



Annual Reports for 2017

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 28, 2018



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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Table of Contents

Pastor's Report	page 1
Clerk of the Session Report	page 5
Session Committees:	
Property	page 8
Finance	page 9
Budget	page 11
Worship, Education, and Program	page 13
Mission, Stewardship, and Support	page 16
Membership, Communication and Outreach	page 19
Nominating Committee	page 21
Board of Deacons	page 25
Deacons' Financial Report	page 27
Memorial Committee	page 28
Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe	page 29
Women's Association	page 32
Women's Association Treasurer's Report	page 33

PASTOR'S REPORT 2017

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” – Colossians 3:17



One of the debates throughout the history of the church has been the role of works vs. faith. One of the slogans that came out of the Reformation 500 years ago was *sola gratia*, “by grace alone”, meaning that our salvation is solely by the grace of God and not by anything we can do as humans. But that does not relieve of us of doing good works. Indeed, good works should come even more freely, since we do them not to earn credit with God, but out of our gratitude to God and to share the joy we have of God’s love with others. It’s easy to get wrapped up in the doing rather than the believing, but I am heartened that our congregation tries to be spiritual first and to let all the good works we do flow from that. And for our small numbers, the spirit indeed must be strong with us!

The arrangement the session and I have is that I have one Sunday off a month from preaching plus five Sundays in the summer when Stone traditionally splits with the Clinton United Methodist Church in worship (though at the request of the Methodists we will break with that many-year tradition and not be worshiping jointly in 2018 and instead we worship in our respective churches throughout the summer). Unless I am traveling, I still attend worship and sing in the choir, but 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 doing homebound communion or the monthly newsletter inputs. With the Sundays I preached along with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve I led 39 worship services in 2017. Outside the time I spent preparing and conducting those services I averaged over the year about 10 hours per week in my pastoral duties in addition to weddings and funerals that I conducted. I would if I could spend more time, but my full-time day job as a program manager for a technology company tends to get in the way!

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

- Pastoral Care – Visited those who were hospitalized or in rehab.
- Baptisms – Camryn and Kristen St. Hilaire-D’Antonio January 29, Jacob Massi (Peter and Emily Massi) May 7, and Scarlett Johnson (Melissa and Keith Johnson) September 10.
- Funerals – Florence Morgan December 30.
- Weddings – Kristen Rogers and Jacob Moorehead (whose son Zachary we baptized September 27, 2015) September 23. (Audrey Russ and Peter Hagstrom wedding is scheduled for July 14, 2018.)
- Membership – We have renewed a couple and lost a couple, but have a few more regular non-member worshippers.
- Stone Storytellers – We had storytelling most every worship service and in addition did the Gospel of Matthew Epic Storytelling on Palm Sunday (April 9) and a shorter reprise April 18 at the PRC (Presbyterian Residential Community).
- Deacons – I continue to work with and rely heavily upon the deacons for the care of our members, particularly the homebound, and for hosting our events. Though I do meet with people, the deacons provide care that I do not have the time for. I was able to get out perform communion for our homebound April 15 and December 23 and hope to do with a little more frequency in 2018.
- Worship, Education, and Program (WEP) team – I continue to work with WEP for us to provide a quality and meaningful worship service, which people tell me we have, and I rely upon Donna Goodfriend to get our pulpit supply, which has included our own Elizabeth Smith and Rob Kolb and has been a blessing.
- Finance Committee – We met with our endowment fund advisors from Wells Fargo in October and made some tweaks to our investments, which continue to perform well. While we did not get an online donation program in place this year, we are on track to do so in 2018.
- Micah & Utica Presbytery – I continue to chair the Micah Committee, which oversees the development of mission within the Presbytery of Utica by receiving applications and making grants for mission projects. Micah also seeks to address social issues including finding ways to promote justice and stewardship. As chair I am also on the Presbytery Coordinating Council and participated in those meetings as well as most presbytery meetings,

conducting worship at the one November 18, which was held at Stone Church and where our own Elizabeth Smith was commissioned as lay pastor for Lyons Fall Presbyterian Church. Also, I continued to work with the Council on a new vision for the presbytery, beyond our bi-monthly meetings. (My term ends in June 2018 and I have to step down from Micah because of the six-year term limit.)

- Clinton Area Ministerium (CAM) – I continue as secretary/treasurer to chair CAM where some of the local clergy meet monthly for breakfast at Lutheran Care to discuss things and plan joint ecumenical activities, such as Lenten study (a five-week video series “Renegade Gospel” by Mike Slaughter where I led the discussion one week), Good Friday noon service (hosted by St. James and I and others participated), Easter Sunrise Service (led by Rev. Janet Griffiths and I and other participated) and Labor Day Sunday service (led by me and others supported).

In addition we decided to hold a community food drive for the Country Pantry, which we did on April 16 collecting 1030 items and \$200 in donations plus \$400 from the bake sale that Stone Church conducted. We are planning to do it again in 2018.

I led the Stone Church hosting the Oneida County Office for Aging and Parkway Center seminar on 1/28/17.

The Methodists led a food-packing event for Rise Against Hunger on September 23 that I and many others from Stone participated in. We plan to make it more community-wide in 2018.

Rev. Gary Cyr, the new rector to St. James Episcopal Church, led a Blessing of the Animals service on the Village Green on October 4 that I participated in along with others.

Gary Cyr and I participated in the first session of the Climate Advisory team on race and religion prejudice with Clinton Central Schools (CCS). This was a result of CCS superintendent Stephen Grimm attending a CAM meeting

after I met him at a Clinton Chamber Networking breakfast and invited him (as well as asking that CCS participate in Rise Against Hunger in 2018).

- Clinton Chamber of Commerce – I have been active with the Chamber and attended most of their networking functions seeking to make Stone Church better known in the community and to be part of the community. This included advertising in the Clinton Guide book.
- Media – I continue to work with Ceil Gilbert in sending out worship service press releases to the Utica O-D and Waterville Times most weeks, though I miss occasionally. In addition I have tried to post regularly to our Facebook page activities we are doing and photos of events. I started to explore doing video and podcasts of at least part of our services, but have not gotten a technology solution yet, which continues to be my goal.
- Other – Then there are a host of other things: conducting a church retreat October 14 with our church leadership in planning for 2018, continuing to work on our sound system, participated in our hiring of our new office manager, ToniAnne Gardiner, with the retirement at the end of June of Peggy Weldon after almost 25 years, which we celebrated at the church picnic July 15, graciously hosted by John and Christine Menard.

With only 30 or so active congregants and limited financial resources, I am joyful in all that the Spirit enables us to do and, as Paul wrote the Colossians, I remind you to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

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

Clerk of the Session Annual Report 2017

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 of 2017.

The Elders include David Duncan, Donna Goodfriend, Emily Hughes, John Menard, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Ann Stiefvater, Peter Massi as Treasurer, Sherry Robinson as Clerk and Scott Leonard, CLP as our Moderator.

For 2017 the Session did not have many items of major business, but continued on the strategy that was set a few years ago and updated during the October 14th 2017 retreat, continuing the growth of our mission and depth of our relationships while planning for the future.

During each meeting the Session votes to accept the Docket before them votes to receive the Treasures report and approves the Session meeting minutes from the prior month.

Here are some highlights from 2017:

January

Business as usual

February

Busy gathering data for the Clergy Compensation worksheet for 2017, I e-mailed it back the stated clerk on March 1st 2017.

During worship on February 12th we had the Ordination for David Duncan and Installation of new Officers: David Duncan, Elder and Helen Leonard, Deacon.

March

The Utica Presbytery did an electronic survey for all the elders to take. Clerk made sure our session participated in the survey.

April

Clerk received notice that Stone Church would be hosting the November 2017 Presbytery Meeting.

May

Business as usual

June

The Session voted and adopted the Child Protection Policy as recommended by the Presbytery of Utica and reported back to the State Clerk.

July and August

We started summer worship on June 25th at Stone Church having a 9:30 am service for 5 Sundays, continuing with an additional 5 Sundays at the Methodist Church in August.

September

The Lay Academy was conducting a survey and requested each member of the Session complete and return the survey to the Clerk of the Session, it was then e-mailed to Naomi Kelly.

October

We received a special “Thank You” from Larry Beasley for Stone Church preparing and hosting the upcoming November Presbytery Meeting.

November

Completed the “Clerks Annual Questionnaire” for 2017

December

Unable to attend the Session Meeting

Meetings

During 2017 Stone Presbyterian Church held its Annual Congressional Meeting on January 22nd 2017 during worship, the congregation voted to dispense the reading of the minutes, voted to accept the minutes of the last congressional meeting and voted to accept the reports as distributed. The congregation voted to accept the budget, the Nomination Committee proposed to elect its slate of officers and the congregation voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The Session held ten (10) regular meetings, one (1) Special Meeting in July and one (1) joint meeting with the Deacons.

Members

In 2017, the Session and Congregation welcomed no new members

Weddings:

September 23, 2017 Rogers / Moorhead Wedding

Baptisms:

September 10th 2017 Zachary James Moorhead

Deaths:

September 29th 2017 Marilyn Butler

December 25th 2017 Florence Morgan

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson

Clerk of Session

Property Committee Report 2017

The Property Committee was very busy again this year in our efforts to maintain and improve the physical facilities of our Church. The list of our activities included:

- Purchase and installation of the new stove for the kitchen in May
- Repainting of the front doors and the ramp door to match
- Cleaning, dusting, and outside landscaping work done by Hamilton College students in August
- Moving and installation of the Poetry Path sign to a new location near the ramp
- Installation of the new Church sign in November to the right of the main entranceway
- A new nozzle was placed on the main boiler for the sanctuary to replace one that had failed
- Placing of new curtains in the windows of the dining room

Early in January of 2018 a new tile floor will be installed in the kitchen by Snyder's Flooring. Next year we are also planning on having the outdoor Church announcement sign refurbished. This is the sign between the entranceway doors where the letters are changed every week.

The committee would like to thank the many members who participated in these projects. We would also like to once again thank our sexton Jesse Miller who continues to be very hard working and real asset to our Church.

Respectfully submitted,

John Menard

John Stiefvater- co chairs of the Property Committee

Finance Committee Annual Report for 2017

The financial state of the church was very favorable in 2017. Though we continue to deficit spend (by plan), this past year we were able to continue to be financially stronger than anticipated, finishing the year -\$14,528 vs. a budgeted -\$35,485, so only 41% of our anticipated deficit. As a result, we also were able to not draw from the endowment funds for a third year in a row. As we know, our financial position remains challenging in the long-term.

In 2017 we were again blessed with higher contribution from pledges than was initially estimated, which is not uncommon for us, as we sometimes receive late pledges or some give without formally pledging.

Regarding Mission income and expense budget for 2017, we used 2016 Actuals (rounded) as a *pro forma* budget for 2017, hoping to more accurately reflect the donations we anticipate giving toward our mission. This being another generous year in our giving, we outspent our estimated mission giving in the budget by roughly 12.5%.

Of particular merit, in 2017 we decided to purchase a new, commercial-level stove in order to replace the previous stove, which could no longer be safely operated. Special donations received toward this cause totaled \$2,955, fully offsetting the unanticipated cost of the new kitchen equipment and allowing us to cook and bake for our fundraisers and events.

Beyond our needs, 2017 also brought devastating weather events across much of the country and beyond. In part of answering the call, our congregation offered financial assistance to those people in need with a total giving of \$1,160 toward disaster relief efforts.

For the 2018 budget the Finance Committee proposed and the Session approved a budget with Total Income \$87,751, Total Expense \$117,932, thus with a deficit of \$30,181. A significant decrease in our per capita spending of 45% has been reflected in the 2018 budget. This was a result of extremely dedicated work back in 2015-16 by the session to rectify our membership roll after two decades. Sherry Robinson, as clerk of session, finished the update to Stone's membership records, and thus we saw a reduced, accurate account of per capita dues to Presbytery.

In 2017 we used \$14,498 from our operating check account and ended the year with at \$16,408. With no need to withdraw funds for the General Fund, our

endowment funds, which are with Wells Fargo, remained in the market. After a strong showing for the stock market, these funds ended the calendar year at \$373,344, a lofty gain of \$60,525 (~ 19%). The Finance Committee did meet with our Wells Fargo advisors in October to review our positions. We agreed to accept their recommendations from that meeting and moved \$65,000 from the smaller of our two funds out of stocks and into bonds to create a more stable asset as protection in the event of a market downturn.

Chris Menard and Ceil Gilbert performed an in-house audit of our books for 2016 with satisfactory findings along with some recommendations to improve the clarity of some reporting. They will continue as our auditors for 2018. Chris has been an invaluable asset in maintaining the integrity of our books to-date. Her expertise and guidance continues to benefit us and we are grateful for her efforts.

Despite our challenges, God continues to bless us with ways to continue our mission as his servants and we look forward to continuing that mission in 2018.

Very respectfully,
David Duncan, Finance Committee Chair
Peter Massi (Treasurer)

Members: Cecilia Gilbert,

	<u>2017 Actuals</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
ADMINISTRATION INCOME			
Deacon Activity Income	209.00		
Estate Donations	600.00	0.00	0.00
Fair Trade Shoppe Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Loose Offering Cash/Checks	7,868.47	5,000.00	7,868.47
Miscellaneous Income			
Disaster Relief	1,160.00		
Meal Contribution/Presbytery	250.00		
Stove	2,955.00		
Miscellaneous Income - Other	1,098.98	500.00	
Total Miscellaneous Income	<u>5,463.98</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>1,100.00</u>
Per Capita	895.50	1,408.00	2,168.10
Pledges	67,599.20	66,996.00	66,368.00
Presbytery Foundation Income	321.00	325.00	321.00
Total ADMINISTRATION INCOME	<u>88,957.15</u>	<u>80,229.00</u>	<u>83,825.57</u>
Deacon Offering	596.44		
MINISTRIES INCOM			
Fundraisers			
Shoppers Stroll	1,440.00		
Total Fundraisers	<u>1,440.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Memorial Fund Income	700.00		
Total MINISTRIES INCOM	<u>2,140.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
MISSION INCOME			
Blanket Sunday	411.00	340.00	400.00
Christmas Joy	146.00	200.00	150.00
Country Pantry Food Bank	897.65	410.00	900.00
General Mission	50.00		900.00
Hope House	893.00	220.00	975.00
Mission Beyond	0.00	398.25	200.00
One Great Hour	973.40	630.00	200.00
PassThrough/Presbytery/HopeHous	283.00		
Peacemaking Income	208.00	160.00	
Your Neighbors	220.00	200.00	
Total MISSION INCOME	<u>4,082.05</u>	<u>2,558.25</u>	<u>3,725.00</u>
STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME			
Building Use	200.00	500.00	200.00
Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME	<u>200.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total Income	<u>95,975.64</u>	<u>83,287.25</u>	<u>87,750.57</u>
Gross Profit	95,975.64	83,287.25	87,750.57
Expense			
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Deacon Activity Expense	694.96		
Membership/Fellowship	45.00	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	125.00	1,000.00	500.00
Office Supplies	4,796.77	5,000.00	5,000.00
Per Capita Tax	3,937.20	3,937.20	2,168.10
Postage	460.42	982.00	460.42
Telephone/Internet	1,497.53	1,500.00	1,497.53
Total ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	<u>11,556.88</u>	<u>12,519.20</u>	<u>9,726.05</u>

	<u>2017 Actuals</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES			
Certified Lay Pastor			
CLP Benefits			
CLP Auto/Professional	439.85	500.00	500.00
CLP Continuing Ed	0.00	250.00	1,000.00
Total CLP Benefits	439.85	750.00	1,500.00
CLP Housing Allowance	19,177.25	20,400.00	21,935.00
CLP Social Security Offset	1,576.46	1,561.00	1,678.00
Certified Lay Pastor - Other	1,430.00		
Total Certified Lay Pastor	22,623.56	22,711.00	25,113.00
Director of Music	14,958.36	14,958.33	15,332.29
New York State Unemployment Ins	352.31	1,200.00	352.31
Office Manager	16,045.82	15,530.52	18,458.02
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	3,104.23	2,900.00	3,104.23
Sexton	5,884.90	7,470.48	7,657.24
CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES - Other	550.80		550.80
Total CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES	63,519.98	64,770.33	70,567.89
MINISTRIES			
Choir Singers	1,448.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Memorial Fund Expense	1,698.80	0.00	0.00
Minister/Music Director Subs			
Music Substitutes	725.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Pulpit Supply	1,380.00	1,925.00	2,100.00
Total Minister/Music Director Subs	2,105.00	2,925.00	3,100.00
Mission Stewardship Support	0.00	100.00	
Music	358.42	350.00	350.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	1,286.00	900.00	900.00
Worship Supplies	0.00	150.00	2,000.00
Worship, Education & Program	183.40	1,000.00	500.00
Total MINISTRIES	7,079.62	7,425.00	8,850.00
MISSION			
Mission & Stewardship Committee	163.33	500.00	300.00
Mission Beyond	916.30	1,300.00	916.30
Mission Projects			
Blanket Sunday	386.00	338.00	400.00
Christmas Joy	0.00	200.00	150.00
Country Pantry Food Bank	280.00	410.00	900.00
Hope House	448.00	220.00	900.00
One Great Hour	973.40	630.00	975.00
Peacemaking	0.00	160.00	200.00
Your Neighbors	1,064.05	200.00	200.00
Total Mission Projects	3,151.45	2,158.00	3,725.00
Pass Through from Presbytery/HH	283.00		
Total MISSION	4,514.08	3,958.00	4,941.30
STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY			
Contingency Repairs Expense	0.00	4,000.00	
Insurance	7,121.68	8,100.00	7,121.68
Maintenance - Church	6,775.06	4,000.00	6,775.00
Utilities - Church	9,936.64	14,000.00	9,950.00
Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY	23,833.38	30,100.00	23,846.68
Total Expense	110,503.94	118,772.53	117,931.92
Net Ordinary Income	-14,528.30	-35,485.28	-30,181.35
Other Income/Expense			
Other Expense			
UNREALIZED GAIN/LOSS ENDOWMENT	-1,384.11	0.00	0.00
UNREALIZED GAIN/LOSS WELLSFARGO	-22,680.39	0.00	0.00
UnrealizedGain/LossNewWellsFarg	-36,460.19	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	-60,524.69	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	60,524.69	0.00	0.00
Net Income	45,996.39	-35,485.28	-30,181.35

Worship, Education & Program Annual Report

On January 28th, our church sponsored a living Healthy Seminar put on by Carol Nettleton from the Oneida County Office for the Aging, and De Zampardi from the Parkway Center. We enjoyed hearing about opportunities for healthy living.

We began the Lenten season with a pancake supper and a candlelight service of prayer, silence and ashes at 6p.m. on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. We enjoyed the Lenten Garden with weekly disciplines from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The Lenten Series was hosted by St. James Episcopal Church and was well attended by all the area churches. Each church took a turn providing a soup and bread supper and ministers from different local churches led discussions each Wednesday during Lent. The series was based on the video “Renegade Gospel the Rebel Jesus” and ran weekly from March 8th to April 5th.

We had a treat on March 12th when the Hamilton College Choir under the direction of our own Rob Kolb came to sing at our morning service. They are a marvelous group and filled the sanctuary with their powerful and wonderful music. It was a joy to have them here!

On Palm Sunday April 9th, the Stone Storytellers performed their Epic Telling of the Gospel of Matthew. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Tellers also performed an edited version of it at the Presbyterian Residential Community.

On Maundy Thursday, we had a special service. The Storytellers told the Passion as we moved around the church, extinguishing candles after each station. We ended in darkness, singing the 3rd verse of “Go to Dark Gethsemane” and left in silence. It was a meaningful service for those who came.

Good Friday’s ecumenical service was hosted by St. James Episcopal Church followed by a light luncheon.

Our 7 a.m. ecumenical sunrise service on The Green was well attended. The weather was warm and 65° as we watched the sun rise.

The Worship, Education and Program (WEP) Committee cooperated with the Mission and Outreach Committee to put on a Lunch and Learning Series in the spring. These events were well attended and very interesting! April 30th, Scott Leonard presented a talk on “Marriage: What’s Love got to do with it”. May 21st, Elizabeth Smith told us about her experiences in her Prison Ministry (“The Least of These”). June 4th Kelli Corasanti gave a talk on “Healthy Living begins in your heart”.

We combined services with the United Methodists in July and August as we have done for many years. We met at Stone in July with Scott Leonard preaching. In August we met at the United Methodist Church with Jeff Hale preaching.

On October 1st we participated in an ecumenical event called “The Blessing of the Animals” that was led by Reverend Gary Cyr, minister of St. James Episcopal Church. Elizabeth Smith, Emily Hughes and Scott Leonard from Stone and Reverend Janet Griffiths from Lutheran Care and Reverend Jean Skinner from St. Marks helped with the planning and execution of the event.

We celebrated All Saints / All Souls Day in the Norton Room on November 5th as the furnace in the sanctuary wasn’t working and it was very cold. Many brought pictures of loved ones they wanted to honor.

Our Bible Study ran from January to June and was enjoyed by those who attended. We were unable to show the movie “The Shack” this fall due to technical difficulties and schedule conflicts. On December 11th those who have seen the movie prior began discussions and will continue after the New Year. Look for details in January.

We continue to offer Sunday school when children come to church, children 4 years and older are welcome.

We had an excellent year at our “Christmas on the Corner” event which is part of the “Shoppers Stroll”. The 7C’s Café was open as well as the bake shop and the Fair Trade Shoppe. Rob Kolb held a Christmas carol sing in the Sanctuary, followed by the St. Mary’s Choir.

Our Advent offerings were as follows’:

- Hope: December 3rd to support Hope House
- Peace: December 10th to benefit The Presbyterian Mission Agency and World Wide Peacekeeping and Global Witness.
- Joy: December 17th to support Retired Clergy and Presbyterian Education and Scholarships
- Love: December 24th to purchase Bibles for the Prison inmates.

As Christmas Eve Day was a Sunday, we had two services, our regular morning service as well as our Christmas Eve Service.

We continue to be an active, serving and joyous community of God!

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goodfriend

Mission, Stewardship and Support 2017

2017 saw a variety of Mission activities within our congregation. As ever, our congregation is hard-working and charitable in support of various agencies, sharing the grace and riches bestowed upon each of us by a loving and generous God. Our relatively small size has made us more mindful of our priorities and focused in our giving. By joining with others, we do in partnership what none of us could have hoped to do as well alone.

To this end, we undertook:

To support **Disaster Relief efforts** coordinated by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. 2017 was a year fraught with natural disasters, both in the United States and in the world at large. Our congregation has provided generous financial assistance – over \$550 -to the various regions affected by horrific panoply of events.

Support for the Your Neighbors service designed to provide nourishing, easily heated meals for the homebound. In May 2017, we prepared and packaged 140 meals for Your Neighbors clients. Additionally, we have \$220 in donations towards our next meal effort.

Ongoing contributions to The Country Pantry, our Clinton area food bank. Judy LaGasse continues as our liaison to the Country Pantry. We have responded to both special requests and normal monthly stocking with loving generosity. Not only have we provided quantities of food, but Stone Church has also donated funds with which the Pantry can purchase bulk goods to distribute to the increasing number of people utilizing their services. The third Sunday of each month, our loose is earmarked for the Country Pantry. During this year, the financial gifts of our members and friends have enabled us to provide \$805 for those needing help to feed themselves and their families.

Assistance to Hope House in feeding and sheltering those without either homes or adequate meals. Ceil Gilbert organizes our participation at **Hope House**. On the fourth Monday of each month, a team from Stone Church helps prepare and serve an evening meal. Additionally, our congregation provides toiletries and other supplies for Hope House clients.

Monies raised by our annual **Chocolate Lover's Sale**, held for Valentine's Day, were designated for Hope House. This sale, organized by Ceil Gilbert with support from The Fair Trade Shoppe, The Women's Association and the entire congregation, netted \$360. Our first Advent offering was designated for Hope House as was half of the Christmas Eve offering. These offerings plus the Valentine's Day receipts enabled us to donate over \$690 to Hope House in 2017.

Participation in Church World Service's Blanket and Tool campaign. Father's Day, June 18, 2017, was designated "Blanket and Tool" Sunday. Our special offering of \$410 helped to provide: blankets, tents, food and emergency supplies; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells to provide clean, safe drinking water and water to irrigate crops and gardens for families living in drought prone areas; literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

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

Contributions during special offerings such as the Presbyterian Mission Agency's **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Our gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enabled our church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by assisting this agency which provides food and resources to empower the poor and oppressed. Our congregation's donation of \$970 was added to the donations of churches throughout the world in support of this endeavor.

Support for Prison Ministry. Elizabeth Smith works tirelessly in support of Prison Ministry, a program bringing God's word and hope to the incarcerated. Our fourth Advent Offering will be used to purchase Bibles for use in the area prisons.

Additionally, the Mission committee worked to encourage members and friends of Stone Church to participate in our stewardship campaign – “**The Lord is My Shepherd**”- which culminated in a special Consecration Sunday service on November 12, 2017. This service was followed by a celebratory luncheon attended by a congenial group of members and friends. As ever, the support for our Church and its mission was evident by the care and generosity exhibited during all stewardship activities.

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

Mary Ann Stiefvater

Membership, Communication and Outreach **(MCO) Report 2017**

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:

- We promote a sense of community through personal relationships within the congregation and try to plan events.
- We oversee the communications of the church including productions of “The Cornerstone, the Stone Church website, bulletin board, publicity for church events.
- Oversee the work of the Office Manager and primary personnel contact.
- We seek to look at the ministry of the church through the eyes of the outsider to help make our church a visitor friendly time with first time visitors.

Throughout the year we try to remind folks to wear their name tags on Sunday mornings not so much for ourselves but for our visitors and how important it is.

We follow up with either notes or emails to new visitors when applicable. (A special thank you to Sue Forbes as she made some lovely notes cards with a picture of our church on the front and we have been using these note cards to welcome our visitors.)

We try to cover any of our events or happenings with pictures for the newsletter or Website. We were able to get pictures to tell our story throughout 2017. Ceil did a great job updating the website with pictures and getting releases for the pie sale, the shoppers stroll, the fair trade shop advertising.

In November 2017 during the shoppers stroll our team volunteered time at the Fair Trade Shoppe, assisted in the kitchen working at the Seven C’s Café, others made Christmas cookies for selling and there was a lot of advertising done to get the word out.

Our committee was responsible for working on the Christmas appreciation gifts for our Church Staff.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson, Moderator

Nominating Committee Minutes

November 2017

The Nominating Committee met on November 5, 2017. In attendance were Elizabeth Smith, Chair; Jim Gavett (Deacon), Hal Rance, Linda Rance, Lora Schilder (absent), Members-at-large.

The meeting was opened in prayer offered by Elizabeth Smith. Names were offered up by the committee and contact assignments were given out.

After all contacts were made in a timely fashion, everyone on our list kindly declined. The discussion was then brought to Session and people were willing to step in for the short term.

This committee prayerfully recommends the following members for Session; Peter Massi (2020) graciously stated that he would serve for a second three-year term, John Stiefvater (2018) said that he would be willing to serve a one-year term, and John Menard (2018) kindly stated that he would serve for one-year term. Donna Goodfriend is stepping off Session as she has served many consecutive terms. Elizabeth Smith is leaving Session due to her recent Commission as Pastor to Forest Presbyterian Church in Lyon Falls, NY.

This committee prayerfully recommends the following members for Deacons; Mary Chamberlin (2020) has kindly agreed to stay on for another three-year term, Hal Rance (2020) and Linda Rance (2020) have faithfully stepped in to serve on Deacons after time off.

The committee also recommends for the 2018 Nominating Committee members-at-large; Donna Goodfriend and Ceil Gilbert. (Separately, the Board of Deacons voted for Grace Whitemore to be their representative and the Session voted for Emily Hughes to be their representative and their chair.)

During the course of this committee's investigation; Lora Schilder, Lauralyn Kolb, Pat Joseph, Ann Dunn mentioned that they would be willing to serve in the future.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following:

Deacons

Installed

Class of 2018

Gary LaGasse	725-2117/2015	2/24/13
		jlagasse@roadrunner.com
Judy LaGasse	725-2217	2/24/13
		jlagasse@roadrunner.com
Bev Miller	853-2548	2/24/13
		bevmill@gmail.com

Class of 2019

Jim Gavett	723-6146	2017
		jwgavett@gmail.com
Helen Leonard	737-7671	2017
		hleonard@roadrunner.com
Grace Whittemore	853-6652	2017
		gracetw@roadrunner.com

Class of 2020

Mary Chamberlain	853-5077	2/15/15
		mchamberlain6780@gmail.com
Linda Rance	797-0737	
		halinrance@gmail.com
Hal Rance	797-0737	
		halinrance@gmail.com

Nominating Committee 2018

Chair from Session

Emily Hughes

Deacon

Grace Whittemore

Members –at- large

Donna Goodfriend

Ceil Gilbert

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Smith

Board of Deacons 2017

Serving this year:

Mary Chamberlin, Jim Gavett, Gary LaGasse, Judy LaGasse, Helen Leonard, Emily Massi, Bev Miller, Brooke Villiere and Grace Whittemore.

Jim Gavett – Treasurer

Judy LaGasse, Mary Chamberlin – Co-chairs

The Deacons visited the homebound members during the 2017 year.

Grace Whittemore is writing an article for the Deacons each month in the Corner Stone.

Easter and Christmas cards were sent to the homebound members signed by church members.

Sympathy, get well, thank you and thinking of you cards were also sent.

Judy & Gary LaGasse are the liaisons for the Country Pantry; they put announcements in the bulletin and monthly newsletter, they requested food and other items needed by the pantry. Loose change on the third Sunday of the month is donated to the Country Pantry.

Easter flowers were ordered and any designated for the homebound were promptly delivered. Christmas poinsettias were ordered again this year. A rose for the Baptism of Jacob Massi was placed on the altar; additionally two roses were placed on the altar for the baptisms of Camryn and Kristen St. Hilarie – D’Antonio.

In addition to sponsoring the “Coffee Hour” every Sunday, the Deacons have participated in the coordination and assisted in activities during the year:

1. Birthday cake for Midge Bakos
2. Celebration of baptisms
3. Soup, bread and cookies for the Lenten series located at St. James Church
4. Refreshments for Epic Storytelling in April

5. Presbytery Woman's meeting in October the Deacons and other members of the church supplied food and drink.
6. Presbytery meeting in November the Deacons in conjunction with members of the church prepared and served the luncheon.

We have a wonderful group of Deacons who are always on the ready; they are willing to help any member of our church or our community with any event. It has been a pleasure to work beside them this year.

Thank You Deacons, for you do.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Chamberlin, Co-chair.

Board of Deacons **Financial Report**

Income:

First Sunday Offering	\$531.44
Individual Donations	\$100.00
Flower Sales	<u>\$496.50</u>
Total:	\$1127.94

Expense:

Cakes / Baptisms	\$233.68
Flowers	\$455.98
Coffee	\$50.00
Tea Pot	\$19.77
Candles / Lunch	\$63.52
Total:	\$863.95

Balance as of 12/31/2017 **\$688.38**

Submitted by:

James Gavett
Deacons Treasurer

Memorial Committee Annual Report 2017

The highlight of 2017 has been the design and installation of an outdoor sign identifying our building. It is on the lawn space adjacent to Williams Street. The blue background picks up the colors in the double arched stained glass windows under the clock tower.

A local Clinton business, ProForma Full Circle, produced the sign. They assisted on our appropriate design, material and placement, all under our \$3,000.00 budget.

Second, we received a generous bequest from Gil Weil for a musical tribute in memory of his sister, Shirley Sollinger. Rob Kolb, our Music Director selected a handsome piano bench for the sanctuary piano.

A third gift, from Roberta Ferris, is a reproduction of an oil painting by artist, Andrea Canham entitled COMMUNION. We have hung it in the Pastor's study.

Finances

Balance as of 12/31/2017	\$3,896.43
Income / Donations	<u>\$600.00</u>
Total	\$4,496.43

Expenses

Donna Goodfriend (Furniture)	\$449.00
Center Stage Piano	\$642.60
Speedy Engraving	<u>\$7.20</u>
Total	-\$1,098.80
Balance 12/26/2017	<u>\$3,919.18</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Hughes
Memorial Committee

Annual Report 2017

Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe

Our shop has had another incredible year with sales since January 1, 2016, totaling \$29,658.54. This is \$2,249.61 more than we sold in 2016, and only \$1,271.22 less than we sold in 2015. The success of the shop is beyond our wildest dreams of a few years ago, and confirms our belief that God continues to bless this enterprise and has a purpose for Stone Presbyterian Church to continue in its current location.

Much of our profit this year has again gone right back into purchasing more items. We made a contribution of \$980 toward the cost of the church's new security system, and continued with our monthly contributions of \$500 to the church to help with the cost of utilities. We are happy to report that we reached our goal of sending \$1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and another \$1000 to the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. We raised \$360 for the Life School in Guatemala by selling items Anne and Paul Dunn brought home with them. Anne and Paul Dunn volunteer at Life School when they are there, so this made a nice extension of our shop. In addition, we donated items to fundraisers for Vanderkamp and for the Neighborhood Center.

The shop has become a major mission of our congregation, and this could not happen without the dedication of a core group of individuals, with additional help from others as they are able. Mary Chamberlain did all the scheduling of workers, and kept the place clean. Ceil Gilbert handles the publicity and audits the books. David and Carol White pack up the shop and take items to various places for off-site sales. Mary and David also help me keep the computer inventory up to date and items scanned into the computer. Emily Hughes brings her years of experience working in retail to help us better display our merchandise. Pat and Buzz Joseph, David and Carol White, Ceil Gilbert, Mary Chamberlain, Emily Hughes, Barb Greene, and Peggy Weldon are the core groups who volunteer countless hours working when the shop is open, and who also schlep items across the street to the Village Green for the Farmer's Market. Scott Leonard helps with all the iPad and internet issues, and Shelley Coe has handled the taxes. Gerry Gogel, Helen Leonard, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Leonard, Bev Miller, Grace Whittemore, Ann Dunn, Patty Kloidt, Patricia Harris, Sarah Miller and Julie Rand

also volunteer. Thank you, one and all. If you would like to join us in this endeavor, please let me know. We can always use more helpers.

As I read the year-end greetings from our various suppliers, I am struck by how important this work is. The companies we work with do far more than sell products to us. UPAVIM, for example, runs a Montessori Day Care Program in which students are learning to read and do basic addition before graduating to kindergarten. They also have a school for children K-6th and a library. Six years ago, BeadforLife began the Street Business School, which gives entrepreneurial training and mentoring to impoverished women. Not only does this program now serve more women than does the Bead jewelry program, they have begun sharing their model with non-profits worldwide. It is humbling to realize how God is using us to make such a difference in the world for so many people.

Listed below is a summary of the year's activity

Category	Items sold	Gross sales
Uncategorized	15	\$212.00
B4L	244	\$2,372.00
EE	447	\$1,732.48
MAGGIES	308	\$4,106.00
MHANDS	148	\$1,865.00
PJT	291	\$1,780.00
PalCraftaid	119	\$843.00
SERRV	502	\$6,661.67
TTV	548	\$7,266.68
UPAVIM	331	\$2,555.00
WBP	56	\$281.00
LIFE SCHOOL	152	\$460.70
		<u>\$3,161</u>
Total		\$30,135.53

Discounts	(\$406.99)
Refunds	<u>(\$70.00)</u>
Net sales	\$29,658.54

Thank you all for an exciting year.

In Christ's service,

Lauralyn Kolb

Shop Manager

Women's Association-2017

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

In February, we contributed \$62.17 to have our sandwich board updated for the Chocolate Lover's Sale. We also donated \$300 toward the cost of the new stove in the kitchen.

In May, we held our Annual Spring Pie Sale. With the generous donations from folks in our congregation and the generous donation of time and supplies by Donna Goodfriend, we were able to generate total sales of \$672. Our "drive-thru" pies concept continues to be a huge success.

In June, we contributed \$62.18 to have our sandwich board updated for our Pie Sale.

On October 11th, we hosted the meeting of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery. We provided them with coffee, rolls and munchkins in the morning and also luncheon at noon consisting of quiche, tossed salad, fruit salad, jello salad and cookies. Susan Smith, from the Community of Living Traditions at Stony Point Center, gave a very informative talk regarding refugees and what we can do to help them. They gave us a donation of \$140 to cover our costs.

On October 21st, we held our Harvest Pie Sale. We were blessed to have many donations of all kinds of pies and other delicious goodies from our congregation, which allowed us to raise a total of \$840. Again, huge thanks go to Donna Goodfriend, who tirelessly baked pies all day the Friday before and also again on Saturday morning. People loved buying a warm pie just out of the oven. And our "drive-thru" pies concept was again a big success.

In December, we contributed \$196.61 to purchase new curtains for the dining room downstairs. We were able to donate \$100 each to the Abraham House, the Rescue Mission of Utica, the Thea Bowman House and the Neighborhood Center. We also donated \$500 toward gifts for our Christmas families and \$20 toward staff year-end gifts.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ceil Gilbert, Secretary/Treasurer

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
TREASURER'S REPORT-2017

Balance as of 1/1/2017 1062.26

RECEIPTS

Spring Pie Sale	672.00
Pres. Women's Mtg. donation	140.00
Harvest Pie Sale	840.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS 1652.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Sandwich board updates	124.35
Donation toward new stove	300.00
New curtains in dining room	196.61
Christmas families	500.00
Abraham House	100.00
Rescue Mission of Utica	100.00
Thea Bowman House	100.00
Neighborhood Center	100.00
Staff year-end gifts	20.00
Pledge to Pres. Women of the Pres.	200.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (1740.96)

Balance as of 12/31/2017 973.30

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert
Secretary/Treasurer