

**The First Presbyterian  
Church of Yorktown**

**2008  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
***February 8, 2009***  
***12 noon***

**AGENDA of ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2009**

OPENING PRAYER Moderator Russell H. Feroe

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE CALL Clerk Gordon Braudaway

“The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: to elect one Deacon, class of 2009, one Deacon, Class of 2010, to elect four Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to receive the Annual Reports, including a Report from the 275th Anniversary Capital Campaign Committee; and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meeting.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES TO READ MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 3, 2008 Annual Meeting Mark Linehan, Ann Timmons  
 Minutes of November 23, 2008 Special Meeting Kathy Anderson, Cal Weber

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO READ MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND STATEMENT OF WHO MAY VOTE

NECROLOGY REPORT (page 2) and MEMORIAL PRAYER

ANNUAL REPORTS

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PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 BUDGET..... 29 Elder Jack Shaughnessy

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE Elder Squeegee Mills

Election of one Deacon, Class of 2009  
 Election of one Deacon, Class of 2010

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Election of four Members-at-large for 2009 Nominating Committee  
 Other

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER AND THE BENEDICTION



## REPORT OF THE PASTOR

### *Reflections from Russ - Journeys*

One of the central characteristics of the Biblical stories is that of journey, or being on a journey. Abraham was told to leave the land of his ancestors and go where God would show him. Moses journeyed with the Israelites for forty years through the wilderness. The wise men journeyed to Bethlehem following a star, returning by a different way. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had to flee Bethlehem shortly after the birth to avoid Herod's murderous rage. The disciples were invited to follow Jesus on his travels. Even the earliest gatherings of believers were known as people of the way. Although many of these eventually arrived at a destination, their significant learning and growth took place on their journeys.

In so many ways the whole Christian life is a journey, a journey into a deeper faith, greater maturity, more courageous discipleship. As a congregation we too journey out to meet new needs and respond to fresh opportunities. Part of our work this past year was to pause, take a deep breath, and look around at who we are, who are our neighbors, and what is God calling us to be and do in this particular place.

Last spring we completed several surveys and demographic studies, wrote the mission study over the summer, and received approval from the session and presbytery to elect a pastor nominating committee (PNC) this fall. This committee has begun meeting to complete the church information form (CIF – get used to the acronyms!), the document which will go online and be available to interested candidates across the nation. By the spring the committee should begin to receive and review the resumes of pastors seeking to be candidates for the position of pastor here.

Alongside all of this, the busy life of a congregation and the normal responsibilities of a pastor continue. I have performed 8 baptisms, met with and received 4 new members, celebrated 2 weddings, and led 4 funerals or memorial services. (See the complete list, with names, on the following pages.) I remain active in the presbytery by serving on the committee on ministry and leading the joint task force of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Westchester and the Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle.

Amid all the great and small headlines, the seen and unseen miracles all around us, we journey on, looking not for a destination, but only for those signs of where our God is leading us. Let me close with that benediction many of you have asked about:

May the spirit bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep in your heart.

May the spirit bless you with anger at injustice and oppression, and exploitation of people and the earth, so that you will work for justice, equity, and peace.

May the spirit bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them.

And may the spirit bless you with foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so you will do the things which others say cannot be done. Amen.

Peace,

Russell H. Feroe



# REPORT OF THE SESSION

## 2008 STATISTICS

<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Special</u>	with <u>Board of Deacons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Session	11	3	1	15
Congregation	1	2		3

**Active Members** as of December 31, 2007: **416**

### Gains

Confession of Faith  
Reaffirmation of Faith  
Letter of Transfer  
Other

### Losses

11 Deaths  
4 Placed on Inactive Roll  
0 Letter of Transfer  
1 Other  
16

3  
31  
2  
1  
37

**Active Members** as of December 31, 2008: **395**

**Baptisms:** Infant: 14  
Adult: 0

**Gordon Braudaway,** Clerk of Session

(Editor's note: the detailed list of names has been deleted from this web version of the annual report.)

## MISSION COMMISSION

### ***Mission Commission Members***

Bud Coccodrilli	Kathy Blaney	Stephanie Hare	Heidi K. Haring
Squeegee Mills	David Monk	Carol Myers	Michael Stewart
Angela Skinner, pastor	Lynda Spring	Jean Post Winget, chair	

### ***Our Dreams***

During this past year, the commission dreamed that our congregation might begin to study the Biblical traditions that inform our imperative to care for our world and its inhabitants and to look more deeply at the issues that surround environmental justice and stewardship of our earth. Cooperating with the Worship, Education and the Congregational Life commissions, we planned and offered a special environmental worship service and then challenged the congregation to pledge to make some changes in daily practices. We learned that many of us in this congregation were already practicing many of these environmentally pro active things. The Session passed a motion challenging all commissions to consider the environmental impact in their decisions and to begin to take actions that will move our church to become more of a “green” church.

The Mission Commission discussed the growing issue of hunger in our world and in our local community. We decided to hold up to the congregation as the focus of our Peace and Justice service, some of the ongoing and long standing programs and projects that members of our church are involved with, that work to address hunger in our region. Each of the programs is also supported by our dollars. These include our Food Pantry, the Noontime Meal Program, the Jan Peek House and CHOP, Food Bank and the Midnight Run. Squeegee Mills coordinated together with the Education, Worship and Congregational Life Commissions, a wonderful worship service featuring farmer/pastor, David Frost, followed by a meal prepared using the recipe and ingredients of the meal served each month to the clients of the Noontime Meal at the Salvation Army in Peekskill. For several weeks, issues of food, agriculture, CSA (community supported agriculture) and hunger were the focus of our adult education hour.

This year, our international mission focus was brought to us in a presentation to the commission by Andrew Winget who had become aware of an organization, Student Movement for Real Change and one of their work projects, The Kenya Water Project. The purpose of this project is to bring clean drinking water via a pipeline and cistern system into a remote area of Kenya. That project is well underway and benefiting from contributions that came through a portion of our Easter Offering. Although Andrew’s ambitious goal to complete a hike of the Appalachian Trail was ended abruptly due to an injury, the funds generated through interest in this effort have gone directly to the work on that water pipeline.

### **OUR WORK**

Thanks and acknowledgement to all the willing workers who make so many ministries happen.

### ***Noontime Meal Volunteers***

Ruth Deemer	Betty & Bob Grebe	Jan Gunther	Dick Hunter	Ed Krumeich
Cheryl Lodewick	Priscilla Lucas	Squeegee Mills (Mission Liaison)		Florence Ross
Fran Schiel	Ken Sherman	Dot Slechta		

### ***Knit Togethers***

Verna Baumgartner	Louise Fang	Kay Lieberman	Fran Schiel
Pauline Bernauer	Terri Froelich	Lois Ostling, co-chair	Maxine Travis
Sue Enright	Cara Kamrowski	Norean Radke, co-chair	

This year the group knit over 270 items for Beaver Farm Foundation, Field Home, Hudson Valley Hospital, Jan Peek House, Midnight Run, Project Linus and Yorktown Head Start.

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

Marianna Sherman, chair; Cheryl Bauer, Terri Froehlich, Aloha Hicks, Erma Reitter, Gail Roell, Fran Schiel, Maxine Travis.

Mission Commission (continued)

## God Uses Your Gifts

It has often been suggested that the conscience and focus of a congregation can be best understood by examining the mission budget. This congregation has been clear about the importance of mission and outreach to the life and heart of this church. Despite some very hard times and very difficult decisions, we have continued to uphold that value and that focus, but with some difficult budgetary changes.

Our Commission has continued to deliberate mindfully and prayerfully about how we can do mission in our community and the world. Sadly, during this past year we were faced with a very difficult decision about how to balance the budget without losing our way as a mission focused church. Our decisions about giving had to reflect the financial realities and changes within our congregation. After much prayer and long discussion, it became necessary for this commission to recommend that a reduction be made in our total contribution to the larger church. After a significant reduction of \$12,000, our congregation budgeted \$33,160 to the General Mission of the Presbyterian Church USA, the Synod of the Northeast and the Presbytery of the Hudson River, sent monthly for the programs the larger church supports. (www.pcusa.org) In addition, we dispersed over \$46,009 to organizations and programs we support.

We also open our doors to organizations that provide helpful and healing ministries to members of our community. More than 3,000 people walk through our doors each week.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**Al-Anon**  
**Families Anonymous**  
**Nar-Anon**  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
**Noon Unity**  
**Spirit of Sobriety**

**Boy Scouts**  
**Cub Scouts**  
**Daisy Scouts**  
**Girl Scouts**

**Recovery Inc**  
**SPARC**

**The Caring Circle of Hospice**  
**The Children's School**  
**Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool**  
  
**Presbytery of Hudson River**  
**Yorktown Clergy Group**

Our building allows many miracles to happen in people's lives.

### *Westchester:*

### *New York:*

Bridge Fund C.H.O.P., Inc. Children's Center at Bedford Prison Chaplaincy at NWHC, Food Bank	Hospice of Northern Westchester Jan Peek Dinners , "My Second Home" Adult Day Program Noontime Meal-Peekskill Northeast Counseling Center N. Westch. Ctr for Domestic Violence Women's Resource Center	Midnight Run Rural Migrant Ministry Presbyterian Conference Center at Holmes
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**National:** More Light Presbyterians & PC USA programs

**International:** Bridges to Community, Amnesty International, Kenya Water Project

A summary of our total benevolence giving, including special offerings, appears in the Report of Benevolences on pages 8 and 9.

## Special Mention

### Alternative Giving Market for Heifer International

In November, our church school held our third Annual Alternative Giving Market for Heifer International. The purpose was to raise money by selling shares of Heifer Animals and to support

#### Mission Commission (continued)

foreign communities by selling fair trade products such as coffees and teas and crafts from Africa and South America, and items handmade by our children. We netted \$650 for Heifer International. In addition

to raising money, we tried to raise awareness of Christmas materialism—an alternative way to shop and help others.

### **Amnesty International.**

Thanks to the continuing leadership of Carol Myers we have an active participation and commitment to the social witness of Amnesty International. Through financial support and monthly letter writing initiatives, we lend our voices in support of victims of conscience and victims of human rights abuse who are brought to our attention by A.I. as “urgent action” cases in need of immediate vocal support.

### **Children’s Center at Bedford Prison**

Heidi Haring continues as our liaison to this program. Toys were purchased and donated by Church School children so that incarcerated mothers could give them as Christmas gifts to their children.

### **C.H.O.P., Inc.**

This is an umbrella organization that oversees the Jan Peek Shelter in Peekskill and a breakfast program, The Sunny Donut, also in Peekskill. In addition to financial support members of our congregation prepare a dinner on the 4th Saturday of each month. Residents and staff are touched by the generosity of food and friendship extended to them. The shelter houses 19 single adult men and women. The shelter has also recently reinstated a food pantry in order to help to address the incredible increase in hunger in the Peekskill area. The Sunny Donut serves breakfast Monday-Friday to people of all ages at the Salvation Army site. Michael Deemer, John Chessa and Lynda Spring serve on the Board of directors and Michael is treasurer.

### **Midnight Run**

This program takes food, clothing, and blankets to and human interaction with the homeless folk of New York City. Youth runs and an adult run were generously supported by this congregation. A Midnight Run happens because of a community of efforts and contributions of time, energy and things. Thanks to the clothing contributors and sorters; kitchen coordinators, toiletry item contributors and toiletry bag assemblers, lunch preparers, soup makers, van drivers and Run participants. This year we again offered for sale to the benefit of the Midnight Run, alternative giving Christmas Gift cards.

### **More Light Presbyterians**

We have continued our financial support of the More Light Presbyterians and have worked this year to make our More Light position more visible in our community. That is, making it very apparent that we strive to be an openly welcoming and loving congregation. MLP works through education and out reach, to reduce prejudice and support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality within the Presbyterian Church USA. [www.MLP.org](http://www.MLP.org)

### **My Second Home**

The commission has identified the area of support for the caregiver as a great area of need within our community and congregation. More and more people find themselves struggling to find ways and means to care for aging and infirm parents and other relatives while also caring for a job and children. My Second Home is a social model adult day program located on Radio Circle in Mt. Kisco and run by Family Services of Westchester. It provides a compassionate, cost efficient, community based and intergenerational alternative to assisted living or nursing home care to seniors in need of individual attention during the work day. Our support goes to a scholarship fund to make the program even more affordable.

Mission Commission (continued)



### **Noontime Meal Program-Peekskill.**

The Peekskill Area's Pastor Association (PAPA) sponsors a noontime meal program at the Salvation Army in Peekskill. Volunteers from our church purchase, prepare and serve a lunch every month for nearly 20 years.

### **Rural and Migrant Ministry**

This organization advocates for farm workers and rural poor families through education and Youth Empowerment Programs. For more information, check the RMM website [www.ruralmigrantministry.org](http://www.ruralmigrantministry.org) and [hope@ruralmigrantministry.org](mailto:hope@ruralmigrantministry.org).

### **White Gift Sunday**

For the 48th year we shared Christmas gifts with the 2000 clients of the Taconic Developmental Center. Our donations make it possible for the residents to each receive gifts during the holidays. This worship service in December always moves me with the generosity and thoughtful giving of our congregation.

### **Fair Trade Coffee**

This continues to be served from our kitchen. This program through the Presbyterian Coffee Project pays farmers a fair price so they can support their families and obtain affordable credit. Donna Gresh has made this possible.

### **Northern Westchester Chaplaincy Fund**

"This pastoral care program is available to patients and family members struggling with emotions of grief and fear, with issues of spirituality and with ethical issues. Having the availability of onsite dedicated chaplaincy services has provided the possibility not just for the patient but for many others to renew themselves in their faith, to reinforce their faith and even sometimes discover faith they didn't know they had." From a letter by Joel Seligman, President, Northern Westchester Hospital

On behalf of the Mission Commission thank you for your involvement and generosity. YOU do the mission of this church every day in countless ways.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Post-Winget, Chairperson

### **2008 Stewardship Annual Report**

The theme of the 2008 Stewardship campaign was gratitude—In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ. "Gratitude stories" were presented in worship by several congregational members during "stewardship minutes" and in bulletin inserts. All of these expressions of gratitude highlighted the deep appreciation of the blessings of this Church. We celebrated Consecration Sunday on October 26, when we presented our pledge commitments during worship and shared the gifts of food and fellowship following the worship services.

It is important to note that during this transition period in our church, our congregation continues to face various challenges. The number of giving units has decreased, some because of deaths and people moving out of the area. Also, in 2008, we have trended down from 185 giving units to 165.

During its retreat, Session determined the budget to be presented at the Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

The Stewardship Task Force thanks all who shared their personal stories of gratefulness during our Stewardship campaign. We remain grateful for this Church and its caring and committed congregation.

*Judy Chessa and Connie Knapp, Chairpersons, Stewardship Task Force*

## REPORT ON BENEVOLENCES

Alternative Fair	1,737
Amnesty International	377
Bridge Fund	1,100
Bridges to Community	500
Children's Center of Bedford Hill Prison	200
CHOP, Inc.	2,159
Deacons' Ministry	1,059
Deacons' Food Pantry	9,619
Family Assistance	500
Food Pantry	250
Heifer International	650
Hospice of Northern Westchester	1,000
Jan Peek House	152
Kenya Water Project	1,132
Midnight Run, Inc.	675
Mission Trip Seed Money	150
More Light Church Network	300
My Second Home	1,097
Networkers	490
Noontime Meal (Peekskill)	1,961
Northeast Counseling Center	1,000
Northern Westch. Ctr. for Victims of Domestic Violence	600
Northern Westchester Hospital Chaplaincy Program	1,000
Presbyterian Christmas Benevolence Offering	1,915
Presbyterian Conference Center	500
Presbyterian One Great Hour of Sharing	1,002
Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering	648
Presbyterian Pentecost Offering	628
Rural & Migrant Ministry	500
Serrv International	96
United General Mission	33,160
Assembly (30%)   \$9,948	
Synod (2%)   \$663	
Presbytery (68%) \$22,549	
Vacation Church School	200
Women's Resource Center	600
To Savings for Later Disbursal	12,210
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 2008</b>	<b>\$79,167</b>

Benevolences decreased to 15.6% of our expenses compared to last year.

Report on Benevolences (continued)

**Special Offerings:** Above and beyond our committed giving for 2008, our members freely gave the following generous sums for projects and celebrations that have always been dear to our hearts:

* Alternative Fair Heifer Intn'l	650.00
* Christmas Offering	1,915.00
* Deacons' Fund	1,058.58
* Deacons' Food Pantry	11,943.00
* Easter Offering	2,159.00
* One Great Hour of Sharing	1,002.40
* Other Benevolences	3,068.81
* Peacemaking	2,091.00
* Pentecost Offering	1,047.00
* Thanksgiving Offering	<u>267.00</u>
	\$25,201.79

***2008 Actual Expenditures as Percentages***

Mission Outreach expenditures were 15.6% of all expenditures.

Mission Outreach      15.6%

# EDUCATION COMMISSION

## 1 Overview

The Education Commission is responsible for developing, implementing, and administering the educational programs of the church as well as overseeing certain nurturing programs. During the past year, the Commission members have included:

<b>Kathy Blaney</b>	<b>Beth Gruber</b>	<b>Barbara Humphrey</b>	<b>Nicole Mulcahy</b>
<b>Robin Corpolongo</b>	<b>Heidi Haring</b>	<b>Carol Jensen</b>	<b>Ryan Mulcahy</b>
<b>Shawn Cribari, co-chair</b>	<b>Aloha Hicks, co-chair</b>	<b>Anne Matthews</b>	<b>Suzy Rishel</b>
<b>Pam Darreff</b>	<b>Kathy Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Emily Monk</b>	<b>Ken Shulman</b>

## 2 Infant Nurture

When one of our church families has a new infant, a silk rose is placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday to celebrate that new life. The rose is given to the new parents after worship. Infant nurture material is sent to the family for a period of three years. **Ruth Deemer** organizes and runs this ministry.

## 3 Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool

The Preschool has become a well-established and well-regarded service to families in the Yorktown community. It is staffed by **Connie Stringer** (Director/Teacher), **Susan Davies** (Teacher), and **Lisa Eliasson** (Teacher). It runs consistently full morning and afternoon classes for three and four year olds. The school is open to the community, and because of high demand, a point system gives preference to church members and siblings of alumni to ensure fairness in registration. The Preschool operates as a cooperative with active involvement of all parents in classroom and support activities.

In addition, the Preschool offers a “Mommy and Me” program two mornings a week. This is a program of socialization for two-year old children with special needs and typically developing two-year old children. “Mommy and Me” is run in collaboration with the Westchester County Early Intervention Program.

Oversight of the Preschool is provided by a board of parents and church appointed members. The 2008-2009 church appointed members are **Jane Amato (chair)**, **Don Blaney**, **Ed de Jong**, **Kathy Hodgkinson** and **Melissa Shaughnessy**.

## 4 Crib Room

For families with pre-school children consistent high quality childcare during Sunday services is an important consideration. Our Crib Room Caregiver is **Colleen Correa**. The Crib room is now operating as a parent-cooperative with additional volunteers from among our youth group.

## 5 Church School

The Church School program continues to be a signature ministry of our Church. CS offers education to children ages pre-school through middle school every Sunday during the academic year, excepting Christmas week and Easter Sunday. CS Superintendents **Suzy Rishel** and **Beth Gruber** are responsible for the smooth administration of the Sunday School. Our thanks to **Emily Monk** who completed her commitment in 2008 and enriched our lives with her enthusiasm and love.

The Church School Committee shares responsibility for recruitment of teachers, curriculum selection and provides leadership and guidance in policy decisions. The Church School Committee members for 2008 included Kathy Anderson, Kathy Blaney, Robin Corpolongo, Beth Gruber, Aloha Hicks (chair),

Heidi Haring, Anne Matthews, Emily Monk, Suzy Rishel, Ken Shulman, Lynn Shulman and Angela Skinner, Associate Pastor.

This year's curriculum was entitled, "The Messiah." The lessons included: David; 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm; Isaiah; Fulfillment of Prophecy; Handel's Messiah; Prince of Peace; Jesus' Baptism; Jesus washes Feet of Disciples; Images of Jesus in the Arts; and Appearances of the Holy Spirit.

The Church School Staff for the 2008-2009 program year are:

**Church School Superintendents:** Suzy Rishel and Beth Gruber

**Pre-K Teachers:** Jill Pagliettini and Amy Coccodrilli Teens: Julia Kelly and Erin Cruikshank

**Shepherds:**

**Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade:** Sue Lasseter and Joanne Leftwich  
Teens: Kristen Hodgkinson, Carolyn Blaney

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Debbie Bernardini and Susan Omboni

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Jane MacDonald and Sue Nelson

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Danette Desiderio and Stephanie Buckhout

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Joanne Marsh and Emily Monk

**Center Leaders:**

**Art:** Rita Child and Noelle Legros Teen: Rita Bernardini

**Moved By the Spirit:** Heidi Haring, Kathy Blaney, Sue Palicz

**Cooking:** Andy Lasseter and Peter Marsh Teen: Jackie Rainieri

**Faith Today:** Robin Corpolongo and Debra Bahr

**Media:** Dave Monk and Ken Shulman  
Teens: Brian Froehlich and Brian Monk

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers:** Nancy Caswell and Donna Gresh

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers:** Kathy Anderson and Darren McAuliffe

**Gathering Time:** Katharine Frase

**Music (Sanctuary Time):** John Winget and Mark Bernardini

**Storytellers:** Bill Herman and Ben Herman

**Snack Coordinators:** Melissa Shaughnessy and Christina Gardineer

**Substitutes:** Lisa Graham, Terri Froehlich, Eileen Olivier, Denise Andersen,  
Jack Shaughnessy, Kathy Rainieri, Debbie Amorese, Lynn Shulman, Debbie Hagar

An eight week Bible Study Skills course is also given to third graders. During the Children's Sunday service in June, these students were presented with a copy of The Children's Illustrated Bible or a traditional Children's Bible, as desired.

Our kindergarten children created "worship bags" during the first weeks of Church School. They are encouraged to take their bags to worship as they begin to celebrate God's love in the church community. Many thanks to **Barbara Humphrey** for her continued loving service in this ministry.

We also thank **Craig Hibben** for guiding our Church School children in the planting of bulbs and cleaning the flower beds on our church grounds this past fall. We are looking forward to beautiful spring blooms!

**Alternative Giving Fair:** Thank you to **Heidi Haring** for coordinating the Alternative Giving Fair. Special thanks to **Kathy Blaney** and her family, **Emily Monk**, **Nicole Mulcahy**, **Bob Rishel**, **Aloha Hicks**, **Chris and Martin Haring** and others who chipped in with clean up and packing. Thank you, also to Jean Post-Winget and the Mission Commission for all their support and to the Sunday School children for their enthusiasm and hard work on the lovely pot holders and the posters they made for the Fair. We raised over \$650 for Heifer International and we sold \$1832 worth of Fair Trade merchandise

## **6 Vacation Bible School 2008**

Every July we join with the United Methodist and Saint Andrew's Lutheran Churches of Yorktown for Vacation Bible School.

In 2008 the Lutheran Church hosted VBS. Our thanks to **Barbara Santagata** and **Liz Gilbert** for being our coordinators. **Debbie Amorese, Heidi Haring, Nicole Mulcahy** and many of our youth were instrumental in making this year's VBS a tremendous success. VBS could not exist without the significant contribution of parents and older siblings who serve as its teachers and assistants. We especially thank **Rebecca Amorese and Karla and Ben Santagata** who gave up two weeks of summer vacation to make VBS a joy filled Christian adventure for the younger children. In July 2009, VBS will be at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown.

## **7 Confirmation Class**

Confirmation is a young person's initiation into the adult life of the Church. Sixteen youth finished a year of study of the Bible, reformed theology and Presbyterian governance with Associate Pastor Angela Skinner and were welcomed into church membership on June 1, 2008. For the 2008-2009 school year, to date there are eight participants. Under the leadership of Pastor Russ Feroe, we are experimenting this year with a new confirmation curriculum entitled Making Disciples. This new curriculum focuses on nurturing the beginning of life-long adult faith habits and fostering relationships between youth and adult role models (mentors) who are engaged in the life and work of our faith community. This is a shift in emphasis from our former curriculum, which was a more academic approach.

## **8 Youth Groups**

Under the leadership of Associate Pastor Angela Skinner, junior and senior high youth met January – June 2008 once a week for socialization, recreation and service projects. The Church's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was run by our youth. Three of our senior youth participated in a week-long retreat in June at Silver Bay, Lake George, New York, and Pastor Skinner served as chaplain.

With Pastor Skinner's call in fall 2008 to the Palisades Presbyterian Church, a strong team of volunteers from the congregation has come forward to conduct and support our youth ministry. With **Heidi Haring** serving in the newly created position of youth program coordinator, **Ryan and Nicole Mulcahy** have emerged as the linchpins of the volunteer leadership team. Activities for the 2008-2009 program year were launched with the help of Ryan and Nicole as well as Nancy Caswell, Katharine Frase, Charlotte Savino, and Squeegee Mills.

We have had meetings twice a month on Sundays after church with an average attendance of 6 to 8. There was a scary movie meeting for Halloween, a baking meeting for the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving with dodge ball on the parking lot with Ryan. For the food packing night before the Thanksgiving Food Pantry and for the actual distribution on Saturday we had many of our youth and youth from the community, scouts groups, etc. For December we made lunch and then went Christmas caroling along with 8 adult church members at Holy Comforter, Seabury Home and the Country House.

Other activities were the Great Jack-o-Lantern Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor, the Crop Walk with the Methodist Church, the Midnight Run and a trip to NYC in December. The Midnight Run was a great success despite the low youth turn out, thanks to adult support. A big THANK YOU to our wonderful Midnight Run helpers: **Bud and Gloria Cocodrilli, Jack Shaughnessy, Don Blaney, Ken Shulman, Nicole, Amy Wilson and friend Liz**. We request all the prayer help we can get.

## **9 Adult Education**

Our Adult Education program offers a variety of seminars, discussions, films, and workshops, both during the Sunday morning Church School hour and at other times. Topics range from Bible study to current popular spiritual writings, to issues of peace, social justice, and care of the earth. While our emphasis is on the Bible and other Christian writings, we also explore the wisdom of other faith traditions. We aim to support the individual's faith journey by providing a safe place to bring our doubts. We also challenge one another to grow. Although we may disagree with one another, we support one another in our search. We find affirmation in our search for the truth as we strive to live the questions.

### **Adult Ed Committee 2008: Shawn Cribari (chair), Debbie Amorese, Connie Knapp**

Adult Education programs in 2008 included the following:

January Book study: **Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting**, by Holly W. Whitcomb. Sunday morning study led by Rev. Angela Skinner; Wednesday evening study led by Rev. Russ Feroe

February, March, April Book Study: **The Heart of Christianity**, By Marcus J. Borg. Sunday Morning study led by Rev. Angela Skinner; Wednesday evening study led by Rev. Russ Feroe

May Sunday morning study: **Finding God in the "Book" of Nature—an Introduction to Creation Spirituality**, led by Sister Nancy Erts from Mariandale Center. **Introduction to Composting and other Earth Friendly practices**, led by Connie Knapp.

October-November Wednesday evening study: **Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles**, Bible Study led by Rev. Russ Feroe

October Sunday morning study: **Claiming our Belovedness: Biblical Texts of Love**, Bible Study led by Rev. Angela Skinner

November Sunday morning study: **Bread for the World: Hunger and Food Justice**, An exploration of the Biblical concept of food justice vs. agricultural and economic policies, and positive action Christians can take to alleviate food injustice.

December Sunday morning Advent study: **Eat, Pray, Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert, book study led by Squeegie and Dick Mills.

We are grateful to our interim pastor, Rev. Russ Feroe, for bringing a challenging new perspective to our Adult Ed program, and for his commitment to leading our Wednesday evening studies. And a special thank you to Rev. Angela Skinner, our former associate pastor, for her spiritual, creative and scholarly contributions to our Adult Ed program for the nine years of her service to our church.

## **10 Library**

The library offers educational opportunities beyond the other structured programs. **Carol Jensen** continues to serve as Church Librarian. Reviews of new titles are published in The Disciple, and suggestions for new materials are always welcome.

We thank all who have given of their time and talents to make these programs successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Cribari and Aloha Hicks, Co-Chairs

# Worship Commission

## **Members**

<b>Gordon Braudaway,</b>	<b>David Cruikshank,</b>	<b>Michael Deemer,</b>	<b>Lisa Eliasson,</b>
<b>Louise Fang,</b>	<b>Russ Feroe,</b>	<b>Katharine Frase,</b>	<b>Christie Herman, Chair,</b>
<b>Jeff Kephart,</b>	<b>Ken Shulman,</b>	<b>Angela Skinner,</b>	<b>Ann Timmons,</b>
<b>Barbara Wilkens</b>			

## **Responsibility**

This Commission oversees the needs of our faith community as it gathers for worship. This includes reviewing the content and order of worship, planning and implementing special services, scheduling ushers, greeters, and lay leaders, making arrangements for the serving of the Lord's Supper, and planning for appropriate decoration of the Sanctuary (such as banners, candles, flowers, and greens). Additionally, the Worship Commission oversees the musical life of our congregation, including service music, the Adult Choir, the Bell Choirs, and the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series.

In 2008, the Worship Commission set for itself the goals of using more of the creative arts in worship (decoration, worship design teams, music, sound and lighting), developing and refreshing special/creative worship services, and employing music as a community ambassador through the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series. We hoped to develop a means of recording and distributing CD/DVD recordings of worship services to the homebound, and invited a bid for the construction of a more attractive media cabinet at the rear of the sanctuary. In conjunction with the Personnel Commission, the Worship Commission arranged for occasional Pulpit Supply, and was involved in the selection of Chris Shelton as our designated pastor supply following Angela's departure.

## **Special Services**

In addition to the regularly scheduled Sunday Worships and monthly Healing Services, the following special services/events were made available this past year:

- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday
- Easter Sunrise Service (at Wilkens' Farm)
- Environmental Justice (with Education and Mission)
- Parish Day Picnic (with Congregational Life Commission)
- Children's Sunday (with Education Commission)
- Peace and Justice (with Mission Commission)
- Christmas Eve Services (4pm Children's Service and two Candlelight Services)
- Epiphany

## **Highlights of the Year**

The church's **Music Program** was an extraordinary part of the year. This year's **Concert Series** task force included **Kathy Anderson, Gordon Braudaway, Ted Crockett, Rob Dreher, Louise Fang, Katharine Frase, Simona Frenkel, Christie Herman, Christine Lazarus, Mark Linehan, Julie Moulic, and Ann Timmons.** The committee produced four concerts in 2008:

April 27, 2008	<b>Schubert's Mass in C and Musical Schubertiana directed by Simona Frenkel</b>
November, 16, 2008	<b>The Cary Brown Trio</b>
December 7, 2008	<b>Messiah (Parts I and II) directed by Simona Frenkel</b>
December 28, 2008	<b>David Baranowski and Friends Candlelight Chamber Music Concert</b>

*Worship Commission continued*



The concerts were appreciated and well attended by the church members and larger Yorktown community. Receptions after each concert were designed and arranged by **Louise Fang, Julie Moulic, Christine Lazarus, and Kathy Anderson**. Thanks to all others who helped to set up, and especially clean up! Thanks to the dedication and good humor of all who helped usher for the concerts, -- especially those who donned costumes for the Candlelight Concert. The Concert Series task force with the special expertise of **Katharine Frase, and Rob Dreher** also developed Artists Performance Agreements for use with outside professional performers.

**Simona Frenkel** continues to share her exceptional musical gifts with our youth, and this year we celebrated the fifth year of our Youth Bell Choir. Many thanks to **Erik and Carol Jensen** who provide the labor intensive job of setting out the bells for every rehearsal and performance, and assist in rehearsing the Youth and Adult choirs.

This year brought a special opportunity for spiritual renewal with a candlelit Labyrinth Walk on Palm Sunday afternoon. Special thanks to **Julie Moulic** for inviting Labyrinth Facilitator **Lynn Brown**, whose 24' Chartres design labyrinth filled our Fellowship Hall. The Worship Design teams of **Lisa Eliasson, Angelyn Forbes-Freeze, Christie Herman, Christine Lazarus, and Julie Moulic** provided creative design themes for special worship services.

### ***Additional Words of Thanks...***

In addition to these highlighted activities, the work of the Commission includes keeping things running smoothly throughout the year. Thanks to shutter-bug **Rob Dreher** who has provided us all with photographs of our church events, family, and worship. Thanks to **Pat Prauda, Deanna Collins** and **Marianna Sherman** for continuing to coordinate the ushers for both Sunday worships and Lay Leaders for Sunday mornings. . Thanks to **Gordon Braudaway, Ruth Hickey, Louise Fang, and Gloria Coccodrilli** for providing the Communion elements and setting up the communion and the healing services. Thanks to **Barbara Wilkens** and family for arranging the Easter and Christmas flowers and taking care of the banners. We would also like to thank the **Wilkens, Pratt and Dineen** families for their generous donations of all our beautiful Christmas greens including the trees, wreaths and all the roping. Many thanks to **Mike Deemer** and **Fran Proceller** and the "green team" for the efficient greening of the sanctuary for Advent, and for developing written procedures for ensuring a safe worship experience for the candle-lit worships. Our Christmas Eve Children's worship enjoyed the participation of 29 children under the leadership of **Lisa Eliasson, Katharine Frase, Rita Child, Emily Monk, and Kathy Anderson**. We would like to add a special thanks to **Barbara Darragh** who helped us in countless ways. We very much appreciate the gifts and dedication of those involved in creating moving and meaningful worship. Thank you all.

Respectfully,  
Christie Herman, Chair

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

### Members

Marianna Sherman, Chair

Rita Child

Ann Everingham

Barbara Humphrey

Melissa Shaughnessy

Debbie Bernardini

Ruth Deemer

Louise Fang

Sue Mintzer

Patti Talbot

Angela Skinner (pastor)

Nancy Caswell

Lisa Eliasson

Lisa Graham

Pat Prauda

Barbara Wilkens

### Purpose

This commission is responsible for the care and nurturing of our church's members and visitors. We plan and organize events and activities that will give our church family opportunities to socialize, meet new people and unite our two services. We want to use all of our times together to practice hospitality

### 2008 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

#### New Member Classes

Our faith community welcomed 4 new members, including 11 from the Confirmation Class. The Session met and received the new members on a Sunday morning. Each new member received a name tag.

#### Membership Roll

We have defined the active member of our Church as one who has attended worship at least once a year and one who has financially supported the Church as least once each year. Our membership rolls were gleaned this past year.

#### Nametags

When we wear nametags it makes greeting each other easy and strangers quickly become friends. To place an order contact, the office. Nametags are \$5.

#### Seniors Lunch Bunch

This is an active group that meets monthly. They enjoy gathering for lunch and planning other activities and trips. Fran Proceller and Florence Malcomson help to make this happen.

#### Morning Women's Circle

This group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30AM for Bible Study and discussion. New members are always welcome. Kathy Anderson is the facilitator.

## Congregational Life (continued)

### **Coffee Hour**

After each worship service our church members can gather for coffee and refreshments. You help make this happen by signing up for set up, hosting, baking and cleanup. Thank you to all who volunteered in 2008. There is always a need for more volunteers to set up the coffee hour. This is really a mission of hospitality.

In conjunction with Mission, we now serve Equal Exchange Coffee. Our purchase helps small farmers earn a fair price for their products thus helping communities invest in education, health care and agricultural improvements.

### **Visit the Visitor**

This program continues to reach out to visitors with many positive results. Many people comment that these visits have been instrumental in their returning to our church. This program has been in operation for over ten years. Marianna and Ken Sherman are the facilitators.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Five women from the church (Teri Froelich, Aloha Hicks, Fran Schiel, and Gail Roell and Marianna Sherman) meet to knit shawls which are given on an as needed basis. We come together the first and third Wednesday of the month. Also, crib blankets are knitted and given to our babies who are baptized as a welcome to our church family. Anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Marianna Sherman. This is a special opportunity to give to others.

### **Easter Sunrise Breakfast**

You missed a gorgeous sunrise at the Wilkens Farm this year. It was spectacular. Following the service, Mike and Ruth Deemer, Marianna and Ken Sherman prepared breakfast for all to enjoy in the barn. Thank you to the Wilkens for the use of their facilities.

### **Children's Sunday Breakfast – June 8**

Between the two worship services, a buffet breakfast was provided for the youth of our church and their families. Thanks to Ann Everingham and Patti Talbot for this annual event.

### **Progressive Dinner – June 14**

The annual progressive dinner was a wonderful time for fellowship with about fifty people in attendance. After meeting for drinks and appetizers at the Church (because of thunder storms), everyone progressed to a host home for the main course and then reassembled for dessert by candlelight at the Church. Thanks to all who hosted and special thanks to Barbara Humphrey, Louise Fang and Lisa Graham for their help in organizing this event.

## Congregational Life (continued)

### **Clearwater Sail – June 28**

Mark Linehan facilitated this first time event and fifty people went on the sail. While it was stormy in the Hudson Valley that day it didn't rain where the Clearwater sailed. Divine Providence. Thank you Mark.

### **Pool Party - July 30**

Thanks to Todd, Rita, Ben, and Allison Child for the use of their pool. About thirty people, adults and children came with good side dishes to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers were provided and it was a fun time.

### **Parish Picnic – September 8**

The annual Parish Picnic at Downing Park was again a special service. The weather was perfect along with the choir, bells and Angela's sermon. It was the debut of the Underground Quartet which was a big success. Many thanks to all those who helped and especially to Ann Everingham for her direction.

### **Church Cookbook**

Many thanks again to Barbara Humphrey who continues to use every opportunity to sell our church cookbook. They are wonderful gifts and we appreciate Barbara's diligence to this project.

If anyone has any ideas about an activity they might want the congregation to take part in, please feel free to talk to someone on this committee and we will all work together to make it happen.

**A big thank you to all of you who have made these programs happen and be successful. I appreciate your time and effort. A special thank you to the members of this committee who have come to my aid so many times. This is a wonderful place to worship and work out our faith with fellowship.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianna Sherman

## OPERATIONS COMMISSION

### *Members*

Deanna Collins	Russ Feroe, Pastoral Support	Dick Seymour	Bill Talbot
Barbara Darragh	Mark Linehan	Jack Shaughnessy, Co-Chair	Jim Terhune
Ed de Jong	Walter Oudheusden	Ian Spence, Co-Chair	Tom Travis
	Fran Proceller		Cal Weber

### *Overview*

The Operations Commission, in its capacity as the financial stewards and caretaker of the Sanctuary, adjacent buildings and grounds, was faced with and tackled the task of upgrading facilities to cope both with some deterioration as well as the higher cost of utilities and maintenance. Some of these tasks involved unanticipated costs (covered) and some are ongoing as will be detailed.

The successful achievement of this Commission's works is dependent upon the efforts, financial support of the congregation and dedication of many volunteers, both within the Church family and the community groups using our facilities. Particular thanks go to Dick Seymour who continually identified problems within the infra-structure and led many remedial projects and to the many members of the Commission who gave of their time, particularly on Saturday mornings to facilitate and speed up the process.

### *Major Projects, Improvements and Changes*

The year just ended was again an active one for the Operations Committee with a major concern continuing to be a plan to stabilize the Steeple.

#### **SANCTUARY**

**Steeple:** A structural problem related to weight and load distribution has led to tilting of the Steeple. This problem was identified early in the year by Tom Clemmens, while he was undertaking the Steeple restoration exercise funded by the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign, and prompted the Commission to engage the services of Bill Stivale, a New York City Based Conservator of historic buildings. In turn, we engaged the services of Mary Ennis, a licensed engineer who has assessed the problem. To date, and at an initial cost of \$6,000, they have come up with a plan along with a plan suggested by Dick Seymour and Tom Clemmens. We are almost in the bidding process but await further details before proceeding. This will be an extended project but one necessary for the preservation of the structure as we and the greater Yorktown Community have come to recognize it.

**General Rodent Infestation:** During installation of the air conditioning system, severe infestation was noted along with associated debris. As noted previously, the problem was addressed in a humane manner and subsequent inspections suggest that the problem has been eliminated.

**Basement Flooding:** Many steps were undertaken throughout the year to identify and remedy flooding issues that have plagued the Sanctuary and CE Building basements and results have been successful thus far.

Operations Commission (continued)

**SAFETY and SECURITY**

Alarm systems are performing as hoped and there has been no general breach of the system as well as no false alarms. There has been no reported breach of security nor has there been any reported theft.

Additional fire extinguishers were added around the Sanctuary to ensure the safety of building users.

**ADJACENT STRUCTURES:** As the energy crisis worsened, we were prompted to explore ways to make the structures more energy efficient. Examination of the attic spaces in the CE building showed that they were under insulated and housed many potentially flammable materials. To that end, work parties were organized to rid attics and crawl spaces of all garbage. More importantly, we contracted for and funded complete insulation of the premises. This included all attic space and all basement space. Work was done to seal all potential sources of outside air and members of the Commission put down a special plastic coat on the dirt basement floors to further eliminate moisture from creeping in.

Problems relating to the heating system were addressed once again with the most major issue being the failure of a pump that provided heat to the Gathering Spaces, Fellowship Hall and the Library.

Mold problems in certain bathrooms were identified and addressed.

The exterior of the South side of the CE structure (Room1) containing classrooms etc., had shown significant signs of deterioration mostly related to moisture. After special dispensation from Session, a repair using vinyl rather than wood was chosen and affected. A new energy efficient door was also installed.

User groups have all been contacted and asked to consider their voluntary contributions for upkeep relative to the rising costs of goods and services. The response has been positive and we thank them for continued support.

Full exterior lighting has been restored.

**GROUNDS**

**Cemetery:** The Columbarium has been staked out and a committee will be established on an ad hoc basis to address any issues pertaining to the cemetery. There are now approximately 90 spaces available in the cemetery.

Our East Yard facilities continue to be taken care of by Androsko Landscaping and when required they have taken care emergency issues as they have arisen with haste.

**Rear Parking Lot:** We are still working with the Town of Yorktown and the DEP to gain permission to pave the back parking lot and pothole alley.

**Spring and Fall Cleanups**

Spring and fall cleanups were quite a success with weather not being an impediment for a change. Participation in the spring event was robust and enthusiastic, and the Fall event attracted the right amount of people to get the job(s) done. Our thanks go to **Deanna Collins** for organizing these events.

Operations Commission (continued)

**Peace Pole:** The peace Pole was installed with blue stone walkway and beds installed around it.

**Sanctuary Plantings:**

Craig Hibben developed a plan for replacing the matured yews that formerly surrounded the Sanctuary. Again, a work party led by Craig and Dick Seymour, ripped out the older bushes and readied the soil for planting in the spring of 2009. We are excited and eagerly anticipate the new look.

**PROCEDURES AND FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT**

**Procedures:** Policies and procedures have been established for opening and closing of facilities and in future will not require as much intervention from members of Session as in the past.

Increases to fees for weddings were approved

A comprehensive job description for the Custodial position was developed updating the document last done in 1994 and was reviewed with Peter S. We anticipate this Description will provide both Peter and the Pastor responsible for day to day supervision a set of guidelines that will keep our facilities in top shape

**Financial Oversight:** The Treasurers sub-committee kept us aware of the budget relative to spending and 2008 appears to have been a good year particularly in light of the many financial problems surrounding us in general.

**FUTURE WORK**

Our main focus will be the Steeple stabilization project but other projects include paving the back parking lot and pothole alley.

Respectfully submitted  
Ian Spence and Jack Shaughnessy, Co-chairs

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### **Members:**

Judy Chessa  
Stephanie Hare  
Ann Timmons

Connie Cornell  
Connie Knapp

Ted Crockett  
Mark Linehan

Barbara Darragh  
Barbara Santagata

### **Overview:**

The Communication Commission's task is to strengthen the connections within our congregation and between our Church and our community. In 2008, the Communications Commission conducted a number of activities towards these goals:

1. **The Disciple** is one of the most important ways we maintain connections within our congregation. This year, **Stephanie Hare** took over as editor of *The Disciple* from **Connie Cornell**. We thank Connie for her past work, and are grateful to Stephanie for volunteering for this very important job.

We also rely on other regular volunteers to help produce *The Disciple* every month. **Barbara Santagata** prepares the pullout church calendar. Regular collators include **Peg Bertsch, Ruth Deemer, Sue Enright, Ray and Jan Gunther, Dick and Barbara Hunter, Cheryl Lodewick, Kay Lieberman, Sally Martin, Fran Proceller, Chuck and Norean Radke, Fran Schiel, Dot Slechta and Cal Weber.**

2. Our church **web site**, at [www.fpcyorktown.org](http://www.fpcyorktown.org), is a key communications method both for our congregation and for the public at large. **Ted Crockett** is retiring after many years as our webmaster. Many thanks to Ted! We're replacing this one person with a subcommittee of **Connie Knapp, Mark Linehan, Barbara Santagata, and Barbara Wolff.**
3. **Our pastor** and **Barbara Darragh** update our **Congregational Care Line** regularly. This is another key communications technique relied-upon by both Church members and the general public.
4. **Email lists:** The church currently operates six email lists – for the Session, the Deacons, the adult choir, the bell choir, the Communications Commission, and the congregation at large. These support internal coordination and working discussion for groups like the Session, and announcements to church members. **Mark Linehan** supports these lists.
5. **Advertising:** the Commission places paid advertisements in local newspapers to announce our Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and Easter service schedules. Thanks to **Mark Linehan**, who handled our liaison to the newspaper companies. Thanks also to **Ann Timmons**, who obtained free publicity for church events through community calendars in local papers, websites and cable TV systems.



Communications Commission (continued)

6. **Brochures:** the Commission maintains a number of information folders and cards targeted to visitors, members, and building users. Titles include "Welcome to our Church", "Children's Welcome", "Share our Facilities", and "I Wish". Commission members supporting these brochures include **Connie Cornell, Barbara Santagata, Judy Chessa,** and **Barbara Darragh.**
7. Thanks to **Barbara Santagata** for taking new photographs of the Elders and Deacons for the **Session/Deacon Bulletin Board** in the Gathering Space hallway.
8. **Barbara Darragh** specifically, and the **Communications Commission** in general, provides general supervision and space allocation for the bulletin boards found throughout our buildings.

As Commission Chair, I found the Commission members to be responsible about their commitments and responsive to the ongoing needs of the Church. My personal thanks to each of them for their dedication to achieving better connections with our congregation and with our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mark H. Linehan, chair*

## REPORT OF THE DEACONS

### **Deacons**

<b>Class of 2008</b>	<b>Class of 2009</b>	<b>Class of 2010</b>	<b>Class of 2011</b>
Jane Amato	Kathy Anderson*	Todd Child	Ryan Mulcahy
Kathy Anderson*	Alice Chin	Gloria Coccodrilli	Jill Pagliettini
Marsha Henderson	Peter Marsh	Fran Schiel	Chuck Radke
Louise Fang	Riley Wilson	Lynn Shulman	Mable Seymour
Darren McAuliffe*	Carter Humphrey		
Amey Savino	Darren McAuliffe*		

### **Food Pantry**

The pantry is open the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 9:00-11:00AM. The coordinators in 2008 were: **Peter Marsh, Todd Child, Darren McAuliffe and Lynn Shulman**. The food pantry benefited from a generous outpouring of contributions from the congregation including part of the Peacemaking Offering.

Total operating costs for the food pantry was \$9,428.70.

The Total of grants/donations/matching funds for 2008 was \$29,386.00.

Of this amount the congregation provided \$11,943.00, the Frase-Stockwell Fund provided \$11,943.00, and the balance \$5,500 (51%) was derived from external agency grants.

Granting agencies included HPNAP (Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program from New York State and administered by the Food Bank for Westchester), FEMA, and Shop-Rite Adopt- A- Pantry Grant. We also received community support in terms of food received through the community drive sponsored by the United States Postal Carriers Union, Yorktown High School Canned Food Drive, Yorktown Jewish Center, a company who wishes to be anonymous and of course the weekly food items left in our pantry cart by the congregation.

This year we gave out 2299 grocery bags of food an increase of 324 versus 2007 which served an average of 69 families per pantry.

### **Toys for Tots**

This year **Kathy Anderson** coordinated the distribution of toys at Christmas time to our Food Pantry clients' children. Toys for Tots provided approximately 800 new toys. Additionally, we received 74 toys from the congregation that were "gently used." The Girl Scouts of Troop 1284 helped with the distribution as "shopper elves."

### **School Supplies 2008**

**Kathy Anderson** assembled 60 school kits for distribution through the Food Pantry. Supplies were purchased through Walmart, Office Max and Shop Rite which waived limits on special deals.

### **Homebound/Hospital Visitation**

Each week, the pastors inform the deacons of individuals who need to be visited in the hospital and/or home. Visits are primarily done on Sunday which enables the deacons to take flowers from the Sanctuary as well as the weekly bulletin.

### **Loaves and Fishes**

**Louise Fang, Marsha Henderson, Gloria Coccodrilli** and **Alice Chin** coordinated the volunteers from our congregation who are willing to make a meal and/or dessert for an ill person

and their family. Approximately 10 meals were prepared and delivered this year. Russ notifies the Deacons when there is a need.

#### Deacons (continued)

#### ***Cards***

**Alice Chin and Fran Schiel** sent out over 100 cards which expressed joy on the birth of a baby, wedding and anniversary congratulations, concern and prayers for those who were ill and sympathy over the loss of loved ones.

#### ***Communion to the Homebound***

Twice this year Deacons accompanied Russ and served the Lord's Supper to homebound/hospitalized Church members.

#### ***Transportation***

**Kathy Anderson and Marsha Henderson** coordinated transportation needed by individuals to and from church or to doctor's offices or hospitals.

#### ***Bereavement***

**Louise Fang, Sal Gaetani and Lynn Shulman** were available to lend support and ease the stress of families in this most difficult time. For those families who chose to have a reception at the Church after the Memorial Service, the Bereavement Committee of the deacons assisted 3 families this year.

#### ***Contact to the Homebound***

**Marsha Henderson and Jane Amato** made phone calls as well as home and hospital visits to church members who were alone and needed personal contact and comfort.

#### ***Health Care Racks***

**Amy Savino** filled these racks with pamphlets containing information on health-related issues. The racks are in the West Hall and in the East Hall near the fire door.

#### ***Blood Bank***

**Sal Gaetani** kept the congregation informed about Blood Drives in the area and made sure announcements were placed in the Disciple and the Bulletin. This year The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown hosted a blood drive on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Monthly Financial Reports***

**Gloria Coccodrilli** prepares a monthly spread sheet for Deacon spending and designated funding.

#### ***Outreach***

This year the deacons sponsored local families for counseling and emergency situations.

#### ***Thanks and Farewell***

**Jane Amato, Kathy Anderson\*, Marsha Henderson, Louise Fang, Darren McAuliffe\*, Amy Savino and Lynn Shulman** we thank them for all their hard work.

Welcome and our prayers to the newly instated Deacons to the Class of 2011:

**Ryan Mulcahy, Jill Pagliettini, Chuck Radke, and Mable Seymour,** and Class of 2009: **Kathy Anderson\*** and our Youth Deacons 2009: **Carter Humphrey and Darren McAuliffe\*.**

The Board of Deacons **thanks you, the CONGREGATION,** for your prayers, love and generosity throughout the 2008 year. Without your support the deacons would not be able to reach out and help families in need.

Respectfully submitted  
**Jane Amato**, Moderator

### **Financial Report**

Note: the printed copy of the annual report includes a detailed review of the 2008 income and expenses and a proposed budget for 2009. This information is not published online but is available by request from the Church office.

