



2013 ANNUAL REPORTS

The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

February 2, 2014

LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

2013

SESSION

Class of 2013

Kathy Anderson

Ruth Deemer

Ellen de Jong

Jeff Kephart

Mark Linehan

Michael Stewart

Kim Friscia, *Youth Elder*

Ryann Shaughnessy, *Youth Elder*

Class of 2014

Tricia Dineen

Christie Herman

Peter Marsh

David Monk

Dick Seymour

Nance Thompson

Class of 2015

Tim Chin

Robin Corpolongo

Marsha Henderson

Bruce Johnson

Connie Knapp

Tim Lupfer

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway

Moderator: Chip Low

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2013

Angelyn Forbes-Freeze

Matt Hager

Liam McAuliffe

Walter Oudheusden

Taylor Drysdale, *Youth Deacon*

Brian Kelly, *Youth Deacon*

Class of 2014

Kathy Winsted

Karen Mack

Jane Amato

Heidi Haring

Class of 2015

John Chessa

Todd Child

Wanda Diaz

Christine Lazarus

Moderator: Walter Oudheusden

Vice-Moderator: Jane Amato

Secretary - Christine Lazarus

Financial Secretary - John Chessa

AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Chip Low

READING OF THE CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Clerk Gordon Braudaway

“The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2014, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: to elect one Elder, class of 2016; to elect one Deacon, class of 2016; to elect one Youth Elder, class of 2014; to elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to receive the Annual Reports, including the report of the Auditors; to review the Pastor's Terms of Call; and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meeting.”

REPORT OF MINUTES READERS FOR 2013 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 3, 2013 Annual Meeting

Bud Coccodrilli, Lisa Eliasson

Minutes of December 8, 2013 Special Meeting

Mark Linehan, Angelyn Forbes-Freeze

APPOINT MINUTES READERS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

NECROLOGY REPORT (page 5) AND MEMORIAL PRAYER

ANNUAL REPORTS

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NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Chip Low

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

“Our abundance gives life to vision.” Our Stewardship theme encapsulates the truth of our ministry in 2013 and this annual report is proof of that statement. But this report is only a small summary of all the ways we as First Presbyterian Church have lived abundance in our ministry together. The faith, the number of people, the hours, the prayers, the financial giving, all of the ministry that happens in our building and all the ways we connect beyond our location, display the abundance of what God has given to us and the many, many ways we are sharing God’s good news. Our Lent and Easter theme of *Practicing Our Faith* made room for the box in our lives. (Remember “Wear the box. Be the box. Think in the box.”?) As we have put our faith into practice, God has used us. This report is a celebration of all the ways our abundance has given life to our vision ***to connect with God, one another and the world.***

2013 saw the expansion of our ministry in at least two important ways. First, we added the position of Parish Associate as a way to broaden our pastoral leadership and build capacity to support more people and groups doing ministry. Rev. Tami Seidel was hired to support the Educational ministry of our church, work with the Deacons in their ministry and plan worship. Her work in those areas created more pastoral connections to people, increased the pastoral leadership in more ways and ultimately deepened the faith of many, especially in her work in Adult Education and Parenting classes. Her work also allowed me to focus more of my energy in one of the areas of abundance that needed focused attention.

With Tami on board, I was able to spend a significant amount of time with the Youth Design Team discerning a path to create a sustainable youth ministry. We have an abundance of youth in our church, but we were losing the opportunity to mold their faith after confirmation because of the lack of programming available to them. The Youth Design Team met almost weekly throughout most of the year to develop a plan with the following purpose: ***“The youth ministry of FPCY invites our youth and their friends into a welcoming and vibrant community that surrounds youth with an unconditional love that fosters genuine relationships; engages youth in the joys and traditions of the Christian faith; and energizes youth to extend the love of Christ to the world.”*** I love this plan for how youth-focused it is, how important the entire church is to the ministry, and how grounded it is in the faith we live together. Thank you for making space for me to give time and attention to it, and thank you to the Youth Design Team for their hard work and dedication.

Last year, I presented to the congregation the professional training I am doing to become a certified coach with the International Coach Federation. Coaching is a particular approach that, as I like to explain it, allows me to come alongside people, help them gain clarity about what they need to be doing and what God is calling them to do, develop a plan and celebrate when it is accomplished. The goal is always about deepening learning and forwarding progress with people. It is a client-driven, strengths-based conversation that focuses on who the person needs to be to do what they want to do. I am now in the final stage of the certification, which is to accrue 100 hours of coaching others. I have had the opportunity to work with members of our church, presbytery and wider community. I see this as an important part of my work to help people be who God wants them to be and to help groups live the ministry God has given them.

As I look forward to 2014, I am aware of the work ahead of us. Our youth ministry continues to be an important priority as we work to make our vision real and sustainable through leadership and participation from our church membership. In addition to youth, we must continue to ask how we can connect with more people, reaching out and inviting them to join in our community and work in the world. God has given us a vision, an abundance of blessings and so many ways to live our faith and welcome others into God’s love and grace, hope and forgiveness, justice and peace. Thank you for making these gifts real in 2013 and for joining together to share abundantly in 2014.

Serving Christ Together,



REPORT OF THE PARISH ASSOCIATE

After my first year serving as your part-time (12-15 hours/week) Parish Associate, my job can be summed up in three words: **Resource, Support** and **Strengthen**. FPCY has many vibrant programs in place and many dedicated leaders and members working in them. It has been my privilege to provide support and pastoral resources to them so that both the people and the programs can be strengthened in their faith development and outreach.

My work as your Parish Associate has been focused in three primary areas: **Education, Deacons/Pastoral Care** and **Worship**. I have provided staff support to the Education Commission and the Church School and Adult Education Committees. One of my greatest joys in this work is helping adults and children grow and deepen their faith and then connect their faith to their daily lives so that they can find new and exciting ways to live their faith in the world. I continue to see a need to develop further a vision and program for family ministry because our homes and families truly are the primary place where the basics of life, relationship and faith are both taught and learned.

In addition to providing pastoral support to the Board of Deacons, I have been working with the visitation team as they provide a crucial connection to our homebound church members and friends. FPCY is blessed to have this team of compassionate people who provide friendship, care and support to those who are hospitalized, recovering from illness or confined to their homes. When Chip or I partner with these team members to share the Lord's Supper with those who cannot come to church, we experience afresh the power of being the Body of Christ to one another, and we find strength and hope for our journey through life.

Finally, it is such a joy to help lead this community in the worship of our wondrous God. I have found that the spirit of a worshipping community says a lot about the health and vitality of that community. Through the laughter and the tears, the music and the prayers, the preaching and the sacraments, FPCY is alive with love for God, one another and the world. I look forward to partnering with you in the coming year as we continue to worship the Source of all that we are and do as a church, grow in our faith and understanding of who Jesus calls us to be, and serve others in the Spirit of Christ's love and hope, justice and peace.

Serving Christ together,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jami".

REPORT OF THE SESSION

2013 Statistics

MEETINGS:

15 Regular Session

1 e-mail Advisory Consideration (vote on a specific item taken by e-mail)

2 Congregational

Active Members as of December 31, 2012: 361

<u>Gains</u>		<u>Losses</u>	
Profession of Faith	7	Deaths	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	8	Removed	6
Letter of Transfer	6		

Active Members as of December 31, 2013: 375

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Adam Blaney
Nicholas Jarosz
Amanda Monk
Christopher Desiderio
Austin Giglio
Marisa Swift
Natasha Uszak

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nancey Betz
Kirk Larsen
Anthony Tomicich
Lisa Tomeny
Robert Tomeny
Wendy Whetsel
William Whetsel
Sarah Capichioni

LETTER OF TRANSFER

Catherine Talbot
Richard Talbot
Jessica Mayes
Kari Mavian
Andrew Mavian
Sharon Larsen

BAPTISMS

February 24	Reese Melody Lodewick
May 5	Marisa Thi Swift
	Natalie Thi Swift
May 19	Alexandra Helene Mirel
October 27	Jackson Lee Cassedy

DEATHS

January 31	Hilde Marsh
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REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP

Joanne Grauert
Steve Grauert
Brandon Grauert
Margaret Grauert
Melissa Gilbert
Dylan Fraser-Gilbert

Submitted by Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Submitted by: Robin Corpolongo, Ellen de Jong, Elders; Heidi Haring, Deacon;
Bill Herman, Ann Timmons, Judy Chessa, Ellen de Jong, Gloria Coccodrilli, Ken Sherman, Members at Large.
Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway*

Officers of the Corporation:

President:	Peter Marsh
Vice-president:	Marsha Henderson
Treasurer:	Tricia Dineen
Secretary:	Gordon Braudaway
Auditors:	Ed De Jong, Ted Crockett, Michele Mosca
Tellers:	Ruth Deemer, Kathy Hodgkinson, Emily Monk
Financial Secretary:	Kim Wertz

Elders Class of 2016:

Donna Gresh
Beth Gruber
Jessica Mayes
Eugene McGrath
Ian Spence
Debbie Bernardini

Deacons Class of 2016:

Carl Anderson
Cynthia Fritz
Chuck Radke

Youth Elders Class of 2014:

Adam Blaney
Marisa Swift

Youth Deacons Class of 2014

Kim Friscia
Amanda Monk

Action Item: Elect Marisa Swift as a youth elder, Class of 2014.
Elect Debbie Bernardini as an elder, Class of 2016.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

Members: Ellen de Jong and Tim Chin co-chairs; Ruth Deemer, Karen Gerth, Ann Everingham, Louise Fang, Pat Prauda, Melissa Shaughnessy, Ryann Shaughnessy, Sue Mintzer, Kathy Winsted, Rita Child, Diane Hawlk, Lisa Eliasson, Barbara Wilkens, Carol Myers

Purpose: Our commission is responsible for the care and nurturing of our church's members and visitors. We plan, participate in, and help organize events and activities for our church family to socialize, meet new people and unite our two services.

2013 On-going Support Activities

- Communion Sunday Brunch (1st Sunday of the month) we encourage our entire church congregation to help contribute bringing in their special goodies and cooking to share. We have many fabulous bakers and foodies in our congregation that we look forward and give thanks for their continued sharing.
- Sunday Coffee Hour time after our Sunday services we look forward to sharing continued fellowships with our congregation and visitors. Coffee, refreshments and snacks are provided by our volunteers that setup and cleanup to make it all happen. So please lend a hand in signing up to support this special time.
- Special Thanks to Pat Prauda for all her dedicated support, time and keeping up with our kitchen needs and supplies. And thanks again to each and every commission member for their continued time/support.

2013 Highlight Events

We are so fortunate to have volunteers that are willing and able to share their time and talents in support for many of our church/community support events. Here are some we have had the pleasure in supporting and look forward to the upcoming year to continue and build upon:

- Special Events: Easter Sunrise Breakfast (Mar) early service in Downing Park and Breakfast back at church; visiting Home Coming weekend, Progressive Dinner (June) a big thanks to the Lodewicks and Chessa's for hosting Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert, and to the Seymours, Chins, Linehans, Coccodrillis, Deemer, de Jongs, Grubers, Jensens, and Mills for their hosting homes, and to the core planning team of Louise, Ellen, Ruth; another fabulous Parish Picnic coordinated by Ann Everingham (Sep); the Froehlich reaffirmation of their wedding vows (Sep); 3rd annual Blessing of the Animals (Oct).
- Concerts (Spring, Oct, Xmas) wonderful music performed by our local members and professionals. Special décor and foodies don't go unnoticed as we enjoy the before, during and after fellowships.
- Youth Events in support for "Confirmation meets Session" (April); celebrating "Children's Sunday" (June); "Check in Sunday" (July) for a cool ice cream social.
- Church events supporting our Annual Congregation meeting(Feb); "Home Front"(May); new Confirmation members(May); Deacon/Session meeting(May); Memorial service(June); Young Adult Volunteers 1 Year Commission to Kaylyn Stevwing, John Kupar, and Emma Cushman-Wood(Aug); Consecration Pledge week (Oct); New Member Brunch(Nov)

We would also like to thank Ellen for all her Co-Chair support as she ends her term with us. We keep the faith and welcome her continued support on our commission as a key and valued member of our planning events. Thanks again Ellen, and to our entire supporting congregation and interested ones whom like to join our team!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Chin*

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Members

Mark Linehan, chair; Gordon Braudaway, Ted Crockett, Barbara Darragh, Stephanie Hare, Jeff Kephart, JoAnne Marsh, Eugene McGrath, Barbara Santagata, Michael Stewart

Purpose

The Communications Commission manages the internal and external communications of our Church. This includes *The Disciple*, worship bulletins, the website, Facebook, email lists, banners at the corner of Routes 202 and 132, online event calendars, press releases, advertising, brochures, and community fairs. This Commission works with all the other Commissions to further our goal of ***Connecting with God, One Another, and the World***. We tell the story of the Church's activities, from worship (Christmas and Easter services), to concerts, to Church School, to mission projects, the annual Stewardship Campaign, congregational get-togethers, and many other church events and church mission work.

2013 Activities

Highlights of 2013 include:

- Barbara Santagata designed a new church logo, which we are now using on church communication materials.
- The Commission initiated a revision and update of the church website – both the appearance and the contents of the site. JoAnne Marsh designed the new look. The entire Commission is reviewing the website contents, with a view to simplifying and consolidating them. We expect to inaugurate the new design and new contents in early 2014.
- Chip Low has experimented with advertising for the church on Facebook. He has found that a relatively small expenditure reaches a fairly wide audience.
- Mark Linehan setup a Google repository for "public" church communications materials, such as sermons, bulletins and photographs. This repository will serve as an archive and a source for images needed in future communications efforts.
- Ted Crockett, Jeff Kephart, Eugene McGrath, and Mark Linehan shared the effort of placing the sermon on the website each week.
- Barbara Santagata prepared an ad that we placed in the Lions summer concert program.
- Ted Crockett, Gordon Braudaway, Jeff Kephart, Eugene McGrath, and Mark Linehan placed notices of church activities on a half-dozen online community calendars, and sent announcements to local newspapers.
- Mark Linehan organized a table to represent the church at the Yorktown Community Fair in October.
- Michael Stewart, Barbara Santagata, Gordon Braudaway, and Mark Linehan prepared paid advertisements to tell the public about several church events.

We especially thank Kim Wertz for taking over all the work of producing *The Disciple*, and for coordinating communications among the weekly worship bulletin, the website, Chip's weekly email, and *The Disciple*.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark H. Linehan

WORSHIP DESIGN COMMISSION

Members: Jane Amato, Gordon Braudaway, Judy Chessa, Ted Crockett, Lisa Eliasson, Louise Fang, Simona Frenkel, Karen Gerth, Marsha Henderson, Bill Herman, Christie Herman (Chair), Rev. Chip Low, Sara Mann, Squeegie Mills, Pat Prauda, Barbara Santagata, Ann Timmons, Barbara Wilkens.

The Worship Design Commission oversees the needs of our faith community as it gathers for worship. The Commission serves as a resource and support to the pastor in developing themes for worship and seeking to design and implement a meaningful, thoughtful and experiential worship experience. This includes but is not limited to reviewing the content and structure of worship, planning and implementing worship themes, designing 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 Design Commission oversees the musical life of our congregation, including service music, the Adult Choir, the Adult and Youth Bell Choirs and the Concert Series.

The following special worship themes and services highlighted our year:

Lent: Practices for our Faith and our Lives

A Series of Practices for Lent and beyond: (*Discernment, Honoring the Body, Saying Yes and Saying No, Keeping Sabbath, Forgiveness, Testimony, Singing our Lives, Hospitality, Healing, Creativity, Dying Well, Shaping Community, Household Economics, Practicing a Way of Life*)

Ash Wednesday

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday: A Service of Shadows

Easter Morning Services

Pentecost

Homecoming Weekend

Children's Sunday

Summer Check-In Service

Jeremiah: [Re]forming Hope and New Beginnings

Parish Day Service and Picnic

Blessing of the Backpacks

Renewal of Vows

Gun Violence

Abundance:

Blessing of the Animals

All Saints Day Prayer Flags

Food Justice

Thanksgiving

Advent: Isaiah: Preparation, Waiting, Witness and Response

Hanging of the Greens

Longest Night Service

Christmas Eve Services (4pm Children's Service and two Candlelight Services)

Lessons and Carols

Highlights of the Year

Our fourth year with Rev. Chip Low expanded on a shared partnership and vision for creative, meaningful worship that engaged multi-sensory experiences in thoughtful, and emotionally moving worship. The liturgical year was shaped by worship themes that were grounded in scripture, and challenged all of us to experience, consider,

feel, and act on our faith. The Lenten theme of Practices, and thinking into the Box formed an important 2 ½ month core period of congregational study, reflection, and practice. Holy Week evening services and the Longest Night Service during Advent explored the counter balancing of light and darkness in emotionally moving worship. The Worship Design Commission partnered with other Commissions in the first Homecoming Weekend. During August and September, a time of new beginnings, we blessed YAVs as they set off on their mission, blessed the backpacks of children returning to school, and held our third annual Blessing of the Animals for beloved creatures of all shapes and sizes. Advent took us back to the roots of our faith as we listened to the familiar words of Isaiah calling us to Prepare, Wait, Witness and Respond. Advent also brought a new script for the Children's Christmas Eve worship, and the addition of new children and adults to the creative team.

As always, we are deeply indebted to Simona Frenkel, our Music Director and Organist, for her musical leadership and ability to incorporate worship themes into her choices of service music. Our Youth Bell Choir, in its tenth year, and Adult Bell Choir provided wonderful bell music for us during services. The music program expanded to include guest instrumentalists to enhance special worship services. In February of 2013, the restoration of our Steinway was completed, made possible by the financial support of memorial gifts, the Worship Design Commission budget, and monies from the building reserve.

The First Presbyterian Church Concert Series, organized by task force members Kathy Anderson, Gordon Braudaway, Judy Chessa, Ted Crockett, Ruth Deemer, Rob Dreher, Louise Fang, Simona Frankel, Stephanie Hare, Christie Herman, Carol Jensen, Mark Linehan, Christine Lazarus, Pat Prauda, and Ann Timmons, produced its thirteenth annual concert series. Attracting many people from the larger community, the concert series moved to evening concerts with resulting increased attendance. The concert series would not be possible without the generous support of the Concert Series Patrons. Concerts were followed by themed receptions for the audience to meet the performers, which have become to be a highly anticipated aspect of our series. The Concert Series offered the following performances in 2013:

February 23, 2013	Candlelight, Cello, Chocolate and Chimes
April 21, 2013	Finally, Spring!
October 6, 2013	Mykola Suk, Pianist
December 7, 2013	A Baroque Christmas

The Worship Design Commission is deeply grateful to both those on the Commission and Concert Task Force as well as the spiritual leadership, support, and talents of Chip Low, Tami Seidel, Simona Frenkel, and Kim Wertz. The Worship Design Commission also recognizes with great thanks all those who have ushered, set and served the Lord's Supper, created and provided signs and banners to communicate our message to the community, donated the materials and decorated our worship space, provided lay leadership, and those who have stepped in to assist in countless ways; -- all of which contribute to the meaningful worship experiences with which we are so blessed. We are indeed graced to have the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of our vibrant faith community as we continue our journey together in the coming year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Christie Herman, Chair*

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Members: Dave Monk and Robin Corpolongo, co-chairs; Shawn Cribari, Heidi Haring, Aloha Hicks, Michele Mosca, Carol Jensen, Suzy Rishel, Kathy Anderson, Theresa Kennedy, Rev. Tami Seidel

Overview

The Education Commission is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of educational programs that address the needs of our church family from the youngest child to our seniors. The various committees strive to find new and innovative programs that will capture the interest of the congregation and help each person progress on their own journey of faith development.

This past year, the commission was co-chaired by Kathy Anderson and Dave Monk for the first half of the year and Dave Monk and Robin Corpolongo the second half. A special thank you goes to Kathy for her many years of service to our the overall running of the Education Commission and for her devotion to the children she taught.

Yorktown Presbyterian Pre-school

Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool (YPP) offers morning and afternoon classes for three- and four-year-olds and a morning "Mommy and Me" program for two-year-olds. The school welcomes children with special needs as well as any required support personnel. The "Mommy and Me" program is offered in collaboration with the Westchester County Early Intervention Program. This program provides a socialization experience for two-year old children; the group consists of both typically developing children and children with special needs.

YPP is governed by a Board composed of four parent representatives and five members from our church. The Director serves on the board ex officio. Church members currently on the board are Rita Child (Chair), Emily Monk (Treas.), Theresa Kennedy (Liaison to Education Commission), Debbie Hager and Julie Friscia. Jill Pagliettini also sits on the board as a parent representative.

Childcare Room

Consistent and dependable childcare during the Sunday services is an important consideration for parents of young children. Children from birth through kindergarten age are warmly welcomed here each Sunday by our crib room caregiver, Elira Brucaj. Over the past year, we have made efforts to offer child care at other church events and special services in an effort to help parents with young children feel free to participate. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Michele Mosca, our Crib Room Coordinator, for all her efforts to provide a safe, nurturing environment for the youngest of our church family.

Michele oversaw three important initiatives to ensure the safety of the children in the crib room. The door is now locked from the inside, allowing Elira to exit easily, but keeping out any unauthorized person. Our Education Commission members and the Church Staff know where the key is in case of an emergency. We also have added a rotating volunteer aide at the 10:45 service and an on-call aide at the 8:30 service. This way there will always be two adults with the children. Finally, an emergency light switch that connects to a light next to the audio console in the sanctuary has been installed, which allows for the caregiver to alert the ushers that assistance is needed in the crib room.

Church School

The Church School program continues to be a signature ministry of FPCY, offering a unique educational experience to children from pre-school through middle school. We have rotating superintendents working a two year term. The current Superintendents, Jocelyn Fontana and Jen Dixon, are responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday School program. We want to express our deep appreciation to Beth Coccodrilli who completed her commitment in 2013 and enriched our church school with her dedication and wisdom.

The Church School is composed of three sections: Pre-school; K through 5th grade; and 6th through 8th grade. The pre-school teachers use *Rock Solid*, a Cokesbury program, which uses techniques, stories and creative activities appropriate for preschool children. Our Grade K-5 teachers utilize *Cornerstones*, a rotation- model curricu-

lum built around biblical stories that teach important life lessons and give the kids a strong Christian foundation. Under this model, children rotate through the following areas from week to week: Art, Cooking, Faith Today, Media, and Moved by the Spirit. This year's K-5 curriculum is entitled, "Quest for Identity."

Each Sunday, the children start off in the Gathering Time before being dismissed to their rotation activities. A special feature of this program is our gifted storytellers who bring a wonderful excitement to the start of each new church school lesson. On subsequent weeks, there is a brief "teach" of the story while the children learn exciting new songs and participate in a gathering that is designed to give children exposure to the usual practices of worship in a child centered context.

The most significant new development in the Church School program relate to the middle school. After years of faithful service to the Commission and as teacher of the middle school kids, Kathy Anderson has taken a Christian Ed staff position at Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church. Debbie Bernardini and Donna Giglio have continued Kathy's mission. With new leadership has also come new content. Debbie worked with Tami to on a new curriculum to breathe new life into the program. This curriculum addresses the need for this age to dig deeper into the lessons of our faith as they continue their spiritual growth from child to adult. While students no longer rotate, the class includes many different activities that help the middle school student develop a fuller understanding of the scriptures and their place God's world.

Alternative Giving Fair/ Moved by the Spirit: Thank you to Heidi Haring for coordinating the Alternative Giving Fair once again. Heifer International raised over \$900 and The Fair Trade Market sold almost \$2,000 worth of goods that benefit many small cooperatives and communities around the world. The your also had a bake sale to help defray the costs of the fair. The Fair Trade Market is not a fund raiser for the church school. Instead, we support these vendors when the goods are purchased. The intention is to simply break even while providing our congregation with the chance to purchase interesting and unique gifts which made for fun holiday shopping!

Vacation Bible School

In 2012 Vacation Bible School (VBS) made a major change when we hosted. Because of the success of the 2012 program, the model was continued in 2013. This year the program was held at Yorktown United Methodist Church and once again all of the kids and leaders had a great time. We have maintained our ties with the Yorktown Cooperative Vacation Bible School (a group consisting of First Presbyterian Church, Yorktown United Methodist Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church) and look forward to continued cooperation of the group.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a young person's initiation into the life and ministry of our church. The students are being lead on this important journey by Pam Darreff, David Monk, Gordon Braudaway and Ellen Miles under the direction of Rev. Chip Low. Six young people went through the class culminating in their Confirmation on May 5, 2013. Ten more began their confirmation journey in the fall of 2013 and will complete their work in the spring. The curriculum examines the seven parts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) seal. The class learned about the Presbyterian Church: its ministry, leadership and decision-making process. They also attend services of different Christian traditions, a Synagogue and a Mosque, as well as the MLK Community service at Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills. The group participated in outreach ministries of our church, including going on a Midnight Run and serving at the Food Pantry, went on a retreat, enjoyed some group building activities and attended weekly worship.

Youth Ministries

Youth Group at FPCY had been reborn! In 2013 we successfully launched a new program that regularly has 15-20 youth attending. The Youth Design team (Karen LaBonte, Alice Chin, Jack Shaughnessy, Dave Monk and Chip Low) developed a mission statement, values and short- and long-term goals to engage the youth. The goal being a sustainable program that will last for years. Kelly Humphrey was the face of program for the first half of 2013. With a plan in place, we have strived for deep leadership from the entire congregation moving forward. But, there still needs to be a face. The team determined multiple leaders who will consistently engage the youth

is the ideal model, and Stephanie Hare, Ken Sherman and Dave Monk have stepped up to be the initial interface.

Session approved the structure in July and it was presented to the congregation later in July. Part of the program design is a part-time staff position of Youth Coordinator. We are actively searching for someone to fill this role.

Adult Education

“ . . . when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.” (1 Corinthians 13: 11b)

Adult Education studies at FPC Yorktown are as much about our faith formation – both for us as individuals and as a community – as they are about education. Our studies engage both head and heart, providing a safe place for participants to share their questions, doubts and struggles and to support one another as we seek to live the Gospel.

We offer studies during the Church School hour on Sundays, and on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. A monthly “Sermon for Lunch” is an opportunity to gather after the 10:45 worship service on Sunday to discuss the day’s sermon, or any other faith issues that participants bring to the conversation. Our Women’s Circle bible study group meets monthly on Wednesday mornings.

Adult Ed is one of the areas that Tami has devoted her time and has therefore benefited greatly from her increased presence. In the spring Tami added a second Adult Ed class focused on parenting. She also led a multi-week Sunday evening discussion on gun violence that interacted with other churches in the Presbytery. The culmination of this program was a screening of the movie *Trigger*.

Church Library

The Church Library is a valuable resource that is open to all members of our church family. Feel free to browse and if you would like to take out a book, simply fill out a card and drop it in the box provided. Carol Jensen continues her service as our Church Librarian. In addition to books on Bible study, theology, and the Presbyterian Church, the library has many titles on examining and nourishing personal faith as well as all the recent Adult Education studies. The complete catalogue is online at the church’s website along with reviews of recent acquisitions. Additionally, each month a brief review of new items appear in the “Disciple.”

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Monk

MISSION COMMISSION

Members: Nance Thompson and Connie Knapp, co-chairs, Stephanie Hare, Heidi K. Haring, Jean Post-Winget

The Mission Commission plans, coordinates and sponsors mission opportunities throughout the year. Stephanie Hare, Jean Post-Winget and Heidi Haring (Deacon) currently serve as members of this commission, and Ruling Elders Connie Knapp and Nance Thompson serve as co-chairs. Many members of the congregation participate in the activities of this commission; without their support First Presbyterian Church would not be able to accomplish as much as we do. We are grateful for the prayers and support of the congregation.

This past year the Mission Commission worked more closely with the Deacons on issues of food justice, culminating in our Peace and Justice Weekend in November.

- Designating the Easter offering to support the disposable diaper ministry of the food pantry
- Encouraging members of the church to participate in the Presbyterian USA's SNAP Challenge by living on the money that would be provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) for up to a week
- Inviting Lori Hylton, Hunger Action Enabler of the Hudson River Presbytery, to join us on Peace and Justice Sunday to preach and speak with us during the adult forum and the sermon for lunch and hosting a discussion and screening of the film "A Place at the Table" that looks at hunger in America

Other mission activities this past year included:

- Our Operation Homefront project the first Saturday in May, repairing the home of a military veteran. This project was supported by Congregational Life, who provided meals for the volunteers.
- Serving meals every month at Jan Peek House, a 19 bed safe haven for homeless men and women operated by CHOP, Caring for the Homeless Of Peekskill, Inc.
- Cooking and serving the Noon Time Meal monthly, in partnership with The Salvation Army and Peekskill Presbyterian Church, whose commercial kitchen is used for cooking.
- Participating with other churches (via technology) to discuss a response to gun violence, using the PCUSA "Gun Violence/Gospel Values" report.
- Working with the Deacons and the Education Commission to designate a "Giving Sunday" that provided Toys for Tweens to serve our food pantry clients, hats and mittens for the "hat and mitten" tree, food pantry donation cards, gifts for Bedford Prison Project and funds for the Living Waters project and the Christmas Joy Offering
- Supporting the Education Commission's Alternate Giving Fair in Thanksgiving to provide opportunities to support artisans and projects in the spirit of giving
- Conducting the Midnight Run-we were "snowed out" in February but were able to complete a run in April
- Taking a "mission trip" close to home to Coney Island to provide assistance after Hurricane Sandy
- Designating the Pentecost Offering to support an evening "drop in" event run by ASK, Alliance for Safe Kids in Yorktown
- Supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- Sponsoring the Amnesty International letter writing campaign

The "Knit Togethers" co-chaired by Noreen Radke and Lois Ostling are also part of the Mission Commission. Members are Pauline Bernauer, Eleanor Hibben, Pat Prauda, Louise Fang, Kay Liberman, Noreen Radke, Terri Froehlich, Carol Myers, Fran Schiel, Diane Hawlk, Lois Ostling, and Maxine Travis. They knit 213 items which were given to Bethel Nursing Center, the Deacon's Mitten Tree for their Food Pantry, Dominican Sister's Family Nursing Services, and the Field Home.

*Respectfully submitted,
Connie Knapp and Nance Thompson*

REPORT OF THE DEACONS

Class of 2013

Angelyn Forbes-Freeze
Matt Hager
Liam McAuliffe
Walter Oudheusden
Taylor Drysdale, *Youth Deacon*
Brian Kelly, *Youth Deacon*

Class of 2014

Kathy Winsted
Karen Mack
Jane Amato
Heidi Haring

Class of 2015

John Chessa
Todd Child
Wanda Diaz
Christine Lazarus

Contact to the Homebound

The Deacons Visitation Team, coordinated by Tami Seidel, Christine Lazarus and Heidi Haring, visited 28 Church members, or their family. We made 88 visits, 8 communion visits, and 29 check-in contacts (mostly phone calls and some e-mail contact).

Transportation

A very rewarding ministry which enabled rides to medical treatments and our church services. Matt Hager organized over 40 rides utilizing more than 10 church members to do so at various times of the day. We help those who have difficulty helping themselves.

Loaves and Fishes

This Ministry is divided among four Deacons, Angelyn Forbes-Freeze, Wanda Diaz, Jane Amato & John Chessa. They arranged 47 meals for loaves and fishes in 2013. They coordinated the volunteers from our congregation who were willing to cook & deliver a meal for a church member and their family. This is done during temporary times of need, medical emergencies, surgeries & or the loss of a loved one. Thank you to all that reached out to another church family during their stressful situation.

Card Ministry

Wanda Diaz mailed out 82 cards in 2013. Cards were sent for the birth of a baby, weddings, anniversaries, significant birthdays, graduations and sympathy, as well as concern and prayers for those who were ill. Thank you cards or letters were sent to those who contributed to the Food Pantry.

Hat & Mitten Tree

Christine Lazarus oversaw this ministry. Many people contributed to the success of the "hat and mitten tree" this year: the bulk of the gifts came from the Knit-Togethers, who contributed 57 hats, 58 sets of mittens and 15 scarves. With the help of friends and members of the congregation, the total number of items donated to the clients of the food pantry in December was 192.

Bereavement

Deacons helped with two receptions this year, held after the memorial services of Lloyd Ryssylainen (~125-150 people) and Hilde Marsh (~100 people.) Respectively submitted, Christine Lazarus

Food Pantry

This year the Pantry served 4,391 bags. We served an average of 132 families at each pantry. The Food Bank calculates service levels based on the total served across pantries, that is, if a family comes to all 24 pantries, the Food Bank sees that as 24 "families" served total. Based on that "total" view, we served 3,161 families including 5,259 adults, 1,177 seniors and 4,948 children. We saw 473 unique households. Turnover was high which is normal. Most of our clients are still from Peekskill. We had a wonderful surprise in November with the donation of a new/additional freezer. This gift from a community member allows us to order non-meat frozen foods, which vastly improves the variety and nutrition we can offer. This also gives us more of a margin for error in ordering meat since we can store more than the exact maximum we use in a typical pantry.

We have received a significant set of monetary grants, including \$4,000 in food grants, \$1,700 in operating expense grants, \$1,200 from Shop Rite and \$1,200 in holiday food grants from local businesses and the United Way through the Food Bank. Our facilities grant application was turned down, slowing our progress toward a “client choice” model, but the donation of the freezer above reduced the operational impact of not getting that grant. Temple Beth Am, the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Postal Service all had significant can drives from which we benefitted.

Expenses through Sept were \$7,985 with an additional 8,000 expected through the end of the year for an approximate total of \$16,000, still well under the \$21,188 budgeted. The increased spending rate at the end of the year is due to normal annual factors – the grants are applied by the food bank in the beginning of the calendar year, so the early year payables are quite low; and the holiday spending is higher. The only surprise expense this year was repairs on the Sub-Zero freezer during the spring.

Our volunteers continue to be our most significant asset with a regular set of 15-24 who pick up bread, carry cans, pack bags, fold cardboard and operate the pantry twice a month.

Next year’s client population (and target spending) is likely to be higher due to cuts in the food stamp “SNAP” programs.

Special thanks to Katharine for continuing to maintain the pantry enrollment and statistics data.
Respectively submitted, Todd Child

Toys for Tots

Kathy Winsted chaired this year’s distribution of toys provided by the generosity of the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program & our church. We gave out more than 1,600 toys to 137 Food Pantry families, the parents shopped for 541 children. Many thanks to all that helped these children have gifts for Christmas.

School Supplies

The Deacons gave out 130 kits, this year, 70 kits for ages 3 to 5 and 60 kits for Kindergarten to 2nd grade. These kits were purchased for a total net cost of \$952. 18 hand-made middle school kits were left and their contents separated. Some were distributed at the last pantry and some will at the next one. 18 big binders, ten K to 2 kits and seven K-2 kits were saved for distribution next year. Respectively submitted, Liam McAuliffe.

Diapers

The Deacons spent \$1883.88 on diapers in 2013. We distributed approximately 450 packages of diapers to clients of the food pantry once a month. 70 boxes were purchases & 5 boxes were donated. Respectively submitted
Kathy Winsted

Thanks and Farewell

We bid a fond farewell and express our appreciation for the work and assistance of Angelyn Forbes-Freeze Matthew Hager, Liam McAuliffe, Walter Oudheusden, Taylor Drysdale & Brian Kelly. We welcome and extend our prayers and best wishes for the new class of Deacons: Carl Anderson, Chuck Radke, Cynthia Fritz, Amanda Monk & Kim Friscia.

The Board of Deacons would also like to thank you, our *CONGREGATION*, for your continued support, prayers, love and generosity. Only with your support, were we the Deacons, able to carry out our ministries to those in need within our community this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Oudheusden, Moderator

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Members: Pam Darreff and Tim Lupfer, Co-Chairs. Dick Seymour, Gloria Coccodrilli, Mariana Sherman, Emily Monk

Purpose: Christian Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, talent, and treasure, based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in service for the benefit of all people, in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love, as we care for and manage the abundance that God has given us.

Stewardship Campaign

The giving to our church during 2013 was remarkable. 52 "giving units" (meaning a family or individual giving as one entity) actually gave more to the church than their 2013 pledge. Because of their generosity and the generosity of those who met their pledges, we should come very close to the \$432,000 amount pledged for the year. When this is added to our other sources of revenue for the year, we are closing in on our projected budget for 2013. The theme for the Campaign for 2014 was Abundance. Following the practice of last year, the congregation was invited to small group meetings in September and October. The results of the Campaign for 2014 reflected the same generosity that the congregation showed in 2013. Again, 45% of giving units increased their pledge from the previous year. 172 giving units made pledges, achieving totals that, to date, exceed the pledges for 2013.

Planned Giving

In 2013 the Session approved the establishment of an endowment fund for FPCY to support Planned Giving, which is long-term giving to the church, most often through wills and bequests. A committee has been formed within the Stewardship Commission to develop and recommend to the Session an approach to Planned Giving for FPCY. This is a long-term effort for the financial strength of our church, and this effort is strongly recommended by the Presbytery and PCUSA.

Staying Connected

We continued to seek ways to stay in touch with our college age youth, first by updating the addresses of our youth who are away from home. We stayed in contact by sending them the *Disciple* and the weekly email announcements. This year we sent them "care package" during finals week. The Prayer Shawl Ministry helped by adding scarves to the care packages.

Visit the Visitor

This program continues to be a viable way to get to know our first time visitors, who receive home made banana nut bread and a copy of the latest *Disciple*. This ministry continues to be a means for people making the decision to become members of our community.

Membership and New Members

As part of our annual duties, the Stewardship Commission reviewed the membership rolls of FPCY, and we recommended to the Session (which approved) the dropping of two families from our rolls due to moving away and joining new churches. We also welcomed 14 new members in 2013 (plus 7 from Confirmation Class), with new member classes in the spring and fall, with a celebratory dinner/brunch following the church services for new members.

Many thanks to all who have helped this Commission throughout the year!

*Respectfully submitted,
Tim Lupfer*

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Members:

Dick Seymour, Chair & Facilities Coordinator; Ian Spence, Jack Shaughnessy, Barbara Darragh, Fran Proceller, Ed de Jong, Walter Oudheusden, Deanna Collins, Tom Travis, Bill Friscia, Tricia Dineen, Peter Marsh, Bud Coccodrilli, and Pastor Chip Low. The Finance Committee which is a part of the Operations Commission is chaired by Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session and has the following members: Jack Shaughnessy, Barbara Darragh, Frank Hodgkinson, Tom Travis, Tricia Dineen and Fred Mintzer. The work of the Finance Committee will be reported separately.

Overview:

The Mission of the Operations Commission is to maintain the Church Facilities and make improvements so as to enable all of the other mission work of the Church. The work of the Commission is reported upon regularly in the issues of the Disciple

Major projects in 2013 were:

- Major improvements to the Library Lounge
- Improvements in the kitchen including new vinyl tile floor
- Improvements to Room 17 (Noon Unity room)
- Replacement of kitchen stoves with new self-cleaning electric models
- Refinishing of the table in the Narthex
- Rehab of the gutters on the Sanctuary
- Painting of much of the outside of the Sanctuary due to paint peeling
- Replacement of the Church telephone system; including the preschool
- Refurbishment of several outside walls where molding rotted out
- Grading & rolling of the North Parking Lots
- Installation of new carpeting in the Youth Room
- Restriping of all driveways and parking lots
- New audio speakers in the kitchen & nursery
- Installation of an “alert light” from the nursery to the Sanctuary
- Purchase of a new burnishing machine for polishing tile floors
- Burnishing of all tile floors throughout the facilities
- Removal of the cabinet on the north wall of the Narthex & refinishing
- Refinishing of many walls and ceilings throughout the facilities
- Installation of pedestal sink in the bathroom by the office
- Completion of major bathroom repair work at the Manse
- Major rehab of front steps and portico in front of Sanctuary

In addition, considerable routine maintenance was conducted throughout the facilities. Several major and minor work parties were conducted to help with the overall maintenance of the facilities and properties. A very big thank you is offered to all of those members who helped with this work!

Dick Seymour, Chair of Operations & Facilities Coordinator

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YORKTOWN

2880 Crompond Road

Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

Phone: 914-245-2186

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45am

Church School and Adult Education: Sundays at 9:30am

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool: 914-962-8712

www.FPCYorktown.org

Chip Low, Pastor

Simona Frenkel, Organist & Choir Director

Kim Wertz, Administrative Assistant

Jose Sandoval, Custodian

Beth Coccodrilli and Jocelyn Fontana, Church School Superintendents

Tom Travis, Frank Hodgkinson, Tricia Dineen, Treasurers

THE SESSION

Class of 2014

Tricia Dineen

Christie Herman

Peter Marsh

David Monk

Dick Seymour

Nance Thompson

Marisa Swift, *Youth Elder*

Adam Blaney, *Youth Elder*

Class of 2015

Tim Chin

Robin Corpolongo

Marsha Henderson

Bruce Johnson

Connie Knapp

Tim Lupfer

Class of 2016

Donna Gresh

Beth Gruber

Jessica Mayes

Eugene McGrath

Ian Spence

Debbie Bernardini

Clerk of Session, Gordon Braudaway

Moderator: Chip Low

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2014

Kathy Winsted

Karen Mack

Jane Amato

Heidi Haring

Kim Friscia, *Youth Deacon*

Amanda Monk, *Youth Deacon*

Class of 2015

John Chessa

Todd Child

Wanda Diaz

Christine Lazarus

Class of 2016

Carl Anderson

Cynthia Fritz

Chuck Radke

Moderator: Christine Lazarus

Vice-Moderator: Jane Amato

Secretary: Cynthia Fritz

Financial Secretary: John Chessa