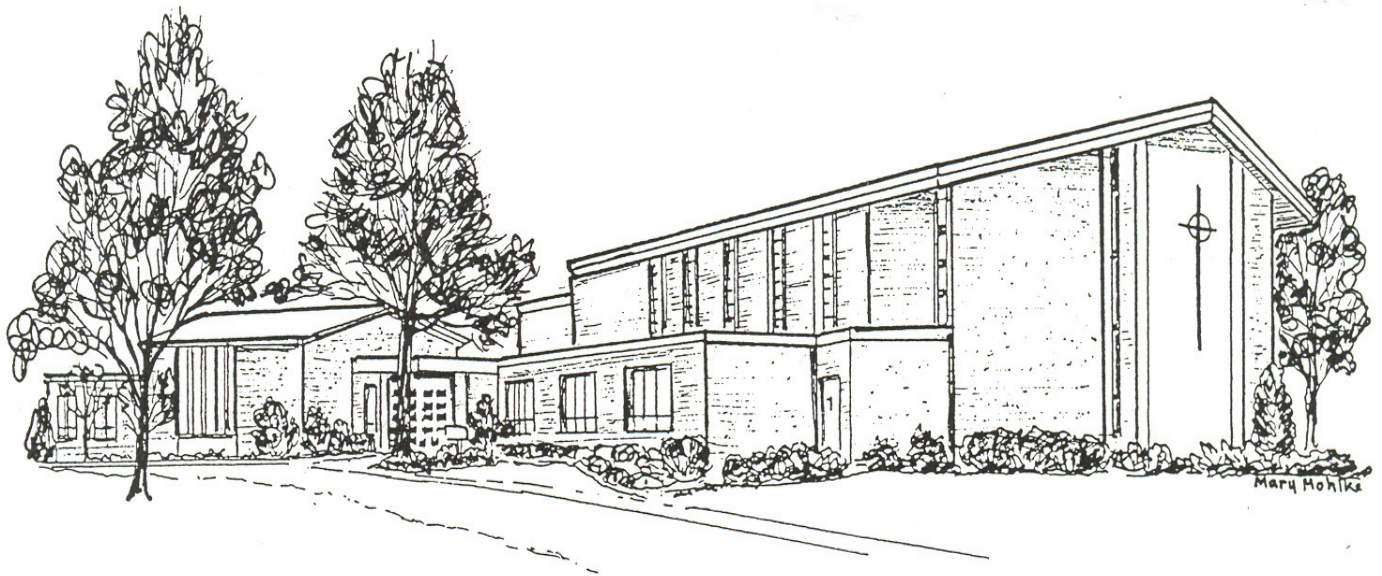


# 2007 Annual Report



## North Presbyterian Church

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# Session Unicameral Board

Reverend Carolyn C. Grohman, Interim Pastor/Head of Staff, Moderator

2008

Antone Alber  
Jim Atwood  
Susan D'Angelo  
Sharon Harris-Ewing  
Erin Kahler  
James McConnell

2009

Marillyn Flavin  
Brad Hahn  
Mark Kreidler  
Jeffrey Weaver

2010

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

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

## Board of Deacons

2008

Jane Arnold  
(Moderator)  
Skip Harrington  
Brenda Haughey  
Elysia Lash

2009

Jeffrey Faunce  
Katie Kreidler  
Kirsten Lacey  
Laura Moyer  
William Rugg

2010

Wendy Ayler  
Glenn Hopkins  
Amy Horvatits  
Eleanor Payne

## Stephen Ministry

*Leader:* Mary Lou George

*Ministers*

Sylvia Bigler  
Kath Hahn

Peggy Hanna  
Betty James

Marcia Monin  
Rita MacDonald

## Pastoral Care Team

*Leader:* Skip Harrington

Carol Brennan  
Margaret Clark  
Louise Cooper  
Pauline Firestone  
Mary Anne Gebhardt

Margaret Haas  
Sally Haywood  
Mary Kasbohm  
Lou Etta Knight  
Shirley Malis

Gloria McDowell  
Howard Reyder  
Norma Reyder  
Karen Roesser  
Marsha Villano

\* \* \* \* \*

Ministers: The Congregation

*Interim Pastor/Head of Staff:* Rev. Carolyn C. Grohman

*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

*Pastor with Youth:* Rev. Stuart C. Buisch

*Sexton:* Marc Kiesling

*Bookkeeper:* Judy Blackchief

*Artist in Residence:* Mary Mohlke

*Parish Nurse:* Patricia Mohr

# Interim Pastor/Head of Staff

Dear Members and Friends,

I had thought my 2006 annual report would be my last one to you. But I am quite certain that this 2007 report is my last one! It appears the PNC will soon have a candidate to present to the congregation, and that is good news!

My primary work as your interim pastor/ head of staff has been the same as an installed pastor/head of staff does: worship planning and leadership, preaching, administering the sacraments of communion and baptism, officiating for weddings and funerals, teaching, moderating the Session, meeting with committees, administering the church's program, overseeing the staff, doing as much pastoral care as time allows, attending as many church programs and activities as possible, and participating actively in presbytery and the Williamsville Clergy Association. During 2007 I officiated at many communion services, six baptisms and seven memorial services.

In the area of adult education, I led two Sunday-morning series: one during Lent on peacemaking in the book of Isaiah, and the other in the spring on Jack Rogers' newest book *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality*. I also helped to lead the programs for the Lenten Tuesday Night Soup Suppers, based on the theme: "Reformed Worship: It's All About God." I also taught part of the Inquirers' Class in the spring and fall and led the training sessions for newly-elected elders and deacons. We continued our "Sunday Night at the Movies" series (begun in the fall of 2006) with a viewing and discussion of "Why We Fight."

Working with the Life-Long Learning Committee, and partnering with Canisius College, I invited Tony and Peggy Campolo to come to North Church in April to dialogue on homosexuality. The Campolos modeled for us how it is possible to have a happy marriage---or church family---while strongly disagreeing about such a volatile subject. I organized and publicized their visit,

with great help from the committee. Their evening with us was very well attended and very well received.

As head of staff, I led weekly staff meetings and the annual day-long staff retreat, which again this year was held at Chautauqua. We were pleased this year to add to our staff the Rev. Stuart Buisch as part-time Pastor with Youth and leader of the monthly Casual Worship services, which we began in June.

As continuing education for the leaders and staff, I planned and led a two-day Leadership Retreat in March for Session members, deacons, and staff on the theme of conflict management. A total of 25 people attended.

For my own continuing education in 2007, I attended the Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in Montreat, NC, in July (along with my daughter and grandson), and the Presbyterian Covenant Network Conference in Atlanta in November. I also combined study leave with vacation at Chautauqua with my family during parts of July and August.

Another major part of my work has been to help you accomplish the five transitional tasks for the congregation during the interim period:

1. *Coming to terms with your history*
2. *Discovering a new congregational identity*
3. *Allowing and empowering new leadership*
4. *Strengthening denominational ties*
5. *Committing to new pastoral leadership*

In the October *North Star*, I evaluated your progress in accomplishing these tasks. We still have some work to do on the first three tasks, but it is also time to focus on the final task.

It's been a busy, exciting year! Thank you for partnering with me in doing ministry!

Grace and peace,

**Carolyn Grohman**



# Director of Pastoral Care



As my responsibilities as Director of Pastoral Care have developed over the past year, I have adapted and refined my understanding of my role. My job description includes pastoral care in the form of visits, encouragement, prayer, problem solving, needs assessment, referrals, listening, empowering and more listening! I have found that I have grown and learned a great deal in the course of the experiences of the past year.

I have been so fortunate to work with the remarkable staff here at North. The tasks inherent in my position could never be achieved without the support and help of each person on the team. I am extremely grateful for the generous, consistent assistance made available by the Rev. Grohman. I have been honored and enriched by my connection with our interim pastor and will find it very difficult to see her leave us.

This year saw the activation of our Stephen Ministry here at North. After a year of training and growing together, we were able to commission Sylvia Bigler, Kath Hahn, Peggy Hanna and Rita MacDonald as newly active Stephen Ministers! Further, we re-commissioned to service Betty James and Marcia Monin. We were able to achieve this through collaboration with the Stephen Ministries of University Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Clarence. We could combine the gifts of all the Stephen Leaders from the three congregations to achieve a manageable teaching schedule. Sadly, we had to say good bye to Darwin Anneler and Kay Hammell this year. These faithful Stephen Leaders both chose to move to warmer climes at this point in their lives. We rejoice with them in their moves, but will surely miss them and their gifts of compassion and service.

The concept of collaboration has been particularly timely in view of events on the Presbytery level here in western New York. I was fortunate to be selected to be a part of the Structures and Communications Steering Team on the Presbytery level. The work of this group culminated in a reorganization plan for the Presbytery in 2007. One major focus of the two year assignment we completed was the importance of collaboration among congregations. North Church takes the lead with this by being a part of a collaborative Stephen Ministry.

One of the most visible signs of this took place on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 when a Service of Hope, Peace and Light took place in our chapel. Through the combined efforts of the Deacons of North and the Stephen Ministries of North, University and Clarence,

First, a warm and reverent Christmas service was offered. The presence and involvement of congregants and clergy from these churches made this touching service a vibrant reality.

The caring network of Deacons, pastoral care team, Stephen Ministers and parish nurse are the enmeshment of caring individuals with an eye toward identifying and addressing needs as they arise. This year has been a time of transition, loss and anxiety for many in our church family. The net of care we offer is designed to promote trust and communication in caring for others. This has been a year of increased visitation and 1:1 connections for those who are dealing with difficulties. We have also become better at documenting our visits this year and can clearly point to measurable outcomes in achieving the goal of increased connection.

The communion to the furthest pew ministry is a tangible example of outreach to those who are unable to be at church for a range of reasons. Church officers (Deacons and Elders) who have been trained, take communion to those who must be absent from church on Sundays when communion is served. This provides an opportunity for those who wish to be included in this sacrament and to be reminded that they are missed by their church family. It provides a remarkable connection that has been rewarding for those serving and those receiving communion. Each communion Sunday, three teams are sent out to members who have requested this service. Our intention is to make this possibility known to **everyone** who might be comforted by this ministry.

Future planning will focus on the mission statement of our church and goal of our pastoral care team to **'nurture each other with care and love'**.\* I will continue to work to provide inclusive pastoral care and flexibility in responding to emerging needs. We are most fortunate to have a network of able caregivers who offer their time and talents to achieve these goals. My prayer is that we have clarity and energy in seeing God's hope, promise and possibilities in the coming year.

May God's love warm and nurture you each day.  
With love and blessings,

Mary Lou George

\*From the Mission Statement of North Presbyterian Church



# Board of Deacons

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 provides care and visits by clergy and non-clergy; flower, gift, and card delivery, oversight of neighborhood groups and the prayer chain. Flowers from church continue to be delivered to persons who are homebound or in nursing homes by members of the pastoral care team. Vases of daffodils, along with an ornament of a cross with a lamb on it made by the children, were delivered at Easter to 25 of our members who are nursing home residents or homebound. Norma Reyder continues to send at least 50 cards each month to

commemorate special occasions and cheer those who are ill or bereaved. Her dedication to this task is appreciated by all who receive these cards and by the deacons and pastoral team.

## **Deacons**

### ***Service of Peace, Hope and Light***

The Service of Peace, Hope and Light was on Dec. 19, 2007 at 7 PM .with approximately 40 people attending. It was a joint service of North Presbyterian Church with University Church and Clarence Presbyterian Church. The service is designed to support those looking for a meditative and peaceful celebration of Christ's birth. As well as taking part in the service, the Deacons provided a punch and cookies reception

### ***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.

### ***Clergy and Non-clergy Visits and Follow-up for Those on Prayer List***

Members of the Pastoral Care Team visit the homebound and church members in hospitals and nursing homes. Each deacon has 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. We are in the process of updating the directory which will include Neighborhood Groups.

### ***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 Carolyn Grohman 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 officers (Deacons and Elders) 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 two singles and one couple 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 on October 21/07 where 120 flu shots were administered. She also visits parishioners in their homes, nursing homes and hospitals.

### *Memorial Receptions*

Deacons and church members 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. Six 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. The Deacons have also placed a group photo on it.

### *Deacons,*

*Jane Arnold, Moderator  
Wendy Ayler  
Jeffrey Faunce  
Skip Harrington  
Brenda Haughey  
Glenn Hopkins  
Amy Horvatits  
Katie Kreidler  
Kirsten Lacey  
Laura Moyer  
Eleanor Payne  
William Rugg*

### **Pastoral Care Committee**

*Skip Harrington, Leader  
Carol Brennan, Margaret Clark, Mary Anne Gebhardt  
Margaret Haas, Sally Haywood, Mary Kasbohm,  
Lou Etta Knight Shirlie Malis,  
Gloria McDowell, Howard Reyder, Norma Reyder, Karen Roesser, Marsha Villano*



## Fellowship

Fellowship provides for the nourishment of God's congregation. The growth of Christian Love for one another is a solid foundation for all events. The aim is to use social interaction to strengthen the sense of the church family, the body of Christ. The annual Church Picnic in June and Sunday Coffee Hour are examples of how North Church offers opportunities to meet and share experiences together.

The Fellowship Committee is responsible for the organization of social events and special events of the church. We have planned or are planning the following opportunities for fellowship:

- Church Picnic
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Sunday Morning Reception (Coffee Hour)
- Cup of Jehovah
- Sleigh Ride which was held on Dec. 15/07. It was

beautifully organized by Betty Heckman with horse drawn carriage rides, a bonfire, making of ornaments, decorating of gingerbread cookies, and hot cocoa.

Past Fellowship Committee (Now part of the Deacons as of Oct. 2007):

*Mark Kreidler  
Connie Littlewood  
Mary Louise Berg  
Betty Heckman  
Colleen Roetzer*

# The Parish Nurse

This year I again have been very busy serving as your Parish Nurse. I have visited several parishioners in homes, nursing homes and hospitals. I visited Blocher Home, Greenfields, Beechwood, and St. Francis nursing homes on a monthly 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 visited one particular parishioner and assessed a wound on her arm. I encouraged her to call her doctor and drove her to her doctor to receive medical treatment. I assisted a parishioner to better accept her husband's death and helped one particular person with her end of life issues and assisted her on her journey to meet the Lord.

I met with one parishioner to discuss his wife's diagnosis of Alzheimer's. I contacted the Alzheimer's Association and received information on the disease, which I shared with her husband. I drove one parishioner to Univera so she



could obtain Health Insurance. Spent time with her reviewing her medications as she at present had no medication coverage. After several phone calls, I was able to save her over \$50.00 on her meds.

I researched and purchased several First Aid Kits for the church and Sunday school, which are now in place for your perusal. I met with the Pastoral Care Director every month, attended the Deacon's and the Pastoral Care meetings.

I attended a workshop on Humor and Ministry at Roswell and also attended a 7 week course entitled "Journey Home Accompanying the Dying and Bereaved". I continue to conduct a Blood Pressure Screening Clinic every month

after church services and write a monthly article on health and wellness for the North Star. Mary Lou George and I also presented a 4 week educational presentation this year.

I serve as a Univera Insurance Ambassador and have received certification for CPR through the American Heart Association. We also administered 120 Flu immunizations this year. I have made many, many phone calls and sent many cards to many parishioners.

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**  
**Parish Nurse**



# Accessibility Committee

The Accessibility Committee was formed in 2006 and given the following direction from Session. “It is the intent of Session, all spaces in each of the three floors of the church building be made accessible to persons in wheelchairs, except for small closets and the boiler room, and that handicapped accessible restrooms be available in the basement and the first floor.” In a later directive Session asked the committee to consider other changes to the church that it might be wise to do in conjunction with the accessibility project.

By the start of 2007 the committee had winnowed the list of architects from approximately 36 to two. The committee considered floor plans and accompanying information to decide which firm to hire. The firm that was chosen was Hamilton Houston Lownie Architects, a local company with considerable

experience working with churches. The design HHL presented was innovative and in many respects stunning. The focal point of its design is a glass enclosed atrium across the back of the church fronted by a terraced garden on the roof of two sunken classrooms.

Ken Riter, the architect from HHL with whom the Committee has been working, met with the Committee and provided additional information. A preliminary but relatively detailed study of the cost was done by an engineering firm hired through HHL. On November 18 Ken made a presentation to a large number of church members in Westminster Hall where he responded to questions and elaborated on the functionality and beauty of the design. Joe Alber made a similar but less informed presentation to a much smaller audience in December.

During the last three months of the year parallel discussions have been ongoing regarding financing the project. A consultant experienced in working with churches on the financing of building projects of this type has been retained to help the committee assess North’s financial ability to undertake such an effort. This work is underway and it is expected that the consultant will be reporting his findings sometime in February.

If the decision is to proceed in 2008, the existing Committee will be reconstituted in order to undertake the different type of work entailed in successfully executing a building effort of this type.

## **Committee**

*Joe Alber (chair)*  
*Jim Atwood*  
*Randy Bigler*  
*Ann Eisenlord*  
*Tom Miller*  
*Tom Roetzer*





# Administration & Personnel

This has been a quieter year for the Committee with very little staff turnover. We began the year with the Youth Director’s position open. After a several month search the position was filled by Stu Buisch who later in the year took on the additional responsibility for leading the causal worship service. In recognition that Stu is an ordained minister the title of the position was changed to *Pastor with Youth*.

After an unsuccessful search for volunteers to help with child care, Regina Koteras was hired to provide additional support in this critical area. Regina has a Certified Childcare Professional Degree and considerable experience in this line of work. However, volunteers are still needed to help with child care and it is hoped that several individuals from the congregation will agree to place their name on a call list to help when needed.

The *Child Protection Policy* was successfully implemented. There was the expected flurry of activity as the policy was explained and background checks were carried out for staff and volunteers working with children and youth, but administration of the policy is becoming relatively routine. Sue Burton has been extremely helpful in implementing the

policy. With the experience gained several changes were warranted and Debbie Hutton assumed responsibility for redrafting portions of the plan with the help of several other members of the Committee and Session approved these changes on December 3.

Sylvia Bigler and Janet Mazzio were the principal scribes for the Committee recording the minutes of our meetings. Janet’s work with the PNC began to overlap her work on the committee and early this fall she resigned in order to devote all of her attention to the PNC. We extend our appreciation to Janet for her service to the Committee.

The responsibility for conducting the annual staff performance appraisals was delegated to members of the Committee. The Congregation provided input in the process and reinforced what we all knew – North Presbyterian Church is blessed with a highly competent and dedicated staff.

Reverend Carolyn Grohman has provided excellent leadership and spiritual guidance during this period of transition. A new Covenant Agreement (contract) was negotiated with Carolyn that went into effect on October 1 for a six month period. In the event a new pastor is called the

agreement states “This covenant may be terminated earlier by either party, to take effect no sooner than 30 days from the receipt of a written notice by the other party ...”.

Serving the church with love and enthusiasm are Carolyn Grohman as Interim Pastor/Head of Staff, Mary Lou George as Director of Pastoral Care, Stu Buisch as Pastor with Youth, 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, Tammy Carter and Regina Koteras as Child Care Providers. The Committee extends a sincere and hearty thank you to all of the staff.

## Committee

*Joe Alber (Chair)*

*Sylvia Bigler*

*Susan Burton*

*Debbie Hutton*

*Janet Mazzio(resigned in fall to devote more time to PNC work)*

*Dick Mesmer*

*Tom Miller*

# Clerk of Session

As Clerk of Session in 2007....

I attended all regular and called Session and Congregational meetings Met with the Interim 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 church records as membership changed

When requested, I represented the Session.

Membership as of December 31, 2007: 601

This year we have baptized six children.

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

Three by letter of transfer  
Two by Profession of Faith  
Eleven new members from the Communicants Class

North Church had fifty-five losses.

Three members were transferred to other churches.

Fourteen were placed on non-resident.

Seven were placed on inactive.

Eight were lost by death.

Twenty-three were removed by their request.

Session members are committed to serving North Presbyterian Church. As usual, members have been presented with many challenges and continue to serve faithfully.

Read their reports and see what has been accomplished and decide where you can serve.

Remember to thank them for their service!

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

**Mary Ann Mache**  
Clerk of Session



# 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 2007 were:

*Robert Allendoerfer*  
(Webmaster through June)  
*Maxine Bell*  
*Mary Louise Berg*  
*Rod Bradley*

*Carol Brennan*  
*Sue D'Angelo*  
*Mary Anne Gebhardt*  
*Art Griebner*  
*Madlyn Griebner*  
*Betty Hunt*  
*Bob Hunt*  
*Betty James*  
*Bob Johnston*

*Gloria McDowell*  
*Karen McKee*  
*Byron Mohlke*  
*Estelle Moses*  
*Pudge Pullen*  
*Marty Shafer*

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



# Communications

## **Background**

The Communications Committee (CC) was originally known as the Publicity Committee and was a sub-committee of the Membership Committee. In Fall 2006, the CC was created as a self-standing entity. Because no formal job description existed for CC, conversations occurred with a number of people, and the decision was made to focus most of CC's initial efforts upon what was perceived to be an urgent communications need—to update and upgrade the church's old website ([www.npc.bfn.org](http://www.npc.bfn.org)).

## **Visitors' Guide**

Early in the Spring 2007, Leigh Gaskill completed and had printed a revised "Visitor Guide," which is the flyer that is given to individuals when they are considering joining North Church.

## **Creating a new church website**

Over the period from March through July 2007, several tasks were undertaken to prepare a new website.

- (1) A CyberMinistry Team (CMT) was formed to oversee the formation and subsequent activities of the website. This group held several meetings, and spent a lot of time communicating

with each other via e-mails!! (2)

- (2) Several local web-design companies were interviewed, and Brentwood Tech was selected.
- (3) A new domain address was registered ([www.northchurchwilliamsville.org](http://www.northchurchwilliamsville.org)), and the Session approved entering into a contract with Market America to provide website hosting and technical support.
- (4) The web designer, David Sherman, worked closely with the Team, and we have all benefited immensely from the superb technical support of Brad Hahn and Kristi Rugg!!! In early July, the new website was launched, and since then the maximum number of viewers ("hits") on any one day in a month has ranged from 263 to 338.

## ***Post-launch activities.***

Since launch day, CMT has spent between 30 and 57 hours each month on technical and managerial tasks related to the webpage. Activities have included: placing "teasers" in Sunday bulletins and North Stars to encourage readership; adding new pages to appeal to

non-church members (and to prospective pastors); creating a Youth page and a chat room for Senior Highs; developing a "Hands in Service" page to reflect NPC's many activities; presenting book reviews on a new "Grownup School at North Church" page; adding links to various religious sources and including an "Inspirational Thought for the Week"; and designing a special form that enables committees to post announcements on the "News and Events" page. As for the future, our church's webpage is now, and always will be, a "communications work in progress."

## **CyberMinistry Team**

*Linda Donner  
Ann Eisenlord  
Brad Hahn  
Kathy Lash  
Jim McConnell  
Kristi Rugg*

## **Committee**

*Jim McConnell (Chair)  
Leigh Gaskill (on leave)  
Brad Hahn  
Kathy Lash*

# 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:

- **NPC's AMAZING RACE 4 THE CUP**
  - Last half for Sunday school activity of creative challenges for every age. Points were awarded for completing challenges as well as for Sunday morning attendance.
- **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
- **Intergenerational Events for the entire North Church Family**
  - *Three Wise Men Followed a Star* – January 7<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Event
  - *The Grand Finale to NPC's Amazing Race 4 the Cup* – May 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Closure
  - *Who Am I?* – September 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Kickoff
  - **Curriculum**
    - Finished first part of year using *We Believe: God's Word for God's People*, the Presbyterian Church USA's curriculum
    - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades studied *We Believe: With All Boldness And Freedom – A Survey of the Old Testament* and this fall started *the New Testament*
    - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades studied *Bible Quest: Bookmarks Bible Explorations for Older Youth Vol. 1* and this fall started *Vol. 2*
    - Classes ages 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are using various resources after expressing a needed change from the former *We Believe* curriculum.
- **Sunday School**
  - 30 volunteers have been involved in children's faith education in 2007 Spring and Fall
  - Teacher Recognition Sunday was May 20<sup>th</sup>, a gift was given in honor of the teachers to The Smile Train
  - Youth finished the "Amazing Race 4 the Cup" challenge with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders winning the grand prize
  - Teacher Commissioning Sunday was September 10<sup>th</sup>
  - 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
  - Created *How Well Do You Know Our Sunday School and GodZone Leaders?* matching challenge for The North Star. This was to encourage everyone, not just the youth, to learn something new about the leaders in youth education.
- **GodZone**
  - Dynamic children's worship program for ages 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
  - *KidsOwn Worship* by Group was the chosen curriculum for this special time during the early half of the year
  - Bible verse, story and craft is current curriculum
  - GodZone time change in the fall. Children leave after the Children's Message and return during the hymn after the Sermon. This change allowed younger children the opportunity to experience more of the active worship time.

## Kid's Ministry Team (continued)

- **Children in Sanctuary Worship**
  - Weekly children's bulletins with lectionary based material as well as Bible puzzles are available
  - Meetings held to discuss improvements for children and families in worship (committees involved – Life-long Learning, KMT, Worship and Carolyn)
- **Vacation Bible School**
  - G-R-E-A-T-B-I-B-L-E...Great Bible Reef! was attended by 73 children who focused on "God's people..."
  - Nancy Johnson and Eleanor Payne co-chaired a great week of outreach into our community in July, with a majority of "campers" from outside North Church
  - Mission offering totaled \$916.67 this year, which was given to the Chuuk school in the Pacific.
  - 50 backpacks were filled by our VBS children for the refugee families at The New Horizons Summer Program.

- **Third Grade Bibles**
  - Bibles presented to each third grader during a special worship service in January of 2007 (for class year '06-'07) and in September of 2007 (for class year '07-'08)
  - We held two follow-up Bible Marking Party with third graders and their invited family and guests to fellowship over breakfast, to highlight family favorite Bible verses, and to play a special version of Bible Pictionary (in both February 2007 and in November 2007)

**\*\*\*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 KMTcommittee. 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 Groups

The youth program currently includes a 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade group called Club 456, a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade group, and a 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade groups. The two younger groups generally meet twice per month either immediately after church or on Sunday evening, and the Senior High group meets most Sunday evenings. One time per month all the youth groups gather on a Sunday evening for dinner, worship and activities. These services are informal and participatory.

### Club 456 Youth:

The 4th, 5th and 6th grade youth group is now known as Club 456. We started 2007 off with some fun. To celebrate Valentine's Day we decorated heart cookies and explored tricky friendship situations with cards asking "What would you do if...". Our special Lenten topic this Spring was "Heaven, Angels and Dying", in which we even had a 'behind-the-scenes' tour of the Beach-Tyne funeral home. We had an enjoyable afternoon of bowling and pizza at Clarence Bowling. In June we had a great night

of watching **Harry Potter** movies and eating popcorn until late into the night. This fall we participated in the Crop Walk and watched **Evan Almighty**. During Advent we made origami boxes with peace written in many languages, and made Christmas luminaries that would have adorned the path to the Christmas pageant had the weather cooperated. We have a fun group of energetic youth, who have lots of great ideas to share and who love to play sardines!

### Seventh and Eighth Grade Youth:

We have been helping at Bethel Presbyterian Church once a month in their thrift shop and serving supper. We had a lock-in and participated in the Crop Walk. We have an upcoming mission trip in Rochester and will be helping with the Eggertsville Youth and Family Center. The group is full of energy.

### Senior High Youth:

Senior Highs started the year off by planning the February Youth Service and coordinating "Souper Bowl" activities. We participated in the PYC's Wild Winter Weekend at Duffield, Awesome Youth workshops, rock climbing with the PYC and several evenings at the church. Sometimes for fun we met at a restaurant to eat together and enjoyed fellowship. Our annual mission trip went to Detroit, Michigan with 20+ youth and 4 adults spending one week

working at several sites: the Second Mile Center, a shelter for domestic violence-painting/scraping, a couple of soup kitchens and at our host church. This was an exciting and enriching experience for both the youth and the adults who participated. Some of the other activities the Senior Highs have enjoyed are several fundraising activities like meals after church, a car wash and the Annual Chiavetta's chicken BBQ. Once a month we have supper, program and youth worship together with all the youth at North. For the autumn kick-off event we did several things with the Presbyterian Village. For three months we did mission work at our own North Park Presbyterian church in Buffalo.

### Boy Scouts

North Presbyterian Church has served as the chartering agency for Boy Scout Troop 991 for many years. The troop is very active, holding weekly meetings and at least one special activity each month. In March, the Troop participated in the annual Scouting for Food Drive. Nearly 2,500 items of food were collected in the neighborhood of the church and donated to University Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. In June, Nick Brace was presented his Eagle Award at a Celebration at North Church. In July, the troop attended summer camp for a week at Camp Merz. Also in

## Youth Ministry Team (YMT) (continued)

July, 3 Scouts and 2 adult were members of a Birchbark Canoe Trip in Algonquin Park in Canada. The troop also participated in the spring and fall North Church work days for removing or placing the storm windows and screens. Unfortunately in January Cub Pack 991 disbanded because there were not enough Cub Scouts to register the Pack.

### **Presbyterian Youth Connection**

The youth participate in many of the PYC events sponsored by the Presbytery of WNY, including “Lock-Ins”, Wild Winter Weekends at Duffield, Rock Climbing, and Awesome Youth Workshops. Presbyterian Youth Connection is built on the five intentions of

the Presbyterian Youth Ministry:

- To call young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
- To respond to the needs and the interests of young people.
- To work together, youth and adults, in partnership.
- To be connected to the whole church, community, and the world.
- To include all young people, reaching out and inviting them to belong to the community of faith.

The Presbytery no longer has a staff person for youth and the

status of Duffield has changed so we will see how PYC unfolds in 2008.

I have had the pleasure of working with the YMT for almost a year now. I enjoy coordinating the youth worship once a month most of the year and interacting with the youth. We have some amazing young people involved in the life of North Presbyterian church. I look forward to 2008.

**Rev. Stu Buisch**

### **Committee**

*John and Luanne Auriemma,  
Ed Eisenlord, Peggy and  
Ernie Hanna, Vicky  
Hennessey, Nancy Johnson,  
Rich Lash, Deb Boos, Rev. Stu  
Buisch*

## Confirmation

“We Believe” Professing our Faith, is the title of our confirmation experience this year. Starting September 9 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 Ann Vandenberg, Mary Mohlke and Stu Buisch are leading this adventure which meets most weeks during the school year, either at 9:30 on Sunday morning or as part of youth group and youth worship one Sunday evening a month. 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 2007 eleven youth joined the church through the confirmation program that Lynette Sparks taught.

# Life-Long Learning

Our committee received a new name during this year emphasizing the need for all of us to keep on learning even if we finished our formal education decades ago. This applies also to our spiritual life and our faith.



Again, we benefited from the commitment of many people who gave their time to plan and lead adult education segments. The Reverend Grohman has been central to this effort. Without her, this program would not have been possible. We tried to offer variety. In the spring we dealt with poverty and immigration, “The Price of Faith”, Peacekeeping and “Telling your Story, Making your Plans”. Video series were also quite popular. We discussed “What’s God Up To?” and began a series “Living the Question”.

Our activities were not confined to Sunday morning. We invited

the congregation back in the evening for “Sunday Night at the Movies” with pizza, refreshments and good discussion. There was “What’s Right with Me” on Mondays and a Lenten series on Tuesdays focusing on worship.

A high point of our education year was the visit of Peggy and Tony Campolo in April sponsored jointly by North Church and Canisius College.

Our fall program included a DVD based exploration “Saving Jesus” offered Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings and a

series on social justice “Healing the Nations”. We also presented a segment on science and religion prepared by members of our congregation who are involved in scientific pursuits. During Holy Week and Advent we again had the opportunity to participate in “Soul Feast” lovingly put together by Mary Mohlke.

Over the course of the year, our committee has suffered considerable attrition. We welcome everyone who makes suggestions and can commit to participation in our planning group.

## Committee

- Anselm George (Chair)*
- Marillyn Flavin*
- Margaret Haas*
- Mary Mohlke*
- Wayne Schultz*
- Lucille Weaver*

## ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Photographer/Historian

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

As North Church celebrated fifty years in Amherst, I wrote brief articles under the heading “Out Of Our Glorious Past”. These vignettes appeared each Sunday in the bulletins from September 2005 to June 2006.

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**

# Membership

The Membership Committee focused on four areas during 2007: (1) identifying visitors and friends, and encouraging them to become members of North Church, through participation in Inquirers' Groups and partnership with mentors; (2) conducting a more thorough review of the membership rolls; (3) "checking in" with those who have recently joined to promote their integration in the life of the church; and (4) increasing our welcome to visitors, especially during and after Sunday morning worship.

Led by Mitch Roemer, with assistance from Carolyn Grohman, Inquirers Groups met in the spring and fall. Six people participated, and five subsequently joined the church. Under the leadership of Ellie McConnell, new members were given mentors to assist them in becoming more fully integrated in the church. In June, we also welcomed eleven confirmands into church membership.

Mitch Roemer also led the committee in undertaking a thorough review of the membership rolls. Committee members worked to contact

individuals who have not been involved in the church for a long time. When they could not be reached, or expressed a desire to change their membership status, the information was referred to Session for action. When individuals shared personal concerns that affected their relationship to the church, the information was shared with the Pastor and Director of Pastoral Care. This review is an ongoing process.

During the month of June, the committee hosted an evening gathering for the new members who had attended focus groups in November 2006. They had asked to get together again, and this event was an informal opportunity to visit and have fun learning about Presbyterians through "game show" questions. Special appreciation is given to Mary Mohlke who assisted in developing the program.

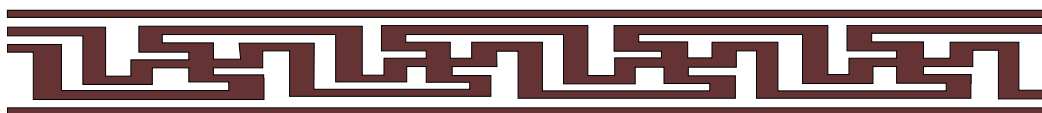
During the spring and summer the committee worked on reviving and revising the use of pew pads during worship. The new welcome packets were introduced in September. Worshippers are asked to sign

their names, and note the names of others in their pew – as a way of getting to know each other and welcome visitors. Then they are asked to place the list of names in the offering plate as a symbolic act of offering oneself in worship. The names are reviewed by committee members each month to identify visitors who have continued to come to North Church, and may be interested in becoming members.

The work of the Membership Committee – inviting, identifying, welcoming and integrating members into the life of North Church – can only be accomplished when it is shared by all. *Many thanks to each person who invites a friend, greets a visitor, talks to someone new during the coffee hour, or in any other way increases the hospitality and deepens the fellowship of the church family.*

## Committee

*Sharon Harris-Ewing (Chair)  
Melinda Bibko  
William Clark  
Eleanor McConnell  
Mitch Roemer  
Dole Rugg  
Jeff Weaver*



# Mission/Community

The Mission Committee of North Church undertakes the tasks of raising the awareness of the congregation to mission concerns and advocacy issues, of encouraging the participation and generosity of the congregation in mission endeavors, and of disbursing the benevolence funds from the church's annual budget. The committee takes very seriously the fact that we are acting on the congregation's behalf when we carry out our work. We are 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 2007 was \$38,325. The monies were disbursed this year under the following categories: Education, Hunger, Health, Housing, Refugees, and Local and World Mission.

Our second annual Valentine's Day Chocolate Extravaganza was a fellowship but also a mission event. This year, we used the profits from the evening to support the Malawi School Project of Debbie Naybors. Once again, we danced to the music of Sax Man Slim as we enjoyed scrumptious chocolate desserts.

In the summer of 2007, North Church was one of the sponsoring churches for the New Horizons Program sponsored by Journey's End

Resettlement Services. This is a program to assist newly arrived refugee children prepare for entrance into the public schools. North Church sponsored the week of July 9-13. North Church members volunteered in the classrooms to make the week a special experience for the children and teenagers. We also purchased and helped prepare snacks and lunches for the program. This year, the Mission Committee sponsored the salary of Polly Tice who faithfully worked with the mothers of the participating children. She helped these mothers learn about our country: riding the bus, using the library, understanding the school system, grocery shopping, and making simple crafts for their homes.

Our summer Habitat project was different this year in that we sponsored 4 workdays during July and August instead of doing a full week. Buffalo Mission 2007 saw volunteers sawing, measuring, nailing, and hanging drywall at the Apostolic Build house. During those days, the volunteers worked diligently but also learned to know each other better as they chatted, snacked and ate lunch together.

In October, the Mission Committee sponsored a Mission Fair after the worship services. The fair was an attempt to educate the congregation on the mission projects we undertake,

as well as to recruit volunteers for our work. During that month, we also sponsored a project to supply relief kits for Iraqi people displaced inside and outside Iraq. 35 complete kits of towels, detergent and personal care items were boxed and mailed.

The Alternative Christmas Market on November 6<sup>th</sup> was again a wonderful success as adults and children did their Christmas shopping in Westminster Hall after the worship services. Shoppers enjoyed sipping coffee and eating snacks as they chose meaningful, charitable gifts for friends and family members.

In November, the annual Turkey Basket Project with Temple Beth Am was again a grand success. More than 500 complete Thanksgiving meals were donated to social service agencies for delivery to needy families in the community. The year ended with our annual Giving Tree. This year the gifts were for the children of the Niagara Charter School and for the young women in the TRY Program.

The Mission Committee's collaboration with the Adult Education Committee in 2007 resulted in our sponsoring and participating in several forums. In January, we invited Dennis Walczyk, the CEO of Catholic Charities, Dr. Myron Glick of Jericho Road Family Practice

## Mission/Community (continued)

and Dr. John Abbarno of Friends of Night People to speak to us on the issue of poverty in Buffalo. Later in the year, Debbie Naybors of Alden spoke to the congregation on Both Your Hands projects that she has founded and administers in Africa.

As occurs each year, four special offerings were organized and received: Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking and the Christmas Offering. The local portion of the Pentecost Offering was designated for the Eggertsville Family and Youth Community Center, the local portion of the Peacemaking Offering was used to supplement the Iraqi Refugee Kits, and the Christmas Offering was divided between Journeys' End Resettlement Services for the anticipated resettlement of Iraqi refugees and Mennonite Economic Development Associates'



(MEDA) Micro Loan Program for Katrina victims.

On February 24, 2008 a group of 20 individuals will be going to New Orleans to work in conjunction with St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church and Habitat for Humanity to build houses for Katrina victims. The group has been meeting since summer to organize and fund the trip. Our ongoing volunteer projects are: working on a Habitat for Humanity House the first Saturday of each month and cooking for and serving the guests of Friends of Night People the fourth Tuesday of each month.

We invite you to become a Partner in Mission with us in

2008. We need you to volunteer with Habitat or Friends, to help organize events, to contribute to our work monetarily, to dialogue with committee members regarding your suggestions and concerns and to support us with your prayers. We are grateful for the place that Mission has always had in the life of this congregation and we anticipate your continued support in the work that lies ahead.

### Committee

*JoAnne Alderfer - Chair,  
Ginny Bradley  
Diane Carr  
Ann Eisenlord  
Brad Hahn  
Bob Henderson  
Norma Henderson  
Erin Kahler  
Cheryl Lally  
Anne McIlroy  
Sheridan Skura  
Beth Vandenberg  
Sue Wishart*

## Youth Mission

During 2007 the youth and children of our church family did four Mission projects (from Sept. 2006 to June 2007):

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:**

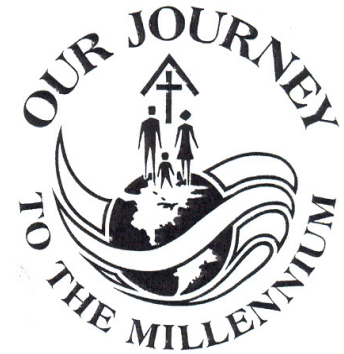
The children brought in Books, Games, and Puzzles for the Eggertsville Family Center. They will be used in the center's Game Room.

The children and youth did a magnificent job in helping people in need!!!!

**Jerra S. Barit, Chair of the Youth Mission Committee**

# 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 amount is above that, then Session approval is also needed.



**Committee:**

- Eleanor McConnell (Chair)*
- Byron Mohlke*
- Darwin Anneler*
- Rod Bradley (Ex officio)*

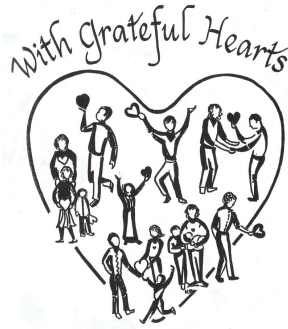
<b>Project</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Building</b>	
Web site develop. & hosting – 1 yr.		\$2,100.00		2007
Upgrade sound system			\$1,300.00	2007
Personal FM Listening System		\$2,542.08		2007
Comp. for Casual Worship		\$800.00		2007
Voice mail system for NPC			\$1,300.00	2007
Total Expenditures (1998 - now)	\$113,095.00	\$105,048.32	\$113,749.93	
Total Available Funds -- 1998	\$121,851.66	\$121,851.66	\$121,851.66	
Total Remaining	\$8,756.66	\$16,803.34	\$8,101.73	
Percentage of total left	7.19%	13.79%	6.65%	

# Stewardship Committee

The work of the Stewardship Committee is focused 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.*

During 2007 the Stewardship Committee cooperated with the Life-Long Learning Committee to provide two educational offerings. "The Price of Faith" was a stimulating book discussion led by committee members, Mary Beth Karr and Marcia Hunt. Later in the spring, our Committee teamed with Mary Lou George, Director of Pastoral Care and Pat Mohr, Parish Nurse to provide a very well received series, *Telling your Story; Making Your Plans*. As a part of the series, Phillip Blake of the Presbyterian Foundation visited us on May 6<sup>th</sup> – Wills Emphasis Sunday – to discuss planned giving and making the church a part of our wills. We hope to be able to build upon both of these offerings during 2008.



allocating available funds between the many needs of our church in 2008.

### Selected data from the campaign:

- Average pledge for 2008 = \$1977 per year; average pledge for 2007 was \$1872
- 9 pledging units with pledges totaling \$14,683 in 2007 have either moved or died

<u>\$ Range of Pledges</u>	<u>Number of pledges</u>
Under \$1000	62
\$1,000 - \$1,999	53
\$2,000 - \$2,999	17
\$3,000 - \$3,999	23
\$4,000 - \$4,999	5
\$5,000 - \$7,499	11
Over \$7,500	2

As in previous years, the largest amount of time and energy was devoted to the Annual Campaign to secure pledges of support for the 2008 Operating Budget of North Church. The theme of *With Grateful Hearts* was chosen for the 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.

The results of the campaign are both heartening and disappointing. We expect the final total of all pledges to be \$350,000 from more than 175 pledges, nearly the same amount as was pledged in 2007. Despite the fact that 17 new pledges were received from new members or those who did not pledge for 2007 and that 76 pledging unit - 45% of those who pledged for 2007 - increased their pledge for 2008, many significantly, we once again have missed our pledge goal by several thousands of dollars. This fact means that the North Church Session is once again faced with the difficult task of

The Stewardship Committee recognizes that North Church, like many other churches, faces a yearly problem of reconciling the difference between funds available through pledges and other sources and the ever increasing costs of church programs, personnel and maintenance. In 2008 we will continue to work to help our congregation better understand the meaning of stewardship as a way of life and how they can discern God's call to them to respond.

The Stewardship Committee is deeply grateful to the entire congregation of North Church for their prayerful response to the pledge campaign and for the support we have received.

### **Committee:**

*Ann Eisenlord (Chair)*  
*Jeff Faunce*  
*Marcia Hunt*  
*Betty James*  
*Mary Beth Karr*  
*Rod Bradley (Treasurer)*

# Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee elected at the annual congregational meeting in January, 2007 was charged with the responsibility to develop a slate of elder and deacon nominees for election to the session and board of deacons respectively, for the class of 2011. At a congregational meeting in June the Committee presented a slate of nominees for election to unexpired 2008 and 2009 terms on the board of deacons. Also at this meeting it was voted to reduce the size of the session from 18-21 to 15-18.

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 in terms of service following the example of Jesus Christ. In particular, Mark 10:45 provided a starting point for calling members into service: "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve". The Committee viewed its mission as one to discern a call of members to church leadership and not merely to fill slots. The spiritual discernment process involved a prayerful approach to God that God's will be done, the discernment of the needs of our congregation as we soon enter a new chapter in our

journey as a community of faith 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 that 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, responding to God's activity in the world through service to others and working in the world for peace, justice, freedom and human fulfillment. The Committee further discussed the ministry and gifts of both elders and deacons to include strong faith, dedicated discipleship, sound judgment, warm sympathies and witness to and 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 became readily apparent that this congregation is blessed with many individuals who possess a wide variety of gifts, who exhibit great spiritual character and who would provide vision and inspired leadership to North Presbyterian Church. After continued

prayerful deliberation the Committee arrived at a slate of elder and deacon nominees that 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, 2008 with ordination/installation of new officers to occur later in the year.

Thank you to both the dedicated 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 Horvath (deacon representative)*

*Kerri Bigler (at-large member)*

*Carlene DeRoo (at-large member)*

*Jeff Ebsary (at-large member)*

*Heather Randall (at-large member)*



# Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women organization's **purpose** is to present an opportunity for women to organize to support the mission of the world-wide church, nurture faith through Bible Study, and work for justice and peace. In this effort the PW organization is responsible for three fund raisers:

**Birthday Offering:** held in the spring, celebrates the birthday of the national women's organization and supports various mission projects in the U.S. and overseas.

**Thank Offering:** held in November funds medical/health missions e.g.

services to the aged, children, homeless, youth, refugees and women.

**Blanket and Tool Drive:** working with Church World Service, the women raise funds to purchase blankets and tools for needy areas throughout the world.

In addition, each circle chooses local mission projects within the community and/or others proposed by Presbyterian Women, Synod of the Northeast. We have worked with Cornerstone Manor, Habitat for Humanity, Food Pantry, TRY and Jericho Road.

The women of North made 50 bed nets for Africa, hygiene kits, school kits, cleanup kits, and 112 shawls and lap robes.

At the circle meetings, money is collected for the **Least Coin Offering** which supports ecumenical projects.

We have been informed that the women of this Presbytery gave more to special offerings than any other Presbytery in this Synod.

**The Sally Munson Scholarship Fund** aids members of NPC in attending denominational meetings, conventions and workshops. A committee oversees the administration of this fund: contact, Alice Bunnell. We annually donate to Church Women United and are represented at the gatherings of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery. This year **Lifetime Membership awards** and/or Recognition Certificates will be presented in the spring.

Treasurer:  
Diane Sprague  
Three circles -  
Martha: Leader, Sylvia Bigler  
Sarah: Leader, Sue D'Angelo  
Ruth/Mary: shared leadership  
The Needler Group is led by  
Mary Louise Berg

Submitted by,  
**Mary Louise Berg**



### 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 necessary .....NONE!!!

**Olivia Ebsary, Choir Director**

# Property Committee

2007 was another busy year for the Property Committee. Projects undertaken included the refinishing of the Chancel Area, improving our phone system and tracking down water leaks of the office roofing system.

The Chancel area background and floor was refinished in place and the Communion table, Pulpit Lectern and Baptismal were taken off site and refinished. A new micro phone holder was designed by Skip Harrington and installed as part of this project.

We continue to work on the telephone system so that call answering is available without going through the Church Office.

We continue to have leaks in the roof system over the Offices. In December the

contractor came and applied some more material and plug of a ceiling vent. So far this seems to have stopped the leak. We will continue to follow this. We also were able to do temporary fix for a leak in the window system of the Dickinson Room that was allowing water to get into the Boiler Room. We have more work to do to make a permanent fix.

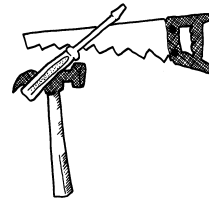
We have spent a lot time this year looking at our heating system and what we can do to reduce the cost of heating of the Church. We worked with several contractors and members of the congregation who understand the possible systems and in November we made a proposal the Session on what was needed. The Session approved a project to install a hot water heating system for the Offices and a Heat Loss Survey for the Church. We are

checking with fuel suppliers and others for credits in funding this project.

In 2007 our Committee dropped 3 of its members from full time participation, Anita Bollier, Darwin Anneler and Ron Kellner. We would like to thank them for their years of service and commitment to the committee and the Church.

## Committee

*Joe Feldman (Chair)*  
*Darwin Anneler*  
*Anita Bollier*  
*Chris D'Angelo*  
*Ed Eisenlord*  
*Bill Ervin*  
*Skip Harrington*  
*Bob Hurst*  
*Ron Kellner*  
*Byron Mohlke*  
*Roger Quimby*



# 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.

**Ben Elliott**

# 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

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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.

**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 celebrated monthly either by intinction, dipping the bread in the cup, or by elders serving the congregation in the pews. Periodically, intinction is done in clusters symbolizing the communal meal.

**Personal Listening Devices.** This summer, in cooperation with the Property Committee, the Worship Committee installed a personal amplification system in the sanctuary for congregation members with hearing impairments. The devices are placed in the narthex each Sunday and two unreserved

units are available for visitors. Memorial Fund resources were used for this acquisition which greatly improves the ability of

all of our church family to fully participate in worship

**New Pew Bibles**

To better serve our church community 50 new pew Bibles were purchased for use in the chapel.

**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**

- Olivia Ebsary (Co-chair)*
- Susan D'Angelo (Co-chair)*
- William DeRoo (Elder)*
- Rod Bradley (Liturgists, Co-Ordinators, Ushers, Greeters)*
- Marlene Harrington*
- Brenda Haughey*
- Liz Lally*
- Diane Sprague*



**Worship is participative - for and with God.** The congregation, the musicians, the artists, and the pastor join in the praise and glory of God. We have made a concerted effort to make worship a meaningful and re-energizing experience for all ages and all stages of faith. We have been able to welcome newcomers with our willingness to honor our diversity.

**Casual Worship.** This year we instituted a service of Casual Worship for those desiring an alternative to our existing style of worship. Rev Stuart Buisch celebrates a family-friendly service in a relaxed atmosphere, while still remaining true to Reformed tradition. The service includes communion and a variety of expressions of faith. While Casual Worship began on Sunday evening in Westminster Hall, it is now being observed the first Saturday of the month at 4 PM in the Keeler Chapel.

**Children and youth are 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,

## 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.

In Lent we presented a Haydn "Mass" jointly with Christ Methodist Church and a Schubert "Mass" on our own. During Holy Week the choir sang on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. The week culminated in joyous Easter worship with brass, choir and organ.

During the summer a family choir helped lead worship one Sunday and a staff choir another. Various soloists participated on other Sundays.

In October the choir presented the cantata "The Church's One Foundation" – celebrating the unity of God's church with hymns of faith.

At the 11:00 Christmas Eve service, a modified Lessons and Carols, several anthems were sung by the choir.

Again we should recognize the talents of instrumentalists who have enhanced our worship, especially violinist Janet Mazzio, trumpeter Aaron Folmsbee, bassoonist (and drummer) Kristi Rugg and pianist Kurt Ebsary.

### Handbell Choir

The handbell choir participated in worship on several occasions. With the help of memorial gifts an additional octave of bells was purchased. These bells were dedicated in May. On the same Sunday the bell choir participated in a Handbell Festival in Orchard Park. In December the ringers played for a Hospice Tree-Lighting ceremony (a chilly but moving experience). Ringers also rang for the 11:00 Christmas Eve service.

Please let us know if you are a ringer or would like to learn.

*Marlene Harrington*  
*Director of Music & Organist*

### Children's & Youth Choirs

The Children's and Youth Choirs are a combined choir of 24 voices ranging from Kindergarten – grade 8. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 and the older members have acted as "mentors" to the younger members. The choir had a very successful year singing for worship about once a month, singing with the Adult Choir twice in the choir loft, singing special music on Palm Sunday and Mother's Day, and even had time for a couple of parties! Last spring we had our annual choir awards pizza supper, talent show, and special recognition for Julia & Valentina Bibko (who moved away) and graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Elizabeth Heckman. Of course,

the highlight of our year was our Christmas pageant, "Beneath a Shining Star", which we presented in morning worship and again in the evening. This is always a very special time for us.

We also were honored to sing for the Presbytery of Western New York.

As always, we are grateful to have Mary Atwood as our accompanist and Roy Hanna as our very able assistant. We could not exist without their help!

The Children's and Youth Choir hopes that their enthusiasm will spread and encourage others to join us on Tuesday evenings!

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

### Youth Handbell Choir

This group is open to all youth - grades 5 and up. Rehearsals have been held at 7:30 PM Tuesdays following choir rehearsal. In May (after much hard work) these ringers presented in worship "Joseph and the Coat" – a musical, narrative telling of the story of Joseph. Early in the Fall a small group of new ringers played in worship for the first time. Unfortunately the group was not able to ring again before the end of the year (due to other commitments). We hope to resume rehearsals soon. Watch for announcement and plan to join in the fun.

*Marlene Harrington*  
*Director of Music & Organist*

SESSION ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

CHURCH PIN <b>05342</b>	LOCATION OF CHURCH <b>WILLIAMSVILLE, NY</b>	NAME OF CHURCH <b>NORTH PRESBYTERIAN</b>	YEAR ENDING 2007
MAILING ADDRESS OF CHURCH <b>300 NORTH FOREST ROAD, WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221</b>			
CHURCH PHONE (AREA CODE) <b>(716) 632-1330</b>	FAX NUMBER <b>(716) 632-1332</b>	WEB ADDRESS <b>WWW.NORTHCHURCHWILLIAMSVILLE.ORG</b>	E-MAIL ADDRESS <b><a href="mailto:N.CHURCH@VERIZON.NET">N.CHURCH@VERIZON.NET</a></b>
<b>A. Membership</b>		<b>651</b>	
<b>1 ACTIVE MEMBERS</b>			
<b>gains for</b>			
<b>2 PROFESSION OF FAITH, REAFFIRMATION, RESTORATION</b>		<b>11</b>	
A. 17 & UNDER			
B. 18 & OVER		<b>2</b>	
C. CERTIFICATE		<b>3</b>	
D. ALL OTHER GAINS			
E. <b>TOTAL GAINS (ADD 2A, B, C, D)</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>3 SUBTOTAL (1 + 2E)</b>		<b>667</b>	
<b>losses for</b>			
<b>4 A. CERTIFICATE</b>		<b>3</b>	
B. DEATH		<b>10</b>	
C. ALL OTHER		<b>55</b>	
D. <b>TOTAL LOSSES (ADD 4A, B, C)</b>		<b>66</b>	
<b>5 TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP (LINE 3 MINUS 4D)</b>		<b>599</b>	
<b>6 FEMALE MEMBERS</b>		<b>448</b>	
<b>7 INACTIVE MEMBERS</b>		<b>61</b>	
<b>8 BAPTIZED MEMBERS</b>		<b>102</b>	
<b>9 TOTAL ADHERENTS (ADD 5, 7&amp; 8)</b>		<b>762</b>	
<b>10 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS</b>		<b>148</b>	
25 AND UNDER			
26-35		<b>62</b>	
36-55		<b>181</b>	
56-64		<b>72</b>	
65 AND OVER		<b>136</b>	
<b>11 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>		<b>188</b>	
<b>11-A AFFILIATE MEMBERS</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>12-A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ENROLLMENT BY AGE GROUP</b>			
BIRTH-3	<b>14</b>	6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>9</b>
AGE 4	<b>8</b>	7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>12</b>
KINDERGARTEN	<b>4</b>	8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>16</b>
1 <sup>ST</sup> GRADE	<b>8</b>	9 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>14</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> GRADE	<b>8</b>	10 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>14</b>
3 <sup>RD</sup> GRADE	<b>8</b>	11 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>9</b>
4 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>11</b>	12 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>9</b>
5 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	<b>9</b>		
YOUNG ADULTS (UNDER 25)		<b>4</b>	
25 AND OLDER		<b>100</b>	
TEACHERS & CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICERS		<b>51</b>	
<b>12-B TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>		<b>311</b>	
<b>13 BAPTISMS</b>			
A. CHILDREN	<b>6</b>	B. ADULTS	
<b>14 ACTIVE OFFICERS</b>		MEN	WOMEN
ELDERS	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>
DEACONS	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>15 ARE THE TRUSTEES MEMBERS OF THE SESSION? Y X N</b>			
A HEARING IMPAIRMENT	<b>X</b>	C MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT	<b>X</b>
B SIGHT IMPAIRED	<b>X</b>	D OTHER	

17 POTENTIAL GIVING UNITS	<b>325</b>
18 TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	<b>452,500</b>
19 TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSE	<b>460,738</b>

**Finances**

**RECEIPTS**

20 CONTRIBUTIONS	<b>515,501</b>
21 CAPITAL AND BUILDING FUNDS	<b>0</b>
22 INVESTMENT AND ENDOWMENT INCOME	<b>33,652</b>
23 BEQUESTS	<b>2,026</b>
24 OTHER INCOME	<b>10,293</b>
25 SUBSIDY OR AID	<b>0</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

26 LOCAL PROGRAM	<b>342,771</b>
27 LOCAL MISSION	<b>60,530</b>
28 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	<b>7,000</b>
29 INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES	<b>0</b>
30 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT	<b>29,381</b>
31 VALIDATED MISSION	<b>44,585</b>
32 GA THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND	<b>0</b>
33 OTHER MISSION	<b>10,712</b>

**Racial Ethnic Composition of Church**

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	All Other	Total
Congregation	5	7	2		585		599
Session					17		17
Deacons					12		129

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & SOCIETY**  
**January 27, 2008, 11:45 AM**

**Opening Prayer**

The Moderator, the Reverend Carolyn Grohman

**The Call:** North Presbyterian Church & Society Annual Meeting will take place in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 27, 2008, following the 10:45 AM worship service. Child care will be provided.

**Attestation of a Quorum**

The Clerk, Mary Ann Mache

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Nominations Committee**

Duncan Hemink, Jeffrey Weaver

Nominees for Session:

Class of 2009 – 1 Year Term

Bill Ervin

Class of 2011 – 3 Year Term

Joe Alber

Erin Kahler

Deb Boos

Jim McConnell

Linda Gowans

Scott Payne

Nominees for Deacons:

Class of 2011

Brenda Haughey

Stephanie Lash

Barbara Jocoy

Brad Sparks

**Election of At-Large Members to Nominations Committee**

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

**Interim Pastor's Report**

Carolyn Grohman

**Clerk's Report**

Mary Ann Mache

Members deceased in 2007

Hildegard Boehmke

Charles Cusack

John Richardson

Katherine Tarbell

Thomas Cockburn

Glenn Gaskill

Zella Shattuck

Leah VanLear

Gertrude Cook

William Moses

Prayer

**Deacon's/Fellowship Report**

Jane Arnold

**Committee Reports**

Accessibility

Joe Alber

Administration and Personnel

Joe Alber

Kids Ministry Team

Garidith Khayat

Life-Long Learning

Anselm George

Membership

Sharon Harris-Ewing

Mission/Community

JoAnne Alderfer

Property

Bill Ervin

Stewardship

Ann Eisenlord

Worship

Susan D'Angelo

Youth Ministry Team

Stuart Buisch

**Other Reports**

Millennium Fund: Eleanor McConnell

Presbyterian Women: Mary Louise Berg

Pastor Nominating Committee: Randall Bigler or Linda Gowans

Stephen Ministry: Mary Lou George

**2008 Budget**

**Other Business**

**Closing Prayer**