



*We are called to celebrate God's presence;  
Nurture the spiritual life of each individual;  
Carry the light of Jesus Christ to the world;  
and Serve God by serving others.*

Riverside Presbyterian Church  
2008 Annual Report

**RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**2008 Annual Report**  
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## **PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**This was a terrific year for me as your pastor. The signs of faith that have poured out from this congregation are truly inspiring. As in all of sacred history, the greatest signs of faith were offered during times of adversity, and this year was no different.**

**The year started with people stepping forward to fill needs in ways that went above and beyond what anyone expected. I am mindful of Fred Kitch and Cindy Reynolds-Rayfield jumping in to do very large jobs for the church even after the funding for those positions was cut. I also remember the year starting with two deacons stepping forward during a congregational meeting when the nominating committee was having trouble finding volunteers.**

**I remember the youth Mission Trip where we had more adult volunteers than what were really needed—an extremely rare event in the history of the church. And then there was the flood relief project where people came out of nowhere to show kindness to strangers for no reward except the love of God. Of course the stewardship drive this year blew the lid off all my expectations as people stepped forward during some difficult times and kept their faith as a high priority.**

**It's a great joy to be around such people of faith, who make loving God and loving neighbor a high priority in their daily lives, not just for one hour on Sunday morning. I am humbled by your witness and grateful for it.**

**It was also a busy year for me. We started implementing some new committee structures, and there are always kinks to be worked out for such a project. I went on the youth trip to Alabama and got to know the kids a little better. The Genesis Covenant kept me busy this year, helping our neighboring churches find what might be in their best interest. However, there will likely be no ramifications for Riverside Presbyterian as a result of the Genesis Covenant work. I also took a leading role in the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches—hosting a weekly Bible Study for all Riverside area Pastors, hosting the area Vacation Bible School, hosting the Prayers for Peace on first Wednesdays, and participating in other events such as the inter-church softball games and the Longest Night worship service.**

**Perhaps the biggest news of 2008 was the addition of seminary intern Mary Koon, who has been practicing her skills in ministry and sharing her thoughts with me each week. It has been an extraordinary blessing to have Mary on staff, and I certainly hope that we have an intern every year for a very long time. The benefits of an intern to this congregation are surely made manifest by Mary's presence among us.**

**I also enjoyed my time at Saugatuck and got to know many of you during that weekend, though I still feel like I'm a rookie in this position. I hope to continue to get to know you even more this coming year and to continue to receive inspiration from your abundant faith.**

**Your brother in Christ,**

**Scott**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CE was led by session members Thom DeVries – focusing on youth, Matt Ranft – focusing on children and Joyce VanCura – focusing on adults. Lynda Nadkarni continued as Director of Christian Education, Josh Fulton retired mid-year from overseeing the youth programs and was replaced by Tara Gregus.

Fall 2008 launched the seventh year of RPC's Passport to the Promised Land Sunday School program for school-aged children, Kindergarten – Jr. High. Average attendance continues to average 50 children per week.

This program is based on the rotational model, which takes one Bible lesson or story for each unit and teaches it to the children a different way each Sunday for the five Sundays of that unit. Normally, the classes consist of a cooking class, an arts and crafts class, a gym class, a map or Bible study class and a story teller using the Cornerstones curriculum.

A special thank you to those who have given of their time and talents to teach a rotation (or more):

Beverly Aieta	Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak	Jeannine Buttimer
John Cain	Susan Deems –Dluhy	Frank Fieseler
Mack Fiesler	Lisa Freel	Tara Gregus
John Hauguland	Connie Kelly	Jenny Kolinski
Susan Lisle	Fred Mitchell	Joe Ourth
Serina Ranft	Kathi Roccanova	MaryAnn Sadilek
Carrie Staubus		

An extra-special thank you to our shepherds from the '07-'08 and ;08-'09 school years who guide their classes each week: Shannon Buhle, Mary Jensen, Tom Kedzie, Rob and Laura LeBeau, Susan Lisle, Hollie Miezio, Donna Mitchell, Serina Ranft and Bill Vogel.

Preschool Sunday School runs concurrently with worship beginning after the children's sermon. This class is being led by Heather Pomey and Keri Nekovar.

Godly Play, held after the Children's Sermon, is a Montessori-based worship education which recognizes that children have the potential to experience God in deep and meaningful ways. The goal is to encourage that potential through the telling of Bible stories and allowing children to work with the story materials. Leaders and children worship together utilizing song, sign language, artwork, and prayer as responses to God's love. Each week requires a leader and greeter to deliver the service of worship for children kindergarten – second grade.

Our Leaders have been Lisa Freel, Lorraine Meyer, Marika Floros-Nadkarni, Brooke Schwarz, and Mary Smith. We were blessed by Alice McLean as a Greeter and several youth greeters: Kelsey Buttimer, Amanda Gregus Lindsay Hayes, and Max Marciniak.

**In addition to these programs, childcare is provided Sunday mornings for infants and toddlers by a three-person team of paid staff. An average of four children per week is cared for in the infant room and eight per week in the toddler room. We are blessed by Barbara Eberhardt, Heather Pomey and Keri Nekovar's loving care of our infants and toddlers each Sunday. We added Lauren Wilcox to the staff in December to replace Shannon Bradt who went away to college.**

**Wednesday Night Live (WNL!) continued in 2008. An inter-generational program for the whole community, Wednesday Night Live (WNL!) is composed of eight-week sessions, one in fall, winter (January-February ending before lent) and spring (post-Easter). WNL met at 6:00 p.m. for a shared meal. At 6:45 p.m., there were activities for the whole family. Intern Mary Koon led a girls group during WNL! as Youth Group returned to Sunday evening.**

**Confirmation for the freshman class began in September and will run through March 09. Attending are Molly Chaney, Colleen Cody, Marika Floros, Amanda Hejna, Jack Kemper, Mak Marciniak, Tyler Pratico, Taylor Vogel, and Abby Willinger. This class is coordinated by John Cain and Joe Ourth.**

**A most wonderful Youth Sunday was held in June 1 with over 80 children participating in a variety of ways from singing to reading, musicianship to artistry.**

**Vacation Bible School, returned to Riverside this summer, hosted by RPC. The program transported children back to Biblical Days and a family structure with marketplace allowing them to experience life as Jesus did. 48 children from the community attended with volunteer participants from RPC, Ascension Lutheran, St. Mary and Riverside United Methodist as leaders.**

**We again provided Summer Sunday School with all children participating together in the rotation. Attendance averaged 6 per week. Teachers were Lisa Freel, Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, Anna Knasiak and Lynda Nadkarni. Concurrently, the adult class met in the summer too.**

**Last but not least of the children's programs is the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. In total, 48 children and youth participated in the service which was attended by over 300 people. We had to set up overflow seating, a testament that our programs have grown and flourished this year.**

**Scouts are under the umbrella of CE. Frank Gangware is the RPC liaison to the scouting programs. 2008 has seen the continuing growth of both the Cub Pack and Scout Troop, with over 90 active Cub Scouts and 35 Boy Scouts participating. Both programs are blessed with adult volunteer leadership that is both deep in numbers and long in effectiveness, a true blessing and the primary reason for the current enrollment numbers. The church and our community have benefited in many ways from these organizations, with Cub and Boy Scouts participating in a wide variety of local volunteer programs. A**

**day of service with the local forester, volunteer service at the library and other local churches, food preparation for our Night Ministry and participation in the RB High School Day of Service are some of the many activities in which the scouts have been active. Kyle McCain's Eagle Scout project replaced an unsightly and unsafe portion of RPC parkway with sod, and utilized the paving bricks the scouts removed to renovate the walkway in the interior garden area.**

**Human Scene, coordinated by Joyce Van Cura and Youth Group, led by Tara Gregus, reports are under separate cover.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lynda Nadkarni  
Director of Christian Education**

## **YOUTH GROUP**

**Much like 2007, the year 2008 was a time of transition for the youth groups at Riverside Presbyterian Church. The Junior High began its year by meeting on Sundays in the late afternoon/evenings. We always had a core group of attendees, followed by the occasional friends and parent volunteers. Our goal this spring was to focus our meetings and discussion on fellowship, faith, and how we could contribute to the world around us--so our activities reflected these ideas. We helped paint the floor of the youth space, talked about why we celebrate certain holidays, the importance of the environment, and even had a 'sleepover.' Fun games such as laser tag, as well as sardines, were a constant.**

**The Senior High also met in the evenings on Sundays in the first half of 2008, and with the busy schedules of youth these days--we were glad to provide a welcoming environment for all who attended. Our goals were to focus on how we could take the feelings of fellowship and faith that many of our Senior Highs who have attended mission trips in the past experienced for a single week, and carry that into our daily lives at home--so our topic discussions and activities reflected that. We helped pack food one afternoon at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and held topic discussions on health, sport, and various topics. Our Senior High devoted much of the spring to planning and preparing for our June mission trip. We held meetings periodically in the spring for parents and youth, and held a series of fundraisers designed to get the youth more involved in the process. Many youth and parents contributed to our bake sales, and the entire church seemed to enjoy our fundraiser barbeque.**

**The mission trip this year took the Senior High youth to Mobile, AL to assist the Government Street Presbyterian Church in June with their work with the local homeless and additional groups. The youth (and chaperones), rode a bus both ways from Riverside--stayed in a waterfront retreat, and spent their days learning about life as a homeless person, and the struggles many go through to find their way, and their faith. Emily Martin, from GSPC, was integral in making plans for us that included a myriad of activities: eating at a homeless shelter, attending worship at a Mission, visiting and assisting a home for the disabled, etc. Evenings were spent in devotions and fellowship activities--with many enjoying the sunsets on the water.**

**In July 2008, I assumed the leadership of the Youth Groups from Josh Fulton. We renovated our youth space in the Celestial Cinema with new furniture and have had a whirlwind of activity this fall. Our goal was to have one service project, one social event and two regular meetings in the Celestial Cinema per month. We had a bike hike to Waterfall Glen, a trip to Haunted Trails, participated in the CROP walk, raked leaves for seniors, helped out with Caring Christmas and made care packages for our college students. We received instruction in yoga and cooked an Italian Dinner for over 100 people in connection with the Service Auction. We ended the year with lots of fun by having a Progressive Dinner for the senior high kids and a trip downtown for the junior high kids. We had some good discussions about issues facing teens and are already beginning to plan for Mission Trip '09. We look forward to continuing to be a vital and vibrant force in our church in the years to come!**

**Respectfully Submitted, Tara Gregus, Youth Advisor**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Active members as of December 31, 2007 455

*Additions:*

New members	11
Confirmands	11

*Losses:*

Letter of transfer	3
Deaths	4
Other losses	5

*(includes transfer to inactive roll and removal by session)*

Active members as of December 31, 2008 465

Infant/child baptisms 6

Weddings 3

**In Memoriam**

**Lillian Chrastka  
Liberty Petru Dvorak  
Mary Middaugh Frick  
Libbie Krivanek**

**Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session**

## **CARER'S COMMITTEE**

**2008 was the first full year that the Carer's Committee has functioned as a sub committee of the Board of Deacons.**

**The mission of our committee is to collect items from the congregation to help meet the needs of service organizations and needy individuals in our area.**

**We have organized the work of our committee as follows;**

<b>Co Chairmen</b>	<b>Margy Martin &amp; Mary Lou Schwartz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lynn Shannon-Labotka</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Marjorie Lewe</b>
<b>Interfaith House</b>	<b>Wilma Steenland &amp; Monica Wood</b>
<b>Stars &amp; Stripes</b>	<b>Mary Lou Schwartz &amp; Lynn Shannon-Labotka</b>
<b>Beds</b>	<b>Marilyn Slanec &amp; Marge Abbott</b>
<b>Riverside Food Pantry</b>	<b>Marilyn Slanec</b>
<b>Champions</b>	<b>Marge Abbott</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>Margy Martin</b>
<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Albertia McCabe</b>

**Although each member has their specific responsibility, the committee works together as a team to enhance each of our goals.**

**Each month we put request in the Vision and the Sunday bulletin for the particular needs we are trying to fulfill. We owe a huge thank you to the members and friends of RPC who have so generously supported our work this past year.**

**This is an estimate of the goods, time and money spent in 2008.**

**Goods: \$6, 807      Time: 218 hours      Money spent: \$300.42      (Allocated \$: 1000.00)**

**We were grateful to the scout troops of our church for their help in Nov. with the canned food drive and also to the Sunday school for their generous contributions of cereal in May. We welcome any groups in our church to take part in our missions.**

**The Carer's Committee is grateful to the family and friends of Mary Frick for the generous monetary gift left to our committee. The gift will be used to help local missions in need. At this time, we are researching the options in an effort to carry out Mary's wishes.**

**We are always looking for social service organizations and individuals in need. We extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join our hard working, fun group. The more members we have the more help we can give.**

**Thanks again for your generosity. Without your donations, we could not function.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Margy Martin**

**Co Chairman**

## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Who's Who on the Board of Deacons:**

**Class of 2008:**

**Lucille Christensen (T,U,V), Christ Floros (M2), Diane Chaney (B), Sanlee Radigan (W), Mary Lou Schwarz (P), Brad Staubus (S2).**

**Class of 2009:**

**Dale Heilenbach (F,G), Paula McCracken (A), Sarah Dudak (L), Marilyn Slanec (H,I), Susanne Vogel (D,E) and Alex Krug/Jordan Messner.**

**Class of 2010:**

**Kohar Havelka (J,K), Doris Hayes (C), Mary Jansen (Q,R), Kathi Rocanova (S1), Sylvia Schade (N,O,Y,Z), Bill Vogel (M1)**

**Ministry Coordinators:**

**Deacon Districts: Sylvia Schade**

**Communion:(1st Sunday of the month) Sanlee Radigan**

**Flower Delivery:(weekly) Kohar Havelka, Paula McCracken and Mary Lou Schwarz**

**British Home:(1st Sunday of the month) Brad Staubus, Marilyn Slanec, Doris Hayes**

**Memorial Services: Sylvia Schade, Lucille Christensen, Doris Hayes, Dale Heilenbach**

**Meal Ministry: Doris Hayes**

**Events Chairpersons:**

**Garage Sale: Doris Hayes, Sarah Dudak**

**Caring Christmas: Sanlee Radigan, Mary Lou Schwarz**

**The Board of Deacons' year started off with a get-acquainted charcoal-broiled steak dinner to welcome new board members and spouses, preceding the board's meeting. Thanks to Dale, Brad and Steve who cooked the wonderful steaks. The retiring board members attended to say farewell (and then stayed to help clean up as a parting gift) while the rest of the board begins it's "big bang" meeting to start off the new year of God's work.**

**Deacons are assigned the task of helping the pastor care for the spiritual and emotional needs of the congregation, to befriend the friendless, help the needy, visit the sick and lonely, and try to keep contact with all the members of the congregation. So we take notes on the Joys and Concerns of the congregation, deliver flowers, set up, clean-up and serve communion, perform monthly services at the British Home, and assist community members in need.**

**We welcomed Seminary student, Mary Koon, who has been a very instrumental person on the Deacon's board.**

**Mary Jansen instituted Share the Harvest. They built a garden and planted vegetable plants at the British Home for the residents to care for. Members of the congregation also "adopted" plants to raise it's crops for the needy. Produce was picked up at the church and delivered to area food pantries.**

**Mary Koon and Sylvia Schade headed up a Flood Relief project for the victims here in Riverside. Several of our Deacons and congregation were going to attend a Habitat for Humanity mission trip, but opted to stay "home" to help out our neighbors.**

**We donated approximately \$500 to the Department of Woman's Judicial Services at Cook County Jail. Doris Hayes, Sylvia Schade, Marilyn Slanec and Sarah Dudak purchased, food, assembled baskets and delivered them to the jail for Thanksgiving.**

**We donated \$300 to Lynda Nadkarni, the Director of Christian Education for her to attend a conference in February.**

**The CROP Walk raised approximately \$2000.**

**Members of the congregation and youth group donated their time to wrap presents for Pro Se Services, an organization that focused on foster care children/teens this year.**

**Doris Hayes, Marilyn Slanec and Sylvia Schade volunteered at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Presbyterianism in Chicagoland.**

**The deacon's raised \$1700 to put toward mission work at our Rummage sale. Thanks to Doris, Sarah, Mary and Susanne for their coordination and artwork. All items that did not sell were donated to Purple Heart.**

**The Deacons had a great year and are looking forward to serving our congregation, community and world in 2009.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Susanne Vogel**

## DEACONS' TREASURER REPORT

**Beginning Balance 1/1/2008** **\$4,865.40**

**Receipts:**

<b>Rummage Sale Proceeds</b>	<b>\$2,488.89</b>
<b>Camp Saugatuck Retreat</b>	<b>580.00</b>
<b>Steak Fry</b>	<b><u>120.00</u></b>
	<b>\$3,188.89</b>

**Disbursements:**

<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$41.19</b>
<b>Steak Fry</b>	<b>283.45</b>
<b>Camp Saugatuck Retreat</b>	<b>580.00</b>
<b>Gifts: Thanksgiving Baskets</b>	<b><u>454.00</u></b>
	<b>\$1,358.64</b>

**Ending Balance 12/31/08** **\$6,695.65**

## NIGHT MINISTRY OUTREACH

At the end of 2007, the Night Ministry Outreach was brought under the purview of the Deacons as part of their overall mission outreach activity. RPC's Night Ministry Outreach celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service during 2008.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, RPC prepared and served Starlight Soup Suppers (soup and sandwiches in the winter) or Moonlight Picnics (hot dogs, chips and cookies in the summer) to Chicago-area homeless in conjunction with the Night Ministry's mobile clinic. Following is a statistical summary of our program's efforts:

Starlight Soup Suppers	7	service dates
Soup	70	gallons of RPC Vegetable-Beef Soup
Sandwiches	1,400	sandwiches
Service Time	287	service hours
Moonlight Picnics	5	service dates
Hot Dogs	1,000	hot dog, chip and cookie suppers
Service Time	40	service hours
Total Meals Served	2,400	
Value of Food Donated	\$ 2,400	

We had such great support during 2008. Just look at our roster of volunteers and the various roles they played in our monthly service! Some of them weren't even from our church – a real benefit to our community service.

LEADER	HEATER	SOUP	SANDWICHES	SERVER
Driver	Heats soup/ hot dogs	Donation = 2 gallons	Donation = 50 sandwiches	On site service
Ellen Hamilton	Jenny Kolinski	Thea Kiwiet	George & Kohar Havelka	Ellen Hamilton
Mike Heine	Lisa Marciniak	Lynda Nadkarni	Fred Mitchell Family	John Haugland
Jim Marciniak	Cindy Reynolds	Ellen Hamilton	Nancy Hejna	Nancy Hejna
Lisa Marciniak	Lynda Nadkarni	Patty Perry	Boy Scouts	Katie Hejna
	Lew Heine	Jenny Kolinski	Kate and Allan Chard	Max Marciniak
	Gwen Heine	Boy Scouts	Andrew Hart	Leanne Heine
		Sunday School	Marilyn Slanec	Evan Healy
		Al Halline	5th Grade Sunday School	Patti Perry-Halline
		Cindy Gustafson	Tom Kedzie	Halline Boys
		Tara Gregus	Lynda Nadkarni	John Haugland
		Nancy Hejna	Sunday School	Stan Schade
		Cindy Reynolds	Cadette Girl Scouts	Sylvia Schade
		Andrew Hart	Cathy Louthen	Gwen Heine
		Bernadette Kolinski	Ellen Hamilton	Mike Heine
		Marilyn Slanec	Michelle Hejna	David Wilson
		Jane O'Donnell	Sylvia Schade	Kathy Salerno
				John Kleek
				Bill Muller
				Colleen Muller
				Maggie Hejna
				George Armstrong

Thank you and God bless you to all the volunteers that supported this very worthwhile ministry in 2008.  
Respectfully submitted, Ellen M. Hamilton

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The members of the Committee were:

<p>Representing the Session:                  Representing the Trustees:                   Elected at-large:</p>	<p>David Fulton and Mike Heine                  Deb Jansky, Nancy Jensen,                  and Caroline Tecson                  George Dluhy, Cyril Friend, Fred                  Kitch, Fred Mitchell, Cindy Reynolds                  Rayfield, and Jim Ulrich</p>
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Gifts made to the endowment fund:

	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>2008 Additions</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Unrestricted	\$244,443.89	\$ 7,096.33	\$251,540.22
Property [Bldg.] Maint.	33,500.00		33,500.00
Church Budget	5,000.00		5,000.00
Mission Outreach	15,250.00		15,250.00
Education	3,100.00		3,100.00
<u>Music</u>	<u>3,225.00</u>		<u>3,225.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$304,518.89</b>	<b>\$ 7,096.33</b>	<b>\$311,615.22</b>

Between 12/30/07 and 12/14/08, many contributions were received totaling \$7,096.33.

Earnings from the fund allocated for 2008 programs were \$3,233.80. Additional funds were received from the endowment of a former member in the sum of \$377.92. The total earnings/receipts applied to the Church's 2008 programs were \$3,611.72. Earnings on non-designated gifts invested in the Growth Fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation were reinvested. The Pastor Home Equity Fund year-end balance was \$50,000. The loan made in January, 2008, to cover the Church's 2007 budget shortfall has been paid in full.

Distribution of 2008 earnings/receipts was as follows:

General Budget	\$ 2,003.84
Property [Bldg.] Maint.	977.98
Good Samaritan	445.24
Education	90.52
<u>Music</u>	<u>94.14</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,611.72</b>

The RPC Endowment was established in 1980. Only the earnings on endowment contributions are eligible for allocation to our Church's programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Mike Heine  
 Endowment Committee

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

**In 2007, Rev. Jansen appointed a Church Mission Task Force to reorganize the responsibilities of the committees of RPC. This task force defined the function of the Fellowship Committee to be**

**“to promote the building of Christian Community through fellowship within our church family and the greater community. Fellowship builds bonds of caring and enables church members to better know, support, and minister to each other as God would want us to do. Through fellowship activities, we can help the church to foster a welcoming atmosphere, making both members and visitors feel at home at RPC.”**

**With this definition, the Fellowship Committee enjoyed a much broader range of responsibilities in 2008. Besides the recruiting and scheduling of coffee fellowship hosts and the oversight of kitchen supplies which had been done in recent years, the committee was responsible - either entirely or in cooperation with another committee - for many church activities.**

**In conjunction with the CE committee, Fellowship worked on three different sessions of Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!) in 2008. WNL! is a midweek program which includes dinner, classes, and activities for all ages. With some variation from session to session, we usually planned on serving dinner for 40 on Wednesday evenings.**

**To allow the Deacons to focus on congregational care and mission work, the Fellowship Committee assumed responsibility for three big events that had traditionally been Deacon events. We oversaw the Strawberry Social in July, the family retreat to Camp Saugatuck in August, and the all church picnic to kick off the new Sunday School year in September.**

**The Strawberry Social saw a profit of \$1,413.35. With a desire to use the proceeds from this community event to benefit ecumenical ministry, a check for \$1,000 was sent to the Presbytery of Chicago to be used for mission, and the remaining \$413.35 was sent to the Riverside Food Pantry to alleviate hunger in our own community. Committee members Steven Teune, Lisa Freel and Marilyn Slanec, who had all worked on the Social as Deacons in the past, were especially helpful as we prepared for this event. Susan Lisle made sure we had the essentials, purchasing all our fresh strawberries and ice cream. Patti Perry-Halline, as both a Fellowship Committee Member and the chair of the Membership Committee, was instrumental in our participation in the Riverside 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, which helped promote our Social. Our participation this year won an award for “Most Original”.**

**Twenty-nine people from eight RPC families enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Saugatuck the weekend of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Bill and Vicky Vogel provided a terrific**

place to stop and enjoy the beach and delicious steaks for our luncheon on the way to camp. The rest of us continued on to Camp Saugatuck where we reveled in God's gift of the beautiful lakeshore site and fellowship with our church family while taking advantage of all that camp had to offer. We are in the process of scheduling another retreat for 2009 and hope that even more of our congregation will be able to join us. A special thanks to committee member Steven Teune for his extra efforts coordinating our retreat.

Committee member Jim Marciniak and recruit Scott Schwartz manned the grills and cooked many hamburgers and hotdogs for the church picnic which were accompanied by a potluck of tasty dishes provided by the congregation. God provided yet another day of perfect weather for this celebration to kick off the Sunday School year.

Committee member Connie Kelly has diligently hosted a craft night on the third Friday of each month over the last half of 2008. This is the first of many new activities that the committee will be trying now that they have tackled RPC's traditional events. Plans are in the works for more new activities for 2009.

A "Fellowship Tree" was set up outside of the sanctuary for the Christmas season which was adorned with ornaments made by the Sunday School classes and Christmas cards from the congregation. Members were encouraged to share their holiday greetings with their church family in this manner and donate the money they would have spent on cards and postage to the Christmas Joy offering.

We wrapped up the year helping Jon and Deb Jansky who have hosted the Wassail Bowl reception following the Messiah performance for many years. The committee helped to recruit bakers, set-up, serve, and clean up under the direction of the Janskys. The event was well attended both by members of RPC and the greater community.

This year we also set a goal to be better stewards of the Earth. Our first step in this direction was to try to cut down on the amount of garbage generated by fellowship events. We have been encouraging event hosts to use the church china and flatware and the dishwasher instead of disposable table service whenever possible. This goal has been made easier with the installation of a new point of service water heater in the kitchen.

Official committee members for 2008 were:

Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, chair	Scuff Gross, coffee hour coordinator
Lisa Freel	Lynda Nadkarni
Connie Kelly	Patti Perry Halline
Susan Lisle	Marilyn Slanec
Jim Marciniak	Steven Teune

**We realize, however, that much of the work of this committee is done by those who are not official members. Thanks to all who have pitched in and volunteered in so many different ways to make our fellowship events meaningful and successful. We would like to especially acknowledge the youth of our congregation who have supplied a great deal of manpower throughout the year as well as those who took on especially large commitments such as hosting a coffee hour.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Committee Members**

**Alfred Kitch  
Cindy Reynolds Rayfield  
Tony Miezio  
Dennis Sadilek  
Pastor Scott Jansen**

**Jim Ulrich  
Mike Heine  
Allan Chard  
Nancy Jensen**

**Financial accountability and predictability are the main concerns of the Finance Committee.**

**The Finance Committee has the responsibility of reviewing RPC financial statements on a month to month basis that are presented to the Committee by Fred Kitch, RPC Treasurer. The Committee reviews and monitors all receipts and expenditures and tracks month to month progress to ensure compliance with the goal of a balanced budget.**

**The 2008 RPC budget began the year with a projected deficit. Through the extreme generosity of RPC members and the continuous efforts of the Trustees, Deacons, Elders and the Stewardship Committee the deficit was reduced to \$9,437.85**

**The Finance Committee balanced the 2008 budget by utilizing some of the available funds from the Special Funds and with the aid of a \$3,998.42 loan from the Endowment Fund. The Finance Committee appreciates the Endowment Fund's generosity and understanding. This loan will be re-paid in 11 equal installments with interest during 2009.**

**The 2009 RPC budget was presented to Session by the Budget Committee at the December Session Meeting. The 2009 budget does contain a projected deficit. The strong 2008 finish and the incredible commitment that members pledged to the Stewardship Committee have given us faith that this deficit will be overcome.**

**The Finance Committee is looking for member participation in our monthly meetings They occur the second Monday of every month.**

**Appreciation goes out to all of the members of the Finance Committee for their participation and support throughout the past year.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Miezio**

## **GENESIS COVENANT REPORT**

### **HISTORY**

**The Genesis Covenant was started in the Fall 2006 by the Sessions of Clement Presbyterian Church of Cicero and Berwyn Presbyterian Church. They invited other Presbyterian Churches to join in the effort to search for new and effective ways to serve their Congregations in view of declining active memberships, demographic changes, financial concerns and limited success in their attempts to increase the size of the Congregations.**

**At the first meeting held on September 14, 2006, the Sessions of the following nine Churches approved the participation in the planning and sharing activities of the Covenant:**

**Broadview Community ; Brookfield Presbyterian; Canto de Esperanza Berwyn; Berwyn Presbyterian; Clement Presbyterian, Cicero; Emmanuel Presbyterian, Cicero; North Riverside Community Presbyterian; Riverside Presbyterian ; Warren Park Presbyterian.**

**The Presbytery sent a representative to all of the monthly Genesis meetings, and provided the bulk of the funding for hiring a consultant Mr. Raymond C. Schulte, of the Center for Parish Development to assist and provide the experience and expertise to guide the Genesis in it's deliberations. Each Genesis member Church also contributed. The Riverside Presbyterian Session authorized a \$1,000.00 for that purpose.**

**During the 27 monthly meetings following September 2006, Riverside Presbyterian Church was represented initially by Rev. Ed Dykstra, interim pastor. RPC Session officially elected Scott Jansen pastor, as the official representative. Kemp Clark, Lisa Marciniak and Dennis Sadilek were also elected by the Session to participate in the deliberations of the Genesis Covenant. A report on Covenant deliberation has been regularly submitted to the Session.**

**RPC has the largest number of participants. Genesis agendas consist of analyzing the causes of membership declines, need for combined activities of the member Churches , demographic studies as well as guidelines for closer cooperation among the Genesis members, including pulpit exchange, and joined worship services. Detailed discussions were held regarding the possibilities of mergers of several Congregations, sale of Church properties followed by construction of a new large facility to replace the existing buildings.**

**As of the 2008 year end, the following Genesis events have taken place:**

- **Berwyn Presbyterian Church has sold the building displacing two congregations. Canto de Esperanza will worship in Clement Presbyterian Church. Berwyn Presbyterian will at least temporarily worship in the Lutheran Church , located in the immediate vicinity.**
- **Brookfield and North Riverside Churches have voted to officially merge according to the rules of the Presbytery.**
- **Warren Park and Emmanuel Churches are cooperating closely, working on their financial challenges with a consultant to the Presbytery.**
- **Broadview Church is considering several alternatives, with no firm decisions made.**
- **RPC Session voted on December 17, 2008 to continue to support the Genesis Covenant on a limited basis. The Church extended an invitation to the Covenant to use the facility free of charge for a joint Covenant Service following RPC regular service of Worship on February 22, 2009.**
- **RPC will host the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 5, 2009 and continue to participate in the planning and discussions regarding Genesis matters.**
- **RPC continues to provide copies of its activity schedules to Genesis members and continues to invite all to participate.**
- **RPC Session will continue to receive periodic reports regarding the Genesis activities.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Sadilek**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Mission: To encourage higher levels of participation in the life of the church. We encourage seekers to visit the church; visitors to explore programs and fellowship opportunities within the church; regular visitors to become members; members whose participation has diminished to renew their commitment to the church. (RPC Church Mission Task Force; Mission for Membership Committee, 11-9-07)*

We welcomed 22 new members to RPC in 2008. There were eleven new members through the graduation of the confirmation class, as well as eleven through attending a prospective new member meeting. Four meetings were held over the course of the year. The first two of these meetings were graciously hosted by Pastor Scott and his wife, Mary, in their home, with dinner. The later meetings were held at the church. Meetings consisted of an overview of the Presbyterian Church given by Pastor Scott, and an invitation to join our church.

The 2008 confirmands are: Carly Andersen, Keegan Buttimer, Emily Caine, Jake Dluhy, Mack Fiesler, Louise Gangware, Amanda Gregus, Robin Jensen, Mike LeBeau, Ben Mitchell, Alex Shuppara

New adult members are: Vanesa Montes, Drew Smith, Erin and Tiffany Bauer (sons: Scott and Thomas), Bill & Colleen Muller, Ana Knasiak, Marty and Debbie Lubeck, Shannon Buhle (children: Zachary, Hannah and Jacob), Erika Lawson Morrison

We celebrated 6 Baptisms (dates of baptism): Natalie Anna Montes (4-27-08), Ethan Hugh Smith and Sara Elizabeth Smith (5-25-08), Thomas Bauer (5-25-08), Finn Lubeck (9-21-08), Luke Christopher Staubus (9-21-08).

A photo board of new members was assembled to enable church members to better greet one another. Photos were provided for the Vision and web site of new members and baptisms, as well as photos and some commentary from events such as the Youth group work at the Chicago Food Depository, the Women's Forum, and Sunday school classes.

Other endeavors to encourage seekers and visitors were sending Welcome letters to RPC visitors, offering brief tours after services, and accompanying visitors to the Coffee Fellowship. Efforts were made to reach out to older members by sending Easter letters made by the children in Sunday School to members who can no longer attend due to distance or infirmity.

There are many ways the Membership Committee can reach out more in the year to come. Quarterly Prospective New Member meetings are planned. An ongoing task is an effort to update membership records. Plans include: provide more info in the Vision on

**new members and highlight some of our history and old members; assist in timely, cost efficient delivery of the Vision; develop an RPC T shirt for wearing at church events (volunteer activities, softball challenge games, etc.); and provide more outreach to members.**

**I look back with gratitude for the help I have had from others, and for all lessons learned in the last year at RPC. I look forward to the year ahead attempting to better discern and carry out God's will for us at RPC.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Perry Halline**

## **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

**December 2008**

**Committee Members:**

**Beverly Aieta  
Debra Jansky  
Jenny Kolinski  
Alice Mclean  
Shelley Reichle**

**The Memorial Committee wishes to thank all of those who made donations to the Memorial Fund throughout the year 2008.**

**The following 2008 expenditures were made by the Memorial Committee:**

- **Newly planted elm tree in memory of Elmer Kweton**
- **Conference table and chairs for the Library, including re-upholstering / re-caning**
- **Two light-weight folding conference tables for the Westminster Room**
- **Desk chair for the pastor's office**
- **Supported Director of Christian Education to attend the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators 2009 Conference**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Beverly Aieta, chair**

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### **A New level of Talent**

**A Music Ministry truly comes from the many who minister to a congregation through worship. RPC currently has four choirs in our Ministry of Music. These choirs have been ever-expanding since I came to RPC in 2004. 2008 presented a new level of talent within the RPC Music Ministry. This talent has been particularly evident in the youth of RPC. The Riverside Singers now have 26 participants, many from the Riverside community, but not necessarily members of RPC. The Riverside Ringers have so many musicians that we have broken up into 2 groups. This has only been possible with the dedicated volunteer work of Donna Ulrich. Donna works with the younger children (some as young as 4 years old) while I rehearse with the Advanced Ringers. The older group has begun to ring from reading music. Their debut will take place in early 2009. The enthusiasm from the older ringers even carried into the summer of 2008. The Advanced Ringers met a few times over the summer months at their request.**

**One of the goals of the RPC Music Ministry is to build future members for the adult choirs from the children's choirs. A few of the children joined the ranks of the adult choirs in 2008 with great success. Kathryn Nadkarni is now a valuable soprano in the RPC Chancel Choir. Stuart Marciniak and Grace Lattner have proved to be wonderfully capable additions to the RPC Handbell Choir.**

**A Handbell Choir has eleven positions, which usually requires eleven ringers. The challenge for all handbell choirs is having extra ringers who can step in when a ringer cannot attend a rehearsal. In the RPC Handbell Choir we often require subs to fill in for ringers who are travelling on business. 2008 has been the first year that we finally have enough capable subs to step in at a moment's notice to fill a ringer's role. RPC's Handbell Choir has three truly talented subs who have saved us on many an occasion (even Christmas Eve). These are our super-subs: Sarah Dudak, Mary Jansen and Elizabeth Musick. The Handbell Choir has reached a new level of achievement in the past year. We can sightread music that we could not begin to handle just a few years ago. Several members of the Handbell Choir attended an AGEHR (American Guild of English Handbell Ringers) workshop in 2008 which proved to be very inspirational. For the first time the Handbell Choir has added Processionals to our repertoire. We are even talking about a future handbell concert.**

**The heart and soul of the RPC Music Ministry is the Chancel Choir. This dedicated group provides music for worship each week throughout the liturgical year, only breaking for summer. The women of the choir have performed women's anthems for the past few years and continue to build this repertoire. 2008 has also seen a men's choral group develop. These men sound great and are adding so much to the Music**

**Ministry. We will continue to build their repertoire in 2009.**

**Blessing and Honor - RPC's annual Messiah seems to have found the recipe for success. Each year we pack the house with singers and concert goers. This year we added a few new soloists and instrumentalists from the congregation and local universities. The RPC Messiah was founded by one of our greatest blessings - Mary Ann Sadilek. She continues to add so much to our Ministry through giving so generously of her time and talents.**

**Other highlights of the 2008 season include:**

- 1) Bev Aieta and John Haugland joined the RPC Chancel Choir in leading our joyous Blessing of the Animals service.**
- 2) The Chancel Choir sang a few beautiful Choral Benedictions written by John Haugland's dad.**
- 3) Karena Mendoza, our Artist in Residence, wrote a gorgeous anthem for the Chancel Choir.**
- 4) Our very dear and capable seminary student, Mary Koon, led us in a hymn sing assisted by the Chancel Choir.**

**All in all, 2008 was a very successful year. I contribute this success to the fantastic RPC staff, the dedicated parents of the children's choirs, the talented musicians, and the blessing of fellowship that we share together.**

**With Praise and Thanksgiving,**

**Sally Sloane BM, MM, DMA**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee began meeting in September to plan for recruitment of officers for 2009. We met several times and had many subsequent communications via e-mail. Nominations were solicited from the congregation via weekly bulletin and Vision notices, as well as from committee members. The nominating committee recruited the following slate of candidates which was presented to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008:

### Session

Lisa Freel  
Roberta Gates  
Elizabeth Musick  
MaryAnn Sadilek  
Steve Teune  
Vicky Vogel

### Deacons

Mary Crang  
Richard Crang  
Betsy Gardner  
Hollie Miezio  
Bill Mueller  
Colleen Mueller  
Lloyd Bradbury (2-year term vacated by Kohar Havelka)

### Trustees

Lou Heine (renewal of term)  
Jon Jansky (renewal of term)  
Fred Mitchell  
Hank Vogel

### Nominating Committee

Joe Dvorak  
Hollie Miezio  
Lynda Nadkarni  
2 Elders (to be determined)  
1 Deacon (to be determined)  
1 Trustee (to be determined)

Respectfully Submitted by the 2008 Nominating Committee:

Tara Gregus (co-chair), Mike Heine (co-chair), Kemp Clarke, Joe Dvorak, Hollie Miezio, Scott Schwarz, Marilyn Slanec

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Personnel Committee members on 12/31/08 included Joe Dvorak, Jeanine Buttimer, Serena Ranft, Kathi Rocanova, Pastor Scott Jansen and John Cain, Chair.

The Personnel Committee would like to thank the hard working and dedicated staff of Riverside Presbyterian Church –we are blessed to have such a wonderful group of people managing and leading our church family.

### RPC Staff highlights from 2008:

- Pastor Scott Jansen completed his first year with RPC in July of 2008. He has been warmly received by the RPC congregation and volleyball players of all denominations. His ‘skit’ sermons are a favorite among many.
- Dr. Sally Sloan continues in her role as Minister of Music. Her contract has been renewed through 2009 to lead the chancel, bell and children’s choirs. Sally’s work is music to our ears.
- Lynda Nadkarni continues to be one of our ‘bright lights’ as Director of Christian Education.
- Tara Gregus joined the RPC staff as Jr/Sr High Youth Director. Tara brings a renewed energy and enthusiasm to these youth ministries.
- Linda Hutcheson continues to tirelessly lead the church Office. We’d like to send a special ‘thanks’ to Linda for her dedication and hard work keeping church operations on track.
- Margaret MacNeill joined the ranks of RPC staff in May of 2008 as office administrator. Margy comes to us with years of administrative experience within various church organizations.
- We thank Linda and Margy –they are the glue holding church operations together!
- Nancy Hopkins, our webmaster, took on the additional role of Vision Editor. The Vision has never looked better, and the website has become an integral communications tool for RPC. Thank-you Nancy!
- Fred Kitch took over the role of Treasurer on January 1, 2008. Thank-you Fred!
- Cindy Reynolds-Rayfield continues to do an outstanding job in her role as Financial Secretary. We thank Cindy and the Finance Committee for their hard work and dedication.
- Joel Hastings continues his role as Building Manager. Joel’s unique skills and experience make him an invaluable asset to RPC.

On a final note, the Session voted to approve an increase to compensation in 2009 for most roles by an average of 5%.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Cain, Committee Chair

## **RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**“Gatherings” were the second Wednesday of the month in the Heritage Room at the Scottish Home with a luncheon and program.**

**March 12, Roberta Gates reviewed the book “The Nazi Officer’s Wife” by Edith Hahn Beer, April 9<sup>th</sup>, “Biblical Story Telling, A Way To New Life”, Rev. James A. Shiflett, D. min. September 10, “Night Ministry, connecting at the Crossroads since 1976”, Julie Delezenne, Coordinator, Congregational and Community Relations. December 10, RPC Artist in Residence, Karena Mendoza, “A Musical Christmas”.**

**Horizons Bible Study was the fourth Wednesday of the month, 10:00 a.m. at the Scottish Home, with a buffet luncheon to follow for thos who wished. The Study, which continued through May, was “Above and Beyond Hearing God’s Call in Jonah and Ruth”. Rev. Mary Morrison, of the Presbyterian Church of Berwyn led the study. Beginning in September, 2008 through May, 2009, the Study is “JUBILEE! Luke’s Gospel for the Poor”. Leaders are members Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade and Joyce VanCura.**

**Special projects: Tools of Hope & Blanket Program dedicated on Sunday, February 17, 2008 for Church World Service, raised \$574 from church members. Sale of Pecans, 48 one pound bags in November benefited the Team Tutoring Program for College Bound High School Students at Erie Neighborhood House and was handled by Dorothy Jansky and Sarah Dudak.**

**Coordinating Team, which met several times during the year, included Lucille Christensen, treasurer; Kohar Havelka, Marjorie Lewe, program assistant; Elizabeth Musick, liaison with the Scottish Home and Bible Study organizer; Mary Lou Schwarz, poster designer; and Carol Sprunger.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Carol Sprunger**

**RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Receipts:**

Study Books	<u>\$66.50</u>
	\$66.50

**Disbursements:**

Study Books	88.70
Programs	200.00
Lunches (Guests)	45.50
Gifts	112.00
Postage	31.00
Checks (Bank)	<u>20.00</u>
	\$497.20

Balance, Dec. 31, 2008	\$463.98
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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lucille Christensen, Treasurer**

## **PRESCHOOL REPORT**

**2008 was a joyful year at the Riverside Presbyterian Church PreSchool! The advantages of a consistent and enthusiastic staff whose commitment is not only to teach but play with and positively respond to each child establishes a good basis for their later education. I am most gratefully for our teachers' willingness to go the extra mile—they are the backbone of our program: Sandy Haddad, Cynthia Kos, Lisa Manganiello, and Barb Sitton.**

**We have 60 beautiful children, 9 are Church members and are from 2 communities: Brookfield (4) and Riverside (56).**

**The PreSchool Board governs and supports the PreSchool and includes: Lisa Carlson is Chairperson, John Cain, Jill Glawe, Joan Kanatas, Victoria Manchen, Julie Stack, Vince Pecis. David Schulte, Brooke Schwarz and Larry Svestka have recently retired from the Board. Books in their name were donated in their honor. Mary Lescher continues doing a fabulous job as Bursar. We are grateful to Fred Kitch for writing our checks and to our Church janitor Krzysztof Gieron and Joel Hastings for keeping our facility in tip-top shape. We are also grateful to Linda Hutcheson and Margie MacNeill for their support in the office.**

**Before Preschool started, home visits were made to each new student enrolled. The teachers renewed their CPR training in a workshop shared with Grace Lutheran PreSchool in LaGrange.**

**NO MORE SLIDES! Thanks to the wonderful help of Cindy Rayfield and past parent Allan Halline we've now gone digital!! It was an exciting change for our Parent Orientation night!**

**Last year we adopted Heidi the reindeer and did a singing telegram to her in the spring as the trainer held the phone up to her ear. One of our families delivered a loaf of bread which is her favorite snack and a big birthday card. This year we've enjoyed Rocky the penguin and are counting down the days until his birthday when we'll travel to the Zoo to personally wish him the best!**

**Gratitude to one and all for saving Campbell's Labels! We "cashed in" thousands of labels and "bought" two great riding tractors for the play yard.**

**Community Outreaches Include:**

**Visiting the British & Scottish Homes and bringing them a ghost necklace for Halloween and performing our special songs which they loved.**

**Designing Easter Centerpieces for the Christian Industrial League's Easter dinner—filled with over 600 pieces of candy.**

**Saving cancelled commemorative stamps for Illinois Bird Sanctuaries.**

**Participating in the Ring Leader Program: saving plastic rings from can holders.**

**Recycling aluminum cans for BEDS: thanks to the very hard work of our parents and the matching support of Riverside Bank we were able to send in \$500. to BEDS. We recycle all year long!**

**There isn't a week that goes by that I don't marvel at the energizer bunny style of our parents! They pitch in doing a variety of our over 20 jobs from classroom laundry to recycling for the homeless. Last spring they designed a cookbook for Mother's Day. Not only are they an integral part of our social outreaches but they also host monthly appreciation luncheons which gives the staff time to have a prepared and delicious lunch and extra time for the whole staff to communicate as well!**

**Our TAP(Tuition Assistance Fund) continues to address the needs of worthy families. Some of our parents add an extra \$5. to their monthly check. We received \$100. from our Benefit Days at Riverside Foods. We have given out \$10,026.50 since the beginning of this program in 2001. Two families have used TAP during the 2007-2008 PreSchool year.**

**Our fund-raisers included: selling candles, coupon books, raffle & book fair and geraniums. These fundraisers enable us to purchase supplies and equipment that make a good thing even better. This year we purchased a special binding machine for our precious PreSchool yearbooks.**

**Our field trips included: Police & Fire Stations, Riverside Library, British & Scottish Homes, Brookfield Zoo, Triton's Cernan Space Center, with in-school visits from Robert Crown Health Center, Karen's Nature Tales and Metra's Train Safety.**

**2008 ended with our Penguin Program and the cheerful and fun visits from Santa and Rudolf.**

**As we begin 2009, our exciting challenges include:**

- 1. Finding a good fit for the three-year old room; after 8 years with us, celebrating Mrs. Kos' retirement.**
- 2. Installing new infra-red faucets and exploring the possibility of lowering the counter tops in the children's bathrooms thus getting rid of the wooden risers.**
- 3. Creating a DVD of the whole preschool year with the help of Emily Cain and Jim Sit's undying support.**

**I am thankful for opportunity this report affords me to look back on all the wonderful activities! When I took over the directorship I was surrounded by a supportive staff and 23 preschoolers. Now fast forward 28 years and 60 preschoolers! I still have a new found excitement and sense of accomplishment of this past year and know it will continue in the year to come!**

**Enthusiastically & Gratefully submitted  
NancyDvorak**

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2008**

### **Annual Report**

#### **Committee Members:**

**Lauren Cody  
Stephanie Messner  
Kate Chard  
Fred Mitchell**

**Kemp Clarke  
Bill Vogel  
Ron Krug, Co-Chair  
Will Vogel, Co-Chair**

**Our Stewardship Committee had three major responsibilities this year: first, the oversight of all fund raising activities at RPC; second, the Service Auction; third, the 2009 Pledge Drive.**

#### **Fund Raising Oversight**

**Headed by Lauren Cody, contacting members via e-mail/phone, responding to Organizations timely. This effort resulted in a consistent policy with little hassle to organizations allied with RPC. Not all requests were accepted. We suggest a similar function for next year's committee.**

#### **Service Auction.**

**Headed by Stephanie Messner, Lauren Cody, and Kemp Clarke. It was an outstanding success raising over \$11,000. Our committee wishes to thank all of the donors as well as the bidders.**

#### **Pledge Drive**

**All of the Committee Members participated in the 2009 Pledge Drive which was Chaired by Bill Vogel. Total number of Pledges made for 2009 was 133 (13% more than last year) meeting an early objective of the committee. Total dollars pledged was : \$291,784 (7% more than last year).**

**The percentage of Previous Pledging Members who increased their pledge was: 63%. A special "thank you" to all of those who were "Step Up Callers" on Commitment Sunday.**

**Respectfully Submitted  
Bill Vogel**

*...serving RPC members on their "giving journey"*

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**The Board of Trustees is responsible for all aspects of maintenance, repairs and improvements to our historic church buildings and grounds. Trustees operate within a budget, and under the final approval of the Session. Our goal is to maintain a pleasant and functional facility that serves the needs of our church ministries and also serves as a welcoming resource for the community.**

**I would like to recognize the contribution of each member of our board over the past year. The 2008 members of the Board of Trustees were Allan Chard, Susan Dluhy, Andy Hart, Lou Heine, Debra Jansky, Jon Jansky, George Meyer, Serina Ranft, Chris Schiller, Jim Sit, and Caroline Tecson.**

**We are fortunate to employ a part-time custodian, Krzysztof Gieron, and building supervisor, Joel Hastings, who perform many duties. We appreciate their contribution to maintaining and improving our building.**

**We continue to work hard to reduce expenditures by doing as much as possible ourselves. We appreciate the many church members who have contributed to this effort during our monthly All Church Family Work Days.**

**In addition to managing normal maintenance issues such as the fire alarm system, lighting, pest control, heating and cooling systems, utilities and insurance, we completed the following projects during 2008: built and installed new wooden door to Manse basement, installed energy efficient point of use gas water heater in social hall kitchen, sold failing freezer in social hall and replaced with smaller (more energy efficient) donated freezer, cleaned all church carpets, installed new sign for pastor's office, completed painting of gym stage floor and walls, replaced alarm heat sensors in sanctuary, replaced emergency light batteries, named the small garden area off the Manse kitchen the "Prayer Garden", served as liaison to eagle scout project which replaced hazardous parkway brick with sod and installed brick walkway in Prayer Garden, removed overgrown trees and shrubs from Prayer Garden, coordinated with Memorial Committee to plant an Accolade elm on parkway and Dogwood tree in Prayer Garden (spring 2009) and repaired blistered plaster in North entry.**

**In addition to the above, the following major capital projects continue:**

- Initiated in 2006, the Stained Glass Window Restoration is progressing. The two triangular windows in the steeple, which are the oldest windows in our building, have been restored and reinstalled. We are still working on proper backlighting of these windows. With expert advice we determined that our next priority is complete restoration of the Rose Window and we are currently raising funds to achieve that goal.**

- **A detailed architectural drawing for a handicap accessible bathroom configuration has been completed and bids received. We continue to raise funds and are exploring a grant to implement the plan.**

**Challenges and Opportunities**

- **With increased building use comes increased security and maintenance issues.**
- **The safety code and zoning issues of the Community House (Manse) must be addressed so that we may use this space fully and effectively in the future.**
- **Finding ways to reduce building energy consumption.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Jensen, President**

## **RYAN WOMACK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**The Board of Directors of this fund formally met two times this year. The Board awarded 38,000 in scholarships to 36 recipients.**

**The recipients are as follows:**

<b>Brianna Allen</b>	<b>Alison Heine</b>	<b>Martha Sitkiewicz</b>
<b>Chris Allen</b>	<b>Riley Henderson</b>	<b>Andrew Sit</b>
<b>Christine Armstrong</b>	<b>Joshua Jansky</b>	<b>Michael Sit</b>
<b>Clayton Ballerine</b>	<b>Jordana Jantze</b>	<b>Justin Smith</b>
<b>Hope DeVries</b>	<b>Dana Jensen</b>	<b>Rachel Teune</b>
<b>Phillip Dluhy</b>	<b>Seth Kazarian</b>	<b>Alexa Vogel</b>
<b>Katie Forsberg</b>	<b>Dylan Krug</b>	<b>Brittany Vogel</b>
<b>Kate Fulton</b>	<b>Margaret McCoy</b>	<b>William Vogel</b>
<b>John Franzo</b>	<b>Chris Nelson</b>	<b>Maria Vuolo</b>
<b>Caroline Gangware</b>	<b>Natalie Pike</b>	<b>Margaret Vacek</b>
<b>William Gangware</b>	<b>Jill Polanski</b>	<b>Kristina Wert</b>
<b>Lisa Grisafe</b>	<b>Lisa Roccanova</b>	<b>Sara Wert</b>

**The 18<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser was held at Riverside Golf Club in October. This event was a huge success, raising over \$21,260 in profit for the fund. Everyone attending had a wonderful time.**

**This Scholarship Fund was set up to help the youth of our church realize their hopes and dreams for the future, in furthering their education and to keep Ryan's memory alive.**

**Respectfully submitted from this Board,**

**Randy Womack, Chairman**  
**Lisa Cavaliere**  
**Nancy Chmell**  
**Jessie Coleman**  
**Joe Dvorak**  
**Joe Dvorak IV**  
**Carol Franzo**  
**Mike Heine**  
**Christine Long**  
**Michelle Luethje**  
**Milt Nieuwsma**

**Lonnie Womack, Secretary**  
**Ron Pike**  
**Shelley Reichle**  
**Denis Sadilek**  
**Joe Tess**  
**Peter Tess**  
**Chris Ulrich**  
**Bill Vogel**

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee continued to carry out its responsibilities of:

1. Securing 4 members of the church as ushers for every worship service of 2008, including special services during Lent and Advent.
2. Signing up members of Session to;
  - Serve as Liturgist for the 1st, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship of 2008; and
  - Communion servers for the first Sunday of every month of 2008.
3. Signing up members of the congregation to light the Advent wreath candles during Advent.
4. Coordinating two memorial flower programs;
  - one during Lent which included the palms and the Easter lilies; and one during Advent which included the Christmas poinsettias.

Also, as part of the memorials was the opportunity for members to donate to the Endowment Fund, the memorial Fund or the Music Ministry Fund. Several donations were made to each. The lilies were arranged in the Sanctuary by Matt, Susan, Lily and Natalie Lisle and Lou and Martha Heine and at Christmas by Lou and Martha Heine.

5. Retaining temporary pastor services as pulpit supply were done when needed.
6. Communicating with the Pastor and music Director about special worship music and/or musicians.
7. Other tasks:
  - decorating the Sanctuary and purchasing live greens to decorate the church and RPC community center doors;
  - set-up, take down, cleaning and maintenance of the Advent wreath and candles; purchase supplies for sanctuary and special worship services.

In the future, while continuing to carry out its core responsibilities as mentioned above, the Worship Committee will continue to review the Worship service and implement changes when and where necessary to improve it. Congregational suggestions and questions about the service are welcome.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered as, ushers, Liturgist, communion servers and helpers. Thank you.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Martha Heine**

**Matt Lisle**

**Sally Sloan**

**Betsy Gardner**

## SESSION

The RPC session consists of eighteen elders elected by the congregation, a clerk, and the Pastor, who serves as moderator. Elders serve as chairmen of the various session committees, whose reports are found on other pages of this annual report.

The responsibilities of the session, as stated in the Book of Order, include providing for worship, supervising Christian education programs, establishing the annual budget, receiving new members and maintaining membership rolls, supervising the work of the deacons and trustees, challenging members to a responsible stewardship of time, talent and money, and fostering spiritual growth.

Elders selected several priorities for RPC in the coming year: increased hospitality to visitors, an adult mission trip, developing a young adult ministry and incorporating a variety of musical styles and forms during worship

Stewardship received special emphasis, with the goal met of increasing the number of pledgers during the fall pledge drive.

Mary Koon was warmly welcomed as a seminary intern, and began her service in September.

RPC will continue its involvement in the Genesis Covenant, but determined at the end of the year that a formal merger with another church would not be in RPC's best interest at this time.

The following elders served during 2007:

Class of 2008

Thom DeVries  
David Fulton  
Tara Gregus  
Schofield Gross  
Ron Krug  
Matt Ranft

Class of 2009

Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak  
John Cain  
Lauren Cody  
Martha Heine  
Matt Lisle  
Will Vogel

Class of 2010

Patti Perry Halline  
Ellen Hamilton  
Mike Heine  
Tony Miezio  
Dennis Sadilek  
Joyce Van Cura

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session

**Riverside Presbyterian Church  
Congregational Meeting  
January 6, 2008**

**Minutes of Congregational Meeting**

**The meeting was opened with prayer and called to order by Rev. Dr. Scott Jansen, Pastor at 11:01 am and a quorum was declared.**

**A motion was made and passed to appoint Michael Aieta as Clerk of Session Pro Tem for the Congregational meeting in the absence of Clerk of Session Mary Ann Sadilek.**

**Rev. Jansen reported that the purpose of the annual meeting was for the congregation to elect members of Session, Deacons, and Trustees.**

**Stephanie Messner reported for the Nominating Committee.**

**Following a request for nominations from the floor, the congregation unanimously elected these members to Session:**

**Patricia Perry Halline, Ellen Hamilton, Mike Heine, Tony Miezio, Dennis Sadilek, Joyce Van Cura, and Thom DeVries (1 yr term).**

**Following an appeal to the floor for additional Deacon Candidate nominations, the congregation elected these members to the Board of Deacons :**

**Kohar Havelka, Doris Hayes, Mary Jansen, Kathi Rocanova, Sylvia Schade, Bill Vogel, Sarah Dudak (2 yr term), and Diane Chaney ( 1 yr term).**

**These candidates for Deacons and Elders will be ordained and installed on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

**The following Trustees were approved by the Congregation:**

**Susan Deems-Dluhy, Chris Schiller, Jim Sit (2 yr), Caroline Tecson. An additional 3 yr. term for Trustee needs to be filled. Nominations will be accepted by any member of the nominating committee.**

**Pastor Jansen also reported that Fred Mitchell has graciously accepted a 4 yr. position on the Endowment Committee.**

**All new officer and Committee members were congratulated by the congregation.**

**The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Jansen and adjourned at 11:11 AM.**

**Michael Aieta  
Clerk of Session Pro Tem**

**Reverend Dr. Scott Jansen  
Moderator  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Riverside Presbyterian Church  
Riverside, IL 60546  
January 27, 2008  
Church Sanctuary**

**The annual meeting of the congregation was opened with prayer by Rev. Scott Jansen at 10:55am. He then called the meeting to order and a quorum was declared.**

**Tara Gregus, chairman of the nominating committee, placed in nomination the name of Andy Hart for a 3 year term as trustee. There were no further nominations and a motion was made and passed to elect Andy.**

**The main order of business was the review of RPC's annual report for 2007. The congregation was given the opportunity to ask questions about the report. The clerk made a correction to the membership figures by adding "other gains -7" to the "additions" total, which then made the total membership as of December 31, 2007, to be 455.**

**Jim Ulrich was recognized with hearty thanks upon his retirement after 17 years as church treasurer.**

**Deceased members Sue Ann Henderson King, Louise Griffith and Fran Lukow were remembered with a moment of silence.**

**At that point, Pastor Jansen excused himself from the meeting and turned the floor over to John Cain, chairman of the personnel committee. John presented the following motion from the session: to approve the salary and benefit package for the pastor of \$103,885 and to extend the term of service to December 31, 2008 at the same rate. John explained that this would place the pastor's term on a calendar year basis and would coincide with RPC's fiscal year. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Pastor Jansen then returned to the meeting, and there being no further business, closed the meeting with prayer, followed by adjournment at 11:10 am.**

**Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session**

**Scott Jansen  
Moderator**

**Special Congregational Meeting  
Riverside Presbyterian Church  
Riverside, IL 60546  
September 7, 2008  
Church Sanctuary**

**Moderator: Rev. Dr. Scott Jansen  
Clerk: Mary Ann Sadilek**

**The meeting was called to order at 11am and opened with prayer by Rev. Jansen. A quorum was present.**

**The purpose of the meeting was to elect two youth deacons to fill the vacancy in the class of 2009 created by the resignation of Lisa Rocanova and Dylan Krug who are now attending college.**

**Tara Gregus, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the names of Alex Krug and Jordan Messner as candidates for the shared position.**

**Since there were nominations from the floor, the slate as presented was elected by unanimous voice vote of the congregation.**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am and closed with a prayer by Rev. Jansen.**

**Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session**

**Rev. Dr. Scott Jansen  
Moderator**

**Congregational Meeting  
Riverside Presbyterian Church  
Riverside, IL 60546  
Sunday, December 14, 2008  
Church Sanctuary**

**Moderator: Rev. Dr. Scott Jansen  
Clerk: Mary Ann Sadilek**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:56 am by Rev. Jansen and opened with prayer. A quorum was declared.**

**The purpose of the meeting was the election of church officers for 2009.**

**Tara Gregus, chairman of the nominating committee presented the following slate:**

<b>Elders – class of 2011:</b>	<b>Deacons – class of 2011</b>	<b>Deacon – class of 2010</b>
<b>Roberta Gates</b>	<b>Hollie Miezio</b>	<b>Lloyd Bradbury</b>
<b>Steve Teune</b>	<b>Bill Mueller</b>	
<b>Lisa Freel</b>	<b>Colleen Mueller</b>	<b>Trustees – class of 2011</b>
<b>Elizabeth Musick</b>	<b>Richard Crang</b>	<b>Jon Jansky</b>
<b>Vicki Vogel</b>	<b>Mary Crang</b>	<b>Lou Heine</b>
<b>Mary Ann Sadilek</b>	<b>Betsy Gardner</b>	<b>Fred Mitchell</b>
		<b>Hank Vogel</b>

**Nominating Committee members-at-large  
Joe Dvorak  
Hollie Miezio  
Lynda Nadkarni**

**Opportunity was provided for further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, it was moved to elect the slate as presented. *Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.***

**Rev. Jansen congratulated the newly elected officers.**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am and closed with prayer by Rev. Jansen.**

**Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session**

**Rev. Dr. Scott Jansen  
Moderator**





**TREASURER 2008 ANNUAL REPORT on General Fund page 1 of 2**

Account Description	2008 Budget	2008 Actual	Actual Compared to Budget
<b>General Fund Receipts</b>			
Pledged and Unpledged	310,000	287,856.95	(22,143.05)
Loose Offering	7,500	5,616.93	(1,883.07)
Other Income	6,000	5,490.21	(509.79)
Budget Shortfall	0	27,867.85	27,867.85
Interest Income	2,000	680.08	(1,319.92)
Endowment Income	2,400	2,003.84	(396.16)
Preschool Contribution	6,300	6,300.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>334,200</b>	<b>335,815.86</b>	<b>1,615.86</b>
<b>General Fund Disbursements</b>			
<b>Pastor</b>			
Salary	38,080	38,080.08	0.08
Housing Allowance	33,000	33,000.00	0.00
FICA Reimbursement	5,440	5,440.00	0.00
Pension	8,710	8,709.60	(0.40)
Major Medical	14,155	14,153.16	(1.84)
Medical Deducible	1,500	1,500.00	0.00
Professional Expenses	2,000	739.97	(1,260.03)
Continuing Education	1,000	550.00	(450.00)
	<b>103,885</b>	<b>102,172.81</b>	<b>(1,712.19)</b>
<b>Youth and Education Staff</b>			
Senior / Junior High Youth Advisor	10,932	10,932.00	0.00
Director of Christian Education	16,992	16,992.00	0.00
Christian Education Inter		0.00	0.00
	<b>27,924</b>	<b>27,924.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Worship and Music</b>			
Minister of Music	29,892	29,892.00	0.00
Professional Music	860	860.00	0.00
Supplies, Music and Tuning	1,500	2,338.42	838.42
Guest Preachers	600	900.00	300.00
Substitute Organists	525	150.00	(375.00)
	<b>33,377</b>	<b>34,140.42</b>	<b>763.42</b>

**TREASURER 2008 ANNUAL REPORT on General Fund page 2 of 2**

Inter / Outer Reach			
Covenant of Churches	200	0.00	(200.00)
Christian Education	3,500	3,179.78	(320.22)
Child Care	6,000	5,747.50	(252.50)
Youth Activities	1,000	918.42	(81.58)
CARERS Committee	200	205.54	5.54
Membership Committee	400	(5.00)	(405.00)
Stewardship Committee	1,000	496.00	(504.00)
Fellowship Committee	100	0.00	(100.00)
	<u>12,400</u>	<u>10,542.24</u>	<u>(1,857.76)</u>
Buildings and Grounds			
Building Supervisor	12,324	9,756.50	(2,567.50)
Custodian	12,360	12,000.00	(360.00)
Utilities	30,620	31,935.95	1,315.95
Property Maintenance	15,636	15,636.00	0.00
Insurance	14,611	12,634.00	(1,977.00)
Building Projects	0	0.00	0.00
	<u>85,551</u>	<u>81,962.45</u>	<u>(3,588.55)</u>
Office			
Newsletter Editor	2,664	2,220.00	(444.00)
Administrative Assistant	16,612	15,038.88	(1,573.12)
Office Supplies and Printing	6,000	3,388.16	(2,611.84)
Office Equipment Maintenance and Lease	10,000	9,392.56	(607.44)
Postage	3,000	2,202.20	(797.80)
Telephone	2,807	3,080.63	273.63
Per Capita	11,910	9,740.52	(2,169.48)
Workers' Compensation	2,400	1,680.05	(719.95)
Taxes (FICA)	7,622	6,507.79	(1,114.21)
Miscellaneous	400	45.00	(355.00)
Staff Expense	500	150.00	(350.00)
	<u>63,915</u>	<u>53,445.79</u>	<u>(10,469.21)</u>
Church Wide Mission			
Church Wide Mission	15,000	15,000.00	0.00
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Normal Operating Expenses	<u>342,052</u>	<u>325,187.71</u>	<u>(16,864.29)</u>
Special Funds			
Special Funds - Principal	10,419	10,418.62	(0.38)
Special Funds - Interest	210	209.53	(0.47)
	<u>10,629</u>	<u>10,628.15</u>	<u>(0.85)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>352,681</u>	<u>335,815.86</u>	<u>(16,865.14)</u>
Budget Deficit (Shortfall) / Totals	(18,481)	0.00	18,481

**TREASURER 2008 ANNUAL REPORT on Special Funds Page 1 of 2**

Account Description	Beginning Balance	2008 Receipts	2008 Disburse- ments	Ending Balance
<b>Special Funds</b>				
Memorials	8,055.75	3,635.00	4,037.37	7,653.38
Mary Frick Memorial - CARERS Committee		2,644.84	809.84	1,835.00
Wedding Ministry	(41.26)	1,550.00	1,456.54	52.20
Deacon Fund		6,695.65	0.00	6,695.65
			128,954.1	
Pre School	19,752.28	128,833.18	7	19,631.29
Pre School Capital Improvements	1,374.25	60.00	0.00	1,434.25
Pre School Capital Improvements - Bathroom		580.00	0.00	580.00
Continuing Education		90.52	0.00	90.52
Pre School Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)	1,479.84	817.00	1,110.00	1,186.84
Rotational Model	1,010.93	0.00	1,205.88	(194.95)
Adult Education	230.48	0.00	75.00	155.48
Seminary Student	1,056.47	9,457.03	5,752.97	4,760.53
Capital Projects		0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Projects - Gym Floor Resurfacing		200.00	0.00	200.00
Property Maintenance	5,542.87	17,283.98	22,826.85	0.00
Library Fund		0.00	23.00	(23.00)
Stained Glass Windows Restoration	16,054.87	170.00	3,600.00	12,624.87
Stained Glass Windows Restoration - Brick		4,700.00	0.00	4,700.00
Handicap Accessibility	9,964.05	9,042.20	5,100.00	13,906.25
Contingency Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Organ Fund	6,087.00	0.00	0.00	6,087.00
Wreath Fundraiser		225.00	225.00	0.00
Hunger Fund		1,115.14	865.17	249.97
One Great Hour of Sharing		1,051.14	1,051.14	0.00
Local Peacemaking	211.56	5.00	100.00	116.56
Pentecost		348.00	328.00	20.00
Christmas Joy	1,127.00	1,653.02	1,127.00	1,653.02
Local Pentecost	165.20	119.20	0.00	284.40
Tools of Hope and Blanket Program	10.00	564.00	574.00	0.00
Peacemaking		326.86	0.00	326.86

**TREASURER 2008 ANNUAL REPORT on Special Funds Page 2 of 2**

Account Description	Beginning Balance	2008 Receipts	2008 Disburse- ments	Ending Balance
<b>Special Funds</b>				
Music Fund	2,820.05	994.14	2,925.48	888.71
Sunday School Mission Project	413.61	607.64	0.00	1,021.25
Night Ministry	1,031.29	0.00	0.00	1,031.29
Mission Outreach Committee	1,124.25	0.00	0.00	1,124.25
Mission 2007	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Womack Memorial Scholarship	82,634.95	35,663.92	49,561.28	68,737.59
Adult Retreats	48.70	4,994.57	5,043.27	0.00
Adult Retreat - Men		1,150.27	800.27	350.00
Adult Retreat - Women		470.00	0.00	470.00
Good Samaritan	703.44	445.24	603.00	545.68
Youth Mission Projects	(61.55)	19,719.76	19,141.35	516.86
Wednesday Night Live ! (WNL!)	275.86	2,177.44	2,453.30	0.00
Fellowship	154.34	821.17	975.51	0.00
Fellowship - Strawberry Social		1,832.00	1,832.00	0.00
Flowers	1,741.41	3,215.00	4,237.15	719.26
Flowers -- Christmas Memorial		540.00	296.00	244.00
Endowment Contributions	5,000.00	2,256.93	7,181.93	75.00
Endowment Income		6,377.29	6,377.29	0.00
Endowment Loan Repayment - Principal		10,418.62	10,418.62	0.00
Endowment Loan Repayment - Interest		209.53	209.53	0.00
Building Use - Security Deposits	476.00	700.00	900.00	276.00
Ministers' Emergency Fund	5.00	100.00	105.00	0.00
Youth Activities Fund Raisers	809.12	0.00	824.01	(14.89)
Endowment Earnings Borrowing	(12,418.61)	12,418.61	3,998.42	(3,998.42)
Easter Offering		250.00	250.00	0.00
Mothers Day Offering		455.00	455.00	0.00
Thanksgiving Offering		630.00	630.00	0.00
Christmas Offering		920.00	920.00	0.00
Unknown Deposit		(22.00)	(22.00)	0.00
Totals	<u>157,839.15</u>	<u>298,511.89</u>	<u>299,338.34</u>	<u>157,012.70</u>

Riverside Presbyterian Church  
Adult Education Committee 2008 Annual Report

The 2008 Adult Education Committee consisted of seven dedicated and creative members: Scott Jansen, Jim Marciniak, Lynda Nadkarni, Joe Ourth, Ron Smith, Joyce Van Cura, and Melinda Yachnin. The responsibilities of this committee were expanded to include not only program planning for Human Scene, but overseeing programs in adult Bible study, the adult class for Wednesday Night Live, Presbyterian Women, and the RPC Library. Planning for the Human Scene Sunday morning adult education class continued to be the major focus in 2008. The chair, Joyce Van Cura, represented the committee in Christian Education Committee meetings throughout the year.

The Human Scene met regularly on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:50 a.m. in the church parlor. Class attendance ran an average of twenty to twenty-five adults. Numerous informal comments told us programs were repeatedly well-received and consisted of speakers, panels and occasional media presentations on a variety of topics such as church processes (report of Presbyterian USA National Assembly, training for RPC church officers), religious topics, other faiths and cultures, politics, and ethical topics of current interest. Rev. Jansen continued to provide invaluable service to us as an active consultant, presenter, and attendee. Topics covered in 2008 contained a series of classes in September focusing on Presbyterian missions at home and abroad, including a panel of RPC Youth who reported on the RPC summer 2008 Mission Trip to Alabama and "The Story of a Lifetime Missionary to Brazil" told by Elizabeth Musick, retired missionary. Other Human Scene classes include "The Jewish/Roman War;" taught by Stan Schade; "Women's Roles in the Bible" taught by Mary Koon, RPC Seminary Intern; "Global Trading of Weapons" taught by Pete Jansen; and "Handel with Care" a class on Handel's Messiah taught by RPC music director emeritus, Mary Ann Sadilek. In addition to the RPC youth mission trip panel, there was a panel of RPC veterans who talked about their military experience. Outside speakers included Erin Wade, a guest speaker on the Presbyterian Mission to Colombia.

The 2008 well-attended Human Scene summer series was coordinated by members of the Adult Education Committee. Its format included discussions of contemporary issues including the "Christians Behaving Badly," based on recent video clips of local clergy which appeared in national news led by Jim Marciniak and "Dealing with the Rising Cost of Fuel," led by Joyce Van Cura.

We continued to work with Rev. Jansen in planning for adult Wednesday Night Live class. Joyce Van Cura regularly attended Presbyterian Women "Gatherings" and Bible Study and served as a resource in support of the RPC Library. Our committee is always looking for ideas for stimulating programs at little to no cost. Please continue to share your ideas with any of the committee members listed above.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Van Cura, Chair

