

# **2008 Annual Reports First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses**

**Annual Meeting**

**January 25, 2009**



**Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Interim Pastor**

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**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses**  
**The 206th Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
 January 25, 2009

**AGENDA**

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**By-Law change Amendment: Section 12 Elders** first paragraph shall be amended to read:

The congregation shall elect twelve elders divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three-year term. No elder shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. An elder having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection to the Session for a period of at least one year.

(It is noted that terms will be adjusted to come to this number of 12 over the next two years.)

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**Barbara Melvin**

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

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

Class of 2010: Scott Dawson, Cindy DeCloux , Deb Regnier, Karen Perkins, and Allison Pritts

**Nominations for the Class of 2011:**

**Karen Bartishevich**

**Gregg Hoffmire**

**Barbara Melvin**

**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 223-24

**Church Historian's Report**

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**Celebrations and Appreciations:**

**Motion to adjourn, Prayer and Benediction**

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**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses  
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 27, 2008**

The meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses Congregation was called to order in the main meeting room of the chapel with prayer by Interim Pastor Glenn Kennedy at 12:10 pm following the regular church services and brunch on January 27, 2008. 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.

Motion was made by Jean Dawson to approve the agenda as stated. The motion was seconded and passed

Motion was made by Eric deJager to dispense with the reading of the Annual Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2007 and to accept them as written. This was then amended to include the special meeting on July 8, 2007. Motion as amended was seconded and passed.

Report of the Clerk of Session showed total membership of 203; this reflects 7 new members by transfers, 8 new members by confirmation classes, 1 member by reaffirmation of faith, 8 placed on the inactive roll, 4 transfers and 3 member deaths. Correction was noted on deJager, Megan (not Allison) and on the witness for Madison/Drumheller wedding Jane Ike (not Mike).

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 2007:

- Budget and Finance Committee—Barbara Melvin told us that pledges have not come in as well as years previous. We did cut back on our pledge to Presbytery Missions in order to pledge what we thought we would be able to meet. All other factions of the budget appear to be in sound condition although we are planning on the income catching up with 2007. We have funds to meet the short fall but we would rather hold spending to current income. It was noted that people who had not pledged, had not been contacted, and consensus was that this activity be undertaken.

Endowment policy was presented by Barb. Warren Hickman made the motion to accept the previously Session approved changes which was seconded and passed.

Barbara also announced that Kris Alling and David Priester had agreed to continue in their posts for the next year and were duly elected by Session. Also it was noted that since we are in an interim pastor situation there is no Pastor Call to vote on. Barb also presented a very positive investments report.

- Buildings and Properties –Dan Erickson encouraged anyone who saw something that needed to be done to contact him or Bill Kolberg or Gerry VanOrden. He also indicated that Diana and Ray Bradham were inadvertently left off the list of donors to the youth room renovations.

- 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 as well as local food bank, blood bank, Heifer Project, and Habitat for Humanity.
- Christian Education— Deb Koehler reported use of the new curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit with great success with the younger group but that the high school teachers are looking at more innovative programs via the Web. Thanks went out to Lori Kraus and Peter DeCloux for their dedication to the Christian Ed program as they retired this year.
- Congregational Life – Scott Dawson noted many more planned events coming up and was thankful for his energetic committee.
- Membership/Stewardship—David Koehler underlined the “cottage meetings” that were coming up in February. This will be a chance for congregants to get together in smaller groups and suggest ideas both, what works and what does not work. We hope to collect ideas for where the church is and where it is going to support the Pastor search.
- Music and Worship Carolyn Lange Chairperson expressed her appreciation to all those folks that worked and held things together as we searched for an interim. They were excited to be moving on with a new Music Director and Interim in place. Kudos went out to Doris Dunlap for her quiet part in supporting the music ministry of our church.
- Music Director added his thanks for the support he feels from the congregation and both choirs. He has felt truly welcomed by our church. This year many folks added their musical abilities to the services. It made his job much easier.
- 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.

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

- Ulysses Presbyterian Women written by Maureen Shallish
- Tent Set-up written by Chuck Dunlap
- Mission Knitters written by Evelyn Fritz.

*Motion was made by Eric deJager to accept all reports with thanks to all of these committees for their good works and missions in the church. This was seconded and passed.*

**Election of Officers:** Scott Dawson, Chair of the Nomination Committee presented the following: Nominations for the Class of 2010: Scott Dawson, Cindy DeCloux, Karen Perkins, Allison Pritts, and Deb Regnier.

*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.

1. Ray Bradham
2. Carolyn Stillions
3. Nancy VanOrden

*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. Pastor K thanked the congregation for the welcome and helpful hints that many members had given "to keep him straight". He also asked that people continue to send in their bios as he finds them helpful in getting to know the congregation.

Ginnie Miller gave the **historians report** indicating that we had been awarded a grant from the National Presbyterian Historical Society to microfilm our churches official records. She has been interviewing older members to document historical memories of our church.

**Kudos and appreciation** were expressed for many: Scott and Amy Dawson for the many tasks they take on and accomplish, the many new young people who are bringing energy and excitement to our church, the to kitchen staff—Richard—for all that he does to help us in the kitchen.

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. Glenn Kennedy, Moderator**

**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses  
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes August 17, 2008**

The special meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses Congregation was called to order in the main meeting room of the chapel with prayer by Interim Pastor Glenn Kennedy at 11:00 am on August 17, 2008 following the regular church services. The purpose of this meeting was to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Notice of this annual meeting had been in the church bulletin and newsletter for the past three weeks

Pastor Kennedy declared a quorum was present and David Schneider was nominated elected to serve as Secretary in the absence of the Clerk of Session.

Pastor Kennedy briefly reviewed the process including the work of the "Synthesizers" committee who wrote the mission statement and the process by which the congregational nominating committee

identified the following candidates: Amy Dawson, Peter DeCloux, Eric DeJager, Amy Erickson, Ron MacLean, Kathy MacQueen, Kelsey Melvin, Marvin Pritts and Deb Regnier.

Further nominees were solicited from the floor, but none were received. Scott Dawson offered a motion to elect the slate nominated by the committee that was seconded by Carolyn Lange. No further discussion was desired, and the motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Scott Dawson's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Ed Dawson, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15AM.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**David J. Schneider, Secretary**

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

**Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Moderator**

## **Numerical Change in Membership for the Year**

<b>Membership as of 12/31/07</b>		<b>203</b>
New Members by Transfer	0	
New Members by Confirmation	0	
New Members by Reaffirmation of Faith	1	
<b>Total New Members</b>	<b>1</b>	
Members Moved from Active to Inactive	6	
Memberships Terminated	2	(Inactive not counted)
Death of Members	1	
Members Transferred to other churches	2	
<b>Total Loss of Members</b>	<b>11</b>	

**Membership total as of 12/31/08** **193**

## **Attendance Figures**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total Attendance	4,825	5,445	5,266	4,352
Average Monthly	402	454	439	363
Average Weekly	93	105	101	84

## First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses

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

Session	Name	Announced in Church
8/20/08	John Kirkman	September 21, 2008

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

Session	Name
2/13/08	Molly Robertson Hill #324
2/13/08	John Robertson #325
2/13/08	Gerald Perkins Jr. #171
4/9/08	Cheryl Fahs #493
4/9/08	John Fahs #494
12/10/08	Art Goodell #354

### Termination of Membership (G10.0302 b(3))

Session	Name
10/8/08	Debra Herrmann #282 (from Inactive status)
10/8/08	Kim Herrmann #441
12/10/08	Thomas Hammond #383(from Inactive status)
12/10/08	Janet Hammond #384(from Inactive status)
12/10/08	Robin Goodell #355

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

Session	Name	Transfer Church
3/12/08	Carol Nogel #269	Good Shepherd Presby.Church, St. George, Utah
8/20/08	Tracy Mullen #458	Monument Community Presby, Monument, CO

### Marriages (G10.0400 C 1)

Date	Bride(Maiden)	Groom	Location	Witnesses
8/31/08	Ashley Elizabeth Olson	Daniel R. Decloux	FPCU	Amber Miller Erick Cress

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

Death Date	Buriel Date	Name
3/3/08	3/8/08	Joan Grove #89
2/24/08	3/5/08	Beatrice Kolberg (non member)



## Reports of the Committees of Session

### Budget and Finance Committee

Barbara Melvin, Chair

The serious economic news late in 2008 takes our attention away from some of the better news budget-wise for the church. We started the year on faith that more congregational giving would materialize, even though pledges were not up to their recent level. Fortunately, the committees were careful and the winter was mild so our actual expenses finished the year approximately \$6,700 less than our forecasted expenses. Even though our budgeted revenues did not materialize, they were sufficient to meet the actual expenses for the year.

Thank you to all who responded with extra gifts in the last two months of the year.

To balance the 2008 budget we had reluctantly reduced the mission amount requested by the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly by 20%. It appears that in 2009 we will again be unable to send the full amount requested by the denomination and still be able to support local needs. We notice that all the special offerings and budgeted mission giving in 2008 were equivalent to 18% of our operating budget.

In mid-summer the finance committee met with our account representative from the New Covenant Funds who answered questions and explained the management of the different mutual funds offered. As “socially responsible” funds they do not invest in firearms, liquor, tobacco or the like. As shown in the investment report, our reserves are severely reduced but we are confident that over time they will rebound.

The McConnahy trust from the estate of Estelle Stone reallocated its investments and provided much better income to the church this year. This trust is managed by Tompkins Trust Company.

The Memorial gifts brochure is now available for visitors, funeral homes, and members. It explains opportunities for giving, and the policies which govern the use of such gifts.

Thank you to committee member Eric DeJager who has withdrawn from this committee to give his energy to the search for our permanent pastor. Thanks also to Ed Dawson for conducting the annual audit of the operating funds of the church, and certainly to Treasurer David Priester and Pledge Secretary Kris Alling for the many hours they spend to keep our financial records straight.

For the coming year, Session has approved a budget to maintain all current programs with very few increases above the 2008 actual spending. We will use most of our previous years' carryover to augment the income, leaving only \$2,400 uncommitted funds in the main

operating checking and savings. You will note also that the new budgeted income includes an item called "on-faith-gifts-to-come." These will be new or increased pledges and special gifts unknown at this time. We hope that such faith will be translated into works.

Finance Committee:

David Koehler, Bill Kolberg, Bruce MacQueen, and Barbara Melvin

## Investments





## Buildings and Properties

Dan Erickson, Chair

The Buildings & Properties Committee would like to thank all the people who make a positive impact on our facilities with donation of time, labor, materials, and equipment; in order to provide needed maintenance and improvements to our facility. Without the loyal and consistent efforts of these folks, our meeting place simply could not be sustained.

The following list highlights some of the work projects and donations for which we are indebted. (These are only highlighted as so many contributions are unseen or too numerous to remember over the course of a year.) Our sincere apologies for all omissions in this brief report.

1. Chapel back hall and minister's office prepped and painted. Labor and material provided by the Dawson/Bradham clan.
2. Chapel bathroom door-latch with occupied/unoccupied donated by Dan Schreher.
3. Landscape maintenance: mowing done by Jim Mason.
4. Landscape maintenance: leaf raking/disposal by Jim Mason & Ed Dawson.
5. Snow removal: implemented a volunteer sign-up list on message board in chapel. This weekly sign-up system, in place from Dec.- Mar., replaces previous more hap-hazard system which often left pastor (thanks Glenn) doing the shoveling.
6. Donation of new industrial strength snow blower from Bill Kolberg.
7. Brick pavers donated and cleaned by Bill Kappel, installed between curb and sidewalk. Thanks to the senior high Sunday school class, and the Kohler, Pritts, and Regnier families for the installation.
8. Installation, removal and storage of chapel artic airlock by Greg Hoffmire. Also thanks for always filling in with help and information as needed
9. Spring cleanup and workday: thanks to all participants who helped with cleaning, painting, raking, pruning, and other general maintenance chores.
10. A leak emergency was created in Oct. when abnormally high winds and driving rain drove water through the sanctuary clock tower, soaking insulation and endangering the sanctuary ceiling. Quick thinking and abatement work was done by Ed Dawson, Dave Schneider, and buildings & property representative to dry insulation and divert damaging water. When weather permits, the tower's envelope deficiencies will be corrected.
11. Facilities cleaning: the committee had an extended effort to quantify, qualify and create a job description for and to hold interviews and hire a person to clean the facilities. The process has paid dividends on the efforts and we are very pleased to welcome Evelyn Elmore as that person.
12. Fire codes: Recent (Dec.) inspection left us with a list of new code requirements with which we must comply. This work is now in progress, and is expected to be an ongoing process as new codes will be continually updated, requiring us to document all our compliance work in a manner that is easily retrievable by staff.

Additional future projects already scheduled:

1. Sanctuary gutter system: Needed replacement of deteriorated gutters and downspouts in conjunction with some needed brick pointing, window caulking, and other deteriorated exterior cornices rehabilitation.
2. Roof: Inspection of roofs of sanctuary and chapel (to be done weather permitting) with report to session.
3. Tower repair: As noted above #10
4. Fire code updates: As noted above #12

The Building and Properties Committee does encourage anyone who would like to help us in any way with our work to please feel free to contact us with your suggestions or concerns. Again thanks to all who bless our church with your generous gifts of time and talents.

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

## **Caring and Benevolence**

**Karen Perkins, Chair**

The Caring and Benevolence members would like to thank the people of our church for their response to the mission hopes and plans of our committee. The personal participation of many -- volunteering their time in this community and elsewhere and the participation in our committee projects -- was great. I am new to both the committee and being chairman but the members have wonderful ideas and are very willing to help with whatever we plan.

We have contributed your money to a variety of needs in this community and the world. Through the pledged money we give to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly mission and specific disaster relief, we have tried to help with problems in this country and other countries. We donated to Love Knows No Bounds for two trips to the New Orleans area with donated articles. We sponsored five church members who swam the lake for Hospicare. We gave to the Cornell and Ithaca College Protestant Student Communities.

The fighting hunger mission was helped by donating to the local food pantry, by giving money and buying staples for the emergency food pantry, by giving to an Ithaca food pantry and a county-wide food bank.

We also sponsored some specific gifts through the church. An ongoing project is saving tea bags for art by T-Bag Designs in Hout Bay, South Africa. Children's books were also collected to be sent to Hannah Lantas, the granddaughter of Evelyn Fritz who is in the Peace Corp. In September you brought in soda cans or money from soda can returns. The total was \$259 and we added \$41 to make it \$300. This went to the Ontario Presbyterian Church to help pay for their travel expenses to New Orleans for a work project. Then in November you brought in Church World Service kits - disaster buckets with cleaning supplies, school kits and hygiene kits. These were taken to Syracuse in January '09. Also your response to the Christmas Alternative Giving program was very well received. We

tried to give you information on Heifer Projects, Church World Service and the Food Pantry so you could make your choices. The total was \$1,765. Thank you very much.

Another mission an effort to visit with members of our church who can no longer drive to church, have had surgery or are ill. This is something that we would like to have everyone in the church participate in next year.

We believe that mission work is important both to our well being and to the well being of others. We are thankful that the people in our church respond. We invite anyone to join us or help with our projects. Please contact any committee member with questions.

**Pledged contributions**

Presbytery Mission	7,553.44
Synod Mission	310.42
General Assembly Mission	2,483.34

**Total Pledged Contributions** **\$10,347.20**

**Discretionary Local Distribution** (budgeted \$2,999.98)

Love Knows No Bounds	\$200.00
Hospice of Tompkins County	\$125.00
Protestant Cooperative Ministry at CU	\$100.00
Protestant Community at IC	\$100.00
Ontario Presbyterian Church	\$41.00
Chinese Ministry in Corning	\$125.00
Loaves and Fishes	\$200.00
Trumansburg Food Pantry	\$924.78
Food Bank of Southern Tier - Mobile Truck	\$100.00
Food vouchers for emergency food	\$305.85
Disaster Relief	
China earthquake	\$100.00
Myanmar cyclone	\$100.00
Presbytery Mission (additional to pledged)	\$500.00
Stamps	\$16.80

**Total local expenditures** **\$2,936.43**

## Christian Education Committee

Deb Regnier, Chair

**2008 was a learning and growing experience for the Christian Education committee. Armed with a skeletal but confident and determined staff, we have continued to focus on our core mission, the youth!**

**Vacation Bible School**, a Beach Party, was a grand hit, teaming with the Methodist Church; we offered a week of learning, singing and crafts for 26 preK-4<sup>th</sup> graders. Kathey MacQueen and Megan deJager headed up the week with Amy Dawson coordinating crafts. Many volunteers helped including several HS youth. The mission project for the week was the Trumansburg food pantry; VBS collected 104 items that they were able to donate to the food pantry!

**The Youth Group** continues to meet each month throughout the school year, and it is through Debby Koehler's creativity that this group IS able to meet regularly as she plans activities, being mindful of the youth's already very busy schedules. Debby offers fun, meaningful and productive activities that peek the youth's interest. Some of the activities: Over the summer the youth laid the bricks between the sidewalk and the street in front of the chapel and the sanctuary. They participated in the community CROP Walk with their own twist of a rake-n-run. Sent out college care packages and went caroling to shut-ins. And they also took part in the pageant program during the church service on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Ed:** There was an assortment of Adult Education series offered this year, at various times.

Sunday AM ...

- "MET" - Mutual Encouragement Time, taken from Romans 1:12, based on the book A Purpose Driven Life, has been offered at 9AM Sunday mornings lead by Pam Postle.
- Sunday School hour - a varying focus lead by John Kirkman, Bill Kolberg and Dave Schneider. The fall offered a focus on "Have you ever had doubt?"

Weekly ...

- 11AM Lectionary Bible Study offered by Pastor Kennedy at the home of Evelyn Fritz.
- In the spring, then offered again in the fall, was the twice-monthly Bible Study focused on the New Testament book of Acts, lead by Pastor Kennedy.

**Sunday School** continues in its mission ~ focused on our youth. We have 29 registered children for preK-12. The classes have morphed into very unique groupings, selecting curriculum that fits each group.

**PreK** continues with Seasons of the Spirit as well as a new resource, Rock Solid.

**Grade 1-4** continues to use the Seasons of the Spirit.



**Middle School** is working with the new Rock Solid curriculum.  
**High School** is ad hoc – Christian perspective on current events.

**The teachers** for 2008/09 school year for adult and youth classes are: Amy Erickson, Karen Bartishevich, Deb Regnier, Eric DeJager, Kate Merriman, Marvin Pritts, John Kirkman, Bill Kolberg, David Schneider, Pam Postle and Pastor Kennedy.

'08 ended with an eclectic Christmas pageant, participated in by all the youth of our church. The combined efforts of several teachers, with the help of Amy Dawson and Doris Dunlap on piano, resulted in our pageant: a beautiful song sung by the senior high youth; the 'creation' of the manger scene, incorporating our own children as angels and shepherds; a wonderful song sung by the younger youth and finally a very moving dialogue between 3 youth as they looked through a photo album recapping Jesus life, "Christmas + 33".

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

## **Congregational Life**

## **Scott Dawson**

The congregational life of our church this year has been wonderful! We had many well-attended events this year:

**Spring & Summer:** A men's and women's work party with continental breakfast; a Spring picnic in the Chapel, and a lunch following "Worship in the Country" at the Bartishevich barn.

**Fall & Winter:** Fall "Church Family" Outing at Deb Regnier's home; a Germany-themed fellowship dinner; pie night and game night; Thanksgiving breakfast, and a non-progressive non-dinner "TP Dinner" hosted at Deb Regnier's home.

We also organized church groups and committees to host "birthday coffee hour" once each month to recognize our members with birthdays. This has been a wonderful way to celebrate these special milestones with our church family, and to learn more about each committee and group as they host.

Richard Pang has been a wonderful help in our kitchen on Sunday mornings, by making the coffee we all enjoy during our coffee hour. As of the New Year, Richard has "retired" as our dedicated coffee maker. We sincerely thank Richard for his many years of faithful service to the church in this way. We will certainly miss his contribution to our coffee hour and fellowship, and wish him all the best!

Many thanks to the committee members whose gifts of time, talent and energy made these events a success: Anne Bialke, Anne Buchner, Amy Dawson, Scott Dawson, Megan deJager, Bobbi Farrell, Cindy LaBuff, Sally Priester, Jerry VanOrden and Nancy VanOrden. An additional thank you to everyone in the congregation involved in these 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 2009, filled with more fun events for all to enjoy!

## **Membership and Stewardship Committee    Diana Bradham, Chair**

### **Membership Activities**

During 2008, our membership was reduced from 203 to 193 active members. We added 1 member by reaffirmation of faith. Six members moved from our active to inactive roll, 2 members transferred to other churches and one member died. Details are included in the Clerk's statistical report.

One of the major initiatives during 2008 was "Cottage Group Meetings" held in February & November. These meetings allowed members to come together in relatively small groups to discuss issues facing our church as well as giving all an opportunity to enjoy a closer fellowship with one another. The meetings were deemed successful by those who attended, with an emphatically positive response to having more such gatherings. On Pledge Sunday our committee provided a soup and sandwich lunch that was heavily attended and enjoyed by all.

In addition to the Cottage initiatives, an Ad Hoc Committee, later known as The Synthesizers was charged with drafting a new mission statement. In the process additional input was sought from church members and non-members both in forms provided in the bulletin as well as in discussion during coffee hour. Discussion was lively and fruitful and feedback from these two efforts was included in our new mission statement.

### **Stewardship**

During the fall of 2008, our committee's focus was twofold: (a) our stewardship campaign for 2008; and (b) an effort to close a budget gap remaining from the campaign of 2007. While information relating to stewardship was a part of the November cottage meetings, the committee also prepared and sent to all members and active attendees a letter presenting the stewardship challenges facing the church in 2009. By the end of the year a total of 57 of our pledging units had returned their pledges to the church. 2009 promises to be a particularly difficult year with regard to pledging and budget and our committee will continue to actively pursue ways in which we can meet our budget needs.

## Music and Worship Committee

Allison Pritts, Chair

The Music and Worship Committee is comprised of: Allison Pritts – chair, Amy Erickson, Doris Dunlap, Bryan Lilley, Linda Andrew, Judy Riley, Joan Melvin, Megan DeJager, Kathey MacQueen, Carolyn Lange, and Glenn Kennedy. I would like to thank all those that serve on the committee as well as Amy Dawson who was a member of this committee for part of the year and then moved her wonderful talents to another aspect of the church. We have people in this church with rich gifts, and it is a blessing to have all these people come together to make your worship experience spiritually nourishing.

I would like to express our thanks to Rev. Glenn Kennedy, our interim minister for his leadership through our transition period, and Bryan Lilley and Doris Dunlap for their beautiful musical leadership which sustains us musically. I would like to list everyone that had a part in our worship experience throughout 2008, but the list would be overwhelming (and include just about everyone in the congregation). We had members of all ages provide special music, liturgist readers, pinch hit for the minister when he was out-of-town, lighting of candles, filling the font, ushering, preparing for communion, communion servers, offer their space (Bartishevich's Barn) for special services, Lake service preparation, make sure there is nursery coverage (Tucker Randle has been doing a wonderful job), etc. The list goes on. The strength of our worship is only as strong as our congregation, and it is all of you that help both in front and behind the scene that makes it happen. Thank you to all!!

This past year the worship committee has been looking at the results from our first cottage meeting from 2007. We tallied all the results from all the various meetings and have been taking a look at what is important to people in the worship service and what people would like to have done differently. On occasion we have tried new approaches. We hope that you have noticed our effort to incorporate your ideas into some of the services, and we welcome any feedback or suggestions. It is our hope to be able to make the worship experience a celebratory and reflective time for everyone.

We have exciting opportunities to look forward to in 2009, and we hope that you will share with us your visions for worship services. We have a terrific Pastoral Nominating Committee in place doing the pastoral search for a new minister. We keep them in our prayers that the preliminary work the congregation has done aides their search process for our new full-time minister.

## **Personnel Committee**

**Jerry Kraus, Chair**

The Personnel Committee is working to complete performance reviews for paid staff for 2008. As the church continues in its transition and search for a new pastor, the Committee will benefit from new leadership to guide the personnel function into the future. At this time, the Committee members include Diana Bradham and Karen Perkins. Church members are encouraged to get involved in any of the Session committees, but if you have experience or just an interest in personnel (human resources), this is one committee that will be looking for some capable volunteers.

## **Pastor Nominating Committee**

**Eric deJager**

In September, 2008 the duly elected Pastor Nominating Committee began the process of searching for a new pastor. In the Presbytery of Geneva, of which we are a member, that process begins by completing a document called the Church Information Form which describes the church, our programs, theology, mission, and the skills we desire in a new pastor. After very thoughtful, thorough and prayerful discernment under the guidance of Pastor Kennedy and our Committee on Ministry representatives, the PNC completed our Church Information Form and submitted it to Session for approval during a special meeting on Sunday, November 2. Having received Session's approval we then subsequently submitted it to the Committee on Ministry in the Geneva Presbytery during their November meeting the week of November 3. Approval of our form was received by the Presbytery along with their congratulations and the search was on!

We received 25 initial matches from the Presbytery and began working through the candidates seeking a call. Additionally, we have been excited to receive a number of "self-referrals" - pastors who have found our open call published on the Presbytery (USA) Church Leadership Connection and reached out to us. We have worked through our initial list of pastors and are following up on some, and requesting the next 25 matches from the Presbytery. As of January we have evaluated a total of 31 candidates and are following up with 11 of them for further information.

The Pastor Nominating Committee includes Amy Dawson, Amy Erickson, Deb Regnier, Kathey MacQueen, Kelsey Melvin, Marvin Pritts, Pam Postle, Peter DeCloux and Ron MacLean; we are joined by two representatives from the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, Rev. Jim Gerling and Karen Rhodes. I would like to express my deep gratitude for their thoughtfulness, faithfulness, hard work and passion for this important work. We meet nearly every Sunday evening to prayerfully work towards finding a pastor to fill our open call. For current updates on our progress, check the latest Grapevine or see the Pastor Search link on our church web site at <http://www.fpcu>.

## Reports from Church Organizations

### Mission Knitters

Evelyn Fritz

As the saying goes: "The Mission Knitters Have Been At It Again". Needles have clicked all year and sweaters, baby hats, lap blankets, premie blankets and prayer shawls have piled up and been delivered.

About 100 baby hats were delivered in 2008. Around 70 of them went to the hospital in Ithaca and 30 were sent to "Save the Children" which sends them to countries all over the world. We have another 30 almost ready to send in 2009.

Eighteen sweaters were delivered to local children through the local WIC office. Also delivered locally were eleven lap blankets and nine premie blankets. The Prayer Shawl mission gave shawls to 27 people who were either grieving a loved one or very ill themselves.

We meet the last Tuesday of the month in the Lange Room at the Chapel. All knitters are welcome.

### Ulysses Presbyterian Women (UPW)

Maureen Shallish

Mission as guided in the opening prayer of the first meeting of 2008:

*Almighty God we gather to serve you as we conduct the affairs of the Ulysses Presbyterian Women. We pray for knowledge and strength to do your will as we meet and plan for the year ahead. May we accept our responsibilities and act with fairness, respect, and courage. Help guide us to make decisions that are sensitive to others needs. Grant us a sense of stewardship both now and in the future.*

#### Committees and Chairs

Maureen Shallish – facilitator – co chair

Sue Mason co- chair

Recording secretary- Ginny Miller

Treasurer – Judy Riley

Rummage Sale- Amy Erikson

Kitchen restoration committee- Ginny Miller, Nancy VanOrden, Mary Ellen Johnson

Session Liaison – Diana Bradham – resigned – replacement to be named

#### Finances and Fundraising:

Budget categories related to Mission, Facilities, Program and support of FPCU budget.

Revenue sources were essentially cut by 50% with out the annual Antique Show and Sale or other event to compensate for the decreased revenue. Those attending meetings were creative in their ideas for new explorations and generous of spirit in their ability to continue

the Mission of the *Presbyterian Woman*.

**Mission:** Fair Trade Coffee for coffee hours, Books for Hannah- for a South African school library, T-Bag Designs, reserve funds for Womans Scholarship and Camp Whitman scholarships, Mission Knitters, and Christmas bureau "adoptions"

**Facilities:** reserve fund for kitchen improvements, upkeep of flower urns, kitchen supplies.

**Program and Activities:** Hosted community *Planning for Life and Sharing Your Wishes Seminar*. This was a community forum with contributors from Hospicare, a local attorney, funeral director and Tompkins County Health Planning Council offering advice on how to plan for the unexpected.

**Activities:**

Ulysses Presbyterian Women hosted a dinner meeting with representatives from the Geneva Presbytery. The evening presented us all with the opportunity to learn more about the *Presbyterian Women* and for their representatives to learn more about us. Their response to their time with us was gracious, kind and inspiring.

*It was my pleasure to be among you at one of your meetings/feasts. Your church's PW could be a model of "transformation." You have kept the old spirit and spunk and developed a working cohesive caring group of women from all walks of life and all ages. I am going to use your church as an example of what could happen where groups are struggling with staying and being what they have been for eons. Your church has turned it all around and added youthfulness and incorporated their ideas with what has been. May God continue to Bless all of you.*

*Peace and Joy, Virginia Champlin*

*(UPW Moderator, Geneva Presbytery)*

*You were gracious. The church and the community are lucky to have you. Your group is fantastic. It's been there all this time and no one knows about it. It is like unburying treasure to me."*

*Majel Pentz*

*(Cluster Leader, Geneva Presbytery)*

We gathered at the home of Ginny Miller for a summer eve picnic to learn more about the annual Women of Faith conference attended by Kate Merriman in June 2008.

Pam Postle hosted an evening meeting in her home so we could learn more about the mission work of her family in Scotland.

Sue Mason coordinated hosting one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Birthday celebration coffee hours.

An early fall afternoon's journey included joyous laughter and thoughtful reflection as a group traveled to the Auburn Merry Go Round Playhouse production of *The Church Basement Ladies*. We gained a deep appreciation for the gifts and talents our members share with the congregation.

Maureen Shallish hosted a pre holiday gathering at her home where we reflected upon our year together, for the time to be spent with our families over the holidays and planned for our Christmas Bureau family's Christmas. We were energized by soup and appetizers and ended our evening with tasty sweets from Darlynn's *Lifes So Sweet* chocolates.

Pam Postle has been generous with her time by attending many of the UP Geneva Presbytery meetings and gatherings, bringing back fresh ideas for mission and shared faith.

*We have been blessed to have the energies, creativity and generosity of spirit of the many contributors for all the work accomplished with friends, faith and fellowship in 2008.*

## Treasurer Report UPW

Judy Riley, Treasurer

### Summary

Balance on hand 1/1/07	\$3,919.62	
Receipts for 2007	3,687.06	
Amount available	7,606.68	
Disbursements for 2007	-3,215.21	
<b>Balance on hand 12/31/07</b>		<b>\$4,391.47</b>

### Receipts

Rummage Sale	\$3,209.25	(net \$3,129.25)
Gemm Shop	102.81	
Donation for Mission Knitters	10.00	
Donations for Christmas Bureau (\$175 cash)	195.00	
Donations for Seminar	170.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$3,687.06</b>

### Disbursements

PW of Geneva Presbytery	\$400.00	
Kitchen Supplies	240.85	
Fair Coffee Exchange	235.00	
Knitting ministry supplies	152.68	
C.O.D. High School Class of 2008 after prom party	50.00	
Rummage Sale expenses	80.00	
Church general fund	1,500.00	
Hospicare (from and related to Seminar)	220.00	
"Planning for Life and Sharing Your Wishes" seminar	50.00	
Presbyterian Church (USA) PW Manual	10.50	
Book Mission shipping charges	33.18	
Christmas Bureau (\$175 cash)	243.00	
<b>Total disbursements</b>		<b>\$3,215.21</b>

## Tent Committee

## Charles Dunlap, Tent Master

We had fewer engagements this year -- the economy, you know! However, most of us thought we had plenty. The schedule went as follows:

### 2007 Tent Set Ups

June 13-14	Amy Gray, Searsburg Road
June 20-21	Dale Ellis, Interlaken
June 24-25-26	T-burg Middle School
June 27-28-29	Scott Adams, Ovid
July 13-18	Taughannock Soccer Club
July 21-25	First Baptist Church, T-burg
Aug 1-4	Lucas Winery, Interlaken
Aug 15-16-17	St. Francis Friary, Sheldrake
Aug 22-23-24	South Seneca Sportsman Club
Aug 30-31	Bill DeCloux, Interlaken
Sept 12-13-14	Lucas Winery, Interlaken

All went well until the last set up at the winery. A few hours before we were to take the tent down and store it away a strong blast of wind came through at midnight and damaged the tent to the extent that we had to take it back to the factory for repair. No word yet as to the cost of damages.

Thank you everyone for your dedication and help. I have enjoyed the fellowship with each and every one of you.

## Interim Pastor's Report

## Rev. Glenn Kennedy

### Direct Church Responsibilities/Activities:

- Regular worship preparation and preaching, plus 2 Christmas Eve services
- Home and church office visitations with church members
- Hospital visits
- Lectionary Bible studies
- Regular church committee meetings ("innumerable")
- Men's Wed. noon lunches
- Pre-marital counseling and one wedding
- Participated in the VBS program
- Attended two rounds of cottage meetings
- Ex-officio member of the Synthesizers mission study committee
- Ex-officio member of the Pastor Nominating Committee for first stages of work



Moderator of monthly and special session meetings  
New elder training  
Officiated at four memorial services  
Participated in several special Congregational Life and Youth Group events  
Requested and received two weeks plus 3 days vacation, plus 3 Sundays off

Presbytery-related Responsibilities/Activities:

Attended scheduled Presbytery meetings  
Chaired Chinese Koinonia Administrative Commission (CKAC)  
Member of Evangelism Committee  
Participated in Interim Pastor's meetings

Community-related Responsibilities/Activities:

Attended Thursday morning TAC brunches  
Participated in TAC Good Friday service  
Helped plan and participated in Trumansburg high school baccalaureate service  
Led FPCU summer lake service  
Participated in Relay for Life  
Participated in CROP walk  
Attended Ulysses Philomathic Library dinner  
Attended TAC Christmas concert  
Did Community Dispute Resolution Center (CDRC) mediations  
Led devotions twice each at Longview and Altera  
Preached at 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Stevensville (PA) Presbyterian Church  
Did one evening pulpit supply at First Baptist Church, Waverly, NY

The above activities provide a summary view of what has kept me busy during the past year at First Presbyterian. What they don't reveal are the many wonderful friendships within this congregation and community that I've had the privilege of experiencing during my first full year in Trumansburg.

Together, the Synthesizers, PNC and congregation as a whole have worked hard with me to pave the way for the next long-term pastor. You have done so well that I seriously doubt I will spend another full year with you.

Thus, I take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your welcome and caring, and pray that the rich blessings of God in Christ will light your way in the days and years ahead.

Go well!

## Historian Report

Virginia R. Miller

Throughout 2008 I have interviewed 13 of our senior members for the purpose of getting their personal and church stories. These wonderful people grew up during the Great Depression and World War II. It was before rural electricity in some cases, TV, computers and women's rights. The church was the center for social and religious activity. They are still interesting and interested. Video recordings were made and a sampler will be shown at the annual church meeting. Written life stories will be ready at a later time.

Now we are part of the electronic world and have a well designed and active church computer website, an email connection to others and we have the internet to get information quickly. This is all very helpful, but people are still the heart of this church.

Church highlights in 2008 include, but are not limited to: Vacation Bible School, cottage meetings in a few homes, formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee, missions, large choir, Sunday School and youth group. Many people work behind the scenes to care for the church and carry out many activities.

Microfilming of official church records will be done through our national Presbyterian Historical Society in 2009 to take advantage of a national heritage microfilming grant.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES**  
**MEMBERSHIP AS OF December 31, 2008**

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

Metro, William	(Mrs. Robin)	Smith, Randy
Miller, Howard R.	Ploss, Mathew	Spott, Ann
Miller, Jesse	Ploss, Robin	Spott, Phillip
Miller, Margaret Clawson	Pond, Wilson	Stewart, Ellen(Toni) (Mrs. Jack)
Miller, Virginia Robson	Postle, Pam (Mrs. Larry)	Stewart, Jack
(Mrs. Jesse)	Priester, David	Stillions, Carolyn (Mrs. Merle)
Mobbs, Danielle	Priester, Sally (Mrs. David)	Stillions, Merle
Mobbs, Doris (Mrs Marvin)	Pritts, Allison	Stott, Paul
Mobbs, Marvin	Pritts, Alyssa	Taylor, Ron
Mullen, Laurie	Pritts, Marvin	Taylor, Virginia
Mullen, Megan	Regnier, Ariel	Tubbs, Alan
Mullen, Morgan	Regnier, Deb	Tubbs, Howard
Nelson, Elaine (Mrs Robert)	Riley, Amanda	Tubbs, Julie (Mrs. Alan)
Norman, Roberta Selover	Riley, Judy (Mrs. Ed)	Tubbs, Milli Robinson
(Mrs.Stephn)	Robertson, Judith (Mrs. Richard)	(Mrs.Howard)
O'Brien, Nancy (Mrs. Wm)	Robertson, Richard	Ulrich, Susan (Mrs.David)
Osterhout, Damon	Roykouff, Thomas	VanOrden, Gerry
Osterhout, Florence (Mrs. Damon)	Schneider, David	VanOrden, Nancy Eddy
Overbaugh, William	Schneider, Lori Greene	(Mrs. Jerry)
Perkins, Karen Pedersen	(Mrs. David)	Vorhis, Gregg
(Mrs Gerald)	Schneider, Sarah	Vorhis, Mary Alice (Mrs. Gregg)
Peterson, Andrew	Schott, Michael	Whitted, Samantha
Peterson, Elspeth (Mrs. Russ)	Schreher, H. Daniel	Zaharis, Darlene
Peterson, Geoffrey	Schreher, Mary Ellen (Mrs. Dan)	Zaharis, Samantha
Peterson, Russell	Selover, Jane Brown (Mrs.Steph)	
Ploss, Alice Wayman	Shallish, Kristen	

In memory  
of the following member lost in the year 2008.

Joan Grove