



Annual Reports for 2023

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 28, 2024



Stone Presbyterian Church

Clinton, New York

*The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ,
engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow
as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.*

Presbytery of Utica ~ Synod of the Northeast ~ Presbyterian Church (USA)
All the People, Ministers

Stone Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 33, 8 South Park Row
Clinton, New York 13323
315-853-2933
stonepres@stonepre.org

Scott Leonard, Commissioned Pastor
G. Roberts Kolb, Director of Music
Gerald G. Platz, Pastor Emeritus
Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator
Lee Kelso, Sexton

www.stonepres.org ~ www.facebook.com/stonepres
www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/

Table of Contents

Pastor's Report	page 1
Clerk of the Session Report	page 6
Session Committees:	
Property	page 8
Finance	page 10
Budget	page 12
Worship, Education, and Program	page 17
Mission, Stewardship, and Support	page 19
Membership, Communication and Outreach	page 22
Nominating Committee	page 23
Board of Deacons	page 24
Deacons' Financial Report	page 25
Memorial Committee	page 26
Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe	page 27
Women's Association	page 32
Women's Association Treasurer's Report	page 33

PASTOR'S REPORT 2023



The root of joy is gratefulness. It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.” – Brother David Steindl-Rast

One of the many things many of us have come away with after the pandemic and other hardships is gratitude. Not that everything is blissful and hunky dory, but rather we appreciate what we do have, rejoicing in good while dealing with the bad.

Three notable highlights of 2023 were our “adoption” of a refugee family, a capital campaign for a new roof, and the publication of *A View from the Steeple*. These are discussed further under committee reports but are worth noting here as well.

For our refugee family from The Center we have had a squad of extremely dedicated members who have gone far above and beyond of what they thought they were getting into. So much so that a caseworker said in awe, “What church are you from?!” I don’t know how the family would have done without them.

We decided this was the year we needed to make formal plans and raise money to replace our main roof. So many people helped in so many ways. Christine Menard, assisted by others, took on a labor of love to apply for a grant from Sacred Sites, which we were successfully awarded \$8,000 in December! John Menard worked to get the architectural assessment and repair quotes while being *de facto* campaign chair.

And so many others contributed in different ways, including painting our old roof tiles and selling them. What was also remarkable was the outpouring of financial contributions by people in the community just from word of mouth and some articles in the local newspapers. We look forward to having the new roof installed in 2024.

And to honor our long-time historian, Majorie “Midge” Bakos, who has been with the church for the nine decades of her life (and 39% of the life of Stone Church), Mary Ann Stiefvater, with help from others, was finally able to see the fruits of her herculean task of taking Midge’s columns from the many years of our monthly newsletter and getting them published in a book, *A View from the Steeple*, providing a slice-of-life historical view of the church, Clinton, and Hamilton College. A treasure for us, the community, and posterity.

And I say all this not to take away from our other regular mission and activities, such as the Building Stones Fair Trade Shop (which had their best year yet), Hope House, The Country Pantry, and others. Also, our deacons and others again continue to be a light to others and live out their call of compassion, witness, and service to those in need, illness, and homebound.

I humbly note that I played only a supporting role at best in all these activities, but that gives me joy that comes with gratitude. For it means all that we do is done as a community of faith for the community and world in which we live. While we try to be not of the world, we continue to be in the world, showing God’s love for by showing it to others in word and deed.

While we continue run a deficit, we have been good stewards and continue to be blessed with some unexpected extra donations now and again and this year particularly so. And despite some continuing social and financial strains in 2023, you still supported us financially as strong as ever. More importantly, as I have already noted, we continued to keep our focus on God and loving our neighbor. My part has been to provide meaningful worship services, moderating session meetings, providing pastoral care, and participating in presbytery and the community at large.

The arrangement the session and I continue to have is that I have one Sunday off a month from preaching plus four Sundays in the summer (this year it was in July).

Unless I am traveling, on my weeks off I still attend worship, often as the videographer, and participate as any member. This has allowed me to spend that week off to get caught up or take care of other business, such as working on the monthly newsletter inputs.

In 2023 I preached 36 Sundays along with services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, Blessing of the Animals, Longest Night, and Christmas Eve for a total of 43 worship services. Outside the time I spent preparing and conducting those services I averaged 7.7 hours per week over the year in my pastoral duties in addition to weddings and funerals that I conducted. Would that I could spend more time, but my full-time day job as a proposal manager for a technology company and traveling for it limits my availability unfortunately.

I continue to have us stream our services on Facebook Live. Though the number of views is small, it has been appreciated by people who could attend services either out of illness, distance, or weather, and provides a link to our community for them.

Here is a summary of what I reported at our session meetings.

- Pastoral Care – Have talked and met with various people on their various concerns, including one who came to our service in March because she saw on our web site that we were an inviting and welcoming church. Visited Phil Conley and Sherry Robinson 12/6/23. Visited homebound and served communion on 8/20/23 with Trudi Christeler and on 12/30/23 with Trudi Christeler, Sue and Dick Raitt, and Hal Rance and served communion.
- Baptisms – We had no baptisms in 2023.
- Funerals –
 - Conducted a short memorial service 1/15/23 at Stone Church after worship for Donna Mae Ely and Harold LaFont, parents of Tim LaFont as they were not able to have services where and when they passed away.
 - Conducted memorial service 7/25/23 at Owens-Pavlot & Rogers funeral home and graveside at Sunset Hill cemetery for Peter Robinson, Sherry Robinson's father
- Weddings – Officiated Melissa LeRoy and Alex Russo 10/14/23 at the Otesaga in Cooperstown. Met with them a few times for pre-marital counseling. They were looking for those who shared their values of inclusivity and equality and they noted our progressive flag.
- Membership – For the first time in my tenure we admitted (three) new members by letters of transfer and affirmation. At our 9/24/23 worship service we welcomed Deb Lapoint and sisters Wendy Suskiewich and Jean Whitney.
- Stone Storytellers – Donna Goodfriend and I continue to do storytelling most every Sunday in worship. On 1/28/23 I did a hour of storytelling at Westminster Church in Auburn, NY at their request. Donna, I, and Dennis Dewey did perform an Epic Storytelling on Palm Sunday afternoon 4/2/23 on the Gospel of Matthew. We had about 22 in attendance and streamed it Facebook Live. Dennis also produced a video.
- Deacons – I continue to work with and rely heavily upon the deacons for the care our members, particularly the homebound, and for hosting our events. Though I do meet with people, the deacons provide care on a regular and consistent basis and through many thoughtful acts.
- Worship, Education, and Program (WEP) team – I continue to work with WEP for us to provide a quality and meaningful worship service and I rely upon Donna Goodfriend to get our pulpit supply, which has included her, Rob Kolb, and others, which has been a blessing.

We were able again to hold all of our services for 2023 in-person despite COVID-19 becoming endemic. We continued to have the Lord's Supper by self-serving for the most part. For Advent and Christmas Eve,

we were able to reconstitute a choir, which, despite me being part of it, added immeasurably to our worship! I am deeply grateful to Rob Kolb, along with Loralyn for continuing to provide music in the absence of our choir and my wife, Helen Leonard, as volunteered videographer with Sherry Robinson also helping out.

Guest preachers we had in 2023 were Peg Ward, LaDana Clark, Jeff McArn, Victor McKusick, George Whitten, Helen Tracy, and our own Donna Goodfriend, Mary Ann Stiefvater, Loralyn Kolb, and, on several occasions, Rob Kolb with Donna conducting communion on a few occasions with assistance from Pat Joseph on some of them.

- Finance Committee – Continue to monitor our expenses and also continued to receive unexpected donations from various sources. We did not have an opportunity to meet with Wells Fargo representatives in 2023 to review our portfolio, but has, like the stock market in general, has come back. It continues to be a significant contributor for us to continue our mission.
- Property Committee – Worked with Property Committee and Treasurer on replacement of the roof over the sanctuary. Thanks to the tireless efforts of treasurer Christine Menard, as our lead grant writer, along with others, we applied and secured a grant from Sacred Sites. John Menard also started a Capital Campaign committee, which helped raised well toward our goal.
- Clinton Area Ministerium (CAM) – We met in-person at Stone Church most of the time, though also did some hybrid meetings by Zoom. I continue as secretary/treasurer to chair of CAM, which comprises our local clergy and whose composition changed a bit this year: the Rev. Jeff McArn, who was released this summer as chaplain by Hamilton College but remains a member of the Presbytery of Utica; the Rev. Michael Terrell (Clinton United Methodist Church (CUMC)) who was reappointed (as the Methodists do) this summer to Watertown and the Rev. Abel Roy (who happens to live in New Hartford) who replaced him; the Rev. Janet Griffiths (LutheranCare chaplain), the Rev. Father Bob Weber (St. Mary's Catholic Church), Deacon Patsy Glista (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) who moved to Rochester in September to be close to her mother; Deacon Jean Skinner (Episcopal Church); the Rev. Carol Jubenville (Divine Development & Leadership Group); the Rev. Dr. Joanne Benskin who became priest and rector this summer at St. James Episcopal Church after over a year search; the Rev. Rhonda Chester, Compliance Officer at Presbyterian Home & Services joined us this summer as a new member; and the Rev. Victor McKusick, the new Presbyterian Home Chaplain, joined us this summer also. It is wonderful that group continues even with the changing of members!

The activities were able to do this year include:

- Lenten Study Series in person mostly in March hosted by St. Mary's using the online video program "The Journey – Shepherding God's People" that her group developed. We had a pretty good turnout of people, around 25 people on average.
- Ecumenical Good Friday service 4/7/23 in-person and hosted by CUMC. We had about a 28 people attend. The worship leaders were Jean Skinner, Patsy Glista, Janet Griffiths, Carol Jubenville, and Scott Leonard.
- Ecumenical Easter Sunrise 4/9/23 service on the village green. It was but cold—literally freezing. We had about 24 people in total. Worship leaders were Patsy Glista, Jeff McArn, Scott Leonard, and Michael Terrell, and Rob Kolb provided the music.
- 7th Annual Community Collection Day 5/13/23. Full community participation again with Lions Club (traffic management, eyeglasses and hearing aids), CUMC (electronics recycling), Kirkland Town Library (books and jewelry), Boyton Pool (bottles and cans), Cub Scouts (trash pickup), CCS environmental club (recycle health and beauty products), Village of Clinton and Chamber of Commerce, Becky Willsey and son (music), Stone Church (bake sale), and the Country Pantry. The number of food items was 628, which does not include those from SODEXO/LutheranCare, CCS, or USPS who also participated. We collected \$1922.51 total of which \$511.00 was from the bake sale! (And collected more after the event), down just a bit from last year's \$2,080.38.

- Labor Day Weekend 9/3/23 ecumenical worship service on the village green. We had a good turnout of about 75 people and a wonderful service! Worship leaders were Scott Leonard, Abel Roy, Joanna Benskin, and Patsy Glista for whom this was her last activity with us. CUMC provided the music. We collected \$250 for The Country Pantry.
- Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 p.m. Sunday 10/1/23. We had a good size crowd—larger than the last few years—with gorgeous weather. And WKTV filmed most of the event and interviewed me afterward that was on the news that night. The people really appreciated to have blessings for their animal companions. We collected a few bags of pet food and \$26 that we dropped it off at the Country Pantry. Worship leaders were Abel Roy, Joanna Benskin, Janet Griffiths, and Scott Leonard.
- There were no Service of Lessons and Carols at the Hamilton College Chapel as they were not able to organize it.
- Longest Night Service (aka Blue Christmas) 12/21/23 in-person, hosted at Stone Church. Worship leaders were Scott Leonard, Abel Roy, Joanna Benskin, and Janet Griffiths. An intimate crowd, but those who attended really appreciated it and had sought it out. And many thanks to our deacons for the wonderful refreshments we had afterwards.
- Clinton Chamber of Commerce –
 - Attended Chamber breakfast at Kirkland Town Library on 4/5/23. Got (re)acquainted with people and put a plug in for our ecumenical services and Community Collection Day.
 - Attended Chamber breakfast at COCVAC on 5/5/23.
 - Put a plug in for our upcoming roof campaign and Community Collection Day.
 - Attended a networking breakfast at Preswick Glenn on 9/6/23.
 - Attended Clinton Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Tuesday on 11/14/23 and presented Executive Director Molly Marris a copy of *A View from Steeple* and promote the book to chamber members.
 - For Shoppers Stroll on 11/24/23 I once again performed “A Visit from St. Nicholas” in the gazebo just before the lighting of the village Christmas tree.
- Media –
 - Continued posting weekly the bulletin and sermons on the web site and streaming our services on Facebook Live.
 - Worked with Liz Menard, our webmaster, and Christine Menard and the Brockett Creative Group on revamping our new web site. There were several challenges because our old sites were done with old webmaster, but eventually we were able to almost everything resolved.
 - Kept our microphones and sound system maintained.
- Presbytery –
 - Attended First Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro closing service 4/30/23 with several people from Stone Church; it was a poignant ceremony.
 - The Committee of Ministry (CoM) for the Presbytery of Utica has assigned Mike Yeoman, pastor at Oneida, as our liaison to the Presbytery of Utica and he attended our Zoom session meeting in June.
 - Attended presbytery meeting 5/23/23 at National Abolition Hall of Fame in Peterboro.
 - Supported and participated in the Presbytery of Utica meeting at Stone Church 9/26/23; we did a wonderful job hosting and received many compliments on our hospitality.
 - Attended presbytery meeting Tuesday 11/14/23 in Rome.

- I continued to participate in presbytery weekly worship leaders' Zoom meetings when I could where we share experiences, ideas, and concerns:
- Other – Some items include
 - Conducted Congregational Annual meeting as part of worship on 1/29/23 with sole business of election of officers, but we also reviewed the highlights from 2022.
 - 6/4/23 Went with Helen Leonard and Emily Hughes to take our refugee family to World Refugee Day celebration at Hanna Park in Utica.
 - Worked with Hamilton College students from Make a Difference Day on 9/9/23 to clean the church along with Donna Goodfriend, Linda Rance, Mary Chamberlain, and Helen Leonard.
 - In September signed presbytery letter of support for Jeff McArn and his being summarily dismissed for no cause at the beginning of July.
 - Met briefly with David Schloegel from the Samaritan Counseling Center after worship 9/10/23. He has attended before and wanted to confirm our contact information and gave me a flyer of upcoming events.
 - On 9/17/23 before worship I found my iPad would no longer would no longer support Facebook's Business Suite, which we used to do Facebook Live. Christine Menard bought a new one and I set up with its own Facebook account. After buying a new cable, we started using it successfully at the 10/1/23 service.
 - Along with John and Christine Menard met with reporter from the Rome Sentinel on 10/4/23 for an interview on the roof.
 - At Chris Menard and Janice LeFrois's request, on 11/5/23 I bought laptop at Best Buy for church use, including Janice, and got it set up 11/13/23.
 - Preached 11/12/23 at Hamilton College chapel. Caroline "Caz" Ullem from student group at Hamilton College called "Soul Food" reached out Stone Church 11/7/23. "We are a small group that is grounded in Protestant faith messages, welcome people of all faith backgrounds and identities, and meet on Sunday nights to eat a yummy meal and discuss faith. The group was founded by Jeff McArn and is a really thoughtful group of students." I did let Jeff McArn know and he welcomed it.
 - Boy Scout Venture Crew – Vote to charter them
 - I met with Howie Schafer and Brendan Kelly 11/2/23. They want to start a Boy Scout Venture crew and for Stone Church to sponsor them. We voted at to November session to sponsor them (though they are still getting the paperwork done).

With only about 25 active congregants (and 48 official members) and limited financial resources and the continued troubles of the world, others might be discouraged, but we are able to continue to do so much because we keep our focus on our mission as followers of Christ. We seek to be filled with the Spirit to counter the negativity of the world! As Galatians 5:22-23a says: "By contrast [to the world], the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Shalom,



Pastor Scott Leonard

Clerk Of Session Annual Report For 2023

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. The report is based on the minutes and other official records of Stone Presbyterian Church for the year 2023. All regular monthly meetings were held by zoom setup by Pastor Scott Leonard.

The Elders comprised Donna Goodfriend, Pat Joseph, John Menard, Grace Whittemore, Clerk of Session Sherry Robinson, also present for the monthly meetings- Moderator Scott Leonard CLP, Treasurer Christine Menard; Deacon Linda Rance, attending members from the Congregation John Stiefvater and Mary Ann Stiefvater.

For 2023 the session had many items of business, and continued on the strategy it set a few years ago. There was no annual retreat this year but we, continued the growth of our mission and depth of our relationships while planning day to day week to week month to month.

Here are some highlights from 2023-

January – Clerk of session reached out to Larry Beasley for the necrology report so I could work on it and the church stat report. The stat report was due February 10, 2023 the numbers reported were as follows:

- Membership Stat: 45 members – 32 females and 13 males. 2 between 26-40, 5 between 41-55, 13 between 56-70, 25 people 71 and over.
- Congregational Life Stat: 1 baptism. 24 average weekly worship attendance, 8 friends of the Congregation. Number of Ruling elders – 8.

Christine Menard provided the financial data needed to complete the report. We had 45 active members; we pay our per capita based on this number. All this data was reported on the statistical report.

February – We had our annual joint meeting with Session and Deacons on February 13, 2023. During this meeting we have our Officer Training provided by Scott. Our Mission Statement “The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God”. Session VOTED to give Mary Ann Stiefvater and John Stiefvater voice to speak as members of the Congregation at future session meetings.

During the worship service on February 12, 2023, we had an installation of Officers, Trisha Harris and Barbara Green as Deacons. Bev Miller and Judy LaGasse renewing for a 2nd three-year term class of 2026.

February 14, 2023 I was able to get to NBT bank and sign paperwork for the signatures of folks who no longer attend stone church and update new signatures for so we can do our banking under "The Presbyterian Society of Clinton, Inc.”

March – I shared with Session a letter we received from Presbytery of Utica dated February 28, 2023 thanking us for paying our per capita in full for the year. Our timely contribution is a great blessing to the work of the Presbytery and they appreciate our faithfulness, especially in these challenging and trying times.

April – Approved the March meeting minutes.

May – Approved April meeting minutes.

I received an email from Rev. Jason Cashing regarding “Resolution to Presbytery” he asked Clerk Session and Congregational Leaders of The Presbytery of Utica, two things: (1) Share with our session and (2) That session consider supporting this resolution by voting to concur with the Session of The First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown ahead of the next presbytery meeting on May 23, 2023. On April 24th I responded to Rev. Cashing that the Session of Stone Church, Clinton NY voted to support this resolution at our April 10, 2023 monthly

Session Meeting. (Session **VOTED** and agreed to urge our representatives in Congress and Senate to protect life and pass a federal and state ban on assault and assault-style weapons.)

He replied back thank you and to the session of Stone Church as well.

June – Session voted and approved May meeting minutes.

Letters of transfer for membership were mailed out for Jean Whitney, Jean Whitney and Deb Lapoint.

September – Session VOTED and approve the minutes of the session meeting on June 12, 2023

Letters of transfer were received for Wendy Suskiewich, Jean Whitney and Deb Lapoint.

July 10, 2023, we received an email from Ceila Gilbert the Auditor's Report Financial records for the period of January – December 2022 accurately reflects the financial status of Stone Presbyterian Church for the calendar year of 2022.

October – Received a letter dated September 27, 2032 from the Presbytery of Utica, wanting to express their deep appreciation for the hospitality they received from Stone Presbyterian Church at the September 2023 stated meeting of the Presbytery. Email received from Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk Larry Beasley stating 2024 per capita remains at \$45.00.

November – Session VOTED and approved the minutes of the session meeting October 9, 2023. Session also voted to approve the request of Stone Church to be a chartering organization for the Boy Scout Venture crew and pay the onetime \$100 charter fee.

December – Session VOTED and approved the minutes of the Session meeting on November 13, 2023.

The Session VOTED to have the annual congregational Meeting January 28, 2024 and to have our annual informal budget review after worship on January 21, 2024. We are going into the New Year 2024 with 48 members.

Members:

In 2023 the session and congregation welcomed 3 new members.

Wedding – 1 non-member

Baptisms – 0

Deaths – 0 members but of course we did mourn the loss of friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson
Clerk of Session

Property Committee Report 2023

The Property Committee is happy to report that we had a year in which there were no major problems with the Church building and that the fundraising efforts of the committee for the roof project were highly successful!! That said, in a building this old there are always going to be issues that need to be dealt with. Below is a summary of the activities of the committee in 2023.

- In January the holes in the walls of the Secretary's office and the Pastor's study were repaired and painted. These holes were from the heating system work that was done in late 2022.
- In February we met with Mosher Roofing and Nelson Associates (our engineering consultant) about the roof repairs scheduled for the summer of 2024.
- In March some leaks in the downstairs kitchen sinks were repaired by Lee Kelso.
- Also in March, a faulty lighted exit sign was replaced in the basement and leaks in some heating pipes were repaired by Bentley mechanical.
- The property committee met in March and a committee was established to begin fundraising for the roof repairs.
- In April, a pledge letter for the roof campaign was sent to members and friends of the Church.
- In April, many old paint cans were taken to the Oneida County hazardous waste station.
- An extensive application for a grant was sent to Sacred Sites Conservancy in the beginning of June.
- In June, the new AED was placed in the rear of the sanctuary.
- In July, a new dehumidifier was placed in the dining room. The old ones were not working properly and were discarded.
- Also in July, the bell tower was cleaned in preparation for a visit by Sacred Sites Conservatory. They wished to see the Church before deciding on approval a grant. The bushes were also trimmed at this time by Josh Wenzel.
- In August members of the fundraising committee met with a representative of Sacred Sites Conservatory at the Church to discuss the roofing project and have the Church evaluated by them.
- In September cracks were found in the plaster at the entrance to the Williams Street door of the Fair Trade Shop. Jesse Miller removed the bad plaster and Lee Kelso sealed it.
- In October a broken window was replaced by Dwight Dibble on the east side of the Church above a roof leading to the boiler room.
- Also in October, Lee Kelso scraped and sealed some flaking stonework in the dining room.
- In mid-October we received word that we had been approved for a grant for the roof repairs by Sacred Sites and in November we received a check in the amount of \$8,000 from them.

Another issue that was dealt with over a period of time this year was related to our security system. A faulty sensor in the choir loft area needed to be replaced by Central Security Systems, our security system vendor. In addition, the wired in cell phone that connects us to the Fire Department would no longer work. This was dealt with and a new phone installed.

The roof project requires some additional information. The estimates that were approved by the committee to shingle the roof and repair some deteriorating beams under the roof came to a total of \$42,689. This includes expense for Nelson Associates to give an engineering analysis of the roof structure, Dibble Construction to repair the beams, and Mosher Roofing to shingle, flash and seal the roof. This number may vary somewhat since it is based on the cost of shingles last summer. If shingles cost more in the summer of 2024 our cost will be more.

The donations the Church has received from our congregation and members of our community for the roof project have been very generous and greatly appreciated. In addition, we have received a grant in the amount of \$8,000 from Sacred Sites Conservancy. The roofing account now stands at \$41,185.55 with some more pledges still coming in.

Thanks to all for your very generous contributions for this very worthy and necessary need for our beautiful Church building!!

The Property Committee

Mary Ann Stiefvater

John Stiefvater

John Menard

Finance Committee Report for 2023

The consistent generosity and faithfulness of the congregation allows us to have a very stable financial picture. As in previous years, we planned for a deficit budget, with our endowment funds supplementing the annual income. A more complete picture is outlined below:

Wells Fargo Advisors:

We continue to maintain two accounts with Wells Fargo investments. Our current total is \$314, 513.41, a gain of \$4,623.20 over the past year. It was necessary to withdraw \$30,000 again this year to cover a few large expenses and to supplement operating expenses. We anticipate having to do the same in 2024. Scott Leonard, Ceil Gilbert, and Christine Menard plan to meet with our Wells Fargo representatives to review our portfolio in early 2024.

We had opened a line of Credit in 2022 in the event that it was necessary to finance the cost of the new roof. Fortunately, it was not necessary to use this, but the documents are on file in the church office.

NBT: General Fund

Our annual costs were as expected with additional funds need to pay for a new website and for engineering services for the new roof project. The cost of office supplies was increased due to increase costs and the supplies needed for the roof campaign. We received non pledged money of \$9261.70 and \$2797.70 in miscellaneous income. These additional contributions are much needed and greatly appreciated. Our maintenance costs were low this year, at \$ 4889.31. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Our mission income and expenses are not part of the operating budget, but we do track them. Our total mission contributions this year were \$4277.30. Specific amounts are listed in the attached budget report.

Deacon's Account:

The deacons continue to receive money from the loose offering on the first Sunday of the month. We receive funds from an individual donor and occasionally receive donations specifically for the important work of the deacons.

Presbyterian Foundation:

There are two accounts held with the Presbyterian Foundation. This money is restricted but we did receive \$319.76 in interest in 2023.

Capital Fund Account:

This account was opened in March 2023 to hold funds raised for the new roof in 2024. At the end of 2023, we had received \$41,185.55.

These donations included:

1. Pledges from the congregation and donations from Friends of the church and community members.
2. Income from slate sales
3. Income from bake sales and the shoppers' stroll.
4. Income from the Sacred Sites grant. \$8000.

Sacred Sites Grant:

On June 1 of 2023, we submitted a grant application to the Sacred Sites Landmark Conservancy. This was a comprehensive application which included an engineering study, multiple photographs, and data from the community agencies we serve. In October, 2023 we were notified that Stone Church was one of 17 churches in the state to receive funding. The \$8000 was a big boost to our roof campaign and gave us excellent publicity and recognition. All files will be stored in the church office future reference.

A big thank you to everyone for their support and contributions this year. It was a good one!!

Christine Menard
Treasurer

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	2024 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
ADMINISTRATION INCOME			
Fair Trade Shoppe Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	6000
Miscellaneous Income	2,797.70	0.00	0
Per Capita			
Per capita 2023	1,170.00	2,023.00	2115
Total Per Capita	1,170.00	2,023.00	
Presbytery Foundation Income	319.76	322.00	335
Sunday Plate Offering			
Loose Offering Cash/Checks	615.79	250.00	250
Non Pledged Income	9,261.70	0.00	0
Pledges 2023	64,656.29	67,212.00	69342
Total Sunday Plate Offering	74,533.78	67,462.00	69592
Wells Fargo Supplement	30,000.00	30,000.00	30000
Total ADMINISTRATION INCOME	114,821.24	105,807.00	108042
MINISTRIES INCOM			
Memorial Fund Income	438.90	0.00	0
Total MINISTRIES INCOM	438.90	0.00	0
MISSION INCOME			
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERINGS			
Mission Beyond/Disaster Relief	0.00	1,000.00	1000
Total CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERINGS	0.00	1,000.00	1000
LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION			
Country Pantry Food Bank	1,015.00	0.00	0
Hope House	265.00	0.00	0
Total LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION	1,280.00	0.00	0
PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS			

Christmas Joy	207.00	0.00	0
One Great Hour	1,342.80	0.00	0
Peacemaking Income	<u>591.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0
Total PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS	<u>2,141.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0
Total MISSION INCOME	3,421.30	1,000.00	1000
STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME			
Building Use	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	200
Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	200
Total Income	<u>118,881.44</u>	<u>107,007.00</u>	109242
Gross Profit	118,881.44	107,007.00	
Expense			
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Deacon Activity Expense	0.00	0.00	0
Membership/Fellowship	35.00	0.00	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,664.60	2,000.00	2000
Office Supplies			
Website Management	3,952.20	500.00	720
Office Supplies - Other	<u>4,356.53</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	5000
Total Office Supplies	8,308.73	5,500.00	
Per Capita Tax	1,935.00	2,025.00	2115
Postage	1,229.00	1,000.00	1000
Telephone/Internet	<u>1,655.64</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>	1600
Total ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	16,827.97	12,125.00	12435
CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES			
Certified Lay Pastor			
CLP Benefits			
CLP Auto/Professional	50.00	500.00	500
CLP Continuing Ed	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	500
Total CLP Benefits	50.00	1,000.00	1000
CLP Housing Allowance	22,692.82	25,379.00	26184
CLP Social Security Offset	<u>1,735.95</u>	<u>1,979.00</u>	2003

Total Certified Lay Pastor	24,478.77	28,358.00	29187
Director of Music	18,095.64	18,089.00	18668
New York State Unemployment Ins	893.69	888.00	900
Office Manager	17,786.94	17,754.00	18322
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	3,039.33	3,552.00	3145
Sexton	3,605.49	4,000.00	4128
Webmaster	<u>637.50</u>	<u>2,300.00</u>	0
Total CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES	68,537.36	74,941.00	74350
MINISTRIES			
Choir Singers	350.00	0.00	600
Fund Raisers			
Miscellaneous	<u>1,074.67</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0
Total Fund Raisers	1,074.67	0.00	0
Memorial Fund Expense	284.41	0.00	0
Minister/Music Director Subs			
Music Substitutes	450.00	1,000.00	1000
Pulpit Supply	<u>1,325.00</u>	<u>2,800.00</u>	2800
Total Minister/Music Director Subs	1,775.00	3,800.00	
Music	0.00	175.00	175
Organ & Piano Maintenance	1,100.00	1,000.00	1000
Soundssystem Maintenance	0.00	400.00	400
Worship Supplies	264.53	100.00	225
Worship, Education & Program	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	200
Total MINISTRIES	4,848.61	5,675.00	6400
MISSION EXPENSES			
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE			
Mission Beyond/Disaster Relief	<u>1,090.50</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	1000
Total CHURCH WORLD SERVICE	1,090.50	1,000.00	1000
LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION			
Country Pantry Food Bank	657.00	0.00	0
Hope House	<u>240.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0

Total LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION	897.00	0.00	0
Mission & Stewardship Committee	0.00	300.00	300
PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS			
Christmas Joy	207.00	0.00	0
One Great Hour	1,342.80	0.00	0
Peacemaking	<u>740.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0
Total PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS	<u>2,289.80</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0
Total MISSION EXPENSES	4,277.30	1,300.00	1300
STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY			
Insurance	8,652.30	8,000.00	8000
Maintenance - Church			
Roof Expenses	3,179.00	5,000.00	Capital fund acct.
Maintenance - Church - Other	<u>4,889.31</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	15000
Total Maintenance - Church	8,068.31	15,000.00	15000
Utilities - Church	<u>11,975.22</u>	<u>17,900.00</u>	17900
Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY	<u>28,695.83</u>	<u>40,900.00</u>	40900
Total Expense	<u>123,187.07</u>	<u>134,941.00</u>	135385
Net Ordinary Income	-4,305.63	-27,934.00	-26143 Shortfall

Wells Fargo Summary 2023

Account #1	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
	\$115,895.98	\$142,721.47	\$156,259.11	\$174,506.47	\$143,338.75	\$157,460.67
Account #2	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021		
	\$208,466.50	\$232,658.11	\$222,597.85	\$231,635.00	\$166,551.46	\$157,052.74
Totals	324362.48	375379.58	378856.96	\$406,141.47	\$309,890.21	\$314,513.41
Gain						\$4,623.20

Worship, Education, and Program (WEP) Annual Report 2023

2023 was a very busy year. On February 5, we met with Kathleen DeLacy and Miguel Riascos from The Center to learn about The Center's co-sponsorship program. After some discussion, we decided to co-sponsor a family from Rwanda that consisted of a mother, grandmother, a daughter age 3 and a son age 18 months. Prior to their April arrival, we had to set up their apartment. As part of our contract with The Center, we had committed \$1,000 which was used for buying furniture for the apartment. Eight members of the congregation volunteered to be the hands-on helpers for the family: Trisha Harris, Pat Joseph, Emily Hughes, Helen Leonard, Barb Green, Laurels Kolb, MaryJane Johnson and Donna Goodfriend. These volunteers, along with other members and friends of the church bought kitchen supplies, bathroom supplies, cleaning supplies, bedding and towels. Since the family arrived in mid-April, we have taken them to a park, to the laundromat, to Doctor appointments and grocery shopping. In August, we found out that the mother was expecting a baby and we welcomed that baby on January 7th. It has been a learning process but a very rewarding experience.

We entered the season of Lent with a Pancake Supper followed by a worship service on Ash Wednesday, February 22. The ecumenical Lenten series, hosted by St. Mary's Church, began March 1 and continued for five Wednesdays. This year, we presented "The Journey – Shepherding God's People", a new 12-month video/Bible study, produced and funded locally. Rev. Carol Jubenville, Fr. John Buehler and Tom Servatius helped present the series with discussion help from Deacon Patsy Glista, Rev. Michael Terrell, Rev. Janet Griffiths and Pastor Scott Leonard. The first three weeks focused on the video and study "Jesus Wept", John 11:1-37. The last two weeks prepared us for Easter as we viewed and discussed "Celebrate the Resurrection", John 20:19-30. This series, along with a light supper, was well attended and enjoyed by all.

On Palm Sunday, we had our first Epic telling in three years. Dennis Dewey, Scott Leonard and Donna Goodfriend told passages from the book of Matthew. On April 6, we held our Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. It was a very moving Tenebrae service of light and darkness with Lauralyn Kolb and Donna Goodfriend assisting Scott Leonard. The Ecumenical Good Friday service was held at noon at the Clinton United Methodist Church with a light luncheon following the service. The Ecumenical Easter Sunrise service was held at 7am on The Green. It was freezing but we had a glorious sunrise! Our regular Easter service was at 10:30 with wonderful music from the choir and beautiful flowers adorning the church and the Lenten garden that was transformed from the desert.

On May 13 we, along with the other churches in town, held a bake sale in front of our church as part of the Community Collection Day.

Pentecost, May 28, was celebrated with bright red decorations and balloons galore! July brought our time change for worship from 10:30 to 9:30. Thanks to Rob and Lauralyn Kolb, July worship services were covered while Scott Leonard was on vacation. Rob preached July 2, 16, 23 and 30 and Lauralyn preached July 9. As always, their services were inspirational and touching.

Scott was back for August services. On his Sunday off, August 13, MaryAnn Stiefvater and Donna Goodfriend conducted the service with MaryAnn preaching.

September 3 was our Labor Day Ecumenical service on The Green. Our regular worship resumed on September 10 at 10:30.

On September 24, we received three new members: Deb Lapoint and sisters Wendy Suskiewich and Jean Whitney. They have been worshipping with us for a while and wanted to join to be able to vote and serve as officers on Session and Deacons if called to do so. We celebrated with a luncheon after church.

We celebrated World Communion Sunday on October 1 with other Christian denominations around the world. After church on that day, we welcomed Colleen Bennet for a lunch and learn luncheon. She told us about the Keys program “which provides joy and music to children and their families as they face serious medical challenges”. (The Corner Stone Mission article - Oct. 2023). That afternoon, Scott Leonard participated in the ecumenical Blessing of the Animals service on the village green, which also collected pet food for The Country Pantry.

During the All Saints Day service on November 5, we again honored all of our “Saints”; those friends and relatives who have passed who were special to us and inspired us in our faith journeys.

We decorated the church for the Christmas season on November 19 in anticipation of The Shopper’s Stroll and the beginning of Advent. Each Sunday in Advent we had special collections for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love and continued our tradition of Advent candle lighting with several members participating.

Our church hosted the Longest Night Ecumenical Service on December 21. This is a special service of prayer, silence and candlelight. It offers a sacred, peaceful space to come together, to remember and to comfort those who have experienced grief, loss or hardship during the holiday season

Our Christmas Eve service was well attended by about 60 people with others viewing the service on line. Our choir provided beautiful music and we featured the candlelight Christmas story with Rob and Lauralyn Kolb singing “Oh Holy Night”. It was truly a wonderful, inspiring service.

On December 31, we had a special service of lessons and carols which was enjoyed by a small but appreciative group.

We end 2023 with grateful praise for all we were able to do and look forward to serving God and those in need in 2024.

Peace, good health and love to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goodfriend

Mission, Stewardship and Support 2023

2023 saw a number of Mission and Support activities undertaken by the Stone Church congregation despite the knowledge of an upcoming unavoidable project and accompanying large expenses since the church roof needs replacing. This project is scheduled for spring/summer of 2024 and the congregation has worked on community awareness and fundraising throughout the year. While the roof replacement was not a surprise, the cost was large for our small congregation. Nevertheless, church members remained true to their responsibilities of responding to challenges, both local and worldwide, never forgetting that human suffering and need require everyone's attention. What follows is a list of the 2023 major Mission and Support projects excluding the roof project which is covered elsewhere in the 2023 Annual Report, plus a brief summary of the 2023 Stewardship campaign.

- 1) We started working with **The Center**, the agency dedicated to supporting refuge and immigrant families in the Utica area last year, but during 2023 our relationship with both a refugee family and **The Center** really deepened. We at Stone Church had unfocused ideas of both helping **The Center** as it settles newcomers into the Utica area and also in offering friendship and information to families who are trying to navigate everything new. From there we fell into the Co-Sponsorship Program. In **The Center's** terminology, "Co-Sponsors walk alongside and support a refugee family for 3, 6 or 12 months ...by serving as community guides and friends." Before we truly knew what **The Center** and God had in store for us, we were committed! Lauralyn Kolb, head of the Fair Trade Shop, furnished the entire Co-Sponsorship financial commitment and Stone Church members and friends contributed additional funds. Over the next few months, a group of volunteers received some training to prepare them to work with a newly arriving family sponsored by **The Center**. The Stone Church group purchased and gathered household items and children's toys and most importantly developed positions of spokespersons that organized the group, kept track of thoughts, concerns, family needs and communicated with **The Center**. The Stone Church team has worked far, far beyond anyone's expectation in serving "our family" from Rwanda. This family consists of a mother, Masengesho, her two older children, Emmanuela (4) and Morgan (2), plus a baby girl born in January 2024, and, Rachel, Masengesho's mother. Amidst doctor's appointments and pediatric health care, trips to the laundromat and grocery store, working with various social services agencies, figuring out how to use online translation programs, trying to have Emmanuela enrolled in Head Start, going to the playground, helping Masengesho acquire some facility in the English language and generally moving the family towards independence and integration, Stone Church volunteers have spent hundreds of hours patiently meeting this family's needs while working with **The Center**. Our unfocused idea of "offering friendship and information to families who are trying to navigate everything new" has enabled this family from Rwanda to embark on a new life in the United States. And this group of Stone Church volunteers has been Christ's tireless hands-on earth. This year our Christmas Eve offering was designated for **The Center**.
- 2) The **Country Pantry**, located in Clark Mills, is the Clinton area's food bank and throughout the year we have both supplied volunteers who have assisted in the monthly food distribution programs plus donated both money and food to support **The Pantry** and the consistently large number of individuals and families requiring food assistance. Traditionally the third Sunday of every month the congregation brings in quantities of food in response to **The Pantry's** requests. Additionally, our congregation responds generously to both special requests, monthly stocking and to the Clinton Community Country Pantry events. **The Country Pantry** was our 2023 recipient of our Advent LOVE donation.
- 3) Continued assistance to **Hope House** as it continues to offer three meals a day to all who enter the facility usually those without homes or the ability to have adequate meals. Ceil Gilbert organizes our participation in **Hope House** and once a month Stone Church volunteers work at **Hope House** in meal preparation and

serving. Additionally, our congregation donated money, quantities of toiletries and other supplies for **Hope House** clients. As we have done in the past, our HOPE Advent offering was designated for **Hope House**.

- 4) Stone Church has been delighted to oversee the publication of *A View from the Steeple*, written by Midge Bakos, a life-long Stone Church member. This book recounts the founding and growth of the village of Clinton, a history of the growth and development of Stone Church since its inception and the early years and expansion of Hamilton College viewed from Stone Church whose stone exterior and lighted Rose Window serve as landmarks of the village of Clinton. Containing a generous selection of 20 years of Midge's monthly *Cornerstone* columns, this carefully researched book is a treasure trove of people, places and events. Even a casual perusal of Midge's writing reveals pages filled with lively viewpoints and information that highlight the hardships and joys that are part of Stone Church and the village of Clinton's history. Copies of *A View from the Steeple* have been and still are available from the Building Stones Fair Trade Shop located in the lower level of Stone Church, from The Clinton Historical Society, from Almost Local, on West Park Row, on Amazon books or by contacting the Stone Church office, Book sales started during the Shopper's Stroll, November 25, 2024, and are continuing through 2024. Money from the sale of *A View from the Steeple* will be used for the new roof, for the care and upkeep of the Stone Church building interior and exterior and for the maintenance and improvement of the archives.
- 5) Support for the Presbyterian Church USA hierarchy. This included financial support for Presbyterian Church USA ongoing efforts in Israel, Gaza and Palestine, and the Ukraine plus the Church's annual special offerings. This year the Peacemaking and Christmas Joy offerings were supported by the Stone Church Advent Peace and Joy offerings. Additionally, is a commitment to the Utica area Presbytery. Donna Goodfriend is commissioner from Stone Church and attends the monthly meetings plus Pat Joseph is part of the Committee on Ministry and also is usually in attendance. Additionally, Scott Leonard promotes and participates in many Presbytery initiatives. This year, Stone Church hosted one of the monthly Presbytery meetings which ended with a delicious meal provided by congregation members. It would not be an exaggeration to say that most of the congregation was involved in this event.
- 6) The month of October started with a Lunch and Learn event during which participants enjoyed both lunch and a most interesting introduction to the Keys program, an initiative developed for children impacted by cancer and serious illness. Through music therapy, outreach, family respite days and sibling support, the Keys program offers free services to adults and children of all ages. The remainder of October saw Stewardship activities added to our regular Sunday services.
- 7) With the theme from Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," all member and friends of Stone Church were encouraged to participate in our Stewardship campaign which provided opportunities to give thanks to our steadfast God and provided encouragement for all to take a deep breath and acknowledge God's forever presence and support. On October 29, after members and friends offered their commitments, a lovely luncheon provided by the Deacons celebrated the congregation's fellowship and joy as it continues to work together to serve our God. We will be starting 2024 with \$70,210 offered by 31 pledges, 4 of which are new.

Details regarding Mission and Support activity can be found in each of 2023 monthly church *Cornerstone* newsletters available on our website. Each issue also includes a monthly Mission column plus the monthly summaries of Session and Deacon meetings. Exact figures for all Mission activities undertaken by Stone Church can be found in the Treasurer's Report in this 2023 Annual Report. This information included in this financial statement underlines the strong sense of responsibility shown by members and friends of Stone Church.

Thank you everyone for your generosity and support. Despite challenges, Stone Church has over and over demonstrated that it is active and faithful to its mission of working for peace, justice and basic necessities for all God's people. As we continue our work, God's grace and unfailing presence added to our togetherness and willingness to listen and learn, makes amazing things possible.

Mary Ann Stiefvater

Membership, Communication And Outreach (MCO) Report 2023

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 the following:

We promote a sense of community through personal relationships within the congregation and try to plan and participate in church events. Due to COVID still going around through the year, we again were very lucky to have Scott continue zoom-meetings as well as live Facebook streaming for our Sunday worship services, this has become our norm.

We oversee the communications of the church including productions of the cornerstone monthly newsletter, the Stone Church website, bulletin board, publicity of Church events.

Oversee the work of Office Manager and try to be the 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 the first-time visitors.

We each have name tags located in the back of the church, we have not been wearing them as there has been so few of us there. There may come a day again where we will have to remind ourselves to put them on as we have been told how important it is to wear them.

We follow up with either personal note cards or emails to new visitors when applicable. We do have pew cards and every Sunday it's noted during the service if you are visiting to please fill out a card. We try to mail out welcome notes to new folks.

November 2023 during the Friday shoppers stroll there was a bazaar and Pat Joseph's family made chowder and chili that morning in the church kitchen and they sold it to go at the bazaar which was in the narthex. Ceil Gilbert did an excellent job of advertising and Donna Goodfriend made signs to display out front of the church.

Our committee was responsible for gathering gifts for the Church Staff, a special thank you to the women's association and the deacons for providing the funds. Five gift baskets and five gift certificates were given to the church staff and our church treasurer.

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

We would like to thank the congregation for all your love and support throughout the year as we know you are all involved with everything we have listed here and more.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson, Committee Member

Nominating Committee Report 2023

The nominating committee has met informally and has presented the following slate of officers for the class of 2027. We are very pleased to welcome two of our new members as officers for the coming term.

Elections will be held at the congregational meeting on January 28, 2024.

We give thanks to the retiring members who have served faithfully:

Elders: Grace Whittemore and Pat Joseph

Deacons: Linda Rance

Respectfully,

Pat Joseph

Elders

Class of 2025:

John Menard

Sherry Robinson

Installation

2//2019

2//2019

Class of 2026:

Donna Goodfriend

2/2020

Class of 2027:

Mary Ann Stiefvater

2/2024

John Stiefvater

2/2024

Wendy Suskiewich

2/2024

Sherry Robinson will serve as Clerk of Session.

Donna Goodfriend will chair the Nominating Committee.

Deacons

Class of 2025

Mary Chamberlain

Emily Hughes

Installation

2/2022

2/2022

Class of 2026

Trisha Harris

2/2023

Barbara Greene

2/2023

Judy LaGasse

2/2023

Bev Miller

2/2023

Class of 2027

Deb Lapoint

2/2024

Helen Leonard

2/2024

Board Of Deacons 2023

Serving this year: Mary Chamberlain, Barbara Greene, Trish Harris, Emily Hughes, Judy LaGasse, Bev Miller and Linda Rance

Linda Rance served as chairperson. We were pleased to have Chris Menard take over the Treasurer's position. She will be doing this from now on. The Deacons receive the loose offering the first Sunday of each month. We also have received several individual contributions. We were able to contribute to the roof campaign. We also gave money to buy some needed items for the family we sponsor at the Center. We buy our coffee from the Fair Trade Shoppe and buy paper products etc. when needed. Several gifts were given throughout the year and we helped cover the cost of the staff gifts. We want to thank you all for your generosity.

Our main focus is our Homebound and those in need of meals or transportation. This year we had many that needed meals. Easter flowers were taken to the Homebound and Midge's book and some homemade goodies were taken to them for Christmas.

The Deacons host coffee hour each Sunday. When a person is hosting, they are also greeting, taking collection and serving communion. We are busy each Sunday!!!

Easter and Christmas cards were sent to the Homebound and others. Sympathy, get-well, thank-you and thinking-of-you cards were sent during the year as needed.

Easter and Christmas flowers were ordered and placed beautifully in the church. Some were given to our members and others. We want to give a special thank you to Midge for helping with the plants.

Judy is the liaison for the Country Pantry. Announcements are put in our newsletter and bulletins. Janice sends out an Email reminding us to bring food the 3rd Sunday of each month. The loose offering that Sunday also goes to the Pantry.

As we always say.... the word FOOD always comes to mind when talking about the Deacons. This year was no exception. Besides preparing the goodies for coffee hour every Sunday we prepared food for several events. We hosted a "Welcome Back" luncheon in September where we also welcomed our three new members. We helped with one of the Lunch and Learn meals. We helped MaryAnn with the Stewardship luncheon. We provided lunch for the Hanging of the Greens. Our biggest endeavor was hosting the Presbytery meeting where we had hors d'Oeuvres for their social hour and then a dinner for them in the downstairs dining room. We want to thank all of you who helped us!!

We have an awesome group of Deacons who are always willing to do what is needed. I don't think I have ever heard them say "NO" to anything. The Church is so blessed to have such dedicated, loving and caring people.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Rance, Chair

Board Of Deacons

Financial Report – 01/01/23-12/31/23

Beginning Balance - \$206.97

INCOME:

First Sunday Loose Change	\$ 1055.00
Individual Donations	\$ 165.00
Flower Sales	<u>\$ 383.73</u>

TOTAL **\$ 1,603.73**

EXPENSE:

Sherry Robinson	\$ 60.00
Nothing But Bundt Cakes	\$ 114.00
River Road Farm (Flowers)	\$ 126.00
Linda Rance	\$ 50.56
Linda Rance	\$ 8.00
Judy LaGasse	\$ 15.20
Linda Rance	\$ 20.00
Olney's Flowers	\$ 292.92
Mary Chamberlain	\$ 32.61
Linda Rance	\$ 104.99
Donna Goodfriend	\$ 104.19
Stone Presbyterian	\$ 64.00
Linda Rance	\$ 41.33
Linda Rance	\$ 32.90
Mary Ann Stiefvater	\$ 50.00
Emily Hughes	\$ 29.45
Mary Chamberlain	\$ 8.49
Capitol One	\$ 61.55
Linda Rance	\$ 38.05
Linda Rance	\$ 62.94
Mary Chamberlain	\$ 146.29
Linda Rance	\$ 43.40
Sherry Robinson	\$ 145.00
River Road Greenhouses	\$ 108.75

TOTAL **\$ 1,760.62** **BALANCE**
as of 12/31/23: **\$ 50.08**

2023 Memorial Committee Annual Report

We did complete our goal of relocating the History Office from the basement to office space adjacent to our church office.

The fund received monies from the following in “memory of”:

<u>For:</u>	<u>From:</u>	
Pete Robinson	Frances Mannino	25.00
Pete Robinson	Sherry Robinson	50.00
Lori Chamberlain	Sherry Robinson	25.00
Lori Chamberlain	Midge Bakos	100.00
Lori Chamberlain	Judy LaGasse	20.00
Lori Chamberlain	Harold & Linda Rance	25.00
Donna Mae & Harold LaFont	Sarah LaFont	193.90

TOTAL: \$438.90

Expenses:

Movers	\$ 50.00
Chairs for History Room	\$ 43.00
Office Supplies for History Room	\$108.40
Speedy Awards Plaque	\$ 8.00
Office Supplies for History Room	\$ 75.01

Finances:

Balance as of 01/01/23:	\$3196.16
Income	\$438.90
Expense	\$ 284.41
Balance as of 12/31/23	<u>\$3,350.65</u>

Respectfully,

Emily Hughes, Chair
Midge Bakos, Member At Large

Annual Report 2023 - Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe

The Fair Trade Shop continues to be successful in every way. Net sales for this year total \$37,276.14, which is even greater than last year's record of \$36,486.97. In addition, we serve as the conduit for the purchases of Midge Bakos's book, *A View From the Steeple*, which has sold 53 copies to date, for a total of \$1,057.35. Because the shop holds a NYS Sales Tax Certificate, we have been recording the book sales and will include those sales in our sales tax report to the State.

We have again added several new vendors:

Ark Imports: clothing made in Nepal

Mondo Trading Company: olive wood hearts from the Bethlehem

Quilling Card: quilled cards made in Viet Nam

Thumbprint Artifacts: hand-painted candles from South Africa

Jesse Miller installed some new shelving for us, and Sarah Miller designed new business cards. Thank you to both for their help.

Donations:

We continue to pay the church a modest \$500/month to help cover the cost of our heat and electricity. In addition, we have pledged \$4,000 to the roof fund and have paid half of that this year. Last April, when Stone Church members agreed to sponsor a refugee family, the shop donated the required \$1,000.

Our usual gift to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be undesignated this year since there have been so many disasters that need funds. As usual, we will be sending a check to Life School in Guatemala. Every year, Anne Dunn supplies us with items from Guatemala to sell to benefit this school. This year we will send \$1,500.

Finally, each December, the shop volunteers decide where else we should give our profits. This year we decided to include an organization recommended by Gerry Gogel: American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).

Donations from the 2023 shop sales are:

The Center	\$1,000
Stone Church Roof Fund	\$2,000
Life School	\$1,500
ANERA	\$1,000
PDA	\$1,000
The Country Pantry	\$250
Hope House	\$250
Seeds of Hope Food Pantry	\$250
Total donations made in 2023:	\$7250

We could not do any of this work without our numerous volunteers. Ceil Gilbert has continued to handle the publicity and audit the books; Emily Hughes, Donna Goodfriend, Mary Chamberlain, and Patricia Harris help us better display our merchandise. Sarah Miller again designed an ad for us. Shelley Coe again handled the taxes. David White makes certain we are set up and taken down each week, including all summer during the Farmer's Market. Ben Joseph and Rob Kolb helped with the cart this summer. Pat Joseph makes certain we keep up to date on our Facebook page. Mary Chamberlain keeps the shop clean and does all the scheduling of volunteers. Those volunteers who have worked in the shop this year, include:

Dave and Carol White

Pat Joseph

Donna Goodfriend

Emily Hughes

Gerry Gogel

Barb Greene

Helen Leonard

Sue Montrose

Peggy Weldon

Ceil Gilbert

Grace Whittemore

Lora Schilder

Nancy Smith

Mary Chamberlain

Lauralyn Kolb

Once again, this is a marvelous team effort. Many thanks to all those who participate in this wonderfully successful mission of Stone Church.

In Christ's service,

Lauralyn Kolb
Shop Manager

Sales

Category	Items Sold	Gross Sales
Uncategorized	3	\$28.00
Ark Imports International	57	\$2,101.00
B4L	81	\$609.00
Beautifully Made Fair Trade	17	\$186.00
Buena Onda Games	11	\$161.00
Costello International	40	\$681.00
EE	253	\$1,297.00
LS (benefit for Life School in Guatemala)	94	\$1,189.00
MAGGIES	197	\$2,785.00
MHANDS	250	\$3,418.00
Matr Boomie	13	\$357.00
Minga Fair Trade Imports	271	\$3,403.00
Mondo Trading Company	70	\$620.55
PJT	40	\$493.00
Pal Craftaid	40	\$305.00
Quilling Card	114	\$1,051.00
Revy	3	\$74.50
SERRV	493	\$7,639.42
TTV	536	\$8,668.17
Thumbprint Artifacts	25	\$342.00
UPAVIM	233	\$2,465.90
View From The Steeple (Stone Roof Fund)	53	\$1,057.35
WBP	71	\$389.75
Gross Total	2,965	\$39,321.64

Returns		(\$233.00)
Discounts & Comps		(\$755.15)
Net Sales		\$38,333.49
Taxes		\$2,913.86
Total Collected		\$41,247.35
Taxes		(\$2,913.86)
View From The Steeple (Stone Roof Fund)	53	(\$1,057.35)
Net Sales		\$37,276.14

Merchandise purchased during 2023:

Ark Imports	\$1,849.81
Buena Onda Games	\$382.87
CostelloInt'l	\$350.76
EE	\$1,369.23
Maggies	\$804.63
Matr Boomie	\$477.73
MH	\$1,591.32
Minga	\$3,137.30
Mondo	\$558.52
Quilling Card	\$1,106.21
SERRV	\$5,522.08
Thumbprints	\$443.73
TTV	\$5,046.67
UPAVIM	\$1,022.91
WBP	\$317.90
TOTAL	\$23,981.67

Estimated Value of inventory on hand in the shop at the end of 2023 is:

Ark Imports	\$713.00
B4L	\$2,217.00
Beautifully Made	\$112.00
Buena Onda Games	\$810.00
CostelloInt'l	\$640.50
EE	\$779.20
Maggies	\$8,803.51
Matr Boomie	\$525.50
MH	\$2,127.48
Minga	\$2,515.00
Mondo	\$182.42
Pal Craftaid	\$874.83
PJT	\$696.50
Quilling Card	\$454.50
Revy	\$115.00
SERRV	\$8,564.52
Thumbprints	\$206.00
TTV	\$8,100.05
UPAVIM	\$2,566.50
WBP	\$244.59
Total	\$41,248.10

Women's Association-2023

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

In June we held our Spring Drive-Thru Pie Sale on June 10, 2023, and were able to raise \$1,589 thanks to our very generous participation by our congregation. These funds went to the church's new roof fund. Many ingredients were donated to us from Hannaford Market in Clinton.

In July we bought a new microwave oven for the Norton Room kitchen.

In September and December, we received some donations totaling \$62.

In October we held our Annual Harvest Drive-Thru Pie Sale and were able to raise \$1,632. Again, we would like to express our deepest thanks to our most generous congregation for their donations of delicious pies and for all their help in selling them. Another thank-you goes to Hannaford Market for their donations of ingredients.

In December we donated \$200 each to Abraham House, Country Pantry, Hope House, KEYS Program, Neighborhood Center, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Rescue Mission of Utica, The Center, and Thea Bowman House. We also donated \$145 toward church staff year-end gifts. We would like to thank everyone who donated food, clothing and gifts for our Christmas families again this year. The generosity of our congregation continues to be amazing.

We are very grateful for everyone's help during 2023 and we hope we can continue to raise money in 2024 to help our surrounding communities by donating funds to our local support groups.

Respectfully submitted

Ceil Gilbert,
Secretary/Treasurer

Women's Association
Treasurer's Report-2023

Balance as of 1/1/2023	\$464.90
------------------------	----------

RECEIPTS

Donations	\$62.00
-----------	---------

Pie Sale (10/7/23)	\$ 1,632.00
--------------------	-------------

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,694.00
-----------------------	-------------------

DISBURSEMENTS

Microwave for Norton Room Kitchen

\$143.99

New checks	\$ 24.35
------------	----------

Abraham House	\$200.00
---------------	----------

Country Pantry	\$200.00
----------------	----------

Hope House	\$200.00
------------	----------

KEYS Program	\$200.00
--------------	----------

Neighborhood Ctr.	\$200.00
-------------------	----------

Pres. Disaster Relief	\$200.00
-----------------------	----------

Rescue Mission	\$200.00
----------------	----------

The Center	\$200.00
------------	----------

Thea Bowman House	\$200.00
-------------------	----------

Staff Gifts	\$145.00
-------------	----------

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (\$2113.34)

Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$45.56
--------------------------	---------

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert

Secretary/Treasurer