

# **2007 Annual Reports First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses**

**Annual Meeting**

**January 27, 2008**



**Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Interim Pastor**

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**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses**  
**The 205th Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
 January 27, 2008

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Adoption of the agenda (additions, corrections)	
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and July 8 special meeting (motion to dispense with the reading is in order)	
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**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Scott Dawson

Class of 2007: Wilson Pond, David Schneider, Scott Dawson,  
David Koehler, and Carolyn Lange

Class of 2008: Kris Alling, Dan Erickson, Jerry Kraus, Barbara Melvin  
and Bruce MacQueen

Class of 2009: Diana Bradham, Tracey Mullen, Sally Priester,  
Bill Kolberg and Gerry VanOrden

**Nominations for the Class of 2010:**

**Scott Dawson**

**Cindy DeCloux**

**Deb Regnier**

**Karen Perkins**

**Allison Pritts**

**Election of Elders**

**Nominating Committee** from the Congregation (we need 3 congregants to join 2 session members)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

**Pastor's Report**

Glenn Kennedy 26

**Church Historian's Report**

Virginia Miller 27-29

**Celebrations and Appreciations:**

**Motion to adjourn, Prayer and Benediction**

**Active Members List may be found at the end of this report.**

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**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 28, 2007**

The meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses Congregation was called to order in the main meeting room of the chapel with prayer and meditation by Pastor Jeff Kellam at 12:10 pm following the regular church services and lunch on January 28, 2007. Notice of this annual meeting had been in the church bulletin and newsletter for the past three weeks

There was a quorum present and Kristin Alling, Clerk of Session, acted as Secretary.

Hearing no objections to the agenda as stated, it was considered approved.

Motion was made by Scott Dawson to dispense with the reading of the Annual Meeting Minutes of 2006 and to accept them as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

Report of the Clerk of Session showed total membership of 202; this reflects 4 new members, 1 member reinstated to active roll, 2 placed on the inactive roll, 4 transfers and 1 member death.

Consensus was to accept the report of the clerk and to move on to Session Committee reports.

The following **Session Committee reports** were reviewed as found in the Congregational Meeting Annual Reports 2006:

- Christian Education – Elspeth Peterson reported use of the new curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit with great success. Thanks to Megan deJager the Christmas pageant was organized this year and appreciated by all.
- Music and Worship Carolyn Lange Chairperson expressed her appreciation to Jeff, Alice and Doris for their spiritual and musical talents and direction. Also to those folks that work behind the scene helping with things that don't always get noticed. It was noted that it was Jean Dawson not Amy who did the usher-instruction page updated.
- Music Director added her thanks for the support she feels from the congregation. This year many folks added their musical abilities to the services. It made her job much easier. Bell Choir Treasurer's report will probably look different next year as they hope to buy new tables in the near future.
- Congregational Life - Anne Buchner noted the new 2006 calendar will be included in the next newsletter.
- Membership/Stewardship – Peter DeCloux reported verbally to the congregation. He wanted to thank the members of his committee for their energy and input especially Marsha and Wilson Pond for the “puzzle idea”. It was noted that the empty puzzle pieces indicated that there is always space in our congregation for more people.

- Buildings and Properties –There was no written report however, Gregg Hoffmire sent word that finally “everything is done”. Rousing round of applause was given for Gregg’s hard work and devotion of the past years.
- Caring and Benevolence Committee – David Schneider was pleased that the C & B committee has moved into real missions which included travel to the Gulf Coast, Mexico and upstate New York for flood repairs and help.
- Finance Committee – Barbara Melvin told us the pledges have come in better this year and total \$112,889 at this point. All other factions of the budget appear to be in sound condition.

*Motion from the committee was brought by Barb Melvin to accept terms of the Pastor’s Call as stated in the 2007 Budget. (Housing Allowance \$24,068; Annual Cash Salary \$21,153; Deferred compensation \$2,427; Long-Term Health Insurance \$1,195; Study Leave Allowance \$1,000; and Travel allowance \$1,800, Benefits Dues to be paid according to Presbytery requirement). Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

- Personnel Committee-- Jerry Kraus, Chairman indicated that their job was made easy due to the dedicated paid staff that we enjoy. Performance evaluations have been done on all. The Committee was grateful for the outstanding paid staff and felt we all are blessed to have them.

*Motion to receive all reports from the Session Committees as stated above was made by Warren Hickman, seconded and was passed.*

**Additional reports** were received as printed in the Annual Report:

- Ulysses Presbyterian Women presented by Judith Riley
- Tent Set-up presented by Chuck Dunlap
- Prayer’N’Praise was not a written report but Pam Postle indicated that their numbers are small and they may fold into the Caring and Benevolence Committee in the future.
- Mission Knitters presented by Evelyn Fritz.

*Motion was made by David Schneider to accept all reports with thanks to all of these committees for their good works and missions in the church.*

**Election of Officers:** Peter DeCloux, Chair of the Nomination Committee presented the following: Nominations for the Class of 2009: Diana Bradham, Tracey Mullen, Sally Priester, Bill Kolberg and Gerry VanOrden.

*Warren Hickman made the motion that the nominations be closed. This was seconded and passed. Vote on the nominees was unanimous.*

Nominations from the floor for three (3) members of the congregation to serve on the

**Nominating Committee:** It is noted that these three will be joined by two Session members.

Judy Riley      Megan deJager      Allison Pritts

*Motion made by Kris Alling to close the nominations and that they be voted into the position which was seconded and passed.*

**Pastor's report** was reviewed. He reminded us that he had been with us for 5 years at this point, going over each year which included the Bicentennial Celebrations, major church renovations, and then the past year of involvement in missions both close to home and far away as well as a new curriculum for the Sunday school. Next year we will be starting strategic planning which will involve all members of the congregations in planning for the future of the church, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Jeff looks forward to another year to bring us closer together in worship, service and fellowship.

Ginny Miller gave the **historians report** offering praise to Bob Brown retiring after 28 years as financial secretary, Joel DeCloux retiring after 14 years as a Sunday school teacher, and Ginny Miller, retiring after 31 years as leader of the rummage sale. She also pointed out many of the activities which had taken place of the past year.

Kudos and appreciation were expressed for many: Gregg Hoffmire, Bob Brown, Richard Pang Nulle, Joel DeCloux, and Ginny Miller. Special ovation was given to Pastor Jeff for his leadership. Thanks to Lori Schneider for her work on the Newsletter and to Scott and Amy Dawson who have agreed to take on this task in the next year.

Thank you to all listed and to all of those who were not mentioned but work so diligently for our Church.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:15 pm on motion of Warren Hickman which was seconded and passed.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Kristin T. Alling, Secretary, Clerk of the Session**

**Rev. Jeff Kellam, Moderator**

**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses  
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes July 8, 2007**

The meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses Congregation was called to order in the sanctuary with prayer and meditation by Pastor Jeff Kellam at 11:30 am following the regular church services July 8, 2007. Notice of this special meeting for the purpose of approval Jeff Kellam's request for retirement had been in the church bulletin for the past three weeks.

There was a quorum present and Kristin Alling, Clerk of Session, acted as Secretary.

Kris Alling made the motion to accept Jeff S. Kellam's request for honorable retirement as our Pastor with deep regret but much understanding. This was seconded and passed. The congregations will formally ask that the Presbytery rule on this request.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 11:55 am on motion of Ed Dawson which was seconded and passed.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Kristin T. Alling, Secretary, Clerk of the Session**

**Rev. Jeff Kellam, Moderator**

**Attendance Figures**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Total Attendance	4,825	5,445	5,266
Average Monthly	402	454	439
Average Weekly	93	105	101

## First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses

### New Members - Confirmation Classes (G5.0100 a, G5.0400)

Session	Name	Received in Church
6/13/07	Ray Henninger	6/24/07
6/13/07	Eliza Hotchkiss-Yager	7/8/07
6/13/07	Max Koehler	6/24/07
6/13/07	Kelsey Melvin	6/24/07
6/13/07	Andrew Peterson	6/24/07
6/13/07	Matthew Ploss	6/24/07
6/13/07	Alyssa Pritts	6/24/07
6/13/07	Ariel Regnier	7/8/07

### New Members - Letter of Transfer (G5.0100 e)

Session	Name	Transfer From
1/10/07	deJager, Eric	St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Bowling Green, Ohio
1/10/07	deJager, Allison	St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Bowling Green, Ohio
2/8/06	Little, Jeannette	First Baptist Church of Moravia, NY.
5/9/07	Andersen, Donald	Stewartstown Presbyterian Church, Stewartstown PA
5/9/07	Andersen, Julie	Stewartstown Presbyterian Church, Stewartstown PA
8/15/07	Fahs, Cheryl	Ovid Presbyterian Church, Ovid, NY
8/15/07	Fahs, John	Ovid Presbyterian Church, Ovid, NY

### New Members - Reaffirmation of Faith (G5.0403, G10.0102)

Session	Name	Announced in Church
2/13/07	Little, Stephen	2/18/07

### Members moved to Inactive (G5.0203, G10.0301)

Session	Name
5/9/07	Arden, Erik (#295)
5/9/07	Arden, Sandy (#296)
5/9/07	Arden, Tiana (#433)
5/9/07	Arden, Tiffany (#340)
8/15/07	Debra Herrmann(282)
12/12/07	Brown, Chad (#370)
12/23/07	Franzese, Jeff (#430)
12/23/07	Franzese, Wendy (#430)

### Baptisms (G5.0201, G10.0400)

Baptism	Name	Parents	DOB	Place of Birth
6/24/07	Kelsey Melvin	Joan & Parker Melvin	12/21/92	Grapevine, TX
6/24/07	Alyssa Pritts	Allison & Marvin Pritts	3/3/93	Elmira, NY
7/8/07	Eliza Hotchkiss-Yager	Barbara Hotchkiss & Richard Yager	2/28/93	Ithaca, NY



9/9/07	Nicholas Andersen	Donald and Julie Andersen	10/7/94	Ithaca, NY
9/9/07	Alec Andersen	Donald and Julie Andersen	11/15/98	Ithaca, NY
9/9/07	Ava Andersen	Donald and Julie Andersen	1/16/01	Columbus, O
9/9/07	Pritts, Kevin	Marvin and Allison Pritts	5/17/98	Ithaca, NY

**Transfers to other churches(G10.0302 b(4))**

Session	Name	Transfer Church
1/10/07	Murphy, Jack	First Baptist Church of Trumansburg
1/10/07	Murphy, Angie	First Baptist Church of Trumansburg
11/14/07	Kellam, Joan (#425)	First Pres. Union Church , Owego, NY
12/12/07	Dreyer, Tim (Inactive #297)	Ovid Federated Church, Ovid NY
12/23/07	Kredell, Ruth (#329)	Trumansburg Baptist Church

**Marriages (G10.0400 C 1)**

Date	Bride(Maiden)	Groom	Location	Witnesses
4/21/07	Melissa L. Hilkert	Kyle G. Clawson	FPCU	Kimberly Burr/Dave Hilkert
6/2/07	Karen K. Madison	David A. Drumheller Sr.	FPCU	David Drumheller,II/Jane Mike
6/9/07	Nicole D. Blackham	Richard Cippoletti	Taug Pk	John A.Telenko/ Meagan Longo
9/2/07	Darlynne A. Stefanko	William T. Overbaugh	FPCU	Attila Csokai/Susan K. Grady

**Burial (member) (G10.0400 B 8)**

Death Date	Burial Date	Name	Location
2/25/07	2/28/07	Adie, William(elder)(#4)	Burial Grove Cemetery, Trumansburg
4/8/07	4/15/07	Garner, Esther (elder)(#81)	Burial Grove Cemetery, Trumansburg
9/9/07	unknown	Chambers, Janice (#256)	Burial place unknown

**Numerical Change in Membership for the Year**

<b>Membership as of 12/31/06</b>	<b>202</b>
New Members by Transfer	7
New Members by Confirmation	8
New Members by Reaffirmation of Faith	1
<b>Total New Members</b>	<b>16</b>
Members Moved from Active to Inactive	8
Death of Members	3
Members Transferred to other churches	4 (Inactive not counted)
<b>Total Loss of Members</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Membership total as of 12/31/07</b>	<b>203</b>

## Reports of the Committees of Session

### Budget and Finance Committee

Barbara Melvin, Chair

2007 is the first full year the church treasurer has managed nearly our entire financial operation using the Church Management System software. An online backup system is available to us and we continue to refine the kinds of reports available. Both the Treasurer David Priester and Clerk/ Pledge Steward Kris Alling spend considerable time maintaining these records. These two have been reappointed and elected for the coming year and we thank them for their efforts – unpaid, but not unsung.

In this unusual year of major personnel changes, our income did cover expenses. The budget for 2008 is based on the actual spending in 2007, with changes where known (energy costs) or requested by Session (4% increase for long-term employees.) There are no new programs. Since our policy requires the Session to adopt a balanced budget and our new pledged totals are about \$20,000 below the actual gifts and pledges received in 2007 some painful adjustments were made at the January Session meeting. We will use the previous years' carryover and some investment income to cover expenses. After much debate we reduced, with regret, our commitment to the greater Presbyterian mission giving and we do hope to be able to increase it later in the year.

Our committee has produced several written pieces this year. Foremost is the re-written Endowment Policy which, after much discussion and revision, was accepted by the Session agreeing that the congregation would be asked to ratify it at the next annual meeting. Most of the changes reflect procedures which had been approved earlier. With changes in duties of our financial officers, and the new software for financial management, the descriptions of Treasurer and Pledge Secretary (formerly Financial Secretary) were also revised.

A new Memorial gifts brochure is being reviewed by the Session. It describes the kind of options that visitors wish to know when deciding how to honor someone and benefit this church. Please ask a Session member if you have ideas about it. A new quiz about different financial matters is ready for your enjoyment – all you wanted to know but forget to ask about where our reserve funds are and how we handle them.

Attached to this report are the spreadsheets of annual income and expense, and a list of our investments. The bell choir account, the separate benevolence checking account, and the Forward Fund checking account have been closed and those funds have been transferred-but-still-dedicated appropriately. This brings us nearer to our goal of consolidating the church's business. We have reduced local bank accounts from fourteen to four in recent years. The Women's Association holds the only separate bank account at this time.

Happy 2008 from the Finance Committee: Dave Koehler, Eric deJager,  
Bruce MacQueen, Bill Kolberg, and Barbara Melvin, Chair.

	16-Jan-08	2007 Budget	2007 Actual	2008 proposed	Total
<b>Operating Budget Income</b>		<b>132,715</b>	<b>127,152</b>		<b>133,267</b>
<b>Congregation</b>		<b>122,889</b>	<b>116,511</b>	<b>114,000</b>	
Offerings	112,889		111,983	108,000 *	
Open plate	10,000		4,528	6,000	
<b>Facilities use</b>		<b>3,900</b>	<b>5,573</b>	<b>5,750</b>	
Nursery school rent 10 mo.			4,350	4,500	
Other groups, rentals			1,223	1,250	
<b>Other</b>		<b>5,926</b>	<b>5,068</b>	<b>11,470</b>	
Previous years funds	2,726		1,650	10,000	
Investment income if required				<b>2,047</b>	
Interest, eggs, UPW	3,200		3,418	1,470	
<i>* Includes pledges of \$88,056 plus gifts not yet promised. 2007 investment income will cover any shortfall.</i>					
<b>Operating Budget Expense</b>		<b>132,715</b>	<b>123,358</b>		<b>133,267</b>
<b>Administration</b>		<b>9,099</b>	<b>8,710</b>	<b>11,547</b>	
Copier Lease	2,300		2,136	2,300	
Equipment Maintenance	100		154	100	
Office Supplies	350		478	450	
Financial management	550		749	700	
PO Box / Safe Deposit Box	63		119	65	
Postage & mailing permit	550		628	578	
Secretary	2,066		2,100	2,149	4% increase
FICA on sec'y wages	240		248	250	
Workers comp all wages	900		695	900	
Telephone w/ internet	1,380		1,309	1,380	
Discretionary (pastor)	200		94		
Preservation of records	400			400	
Media				2,275	
<b>Benevolence</b>		<b>13,688</b>	<b>13,402</b>	<b>13,347</b>	
<b>Buildings &amp; Property</b>		<b>19,590</b>	<b>18,716</b>	<b>\$ 21,587</b>	
Cleaning Svc.	2,060		3,096	3,120	more hours
Insurance - Property	5,300		5,387	5,512	
Maintenance, Repairs	600		1,980	1,800	
Energy, water, sewer	10,630		8,253	11,155	
Capital improvements	1000		<i>from other funds</i>		
<b>Christian Education</b>		<b>1,400</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>1,400</b>	
<b>Congregational Life</b>	250	<b>250</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>400</b>	
<b>Membership &amp; Stewardship</b>	500	<b>400</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>700</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>	50	<b>50</b>	-	<b>50</b>	
<b>Music and Worship</b>		<b>13,097</b>	<b>13,094</b>	<b>12,755</b>	
Worship Supplies	200		542	550	
Organ/Piano Tuning	600		718	700	
Robe Cleaning	250			150	
Salary - Director	6,172		5,452	6,096	
Salary - Organist	2,650		2,650	2,709	4% increase
Substitute Director - Organ	200		150	300	
FICA on wages	600		105	600	
Salary - Nursery	1,100		975	900	
Music Supplies, copyright	725		501	750	
Search for music director and interim pastor			1,108		
Pulpit Supply	600		893		<i>moved to pastoral</i>
<b>Pastoral Services</b>		<b>66,652</b>	<b>59,089</b>	<b>63,075</b>	
Housing and Utilities	24,068		19,542	11,666	
Pension	15,009		14,102	14,175	
Salary - Pastor	21,153		20,124	33,334	
Benefits in lieu of salary	3,622		2,716		
Study Leave	1,000		1,000	1,000	
Travel & ministry expenses	1,800		1,605	2,300	
Pulpit supply		<i>formerly in Music and worship</i>		600	
<b>Per Capita</b>		<b>8,489</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>8,406</b>	

<b>Investments 2007</b>		<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Account Name		31-Dec	31-Dec
<b>Presbyterian Foundation, New Covenant accounts</b>			
#1018794	General Endowment <i>Produces income; principal may not be spent.</i>	\$163,735	186,289
#1000028597	Designated Purposes <i>Includes Forward Fund, Music Fund, Tent Fund</i>	\$192,583	219,328
#1018801	Memorials <i>Held here before transfer to general endowment</i>	\$7,821	809
#1019132	Building Reserve <i>For capital improvement or facilities emergency</i>	\$12,120	12,729
#1021735	Church School <i>From special gifts</i>	\$5,143	4,787
#1000035927	Contingency <i>"Rainy day" fund for unexpected needs</i>	\$41,692	33,360
1018785	Interest Reserve (closed)	\$325	-
Total of all "New Covenant" funds		\$423,419	<b>\$457,302</b>
<b>Salomon Smith Barney</b>		\$35	<b>36</b>
<i>This is a convenience account to receive gifts of stock for resale to benefit the church.</i>			
<b>Stone McConahey Trust</b>		\$217,762	<b>\$ 228,066</b>
<i>A bequest from Estelle Stone McConahey, c.1970 with Tompkins Trust Co. as trustee.</i>			
Total invested to benefit the church		\$641,216	<b>\$ 685,404</b>

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<b>Tompkins Trust Co. holdings:</b>		<b>2007</b>
		31-Dec
<b>Main</b> checking account		\$ 22,896
<b>Dedicated</b> funds held in "escrow" include special donations, tent setups, prepaid '08 pledges		(11,363)
<b>Savings</b> account at TTC Funds ready to transfer to New Covenant		\$ 9,128
<b>Forward Fund</b> at TTC ready to transfer and close account		\$ 5,271
<b>Women's Assn.</b> see their report		\$ 3,994
Total		\$ 41,289

**About New Covenant Funds Investments      Barbara Melvin, Investment Steward**

We have held accounts with the Presbyterian Foundation since 1996 and during this time we have increased the endowment and special funds of the church from \$104,157 in 1997 to the 2007 balance of \$450,683. This is the result of our concern for financial solidity, and thanks to careful management, a large bequest, many memorial gifts, and a major "200 Forward Fund" capital drive which also raised the funds necessary to renovate the historic Sanctuary.

Our accounts at the Foundation are invested in its New Covenant mutual funds which it describes as "socially responsible" investing in this way:

These policies flow from our faith and stewardship of God's resources entrusted to the Church. New Covenant Funds may also limit investments in companies involved in gambling, alcohol and firearm related issues.... New Covenant Funds has been successful in achieving competitive investment results while investing in a socially conscious manner.

To read more about these funds, see the website at [newcovenantfunds.com](http://newcovenantfunds.com).

## **Buildings and Properties**

**Dan Erickson, Chair**

Many thank yous are owed for the dependable efforts of so many faithful people who keep our facility operational. Thank you to Gregg Hoffmire for all his help and knowledge with information concerning buildings and grounds, storing and setting up chapel building components, and pitching in whenever needed.

A special thank you to Scott and Amy Dawson for their generous gifts of materials and time to accomplish the youth room renovation and to the Youth group for your time and energy on that project to make it happen. Ed and Jean Dawson, Ray and Diana Bradham, and Bruce and Kathey MacQueen: Thanks for your generous gifts to the Youth Room.

The rest room in the chapel received a paint makeover along with accessories. Again Scott and Amy Dawson pitched in. Thank you so much. The sanctuary front yard underwent a major landscaping project with a new sign. So many thanks go to Marvin & Allison Pritts for the inspiration, design, and donation of labor, equipment and material to accomplish this very attractive addition to our church grounds.

Thank you to all those volunteers who tirelessly helped us with grounds keeping and those responsible for watering to keep new plants and the "Karen Azalea" flourishing.

Looking forward to Projects being discussed for 2008

We currently are making lists for routine maintenance items to better keep track of those items on a committee wide basis. Along with that a volunteer list that will hopefully spread out the responsibilities on a rotating schedule.

Gutter and downspout replacement, fascia, prep, prime, paint, window trim (same bricks) checked, maintenance work done as needed at the right side of church sanctuary building. This project we hope to do with as much volunteer help as possible. A new sign for the front of the Chapel is being designed to identify the building which will give a place to list phone numbers, Trumansburg Community Nursery School information, and contact people with phone numbers. Exterior door locks will be replaced and new keys issued.

We would like to install recycled bricks between the side walk and the street curb (to reduce mud problems), pending village approval. Bricks will be courtesy of Bill Kappel. Thank you, Bill.

Anyone who sees a building and properties problem or would like to make suggestions is encouraged to do so.

Contact: Dan Erickson 532-4865; Bill Kolberg 279-4998; Gerry VanOrden 387-6546

## Caring and Benevolence

David Schneider, Chair

The Book of Order opens by summarizing the whole purpose of the Church in a single sentence:

“The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.”

Especially in this time of transition for our congregation, it is useful to use this simple statement as a lens through which we may examine our past efforts over the year and clarify our collective vision for the future.

Members make many contributions toward great ends by offering their time and talents within our congregation and local community. The diversity of these contributions reflects the diversity of the individual talents and callings of our members. Anyone who has received a prayer shawl from the Mission Knitters understands how these simple symbols provide meaningful shelter in times of trial and plainly exhibit the kind of love in action that forms the foundation of the Kingdom in this world. We offer our chapel as a place of contemplation and growth for those struggling with addiction, as well as providing a location where the community can come to literally offer a piece of ourselves for the healing of others by regularly hosting the Red Cross blood drive. Through the C&B committee, we provide financial support to many other local organizations such as the Trumansburg Food Pantry, the Protestant ministries at local colleges and universities, and the Pathways Interfaith Counseling Center. It is impossible to enumerate the other ways in which our members make individual contributions by volunteering at the Cayuga Medical Center or hospice services, the GEMM shop, Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes, by participating in the annual CROP walk and work projects sponsored by Habitat for Humanity and Presbyterian Disaster Relief, or by helping to set up the tent.

A very large portion of the annual budget for the Caring and Benevolence Committee goes toward support for mission activities organized at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels directed toward national and international programs. From our perspective, the financial nature of contributions may seem abstract and impersonal but their impact is very tangible and profoundly personal for the eventual recipients. Some of those funds support missionaries to spread the Gospel and establish new churches, while others provide food and shelter to victims of persecution and natural disaster without ethnic, political, religious or social boundaries. These programs all further the great ends of the church in ways that require very long term commitments, careful preparation, and coordinated, collective action. The connectional nature of the Presbyterian system provides a framework

through which we can help transform the lives of disadvantaged and oppressed people around the world.

Finally, the C&B committee sponsored a second Alternative Giving Program over the holidays that focused on three organizations whose operating principles and goals are clearly connected with the great ends of the church:

**Church World Service** ([www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org))

Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard.

**Habitat for Humanity International** (<http://www.habitat.org>)

What is Habitat for Humanity International? Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

**Heifer International** ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org))

*Heifer envisions...*

a world of communities living together in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy planet.

*Heifer's mission is...*

to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.

*Heifer's strategy is...*

to "pass on the gift." As people share their animals' offspring with others - along with their knowledge, resources, and skills - an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe.

Looking forward, there are many new and exciting opportunities in the next year. For example, Habitat for Humanity is planning to build at least one home in Trumansburg. Several members of the congregations have expressed interest in various kinds of national and international mission trips. The committee welcomes your ideas, insights, and support.



## **Christian Education Committee**

**Debby Koehler, Chair**

2007 began with the renovation of the Senior High Youth room. Under the direction and guidance of Scott and Amy Dawson, the Senior High youth helped design, paint, decorate, and update the room for Sunday school, and Youth Group meetings.

Pastor Jeff led an Adult Education series of the "Thoughtful Christian". This was held on most Tuesday's from February-May. Jeff also held confirmation classes for youth in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In June, 8 youth (see membership report) made the decision to join the church.

The Senior High Youth Group continues to meet once a month during the school year. This year they led two worship services, packed care packages, learned about the role of music in the worship service, shared a Passover meal given by Marsha Pond, and made time for bowling, volleyball, and a bonfire. Also Ariel Regnier and Julia Bialke joined the Methodist youth group on a mission trip to Conklin, NY.

Vacation Bible returned this summer under the direction of Megan deJager, and Kathey Macqueen. It was a fun week with the youth in pre-k thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Sunday school continues to use the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum. Two long time teachers retired in June from their many years of service. Many thanks go to Lori Kraus and Peter DeCloux for their dedication to the Christian Education of the children of our church.

Several new adults chose to share their time and talents in the Sunday school program. The teachers for the 07-08 school year are Amy Erickson, Kathey MacQueen, Karen Bartishevich, Julie Andersen, Deb Regnier, Elspeth Peterson, Eric deJager, Don Andersen, Kate Merriman, and Marvin Pritts. The Adult Sunday School is led by John Kirkman, Bill Kolberg, and David Schneider.

2007 ended with an Advent party put on by the Sunday school teachers, and a Christmas pageant organized by Megan deJager.

The Christian Education committee thanks all who continue to share their talents for the ongoing support of our programs.

## **Congregational Life**

**Scott Dawson, Chair**

A Year in Review (and what a year it was!)

**January to March:** We started 2007 as we do every year, with our annual meeting. We coupled it with a soup and sandwich luncheon. In February, we had Chili night, with a selection of homemade chili and cornbread, and ice cream for dessert. In early March, we

braved the cold at Cass park with some ice skating. Finally, in mid-March, we had a very well-attended spaghetti dinner, with salad and bread complementing the fantastic food.

**April to June:** Springtime was filled with delicious events! We had a Maundy Thursday pass-a-dish supper and service. The men got together for a breakfast (Scott Dawson talked about his work as it relates to the Internet). We had a great dinner and kids enjoyed disassembling a piñata during Nuevo de Mayo (Mexican Fiesta). We had a "picnic in the country" to coordinate with our worship service at the Barteshevich's. The church also got its annual cleaning with our work party. Fueled by breakfast food, we put finishing touches on new landscaping, installed a new phone in the Chapel hallway, dusted, weeded, raked, washed and dried. Whew!

**September to October:** Jerry Van Orden came to the men's breakfast in September to speak about his involvement with Stream Watch, a local water quality monitoring group. We participated in the CROP walk, and had a wonderful fall outing at Deb Regnier's house. At October's dish-to-pass, Marvin Pritts presented photos and commentary from his trip to Kyrgyzstan.

### **October to December**

We had pie again this year - and a lot of it - at our annual pre-Thanksgiving pie night. We shared a breakfast on Thanksgiving morning in the Chapel, and enjoyed a soup and sandwich luncheon to cap off our membership & stewardship campaign in November. In December, we enjoyed a new format for the Trumansburg Presbyterian (TP) Progressive Dinner: hosted by the Farrells in their festively-decorated home, we enjoyed appetizers and desserts. The Bialke girls provided babysitting at the Chapel, allowing some parents with young children to have a fantastic night out.

Many thanks to the committee members whose gifts of time, talent and energy made these events a success: Scott & Amy Dawson, Jerry & Nancy VanOrden, Bobbi Farrell, Anne Bialke, Deb Regnier, Anne Buchner, Megan deJager and Sally Priester. An additional thank you to everyone involved in the events. Countless volunteers have made calls, coordinating purchasing items, set up for events, washed dishes, and everything in between. With your help, we enjoy each and every fellowship opportunity. THANK YOU! Here's looking forward to a wonderful 2008, filled with more fun events for all to enjoy!

## **Membership and Stewardship Committee**

**David Koehler, Chair**

### **Membership Activities**

During 2007, our membership grew from 202 to 203 active members. New members included our eight members of the confirmation class that joined the church in June and July of 2007. We also added six members from transfer of membership and reaffirmation of faith. Details are included in the Clerk's statistical report.

One of our key membership initiatives during 2007 was to affirm the recommendation of the Session to be a more welcoming church to visitors and new members. This recommendation came from information called the “Magnetic Church” that was presented during a Presbytery conference attended by Scott and Amy Dawson. Our contribution is to re-commit to wearing our membership badges. We have created new badges for all who have asked and continue to be impressed by the commitment of our members to wear their badges to help to identify themselves to all.

## **Stewardship**

During the fall of 2007, our committee focused on our stewardship campaign. This effort is always important as we try to build a fiscally responsible budget for the coming year. A stewardship letter was written by the committee and sent to all members and active attendees. By the end of 2007, a total 67 of our pledging units returned their pledges to the church.

## **2008 Initiatives**

In 2008, our committee will focus on creating an ad hoc committee to gather information from our members on the type of church that we would like to be. This information will provide input to the process of creating our Church Information Form that will be available to possible candidates for our permanent pastor position.

We have also decided to begin to host small group sessions with members to allow us all to reconnect with one another. We are calling this our “cottage initiative”. Look for more information by the spring.

## **Music and Worship Committee**

**Carolyn Lange, Chair**

Music and Worship Committee members work with the minister, music director and organist to provide our regular Sunday morning worship services and special services. We count on God’s guidance and the pastor and musician leadership to help us keep our focus on the true goals of worship while we coordinate and attend to some of the “Martha” details! It has been our practice for some time to celebrate the Lord’s Supper on the first Sunday or each month, at the late Christmas Eve service and on Maundy Thursday. We generally follow the lectionary, at the discretion of the minister.

Rev. Jeff Kellam and music director, Alice Ploss led us through the first months of 2007. Special services included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday communion at a shared supper, Easter Sunrise –our “turn” at this ecumenical service –was held at Taughannock Park at 6:30am. Earlier in the year, we experienced a wonderful April service led by our youth. Our traditional June outdoor service was held at the Bartishevich barn.

July marked the end of music director, Alice Ploss's service in our church. We celebrated her enthusiastic and skilled leadership and stretching of our musical horizons. She guided and nurtured fine choirs, who have continued. Polly Gutelius and our fine choir members helped us coordinate in the absence of a director.

Also in July, Rev. Kellam announced that he would be retiring in the fall of 2007. He provided pastoral care for this church community for many years. Some of our traditions of special times in the liturgical year, of very special children's time, of opening the service with the children at the font and Christ candle and Bible, of lay liturgists have been developed under his guidance. In September his ministry was recognized in our morning worship. A jazz group offered music, our choir celebrated with song—thanks to Polly Gutelius and choir for special music--and there was the traffic of a musician back & forth from the Methodist Church for a special introit.

We had the opportunity of hearing several visiting ministers during the summer and in the fall. Thanks go to Kathey MacQueen, Megan deJager and Kris Alling for helping with the task of scheduling pastors. Thanks go to Kris for providing a consistent bulletin format and to Linda Andrew for helping with bulletins, announcements and information for visiting pastors. Special thanks, also, to David Schneider, who not only served as "elder of the month" (for several months), but also provided a wonderful message as a lay worship leader. Under the leadership of Marvin Pritts, the youth of our church community designed and led a Sunday service. They were inspiring! Awesome. Marvin also organized and led our Christmas instrumental group—brave and wonderful.

Bryan Lilley joined our church staff as music director just in time to lead us into Advent and Christmastide. Choir, congregation, organist rejoiced. He has ably led and challenged our singers and is leading the bell choir as well. We appreciate his fine talents. He joined us during the "supply pastor" time---a challenge to coordinate music and message! Our thanks to him! Thanks, also, to each choir member and musician who have added to our worship.

Doris Dunlap, our organist, contributes so much to our worship. It is during her playing of the prelude that we may center ourselves. She is an exceptionally skilled accompanist. The postlude often punctuates the message of the service---the last postlude of this Christmas season was an inspiration.

Rev. Glenn Kennedy joined us as interim pastor just in time for Advent and Christmastide! He has brought some wonderful experiences as a pastor and teacher stateside and abroad. We are pleased to have his steady leadership and counsel as we go through the process of pastoral search. He has been a good listener and observer of our traditions and respects those even as he brings new perspectives. We are pleased to have him here each week and each Sunday.

Music and Worship Committee members and musicians really enjoyed Advent and Christmas, with pastoral and music leadership in place! Thanks go to many throughout the year – Ed & Jean Dawson for coordinating ushers; Judy Riley for faithful communion set-up; Linda Andrew for preparing bread, for children's bulletins, bulletin copies, etc.; Joan Melvin and family for checking sanctuary readiness and for children's bags; Megan deJager *for a wonderful Christmas pageant during our morning worship*; Kathey MacQueen for coordinating the ritual of font, candle, scripture and the Advent Wreath; Amy Erickson for organizing hundreds of individual candles for two services; Amy Dawson for helping with nursery, with instructions for tasks & with organization & communication; liturgists and communion servers; church decorators; **all** for ideas and simply stepping in whenever something is needed.

Committee: Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Bryan Lilley, Doris Dunlap, Judy Riley, Linda Andrew, Joan Melvin, Amy Erickson, Megan deJager, Amy Dawson, Kathey MacQueen

## **Music Director**

**Marc Bryan Lilley**

I would like to begin by saying that it has been such a tremendous joy to find a truly welcoming church home here at First Presbyterian of Ulysses. This year has been a time of enormous transition for both the music program and the church body as a whole. And yet despite all the uncertainty, I feel I have been welcomed into the hearts and minds of so many new friends. It has been a privilege to give my contributions to the service and church community over the last four months.

## **Report for the Chancel Choir**

I cannot overstate the high regard I have developed for the members of our Chancel choir. Their sheer excitement for the music we share as well as their adaptability during this time has made my transition into the role of Choir Director as seamless as possible. At least in my own estimation! There is not a singer among them who has not offered me their most helpful advice, and without this guidance, the progress of the ensemble could not possibly resemble what it is now. Also I offer a special thanks to the Dawson family for their friendship and aid during some of my organizational frenzies.

While much of the music that was programmed over the last few months has been familiar and perhaps more "Traditional," I believe that the general musicianship displayed on a weekly basis has exceeded my expectations. Much of our growth is due to the consistent attendance of the singers. This is quite a gift considering the kind of time commitment that was needed during the winter months as we approached the Christmas season.

I would also like to welcome any of the high-school youth who might be interested to come sing with us. While it is my understanding that the winter months can be hectic with all the

extracurricular activities going on, perhaps closer to Easter we could encourage an influx of younger singers to join the choir.

I hope that next year we will consider hosting the TACC Advent concert at our church once again. Our choir shined brilliantly at the concert and with their help I have familiarized myself with the general logistics of the event itself.

I would like to request a tuning of the Sanctuary piano some time before Easter if possible. Both Doris and I have noticed the need, particularly after the wonderful tuning of our Organ this winter. Our ears are spoiled so perhaps we are a bit picky now!

As a final note for this segment of my report I would like to extend my very deepest thanks to my friend and colleague Doris Dunlap. Her musical gifts and personal support have provided such a relief to me. Both our entire church community and myself are indebted to her for her continued contributions during worship and fellowship. We are beyond fortunate to have such a beautiful musician and friend among us.

### **Report for the Chapel Bell Ringers**

My work here at First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses marks my first role as director of a bell choir, and what a debut it has been for me! Every rehearsal is a learning experience, and the patience of our steadfast ringers is remarkable. Having rung in a few groups before my time here I know that clear communication between the members as well as the director is foremost in developing the ensemble. We have grown so much together and I am excited about our ever-increasing participation in the services.

While attendance for a bell choir is essential, we have been fortunate to have so many volunteers willing to substitute for those missing on the occasional basis. There are still a few positions open in the group, one of which consists of the very lowest octave of bells. This position which was previously reserved for the most hearty of ringers on account of the size of the bells, is now accessible to anyone interested, thanks to a new bell stand built specifically for the larger instruments.

I have not yet had the opportunity to look through and new catalogues and explore some new music, but with our substantial sized files, I believe we can find some music that will challenge and invigorate the ringers as we look towards Holy Week.

Just as another clarification, the bell choir meets after the service on Sundays from 11:45 to 12:45 in the sanctuary. All rehearsals are open for anyone who wants to wander over from the coffee hour and hear our progress and perhaps ignite an interest in participating.

My thanks to all our faithful ringers for their patience, their sense of humor and most of all for their talents!

## **Personnel Committee**

**Jerry Kraus, Chair**

The year of 2007 was one of major change and transition for the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses from a personnel standpoint. Both our Pastor and Music Director were led in other directions by God, and we are grateful for their years of dedicated service while they were with us in Trumansburg.

Our Music Director of nineteen years, Alice Ploss, moved to Japan with her family. While the Ploss family and Alice's talents and contributions are missed, they remain in our hearts and the incredible updates and photos from the "Land of the Rising Sun" were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all! Our Pastor, Rev. Jeff Kellam, retired in the fall of 2007 and moved to Owego, NY with his wife, Joan. We had a wonderful send-off for the Kellams, and we wish them all the best in their new endeavors!

With changes of this magnitude come opportunities for new beginnings. Our search for a new Music Director brought us Marc Bryan Lilley, a Graduate Assistant at Ithaca College. Bryan's energy and love of the music has been a great gift for us and we are very blessed to have Bryan join our staff. As we embark on the process of searching for a new called Pastor, we are also blessed to have Rev. Glenn Kennedy of Lockwood, NY join us in the critical role of Interim Pastor. With Glenn's leadership, we are confidently moving forward into 2008, and we are excited about what God has in store for the future of FPCU.

The current Personnel Committee consists of Diana Bradham, Anne Buchner, Tom Callaghan, Jerry Kraus, Marvin Mobbs, and Karen Perkins. Special thanks also to the other volunteer Music Director Search Committee members, Amy Dawson and Bill Kolberg.

## Reports from Church Organizations

### Mission Knitters

Evelyn Fritz

It was another busy, productive and enjoyable year. We delivered 134 baby hats -- 40 to "Save the Children" Fund and the rest locally. Also, 12 hats went to cancer patients at CMC (Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca). We gave 27 children's sweaters to the W.I.C. (Women Infants Children) office for low income people, 27 prayer shawls for those with a serious illness, sad situations or celebrations in their families.

The knitted baby hat for every new baby in the congregation is still on ongoing project. Also, if you would like one for a newborn grandchild, please let me know. There are all colors and many styles.

Our group meets informally the last Tuesday of every month, in the Lange Room, 1-3pm. Bring whatever you are knitting or crocheting- or just come.

### Ulysses Presbyterian Women (UPW)

Maureen Shallish/Sue Mason

We started the year giving thanks to Ginny Miller for her decades of commitment to the UPW; a donation was made to Loaves and Fishes and to Hospicare honoring her commitment and dedicated work over the years that have strengthened our church community.

Maureen Shallish and Sue Mason have served as co-chairs  
Ginny Miller - recording secretary  
Judy Riley --Treasurer  
Diana Bradham as session liaison

Mission statement - with the mission of the greater United PW as a guide we are developing a mission statement that will help define our goals; to build an inclusive, caring community of women who strengthens our congregation's faith through service and fellowship.

### Financial and Fundraising focused on areas of Mission, Budget/Financial, Building and Program

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Antique Show and Sale was cancelled. Diana Bradham had so graciously taken over the leadership role for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Year in 2006 and was most capably planning for our 43<sup>rd</sup> when news arrived of a conflicting, competing community event the prior weekend. After much thoughtful consideration and prayer a decision was made to cancel this year's event and to reenergize for the year ahead.

Discussions ensued as to other fundraising ideas that would allow for fellowship as well.



**Annual Rummage Sale:** Ginny Miller stepped down from her coordinator role and handed over the reins to Amy Erickson. Amy generously took a weeks vacation from work and with the assistance of many volunteers we again were able to provide our community with a “fair” shopping experience.

**Budget and expenses:** (Specifics in attached treasurers report)

The Ulysses PW made contributions to:

The Church General Fund to support budget

Several local charitable organizations to support mission

Kitchen supplies, classroom renovations, flower urns to support building

Knitting ministry, Camp Whitman, and funds set aside for ‘Living with the End in Mind’ to support program

**Planning and Activities:**

There has been discussion concerning all areas of contribution of funds and budget planning. Specific to a request to seek information about a dishwasher for the kitchen a committee was formed- (Nancy Van Orden, Ginny Miller, Amy Dawson and Diana Bradham)- to research cost and feasibility prior to making a recommendation to the session. That work has been completed, and a report compiled by Diana and shared with session.

**There have been several gatherings for dinners, brunch and evening appetizers where we have joined together in fellowship.**

Snowy – blizzard appetizers at Shallish’s in February, March was the Create the Gift of Woman service in our church, April brunch at the Road House. Ginny and Jess Miller graciously hosted the Antiqueless Appreciation Affair at their home in July. It was a wonderfully hot summer’s day where we were able to gather, feast, reminisce and show thanks for the past 42 years of fellowship and service. New Beginnings dinner at Shallish’s in the fall, and Pam Postle warmed our bodies with a Chicken and Biscuit dinner at the chapel. Pam shared information from her meeting with the United PW in Lodi, with suggestions for other services for the future. Bobbi Farrell ended the year for us when she hosted a cookie exchange at her home. Carolyn Stillions has coordinated care of our urns at the church and chapel that welcome all to a thriving church.

We have been most grateful for the many new ideas shared, the patience and understanding of all, as we dealt with change and for the energies of many that support us all as we gather to strengthen our family and faith in our congregation.

## Treasurer Report UPW

Judy Riley, Treasurer

### Summary

Balance on hand 1/1/07	\$6,445.68	
Receipts for 2007	2,560.18	
Amount available	9,005.86	
Disbursements for 2007	-5,086.24	
Balance on hand 12/31/07		\$3,919.62

### Receipts

Rummage Sale	\$2,315.85	(net \$2,245.59)
Gemm Shop	244.33	
Total Receipts		\$2,560.18

### Disbursements

PW of Geneva Presbytery	\$400.00	
Kitchen Supplies	340.39	
Fair Coffee Exchange	225.00	
Knitting ministry supplies	137.00	
C.O.D. High School Class of 2008 after prom party	50.00	
Outside urn flowers	135.64	
Rummage Sale expenses	70.26	
Church general fund	2000.00	
Antique Show ad (early January)	118.65	
Hospicare	500.00	
Loaves and Fishes	500.00	
Youth classroom renovation	500.00	
Reception	39.30	
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	30.00	
Christmas Bureau	40.00	
Total disbursements		\$5,086.24

## Tent Committee

Charles Dunlap, Tent Master

After 31 years in the tent business our luck ran out. A fierce gust of wind wrecked our tent on the third set up in June. A meeting was held to decide if we should stay in the tent business since we no longer needed one for the antique show. The vote was to order a new tent so in two weeks we were back in business. We only had to cancel one set up.

We always seemed to have enough help. The e-mail system is working---Thank you Maureen Shallish. We miss some of the old dependables, and hope they will be back next year. One that won't be back is the old red truck. Merle sold it after many years of faithful service. Thanks Merle Stillions. We will miss that power lift gate.

### 2007 Tent Set Ups

June 8-9	Scott Sutcliffs - Waterburg Road	N/C
June 15-16	Miller's - Pine Ridge Road	\$250
June 18-19	Cornell Turf Grass Farm	\$300
July 15-20	Taughannock Soccer Club	\$300
July 20-21	Addy Wedding @Myers Gardens	\$350
July 23-24	Cornell Turf Grass Farm	\$300
Aug 3-5	Lucas Winery	\$250
Aug 17-19	St. Francis Solanus Church	\$250
Aug 24-26	South Seneca Sportsman Club	\$250
Aug 30-31	Sheldrake Community Association	\$250
Sept 1-2	Barb Melvin - Hayts Road	\$250
Sept 14-16	Lucas Winery	\$250
	Total	\$3,000

Suggested changes for next season - limit driving distance to no more than 20 miles.  
Proposed rate increase because of new tent Members \$250, others in Trumansburg and Interlaken area \$300, Cornell \$350.

Thank you to all who made the tent fly this year.

## **Interim Pastor's Report**

**Rev. Glenn Kennedy**

Having arrived in Trumansburg barely two months ago, it is tempting simply to say that I have nothing substantive yet to report. However, several things are already quite apparent (*and* substantive) to me: that the Trumansburg congregation is incredibly fascinating, immensely talented, actively engaged in ministry, and anxious to seek out new opportunities both for nurture and service.

As your new interim pastor, the above reality is both a joy and a challenge: a joy because I see everywhere folks who are eager to translate their faith into action; a challenge because—in the midst of such infectious enthusiasm—it would be easy for me to be stretched in so many different directions that I could not serve you effectively.

My sense, then, of the Trumansburg church is that it is a wonderful bundle of spiritual energy with a multitude of potential directions in which that energy could be pointed. The challenge for all of us together will be to focus and prioritize our energy during this “interim” time—prayerfully and sensitively seeking the guidance of the Spirit as we aspire to make the grace and peace of Christ a more evident reality in our midst and in our ministry, even as we move forward in the pastoral search process.

I very much look forward to this *joyful* challenge in the year ahead.

## **Historian Report**

**Virginia R. Miller**

The First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses (FPCU) has had a remarkable year with good programs, good leadership, putting a few traditions to rest and the start of new beginnings. We thank the many, many people who have faithfully continued to carry on the life, work and mission of the church.

The Magnetic Church Program is concerned with “Present Yourself” and the ways to make the church more welcoming and inviting to new visitors and the present church family. Scott and Amy Dawson attended the seminar with Jeff Kellam and are enthusiastically leading the church to implement some of these ideas. Scott and Amy are the new editors for the “Grape Vine”, our church newsletter, and they are including interviews of new and present members, reports, creative formats, pictures—all to make it look good, to be informative, upbeat and welcoming.

The sanctuary entrance was redesigned and implemented by Marvin Pritts and helpers. There is a new sidewalk approach, plantings and a new church sign in front of the church sanctuary. With other men and their sons the work was done in three busy days. Well Done!

Energetic leaders are working with our valued youth to encourage them to come together in the faith. Debby Koehler moved to Trumansburg in 2002 and that fall she started and has since led the Senior High Youth Group. She also organized the Middle School Group. It had been approximately 30 years since there had been an active, organized youth group. The current group is meeting once a month with interesting programs.

Debby is always looking for ways to involve the youth in meaningful and enjoyable activities and mission outreach. In 2007 a few of our youth joined with a Methodist group for mission work projects at Conklin, NY. In April 2007 a wonderful church worship service was led by the youth group under the direction of Debby Koehler, Alice Ploss and Jeff Kellam. Debby is also currently involved in Christian Education as a coordinator of the Sunday school and the curriculum. Under the direction of Marvin Pritts, a second worship service in November was led by many in the Sunday school. We certainly appreciate and thank Debby and Marvin for all their leadership and commitment.

Eight teenagers were in the Confirmation Class which was led by Jeff and they all joined the church in 2007.

The Youth Group room renovation was directed and executed by Scott and Amy Dawson with the teens involved in the planning and work. The catch all basement room was greatly transformed and now is definitely warmer and more welcoming.

A very popular, meaningful and fun Vacation Bible School week was led by Megan DeJager and Kathey MacQueen for our younger youth. Megan also directed the Children's Christmas pageant. The church is definitely a good place to be and we are thankful for our young families.

In missions the very active Knitting Ministry continues and is strongly supported. The church is looking locally at Habitat for Humanity Projects that will soon take place.

The traditional Presbyterian Women's Antique Show was cancelled in 2007. It had been "a good run" for 42 years. It originally started in July 1965 during the Federation of FPCU and the First Baptist Church. Lunches were served both days at the old Baptist Church (now the Conservatory) and a chicken BBQ was served there the first night. An ice cream and cake social was held the second night at FPCU. All the dealers were at FPCU. The Show was later cut to one day, everything was at FPCU. The luncheon was expanded, switched from chicken to steak and then the roast beef dinner. Craft vendors were added outside. Some of the original leaders were Sally Payne and Ruth Farrell in charge of the dealers and Margaret MacIntyre and Mildred Lane in charge of food. It definitely was a community attraction and a tent was rented the second year. The church purchased a tent after a few years and before long the tent ministry started. The show pulled people together in camaraderie and exuded lots of energy. It was well done and went out in style. Thank you everyone who led, worked and contributed over the years.

Alice Ploss, our beloved Director of Music, resigned in August 2007. She began in September 1988 and energetically and spiritually led our choir, bell choir and some of our children times music at the church for 19 wonderful years. Each one of her three sons was carried in a pack on her back during rehearsals at our church in her early years.

Alice has brought us an impressive variety of music. Not only did we love the music, we all enjoyed watching her spirited and spirit led directing with any group. She is a professional with her music and fully participated in the life of the church. Alice we regret losing you to the family move to Japan, but deeply appreciate your talent, your spirit of fun and your generosity. Text from July 15, 2007 included Alice's words to "Keep on making music for God and for each other...and be kind to the new guys, whoever they may be. Think of me when you make the sanctuary 'ring'. You know how I love that."

Now we welcome the "new guy" who is Bryan Lilley. Bryan started with us in October 2007. He is a graduate student in music at Ithaca College and has a variety of music experiences. Already we appreciate his talent and professionalism.

Rev. Jeffrey Stanton Kellam, our 26<sup>th</sup> formally installed pastor of FPCU, honorably retired on Oct. 1, 2007. He started with us in March 2002. In a 2001 letter the Pastor Nominating Committee described Jeff to the congregation as "an outstanding teacher, preacher, and worship leader with a strong and commanding voice. He is creative in leadership, warm in pastoral support, and he values...worship shared with lay leadership and involvement of children." The committee felt unanimously that he was the best candidate. Our expectations have certainly been met.

When Jeff first came to us some projects were already in planning. In his first year he helped the committee plan and then helped to execute a good variety of events for our bicentennial year in 2003. Jeff then led us in a thorough exercise considering all kinds of sacred spaces and thinking about more than just a redecorating project of the sanctuary. After that we slowly reached a consensus to refurbish the sanctuary and it was rededicated in October 2005. He urged us then "to move beyond our joy over our renewed sacred space, and set as our newest goal the renovation of the sanctuary of the heart...seeking to help every child of our church grow and become strong...and know the favor, the grace, of God."

Through time and much discussion the Sunday school time was rearranged so that the teachers and children could fully participate in Sunday morning worship. Jeff attended most of the youth ministry events. Jeff clearly likes to teach. The Thoughtful Christian series and Lenten series were weekly gatherings for adults and were enjoyed by many. He led the Session's study of the Peace, Unity, Purity report of the General Assembly.

Both Jeff and Joan, his wife, made an impact on our thinking about missions. The Caring and Benevolence committee put on a very successful and active “Mission Fair” and it spurred a lot of interest in missions. Jeff and Joan have shown us by their example how to be inclusive. They have given time to meet the needs of church members and visitors, provide transportation, encourage alternative gifts for mission at Christmas time, and to spur our own benevolent efforts.

Jeff is a great communicator – he can “get to the heart of the matter”. Different people have said that he was great one on one when they asked to meet with him. He listened and was very supportive and caring.

The highlight for Jeff, as a pastor, was the Sunday worship service. He believed that children should have an important place in worship – light the Christ candle, water in the font, open the pulpit Bible. He liked the preparation for worship and carefully chose his words, wrote his sermons, the children’s conversation and chose the prayers. He liked having a blend of contemporary and traditional worship – especially through the music. We soon learned about his love of jazz. He is a superb storyteller. The personal touches he added to the youth “conversations” gave clear messages which reached us all, not just the visibly young. Jeff believed that the worship service is where the whole community comes together to honor God. He and we have enjoyed greatly our Sundays together. He urges us now to focus on just being the church. We will be a better church because he was here. Thank you Jeff for helping us to raise our “Spiritual bars”.

Rev. Glenn Kennedy became our interim pastor December 1, 2007. He will help to guide our congregation as we carry on the work and life of the church and go through the process to selecting a new minister.

A historian does a variety of things. In 2007 this included:

\*Review and organize many duplicate, loose unofficial papers from the Federation and defederation time (1964 to 1972). There are no official records and calls to leaders of that time did not provide any information. I will try to summarize all this soon.

\*In 2006 and 2007 the church applied to the National Presbyterian Historical Society for a grant to help financially to microfilm our church official records. Many thanks to Barb Melvin who skillfully wrote up each application with information I provided in 2006. In December 2007 we were approved for this grant and we will proceed with this in 2008.

\*Our older members are such a valued resource. In December I started interviews with Martha Dickson (90) and Howard (90) and Milli Tubbs and have some on audio tape and some digital video. What fun! I will continue with others in 2008. In 2007 we lost Bill Adie, Esther Garner, and former member Duncan MacIntyre who had been active leaders in our church. We also lost Janice Chambers who joined as a resident of a nursing home and was part of our family through visitations and newsletters.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES**  
**MEMBERSHIP AS OF December 31, 2007**

Adams, Adelaide (Mrs. Frank)	DeCloux, Cindy (Mrs. Wm.)	Hendrix, Delores (Dee)
Adie, Astrid (Mrs. Wm.)	DeCloux, Dennis	Henninger, Neil
Allen, David	DeCloux, Joel (Mrs. Peter)	Henninger, Ray
Allen, Karen (Mrs. David)	DeCloux, Kelsey	Henninger, Susan (Mrs. Neil)
Alling, Kristin (Mrs. Neil)	DeCloux, Peter	Herrmann, Kim
Alling, Neil	DeCloux, William	Hickman, Warren
Andersen, Donald	deJager, Eric	Hoffmire, Gregg Owen Vann
Andersen, Julie (Mrs. Donald)	deJager, Megan (Mrs. Eric)	Hoffmire, Marion
Andrew, Allen	Dickson, Charles	Hotchkiss-Yager, Eliza
Andrew, Linda (Mrs. Allen)	Dickson, Karen (Mrs. Chas)	Johnson, David
Andrew, Scott	Dickson, Martha	Johnson, Mary Ellen (Mrs. Rich)
Apgar, Susan	Dunlap, Charles	Johnson, Richard
Baines, Sally	Dunlap, Doris (Mrs. Chas)	Joyce, Lisa
Bancroft, Linda	Erickson, Amy (Mrs. Dan)	King, Karen (Mrs. David
Bartishevich, Benn	Erickson, Dan	Drumheller)
Bartishevich, Karen (Mrs. Paul)	Erickson, Davin	Koehler, David
Bartishevich, Paul	Erickson, Dean	Koehler, Debbie (Mrs. David)
Bialke, Anne (Mrs. Wm.)	Erickson, Stephen	Koehler, Eric
Bialke, Audrey	Errigo, Katherine (Mrs. Edw.)	Koehler, Kevin
Bialke, Julia	Errigo, Edward	Koehler, Max
Bialke, Madeleine	Fahs, Cheryl (Mrs. John)	Kolberg, William
Bialke, William	Fahs, John	Kraus, Jeremy
Bowers, Demaris (DeeDee)	Farrell, Joe	Kraus, Jerry
Bradham, Diana (Mrs. Ray)	Farrell, Roberta (Bobbi	Kraus, Lori (Mrs. Jerry)
Bradham, Ray	(Mrs. Joe)	Landis, Sue
Brown, Georgia	Fiser, Webb	Lange, Calvin
Brown, Robert	Fritz, Evelyn	Lange, Carolyn
Buchner, Anne (Mrs. Gary)	Garner, Scott	Lawless, Harry T.
Buchner, Gary	Goodell, Art	Lawless, Marjorie (Mrs. Harry)
Butler, Kaitlyn	Goodell, Robin (Mrs. Art)	Lawless, Michael
Butler, Melinda (Mrs. Mike)	Grant, Helen	Lawless, Patrick
Butler, Michael	Grove, Joan	Leikes, Kristi
Callaghan, Thomas	Gutelius, Mary (Polly)	Little, Jeannette (Mrs. Stephen)
Comin, Julia	Haith, Doug	Little, Stephen
Dawson, Amy (Mrs. Scott)	Haith, Ellen (Mrs. Doug)	Lupo, Lorie (Mrs. Mike)
Dawson, Edward	Hamill, Eleanor	MacCarrick, Paul
Dawson, Jean (Mrs. Ed)	Hamill, Jean	Macinski, Marti (Mrs. Tom)
Dawson, Scott	Hathcoat, Patricia	Macinski, Thomas
Dean, Robert	Haus, Doug	MacLean, Gayle (Mrs. Ron)
Dean, Rorie	Haus, Randy	MacLean, Ron



MacQueen, Bruce  
 MacQueen, Kathy (Mrs. Bruce)  
 Mason, James  
 Mason, Susan Salver (Mrs. James)  
 McIntyre, Deborah (Mrs Robert)  
 McIntyre, Robert  
 McKeith, Shirlye  
 Melvin, Barbara  
 Melvin, Kelsey  
 Melvin, Parker  
 Merriman, Katherine Stainton  
 Metro, William  
 Miller, Howard R.  
 Miller, Jesse  
 Miller, Margaret Clawson  
 Miller, Virginia Robson  
 (Mrs. Jesse)  
 Mobbs, Danielle  
 Mobbs, Doris (Mrs Marvin)  
 Mobbs, Marvin  
 Mullen, Laurie  
 Mullen, Megan  
 Mullen, Morgan  
 Mullen, Tracy  
 Nelson, Elaine (Mrs Robert)  
 Nogel, Carol Ann (Mrs. Chas)  
 Norman, Roberta Selover  
 (Mrs. Stephn)  
 O'Brien, Nancy (Mrs. Wm)  
 Osterhout, Damon  
 Osterhout, Florence (Mrs. Damon)

Overbaugh, William  
 Perkins, Gerald  
 Perkins, Karen Pedersen  
 (Mrs Gerald)  
 Peterson, Andrew  
 Peterson, Elspeth (Mrs. Russ)  
 Peterson, Geoffrey  
 Peterson, Russell  
 Ploss, Alice Wayman (Mrs.  
 Robin)  
 Ploss, Mathew  
 Ploss, Robin  
 Pond, Wilson  
 Postle, Pam (Mrs. Larry)  
 Priester, David  
 Priester, Sally (Mrs. David)  
 Pritts, Allison  
 Pritts, Alyssa  
 Pritts, Marvin  
 Regnier, Ariel  
 Regnier, Deb  
 Riley, Amanda  
 Riley, Judy (Mrs. Ed)  
 Robertson, John  
 Robertson, Judith (Mrs. John)  
 Robertson Hill, Melinda (Molly)  
 Robertson, Richard  
 Roykouff, Thomas  
 Schneider, David  
 Schneider, Lori Greene (Mrs.  
 David)

Schneider, Sarah  
 Schott, Michael  
 Schreher, H. Daniel  
 Schreher, Mary Ellen (Mrs. Dan)  
 Selover, Jane Brown (Mrs. Steph)  
 Shallish, Kristen  
 Smith, Randy  
 Spott, Ann  
 Spott, Phillip  
 Stewart, Ellen(Toni) (Mrs. Jack)  
 Stewart, Jack  
 Stillions, Carolyn (Mrs. Merle)  
 Stillions, Merle  
 Stott, Paul  
 Taylor, Ron  
 Taylor, Virginia  
 Tubbs, Alan  
 Tubbs, Howard  
 Tubbs, Julie (Mrs. Alan)  
 Tubbs, Milli Robinson  
 (Mrs. Howard)  
 Ulrich, Susan (Mrs. David)  
 VanOrden, Gerry  
 VanOrden, Nancy Eddy  
 (Mrs. Jerry)  
 Vorhis, Gregg  
 Vorhis, Mary Alice (Mrs. Gregg)  
 Whitted, Samantha  
 Zaharis, Darlene  
 Zaharis, Samantha

In memory  
 of the following members lost in the year 2007.

William Adie

Esther Garner

Duncan MacIntyre

Janice Chambers