

**The Annual Report
Of the
Congregation
Of
First Presbyterian Church
Of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
For the year ending
December 31, 2008**

First Presbyterian Church
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
February 1, 2009
1:00 p.m.

Call to Order for the Congregational Meeting

Opening Worship

Minutes of the Congregation and Corporation Meeting of January 27, 2008

Statistical Report

2009 Pastoral Compensation

Reports of Pastor, Staff, and Committees

Report of Church Treasurer for 2008

Report of the Nominating Committee

Action on Reports

Preview 2009 budget

Adjournment of Congregational Meeting

Call to Order for Corporation Meeting

Action on the Congregational Meeting

Adjournment of Corporation Meeting

Closing Prayer and Benediction

CHURCH MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED DURING 2008

John Foster
Marion Haak
Marjorie Isaac
Walter Longcor, Sr.
James Ross
Virginia Sobeck
Frank Valvano

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2008 Financial Statement / 2009 Proposed budget		Goldenrod pages 1-5
2008 Statistical Report		
Total Church Membership as of December 31, 2007	546	
Additions:		
Received by Profession of Faith	0	
Received by Reaffirmation of Faith	5	
Received through Certificate of Transfer	4	
Reinstatement		
Losses:		
Certificate of Transfer	5	
Transferred to Inactive Rolls	9	
Death	7	
Total Church Membership as of December 31, 2008	534	
Baptisms - 5	Funerals - 7	Marriages - 8
Average Sunday Morning Attendance	2008: 206	2007: 201

2009 Pastor's Report

William G. Carter

In an early letter to a church, the apostle Paul wrote these words: "We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because **your faith is growing abundantly**, and **the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing** (2 Thessalonians 1:3)." That's a great description of a congregation. Like Paul, I am grateful for every sign of growing faith and increasing love. There is plenty of despair and indifference all around us. Our most creative response is to claim the love of Jesus for us and the world, to share it openly, and to trust that God will hold us until the end.

I see such things at work among us. Worship attendance is up from last year. In a season of economic turbulence, folks gave generously to support our church and improve the lives of our neighbors. In moments of illness, warm meals are shared with a main course of friendship. In a season of national decision, we discussed things that matter with one another. Along the way, we welcomed children and teens as companions in our journey, providing for their spiritual nurture and shelter. And we continued to be a positive spiritual force in our region and community.

As we review the reports for the past year, we have a great deal to celebrate. For me, the most significant moment was our hiring of Will Cosnett as Director of Educational Ministries. After eighteen months without another full-time program staff person (and no noticeable slowdown in programming or pastoral needs), it is a great gift to have someone so capable as a partner in ministry. He joins our outstanding staff, and brings deep talents in Christian Education and youth ministry. We also welcome Kay Ten Eyck as our new organist. Already she fills the sanctuary with wonderful music, and it is a delight to have her among us.

It has been a very full year for me. This is a bustling community of faith, and there's always something perking. I have been here long enough to burrow myself into the community, and those relationships matter deeply to me. This year, I buried longtime friends and mourned our losses. I baptized the children of former confirmation students, and celebrated the weddings of young adults who were kids when I first arrived in town. Longevity has given me a profound sense of the passages of life. It also has given me perspective on the slow grace of God, and the ways that God's goodness sustains every one of us.

As a church, we are still growing into what it means to be a one-pastor congregation. Expectations remain quite high, and I am grateful for the hearts and hands that share the work of Christ. Our committees function well, and both of our boards are filled with committed servant-leaders. I look forward to our development of a Stephens Ministry in the congregation. It is exactly what we need, and will extend the love of Christ even further.

Growing faith, increasing love – these are the gifts of God that every pastor welcomes. It is a continuing delight to work among you, and to see how the Gospel takes root in

your lives. Even when we have had bumps in the road, there is a pervading kindness among the people of this congregation. We are at our best when we are constructive with one another. My work in the wider church has introduced me to congregations that do not share the delights that we take for granted. My prayer for 2009 is that we will enjoy one another even more, and through that enjoyment, we will enjoy the God who delights in us.

It is a wonderful gift to serve as your pastor. Thank you.

Faithfully submitted,

William G. Carter, Pastor

Report from Director of Educational Ministries

William Cosnett

I have been at this position just about three months now, and during that time one of the highlights has been my work with the youth group. Our church is blessed with a collection of youth who are both dedicated and enthusiastic in their work and fellowship. Our regular meeting time is Sunday evening from 6:30 until 8:00pm. We had our first meeting in October with 6 youth. Our rolls have grown to 14, with 8-10 being present on a given Sunday. A typical meeting consists of planning time to address mission projects and scheduling, a small group discussion, and a game or team building activity. We also started a book club which met twice in the fall at local coffee houses and discussed the book "The Phantom Tollbooth", by Norton Juster. In the spring we will continue to meet with goal of discussing a book a month.

In addition to our regular meetings we have also had a number of events in the past months.

- In October the group attended a Christian fellowship event at Miller's Orchard where we got to experience games, a haunted corn maze, and a Christian concert.
- In November we had a baking day to raise money for the N'ap Danse Ansanm. The baked goods were sold at the Bottega in Clarks Summit and at the church. Later on we also made glass ornaments which were also sold to support the event. Overall our group raised just over \$400.
- On December 6th five youth and three chaperons went on a day trip to New York City. Highlights included the Christmas Village in Union Square, finding the "Heart of Chinatown", and viewing the festive sights along Fifth Avenue.
- On December 12th-13th we participated in the aforementioned N'ap Danse Ansanm in conjunction with Our Lady of Snows. The all night event benefited the Hands Together organization which works with disadvantaged people in Haiti. The \$400 our group raised could feed about 450 children for a week.
- At the close of the year two of our youth initiated a project where people could dedicate a luminary on Christmas Eve either in honor or in memory of someone. The effort raised around \$300 which will go towards our summer mission trip.

These were our official youth group events in those three short months, but I would not want to give the impression that this is all the youth have been doing. In addition to all this I also saw our young members helping out with children's worship, serving as liturgist during services, volunteering their time for the Christmas Pageant, and selling candy for the Appalachian Service project which is coming up in July.

With all this happening in just a few months, the thought of what could be accomplished over the next year is an exciting one. I look forward to continued growth in our fellowship, ministry, and mission.

William Cosnett, Director of Educational Ministries

Music Director's Report

SUSAN KELLY

The music program at First Presbyterian Church remains strong due in large part to the extreme dedication of those who participate in the program. Singers are welcomed into the Chapel Choir from grades 1 through 6 (directed by Connie Weiss and accompanied by Kay Rudis), into the Teen Choir from grades 7 through 12, and then into the adult choir (both directed by Susan Kelly and accompanied by Kay Ten Eyck). Ringers can participate in either the Teen or Adult Bell Choirs (both directed by Richard Cochrane). Instrumentalists of any age can participate in our church orchestra, Music With Friends (directed by Laurie Klein and assisted by John Weiss).

Aside from the normal rehearsals, services, and meetings, there were several additional activities to note:

- Hosting and singing at the Abington Ecumenical Choir Festival in January
- Hosting numerous concerts in the Arts Series
- Good Friday ecumenical service
- Several members of our bell choirs attended a workshop in Allentown in the spring
- Music and Worship planning retreat in June at which services and activities were planned for September 2008-June 2009
- Attendance at the PAM Conference at Westminster College in July by John and Connie Weiss, Susan Kelly, Meg Carter, and Kathleen Shedlock
- Labor Day Jazz Communion Service

Special thanks go to all whose volunteerism and generosity of time makes my life so much easier, especially John and Connie Weiss, Dick Cochrane, Kay Rudis, Laurie Klein, and the members of the Music and Worship Committee.

Administrative Assistant's Report

Nancy Owens

As I reflect on 2008, my heart is filled with love and joy for the members and staff of our church family here in Clarks Summit.

Many days of the week if you drop by the church you will find it filled with laughter and energy brought in by a myriad of volunteers, all answering a call to serve.

The reception office is staffed Monday through Friday 9 AM to Noon by women who receive visitors, answer phones, prepare mailing and perform dozens of other jobs to keep the office running.

Those volunteers are just the tip of the iceberg. We have men and women who cheerfully move furniture, climb to the attic, plant flowers, pull weeds, shovel snow, fix lights and heaters, clear gutters, paint, fix, and build things, care for our finances, monitor our expenditures, run hundreds of copies, research how we can be “more green” decorate, undecorated, plan events, sing, ring, play, teach, help, cook, bake, write cards, drive, give cheer . . . the list goes on and on.

As a staff, I believe we make every effort to put our best foot forward, working as efficiently as possible, always striving to serve God. We thank God for our members. The work will only get done with all of us working together.

Annual Reports by Moderators of Session Committees

Building and Grounds Committee

Derek J. Gyza, Moderator

The Building and Grounds committee’s ongoing function is to maintain the physical property of the church. Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at seven o’clock p.m. The year 2008 was filled with challenges and accomplishments. Major committee projects included: repair to the inner Sanctuary wall near the organ console; drainage issues at the rear corner of the church; flat roof repair; and heating problems for the offices of Pastor and Director of Educational Ministries. Ongoing work includes: coordination and implementation of repairs as situations arise; semi-annual grounds/ building clean up; long range planning of repairs and maintenance.

Sanctuary Wall Repair:

January 2008 brought the crisp cold of winter weather and the concern of the wall in the Sanctuary (near the organ console) showing a deficiency. A structural engineer was contacted, the interior walls were opened, an estimate of repair obtained, and the repair completed.

Drainage Issue at Rear Corner:

The erosion of blacktop from the down spout at the rear of the building caused two problems that needed to be addressed by the committee: the crack opened by the water force would allow water to lift/ damage the blacktop in the immediate area of the down spout, the foundation appeared to be settling as evidenced by the cracks in the outside stucco wall. It was advised by the engineer to direct the water away from the foundation to eliminate the problems. Discussion indicated that a concrete surface drain would adequately redirect the water while not changing the amount or flow pattern to surrounding properties. The cracks in the walls were sealed using an industrial bonding agent designed for this purpose.

Roof Repair:

The repair of the roof of the building consisted of an infrared roof scan to identify leaking sections, estimates of repair, removal of several cracked slate tiles, and sealing along the three roof planes (slate roof - pitched roof - flat roof). Repairs to the affected ceilings in the office areas will begin in the late spring 2009.

Heating System in Offices:

The length of the baseboard heat zones made heating the two rooms at the end of the second floor zone inefficient. The original design allowed a huge temperature (comfort) differential between the reception room and last room on the zone (the Director of Educational Ministries). Estimates were received and it was suggested that the large zone be split into two equal sized areas for better thermostatic control. Repairs have been completed.

Both church clean up events were well supported and successful. Thank you to all participants.

Long range project planning discussions are constantly evolving to ensure the comfort and sustainability of the facility for years to come.

Members of the committee responsible for the upkeep and repair of the church facility include: John Conklin, Warren Grill, Bill Jones, Don Keen, Rick Marquardt, Jim McLaughlin, John Rich, Brian Schillinger, Al Traettino, and Frank Winters.

Christian Education Committee 2008

Carol Shamonsky, Moderator

The vision of the Christian Education Committee is to educate and nurture our church family on a faith journey to help them develop as a community of faithful disciples and worshipers and lead them to a life of service to God and fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. This committee continually strives and struggles to make this vision a reality.

Thankfully this committee has dedicated members who are committed to these goals. Members of the committee during 2008 have been: Rev. Bill Carter, Josh Frank (former Director of Youth Ministries), Will Cosnett (Director of Educational Ministries), Carol Shamonsky, Kate Hopkins, Lynne Shedlock, Janet Dobson, Linda Schuller, Barbara Mellander, Virginia Winters, Char Lyon, Melba Fialko, Mariluz Dobson, Dori Waters, Sandra Howard, Anne Rich, Bill Keen. Some of our members have left this committee due to added responsibilities on different committees, and we await their return when they are able and our teachers are always encouraged to come to monthly meetings.

Our Sunday School teachers are: Ginny O'Brien, Virginia Winters, Bill Keen and Barbara Mellander in the 3 year old to K class; Wally Longcor and Betty Keen in the 1st to 4th grade class; Anne Rich and Kate Hopkins in the 5th to 8th grade class; and Dori Waters and Melba Fialko in the teen class. Various members of the congregation have

led adult education classes to name a few: Dave Porter, Derek Gyza, Jack Pittman, Myrna Diven, Bill Carter, Will Cosnett, Fred and Char Lyon, John Diven, Steve Owens. Our grateful thanks goes out to all who have helped in any way. Special thanks to Bill Keen who has provided special support to our children's Sunday School program from calling families with young children to running the weekly DVD.

We started the year in search of new curriculum for our children's Sunday School classes and met with Lorrie Loughney, Christian Education Director from Lackawanna Presbytery, a number of times for guidance. We decided to introduce a new curriculum that would be more teacher-friendly starting in September. Teachers and students have been pleased with the new "Live Big" program. We will be evaluating and planning for VBS and fall 2009 under the direction of our new Director of Educational Ministries.

Lynne Shedlock coordinated the adult Sunday School classes using topics from thoughtfulchristian.com and recruited church members to lead the selected topics some of which were: Midlife Spirituality, Caring for People with Alzheimer's, U.S. Immigration Policy, Biblical Concept of Peace, Paul's Journey, Religion and Politics, What would Jesus Drive. Dori Waters continues to create curriculum used in our teen's class and has added a monthly mission project.

During 2008, we presented Bibles to our 3rd graders, conducted a vibrant VBS week with 70 children, sponsored scholarships for Camp Lackawanna, conferences and mission trips, created crafts for a special Advent program which included "Dinner with Mary and Joseph", hosted Graduate Recognition and Youth Sunday, and coordinated along with Lackawanna County Children's and Youth Services an Angel tree which provided 120 gifts for 30 local children. Our elementary fellowship program led by Janet Dobson has grown and has included mission projects along with fellowship and food. Birthday cards have been sent to our children by Barbara Mellander and the committee hosted an all church Brunch on Sunday, December 28th. Splash! is an outreach provided to our newborns and families by Christian Education and administered by Virginia Winters; it includes a newsletter, CD, and stories that are sent to the first newborn in each church family to help in our promise to nurture each child in his/her spiritual growth.

The CE committee encourages our church congregation to join us in supporting great classes and program planning; we welcome anyone who would like to know more about teaching a Sunday School class or lending a hand in VBS.

Enhancement Committee

Jim McLaughlin, Moderator

During the year 2008 the Enhancement committee received and reviewed and moved to the Session for their approval the following grants:

Ministry Enhancement (#2030)

- . Stewardship Committee: to enhance stewardship campaign

- . Music & Worship Committee: choir folders
- . Director of Christian Ministries

Building Maintenance (#2029)

- . Building & Grounds Committee:
 - . roof repairs
 - . heating system repairs
 - . restroom(s) improvements (lower level)
 - . sanctuary wall repairs
 - . repair water intrusion into building, foundation (SE corner)

Grants approved for 2008 totaled \$40,780 **

** Grant for Director of Christian Ministries will appear in the 2009 Budget.

On June 1st, 2008 **Bill Keller** completed his term on the Committee as a representative of the Board of Deacons. We express our appreciation to Bill for his dedication and insight that he contributed at this critical time. Also, during June we were delighted to welcome **Jim Justin** (Board of Deacons) as a member of our Committee.

The year 2008 found the financial market to be very volatile, to say the least. However, the Committee was able to receive advice from committee member **Steve Moore** which enabled the Committee to make a decision to remove our enhancement funds from the market in December 2007. Our funds are currently in Treasury Money Market Funds. Your Committee will continue to monitor the market and re-deploy these funds at a suitable time. Again the Committee is appreciative of the dedication to the Enhancement Fund of **Steve Moore**.

For the Committee:

Jim McLaughlin, Moderator

Enhancement Committee: Beverly Bright, The Reverend William Carter, Ros Patterson, Bill Keller, Jim Justin, Steve Moore and Jim McLaughlin, Moderator.

Fellowship and Evangelism Committee

Lorraine Daniels, Moderator

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee met the first Wednesday of each month. This is a spirited committee of nine.

On January 27th the committee provided decorations, set-up, clean-up and beverages for the Annual Congregational Meeting

The 2008 Church Directory was finally received and distributed in early May, following eleven months of preparation.

Roy Janson organized a successful June 14th trip for 22 individuals to Kykuit (Rockefeller mansion and gardens) Chagall stained glass windows at Union Church, and a visit to Stony Point Center.

In June this committee orchestrated a very successful Parking Lot Picnic orchestrated under the leadership of Bill Keen and Karen White.

Received 1000 brochures in July (at no charge from Olin Mills) prepared by this committee to be used for promotional purposes.

Coffee Hour fellowship was provided weekly, with an “enhanced” offering presented once monthly.

And always on our “to do” list are the “greeters.” Nancy Ford has pursued this with church members serving for both services on a rotating basis.

Nine new members were welcomed during this year - Bill Keen, John Conklin, Gini and Guy Calcerano, Chip Taylor, Kathie Spottiswoode, Chris Sekol, Diane Smith, Nancy Dennen. Mick Wirth served as liaison to acclimate the new members to our congregation.

Review of “lapsed” members was an ongoing issue and attracting children to Sunday School was a topic at many meetings.

The pot luck Advent dinner was held December 7th, with this committee in charge of decorations, beverages, dessert, set-up and clean-up.

Finance Committee

Jim McLaughlin, Moderator

For the year 2008, the Church’s budget income was under-budget by \$9,332. Expenses for the year were also under-budget by \$11,562, resulting in a surplus for the year of \$2,231. December 2008 was a strong income month which enabled the Church to keep current on obligations and enter 2009 with an adequate cash position.

The Session extends a sincere “**thank you**” to our congregation for their financial support of the mission of the Church.

Our church is blessed to have Barbara Brown as our Treasurer, Dave Argust as our Accountant and Nancy Owens as administrator to keep our Committee on target with current financial information, easier said than done.

During 2008 the committee was pleased to welcome as new members Jean Foster (Session), Mary Ann Nichols, Pat Delaney and Paul Ford.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim McLaughlin, Moderator Barbara Brown, Treasurer

YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE: Barbara Brown, Pat Delaney, Paul Ford, Jean Foster, Wayne Griffiths, Mary Ann Nichols, Margie Reese and Jim McLaughlin.

Mission and Justice Committee

Melba Fialko, Moderator

In 2008, our major mission focus was on the local level. The committee decided that the Children's Advocacy Center and SCOLA were local causes worthy of our support. The Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a private, non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to provide excellence in the assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect. SCOLA provides free literacy education to adults of Lackawanna County, and trains volunteers to teach reading and writing. Both organizations are in need of our participation in regards to programming and fundraising.

In September, a Mission Fair was held to highlight the missions that our church has sponsored this year. Included in the exhibit were SCOLA, Children's Advocacy Center, the Appalachian Service Project, Pastor Cicerone from Haiti, Missionaries Bruce and Lora Whearty, Camp Lackawanna, a Katrina Mission trip, SERRV, and Heifer International.

In addition, contributions were made to Safety Net, Saint Francis Kitchen, the AEM Food Pantry, and the Norton Fund.

As the year 2009 begins, the committee believes it has found the major international mission project for this year. We are all very excited about the possibilities of this new project. The question to be answered in the upcoming months is: "What on earth is an earthbox?" Listen for the answer and find out how we may all become involved.

I wish to thank a very dedicated committee consisting of Fred Campbell, Ed Cole, Pat Delaney, Char-Anne Lyon, Dave Porter, and Brian Schillinger. The committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7pm. If mission and justice issues interest you, please join us. We can always use more members!

In peace, hope, and love,
Melba M. Fialko

Music and Worship Committee

Meg Hatch, Moderator

Members of the Music and Worship Committee for 2008 were Dick Cochrane, Meg Hatch (current moderator), Sue Kelly, Andy Kepler, Nancy Post, JoAnne Shepherd, Connie Weiss, and John Weiss (past moderator) as well as Reverend Carter. Sue Kelly continued as Director of Music, with Nancy Post as our organist (until the end of November) and Dick Cochrane (Youth and Adult Bells), Connie Weiss (Chapel Choir, Amazing Grace Choir), and Laurie Klein (Music with Friends) continued as volunteer directors of their groups. Kay Rudis also accompanied the chapel choir and continued as our volunteer music librarian. Thanks to all the committee members and directors for their continuing contributions to the nurturing of the musical and worship experiences at our church. Thanks are also due to the numerous liturgists who have assisted in leading worship, and to Shirley McLaughlin for organizing communion servers and preparing the table and elements.

2008 saw the successful completion of the first Arts at First Presbyterian Series with a puppet show and workshop in April and the continuation of the second Arts at First Presbyterian Series with a piano and violin concert in September and a folk band and a concert by all First Presbyterian Church musical groups in November which was very well attended. Thanks to John Weiss for spear-heading this effort, including applying for numerous grants. We are looking forward to a juggler and arts show as part of the Ice Festival, a Handbell Workshop, a jazz quartet and a folk music duo to finish out the series in 2009. Volunteers on the Arts Series committee included Beverly Bright, Ed Cole, Pat Henneforth, and Mary Ann Nichols.

The church welcomed a newly named instrumental group, "Measures of Faith" led by Reverend Carter. Band members in 2008 included Wally Longcor on guitar, Derek Gyza on guitar, Frank Garnecki on keyboards, Ben Norton on bass, and Bill Carter on percussion.

Children's Worship continues at both services and is overseen by Connie Weiss, who also oversaw another successful Christmas Pageant. Thanks to Connie for all her volunteer hours and to those who assisted with pageant practice and its production. We would welcome additional help, especially anyone willing to lead Children's Worship.

The church bid a fond farewell to our organist, Nancy Post, at the end of November, and welcomed Kay Ten Eyck as our new organist at the start of December. The church held a reception for Nancy after the church concert and presented her with a Vera Bradley certificate and cash donated by members of the church. The Fellowship Committee hosted a special fellowship hour the second week in December to welcome Kay.

Interpretation and Stewardship Committee

Phil Muntzel, Moderator

The Stewardship Committee adopted a different approach to securing pledges in 2008. I will describe the approach, indicate the work of the committee, note the financial costs and describe the results and make some recommendations.

The committee selected and the session approved that we use Herbert Miller's "New Consecration Sunday" approach to stewardship. Miller's approach has been used by several churches in our Presbytery and has been widely used around the country. The aim of this approach is to put annual giving commitments ("estimates of giving") in the context of worship so that giving is understood in spiritual terms and not framed as a matter of meeting the budget or "paying one's dues." The essentials of the method involve bringing in an outside, guest preacher to conduct the one worship service where pledges are to be made and consecrated, a carefully orchestrated publicizing of the key worship event and its significance, a special, advance program where church officers and leaders hear and enjoy fellowship with the guest preacher and a post-worship event where the whole church can gather for food, fellowship and celebration of giving. As should be apparent, such an approach requires a considerable investment of planning, time and, yes, money.

The committee members were Beverly Bright, Guy Calcerano, Nancy London, Fred Lyon, Chris Norton, Brian Schillinger and Linda Schuller. Rev. Carter assisted the committee throughout and was especially helpful in securing and hosting our guest preacher, the Rev. Robert Bohl from Naples, Florida. (Rev. Bohl is a former GA Moderator and a recognized leader in the national church.) Nancy Owens was a ready and helpful resource in executing our tasks. Every committee member made a major contribution: helping in planning decisions, developing Presbyter articles, writing and making pulpit announcements, helping with congregational mailings, decorating and involvement in the arrangements for the two special events, etc. Let me mention those events. Given Rev Bohl's travel plan, we had to arrange for the Church Leaders event to be held on October 25th, the evening before the two consecration worship services and the post-worship congregational gathering. The Leaders event was an appetizer/dessert gathering at the Tripp House. Some 70 leaders responded to invitations and paid a small fee to defray expenses. The post-worship event was a Lunch/Brunch affair held at Keystone College. We hoped for an attendance of around 240, but were able to get around 115 members to attend the luncheon funded by the church. The pre-event planning for all the arrangements for the two gatherings was intricate and demanding.

The whole committee pitched in to meet these and other planning demands, but I must single out one committee member for her extraordinary commitment to our committee efforts. Beverly Bright used her expertise, taste and commitment to good organization to make the evening gathering and the post-worship luncheon into enjoyable and worthwhile events. We gave some assistance but her leadership deserves both committee and congregational recognition.

The committee and session were rightfully concerned about the cost of this approach since the original cost projection of the honorarium and travel costs of the guest preacher, the mailings and underwriting of two fellowship events was projected to be over \$4000, well beyond our \$2100 budget. The actual costs came in lower. Modest demands for an honorarium and budget airfare kept the guest preacher costs around \$1000; The Tripp House event cost a catering fee of \$1310 and \$125 for Tripp House rental and decorations. But around \$300 in ticket contributions and a committee member's donation of the rental and decoration costs reduced our expense to around \$1000. The Keystone event cost us \$863 in food and \$140 in hall rental, but that total was less than the cost of the projected, larger gathering. All told, with other minor expenses, we spent about \$1400 to \$1500 over our budget. We were allowed to use the enhancement fund to cover that amount.

Was the result enough to justify the expense and effort? We think so. In difficult financial times, 129 cards totaling \$247,000 came in on Consecration Sunday. Within a week we were up 140 pledges and \$265,000. Sixty of those pledges represented increases over the previous year. In November we were up to \$290,000 with conservative estimates that pledged and non-pledged giving would reach us in the \$320,000 range. These are not dramatic changes but in a year of possible downturn they send a positive message. I should add that the office received many positive comments about Rev. Bohl's message and the stewardship weekend.

Recommendations? We cannot say that this approach is the "be and end all" approach. We do think it should be tried again because a new method requires some time to be absorbed and some time to determine its success. We also think that a guest preacher that is closer to home would not only reduce costs but also allow us to spread our fellowship gatherings of leaders and the congregation more effectively. Some cost cutting approaches to the fellowship events may also be possible. But to end these reflections, let me simply state that it was a method well worth trying and was promising in its experiences due to the hard work of this committee and the support of so many of you in the congregation. We are grateful for your support of giving and giving efforts.

Board of Deacons

Elaine Marquardt, Moderator

Board of Deacons – Members:

Moderator:	Elaine Marquardt
Vice Moderator:	Open
Secretary:	Dave Porter
Treasurer:	Alice Broxton

Class of 2008 – 2009	Class of 2009 – 2010	Class of 2010 – 2011
Vi Dygert	Alice Broxton	Sandy Bailey
Paul Ford	Judy Cutler	Mary Lou Emmel
Elaine Marquardt	Gayle Hamilton	Jim Justin

Mary Parry	Walter Longcor	Carole LaCoe
Dave Porter	Terry Gyza	Jane Refice
Barbara Stein	Kay Rudis	Chris Spangler
Katie Carter	Gordon Weber	Lee Wirth

Care Team Ministry Coordinators:

Time of Loss: Alice Broxton

This care team provides support to congregation members during bereavement. They send a note and a Stephen's Ministry book on dealing with grief to the member 4 times over the first year of loss. They arrange for a Deacon to be present at the majority of funerals that are held at the church. They also organize the congregational memorial service and a seminar about making it through the holidays that is open to all.

Independent Living: Barbara Stein

This care team keeps in touch with congregation members who are currently living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as members who are still living at home, but with limited independence/mobility through regular personal visits, calls and cards.

Emergency Home Repair/Maintenance: open

This team will consult with church members to assist with determining resources for emergency home repair as needed.

Emergency Needs: Sandy Bailey

This care team provides meals and company to church members who have experienced a hospitalization, serious illness, death in the family, etc.

Key Activities in 2008:

- Ushering
 - Deacons act as ushers for all church services

- Care of Congregation:
 - Meals/assistance during time of illness, bereavement, crisis
 - Visits to independent and assisted living members
 - Support of congregation members through bereavement process
 - Consultation for home repair needs
 - Cards and letters to church members as needed (sympathy, get well, thinking of you, birthday, etc.)
 - Prayers for church members
 - Monetary donations to those in need

- Yearly Events:
 - Jazz Communion coffee hour - August
 - October Food Drive
 - Surviving the Holidays seminar - November
 - December Christmas Caroling

- “Beat the Blahs” dinner – February
 - Independent and assisted living members are our guest, congregation is invited for a nominal fee
- Congregational Memorial Service and Reception – March
- College Boxes – sent to students in late March
- April Food Drive

Treasurer’s Report - 2008

Board of Deacons

Treasurer’s Report

Year Ending December 31, 2008

Beginning balance, January 1, 2008	\$2,280.16
PNC Bank	

2008 Receipts	
Deacon’s Offering Envelopes	\$3,267.35
Memorials	100.00
Gift	<u>50.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$3,417.35

2008 Disbursements	
Appalachia Service Project	\$ 750.00
Relay for Life	200.00
Congregational Memorial Service	279.75
AEM Heating Assistance Fund	900.00
Deacons Dinner, April	419.87
AEM Food Pantry	600.00
Care Notes	226.50
College boxes	453.23
Grief Workshop	138.35
Care of shut ins	55.01
Angel Tree	68.98
Postage, “Journeying Through Grief” Booklets	<u>74.40</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$4,166.09</u>

Ending Balance, December 31, 2008	\$1,531.42
PNC Bank	

Mary Alice Broxton
Treasurer
Board of Deacons

Women's Association Annual Report 2008

Char Lyon, Moderator

Once again, our year began with the installation of officers in January. The theme was salt, biblically applied, and the service was superbly implemented by Myrna Diven.

Excluding July and August, Bible Study meetings are offered on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Our studies each year are provided by the magazine, Horizons: A Bible Study for Presbyterian Women.

Our outreach to the community is through the Clarks Summit State Hospital. On the first Tuesday of April and October, our Association invites a group of patients from the hospital to church for lunch, fellowship, entertainment, fun and games. Both our guests and our church members have a good time. Janet Dobson is our contact person.

Lo these many years, on the second and fourth Tuesdays, excluding July and August, My Brothers Keeper Quilts (MBKQuilts) are made in our fellowship room and delivered to homeless people. Tucked into each quilt: a pair of gloves, socks, a hat knitted by our church women and friends, and toiletries. Occasionally, when donated, a large men's shirt or sweat shirt is also packed into the quilt. Fifty plus quilt bags are made each year.

At our annual Spring Brunch, the birthday Offering was dedicated. Janet Loewe entertained us with one of her wonderful readings.

Hull's Pond House was the scene of our return in September for our Relax, Relate, Renew Day. Mary Lou Emmel and Virginia Winters presented the 2008-2009 overview of the Bible Study of Luke – Gospel for the Poor, and Margie Hull provided for our comfort needs with coffee and a welcoming blaze in the hearth.

Through our Thank, Least Coin, and Birthday Offerings each year, we contribute to the mission of the larger church.

Locally, we support the Abington Ecumenical Ministerium Food Pantry. Our spring mission project yielded \$183, and then from our treasury we added an additional \$500, which was sent to AEM Food Pantry in December.

We thank God for all our blessings. We had a good year. Please join us. All women in the church are welcome and encouraged to enjoy the fellowship.

Peace to you all in 2009 and beyond.

“Snow swirls – angels sing.
Gabriel's voice summons us.
Light shatters the dark!”

PW Treasurer's Report
 Presbyterian Women's Financial Statement
 Doris Dempsey, Treasurer

Balance on hand, December 31, 2007		\$2,075.20
Receipts		\$1,792.50
Pledges		
Missions:		
Birthday Offering	\$ 228.55	
Thank Offering	124.20	
Least Coin	17.30	
PW Mission Project	183.00	
		\$ 553.05
Miscellaneous		
PW Spring Brunch	\$ 448.00	
Certificate of Deposits (Matured)	10,000.00	
Interest on Certificates	503.05	
Anonymous donations	102.00	
		<u>\$11,053.05</u>
Total Receipts, including balance on hand, December 31, 2007		\$15,473.80

Disbursements		
P.W.L.P. Program Agency		\$ 1,000.00

Missions		
Birthday Offering	\$ 228.55	
Thank Offering	124.20	
Least coin	17.30	
A.E.M. Food Pantry	500.00	
Sunshine fund	45.00	
Special Member Christmas Gift	45.00	
State Hospital Party	197.00	
PW Mission Project	183.00	
Stony Point Center - Two registrations for the Horizon Bible Study Workshop (from Campbell estate)	560.00	
New Green Hymn Books (from Campbell estate)	639.86	

			\$	2,539.91
Literature				
Study Books			\$	412.50
(from Campbell Estate)				
Operating Expenses				
Contingent Fund	\$	62.00		
P.W. Brunch		383.99		
Country Side Conservancy		50.00		
In honor of Margaret Hull for				
Use of Pond House				
Pledge envelopes		7.50		
New Treasurers Journal		8.26		
				511.75
Certificates of Deposits				
Penn Star Bank New CD	\$	1,000.00		
Citizens Savings Bank		3,000.00		
(new CD)				
First National Community		5,000.00		
Bank (new CD)			\$	<u>9,000.00</u>
Total Disbursements			\$	13,464.16
Balance on hand, December 31, 2008			\$	2,009.64
Total of 2 CDs as of December 31, 2008			\$	8,000.00

*Penn Star Bank CD Matured
\$1,000 put into checking.

The Priscilla Circle made a donation of \$25.00 to the A.E.M. Food Pantry

Memorial Fund 2008

Jean Foster

Memorials were established in memory of:

John Foster	Walter D. Longcor, Sr.
Jean Gannon	Clara Owens
Marion Haak	Virginia Sobeck
Marjorie Isaac	Joel Winters
Jean Herman Jones	

Contributions from 1/1/2008 to 12/31/2008 totaled \$4,160.

The breakdown for these contributions is:

- \$50 was designated for Camp Lackawanna;
- \$100 was designated for the Deacons' Fund;
- \$2,775 was designated for the Christian Education Program;
- \$1,235 was undesignated.

The funds received as memorials are turned over to the church Treasurer. They are deposited in the Restricted Fund account.

Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship

Janet Dobson

The Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship was established in the fall of 2006 to recognize a graduating high school senior member of our church who plans to further his/her education. Monies from the loose plate collection from the Christmas Eve services are deposited into this fund, as well as any other contributions that are so designated. Completed applications are due by the end of May and the winner is announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday. Our 2008 Scholarship winner was Ben Norton.

Our hope is that as this fund grows that we will increase the amount of the scholarship or award more than one.

The committee consists of the Dobson Family and 2 members of the church.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition Three Group

The Tradition Three Group of Alcoholics anonymous meets seven days a week at 7:00 a.m. and is open to anyone with a desire to stop drinking.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober by following the twelve steps as put forth in the book Alcoholics Anonymous and to carry this message to alcoholics who still suffer.

We are grateful to the members of The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit for graciously allowing us the use of their facilities.

ALANON

Thank you for the use of your meeting room each Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. It is a very valuable service to the community. Thank you!

Overeaters Anonymous

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating.

We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supportive, through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology or religious doctrine; we take no position on outside issues. Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive overeating and to carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

Weight Watchers of Eastern Pa., Inc.

Weight Watchers meets at your facility each Monday at 12:00 and 6:00 p.m.

While most of our membership is female, we welcome men and teenagers to join us. We pride ourselves not only on a fine weight reduction program, but also on the fact we encourage all around good nutrition, exercise and behavior change.

Our meetings are conducted by trained and skilled leaders. The format we use is a large group discussion format in a lively, upbeat, positive manner.

We feel we provide a service to the community in promoting a safe and sensible method of losing weight and good health.