

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Trusting God
responding to Christ as our Lord and Savior
being led by the Holy Spirit*

Towson Presbyterian Church
proclaims an unchanging gospel in a changing world

*with worship
that praises and glorifies God*

*study of scripture
that engages the mind and heart*

*prayer and care
that nurtures the human spirit*

*hospitality
that expands the Christian community*

*service
that seeks justice, kindness, and mercy in the world*

*and with lives
that affirm the distinct and transforming love of God*

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OFFICIAL BOARDS

SESSION

Class of 2009

Cornelia McKenna
Bob Oeste
Alan Randolph
Madeleine Mysko Sheehan
Harry Thomasian
Beth Toole

Class of 2010

David Gilliss
Brett Goodrich
Curt Hauer
Rick Isphording
Chuck LaBerge
Mary Lou Ryce

Class of 2011

Peter Bulkley
Lenore Chapman
Andy Evans
Jim Hyde
Emily Moore
Melanie Ponsi

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo, Pastor
The Rev. Dr.. Roger M. Rice, Associate Pastor
Clerk of Session: Lenore Chapman
Treasurer: Andy Evans

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2009

Ross Bregel
Barbara Dillon
Lori Law
Ann Lehwald
Amy Lyman
Mary McGibbon
Tom Platt
Jim Tabeling

Class of 2010

Bob Barclay
John Dearing
Karen Drake
Josh Else
Steve Marsh
Karen Pluebell
Richard Rosenthal
Mark Taylor

Class of 2011

Eric Bjorkholm
Kathy Bredbenner
Alexandra Bulkley
Ted Custer
Elsie DeGarmo Smith
Martha Hayner
Amy Hemingway
Lindy Holland

Moderator: John Dearing
Vice-Moderator: Josh Else
Secretary: Mary McGibbon

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo
The Rev. Dr. Roger M. Rice
Elder Susan J. Thompson
Len Langrick
Jim Isphording
Jason Jackson
Elsie Hurt
Kathryn Bojanowski
Tara Runge
Joanne Ingersoll
Chrystal Patton
Lenore Koehler
Walter Austin

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Christian Education
Director of Music/Organist
Director of Youth Ministries
Contemporary Music Leader
Administrative Coordinator
Business Administrator
Administrative Assistant
Program Assistant, Christian Education
Childcare Coordinator
Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool
Sexton

STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership January 1, 2008- December 31, 2008

Active Members (12/31/07)	653
Gains for	
Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Restoration	
17 and Under	19
18 and Over	19
Certificate of Transfer	9
Total Gains	47
Losses for	
Certificate of Transfer	(8)
Death	(20)
Placed on Inactive Roll	(15)
All Other Losses	-
Total Losses	(43)
Active Members (12/31/08)	657
Inactive Members	108
Baptized Members	267
 Total Adherents	 1,032

Active Officers		Church School	
Elders	18	Pupils	165
Deacons	24	Teachers & Substitutes	17
Baptisms		Teen Assistants	11
Children	12	Program Support	10
Adults	1	Towson Presbyterian Preschool	
		Pupils	131
		Teachers & Assistants	24

NECROLOGY 2008

Patricia Lee Ashby
William Heller Hedeman
Norma Roberts Hicks
Philip A. Hoffman
Douglas C. Keller
Dorothy Leftwich
Douglas Leftwich
Joseph Sebastian Lehnbeuter
Levi Horace ("Lee") Manchester
Robert Lee McKean
Frances Hoffman Meginniss
Ruth Miller
June K. Mysko
Donald F. Nesbitt, Jr.
John H. ("Pete") Peterson, Sr.
Richard Huff Rowland
Olive S. Rinehart
Charles E. Smith (2007)
A. Louise Streit
Jean Weant Taylor
Frank H. Thatcher
Arlette Tetu Wilson
Wayne E. Wright.

We give thanks to God for their lives.

*Blessed Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest eternal. (Pie Jesu)*

REPORTS OF THE STAFF

PASTOR

Echoing Charles Dickens's familiar opening line of *A Tale of Two Cities*, the year of 2008 was both the best of times and the worst of times. The election of Barack Obama marked a generational change in the leadership of our nation. Whether one voted for Senator Obama or not, most would agree that his administration begins amidst a widespread sense of hope in the future such as we have not seen for many years. At the same time, America and the world are experiencing the greatest economic upheaval since the 1930s. Even the most optimistic among do not expect a quick or painless recovery.

Towson Presbyterian Church has not been immune to the broader economic trends. A number of our members have lost their jobs and all have seen the value of their investments and homes plummet. We have been challenged, as followers of a Lord whose sole possession at life's end was his cloak, to consider anew what constitutes the bedrock security in our lives. Our faith is grounded in the generosity of a God who wills and provides abundance—and who calls us to serve our neighbors by sharing God's gifts liberally.

I thank God that our congregation has taken these fundamental tenets of the faith to heart! As a result, the church's ministry continued strong through the year. We moved into our beautiful, renovated Sanctuary in February, and also introduced a new, contemporary worship service, *Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30*, in November to meet a perceived need among the younger people in our community. Enrollment in Church School and the Youth Fellowships is at its highest level in some years. We sent missionaries to rural Honduras and inner city Pittsburgh. The Alternative Gift Market raised more funds than ever before for local and international benevolences. New leaders emerged in many areas of ministry, even as long-time members continued in faithful service. Our tithes and offerings remained strong—and sufficient to meet our current needs. On top of all this, we committed collectively over \$2.5 million this year to the *Foundation for the Future* Capital Campaign.

I encourage you to read this annual report thoroughly, taking note of the diverse spiritual gifts with which our congregation is endowed, your generous spirit in sharing them, and how much the Spirit is already accomplishing among us! I am grateful to all who are providing leadership in these busy days, especially Clerk of Session Lenore Chapman, Board of Deacons Moderator John Dearing, Property Chair (and church corporation President) Cornelia McKenna and our Treasurer, Andy Evans.

In addition, I am blessed to serve beside a dedicated and talented group of staff colleagues: Roger Rice, Len Langrick, Sue Thompson, Jim Ispording, Kathryn Bojanowski, Elsie Hurt, Tara Runge, Joanne Ingersoll and Walter Austin, as well as Lenore Kohler and the entire nursery school staff. I also join the entire congregation in thanking those staff members who completed their service to TPC during the course of the year: Becket Gordon and Janice Heilman.

Finally, I thank God for all of you and for the honor of serving as your pastor.

God chooses to work for the reconciliation of the world through people like us, gathered in worshiping communities that confess Jesus Christ as Lord. Making Jesus known by the quality of our life together—in and for the world—is essential to God's plan. In all we say and do in 2009, let us witness to our confidence that God is using this congregation, its faith, its commitment and its many strengths to glorious effect.

Lindley G. DeGarmo, Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Towson Presbyterian Church

Passion and artistry -

Young voices, mission voices, choir anthems, stream cleaning,
dove banner, kettle drums, rock songs, candle dancing.
Towson Presbyterian Church, wonderful!

Compassion and doing –

Alternative giving, peace readings, Honduras trip, Pittsburgh Project,
Heartlights, BeeTree, food baskets, Habitat for Humanity.
Towson Presbyterian Church, wonderful!

Care and listening -

Home Communion, hospital visits, older conversations, poetry readings,
coffee fellowship, building campaign, dinner groups, prayers of the heart.
Towson Presbyterian Church, wonderful!

Events and people -

Christmas Concert, Sanctuary Renovation, Strawberry Festival, Homecoming,
Lindley, Charlie, Susan, Karen, Eric, Eb, Len, Brett,
Curt, Rick, Tad, Cornelia, Andrea, Madeleine, Lori, John . . .
Towson Presbyterian Church, wonderful!

Education and growth -

Plumbline conversing, teacher's questions, Confirmation gleanings, Advent Festival,
Lenten Study, water metaphors, children's sermons, Environmental Fair.
Towson Presbyterian Church, wonderful!

Worship and spirituality -

Gospel of wealth / Gospel of faith, baptizing children,
Rock Ur Faith, Christmas Eve, Epiphany magi,
Easter morning, music of the soul.
Towson Presbyterian Church, Alleluia!

With gratitude in my heart for your support as my mother declined in health this past year, and for your cards and notes at her death, I am truly thankful. I miss her, yet new friendships carry me forward.

2008 was a year of increased comfort with the thought that I am from Maryland. The church calendar found my energies attached to organizing Homebound Communion, participating in mission trips to Honduras and Pittsburgh, teaching the "Living the Questions" adult education curriculum, and leading talented people in the start up of a new worship service called *Rock Ur Faith*. Also, strategies for church visitors and mission involvement were developed and will be unveiled in the New Year. I am appreciative of the support and wise council of our pastor, Lindley DeGarmo, and thrilled to walk into our church building each day to do ministry with Walter Austin, Kathryn Bojanowski, Elsie Hurt, Jim Ispording, Len Langrick, Tara Runge, and Susan Thompson. May God bless them in the New Year, and may God's peace bless us all.

Roger Rice, Associate Pastor

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Church School

At the close of 2008, we have approximately 165 students registered for church school. Our weekly attendance averages 100, including our teachers and assistants. We have 25 people involved in weekly teaching and childcare. It is exciting to be in ministry with so many people who care and take Christian Education seriously. Our teachers participate in a Teacher Orientation program each August and a breakfast mid-year, receive weekly E-mail updates and quarterly leadership magazines, and are recognized and affirmed for their weekly commitment by students and the congregation in June. Marge and Joey Bowers and Melissa and Matthew Ekey faithfully serve as Church School Superintendents and assistants, and Lorene LaBerge shares music, instruments, and movement with pre-schoolers through Cherub Choir and regular church school classroom visits.

Our church school program consists of seven classes that meet at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning. We use *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum for two months and then hold a Rotation Model for one month, using classrooms designed specifically for topical learning. Our *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum follows the Lectionary so that what we learn in church school is reinforced in the worship service. During 2008, we held several Rotation Model events on such topics as: *Earth Care and making a video produced by our children, a Spirituality Center (designed by Karen Gilliss), Treasures and Talents lessons and scavenger hunt, and a special two-week program on Using the Bible, led by Laura Howard.* We continue to offer the Godly Play curriculum to age 4 – Grade 1 children, where we offer the foundational stories of the faith over a two-year period.

In addition to weekly classes, some of the events we sponsored in church school this year were: valentine-grams carnation sale, with money raised to support the Honduras mission trip; our annual Advent and Lenten Festivals; making Meals on Wheels favors for clients in the Towson area; Grade 3 Worship program and awarding of engraved Bibles; a special family-oriented Agapé Meal on Maundy Thursday; Palm Sunday Processional; Easter activities; Pentecost Party; decoration of plates for Children's Sabbath on October 19 as well as the making of 80 Hygiene Kits to help children in other parts of the world; and the Guatemala Soda Can Mission Project at Christmas. This was the fourth year we sponsored a neighborhood outreach Live Nativity on the lawn after the 4:00 p.m. children's Christmas Eve service. We are grateful to Eb Nuttle, who builds our stable backdrop and coordinates the middle school church school class participation in the Live Nativity.

Many events in which we participate are intergenerational and are in partnership with other committees of the church. We sponsor such all-age events as a Memorial Weekend neighborhood movie in Thompson Hall, the Advent Festival brunch in Thompson Hall, and 100 bagged lunch projects for Sarah's Hope on a quarterly basis. It is fun to partner with other committees to see what great things can happen. We had much success with a Family Peacemaking Night in November, challenged by the Blue Sky Puppets and beginning a paper cutting project spearheaded by Madeleine Mysko and Patricia Jackson.

We recognized the Towson Presbyterian Preschool teachers and staff in our September Homecoming Service as they celebrate their 50th year of ministry to the young child in 2008-09. We continued our connection to the nursery school by hosting quarterly "Chapel Chats," led by various TPC staff members.

Noah's Nursery

The goal of TPC's Nursery is to make our children feel safe, nurtured, and cared for from the time they are infants into adulthood. TPC does this by providing an on-site Childcare Coordinator, who is assisted by TPC volunteers each week. Becket Gordon served in this capacity until departing at the end of this year for work career reasons. Crystal Patton began as our Childcare Coordinator in 2009. Many parents and other TPC members have volunteered extra hours to help us in the nursery throughout the year.

As the staff liaison for Adult Ministries, I have the joy of assisting a committed group of people in planning spiritual formation programs for the adults in the congregation, too. We have had many meaningful events, both on Sunday morning and mid-week. Please see the Adult Ministries Report for a description of many of these programs, including a comprehensive, all-church Lenten book study last February and March. Over 70 people participated by reading *Unbinding Your Heart* in small-group discussions, with Lindley preaching accompanying sermons. We continued our inspiring mid-week Music and Meditation worship services during Lent, and sponsored a small group program called *Living the Questions* in June, ably led by Barrett Rudd and Roger Rice.

We are always grateful for those who take up the mantle of Plumblin leadership, and this year was no exception. A highlight for us each January is Dr. David Jackson's poetry series. He has a great way with words! Anticipating the 500th birthday of Calvin, our November Plumblin series touched on the Reformed faith and its meaning to us today. TPC Elders and clergy who participated were: Ellen Barnhart, Mary Louise Ellenberger, Curt Hauer, Chuck LaBerge, Mark Mercer, Madeleine Mysko, Bob Oeste, Roger Rice, Barrett Rudd, and Mary Lou Ryce.

TPC is a church with many talented and informed members. For those who share their faith through teaching, preparing presentations, leading small groups, serving on CE committees, organizing film festivals and health care seminars, envisioning peacemaking events, leading young children parent groups, organizing Christmas Eve musicals and spirituality centers, we say "To God Be the Glory!" You are mentoring and modeling the faith for us all, and you are appreciated! You are testimony to the importance of Christian Education and the need to keep our faith story alive. Together, may we continue to creatively engage the scriptures, explore spiritual disciplines, and participate in ministries that engender identity, belonging, and discipleship.

Sue Thompson, Director of Christian Education

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

2008 has been a busy and successful year for TPC's music ministry. I continue to enlist lay readers for our worship services. In January I presented an organ recital as part of the *Presbyterian Homes Concert Series* in Evanston, Illinois. A baby grand piano was donated to the church that serves as decorative and functional furniture for the Library/Parlor. In February, the Chancel Choir led music for our Ash Wednesday service. In a professional capacity, I served as clinician for the Savannah Presbytery, offering workshops, conducting the conference choir, and performing an organ recital. We also introduced a musical concert series, *Concerts for a New Space*, which served to highlight the newly refurbished Sanctuary—new pews and slate floor. *Trio Giocoso* was the first concert to inhabit the new space, followed in March by the *College of Wooster Symphonic Band*. We again offered a noontime *Music and Meditation* series that involved members and visitors in musical and preaching capacities. The tradition of the Cherub and Children's Choir singing on Palm Sunday continued. On Easter, the Chancel Choir, Chancel Handbell Choir, and brass quintet enriched our two Sanctuary services.

2008 also saw the introduction of a new outreach opportunity—*Good Old Hymns*. *Good Old Hymns* is an ad hoc group that shares music with our friends in retirement communities. This year we visited Pickersgill, Edenwald, and Blakehurst. In March and April the *Concerts for a New Space* series continued with the *Herb Dimmock Singers* and concluded with the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists performing *The Reluctant Dragon* and *Feel the Spirit*. The Chancel Handbell Choir performed for an African American preacher's conference in Cockeysville, and I performed in the annual *French Organ Music Marathon* concert at Grace Methodist Church.

In June, the Chancel Choir along with numerous church instrumentalists led a Taizé inspired worship service. I attended the 2008 Montreat Conference on Worship and Music, for which I served on the planning committee. Vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles offered music over the summer. In July I attended Musikgarten (early childhood music) training in Chicago. In August we celebrated Men's Choir Sunday and Women's Choir Sunday. August brought TPC's 5th Annual MAD (Music, Arts, & Drama) Camp, which culminated with handbell/chime ringing and the presentation of the musical, *So Long, Joe!* In a new twist, our annual hymn sing concluded with jazz and gelato in the Courtyard. The Chancel Handbell Choir performed on the Millennium Stage of the Kennedy Center in DC.

In September, we kicked off a new season of music making with our annual Homecoming Sunday. The Chancel Choir enrolled 32 members, and the Chancel Handbell Choir, 11. The children's choirs involved approximately 30 participants. We continued the adult opportunity, the Third Sunday Choir, which provided a monthly opportunity for those unable to make the weekly commitment to the Chancel Choir. Chancel Choir soloists/ensembles offered music once a month for the 8:30 a.m. worship service. The Children's Choir taught us several responses, rang bells, played Orff instruments, and sang and signed the *Cambodian Lord's Prayer*. We engaged a bagpiper for our Heritage/Reformation Sunday. In November, The Chancel Choir held its fourth annual choir retreat, in Illicott City. The Chancel Handbell Choir performed for a charity event at the Waterfront Hotel in Fell's Point.

The Advent season offered several unique departures from past "traditions." The Advent wreath candles

were lighted by a procession of liturgical dances accompanied musically by recorder and soloists. The Chancel Choir, Teen Ensemble, Children's Choir, along with marimba, guitar, and harp, offered a Sunday afternoon concert which included Conrad Susas's *Southwest Carols*, followed by a candle-lit display of nativity sets on loan from TPC members. On Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m., the Children's Choir played chimes and along with Cherub Choir presented *A Shepherd's Story*, while the Chancel Handbell Choir and soloist Carol Openhym led music at 8:00 p.m. Music at 10:00 p.m. was led by the Chancel Choir.

Len Langrick, Director of Music and Organist

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

In my second full year at Towson Presbyterian Church, I am pleased to say that all of the changes and ideas presented during that term have been successfully implemented. None of this would have occurred without Chuck LaBerge, Elder liaison to Youth Ministries and Roger Rice, Associate Pastor. Both men have become great assets to youth ministries. Chuck LaBerge assists in event planning and supports youth activities when called upon. His mentoring capabilities and experience are invaluable and much appreciated. Likewise, Roger Rice has ably guided our youth and has introduced them to many different worship and devotion styles. Roger and I also led a confirmation group together with 19 newly confirmed members of Towson Presbyterian Church. His participation in youth functions and knowledge in ministry always brings new energy to the program.

So, what was new during 2008? At the top of the list, Youth Ministries championed the exciting new contemporary worship service called "Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30". This service comes complete with current interactive messages of faith and Christian rock style music. Development for this new service began in late February and continued under a Task Force Team, who benchmarked with other churches and gathered information on contemporary services. The Worship Design Team took over in late July and crafted the "Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30" service for Towson Presbyterian Church based on that research. After many meetings and interviews, a part time coordinator of music was hired, Jason Jackson, and "Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30" was set to begin. On Sunday, November 9, the first service was held in the TPC chapel and enjoyed a wonderful turnout of over 75 people. This service continues into 2009 under the direction of Roger Rice, who has led the Worship Design Team, which are always looking for creative help and new team members. It is our hope that this service will bring new families, youth and young adults into our church while it continues to support the needs of our members at large.

Our Youth Summer Work Camp Trip was held in Pittsburgh, PA, under a program called the Pittsburgh Project. This annual one week mission trip took place in late June and an enthusiastic group of 16 youth and 8 adults participated. Both youth and adults found this trip to be very enlightening about inner city poverty and the overall mission to express our faith and volunteer efforts to those who are in need. The Pittsburgh Project staff ran an excellent worship service each day with strong messages and music to energize us. Small groups were formed to discuss the worship theme and talk about our day. Most of us even had an opportunity to explore the city of Pittsburgh for an evening and see some sites. Adult advisors included Jaime Borrelli, Charlotte Exner, Pat Gross, Bob Law, Tad Lyon, Sly Moore and Roger Rice. Each advisor played a special role in helping guide and support the youth.

Youth Sunday was a big hit and many TPC members were blown away by the quality of the youths' worship leadership. Many said it was the best Youth Sunday in recent memory. Over 20 TPC youth had roles in the service as several new elements were added. The music was very contemporary with electronics and visuals added in. A power point presentation was used for each message that was presented. Brief skits and movies also played an important part in delivering those messages. Most importantly, all of the youth who participated enjoyed having the chance to be a part of the service. Needless to say, this will be hard to top in 2009.

The Youth Newsletter, "The Dove," has continued to be an effective way of informing the youth about Youth Ministry news and events. Youth fellowship continues to meet on Sunday afternoons. Middle school meets Sunday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and High School from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Both sandwich "Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30" to encourage youth to attend that service.

New Youth Advisors in 2008 included Katie Byram, Bob Clingan, Chrissie Davis, Brenda Evans, Emily Fromm, and Mike West along with advisors from the previous year, Cathy Isphording, Keith Jeffries, Megan Shepter and Jim Lyon. They have all devoted their time and support to Youth Fellowship and I sincerely appreciate

all the hard work that they have done. Without the help of these wonderful individuals, a youth program couldn't exist at TPC. All of the youth retreats, the Six Flags trip, visits to Beetree, lock ins and cook outs, to name a few, happen because of our talented Youth Advisor group. New advisors are always welcomed and appreciated.

Youth participation is at a record number, and this wouldn't be possible without a joint Youth Ministries Committee and Advisor-Youth-Planning Committee known as AYPC. The youth have been running all of the meetings and have assumed the rolls of Moderator, Secretary, and Co-moderator for the past year. Senior/Elder Emily Moore and Junior Ben Nuttle are the Moderators of this group, and Tori Buck is the Secretary. Henry Tabelaing is the Web Coordinator and Tucker Woods, Jennifer Paffenbarger, Kelsey Evans and Ally Yarkony are the Co-Moderators for our 2008/09 year.

Youth Ministries will continue to depend on the support, policy-making, and parental involvement from those who serve on the TPC Youth Ministries Committee. Elder Chuck LaBerge, Elder Emily Moore along with Secretary Tad Bashore and members Emily Wilkinson, Linda Lotz are always looking for new committee members. Thank you, the TPC congregation, for your support of our efforts throughout the year and to the teens that make this program so special. I look forward to a wonderful 2009 campaign with high expectations for the future of our youth program and the future of our youth.

Jim Isphording, Director of Youth Ministries

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

The purpose of the Administrative staff is to enable and facilitate the pastors, boards, committees and members as they carry out their ministry and mission at Towson Presbyterian Church.

2008 has again been a transitional year in the Administration Staff. The Administrative Assistant position was filled in late January and the individual resigned at the beginning of June. Tara Runge was hired in June and has proven to be excellent for the position. Tara is intelligent, professional and a fast learner. A life-long member of the Towson community and mother of 3 college and high school age daughters, she knows many of our members from groups and activities outside of TPC. She has grown quickly from a novice in the ways of TPC to accomplished member of the staff.

The Administrative staff continues to strive for flexibility in its approach in order to meet the ever changing needs of our growing church. I marvel in the creativity among the Staff, Boards and membership who continue to look for new ways to put the faith that abounds at TPC!

And **as always**....let me know how we can help you!

Elsie A. Hurt, Administrative Coordinator

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

2008 seems to have come and gone in the wink of an eye. It was another busy year, one of challenge, growth, opportunity and hard work for the TPC family; as always this remarkable family rose to the challenge. The faithfulness and generosity of this congregation always leaves me full of respect and gratitude. Despite the upheaval outside of our doors, this family remains steadfast in their determination to do the work God has called us to do; serve our community, the less fortunate and each other.

As always, I am grateful for the army of volunteers who share our work. The members of the Property Committee, ably led by Cornelia McKenna, and the members of our Finance Committee, chaired by Treasurer, Andy Evans, make the impossible, possible by lending hands and hearts, time and talents. Together we accomplished so much in 2008 and we look to the many tasks in 2009 with confidence that we can continue to grow and improve and be good stewards of the many blessings that God has given.

So many of you contribute to the operation of this church. You collect the offerings and count them, repair drafty windows, arrange flowers for the sanctuary, cook meals for fellowship, lift voices in worship, visit the sick and lonely, paint our walls, welcome our visitors, dip our strawberries, plan our worship and help to determine our goals for the future. In our busy world, I am humbled by your willingness to give so much of yourselves. I don't think TPC could manage without you, but I know for certain that I could not.

Kathryn Bojanowski, Business Administrator

REPORTS OF SESSION MINISTRIES

ADULT MINISTRIES

The Adult Ministries Committee has had the support of many individuals and other TPC committees in pursuing its goal of enriching the spiritual lives and fellowship of members and friends in the past year. A brochure has been provided to the TPC community quarterly, which describes the many opportunities our collective efforts have made available.

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

Fair Trade, Fair Talk—an informal discussion of current events and news;

Adult Bible Study—leader Bob Oeste focuses on a study selected books of the Bible, in the Spring, 2 Kings, and most recently, the Gospel of Matthew;

Seeking Discipleship—coordinated by Cece Bashore and Lisa Kyle, the group discusses inspirational writings of Christian thinkers chosen by class consensus;

Heartlights—adult facilitators Beth Bugg, Roxanne Maffitt-Harvey & Ana Montero lead this full and varied class for adults with special needs.

Plumline—Lecture-based presentations of spiritual, historic, cultural and ethical issues. The participation and support of many committees and individuals has made these rich sessions, which such topics as missions, policy advocacy, a look at our reformed heritage, and the always exciting series by David Jackson on poetry.

Weekday Activities:

Pastor's Bible Study—Rev. DeGarmo leads the *Kerygma* 30-unit study “Discovering the Bible” in a monthly evening meeting and a monthly daytime meeting.

Living the Questions—Revs. Roger Rice and Barrett Rudd have led two four-week studies of this provocative DVD/small group program with plans to continue the series in four-week segments.

Small Groups and Circles—Bible studies, book groups, circles and prayer groups meet at TPC, and in various homes under the sustaining leadership of many TPC members.

Shalom—Fridays in the fall, co-sponsored by Adult Ministries, Earth Corps, Mission and Peace and Justice to present policy issues and celebrate the wholeness of God's love. Human Rights Day was celebrated with prayers and candles on the Labyrinth.

All Church Lenten Series—A number of small groups studied *Unbinding Your Heart* during the 2008 Lent season. Adult Ministries also co-sponsored *Music and Meditation* with the Worship, Music and Arts Committee.

Fellowship Activities

These are many and varied, including, among others, bike hikes with Len Langrick, Diners' Club, Thursday lunch group, golf outing, Iron Birds game and museum trips.

The Committee wishes to thank Sue Thompson for her direction and unending support of the work of Adult Ministries. Committee Members: Cece Bashore, Lisa Kyle, Lois Leuba, Peggy Lord, Ann and Barrett Rudd, Mary Lou Ryce and Susan Thompson (staff liaison).

Mary Lou Ryce, Co-Chair

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

The year began with our architect, John Srygley of JRS Architects, at work on a building needs statement and preliminary cost estimate of the changes to the building that had come to the forefront after two years of planning. These were: improving heating throughout the building and adding air conditioning to Thompson Hall and the education wing; optimizing HVAC for the entire complex; renovating bathrooms; adding an elevator to the Thompson Hall corridor, creating a new Thompson Hall entrance; replacing selective windows; upgrading out-dated electrical systems and adding fire doors and sprinkler systems. The estimate for the complete project was \$7.9 million.

In February Session hired J.M. Klote and Associates, fund raisers, to help with a readiness assessment study and then, depending upon its results, to assist with a full blown campaign to raise needed funds. Fourteen open “focus groups” were scheduled to which the entire congregation was invited. Focus group participants indicated significant support for all aspects of the proposal and demonstrated an understanding of the need to conduct a capital campaign in order to ensure the continued success and vitality of the TPC mission and ministry. The vast majority expressed their willingness to contribute to a campaign and many offered to serve as capital campaign volunteers. Based on feedback from the focus groups, improvements to the Thompson Hall kitchen and funds directed toward mission outside TPC were added to the campaign scope and the various projects were prioritized. Cost estimates for the entire project were revised to \$6.2 million.

Session approved the revised plans and volunteers began to solicit pledges, payable over a five year period, assisted by J.M. Klote Associates. In April a campaign brochure was readied, and the pastors, all committee members and church officers were solicited for their pledges. In mid May a “kick off” luncheon for the congregation was held in Thompson Hall. Teams of two were assigned to visit members of the congregation to review the plans and to request their participation.

As we headed into summer it became more and more obvious that the world was heading into a financial recession. Visits continued in and among vacation plans.

In September a small working committee was formed to act as an advise and consent group for the engineers and the architect. This committee consists of Cornelia McKenna, who along with eh Treasurer of the campaign, Ken Pennell, is keeping track of the pledges, and Bob Law, Carl Hossfeld and Kathryn Bojanowski.

In October the annual stewardship season started and active solicitation for the capital campaign was put on hold, with plans to renew visits early this spring.

At year’s end pledges had been received from 197 households totaling 2,501,923, most of them to be paid into the church in the next 5 years. As of December 31, payments totaling \$551,787 of this amount had been received.

In the meantime, Session has approved the idea of splitting the capital projects envisioned by the campaign plan into two phases. Phase 1 will include: electrical service upgrade, new boilers, new air-conditioning for Thompson Hall and the Preschool wing, new HVAC controls for the Preschool wing and improved heating/cooling zones, sprinkler system and updated fire safety equipment for the Preschool wing, and new energy efficient lighting. Kibart Engineering has been hired to complete the project design. Estimates for Phase 1 renovations currently total \$2.5 million.

Currently, the committee is exploring the possibility of debt financing against expected pledge receipts in order to enable the church to begin the Phase 1 work as soon as possible, possibly even this summer and fall.

Committee members: Ellen Barnhart (Chair), Lindley DeGarmo, Josh Else, Andy Evans, David Gilliss, Dan Green, Jim Hyde, Patricia Jackson, Bob Law (Co-chair), Cornelia McKenna, Ken Pennell (Treasurer).

Ellen Barnhart, Chair

Towson Presbyterian Church
"Foundation for the Future" Capital Campaign
As of December 31, 2008

Receipts:

Gifts Received (total Pledged = \$2,501,923):	\$ 551,786.94	
Other Receipts, Interest Earnings:	803.68	
	<hr/>	
Total Receipts:		\$ 552,590.62

Disbursements:

Cost of Professional Services:	\$ 231,275.36	
Other Campaign Expenses:	11,744.83	
	<hr/>	
Total Disbursements:		243,020.19

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements: **\$ 309,570.43**

A detailed Statement of Receipts and Disbursements is available upon request.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministries works closely with Susan Thompson, Director of Christian Education, to develop and implement programs and activities for children to help them grow in their faith, develop a relationship with God, and learn what it means to become a part of the church community. The activities of this past year included the following:

Nursery: Becket Gordon continued to serve as our coordinator for Noah's Nursery. She is very competent and well liked and is one of the reasons our parents of young children come to church regularly. The numbers of infants in the nursery continues to be very high. Nursery care is available every Sunday of the year.

Church School: Church school is offered for ages 2- high school September through June. During the summer, childcare is provided for preschoolers and early elementary school children. This year we have continued to have particularly strong attendance in the youngest classes – 2 and 3 year olds through first grade. Susan Thompson, along with the leadership of this committee, sets the curriculum, trains the teachers, and organizes all Sunday programs for children. The children enjoyed some new programs this year. In October, the children provided leadership in parts of the Children's Sabbath Service as well as prepared plates with artwork on how we could help children in the United States. In December, all of the children in church school gathered together for a Moravian Love Feast for candle lighting and scripture to highlight meaningful parts of the Christmas story. The children also enjoyed the Spirituality Center which was held in the Chapel for 2 weeks.

First Fridays: This fellowship for grades 4 and 5 meets the first Friday of each month. This year the group traveled to the Bel Air Athletic Club, the Rain Forest Café, Hot Pots, went bowling, and enjoyed group dinners, movie and games at church.

Camp Beetree: Camp Beetree, our summer day camp held for one week in July, had the theme *North, South, East and West – All of the Very Best*. It was very well attended this year with 24 teens serving as assistants, 53 campers, and 25 adults involved with this ministry. This is an enormous undertaking and was successful due to the commitment of our volunteers. Highlights of the camp included daily presentations on culture in South America, Asia and Africa, creating peace lanterns, hearing folk tales, and learning dances from Carol Appleby. Each day a camp newsletter was distributed to highlight events and accomplishments. A work camp for middle school Counselors in Training was coordinated by Jim Isphording to get the camp ready, build community and prepare them to be assistant teachers.

Festivals: The Lenten Festival had 130 children and volunteers participating. The children enjoyed the craft tables, live animals and an egg hunt. The annual Advent Festival was also a big success, with many craft tables and a delicious brunch pulled together by Eb and Karen Nuttle.

Special projects and fundraising: Several successful fundraising projects were conducted this year: the middle school students sponsored the Valentine Gram project where carnations with messages were sold to raise money for the Honduras mission trip; several times during the year we raised money or stuffed bagged lunches for Sarah's Hope; 80 Hygiene Kits were collected for families to use during disasters; 60 gifts and 3 bikes were collected at Christmas for the McKim Center; and the soda can project collected enough money to send 4 children to school in Guatemala. Our children's library, the Bookworm, was supplemented by new books and videos and continued to be refurbished thanks to Debbie Kinhart, Jennifer Sheggrud, and Carey Thomasian.

Outreach and fellowship: We are now in our fourth year of bringing together parents of young children for fellowship. This has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for parents to connect with each other and to welcome new families into the church. We enjoyed 2 dinners, and planned an open house at Lindley and Sarah's house as well as an autumn outing at Beetree, both of which were cancelled due to bad weather. Young parents also held their own Lenten book study group and started a group called The Thoughtful Christian, which meets twice a month to discuss topics of interest.

With so many programs offered to our children and youth throughout the year, good communication is essential. Families are sent postcards throughout the year with information about church school and special programs, quarterly email newsletters are sent to parents, newsletters are handed to each student in church school regularly, and birthday cards are sent to the children.

We are grateful for Susan Thompson's good work in Children's Ministries. She keeps us abreast of new developments and ideas in Christian Education and is eager to find better ways to reach out to our children and

families. We are also so grateful for all of our volunteers who help our children grow in their faith: the many talented and dedicated church school teachers, the volunteers who developed and implemented the Camp Beetre program, the families who assist in the nursery every Sunday, and those who help with our festivals.

Committee Members: Beth Bugg, Brenda Koch, Ana Montero, Suzanne Redpath, Amy Rosenthal, Carey Thomasian, Susan Thompson, Beth Toole (Chair).

Beth Toole, Chair

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is responsible for the investment of assets in the following accounts: (1) the General Fund Account; (2) the Equity Account; (3) the Fixed Income Account; and (4) the Snyder Fund Account. These accounts hold a combination of interest bearing cash, individual corporate bonds and preferred securities, and no-load equity mutual funds for the benefit of the mission and ministry of TPC.

The Endowment Fund Committee operates under the terms of the TPC Endowment Fund Agreement, approved by Session. A copy of this Agreement is available, upon request. To support the TPC consolidated budget, a portion of the annual investment income and principal is distributed under a written spending policy. Our investments are managed by the Church Staff, under the direction and oversight of the Endowment Committee. Our assets are held in brokerage accounts held at Scottrade, Inc. (their local office is in Towson).

The current target asset allocations are as follows - 45 - 50% stocks; 45-50% bonds / fixed income; 5-10% cash.

Committee Members: Andy Evans, David Hinks, Tim Lotz , Kevin McKenna, Harry Thomasian (Chair), Bucks Wilkinson.

Harry Thomasian, Chair

TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Comparative Balance Sheet
Managed Investment Funds

	Year Ending December 31			
	2007	%	2008	%
Assets:				
Cash and Equivalents	\$136,870	12.8%	\$ 15,721.01	7.0%
Equity-CDs and Mutual Funds	570,906	53.3%	444,836.96	62.0%
Fixed Income - Mutual Funds	89,932	8.4%	58,998.28	8.2%
Fixed Income - Individual Securities	272,759	25.5%	197,489.40	27.5%
Total Assets:	<u>\$1,070,466</u>	100.0%	<u>\$ 717,045.65</u>	100.0%
Liabilities:				
Secured Line of Credit	<u>\$23,640</u>		<u>\$ -</u>	
Net Worth of Equity and Fixed Income Funds:	<u>\$1,046,826</u>		<u>\$ 717,045.65</u>	

**TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVESTMENT FUND ACCOUNT
Statement of Changes in Financial Position
January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008**

Description	Equity #67425511	Fixed Income #67425510	Account Total
Cash on January 1, 2008	\$ 85,738	\$ 51,132	\$ 136,870
Investments (Fair Market Value) on 01/01/2008	570,906	362,691	933,596
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Beginning Balance	\$ 656,644	\$ 413,823	\$ 1,070,466
Receipts			
New Funds Received in Account	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends & Interest	13,060	22,712	35,773
Realized Gains/(Losses)	13,162	15,696	28,858
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts	\$ 26,223	\$ 38,408	\$ 64,631
Disbursements			
Brokerage Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Advisor Fees	-	-	-
Foreign Taxes Withheld	-	-	-
Funds Disbursed from Account	(89,691)	(84,215)	(173,906)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Disbursements	\$ (89,691)	\$ (84,215)	\$ (173,906)
Change in Market Value			
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	\$ (184,170)	\$ (59,976)	\$ (244,146)
Cash on December 31, 2008	\$ 9,464	\$ 6,257	\$ 15,721
Investments (Fair Market Value) on 12/31/2008	399,542	301,783	701,325
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Ending Balance	\$ 409,006	\$ 308,039	\$ 717,046

TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2008 Statement of Changes in Designated Funds

Name of Account	Balance 01/01/2008	Income Transfers (net)	New Funds Received	Realized Gain/(Loss)	Income For Period	Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	Funds Disbursed/Tsf	Balance 12/31/2008
General Fund - Unrestricted	\$ 68,517	\$ 14,616	-	\$ 1,776	\$ 2,753	\$ (12,810)	\$ (67,855)	\$ 6,997
General Fund - Designated	4,631	-	-	-	-	-	(843)	3,788
Endowment - Unrestricted	382,087	(14,616)	-	12,395	14,821	(105,028)	-	289,660
Memorial Fund	23,922	-	-	724	914	(6,343)	585	19,802
Hyman Bequest	22,062	-	-	667	843	(5,850)	-	17,722
Beetree Cemetry & Columbarium	56,457	-	-	1,730	2,186	(15,147)	418	45,644
Beetree Development	6,488	-	-	198	268	(1,538)	1,228	6,644
Sanctuary Renovation	74,970	-	-	-	-	-	(79,431)	(4,461)
Property Funds (combined)	3,829	633	-	35	43	(126)	(2,565)	1,849
DTF Future Building	50,741	(633)	-	964	889	(7,724)	(1,551)	42,687
Patterson-Property Endowment	27,080	(1,017)	-	807	1,017	(7,034)	-	20,852
Patterson Income	1,807	1,017	-	67	86	(625)	-	2,352
Ensor Courtyard Fund	48,017	-	-	1,428	1,798	(12,416)	(2,670)	36,157
Chapel Hall - Stained Glass	26,016	-	-	787	994	(6,898)	-	20,899
Scholarship Fund - Princ.	10,476	(394)	-	312	394	(2,721)	-	8,067
Scholarship Fund - Expend.	13,881	394	-	-	-	-	-	14,274
Program Funds	8,155	-	-	247	311	(2,162)	-	6,551
Library	2,828	-	-	86	108	(750)	-	2,272
Youth Mission	28,353	-	-	837	1,058	(7,254)	(1,000)	21,993
Mission - Undesignated	922	-	-	28	35	(245)	-	741
Mission - Sarah's Hope	541	-	-	7	9	(36)	(442)	79
Mission - Molave, Philippines	1,033	-	-	8	6	(25)	500	1,521
Carr Music Fund Endowment	108,118	(4,061)	-	3,221	4,061	(28,085)	-	83,254
Carr Music Fund Expendable	3,276	4,061	-	-	-	-	(1,825)	5,512
Dorman Music Fund	1,679	-	-	25	27	(118)	(1,469)	144
Dorman Christian Education Fund	94,578	-	-	2,512	3,152	(21,211)	(16,987)	62,044
Total	\$ 1,070,466	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,858	\$ 35,773	\$ (244,146)	\$ (173,906)	\$ 717,046

**The Hank and Joyce Snyder Fund for Mission Support
Statement of Change - Income and Principal Accounts
January 1 to December 31, 2008**

Date		Accrued Income	+	Principal	=	Total
01/01/08	Fund Balances @ Fair Market Value	\$ 9,027		\$ 156,347		\$ 165,375
	<u>Receipts:</u>					
	New Gifts to the Fund:	-		-		-
	Investment Income Received, Net:	4,677		-		4,677
	Realized Gains/(Losses):	-		2,249		2,249
		\$ 4,677		\$ 2,249		\$ 6,926
	<u>Disbursements:</u>					
	Honduras and Guatamala [1]	-		-		-
		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
	<u>Unrealized Gain/(Loss) in Principal Account:</u>	-		(40,915)		(40,915)
12/31/08	Fund Balances @ Fair Market Value	<u>\$ 13,705</u>		<u>\$ 117,681</u>		<u>\$ 131,386</u>
	[1] Due to General Fund for Disbursements to Honduras and Guatamala Projects	(7,000)				
12/31/08	Cash Available for Stated Mission Purposes:	\$ 6,705				

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Finance and Administration Committee (FinAd) comprises representatives of key Session committees and the Board of Deacons. FinAd monitors TPC's operating finances, prepares the annual budget for review and approval by Session and oversees office technology and systems.

In 2008, TPC operated with a (\$58,441) deficit budget approved by Session. Session approved this deficit spending in recognition of the importance of investing in TPC's future and the work begun in 2007 to grow the Church. Year-end operations resulting in a (\$63,358) deficit due in large part to a \$17,000 short-fall in pledge receipts and twenty-seven pay periods, one more than normal. In light of the tremendous turmoil in all financial markets, these results were surprising good. The year also included the beginning of a capital campaign and the strong support and giving from numerous members. In addition to normal operations, two special projects were approved and conducted to improve internal operations. The first upgraded outdated and failing computer networks and the second addressed challenges within accounting and financial reporting at the Church. The network project was completed \$1,600 under budget and the accounting project, which will conclude over the upcoming weeks, will do so under budget.

For the year, unrestricted giving from pledges and other (including loose plate offerings) totaled \$710,833, a slight increase over last year. Restricted giving was better than planned, but still down 26% from last year. In all, total receipts for the year were \$966,463 or \$6,500 better than planned. Total program expenditures (children, youth, adult and other ministries; and worship, music and art) amounted to \$118,332, slightly more than the \$109,700 budgeted. Personnel expenses for the year were \$621,093 vs. \$607,300 budgeted. Mission was \$69,355 vs. \$84,750 budgeted, almost entirely due to lower than anticipated restricted gifts. Property was \$175,230 vs. \$180,875 budgeted. Administrative and Debt Service were \$84,035 vs. \$88,360 budgeted. The final deficit of (\$63,358) was paid from reserves.

Preparation for the 2009 budget began recognizing that receipts held steady or grew slightly (as seemed likely in the current economic climate), spending had to be slowed. Finance and Administration again worked closely with the Stewardship Committee to ensure we had an accurate projection for the year's giving. Session was regularly consulted for its guidance and assistance as we looked to reduce the deficit as much as possible without disabling the grow initiatives pursued over the past few years. In the end, it was determined giving would remain flat while investment incomes would drop by nearly \$17,000. As a result, spending was controlled when the Church did not adopt a 6% cost of living increase for staff as recommended by the Presbytery. Additionally, almost every ministry's spending was reduced slightly for the year with the exception of Mission, where net spending was maintained at last year's level. The 2009 budget approved by Session calls for receipts totaling \$964,171, disbursements of \$1,021,086 and transfers of \$43,150, resulting in a deficit of (\$13,765) for the year. We recognize the difficulties present economic conditions present many of our members and ask you keep in mind the importance of pledging your gifts and meeting those amounts throughout the year.

Committee Members: Andy Evans (Chair/Treasurer), Harry Thomasian (Vice Chair/Endowment), Jim Hyde (Stewardship), Cornelia McKenna (Property), Bob Barclay (Board of Deacons), Rick Isphording (Mission), Lenore Chapman (Clerk of Session) and Lindley DeGarmo (Pastor and Head of Staff). While not a voting member of the Committee, Business Administrator Kathryn Bojanowski attends our meetings and provides staff liaison.

Andy Evans, Chair

TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Consolidated Summary of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers

Account Description	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2008 Actual 12/31/2008	2009 Budget
Receipts				
Pledged Envelope Giving	\$ 613,147	\$ 630,000	\$ 613,204	\$ 630,000
Unpledged Envelope Giving	79,635	80,000	82,552	85,000
Other Unrestricted Giving	12,832	10,416	15,077	13,500
Unrestricted Giving	<u>705,614</u>	<u>720,416</u>	<u>710,833</u>	<u>728,500</u>
Bequests and Undesignated Memorials	12,995	12,000	7,015	12,000
Other Restricted Giving	180,319	125,460	133,256	116,971
Rentals and Other Income	71,921	72,068	73,863	81,700
Investment Income	45,973	30,000	41,496	25,000
	<u>311,208</u>	<u>239,528</u>	<u>255,630</u>	<u>235,671</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 1,016,822	\$ 959,944	\$ 966,463	\$ 964,171
Disbursements				
Personnel	\$ 584,738	\$ 607,300	\$ 621,083	\$ 607,483
Mission	90,968	84,750	69,355	83,000
Children's Ministries	38,441	21,950	25,212	19,950
Youth Ministries	27,208	28,250	23,719	26,150
Adult Ministries	9,953	8,250	6,495	3,750
Other Congregational Ministries	42,650	26,800	43,983	20,950
Worship, Music and Art	37,440	24,450	18,923	18,320
Property	189,946	180,875	175,230	167,275
Administration	71,199	86,360	84,035	74,208
Debt Service	2,073	2,000	-	-
	<u>1,094,615</u>	<u>1,070,985</u>	<u>1,068,034</u>	<u>1,021,086</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,094,615	\$ 1,070,985	\$ 1,068,034	\$ 1,021,086
Transfers from Allocated Funds				
Mission	\$ 8,569	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,441	\$ 5,000
Program	47,868	23,500	20,282	24,250
Property	4,912	14,100	6,670	13,900
Memorials	-	10,000	4,820	-
	<u>61,349</u>	<u>52,600</u>	<u>38,213</u>	<u>43,150</u>
Total Transfers	\$ 61,349	\$ 52,600	\$ 38,213	\$ 43,150
Total Receipts and Transfers	\$ 1,078,171	\$ 1,012,544	\$ 1,004,677	\$ 1,007,321
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,094,615</u>	<u>\$ 1,070,985</u>	<u>\$ 1,068,034</u>	<u>\$ 1,021,086</u>
Net Change in Reserves	\$ (16,444)	\$ (58,441)	\$ (63,358)	\$ (13,765)

MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Memorial Commission is composed of a chairperson, Susan S. Hossfeld, and three committee members. This committee has responsibility for acknowledging, recording, and disbursing the funds received by Towson Presbyterian Church in loving memory of, or in honor of TPC members or special recipients.

During 2008 Memorial gifts and tributes have received “In Memory Of” the following individuals:

William E. Mason
Al Flesher
Robert McKean
George Allison
Elizabeth Sherman
Joseph Lehnbeuter
Frank Thatcher
Olly Reinhart
Douglas Keller
John Chapman
Pat Ashby
Philip Hoffman
Janet Lindsay
William Hedeman
Jean Taylor
James W. Johnson
Richard Rowland

Additional Funds in 2008 were disbursed from the Memorial Fund for:

John C. Ruxton—Beautiful Wood Advent Stand
Richard Rowland—Music Ministry
Joseph Lehnbeuter—Thompson Hall Renovation Funds
Elizabeth Sherman—Thompson Hall Renovation Funds
George Allison—Thompson Hall Renovation Funds
Al Flesher—Capital Campaign
William E. Mason—Large Screen Television for Christian Education
Richard Fravel—Landscape Fund
James W. Johnson—Music Department
Janet Lindsay—Beautiful Stone sign on the corner of Chesapeake and Central Avenues

A leather bound album, with alphabetical lists of those being honored along with their memorial gifts, is located in the Narthex and is updated as needed. It is always available for corrections and additions, which can be written on the actual sheets.

A wish list has been compiled of possible Memorials for those who might like to honor a member of their family or friend. The brochure, updated in 2008, is located in the Narthex near the Memorial Book. The Newsletter each month contains special Memorial announcements and new memorial ideas.

Susan S. Hossfeld, Chair

MISSION MINISTRIES

Mission Ministries, a committee of Session, focuses on initiatives that are local, national and international in scope. The committee provides leadership for TPC in supporting a number of projects.

The year 2008 was a challenging year for TPC Mission Ministries. Fiscal restraints at TPC meant that Mission’s annual budget was contracted during a year when the need was arguably greatest amongst our mission partners. However, through the determined efforts and creativity of the committee, much was accomplished.

Internationally, TPC Mission continued its longstanding tradition of support for our Honduran

missionaries, Gloria and Tim Wheeler, by organizing a trip there in March 2008, with 13 TPC participants. During the trip, the group helped build homes, taught weaving and provided dental services in the village of Bonita, Honduras. Additionally, in September, the Wheelers visited the states and TPC, hosting a Plumline event and renewing friendships old and new.

The Presbytery Guatemala partnership was supported with school scholarships given by the church school and many individual members of the congregation. Many received grateful letters of thanks from their students. TPC Mission also has continued to provide support for the Akyem Anyinase church in Ghana. Also, through the generosity of a TPC member, support has been established for a congregation in the Philippines.

Nationally, TPC Mission enthusiastically supported the Youth Ministries work camp trip to inner city Pittsburgh, PA in June 2008. A large contingent of youth and adult advisors participated and returned greatly moved by their experiences rehabbing housing and interacting with needy and grateful elderly residents.

In 2008, this committee supported many different local mission partners in the Baltimore area. Among them are Baltimore Station, where once a year we break bread with men determined to escape from the cycle of poverty, substance abuse and homelessness. Also seven TPC volunteers spent a day working on a Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity home site in May 2008. Unfortunately, Sarah's Hope, with whom TPC had a standing date monthly to prepare lunch for homeless women and children in Baltimore County, was shut down this past year. Efforts to revive Sarah's Hope by St Vincent de Paul of Baltimore have been stalled in the County, but are bearing fruit in Baltimore City. Other local mission partners include, Assistance Center of Towson Churches, GEDCO, Jobs, Housing and Recovery and Shepherd's Clinic.

At Christmastime, we held our Alternative Gift Market featuring eleven different local and global mission partners and Fair Trade Coffee. In 2008 over \$13,000 was raised through your generosity to further enhance Mission giving...a stunning achievement during difficult economic times!

Sadly, Tom and Jean Foley announced in 2008 that they were "retiring" from active involvement with TPC Mission. We thank them for their many years of selfless contributions to this committee.

The Earth Corps efforts of TPC continue to be a sub-committee of Mission, as they work to educate our members and find ways to care for the planet upon which we all live and depend. Likewise Peace and Justice operates under the Mission umbrella and hosted several meaningful events at TPC throughout the year.

Special offerings for the PCUSA were collected, Souper Bowl Sunday, Blanket Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, the Peacemaking Offering, and during Advent, the Joy Offering.

Finally, we thank Associate Pastor Roger Rice for his energy and leadership with the Mission committee. For 2009, he has initiated a retreat for Mission committee members, church leaders and other committee chairs to examine mission's role in all aspects of the church. We eagerly look forward to the challenges of 2009, as we endeavor to live in the spirit of Jesus when He was asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

Committee members: Ellen Barnhart, Cece Bashore, Sandy Burt, Charlie Conklin, Jean Foley, Tom Foley, Rick Isphording (Co-Chair), Ann Lehwald, Peggy Lord, Linda Lotz, Amy Lyman, Brad Lyman, Jim Lyon, Mary McGibbon, Madeleine Mysko, Patty O'Brien, Ann Phillips, Jack Phillips, Alan Randolph (Co-Chair), Ruth Anne Randolph, Roger Rice, Judith Rietz, John Sheehan, Agnes Shera and Kathryn Yarkony.

Alan Randolph and Rick Isphording, Co-Chairs

EARTH CORPS

Collaborating with other TPC committees, members of the congregation and pastors, Earth Corps activities for 2008 were focused on providing spiritual, educational and stewardship opportunities for all members of the congregation and the surrounding community. These included:

Earth Month, a tradition at TPC, included participation in Project Clean Stream along Roland Run, Earth Day Sunday Worship, "Creation Groaning – Psalm 104, Romans 8:22, Col 15-20" Service and Blue Jean Sunday tasks that included window insulation as part of TPC's energy conservation initiatives.

As part of Earth Month, Church School children made an Earth Day Video in which they challenged viewers to become involved in good stewardship of the earth. A two-week earth education program led children to use recycled cardboard to make signs which contained "earth-friendly" messages.

Adult Education Plumblines topics included Rev. Barrett Rudd and Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin on “Varying Perspectives of the Biblical Foundation for Restoring Creation”, Leslie Woods (PCUSA) on Congressional issues of Care for Creation and its relationship to Poverty and Peace and Justice, Julie Erickson, Presbytery of Baltimore’s Director of Public Policy, on MD legislative initiatives and Angela Smith, JHU Center for a Livable Future Food & Faith on relationship between food, poverty, justice and Care for Creation.

Spring and Fall Tree Plantings at Beetree Preserve planted a total of 220 trees.

Educational and Social Witness activities included a visit to Heathcote Community in Baltimore County to learn about sustainable living, furnishing TPC library with resources and a trip to DC in participation with PCUSA 2nd Tuesday Advocacy Team.

Earth Corp members participate in the Presbytery of Baltimore Care (POB) of Creation Task Group whose mission is to reach out to all churches in the POB to believe and act as a congregation and individuals in our spiritual connection to all of God’s Creation and develop a stewardship ethic that will protect and restore all for future generations.

Earth Corps continues to facilitate the process of implementing environmentally friendly practices at TPC including a paper and bottle recycling program, the no-Styrofoam policy, energy conservation and promotion of shade grown, fair trade coffee and similar products.

Committee members: Carol Appleby, Charlie Conklin, Jim Ispording, Carol McCord, Ann Phillips, Ann and Barrett Rudd, Rev. Roger Rice and Lark Schulz.

Charlie Conklin, Chair

PEACE AND JUSTICE

Peace and Justice Committee (a sub-committee of Mission Ministries) began its 2008 efforts with a *Human Rights Film Series*. Coordinated by Julie Mertus, this series presented award-winning films on concerns that included the violence in Darfur and torture in Guantanamo. Despite a weather-related cancellation, the entire series was well received and brought in some visitors to our church from the community, both as members of the audience and as guest speakers.

On Memorial Day, we sponsored the second *Peace Be With You*—music and readings in our sanctuary to honor all who gave their lives in service to this country during war. Having applied for the permit from Baltimore County and accepted donations toward a beautiful memorial wreath, we led a procession from TPC to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the County Courthouse grounds, where we laid the wreath.

In August, we held our first “Summer Supper and Planning Meeting” at the home of the Chairperson, which was attended by some 20 people. We enjoyed energizing fellowship, made plans for fall events, and dreamed forward.

Again this year, on September 11, along with the community of Southland Hills (our TPC neighbors), we stood on Charles Street as part of the *Peace Path* sponsored by Women in Black.

On October 17, we presented (with Adult Ministries) *Health, Fear, and Money*, a film providing an overview of the crisis in our healthcare system and highlighting possible solutions, which was followed by a discussion led by expert guest speakers. Good attendance included visitors from the community. We are grateful to Ann Lehwald, coordinator of this event.

We sponsored two events under the theme of “Shalom”: November 11, an inter-generational program with a professional puppet show and peace-art activities; November 21, our third *Peace Be With You* program of music, poetry, and the unveiling of The Peace of Christ Banner. The banner (designed by Patricia Jackson to incorporate the work of many hands at TPC) hung in the sanctuary through Advent as a focus for prayer and contemplation. On December 9, in support of Adult Ministries’ contemplative program, *Lights on the Labyrinth*, we brought to the Peace Dove Lantern that the children made during *Shalom*.

Committee Members: Mary Louise Ellenberger, Carol Herndon, Patricia Jackson, Peggy Lord, Madeleine Mysko (Chair), Ruth Anne Randolph, Roger Rice, Ann Rudd, Barrett Rudd, Susan Thompson.

Madeleine Mysko, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee convened in late February 2008 and continued to meet through mid-April. We prayerfully considered the needs of our congregation for leadership, as well as the gifts our members have to offer. In keeping with the *Book of Order*, our goals were to provide for a “full expression” of the diversity within our membership, and to assure that our church family would enjoy “a greater inclusiveness leading to wholeness.” We received and carefully considered nominations from the congregation. In April we completed our work, and submitted a full slate of members willing to serve as Deacons and Elders. That slate was approved at the congregational meeting on April 27, 2008. In June, Nominating Committee conferred again briefly order to fill two mid-term vacancies on the Board of Deacons; those nominees were approved at a special congregational meeting on August 10, 2008.

Committee members: Beth Bugg, Elder Lenore Chapman (beginning June 1), Elder Matt Custer (through May 31), Lindley DeGarmo (ex officio), John Dillon, Carol Herndon, Bill Kladky, Lisa Kyle, Deacon Jack Phillips (through May 31), Elder Cornelia McKenna, Elder Madeleine Mysko (Chair through May 31), Patty O’Brien, Elder Melanie Ponsi (Chair beginning June 1), Lois Robinson, Karen Williams.

Melanie Ponsi, Chair

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee oversees the hiring, compensation and evaluation of TPC’s paid staff, working in close cooperation with Dr. DeGarmo in his role as Head of Staff. During 2008 we were blessed with an uneventful year. Our program staff is in place and working smoothly and effectively together. Tara Runge joined us as Administrative Assistant at mid-year and is doing an fine job in the front office. Our major regret as the year ends is that budget constraints have prevented us from awarding cost-of-living increases for 2009. The freezing of salaries is in no way a reflection of the quality of our employees or how we value them. We will make every effort to ensure that this action is for one year only.

Committee members: Lindley DeGarmo, Brett Goodrich (Chair); Curt Hauer, Chuck LaBerge, Melanie Ponsi and Beth Toole.

Brett Goodrich, Chair

PASTORAL SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009

The Session reports that the compensation for pastors was reviewed prior to the adoption of the budget for 2009 in accordance with the requirements of the *Book of Order*. Although the Session has endeavored to maintain the Effective Compensation of the pastors at the at the mid-point of the Presbytery of Baltimore’s standard for their positions, the recommended adjustment for 2009 would have required increases of 5.95 percent. Instead and in light of the general economic conditions facing all segments of society, Session deemed it necessary to freeze the compensation of all employees, including the pastors, at the 2008 levels for the coming year.

	Rev. DeGarmo	Rev. Rice
Cash Salary	\$55,343	\$45,000
Housing Allowance	<u>43,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Effective Salary	\$98,343	\$65,000
Social Security Offset	7,523	4,973
Pension and Health Benefits	30,978	20,475
Professional Development (vouchered)	1,000	1,000

PROPERTY AND INSURANCE

The Property and Insurance Committee, with oversight from Session, is charged with the responsibility of managing the property of TPC (400 West Chesapeake Avenue and the BeeTree Preserve), including determining the appropriate use of the church building and facilities, and to obtain property and liability insurance coverage (*Book of Order G-10.0102o*). The committee plans for, prioritizes, pursues, and in some cases implements, the needs of the building and facilities while working within the budget set by Session. We work in partnership with Kathryn Bojanowski, our day-to-day, get-it-done, go-to staff person, and Walter Austin, our Sexton-extraordinaire.

In my humble opinion, 2008 was very exciting for the Property Committee. The year started with an incredible renovation of our beloved Sanctuary. The new pews and floor have enriched our worship experience and it is hard to remember the old theater seats and red carpeting that existed only one year ago.

During 2008, some other highlights from the Property Committee include:

- Made heating repairs constantly throughout the year. These expenses totaled over \$20,000 in 2008 and have added up to nearly \$46,000 over the past 3 years.
- Continued to implement recommendations from our energy assessment report. Over the past 3 years, we have decreased our electric use by 8.3% and our gas usage by 11.5%. It's a good start, but please remember to turn off the lights!
- Continued to monitor, analyze, and fix those areas in the building that tend to get wet when it rains. We have contracted for additional roof repairs this January.
- Developed a window restoration plan for the 181 non-stained glass windows. A detailed survey was completed and plans are underway to implement recommended repairs.
- Installed a Towson Presbyterian Preschool canopy over the alley door in celebration of their 50th anniversary (paid for by the school).
- Weather-stripped many windows thanks to a volunteer crew.
- Installed speed bumps and new signage in the alley.
- Replaced the phone system.
- Stripped and resealed the activity room floor.
- Painted stairwells, doors and various rooms.
- Increased acreage and the number of young trees, and decreased the deer population and the number of trees destroyed by gypsy moths at BeeTree.
- Planned and coordinated another very successful Blue Jean Sunday – thank you!
- Cleared exterior storm drains as much as possible.
- Last, but certainly not least, installed a beautiful new exterior sign in memory of Janet Lindsay.

We were able to accomplish great things in 2008, with much more to do in 2009. The *Foundation for the Future* Capital Campaign is a huge blessing. Phase I construction, which we hope to begin this summer, is very exciting for us! The replacement of our old heating system and installation of new air conditioning in parts of the building will not only increase the comfort and usability of the facilities, but will also save us annual operating costs. Many of the fire safety issues will finally be addressed and the out-dated electrical system will be updated. It is a crucial first step to make sure our building continues to meet our needs by supporting our ministries and missions now and into the future. Thank you to everyone who continues to financially contribute to the campaign.

Committee members: Kathryn Bojanowski (staff), Karyn Brune, Scott Elson, George Hohl, Patricia Jackson, Bob Law, Tad Lyon, Cornelia McKenna (Chair), Peter Bulkley (Vice-Chair), Bruce Seeley, Nancy Sherman, Jim Tabeling, Al Weaver.

Cornelia McKenna, Chair

BEETREE PRESERVE AND BEETREE CEMETERY

Through the continued efforts of the BeeTree Committee and with the support of volunteers and professionals, this valuable church and community asset is in great shape.

In keeping with our mission to preserve, protect, and improve the grounds and facilities of BeeTree we instituted some significant changes at BeeTree in 2008. Among these were:

- Updated the reservation system to better handle the growing use of the property by scout, church, hiking, and other groups.
- Instituted a \$5 per person fee for all non-TPC groups that stay overnight at BeeTree.
- Contracted with a forester and logging company to do a limited tree harvest throughout the property. This will bring in much needed income and help the forest withstand a severe gypsy moth infestation. Logging should begin in spring 2009.
- Contracted with Tri-County Deer Management to conduct a managed deer hunt from October through January for the next 3 years. The overabundance of deer is negatively affecting the health and rejuvenation of the forest.
- In return for our support for a specific zoning change affecting property adjacent to the cemetery, we were deeded approximately one acre of additional property. This buffer will further protect the cemetery and the preserve from new development.
- In conjunction with local environmental groups, we planted hundreds of new trees along streambeds to further protect the forest, water quality, and reduce erosion.
- With the help of various scout groups, we made improvements to the Alt Bath House and Adirondack shelters.
- We are continuing negotiations with the state and county to protect BeeTree from future development.
- We are addressing three pressing issues:
 - Gypsy moths are continuing to impact the BeeTree forest – aerial spraying provided by county will be requested again this year.
 - Vandalism is on the rise again – additional security measures are needed as are people willing and able to help us with repairs.
 - New committee members and volunteers are needed to meet all the exciting projects and programs at BeeTree.

We thank everyone who has given time, money, and in-kind gifts to BeeTree. We encourage all TPC members to become familiar with and utilize this unique and valuable piece of property.

Committee members: Charlie Conklin, John Dearing, Andy Evans, Brett Goodrich (Chair), John Hobner, George Hohl, Butch Marsh, Tish Marsh, Mary Jane Pennell, Ken Pennell, Kent Rayburn, Dave Vanko.)

Brett Goodrich, Chair

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is charged with marshalling the financial resources of the Church. Each year, the annual budget is approved by Session, and the Stewardship Committee makes every effort to work with the Church and the congregation to provide the financial resources needed by the church through an annual campaign, which is traditionally held in the fall of each year.

As in years past, our Committee again took a two-pronged approach to the campaign. We wanted provide the congregation with an opportunity to celebrate the successes that they helped make possible the past year, as well as educate the Church and congregation on how important an annual stewardship campaign is in the life of Towson Presbyterian Church. Although we decided against having a celebration luncheon (in light of the very tough economic times in which we find ourselves), we did focus our efforts on communications with the congregation through regular Newsletter articles and Bulletin updates. We also wrote regular letters and had periodic e-mail “blasts” throughout the year. Our goal was not only to have a dialogue with the congregation, but also to thank all of our members for donating their time, talent and treasures during the past year. We continue to celebrate an increase in new membership, our now seasoned Youth Director, the wonderful addition of Dr. Roger Rice as Associate Pastor as well as the many programs, which include a vibrant Plumblin, an incredible array of support for mission, both local and national (indeed, international), and programs for our youth, support for our seniors, and outreach to the broader community.

By the end of the Stewardship Campaign, the Committee expects that we will have received pledges in the approximate amount of \$600,000 to \$630,000. Please know that it is not too late to submit a pledge for 2009! Although the average pledge increased, our total pledging was down – and we need to turn that around. In that regard, we do have our work cut out for us, as the total amount in pledging has not yet reached our final goal. If you have not pledged, will you please consider doing so? We truly need each and every one of us to participate in the life of the Church – and that includes making a pledge. The ability of the church to perform its mission depends on all of us. All of us need to encourage the entire TPC family to consider a pledge and give joyfully, without any regret, knowing every dollar goes to the best of purposes, to support God’s work through Towson Presbyterian Church.

Committee Members: David Gilliss (Chair), Daniel Green, Alice Dearing, Anna Else, Andy Evans, Jim Hyde and Lindley DeGarmo (ex officio)

David Gilliss, Chair

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

WMA Committee has met monthly, on the first Tuesday. Carol Appleby served as chair through May 31 and was succeeded by Madeleine Mysko. Our week-to-week work is generally that of supporting our Pastors, Music Director, and Director of Christian Education in presenting worship services that are hospitable, inclusive, aesthetically pleasing, and spiritually engaging. To those ends, our monthly meetings are often two-fold in endeavor: We assess the worship experiences of the previous month, and we anticipate the needs of the worship experiences in the months ahead. Our concerns touch on everything from lilies to poinsettias, from lay readers to sound systems, from dancers to bagpipers to liturgical art.

WMA is also the committee that regularly supports music and arts programs outside of worship services, such as this year’s *A Southwest Christmas and Nativity Set Exhibit*. (See Music Director’s report for details on this and other programs sponsored by WMA.)

WMA has continued to promote children’s participation in worship too. In cooperation with Susan Thompson, our Director of Christian Education, we work to ensure that children are included in worship in ways that enrich all of us, at every generational level. This year we were particularly pleased to support the Children’s Sabbath service in October, in addition to the traditional Youth Sunday earlier in the year.

It has long been the responsibility of WMA to prepare the Communion table each month, and we have continued to do so, down to the laundering of linens and the shopping for loaves of bread. We are blessed to have faithful volunteers, led by Joyce Nuttall, who set the Communion table with the many trays of bread and grape juice. The practice of serving Communion elements by Intinction is somewhat simpler to prepare for, but nevertheless requires equal attentions. Carol Appleby has continued to orient elders and to coordinate Communion services—for the 8:30 and 10:00 hours, and now for the 5:30 as well. In our meetings this year, we’ve addressed the spiritual import of Communion traditions and rituals, both for the members of the congregation who are served and for those who are ordained to humbly perform that service.

Recently, WMA has committed itself to considering our various duties and responsibilities, and to recording them in a manageable form. Our goal is a WMA “handbook” that will be useful to us—and especially to new WMA members—through liturgical seasons to come.

Committee members: Carol Appleby, Lindley DeGarmo, Patricia Jackson, Lorene LaBerge, Len Langrick, Lori Law, Madeleine Mysko (Chair), Roger Rice, Susan Thompson, Eleanor Weaver.

Madeleine Mysko, Chair

NEW WORSHIP DESIGN TEAM

This past year Towson Presbyterian Church started a new worship service advertised as *Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30* in the chapel. Targeting a younger demographic in our community and church, the Session funded a part-time contemporary music leader, Jason Jackson, who began leading services in November. With the help of a volunteer Worship Design Team, *Rock Ur Faith* has been a labor of love and a new and important venture in the life of our church. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity at one of the *Rock Ur Faith* worship services, please sign up in Thompson Hall.

Rock Ur Faith services are creative, and differ in format and music. A typical service includes the following elements:

- Gathering Music (projected and combines rock, praise, and jazz forms)
- Giving the Peace
- Greeting and Announcements
- Express Yourself (humorous skits and presentations)
- Scripture & Message
- Special Music
- Joys, Concerns & Prayers (often interactive)
- Blessing
- Closing Music & Offering

In addition, Communion is celebrated monthly.

New start up worship services are risky ventures, but the cause is great and the people creative and passionate! You are welcome to come and see what the Spirit is attempting. Matter of fact, bring a friend and let's worship and party on!

Team members and Rock Ur Faith volunteers: Dotsie Bregel, Matt Custer, Chrissie Davis, Becky Goodrich, Susan Haigler-Robles, Elsie Hurt (staff support), Jim Ispording (staff support), Andrea Katz, Bill Klady, Lorene LaBerge, Lori Law, Ann Lehwald, Janet Lord, Jim Lyon, Ben Nuttle, Carol Openhym, Diana Reighart, Roger Rice (Temporary Chair), Mike West, Emily Wilkinson

Roger Rice, Temporary Chair

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Things are going great with Youth Ministries. This year, we started to have the Youth Ministries Committee (YMC) meet jointly with the Advisor-Youth Planning Committee (AYPC). The AYPC is composed, as you might expect, of advisors and youth, and the meetings are capably run by (Elder) Emily Moore and Ben Nuttle. And when I say "run by", I mean "run by": they set the agenda and lead the discussion. Director of Youth Ministries Jim Ispording provides guidance, and the other YMC members help me in providing some guidance, but basically the program of activities for the youth programs are established by the AYPC participants.

And what a program of activities we've had this year. There was the Youth Mission Trip to Pittsburgh in June, a fun-filled outing to Six Flags in August to kick things off for the 2008-09 program year. We've had human Foosball in the gym, a campfire at Bee Tree. And of course the Progressive Dinner during the Christmas holidays was a hit, as usual. But the big news for 2008 was, of course, getting *Rock Ur Faith @ 5:30* off the

ground and running.

Every month I attend the meeting and come away thanking God for the dedication of these young people and the clear presence of His Spirit in their lives. You'll all have a chance to see what I mean on the upcoming Youth Sunday. They truly are a great group of young Christians. And they need your help, too! There are never enough advisors for the youth fellowship activities. Jim is very flexible, but he needs additional adult support. We—all of TPC—can't sustain this level of program excellence without the participation of dedicated adult volunteers. Can't make it every week? No problem, AYPC is well-equipped to work around that. Not good at planning? Again, no problem: AYPC does the planning work well in advance. But the youth need (and deserve) your time. Help us keep the good times rolling. You won't be sorry.

Chuck LaBerge, Chair

REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

MODERATOR

The Board of Deacons strives to “minister those in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress”. Under the supervision and authority of the Session, we focus on three areas of service: member care, welcoming, and community building. Behind the scenes, we are ushers, welcomers, caregivers, bakers, burger flippers, set up and tear down specialists, and more.

Highlights of 2008 include:

- Held a “welcome to TPC” new member luncheon.
- Participated in homebound communion with our Elders.
- Led the Homecoming 2008 event.

Board of Deacon members: Bob Barklay, Cece Bayshore, Eric Bjorkholm, Ross Bregel, Kathy Bredbenner, Alex Bulkley, Ted Custer, John Dearing, Elsie DeGarmo–Smith, Barb Dillon, Karen Drake, Josh Else, Martha Hayman, Amy Hemingway, Lori Law, Ann Lehwald, Amy Lyman, Steve Marsh, Mary McGibbon, Karen Pluebell, Richard Rosethal, Jim Tabeling, Mark Taylor, and Eleanor Weaver.

John Dearing, Moderator

COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Community Building Committee is charged with developing and encouraging fellowship among TPC churchgoers. With fellowship, TPC wants to develop stronger relationships between and among its members and clergy. It is our belief that enhanced relationships will make TPC stronger and enable the church to accomplish more.

Every year, TPC holds several events with the purpose of building a stronger sense of community within the church. The Community Building Committee focuses its efforts on making those events possible by providing the manpower and/or facilitating other congregational volunteers. This year there were two major events that were spearheaded by the Community Building Committee – a New Member Brunch and Homecoming. In addition to these events, several other community building events were led by other members of TPC including:

- Valentine Sunday
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Easter Breakfast
- Honduras Mission Luncheon
- Strawberry Festival
- Summer Fellowship June – September
- Advent Festival

- Chili Dinner following Caroling

So, next time you sip some coffee down in Thompson Hall or munch on a donut, remember, we are doing it not to fatten you up but instead so that you can hang out and get to know each other a bit better.

Josh Else, Chair

MEMBER CARE

The Member Care Committee reaches out to the homebound community of Towson Presbyterian Church via:

- *Home visitation/calls* – the Deacons and others strive to stay in touch by mail, telephone and personal visits with over 70 current congregants who are not able to attend church regularly.
- *Card Ministry* – the Deacons and others acknowledge and celebrate life's events; concerns, joys and care for all church members.
- *Bereavement Care* - the Deacons assist with memorial services. We usher and provide companionship to surviving spouse/family members as appropriate.
- *Homebound Communion* - the Deacons and Elders provide Communion to homebound members three times annually.

Committee Members: Kathy Bredbenner, John Dearing, Barbara Dillon, Martha Hayner (Co-Chair), Amy Hemingway (Co-Chair), Molly Johnston, Lori Law, Amy Lyman, Richard Rosenthal, Bette Shaffer, Jim Tabeling, Eleanor Weaver.

Martha Hayner and Amy Hemingway, Co-Chairs

WELCOMING

The Deacons' Welcoming Committee re-focused this Fall with the purpose of attracting, welcoming and assimilating new members into TPC. We formulated several goals and strategies to better publicize TPC and its activities, identify visitors and incorporate them into the life of the church.

In the short time since we have formed, the Committee has created a new process for following up with visitors from the attendance pads, sent a mailing to new families in targeted zip codes, and started a new sub-committee for identifying and welcoming first time and interested visitors. We have contacted local publications to publicize events and introduced a quarterly 'Bring A Friend To Church' day.

We recently began work on a program and agenda for a New Members Brunch. We plan to kick off our mentoring program with new members to help by one-on-one guidance to assimilate them into our church family.

2009 brings exciting opportunities for TPC and the Welcoming Committee as we look for more ways to grow our TPC family. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to assist in welcoming and shepherding visitors and new members by contacting a member of our Committee to volunteer their time and suggestions.

Committee members: Steve Marsh (Co-Chair), Karen Pluebell (Co-Chair), Ross Bregel, Ann Lehwald, Alex Bulkley, Bob Barclay, Elsie DeGarmo-Smith, and Erik Bjorkholm.

Steve Marsh and Karen Pluebell, Co-Chairs

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The 61st Annual Strawberry festival, better known as “Strawberry Frappacino,” was a successful continuation of a very proud tradition for our church community. This year’s theme was “A Strawberry Frappacino”. The festivities were kicked off with a Minute for Mission and “Strawberry Frappacinos” served during the coffee hour. On June 4, the sun shone, the tables were set, the volunteers appeared and the people came. The event can best be described by these thoughts:

- The Season of the Summer Solstice will be Sending Signs and Signals of Sensational Strawberries. Some of those Signals that Sally forth will include:
 - Sprigs of Spring Sprouts at the plant table,
 - Smothering of Strawberries over cake and ice cream,
 - Superb music from Finewood,
 - Solicitations from the Strawberry table,
 - Sally Wallace’s Scholarly book Sale,
 - Soaking of the Staff at the dunking booth,
 - Salable items for Granny’s attic,
 - Squealing and Shouting from the Six and Seven year olds as they Summersault on the moon bounce,
 - Surplus Strawberries Sales on Sunday,
 - Sunshine and no Showers,
 - Salutations all around and Spending time with Special church friends,

Without the numerous volunteers, nothing would have occurred. A brief list of those follows.

Baked Beans:	Rachel Reitz	Hot Dogs:	Bob Bickel
Baked Goods:	Lois Robinson	Jewelry:	Joyce Nuttall
Beverages:	Brenda Evans	Photographer:	Eb Nuttle
Book Table:	Sally Wallace	Plants:	Amy Lyman
Car Wash & Dunking Booth:	Jim Isphording Youth Group	Publicity:	Church Staff
Clean Up:	Ross Bregel	Salads:	Ellen Barnhart
Decorations:	Emily Wilkinson Kay and Liza Salemi	Set-up:	Nick Salemi
Electrician:	Jim Lyon	Strawberry Prep:	Kathy Bredbenner
Entertainment:	Len Langrick	Strawberry Table:	Denise Blake
Food:	Brad Seeley	Tickets:	Leslie Strawhand
Games:	Alice Dearing	Treasurer:	Chuck LaBerge
Granny’s Attic:	Patty O’Brien & Jim Lyon		

Judith and John Rietz, Co-Chairs

TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

This September found us celebrating the beginning of our 50th school year with a variety of activities. A canopy over our “car pool” door was installed in early August. The children were greeted with a red, yellow and blue balloon arch to walk through on their first day of class. Our staff was recognized during the morning worship service on October 19th. A bronze plaque marking our 50th anniversary replaced the 25th anniversary plaque on the landing outside the sanctuary. A new carpet and a “celebrating 50 years” picture were installed just inside the alley door.

Our 50th year began with us enjoying 131 children from 122 families, 12 of whom are church members. We welcomed new teachers Heidi Amaral and Lisa Stewart to our staff, as well as new classroom assistant Eileen Bilo.

During this year, our students enjoyed weekly music classes with Lorene LaBerge and monthly movement classes with Jen Reiter. Visitors included a ranger from Patapsco Valley State Park with numerous animals. Buster the Bus from Baltimore County Schools’ Department of Transportation presented a bus safety program for our 4-year-olds. A “Maryland Indians Travelling Trunk” from the Maryland Historical Society allowed us to set up a hands-on history museum experience for each class (plus adults!) to learn from. Our 4-year-olds enjoyed field trips to the Maryland Science Center’s Planetarium, North Run Farm to pick pumpkins, The Fire Museum of Maryland and Goucher College to see a production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Chapel Chats for the 4-year-olds were continued. Our annual Art Show Open House in March was attended by over 450 people!

An Eagle Scout Project, lead by Austin Ingersoll, spruced up our lower playground. The scouts raked leaves, sifted sand, shoveled sand back into the sand box, cleared out overgrown grasses and planted some “more suitable” plants.

We continue to maintain our approval from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and our association with Maryland Committee for Children and the Child Care Directors of Central Baltimore County.

Board Members: Jim Hyde (President), Bruce Seeley (Vice President), Nancy Sherman (Secretary/Treasurer), Karyn Brune, Lenore Chapman, Randy Grimsley, Amy Hemingway and Susan Thompson.

Lenore Koehler, Director

