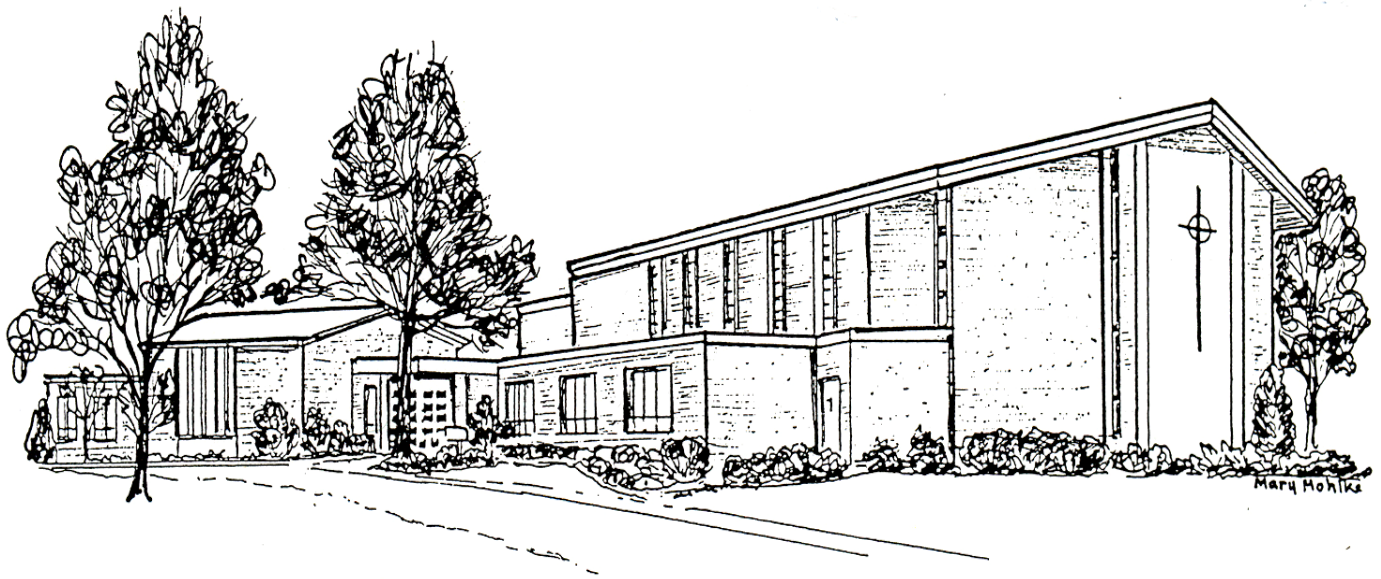


2008 Annual Report



North Presbyterian Church

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Session Unicameral Board

The Reverend William T. Hennessy, Pastor/Head of Staff, Moderator

2009
 William Ervin
 Marilyn Flavin
 Brad Hahn
 Mark Kreidler
 Jeffrey Weaver

2010
 JoAnne Alderfer
 Sylvia Bigler
 William DeRoo
 Ann Eisenlord
 Duncan Hemink
 Gretchen Orlando
 Beth Vandenberg

2011
 Antone (Joe) Alber
 Debra Boos
 Linda Gowans
 Erin Kahler
 James McConnell
 Scott Payne

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Mache
 Church Treasurer: Rodney Bradley

Board of Deacons

Moderator: William Rugg

2009
 Jeffrey Faunce
 Katie Kreidler
 Kirsten Lacey
 Laura Moyer
 William Rugg

2010
 Wendy Ayler
 Glenn Hopkins
 Amy Horvatits
 Eleanor Payne

2011
 Brenda Haughey
 Barbara Jocoy
 Stephanie Lash
 Bradley Sparks

Stephen Ministry

Leader: Mary Lou George

Ministers

Sylvia Bigler, Carlene DeRoo, William DeRoo, Betty James, Kath Hahn, Marcia Monin, Rita MacDonald

* * * * *

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor/Head of Staff: The Rev. William T. Hennessy
Director of Pastoral Care: Mary Lou George
Administrative Assistant: Linda Donner
Director of Music & Organist: Marlene Harrington
Director of Music, Children & Youth: Marty Shafer
Director of Sacred Dance: Olivia Ebsary

Director of Christian Education: Garidith Khayat
Sexton: Marc Kiesling
Bookkeeper: Judy Blackchief
Artist in Residence: Mary Mohlke
Parish Nurse: Patricia Mohr

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Pastor/Head of Staff

What are your hopes and dreams for North Presbyterian Church? That may be an odd question to start an Annual Report, but in the last seven months I've spent with you it's a question that keeps coming to my mind. It's a question I ask myself and one I ask of each of you, but as I think about it more, it's also a prayer – a question I find myself asking of God.

These past seven months have been spent largely becoming acclimated to a new community and a new congregation. Beth, Matthew, Sarah and I (even Molly!) have been making adjustments, exploring the territory, settling in. It's been great fun to visit some of the wonderful attractions Western New York offers. It's been gratifying to be welcomed so warmly into a new church community, to find areas of interest such as Youth Fellowship, Children's Choir, and Adult Education. We've also been adjusting to new schools and teachers, a new life rhythm.

While all that has been happening with my family, I've also been getting to know the rhythm of the congregation. I've attended a lot of meetings, but also I've been learning what is important in worship, which celebrations are the most meaningful, what feeds the spirits of those who gather. Mind you, I'm still learning these things and may very well be doing that for many years to come. This relationship between pastor and congregation takes time to cultivate and grow.

At the end of September, through October and into November we made a good start at that process through a series of home meetings. I had a chance to hear many of your stories about North, I also had a chance to learn what excites you, what energizes and invigorates ministry here. It's a start and I look forward to more such meetings, more opportunities to discover what you appreciate most about our life together.

I've also had opportunity to join you in grief. I deeply appreciate your trusting me to stand with you in your losses, to walk with you when death occurs, and I thank you for that privilege.

While I know that this type of report is intended to look back, I think it's much more useful to look forward. I'm looking forward to a time of discernment. In my experience discernment is best accomplished through a process of intentional spiritual formation. We prepare ourselves to discern by engaging in practices that put us in deeper communion with God and open us to be molded in Christ's image through the work of the Holy Spirit. In 2009 there will be opportunities that I hope you'll take advantage of to learn about such practices.

I'm also interested in finding ways to create connections with one another. Small groups in a church can be organized in many different ways, so I don't have a particular formula to apply, but I think it's vital that we create as many windows of entry into the life of the congregation as we can. It helps in keeping folks who are already here attached and engaged, and it provides a means of welcoming folks who are new.

A third area of interest I have is to offer more opportunities for worship beyond Sunday morning. Teaching and modeling worship is central to our calling as a gathering of God's people. Relegating our worship life only to a couple of hours on Sunday morning just isn't enough. Ultimately we are called to regard all of life as worship, our every breath a prayer, since we're created to glorify and enjoy God forever, to paraphrase the Westminster Catechism. But realizing such a purpose takes time and practice. The more we worship, the more worshipful our lives will become.

All of these activities are means to a greater end and never ends in themselves. The end I believe we're called to seek is to fulfill God's hopes and dreams for North



Pastor/Head of Staff (continued)

Presbyterian. God's desires for us will unfold as we open ourselves more and more to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It takes time and patience, but more than that it takes trust. I'm convinced we can trust God has marvelous things in store for North. There is no obstacle on the horizon, no challenge facing us, that cannot be overcome with God's help. I encourage you to look ahead in that confidence and practice Paul's advice: "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,

whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned...and the God of peace will be with you."

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,



**William T. Hennessy
Pastor**



Clerk of Session

As clerk of session.....

I attended all regular and special Session and Congregational meetings.
Met with the Interim Pastor and Pastor, to set the agenda for meetings
Recorded the minutes and sent them, the agenda and committee reports to session members
With the Church Administrator, Linda Donner, prepared the required reports for Presbytery
Updated the clerk's records as membership changed

When requested, I represented the Session.

Membership as of December 31, 2008: 600

This year we have baptized three children.

We have received and welcomed nineteen new members to North Presbyterian Church.

Six by letter of transfer
Three by Profession of Faith
Ten new members from the Communicants Class

North Church had nineteen losses.

Eight members were transferred to other churches.

Two removed by request.
Nine were lost by death.

Session members are dedicated. Read their reports to see what has been accomplished. Decide where you can serve.

We give thanks to God as we count our many blessings!

**Mary Ann Mache
Clerk of Session**

Director of Pastoral Care



I don't suppose this is really very different for the congregants of North Presbyterian Church to hear, but 2008 was a time of **TRANSITION** in many ways here at the crux of North Forest and Union Roads! My role as Director of Pastoral Care continues to develop and adapt to the new ways our mission statement ministries develop.

It was with mixed feelings of sadness and excitement that I experienced the changes in leadership. It was certainly difficult to let go of the profound learning and support I experienced from Rev. Carolyn Grohman when she left in May of this year. Of course, she will now enjoy a new chapter in her ministry, and our best wishes go with her. On the other hand, the arrival of our new pastor was a time of anticipation, hope and energy. I have found it a joy to work with Rev. Bill Hennessy, who arrived in June. Bill's presence and leadership style allow for a generous give and take, and a non-anxious responsiveness to both staff and congregation. He brings us his enormous gifts of compassion and warm pastoral care. My prayer is that the number of those in the congregation who experience these gifts will be even greater in the coming year.

In thinking about my job description over the past year, it occurred to me that it would be helpful to spell out the responsibilities of my work. I am here at the church for office hours on Mondays from 12 until 5 p.m., and again on Wednesdays from 12 until 5 p.m. I attend the weekly staff meetings, the monthly meetings of Deacons, the twice monthly meetings of Stephen Ministry, and the monthly meeting of the pastoral care team. I attend the 8:30 a.m. service here at North, so that I am able to attend the 11 a.m. service at First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, where I am also employed. This year I was the primary teacher for the Stephen Ministry training of two new Stephen Ministers. This involved 50 hours of training. Since our program lost Bill Castle, who died in April, and Peggy Hanna, who relocated in August, we were thrilled to commission Bill and Carlene DeRoo as Stephen Ministers this year.

I provided Communion to the Furthest Pew to homebound congregants on a monthly basis and supervision to our Parish Nurse, Pat Mohr, and coordinated the planning of the Service of Hope,

Peace and Light. In addition, I preached once, led several memorial services, and coordinated the commissioning of Stephen Ministers. I provided a monthly article for the North Star, and an annual report. In addition, I share the responsibility for emergency care for the congregation with Rev. Hennessy. Should there be a crisis or emergency where pastoral care is needed, the desire is to provide a pastoral presence as quickly as possible.

The Stephen Ministry provided a grief support group for eight sessions from January until April 2008. We had a wonderful group of nine women from three congregations who met twice each month. The group was designed and facilitated through Stephen Ministry. Kathy Hallborg, a Stephen Leader from University Presbyterian, and Kath Hahn, a Stephen Minister here at North joined me in leading the group. The experience was rich, and feedback indicated that it was received favorably by the members. We would certainly think that it might be held again in the future.

The focus of my work has been in providing pastoral care through listening, praying, visiting, encouraging, and supporting those experiencing challenges in the congregation. Naturally, there are a wide range of situations covered by this description. Crucial to my ability to respond is the faithful support of the staff, and ongoing dialogue and trust within the congregation. I am only able to know what is needed if there is trust and communication. I am truly blessed by the willingness the congregation and staff have shown in sharing with me. I am grateful to everyone who has helped me in making connections that make a difference.

As we move forward in the new year, the goals for pastoral care continue to rest on the mission statement. The caring network and every member of the congregation are called upon to '*nurture each other with care and love*'.

One facet of this care is the ministry of communion to the furthest pew. In the coming year, I will be training additional members of the congregation to become a part of this group. This will broaden our ability to reach out to those who are homebound, and

Director of Pastoral Care (continued)

express the care and concern of the congregation. Please consider joining the team! Training will be held on Monday, January 26th at 7 p.m. in the chapel.

I look forward to the coming year in seeking new ways to provide inclusive pastoral care and flexibility in responding to emerging needs. This amazing congregation has enormous care giving skills. I will

work this year to empower and affirm the church family to use their gifts to ably 'care for one another'.

May God's love nurture and feed you each day!

With love and blessings,
Mary Lou George



Parish Nurse

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Parish Nurse for the last 7 years. Time flies when you truly enjoy your work. This year I have visited several parishioners in homes, nursing homes and hospitals. I visited Presbyterian Village, Greenfields, Beechwood, Williamsville Manor and St. Francis nursing homes on a regular basis. On occasion I take them flowers and other small tokens to remind them that all at North Presbyterian are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers always. I also take them for short outside visits, as some of them never get out due to the shortage of staff. I meet with the Pastoral Care Director on a regular basis and attend staff meetings. I also attend meetings of the Pastoral Care committee and this year I participated in the Staff Retreat. I have made many, many phone calls. Too numerous to count.

I conduct Blood Pressure screenings the 3rd Sunday of every month and set up and directed the Flu Immunization Clinic at North Presbyterian Church. We administered 122 flu vaccines this year. The most ever. I attended the Community Forum at North Presbyterian at which time we discussed the Future of Health Care. I attended an all day seminar at Roswell entitled "It takes a village to say goodbye": Ministry to the Dying and Bereaved. I also attended a Health Fair at Crestwood presented by Dr. Stahl, a geriatrician in the Buffalo area which was very informative.

I arranged for Michael O'Lear to present at the education hour. He discussed housing issues affecting older citizens. It was well attended. I also solicited various health establishments for free information for a health fair which was presented at the Sunday education hour. This too was well attended.

I met with the NYS Department of Health regarding a new program they have established. This program will enable a person with Medicaid to remain in their home with assistance but you must meet the Medicaid guidelines. The state has finally realized that it is cheaper for them to pay for you to stay in your home rather than a nursing home.

I researched and presented an education seminar on the various Medicare Insurance Plans in WNY. I spent many hours on this presentation and was able to save a great deal of money for the people attending this seminar.

If anyone has need for my services or if you have any suggestions please call me or the church and I will be happy to assist you. I am always looking for better ways to serve all of you.

I thank all of you for allowing me to serve you this past year. I look forward to another great year at North Presbyterian. I also want to thank you for welcoming me into your church family. I feel a real part of your community. Thank you again.

God's Peace and Mine,
Pat Mohr



The Board of Deacons has been charged by the Session with the responsibility of ministering to the welfare of the members of the North Presbyterian Church (NPC). To accomplish this task, deacons provide and oversee programs that serve the needs of the NPC family, including but not limited to, the activities of the pastoral care team, communion to the furthest pew, parish nursing and memorial receptions. Mary Lou George is the Director of Pastoral Care for NPC. She oversees pastoral care, works with the parish nurse Pat Mohr, and is the staff liaison to the Board of Deacons and the Pastoral Care Team.

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team continues to be a vital part of the out reach and mission of North Church. The Team has continued to deliver gifts such as baskets for home bound members at Easter and Christmas, flowers from the church, and cards and visits to members who cannot come to Sunday services. In addition, various members of the Pastoral Care Team have volunteered to be liaisons to different nursing homes or assisted care facilities in the area and help to monitor our church family members

Board of Deacons

who might be residents in those facilities. Under the leadership of Louse Cooper, the Team has also coordinated and rejuvenated the neighborhood groups and continues to monitor this valuable avenue for out reach to our members. Norma Reyder, our greeting card angel, has retired from her position. So many of our members have been blessed by Norma's dedication and kindness. While her shoes will be very hard to fill, Karen Hopkins has volunteered to become our new greeting card angel. Thank you to Norma and may the blessings that she has shared with the rest of us come back to her forever!

Stephen Ministry

Stephen ministry is a confidential, caring ministry made possible through training lay persons to act as caregivers. Named after Stephen, one of the first deacons in the early Christian church, Stephen ministry is grounded in the command of Jesus to love one another. It has been reactivated under the direction of Mary Lou George.

Follow-up for Those on Prayer List

Individual deacons have been assigned to a group of persons on the prayer list. They include these people in their prayers and make contacts with those who have placed them on the prayer list to see if there is anything the deacons can do to help.

Monthly updates of visits and contacts are discussed to make sure members of the church who are in need experience the care, concern and prayers of the congregation.

Neighborhood Groups

Neighborhoods have been divided into 26 groups in order to allow neighbors to get to know one another better and support each other in times of need. These groups have given support to their members in times of illness, of bereavement, and on joyous occasions. Louise Cooper remains as the contact person. Recently the Neighborhood Groups were used to welcome and meet in small groups with the Reverend Bill Hennessey.

Prayer Chain

Prayers are also offered for those in need who do not wish to be listed on the prayer list. They can refer themselves or be referred by others to Reverend Bill Hennessey or Mary Lou George. They will notify the prayer chain of your need.

Transportation to Sunday Church Services

Rides are offered to anyone who cannot find transportation to church or for clinic appointments. They can be arranged by calling Linda at the church office.

Board of Deacons (continued)

Communion to the Furthest Pew

Two-person teams of church members receive training to visit those in the hospital and those who are homebound to give communion. Elements of the Lord's Supper are consecrated at church service. Scripture readings and prayers are offered along with communion. Close attachments between those who deliver and those who receive communion have been established. At this time, we have four singles who receive communion.

The Parish Nurse

Pat Mohr continues as the parish nurse. She meets with the Director of Pastoral Care to discuss needs of the church community, offers blood pressure screening every 3rd Sunday of the month for members and takes between 8 and 10 blood pressures monthly, conducts education classes, writes a monthly article on health topics for the North Star and arranged and supervised a flu clinic in October where immunization shots were administered. She also visits church members in their homes, nursing homes and hospitals.

Memorial Receptions

Along with other church members, the Deacons help provide and serve refreshments following memorial services at North Presbyterian Church under the loving and able leadership of Sally Haywood.

The many cooks and servers at our church make this service possible for those who have lost a loved one. Four memorial receptions were held in Westminster Hall during the past year.

Web Site

Amy Horvatits, a Deacon, keeps the Website updated with upcoming functions posted on it.

Fellowship

Over the past year the Deacons have expanded to that on additional duties of the former fellowship committee.

Fellowship provides for the nourishment of God's congregation. The growth of Christian Love for one another is a solid foundation for all events. Over the last year, deacons have planned or assisted the following opportunities for fellowship:

- Church Picnic
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Sleigh Ride which was held on December 13, 2008. It was beautifully organized by Betty Heckman with horse drawn carriage rides, a bonfire, making of ornaments, decorating of cup cakes and hot cocoa.

Deacons

William Rugg, Moderator
Wendy Ayler
Jeffrey Faunce
Brenda Haughey
Glenn Hopkins
Amy Horvatits
Barbara Joco
Kathryn Kreidler
Kirsten Lacey
Stephanie Lash
Laura Moyer
Eleanor Payne
Brad Sparks

Pastoral Care Team

Jeffrey Faunce, Leader
Dorcas Alford
Carol Brennan
Mary Anne Gebhardt
Margaret Haas
Sally Haywood
Mary Kasbohm
Lou Etta Knight
Shirlie Malis
Gloria McDowell
Howard Reyder
Norma Reyder
Karen Roesser
Marsha Villano






Accessibility Committee

2008 has been a year transition for the Accessibility Committee. The economic climate and limited consensus among elders regarding the status of beginning a major capital project has shaped an expanded assignment for this committee. Upon recommendation of the session, the Accessibility Committee is being reinvented and renamed for the purpose of strategic planning and visioning.

At this stage, the committee is seeking to open its membership creating a core team to lead this greater project. The committee will base action on the *Appreciative Inquiry* process as

a methodology to achieve strategic planning and visioning. The committee is keenly aware of the work that has occurred in the past, and plans to spend significant time evaluating and using data gathered in previous surveys as a foundation to begin this discernment task.

Appreciative Inquiry is a process of collecting stories that illustrate the best of our past and present. The method used is one-on-one conversation centered around areas of appreciation in hopes of strengthening those areas and igniting our collective imagination toward a more

fulfilling future. This process values the stories or “history” a congregation has to tell and uses that information to identify themes that can provide direction for the congregation.

That being said, the table is set, a basic timeline has been established and we are beginning a project/process that we hope will have significant positive impact on the life and times of North Presbyterian Church. There are many opportunities for involvement in Appreciative Inquiry. If you are interested in participating, please contact Scott Payne at 633-7997 or by e-mail at scottpayne@roadrunner.com.



Artist in Residence

Communion table hangings were created for stewardship, for Lent, and two for ordinary season. New bulletin covers were designed for Lent, Advent, fall.

A large banner was created for the sanctuary in Advent.

Soul Feast prayer and reflection centers were set up in the

narthex year round and in Westminster Hall, Chapel for Advent and Lent. Their purpose was to engage people for a few moments with reflections of their faith.

A collection of mandalas, prayers and reflective questions were designed for the North Church web site.

Mary Mohlke





Administration & Personnel

Turnover is a normal occurrence in every organization and North is no exception. Tammy Carter resigned in February as Child Care Supervisor and her assistant, Regina Koteras, assumed the position. At a reception on May 18 we thanked and said goodbye to our Interim Pastor, Carolyn Grohman, for her more than two years of dedicated service. In June we welcomed our new head of staff, Pastor Bill Hennessy. Stu Buisch, our Pastor of Youth, received a call from another church and left in late summer to start his new duties. Stu's enthusiasm for his work and his musical talents will be missed. Session is carefully considering staffing needs before moving forward with a plan to address the vacancy.

During the year the Committee accomplished the following.

- Checked out and replenished supplies for the AED-10 equipment (defibrillator).
- Renewed with Session approval the interim contract for Rev. Grohman through May 31, 2008.
- Assisted in the preparation of various documents in connection with Rev. Hennessy's call.
- Arranged for an AED/CPR training class in July.
- Arranged for background checks for individuals working with children and youth on behalf of the Church as stipulated in the Child Protection Policy.
- Performed the annual evaluations of all part-time and full-time staff.
- Developed an incident reporting form for employees, church members and visitors injured or possibly injured on church property and revised the *Employee Handbook* accordingly; changes were approved by Session.
- Conducted an exit interview with Stu Buisch.

Serving the church with love and enthusiasm are Bill Hennessy as Pastor, Mary Lou George as Director of Pastoral Care, Linda Donner as Administrative Assistant, Garidith Khayat as Christian Educator, Marlene Harrington as Director of Music, Marty Shafer as Director of Music – Children and Youth, Olivia Ebsary as Director of Sacred Dance Choir, Patricia Mohr as Parish Nurse, Judy Blackchief as Bookkeeper, Marc Kiesling as Sexton and Regina Koteras as Child Care Provider. The Committee extends a sincere and hearty thank you to all of the staff.

Sincerely,
Joe Alber

Committee

Joe Alber (Chair)
Sylvia Bigler
Susan Burton
Debbie Hutton
Dick Mesmer
Tom Miller





Communications

Background

The Communications Committee (CC), which was originally known as the Publicity Committee and was a sub-unit of the Membership Committee, was created as a self-standing entity in Fall 2006. Because no formal job description existed for CC, the decision was made to focus most of the Committee's efforts upon what was perceived as an urgent need to update and upgrade the church's website for North Church members and for those individuals who are looking for a new church home. The Cyber Ministry Team was created in March 2007 as a sub-unit of CC to carry out this important communications task.

Cyber Ministry Team.

During the 2008 period, the Team has performed the following tasks:

- (1) Linda Donner continues to upload weekly sermons, weekly church bulletins, and monthly North Stars to the website;
- (2) notices have been placed in the Sunday bulletins and North Stars encouraging members to visit the site;
- (3) many announcements have been uploaded to the "News and Events" page;
- (4) new items have been added to the "Community and Church Links" page, and Mary Mohlke's special meditation-devotion component has been placed on the Home page;
- (5) photos of the church staff and several committees have been added;
- (6) a new page to report on the activities of the newly formed Men's Group and a "Welcome-the-new-pastor" page have been created;
- (7) new permission forms for the Youth have been posted;
- (8) new library acquisitions have been reviewed and placed on the site;
- (9) a new "Search" option has been created to make it easier to navigate the website. Special thanks go to Brad Hahn and Kristi Rugg for

their superb technical support and generous gifts of their time throughout the year to maintain the church's website!!

Communications Committee

In addition to overseeing the activities of the Cyber Ministry Team, we have:

- (1) worked with Judy Blackchief and the Membership Committee to update the church's mailing list, with special concern that visitors and non-members who pledge receive regularly mailed news items;
- (2) been sensitive to non-Internet users by placing on the church's bulletin boards various items on the church website;
- (3) created a password-protected page on the church's website of up-to-date e-mail addresses for church members; and
- (4) regularly updated the "Welcoming Board" and (with special thanks to Kennedy Schultz, and consultants Sue D'Angelo and Mary Mohlke) redesigned and recovered the large bulletin board in the South Narthex.

CyberMinistry Team

Jim McConnell (chair)
Linda Donner
Brad Hahn
Kathy Lash
Kristi Rugg

Communications Committee

Jim McConnell (chair)
Leigh Gaskill (on leave)
Brad Hahn
Kathy Lash
Kennedy Schultz

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee elected at the annual congregational meeting in January 2008 was charged with the responsibility to develop a slate of elder and deacon nominees for election to the Session and Board of Deacons, for the Class of 2012.

In preparing for its critical and caring task of nominating men and women to the office of elder and to the office of deacon, the Committee reflected on scriptural passages that provided guidance and purpose of leadership, following the example of Jesus Christ. The Committee chose 2 Cor. 5:17a as a starting point for calling members into service: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!". The Committee viewed its mission as discerning a call of members to church leadership and not merely filling slots. The spiritual discernment process involved a prayerful approach that God's will be done, and the confirmation of a member's sense of call that God has a special claim on his or her life at this particular point in time.

The Committee discussed the involvement faithful members have in the ministry of the church as outlined in the Book of Order such as taking part in the common life and worship of the church, and responding to God's activity in the world through service to others. The Committee further discussed the ministry and gifts of both elders and deacons including strong faith, dedicated discipleship, sound judgment, warm sympathies and the love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Committee members and the congregation identified potential nominees. As the Committee engaged in the spiritual discernment process it was readily apparent that this congregation is blessed with many members who possess a wide variety of gifts, who exhibit great spiritual character and who could provide vision and inspired leadership to North Presbyterian Church. After continued prayerful deliberation the Committee arrived at a slate of elder and deacon nominees it believed will continue to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of this congregation.

The slate of nominees will be presented for election at the annual congregational meeting in January 2009 with ordination/installation of new officers to occur in March 2009.

Thank you to both the dedicated Nominating Committee members in carrying out the charge to which they were elected and the nominees called to leadership and service at North.

Committee:

Duncan Hemink (co-moderator)

Jeff Weaver (co-moderator)

Amy Horvatits (deacon representative)

Susan Burton (at-large member)

Janet Mazzio (at-large member)

Ellie McConnell (at-large member)

Rob Powell (at-large member)



Kids' Ministries Team

The Kids' Ministries Team is responsible for educating, nurturing and inspiring children of the church and their families as they follow their own faith journeys. (KMT Mission Statement adopted September 2004)

Children Are People of Faith, Too! Nowhere is this more apparent than in the education, worship and mission experiences of the children and youth at North Church. Highlights of the year are:

- **Intergenerational Events for the entire North Church Family**
 - *Christmas and Epiphany Games* – January 6th Epiphany Event
 - *Celebration Breakfast for Sunday School Teachers* – May 18th Sunday School Closure
 - *Who Am I? Part 2*– September 7th Sunday School Kickoff
- **Curriculum**
 - Finished first part of year using various resources
 - 5th and 6th Grades studied *We Believe: With all Boldness And Freedom – A Survey of the New Testament*
 - 7th and 8th Grades studied *Bible Quest: Bookmarks Bible Explorations for Older Youth Vol. 2*
 - KMT completed the process of curriculum selection in the summer and selected Gather 'Round, a Bible story-based curriculum published by the Mennonite Church and the Church of the Brethren. Lessons in this curriculum honor and teach the Bible on many levels with a peace and justice viewpoint. Inclusive language is used throughout, development of basic Bible skills is built-in to every lesson; each lesson reinforces living as the community of Christ and living out faith by loving God and neighbor; and real life applications are made along with stories of mission, faith and service around the world.
- **Sunday School**
 - 30+ volunteers have been involved in children's faith education during the 2008 year
- Teacher Recognition Sunday was May 18th during the service with a breakfast held during the Sunday School hour
- Teacher Commissioning Sunday was September 28th
- Youth participated in all the Youth Mission projects
- Youth processed with palms shouting words of joy on Palm Sunday
- Youth enjoyed processing the crèche figures to the chancel area during Advent
- ***If you feel called to learn with and lead our children, please speak with Garidith or a member of KMT. We offer a 2 team teaching rotation for the younger classes. Each team is responsible for 2 Sundays each month. That means one person would only have to teach one Sunday and help another. What a wonderful way to continue your personal Christian education and develop relationships with some of our youth!***
- **Nursery**
 - Several youth and an adult have volunteered their time in order to help fulfill the two deep policy adopted by the Session in August 2006. ***More volunteers are still needed though. Please see Regina in the nursery if you wish to help.***
 - Improvements to the room are underway. This will be an ongoing task to create a wonderful environment for our youngest ones!
- **GodZone**
 - Children's worship program for ages 4 - 2nd grade
 - Bible verse, story and craft is current curriculum

Kid's Ministry Team (continued)

- **Children in Sanctuary Worship**
 - Weekly children's bulletins with lectionary based material as well as Bible puzzles are available
- **Promised Land Theater**
 - This drama space complete with Biblical mural, props, stage platforms, and costumes continues to be used by all groups of the church
- **Vacation Bible School**
 - God's Big Backyard was attended by 62 children who shared a week of fun, laughter, prayer and sharing our faith with one another. The daily theme focused on "Serving..." that included family, friends, neighbors, community and Jesus.
 - 47 volunteers lent a hand
 - Nancy Johnson chaired a great week of outreach into our community in August, with a majority of attendees from outside North Church
 - Mission offering, Wednesday evening raffle and silent auction monies totaled \$647.50. The monies purchased clean-up and school kits for the mid-west flood victims from The Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund
 - Thursday's Mission project was dedicated to Meals on Wheels making placemats. Tammy Jacobs, their volunteer coordinator, spent the day with us
 - A parachute was decorated in Clothesline Creations which was given to the Eggertsville Family and Youth Community Center on Bailey Avenue
- Everyone brought in toothpaste, toilet tissue, soap, toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner for Bethel Presbyterian Church in Lackawanna
- ***Interested in co-chairing VBS this year? Please see Garidith***
- **Third Grade Bibles**
 - Bibles presented to six third graders during a special worship service on September 21st
 - The Bible Marking Party with third graders and their invited family and guests was held on November 16th. Sharing breakfast, highlighting favorite verses, reading chosen verses and playing Bible Pictionary were the events of the morning

*****KMT would greatly appreciate your willingness to volunteer in one of our programs (or two or all three!) – leading Sunday School, leading GodZone, or joining the KMT committee. Substitute leaders are always in need as well. KMT meets the second Tuesday evening of each month from 6:30 – 7:30. Please consider this worthwhile investment of your time and talent!**

Kids' Ministries Team

Erin Kahler (Session)

Gretchen Orlando (Session)

Deb Boos

Mary Jane Kibby

Garidith Khayat (Christian Educator)



Youth Ministry Team (YMT)

Youth Ministry Team at North Presbyterian Church continues to offer our youth a variety of opportunities for worship, mission and fellowship. We were blessed with the Leadership of the Reverend Stuart Buisch, Pastor with Youth, from January of 2008 through August 2008, when the Session accepted Reverend Buisch's resignation. Youth Groups are comprised of three different age groups including Club 456, which invites children in grades 4, 5 and 6 to participate in twice monthly meetings at church as well as in the community. One meeting is often based on a faith based character trait and have included courage and honesty. The second meeting of the month allows for a joint worship with older youth. In addition to Club 456, YMT offers an opportunity for youth in grades 7 and 8. This group meets for Mission once monthly at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Lackawanna, where they

assist in preparation and serving of a meal. In addition, this group joins older and younger youth in a monthly joint worship. In addition to Club 456 and grade 7 and 8, we offer a Senior High group. This group has weekly meetings offering faith based fellowship with one meeting per month in joint worship with other youth. In addition, the Senior High group develops a Mission Trip, which in July 2008 allowed the youth to travel to Atlantic City, New Jersey for one week as a group to work in a large soup kitchen, to complete home and church repairs and to worship as a group in a community outside of North Church. In addition, to the Mission Trip, the Senior High group attended a youth conference in the Adirondack Mountains at Silver Bay for one week to participate with other Presbyterian Youth in faith based workshops throughout the week. The Senior High group also participated in multi-church offerings and attended

an event at Youngstown Presbyterian Church in September 2008. In addition, all three groups helped assemble Turkey Baskets with other community churches for distribution to meet local community mission needs in November 2008.

YMT meets monthly on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. We invite visitors as well as new members to join our group.

Committee

Debra Boos-Chair
John Auriemma
Amanda Ayler
Tim Ayler
Wendy Ayler
Casey Bigler
Kerri Bigler
Randy Bigler
Nancy Johnson
Chad Kahler
Nancy Shelton
Diane Sprague
Jim Sprague

Confirmation

“We Believe” Professing our Faith, is the title of our confirmation experience this year. Starting in October the ninth graders who are participating this year in confirmation began an exploration of what they believe, in preparation for deciding to become confirmed as members of North Presbyterian Church next May.

Beth Vandenberg and Pastor Hennessy are leading this adventure which meets most weeks during the school year at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Each youth has a mentor who accompanies them for some parts of the journey. The teaching takes place in creative ways with word, conversation, study and reflection. Sometimes hands-on experiences help with ideas that are not easily verbalized. At the end a statement of faith for each will be presented to members of session. In 2008 ten youth joined the church through the confirmation program that Beth Vandenberg, Mary Mohlke and Stuart Buisch taught.

Life-Long Learning

During the past year, our group has attempted to provide programming that is responsive to the emerging interests and needs of the congregation. We have had a sense that we have been generally successful in meeting that goal. The committee tried to put together a variety of programs with the help of many church members. Our group would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has responded to our suggestions and invitations by lending their talents to this effort. It is our hope that the members who responded did not find it an additional burden, but, rather, an opportunity for spiritual growth in the midst of all “life-long learners.”

In the spring of 2008, we enjoyed “Bible Readings for Sunday Worship,” led by Rev. Lucille Weaver, and a series during Lent entitled “Pausing on the Way to Jerusalem.”

After Easter, we watched a DVD series by Walter Brueggeman on a Christian response to the consumer



mentality in parallel with a book study of Eric Law’s “Finding Intimacy in a World of Fear.” We fleshed out this topic with a practical and revealing presentation about safety awareness in the town of Amherst.

In the fall, we started an ambitious project, “You, the Church and Politics.” We invited several excellent speakers to facilitate the discussion of the political response to a number of issues including racism, poverty and health care. This series was concomitant with a DVD series on “Living the Question.” We attempted to address some of the tough issues facing parents of teens, and invited a

somewhat lighter response with “The Humor of Jesus.”

During Advent, we were invited to respond in new ways to the season through Soul Feast. The additional use of the chapel provided a new and inviting space for quiet reflection.

In an effort to provide offerings that would allow our busy congregants to participate at alternative times, we adjusted our timing a bit. We had movies on several Sunday evenings, and a Lenten program and DVD series on Tuesday evenings.

Our committee has been steadily strengthened by our faithful members.

Respectfully submitted,
Anselm George

Committee

Anselm George (Chair)
Marillyn Flavin
Margaret Haas
Bill Hennessy
Mary Mohlke
Pat Townsend
Beth Vandenberg,
Lucille Weaver

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Photographer/Historian

As the church photographer I will continue to click my camera’s shutter at major events in the church.

NOTE: Any artist, writer, photographer or one with special skills, is pleased and proud to share such with the congregation. BUT credit for any segment of the creativity MUST BE given to the creator. If any editing (changes) in the text or modifications in the art work, are deemed feasible, they must first be discussed with the creator beforehand! This is A LEGAL responsibility.

Margaret B. Haas, Church Photographer/Historian

Mission/Community

The Mission Committee of North Church is responsible for disbursing the benevolence funds from the church's budget, for raising the awareness of the congregation about mission and justice issues, and for encouraging the participation of the congregation in "doing mission." We consider ourselves partners with you as we seek to be faithful to the call to not only be charitable but to be messengers of peace and justice in the world.

The Benevolence Budget for 2008 was \$38,325. The monies this year were once again disbursed under the categories of education, hunger, health, housing, refugees, and local and world mission. These monies have made an enormous impact on the ability of the recipient agencies to carry out the work they have been commissioned to do.

Our third annual Chocolate Extravaganza occurred this year in February with the theme, "Chocolate Mardi Gras." The profits from the evening of fun and fellowship were used for the Adult Work Project trip to New Orleans. We danced to the music of Sax Man Slim, wore silly hats made by Mr. No, chatted and enjoyed decadent chocolate desserts.

In February, 20 adults flew to New Orleans to work with St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church's RHINO project to rebuild the city after the

devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The group spent a week living, working, and playing together as we pounded nails, lifted trusses, painted walls, sided houses, and much more. On our return, we reported to the congregation by leading worship on March 30th.

Our annual summer Habitat project occurred the week of August 4th – 8th. Buffalo Mission 2008 saw volunteers sawing, measuring, and hammering at 314 Vermont Street. The volunteers worked diligently all week but also learned to know each other better as they worked, chatted, snacked, and ate lunch together.

In September, the Committee launched its year of Hunger Matters. This is a theme that will be pursued throughout the 2008-2009 church year. The effort was launched with the Bread for the World Offering of Letters on October 19th. After worship that day, 65 letters were written to our legislators asking that they make the elimination of hunger a priority. Following the letter writing, the committee provided glass canning jars for families in the congregation to collect coins and bills for hunger relief. Included in the jars were prayers for families to use as they keep the hungry of the world in their minds and hearts. The monies will be collected on Communion Sundays. There will be a designated agency for

each period of time that the monies are collected. Meals on Wheels is the first recipient of our donations. We are encouraging families and individuals to also bring canned goods to church on Communion Sundays. The food will be distributed to the University Presbyterian Church Food Pantry but will also be used to assist families who come to North Church for food assistance.

The committee has also purchased Quality Market gift cards. These cards are held by Linda Donner in the church office so that they can be given to families and individuals who come into the church office for assistance.

The Alternative Christmas Market on November 2nd was again a wonderful success. Adults and children did their Christmas shopping in Westminster Hall after the worship services on that day. Shoppers enjoyed sipping coffee and eating snacks as they chose meaningful, charitable gifts for friends, teachers and family members.

In November, the annual Turkey Basket Project with Temple Beth Am was once again a great success. 570 complete turkey dinners were supplied to social service agencies throughout the community.

Mission/Community (continued)

The year ended with the annual Giving Tree. This year the gifts were for the young mothers and children who reside at Homespace in the city of Buffalo. Each child and mother at Homespace received three gifts as well as fleeces made by Sarah Circle.

The Mission Committee collaborated with the Life Long Learning Committee in 2008 as we organized Adult Education forums on May 4, 11, and 18. Kim Morris from Homespace reported on the program she directs for young mothers and their children. Amanda Ayler of our congregation reported on her mission trip to Dominican Republic and the RHINO group reported on its week long mission trip to New Orleans. We also jointly sponsored a health care forum the evening of October 27th. This program was entitled Reaching for Excellence: Community Vision



and Voices for Western New York Health Care.

The four special offerings organized and received this year were: Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, and the Christmas Offering.

The local portion of the Pentecost Offering went to Homespace. The local portion of the Peacemaking Offering went to provide scholarships to Camp Peaceprints, a camp sponsored jointly by the Western New York Peace Center and the Sister Karen Center for Nonviolence. The Christmas Offering was shared equally by ECHO and Friends of Night People.

We invite you to become a partner in mission with us in

2009. There are opportunities for you to volunteer with Habitat or Friends each month, to help organize events, to contribute to our work monetarily, and to dialogue with committee members regarding your concerns and ideas. The second adult work project is planned for April 2009. We will be going to New Orleans again to work on the rebuilding of the city. We are grateful for the place that Mission has always had in the life of this congregation and we anticipate and invite your continued support in the work that lies ahead.

Committee Members: JoAnne Alderfer – chair, Jerra Barit, Barbara Beall, Ginny Bradley, Diane Carr, Ann Eisenlord, Bob Henderson, Norma Henderson, Linda Koenigsberg, Cheryl Lally, Anne McIlroy, Sheridan Skura, Beth Vandenberg, Larry Wheatley, Sue Wishart

Youth Mission

During 2008 the youth and children of our church family did four Mission projects (from Sept. 2007 to June 2008):

1. **GIFTS OF LOVE:** The children collected food for the food pantry and made cards for our church family homebound.
2. **THE SMILE TRAIN:** This is an organization that promotes cleft palate repairs in children around the world, including the USA.

Doctors who take part in this project donate their services, but there is still a cost of \$250 per procedure. We raised enough money for NINE smiles.

3. **TURKEY BASKET PROJECT:** The children provided food baskets for the needy in our area.
4. **FILL GOD'S TOYBOX:** The children brought in small gifts such as coloring books, crayons, stuffed

animals, and books for the University Food Pantry. Clients were able to choose small gifts for their children. I thought all of them would make wonderful stocking stuffers.

The children of North Church made this project an overwhelming success.

Jerra S. Barit, Chair of the Youth Mission Committee

Stewardship & Finance Committee

During 2008 both the Stewardship Committee and the Finance Committee were chaired by the same Session member, Ann Eisenlord, who also wrote the following reports. Since the work of these committees is very closely tied together, the annual reports of their work are being written together this year.

The work of the Stewardship Committee is to help the members and friends of North Church as individuals and in community share the gifts they have received as a result of God's amazing and unending abundance. This is summarized by its Mission Statement:

Stewardship is our grateful response to God's grace and goodness; it involves every aspect of life. Stewardship requires choices, as individuals and in community, that provide fullness of life for all.

The Finance Committee is charged by the Session to provide oversight and stewardship of the financial assets of North Church. It helps with the preparation of the Operating Budget, oversees the collection and dispersal of funds (accounting), makes and oversees investments and reports to the Session, Committees, and the congregation on the financial operations of the church.

Both Committees spend much time and energy working with the Session to prepare the annual Operating Budget (Finance); securing pledges of support for the Operating Budget (Stewardship); overseeing the receiving and spending of these pledges (Finance) and making regular reports on the status of the budget to the Session and others (Finance).

This year the Stewardship Committee chose *Graciously Giving to God*, as the theme of the

pledge campaign and an exciting, direct mail campaign was conducted. The artistic talent of Mary Mohlke and the computer skills of Jim and Nancy Shelton enabled us to once again produce a narrative budget explaining the programs of the church and their need for funding. This year in color! The results of the campaign have been rewarding. In a year of great financial loss and uncertainty, we expect that when all pledges have been received and tallied that pledges will once again total nearly \$350,000 – the same total as last

year and the year before. In these troubled financial times this is truly amazing. Despite losing more than \$15,000 in pledges from the 6 pledging units that have either moved or died, we have been able to maintain about the same level of congregational support with the help of new pledges and pledge increases. These results are a cause for celebration. They are evidence that members of North Church not only believe in God's amazing abundance of love and blessing but that they act on that belief!



These pledges will be used to support the 2009 Operating Budget which the Finance Committee and the Session are presently working on and which will be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, despite the positive results of the pledge campaign, the Finance Committee and the Session are faced with many difficult decisions as they work to reconcile the Proposed 2009 Operating Budget with the resources available to support it and determine the version that will be approved by the Session for use as North Church's spending guide for 2009.

You may recall that the 2008 Operating Budget was balanced by using \$73,135 of the church's investments as income because anticipated income from giving (pledges, etc.) and interest from investments was not sufficient to fund all of the

Stewardship & Finance Committee (continued)

2008 needs of the church. Deciding to balance the budget in this way was a very difficult decision for the Session because unlike many churches, North had never had to do this before. Preliminary 2008 year-end figures for income and expenses show that while our expenses were less than projected, so was our income. This means that approximately \$70,000 of the amount expected to be taken from investments will be needed to balance income and expenses.

How the present Session will deal with the expected 2009 shortfall between income and expenses is uncertain as this report is written. The Finance Committee has prepared several suggested actions that the Session might take to either decrease or eliminate the shortfall, but the Session will make the final decision. They will be assisted this year by the information about the work of each of the church committees obtained last summer when each committee made budget proposals to the entire Session prior to the adoption of the Proposed 2009 Budget.

During 2008, the Stewardship Committee also spent much time discussing how to help North Church members to identify the many gifts – not just the financial - that we have all received from God and then to use this knowledge as they live as disciples of Christ in the 21st century. In cooperation with the Life Long Learning Committee a 4-session study entitled “Countering Pharaoh’s Production-Consumption Society” featuring Walter Brueggemann was held. This dealt with the deep division between what we are taught by the Bible and by our society. The committee has decided to use “Living as the Body of Christ” as its theme for all of 2009 and are making plans to implement this theme in the life of our congregation. We also plan to work on the development of a plan to provide more funds for our Endowment Fund from bequests and other sources.

The decline in the value of investments caused by the decline in the stock market has caused anxiety for the Finance Committee just as it has for the individual members of North Church. A formal report on the status of North Church’s investments will be available at the Annual Meeting. However, we are fortunate that more than half of our invested

funds are held in Money Market Accounts where, despite a low rate of return, the principal is secure. The remainder of our funds is invested with the Presbyterian Foundation. These funds suffered losses during 2008 (mainly appreciation but some capital). The Finance Committee and the Session are deciding what action – if any – should be taken regarding these funds. They will advise the congregation as soon as a decision is made.

These two committees are very important to the life of North Church, but each has difficulty securing members. People seem to think that the Stewardship Committee does nothing but ask for money. This is not true, we do plan and carry out a pledge drive but this about much more than just asking for money and we would like to really make stewardship a year-round part of our church life by providing opportunities for all of to use our God given gifts both individually and in community as we live our call as disciples of Christ. The Finance Committee is thought to be only for accountants (bean counters) and the like. While it is true that some members need a financial background, we also need people with logical minds and common sense to help develop and implement procedures and to help provide understandable information to the congregation. Please talk to one of the persons listed below if you are interested in becoming a part of either of these committees.

Stewardship Committee

Ann Eisenlord (Chair)
Marcia Hunt
Betty James
Mary Beth Karr
Mark Kreidler (Session)

Finance Committee

Ann Eisenlord (Chair)
Don Boyer
Rod Bradley
Bill Clark
Heather Randall
Chris Shafer

Millennium Oversight

The Millennium Oversight Committee is responsible for disbursing money from the Millennium Fund. This fund was created to allow the church to expand in three different areas: **Mission** giving, both at home and abroad; new **Program** possibilities within our church; and improvement of the **Building**, particularly the Sunday School wings. Since 1998, groups within the church have applied for money from these areas. The accompanying chart shows the distribution of those that were approved for this year only. (The "Totals" are the amounts from the beginning of the fund.) The committee may approve any request for under \$3000. If the requested amount is above that, then Session approval is also needed.



Committee: *Ellie McConnell (Chair)*
Byron Mohlke
Rod Bradley (ex officio)

Project	Mission	Program	Building	
"Presbyterians Today" for Session.		\$180.00		2008
Manuals for Church Windows		\$390.00		2008
Start-up – Men's Group		\$500.00		2008
Supplement Youth Conference		\$350.00		2008
Total Expenditures (1998 - now)	\$114,095.00	\$106,168.33	\$113,749.93	
Total Available Funds -- 1998	\$121,851.66	\$121,851.66	\$121,851.66	
Total Remaining	\$7,756.66	\$15,683.33	\$8,101.73	
Percentage of total left	6.37%	12.87%	6.65%	



Church Office Volunteers

We are very fortunate in our congregation to have members who spend time helping out in the Church Office. They collate bulletins, mailings, North Stars, fill in for me when I am out of the office, etc.



People who volunteered in 2008 were:

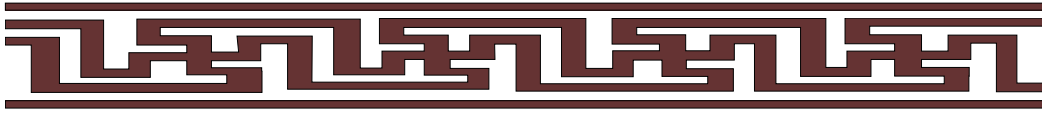
Maxine Bell
Mary Louise Berg
Rod Bradley

Carol Brennan
Art Griebner
Madlyn Griebner
Ruth Grieser
Betty Hunt
Bob Hunt
Betty James

Bob Johnston
Gloria McDowell
Karen McKee
Byron Mohlke
Estelle Moses
Pudge Pullen
Kay Timmerman

Thank you very much to all of you for your willingness to help and for doing such a great job. You make my job so much easier.

Linda Donner
Administrative Assistant



Membership

The Membership Committee is charged with providing congregational growth through welcoming, inviting and assimilating new members into the church, identifying and welcoming visitors to the church and keeping the North Church membership rolls up-to-date.

Identifying and welcoming visitors to worship services and ensuring proper and prompt follow-up contact is more important than ever as the church begins a new ministry under the leadership of our new head-of-staff. Visitors are asked to identify themselves during worship services and the information they provide is reviewed by the Committee to determine appropriate follow-up to answer any questions they may have and help them feel comfortable at North Church. If a visitor expresses an interest in joining North Church, they are encouraged to attend an Inquirers Class where they have the opportunity to learn or review what Presbyterians believe, discover the various activities and programs of North Church and asked to express their interest in serving the

church through the various activities available.

The integration of new members into the church is vital to the growth and success of the goals and mission of North Church. Although the Committee oversees the integration process, it is the responsibility of each and every member of North Church to ensure that new members, or, for that matter, all members are made to feel at home at North Church. New members are "adopted" for a year by a mentor[s], normally a more established member, who assists the new member in becoming acclimated in their new church home.

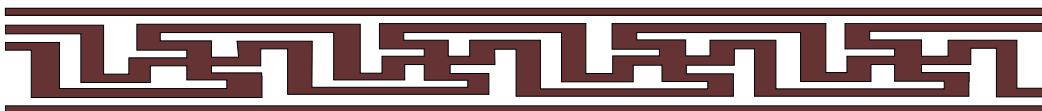
In 2007, Welcome Pads were introduced with the intended purpose of offering worshipers a way to become more familiar with others sharing worship, whether long-time or new members, or visitors. The Committee requests that all attending worship services continue to sign the Welcome Pads, wear their name tags and extend a welcome to those sharing the worship experience.

The transition during 2008 from an interim ministry to a called head-of-staff offers many opportunities as well as challenges relating to church membership. Church growth is a primary objective which the Membership Committee is prepared to address but the entire church community can and must be part of this effort by reaching-out to welcome each other, and especially visitors and new members.

The Membership Committee wishes to thank all those church members who have participated and helped with the Committee activities and a special thanks to Linda Donner for her always cheerful assistance with the many administrative details involved with the Committee's work.

Committee

Jeff Weaver (Chair)
Sharon Harris-Ewing
Christine Lamont
Ellie McConnell
Mitch Roemer
Dole Rugg



Presbyterian Women



Ruth/Mary Circle

During 2007-08 our Ruth/Mary Circle had approximately 12 women attending, including a new member. With our Sunshine Fund we purchased four Bibles to honor four longtime members who died recently – Hilde Boehmke 9-29-07, Gertrude Cook 12-08-07, Leah VanLear 10-07-07, and Eunice Yensan.

We enjoyed the shared leadership of Charlotte Boyer, Carol Brennan, Pudge Pullen and Ginny Webber. Under the guidance of Treasurer Charlotte Boyer, members enthusiastically supported the mission pledge with \$571, Thank Offering \$73, Birthday Offering \$118, Least Coin \$9.52, as well as the Tool and Blanket Drive. Through cards and phone calls, we expressed concern for those not able to attend.

In May we recognized Beth Ann Vandenberg's exemplary church service with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in Presbyterian Women.

Our 07-08 programs included Bible study of the books of Ruth and Jonah, along with

caring, sharing, and discussing topics of current interest. JoAnne Alderfer gave a heartening program on her medical mission to Honduras. Mary Kasbohm, ambassador for Educational Concerns for Hunger (ECHO), kept us informed of that organization's progress. We made donations to both causes.

At our spring luncheon we recognized our Church Administrative Assistant Linda Donner and our departing Interim Pastor Carolyn Grohman.

We will continue meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Presbyterian Village Building #1.

Submitted by,
Carol Brennan

Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle held 10 meetings during 2008 with approximately 15 members in attendance. We enjoyed a variety of programs during the year including devotions, Bible and book studies, discussions of current topics and general camaraderie.

Our mission projects this year included our ongoing practice of making knotted fleece throws to welcome new residents to the TRY facility and providing each girl with a birthday gift of a movie pass card. We compiled gift baskets of school supplies for each girl in September. We also made approximately 30 of

the fleece throws for the mothers and children of Home Space.

Other mission projects included contributing to the Giving Tree and Turkey Basket projects. We also supported the various Presbyterian Women's Offerings: Thank Offering, Blankets and Tools, Least Coin and Birthday Offering.

Our honoree for the PW Honorary Lifetime Membership was unable to attend the presentation service due to illness last May, so the presentation will be done this year.

We continue to meet in members' homes at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

Submitted by,
Susan D'Angelo

Martha Circle

In the Spring of 2008, members of Martha Circle completed the *Horizons* study of the Books of Ruth and Jonah, welcomed Carol Rogers of First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, NY, who brought us a message about Brazilian farmers and the ITEBA Institute in Baia, Brazil, enjoyed Margaret Haas's talk on the archaeological ruins of Biblical times, and honored Dr. Anselm George with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in Presbyterian Women for his exemplary service in many

Presbyterian Women (continued)

areas of North Church. We said farewell to Peg Impey, who moved out of the area, welcomed a few new members, and celebrated the year with a picnic in June.

In the Fall of 2008, we determined to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at the church, to share the leadership and program responsibilities, and to once again participate in the *Horizons* Bible study for 2009, The Book of Luke. The members were excited about learning from the New Testament after several years studying the Hebrew Bible (i.e., the Old Testament), and wanted more expert leadership for this. Rev. Lew Bigler has been kind enough to lead us in this study, which will continue into 2009. We recognized the passing of Margaret Finout, former member of Martha Circle, with a memorial contribution to the Sally Munson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Throughout the year, we have monetarily supported the opportunities for giving sponsored by Presbyterian Women, kept our members in our care through our friendship shower of cards, and prayerfully and helpfully supported each other in all the areas of our living.

We plan to, once again, participate in the Church World Service Tool & Blanket Drive in the Spring of 2009 and wish, at this time, to express again our

ongoing gratitude to the members of North Church for their outstanding support for this project.

Martha Circle welcomes all women of the church to meet with them in the Dickinson Room from 2:30 to about 4:00 on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June.

Submitted by,
Sylvia Bigler

Donors to the Tool & Blanket Drive 2008

Many thanks to these families who supported the 2008 Tool & Blanket Drive: Alderfer, Barit, Beckage, Berg, Bertram, Bigler S, Bigler R, Bowling, Boyer, Brennan, Breth, Carey, Clare, Clark, Cullen-Laux, DeRoo, Eisenlord, Firestone, George, Grieser, Grohman, Haas, Henderson, Hodson, Hunt B&B, Hunt M, James, Jocoy, Karr, Kenney, Lash, Link, Luke, MacDonald, Mache, Malis, Marchyn, McConnell, McDowell, McKee, Mertes, Meyers, Mickelsen, Pullen, Rien, Skura, Soom, Sprague, Stancliffe, Stirling, Timmerman, Vandenberg, Villano, and Ward. Thanks to all from Martha Circle.

Needlers

We met three Tuesdays in October 07 but only two Tuesdays in January 08 due to a snowstorm. The women also

worked at home, making many prayer shawls and a few lap robes bringing the number of about 30 pieces for the year 07-08. The group numbers 13 needlers.

A few pieces were delivered to People Inc. and Heritage Homes this year. All other pieces have gone to congregants and other friends who are suffering illness, grief or stressful times.

Lois Richardson rejoined the group following the loss of her dear husband. We marveled at Jean Ervin knitting in spite of a badly injured arm. Our prayers went out to Elaine Hurst as she cared for her Bob. We miss Barb Ebsary who moved to upstate New York. We wished Rita MacDonald well as she prepared to attend two grandchildren's weddings this summer. Lona Allendoerfer "never missed a stitch" while she and husband Bob moved to a home on the Canterbury campus. Scotty Morehouse is noted for her luscious colored pieces and Ruth Grieser is on her way to being named most prolific needler.

We entered our fifth year together and celebrated this milestone at a porch luncheon in June. We wish to thank our donors of yarn and dollars!

Submitted by,
Mary Louise Berg

Worship

God offers the Word of grace, and [we] respond to that divine initiative through the language of worship. [We] bow before God, lift hands and voices in praise, sing, make music, and dance. Heart, soul, strength, and mind, with one accord, [we] join in the language, drama, and pageantry of worship.



The Word of God is proclaimed through the

- reading of the scriptures, creeds and confessions
- singing of anthems, hymns, and spiritual songs
- performing of music, drama and dance

Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Worship is rich with symbolism. Worship is rich with symbolism. The sacraments are signs of the covenant with God. The baptismal bowl is a visible reminder of our own baptism and inclusion in God's grace. Communion is served monthly to "all who trust in Him." This year the Worship committee put forth the proposal that communion will be celebrated by intinction, except for two Sundays a year - All Saints' Sunday and the first Sunday of Lent. Receiving communion in this way continues the idea of participation by the congregation. We come forward and present ourselves to God and the table that has been prepared for us.

All may serve. Pastor Bill brought to the attention of the committee that the Presbyterian Book of Order stipulates that "members in good standing", whether they have served as a

Deacon or an Elder, or not, are allowed to serve Communion with the approval of the Session. The Session gave their approval for this.

Children and youth continue to be integral to worship.

They bring awe and wonder, hope and vision. Our children weekly attend the service and have led entire worship services and pageants. They also serve as acolytes, liturgists, preachers, ushers and greeters, share their musical gifts through instrumental and vocal offerings, and proclaim the Word through drama and dance. Our children will continue our legacy because they see it as their own.

Welcome to our new Pastor.

It is a joy and pleasure to work with Pastor Bill on this committee. We look forward to working and growing together as a group that we may continue to make worship a meaningful and re-energizing experience for all ages and all stages of faith.

We are charged to go out into the world and serve. Worship spills out into the world through our thoughts, words and actions. We pray that our communal worship energizes and empowers us to listen and respond to the call.

Committee

Linda Gowans (Chair)
William DeRoo (Elder)
Rod Bradley (Liturgists, Co-Ordinators, Ushers, Greeters)
Susan D'Angelo
Olivia Ebsary
Marlene Harrington
Brenda Haughey
Janet Mazzio



(Worship Committee continued on next page)

Worship (continued)

Adult Choir Highlights

Worship leadership is the mission of the Adult Choir. Most of the time this is accomplished through anthems chosen to fit the season and/or theme, as well as responses and hymns. Occasionally the choir collaborates with the children's and youth choirs.

During Lent we presented Eugene Butler's cantata "Behold What Manner of Love". During Holy Week we sang on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. The week culminated in joyous Easter worship with brass, choir and organ. The choir was privileged to participate in the installation service of new pastor Bill Hennessy.

Summer worship featured a family choir, a women's ensemble, a quartet and offerings from various soloists, vocal and instrumental.

In October we again collaborated with the Christ Methodist choir and presented Handel's "O Sing Unto the Lord" – once here at North Church and once at Christ Methodist.

The 11:00 Christmas Eve service was a Lessons and

Carols arranged by John Leavitt.

Again we should recognize the talents of instrumentalists who have enhanced our worship: violinists Janet Mazzio and Lisanne Sprague, cellist Meredith Sparks, guitarist Aaron Sprague, pianist Kurt Ebsary and trumpeters Aaron Folmsbee, David Breth and Clark Mazzio. (I apologize if I've left anyone out.)

Handbell Choir

The handbell choir participated in worship on several occasions, sometimes accompanying the Adult choir. We also rang for the 11:00 Christmas Eve service.

We are always looking for new ringers. Please let us know if you are a ringer or would like to learn. Training will be provided.

Marlene Harrington
Director of Music & Organist

Children's & Youth Choir

The Children's and Youth Choir had a great year! We have about 20-25 members from kindergarten to 8th grade. We rehearse once a week and sing for worship approximately once

a month, sometimes even joining the Adult Choir singing in the choir loft. In the spring we presented selections from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" using costumes, soloists and narrators. In May we had our annual Choir recognition banquet where we gave special recognition and said "good-bye" to 6 8th grade members who will be gravely missed in the coming year. This evening always ends with our very own talent show! This fall we had a great beginning for our "new year" and started to prepare for our annual Christmas pageant. The choir worked very hard and presented one of our best pageants ever, "A Patchwork Pageant"! Although bad weather forced us to cancel our Sunday evening performance, we re-scheduled it for the next week and had an "After-Christmas Pageant", which was very well attended! The music ministry of our Children's and Youth Choir is a very vital and active part of this church and we will always welcome new members!

Marty Shafer
**Director of Music,
Children & Youth**



Sacred Dance Choir

The Sacred Dance Choir embodies the word and song for the glory of God. The choir danced several times including Pentecost, during Lent, Advent and Christmas. They also danced for special worship services outside of the Church. We welcome new members and no dance experience is necessaryNONE!!!



Olivia Ebsary, Choir Director

Property Committee

The Property Committee had a very active and productive 2008. Energy conservation was a big focus during the year. We worked with a couple of contractors to look at our facilities to see if we could add a more efficient boiler for heating. We choose one that had a lot of experience working with churches and installed a new hot water boiler during the summer. It now heats the Offices and South wing of the Church along with the Dickinson Room and Choir Room. We are learning how to set the system to come on early enough to have it warm when needed. The Choir Room still needs an additional heat convector to heat it adequately. The convector will be installed as soon as it arrives. Byron has worked hard and long to see that this system is operating correctly.

In addition we have replaced light bulbs in the Sanctuary and office hall ways with low

energy lights. We have changed all our exit signs to LEDs that are more energy efficient. We have also installed glare reducing film on the Pastors Office and Library. We have been able to reduce the heat load in these areas as a side benefit.

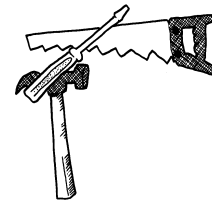
We also updated Westminster Hall with new paint and refinishing the doors. As some of you know the dishwasher in the kitchen has needed a mop during its operation for a long time. Most felt the water was coming from raising the hood at the end of the cycle. The amount of water got worse and when we inspected it we found that the hot water tank had a leak. A contractor quoted \$1200 to make the repair. We were able to do it ourselves with the help of the Sexton's son making the welds for \$225. The people on the Committee do this routinely to help keep the cost of maintenance as low as possible.

In 2009 we are looking at some major work on the windows in the Dickinson Room along with our routine work.

During the year we welcomed new members Pat Booth, Jim Kuhn, Elaine Hurst and Bill Townsend and marked the passing of long time member and contributor Bob Hurst.

Committee

Bill Ervin (Chair)
Randy Bigler
Pat Booth
Chris D'Angelo
Ed Eisenlord
Joe Feldman
Skip Harrington
Elaine Hurst
Jim Kuhn
Byron Mohlke
Roger Quimby
Bill Townsend



Memorial Garden

The triangle of land located between north and south wings of North Church is a particularly appropriate place for our church yard. It is sheltered from the noise of traffic, and yet it is central to our facilities. It has a quietness about it, yet it is visible from classrooms, Westminster Hall,

the Dickinson Room and even the Sanctuary. The south section of the garden wall was given in memory of Merriel Snider; the north section was given in memory of Sally Munson.

The churchyard is not intended as a public facility. It is a burial

ground for the needs of North Church families. Members may apply for the purchase of a plot or grave sites for their own future interment, or for members of their family, whether those family members are also members of the congregation or not.

SESSION ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

CHURCH PIN 05342	LOCATION OF CHURCH WILLIAMSVILLE, NY	NAME OF CHURCH NORTH PRESBYTERIAN	YEAR ENDING 2008
MAILING ADDRESS OF CHURCH 300 NORTH FOREST ROAD, WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221			
CHURCH PHONE (AREA CODE) (716) 632-1330	FAX NUMBER (716) 632-1332	WEB ADDRESS WWW.NORTHCHURCHWILLIAMSVILLE.ORG	E-MAIL ADDRESS N.CHURCH@VERIZON.NET

A. Membership			
1 ACTIVE MEMBERS			601
gains for			
2 PROFESSION OF FAITH, REAFFIRMATION, RESTORATION			9
A. 17 & UNDER			4
B. 18 & OVER			6
C. CERTIFICATE			
D. ALL OTHER GAINS			
E. TOTAL GAINS (ADD 2A, B, C, D)			19
3 SUBTOTAL (1 + 2E)			620
losses for			
4 A. CERTIFICATE			6
B. DEATH			9
C. ALL OTHER			5
D. TOTAL LOSSES (ADD 4A, B, C)			20
5 TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP (LINE 3 MINUS 4D)			600
6 FEMALE MEMBERS			344
7 INACTIVE MEMBERS			66
8 BAPTIZED MEMBERS			128
9 TOTAL ADHERENTS (ADD 5, 7& 8)			794
10 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS			
25 AND UNDER	155		
26-35	65		
36-55	181		
56-64	69		
65 AND OVER	130		
11 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY WORSHIP			178
11-A AFFILIATE MEMBERS			0
12-A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ENROLLMENT BY AGE GROUP			
BIRTH-3	14	6 TH GRADE	9
AGE 4	3	7 TH GRADE	10
KINDERGARTEN	7	8 TH GRADE	12
1 ST GRADE	5	9 TH GRADE	16
2 ND GRADE	9	10 TH GRADE	15
3 RD GRADE	6	11 TH GRADE	14
4 TH GRADE	8	12 TH GRADE	9
5 TH GRADE	11		
YOUNG ADULTS (UNDER 25)			4
25 AND OLDER			120
TEACHERS & CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICERS			56
12-B TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			321
13 BAPTISMS			
A. CHILDREN	3	B. ADULTS	
14 ACTIVE OFFICERS			
	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
ELDERS	9	9	18
DEACONS	4	9	13
15 ARE THE TRUSTEES MEMBERS OF THE SESSION? Y X N			
A HEARING IMPAIRMENT	X	C MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT	X
B SIGHT IMPAIRED	X	D OTHER	

17 POTENTIAL GIVING UNITS	320
18 TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	413,310
19 TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSE	497,548

Finances

RECEIPTS

20 CONTRIBUTIONS	416,592
21 CAPITAL AND BUILDING FUNDS	0
22 INVESTMENT AND ENDOWMENT INCOME	17,345
23 BEQUESTS	34,268
24 OTHER INCOME	14,782
25 SUBSIDY OR AID	0

EXPENDITURES

26 LOCAL PROGRAM	425,850
27 LOCAL MISSION	62,970
28 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	53,000
29 INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES	0
30 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT	53,443
31 VALIDATED MISSION	8,779
32 GA THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND	0
33 OTHER MISSION	13,600

Racial Ethnic Composition of Church

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	All Other	Total
Congregation	5	7	2		586		600
Session					18		18
Deacons					13		13

North Presbyterian Church & Society By-laws

ARTICLE I

Section 1

North Presbyterian Church (hereafter referred to as the “Church”), a congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA, recognizes and agrees that the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA is applicable to and binding upon the Church and its members. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used for orderly conduct of business.

Section 2

The Church further recognizes and agrees that as a Presbyterian Church it is incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. It is subject to such laws in the conduct of its corporate affairs.

Section 3

Except as specifically provided herein, these by-laws shall be applicable to spiritual and corporate functions of the Church.

ARTICLE II

Section 1

An active member of the Church shall be a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the Church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this Church, and participates in the Church’s work and worship.

ARTICLE III

Section 1

The congregation shall form a corporation. The active members on the roll of this Church shall be members of the corporation. The elders elected to active service who are eligible under civil law, shall by reason of their office, be the trustees of the corporation. The finance chair shall serve as chair of the corporation, the treasurer as corporate treasurer and the clerk of Session shall serve as secretary.

Section 2

The Session shall call an annual meeting of the Congregation, to be held in the Church, on the last Sunday in January which will include - election of elders and deacons. Other special meetings called shall state the purpose of the meeting and business to be transacted shall be limited to items specifically listed in the call. Notice of meetings shall be given on two successive Sundays and may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday. All active members are eligible to vote. However;

- a) Only members eighteen years of age or older are eligible to vote on corporate matters of the Church
- b) Voting by proxy is not allowed
- c) A quorum shall consist of the moderator, secretary and one tenth of the active Church membership.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1

The Session shall consist of the moderator and no fewer than fifteen nor more than 18 elders. Elders shall be elected by the congregation for a term of no more than three years, to be divided in three equal classes. Elders shall not serve for full or partial terms aggregating more than six consecutive years. After one year has elapsed, they shall be eligible for re-election. In accordance with Article III section 2, the new class of elders will be elected at the Annual Meeting held on the last Sunday of January. Installation and training of officers will occur during February and the term of service will begin in March unless filling an unexpired term due to a resignation or death of a currently serving elder.

Section 2

The Session as a whole will function as a Board of Trustees in dealing with the corporate matters of the Church. Only those members of the Session who are eighteen years or older may vote on corporate matters.

Section 3

The Session shall have such committees and task forces as are necessary to do its work. It is recommended that a Session member should chair committees. Task forces shall include at least one member of Session.

Section 4

Session members shall attend regular or any specially scheduled meeting of session and committee. If unable to attend, call church office or clerk of session and asked to be excused. Any three consecutive unexcused absences may result in the person being asked to resign from the session.

Section 5

Paid staff of North Presbyterian Church (exclusive of the minister) are not eligible to serve as a member of session.

Section 6

A quorum of the Session shall be the moderator and one-third of the elders. For the reception and dismissal of members, the quorum shall be the moderator and two members.

ARTICLE V

Section 1

The Board of Deacons shall consist of moderator, secretary and no fewer than twelve nor more than eighteen members divided in three equal classes. In accordance with Article III section 2, the new class of deacons will be elected at the Annual Meeting held on the last Sunday of January. Installation and training of officers will occur during February and the term of service will begin in March unless filling an unexpired term due to a resignation or death of a currently serving elder. Deacons may not serve for full or partial terms aggregating more than six consecutive years. After one year has elapsed, they shall be eligible for re-election.

Section 2

Deacons shall attend regular or specially scheduled meeting. If unable to attend, call chairperson or appropriate designate asked to be excused. Any three consecutive unexcused absences may result in the person being asked to resign from the deacons.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1

These by-laws shall be reviewed annually and presented to the congregation.

Section 2

In a properly called congregational meeting, these by-laws may be amended by a majority vote.

Revised: November 12, 2006

Latest revision June 17, 2007 Article IV, section 1