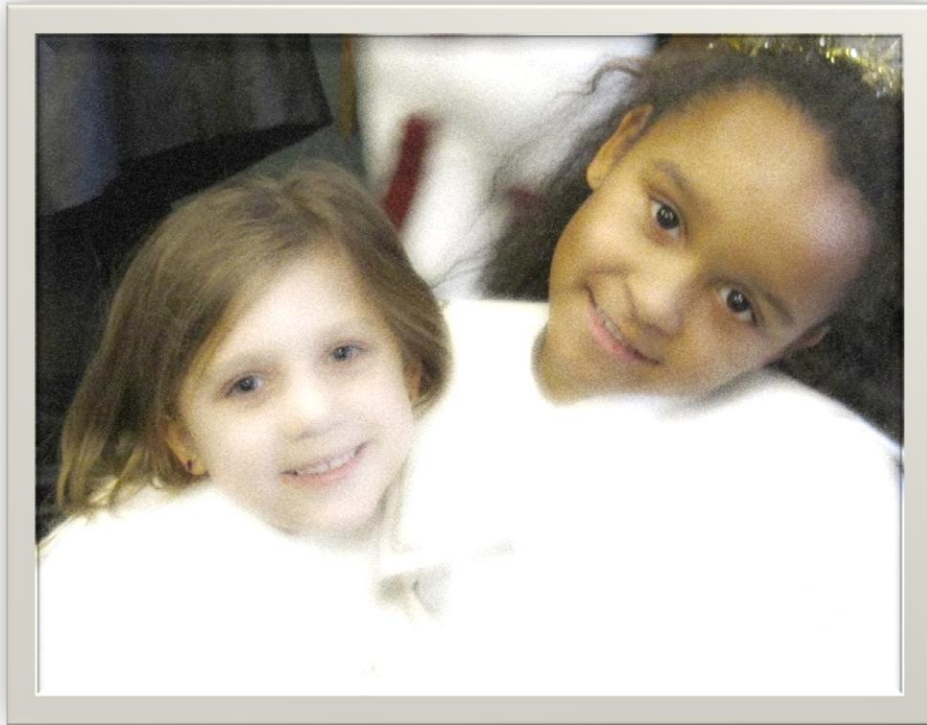


Many Hearts, One Mission



North Presbyterian Church *Annual Report 2013*

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Session Unicameral Board

The Reverend William T. Hennessy,
Pastor/Head of Staff. Moderator

2014

Colin Drury
Jeff Faunce
Leigh Gaskill
Chad Kahler
Nancy Shelton

2015

Casey Bigler
Randy Bigler
Duncan Hemink
Chris Gunther
Garidith Khayat

2016

Sue D'Angelo
Jeff Ebsary
Brad Hahn
Linda Gowans

Clerk of Session: Sylvia Bigler
Treasurer: Ann Eisenlord

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Rob Powell

2014

Marilyn Andujar
Cindy Ebsary
Scott Marshall
Carol Meyers

2015

Jo Yorko
Rob Powell
Heather Randall
Viki Komjathy

2016

Kerri Bigler
Sheridan Skura
Emily Shelton
Karen Hopkins

Ministers: The Congregation

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Marlene Harrington, Director of Music & Organist

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Olivia Ebsary, Director of Sacred Dance

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Judy Blackchief, Bookkeeper

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Mary Mohlke, Artist-in-Residence

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On the cover: Lucy Yorko (left) and Olivia McLeod, who were star angels in the 2013 children's pageant

Pastor/Head of Staff

Each year in my annual report I try to highlight what I feel are some of the most significant accomplishments in our life as a congregation. And each year my efforts fall short of truly capturing what our life together is really like. Invariably I leave out certain events or programs that deserve to be mentioned, and ultimately I can never convey the importance of the care we give one another through the losses we experience individually and communally; yet such care is the heart and soul of who we are. So let me highlight just a few items, knowing that there is much more happening here.

The Family Justice Center

Beginning in January of 2013, the Session began seriously wrestling with the decision to convert the church's manse into a satellite for the Family Justice Center. Several people in the congregation were already advocating this and through a joint proposal from our Mission and Property committees had recommended this be done. After a visit on Sunday afternoon, January 6th, to the downtown facility, many Session members were impressed with the need that exists in our part of the community for this service.

Nonetheless, it was a long process of working closely with a larger coalition of local churches, petitioning for re-zoning from the Town of Amherst, informing neighbors of our plans, and designing a lease both we and the Family Justice Center could agree to before we could finally make the conversion. The actual work on the



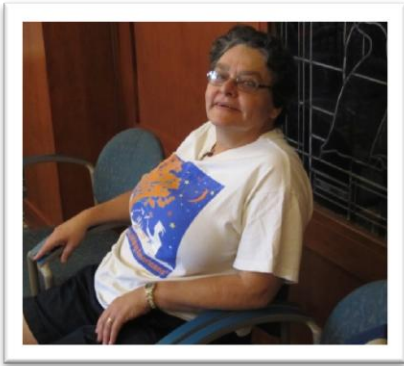
building to re-fit it for use as a satellite was done through a broad collection of volunteers from other congregations, civic groups and North Church. It was a marvel of cooperative community effort, and the result is a beautiful place of rest and hope for people seeking to escape abusive homes. For many of us here that conversion has been an exercise in faith, prayer and sweat that, while at times frustrating, has renewed our hope in the church's call to be relevant in the world. On November 9th we celebrated the ribbon-cutting ceremony (photo

below) on the newly renovated Northtowns Family Justice Center satellite and on January 27th of this year the doors will open to receive clients for the first time. This is an accomplishment we all should be very proud of.

Lilly Endowment Foundation Grant

In April of 2013 a small team of folks submitted an application for a renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment Foundation to allow us to pursue a period of renewal during the summer of 2014. My plans for renewal include a week in a Franciscan monastery and a family trip to Ireland, Scotland and

Germany in July. The focus of my time will be on Irish traditional music and Celtic spirituality. Here at North, renewal will begin with a visit from the Rev. John Bell, former director of music and worship at the Iona Abbey in Scotland. Iona is a center for Celtic spirituality and worship, and John Bell is the author of much of their music. He will lead us in learning how to sing together as a congregation and in exploring the ways Celtic spirituality can help deepen our life together. The remainder of the summer will be spent putting into practice what



John will teach us through various activities.

I am very appreciative of North's willingness to allow me to take this time. It is a unique and exciting opportunity for me and my family. It's also an opportunity for the whole congregation to explore a different perspective on our faith and discover how the Celtic stream of our tradition can inform and shape our understanding of God.

North Church: A Vital Place

North Church is a vital and exciting place, open to new opportunities for outreach and new ways of thinking about how best to convey God's love and compassion in the world. I appreciate so much the

intellectual curiosity I find here and the freedom we give each other to engage and be engaged by the Holy Spirit, who continually molds us in Christ's image. I'm thankful each day to be here and I'm looking forward to the years that lie ahead for us.

I'm thankful, too, for the wonderful people I work with each day. Cynthia, Peter, Mike, Marlene, Judy, Regina, Olivia, Marty, Mary, and Tara are a marvelous team of loving, committed, and creative individuals who make my work easy and bless our life together in countless ways. Yet even such a fine staff of people is nothing without the generosity and love of our wider congregation.

Our life together sustains each one of us individually, and as a community we are making a difference in the world around us. As ever, I encourage you all to remember, as Paul writes,

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything



worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen...and the peace of God will be with you."

(Phil. 4:8-9)

Soli Deo

Gloria!

Respectfully and joyfully submitted,
William T. Hennessy
Pastor



Where is the vision?

A Response from Session

Through the diligent efforts of the Visioning Committee, and guided in part by the visit of Ken McFayden in the spring of 2012, we believe that we have gained the ability to better reflect on ourselves as a church. We are encouraged to think more deeply about the “Why do we do this?” question that Ken McFayden posed to us. Many people here have many different answers to the question of why we do things as a church, as was made readily apparent during the workshops Ken McFayden conducted. When groups of people share similar answers to that “Why?” question, they find themselves gathered around a common purpose, and are inspired to act on that mutual passion.

Having wrestled with the concept of ‘visioning’ as a church for several years now, the Session has come to the conclusion that composing a concrete set of objectives to create a ‘vision’ is not the most effective strategy for discerning what North Church will look like in the future. Instead, what we have come to realize is that the church grows best organically, as groups of people who are passionate about a particular issue come together and make something happen.

We’ve seen this organic process at work with the success of our involvement with Dress-a-Girl, Habitat for Humanity, and Friends of Night People—all programs that have become an integral part of our identity as a community of faith. We’ve seen it at work with our earth care certification, and with the recent development of the

manse into the Northtowns location of the Family Justice Center. We can see it in progress with the upcoming COLLAGE program on Harry Potter, which begin in January of 2014. Indeed, many programs of North Church have come about in this organic way, such as the Men’s Group, which was started by a small group of men who wanted to share in fellowship, and did the work to make that group the successful ongoing program that it is.

This natural process is what we believe has happened in all of the programs mentioned above, and many more throughout the church’s history, even if it was never explicitly acknowledged at the time. Ken McFayden’s guidance, combined with the Visioning Committee’s work, has provided us with the capacity to understand this. As a result of this understanding of church growth as an organic process, we feel that we have become more accepting of change as a congregation, and furthermore feel more empowered to enact change. The results in just the year and a half since Ken McFayden visited us are truly impressive—there is a wide consensus that you can feel the very culture of North Church changing in a positive direction, becoming more energetic, generous, and optimistic.

The Session recognizes that there is a need for a group that is concerned with the future of the congregation, be it five, 10, or 20 years down the road. Upon reflection of its own role, as described by the Book of Order, the Session is the best group to be responsible for considering the future of the congregation in broad terms. Members of Session are elected to guide the

congregation, and in fulfilling that responsibility they already consider the future impact of the decisions that they make regarding finances, programs, and the congregation’s role in the community.

The programs of the church continue to be coordinated primarily through the various committees. Session already brings together all of these diverse voices, particularly now that Session committee assignments have been restructured so that Session members are not necessarily tied to a specific committee, but rather move among several committees to bring with them a broader perspective. Session can, and should, see the ‘big picture’ of what the church is doing in its ministries, and then allocate resources and support accordingly to committees and groups focused on particular ministries or projects, who in turn determine the details. Session works best when it operates in this way.

Therefore, Session tasks itself with being the stewards of the church’s vision. Session will seek to encourage and support individuals and groups in the church in new or revitalized ministries. Members of the congregation are invited to bring forward their own ideas for North Church to program committees or to the Session, which will strive to support all ideas that are consistent with the church’s mission. To extend the metaphor of the church growing organically: members of the congregation, brought together by a shared passion and purpose, sow the seeds; Session can be the trellis that supports the vine as it grows; and the whole church—and often the wider community—enjoys the fruit that comes as a result.

Director of Youth, Children, and Family Ministry

“Blessings” and “trials” would be my words for 2013. There have been many of the former and unfortunately more than a few of the latter, but as both a staff member and member of this congregation, sharing in them both has definitely been a growing experience.

For trials, it started early as my father passed away in January. I would hardly say this was a blessing, but it served as a reminder to me that a minister is just a member of the flock as well, and shares in the same personal trials as everyone else. This is especially relevant to 2013, as more members of this congregation have lost beloved family members. As a congregation we laugh together, and we also grieve together.

On a more upbeat personal note, I also gained a deeper empathy for those families who must balance multiple children and priorities. My own gorgeous daughter Willow is a continual blessing to Tara and me and along with big brother Kade, we have learned new meaning around the phrase “busy family schedule.” The Martins, along with all the other young families, are indebted to **Regina Koteris** and her work in the nursery. I may be her supervisor in terms of job description, but I consider her a valuable collaborator in taking care of Kade for an hour (sometimes more) every Sunday morning.



The rest of the staff family has been a huge source of blessing, both personally and in church service. To single out just a few, I have felt privileged to work with **Cynthia Machamer** and her efficiency, honesty, and even-keeled temperament through all the busy administrative tasks that we share and the countless more

that she shoulders on her own; and **Marty Shafer**, whom I regard as my co-worker in the children and youth ministry, who has provided many, many years of friendship and leadership to the children and youth ministry, while the rest of the staff has been in transition around her.

To name one prominent blessing/trial, this congregation sponsored not one but two summer trips for our older youth fellowship—a journey to faraway Texas to partner with First Presbyterian Church of Dallas and participating with the rest of our denomination in the 2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. As more than a few people remarked, this was an ambitious undertaking, and I definitely know I would have been in over my head if were not for such a hard-working group of volunteers and a supportive congregation.

The financial giving was hugely important, but in my opinion even more critical were the adults who gave of themselves and their time to attend these trips as chaperones. Special thanks to the six adults (several of whom also serve our families on the Youth and Kids Ministry Teams) who were willing to come to north central Indiana and Dallas, TX. (See photo at left.) Just as importantly, they modeled the kind of intergenerational ministry that our Vision Statement (see page 8) talks about—where our youth trips and all the other programs don’t belong to anyone person or group, but to the whole congregation.

Of course, there’s more to our youth, children, and family ministry than just these summer trips, as critical as that is. I have been blown away this year by the support and enthusiasm of all our participants of all the ages. The **latest class we confirmed in April** has been particularly unified and enthusiastic in their pursuit of learning more about the body of Jesus Christ, **the high school church school** program has seen an attendance high this last fall, and the **Club 456** youth group has shown the whole congregation that the future of our youth fellowship is very bright. And of course, there’s a lot more to mention, but fortunately, God’s blessings can’t be confined to one page!

These blessings, along with a few trials, were even more pronounced in 2013 than they were in 2012. I may be writing about these as both a family person and church staff, but I believe the whole congregation can claim that,

too. May we face 2014 together with a sense of readiness, knowing that trials are coming but even greater blessings are coming with them.

Galatians 6:9-10

Submitted by Peter Martin

Confirmation

As a congregation we are continuing to reevaluate the confirmation program and its goals. **Peter Martin** is now in his fourth year as the primary confirmation teacher, and this year **Shevaun Donelli O'Connell** has joined as co-teacher. She has drafted initial goals and objectives for confirmation, which were endorsed by Session, and she is gathering data to help assess how effectively class activities target those goals. At the end of the program, Shevaun and Peter will make a plan for improvement and will report assessment results to Session. **Mary Mohlke**, previously a long term director for this program, continues to contribute as a guest teacher for special activities.

Special thanks to **Linda Gowans** for her work in the program the last two years and all her tireless work behind the scenes and as a ready participant in class. In our quest to provide a complete education for our young people, the confirmands will participate in events at St. Theodore Orthodox Church and Temple Beth Zion. The class will again be visiting St. Joseph's University Parish to fellowship with our Catholic brethren in Christ and Lafayette Ave. Presbyterian to help an urban church in our denomination.

Once again, the emphasis is on God's story and family, so please keep the 2014 Confirmation Class in prayer as they learn what it means to be a part of the family of Jesus Christ and a member of North Church. They are **Aaron Boos, Cooper Heck, Madison Kahler, and their mentors.**



Confirmation Class 2013: Front row, from left, are Joseph Fronczak, Kaitlyn Khayat, and Abby Larson; back row, from left, Will Schultz and Andy Shelton

Our Children and Youth programs exist:

- To create the kind of community that Jesus founded
- To show that church is a relevant and fun place
- To take Jesus' mission of care for the poor and afflicted to those near and far

So . . .

- We spend time studying God's Word to us—the Bible, believing that it's an exciting and relevant book and can change lives.
- We do fun things! Because Christians should be the first people in line to enjoy the life and world God has given us.
- We participate in church events sharing our gifts with the rest of the congregation, because we are all in a community at North Church—children, youth & adults.
- We participate in mission opportunities both near and far throughout the whole year.
- And the whole family is invited to many events, because parents, brothers, and sisters are a part of the family of Christ too.

Our programs include but aren't limited to:

- Children & Youth Choir
- Sunday School in 3 groups: all of which seek to teach about our faith and church
 - 4 years old to 3rd grade
 - 4th-8th grade
 - 9th-12th grade
- Club 456 (our 4th-6th grade fellowship) and Junior/Senior High Youth Group, which seek to teach in more informal and interactive ways, both of which gather monthly
- Our Junior & Senior Highers participate in local mission projects throughout the year and in an annual weeklong summer mission project

Kids Ministry Team (KMT)

Curriculum Changes

In 2013, we transitioned to a new curriculum, “Feasting on the Word,” published by the Presbyterian Church USA. Prior to the advent of “Feasting on the Word,” there was not an established curriculum that addressed the needs of our program, and we had been creating our own curriculum model: developing activities around Bible stories and themes for younger children (3 years through 3rd grade) and focusing on one book of the Bible for older children (4th through 8th grade.)

“Feasting on the Word” provides a great thematic curriculum that is adaptable to the wide range of ages in our church, and it follows the lectionary. This is a great benefit because the children are discussing the same themes and passages that are used in worship each week.

Feedback from teachers has been very positive. As Debbie Hutton mentioned, “The new curriculum allows us even more flexibility to use what is provided or to add our own ideas/ creative activities. It follows the same stories and Bible readings as the congregation, which is great for parent-child interaction and reinforcement at home.”

Third-Grade Bible Presentation

We had two third-graders who received Bibles. Due to the low number of children in the grade and the conflicting schedules of the families involved, we did not offer a Bible Breakfast as in past years. Instead, we will invite the (now 4th grade) children to the 2014 event that will feature an opportunity for the congregation to suggest their favorite Bible passages and create bookmarks to share with the children and help them learn meaningful passages. This year’s Bible presentation celebration will take place on January 26, 2014.

Sunday School Volunteers

We continued to offer collaboration luncheons prior to the start of each Sunday school session, providing an opportunity for teacher volunteers to meet each other, share some fellowship, and connect on their planning efforts for the session. Chris Gunther has graciously provided our delicious luncheons, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to her!

We extend our gratitude to the following volunteers who taught Sunday school during 2013. Our program could not continue without your help.

Debbie & Tim Hutton
Lauren Stirling
Tara Martin

Wayne & Kennedy Schultz
Dawn & Kevin Heck
Anne McIlroy
Bob & Marcy Monin
Jessica Kranso
Debi Bramson
Kerri & Casey Bigler
Jo Yorko
Erin, Ashtyn & Madison Kahler
Ed Eisenlord
Marty Larson
Beth Vandenberg
Lynda, Callie & Chrissy Roemer
Wendy & Tim Ayler
Karen & Jon Roesser
Viki Komjathy
Sue D’Angelo

We would also like to recognize Gretchen Orlando for her 12-year tenure on the Kids Ministry Team. Her biblical knowledge, love of God and her church and her desire to share her time and talents with many children throughout the years has been greatly appreciated. Thank you, Gretchen!

We continue to have some problems recruiting sufficient teachers for both the North and South sides. The committee continues to fill in where needed, and we have tried to communicate clearly the benefits and responsibilities of participating as a teacher. The changes in programming that we have made in the past—limiting sessions to five to six weeks, providing curriculum support, dividing teacher roles to accommodate different comfort levels (discussion leaders, hands-on crafts, storytelling, etc.)—have produced limited success.

What we are hearing from members is that those without young children often feel that they have served as a teacher in the past and are ‘passing the torch’ to a new generation. Those with young children feel that they can help occasionally, but need some time to enjoy worship and recharge a bit while their children are in Sunday school. We are exploring some ways to re-invigorate the program by focusing on the ‘mission’ quality of teaching, helping the congregation to see that their efforts to support the Sunday School program contribute to the overall mission of our church.

Many of us may consider mission as taking place in another neighborhood or country from where we live. We believe mission also needs to take place here at our church home.

KMT Committee Members:

Regina Koterak (nursery staff), Kennedy Schultz, Debbie Hutton, Chris Gunther (*session representative*), Peter Martin (*staff*)

Thank you to the many adults who assisted with youth activities in 2013. Our youth ministry is meant to be a mission of this congregation. Please contact a member of our committee if you'd like to consider volunteering and sharing in the remarkable experiences our young people will have over the course of 2014 and beyond.

Youth Ministry Team (YMT)

The Youth Ministry Team implements North's vision of



our youth and children's programming through youth group and mission-related activities, including our Club 456 youth fellowship, the 7th-12th grade fellowship, and a variety of other events, including the fall retreat, youth triennium, the mission trip and its related fundraisers.



Committee Members: Wendy Ayler, Kerri Bigler, Ed Eisenlord, Chad Kahler (*session representative*), Peter Martin (*staff*)

Photos: Clockwise, the Dallas mission trip, summer 2013; Triennium; and the fall retreat



Board of Deacons

As set forth in the scripture, the role of a deacon is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. The deacons of North Presbyterian Church serve the congregation through hospitality, compassion, caring for the lonely, comforting the sick and praying for others. These are the ministries covered by deacons:

Pastoral Care:

Every year the Pastoral Care Committee takes Easter or Christmas gifts to members of our church that are in nursing homes and those folks who have been going through

some rough times where we want to bring them a little cheer. This year we filled little ginger bread boxes with homemade mini muffins and candies. We gave them to 25 of our church members along with a calendar, note pad and a Christmas card made by Marcia Monin's Sunday School class. These gifts are so appreciated along with the visit and the week's Sunday bulletin.

Prayer List and Prayer Chain:

The prayer list is published weekly in the bulletin so that our members can pray for the needs, sufferings and joys of others. Prayer requests are submitted during the service or by calling the office. Currently, prayer requests are listed for a three-month period. Requests may

continue longer than three months by calling the church office. For those who do not want to have their name on the prayer list, a prayer chain is available. Referrals can be directed to Pastor Hennessy.

Neighborhood Groups:

Our congregation is divided into 26 small groups. Louise Cooper coordinates the groups, which were designed to provide support to one another such as meals, transportation or visitation when individual needs arise. We

"We are thankful, appreciative and grateful for visits, meals and transportation. (Not wanting to miss any person, we will not name names.) The work of the Pastoral Care Team for Communion to the Furthest Pew and the Prayer Chain have helped us a lot. Thanks to all."

Norma and Howard Reyder

continue to rely on our members for help identifying those who need assistance.

Communion to the Furthest Pew:

Two-person teams of church members receive training to administer communion to members who are unable to attend church. Volunteers for the 2013 calendar year included: Charlotte and Don Boyer, Tony and Marilyn Link, Lucille Weaver, Barb Jocoy, Louise Cooper, Sally Haywood, and Carol Meyers. Currently there are six people who receive communion regularly.

Memorial Receptions:

Sally Haywood continues to serve as coordinator for receptions after memorial services at North

Presbyterian Church. There were six receptions held during 2013.

Fellowship:

Currently, deacons offer three events for fellowship within our congregation: the church picnic, breakfast before the annual meeting and the Service of Peace, Hope and Light held during Advent, as an alternative to traditional Christmas Eve services. The deacons also assist with the maintenance of the memorial garden wall.

Deacons

Rob Powell (Moderator)
Marilyn Andujar
Kerri Bigler
Cindy Ebsary
Karen Hopkins
Viki Komjathy
Scott Marshall
Carol Meyers
Heather Randall
Emily Shelton
Sheridan Skura
Jo Yorko

Pastoral Care Team

Louise Cooper (Chair)
Diane Carr
Sally Haywood
Karen Hopkins
Mary Kasbohm
Karen McKee
Carol Meyers
Heather Randall
Karen Roesser

Property Committee

Two-thousand-thirteen was another busy year for the Property Committee. The front façade of the church was rebuilt. The work consisted of re-caulking the sandstone sections, as well as replacing the mounts for the cross which were deteriorating. The West wall (facing the courtyard and Memorial Garden Wall) had extensive work done to repair the bricks around both the Dickinson room, and the Choir room windows. This was done to prevent further deterioration as well as to seal up any existing leaks. Our committee also oversees the church's insurance, building usage, and overall condition of the facilities and grounds.

Committee Members: Dick Mesmer, Byron Mohlke, Chris D'Angelo, Randy Bigler, Ed Eisenlord, Paul Hahn, Kirk Larson, Bill Townsend, Bill Ervin, and a host of others who assist with the locking up of the building after each service, as well as lending their skills and expertise to various projects.

Memorial Garden Wall

The wall (see photo, this page) had several panels break away from the south wall in the spring. This started a long process of evaluating the overall condition of both walls. It was determined that both the north and south walls were constructed in a substandard way that caused the panels, over time and through inclement weather, to break away, and under closer scrutiny, that many more panels were close to falling as well.

The Session approved a repair/renovation plan that was implemented in early September. All panels that were broken were replaced, and all other remaining panels were properly attached to the walls and in a way that should permanently keep them in place. The total cost for the repairs, and renovations of the walls, was near \$25,000. The renovations of both walls will be continued in the spring of 2014 when it is planned to have the gardens upgraded as well.



With the completion of the garden refreshing, the entire Memorial Garden Wall will be in better shape than it has ever been. It will take continued dedication to keep it in shape.

The Session voted to re-establish the three-person committee to oversee the Memorial Garden Wall. The three members are to include one person from Property, one from Deacons, and one at-large member of the congregation.

Nominating Committee

Our charge: To develop a slate of ruling elder nominees and deacon nominees for election to the session and board of deacons respectively, constituting the class of 2017. In addition, during the course of the year, a vacancy occurred as ruling elder in the class of 2016, for which the committee identified a nominee for service on the session. The slate of nominees will be presented for election at the annual congregational meeting in January 2014 with ordination/installation of new officers planned for March 2014.

Our approach: In preparing for its critical and caring task, the committee reflected on scriptural passages that provided guidance and purpose of leadership, following the example of Jesus Christ. The committee chose 1 Peter 4:10 as a starting point for calling members into service: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received". The committee viewed its mission as discerning a call to members to church leadership and not merely filling slots. The spiritual discernment process involved a prayerful approach that God's will be done, and the confirmation of a member's sense of call that God has a special claim on his or her life at this particular point in time.

The committee discussed the involvement faithful members have in the ministry of the church as outlined in the Book of Order, such as taking part in the common life and worship of the church, and

responding to God's activity in the world through service to others. The committee further discussed the ministry and gifts of both elders and deacons, including strong faith, dedicated discipleship, sound judgment, compassion and the love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Committee members and the congregation identified potential nominees. As the committee engaged in the spiritual discernment process it was readily apparent this congregation is blessed with many members who possess a wide variety of gifts, who exhibit great spiritual character and who could provide vision and inspired leadership to North Presbyterian Church. After continued prayerful deliberation the committee arrived at a slate of elder and deacon nominees it believed will continue to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of this congregation.

Committee Members:

Neil Arnold, Sharon Dittmar
Duncan Hemink – Moderator, Bill
Hennessy—Ex Officio, Garidith
Khayat—Ruling Elder, Marty
Larson, Marty Shafer, Sheridan
Skura—Deacon Representative

Membership Committee

Our Mission: The Membership Committee works faithfully to further the growth of our congregation by reaching out into the community to spread the Good News message of Jesus Christ, identifying and welcoming visitors and inviting and assimilating members into church life.

Our Work: The Membership Committee experienced changes in 2013. In addition to the leaving and

joining of new committee members, we began operating under the new system of rotating Session members attending committee meetings. The participation and input from the Session members was a valuable asset to committee activities. The Committee continued its regular function of maintaining the Welcome/Friendship Pads, welcoming of visitors and identifying and receiving new members.

New Members: Twelve adult members joined in 2013: Lee Broad, April and Brad Anderschott, Carol Joerger, Jeff and Lori Joerger, Keith and Wende Alford, Joe and Elaine Haines, Amanda Persaud and Amanda Parker.

The committee began a relationship with the Confirmation Class to coordinate common goals and assist in integration of new young adult members into the life of the church.

The committee continued to discuss and try to find ways to encourage participation of people who wish to attend, but are not ready to commit to membership.

Committee members during all or part of the year: Jeff Weaver, Mitch Roemer, co-chairs; Shevaun Donelli O'Connell, Marty Larson and Kalen Summers; Colin Drury, Garidith Khayat, Nancy Shelton, Session representatives

Administration & Personnel

North Church is exceedingly fortunate to have in our employ a staff that is as stable, efficient, effective, harmonious, and

professional as it truly is. We are blessed to have the particular individuals we have in place who fill important positions at North Church and continue to do outstanding work.

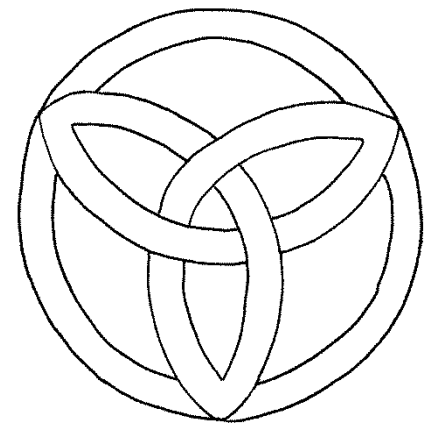
In 2013 we experienced no out-of-the-ordinary issues with regard to personnel or administration matters.

Primary among our tasks in 2013 was the conducting of annual staff evaluations, which were completed and filed in February.

Worship Committee

Artist-in-Residence

Celts were deeply attuned to nature and experienced oneness with God in green grassy hills, stones, water, stars. The symbols on banners, hangings and bulletin



covers featured in the sanctuary this year featured the natural world. Advent and Lenten Soul Feasts offered stations where reflection on God's world was invited.

Mary Mohlke

Sacred Dance Choir

The Sacred Dance Choir embodies the word and song for the glory of God. The choir danced several times including Pentecost, during Lent,

Advent and Christmas. They also danced for special worship services outside of the church. We welcome new members, and no dance experience is necessary.

Olivia Ebsary, Director

Adult Choir

The choir presented a wide variety of anthems throughout the year. Special highlights were larger musical works including a Schubert Mass,

"Music is the most congruent way I can express my faith! I feel the Holy Spirit move me in ways I never would have expected!"—a choir member

Leavitt Requiem, A Festival of Hymns and a Bach cantata.

In the words of choir members:

"Choir is an extended family to me—we share our love of music, our Christian beliefs, lots of laughs, sometimes tears, and always knowing we are good friends through it all."

"Music is the most congruent way I can express my faith! I feel the Holy Spirit move me in ways I never would have expected! When there is a need in the group, our choir family responds with compassion, care and brilliance!"

"Singing in the choir gives me a sense of being *invested* in my personal worship of God. There's something about being surrounded by good voices, really belting out familiar hymns! It just feels great!"

"Choir offers the experience of using a modest gift from God in a way that glorifies Him. Thankfully, I am surrounded by others with greater gifts."

"Singing in the choir makes the worship service have more meaning. Concentrating on the meaning of worship gives a deeper

and more meaningful experience and understanding of the service."

"Choir is: fellowship, caring for each other, serving church through music, personal expression of faith through music, friends, my spiritual journey, the 'soul of the church,' a family, laughing, loving, dancing, singing, caring, having fun, praising God together!"

New singers are always welcome in our "family." Join us Thursday evenings at

7:30.

Celebration Ringers

In the words of a ringer:

"Bell choir is unique in that we all rely on each other and need each ringer in order to make it complete. In the adult choir, if a person is missing, we can get by with fewer voices; not so with bells, each ringer is vital. We rehearse diligently but we have fun and are so supportive of each other. We love the challenge some more difficult pieces offer and find it so rewarding when we get it 'right.' I love the fellowship, the music and the opportunity to be a part of the camaraderie on Thursday nights and the worship experience on Sunday mornings."

Rehearsals are 6:15 Thursday evenings. Please contact us if you would like to learn to ring or if you are an experienced ringer.

**Marlene Harrington,
Director of Music and
Organist**

Children's & Youth Choir

The Children's & Youth Choir had another wonderful year! In February we tried something new and had a girls' ensemble, consisting of our "older girls" and two alumni sing for the worship service. All the girls really enjoyed this special time of singing. In the spring we sang a special presentation of five songs and one duet that were centered around "children praising God."

In May we had our annual Choir Recognition breakfast and said good-bye to our graduating 8th graders, Madison Kahler and Cooper Heck. We will miss them but we know they will be back to help us with the pageant. And they were! In September we began our rehearsals again on Sunday mornings and welcomed four new

Below: Village girls Lily Wolfley (left), Emily Jennings, and Sarah Hennessy (back) in the Christmas Pageant



members! It's wonderful to know we are growing.

In the late fall we began to rehearse for the Christmas pageant, our favorite event of the whole year! On December 22nd, 25 choir members and six choir alumni presented *Simple Gifts* in morning worship and again in the evening. All the children and youth did an AMAZING job telling the story of the birth of Jesus in song and story...making us laugh as well as cry. Directing and working with these children is a very special and wonderful gift for me. This past year was my 29th year in this position. I look forward to my 30th! Thank you to all the parents and our whole church family for all your support and confidence in this children's music ministry.

Marty Shafer, Director
Mary Atwood, Assistant

Office Volunteers

Volunteers make my load lighter, and for that I am grateful. Especially helpful were several people who helped me mail the *North Star* each month. I enjoyed the time spent with them and getting to know them more during my second year at North Presbyterian Church. This is a special place, and I am grateful to be here, serving alongside all of you.

Cynthia Machamer
Administrative Assistant

Mission and Community

Our Charge: The Mission and Community Outreach Committee of North Church is charged with disbursing the benevolence funds in the church's budget, raising the awareness of the congregation about mission and justice issues,



Above: Jane Arnold (left) and Ellie McConnell at Alternative Marketplace

and encouraging the participation of the congregation in mission activities.

Our Impact: The agencies we support have told us that these monies have made an enormous difference in their ability to carry out the work they have undertaken. You are encouraged to read the letters of thanks that we receive, which are posted on the mission kiosk in Westminster Hall. Some groups were also supported through our highly successful Alternative Christmas Marketplace and through our special offerings: Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, and the Christmas Offering. These offerings were generously supported by the congregation.

Supported organizations, listed on the church website, are effective agencies where we believe that our contributions can make a real difference. The distribution of the funds is listed in the accompanying Mission Giving Table. This year we had to accommodate a 25 percent reduction in our budget. After extensive deliberations we

decreased our funding to a few organizations and eliminated a few others, including some that had received one-time support in 2012. We believe the impact of our giving was largely maintained with the supported organizations receiving close to their full historical funding. Seventy-five percent of the funds were spent locally. Crisis and emergency support was provided to tornado victims in the Midwest, to typhoon victims in the Philippines and to Syrian refugees.

Our long-standing involvement with **Friends of Night People** (FONP) continued in full force throughout 2013. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, a committed group of volunteers cooks a meal of chicken and potatoes and transports it to the facility on Hudson Street. That evening, another group of volunteers goes to the soup kitchen to serve the food that was prepared earlier that day to the 200-plus nightly guests. We also staff the "Urban Diner" at the community center on Paderewski Drive, where, typically, 75 people are served. We are also grateful for the clothing that the congregation regularly donates to the FONP.

The **Alternative Christmas Marketplace** was again a wonderful success. Adults and children did their Christmas shopping in Westminster Hall after the worship services. Shoppers enjoyed snacks and socializing as they chose meaningful, charitable gifts for friends, teachers and family members. Five thousand dollars was spent for gifts that improve the lives of people locally and around the world.



Above: The Weaver clan serving at Friends of Night People

The **Dress A Girl Project**, launched in November 2010, continued on the fourth Monday of each month, throughout the past year. Volunteers bring their machines and scissors to sew simple sundresses and dolls to be sent to needy girls around the world. A simple supper is shared and conversation is always lively. Due to publicity in local newspapers, this activity draws participants from the broader Amherst and Western New York community.

In November, the annual **Turkey Basket Project** provided the makings to complete holiday dinners for hungry people in our community. Many people in the church and in the community contributed complete baskets, frozen turkeys, funds to buy turkeys and the trimmings, and volunteer hours to make this all

become a reality. More than 500 families received a turkey and all the fixings for them to cook their own dinners at home. The contributions of NPC and the students of Williamsville East HS to this effort are particularly noteworthy.

The year ended with the annual **Giving Tree** and the **Christmas Offering**. This year the gifts were for families referred by two agencies: Homespace/Second Chance Home and the St. Brigid's Food Pantry. One hundred and fifty beautifully wrapped gifts were delivered to these agencies prior to Christmas Day. The Christmas offering was split between the Philippines typhoon recovery and the Backpack Program of the Food Bank of Western New York.

Family Justice Center: A very important undertaking by our church this year was our role in establishing the Northtowns satellite of the Family Justice Center (FJC). The FJC is a one-stop assistance facility that helps domestic abuse victims. A coalition of churches had been meeting since 2012, with NPC being well-represented by some of our mission committee (Ann Eisenlord, JoAnne Alderfer, Bob and Norma Henderson) and other church members, particularly Sue D'Angelo and Jim and Ellie McConnell. A breakthrough came early in the year when the North Church manse was made available as a location for the satellite. After acceptance by the FJC, the coalition set to work rehabbing the building and handling other important logistics. In early November, the building was dedicated with operations to begin on January 27, 2014.

Committee Members: JoAnne Alderfer, Jerry Marchand, Peggy Marshall, Anne McIlroy, Sheridan Skura, Andres Soom, Mary Soom, Beth Vandenberg, Jane Arnold, Ann Eisenlord, Norma Henderson, Linda Koenigsberg, Linda Gowans

See insert for Mission Giving Report.

Finance Committee

Our Charge: The Finance Committee is charged by the Session with oversight and stewardship of the financial assets of North Church. It helps with the preparation of the operating budget; oversees the collection and dispersal of funds (accounting); makes and oversees investments; and reports to the Session, committees, and the congregation on the financial operations of the church.

New Initiatives: We appointed an Investment Committee and hired a new firm to invest our endowment funds. We began a Planned Giving initiative to encourage the congregation to remember NPC in their wills. Several large gifts were given to the Church this year.

Also, a Generosity Committee was established to encourage stewardship throughout the year. One of the things they are suggesting is getting online payments through our web site.

Committee Members: Leigh Gaskill, Session member and chair, Tim Ayler, Ann Eisenlord, church treasurer, Rod Bradley, and Bill Clark

Adult Education Committee

We had a full and exciting year of diverse offerings, as we explored new ways to stimulate the spiritual growth of our congregation. Our group welcomed Bill Clark and Sue D'Angelo, our session representative.

In January, we started with a DVD presentation by Lisa Wolf on Judith led by Mary Mohlke and a four-week program on the root causes of poverty organized by Pat Townsend. For the first presentation we welcomed Larry Moir, who served as a missionary and English teacher in Ethiopia. The session highlighted the political factors interfering with the food supply in the area where Larry worked.

In February, Lew Bigler started a class using Robert Wuthnow's book: *The God Problem*. The book tracks the various uses of language that faithful, middle class Americans use to avoid appearing spooky or weird when they talk about central issues of faith. This was difficult but enlightening material. At the same time, Mary Mohlke led a series on Adam Hamilton: *24 Hours That Changed The World* as we moved through Lent.

The Sunday morning Bible study meeting in the resource room. The group focused on the spiritual study of the Gospel of John in the spring. In the fall, they studied the Gospel of Luke. Participants share leadership for each session on a rotating basis.

On the lighter side, we had a series "NPC travelers" and viewed old and recent slides. The Townsends

talked about their trip to Kenya and South Africa. Anselm George described a trip to Germany and what had happened to his former home congregation. The Drury's talked about Northern England and Azubike Kalu-Nwivu described his trips and continuing close ties to Nigeria.

We continued with a study of the book: *Firsthand: Ditching Secondhand Religion for a Faith of Your Own* presented by Lew Bigler contrasted with Adam Hamilton's *Forgiveness*. In response to the public debate, Beth Hennessy presented the documentary: *Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence*. Roger Quimby introduced us to a short story.

Our summer Bible study followed the outline of the Horizons program: "Abiding Hope: the Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy". We thank all the participants who led a session on a rotating basis.

The fall schedule started with a Nooma program followed by a DVD series featuring Eboo Patel on interfaith cooperation. We were particularly impressed by the discussion following the last topic, which focused on opportunities to foster interfaith cooperation in our community.

We had a discussion on the request of our denomination to engage in a study of "Christian Marriage in the Presbyterian Church." This study took place outside of the usual Sunday morning time frame on several dates Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The sessions used the study guide by the office of Theology and Worship, as well as supplemental resources and questions prepared by the Covenant

Network of Presbyterians. The sessions were conducted by the Rev. Bill Hennessy and were well attended.

We had a program on poverty in Amherst conducted by Mary Diana Pouli, which opened our eyes and showed us opportunities to help in a quiet manner. In order to prepare for the opening of the Family Justice Center satellite, we had great presentations from the administrative and the victim's perspective. We are especially grateful to the speakers for their self-disclosure.

In November we started a new DVD series by Phyllis Tickle: "Changing the Face of Christianity and Culture: Emergence Christianity." Phyllis impressed many of us with her irreverent approach to age-old questions. However, we decided to interrupt the series and switch to "Advent Conspiracy," a program that reminded us to worship more fully, spend less, give more and love all. In the discussion that followed, some of us discovered that we had already spent too much and given too little. So please watch for an encore of this issue in September 2014.

Many people have contributed to the success of these programs. We are exceedingly thankful for their efforts. The discussions and insights revealed in our programs indicate to us that the adult education offerings are increasingly meaningful to a group of people.

Committee Members: Lew Bigler, Bill Clark, Sue D'Angelo (Session representative), Anselm George (Chair), Bill Hennessy, Mary Mohlke

Generosity Team

In late 2012 an ad hoc committee was formed by Session, with two members of Session (Jeff Faunce, Jeff Ebsary), which was given the charge to explore new methods, new approaches, and new ways of thinking about financial stewardship for North Church. In early 2013, Jeff Faunce attended a Presbyterian conference in St. Louis, which dealt with this very subject. Also attending the conference from our congregation was Mary Beth Karr. The conference presented some excellent information, which Jeff and Mary Beth brought back for us to consider.

As the committee, which is being called the “Generosity Team,” seeks ways to implement some of these ideas, an overarching goal it hopes to achieve is to promote and celebrate more overtly the spirit and attitude of generosity that is so present amongst the congregation of North Church.

The team has identified and is working on several specific ideas, which it plans to present for implementation in 2014.

Members: Jeff Faunce, Jeff Ebsary, Mary Beth Karr, and Cynthia Machamer

Renewal Team

You can imagine how thrilled we all were when we learned that North Church’s 2013 Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program application was approved for the amount requested: \$49,576! Publicity followed in the *Amherst Bee*, *The Buffalo News* and our own *North Star* (below). Thank you to

the Session, which approved the proposal, and to the committees and individuals who provided input.

A larger planning group is now working on plans related to Pastor Bill’s renewal program theme, “Discovering Thin Places,” which relates to Celtic spirituality and music. Watch for more information about these spring and summer activities.

Renewal Team: Neil Arnold, Margaret Drury, Jeff Faunce, Mary Beth Karr and Bill Hennessy.

(October 2013 North Star article)

North Church Receives Competitive Lilly Grant

North Presbyterian Church has received a grant of almost \$50,000 to enable Pastor Bill to participate in the 2013 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary. North Church is one of 87 congregations across the country selected to participate in this competitive grant program. Established by the Endowment in 2000, the program’s grants allow Christian congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities.

Ministers whose congregations are awarded the grants use their time away from the demands of daily ministry to engage in a period of reflection and renewal. The approach respects the “Sabbath time” concept, offering ministers a carefully considered respite that may include travel, study, rest,

immersive arts and cultural experiences, and prayer.

The renewal program will explore the theme “Discovering Thin Places.” Thin places refers to the Celtic concept of places in the world where the barrier between the material and spiritual is especially thin and one can encounter the Holy. This program recognizes that the thin places in our lives aren’t limited to physical locations but can be found through relationships and activities as well. Pastor Bill will attend a school for Irish traditional music, visit monastic and other meaningful sites in New York, Ireland and Scotland, and spend time with family in Germany. Our congregation will learn about Celtic spirituality and music and how these can be



incorporated into ministry as a way to renew worship and educational life.

“Two-thousand fourteen marks my 25th anniversary in ordained ministry,” said Rev. Hennessy. “I’ve been

pastor of North Presbyterian Church since June of 2008. Over the last five years we’ve learned a lot about each other and how we work together. In 2014, I will have been with them six years; a great time for all of us to step back and look at who we are and where we experience God at work among us.”

The renewal program will begin on Sunday, June 1, 2014,

with a weekend with the Rev. John Bell, an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland, who has been invited to come and teach North Church how to sing together as a congregation and to explore Celtic Christian spirituality through music. Rev. Bell will lead worship for North Church that Sunday. He will also commission Rev. Hennessy and welcome a part-time supply pastor who will provide pastoral care and preaching for the three months Rev. Hennessy is away.

Through the National Clergy Renewal Program, congregations apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support a renewal program for their pastors. Collaborative in nature and implementation, the program allows congregations to partner with their ministers in developing an experience that addresses their unique renewal needs and aspirations. Recognizing that ministers' families are subject to the stress and demands placed on pastoral leaders, the program encourages pastors to involve their families in renewal activities.

Men's Fellowship

Three mission objectives: fellowship, education, and service. Over the past five and one-half years, the Men's Fellowship has been on a journey to offer a variety of programs that provides an environment that encourages men's involvement in these three interrelated opportunities.

In examining the impacts of these activities, it seems clear that they have meant many things to the 25-

30 men who regularly attend. For some, interacting with other men around the breakfast table enjoying good food (served on warmed plates), listening to invited speakers on a variety of topics, and going on tours have been enjoyable and informative. For others, being part of the cooking and clean-up crews, planning the next activity, or recruiting new people, have been ways in which they can help to sustain the momentum of the group.

On a more personal level, the meetings have presented opportunities to discover something about another person (e.g., his hobbies, best-liked new book, or recent travels) that otherwise would never have been known—valuable information that could lead to greater friendships. Moreover, and very simply, these get-togethers have been, for many, an opportunity to relax and get away from the usual pressures and responsibilities of their lives—no required attire, no book to have been read beforehand, no term of office to avoid, and no particular expertise to possess. As one person said: "It is just like having a plain old good time with each other!"

Our Programs: Our breakfast meetings and tours this past year have reinforced these many opportunities for fellowship. The various activities have included eating breakfast together (at the Towne Restaurant and at another breakfast prepared by a very famous cook—North Church member Chris Gunther); traveling on tours (the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, the Frank Lloyd Wright home at 57 Tillinghast Place, all-church trips to the Graycliff Conservancy and to watch

the Bisons win or lose—whatever); and listening to speakers (getting play-by-play insights on the Bills, discovering concerns and issues confronting our local Presbytery and the General Assembly, and listening to the personal experience of attending an international conference in Kenya). In retrospect, our journey has been exciting, challenging, and very rewarding.

Planning Group: Don Boyer, Jeff Faunce, Bob Henderson, Tony Link, Alan Maclean, Jim McConnell, Roger Quimby, and Jeff Weaver

Planned Giving Committee

Throughout the year, the committee included messages in the Sunday bulletin and the *North Star* urging members of the congregation to remember North Presbyterian Church in their estate plans. This is most commonly done by including a covenant in one's will.

The committee proposed to Session that a formal entity be created to recognize everyone who chose to remember the church in this way. In response, Session authorized the creation of the Legacy Society whose purpose is to "Recognize all those who have made a financial commitment to benefit North Presbyterian Church in their will or through their estate planning."

After the Legacy Society was created, the committee issued an invitation to the congregation, asking individuals who have included the church in their estate plans to notify a member of the committee. To date, the committee knows of the following individuals. Anyone aware of omissions is asked to please contact a member of the committee.

Maxine Bell
Barbara & Charles Beyer*
Kerri & Randy Bigler
Hilde Boehmke*
Constance Klein*
Gerry Cook*
Roger Gross
The children of Grace & Howard Haines*
Mary Beth Karr & Joe Alber

Louella and Edwin* Knight
Donald Cockburn* in memory of his parents
Adeline Noble*
Ann and Brian Pettit
Bernice Ward*

*Deceased

These and others who make themselves known will be recognized each May on *Wills Emphasis Sunday* in a suitable manner. Anyone interested in learning more is invited to contact a member of the **Planned Giving Committee**: Joe Alber, Roger Gross, and Mary Beth Karr

"North Church Feels Like Family"

Maxine Bell is an inaugural member of North Presbyterian Church's Legacy Society, which recognizes those who remember North Presbyterian Church in their estate plans. She joined the church in the mid-1960s and over the years has served North Church



Maxine Bell (above) is an inaugural member of North Presbyterian Church's Legacy Society.

in many ways. Among the most noteworthy, she recalls two terms on Session, her service as a deacon

and tenure on the Memorial Garden Wall Committee when the Columbaria was being planned and constructed.

By remembering the church in her will, Maxine is helping to provide for the church's future and its ability to play an important role in the lives of others as it played in her own life.

The Memorial Garden Wall holds a special place in Maxine's heart. Her husband was interred in the garden the same day it was dedicated. Afterward Maxine took great care in maintaining the grounds around the memorial. She has ensured these efforts continue by stipulating in her will that a portion of her estate will be used for the "care, improvement and maintenance of the garden grounds in front of the Memorial Wall. The principal [of the bequest] shall be maintained in a perpetual fund as long as reasonably feasible at the discretion of the Church 'trustees'."

Maxine says, "I think of the church as my second family. It has nourished me and brought me many moments of joy." By remembering the church in her will, Maxine is helping to provide for the church's future and its ability to play an important role in the lives of others as it played in her own life.

Please remember North Presbyterian Church in your will. Your gift will help continue the mission and ministries of the church.

Church & Society Bylaws

ARTICLE I

Section 1

North Presbyterian Church (hereafter referred to as the “Church”), a congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA, recognizes and agrees that the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA is applicable to and binding upon the Church and its members. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used for orderly conduct of business.

Section 2

The Church further recognizes and agrees that as a Presbyterian church it is incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. It is subject to such laws in the conduct of its corporate affairs.

Section 3

Except as specifically provided herein, these bylaws shall be applicable to spiritual and corporate functions of the Church.

ARTICLE II

Section 1

An active member of the Church shall be a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the Church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this Church, and participates in the Church’s work and worship.

ARTICLE III

Section 1

The congregation shall form a corporation. The active members on the roll of this Church shall be members of the corporation. The elders elected to active service who are eligible under civil law, shall by reason of their office, be the trustees of the corporation. The finance chair shall serve as chair of the corporation, the treasurer as corporate treasurer and the clerk of session shall serve as secretary.

Section 2

The Session shall call an annual meeting of the Congregation, to be held in the Church, on the last Sunday in January, which will include— election of elders and deacons. Other special meetings called shall state the purpose of the meeting and business to be transacted shall be limited to items specifically listed in the call. Notice of meetings shall be given on two successive Sundays and may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday. All active members are eligible to vote. However;

- a) Only members 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote on corporate matters of the Church
- b) Voting by proxy is not allowed
- c) A quorum shall consist of the moderator, secretary and one tenth of the active Church membership.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1

The Session shall consist of the moderator and no fewer than 15 nor more than 18 elders. Elders shall be elected by the congregation for a term of no more than three years, to be divided in three equal classes. Elders shall not serve for full or partial terms aggregating more than six consecutive years. After one year has elapsed, they shall be eligible for re-election. In accordance with Article III section 2, the new class of elders will be elected at the Annual Meeting held on the last Sunday of January. Installation and training of officers will occur during February and the term of service will begin in April unless filling an unexpired term due to a resignation or death of a currently serving elder.

Section 2

The Session as a whole will function as a Board of Trustees in dealing with the corporate matters of the Church. Only those members of the Session who are 18 years or older may vote on corporate matters.

Section 3

The Session shall have such committees and task forces as are necessary to do its work. It is recommended that a Session member should chair committees. Task forces shall include at least one member of Session.

Section 4

Session members shall attend regular or any specially scheduled meeting of session and committee. If unable to attend, call church office or clerk of session and asked to be excused. Any three consecutive unexcused absences may result in the person being asked to resign from the session.

Section 5

Paid staff of North Presbyterian Church (exclusive of the minister) are not eligible to serve as a member of session.

Section 6

A quorum of the Session shall be the moderator and one-third of the elders. For the reception and dismissal of members, the quorum shall be the moderator and two members.

ARTICLE V

Section 1

The Board of Deacons shall consist of moderator, secretary and no fewer than 12 nor more than 18 members divided in three equal classes. In accordance with Article III section 2, the new class of deacons will be elected at the Annual Meeting held on the last Sunday of January. Installation and training of officers will occur during February and the term of service will begin in April unless filling an unexpired term due to a resignation or death of a currently serving elder. Deacons may not serve for full or partial terms aggregating more than six consecutive years. After one year has elapsed, they shall be eligible for re-election.

Section 2

Deacons shall attend regular or specially scheduled meeting. If unable to attend, call chairperson or appropriate designate asked to be excused. Any three consecutive unexcused absences may result in the person being asked to resign from the deacons.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1

These bylaws shall be reviewed annually and presented to the congregation.

Section 2

In a properly called congregational meeting, these bylaws may be amended by a majority vote.

Revised: November 12, 2006

Latest revision January 30, 2011 Article IV, section 1, Article V, section 1