



Annual Reports for 2016

Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 22, 2017



Stone Presbyterian Church Clinton, New York

Presbytery of Utica ~ Synod of the Northeast ~ Presbyterian Church (USA)

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PASTOR'S REPORT 2016

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” – Hebrews 12:1-2



The race that is set before us. That is how 2016 felt in many ways. It was my first full calendar year as your pastor (Commissioned Ruling Elder technically). Like with New Year's resolutions, I look back over what I had planned to do and did, and what I had hoped to do, but did not. Yes, I have a full-time day job as program manager for a technology firm and have only part-time to be a pastor, but it is not a matter of excuses but of choices.

The arrangement the session and I have is besides the ten Sundays in the summer that Stone splits with the Clinton United Methodist Church in worship is that I have one Sunday off a month from preaching. Unless I am traveling, I still attend worship and sing in the choir, but participate as any member (though I did inadvertently preach at Whitesboro Presbyterian Church in March on one of my Sundays off when I thought I was only doing some storytelling). This has allowed me to spend that week off to get caught up or take care of other business, such as doing homebound communion or the monthly newsletter inputs. With the Sundays I preached along with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve I led 39 worship services in 2016. Outside the time I spent preparing and conducting those services I averaged over the year about 9 hours per week in my pastoral duties in addition to funerals that I conducted. Overall it is a little less than a half-time job. Would that I could spend more time.

So what did I do (and not) in 2016? Here is a summary of what I reported at our session meetings.

- Baptisms – Allison Miller (Jesse and Sarah Miller) February 7, Maeve and Tess Kloidt-Gilligan (Patty and Colette Kloidt-Gilligan) May 15, Violet Patrei (Mike Patrei and Carolyn DeJohn) November 27. More to come in 2017.
- Funerals – Gil Palmer March 5, Ethel Schaffer March 30, Wilma Lawson May 4, Shirley Sollinger August 20, Sue Bishop November 11, and Larry Bishop December 19.
- Weddings – None, but we have Kristen Rogers and Jacob Moorehead (whose son Zachary we baptized September 27, 2015) scheduled for September 23, 2017. I did do a blessing of a replacement wedding ring for Jason Hamshar along with his wife Tanya on October 9.
- Membership – We have a number of people interested in becoming members, but I did not make time to have a membership class in 2016. We definitely will in 2017.
- Stone Storytellers – We had storytelling most every worship service and in addition did the Gospel of Luke Epic Storytelling on Palm Sunday (March 20) and at a shorter reprise March 29 at the PRC (Presbyterian Residential Community). Because a woman heard our Luke Epic telling she invited us to come to tell in Hamilton, NY for her interdenominational women's Bible study group annual dinner. The troupe told the Christmas Stories for them December 4 and again did a reprise at the PRC December 13.
- Deacons – I continue to work with and rely heavily upon the deacons for the care of our members, particularly the homebound, and for hosting our events. Though I do meet with people, the deacons provide care that I do not have the time for. I was able to get out to perform communion for our homebound May 7 and December 17 and hope to do with a little more frequency in 2017.
- Worship, Education, and Program (WEP) team – I continue to work with WEP for us to provide a quality and meaningful worship service, which people tell me we have, and I rely upon Donna Goodfriend to get our pulpit supply, which has included our own Elizabeth Smith and Rob Kolb and has been a blessing.

- Finance Committee – We were able to bring David Duncan on late in 2016 to be out new Finance Committee Chair. At my request Dave also investigated different only donation services. I did not get one in place as I had hoped, but we will for 2017.
- Micah & Utica Presbytery – I continue to chair the Micah Committee, which oversees the development of mission within the Presbytery of Utica by receiving applications and making grants for mission projects. Micah also seeks to address social issues including finding ways to promote justice and stewardship. As chair I am also on the Presbytery Coordinating Council and participated in those meetings as well as most Presbytery meetings, conducting worship at the one September 26. I also worked with Stated Clerk Larry Beasley in selecting a new developer and provider for the Presbytery web site, which was successfully launched in September. Also, working with the Council on a new vision for the Presbytery, beyond our bi-monthly meetings.
- Clinton Area Ministerium (CAM) – I continue as secretary/treasurer to chair CAM where some of the local clergy meet monthly for breakfast at Lutheran Care to discuss things and plan joint ecumenical activities, such as Lenten study (a five-week video series “Who is this Man?” where I led the discussion one week), Good Friday noon service (hosted by Stone and led by me), and Labor Day Sunday service (led by Rev. Jeff Hale that I supported). In addition we decided to hold a community food drive for the Country Pantry, which we did on April 16 collecting 518 items and \$110 in donations. We are planning to do it again in 2017.
- Clinton Chamber of Commerce – I have been active with the Chamber and attended most of their networking functions seeking to make Stone Church better known in the community and to be part of the community. This included advertising in the Clinton Guide book and Stone Church hosting one of the monthly networking breakfasts on January 4, 2017.
- Media – I continue to work with Ceil Gilbert in sending out worship service press releases to the Utica O-D and Waterville Times most weeks, though I miss occasionally. In addition I have tried to post regularly to our Facebook page activities we are doing and photos of events. I started to explore doing video and podcasts of at least part of our services, but have not gotten a technology solution yet, which is my goal in 2017.
- Other – Then there are a host of other things: keeping our Wi-Fi working (particularly for the Fair Trade shop), getting the office computer fixed and the accounting software updated, conducting a church retreat October 2 with our church leadership in planning for 2017, and, probably most important of all, getting a new sound system in place, which we did two weeks before Christmas Eve and it has made all the difference.

I feel the Spirit in us as we seek to express God’s grace that we experience in our community of faith with the community at large. We do try to lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and with our 30 or so active congregants try to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, despite our limited financial resources because we do look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. It is for that reason I serve you with joy. If we keep God in front of us, he will be with us. As Psalm 105:5 says “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

Scott Leonard, Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) aka Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP) aka Your Pastor

The Session of the church is responsible for the mission and government of the Church. Minutes and other official records of the Session are the property of the Session, and the Clerk is responsible for their preservation. This report is based on the minutes and other official records of Stone Presbyterian Church for the year of 2016.

The Elders included Donna Goodfriend, Emily Hughes, Peter Massi-Treasurer, John Menard, Sherry Robinson-Clerk, Elizabeth Smith, John Stiefvater, and Mary Ann Stiefvater.

For 2016 the Session did not have many items of major business, but continued on the strategy it set a few years ago and updates during the October retreat, continuing the growth of our mission and depth of our relationships while planning for our future.

During each meeting the Session votes to accept the docket before them, votes to receive the Treasurer's report, and approves the Session meeting minutes from the prior month.

Here are some highlights from 2016:

January

- Business as usual

February

- Clerk busy gathering data for the statistical report which includes membership stats, miscellaneous stats, financial stats, age/race gender stats. These stats needed to be approved by the Session and submitted no later than February 18, 2016.
- We held the annual meeting with the Deacons and Session.

March

- Clerk reported two letters received - one from Hope House and the other from the Country Pantry thanking Stone Presbyterian Church for their generous donations which we collected from our Advent offering that Mary Ann so diligently worked on through her Mission, Stewardship and Support team.

April

- Session approved May 15, 2016 as the date for Maeve and Tess to be baptized.

May

- Session voted to reinstate Barbara Green Bumbolo as a member.

June

- Church received a check from Florence Morgan to cover a year's subscription to "These Days" for the congregation. Clerk mailed Mrs. Morgan a "thank you" note for her most generous gift.
- We received a letter of transfer from Clerk of Session Ronald Workman from Morrisville Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania for Patricia Ward Harris.
- The Session voted to approve the offerings for the month of December 2016 Christmas-Joy Presbyterian Christmas offering for retired Ministers and Presbyterian education instructions, Love-Country Pantry, Hope-Hope House, Peace-Presbytery peacemaking.

July and August

- For the summer months the Clinton United Methodist Church and Stone Church worshipped

together. July worship was at Stone and August worship was at Clinton United Methodist Church.

September

- Business as usual.

October

- Saturday, October 1, 2016 9:00am to 2:00 was our retreat. Session members as well as Deacons Linda Rance and Hal Rance were present. We reviewed our church planning meeting notes from 2015. We reviewed action items with additional thoughts and actions to be taken.
- At the Session meeting in October, the Session voted to become members of the Kirkland Art Center which is a business membership for cross marketing purpose.
- Session voted and approved the baptism of Violet Jane, daughter of Mike and Carolyn DeJohn, on November 27, 2016.

November

- The session voted and approved the baptism for Camryn, born to Kristen and Lauren St Hilaire-D'Antonio in January 2017.
- Session voted to host a workshop presented by Carol Nettleton on Oneida County programs and organizations that are available: Diabetes Health, Living Healthy NY, Chronic Pain Self-Management.
- Session voted and approved replacing speakers in the sanctuary after much experimenting of our sound system.

December

- Our last meeting of the year for Session was held at the Stiefvaters' home with a lovely dinner before our meeting.
- I received a letter from Julie Staudenmier, for The PEO New York State Chapter notifying us that the New York State Security Fund had received a gift in honor of "Sherry Robinson, Donna Goodfriend and Elizabeth Smith" from Chapter BG, NY Linda Rance, Treasurer.
- We received the 2016 Clerks Annual Questionnaire and I was able to submit it December 27, 2016.

Meetings

During the year 2016, Stone Presbyterian Church held its annual congregational meeting on January 24, 2016 during worship and the Congregation voted to dispense the reading of the minutes, voted to accept the minutes of the last annual congregational meeting and voted to accept the reports as distributed. The Congregation voted to concur the budget. The Nominating Committee proposed changes to the bylaws relative to the number of elected officers, the congregation voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The Congregation voted unanimously on the slate of officers.

The Session held ten regular meetings, including one joint meeting with the Deacons.

Members

- In 2016, the Session and congregation welcomed zero new members.

Weddings

- The Sanctuary hosted none for 2016.
- Jason and Tanya Hamshar - blessing of replacement ring during worship October 9, 2016

Baptisms

- There were 4 baptisms in 2016. On February 7, 2016 baptized Allison Miller, daughter of Jesse and

Sarah Miller.

- Patty Kloidt's daughters Maeve and Tess Kloidt-Gilligan May 15, 2016
- Mike Patrei and Carolyn DeJohn had Violet Patrei Jane baptized November 27, 2016

Deaths

- Christiana Montany at Stone by Dennis Dewey 1/8/16
- Gil Palmer (member) at Stone by Scott Leonard 3/5/16
- Ethel Howard Schaffer at Stone by Scott Leonard 3/30/16
- Doris Pryce (former member) at Rogers funeral home 4/15/16
- Wilma Lawson (member) at Stone by Scott Leonard 5/4/16
- Norma Lloyd (former member) at Stone by Scott Leonard 5/14/16
- Shirley Sollinger (former member) at Stone by Scott Leonard 8/20/16
- Sue Bishop (member) at Stone by Scott Leonard 11/14/16
- Larry Bishop (former member) at Forest Hills Cemetery by Scott Leonard 12/19/16

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson
Clerk of Session

Property Committee Report 2016

The Property Committee had another busy year overseeing the physical structure of the Church in 2016. Although there were no major projects initiated this year, there were several smaller ones that were performed in addition to the general maintenance that is always needed to keep our beautiful facility in working order.

Some of things that were done this year include:

- servicing of the gas stove and grill in the kitchen by Duffy's
- repair of the handicap ramp lock
- fixing the walls and painting in the secretary's office
- installation of the Poetry Path sign in front of the Church by the Boy Scouts
- placement of new thermostats in the Sanctuary and Norton Room
- cleaning and dusting of the Church and outdoor yard work with the help of Hamilton College students in August
- Replacement of all light bulbs in the Sanctuary with LEDs and of all fluorescent bulbs in the Norton Room
- Repair of the roof over the Norton Room with roof sealer
- Placement of new security lights in the Fair Trade Shop and a lighted exit sign
- Installation of new ceiling panels in the hallway near the Sexton's room
- Maintenance and inspection of the boilers

There are plans early next year to replace any security lights that are not working and add new lighted Exit signs as required by code.

The committee would like to commend our Sexton, Jesse Miller, for the very fine job he does for us. He is very capable and goes the extra mile to keep our old and demanding building in good order.

Respectfully submitted,

John Menard

John Stiefvater- co chairs of the Property Committee

Finance Committee Annual Report for 2016

The financial state of the church was very favorable in 2016. Despite projecting deficit spending, with reductions in expenses and the bequest from Gil Palmer's estate we were able to finish the year in the black for the first time in many, many years. As a result, we also were able to not draw from the endowment funds for a second year in a row. Still, our financial position remains challenging in the long-term.

In 2016 we were blessed with higher contribution from pledges than was budgeted, which is not uncommon for us, as we sometimes receive late pledges or some give without formally pledging.

All of our mission expenditures are based on what we receive, so in past years we have not always budgeted for them since the income and expenses balance out (though that is not always reflected in the actuals because of the timing of when those missions are paid vs. when they are received, particularly at the end of the year). For 2017 we decided to use 2016 actuals (rounded) as a pro forma budget for 2017 so that our balance sheet can more accurately reflect all the great mission donations we anticipate giving.

We also had a number of areas with reduced expenses in 2016. One was less cost for our pastor/Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) whose compensation is variable since he is part-time (5-10 hours per week for pastoral activities plus approximately 40 worship service service). The other was over \$6,000 less in utility costs due to a very mild winter last year. Also, we were blessed with no major repairs to the building. The budget for 2017 assumes neither of these will not be case.

For the 2017 budget the Finance Committee proposed and the Session approved a budget with Total Income \$83,287, Total Expense \$118,772, thus with deficit of \$35,485. Last year's budget was a projected deficit of -\$25,928, but ended up with a surplus of \$13,071. Despite a decrease to 25 in the number of pledges for 2017 (partially due to some deaths), the total pledge amount increased slightly from \$66,310 to \$66,996.

The Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe continues to flourish for which we owe to the dedication of our volunteers. We continue to have the Shoppe manage its costs and budget while under the auspices of Stone Church. The Shoppe had sales of over \$27,000 in 2016, which down about 10% from 2015. The Shoppe is continues to make monthly payments of \$500 to the church for utilities and other costs, though that may be reduced depending on sales. The Shoppe is still all volunteer run, though it may change sometime in the future if the Shoppe continues to grow.

With no need to withdraw funds for the General Fund, our endowment funds, which are with Wells Fargo, remain in the market. After a year of ups and down the stock market ended the year up. Our funds ended the calendar year at \$315,615.89, up 8.6% over 2015 and exceeded the market losses we incurred in 2014. The Finance Committee did meet with our Wells Fargo advisor, Bill Eichinger, in October to review our positions and we agreed to make some minor revisions. We also updated our forms with Wells Fargo so that David Duncan, as the new Finance Committee Chair, along with Peter Massi, treasurer, and Scott Leonard, pastor, had authorization for the fund accounts. We still have our restricted funds in the Presbyterian Foundation, which are now at \$7,088.

Chris Menard and Ceil Gilbert performed an in-house audit of our books for 2015 with satisfactory findings along with some recommendations to improve the clarity of some reporting. They will continue as our auditors for 2017.

Despite our challenges, God continues to bless us with ways to continue our mission as his servants and we look forward to continuing that mission in 2017.

Very respectfully,

David Duncan, Finance Committee Chair

Members: Cecilia Gilbert, Peter Massi (Treasurer)

		Actual Income and Expenses			
Category	Description	Budget 2016	2016	Budget 2017	Notes
Income					
Deacon Offering					
Deacon Collection/Donation					
Ministries Income					
Fundraisers	Chocolate Sale		\$336.00		
	Shoppers' Stroll		\$1,331.00		
Total Fundraisers			\$1,696.77		
Memorial Fund Income			\$3,205.00		
Total Ministries Income			\$6,568.77		
	Mission Beyond		\$398.25	\$398.25	
Mission Income	Blanket Sunday		\$338.00	\$340.00	
	Christmas Joy		\$197.00	\$200.00	
	Country Pantry Food Pantry		\$411.88	\$410.00	
	Hope House		\$221.00	\$220.00	
	One Great Hour		\$626.00	\$630.00	
	Peacemaking		\$0.00	\$160.00	
	Your Neighbors		\$0.00	\$200.00	
Total Mission Income			\$2,192.13	\$2,558.25	
Administration Income					
	Fair Trade Shoppe Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
	Estate Donations	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	Bequest in 2016
	Deacons	\$0.00	\$393.00	\$0.00	
	Pledges	\$66,310.00	\$70,260.00	\$66,996.00	As of 1/9/17 incr \$686.00
	Loose Offering	\$5,000.00	\$4,891.00	\$5,000.00	
	Per Capita	\$1,408.00	\$925.00	\$1,408.00	
	Presbyterian Foundation Income	\$325.00	\$296.86	\$325.00	
	Misc. Income	\$500.00	\$764.32	\$500.00	
Total Administration Income		\$79,543.00	\$98,530.18	\$80,229.00	
Stewardship of Property Income					
	Building Use	\$2,000.00	\$1,485.00	\$500.00	Decreased
Total Stewardship of Property Income		\$2,000.00	\$1,485.00	\$500.00	
Total Income	Total Income	\$81,543.00	\$108,776.08	\$83,287.25	
Expenses					
Ministries					
	Operations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Choir Singers	\$2,000.00	\$924.00	\$2,000.00	
	Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$366.00	\$0.00	
	Memorial Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$163.00	\$0.00	
	Worship Education Program	\$1,000.00	\$534.18	\$1,000.00	
	Mission Stewardship Support	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
	Worship Supplies	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	
	Taize	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Organ and Piano Maintenance	\$900.00	\$1,086.00	\$900.00	
	Music	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	
	Music Substitutes	\$1,000.00	\$465.00	\$1,000.00	
	Music Director Subs	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	
	Pulpit Supply	\$1,650.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,925.00	Increased for 2017
Total Ministries		\$7,200.00	\$5,013.18	\$7,425.00	
Mission					
	Mission and Stewardship Committee	\$500.00	\$153.57	\$500.00	
	Mission Beyond	\$1,000.00	\$1,241.00	\$1,300.00	
	Blanket Sunday	\$0.00	\$338.00	\$338.00	
	Christmas Joy	\$0.00	\$197.00	\$200.00	
	Food Pantry	\$0.00	\$745.89	\$410.00	
	Hope House	\$0.00	\$275.01	\$220.00	
	One Great Hour	\$0.00	\$626.00	\$630.00	
	Your Neighbors		\$0.00	\$200.00	
	Peacemaking	\$0.00	\$157.25	\$160.00	
Total Mission		\$1,500.00	\$3,733.72	\$3,958.00	

		Actual Income and Expenses			
Category	Description	Budget 2016	2016	Budget 2017	Notes
Administration Expenses					
	Deacons	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Misc	\$1,000.00	\$244.42	\$1,000.00	
	Membership/Fellowship	\$100.00	\$417.00	\$100.00	
	Office Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$4,766.96	\$5,000.00	
	Per Capita	\$3,663.00	\$3,774.00	\$3,937.20	Based on Membership of 102 People in December 2015. \$38.60 per person
	Postage	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$982.00	
	Telephone/Internet	\$1,500.00	\$1,417.85	\$1,500.00	
Total Administration Expenses		\$11,313.00	\$10,690.23	\$12,519.20	
Church Staff Expenses					
Commissioned Lay Pastor					
	Social Security Offset	\$1,251.36	\$1,020.51	\$1,561.00	
	Housing Allowance	\$16,348.64	\$13,340.00	\$20,400.00	
	Auto/Professional	\$500.00	\$185.48	\$500.00	
	Continuing Education	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
Total Commissioned Lay Pastor		\$18,350.00	\$14,545.99	\$22,711.00	Increase
Director of Music		\$14,665.00	\$14,665.00	\$14,958.33	2%Increase
Office Manager		\$15,226.00	\$15,226.00	\$15,530.52	2%Increase
Sexton		\$7,324.00	\$6,375.00	\$7,470.48	2%Increase
NYS Unemployment Insurance		\$600.00	\$1,185.46	\$1,200.00	
Payroll Taxes and Benefits		\$2,900.00	\$2,838.89	\$2,900.00	
Minister					
Total Church Staff Expenses		\$59,065.00	\$54,836.34	\$64,770.33	
Stewardship of Property					
	Contingency Repairs	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	
	Insurance	\$6,393.00	\$8,030.22	\$8,100.00	
	Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$7,750.52	\$14,000.00	Spent \$7,750 in 2016
	Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$5,650.42	\$4,000.00	
Total Stewardship of Property		\$28,393.00	\$21,431.16	\$30,100.00	
Total Expenses		\$107,471.00	\$95,704.63	\$118,772.53	
Net Income/ (loss)		(\$25,928.00)	\$13,071.45	(\$35,485.28)	
		12/31/2015	12/31/2016		
	Presbyterian Foundation	\$7,628.68	\$7,088.19		Restricted funds
	Wells Fargo #1	\$92,873.31	\$105,384.29		Intended for short-term use if needed
	Wells Fargo #2	\$189,853.62	\$210,231.70		Intended for long-term/future use
	Total Endowment	\$290,355.61	\$322,704.18		

Auditors' Report
Stone Presbyterian Church
Financial Records for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2015

The auditors have examined the detailed data presented in the reports for Wells Fargo, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Memorial Fund, the Fair Trade Shoppe, the Deacons Fund and the Women's Association fund. Balance sheet details have also been examined for the church's General Fund and compared to the bank records.

This data has been compared to that presented in the Treasurer's Annual Report. The Treasurer's report accurately reflects the financial status of Stone Presbyterian Church for the calendar year of 2015.

We did make some recommendations to our treasurer and office manager regarding the manner in which certain items should be reported.

Auditors Cecelia Gilbert, Christine Menard

Worship, Education and Program – 2016

In January WEP coordinated with Mission to present a series of luncheons. We viewed the movie “In God’s House,” Rob Knight’s documentary about religion in Utica on January 3 and 10. On Sunday, January 17 and 24, we reviewed our goals from the fall retreat and talked about implementing those and possibly more.

On Tuesday, February 10, we had our Ash Wednesday pancake supper and service to begin the Lenten season.

The Ecumenical Lenten Series was hosted by the Clinton United Methodist Church. The five sessions were based on the video series “Who Is This Man” by John Ortberg and included these topics:

Feb. 18 – Session 1 “Who Is This Man” led by the Rev. Jeff Hale

Feb. 25 – Session 2 “A Revolution of Humanity” led by the Rev. Fr. John Croghan

March 3 – Session 3 “The Power of Forgiveness” led by Scott Leonard, CLP

March 10 – Session 4 “Why It’s a Small World After All” led by Patsy Glista and the Rev. Janet Griffiths

March 17 – Session 5 “Three Days that Changed the World” led by the Rev. Jeff McArn

On Palm Sunday evening, March 20, at 7 p.m. the Stone Storytellers gave a performance of stories from the Gospel of Luke. It was well attended. They repeated the performance at the Presbyterian Residential Community the following week. The people there requested we return again whenever we were able because they enjoyed hearing the stories.

Special services were planned for Maundy Thursday and Pentecost. Our church hosted the Good Friday service and provided a light lunch afterward.

On April 8th the acclaimed storyteller, Noa Baum, gave a performance called “A Land Twice Promised.” These were stories about the lives of Palestinian and Israeli women. It was interesting to see how friendship grew between two women from different backgrounds. Dennis Dewey set up this performance.

Our combined summer services with the Methodists began July 3 here at Stone Church with Scott Leonard and the Rev. Dennis Dewey (July 24) preaching. August services were held at the Clinton United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jeff Hale preaching.

Pat Joseph, along with the Rev. Elsie Rhodes and Megan Scaccia were Presbytery of Utica’s commissioners at the PC (USA) 222nd General Assembly on June 18-25 in Portland, OR. Pat had a great experience and told us about it at a luncheon in the fall.

We continue to offer a Sunday School class for the children when they come. The class begins after the Children’s Sermon and is 20-30 minutes long. We welcome all who want to participate from age 4 up.

We continue to hold our Bible Study group every other Monday evening at 6 p.m. at the church. We are currently reading and discussing the book “The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread” by Richard Booker. We will choose a new book or topic when we finish this book. It’s a great time of sharing and discussing. All are welcome!

On October 1, we had a church retreat for elders and deacons and anyone else who wanted to participate. We followed up on the goals from last year and developed some new plans for the coming year.

Special services were planned for All Saints Day and Christ the King Sundays.

During Advent we collected special offerings for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

The Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols was put together by Rob Kolb. It was a beautiful service and many who attended said how moved they were by the music and how much they enjoyed the service.

Scott Leonard continues to be our part-time commissioned lay pastor. He is doing a wonderful job! The Sundays he did not preach were led by pulpit supply pastors or our own Rob Kolb and Elizabeth Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goodfriend

Mission, Stewardship and Support

2016 saw a variety of Mission activities within our congregation. As ever, our congregation is hard-working and charitable in support of various agencies, sharing the grace and riches bestowed upon each of us by a loving and generous God. Our relatively small size has made us more mindful of our priorities and focused in our giving. We have learned that we do in partnership what none of us could have hoped to do as well alone.

To this end, we undertook:

Support for the Your Neighbors service designed to provide nourishing, easily heated meals for the homebound. We have \$341.36 in donations towards our next meal effort which will occur on January 14, 2017.

Ongoing contributions to The Country Pantry, our Clinton area food bank. Judy LaGasse continues as our liaison to the Country Pantry. We have responded to both special requests and normal monthly stocking with loving generosity. Not only have we provided quantities of food, but Stone Church has also donated funds with which the Pantry can purchase bulk goods to distribute to the increasing number of people utilizing their services. Our 2016 Advent offering for Love Sunday was earmarked for the Country Pantry. Additionally, the third Sunday of every month, our loose change offering is sent to the Country Pantry. This year, the gifts of our members and friends have enabled us to provide \$745.89 for those unable to feed themselves and their families.

Assistance to Hope House in feeding and sheltering those without either homes or adequate meals. Ceil Gilbert organizes our participation at Hope House. On the fourth Monday of each month, a team from Stone Church helps prepare and serve an evening meal. Additionally, our congregation provides toiletries and other supplies for Hope House clients. Monies raised by our annual **Chocolate Lover's Sale**, held for Valentine's Day, 2016, were designated for Hope House. This sale, organized by Ceil Gilbert with support from The Fair Trade Shoppe, The Women's Association and the entire congregation, netted \$366. Our first Advent offering was designated for Hope House. These offerings plus the Valentine's Day receipts enabled us to donate \$641 to Hope House in 2016.

Participation in Church World Service's Blanket and Tool campaign. Father's Day, June 19, 2016, was designated "Blanket and Tool" Sunday. Our special offering of \$338 will help to provide: blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Support for the activities of the Presbyterian Church USA (World Mission, US Mission, Mission through Education) Our third Advent offering for Joy Sunday was dedicated to the PC USA Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and for racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). We were able to send \$197 to this important service of the Presbyterian Church. Our fourth Advent offering, designated our "Peace Sunday" collection of \$157.25 was also donated to the Presbyterian Church USA, this time for peacemaking efforts throughout the world's violence-ridden regions. Additionally, portions of this offering will be used to fund the Presbyterian Peace camp for children, an experience designed to help children have an appreciation for diversity and a belief in the power of peacemaking.

Contributions during special offerings such as the Presbyterian Mission Agency's **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Our gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enabled our church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by assisting this agency which provides food and resources to

empower the poor and oppressed. Our congregation's donation of \$626 was added to the donations of churches throughout the world in support of this endeavor.

Support for our own Members and Friends by starting 2016 with a series of Sunday luncheons and programs. With help from our marvelous group of Deacons, each Sunday in January we enjoyed a program and special luncheon, giving us time to partake of delicious meals, enjoy each other's company and discuss the day's program. This was a great success and hopefully will be repeated in 2017.

Additionally, the Mission Committee worked to encourage members and friends of Stone Church to participate in our stewardship campaign – **"Here Am I"** – which culminated in a special Consecration Sunday service on November 13, 2016. This service was followed by a celebratory luncheon attended by a congenial group of members and friends. As ever, the support for our Church and its mission was evident by the care and generosity exhibited during all stewardship activities.

Thank you, one and all, for your generosity and support. May we always be cognizant of and work to fulfill our mission of working for peace, justice and basic necessities for all God's people.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Stiefvater

Membership, Communication and Outreach (MCO) Report 2016

Our team consists of Ceil Gilbert, Emily Hughes, Linda Rance, and Sherry Robinson

Our goal is to “encourage the integration of visitors and new members into the life of the church” and our tasks throughout the year include:

- Reviewing and maintaining Parish Group lists (where each elder has a parish group of 6-8 households whom they are responsible for).
- We promote a sense of community through personal relationships within the congregation and try to plan events.
- We oversee the communications of the church including productions of The Corner Stone, the Stone Church website, bulletin board, publicity for church events.
- Oversee the work of the Office Manager and primary personnel contact.
- We seek to look at the ministry of the church through the eyes of the outsider to help make our church a visitor friendly time with first time visitors.

Throughout the year we try to remind folks to wear their name tags on Sunday mornings not so much for ourselves but for our visitors and how important it is. We also try to get new names to Peggy so that our repeat guests have name tags to wear.

We follow up with either notes or emails to new visitors when applicable.

We try to cover any of our events or happenings with pictures for the newsletter or Website. We were able to get pictures to tell our story throughout 2016 with a lot of help from Scott taking pictures. Ceil did a great job updating the website with pictures and getting releases out for the pie sale, the Shoppers Stroll, the Fair Trade Shoppe advertising.

In November 2016 during the Shoppers Stroll our team volunteered time at the Fair Trade Shoppe and assisted in the kitchen working at the Seven C's Café. Others made Christmas cookies for selling and there was lot of advertising done to get the word out.

Our committee was responsible for working on the Christmas appreciation gifts for our church staff.

Emily Massi has taken individual pictures of our Congregation for our home made phone directory.

Through the year we continue to keep our prayer list updated. The prayer chain is active, we send emails to a list of folks when prayers are requested and needed immediately. We receive prayer requests through emails, our church website, by word of mouth and prayer cards located in the pews. If the requestor would like, we will print the name in the Sunday bulletin prayer list and in our monthly newsletter prayer list.

Also as part of our communication, we try to make sure there are articles in the monthly news letter from folks sharing their favorite recipes to sharing their credos. Linda does a super job on her write-ups each month from the Deacon's Corner.

We would like to thank the congregation for all your love and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson, Moderator

Nominating Committee Minutes

November, 21, 2016

The Nominating Committee met on November 21, 2016. In attendance were Elizabeth Smith, Chair; Ceil Gilbert, Jim Gavett, Lauralyn Kolb, Members-at-large, and Scott Leonard, Pastor. Beverly Miller (Deacon) was absent due to the weather.

The meeting opened with prayer offered by Elizabeth Smith. Our first order of business was to look over the By-Laws that were amended by the Session last year. This was done to make sure that this committee adheres to the new By-Laws.

After prayerful consideration, this committee recommends the following people for Session: Elizabeth Smith (2019) indicated that she was more than willing to stay on for a second three year term; Mary Ann Stiefvater (2017) graciously said that she would be willing to serve two more years; David Duncan humbly stated that he would be willing to be ordained an Elder for the class of 2019.

This committee prayerfully recommends the following members for Deacons: Judy LaGasse (2018) and Gary LaGasse (2018) stated that they were faithfully willing to stay on for a third two year term; Brooke Villiere (2019) said that she was also willing to stay on for her second three year term; Grace Whittemore (2019) and Helen Leonard (2019) honorably stated that they would be willing to be apart of the Deacon board again; Jim Gavett (2019) is willing to become a newly ordained Deacon.

This committee also recommends for the 2017 Nominating Committee members-at-large: Hal Rance, Linda Rance and Lora Schilder. (Separately, the Board of Deacons voted for Jim Gavett to be their representative and the Session voted for Elizabeth Smith to be their representative and the chair, assuming Jim and Elizabeth are elected to Deacons and Session, respectively.)

During the course of this committee's investigation, Lora Schilder and Lauralyn Kolb said that they may wish to serve in the future.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following:

Elders			Installed
Class of 2017:	Donna Goodfriend	853-8405; 749-4085 (cell) chokmol2@gmail.com	11/12/06
	John Menard	853-3893 jcmenard51@gmail.com	3/7/10
	Peter Massi	525-6392 nedmsae@gmail.com	2/15/15
Class of 2018:	Mary Ann Stiefvater	853-2923; 794-5122 (cell) stiefvaterlivres@gmail.com	3/7/10
	Sherry Robinson	841-8102; 794-2080 (cell) smrobinson@metlife.com SSMROB@aol.com	2/24/13
	Emily Hughes	922-7693 emilyhughes14922@gmail.com	2016
Class of 2019:	Elizabeth Smith	723-1345 eos2@roadrunner.com	3/2/14
	David Duncan	381-3405 or 725-4216 dduncan2@me.com	2017

Deacons			Installed
Class of 2017:	Mary Chamberlain	853-5077 mchamberlain6780@gmail.com	2/15/15
	Emily Massi	219-7794 youngem08@yahoo.com	2/15/15
Class of 2018:	Gary LaGasse	725-2117/2015 jlagasse@roadrunner.com	2/24/13
	Judy LaGasse	725-2217 jlagasse@roadrunner.com	2/24/13
	Bev Miller	853-2548 bevmill@gmail.com	2/24/13
Class of 2019:	Jim Gavett	723-6146 jwgavett@gmail.com	2017
	Helen Leonard	737-7671 haleonard@roadrunner.com	2017
	Brooke Villiere	853-8468 brookevilliere@gmail.com	3/2/14
	Grace Whittemore	853-6652 gracetw@roadrunner.com	2017

2017 Nominating Committee

Members-at-large: Hal Rance, Linda Rance and Lora Schilder. **Deacon:** Jim Gavett. **Session:** Elizabeth Smith, chair.

BOARD OF DEACONS 2016

Serving this year: Mary Chamberlain, Gary LaGasse, Judy LaGasse, Bev Miller, Brooke Villiere, Emily Massi, Hal Rance and Linda Rance. Bev served as Recording Secretary, Hal as Treasurer and Linda as Chairperson.

We were Greeters and Ushers every Sunday and hosted coffee hour in the Norton Room after worship.

Deacons visited our Homebound members throughout the year and made the schedules for Pastor Scott to visit and do home communion.

Mary was in charge of "Courtesy and Care". She sent cards at Christmas and Easter to all the Homebound, signed by the members of our Church. She also sent sympathy, get well, thinking of you and congratulations cards when needed.

Judy and Gary were the liaisons for the Country Pantry. They made sure articles were put in the bulletins and newsletters and delivered the food on a regular basis. This year we donated the loose change on the 3rd Sunday of each month to the Pantry.

Christmas poinsettias and Easter flowers were ordered and placed beautifully in Church. Easter flowers were taken to all our Homebound. A rose was placed in Church in honor of each of our 3 baptisms and given to each family.

A new Christmas tree was ordered and paid for by contributions from several members of the Church and the Deacons were able to pay the balance from the money we receive from the loose offering the 1st Sunday of each month. So...thank you all. It looks wonderful!!!!

Besides doing coffee hour every Sunday, the Deacons were very busy with all the special activities that took place this year. Some of them were:

1. A birthday celebration for Wilma Lawson and another one for Gene Lawson
2. A celebration after each of the 3 baptisms
3. Memorial receptions for Gil Palmer and Wilma Lawson
4. Soup, bread and cookies for one of the Lenten services at the Methodist Church in Clinton
5. Refreshments following the Storytelling program on Palm Sunday evening
6. The ecumenical luncheon at our Church following the Good Friday service
7. Refreshments after the storytelling event by Noa Baum in April
8. Luncheon for the workers and volunteers at the blood drive at the VFW in May
9. The "Welcome Back" luncheon in September
10. Helping MaryAnn with the Stewardship luncheon in November

Wow!!! Your Deacons have been busy!!!! (with the help of many others in our Church) It is important to note that ALL the food for the above functions are made and donated by each of them. Your Deacons are always willing to help and I don't think they ever say no!!! The Church is very fortunate to have such a wonderful dedicated group.

It was my pleasure to serve as chairperson of the Deacons this past year. It was an easy job because they all volunteer and go the extra mile to serve the members of our Church. I will miss being on the Deacon Board next year...but, I am sure they will be calling on me from time to time!!!! Thank you Deacons for a great year and all you do. God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rance, Chairperson

P.S. I forgot to mention.....Scott Leonard entered Brooke in a baking contest that was held on the Village Green this summer...and she won first prize for her yummy cookies!!!! She also made enough cookies to give to everyone who donated blood at the VFW blood drive this summer. Way to go Deacon Brooke!!!

**Board of Deacons
Financial Report
01-01-2016 to 12-31-2016**

INCOME:

1 st Sunday Offering	\$ 520.69
Individual Donations	\$ 200.00
Flowers (Christmas& Easter)	& 486.50
Donations for new Christmas Tree	\$ 281.00

TOTAL \$1488.19

EXPENSES:

5 Cakes (3 Baptisms, Birthday for Wilma Lawson & Birthday for Gene Lawson)	\$ 124.97
Flowers (Easter, Christmas, Psalms & 3 Baptisms)	\$ 621.46
Gifts	\$ 45.00
Coffee	\$ 164.00
Supplies (Candles, Paper products, Coffee pot, grape juice etc.)	\$ 140.55
Christmas Tree (Yippee!!!)	\$ 607.91

TOTAL \$1703.89

Balance on hand as of 12-31-16 is \$424.39

(Please note...the Christmas flower bill hasn't been paid yet)

Respectfully submitted,
Hal Rance
Treasurer, Deacons

Memorial Committee

We have received some very nice gifts this year from families of deceased members. We have had a request to support our music program. In addition we will be able to proceed with the refurbishing of the Pastor's Study.

Donations were received as follows:

In memory of:

Susan Bishop

Shirley Sollinger

Wilma Lawson

Given by:

Bonnie & Jim Hyde

Gilbert Weil
Columbus Bando Club
Arlene Vivyan
Anne Murphy
Sally Sandusky
Robert Sollinger
Marjorie Bakos
Mark Sollinger

Sylvia & Larry Poppelbaum
Trudi Christeler
The Ridges
Cathy Campbell
Mary Wheeler
Roger & Patricia Williams
Marjorie Bakos
Linda & Hal Rance
Mary Ann & John Stiefvater
Beth McGuffin
Dennis Dewey
Jean Wainright
Allan Roeder
Carolyn Barnum
Beverly Miller

Balance 12-31-15	\$1875.98
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Income	2272.00
Expenses	251.00

Balance 12-31-16	\$3896.43
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Respectfully submitted,

Emily Hughes, Chair

Annual Report 2016

Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe

Our shop has had another incredible year with sales since January 1, 2016, totaling \$27,651.15. This is \$3,278.61 less than we sold in 2015, but about \$5000 more than we sold in 2014. The success of the shop is beyond our wildest dreams of a few years ago, and confirms our belief that God continues to bless this enterprise and has a purpose for Stone Presbyterian Church to continue in its current location.

Much of our profit this year has again gone right back into purchasing more items, but we did hire Jesse Miller again to do some more renovation. We continued making monthly contributions of \$500 to the church to help with the cost of utilities, and we were also able to raise money for the Life School in Guatemala by selling items Anne Dunn brought home with her from her time there last winter. Anne and Paul Dunn volunteer at this school when they are down there, so this made a nice extension of our shop.

One of the issues we have had to deal with is that all consumable merchandise must have an expiration date. The Country Pantry will not accept items that are about to expire. Consequently, we donated 26 bags of soup mixes to them last January before they expired because we knew we wouldn't sell them all, and we wanted them to be distributed. We also donated 4 cans of hot cocoa mix and a few expired soup mixes to Hope House.

The shop has become a major mission of our congregation, and this could not happen without the dedication of a core group of individuals, with additional help from others as they are able. Mary Chamberlain does all the scheduling of workers and keeps the place clean. Ceil Gilbert handles the publicity and audits the books. David and Carol White pack up the shop and take items to various places for off-site sales. Mary and David also help me keep the computer inventory up to date and items scanned into the computer. Emily Hughes brings her years of experience working in retail to help us better display our merchandise. Pat and Buzz Joseph, David and Carol White, Ceil Gilbert, Mary Chamberlain, and Emily Hughes are the core group who volunteer countless hours working when the shop is open, and who also schlep items across the street to the Village Green for the Farmer's Market. Scott Leonard helps with all the iPad and internet issues, and Shelley Coe has handled the taxes. Donna Goodfriend, Gerry Gogel, Helen Leonard, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Leonard, Bev Miller, Grace Whittemore, Ann Dunn, Mary Ann Stiefvater, Patty Kloidt, and Julie Rand also volunteer. Thank you, one and all. If you would like to join us in this endeavor, please let Mary know. We can always use more helpers.

Thanks also to Peggy Weldon and Jesse Miller for the extra work we cause them, and to all of you who purchase items in the shop and who tell your friends about us.

As I read the year-end greetings from our various suppliers, I am struck by how important this work is. The companies we work with do far more than sell products to us. UPAVIM, for example, runs a Montessori Day Care Program in which students are learning to read and do basic addition before graduating to kindergarten. They also have a school for children K-6th and a library. Five years ago, BeadforLife began the Street Business School, which gives entrepreneurial training and mentoring to impoverished women. Not only does this program now serve more woman than does the Bead jewelry

program, they have begun sharing their model with non-profits worldwide. It is humbling to realize how God is using us to make such a difference in the world for so many people.

The purchase of the iPad and the account with Square.com has been well worth the expense. We can now track our inventory, and get reports on the sales. Listed below is a summary of the year's activity.

Category	Items sold	Gross sales	Total purchased
Uncategorized	51	\$306.43	
B4L	293	\$2,556.00	\$1,352.16
EE	685	\$2,484.50	\$2,035.66
MAGGIES	320	\$3,470.00	\$2,498.62
MHANDS	266	\$2,290.00	\$1,433.92
PJT	402	\$1,487.00	\$721.10
PalCraftaid	40	\$293.00	\$350.75
SERRV	512	\$6,509.47	\$5,069.95
TTV	577	\$5,694.49	\$2,677.46
UPAVIM	94	\$1,665.50	\$1,472.40
WBP	138	\$505.76	\$177.52
LIFE SCHOOL	170	\$389.00	\$100.00
Total	3,338	\$27,651.15	\$17,889.54

Thank you all for an exciting year.

In Christ's service,

Lauralyn Kolb
Shop Manager

Women's Association-2016

The Women's Association usually conducts its business through e-mail messages or personal contact. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to participate in our activities. Please contact Donna Goodfriend or Ceil Gilbert if you have any questions.

In February, we arranged to have Restore come and pick up some old dishes that had been unused for at least 12 years from our kitchen downstairs.

In May, we donated \$175.99 to church for painting our office manager's office.

In June, we held our Annual Pie Sale. With the generous donations from folks in our congregation and the generous donation of time and supplies by Donna Goodfriend, we were able to generate total sales of \$688. Our "drive-thru" pies concept continues to be a huge success.

We continue to support the important work done by the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery by fulfilling our annual pledge to them of \$200 for the year.

In October, we held our Annual Apple Celebration. We were blessed to have many donations of apple pies and many other delicious apple goodies from our congregation, which allowed us to raise a total of \$726. Again, huge thanks go to Donna Goodfriend who tirelessly baked pies all day the Friday before and also on Saturday morning. People loved buying a warm pie just out of the oven. And our "drive-thru" pies concept was again a big success.

In December we purchased a permanently marked sign to be used for our Christmas at the Corner event during the Shoppers Stroll for \$218.87. We contributed \$50 toward the staff year-end gifts. We were able to donate \$50 each to the Abraham House, Rescue Mission of Utica and the Thea Bowman House. We also donated \$500 to the Neighborhood Center for Christmas families.

We are very grateful for all the help we have received from everyone during our two annual fundraisers and hope that we will be as successful in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert, Secretary/Treasurer

Women's Association Treasurer's Report - 2016

Balance as of 1/1/2016	<u>943.12</u>
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RECEIPTS

Pie Sale	688.00
Apple Celebration	726.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>1,414.00</u>
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DISBURSEMENTS

Pledge to Pres. Women of the Presbytery	200.00
Painting of office	175.99
New sandwich board sign	218.87
Staff year-end gifts	50.00
Donation to Abraham House	50.00
Donation to Rescue Mission of Utica	50.00
Donation to Thea Bowman House	50.00
Donation to Neighborhood Center, Inc. (For Christmas families)	500.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>1,294.86</u>
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Balance as of 12/31/2016	1,062.26
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Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert (Secretary/Treasurer)