



*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
2007 Annual Report

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Annual Report of the Pastor

Sometimes you need a little earthquake to remind you of your priorities. I remember earthquakes in California—one always remembers what is important when your foundation is rattling.

Riverside Presbyterian Church has had a shakeup in the past few years. I am grateful for the leadership of Pastor Ed Dykstra who stepped in to fill a need, and who helped the congregation remember what is at the core of our mission together. Ed shook up some things and made us think about why we do what we do.

When I arrived in July of this year, the ground was fertile indeed for a new pastor. The major conflicts were resolved, and folks were open-minded and enthusiastic for new ideas. I have found this congregation to be willing to jump in and work on projects, giving to those in need beyond the church family, and humble about accommodating the needs of others within the church, even when it means doing something new or unfamiliar.

There was also a wonderful staff in place, full of dedicated, faithful people who do their jobs without complaining. This is surely the best staff with whom I have ever worked in a church. Everything runs smoothly and we all support one another.

I have implemented a few initiatives in the past six months, but mostly I'm still observing and learning the territory. And sometimes I just throw a few "seeds" around the building to see what might take root. I prefer the metaphor of "coach" for myself. I'm happy to offer a suggestion or advice, but it really is you the congregation who is called to "play the game" of doing ministry in the world.

The biggest news of the past six months was the Church Mission Task Force, which redesigned the organizational structure of the church. It was difficult for any new idea to get off the ground when there was great confusion regarding who is in charge of what ministry. Now we have a solid foundation for growing some new and exciting programs, without any fear of turf wars. This should be a source of great hope for the future.

Another goal for my first year here is to get to know everyone. You can do much to help me in this regard. I certainly enjoy hearing your stories and getting to know your unique characteristics, but when my to-do list is very lengthy, it is often difficult to know how to attack this task. I want you all to know that I am always available for visits, discussions, drop-ins, appointments, whatever.

Some people make the mistake of thinking that if a pastor does not initiate a visit, then the pastor is not open to having such a meeting. This is not true. A more accurate picture goes something like this—the pastor does not know the most effective possibilities for socializing unless someone tells him. I am always extremely grateful when someone lets me know when a good time to chat is. It removes a mountain of guesswork from my plate.

So, I want to say as loudly and clearly as I can that I greatly enjoy visits, small groups, intimate conversations, counseling opportunities, etc. I just need your help in making that happen. Nothing pleases me more than to hear that a parishioner would like to chat. You can check the box on the friendship pad, or send an email, or a voicemail, or a carrier pigeon. I guarantee that I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

2008 holds a great deal of potential for us all. I am honored and humbled to serve you as pastor.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott

Christian Education

Christian Education (CE) finally landed with consistent staffing in 2007. Lynda Nadkarni continued as Director of Christian Education, Josh Fulton moved from assisting Dodi Krug with youth activities to overseeing the youth programs, Roberta Gates coordinated Human Scene during the academic year, and Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak continued on as Session committee chairperson.

Fall 2007 launched the sixth year of RPC's **Passport to the Promised Land Sunday School** program for school-aged children, Kindergarten – Jr. High. Average attendance again grew from 50 on average per week to 60 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.

Second and Third graders had a special rotation in fall as preparation for receiving their own Bibles. This rotation focused on the order of worship, music as worship, books of the Bible, and being Presbyterian. It was led by Joe Ourth with assistance from Lindsay Hayes. Twenty-three children participated.

The Sunday School offering in spring '07, a total of \$900, was contributed to the Heifer Project. Special emphasis had been placed on Mission, with the Celebration Sundays (weeks between rotations) focusing on the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 and how we can use that as an example in our everyday lives.

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	Lisa Burke
Jeanine Buttimer	John Cain	Susan Deems-Dluhy
Frank Fieseler	Lorri Floros	Lisa Freel
Tara Gregus	John Haugland	Connie Kelly
Jenny Kolinski	Susan Lisle	Fred Mitchell
Joe Ourth	Serina Ranft	Kathi Rocanova
MaryAnn Sadilek	Greta Schramm	Scott Schwarz
Carrie Staubus	Jill Vacek	

An extra-special thank you to our shepherds who guide their classes each week throughout the entire school-year: Shannon Buhle, Donna Cermak, April Floros, Mary Jansen, 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, Lisa Krefft, Lorraine Meyer, Marika Floros-Nadkarni, Brooke Schwarz, and Mary Smith. We were blessed by Alice McLean as a Greeter and several youth Greeters: Christine Armstrong, Emily Hastings, Lindsay Hayes, Alex Krug, 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. On average, four children per week are cared for in the infant room and eight per

week in the toddler room. We are blessed by the loving care Shannon Brandt, Barbara Ebehardt, Heather Pomey, and Keri Nekovar give to our infants and toddlers each Sunday.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL!) continued in 2007. 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. A registration cost of \$35 for adults and \$20 for children offset the meals and materials.

Beginning fall 2006, immediately preceding WNL!, children Kindergarten – Sixth Grade participated in Riverside Singers (4:15 – 4:45) and Ringers (4:45 – 5:15) to learn music fundamentals, note reading, vocal techniques and hand chimes. In between Singers and Ringers, and WNL!, children were supervised by parents as they worked on homework and worked off some energy.

Confirmation for the '06-07 freshman class was led beginning January 7, 2007 by John Cain and Joe Ourth with confirmation on April 22. We were pleased to welcome Anna Tess, Alex Krug, Natalie Pike, Jordan Ballerine, Chris Halline, Jim Sit, Emily Hejna, Morgan Vogel, Connor Halline, and Cody Kazarian into full membership. The '07-08 freshmen began class on September 16. Their confirmation is scheduled for March 9, 2008. Rev. Scott Jansen has joined John and Joe in preparing our youth for membership at RPC.

On February 4 we celebrated a relationship RPC has enjoyed since 1939 as the Chartered Organization of Boy Scout Troop 24 and Cub Scout Pack 24 with a **Scout Sunday** service officiated by our interim pastor, Rev. Ed Dykstra, and involving a number of boys from both the Troop and the Pack, including a talk by senior Trey Vogel about what scouts had meant to him through the years and an update on his Eagle Scout project. The boys also hosted coffee hour for the congregation after the service.

We are proud of the two boys who attained the rank of Eagle this past year. Trey Vogel and Will Gangware, both RPC members, were rewarded for years of scouting and hard work.

The CE committee worked hard this year to nurture the relationship between our scouting groups and RPC. We would like to thank Terry Jordan for his years as our Chartered Organization Representative and welcome Frank Gangware as he now assumes the responsibilities of this position. We support scouting because we share with the Boy Scouts of America many values that we think advantageous to teach to all children to help them grow and to be good citizens of the world. It has always been our tradition to include all interested boys from our community and their families our scouting activities regardless of their denomination or faith background. We see this as one of many RPC ministries to the community. Reports from both the Troop and the Pack immediately follow the CE committee report. Please read them for scouting highlights of the past year.

A most wonderful **Youth Sunday** was held on June 1 with over 80 children participating in a variety of ways from singing to reading, musicianship to artistry, as well as baking and hosting coffee fellowship for the congregation that day. The morning was this committee's most proud accomplishment of the year second only to holding Sunday School year-round. **Vacation Bible School**, was not held this summer due to a lack of ecumenical interest. We instead provided **Summer Sunday School** with all children participating together in the rotation. Attendance averaged six children per week. Teachers were Lisa Freeland, Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, Tom Kedzie, and Josh Fulton. 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, 81 children and youth planned to participate 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.

Youth group continues to be an important focus of the CE committee. After a successful mission trip to Valdosta, Georgia, Dodi Krug stepped down as our youth group leader, and Josh Fulton, who had been assisting, was hired to take the lead. Their report follows.

Human Scene (adult CE) at RPC is unique in that it is self-sufficient and not part of the purview of the CE director, although with the new realignment of committees, it will now enjoy the support of the CE committee. Much appreciation to Roberta Gates for taking the helm in September and coordinating this academic year's programs for Human Scene. Her time and efforts are appreciated by the regular participants of that class and by us. Her report follows.

Other miscellaneous things fall to CE such as upkeep of the library. We successfully swapped its space with that of the pastor's office this summer, creating a haven for book readers and small meeting space. Through the generosity of the Sikich family, we have purchased new materials for the library aimed at youth. Also with their contributions, we were fortunate to have secured a summer intern in Ana Knasik and in fall, Amanda Nagy. They have helped with the planning and execution of children and youth programming. Finally, Lynda participates in worship with sharing responsibility for the children's sermon.

CE will be led by session members Thom DeVries, Matt Ranft and Joyce VanCura in 2008 as Lisa moves to the Fellowship Committee. It's been an enjoyable three years of collaboration for the two of us which arguably has led to better Christian education for all at RPC. It's been our pleasure to serve and we look forward to the next chapter of our respective roles at RPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Nadkarni, Director of Christian Education
Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, Session CE Chairperson

Cub Scout Pack 24 continues to be an asset to the Riverside community. We currently serve 94 boys from the ages of 6 to 11, drawing from all the schools in District 96. In 2007, along with virtually 100% of the Scouts advancing in rank, the boys enjoyed the annual Pinewood Derby, spring camping at the Scout Cabin, a bike hike along the Fox River, a summer pool party, and our annual fall campout at Camp Hoover in Yorkville.

We gave back to the community in a number of ways, including a spring cleanup of the playground at RPC and the woods near the Scout Cabin, several food drives, a holiday toy drive, a used shoe drive, and participating in the Riverside 4th of July Parade and in the Veterans Day assembly at Ames Elementary.

Thanks to RPC for its strong support of this active Cub Scout program.

For the Cub Scout Pack 24 Pack Committee - Roman Salij, Cubmaster

Troop 24 continues to grow. We now have 36 active scouts ranging from 6th grade to juniors in high school. We anticipate having at least 10 more boys join when the 5th grade Cub Scouts cross over in February. One of the reasons our troop has been successful is our active camping program. We try to tent camp at least six times a year, from March to December. We also attend our council summer camp for a week in August. There, the boys are responsible for cooking all of their meals, attending merit badge classes and learning basic outdoor

skills.

We had two of our young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in the past year and have several other candidates that should make it this year. Since we have the privilege of using such a fine facility, we are having two service projects for the church per year. In the fall we had an outdoor clean up day and in the spring we will once again do a thorough clean up of the kitchen area after our pancake breakfast. We also make the boys aware of activities that the church is sponsoring such as the Carer's Giving Tree at Christmas and the Night Ministry for which the troop will be making the food in February.

Thank you for your support.

Cindy Gustafson
Scoutmaster

This year has definitely been one of transition for the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups, as well as their leaders. At the outset of 2007, Dodi Krug led the Senior High, with Josh Fulton responsible for the Junior High. Both groups met weekly in the spring, and participated in a number of activities.

The Junior High in the Spring of 2007 met at RPC for an hour on Wednesday nights following dinner at Wednesday Night Live (6:30pm). We averaged about 6 kids per week, and most of our time was devoted to learning about different cultures and religions. We welcomed Mr. Johnson from Brookfield to discuss Catholicism, and held discussions on many different faiths.

The Senior High in the Spring of 2007 typically met on Sundays, but times were usually event related. We might host a fun "movie" night, or participate in a small activity, or perhaps head out to a local restaurant for a topic discussion. Although attendance was limited at times, meetings at times would include over 6 kids.

Most of the Spring for Senior High Youth was focused on planning for the 2007 mission trip at the end of June. Youth performed service hours in an effort to understand the focus of the mission, and a successful fundraising event was held in an effort to support the attendance of chaperones. On June 24th, a group of 20 high school students and 4 adult leaders (thanks again to Dodi Krug, Tara Gregus, Beth Piersialla and Josh Fulton for attending) traveled to Valdosta, Georgia. Group Workcamps Foundation ran the program we attended, which brought together youth groups from 14 different denominations. Approximately 400 high school students from 10 different states were housed together at Valdosta Middle School. We were assigned a work group of 5-6 people and each group was assigned to a particular work site. Most of the sites involved painting and minor repair or construction to the homes of elderly and/or infirm residents of the city of Valdosta. Each day we spent our time working on our sites, having devotions, and getting to know our residents. In the evening, we had large group programs and time for our own youth group to meet together. Although this was a different experience from recent mission trips, many of which involved disaster recovery efforts, many in our group found the interaction with our residents to be very meaningful and enjoyed meeting and working with others from other states.

Changes continued for the youth leaders at RPC. Having worked with the Junior High this past spring, and assisted with the Senior High Mission trips since 2005, I was honored to accept the position as leader of the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups, taking over for Dodi Krug. I've been given excellent support from the

parents of the Junior and Senior High youth, the Christian Education Committee, Lisa Marciniak, Lynda Nadkarni, Dodi Krug, and Pastor Scott Jansen.

The Junior High grew as a group this fall. They met Sunday nights from 6-7:15pm, with 6-12 kids usually attending at meetings. They participated in a number of different activities, ranging from topic discussions, letter writing, even a trip downtown.

The Senior High met Sunday nights after Junior High, from 7:30-8:45pm, with attendance averaging about 6 kids per meeting. They talked to a veteran, discussed music, and participated in planning the new youth space (the old stage), and worked bake sales to fundraise for its redevelopment. Coupled with the Junior High, both groups raised nearly \$800. The project to fix up the space will begin this spring.

Keeping with the years old tradition of planning a week long mission trip in the summer, the Senior High has begun planning for its 2008 mission trip. This year the group will head to Mobile, Alabama, to assist Government Street Presbyterian Church in its relief efforts within the Mobile community.

Josh Fulton, Youth Group Advisor

During 2007, the Human Scene class met regularly on Sunday mornings from 9 to 9:50 A.M. in the church parlor, including a summer series coordinated by Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak. Focusing on a Christian discussion of contemporary issues, the class includes both "regulars" and "drop-ins," with an average attendance of fifteen to twenty, though it has occasionally reached thirty-five when the topic or speaker is of particular interest. For the first six months of the year, the Human Scene committee was made up of Roberta Gates, chair; Marjorie Lewe; and Ron Smith. Marjorie Lewe unfortunately had to drop out in June due to other pressing commitments, but Rev. Jansen has served as an active consultant and participant since then. Thanks to his assistance, attendance and interest is higher than ever.

The schedule for Human Scene consisted of speakers, panels and occasional audio-visual presentations on inner church workings, religious topics, other faiths and cultures, philosophy and the arts, and political or ethical topics of current interest. Highlights include Ron Smith's two-part presentation on new-age religions, Stan Schade's talk on the Qur'an, and Rev. Jansen's program on the Declaration of Barmen. Another highlight of the year featured Thea Kiwiet and Dennis Sadilek talking about growing up in occupied Europe during World War II. Other programs have featured the youth mission trip, the board of trustees and the endowment committee. Panels, always popular, have included everything from a "lovebirds' panel" for Valentine's Day and a panel of mothers and grandmothers on Mother's Day, to panels that have addressed the war Iraq, ethics in the workplace, and other provocative topics.

The Human Scene is always looking for ideas, especially since we try to provide stimulating programs at no (or very low) cost. So if you have ideas, would like to give a program, or serve on the committee, please let Roberta Gates or Rev. Jansen know. Your input would be welcome.

Roberta Gates, Human Scene Chair

Membership Report

Active members as of December 31, 2006 **453**

Additions:

New members	17
Confirmands	10
Restored to active	2

Losses:

Letter of transfer	5
Deaths	3
Other losses	26

(includes removal by session and transfer to inactive roll)

Active members as of December 31, 2007 **448**

Infant/child baptisms 4

Adult baptism 1

Weddings 4

In Memoriam

Louise Griffith (2006)
Sue Ann Henderson King
Fran Lukow (2005)

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

CARERS' Committee 2007

This year was a time of transition for this sub-committee that started the year under the umbrella of the Session's Mission Committee and ended the year as a sub-committee of the Board of the Deacons. Mary Frick and Shirley Misare completed their many years as co-chairs of the CARERS with the following as faithful working members: Marge Abbott, Margy Martin, Albertia McCabe, Sylvia Schade, Mary Lou Schwarz, Marilyn Grace Slanec and Audrey Withers. Several of these people moved or were out-of-state often; others were in the hospital, then recuperating at home or in the British or Scottish Homes.

So a call went out for some new committee members and a revamping of the leadership of the sub-committee. That was answered by the following people who join those listed above: Susan Fulton, Lisa Krefft, Lynn Shannon-Labotka, Wilma Steenland, and Monica Wood. Margy Martin and Mary Lou Schwarz were selected as the new co-chairs of the group and Susan Fulton will be responsible for all computer-related works required of the CARERS, i.e., committee minutes, RPC bulletin requests and *Vision* messages.

Throughout 2007, the CARERS continued to request items from the congregation for the organizations that we assist. This year these have been:

Building Ecumenical Discipleship through Sheltering (BEDS)

First Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Helping Hand Thrift Shoppe

Interfaith House

Operation Stars and Stripes

Riverside Township Food Pantry

University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital

Each month we've had our requests printed in the Vision and Sunday bulletins. They included non-perishable canned and boxed food items with certain suggested, specific food of the month needs. Our call for hygiene items, warm coats and other winter outer wear and other items outlined below, has been generously supported by members and friends of RPC.

In May the Sunday School classes came to the CARERS aid by helping us promote the collection of boxes of cold cereal.

The majority of the food donations have been taken to the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago for their weekly Food Distribution program. Certain food items have gone to the west suburban BEDS organization and Riverside Township Food Pantry.

During July and early August we sponsored our annual School Supply Drive for the children in the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago's Pre-School (Head Start) Program to help them prepare for their start in the Chicago Public Schools in late August. People donated an abundance of new pencils, pens, erasers, paper, crayons, washable markers, blunt scissors, paste, glue rulers, notebooks, etc.

The CARERS Giving Tree during the Advent season was again dedicated to the residents of the Interfaith House. Bountiful gifts of all types of new men's and women's underwear, socks, hygiene items, towel, warm gloves, hats, scarves and board games were brought to the Christmas tree in the Social Hall by our congregation in early December for that homeless respite center on West Franklin Boulevard in Chicago. The Sunday School classes created an abundance of cheery Christmas cards to send to the Interfaith House clients with the "Giving Tree" gifts.

Operation Stars and Stripes continues to maintain their collection, sorting, and mailing program to send donations to the members of the armed services overseas. Three or four years ago, Audrey Withers decorated one of the CARERS food barrels with patriotic fabric for the collection of non-perishable snacks, treats, hygiene and grooming items, card games, board games, puzzles, etc. Mary Lou Schwarz has continued Audrey's contact with the OSS people in Lyons who collect, sort aboard ship the collected items abroad to our troops. CARERS Committee members have sorted donated items placed in the plastic food collection tubs in each Narthex locations and the CARERS trunk in the education building lobby, and distributed them to the intended recipients listed above. Some of our yearly budget money was spent to purchase items for the organizations and activities we assist.

This CARERS Committee annual report is dedicated to the fine, loyal support and guidance of Mary Frick, former CARERS Committee chairwomen; to Shirley Misare, her able and generous assistant chair. Thank you so much Mary and Shirley! While we are thinking of thank yous we'd also like to express a GIANT BIG "Thank You" to Albertia McCabe and Audrey Withers for years of sorting and delivery of items to Constance Morris House and the LaGrange Hope Chest, Hines VA Hospital, and Interfaith House. In 2007 we missed Jackie Eckholm and David Wilson for their leadership of fall adult work trips to Kemmerer Village, the rural, Presbyterian-related alternative school for troubled youth south of Peoria, and for Jackie and David's delivery service to the Pine Avenue Presbyterian Church Food Pantry in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago east of Oak Park. And finally, a GIANT "Thank you" to Carl and Margy Marin for their faithful delivery of food, winter coats, and school supplies to First Presbyterian Church in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago and Christmas gift items to Interfaith House on the west side of the city.

Our constant appreciation goes to the very generous members of our congregation. Please help the committee members know of the needs of social service organizations and needy individuals, especially those in the western suburbs.

Submitted by committee member
Marilyn Grace Slanec

Board of Deacons

Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
Larry Allen (K)	Lucille Christensen (T,U,V)	Dale Heilenbach (F,G)
*Peter Carl (S ₁)	Christ Floros (M ₂)	Paula McCracken (A)
**Donna Mitchell (L)	Lisa Freel (J,Q,R)	Karon Nettles (C)
+Sylvia Schade (N,O,Y,Z)	Sanlee Radigan (W)	#Lisa Roccanova/Dylan Krug
Steven Teune (B)	Mary Lou Schwarz (P)	Marilyn Slanec (H)
Bill Vogel (M ₂)	Brad Staubus (S ₂)	Susanne Vogel (D,E)
*Treasurer, **Secretary, #Youth representatives, +Moderator		

Ministry Coordinators

Deacon Districts – Assignments of A, C, D-E, H, I-J - Lisa Freel /Sylvia
Communion (first Sunday of the month) – Larry Allen
Flower Delivery (weekly) – Sanlee Radigan /Mary Lou Schwarz
British Home Worship Service (first Sunday of the month) – Brad Staubus
Memorial Services – Lucille Christensen /Sylvia Schade
Youth Liason – Lisa Freel/ Susanne Vogel

“Deacon Doings” editor – Stephen Teune
Website Photos – Brad Staubus/ Nancy Hopkins (webmaster)

Events Chairpersons

Service Auction Feb.11, 2007 – Peter Carl / Bill Vogel
Strawberry Social, Sunday, July 15, 4-7 pm – Lisa Freel/ Steven Teune
Saugatuck Family Weekend Aug. 17 to 19 – Brad Staubus/ Steven Teune
All Church (Sunday School Kick-Off) Picnic Sept 9 after worship – Brad Staubus/ Larry Allen
Caring Christmas Dec. – 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. The retiring board members attended to say farewell (and then do clean-up as a finale) while the others started the business of planning the year’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. To this end, we have assigned to each deacon a group of church members (by alphabet). Each group is a Deacon District. This linking provides members with a deacon to whom they can relate news about themselves or their families and friends to the church, ask questions, and become a more connected member of the church.

Part of each Board of Deacons’ meeting was devoted to familiarizing each other about the people for whom joys and concerns had been raised during church worship and to raise any other prayer joys and concerns that we had heard of or had of our own. We discussed what had been done so far to acknowledge these and what more we might do to follow up on them.

The Service Auction in Feb., ably run by “engineer” Bill Vogel, “coal tenderer” Peter Carl and “conductor” Steven Teune was immensely enjoyed by young and old alike, and netted \$9,000. The Auction has provided

many occasions since then for communication among church members in order to exchange the goods or services bid for. It afforded lots of ways for church members to get to know each other more personally.

Added to last year's funds, the funds raised allowed for various projects to be supported. \$5,000 was transferred to the Trustees to begin the process of making plans to remodel and make the washroom facilities in the Narthex handicap accessible. \$1000 was donated to the RPC Youth Mission Trip to Valdosa, GA. \$1000 was sent to Canto de Esperanza, an Hispanic Presbyterian Church in Berwyn to help pay for their mission trip to Mexicale, located on the US/Mexican border and to help build Canto's membership. \$500 was given to Rev. Amy Snedeker to help pay her way to travel with persons from a Philipino Congregation in our Chicago Presbytery to the Philippines to confer with missionaries there. Later Pastor Amy preached to us on the conditions there, the encounters she had, and the living conditions of the pastors under a very repressive government. \$1,000 was placed in a special fund at RPC to be used to support the Mission 2007 initiative of the Presbyterian General Assembly with the goal to get 100% participation of Presbyterian churches in the US to support the Mission work of the national church. We also voted to pay \$300 for catered food to use for the farewell lunch for the outgoing interim pastor, Rev Ed Dykstra.

To encourage members of our church to think about personal charitable giving, we voted to take note of particular persons, other than deacons themselves, who showed deaconly attributes. Persons often were those carrying out tasks for the church behind the scenes, giving of their time with a cheerful heart. We designated the person, "Deacon of the Month", and each person was requested to name a worthy cause to whom the deacons would write a check to the amount of \$100. We announced these names in Vision newsletters in the "Deacon Doings" column, posted a list in the Narthex and will introduce the persons at worship on Jan. 13, 2008.

The Board of Deacons met on the third Tuesday of each month in 2007, with one extra meeting on April 25, noteworthy because it was called for the express purpose of discussing the plight of a local family with four children whose house was badly burned. The outcome of that meeting was to vote to purchase a \$500 gift certificate from Target for the family. The deacons also replenished the Good Samaritan Fund, because it ran low by the time our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Scott Jansen, arrived.

In November, four deacons, and a few other members and friends of RPC, joined with Rev. Helen Martinez to serve a Thanksgiving meal at the South Park Church in Park Ridge, IL. We contributed \$200 toward purchase of food that the Cook County Jail cook used to prepare a turkey meal for more than 100 incarcerated women (plus some of their young children) in the Moms Program of the correctional facility.

At Caring Christmas, 30 felt Christmas stockings were "manufactured", stuffed with homemade cookies, and delivered to members who needed remembering with a visit.

The deacons regularly prepared and served communion for the worship service on the first Sunday of the month and other times designated by the pastor (either served in cups or by intinction), visited sick and homebound persons, delivered flowers and posters to sick and infirm folks or those who had accidents or various other misfortunes. On occasion, cards /flowers were sent to those celebrating the birth of a newborn, a baptism, an adoption, or a death in the family or to acknowledge the passing of a dear friend. A deacon was assigned to assist and be on hand for the pastor during any funeral held at our church, to greet and attend to needs of visitors.

For the past several years, the deacons have held a monthly half-hour worship service at the British Home on the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 pm. Different deacons sign up to lead the service, to give a mini sermon,

to play an instrument or recorded hymns, and to bring and serve a snack. The residents very much appreciate this spiritual contact.

In addition to the regular duties listed above, the deacons organized (with the Session and Music Director) participation in the Riverside 4th of July Parade with a pick-up truck and the children bell ringers, planned and prepared the fantastically successful Annual Strawberry Social in July (open to the community), planned a spectacularly fun weekend family-at-the-beach retreat at the Presbyterian Camp Saugatuck, Michigan, and provided the food and drink for the All Church Picnic for the first Sunday School Sunday in Sept.

The Session requested that two youth representatives be appointed to the Board of Deacons in 2007 to learn about deacons' work and participate to the extent their school schedules allowed. They were a welcome addition.

The deacons were responsible for delivering the many Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias that Worship Committee used to decorate the church sanctuary. The session also requested help in keeping the membership rolls current by reporting to the office and Membership Committee new information about our church families, such as new members, discontinued telephone service indicating possible moves, additional cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, college addresses and the like. The deacons also helped out with the compilation of data, scheduling of sittings and paper work for the photographer in making the new Picture Directory of our members.

Bill Vogel arranged for and paid for 200 note cards with the church design to be used by the pastor and deacons to send brief notes of congratulation, thank-you or whatever.

Susanne Vogel and Lisa Freel gathered e-mail addresses of our college students and started contacting them by e-mail in conjunction with plans for a possible get together led by Youth Leader Josh Fulton during the Christmas break.

The Deacons look forward to a major realignment in duties to bring them closer to the Biblical definition of acts of deacons. The Church Mission Task Force recommended that the Ice Cream Social, Church Picnic, Saugatuck trip, and July 4th activities be shifted to the Fellowship Committee of the Session and that the Deacons subsume CARERS, Night Ministry, CROP walk and other Mission Outreach activities, such as mission trips.

Endowment Committee

The members of the Committee were:

Representing the Session:	George Armstrong and David Fulton
Representing the Trustees:	Nancy Jensen and Caroline Tecson
Elected at-large:	George Dluhy, Cyril Friend, Mike Heine, Cindy Reynolds Rayfield, Jim Ulrich, and Pastor Jansen

Gifts made to the endowment fund:

	Opening Balance	2007 Additions	Closing Balance
Unrestricted	\$243,893.89	\$ 550.00	\$244,443.89
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>
Total:	\$303,968.89	\$ 550.00	\$304,518.89

Between 12/11/06 and 12/10/07, 2 contributions were received totaling \$550.00.

Earnings from the fund allocated for 2007 programs were \$5,125.84. Additional funds were received from the endowment of a former member in the sum of \$426.52. The total earnings/receipts applied to the Church's 2007 programs were \$5,552.36. Earnings on non-designated gifts invested in the Growth Fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation were reinvested. At the request of the Session, the Pastor Home Equity Fund was re-established for Pastor Jansen.

Distribution of 2007 earnings/receipts was as follows:

General Budget	\$ 3,003.67
Property [Bldg.] Maint.	1,550.26
Good Samaritan	705.73
Education	143.46
<u>Music</u>	<u>149.24</u>
Total:	\$ 5,552.36

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 Chair

Fellowship Committee

Following are the duties undertaken by the committee this year:

1. Provided a sign up board that was placed outside of Fellowship Hall.
2. In an effort to recruit volunteers, placed articles in the Vision and Sunday bulletins describing coffee fellowship and the need for help.
3. Took a twice monthly inventory of supplies.
4. Shopped for necessary supplies.
5. Wrote a direction sheet for volunteers, which is now mailed or emailed to them. It is also posted in the kitchen.
6. Provided hands on training to those who requested it.
7. Personally hosted coffee on Sundays when there were no volunteers.
8. Called church members to solicit help.
9. Assisted the Stewardship committee with the annual Consecration Sunday luncheon.
10. Provided the centerpiece, set up, serving, and clean up for the refreshments provided after the annual Messiah concert in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Cody
Kemp Clarke

Finance Committee

Committee Members

Jim Ulrich
Cindy Reynolds Rayfield
Tony Miezio
David Fulton
Alfred Kitch

Scott Schwartz
Mike Heine
Allan Chard
Nancy Jensen
Dennis Sadilek

Financial accountability and predictability is the main concern 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 Jim Ulrich, 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.

Once again, the 2007 RPC budget began the year with a significant projected deficit. Through the extreme generosity of RPC members, the continuous efforts of the Trustees, Deacons and Finance Committee as well as the freezing of any unnecessary expenditures during the 4th quarter, the deficit was reduced to \$20,920.43.

The Finance Committee balanced the 2007 budget by utilizing some of the available funds from the Special Funds and with the aid of a \$12,418.61 loan from the Endowment Fund. A year end gift in the amount of \$2,000.00 reduced the required loan to \$10,418.61. This loan will be re-paid in 12 equal installments with interest during 2008.

The 2008 RPC budget was presented to Session by the Budget Committee at the December Session Meeting. The 2008 budget does contain a deficit. It is anticipated that the projected deficit will be reduced by a revised Stewardship focus.

The Finance Committee would like to thank Jim Ulrich for his 17 years of service as RPC Treasurer. Fred Kitch will be taking over the RPC Treasurer responsibilities from Jim effective January 1, 2008.

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

In the fall of 2006, a group of local Presbyterian churches came together to explore who God might be calling them to be and how to maintain and strengthen a Presbyterian presence in the near west suburbs. This group is now officially known as the Genesis Covenant and consists of:

- Berwyn Presbyterian Church
- Broadview Community Presbyterian Church
- Canto de Esperanza, Berwyn
- Clement Presbyterian Church, Cicero
- Community Presbyterian Church, North Riverside
- Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Cicero
- First Presbyterian Church of Brookfield
- Riverside Presbyterian Church
- Warren Park Presbyterian Church, Cicero

The majority of these churches are facing the same issues that are facing many mainline Protestant congregations at this point in time – aging congregations with declining membership and means trying to maintain old, large facilities. Some of these congregations are stretched to the limit and are ultimately looking at closing their doors in the near future if something doesn't change. Together we are looking at the opportunities that arise when we examine what form these changes might take.

The first meetings were once a month, and were spent getting to know each other, the issues facing the individual congregations, and some ideas as to where this may lead. These meetings led to the official formation of the covenant, with each congregation pledging some financial support for the group and Presbytery also promising to help with funding.

In March 2007, the covenant interviewed several candidates for the position of consultant. The task of the consultant is to lead the group, first through the process of discerning God's call, and then through the nuts and bolts of implementing changes that might come with the answer to the call. The search for a consultant took longer than expected, as our first choice backed out due to health problems, and key people became harder to contact over the summer due to vacations, other work commitments, and changes at Presbytery.

In September, the covenant began to work with Ray Schulte of The Center for Parish Development (www.missionalchurch.org), a consulting group based in Chicago. All members of all covenant church sessions were invited to a process orientation meeting at Community Presbyterian Church in North Riverside on October 2, where they learned how Ray planned to lead us through this process.

Originally, interim pastor Ed Dykstra had been attending the meetings with elder Dennis Sadilek. Knowing that he would not be able to see the process through to the finish before RPC found a new pastor, Ed asked another elder, Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, to also attend the meetings. When Rev. Jansen was hired at RPC, he occasionally joined Dennis and Lisa at meetings. Ray Schulte requested that each church name at least two members to be the official representatives to the covenant coordinating team to work with him. Lisa, hoping to reduce some of her responsibilities, offered to step down if anyone else was interested in being on the team, and elder Mary Kemp Clarke expressed an interest in taking her spot. RPC's session officially named Dennis and Kemp to the coordinating team. Lisa was then approached by a few members of another covenant church who asked her to consider continuing her attendance, so we have had three elders attending meetings as well as Rev. Jansen.

The coordinating team has committed to meeting twice a month throughout 2008 in hopes of discerning and implementing a vision of a meaningful Presbyterian presence in the area. The Center for Parish Development has found success in getting churches to become more mission centered. Determining how God is calling us to serve our communities and helping our congregations to embrace this work will be the main goal of the covenant coordinating team. We anticipate that some of the covenant congregations will find they share a common vision and wish to cooperate in common mission(s). This cooperation may be as simple as working on projects together, or as elaborate as actual mergers of churches. The process is not far enough along yet to know exactly where it is headed or how it will look in the end, but we are excited by the possibilities we see in front of us and the opportunity to work with other Presbyterians as we minister to the community.

In 2008 the congregation of RPC can look forward to learning more about the Genesis Covenant and the work being done. You will be offered a number of opportunities to take part in both educational and social settings as the member congregations learn more about the covenant and each other. Please feel welcome to attend any covenant meetings if you are interested and to discuss any aspect of the covenant with your coordinating team members. We encourage your active participation in this work of your church.

Membership Committee

The sign-in sheets were reviewed weekly. A welcome letter was mailed to new visitors by Rev. Scott Jansen. The membership committee made a personal call to the home of the new visitor and gave the family a current Vision. Rev. and Mrs. Jansen held a welcome and informational supper in their home with prospective new members and members of the Session. Those who wished to join were welcomed as new members.

New members received in 2007 are as follows:

Andrew Hart	Lloyd Bradbury
Hope Hart	Mary Jansen
Richard Crang	Peter Jansen
Mary Crang	Elizabeth Musick
Sally Sloane	Thom DeVries
George Kazarian	Janice Zeman
Victoria Wilcox	Chris Schiller
Lauren Wilcox	Carrie Schade
Lynn S. Labotka	

The following 2007 Confirmation Class was received into membership:

Jordan Ballerine	Alex Krug
Chris Halline	Natalie Pike
Connor Halline	James W. Sit
Emily Hejna	Anna Tess
Cody Kazarian	Morgan Vogel

A new pictorial 2007 membership directory was prepared by Dennis Sadilek with the assistance of Mary Lescher, Nancy Jensen, Marilyn Slanec and Julie Wert.

Respectfully submitted,

Membership Committee
- Schofield B. Gross
- Rev. Scott Jansen
- Mary Ann Sadilek

Memorial Committee

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.

The Committee reports that no purchases were made from the Memorial Fund.

Funds given in memory of Bill Jansky have been designated to the restoration of the two bell tower stained glass windows.

Funds given in memory of John Clark have been designated to the restoration of stained glass windows.

The committee approved a request for funding a desk chair and coffee table for the Library Room and a drop leaf conference-type table on wheels for the Westminster Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Aieta, chair

Mission Outreach Committee

In 2007, the Mission Outreach Committee concentrated its efforts on its Night Ministry outreach, which is now in its 5th year at RPC.

On the 2nd 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. We typically serve 200 meals at the corner of Wilson and Broadway on Chicago's north side.

We had excellent, expanded participation in the program in 2007 of the following individuals:

Bev Aieta	Jr. High Youth Group
BOY SCOUTS	Connie Kelly
Allan & Kate Chard	Thea Kiwiet
Kemp Clark	Marjorie and John Lewe
Betsy Gardner	Lisa and Jim Marciniak
Tara Gregus	Fred Mitchell & Family
Cindy Gustafson	Jane O'Donnell
Allan Halline & Family	Sylvia Schade
Kohar Havelka	Marilyn Slanec
Ellen Hamilton	Susanne Vogel
Lou Heine	Edie Wakely
Michelle, Emily & Amanda Hejna	Nadkarni Family
Jon & Deb Jansky	

The Mission Outreach Committee wishes to recognize the valuable efforts and generous time devoted to outreach programs led by the Mission Carers' (please see their separate report) who focus their efforts on so many other mission activities involving our congregation.

In 2007, it was decided to bring the Mission Outreach activities under the purview of the Deacon's Committee, and we will work with them to support the general goal of RPC with regards to mission outreach, so that our outreach reflects the vision of our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Hamilton
Matt Ranft
Co-Chairs

Music Ministry

A Year of Blessings and Challenges

In early 2007 our PNC called the Reverend Scott Jansen to serve as our pastor. This call has been a blessing indeed, as Scott has proven to be a wonderful fit with the needs of our church and staff. Scott has been very supportive of the Music Ministry and I feel that we share a vision for the future of RPC through our ministries together. The Music Ministry welcomed Scott as our pastor this past July with a special surprise of a Scottish bagpiper as a prelude to the service.

As the Reverend Ed Dykstra was preparing to end his interim tenure here at RPC, he offered me a personal challenge: to play the Toccata from the Fifth Symphony by Charles Marie Widor for his final Sunday. The Widor Toccata is a well-known virtuoso organ work. While I played it many years ago, I knew that I would need months of DAILY practice to get it back in shape. It turns out that Ed's challenge was a blessing for me. Even while vacationing in Bozeman, Montana during the month of June, I arranged to practice on the organ at the local Presbyterian church. It felt great to be able to meet this challenge and leave Ed with this gift, as he is a true fan of classical music. The standing ovation after the Widor was worth all the work!

One of the goals of the Music Ministry in 2006 was to expand the membership of the Chancel Choir, especially for the men's sections. Tenors have been as rare as hen's teeth at RPC for many years. (Mary Ann Sadilek and I have comiserated on this subject several times.) Hallelujah! Our prayers have been answered! This year a few new vital members joined the ranks of the Chancel Choir. We are thrilled to welcome Jim Marciniak to the bass section, Allan Halline and Alex Shuppara to the tenor section (Praise the Lord!) and Linda Choutka as a returnee to the soprano section. We also added a few new members in 2006, so the Chancel Choir is growing and vibrant. They also love to party.

Our RPC Bell Choir has now been in existence for 3 1/2 years. The group has grown by leaps and bounds. We have also added new members, many from the greater Riverside community. Some of these new members have terrific musical skills and it is showing in what we are able to perform with relative ease. We welcome Virginia Lattner, Dodi Krug, and Mary and Brian Jansen to the RPC Bell Choir. Your presence has truly been a blessing! The Bell Choir has raised the bar in 2007. We have added a Bell Quartet, a Bell Sextet, and a bell soloist on the RPC Bell Tree (Virginia Yang on 9/2/07). We have also expanded the range of the bells from 3 octaves to almost 4 octaves. Our challenge is to raise money for a bell tour. Yes, the RPC Bell Choir is now ready to hit the road. We did travel to the Scottish Home for a special performance in November, but we would like to expand our horizons. Funding is our challenge.

In the fall of 2006 the RPC Music Ministry instituted 2 new childrens' choirs: the Riverside Singers & the Riverside Ringers. The focus of the children's choirs is to serve the church through the ministry of music by preparing anthems for Sunday mornings and also to learn the language of music through note reading, rhythmic reading, singing techniques, ringing techniques, solfege, and Orff concepts. These groups are also preparing children for future membership in the Bell Choir or Chancel Choir. This year our first member of the Ringers moved up to a substitute position with the RPC Bell Choir. Kathryn Nadkarni has stepped in as a sub and done a great job applying her musical skills to enhance the group.

Early in 2007 some much-needed repairs were made to the 100+ year old organ at RPC by Jim Gruber and Co. During a service last spring an alarm suddenly went off and the congregation evacuated the church. The alarm happened to be in the organ chamber. Both the alarm company and the Riverside Fire Department were not equipped to deal with scrambling through our very narrow and delicate organ chamber, so several pipes were

damaged. While the alarm company paid for the repairs, Jim Gruber has reported that the pipes cannot take much more damage.

In the fall of 2007 the RPC staff was made aware of the fact that all budgets would be frozen due to the financial shortfall. I had several anthems planned for the remainder of 2007 that would have required hiring outside musicians such as Arline Robbins and our Artist in Residence, Karena Mendoza. These plans had to be put aside for another year. Mary Ann Sadilek did come to our rescue, however. She graciously volunteered to accompany the choir on several occasions when my hands needed to be free to conduct, subbed for me gratis when I needed to attend a weekend wedding in Wisconsin, and played several piano/organ duets with both me and Koban Havelka. Mary Ann has truly been a blessing to the Music Ministry this past year of budget challenges. We couldn't have done it without her.

The Music Ministry in 2007 has been blessed with a new level of participation from talented volunteers. Several youth from RPC have lent their musical skills to our worship services this past year: Kathryn Nadkarni, Ben Mitchell, Robin Jensen, Alex Krug and Chris Halline. (Please forgive me if I have omitted anyone.) We also had the debut of a wonderful young organist: Koban Havelka. We hope to hear great things from him in the future.

Our 2007 Christmas season at RPC was rewarding on many levels. The Messiah was the best since I have been conducting. Our soloists were all terrific and the choir was once again amazing - all 45 of them. The Christmas Eve family service is a wonderful collaboration of youth and music. It is very gratifying and spiritually uplifting to experience the interaction of children and adults worshipping and making music together. The attendance was 300+.

The Music Ministry portion of the RPC website has been upgraded to include more photos, timely information on the Messiah, calendar, and upcoming events. Nancy Hopkins has been an accomodating and knowledgeable webmaster.

2007 has been a year of changes, challenges, and surprises. Last year at this time we prayed for a tenor. We now have two and a strong tenor section for the Messiah. With strong ministries in place and a vibrant congregation, I pray that RPC moves forward in 2008 with the necessary resources to plan for the ministry of the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Sloane B.M., M.M., D.M.A.

Nominating Committee

The committee met in October to plan for recruitment of officers for next year. Subsequent communications were done via e-mail or telephone. Current officers scheduled to complete their term were asked to consider renewal, when eligible. Nominations were solicited from the congregation, as well as from committee members. Members of the congregation were encouraged to volunteer their service. The committee recruited the following slate of candidates which was presented for approval at a congregational meeting on Sunday January 6, 2008.

Elders

Patti Perry Halline
Ellen Hamilton (renewal of term)
Mike Heine
Tony Miezio (renewal of term)
Dennis Sadilek (renewal of term)
Joyce Van Cura
Thom DeVries (1-year term vacated by George Armstrong)

Deacons

Kohar Havelka
Doris Hayes
Mary Jansen
Kathi Roccanova
Sylvia Schade (renewal of term)
Bill Vogel (renewal of term)
Sarah Dudak (2-year term vacated by Karon Nettles)
Diane Chaney (1-year term vacated by Lisa Frele)

Trustees

Susan Deems-Dluhy (renewal of term)
Chris Schiller
Jim Sit (renewal of 2-year term vacated by Diane Kemp)
Caroline Tecson (renewal of term)
One Trustee position remained unfilled as of the congregational meeting on 1/6/08. The Nominating Committee is continuing to try to find a candidate to fill this position.

Nominating Committee

Mary Kemp Clarke
Joe Dvorak (renewal of term)
Hollie Miezio (renewal of term)
Scott Schwarz (renewal of term)
2 Elders (to be determined)
1 Deacon (to be determined)
1 Trustee (to be determined)

Endowment Committee. (4 year term)

Fred Mitchell

Committee members: Tara Gregus (Elder), Stephanie Messner (Elder), Lisa Burke, Joe Dvorak, Hollie Miezio, Scott Schwarz, Deb Jansky (Trustee), Brad Staubus (Deacon)

Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee members on 12/31/06 included Joe Dvorak, Jeanine Buttimer, Serena Ranft, Kathi Rocanova, Pastor Scott Jansen and John Cain, Chair.

2007 was a big year for RPC personnel. The major highlight was the successful transition to Pastor Scott Jansen as our Called Pastor on July 1, 2007. With this move, RPC stabilized a position that has been in flux for the past several years. Though only six months into his role, Pastor Scott has been warmly received by the congregation. We look forward to years of growth together.

RPC Staff highlights from 2007:

- Ed Dykstra started his ministry at RPC as our Interim Pastor on January 3, 2006, and concluded it in June 2007. His experience and calm confidence were a welcomed and stabilizing influence upon RPC.
- Sally Sloan continues in her role as Minister of Music. Her contract has been renewed though 2008. She leads the chancel, bell and children's choirs to the delight of the congregation.
- Lynda Nadkarni continues to be a ray of light as Director of Christian Education. We're lucky to have such a capable, knowledgeable and dedicated member of our staff and congregation.
- Josh Fulton continues in his role as Jr/Sr High Advisor. He is a capable planner and dedicated to the success of the junior and senior high groups. Thank you Josh!
- Julie Wert left her role as part-time office administrator on June 15th, 2007. We are grateful for her experience and years of service to RPC.
- Linda Hutcheson replaced Julie as part-time office administrator. We're fortunate to have such a capable and responsible person in this role.
- Mary Lescher continues to do an outstanding job as part-time office administrator. Her dedication and 'can do' efforts have been appreciated by all. Linda and Mary are the glue holding much of church operations together.
- Jim Ulrich decided to retire from his post as Treasurer after 17 years of dedicated and excellent service in his role. Thank you Jim! Replacing Jim will be Fred Kitch beginning January 1, 2008. We welcome Fred to this new role.
- Cindy Reynolds-Rayfield continues to do an outstanding job in her role as Financial Secretary. Cindy, and the entire Finance Committee, have been very busy sorting out RPC finances for 2007 and into the new year. 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, compensation across all roles was frozen for 2008 while RPC sorts out its larger financial situation. The Personnel Committee would like to thank those in paid positions for their understanding and patience with our current fiscal circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,
John Cain, Committee Chair
January, 2008

Presbyterian Women Committee

The Presbyterian Women's activities began in January with the Bible Study at the Scottish Home, followed by a luncheon. Rev. Mary Morrison led the study, and her leadership has meant so much to our group.

In February, Carol Sprunger again ably handled all the details of the Blanket/Tools of Hope Sunday drive, and \$649 was sent to Church World Service.

Programs and luncheons were scheduled for March, April and May, with a social time in June. In April we participated in the annual Birthday Offering program.

Since a move to Lombard was on my agenda, I resigned as Moderator in June, and I am grateful to Carol Sprunger for taking over the reins. Thanks to her efforts, luncheons and programs were scheduled for September and October, and concluded with a wonderful Christmas program in December. The program featured the R.B. Madrigal Singers, and I was completely surprised to be honored for the eleven years I enjoyed serving as Moderator.

The future of R.P.W. depends upon who steps up to take on the responsibilities of keeping the organization active. Thanks to Lucille Christensen, Kohar Havelka, Dorothy Jansky, Marjorie Lewe and others for assisting Carol in her endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruby Henderson

Riverside Presbyterian Women Annual Report, 2007

Receipts:

Pledges	\$1,120.00
Birthday Offering	676.00
Study Books	<u>78.00</u>
	\$1,874.00

Disbursements:

Presbyterian Women of Chicago	\$200.00
Chicago Christian Industrial	50.00
Lake View Academy	50.00
Birthday Offering	676.00
Gifts: (Trustees)	500.00
(Bible Study Leader)	200.00
Programs	450.00
Postage	15.60
Horizon Magazine	18.00
Study Books	<u>101.20</u>
	\$2,260.80

Balance, December 31, 2007 \$976.68

Submitted by Lucille Christensen, Treasurer

Riverside Presbyterian Preschool

“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.” The PreSchool has certainly embraced the wisdom of our 30th President Calvin Coolidge this year by completing its Capital Improvement Campaign: “Big Plans for Little People!” Through the generosity of many, donations in the memory of Carrie Chorzempa and in the VERY capable hands of Schander remodeling; we were able to replace the ceilings and lighting in the PreSchool wing. We have been thrilled with the results! Even on cloudy days, our rooms are bright! Everything was moved to a POD for storage which worked out well since it was such a messy job! Cindy Rayfield and Joan Schmidt sponsored a Christmas in July Bazaar to help defray the costs as well. Over \$27,000. was spent on this project culminating with an Open House. Everyone who donated to the Capital Campaign was invited to come to see the bright improvements and a special plaque was presented in Carrie Chorzempa’s memory in November.

Riverside Presbyterian PreSchool serves both children of our congregation (13) as well as the surrounding communities of Berwyn, Brookfield, Lyons, North Riverside and Riverside. There are 60 children enrolled. There are two sessions (Morning and Afternoon), 2½ hours in length and it meets 3 days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The staff meets for a half-day of planning each week on Monday. The teachers shared 33 home visits helping to make the new children feel comfortable in their first school setting. Our PreSchool provides a high quality; developmentally appropriate education for children ages 3 to 5. Our play-based curriculum creates a learning place that is emotionally and physically safe and FUN for all of our children. Our classrooms provide a haven for healthy play and learning. The PreSchool is proud of providing a great beginning to so many children and is one of the most active ministries of our Church.

The quality of teaching is the **most important** determinant of an effective program. We have a dedicated staff that provides that kind of environment. Our teachers shine in their classrooms and their commitment to a first rate program remains strong. Our “Catch ‘Em Being Good” continues as our main philosophy. I love greeting the PreSchoolers as their faces light up as they enter; and I love walking from room to room and seeing the teachers at the child’s level, seeing the positive child-oriented activities and room set ups! We have qualified; creative teachers who accentuate that play and learning go together in these important early years. Nancy Dvorak, Cynthia Kos, Lisa Manganiello and our wonderful new aide Barb Sitton work 3½ days a week and Sandy Haddad works two days a week. Our teachers continue to earn continuing education hours by attending Early Childhood Conferences and all 5 of us are CPR/First Aid certified. Mary Lescher has done a terrific job in her role as our Bursar.

The PreSchool is administered by the following Board: Lisa Carlson: Chairperson, John Cain, Jill Glawe, Scott Jansen, Mary Lescher, David Schulte, Brooke Schwarz, Julie Stack and Larry Svestka. We are most grateful for their leadership and support! Retired Board members Jenny Kolinski and Beth Piersialla were honored by dedicating special books for the classroom library as well as the Riverside Public Library.

Our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) currently continues to address the needs of families and has supported 10 families so far. Many of our parents add an extra \$5 to \$10 to their monthly check. This fall, the profits from the Riverside Foods Benefit Days were dedicated to the TAP Fund. A committee within the PreSchool Board administers these funds. This continues to be a wonderful opportunity for “those who CAN, to help those who CANNOT.”

The support of our parents is unequalled! In this age when volunteerism is down we marvel at over 400 names of parents who have signed up to help with various tasks from play yard clean up, classroom laundry to recycling cans for the homeless. The Teacher’s Appreciation Committee and volunteer parents provided wonderful monthly lunches. Not only were they a delicious treat but were also a chance for the whole staff to be together in a relaxing environment. In the spring the parents held a lovely Teacher Appreciation Luncheon with the theme: “Life’s a Beach.”

An important outcome of raising money is the friendships made among our giving parents as they are working together. We are so blessed and awed by their generosity of time and talent. Various fundraisers also

help keep our tuition and field trip costs down including Gold C Books, Candle Sale, Geranium Sale, and Book Fair & Raffle. Our monthly book orders and Campbell's Labels continue to be sources of supplies as well. Although we did not receive the two Presbyterian grants, the following people worked hard on the applications: Ed Dystra, John Cain, Jill Glawe, Elaine Leonard and Julie Stack. PreSchool parents sponsored a Community Tree and decorated it with festive reindeer in Centennial Park.

Our monthly Parent Partnership calendar, "Good News Gazette" report in November and Parent/Teacher conferences in January help us stay in touch with our parents.

We are proud of our community outreaches:

1. Visiting the British & Scottish Homes: making a bat paper clip for each resident and performing our Halloween songs.
2. Designing Easter Bunny Table Centerpieces AND sending over 350 pieces of candy to the Christian Industrial League for their Easter dinner.
3. Saving cancelled commemorative stamps to support bird sanctuaries in Illinois.
4. Recycling aluminum cans for BEDS: sending in \$440. Thanks to the matching funds from Riverside Bank!
5. Ring Leader Program: saving plastic rings from can holders to help the environment.

The following field trips provided fun adventures: Fire & Police Departments, Library, and the Brookfield Zoo provided a custom-made class for our adopted animal, and the Riverside Art Center. In-school programs included Dr. Jeri Coffey as the Tooth Fairy, Metra's Operation Lifesaver; and *Karen's Nature Tales* speaking on "Fascinating Fish." The last day of class we went altogether to Wonder Works in Oak Park.

We celebrated Wicky Wacky Wednesday, Dad's Nights and Mother's Day Teas. Our 2006(May) ended with a fun "Dive into Summer" program and graduation. Each child received their own stuffed animal dolphin and a beautiful personalized yearbook.

The Department of Children and Family Services came in April to renew our license. This process is always a challenge! The re-licensing process was concluded in the fall.

Each year we have a new yearlong theme. It insures us to use our creative thinking. 2007-2008 theme: "Up, Up and Away!" which has been fun so far! We adopted Heidi the reindeer from the Brookfield Zoo. A bag containing a stuffed animal reindeer replica and book travels home to a different family every weekend to journal and has some fun adventures.

2007 ended with our Up, Up Away Christmas Play and annual visits from Santa jovially played by Bob Kos and his furry sidekick, Rudolf Laura VanDerBosch. Toria Hrencecin played the piano, adding the perfect touch to our fun songs. Thanks to Cynthia Kos and Lisa Manganiello each family received a special gift: a reindeer pillow personalized with their child's handprint.

The wonderful setting of our Church, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching staff, dedicated PreSchool Board and devoted parents has provided a successful and winning combination. We are grateful for the Church's terrific moral support of our program! We appreciated Jim Ulrich's last 17 years as our Church Treasurer and the help of our secretaries: Mary Lescher, Linda Hutchinson and Joel Hastings as Building Supervisor.

Here it is 2008 and 28 years have flown by. Each day has brought with it its own set of new challenges and experiences. No day repeats itself. I never tire of hearing the laughter and giggles! It is with great satisfaction in what we have accomplished that I extend my deepest thanks to all who continue to make this PreSchool such a wonderful place!

Endless gratitude, Nancy Dvorak

Riverside Presbyterian Church Preschool Budget

EXPENSE STATEMENT

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted 2007/2008</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Permanent Materials & Equipment	\$2,400.00	\$670.62
Consumable Materials	2,400.00	3,608.21
Substitute Teachers @ \$70/Day	200.00	-----
Educational Materials & Dues, Magazines, Workshops, Parent Education	900.00	110.00
Continuing Education	900.00	200.00
Publicity	700.00	-----
Workman's Comp	400.00	400.00
FICA	4,400.00	4,030.00
Lost Tuition Contingency	1,000.00	-----
Maintenance & Cleaning	5,000.00	6,300.00
State Licensing Provision	500.00	-----
Misc. Gifts/Thank you's	500.00	525.00
Board Expenses	500.00	87.96
Salaries		88,130.00

Total Expenses: \$104,061.79

Other Expenses:

Repairs & Paint for damaged walls:	\$ 785.00
Rubber Mulch & Play Yard Preparation:	\$ 4,700.00
New lighting & Ceiling Replacement:	<u>\$27,744.55</u>
	\$33,229.55

Income:

\$185 x 9 months x 60 students	\$ 99,900.00
Late Tuition Fees	\$ 50.00
Registration Fees	\$ 4,650.00
Fundraising	\$ 4,100.00

Total Income: \$108,700.00

The Riverside Presbyterian Preschool keeps a minimum of \$15,000 in their savings account. This is tuition that is prepaid for May of the following school year. The purpose of this money is to pay all outstanding bills and salaries if the preschool ever closes its doors. This money must be kept in an account that could be accessed should this ever occur.

Stewardship Committee

During 2007 a new committee was formed with five participants: Lauren Cody, Bill Vogel, Stephanie Messner, Ron Krug & Will Vogel. Monthly meetings were established with the second Tuesday of each month chosen as the slated date. The committee set two goals for 2007: a deficit reduction campaign and a fall pledge campaign. The fall pledge campaign theme “Building for the Future” included a Time and Talents component in the pledge card. The “Building for the Future” pledge drive culminated with Consecration Sunday on November 18th.

The committee reported to Session in the December meeting progress of the 2008 pledge drive. The report is expected to become an annual event to use as a comparison from year to year to review the pledge campaign’s effectiveness.

Note: December report attached “2008 Pledge Drive Progress Report.”

Pledging units were down approximately 9.5% from 2007 pledging units, although the pledging unit number from last year was accumulated throughout the year.

The committee accomplished the two goals it set out to complete in 2007: deficit campaign & fall pledge drive. The deficit campaign was more successful based on the short timeframe to implement the program. Moving forward, the committee will be seeking outside instruction to assist in future Stewardship activities.

We think a base structure has been achieved within our committee and more good things will come in the future.

Respectfully Submitted:

Will Vogel
Co-Chair Stewardship Committee

**RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
 REPORT TO SESSION**

December 18, 2007

2008 Pledge Drive Progress Report

<u>Facts and Figures</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Number of Pledging Units	116	105*
Amount of dollars pledged	\$ 271,000	\$ 267,000*
Total dollars pledged	\$ 271,000	\$ 275,000**
<u>Bracket Review of Pledges</u>		
0 - 500	15	13
501 - 1,000	19	18
1,000 - 2,000	34	32
2,000 - 5,000	34	32
5,000 - 10,000	12	12
10,000+	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total pledging units	117	110

Personal “Thank You” Note

To be sent out in early January
 Invite to “thank you coffee fellowship”
 Hosted by Stewardship Committee

Establishment of Stewardship Budget

Expenses for 2008 Pledge Drive
 Stewardship Budget going forward

Plans for 2008

“Dream Catcher Possibilities” wish book established
 Self Education of Stewardship Committee Members
 Stewardship Socializing
 Effort to increase pledging units

* as of 12-17-07

** estimated

Respectfully submitted, Stewardship Committee

Lauren Cody
 Stephanie Messner
 Bill Vogel
 Ron Krug co-chair
 Will Vogel co-chair

...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.

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

We have worked extra hard this year to reduce our expenditures by doing as much as possible ourselves. I would like to thank the many church members who have contributed to this effort during our monthly All Church Family Work Days, and to recognize the personal contribution of each member of our board over the past year. Items accomplished this year include: relocating the pastor's office and library, including painting and rewiring for computer and phone, fixing the Community House porch screens, weeding, raking and pruning bushes, shoveling snow, deep cleaning the sanctuary, cleaning the first floor carpets, making first aid kits for all classrooms, improving the lighting on the sanctuary cross, replacing the broken window in the Manse attic, painting a portion of the back hall to the basement, refreshing the stain on the Social Hall woodwork and fixing the phone answering system.

Improvements completed by the building supervisor and contracted services include: painting the Social Hall, first floor entry hallway, Preschool, and several exterior walls, making changes to the lower level women's restroom to make more accessible, replacing the back door, replacing heat detectors in the sanctuary and gym, bar coding all heat detectors in the building and replacing stolen copper gutters.

In addition to the above, we have undertaken the following major projects:

- Initiated last year, the Stained Glass Window Restoration is progressing. Wixon Associates has removed and restored the two triangular windows in the steeple (the oldest windows in our building) and will replace them shortly. Repair specifications for the remaining windows are being prepared by independent consultant Neal Vogel to help us prioritize future work. Over \$21,000 has been donated to support this project to date.
- The Handicap Accessibility Project was initiated this year with a \$5000 donation from the Deacons. A preliminary design to provide ADA compliant bathroom facilities next to the sanctuary was completed pro bono by local architect Sander Kaplan. Over \$10,000 has been donated to support this effort to make our building accessible and welcoming to all.

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 utilize this space fully and effectively in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Jensen, President

The 2007 members of the Board of Trustees were: Allan Chard, Susan Deems-Dluhy, Doris Hayes, Lou Heine, Debra Jansky, Jon Jansky, Diane Kemp, George Meyer, Serina Ranft, Jim Sit, and Caroline Tecson.

Womack Scholarship Committee

The Board of Directors of this fund formally met two times this year. The Board awarded \$31,000 in scholarships to 30 recipients.

The recipients are as follows:

Brianna Allen	William Gangware	Natalie Pike
Chris Allen	Lisa Grisafe	Jill Polanski
Christine Armstrong	Alison Heine	Andrew Sit
Clayton Ballerine	Maggie Hejna	Michael Sit
Tom Booton	Riley Henderson	Justin Smith
Hope DeVries	Joshua Jansky	Lauren Teune
Katie Forsberg	Jordana Jantze	Rachel Teune
Kate Fulton	Dana Jensen	William Vogel
John Franzo	Chris Nelson	Maria Vuolo
Caroline Gangware	Emily Piersialla	Kristina Wert

The 17th annual fundraiser was held at Riverside Golf Club in October. This event was a huge success, raising over \$26,970 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	Lonnie Womack, Secretary
Lisa Cavaliere	Ron Pike
Nancy Chmell	Shelley Reichle
Jessie Coleman	Dennis Sadilek
Joe Dvorak	Joe Tess
Joe Dvorak IV	Peter Tess
Carol Franzo	Chris Ulrich
Mike Heine	Bill Vogel
Christine Long	
Michelle Luethje	
Milt Nieuwsma	

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 2007, including special services during Lent and Advent.
2. Signing-up members of Session to;
 - serve as Liturgist for the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday worship service of 2007; and
 - communion servers for the first Sunday of every month of 2007.
3. Coordinating two memorial flower programs;
 - one during Lent which included 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 Michael & Martha Heine and at Christmas by Matt, Susan, Lily and Natalie Lisle and Lou & Martha Heine.
4. Retaining temporary pastor services as pulpit supply were done when needed.
5. Communicating with the Pastor and Dr. Sloan about special worship music and/or musicians.
6. 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;
 - purchasing supplies for sanctuary and special worship services.

During 2007, the Worship Committee instituted a new permanent usher program. Ushers were placed into permanent teams and served on a rotating schedule. The communion procedure was changed back to the original plan.

Also, changes were made to the regular worship service: 1) The “Participating Elder position was eliminated and replaced with a new “Liturgist” position to account for the Book of Order’s permission to allow non-Elders to participate in the worship service; 2) and instead of having the Liturgist read the Scripture, the Pastor performs that task so that certain aspects or verses with direct relevance to the Sermon may be highlighted; and 3) the Passing of the Peace was moved to the beginning of the service right after the Liturgist Welcome.

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. Congregational suggestions, questions, and complaints about the services are welcome.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered as ushers, Liturgists, communion servers and helpers. Without you, we would not have as meaningful worship experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Heine

Matt Lisle

Session

The session of RPC 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 are many, and 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 people to responsible stewardship of time, talent, and money, and fostering spiritual growth.

The session bid farewell to interim pastor, Ed Dykstra, at the end of June, and welcomed our new called pastor, Scott Jansen, on July 1.

Major endeavors during 2007 included participation in the Genesis Covenant, which seeks to discern the future of nine Presbyterian congregations in our area, most of whom are struggling with membership and finances.

The Church Mission Task Force, established by the session, examined the roles of the various boards and committees at RPC. The Task Force report, which was adopted by the session, re-aligns and more clearly defines many duties and responsibilities to provide for more efficient and comprehensive functioning of the many activities of RPC.

The session continued to carefully monitor the finances of RPC with the goal of balancing the budget.

The following elders served during 2007:

Class of 2007

Diane Chaney
Mary Kemp Clarke
Ellen Hamilton
Stephanie Messner
Tony Miezio
Dennis Sadilek

Class of 2008

George Armstrong
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

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Riverside Presbyterian Church
Congregational Meeting
January 7, 2007
Church Sanctuary

The congregational meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by Rev. Dr. Ed Dykstra, Interim Pastor.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dykstra and a quorum declared.

The purpose of the meeting was the election of church officers. Stephanie Messner, chairman of the nominating committee presented the following slate:

Elders

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

Deacons

Dale Heilenbach
Lisa Roccanova/Dylan Krug (shared)
Paula McCracken
Karon Nettles
Susanne Vogel
Marilyn Slanec

Trustees

Deb Jansky
Nancy Jensen
Diane Kemp
Jim Sit
George Meyer

Nominating Committee (at-large members)

Lisa Burke
Joe Dvorak
Hollie Miezio
Scott Schwarz

Endowment Committee

George Dluhy

Since there were no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded to elect the entire slate as presented. Motion passed and officers duly elected.

Rev. Dykstra announced that training for new officers would be held on Saturday, January 13, from 9am to 11am at the church.

Rev. Dykstra noted that the church's CIF had been submitted to Presbytery for approval. He also stated that the annual congregational meeting would be held after worship on January 28, and all reports were due to the church office January 5.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting was closed at 11:17 am with a prayer by Rev. Dykstra.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk

Rev. Dr. Ed Dykstra
Moderator

Riverside Presbyterian Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28, 2007
Church Sanctuary

The annual congregational meeting was called to order at 11:13 am and opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Ed Dykstra, Interim Pastor.

A quorum was declared by Rev. Dykstra.

An announcement was made by Colleen Toriumi and Monica Munaretto, leaders, regarding the Alpha Course that will begin at RPC on Monday, Feb. 5, at 9 am. The Alpha Course in a 12 week, nondenominational introduction to and refresher about Christianity.

Rev. Dykstra asked for comments or questions regarding RPC's Annual Report. It was noted that the level of church activity is high and that the report was available to the congregation a week in advance for review.

The clerk read the names of members deceased in 2006: Jack Withers, James P. English, John Brakas, Robert Jackson, Florence Williams, William Jansky, Delores Gustafson, and John L. Clarke, Jr. Rev. Dykstra offered a prayer in their memory.

Rev. Dykstra thanked the entire church staff for their support, cooperation, and dedication. He asked those present to stand and be recognized.

Rev. Dykstra was thanked for his leadership.

Tara Gregus, chairman of the PNC, updated the congregation on the committee's progress. Our CIF has been completed and approved and is now posted on the Church Leadership Connection website. PIF's have already been received from interested candidates. Tara asked for continued prayers as the PNC seeks to find the best pastor for RPC. Rev. Dykstra noted that church members can suggest names to the committee for consideration.

There were several further announcements.

Diane Legge Kemp noted that the Trustees would be reviewing the building use policy during 2007

Marilyn Slanec encouraged us to support the upcoming Blood Drive sponsored by the Covenant of Churches on February 10.

Rev. Dykstra noted that his compensation is determined by the Session, not the congregation, since he is not a called pastor.

Since there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and passed. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Dykstra at 11:40 am.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Rev. Dr. Ed Dykstra
Interim Pastor

Special Congregational Meeting
Riverside Presbyterian Church
Riverside, IL
May 13, 2007
Church Sanctuary

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Edwin Dykstra, Interim Pastor
Clerk: Mary Ann Sadilek

A special meeting of the congregation was opened at 11:10 am with a prayer by Rev. Dykstra. He then called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present.

The first order of business was a report from Tara Gregus, chairman of the Pastoral Nominating Committee. She introduced the members of her committee: Sarah Dudak, Mike Heine, Matt Lisle, Patti Halline, John Kiwiet, Nancy Hejna, Vicki Vogel and Betsy Gardner. Tara then recapped the PNC process which ultimately brought to us a candidate for senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Scott Henry Jansen. Tara outlined the terms of call regarding salary and benefits. In addition, the session approved the use of endowment fund money under the Equity Participation Agreement to help Rev. Jansen with the purchase of a home.

Tara answered several questions from the congregation and then paper ballots were distributed and by a unanimous decision, the congregation voted to extend a call to Rev. Dr. Scott Henry Jansen to serve as pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church. The Jansen family was introduced and warmly greeted.

Rev. Dykstra next asked if the congregation and pastor were ready to prosecute the call, and the response by a voice vote was favorable. Rev. Jansen will assume his duties on July 1.

RPC members Tara Gregus, John Cain and Mike Heine were elected by a voice vote to prosecute the call, and they, along with Rev. Dykstra and Rev. Jansen signed the call in the presence of the congregation. It will be presented to Presbytery.

It was then moved and seconded to dismiss the PNC with gratitude. *Motion approved.*

The other stated purpose of the meeting was to receive the report of the nominating committee to fill a vacancy on the session due to the resignation of Fred Mitchell. Stephanie Messner presented the name of Ellen Hamilton, who was duly elected to serve the term which will expire in December, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am and closed with the congregation singing the Doxology as a closing prayer.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk

Rev. Dr. Edwin Dykstra
Moderator

GENERAL FUND

	<u>2007 BUDGET</u>	<u>2007 ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL COMPARED TO BUDGET</u>
BALANCE 1/1/07	0.00	0.00	0.00
RECEIPTS:			
PLEGGED	291,000.00	257,022.76	- 33,977.24
UNPLEGGED	50,000.00	39,195.65	- 10,804.35
OTHER INCOME	10,000.00	6,217.00	- 3,783.00
BUDGET SHORTFALL	47,154.00	61,993.35	+14,839.35
INTEREST INCOME	3,000.00	2,284.40	- 715.60
ENDOWMENT INCOME	2,800.00	3,003.67	+ 203.67
PRESCHOOL CONTRIBUTION	6,300.00	6,300.00	0.00
BEGINNING BALANCE PLUS RECEIPTS	<u>410,254.00</u>	<u>376,016.83</u>	<u>-34,237.17</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
PASTOR:			
SALARY	61,080.00	53,036.33	- 8,043.67
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	10,008.00	26,143.80	+16,135.80
FICA	5,438.00	6,057.27	+ 619.27
PENSION	8,700.00	9,702.12	+ 1,002.12
MAJOR MEDICAL	13,780.00	15,543.88	+ 1,763.88
MEDICAL DEDUCTIBLE	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	2,000.00	430.12	- 1,569.88
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,000.00	500.00	- 500.00
	<u>103,506.00</u>	<u>112,913.52</u>	<u>+ 9,407.52</u>
YOUTH & EDUCATION STAFF:			
SR./JR. HIGH YOUTH ADVISOR	9,120.00	11,085.00	+ 1,965.00
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	16,992.00	16,992.00	0.00
	<u>26,112.00</u>	<u>28,077.00</u>	<u>+ 1,965.00</u>
WORSHIP & MUSIC:			
MINISTER OF MUSIC	29,892.00	29,892.00	0.00
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC	1,720.00	1,720.00	0.00
SUPPLIES, MUSIC, TUNING	3,000.00	2,121.98	- 878.02
GUEST PREACHERS	600.00	150.00	- 450.00
SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS	1,050.00	340.00	- 710.00
	<u>36,262.00</u>	<u>34,223.98</u>	<u>- 2,038.02</u>
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	5,000.00	3,394.16	- 1,605.84
CHILD CARE:	3,500.00	5,986.64	+ 2,486.64
YOUTH ACTIVITIES:	2,000.00	842.16	- 1,157.84
CARERS COMMITTEE:	200.00	0.00	- 200.00
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:	400.00	427.50	+ 27.50
STEWARDSHIP:	2,000.00	540.72	- 1,459.28
BUILDING & GROUNDS:			
BUILDING SUPERVISOR	12,324.00	11,297.00	- 1,027.00
CUSTODIAN	13,850.00	12,260.00	- 1,590.00
UTILITIES	33,643.00	28,138.83	- 5,504.17
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	15,636.00	15,636.00	0.00
INSURANCE	15,680.00	12,937.00	- 2,743.00
BUILDING PROJECTS	24,260.00	6,545.00	-17,715.00
	<u>115,393.00</u>	<u>86,813.83</u>	<u>-28,579.17</u>
OFFICE:			
TREASURER	2,664.00	2,664.00	0.00
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	2,664.00	2,664.00	0.00
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	2,664.00	2,664.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS	20,765.00	19,098.92	- 1,666.08
OFFICE SUPPLIES & PRINTING	7,000.00	5,260.43	- 1,739.57
OFFICE EQUIPMENT MAINT. & LEASE	5,800.00	7,388.94	+ 1,588.94
POSTAGE	3,000.00	3,422.26	+ 422.26
TELEPHONE	4,500.00	6,131.57	+ 1,631.57
PER CAPITA	12,400.00	12,378.42	- 21.58
WORKERS' COMPENSATION	1,800.00	2,202.00	+ 402.00
TAXES	7,622.00	7,366.36	- 255.64
MISCELLANEOUS	400.00	82.50	- 317.50
STAFF EXPENSES	500.00	157.00	- 343.00
	<u>71,779.00</u>	<u>71,480.80</u>	<u>- 298.60</u>
CHURCH-WIDE MISSION:	25,000.00	18,750.00	- 6,250.00
PNC-SEARCH:	3,000.00	1,813.95	- 1,186.05
PASTORAL RELOCATION:	10,000.00	4,650.99	- 5,349.01
SPECIAL FUNDS LOAN REPAYMENT:	6,102.00	6,101.98	- 0.02
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>410,254.00</u>	<u>376,016.83</u>	<u>-34,237.17</u>
BALANCE 12/31/07		<u>0.00</u>	

SPECIAL FUNDS	<u>1/1/07 BALANCE</u>	<u>2007 RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2007 DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>12/31/07 BALANCE</u>
MEMORIALS	5,871.75	2,184.00	0.00	8,055.75
YOUTH MEMORIALS	799.25	0.00	799.25	0.00
WEDDING MINISTRY	(120.50)	3,000.00	2,920.76	(41.26)
PRE SCHOOL	22,657.50	120,710.09	123,615.31	19,752.28
PRE SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	9,973.70	17,596.00	26,195.45	1,374.25
CONTINUING EDUCATION	560.97	142.38	703.35	0.00
PRE SCHOOL TUITION ASSIST. PROG.	2,122.04	1,412.80	2,055.00	1,479.84
ROTATIONAL MODEL	2,575.43	0.00	1,564.50	1,010.93
ADULT EDUCATION	230.48	0.00	0.00	230.48
SEMINARY STUDENT	5,200.00	2,600.00	6,743.53	1,056.47
CAPITAL PROJECTS	6,828.47	0.00	6,828.47	0.00
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	6,400.16	17,674.64	18,531.43	5,542.87
LIBRARY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS RESTOR.	17,615.00	3,625.00	5,185.13	16,054.87
HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY	0.00	10,000.00	35.95	9,964.05
ORGAN	4,053.01	2,033.99	0.00	6,087.00
HUNGER	0.00	916.20	916.20	0.00
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	0.00	1,485.67	1,485.67	0.00
LOCAL PEACEMAKING	153.75	95.31	37.50	211.56
PENTECOST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTMAS JOY	1,075.00	1,127.00	1,075.00	1,127.00
LOCAL PENTECOST	165.20	0.00	0.00	165.20
TOOLS OF HOPE & BLANKET PROGRAM	125.00	549.00	664.00	10.00
PEACEMAKING	0.00	418.75	418.75	0.00
MUSIC	4,598.68	1,322.45	3,101.08	2,820.05
SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT	422.76	890.85	900.00	413.61
NIGHT MINISTRY	2,448.50	0.00	1,417.21	1,031.29
MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE	0.00	1,224.25	100.00	1,124.25
MISSION '07	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
WOMACK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	83,062.71	45,163.15	45,590.91	82,634.95
ADULT RETREATS	860.39	2,980.00	3,791.69	48.70
GOOD SAMARITAN	0.00	1,000.44	297.00	703.44
YOUTH MISSION PROJECTS	1,692.80	18,654.24	20,408.59	(61.55)
WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!	475.10	3,204.00	3,403.24	275.86
FELLOWSHIP	471.11	1,012.61	1,329.38	154.34
FLOWERS	1,357.91	1,813.00	1,429.50	1,741.41
ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	0.00	5,550.00	550.00	5,000.00
ENDOWMENT INCOME	0.00	5,673.12	5,673.12	0.00
BUILDING USE SECURITY DEPOSITS	1,076.00	625.00	1,225.00	476.00
MISCELLANEOUS CLEARING	0.00	96,705.97	108,310.46	(11,604.49)
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	<u>182,752.17</u>	<u>372,389.91</u>	<u>397,302.93</u>	<u>157,839.15</u>

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
BEGINNING BALANCE:					
GENERAL FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL FUNDS	151,315.59	191,963.22	179,161.75	172,187.36	182,752.17
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>151,315.59</u>	<u>191,963.22</u>	<u>179,161.75</u>	<u>172,187.36</u>	<u>182,752.17</u>
RECEIPTS:					
GENERAL FUND	381,127.64	358,060.76	349,958.50	350,459.70	376,016.83
SPECIAL FUNDS	295,989.61	429,614.94	277,390.16	338,233.69	372,389.91
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>617,117.25</u>	<u>787,675.70</u>	<u>627,348.66</u>	<u>688,693.39</u>	<u>748,406.74</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:					
GENERAL FUND	381,127.64	358,060.76	349,958.50	350,459.70	376,016.83
SPECIAL FUNDS	255,342.08	442,416.41	284,364.55	327,668.88	397,302.93
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>636,469.72</u>	<u>800,477.17</u>	<u>634,323.05</u>	<u>678,128.58</u>	<u>773,319.76</u>
CLOSING BALANCE:					
GENERAL FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL FUNDS	191,963.22	179,161.75	172,187.36	182,752.17	157,839.15
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>191,963.22</u>	<u>179,161.75</u>	<u>172,187.36</u>	<u>182,752.17</u>	<u>157,839.15</u>

Budget for 2008

		2008 Budget		
<u>INCOME</u>				
201	Pledged and Unpledged	\$ 310,000	630	Buildings & Grounds
202	Loose offering	\$ 7,500	631	Building Supervisor
203	Other Income	\$ 6,000	632	Custodian
205	Interest Income	\$ 2,000	633	Utilities
206	Endowment Income	\$ 2,400	634	Property Maintenance
207	Preschool Contribution	\$ 6,300	635	Insurance
			635	Building Projects
				\$ -
	Total Income	\$ 334,200		Total Buildings & Grounds
				\$ 85,551
<u>EXPENSE</u>				
<u>Pastor</u>			<u>Office</u>	
591	Salary	\$ 38,080	637	Treasurer
592	Housing Allowance	\$ 33,000	638	Financial Secretary
593	FICA	\$ 5,440	639	Newsletter Editor
594	Pension	\$ 8,710	640	Administrative Assistant
595	Major Medical	\$ 14,155	641	Office Sup. & Printing
596	Medical Deductible	\$ 1,500		Office Equipment Maintenance and
597	Professional Expense	\$ 2,000	642	Lease
598	Continuing Education	\$ 1,000	643	Postage
			644	Telephone
	Total Pastor	\$ 103,885	645	Per Capita
			646	Workers' Comp.
<u>Youth and Education Staff</u>			647	Taxes
605	Senior/Junior High Youth Advisor	\$ 10,932	649	Miscellaneous
606	Director of Christian Education	\$ 16,992	650	Staff Expenses
				\$ 500
	Total Youth and Education	\$ 27,924		Total Office
				\$ 63,915
<u>Worship & Music</u>			655	Church Wide Mission
612	Minister of Music	\$ 29,892		\$ 15,000
615	Professional Music	\$ 860		
616	Supplies, Music, & Tuning	\$ 1,500		Total Normal Operating Expense
617	Guest Preachers	\$ 600		\$ 342,052
618	Substitute Organists	\$ 525		<u>One Time Expenses</u>
				Special Funds Loan Repayment -
	Total Worship & Music	\$ 33,377		Interest
				\$ 800
619	Covenant of Churches	\$ 200	662	Special Funds Loan Repayment
620	Christian Education	\$ 3,500		\$ 12,419
621	Child Care	\$ 6,000		
622	Youth Activities	\$ 1,000		Total Expenses
625	CARERS Committee	\$ 200		\$ 355,271
627	Membership Committee	\$ 400		
628	Stewardship	\$ 1,000		BUDGET DEFICIT (Shortfall)
629	Fellowship	\$ 100		\$ (21,071)