



# Annual Reports for 2024

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation

### January 26, 2025



## 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**

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**Lee Kelso, Sexton**

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## PASTOR'S REPORT 2024



*“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.” – Isaiah 40:28-29*

2024 was yet again a dynamic year. Wars, shootings, and political strife dominated the headlines. But we also had a total solar eclipse here in the northeast that at least for a bit brought us all together, a Summer Olympics that showed indomitable human spirit and international comradery, and a host of other good things that don't get media coverage they should.

For Stone Church we also had our highs and low. Our church was used in a movie (for tens of seconds!) and we got a new roof on the sanctuary thanks in part to the outpouring of community support in individual contributions. We also, though, mourned the passing of two stalwarts of the church.

Yet we continue with our indomitable spirit and gracious hospitality for our mission and activities, such as the Building Stones Fair Trade Shop, Hope House, The Country Pantry, and others, including the formal conclusion of sponsorship for our refugee family. 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.

As I complete my tenth year here as Commissioned Lay Pastor at Stone Presbyterian Church, I humbly note that I played only a supporting role in all these activities, which is good because it means that we work 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 is no exception. And despite some continuing social and financial strains in 2024, you still support us financially as strong as ever. More importantly, we continued to keep our focus on God and showing our love for our neighbor by acts and not just words. 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 mostly in August when Helen and I traveled to Ohio for a family get together and, along with our daughter Stephanie, 10 days in Germany as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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 2024 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 7.2 hours per week over the year in my pastoral duties in addition to 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 throughout the year. This included the family of Rob Willson after his unexpected death, Trudi Christeler in August when I did a writeup for the Waterville Times to run an article on 8/28/24 about Trudi’s 100th birthday on 8/7/24 and for Clinton Mayor Elizabeth Tantillo to issue a proclamation, and with Linda and Hal Rance in November before Hal died.
- Baptisms – We had no baptisms in 2024
- Funerals –
  - Conducted a memorial service 7/6/24 at Stone Church for Robert J. Willson.
  - Conducted memorial service 10/10/24 at Stone Church for Trudi Christeler.
    - Received a lovely card from Barb Sypher on the joy and warmth and hospitality she felt when she came to the service
  - Conducted memorial service 11/16/24 at Stone Church for Harold Rance.
- Weddings – I performed no weddings in 2024.
- Membership – We lost Wendy Suskiewich and Jean Whitney as members when they moved away in August; they had just joined as members in September 2023 as our first members in over 10 years. We also lost Trudi Christeler and Hal Rance as members with their passing
- Stone Storytellers – Donna Goodfriend and I continue to do storytelling most every Sunday in worship. We did no storytelling events this year.
- 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. We did plan and honored Emily Hughes on 9/29/24 for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 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 continued to have the Lord’s Supper by self-serving for the most part. We were able to have a choir again for Lent and Eastertide in the spring and in the fall through Christmas Eve, which, despite me being part of it, added immeasurably to our worship! I am deeply grateful to Rob Kolb, along with Lauralyn, for continuing to provide music and Sherry Robinson videographer with my wife Helen Leonard also helping out when we didn’t have choir.

Guest preachers we had in 2024 were Larry Beasley (two times), Michelle Dolan (two times), LaDana Clark (four times), Peg Ward, Sam Pendergrast, Helen Tracy, and Rob Kolb (four times) with Donna Goodfriend conducting communion on a few occasions with assistance from Pat Joseph on some of them. On 10/27/24 Donna and Pat conducted the service I prepared, including my sermon and communion, since I was out with COVID—once again showing how our lay leadership steps up in a crisis.

- Finance Committee – Continue to monitor our expenses and also continued to receive unexpected donations from various sources. We met with Wells Fargo representatives in March to review our portfolio and make some adjustments. The returns on the investments continue to offset our deficit spending and allow us to continue our mission.

- Property Committee – Continued to work with the Property Committee on items as they arose, in particular the installation of the new roof over the sanctuary this year and the associated capital campaign, both of which were highly successful thanks to John Menard and others continued hard work.
- Clinton Area Ministerium (CAM) – We met in-person at Stone Church supplemented by Zoom on occasion for some. I continue as secretary/treasurer to chair of CAM, which comprises our local clergy. Our active participants are the Rev. Abel Roy (Clinton United Methodist Church (CUMC)); the Rev. Janet Griffiths (LutheranCare chaplain), Deacon Jean Skinner (Episcopal Church), and the Rev. Dr. Mother (Mtr.) Joanne Benskin (St. James Episcopal Church). The Rev. Father Bob Weber (St. Mary’s Catholic Church) retired and we don’t have a representative from St. Mary’s right now.

The activities were able to do this year include:

- Lenten Study Series in person mostly in March hosted by CUMC using the online video program “Finding Jesus in the Psalms” by Barb Roose. We had a pretty good turnout of people, around 25 people on average, though because of travel for my secular job I was not able to participate in any of the sessions.
- Ecumenical Good Friday service 3/29/24 in-person, planned by Mtr. Joanna and hosted by St. James. We had about a 20 people attend. The worship leaders were Mtr Joanna Benskin, the Rev. Abel Roy, the Rev. Janet Griffiths, and Pastor Scott Leonard.
- Ecumenical Easter Sunrise 3/31/24 service on the village green. Janet Griffiths organized, CUMC provide instrumental music, Rob and Lauralyn Kolb led the singing. It was overcast but dry and not terribly cold at the village gazebo. We had about 42 people, including about 20 Hamilton College students and their new chaplain Trevor Beauford (who has since left). The worship leaders were The Rev. Janet Griffiths, the Rev. Abel Roy (who preached the message), and the Mtr Joanna Benskin, and Pastor Scott Leonard.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Collection Day 5/4/24. 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. We collected 373 food items and donations of \$2,826.50, which included \$479 from the bake sale. In 2023 we collected \$1922.51 total and 2022 we collected \$2080.38.
- Labor Day Weekend 9/1/24 ecumenical worship service on the village green. We had a good turnout of about 75 people and a wonderful service with gorgeous weather! I was not able to attend as I was on vacation in Germany but did coordinate and plan the service ahead of time. Mtr Joanna Benskin led the service. Rob Kolb provided the music and Bob Turner the sound equipment. Donna Goodfriend and Kathy and Brian Collett served as liturgists, Carol Klausner did the children’s story, and Sherry Robinson did the video recording. Truly an ecumenical service
- Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 p.m. Sunday 10/6/24. On a glorious, sunny afternoon today in honor of St. Francis we had another ecumenical Blessing of the Animals in the Village of Clinton Green. We had about 20 people plus their companions (principally dogs and a few cats), many of whom thanked us repeatedly for doing this every year. And as is our practice, we also collected some pet food and \$70 in cash for pet food for The Country Pantry. Worship leaders were the Rev. Abel Roy, Mtr. Joanna Benskin, the Rev. Janet Griffiths, Dcn Jean Skinner, and Pastor Scott Leonard.
- Participated in “Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention” on 10/9/24 hosted by St. James. The presenter was MaryBeth Greene, a retired social worker, AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) volunteer and board member for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) for Herkimer and Oneida Counties as well as the Herkimer County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

- Longest Night Service (aka Blue Christmas) 12/20/24 in-person, hosted at CUMC. Worship leaders were Rev. Abel Roy, Mtr. Joanna Benskin (who coordinated and planned the service), the Rev. Janet Griffiths, Pastor Scott Leonard. CUMC provided the music, the refreshments, and Facebook Live streaming. We had 19 people and many of them told us the service meant a lot to them and for us to keep doing it.
- Clinton Chamber of Commerce –
  - Got Clinton Chamber Guide ads updated and submitted for Stone Church (expanded to a half page this year) and the Fair Trade Shop.
  - Attended networking event at Clinton Historical Society 1/17/24, where Midge Bakos’s book, *A View from the Steeple*, was selling well.
  - Attended networking event at The Studios on Park Row 4/4/24.
  - Put a plug in Community Collection Day.
  - For Shoppers Stroll on 11/29/24 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 working with Liz Menard, our webmaster.
  - Kept our microphones and sound system maintained.
- Presbytery –
  - I continued to participate in presbytery weekly worship leaders’ Zoom meetings when I could where we share experiences, ideas, and concerns and hear guest speakers.
  - Attended 1/23/24 presbytery meeting at the Presbyterian Home
  - Attended 9/24/24 Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Utica in Whitesboro, NY
  - I was not able to attend the other presbytery meetings due to schedule conflicts with my secular job.
  - On 4/16/23 Rev. Mike Asbury, Co-Chair of Capital Region of NY Alliance for the organization Braver Angels was the guest speaker. (<https://braverangels.org/>) “Braver Angels is leading the nation’s largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide.” Something we might consider supporting.
  - Along with most presbytery clergy, I attended mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training 4/17/24 at Ilion Presbyterian Church. New York State is requiring that all church leaders need to be trained and that each church needs policies.
- Other – Some items include
  - By invitation I participated in the Celebration of New Ministry on 1/16/24 for The Rev. Dr. Joanna Benskin at St. James Episcopal Church who began in July 2023 as their new rector. As the Clinton Area Ministerium and community representative I presented Mother Joanna with a map of Oneida County.
  - Conducted Congregational Annual meeting as part of worship on 1/28/24 with sole business of election of officers, but we also reviewed the highlights from 2023.
  - Attended and monitored filming of “The Christmas Letter” wedding movie scene at Stone Church 1/29/24. I had a chance to talk with (counsel) the writer/producer Michael Cunningham (from Ilion, NY and whose father was a friend of Christine Menard’s father) and his daughter Carolyn, as well as director, producers, and assistants.

- Participated as a judge along with Jim Gavett in the Clinton Optimist Youth Oratorical contest 2/15/24 at Stone Church in the Norton Room. Jim and I are both members of the club.
- Met with Fiona Helmuth and Katie Ziemba from Friends of Kirkland Library 4/3/24 at Stone Church. They were inquiring about them storing the books for the library book sale. Ultimately, they decided it wouldn't work out for them.
- On 4/29/24 I gave tour and talk to Prof. Brent Rodriguez-Plate and about 20 of his religious studies class, similar to what I did last year, ending up in the Fair Trade Shop, which some did not know about and planned to come back. My only regret was I took no pictures of the group. Received a kind email from Brent that said, "What a perfect tour of Stone Presbyterian! I really appreciate your time and energy, and your talk was just perfect. Really hit all the right spots for what we're doing in class this week."
- I participated in our Sacred Sites open house (a requirement of their grant) on 5/18/24 in the persona of Ashael Norton, which I acquitted myself adequately.
- I gave the prayer at the headstone dedication on Memorial Day 5/27/24 at the Old Burial Ground for Revolutionary War veteran Eleazor House.
- I preached 10/13/24 at Hamilton College chapel for the "Soul Food" student-led Protestant worship service.
- I continued to correspond with Howie Schafer the Leatherstocking Trails Council on starting a Boy Scout Venture crew that Stone Church had agreed to sponsor, but it ultimately fell through because the council said it could not support it.
- At our 11/3/24 worship service Jim Winkler and Bill O'Mara from the Clinton Lions Club presented a plaque and letter to me during announcements with the "Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award" for "Recognition of Your Exemplary Dedication to the Clinton Community and Spiritual Leadership to Stone Presbyterian Church." For once, I was speechless.

With only about 25 active congregants (and now 44 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.

And in this troubled world, it is easy to get discouraged and to even give up trying to make a difference. But with the Spirit of God, we know we can continue to make a difference, even if it's only in our little part of the world. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:21, "Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."

Shalom,



Pastor Scott Leonard

## **Clerk Of Session Annual Report For 2024**

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 2024. All regular monthly meetings were held by zoom setup by Pastor Scott Leonard.

The elders comprised Donna Goodfriend, John Menard, John Stiefvater and Mary Ann Stiefvater, Clerk of Session Sherry Robinson, also present for the monthly meetings were Moderator Scott Leonard CLP, Treasurer Christine Menard; Deacon Mary Chamberlain.

For 2024 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 2024-

January – As Clerk of session I worked on the statistical report and submitted it on January 20, 2024 for the 2023 year as follows: Membership: 48 members-35 females and 13 males; 2 between 26-40; 5 between 41-55; 16 between 56-70; 25 people 71 and over. Congregational Life Stat: 0 baptism, 25 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 48 active members; (3 gains this year) 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 12, 2024. During this meeting we have our Officer Training provided by Pastor 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”. Ordination and Installation of Officers on February 11, 2024. Wendy Suskiewich (ordination) John and Mary Ann Stiefvater as ruling Elders. Deb Lapoint and Helen Leonard as Deacons. Congregational meeting minutes reviewed and minor corrections made.

March – Session voted and accepted the February 14, 2024 meeting minutes.

April – Letter dated March 12, 2024 from the Presbytery of Utica thanking us for our payment for the 2023 per capita.

May – Session voted and approved April meeting minutes.

June – Session voted and approved May meeting minutes.

September – Session voted and approved June meeting minutes.

One of our Members Trudi Christeler turned 100 years old in August. Scott Leonard spent time with her and wrote up a beautiful 100<sup>th</sup> birthday article and placed it in our newsletter and the Waterville Times and had the mayor of Clinton send a letter of proclamation.

October – Received a text from Jean Whitney and Wendy Suskiewich requesting a letter of transfer. They moved out of the area and had found a new church and would like letters of membership transfer.

November – Session voted and approved the minutes of the session meeting October 14, 2024.



December – Session voted and approved the minutes of the session meeting on November 11, 2024.

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 2024 the session and congregation lost 4 members.
  - Jean Whitney and Wendy Suskiewich moved and on 10/14/24 letters of transfers were sent.
  - Deaths-2 members we mourn the loss of Trudy Christeler, who passed away on 9/20/24 and served as a Deacon during her life time. Hal Rance who passed on 11/10/24 served as an Elder and a Deacon during his life time.

Wedding: 0

Baptisms: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson, Clerk of Session

## Property Committee Report 2024

The Property Committee was busy again this year. The biggest amount of time was spent working with Mosher Roofing and Dibble Construction in completing the roof restoration. The roof was inspected by Nelson Associates and they were very satisfied with the results. Two minor changes will be done in 2025. There are always other issues of course and below is a summary of our efforts to keep our building in working order.

- **February** – Replaced bad outlet in Narthex Bathroom.
- Leaking radiator found in the nursing room off the narthex- Bentley Mechanical to fix.
- **March** – Glass door to the sign in the front of the Church trimmed (it was binding when opened and closed)
- Shingles blew off the roof.
- Mosher repaired in preparation for roof replacement to be done this summer.
- New brass railings were placed on stairway to the choir loft.
- Boiler stopped working -Bentley mechanical cleaned the water lines and valves.
- **April** – A leak was found in the boiler return pipes in the basement below the Narthex. Bentley Mechanical replaced the leaking pipes with new copper ones.
- It was determined that there is rotten wood below the radiator in the Nursery Room. When the wood is replaced Bentley Mechanical will install the new radiator.
- **June** – Jesse Miller replaced the bad wood flooring and Bentley Mechanical installed the new radiator in the nursery.
- **July** – Dehumidifiers placed in the dining room to control moisture- this is done annually.
- **August** – Josh Wenzel edged and mulched the landscaping around the Church. The job took 80 bags of mulch!
- **September** – Some plaster fell from the ceiling in the balcony due to a roof leak. This will be repaired once the roof project is done.
- Mosher Roofing flashed, coated, and shingled the roof of the Church. Dwight Dibble reinforced beams above the ceiling as part of the roof project. This was the big project of the year.
- Repaired secretary's office doorknob.
- **October** – Removed air conditioner in secretary's office.
- Removed dehumidifiers from dining room.
- Parking cones were upgraded with new tops specifying that no parking is allowed in the front of the Church during services.
- **November** – Scott Maneen of Nelson Associates did a final inspection of the roof work. They were very satisfied with the results. Two minor changes will be performed by Dwight Dibble and Ken Mosher.
- A leak in the downstairs men's bathroom was fixed by Bill Owens.
- Dwight placed an extension on the new railing up to the choir loft.
- A new timer for the outside lights and rose window was installed by the Property Committee.

- **December** – We ran out of oil in early December. Our supplier was purchased by another oil company and in transition it was miscommunicated that we want our oil delivered on a regular schedule, not that we call when we need it. This was dealt with, the oil was delivered, and we are now on a regular schedule.
- The security lights were tested by Lee Kelso and he found that two of them needed new batteries. The batteries were replaced.

We are fortunate to have some money left over from the roof campaign so in 2025 we are planning on repairing the plaster in the ceiling and will have some painting done in the sanctuary to repair areas where it is peeling. A big thanks to Lee Kelso for his excellent efforts as sexton and for being very proactive in noticing problems that need to be addressed.

Thanks to all who help in keeping our Church working and beautiful!!

MaryAnn Stiefvater

John Stiefvater

John Menard

## **Finance Committee Report for 2024**

The church's financial status continues to be stable, thanks to the exceptional generosity of the congregation and our healthy endowment funds. The highlight of 2024 was the completion of the roof project, funded by a successful capital campaign. What follows are summaries of the various investment accounts and how they performed in 2024.

### **Wells Fargo Advisors:**

We continue to have two longstanding accounts with Wells Fargo investments. These accounts have been very stable, despite our need to withdraw money every year to help manage operating costs. As of the end of 2024, we gained \$2313.69 even after withdrawing \$30,000 earlier this year. Scott Leonard, Ceil Gilbert, and I meet yearly with our representative to review our portfolio.

### **Capital Fund Account:**

This account was established at NBT bank in 2023 to maintain a separate accounting for the roof campaign donations. The cost of the roof, paid to Mosher Roofing Company, was \$35,150. Dibble construction was paid \$1886.61 for work on replacing selected beams over the sanctuary. Additional work will need to be done on the interior ceiling of the sanctuary in 2025.

This account will remain open after the roof is fully paid for. It will be used to save money for property expenses in the future.

### **Memorial Fund:**

As outlined in the Memorial fund report, this account was active this year, having received several donations. A committee was established to help decide how these monies are spent.

### **Deacon's Fund:**

The important work of the deacons is funded by loose change collections on the first Sunday of the month. We also receive donations periodically from individual donors.

### **Presbyterian Foundation:**

These accounts are held with the Presbyterian Foundation are the Swarthout fund and the Memorial fund. This money is restricted, and we do not access the accounts. Interest from these accounts is deposited directly into our main NBT account on a quarterly basis. This year we received \$335.00.

### **NBT Principal Account for Operating Income and Expenses:**

This account is used to manage our budgetary income and expenses. We do receive additional income through the Sunday Plate Offering (non-pledged Income). In 2024, we received \$7289.82. Our income and expenses for Mission work are not included in the budget plan but are accounted for using this account. The Fair-Trade Shoppe continues to pay \$500/month for rent. We typically withdraw \$30,000/year from Wells Fargo to supplement our operating costs.

The Session receives a finance report monthly and any unusual costs or unexpected expenses are discussed.

It is the incredible generosity of the congregation and consistent payment of pledges that allows the church to continue to have a stable financial picture. We had a good year in 2024 and expect another in 2025!

Thanks to everyone!

Christine Menard

Treasurer

### Wells Fargo Investments Summary: 2018-2024

Date	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
Account #1	\$ 115,895.98	\$ 142,721.47	\$ 156,259.11	\$ 174,506.47	\$ 143,338.75	\$ 157,460.67	\$ 149,213.94
Account #2	\$ 208,466.50	\$ 232,658.11	\$ 222,597.85	\$ 231,635.00	\$ 166,551.46	\$ 157,052.74	\$ 167,613.16
Total	\$ 324,362.48	\$ 375,379.58	\$ 378,856.96	\$ 406,141.47	\$ 309,890.21	\$ 314,513.41	\$ 316,827.10
							<b>Gain= \$ 2313.69</b>

	<i>Actual 2024</i>	<i>Budget 2024</i>	<i>Budget 2025</i>
<b>ADMINISTRATION INCOME</b>			
Deacon Activity Income	2,721.03	0.00	\$ -
Fair Trade Shoppe Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>			
Disaster Relief	425.00	0.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income - Other	1,033.20	0.00	\$ -
<b>Total Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>1,458.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Per Capita</b>			
Per capita 2024	922.08	2,115.00	\$ 2,210.00
<b>Total Per Capita</b>	<b>922.08</b>	<b>2,115.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,210.00</b>
Presbytery Foundation Income	333.54	335.00	\$ 337.00
<b>Sunday Plate Offering</b>			
Loose Offering Cash/Checks	725.00	250.00	\$ 250.00
Non-Pledged Income	7,289.82	0.00	\$ -
Pledges 2023	1,145.00	0.00	\$ -
Pledges 2024	63,218.69	69,342.00	\$ 72,600.00
<b>Total Sunday Plate Offering</b>	<b>72,378.51</b>	<b>69,592.00</b>	<b>\$ 72,850.00</b>
Wells Fargo Supplement	30,000.00	30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION INCOME</b>	<b>113,813.36</b>	<b>108,042.00</b>	<b>\$ 111,397.00</b>
<b>MINISTRIES INCOME</b>			
Memorial Fund Income	1,197.94	0.00	\$ -
<b>Total MINISTRIES INCOM</b>	<b>1,197.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>MISSION INCOME</b>			
<b>CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERINGS</b>			
Mission Beyond/Disaster Relief	200.00	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERINGS</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION</b>			
Country Pantry Food Bank	1,577.00	0.00	\$ -
Hope House	255.00	0.00	\$ -
<b>Total LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION</b>	<b>1,832.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS</b>			
Christmas Joy	484.00	0.00	\$ -
One Great Hour	870.00	0.00	\$ -
Peacemaking Income	267.00	0.00	\$ -
<b>Total PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS</b>	<b>1,621.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total MISSION INCOME</b>	<b>3,653.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME</b>			
Building Use	955.44	200.00	\$ 200.00
Roof donations			\$ -
Book Income	1,751.22	0.00	\$ -
<b>Total Roof donations</b>	<b>1,751.22</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME</b>	<b>2,706.66</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>115,544.17</b>	<b>109,242.00</b>	<b>\$ 112,597.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>115,544.17</b>	<b>109,242.00</b>	

## Expense

**ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES**

Deacon Activity Expense	1,850.84	0.00	\$	-
Membership/Fellowship	100.00	0.00	\$	-
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Book expenses	334.00	0.00	\$	-
Miscellaneous Expenses - Other	<u>2,352.15</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	\$	2,000.00
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	2,686.15	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Office Supplies				
Website Management	1,643.18	720.00	\$	750.00
Office Supplies - Other	<u>4,655.38</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	\$	5,000.00
Total Office Supplies	6,298.56	5,720.00	\$	5,750.00
Per Capita Tax	1,856.25	2,115.00	\$	2,210.00
Postage	1,156.20	999.97	\$	1,200.00
Telephone/Internet	<u>1,663.08</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>	\$	1,700.00
Total ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	15,611.08	12,434.97	\$	12,860.00
Balance correction	0.56	0.00	\$	-

**CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES**

Certified Lay Pastor				
CLP Benefits				
CLP Auto/Professional	63.10	500.00	\$	500.00
CLP Continuing Ed	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	\$	500.00
Total CLP Benefits	63.10	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
CLP Housing Allowance	22,680.08	26,184.00	\$	26,970.00
CLP Social Security Offset	<u>1,734.95</u>	<u>2,003.00</u>	\$	2,063.00
Total Certified Lay Pastor	24,478.13	29,187.00	\$	30,033.00
Director of Music	18,674.64	18,668.00	\$	19,135.00
New York State Unemployment Ins	867.01	900.00	\$	900.00
Office Manager	18,324.80	18,322.00	\$	18,780.00
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	3,230.36	3,145.00	\$	3,324.00
Sexton	<u>2,391.20</u>	<u>4,128.00</u>	\$	4,231.00
Total CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES	67,966.14	74,350.00	\$	76,403.00

**MINISTRIES**

Choir Singers	1,350.00	600.00	\$	1,200.00
Minister/Music Director Subs				
Music Substitutes	600.00	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Pulpit Supply	<u>2,328.87</u>	<u>2,800.00</u>	\$	2,800.00
Total Minister/Music Director Subs	2,928.87	3,800.00	\$	3,800.00
Music	0.00	175.00	\$	200.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	2,755.50	1,000.00	\$	2,800.00
Soundssystem Maintenance	0.00	400.00	\$	400.00
Worship Supplies	75.00	225.00	\$	225.00
Worship, Education & Program	<u>172.90</u>	<u>200.00</u>	\$	200.00

<b>Total MINISTRIES</b>	7,282.27	6,400.00	\$	<b>8,825.00</b>
<b>MISSION EXPENSES</b>				
<b>CHURCH WORLD SERVICE</b>				
Mission Beyond/Disaster Relief	<u>1,041.85</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	\$	1,000.00
<b>Total CHURCH WORLD SERVICE</b>	1,041.85	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
<b>LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION</b>				
Country Pantry Food Bank	<u>1,575.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	\$	-
<b>Total LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION</b>	1,575.00	0.00	\$	-
Mission & Stewardship Committee	330.00	300.00	\$	600.00
<b>PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS</b>				
Christmas Joy	484.00	0.00	\$	-
One Great Hour	<u>870.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	\$	-
<b>Total PRESBYTERIAN OFFERINGS</b>	<u>1,354.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	\$	-
<b>Total MISSION EXPENSES</b>	4,300.85	1,300.00	\$	<b>1,600.00</b>
<b>STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY</b>				
Insurance	9,401.50	8,000.00	\$	9,500.00
<b>Maintenance - Church</b>				
Roof Expenses	842.14	0.00	\$	-
Maintenance - Church - Other	<u>7,463.11</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	\$	12,000.00
<b>Total Maintenance - Church</b>	8,305.25	15,000.00	\$	12,000.00
Utilities - Church	<u>9,667.79</u>	<u>17,900.00</u>	\$	17,000.00
<b>Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY</b>	<u>27,374.54</u>	<u>40,900.00</u>	\$	<b>38,500.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>122,535.44</u>	<u>135,384.97</u>	\$	<b>138,188.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>				



## **Worship, Education, and Program (WEP) Annual Report 2024**

The Annual Congregational meeting was held on January 28 where new deacons and elders were elected.

The season of Lent began Feb. 14 with a Pancake Supper at 6 p.m. and Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. Pat Joseph and Donna Goodfriend assisted Scott Leonard with the service.

The Ecumenical Lenten Series was held at the Clinton United Methodist Church every Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with a soup and bread (and cookies) supper followed by a study on “Finding Jesus in the Psalms”. Ministers who led the series included Rev. Jeff McArn, Rev. Abel Roy, Rev. Janet Griffiths, Mtr. Joanna Benskin, and Fr. Bob Weber. The study included “reflections” on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the ‘Psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.” (Corner Stone Feb. 2024, p.9)

The choir resumed for Lent and Easter which brought richness to our services. During Lent we had our Lenten Walk with symbolic symbols each week in our Lenten desert to remind us of our 40-day journey of self-examination. Our Lenten desert transformed into a beautiful garden on Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ’s resurrection and to bring the hope of new life in Christ.

Palm Sunday, March 24, marked the beginning of Holy Week. On the 28th we held a Tenebrae service for Maundy Thursday at 7pm. This was a beautiful and moving service of light and darkness with Lauralyn Kolb and Donna Goodfriend assisting Scott Leonard. The Good Friday service was hosted by St. James Episcopal Church with a light luncheon afterwards. Easter morning, we held our ecumenical sunrise service on the Green with the Rev. Abel Roy preaching the message and Scott Leonard and Mtr. Joanna Benskin assisting. Our regular Easter service was at 10:30 with our wonderful choir and a large attendance! Trudy Christeler, our almost Centenarian, attended the service with her son, Peter. it was great to see her!

May brought Ascension Sunday (12<sup>th</sup>), Pentecost Sunday (19<sup>th</sup>) and Trinity Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>). It was a month of special celebrations. May 18<sup>th</sup> brought our Open House which was a thank-you to the Sacred Sites Foundation for their grant that helped to fund a new roof for our church. It was a full day with our Pie Sale from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the open house from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We had history talks and tours of the church as well as lots of goodies! A few people from the community came but many people from our congregation, who were there to help, also enjoyed hearing about the long and interesting history of our church.

Summer worship began on July 7 at 9:30 a.m. Once again, Rob Kolb graciously accepted our invitation to preach for us while Scott was on vacation. Thank you, Rob, for preaching on July 28, August 11, 18 and 25. The Rev. Sam Pendergrast preached for us on July 21. Throughout the year, we had guest preachers once a month when Scott had his Sunday off. These included CLP Michele Dolan, Larry Beasley, CLP Peg Ward, Rev. Helen Tracy and Rev. LaDana Clark.

On September 1, an ecumenical service was held on the Green. The weather cooperated and a large number of people (about 70) attended. We resumed church at our regular hour of 10:30 on September 8. The WEP and Mission committees cooperated and held our first lunch and learn on September 15 with Sam Pendergrast returning to share his experiences during his nearly yearlong life in Agua Prieta, Sonora and the sister city of Douglas, AZ. Sam and his wife, Cynthia, volunteered with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry dedicated to helping migrants and residents who are affected by the difficult and complicated border landscape. It was an informative and enlightening experience for all who attended.

November 3, we celebrated All Saints Sunday by honoring our loved ones who have passed away with lighting candles and reading their names. November 24, we celebrated the Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday before Advent. Advent is a busy season with special offerings each Sunday: Hope (Hope House), Peace (Thea Bowman House), Joy (retired and current Presbyterian church workers and scholarships to Presbyterian schools and colleges and their students), and Love (The Country Pantry). Our Christmas Eve collection went to The Center for their work serving refugees and immigrants. We continued our tradition of Advent candle lighting with several members and friends participating.

Our Christmas Eve service featured readings and special music from our choir. The Christmas stories from Matthew and Luke were told with lighting candles for the people in the stories and the hauntingly beautiful singing of "Oh Holy Night" by Rob and Lauralyn Kolb. It was a beautiful and inspiring service. On December 29, we had our traditional service of lessons and carols. It was enjoyed by all.

We are grateful for all we were able to do this year and look forward to serving God in 2025 by continuing to help those in need.

Peace, Joy and Love to all of you!

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goodfriend

## **Mission, Stewardship and Support 2024**

Unsurprisingly, 2024 was an active year for **Mission, Stewardship and Support** activities within our congregation. Despite challenges, our congregation has creatively used its resources and abilities to support various agencies that have a never-ending variety of needs. It cannot be stated too often that Stone Church members and friends remain faithful to serving others with genuine generosity. Our relatively small size has made us more mindful of our priorities and focused in our giving, so we actively join with others to do in partnership what none of us could have hoped to do as effectively alone.

To this end, we undertook the following:

To continue to strive towards being an active **Matthew 25 congregation** by continuing to work with **The Center** as we support “our” refugee family from Rwanda. The tremendous amount of time necessary to provide necessary services to Masengeashu, Rachel and children can be daunting, and while our active team has dwindled, Stone Church still tries to make sure the entire family receives necessary attention as they strive to integrate into the Utica area. Regulations and priorities may change, but **The Center** will strive to ensure our role with the family can change as we work to keep them safe, healthy and adjusting. In a world fraught with competition rather than cooperation it seemed most fitting that Our **Christmas Eve and December 29** Advent offering were earmarked for **The Center** as it continues its work with immigrants and refugees.

**Ongoing contributions to the Country Pantry**, our Clinton area food bank. Judy LaGasse continues as our liaison to the Pantry which has had a consistently large number of individuals and families requiring food assistance. More and more people have requested food bank services as they work to live and contribute to their communities. In addition to responding to monthly and seasonal requests for foods, members of our congregation volunteer to work during the monthly food distribution events. Our congregation responds generously to both special requests and normal monthly stocking in addition to the Clinton community **Country Pantry** events. Traditionally, the third Sunday of each month, our loose offering is earmarked for the **Country Pantry**. Additionally, the Country Pantry was the recipient of our 2024 **LOVE** Advent offering and Christmas Eve offering.

**Continued assistance to Hope House** as it feeds and assists the homeless and hungry. Ceil Gilbert has continued to organize our participation at **Hope House** and once a month Stone Church volunteers work at Hope House in meal preparation and serving. Additionally, our congregation donated quantities of toiletries and other supplies for Hope House clients. At the end of 2024, Ceil retired as our Hope House coordinator. We regretfully accepted her resignation and are working to figure out how we will continue our support of this agency. As we have done in the past, our **HOPE** Advent offering was designated for **Hope House**.

**Support for the activities of the Presbyterian Church USA**, including overseas aid and the Presbyterian Church USA special offerings. Our Advent **JOY** offering was dedicated to the PC USA Christmas Joy offering which is an assistance program of the Board of Pensions that distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and also provides funding for racial ethnic schools and colleges of the **Presbyterian Church USA**.

In 2024, the Mission Committee undertook support of a new agency, the **Thea Bowman House**, for its **PEACE** Advent offering. Since 1986, **Thea Bowman House** has served at-risk children and low-income families in the Utica community. It provides quality care to some of our community's most vulnerable children and youth in the hope of breaking the cycle of poverty through a structured program of educational and social enrichment. Currently serving over 350 children ages 18 months through 18 years, **Thea Bowman House** operates out of two sites in the city of Utica. We hope that we may find a way to offer additional assistance beyond an Advent offering.

**Contributions during special offerings**, such as the **One Great Hour of Sharing** event held on Palm and Easter Sundays. 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 was added to the donations of churches throughout the world in support of this endeavor.

**Participation** in the Clinton Ministerium's **Community Collection Day** that offered opportunities for the community at large (and our smaller Stone Church community) to contribute non-perishable food, paper products and pet food and supplies to The Country Pantry plus enabled us to support various local organizations. Mary Chamberlain organized a community bake sale of a lovely variety of delicious foods, the proceeds from which were given to the Country Pantry.

**Assistance** was provided to the **Your Neighbors** program of Zion Lutheran Church. We have a wonderful time making and then preparing, wrapping and bringing the food to Zion's freezers for future delivery to **Your Neighbors** clients. The plentiful assortment of soups, foods and cookies we provide is added to those of others. By supporting this ministry together, we hope to again show the value of actively joining with others to do in partnership what none of us could have hoped to do as effectively alone.

Additionally, we worked to encourage members and friends of Stone Church to participate in our **Stewardship Campaign**, based on Mark 12:30-31, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no commandment greater than these." With this theme, all members 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 the importance of love of God and the unquestioning love and care for others, differences notwithstanding. On November 3, after members and friends offered their commitments, a lovely pot luck luncheon celebrated the congregation's fellowship and joy as it continues to work together to serve our God. We will be starting 2025 with \$72,600 in pledges offered by both members and friends.

Details regarding Mission and Support activity can be found in each of 2024 monthly church *Cornerstone* newsletters available on our website. Each issue 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 2024 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, one and all, for your generosity and support. It was often difficult to focus on Mission as we individually responded to personal challenges. Despite these challenges, we strive to show ourselves to be an active and caring congregation. We always try to remain faithful to fulfilling our mission to treat all with care and to work for peace, justice and basic necessities for all God's people. As we continue to walk heretofore untrodden paths together, God's grace, our sincere concern for each other, and our willingness to listen and learn, will make all things possible and all things bearable.

Mary Ann Stiefvater

## **Membership, Communication And Outreach (MCO) Report 2024**

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 Pastor 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.

In February a request was made in the Annual joint meeting of the Elders and the Deacons to have a contact list put together with best contact info so they could be contacted. This list was completed in May along with a members list.

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 mail out welcome notes to new visitors.

Our committee was responsible for gathering gifts for the Church Staff, a special thank you to deacons for providing the funds. 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

## **Nominating Committee Report 2024**

Though our dwindling congregation poses some challenges in finding officers, we have been blessed to find those willing to serve. Note, according to our bylaws that we amended in 2022, five members is the minimum size of the session and of the board of deacons.

We lost Wendy Suskiewich, whom we elected last year as an elder, when she moved away and we thank in absentia for her service, particularly for her having just joined as a member at the time.

The committee nominates Lora Schilder to replace her for a one-year term, so the session would remain at seven members, thanks to John Menard and Sherry Robinson willing to serve a second term and whom we nominate to do so.

We thank Emily Hughes and Mary Chamberlain for willing to serve a second term and Linda Rance willing to join again and nominate them for board of deacons. We are blessed to propose a board of nine members—the most in recent years!

Respectfully,

Donna Goodfriend, Nominating Committee Chair and elder representative  
 Mary Chamberlain, deacon representative

<u><b>Elders</b></u>	
<u><b>Class of 2026</b></u>	<u><b>Installation</b></u>
Donna Goodfriend	2/2020
*Lora Schilder (one-year term)	2/2025
<u><b>Class of 2027</b></u>	
Mary Ann Stiefvater	2/2024
John Stiefvater	2/2024
<u><b>Class of 2028</b></u>	
*John Menard (second three-year term)	2/2019
*Sherry Robinson (second three-year term)	2/2019
Pat Joseph	2/2025

<u><b>Deacons</b></u>	
<u><b>Class of 2026</b></u>	<u><b>Installation</b></u>
Trisha Harris	2/2023
Barbara Greene	2/2023
Judy LaGasse	2/2023
Bev Miller	2/2023
<u><b>Class of 2027</b></u>	
Deb Lapoint	2/2024
Helen Leonard	2/2024
<u><b>Class of 2028</b></u>	
*Mary Chamberlain (second three-year term)	2/2022
*Emily Hughes (second three-year term)	2/2022
*Linda Rance	2/2025

\*Candidates nominated as officers

Sherry Robinson to continue to serve as Clerk of Session  
 Donna Goodfriend to chair the Nominating Committee.

## **Board Of Deacons 2024**

Serving this year were Mary Chamberlain, Barb Greene, Trisha Harris, Emily Hughes, Judy LaGasse, Deb Lapoint, Helen Leonard, and Beverly Miller. Chris Menard is our Treasurer. Emily Hughes wrote an article for the Deacons Corner each month in the *Corner Stone*.

The deacons visited homebound members during the year. We delivered meals to members needing help after surgery or sickness. We made phone calls to our homebound members and others to keep in touch and check on them.

Hal and Linda Rance provide seasonal flowers/plants on the front steps of the church, making it look even more inviting. Judy LaGasse is the liaison for the Country Pantry. She puts announcements in the bulletin and newsletter requesting food and other items needed by the Pantry. Loose change on the third Sunday of the month is donated to the Country Pantry.

Valentine's Day flowers were given to Sherry Robinson, Phil Conley, John and Mary Ann Stiefvater. Bev Miller sends Easter and Christmas cards signed by church members to homebound members and others. Thanksgiving cards were also sent to our homebound members and others. Sympathy, get-well, thank-you and thinking-of-you cards were also sent.

Judy LaGasse and Deb Lapoint ordered palms for Palm Sunday and ordered Easter flowers and any designated for our homebound were delivered. Christmas poinsettias were ordered and any designated for our homebound were delivered.

"We will miss you" coffee hour was held in September for Wendy Suskiewich and Jean Whitney who were moving out of the area.

The church was decorated for Christmas during Hanging of the Greens. Linda Rance decorates the sanctuary and Norton Room for each season. Christmas gifts were delivered to our homebound members and our secretary, Janice LeFrois.

Besides ushering, greeting and doing coffee hour every Sunday, the deacons coordinate/help with other special activities during the year:

- Deacons helped with Community Collection Day bake sale.
- Deacons provided light refreshments during Sacred Sites Tour in May.
- Deacons helped with Lunch and Learn in June.
- Deacons helped with memorial service for Rob Willson in July.
- Scott presented a bible to Trudi Christeler's family to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- The deacons contributed to the Rome Presbyterian Church after the tornado in July that caused so much damage to the church.
- Birthday celebration for Emily Hughes in September. A book of anthems was purchased on behalf of the congregation to celebrate Emily's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Provided luncheon after Trudi Christeler's memorial service.
- Provided luncheon after Hal Rance's memorial service.

We have a great group of Deacons who are always ready and willing to help any member of the church or community event in any way at any time. It is a pleasure to work with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Chamberlain, Moderator

## Board Of Deacons

### Financial Report – 01/01/24-12/31/24

**Beginning Balance - \$ 385.80**

**INCOME:**

First Sunday Loose Change	\$ 789.18
Individual Donations	\$ 2,251.48
Flower Sales	<u>\$ 246.32</u>

**TOTAL** **\$ 3,086.98**

**EXPENSE:**

Linda Rance	\$ 26.10
Stone Pres. Fair Trade	\$ 64.00
Mary Chamberlain	\$ 125.05
Linda Rance	\$ 14.98
Olney's Flowers	\$ 239.07
Mary Chamberlain	\$ 123.38
Linda Rance	\$ 21.75
Capital One	\$ 47.83
Rome Pres Church	\$ 200.00
Capital One	\$ 73.96
Capital One	\$ 44.02
Mary Chamberlain	\$ 87.00
Loser's Music	\$ 393.92
Capital One	\$ 95.90
Capital One	\$ 152.13
Sherry Robinson	\$ 250.00

**TOTAL** **\$ 1,959.09**

**BALANCE as of 12/31/24:** **\$1,513.69**



## 2024 Memorial Committee Annual Report

We completed furnishing the Archive Room. Most notable is a 1907 picture of Stone Church as you approach from West Park Row. We can be very proud of this cornerstone building in the Village of Clinton. In addition, we have two storyboards for members to assist visitors in learning the history of Stone Church. We have a name plate for our historian Midge Bakos. We also purchased a secretarial chair for our office manager.

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

<u>For</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hal Rance	Jill Breckel	\$50.00	12/23/24
Hal Rance	Judy LaGasse	\$10.00	12/16/24
Hal Rance	Jennifer Turner	\$48.25	12/02/24
Hal Rance	Eileen Christiansen	\$23.97	11/18/24
Hal Rance	Donald & Madonna Fellows	\$50.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Virginia & Don Zillioux	\$50.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Carol Cahill	\$20.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	James Rishel	\$150.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Barb Greene	\$20.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Waldemar & Mary Gajewski	\$50.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Bev Miller	\$50.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Cindy Kelly	\$20.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Joseph & Chun Sue Wu	\$50.00	11/24/24
Hal Rance	Mary Chamberlain	\$50.00	11/20/24
Hal Rance	Robert & Linda Vandewater	\$20.00	11/22/24
Hal Rance	Gary & Susan Fountain	\$30.00	11/22/24
Hal Rance	C. John & Carol Matteson	\$25.00	11/20/24
Hal Rance	Donald & Lynett Lang	\$100.00	11/20/24
Trudi Christeler	Hans Wattinger	\$100.00	11/20/24
Trudi Christeler	Alison Murray	\$100.00	11/14/24
Trudi Christeler	Marilyn Domenick	\$100.00	11/03/24
Trudi Christeler	Sylvia Poppelbaum	\$100.00	10/27/24
Trudi Christeler	Sherry Robinson	\$25.00	10/13/24
Trudi Christeler	Midge Bakos	\$200.00	10/06/24
		<b><u>TOTAL: \$1,442.22</u></b>	

### Expenses:

Painting	\$815.00
Chair for office	\$222.96
Storyboards	\$45.00
Plaque	\$35.00
Movers	\$50.00

### Finances:

Balance as of 01/01/24:	\$3,057.40
Income	\$1,442.22
Expense	\$1,167.96
Balance as of 12/31/24	<b><u>\$3,331.66</u></b>

Respectfully,

Emily Hughes, Chair  
Midge Bakos At Large

## Annual Report 2024 - Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe

The Fair Trade Shop continues to be successful in every way. Net sales for this year were **\$41,732.43**, which is significantly greater than last year's record of \$37,276.14. We have continued to serve as the conduit for the purchases of Midge Bakos's book, *A View From the Steeple*, which this year sold 18 copies, for a total of \$310.45. Because the shop holds our 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 added two more new vendors which have been very popular:

**Women of the Cloud Forest**, which carries products from Nicaragua, Nepal, Ecuador, and Peru; and **dZi**, which began with products made by Tibetan refugee artisans in Dharamshala, India, and soon added products made by artisan groups in Nepal. A dZi (pronounced "zee") is the Tibetan word for a traditional Tibetan bead that is highly valued in Tibetan culture & is considered to be a powerful charm.

### **Donations:**

We continue to pay the church a modest \$500/month to help cover the cost of our heat and electricity.

Our annual gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is 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 sent \$1600.

We decided to send the receipts of sales from BeadforLife products to the Street Business School. SBS is the child of BeadforLife which, after a decade of experience in empowering women, made changes to its program and committed all its resources to bringing entrepreneurial education to the masses. In 2017, "Street Business School by BeadforLife" won the Hero Award for Best Nonprofit by PeaceJam, an organization consisting of 14 Nobel Peace Laureates. In 2018, SBS spun off from BeadforLife and became a separate non-profit. Then, during the pandemic, BeadforLife sold its stockpile of beads and invested everything in SBS. We purchased an abundance of beads at that time to help them. After our volunteers decided to donate this year's proceeds from the sale of those beads to SBS, we learned that they have been selected as one of 25 global "Best Practices" at the Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

We have added Mother Marianne's Westside Kitchen as a fourth local food charity this year and increased our donation amount to these local organizations.

### **Donations made from the 2024 shop sales are:**

PDA	\$1,000
The Center	\$1,000
Life School	\$1,600
Street Business School	\$900
The Country Pantry	\$750
Hope House	\$750
Seeds of Hope Food Pantry	\$750
Mother Marianne's Westside Kitchen	\$750
World Central Kitchen	\$750

**Total donations made in 2024: \$8,250**

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 display our merchandise. Sarah Miller designs our ads and business cards. 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	Sue Montrose
Pat Joseph	Ceil Gilbert
Donna Goodfriend	Lora Schilder
Emily Hughes	Mary Chamberlain
Gerry Gogel	Lauralyn Kolb
Barb Greene	Peggy Weldon

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

## **Women's Association-2024**

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.

On May 18, 2024, we held our Spring Drive-Thru Pie Sale with total sales of \$2,050, thanks to our very generous participation by our congregation. Also, thanks go to the Hannaford Market in Clinton for donating many of the ingredients.

On June 22, 2024, we held a Bread Sale with sales totaling \$540, which we sent to the First Presbyterian Church in Rome to help them with their restoration of their church which was damaged by a tornado.

On October 12, 2024, we held our Annual Harvest Drive-Thru Pie Sale with sales totaling \$1,965.05. 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 again.

In December, we donated \$300 each to Abraham House, Country Pantry, Hope House, KEYS Program, Neighborhood Center, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Rescue Mission, First Presbyterian Church in Rome, The Center, and Thea Bowman House. We also spent \$300 on our two families that we adopted from the Neighborhood Center. A huge thank you goes to everyone who donated food, clothing and gifts for our adopted families and helped wrap them again this year. The generosity of our congregation continues to be amazing.

We are grateful for everyone's help during 2024 and we hope we can continue to raise money in 2025 to help our surrounding communities by donating funds to our local support groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert

Sec/Treas.-Women's Association

**Women's Association**  
**Treasurer's Report-2024**

Balance as of 1/1/2024 \$45.56

**RECEIPTS**

Pie Sale (5/18/24) \$2,050.00  
Bread Sale (6/22/24) \$540.00  
Pie Sale (10/12/24) \$1,965.05

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** \$4,555.05

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**DISBURSEMENTS**

First Pres. Church-Rome \$540.00  
Abraham House \$300.00  
Country Pantry \$300.00  
Hope House \$300.00  
KEYS Program \$300.00  
Neighborhood Center \$300.00  
Pres.00 Disaster Relief \$300.00  
Rescue Mission \$300.00  
First Pres.00 Church-Rome \$300.00  
The Center \$300.00  
Thea Bowman House \$300.00  
Christmas Families \$300.00  
**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** \$3,840.00

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Balance as of 12/31/2024 \$760.61

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert, Secretary/Treasurer