A Letter from the Pastor

For some time, the leaders of our church have envisioned an “Annual Meeting” in which the year just past could be reviewed by the congregation and the year to come envisioned. We think the time has passed when people desire regular “Business Meetings” that occur whether action by the congregation is needed or not. We think Columbia might be better served by one “must attend” meeting in the fall of each year and other called meetings throughout the year at actual decision points. For instance, we know that we will need to call several meetings in 2018 to ratify decisions concerning the building process, but the timing of these meetings is best driven by the building process itself. There are some things the congregation must act on each year, including the election of new leadership and the ministry action plan (budget) for the coming year. Such things are best handled in one annual meeting.

2017 has been a momentous year for Columbia. We made important decisions to move forward with the building of a new worship center, and together we gave more to the ministries of Columbia than in any previous year in our history. Nonetheless, the year has been challenging as demographic changes in the church family have accelerated. We are a much younger and more diverse church family than we were a decade ago, which requires us to adapt to new realities and offer different ministries. These are changes we knew we would face when I arrived as Sr. Pastor, but that doesn’t make them any easier to navigate. I believe that 2018 will be one of the most significant years in Columbia’s history, one that will both challenge and thrill us.

For me, the end of 2017 marks the conclusion of amazing 15 years of ministry alongside you as your Sr. Pastor. With even greater days ahead, I cannot begin to tell you what you mean to me or how much I love serving with you. God is good!

Faithfully,

Dr. Jim Baucom, Senior Pastor
Mission Statement
Igniting Passion for Jesus Christ from Metro Washington to the World

Core Values
Genuine Witness
Warm Welcome
Biblical Foundation
Christ-Exalting Worship
Constant Prayer
Gifted Servanthood
Authentic Community
Joyful Giving
Intentional Caring
Demonstrated Integrity
A husband, father, farmer, and deacon, for years Jonas Joseph has served as Treasurer of the Community Association of Savane Plate, Haiti. This past May, he joyfully showed off his community’s most recent accomplishment: a new sugar cane processing factory.

The new building was complete with raised concrete floor, metal roof, a hand-washing water collection system, the cane mill/press, two new boilers (four feet in diameter), and the oven with special air-draw and smoke stack.

“Do you see those old boilers?” Jonas pointed at the two large rusted out pots. “I remember when my grandfather installed those in the old mill. Now we have this!”

“Jonas, where do you all get the money to build this?”

“We have been saving up.” They did it themselves!

For the past few years, when farmers used the Columbia-donated mill to process their cane for market, they paid a small fee to the Community Association. Over time the funds increased and now paid for construction materials. The farmers, of course, provided the labor. What a marvelous march into self-sufficiency.

Jonas beamed. “The Columbia projects of wells, latrines, the lake, tree nursery, and mill have not only changed the community for the better. Our partnership with World Vision and Columbia has changed our thinking. Now we know what we can do!”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of Fruits &amp; Vegetables Grown</td>
<td>1,578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pounds of food distributed by the food pantry</td>
<td>288,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of families served at the food pantry</td>
<td>1,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of volunteers</td>
<td>725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food pantry client countries of origin</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>13,164</td>
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ĐK. Cao sau bày đức từ ái Jêsus! Cao sau thất nào ai do tôi! Ô, ơn Cứu muốn đội ban phi phu, bảo chúng tôi vào ở trên trời.
Seeking God First

Yen and Hanh Pham recently relocated from Nevada to Northern Virginia, to live with a relative. Through Columbia’s Vietnamese congregation’s Facebook page the Phams learned about the many activities happening. In fact, they felt God called them to attend a worship service on their very first day in town. It was a top priority for them to connect with a Christian community, even before getting settled into their new home.

Pastor Nhon Tran reports that this couple's story has encouraged the rest of the Vietnamese congregation. The Pham’s decision to worship God first, and trust that He will cover their family in this time of transition is a strong testimony for this congregation while they experience their own transition following the former Pastor Tran's retirement.
More than 70 Baptized at All Columbia Services in April and October.
“This was one of the most moving experiences I have been a part of at Columbia and probably in all of my time in ministry....”
- J. Wood

“It was an unforgettable night. I am sure that everybody present was able to breathe heaven in our midst. The love of Jesus could be felt from everybody serving ... from those singing on the stage to the ones handing the towels to the ones who were being baptized. With the anointed music, I felt so free to lift up my hands in worship to our Lord.”
- K. Meño

“We could feel the Presence of God and we could feel that we were being surrounded by angels.”
- T. Brown
What to do Before “I Do”

In the fall of 2016, Columbia began offering a 9-week series of classes for couples preparing for engagement, marriage or those who wanted to enrich their marriages. Covenant Couples was created using the time-tested Prepare/Enrich materials as a basis for discussions. Richard and Rachel Goddard were part of that initial launch and had this to say:

"We really appreciated the Covenant Couples class and found that it helped us have some important conversations in an enjoyable way before we got married ".

Both Rachel and Richard are invested heavily in the life of the church, blessing this congregation with their gifts and talents.

To date, 17 couples have participated in Covenant Couples with another 20 couples working through the materials in a retreat setting.
People Like to be Asked

Ethan Frye has been an active participant at Columbia for most of his life. For the past eight years, Ethan has been taking private instruction for trumpet through our Columbia Institute of Fine Arts. While his hard work has led to tremendous success within the school system, he was not using his musical gifts within the ministry of Columbia.

For the past year, Ethan has been participating in a student ministry huddle group hosted at the home of Butch King, Columbia’s Pastor of Worship Music & Arts. When Butch asked, “Why don’t you play in the orchestra at church?” Ethan replied, “Because no one ever asked me.” So Butch said, “I’m asking you and look forward to seeing you next Tuesday at rehearsal.” Since that conversation, Ethan has faithfully participated in our orchestra.
Finding Financial Peace

Financial Peace University has been a steady ministry offering at Columbia since 2011. The 9-week series is offered at least in the fall and spring, sometimes adding a summer series. Families’ lives have been changed as they learn to manage money according to God’s principles. Debt is reduced and individuals and families learn the joy of stewarding God’s resources, some giving and tithing for the first time ever or the first time in a long time.

Jacob Stevens, one of our fine young adults gave his testimony in a Prove the Tithe video last spring, saying, “I went through Financial Peace (University) and learned to manage my money, but I had forgotten the “peace” part until I began tithing. God stretches my money more than I ever could.” Having grown up at Columbia, Jacob invests his time, talents and money in his church and is a valued member of the Child Development Center staff.
A Place for the Whole Family

After relocating from Florida, Kim was first introduced to Columbia when her husband’s best friend from college recommended the Child Development Center (CDC) as a possible preschool for their three children.

She was familiar with Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) and was thrilled to learn that she could find “Mom Time” under the same roof as her children’s school. At the suggestion of her MOPS table leader, Kim began attending the Moms Bible Study IG and attending Sunday worship. Volunteering at Vacation Bible School for the past two years has allowed her to not only become more comfortable at Columbia but to watch her children make their own friendships and relationships with The Lord. She recently joined the Family Life team as a Ministry Associate and, this fall, Kim declared her profession of faith and was baptized at our Go Sunday All Columbia baptism service.
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Number of Part-Time Students</td>
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<td>Number of CDC Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Camp Registrations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter &amp; Spring Break Campers</td>
<td>133</td>
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Moving toward Christ

Alex Williams is a senior at York Town High School. Her family is here for a two-year tour working at the Australian Embassy. Alex came to Columbia through Sophia Gary and her family. After arriving in America about a year ago, Alex, who didn’t know Christ, saw an evangelism video on YouTube and decided she wanted to know more. After attending a few Student Ministry Ignition Group (IG) and a First Sunday event, Alex asked to be included in all Student Ministry rosters and communications and is so excited about having a community of other student believers passionate about their relationship with Jesus.

Winning Ticket

Harrison Gardner was introduced to Columbia by Sophia Gary and her family through an invite to our student ministry’s Fall Kick Off event in September. That evening, Harrison was the winner of our Fall Retreat Raffle, providing him with a free scholarship to attend the retreat in November. Blown away by the close-knit, Christ-centered community that Columbia’s student ministry provides, Harrison registered for the retreat two days later, and has been an active member of our Student ministry ever since.
A capital campaign to “Open a New Door from Metro Washington to the World”
Comittments
$10.2 million

Participating Families
560

Money Received
$7.1 million

Seats in the
New Worship Center
1200
Senior Pastor
Dr. Jim Baucom

Arabic Congregation - Falls Church
Pastor Sameh Naguib

Brazilian Congregation - Gaithersburg
Pastor Aroldo Silva

Hispanic Congregation - Crossroads
Pastor Kerim Meoño

Columbia at Crossroads Congregation
Pastor Greg Loewer

Hispanic Congregation - Falls Church
Pastor Edwin Renderos

Korean Congregation - Falls Church
Pastor Sammual Choi

Vietnamese Congregation - Falls Church
Pastor Nhon Tran

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Falls Church, VA 22046

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