



the **district** church
A CHURCH FOR THE CITY

7 YEARS OF IMPACTING OUR CITY FOR CHRIST

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

To make disciples of Jesus who live out their God-given mission in life.

Our Vision

Impacting our city for Christ, one neighborhood at a time

Our Values

Worship, Community, and Justice



OUR ANCHORS



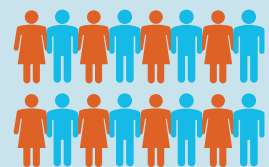
MISSIONAL

Living out a generous, spirit-led faith, in everyday life



MULTICULTURAL

Making disciples of all nations, on Earth as it is in heaven



MULTIPLYING

Developing leaders and churches in DC and beyond

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IMPACT DC



District Church,

This last year has been filled with enormous opportunities and challenges. We purchased a new ministry center in Northeast DC and raised \$1.5 million through your generosity to help support its renovation. This gives us an incredible opportunity to expand our ministry footprint in the city by starting several new outreach and justice ministries over the next few years.

We also saw our East Side Parish transition to become its own autonomous church and launch as Christ City Church. While we will miss the close connection we had between our two parishes, we celebrate the work that we started, and trust God to allow both congregations to thrive and reach even more people for Christ in the days ahead.

This Fall, we celebrate our seventh anniversary as a church. Seven is a very significant number in the Bible - it is used over 700 times. In Genesis 1, God creates the Earth in six days and rests on the seventh day, setting it apart as a Sabbath day.

Joshua marched around Jericho for seven days.
There are seven signs Jesus gives us in the Gospel of John.
Then we see that seven is used more than 50 times in the book of Revelation.

Seven represents something being finished or complete.

For The District Church, I believe this seventh year means that we are finished being in startup mode. We are finished being a church plant. God has grown us over the years, and it is time for us to move toward deeper maturity in Christ and to make a long-term commitment to our city.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus who live out their God-given mission in life.

It's a mission Jesus gave us in Matthew 28, and it includes the challenge to make disciples of all nations. As our church becomes more and more multicultural, we have realized that God has sent the nations to us. What a privilege to steward!

As you read this report, I pray you would sense God's invitation to join us in impacting our city for Christ, one neighborhood at a time.

In Christ,

Aaron Graham
Lead Pastor



LEARNING TO LIVE



In Fall 2016, The District Church took our entire community through a 10-week curriculum called Learning to Live. We also aligned our sermon series with the curriculum as we walked through the foundations of Christian faith. Small groups experienced the material together, doing daily devotionals and participating in three weekend experiences centered around Story, Prayer and Serving.

● **Story** - Powerful testimonies and experiences were shared within our church community.

● **Prayer** - Some had prayer experiences with their small groups that completely changed their lives and their relationships with God.

● **Serving** - Over 300 people served the city in community with others, ending this small group experience in an impactful way.



“Leading a small group empowers me to feel confident enough to spread the gospel to unchurched friends.”

- Camille Gooding, Small Group Leader

1010 People enrolled in small groups

“The first word that comes to mind when I think of my small group is...Joy! We laughed a lot at the works God was doing in our lives and shared tears of how God was seeing us through.”

- Brittany Yarbaugh, Small Group Leader

SMALL GROUPS

“Our small group has become our DC family. They are a constant source of support as we walk through life together; whether that be praying for us, providing advice during the trials and celebrating with us during the joys life brings, and babysitting for us to have date nights!”

- Rachel Gainor, Small Group Member

Why God,
We Ask Questions

65
Active
small
groups

Why God is a relaxed discussion on the core components of the Christian faith. It is open to the doubting, skeptical, and the down-right unbelieving non-Christians & Christians alike. **This year saw the group grow from 30 to 42 people.**



27

BAPTISMS THIS YEAR



LITTLE DISCIPLES



Kids' City Mission

We are committed to creating a safe and fun environment for children to know, love and follow Christ.

"Witnessing your children applying their Sunday school lesson in everyday life, fills our heart..."

- Nikki Wood, Kids' City Parent



"I like that it's really fun and we get to learn about God and we get to spend time with our friends"

- Samuel Nevills, 6 Years Old

17

BABIES DEDICATED AT THE DISTRICT CHURCH

All numbers on page 3 represent the Columbia Heights Parish only.

7 YEARS OF

GATHERING

ATTENDANCE ON AVERAGE

*Attendance was not tracked in 2010.
Average attendance is inclusive of Columbia Heights & East Side Parishes.



201

July 2011 -
July 2012

271

July 2012 -
July 2013

+70

420

July 2013 -
July 2014

+149

500

July 2014 -
July 2015

+80

554

July 2015 -
July 2016

+54

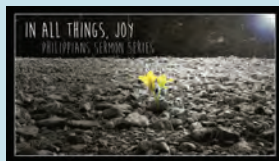
645

July 2016 -
July 2017

+91

OVER 1110 PEOPLE ON
EASTER SUNDAY (2017)

This Year's Sermon Series



A LOOK BACK AT

THE EAST SIDE PARISH

Four years ago, we planted the East Side Parish as a location of The District Church. This last year we transitioned the East Side to become its own congregation and they successfully relaunched as Christ City Church this summer.

The East Side Parish has always been very engaged in reaching the Rosedale and H Street neighborhoods. One of the ways has been through supporting the Homeless Children's Playtime Project and through being engaged in the local arts.

Please pray that Christ City Church continues to thrive and reach people for Christ!



6 BAPTISMS

3 BABIES DEDICATED

64 NEWCOMERS



Launched as Christ City Church in August of 2017



**CHRIST CITY
CHURCH**
WASHINGTON D.C.

5,000
diapers donated to
Homeless Playtime
Project each month

**Hosted Kids' City
Games Camp in
July 2017**

TDC SERVES

Growing our Ministry Teams

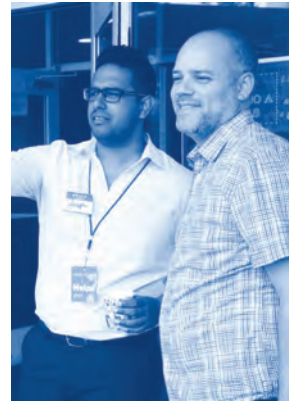
This year, we had our third Annual TDC Serves volunteer drive, where we invited our congregation to say yes to serving our church. Because we are a portable church, we would not be able to have a Sunday experience without the countless hours and dedication from our volunteers each week. On behalf of the congregation, staff, executive board and pastors, we say thank you for serving!



159

of people to sign
up for a Ministry Team
during our TDC Serves
campaign

Launched the
new Social Media
Ministry Team



ON SUNDAYS



Mystery Connection Card Artist



2,650
cups of coffee
served this year



3,445
donuts eaten
this year



180
songs sung
this year

“Being the face and the first impression that people get when they walk into the church...is a really great opportunity to serve the church, get more involved and meet new people”
- Joseph Puente, Hospitality Leader

Most frequently
performed song
The Earth Shall Know,
Urban Doxology



GOING GLOBAL

This year, some of our TDC community was fortunate enough to travel abroad with 2 of our global partners.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

We partnered with **Telos** and traveled to Israel/Palestine for two reasons:

1

To connect with the history of our faith by going on a spiritual pilgrimage to the very places where Jesus lived and ministered.

2

To consider what role the church can play in peacemaking efforts by learning from peacemakers on the ground, who are striving for peace in one of the world's longest-running and most intractable conflicts - that between Israelis and Palestinians.

KENYA

TDC also sent a team to Kenya for the Fearless Summit, a 3-day conference held by our Kenyan church partner, **Mavuno Church**. The international annual conference is held in Nairobi, Kenya and themed around being a "fearless influencer of society" as well as equipping attendees in living out their faith actively in their family, church, city and country.

The District Church hopes to send teams annually to experience more global opportunities.



7 YEARS OF

CONNECTING

SOCIAL MEDIA



9,373
Likes



1,407
Followers



640
Followers

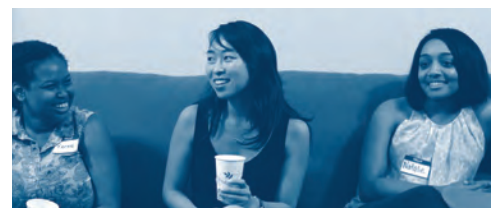
1,155

Newcomers
at TDC

300

people served
at Newcomers
Lunches &
Dinners

NEWCOMERS





AFFINITY GROUPS

The District Church launched our first Affinity Groups in September of 2016 as part of our vision of being a multicultural church. These groups have provided space for friendship and healing for those in the Black, Latino, and Asian American Pacific Islander communities. They have also created an opportunity to learn and educate others about the call to biblical justice related to issues facing each community. Some of the success of the Affinity Groups include multiple Heritage Month celebrations, stories of salvation & baptisms from each group.

In Revelation 7, we see a vision of Heaven of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue gathered before the throne of God worshipping Christ. It is a vision of people not losing their racial and ethnic identity but bringing it with them to Heaven.



7 YEARS OF

BEING MISSIONAL

We helped CHEC* get the school ready for the year.



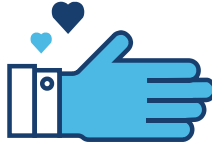
20

Classrooms painted



40

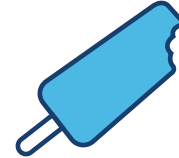
Flower beds planted



20

Teachers helped

Only 1 reported papercut



1400

Popsicles handed out

We supported Columbia Heights Day, an annual community festival in the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

Hosted a Teacher Appreciation Lunch at CHEC*

250+

Teachers served

Every month The District Church sends a team to share a meal, the gospel and worship, with the **Samaritan Inns** community - an organization that provides structured housing and recovery services for homeless or at risk individuals who suffer from drug and alcohol addictions.



*Columbia Heights Educational Campus

Apartment Life CARES Teams

This year, The District Church partnered with Apartment Life - a faith-based, non-profit organization that sends teams to live onsite in apartment communities and live out God's calling to love their neighbors through practical, intentional, and everyday ways. This partnership has helped our church get deeper into the community by literally taking Christ's message to people's homes.



Please pray for our two TDC CARES Teams: Mike & Michele Husfelt and Matt & Danielle LeStrange





DC127

Started from The District Church in 2013, DC127 has a mission to reverse the foster care and adoption wait list by providing homes for children in crisis.

This past year, DC127 has seen significant successes in their efforts to reverse the foster care and adoption waitlist. Over twice as many families have been served in the last fiscal year, than the previous year - 7 families, 15 children. 6 kids were placed in permanent homes - either adopted or permanently reunited with their families.

DC127 Website: DC127.org

The District Church has been able to support a young mother and her 4 year old with temporary housing, while they waited for a permanent home. Through God's grace and the support of the church, this family was able to move into a stable home of their own - with people from The District Church providing them with all the supplies needed to start their new journey.



15
church
partners
involved
in helping
DC127

68 Since 2013, DC127 has served 68 children between foster care and Safe Families



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 (Fiscal Year)

Our Executive Board carefully seeks God's guidance in determining and approving the allocation of each year's budget. Our staff are challenged and expected to be wise stewards of the budgets entrusted to them. Every dollar received or spent is accounted for through careful record keeping by our staff and our accounting firm.

Last Year's Income

General Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,528,023
Total Designated Giving*:	\$138,868
Total Income:	\$1,666,891
Total Expenses:	\$1,482,765
Net Income:	\$184,126

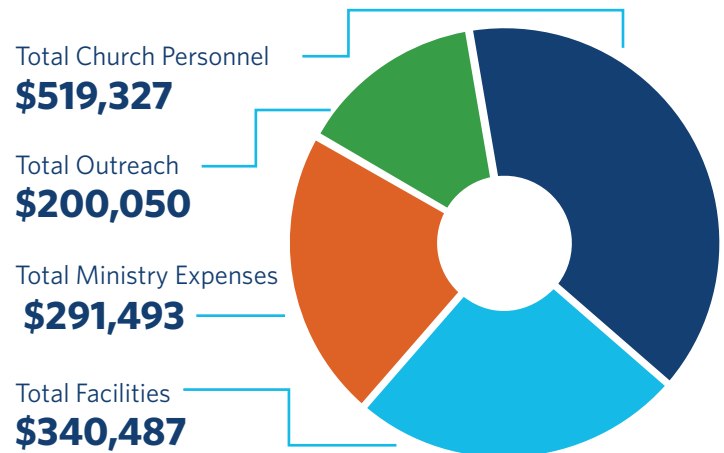
*Designated giving includes: DC127, Advent Offering, District Renewal Fund

Last Year's Expenses

Personnel:	\$635,389
Leadership Development:	\$53,503
Discipleship:	\$72,587
Ministry Teams:	\$86,233
Communications:	\$25,561
Operations:	\$95,031
Facilities:	\$293,058
Outreach:	\$219,759
Miscellaneous:	\$1,644
Total Income:	\$1,666,891
Total Expenses:	\$1,482,765
Net Income:	\$184,126

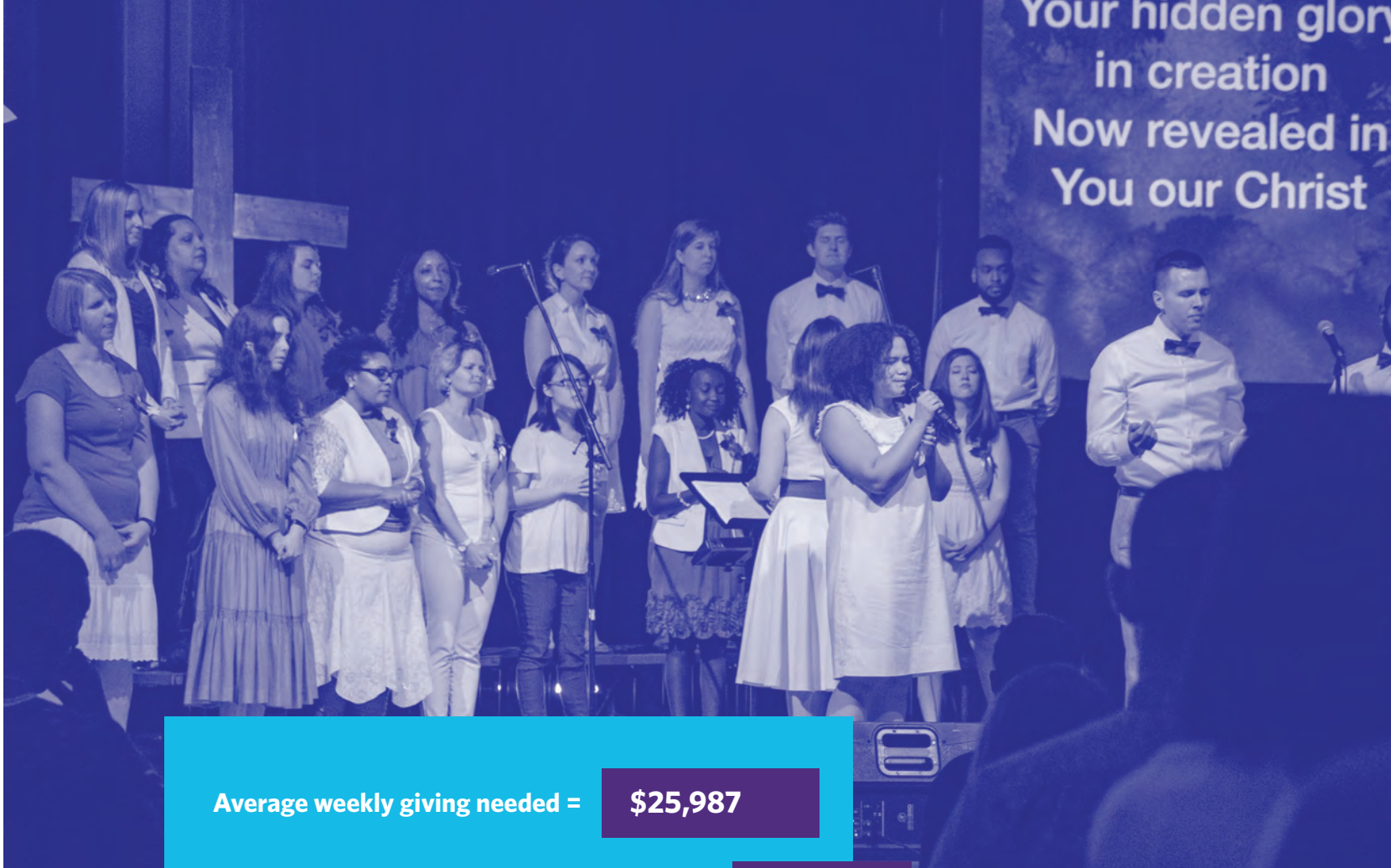
This Year's Budget

Total 2017-2018 Budget: **\$1,351,357**



NOTES

- FY16/17 numbers include both Columbia Heights & East Side Parishes. FY17/18 numbers include only Columbia Heights.
- Personnel for FY16/17 includes: Lead Pastor, East Side Pastor, Pastor of Teaching & Formation, Pastor of Spiritual Care, Worship Leader, Director of Operations, Small Groups Director, Communications Coordinator, Kids' City Leadership, Residents & Fellows.
- Personnel for FY17/18 includes: Lead Pastor, Pastor of Spiritual Care, Director of Worship Arts, Director of Strategic Operations, Small Groups Director, Operations Manager, Ministry Teams Leader, Administrative Assistant, Residents & Fellows.
- Ministry Teams includes: Hospitality, Kids' City, Worship Arts, Production, Creative Communications, & Prayer.
- Facility Rentals include: Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Next Step PCS, Otis Street Ministry Center and Church Office. FY16/17 Facility Rentals included all of the above, including Miner Elementary.
- Outreach includes: DC127, Advent, local/global projects, mission partnerships, network giving & benevolence.
- Net income is set aside for savings and future expansion.
- Impact DC funds are included on page 16 of this report.



Average weekly giving needed =

Average weekly giving needed per person =

\$25,987

\$51.16

ADVENT OFFERING 2016

Every December during the Advent season, we raise money to support local and global partners who are engaging in Christ’s mission to serve the poor. This last Christmas, we focused on supporting teachers and schools in the educational system.

Local Education

- \$20,000** - Columbia Heights Education Campus for 1:1 Laptop Program
- \$10,000** - Miner Elementary PTO for Parent Resource Center
- \$8,915** - Individual Classroom Grants Given to TDC Educators

International Education

- \$10,000** - Hand & Hand Center in Israel for Jewish-Arab reconciliation work among students
- \$2,500** - Bethlehem Bible College for theological education for Palestinian Christians

Ongoing partners supported with offering:

- \$8,500** to Questscope for relief work in Syria
- \$5,000** to World Relief for refugee care in US
- \$5,000** to Samaritan Inns for addiction recovery and housing support in DC

TOTAL RAISED:

\$70,385

To request a full financial report, email: finance@districtchurch.org

We are an elder-ruled and staff-led church, meaning that the elders - or what we call our executive board - serve as overseers and help to hold the staff accountable to make sure the mission and vision are achieved in a financially and legally responsible way that upholds biblical standards and fits within our values as a church. Our staff and leadership community of small group leaders and ministry team leaders carry out and lead the bulk of the ministry of the church.

While our church is non-denominational, we are connected with four associations that we learn from and collaborate with for the common mission: New Thing Network, Ecclesia Network, BGAV/V3, and the Christian Community Development Association.

"Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task."

- 1 Timothy 3:1

As a staff over the last two years we have been focusing on five strategic priorities: Please join us in prayer as we seek to deepen our impact in these five areas as a church.

1. Caring for our souls - We want to maintain our focus more on who we are becoming than what we are accomplishing, knowing that we cannot separate the health of the minister from the health of the ministry.

2. Clarifying our discipleship process - We want to make it clear how someone can follow Jesus and help others follow Jesus here in DC through the ministry of TDC.

3. Becoming more intentionally diverse - We want to build on our growing diversity to even more intentionally become a church that looks like heaven and acts like Jesus.

4. Expanding our neighborhood presence - We want to form deeper partnerships and relationships on the neighborhood level through our local parishes and small groups.

5. Deepening our volunteer engagement - We want to improve the ways we recruit, train, and celebrate our volunteers.

We are always focused on advancing our mission of discipleship and reaching our city. Yet, these strategic priorities are crucial to help us focus on faithfully living out this mission.



OUR TEAM

Executive Board



Michael Li



Ashley Moore



Robyn Angley

Staff



Aaron Graham
Lead Pastor



Amy Graham
Pastor of Spiritual Care



Kimberly Williams
Director of Worship Arts



Zennah Jones
Director of Strategic Operations



Vivi Coria Tsapos
Ministry Teams Leader



Claudette Monroy
Operations Manager



Jordan Wilson
Production Team Leader



Maureen Chaput
Prayer Team Leader

District Fellows & Residents



Jordan Gustafson
Pastoral Associate



Krista Cocozello
Worship Arts Fellow



Becca Adams
Discipleship Fellow

Not pictured:

Executive Board Members:
Frank O'Neill
Josephine Kim

District Fellows & Residents:
Dennis Mahoney, Outreach Fellow



IMPACTING OUR CITY FOR CHRIST

Impact DC is an initiative launched in March 2017 centered around expanding our ministry footprint for a greater impact in our city. We had a huge answer to prayer and were able to purchase a building that will be renovated to create a ministry center to expand our current community efforts and launch new ones. This building is in the Brookland neighborhood of DC and will serve as the ministry base for our multiplication efforts.

Once renovated, this ministry center will serve as the following:

- A base to plant more parishes
- A center for counseling & recovery
- A hub for District Fellows
- A home for DC127
- A residence for new justice ministries

Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2018 and we hope to open the doors of the ministry center to the city late Spring 2018.

OUR GOAL

\$1.7 Million

We have raised:

\$1.45 Million
(gifts & pledges)

We still need:

\$250,000

\$1.7 M

\$250K

\$1.45 M

To learn more or to give to Impact DC, visit ImpactDC.org

* funds received as of June 30, 2017



WHAT'S NEXT?

Please join us in praying that the renovation of our new ministry center at 1225 Otis St NE goes well so we can move in soon and launch these new ministries!

Way before Impact DC, several years ago, we started actively praying over a set of dreams. We are including them here again to remind us to continue to pray. It is exciting to see that Impact DC with our new ministry center will help enable so many of these dreams to begin to be realized!

GOD SIZED DREAMS

We believe God has called us to each of these endeavors. However, each will require God-sized resources. **Will you join us in praying for each of these areas?**

1

Plant More Parishes - Pray for God to reveal to us the specific neighborhood in DC we are to plant in next. Ask God to raise up our next pastor, as well as a team of small group and ministry team leaders, who will lead us.

2

Affordable Housing - Pray for the vision and resources for us to be able to start an affordable housing ministry to help care for the 76,000+ people in our city on a waitlist for housing.

3

Leadership Pipeline - Pray for us as we expand our "District Fellows" program this year and are looking to recruit people who would be willing to give a year of service to our church and city.

4

Recovery Ministry - Pray for our church to be known as a place where the sick can come for healing; for a willingness in our church to admit our powerlessness over addictions and unhealthy relationships and to get help; for lay counselors to be trained; for support groups, partnerships with professional counselors, and a recovery gathering.

5

Reverse the List - Through birthing DC127, we are focused on the day when there will be no more children waiting for families, but rather families waiting for children. We want churches in DC to rise up to take a lead in opening their homes to adopt, foster, or become host homes to care for children and families in crisis here in our city.





Columbia Heights Parish

Sundays at 9:45 AM & 11:30 AM
Columbia Heights Educational Campus
3101 16th St, NW
Washington, DC 20010

Church Office*

1225 Otis Street NE
Washington DC 20017

**Starting April 2018*

www.districtchurch.org

[f](#) [@](#) [@districtchurch](#)

