



Annual Reports for 2020

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 24, 2021



Stone Presbyterian Church

Clinton, New York

The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.

Presbytery of Utica ~ Synod of the Northeast ~ Presbyterian Church (USA)
All the People, Ministers

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PASTOR'S REPORT 2020



“They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.” – Luke 6:18

In the last days of 2020 on a whim, I decided to see what was the 2020th verse in the New Testament and it was verse above. I guess I should have looked it up in the beginning of 2020! With COVID-19 and the pandemic we certainly understand disease part, but we also saw the spirit of God working through people. Our deacons and others did a marvelous job reaching out and staying in contact with our “homebound”—which included more than our traditional homebound. And though not to the degree we would have liked, we still were able to support our missions as you will read in this annual report. It is said that adversity does not build character, but reveals it and it certainly did with our community of faith. I saw our bonds strengthen and our support be there for each other and for others. We showed the church truly is the people.

While we continue run a deficit, we have been good stewards and have been blessed with some unexpected extra donations now and again. And despite the limitations in worshipping in-person in 2020, you still supported us financially as strong as ever, mailing in your pledges and donations or using our online Givelify app. More importantly, we continued to keep our focus on God and loving our neighbor. My part has been to provide meaningful worship services, moderating session meetings, providing pastoral care, and participating in presbytery and the community at large.

As I continue to be part-time, the arrangement the session and I have is that I have one Sunday off a month from preaching plus four Sundays in the summer, but this year was different. From mid-March to the end of June pandemic restrictions prevented us from having in-person worship, so I preached all those Sundays assisted so ably by Donna Goodfriend, looking into my iPhone camera that my wife, Helen, was faithfully holding, with me hoping the video would get through along with the wonderful music of Rob Kolb, particularly since we have had no choir or congregational singing since the beginning of March.

There were many technical challenges that, I confess, when I was alone, I was not exactly pastoral in my attitude. I started doing Facebook Live at the start of pandemic shutdown, but was forced to switched to recording and then uploading because streaming was unreliable due to insufficient bandwidth in the sanctuary. I experimented with different microphones and continue to explore different recording technologies, but continue to simply use my iPhone for recording with primarily my wife and Sherry Robinson being the videographers.

Still, we managed to overcome most of the technology issues and now have made recording and livestreaming part of our weekly service even after we went back to in-person worship. And for all those Sundays I did get off, I am grateful for all the wonderful pulpit supply we had, including Janet Hoover, Stuart Wattles, Kate Dunn, Bob Umidi, Jeff McArn, Celia Bogan, Rob Kolb, and Donna Goodfriend.

Except for a couple of trips, on my weeks off I still attend worship, participating sometimes as videographer. In 2020 I preached 42 Sundays along with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Longest Night, and Christmas Eve for a total of 46 worship services in 2020.

While our in-person worship attendance of our roughly 30 active congregants has been down due to the pandemic, our online worship attendance has often made up for it, and we have reached people who never would have had a chance to experience our worship, so that has been a silver lining.

Though I did some homebound visits and communion on January 1, 2020, unfortunately, I was not able to do so again because of pandemic restrictions. Outside the time I spent preparing and conducting those services I averaged about 7 hours per week over the year in my pastoral duties. Would that I could spend more time, but my full-time day job a proposal manager for a technology company tends to get in the way!

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

- Pastoral Care – Visited homebound 1/1/2020: Gene Lawson, Trudy Christeler, and Bev Sullivan and served communion to Bev. It would be the last time I visited the homebound because of the pandemic.
- On Saturday 3/14/20 large public gatherings we banned due to the novel coronavirus and COVID-19. This caused us to cancel the 3/15/20 worship service and then start to do everything on online after that.
- Baptisms – None planned or performed.
- Funerals – Long-time, very faithful member Gene Lawson died peacefully very early Tue 3/31/20, but the funeral was postponed until a couple of times until tentatively spring 2021 at the family's preference. I did do a funeral service in early March prior to the pandemic shutdown for Ed Jones, Sherry Robinson's uncle, and then a socially distanced, face masked, graveside service in May.
- Weddings – We had a few weddings planned, but they all ended up cancelling or postponing until spring or summer 2021 (tentatively).
- Membership – No new members in 2020 and the loss of a couple.
- Stone Storytellers – Prepared for Book of Acts Epic Telling originally to tell on Palm Sunday 2020 and then postponed to the fall and then postponed indefinitely because of the pandemic. Only did storytelling in worship in 2020.
- Deacons – I continue to work with and rely heavily upon the deacons for the care our members, particularly the homebound, and for hosting our events. Though I do meet with people, the deacons provide care on a regular and consistent basis and through many thoughtful acts.
- Worship, Education, and Program (WEP) team – We were able to provide online services starting March 22 when we had to shut down in-person worship. I am deep grateful to Rob Kolb for providing music, Donna Goodfriend as liturgist, and Helen Leonard as videographer and we were able still have a Lenten desert, communion, and Holy Week services. During the shutdown I also hosted some Hospitality Time Zoom meetings on Sunday mornings, so we could still see and talk with each other. We were able to resume in-person worship services June 28 and thanks to Donna, Mary Chamberlain, and Janet LeFrois for church re-opening preparations. We still recorded the service for online viewing as well. We finally improved our WiFi coverage so that our Longest Night Service and Christmas Eve Service were in-person and streamed live.
- Finance Committee – Worked with our treasurer, Christine Menard, and session on our finances. As planned, I assisted in us withdrawing \$30,000 from Wells Fargo to cover our cash needs for 2020, which we did before the market dropped in the spring.
- Clinton Area Ministerium (CAM) – I continue as secretary/treasurer to chair CAM with our local clergy, which includes the Rev. Jeff McArn (Hamilton College chaplain), Pastor Michael Terrell (Clinton United Methodist Church (CUMC)), the Rev. Janet Griffiths (LutheranCare chaplain),

- Deacon Patsy Glista (Lutheran), Father John Croghan (St. Mary’s Catholic Church) until his retirement in October with Father Abe Esper coming in, and we welcomed Father John Crosswaite (St. James Episcopal) in November. We used to meet monthly for breakfast at Lutheran Care to discuss things and plan joint, generally annual, ecumenical activities until the pandemic shutdown in March. We did manage to meet a few times in person socially distanced and also by Zoom and still did many of our ecumenical activities. These include:
 - Lenten Series at CUMC on Tuesdays in March 6:00-7:30 p.m. We did the first two of five sessions on Adam Hamilton’s “24 Hours that Changed the World” video series before we canceled because of COVID-19. (We weren’t prepared at that time to switch to Zoom.)
 - Good Friday noon service on 4/10/20 that was hosted and led by Jeff McArn via Zoom with Michael Terrell, Patsy Glista, and me participating also. We had 37 people show up online.
 - Easter Sunrise Service on the Village Green had to be cancelled due to public gathering restrictions.
 - Coordinated and participated in the 5th Annual Community Collection Day on 6/6/20. We collected almost 900 items and \$3132 in donations for the Country Pantry! In addition, we collected electronics for recycling and paper for shredding while Boynton Pool collected bottles. This year we did not do the bake sale, pick up garbage in the village, or had music. Thanks to Lions Club on the paper shredding and food transport and the Methodists on the electronics recycling everything went very smoothly. We also had the Clinton Reporter in the beginning and WKTV came and did a short segment with me and Mary Zimble for the 6:00 p.m. news that day.
 - Labor Day Sunday service 9/6/20 led by me and supported by Janet Griffiths and Michael Terrell. We had 20 people physically present: 15 congregants, 3 pastors (Michael, Janet, Scott), and 2 musicians (Bob Turner on soprano sax and Julia Omelko on keyboard, both from CUMC).
 - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing, Saturday, October 3, 2020 at CCS High School gymnasium, led by Bryan Roy from CUMC, but a community-wide event. We packed about 33,000 meals in our two two-hour shifts. In February we had hoped to do up to 45,000 and then during the summer the pandemic cut the estimate just about in half, so our community should be pretty proud of what we were able to, thanks to Bryan and Beth’s continued leadership and the community’s faithfulness. Stone raised \$1800 towards the cost of the meals in the midst of the pandemic.
 - Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 p.m. Sunday 10/4/20 that Janet Griffiths, Michael Terrell, and I conducted. A pretty light turnout, but still a joyful one—and we had a couple of large donations of pet food for The Country Pantry, which was one of the purposes. Got some publicity from Zack Lewis, photojournalist from the Waterville Times.
 - No Service of Lessons and Carols with the beautiful music at Hamilton College this year because of the pandemic.
 - Longest Night Service (aka Blue Christmas), 6:00 p.m. Monday 12/21/20. Stone Church hosted in-person along with Zoom run by Patricia Jue from St. James. Participating in-person by Michael Terrell and me with Patsy Glista and John Crosswaite virtually.

- Clinton Chamber of Commerce – I have kept in contact with the Chamber, but they ended up having virtually none of their networking functions other than continuing to advertise in the Clinton Guide book.
- Media – I continued to work with Ceil Gilbert in sending out worship service press releases to the Utica O-D, Clinton Record, and Waterville Times. In addition, I posted regularly to our Facebook page activities our weekly services and activities and photos of events. Started posting sermons on web site and videos of the online services posted on Facebook with links on our web site. I also started working with Sharon Hammer of the Hamilton College Consulting group on social media, setting up a church Instagram account 8/30/20 and she is helping for us to post weekly to it. Also started in December of producing videos with her of my monthly newsletter column.
- Presbytery – Was able to attend most presbytery meetings, most of which were virtual by Zoom. Participated in presbytery weekly worship leaders' Zoom meetings that started during the pandemic where we share experiences, ideas, and concerns. I learned a number of things that were helpful in doing virtual services. Also, participated in a lively, inciteful weekly book club facilitated by Naomi Kelly on Zoom of the book “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going: Leading in a Liminal Season” by Susan Beaumont.
- Other – Some items include:
 - Attended Interfaith Matters Indigenous People workshop 1/11/20 hosted by Stone Church in the Norton Room.
 - Worked with Ewa Lawrence on Stone Church hosting “Feed Our Vets” event 5/31/20 that ultimately had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.
 - Responded to request from Marguerite Alofs via Jason Powles at WKTV for unified ringing of bells by churches. Coordinated the Presbytery of Utica churches and some others to ring bells 19 times (for COVID-19) on National Prayer Day at noon Thursday 5/7/20. John and Chris Menard “rang” the bell at Stone with Hal and Linda Rance, Helen Leonard, Emily Hughes, Bev Miller, and Anne Dunn for attending. New Hartford Presbyterian Church was featured on the 5:40 p.m. community segment.
 - Facilitated John Banks coming to see our records on 6/30/20 with Midge Bakos on Jonathan Edwards the Younger. He is from northern Pennsylvania and was doing research for his master’s thesis. He also visited New Hartford Presbyterian Church.

And if you’re anxious after that verse I cited in the beginning, here is the 2021st verse:
 “And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out of him and healed them all.”

Pastor Scott Leonard

Clerk Of Session Annual Report For 2020

The Session of the church is responsible for the mission and government of the church. Minutes and other Official records of the Session are the property of the Session and the Clerk is responsible for their preservation. The report is based on the minutes and other official records of Stone Presbyterian Church for the year 2020.

The Elders included Donna Goodfriend, Emily Hughes, Pat Joseph, John Menard, John Stiefvater, Mary Ann Stiefvater, Grace Whittemore, Clerk of Session Sherry Robinson, also present for the monthly meetings- Moderator Scott Leonard CLP, Treasurer Christine Menard; Deacon Mary Chamberlain.

For 2020 the session had many items of business, and continued on the strategy it set a few years ago. There was no annual retreat this year due to COVID, but we, continued the growth of our mission and depth of our relationships while planning day to day week to week month to month due to COVID.

Here are some highlights from 2020-

January – Clerk of session worked on the 2019 Clerk’s Annual Questionnaire. The deadline was February 14, 2020 and it was submitted on January 18, 2020. Our 2019 Statistical Report was also submitted on January 18, 2020. Thank you to Christine Menard as she was able to get the financial data needed to complete the report. We had 48 active members; we pay our per Capita based on this number. All this data is reported in the statistical report.

February – We had our annual joint meeting with Session and Deacons. During the worship service on February 9th, we had an installation of Officers, John Menard and Sherry Robinson as elders and Bev Miller as a Deacon.

March – COVID-19 hit and we had to cancel our Session meeting as well as gathering for Sunday worship. Scott recorded and uploaded the Sunday worship to our Facebook site so we could watch at home.

April – Session held its first virtually meeting via Zoom, thank you to Scott for setting it up. It was a learning experience for all of us, but we all attended.

May – After our opening prayer at each session meeting, we have devotions. Usually one person shares, but this month we didn’t assigned to anyone so our devotions became “trials and tribulations during this mandatory stay at home time.” We all participated.

June, July and August – We continued to hold virtual monthly meetings. The last Sunday in June our worship time changed from 10:30 to 9:30 and a handful of us started gathering back and church while others continued to watch from home.

September – Our worship time changed from summer hours of 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. after Labor Day. Some folks are attending worship while others are still watching from home.

October – It was noted in this month’s meeting minutes that our per capita will remain at \$41.14 for 2021. A special meeting was held as we were looking into the Clinton Learning Center taking up residence in the dining room.

November – Our records show Janice and Lee completed the NYS Mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention policy course and signed the form November 3, 2020. Lee had taken the course with his other employer and well as our other two employees have already taken the course with their employer. A special session meeting was held on November 24, 2020 to discuss business matters at hand and to research records back to 1977.

December – Still continue to be virtual, normal business-reminder our annual committee reports are due. Completed a Church Property Survey on December 21, 2020. Email sent to the Utica Presbytery inquiring about the Annual Statistical report and Clerk’s Annual Questionnaire for 2020 as we have not received the reports to complete. We are going into the New Year 2021 with 46 members.

Members:

In 2020 the session and congregation welcomed 0 new members.

Weddings – 0 rented church

Baptisms – 0

Deaths – 1 member Gene Lawson March 31, 2020

1- Member David Duncan moved as he agreed to be on our friends list.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson
Clerk of Session

Property Committee Report 2020

The Property Committee had an active year once again in our continual effort to maintain our Church in good condition. The following activities were performed to achieve this goal:

- The most demanding of the projects was the repointing and masonry repair that was done on the Clock Tower in September by Dwight Dibble. This was a repair that had been planned for some time and hopefully will keep the tower in good repair for quite a while. While we had the lift, Dwight also painted the trim at the top of the front of the Church and power washed some dark stains from the tower.
- The inside of the tower was swept and cleaned as part of the tower effort.
- The Church sign between the doors was refurbished. This project, shepherded and financed by the Memorial Committee has greatly improved both curb appeal and functionality.
- The emergency lighting was repaired and replaced as needed throughout the Church
- The stairs were retaped for safety reasons.
- The boilers were cleaned and serviced.
- A gas line was repaired in the dining room in December as a preventive measure.
- Also in December, the Church was wired for better WiFi service for the whole building. This should allow our technology to be managed much more easily.
- There are plans in 2021 to have the white trim repainted on much of the Church.

The committee would like to thank Jesse Miller for his dedicated work as sexton the past few years. You will continue to see him as he will still be helping with the mowing and yard work. We would also like to welcome Lee Kelso as our new sexton. Lee started in November 2020 and has been doing an outstanding job.

Respectfully submitted,

The Property Committee:

John Menard

Mary Ann Stiefvater

John Stiefvater

Stone Presbyterian Church: January 2021 Finance Committee Report for 2020

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic in our 2020 fiscal year, the church continues to enjoy stable financial status. This was largely due to the generosity of the congregation: 100 percent of our pledges were paid. Other friends of the church and attendees contributed additional funds. Pledges were increased for the 2021 fiscal year.

The highlights of the 2020 fiscal year are outlined below:

Income: We were not able to hold fundraisers this year because of the restrictions of the pandemic. The shopper's stroll usually raised over \$1,000.

The Fair Trade Shoppe was closed on and off during the year and was able to contribute \$3,500 of rent money, rather than the budgeted \$6,000.

In July we were able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan for approximately \$11,000. We will apply for forgiveness of the loan in 2021. This was done through the Bank of Utica. This loan was used exclusively for payroll costs as is required by the terms of the loan. Bank statements housed in the church office reflect our compliance.

An unused account at Access Federal Credit Union was closed and the remaining funds withdrawn: \$1,360.00. This money was added to the General Fund for disbursement as needed.

To offset the deficit for the 2020 fiscal year, \$30,000 was withdrawn from the larger Wells Fargo account. Over the course of the year, this money was regained so with overall earnings of \$3,477.38.

Expenses: The principal expense this year was the repair of the clock tower. This was a necessary project because of safety concerns and the long-term integrity of the building. This cost approximately 16,000. The front of the church was power washed as part of this project. The cost of this was partially offset by the PPP loan: the payroll was covered by the loan thus freeing money to pay for the tower.

Other expenses were expected per budget planning. Some additional funds were spent on cleaning supplies and materials to cope with Covid-19.

We continue to contribute money to mission activities donating over \$5,000 to local charities and Presbyterian causes.

Thus, it has been a surprisingly good year despite the impact of the pandemic. We will continue to do our best to be good and careful stewards of the congregation' generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Menard
Treasurer

	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
ADMINISTRATION INCOME		
Deacon Activity Income	56.00	0.00
Fair Trade Shoppe Rent	500.00	1,500.00
From Reserves	0.00	30,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	5.00	1,500.00
Per Capita	132.28	1,975.00
Presbytery Foundation Income	0.00	305.04
Sunday Plate Offering		
Loose Offering Cash/Checks	0.00	4,000.00
Non-Pledged Income	120.00	0.00
Pledges	<u>4,757.00</u>	<u>65,692.00</u>
Total Sunday Plate Offering	<u>4,877.00</u>	<u>69,692.00</u>
Total ADMINISTRATION INCOME	5,570.28	104,972.04
MISSION INCOME		
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERINGS		
Mission Beyond/Disaster Relief	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERINGS	0.00	1,000.00
LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION		
Rise Against Hunger	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total MISSION INCOME	0.00	3,000.00
STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME		
Building Use	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY INCOME	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total Income	<u>5,570.28</u>	<u>108,172.04</u>
Gross Profit	5,570.28	108,172.04
Expense		
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Deacon Activity Expense	228.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00	1,000.00
Office Supplies	905.17	4,000.00
Per Capita Tax	164.56	1,975.00
Postage	22.00	1,000.00
Telephone/Internet	<u>81.97</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	1,501.70	9,175.00

Certified Lay Pastor		
CLP Benefits		
CLP Auto/Professional	0.00	500.00
CLP Continuing Ed	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total CLP Benefits	0.00	1,000.00
CLP Housing Allowance	2,247.83	23,043.02
CLP Social Security Offset	<u>171.95</u>	<u>1,762.00</u>
Total Certified Lay Pastor	2,419.78	25,805.02
Director of Music	0.00	16,430.24
New York State Unemployment Ins	357.79	212.00
Office Manager	1,271.00	16,120.00
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	216.06	3,083.00
Sexton	<u>150.00</u>	<u>7,800.00</u>
Total CHURCH STAFF EXPENSES	4,414.63	69,450.26
MINISTRIES		
Choir Singers	0.00	1,500.00
Minister/Music Director Subs		
Music Substitutes	0.00	250.00
Pulpit Supply	<u>238.50</u>	<u>2,800.00</u>
Total Minister/Music Director Subs	238.50	3,050.00
Music	0.00	175.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	0.00	1,100.04
Worship, Education & Program	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total MINISTRIES	238.50	6,325.04
MISSION EXPENSES		
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE		
Mission Beyond/Disaster Relief	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total CHURCH WORLD SERVICE	0.00	1,000.00
LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION		
Country Pantry Food Bank	378.86	0.00
Rise Against Hunger	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total LOCAL OFFERINGS/MISSION	378.86	2,000.00
Mission & Stewardship Committee	<u>0.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total MISSION EXPENSES	378.86	3,300.00
STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY		
Insurance	0.00	8,000.00
Maintenance - Church	1,300.00	9,000.00
Utilities - Church	<u>1,772.93</u>	<u>17,500.00</u>
Total STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY	<u>3,072.93</u>	<u>34,500.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>9,606.62</u>	<u>122,750.30</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-4,036.34</u>	<u>-14,578.26</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-4,036.34</u></u>	<u><u>-14,578.26</u></u>

WELLS FARGO ACCOUNT

Account #1	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	Gain/loss		
	\$115,895.98	\$142,721.47	\$156,259.11	Gain of \$13537.64		
Account #2	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020			
	\$208,466.50	\$232,658.11	\$222,597.85	\$10,060.26	\$3,0000 was withdrawn for operating expenses 1/20	
Totals	\$324,362.48	\$375,379.58	\$378,856.96	net Gain of \$3477.38		

WEP Annual Report 2020

In January, Janet Hoover preached as we were holding services in the Norton Room and Stewart Wattles preached in the sanctuary in February. In March we went virtual and had no pulpit supply until July. Scott graciously preached every Sunday from March 22 through June 14 as guest ministers were reluctant to preach in the sanctuary due to the Pandemic. Rob Kolb preached on June 21. We resumed in person worship on July 5th. Lauralyn Kolb and Robert Umidi were guest preachers in July and Rob Kolb preached August 23 on Scott's day off. In September Donna Goodfriend delivered the sermon from Boston (Scott taped it on Zoom and played it during worship....a first!). Jeff McArn preached in October and Celia Bogan talked about Hope House in November. In December we were treated to stories of special Christmas memories from the Deacons.

The Pandemic changed our way of worshipping as we went virtual on March 22. Scott Leonard and Rob Kolb conducted services in the sanctuary with Helen recording the services through Easter. Donna Goodfriend joined them the Sunday after Easter and continued through the end of June as liturgist and storyteller. The services continued to be recorded and available on line even after we resumed in person services because there were many who didn't feel comfortable attending in person and others were viewing from areas outside Clinton.

Even though we were worshipping virtually, we continued to do things as normally as we could. Fortunately, Elizabeth Smith was able to give a talk on her trip to Africa in February before things shut down. Although the Ash Wednesday pancake supper and service of ashes conducted by Robert Umidi was in person, the rest of the Lenten services were not. The Lenten desert/garden was set up; the Maundy Thursday service was over Zoom; and Palm Sunday and Easter were live-streamed and recorded respectively. Unfortunately, the ecumenical Lenten Series had to be discontinued on March 17 after only two sessions. The church was decorated for Pentecost which everyone enjoyed.

The Stone Storytellers had planned an Epic telling of the Acts of the Apostles for Palm

Sunday afternoon which was postponed to May 10th, and then postponed indefinitely. It was hoped that they could present it in the Fall but decided it wasn't safe enough yet and may present it in the Spring or do it virtually somehow.

On September 4th there was an ecumenical service on the Green with people spread out and wearing masks. Our regular services began again at 10:30 the next Sunday. The Menards were finally able to present a program on their February trip to Egypt after church in October with an in-person lunch in the Norton Room. On November 1st, Pat Joseph and Donna Goodfriend served communion during the service. As Elders they each were trained and certified to serve communion during training sessions held in the summer. They were the first non-clergy members to serve communion in Stone Church.

For 35 years we had adopted families through The Neighborhood Center for Christmas. This year we briefly thought we wouldn't be able to because there were fewer people attending services to take tags from the tree and we hadn't been able to hold fundraisers to pay for gifts that weren't taken. We decided to go ahead and adopt 2 small families and have faith that we would be able to provide a good Christmas for them. Imagine how surprised and grateful we were that all the tags with wants and needs were taken the first week we put them on the tree! We want to thank everyone who bought gifts for the families. The Pandemic has adversely affected people in this community so it was more important than ever that we were able to continue this wonderful tradition!

Advent began November 29 and continued our tradition of Advent candle lighting and Advent giving. The Longest Night, a service for those who are grieving, was held here on December 21st. It was available on Zoom, in person, and by streaming. It was a very moving experience for those who attended and participated. Our Christmas Eve service was in person and streaming. It was a beautiful service and those who were able to attend found it inspirational.

Technical difficulties plagued us from the beginning but with much time and effort by Scott Leonard, we evolved from spotty streaming to prerecording and uploading to YouTube and Facebook and finally successfully streaming with an upgrade to our WiFi system. However, even though we struggled with the technology, we were able to offer on line services every Sunday from March through December. We also safely offered in person services from July through December.

In spite of the challenges we faced this year, we continued to serve our congregation and the public without interruption through the Pandemic reaching more people with God's message.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goodfriend

Mission, Stewardship and Support 2020

2020 saw a variety of Mission and Support activities within our congregation. Despite the many challenges and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, our congregation remained hard-working and charitable in its support of various agencies. As a congregation, Stone Church members and friends have been incredibly faithful and genuinely generous. We have responded to the huge toll of the pandemic and unemployment with food, prayer, funds and what actual physical help we could provide. We have maintained communication and concern for each other and have adjusted to new technologies, varied worship experiences, and loss of cherished parts of our Church activities.

Our relatively small size has made us more mindful of our priorities and focused in our giving, but we actively joined with others to do in partnership what none of us could have hoped to do as well alone.

To this end, we undertook:

A “**welcome back**” event on September 13, 2020. Three new banners were hung in the narthex and sanctuary to celebrate the start of our fall worship season together. After the disruptions of the spring and summer, it certainly was worth celebrating a return to “2020 normal.”

To support **Disaster Relief efforts** coordinated by the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Church World Service. Our contributions were made to help relieve those affected by natural and man-made disasters.

Ongoing contributions to The Country Pantry, our Clinton area food bank. Judy LaGasse continues as our liaison to the Country Pantry which has been overwhelmed with requests as large-scale unemployment has accompanied the hardships of the pandemic. Our congregation has responded to both special requests and normal monthly stocking with generosity. Traditionally, the third Sunday of each month, our loose offering is earmarked for the Country Pantry. Even when worshipping virtually, Stone members and friends did not forget to financially support the Pantry and made contributions by mail. Additionally, our LOVE Advent offering was designated for The Country Pantry.

Continued assistance to Hope House as it adjusted its services to continue feeding and assisting those without either homes or adequate meals. Ceil Gilbert has continued to organize our participation at **Hope House**. Although our in-person involvement has been limited by COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers have provided services as we can. Additionally, our congregation donated quantities of toiletries and other supplies for Hope House clients. As is our custom, our HOPE Advent offering was designated for Hope House.

Support for the activities of the Presbyterian Church USA (World Mission, US Mission, Mission through Education) Our second, PEACE Advent collection was donated to the Presbyterian Church USA, for peacemaking efforts throughout the world’s violence-ridden regions. Additionally, portions of this offering will be used to fund the Presbyterian Peace camp for children. Our third Advent JOY offering was dedicated to the PC USA Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and funding for racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA).

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

Participation in the Clinton Ministerium's **Community Collection Day** and the **Rise against Hunger** project and packaging event. Community Collection day offered opportunities for the community at large (and our smaller Stone Church community) to: contribute non-perishable food, paper products and pet food and supplies to The Country Pantry. Our congregation enthusiastically participated in The Rise Against Hunger project, spearheaded by the Clinton Methodist Church, by raising during the pandemic \$1800 toward our \$2000 pledge of financial support and providing people to work preparing and packaging meals during the event weekend.

Additionally, the Mission committee worked to encourage members and friends of Stone Church to participate in our stewardship campaign, **"Everything is possible for one who believes (Mark 9:23)**, which culminated in a special Consecration Sunday service on November 1, 2020. This service was followed by a lovely box luncheon organized by Grace Whittemore. As ever, the support for our Church and its mission was evident by the care and generosity exhibited during all stewardship activities.

Exact figures for all of the Mission activities undertaken by Stone Church can be found in the Treasurer's Report in this 2020 Annual Report. The information included in this financial statement underlines the strong sense of responsibility shown by friends and members of Stone Church. Thank you, one and all, for your generosity and support. It was often challenging to focus on Mission as we each simply tried to adjust to the tumultuous events of 2020. We did well and shall always try to remain faithful to fulfilling our mission of working for peace, justice and basic necessities for all God's people. As we continue to walk heretofore untrodden paths together, God's grace, our togetherness, and our willingness to listen and learn will make all things possible and all things bearable.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Stiefvater

Membership, Communication And Outreach (MCO) Report 2020

Our team consists of Ceil Gilbert, Emily Hughes, Linda Rance and Sherry Robinson. Our goal is to “encourage the integration of visitors and new members into the life of the church” and our tasks throughout the year include the following:

We promote a sense of community through personal relationships within the congregation and try to plan and participate in events. This was very difficult and just about impossible this year due to COVID. Our normal hospitality time in the Norton Room had to be canceled. Along with many of our other events. We were however very lucky to have Scott setup zoom-meetings after our online Sunday worship.

We oversee the communications of the church including productions of the cornerstone monthly newsletter, the Stone Church website, bulletin board, publicity of Church events.

Oversee the work of Office Manager and try to be the primary personnel contact.

We seek to look at the ministry of the church through the eyes of the outsider to help make our church a visitor friendly time with the first-time visitors.

We each have name tags located in the back of the church, we have not been wearing them as there has been so few of us there. There may come a day again where we will have to remind ourselves to put them as we have been told how important it is to wear them.

We follow up with either personal note cards or emails to new visitors when applicable. We do have pew cards and every Sunday it’s noted during the service if you are visiting to please fill out a card. This year Linda mailed out 4 welcome notes and we were so excited one of those folks wrote back to her, it was a very nice note. We sent a “thank you” note in October as Ted Joseph donated to the church a brand-new vacuum cleaner that was on our Sexton’s wish list.

November 2020 our shoppers stroll was cancelled due to COVID. There was still advertising that was done by Ceil.

Our committee was responsible for gathering gifts for the Church Staff, a special thank you to the women’s association and the deacons for providing the funds. Five gifts baskets were given.

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

We would like to thank the congregation for all your love and support throughout the year as we know you are all involved with everything we have listed here and more.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Robinson, Committee Member

Nominating Committee Report 2020

A group effort was made to recruit members for open positions in our governing boards...Elders & Deacons.

Christine Menard has graciously agreed to continue to be treasurer. Emily Hughes has completed her term as an Elder. Mary Chamberlain has completed her term as a Deacon.

Elders

	<u>Installation</u>	<u>Term</u>
<u>Class of 2021:</u>		
Grace Whittemore	5/26/2019	
Donna Goodfriend	5/26/2019	2 nd – 3yr
Pat Joseph	5/26/2019	
<u>Class of 2022:</u>		
John Menard	3/07/2019	
Sherry Robinson	3/07/2019	
<u>Class of 2024:</u>		
Grace Whittemore	5/26/2020	

Sherry Robinson will serve as Clerk of Session.

Pat Joseph will chair the Nominating Committee.

DEACONS

Class of 2022

Helen Leonard

Barbara Greene

Trisha Harris

Installation

2/12/2019

2/03/2019

5/26/2019

Class of 2023

Judy LaGasse

2/14/2021

Class of 2024

Hal Rance

2/11/2018

Linda Rance

2/11/2018

Respectfully,

Emily Hughes, Chair

Linda Rance will represent the Deacons at the Session

Board Of Deacons 2020

Serving this year: Mary Chamberlain, Jim Gavett, Barb Greene, Trish Harris, Helen Leonard, Beverly Miller, Hal and Linda Rance

This year was like no other for the Deacons. Because of COVID-19, we were not able to have coffee hour, host memorial services, Lenten series, or provide refreshments for Epic Story Telling. We could not visit our homebound members. We hope we will be able to get back to normal in 2021.

Jim Gavett is our Treasurer.

Barb Greene wrote an article for the Deacons Corner each month in the *Corner Stone*.

We made phone calls to our homebound members and others to keep in touch and check on them.

Hal and Linda Rance provide seasonal flowers/plants on the front steps of the church, making it look even more inviting.

Easter and Christmas cards were sent to homebound members and others signed by church members. Thanksgiving cards were also sent to our homebound members and others. Sympathy, get well, thank you and thinking of you cards were sent.

Easter flowers were ordered and any designated for our homebound were delivered. Christmas poinsettias were ordered and any designated for our homebound were delivered.

Hal and Linda Rance organize the Hanging of the Greens for the Christmas season. They also decorate the Norton Room for each season.

We have a great group of Deacons who are always ready and willing to help any member of the church or community event in any way at any time. It is a pleasure to work with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Chamberlain, chair

Board Of Deacons

Financial Report – 01/01/20-12/31/20

Beginning Balance - \$101.38

INCOME:

First Sunday Loose Change \$ 333.91

Individual Donations \$ 224.00

Flower Sales \$ 214.00

TOTAL \$ 771.91

EXPENSE:

Stone Presbyterian Church \$ 44.40

Mary Chamberlain \$ 11.00

Emily Hughes \$ 97.46

Linda Rance \$ 50.00

Mary Chamberlain \$ 107.94

Donna Goodfriend \$ 17.39

Mary Chamberlain \$ 47.48

Linda Rance \$ 100.00

TOTAL \$ 475.67

BALANCE as of 12/31/20: \$ 397.62

2020 Memorial Committee Annual Report

The second outdoor sign project was completed. Our contractor was able to repurpose and restore the inner workings to the large announcement “box”. The mahogany stain and lighting provide the appearance suitable to our building. The cost was \$441.23.

The fund received monies from the following in “memory of”

<u>FOR:</u>	<u>FROM:</u>	
Gene Lawson	Bev Miller	\$ 50.00
	Hal & Linda Rance	\$ 20.00
	Midge Bakos	\$100.00
	Jean C. Wainright & Family	\$100.00
Ed Jones	Juliana Milograno	\$ 25.00
		<u>TOTAL:</u> <u>\$295.00</u>

Finances:

Balance as of 01/01/20:	\$3,071.00
Income	+ <u>\$1,365.00</u>
Balance as of 12/31/20	\$2,751.58

Respectfully,

Emily Hughes, Chair

Midge Bakos at large

Annual Report 2020

Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe

This year was, of course, unlike any other. We had to close the shop for a while, during which time Rob and I, with the help of Maria Macrina, created a website for the shop. The hope was that people would visit the shop, browse the photos, and then make an appointment to make a purchase. That really hasn't happened very much.

We reopened in the spring requiring masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing, with customers waiting outside under a canopy for their turn to shop. We eventually returned to the Farmer's Market for several weeks as well. Sales have been slow but steady for the rest of the year. Special thanks to our handful of workers who were comfortable with our protocols even when COVID cases spiked in our area: Pat Joseph, Mary Chamberlain, David White, and Donna Goodfriend.

Net sales for the year were \$14,752.04, which is about half of last year's total. At first, we tried to keep making purchases whenever we had a bit of money, just so we could keep the money circulating. Two of our vendors ceased operations this year, and so we made large purchases from them during their final sale. One of these, Partners for Just Trade had planned to retire before the pandemic hit, but the other, BeadforLife, had not. We will continue to purchase from our other vendors once inventory is complete. We feel that this is the best use of our funds at this time, even though we are still well-stocked. Total purchases during 2020 were \$10,820.21.

Even so, we were able to make some contributions. We transferred funds to the church in January through May, and resumed in October, for a total of \$4000. In April, we received an urgent plea from Mayan Hands, one of our vendors, asking for donations. The government of Guatemala had closed its borders, their artisans had no source of income and the price of corn had doubled in one week. We promptly sent them \$1000. No other donations were made until after Thanksgiving when we sent \$500 to each of three local food pantries: Hope House, The Country Pantry, and Seeds of Hope Pantry (First Presbyterian Church), and \$1200 to Life School in Guatemala to be used toward the school tuition of the two children we "sponsor."

The dedication of our volunteers has continued throughout these months of isolation. We have some volunteers who do not work in the shop with customers, but none-the-less continue to be of service. Ceil Gilbert has continued to handle the publicity and audited the books; Emily Hughes and Patricia Harris help us better display our merchandise. Sarah Miller again did an ad for us early in the year. Shelley Coe again handled the taxes. When we needed someone to greet customers outside under the canopy, Emily Hughes, Grace Whittemore, and Carol White were happy to be there. We were excited to welcome a new volunteer right before the surge of cases. Sue Montrose hopes to be a regular volunteer once the case load drops back down. Mary Chamberlain continues to do the scheduling of volunteers and keeps the place clean.

Thank you all for an exciting year.

In Christ's service,

Lauralyn Kolb

Shop Manager

Listed below is a summary of the year's activity

Category	Items sold	Gross sales
Uncategorized	11	\$118.00
B4L	56	\$643.00
EE	219	\$1,026.75
LS (benefit for Life School in Guatemala)	137	\$1,064.94
MAGGIES	197	\$2,645.00
MHANDS	54	\$843.00
PJT	81	\$598.00
Pal Craftaid	40	\$290.00
SERRV	266	\$3,593.17
TTV	290	\$3,766.99
UPAVIM	133	\$1,167.00
WBP	36	\$166.80
Total	1,520	\$15,922.65
Discounts		(\$1,106.61)
Refunds		(\$64.00)
Net sales		\$14,752.04

Inventory on hand in the shop at the end of 2019 is:

B4L	\$3,900.00
EE	\$671.34
Maggies	\$8,460.04
MH	\$1,424.98
Pal Craftaid	\$1,784.83
PJT	\$1,921.35
SERRV	\$10,353.26
TTV	\$7,856.22
UPAVIM	\$1,906.63
WBP	\$211.75

Total **\$38,490.40**

Women's Associaton-2020

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

In February we donated \$500 to Rise Against Hunger.

In April, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, we donated \$100 each to Hope House and the Country Pantry.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our two major fundraisers, our annual Spring Pie Sale and our Harvest Pie Sale. Instead, many of our kind and generous parishioners donated funds to us totaling \$405. A huge thank you to each and every one of them.

In December we donated \$100 to church for staff year-end gifts. Also, in December we were able to donate \$75 each to Country Pantry, Neighborhood Center, Abraham House, Utica Rescue Mission, Thea Bowman House, and \$50 for Christmas families. We adopted two families through the Neighborhood Center and with the tremendous generosity of our congregation, provided food, clothes and gifts to them for Christmas.

As always, we continue to support the work of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery by completing our pledge to them of \$200 for the year.

We are very grateful for the financial help we received, and are hoping that in 2021 we will be able to hold at least one pie or bake sale to raise funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert

Secretary/Treasurer

Women's Association
Treasurer's Report-2020

Balance as of 1/1/2020 1371.35

RECEIPTS

Donations 405.

TOTAL RECEIPTS 405.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Rise Against Hunger 500.

Pres. Women of the Presbytery 200.

Hope House 100.

Country Pantry 175.

Christmas Families 50.

Neighborhood Center 75.

Abraham House 75.

Utica Rescue Mission 75.

Thea Bowman House 75.

Year-end Staff Gifts 100.

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (1425.00)

Balance as of 12/31/2020 351.35

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Gilbert
Secretary/Treasurer