donations from students and former teachers provide scholarships and equipment used by both the program and the church.

Living in America operates in conjunction with Presbyterian Women (PW), Hitchcock School and the Community Outreach Committee. PW helps arrange a joint Christmas service of lessons and carols followed by a festive reception. Annually, PW gives a Bible in the student's native language to each new student who wants one. The Hitchcock School provides childcare on Thursday mornings exclusively for the children of Living in America students. Also, the Hitchcock staff works closely with Living in America.

The Living in America teachers for 2014-2015 are Margaret Black, Linda Camp, Jean Chang, Veronica Cocchiaraley, Filipe Galhardo, Diane Ghari, Diane Gismond, Kathy Gray, David Griffiths, Margaret Herold, Peggy Lasseter, Barbara Legakis, Barrie Mabie, Helene Miller, Eleanor November, Rene Thiel, Heather Thorp, Gertrude Traugott and Jennifer Watts.

Membership Development Committee

Chair: Yzette Swavy-Lipton

Committee Members: Sally Griffiths, Peyton Broyd Kasak, Rudyard Whyte

We at Hitchcock continue to be blessed with visitors to our church. Some are friends or family of current members, here for a holiday or special occasion. Others may be new residents or people in a time of transition looking for a community of faith. The Membership Development Committee makes a special point of welcoming our visitors by way of greeters welcoming them as they enter on Sunday mornings, inviting them to join us for coffee hour and chatting with them during coffee hour. The committee members make a point of introducing newcomers to Hitchcock to current members. If they express an interest in becoming members assistance is provided.

In 2014, we received 9 new members and 7 young adults were received as a result of their confirmation. The Membership Committee also coordinates the greeters, who welcome one and all to church on Sunday mornings and for special services. This program is one more friendly face for an already friendly congregation.

This year the committee continued its work on maintaining accurate membership rolls.

As we look to the future the Committee will continue to look for ways to attract new members and ensure that those who have recently joined continue to have a positive experience.

Midnight Run

The Midnight Run is a non-profit organization that seeks to feed, clothe and provide fellowship for homeless individuals in New York City. Hitchcock has participated in the Midnight Run for over twenty years; Steve Sorrow and Rudyard Whyte have been co-coordinators of this ministry for the last ten years. Most of the monthly Hitchcock Midnight Runs occur on Saturday evenings. We have Sunday morning Breakfast Runs in February, July and October.

Hitchcock's Midnight Run ministry is financed by the goodwill and generosity of the congregation and other individuals and organizations within the community. We have received exceptional support from Hitchcock's Presbyterian Women. Approximately \$800 is needed for each monthly Run.

An average Run requires the coordinated effort of approximately 20 volunteers in preparing food, sorting clothing and toiletries, and making the trip into Manhattan late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Persons of all ages participate in this effort, from our youth to our senior members. Typically between 10 and 25 persons go into Manhattan for delivery of food, clothing, toiletries, and perhaps most importantly conversation and friendship. The participants are normally part of the Hitchcock community, but we also draw volunteers from other groups including neighborhood religious institutions. The number of persons served is frequently in excess of 100. In December 2013 there was a Christmas Run that added seasonal joy for the 30 volunteers from Hitchcock and close to 200 men and women from the streets of Manhattan.

Under the auspices of the Midnight Run organization, and through the efforts of Gwen Ho and family, we have collected food items from Whole Foods every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. (closing time) for the past 2 years. On any given Wednesday evening we might receive all the leftover baked products as well as fruits and vegetables, and typically leave with 5-7 shopping carts piled high with food. We keep some of the items for our monthly Runs and we distribute the rest to Grace Church Soup Kitchen, Centro Hispano, and Open Arms, all of which are Westchester County organizations. This represents further outreach by the Midnight Run organization to the Westchester community.

Midnight Run continues to be a wonderful way for parents to get an early start in teaching their children the importance and joy of serving those less fortunate than themselves. The enthusiasm and dedication of the children that participate is inspiring. No experience is needed to participate in this ministry.

Nominating Committee

Committee Members:

Congregation	Margaret Black Jane Buck Linda Camp Jin Park
Board of Deacons Session	Peggy Berretta Steve Sorrow (chair) Rachel Hastie

The Nominating Committee is responsible to the Congregation and is unique among the Session Committees in this regard. To the Congregation, the Nominating Committee submits nominees for election as Ruling Elders, Deacons, and Congregational members of the Nominating Committee. A slate of candidates is presented to the congregation by the committee at a Congregational Meeting; nominations from the floor are always entertained.

Composition of the Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee consists of seven members:

- four members elected by the Congregation
- a Deacon, and
- two Ruling Elders.

Term of Service: Congregational members are elected at the annual meeting and serve three-year terms. The two Ruling Elders and one Deacon are elected from their members by their respective bodies. Family members may not serve together on the Nominating Committee.

In 2014/ 2015, the Nominating Committee worked to fill the following open positions for the Class of 2018 (Term 2016-2018):

4 Elders

1 Youth Elder

6 Deacons

1 Youth Deacon

2 Nominating Committee members from the congregation

The nominees will be presented at the March 22, 2015 Congregational meeting.

Nurture and Fellowship Committee

Chairperson: Chip Love

Committee Members: Marla Dierking, Sally Hall, Gwynn Hurshman,
Beverly Thornhill, Caroline Griffiths

Staff Support: Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett

The Nurture and Fellowship Committee oversees Christian Education programs for all HPC members, friends and guests. Our educational programs include Sunday School for children, Youth Forum, Senior High Fellowship and programming for adults on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings. The Committee meets on bi-monthly basis on the first Monday of alternating months.

Our Sunday School serves more than 60 children from pre-K to 8th grade. The program has a team approach where we have four teachers assigned to each class level with teachers alternating the teaching responsibilities according to their schedules. On Communion Sundays, all of the Sunday School classes assemble together for Children's Chapel, led by Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett. At the end of the program, the children return to the sanctuary and partake in communion with their families. In fall 2014, our Sunday School children and youth helped develop and lead the Children's Sabbath worship service.

With the help of the Deacons, we are continuing to offer opportunities for children's fellowship and activities during the year. Children's crafts and activities were offered during the annual church-wide Christmas Party, and an Easter Egg-stravaganza on the day before Easter included food, crafts and an egg hunt. These events have drawn in children and families from the Greenacres neighborhood who don't normally attend Hitchcock. We are excited to have these opportunities to offer hospitality to our neighbors.

The Youth Forum and Senior High Fellowship offer a wide-range of activities for our youth. These groups develop the worship service for Youth Sunday. In addition, our Youth Forum meets weekly for dinner and programs. The group's activities include mission work, a church lock-in, movies and games. The Senior Highs group meets on Sunday evenings and provides opportunities for fellowship and faith exploration. The Senior Highs also participate in community outreach and mission trips.

Our Adult Education program provides members an opportunity to explore their faith journey. During Lent, John King and Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett each led two sessions of the Lenten dinner series; Dr. King led a program on Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, which the choir performed during the Lenten Choral service, and Rev. Smith-Bartlett facilitated intergenerational workshops that focused on different aspects of Lent and prayer practices.

After his arrival in May, Interim Minister Jack Lohr led discussions on the interim journey and topics related to the Mission Study. In the fall, we explored the theme of peace with Adult Forums on the following topics:

- Peace with the Planet (preparation for the Climate March)
- Buddhist Peace Lantern Ceremony (Rev. Qalvy Grainzvolt)
- Meditation for Personal Peace (Jack Lohr)
- Arts Ministry at Bedford Correctional Facility (Dr. Hans Hallundbaek)
- “Divestment -- Presbyterian General Assembly” (Rev. Susan deGeorge)
- “Voices in Wartime” (video on poetry and poets in wartime)

Programs so far in 2015 have focused on issues of racism, and the Mission Study. Going forward we will have updates on the search process for the next pastor for Hitchcock Church and other topics as they develop.

This committee is looking forward to continuing to provide educational and enrichment activities for all members of our congregation.

Personnel Committee
For the year ended December 31, 2014

Chairperson: Bonnie Hurry

Members: Martha Flanders, Martha Gonzalez, Constance Haslett and David Kroenlein

In 2014, Search Committee for the Interim Minister identified and hired The Reverend Jack Lohr. Prior to his arrival the Personnel Committee assisted with the transition and appointed committee member David Kroenlein to serve as Liaison to the Staff during the pre-interim time.

In 2014, the Personnel Committee conducted an abbreviated evaluation process. When Reverend Lohr arrived, Jack, David and Bonnie met with each staff member to thank them for their service during the pre-interim period and to provide them with feedback. During this time of transition, the staff has continued to perform at a very high level. In addition, each member of the staff has stepped up and worked together to keep our programs and our building operating in top form.

Our goals for 2015 are to continue to work closely to support our staff and to assess the personnel needs of the church. We expect to continue to work closely with Jack Lohr and to assist the PNC on any personnel matters that arise in their search process.

Prayer Ministry

Purpose: United in prayer, we open our hearts to God, quiet our minds, praise and worship God, ask for and receive His forgiveness, express thanks for all our blessings and make intercession on behalf of others.

Prayer, a central activity for people of faith, sets apart places of worship from other social organizations. There remains at Hitchcock Church a strong belief that there is spiritual power when followers of Christ *come together for prayer with a unity of purpose*. We are motivated to pray through all the vagaries of life, connecting us to believers everywhere, past, present and future. Praying confidently, not based on personal abilities but with wholehearted trust in God's power to respond, we are moved to acts of hospitality, compassion, and deeds of love to others.

The appointed times for group prayer are open to all. Everyone is invited to stop by on Mondays mornings weekly and the second Saturday morning of each month. We bring before God the personal, congregational and world needs that challenge and burden us all, believing that we can be links to God's providence, mercy and grace.

1. Chapel: Monday mornings 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
2. Hancock Room: 2nd Saturday monthly 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
[8:30 a.m. in July & August]

Check the *Sunday Order of Service* and *Hitchcock Happenings* for dates and times.

Prayer gatherings open with sharing joys and concerns brought to our attention. After reading a Psalm and Scripture from the Old or New Testaments, or sharing a meditation on the Word, time is spent quietly and offering words of praise, thanksgiving, intercession and confession.

Please send prayer requests to (914) 723-3311 for the Reverend Jack Lohr (ext. 15) and the Reverend Elizabeth Bartlett-Smith (ext. 17) or by forwarding an e-mail to prayerrequest@hitchcockpresby.org. You may also contact Rene Thiel or Joanna Tsuyuki to obtain more information.

*Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed
Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of the eye when none but God is near.
Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try
that reaches the Almighty's ear.
Prayer is the Christian's vital breath.*

(Paraphrased from Hymn)

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of Hitchcock Church (PW) is composed of women of many cultures and ages, single, widowed, divorced or married, homemakers and businesswomen, and supported by dedicated volunteers from other faiths. All Hitchcock women are automatically members of PW and are welcome to attend all meetings and events. This report is for fiscal year July 2014 to June 2015.

Since 1913, the women of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church have committed themselves to roles essential to this community's spiritual and material growth. The May 14, 1916, Minutes of the Trustees recorded that a \$500.00 check was received from the Women's Guild (*forerunner of Presbyterian Women*) with a pledge of an additional \$1,500 to follow over a three-year period to advance the church building fund. Despite a smaller membership today, the faithfulness and resourcefulness of the women of Hitchcock Church is visible in all areas of ministry. Presbyterian Women, as empowered by God's Spirit, remain steadfast to our stated PURPOSES:

- Nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible Study;
- Supporting the mission of the Church worldwide;
- Working for justice and peace;
- Building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and bears witness that we are children of God through a new way of living.

The women of PW continue to be a driving force at Hitchcock both financially and spiritually. The Thrift Shop Operations posted strong sales this past year, enabling PW to expand its support of various philanthropic efforts worldwide. This year there was a concentrated effort to reach out to the younger women of the Congregation to encourage participation in PW activities. For the first time, a beautiful worship service was planned and presented by only women members of the Congregation and the Chancel Choir in which faith journeys were shared and a joyful sisterhood spoke eloquently about the unique role that faith plays in our everyday lives. Each year the speakers at our annual Spring dinner reflect the commitment of PW to inform and educate women about issues of not only local but worldwide significance and our Retreats provided an opportunity to renew our faith together. The annual drive to collect clothing, books and toys for Hour Children's Center at the Bedford Hills Women's Correctional Facility exceeded what was given in prior years. This was certainly a boon for incarcerated women who were now able to present visiting children with a Christmas gift.

Studies: 1) On the 1st, 4th and 5th Tuesdays a **Bible study** is held in the Hancock Room. This year's Horizons Bible study, *Reconciling Paul, A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*, focuses on generosity, grace, forgiveness, and living by faith. Leadership rotates among the participants accompanied by lively discussion and the sharing of faith and ideas. In addition, the Reverend Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett and the Reverend Jack Lohr lead three sessions each, covering other scripture readings and their meaning. 2) The **Book Group** meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon in the Hancock Room. Average attendance is between seven to ten individuals and all are welcome, men and women alike. The books chosen, read and discussed highlight the triumphs and challenges of women, men and families from diverse backgrounds and experiences. *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline and *Where'd You Go Bernadette?* by Maria Semple will be discussed in April and May, respectively.

Retreats: On April 18, 2015, our Spring Retreat will be held from 9:30 AM to 3PM at the Church. The Retreat will be led by the Reverend Dr. Cathryn Surgenor, the Principle Evaluator for *Evaluation Builds Understanding* and the Reverend Leslie Mott, the Pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring, N.Y. The theme will be “Keeping Real Faith in the Real World” and will include Worship, small group spiritual exercises, music and movement, yoga, creative expression and prayer. Please join us as we renew, reflect and rejoice! The Retreat is **Open to all women and their friends.**

Thrift: PW’s fundraising engines are (1) the Thrift Shop in White Plains operating since 1918 with two other partners (Women’s Club of White Plains and Scarsdale Women’s Club) and (2) the Thrift Shop at Hitchcock Church which produces four-fifths of total benevolence income. After a strong December, January and February Thrift Monday sales were affected by adverse weather conditions. Bad weather forced the shop to be closed or to close early on more than one occasion. In spite of this Thrift, in general, continues to be a strong source of funds for outreach. As of January 13, 2015, total Thrift income exceeded \$21,000.00. Last year total annual Thrift gross sales totaled \$31,081.12 and 100% of Thrift income was directed to programs that primarily assist women and children. PW Bylaws permit us however to direct 10% of Thrift income, as needed, toward program activities. The dedication of Thrift managers, Treasurer, volunteers, and the regular flow of donated goods makes this possible. **Help is needed for set up on Sundays after Coffee Hour in the Lower Children’s House and on Monday mornings for sorting, pricing and clean up.** Items are also placed in the shop at White Plains Presbyterian Church. PW staffs this shop every 3rd Tuesday and 1st Saturday of the month. Twice a year there is a Saturday Thrift Happening Sale here at Hitchcock. Net proceeds for these Happenings are directed toward a particular charity chosen by the Board. Net proceeds from the Fall 2014 Happening benefited Midnight Run. **The Spring Happening is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015.**

Benevolences: PW reviews funding requests from local and overseas nonprofits that work to improve conditions for women and children in particular. Over \$12,000 has already been distributed this year. Among the recipients are Midnight Run, Hudson River Presbytery Disaster Assistance (Ebola Relief), Rural and Migrant Ministry (women’s conference), Water.org (an organization that develops ways to provide universal access to safe water and sanitation in rural areas), and Hitchcock Church (1st installment of PW annual tithe/pledge). Information about PW’s giving policy and application guidelines can be found on the church website, www.hitchcockpresby.org under **Who We Are**, select **Presbyterian Women**. PW Benevolences, recorded in the church budget, represented about 40 % of total church benevolences (\$35,149.54).

Fellowship: Forty-two women attended the June 2014 dinner enjoying an excellent meal and engaging conversation. The speaker was Mary Lou Larkin, Medical Director of Haiti Marycare. Mary and her team do inspiring work in a small village in Haiti called Jacquesy. They strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the village’s women and children by providing medical care including pre and post natal services, pediatric and dental services, and education. On March 26, 2014, a Women’s Coffee Hour was held for all women to have an informal chat with the Reverend Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett about the direction of children’s ministry. A Holiday coffee and tree trimming event was held on December 2nd. Children were welcome at both those events. Our Spring Dinner will be held on June 7, 2015. The speaker will be Dorothy Muller, Protestant volunteer Chaplain at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. She will speak about her ministry at the prison and you will find that her passion and dedication to the women incarcerated there is inspiring.

Soup Kitchen: Hitchcock women and regular volunteers from the Living in America program gather in the church kitchen every 3rd Tuesday to prepare “Tex-Mex” casseroles which are delivered to the Grace Church Community Center Soup Kitchen in White Plains. There is always a need for more hands to help on this Tuesday, so please feel free to join in! PW is one of the few organizations that deliver pre-cooked meals to the soup kitchen that serves over 150 persons.

Scarsdale-Hartsdale Interfaith Women’s Council: The Council, representing local congregations of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, sponsors two luncheon programs annually. Guest speakers explore current issues involving religion, ethics and social justice. On October 23, 2014 at Scarsdale Congregational Church in Scarsdale, Steven Brown, President and CEO of the Greyston Foundation spoke about Greyston Bakery. Their mission is to help many who would not have access to work, Day Care and housing because of previous incarcerations, drug and alcohol use, etc and employ them at the Bakery. Greyston provided brownies for dessert, and the luncheon program was well received with a record turnout. On May 21, 2015, the luncheon will be held at the Scarsdale Woman’s Club. The UN International Representative of the Baha’i Faith, Bani Dugal, will speak about a faith founded in the 19th century based on peace, harmony and tolerance that is now the most geographically widespread faith after Christianity.

Living in America Special programs: With the support of PW, the Living in America (LIA) program produced a beautiful Christmas worship service on December 18, 2104. Hitchcock members as well as friends and students from Japan, Korea, China, Austria, and Latvia attended the service followed by refreshments. Rev. Jack Lohr, Dr. John King and the Reverend Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett assisted with this service and students actively participated, providing music and reading the scriptures.

On April 23rd the Students will participate in the Annual Cultural Arts Program. This is a time when the students share their various cultures through performances, crafts, song and food. A truly enriching experience for all!

The **Nominating Committee** and the PW Coordinating Team welcome your help in finding candidates for open positions this year. This year we are in need of three persons to serve on the Nominating Committee. Terms are for two years. The flow of new ideas is essential to keep PW vibrant and relevant. **All women are invited to attend the Coordinating Team meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December). Your participation is integral to making future programming successful.**

Joys and Concerns: The Correspondence Secretary has been busy sending special occasion cards, writing notes to say “thank you”, “get well”, express condolences, give a word of encouragement or send congratulations. More than 115 notes have already been written this year.

Appreciation: Responses to the annual pledge these past three years have increased making it possible to give 100% of Thrift revenue to Benevolences and provide funding needed for planning new outreach programs. Your generous gifts of time and money affirm our partnership and common purpose to encourage each other and minister to the needs of local community.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Perrone, PW Moderator

PW BOARD--COORDINATING TEAM

Moderator: Liz Perrone

Treasurer & Chair, Budget Committee:	Joanna Tsuyuki
Recording Secretary:	Deborah Pekarek
Benevolence Coordinator:	Kathy Gray
Thrift Managers:	Lee Maiden, Rene Thiel, Alma Whyte
Corresponding Secretary:	Veronica Cocchiaraley
Soup Kitchen Coordinators:	Rene Thiel, Lee Maiden
Bible Studies Coordinator:	Jennifer Watts
Book Group Coordinator:	Liz Perrone and Jennifer Watts
Fellowship Coordinators:	Deborah Pekarek, Carol Lavis, Lee Maiden Linda Camp
Retreat Coordinator:	Liz Perrone
Publicity Coordinator:	Diane Gismond
Scarsdale-Hartsdale Interfaith Women's Council Liaison:	Alison Rose
Nominating Committee:	Liz Perrone

Senior Highs

The Senior High youth group meets in Seventh Heaven on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm. Dinner is provided by the parents and it is open to all youth in 9th-12th grades.

The 2014 mission trip took place June 29th-July 5th. Nine of our youth and three adults traveled to Chatham Township, NJ, where we were hosted by the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township; since Superstorm Sandy, PCCT has been a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance host site for workgroups from across the country. We spent the week working on Staten Island through Guyon Rescue, which is a local organization that formed in the days and weeks following Superstorm Sandy as a means to connect local residents with emergency assistance. We were involved in home improvement projects and neighborhood clean-up, and had the opportunity to meet some of the community members effected by the storm.

The 2014-15 program year was filled with a variety of activities including Bible study, fundraising for the mission trip, game nights, service projects, and conversations on a variety of topics.

Sr. Highs planned and led worship for Youth Sunday on Feb. 1, 2015; the service focused on the themes of community, service to others, and peace.

The program year will wrap up in June with a mission trip to Chicago in partnership with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection). We are looking forward to working with a variety of agencies in the city.

Sally Hall, Jeffrey Hastie, and Catherine Manix-Feintuch have continued to build relationships with the youth this year as adult advisors. I am grateful for their continued support of our youth!

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett
Minister of Formation and Nurture

Sunday School

For the second year, our Sunday School classes are using the “We Believe” curriculum, published by the PC(USA). This year, our K-3rd grade curriculum format is structured around the liturgical year and teaches the core stories of the Bible in relation to the liturgical calendar (for example, the stories of Holy Week during the season of Lent). Our 4th-8th graders’ curriculum for the year focuses on stories relating to the three parts of the Trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Each lesson connects the Biblical text with issues in the world or that the children might be experiencing in their own lives.

We have continued with the team teaching format, so that each Sunday School class has a team of four regular teachers who share teaching responsibilities over the course of the year. Our confirmands have also shared some teaching responsibilities over the course of the year, and it has been a gift to have them involved with the children’s classes in this capacity. It is clear that our teachers and students are forming relationships through this consistency in the classroom.

In addition to classroom time, our children’s faith formation includes connecting our children to the worshiping life of the congregation. Our Chapel time for children in grades K-5th on Communion Sundays allows them to continue worship in ways that are age-appropriate, interactive, and include them in the leadership of this time together.

We also participated in the national celebration of Children’s Sabbath in conjunction with the Children’s Defense Fund in October 2014. Our Sunday School classes were actively involved in leading the congregation in worship as liturgists, and the whole congregation participated in an intergenerational response to the sermon, which was based on Matthew 22:15-22. Our finished piece—four canvases with paper “coins” that represent each of us giving our very selves to God in service—is hanging in the vestibule.

The annual Christmas Pageant was presented during the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service. The children brought the story to life, sharing their joy with the entire congregation.

Our children’s faith formation also includes joining the congregation in giving. We continued our regular food collection for the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and our Sunday School offering, which the children designate at the end of each semester. The children voted to send the money collected between September and December 2014 to three different organizations: UNICEF, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Heifer International.

The 5th graders will once again receive Bibles through the generosity of Kirk’s Fund at the end of the program year.

We are blessed by the presence and active participation of our children and youth in the life of this congregation, and it is such a gift to be a part of their faith journeys.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett
Minister of Formation and Nurture

Worship and Arts Committee

Chair: Martha Binder

Committee Members: Betsy Broyd, Jane Buck, Betsy Bush,
Karen Collins, Kevin Dierking, Kathleen Mahan, Lisana Brown

The Worship and Arts Committee is the committee that is responsible for the various aspects of our corporate worship. This includes selecting liturgists, ushers, greeters, communion preparations and servers, establishing new and/or special worship services, as well as overseeing decorations and liturgical appointments to the sanctuary. The committee also serves as a sounding board for ideas and issues relating to our worship services.

During this time of transition, we were fortunate to have consistent personnel for Sunday morning worship. Reverend William Weisenbach acted as Supply Preacher through Easter, with Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett alternating. On Sunday May 4, Reverend Jack Lohr preached his first service as our Interim Pastor. The transition has been smooth. Reverend Lohr has increased the use of technology to recruit Scripture readers, making that aspect of worship accessible to all.

Karen Collins assumed coordination of the ushers and greeters, who are a vital part of the worship experience for both church members and visitors. In October she and Jane Buck conducted an usher training course to update current ushers and attract new volunteers.

Martha Binder continues to organize congregants to serve communion. Additional members have been trained in preparing communion to allow for rotation.

Communion services at the Kensington continue on a monthly basis. Music is provided by Dr John King, with occasional offerings by Hitchcock Chancel Choir members.

Throughout the year, special worship services, such as Youth Sunday, the Lenten Choral Service, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday were well attended. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday Communion services were also held.

The Advent Choral Service, the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols, as well as our Christmas Eve family service, were well attended and continue to draw large numbers of members and visitors.

The committee continues to explore ways to enhance the worship service for all. In 2015, we look forward to our first Women's Service, as well as weekly Lenten Vesper services.

The committee is grateful to Reverend Jack Lohr, Reverend Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett, and Dr John King for their continuous support of the Worship and Arts Committee.

Youth Forum

Youth Forum, which includes grades six through eight, meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Hancock room of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church. They are a small but mighty group in the 2014-15 program year, and continue to bring a spirit to the program that is inquisitive and inspiring. They are joined together for fellowship that includes dinner and a time to share their joys and concerns.

The youth took part in activities that included spiritual development, mission/community outreach, and fellowship/fun. Spiritual development included activities like a discussion night about gratitude, prayer stations on themes of Lent, doing a short yoga practice with Char Daigle from the Yoga Station in Hartsdale Village, and learning about different world religions and meditation practices with Jack Lohr. The youth prepared and presented a skit for Time for Children on Youth Sunday (February 1, 2015); preparations included review and discussion of the Bible passage that the Senior Highs had chosen for the service.

Mission/community outreach activities have included preparing for and conducting the Heifer Project Sale during Advent, designing and sending cards to Hitchcock's seniors at Christmas and Easter, and preparing dinner for the ESL class that meets in White Plains. We will bake cookies for the Midnight Run at the end of April, and the youth will also be able to go out on the Run.

We also enjoy hanging out and having a good time together! We've had a game night, watched some of our favorite inspirational and funny YouTube videos together, and done trivia.

A BBQ is planned for our final meeting this year. The current fifth graders of Hitchcock will also be invited, so that they can meet the sixth and seventh graders they will join next year if they choose to participate in Youth Forum. The eighth graders will receive a customary small gift.

Special thanks to longtime Youth Forum leader Cheryl Veres, who concluded her time as a Youth Forum leader at the end of the 2013-14 program year. Cheryl served for 8 years as a most dedicated leader and organizer, and we are grateful for her time and talent. Liz Perrone, who has been a Youth Forum leader previously, has joined us once again for the 2014-15 year. Beverly Thornhill and Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett continue to serve as Youth Forum leaders as well.

CHURCH RECORD

Calendar Year 2014

NEW MEMBERS

Askala Harris	June 8, 2014
Livingston Clark	September 28, 2014
Carter King	September 28, 2014
Anne King	September 28, 2014
Charmain Carter	September 28, 2014
Elizabeth Landsberg	November 17, 2014
Virginia Brisbane	November 17, 2014
Anthony Ingra	December 16, 2014
Flora White	December 16, 2014

CONFIRMANDS

Isabella Bailey	May 7, 2014
Laura Clapp	May 7, 2014
Samantha Chong	May 7, 2014
Mark Djomo	May 7, 2014
Sydney Jasper	May 7, 2014
Luke Ramundo	May 7, 2014
Deagan Williams	May 7, 2014

BAPTISMS

Deagan Williams	May 11, 2014
Maxwell Kasak	May 25, 2014
Jerel Outlaw	December 21, 2014

DEATHS

William Koegel	February 4, 2014
Patricia Delph	June 12, 2014
Joseph Hinsey	June 13, 2014
Adele Lian	June 20, 2011
Shirlee Brownell	October 2, 2014
Jane Bessels	February 4, 2014
Eric Bessels	March 11, 2014
Rodman Zilenziger	February 2, 2014
Catherine McEniry	July 22, 2014

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 452

HITCHCOCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
March 23, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:40am. Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett opened with prayer. A quorum was declared.

A **motion** was made and passed by voice vote to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, April 7, 2013.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to act upon the following:

- Report from the Congregational Nominating Committee
- To receive the Annual Report and Budget
- To transact any other business appropriate to the Annual Meeting

PRESENTATION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS

Elder Beverly Thornhill, Chair of the Nominating Committee, recognized the current Church Nominating Committee and introduced the slate of Elders:

- Class of 2015 – Caroline Griffiths (Youth Elder)
- Class of 2017 – Kevin Dierking, Rachel Hastie, Jensina Olson, Ralph Penny

Nominations were requested from the floor. There were none.

A **motion** was made and passed by unanimous ballot to approve the slate of Elders. Thanks were given to the Class of 2014.

Elder Thornhill introduced the slate of Deacons:

- Class of 2017 - Peggy Berretta, Nicole Chappell, Karen Collins, Hyun Hwang, Edward Prince, Alison Rose, Tracey Tsai

Nominations were requested from the floor. There were none.

A **motion** was made and passed by unanimous ballot to approve the slate of Deacons. Thanks were given to the Class of 2014.

Elder Thornhill introduced the nomination of one member to the Nominating Committee of the Congregation.

- Class of 2017 – Margaret Black

Nominations were requested from the floor. There were none.

A **motion** was made and passed by unanimous ballot to approve Margaret Black to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Thanks were given to Steve Taylor, Class of 2014, for serving on the Nominating Committee.

Annual Report

Steve Bush, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2014 Church Budget.

A **motion** was made and passed by voice vote to receive the Annual Report and the 2014 Church Budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

Interim Search Committee

Bonnie Hurry, Chair of the Interim Search Committee, presented the name and background of the committee's choice, The Rev. Jack Lohr, to serve as Interim Pastor of Hitchcock Church beginning May 1, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Camp, Clerk of Session

Hitchcock Presbyterian Church

	2013 <u>Actual</u>	2014 <u>Budget</u>	2014 <u>Actual</u>	2014 <u>Difference</u>	2015 <u>Budget</u>
Revenues:					
Total Stewardship Result	561,088	591,313	559,893	(31,420)	621,654
Excess Pledge Funding	22,249	12,000	5,000	(7,000)	5,000
Prior Year Pledges	14,081	5,000	12,237	7,237	2,000
Non-Pledged Contributions	68,709	68,000	60,705	(7,295)	65,000
Open Plate Contributions	6,428	6,300	6,243	(57)	6,000
Endowment Income	154,605	170,035	170,035	-	184,000
P-W Contribution	3,000	2,000	3,300	1,300	2,000
PW Fundraising for Benevolences	32,536	30,000	35,150	5,150	30,000
HS Contribution	40,000	40,000	40,000	-	50,000
Hike for Churches	2,215	1,500	1,338	(162)	1,300
Special offerings	7,182	5,000	7,223	2,223	7,000
Music Intern Contributions	8,994	8,994	10,958	1,964	9,000
Per Capita Contributions	6,590	6,000	7,054	1,054	7,000
Interest Income	1,627	1,000	(1,103)	(2,103)	-
Allocation of Prior Year Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Building Rental Income	34,570	34,000	32,497	(1,503)	32,000
Total Operating Receipts	963,873	981,142	950,530	(30,612)	1,021,954
<i>Endowment Income as % of Revenues</i>	16.0%	17.3%	17.9%	0.6%	18.0%
Expenses					
Minister	108,247	89,001	88,666	(335)	123,584
Other Staff	434,845	441,367	449,789	8,422	456,866
Total Staff	543,092	530,368	538,455	8,087	580,450
<i>Staff Cost as % of Receipts</i>	56.3%	54.1%	56.6%	2.6%	56.8%
Education - Children's Programs	1,290	2,500	2,077	(423)	2,250
Education - Youth Forum	3,500	3,500	1,360	(2,140)	3,000
Education - Senior High Education	3,750	3,750	2,058	(1,692)	3,250
Child Care	3,925	4,150	3,959	(191)	4,000
Total Education	12,465	13,900	9,453	(4,447)	12,500
Music - Maintenance	2,803	2,800	2,960	160	2,800
Professional Svcs. - Music	18,000	18,000	18,145	145	18,000
Music Intern	5,000	5,000	5,130	130	5,000
Music Intern - Special Pledges	8,994	9,000	10,958	1,958	9,000
Music Supplies	4,659	4,650	4,637	(13)	4,000
Special Services (Lent/Easter/Christmas)	6,301	6,200	6,325	125	6,200
Total Music	45,757	45,650	48,155	2,505	45,000
Manse Utilities/Repair	5,199	4,500	6,692	2,192	5,000
Electricity	29,612	30,000	29,676	(324)	30,000
Fuel Oil	54,383	55,000	53,463	(1,537)	54,000
Water & Sewer	6,824	7,500	6,464	(1,036)	7,000
Lawn & Grounds Care	8,897	9,000	11,878	2,878	9,000
Snow Removal	11,600	24,000	23,850	(150)	24,000
Maintenance I / (incl.Plumbing & Htg)	54,910	42,000	48,203	6,203	42,000
MTC II Capital Improvements	30,000	30,000	29,453	(547)	30,000
Insurance	50,392	51,500	53,030	1,530	53,000
Less Alloc to HS	(6,468)	(6,500)	(8,087)	(1,587)	(9,500)
Maintenance Supplies	12,145	9,000	6,337	(2,663)	6,000
Sanctuary Decor	561	750	(50)	(800)	750
Total Buildings & Grounds	258,054	256,750	260,909	4,159	251,250

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Hitchcock Presbyterian Church

	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2014 Difference	2015 Budget
Telephone	3,273	3,750	3,709	(41)	3,750
Office Equipment	8,556	8,500	9,585	1,085	8,500
Less Alloc to HS	-	-	(100)	(100)	(100)
Professional & Payroll Svcs	3,760	4,500	3,781	(719)	4,000
Less Alloc to HS	(450)	(500)	-	500	(500)
Bank Fees	(779)	100	47	(53)	100
Misc Office	15	150	-	(150)	150
Internet/webpage	1,200	1,860	-	(1,860)	1,000
Advertising	728	750	2,075	1,325	3,000
Books & Subscr -Office	420	400	332	(68)	350
Postage & Freight	5,922	5,900	3,168	(2,732)	3,500
Less Alloc to HS	(100)	(100)	(100)	-	(100)
Office Supplies	5,878	4,550	7,705	3,155	6,000
Professional Expenses	805	-	-	-	1,000
Membership	-	-	-	-	-
Prior Year Accounting Adjustment	513	-	-	-	-
Total Office	29,743	29,860	30,203	343	30,650
Stewardship Supplies	218	700	706	6	700
Supply Preaching	1,704	3,800	5,091	1,291	350
Interim Pastor Search / Relocation	314	4,395	2,287	(2,108)	4,922
Total Deacons / Hospitality / Fellowship	12,435	11,500	9,908	7,162	11,000
Per Capita Apportionment	13,590	13,969	13,969	-	14,632
Unified Mission Support	30,000	30,000	30,000	-	30,000
Outreach (Local)	300	2,000	1,761	(239)	2,000
Vision 2020 (HPC Share)	1,201	1,250	1,250	-	-
Special Offerings	5,958	5,000	6,140	1,140	7,000
PW Benevolences	32,536	30,000	35,150	5,150	30,000
Pastors Fund	2,880	2,000	1,940	(60)	1,500
Total Benevolences/Mission	86,474	84,219	90,209	5,990	85,132
Total Benevolences as % of Total Pledges	15.4%	14.2%	16.1%	1.9%	13.7%
Total Expenses	990,256	981,142	995,375	22,989	1,021,954
Surplus / (Deficit)	(26,362)	0	(44,845)	(44,845)	0

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