

# UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS FROM 1974–PRESENT

1970

## 1974 Merging of the United Methodist congregation and the Presbyterian congregation: UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS

- Presbyterian minutes: “The recommendation of the Merger Committee that the United Church form with ties to both denominations be the one proposed was approved on motion.”
- Presbyterian minutes: The swell organ needed extensive repairs.
- Presbyterian pastor, Rev. K. Glen Fleming, retires
- Presbyterian congregation voted on the adoption of the Agreement to Merge. 110 votes cast; 92 in favor, 16 against, 2 voided. Motion carried.

## 1975 United Church of Phelps

- First annual congregational meeting was held. Membership: Presbyterian Church—340; Methodist Church—372. Budget for 1975: \$56,720
- First meeting of the church council. Decided the church council meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month: “Meetings will begin at 7:30 and will end as near 10:00 p.m. as business permits.”
- Dial-a-Prayer begun by Eddie Gardner
- “Do” family arrived in Phelps from Asia
- Refreshments were served at church council meetings by Margaret Rector
- Worship included occasional use of the Ritual of Friendship, the Sacred Service Dance Group.
- Junior and Angel choir robe material was ordered.
- Organ repair costing \$1600.
- The Echo organ was moved from the Methodist church to the United church.
- There was a search for an associate pastor. Rev. James F. Bender was called as co-minister.
- There was conversation about sponsoring a family from Vietnam.
- NEW ORGANIST hired, Steven Kane
- 50 new Methodist hymnals were purchased.

### MINISTERS

1974-1978

Rev. Leonard  
Hackney  
(Methodist)

1975-1977

Rev. Jim Bender  
(Presbyterian)

### LOCAL EVENTS

Phelps and  
Clifton  
Springs  
schools merger



- STATISTICAL INFORMATION: 18 baptisms; 16 funerals; 11 weddings; 27 new members; 12 deaths; 1 transfer of membership out; 1 removal from membership by request

## 1976

- Received a bequest from Mrs. Alva Bailey (\$10,000); invested with the interest to go to the Bailey Music Library Fund.
- Fire alarm system installed in the service building.
- No VBS because the community wasn't interested.
- Decided only members of the United Church of Phelps can help serve communion.
- Worship 10-11 a.m.; coffee break 11:00-11:15 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. church school. Later returned to original worship time.
- A church library was established.
- A new piano was purchased and placed in the parlor.
- Christian Education projects included: service project at Clifton Springs Hospital, a scrub-for-grub, swimming, adult fellowship/ swimming, family night picnic, and New Jersey Shore youth trip.
- Mother-Daughter Banquet
- Associate pastor James P. Bender expresses concerns about too few people doing too much, no enlargement of the base of really active and committed people, new ministries are slow to be developed to meet the needs of people around the congregation and among the congregation.
- Pastor Leonard P. Hackney expresses concern around co-pastors serving the church.
- Statistical information: 13 baptisms; 16 weddings; and 31 funerals.

## 1977

- The year started with a projected deficit of \$6,300 and ended with a surplus.
- Associate Pastor James Bender resigns.
- Women's Association fundraisers include Rotary luncheons, the Pie Booth at the Sauerkraut Festival, the annual bazaar.
- Mother-Daughter Dessert
- Storm windows were ordered for the Service Building. Outside of the Christian Education building was painted. The secretary's office was painted. An automatic fire alarm system installed.

New American Legion built on Rt. 96 just outside Village of Phelps



- Rev. Leonard Hackney announced his intended retirement on July 1, 1978.
- A search was begun for a Presbyterian pastor.
- HIRED a part-time Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs. Edith Johnson.
- Held a Senior Citizens Party for information on senior citizen programs was attended by senior citizens from the surrounding area.
- The congregation voted in December to purchase a pipe organ at a cost of \$60,000.
- Statistical information: 11 baptisms; 9 weddings; 20 funerals; 3 new members; 9 transfers out; 10 deaths.

## 1978

- Sale of the manse
- The trustees upgrade the original plans for a pipe organ to include additional pipes and parts for a cost of \$72,593 and a value of \$90,000 (by using parts from the old organs at both buildings). This was due to the generosity of a member.
- Iron railing and concrete steps at the front entrance to the Service Building repaired.
- 10 young people participate in confirmation class and join the church.
- Ecumenical VBS held at St. Francis Catholic Church one week in June and held at UCP one week in August.
- 12th graders participated in a summer youth program at Clifton Springs Hospital and with extended care patients
- Share-a-Saturday, social organization for adults in the church
- “Imaginary” Bazaar
- Membership on 12/31/78 was 690—adjusted to 345.

## 1979

- Installation of the new organ, redecorating the sanctuary, repair to the sanctuary roof and steeple.
- Pastor’s office repainted, new carpeting, shelving brought down from the West Church and 2 files added to the offices.
- Wooden signs made by Ken Clark to direct people to the church offices.
- A business sized typewriter purchased for the church office.

## MINISTERS

1979-1986

Rev. David R.  
Wright

(Presbyterian)

- Ontario Telephone Company donated a used address-o-graph machine.
- Policy made: use of the building by non-profit organizations charge of \$15 for half a day and \$30 for a full day.
- Energy policy adopted: groups or committees will meet in private homes when possible, the Sanctuary will not be used on Sundays when the temperature is 10 degrees or below, the rear doors to the sanctuary will not be used except for exit and emergencies during the coldest winter days, and a curtain was placed at the bottom of the balcony stairs to hold heat in the sanctuary-balcony area.
- Cellulose wood fiber insulation added in the sanctuary attic area, the service building attic area and annex buildings sidewalls and attic area.
- HIRED Barbara Schafer as part-time secretary.
- WE CARE II—sponsored a Laotian refugee family of 8 as a community project. The family lived with Bob and Sandy Chapa until a home was ready for them.
- VBS held in June
- Summer youth program
- Strawberry coffee hour in June
- Christmas tea for patients of the extended care unit at the Clifton Springs Hospital
- Health and Service committee paint parts of houses for members and friends of members who needed assistance
- Cassettes of Sunday services distributed to shut-ins
- Mother's Morning Out program
- Statistical information: 3 adult baptisms; 9 children's baptisms; 66 new members; 11 deaths of members; 5 transferred to another church; 4 removed from membership. Total membership: 736

1980 (TO BE CONTINUED—SEARCHING FOR MINUTES BOOKS)



8 year war in Iran

1980

- At the annual meeting on January 24, Rev. David Wright “stated that the past year has been his most fulfilling year. He expressed appreciation for his church staff of efficient secretarial help, a well-cared for building, and music which has won wide acclaim. Christian Education had an especially good program. Major challenges will be for all of us to better stewards and evangelists.”
- At this meeting, a revised constitution was distributed for the congregation’s review.
- A committee was formed to improve the appearance of the church school rooms.
- The February minutes note in the report from Presbytery meeting that “all council members of united churches are considered Elders. Presbytery noted that handicapped persons need better access to buildings.”
- Special congregational meeting on March 2 to deal with a revised constitution notes: “...the prime objective of the committee [working on the revision] was to make crystal clear the duties of the Staff, Council Members and Trustees. Major changes made and recommended for approval are as follows: Term of office for members of committees reduced from three (3) years to two (2) years; Mission and Outreach Committee combined with Evangelism Committee to make up one committee known as Mission and Evangelism Committee; Pastor Parish Committee changed to Personnel Committee being responsible for conducting performance reviews of all staff members of the Church and the recommendations of hiring, continued service or dismissal of staff members through consultation with the committee working in conjunction with the staff member and the Pastor; Vice Chairman to be elected annually for Council; members of the Council to be elected on an odd-even basis.” The committees (Mission and Evangelism) were voted to continue as separate entities. The revised constitution and bylaws were approved.
- The Evangelism Committee brought up the need for the church to be handicapped accessible and the need to reach out to the needs of unmarried adults.
- Senior Citizens Advocacy Group was established, Pat Hemminger, President.
- In February, Stewardship and Finance reported a need to raise additional income. A new fund was created: “Camp and Conference Scholarships”.
- Membership Committee’s name changed to “Committee on Care of Members.”

MINISTERS



8 year war in Iran

- In April, Rev. Wright led a discussion on “Proposal of the Draft,” in particular those who consider himself a conscientious Objector.
- Presbytery begins talking about issues regarding Lesbians and Gays concerns.
- Refugee family was an unskilled, illiterate mountain family from Thailand. Family picked up at the airport on September 4. House owned by Ted and Jane Mullen was not ready for use, so the family of 8 stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chapman.
- The church played a role in increasing funding for FLACRA by Ontario County.
- Raising money for 35 new choir robes.
- Job descriptions worked on for committees.
- Casino gambling—Council affirmed their opposition to Casino gambling and opposed any legislation that would provide for it.
- Methodists discuss uniting the Central New York Conference and the Northern New York Conference.
- The Council submitted John Britting to serve on the Task Force to the study the future of merged churches.
- Health and Service Committee reported on a federally funded program WIC (Women, Infants & Children).
- In October, the Evangelism Committee “favored making church more accessible to handicapped and directed Reverend Wright to obtain an estimate from a contractor on costs of a ramp to the rear entrance and alterations to washrooms, with the estimate to go to the Trustees.”
- Boiler was installed.
- Laotian family arrived October 16, with 5 in the family. Housed by the Ralph Barbalace family until the Mullen House was ready.
- The position of Lay Member to Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was added to the voting membership of the Council.
- Christian Education committee met with Rev. Gay Hakes of Seneca Falls about a seminar and course on “Christians and the Meaning of Sexuality” for students aged 15 and older; provided by the Methodist Conference.
- Organist, Steven Kane resignation received, effective the first of 1981.
- Stewardship and Finance reported (December meeting of Council) an anticipated deficit for 1981 budget of \$5,518.
- Various community groups requested use of the church buildings

“but with the charge of \$15.00 for “energy” fee and \$10.00 for custodian, find it financially impossible to meet the charge for the use of the building. Should the church as part of its “local mission” make exceptions for certain groups and waive the charge?”

#### MINISTERS

1981

- In January, the Christian Education Committee reported gifts were purchased for the refugee family.
- Seng Sengrath and his wife Phinh moved to an apartment on Park Place. Phinh’s brother and sisters living with the Ralph Barbalace family.
- Membership list near 600 “who can be expected to support the church with their time, talent and gifts.”
- \$15 “energy fee” and \$10 custodian fee for outside groups using the church should stay flexible.
- Purchase of an overhead projector for the Christian Education committee taken out of the memorial money donated in memory of Miriam Howard.
- Missions Committee recommended to Council the adoption of Resolution in Opposition to Casino Gambling in New York State and the Resolution against Capital Punishment—both approved, although not unanimously.
- New lights installed in the kitchen and on the stage.
- Trustees decide, regarding the Methodist church and property, to maintain the grounds, demolish the building but save the stained glass windows.
- In April the Council met with Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns, the first church in the Presbytery to study their material and hear the group presentation.
- In May, the Evangelism Committee made the following recommendations to the Trustees regarding accessibility of the building: construction of ramps leading to the rear service entrance and to one of the front entrances; blacktopping an area by the rear entrance to reserve two hard surfaced car spaces for handicapped persons; alteration of the two restrooms on the rear corridor of the service building to provide on restroom with wheelchair turning space, with doors, stalls, and fixtures altered to accommodate people using wheelchairs; widening the door frame holding the swinging door west of the choir loft to permit easy passage of persons in wheelchairs
- Summer hours for secretaries: Monday-Friday, 9-noon..



President Ronald wounded by a gunman in 1981.

- Methodists decide not to merge the Northern New York Conference with the Central New York Conference.
- Both denominations discuss hunger issues and peace issues.
- Pew folders are created.
- Trustees decide to build a ramp at the first side entrance, southwest side of the building.
- Hosted a workshop "NUCLEAR FREEZE"
- Adopted the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the United Church of Phelps welcome into membership all person of professed Christian faith, regardless of lifestyle, racial or ethnic background, level of education, income, or other human condition. We affirm that all human beings are made in God's image and that all human beings are members of the body of Christ. We further believe that in meeting each other in Christian love, God's Spirit frees us all to give and to grow."
- Adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that we urge continued study of policy statements relating to homosexuality that may be issued by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church and the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church."
- Adopted the following resolution in response to a report from the October 1981 Methodist Reporter regarding US intervention in El Salvador: "Whereas, the Council of the United Church of Phelps believes that the ruling Junta in El Salvador is guilty of gross violations of human rights: these violations include the murders of Archbishop Oscar Romero, four American church women, and thousands of Salvadoran citizens, reportedly committed by the Junta's armed forces, and

Whereas, US Military aid to the Salvadoran Junta seems only to encourage further such oppression,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the United Church of Phelps request our congressman, Gary A. Lee, to support and vote for a bill introduced in the House of Representatives that would prohibit arms aid to El Salvador as long as human rights violations continue and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Congressman Lee with a letter from the Council secretary asking for his commitment to the resolution."

- Received letters from Anne Higgins, Director of Correspondence, the White House, and from Gary A. Lee, member of Congress regarding their receipt of copies of the Council's Resolution on El Salvador
- Carpeting in hall installed



- Establishment of the United Church of Phelps Hartmann Scholarship Fund by Georgia and Wilbur Hartmann. "Recipient of this scholarship must be a member of the church, a senior at Midlakes High School intending to earn a baccalaureate degree and preferably planning to enter the field of education."

1982

- Attendance at the Christmas Eve service (12/81): 367 at the 7:30 p.m.; 85 at the 11:00 p.m. "Comments favorable regarding the two services."
- Rev. Wright begins correspondence with clergy in England and Scotland with the hope of setting up a pulpit exchange in the future.
- Adopted the following resolution: "Whereas the Council of the The United Church of Phelps believes that the establishment of a National Peace Academy would serve as a center to teach, develop, and coordinate research in the science of peacemaking, and that graduates of the Academy would be able to direct the resolution of conflicts, both within the United States and abroad, without resort to force of arms, and Whereas it is estimated that the annual budget of the Academy would be less than one-fifth of one day's Pentagon budget, Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of The United Church of Phelps request our Congressman, Gary A. Lee, to support the passage of House Bill 5088 that calls for the establishment of a National Peace Academy, and that the Council also write to President Reagan to ask his public endorsement of the recommendations of the Commission on Proposals for the National Academy of Peace and Conflict Resolution.
- Adopted the following resolution: "Whereas the governing bodies of both denominations represented in the United Church of Phelps, United Methodist and United Presbyterian, have called for a halt to the nuclear arms race, specified as "The Nuclear Weapons Freeze—Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race: To Improve national and international security, the United States and the Soviet Union should stop the nuclear arms race. Specifically, they should adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons, of missiles, and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons. This is an essential, verifiable first step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war and reducing the nuclear arsenals;" and Whereas the United States and the Soviet Union possess arsenals of nuclear weapons in number sufficient to destroy the cities of the world several times over, and are continuing to develop new and more destructive nuclear weapons systems; and Whereas the Presbytery of Geneva, meeting in

Elmira, NY on September 22, 1981, sent to President Reagan a letter requesting him "to adopt a mutual, verifiable moratorium between the United States and the Soviet Union on all further testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons, missiles, and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons"; Therefore be it resolved that the Council of The United Church of Phelps, NY meeting on February 16, 1982, endorse the "Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race," and that copies of this resolution be sent to our representatives in the Congress charging them to support appropriate legislation to implement a nuclear arms freeze.

- Rev. Wright responds about his health concerns.
- Pulpit exchange with St. John, Gourrock, Scotland set up for 3 work weeks. Rev. Ian Strachan to use the manse while in Phelps. Rev. Strachan to preach July 4, 11, and August 8.
- Average attendance for Sunday school during the month of February was 80; for March, 91; April, 83; October, 109; November, 98.
- Project sponsored by Proctor & Gamble for 80 church families to test new products was considered as a money raising project; put on hold.
- Presbytery hosts a Native American Land Claims Conference.
- Missions Committee approves a Pictorial Directory; put on hold.
- Christian Education building and parsonage painted.
- Town Dept. of Public Works agrees to clean out hedgerow between the Methodist church and Rest Haven Cemetery in an attempt to reduce vandalism in the cemetery.
- New choir robes
- A member of the refugee family was married in the church.
- \$100 sent to Camp Whitman and Casowasaco to aid in making their facilities handicap accessible.
- Securing bids for removal of West Main Street structure and stain glass windows.
- A refugee family that moved to California returned to Phelps.
- Worked on committee job descriptions.
- Pictorial directory scheduled for April 1983.
- United Presbyterians in conversation about a reunion with Presbyterian Church of America.
- At a congregational meeting, motion was made and approved to raze the Methodist Church on West Main Street.

1983

- Evangelism Committee reports a need for a program for people 19-26 years of age.
- Compilation of list of names of refugees who are interested in doing odd jobs, with encouragement for people to hire them.
- 1983—The Year of the Aged
- Sent 5 young people and 1 adult to Clown Workshop at Casowasco
- Evangelism Committee discussed the purchase of name tags.
- Response for volunteers for Meals on Wheels was reported to be “too slow.”
- Plans made to have the chimes connected to the new organ console.
- Folders to match the new robes were purchased.
- Rev. Wright suggests writing the legislature about the use of Eisenhower College as a prison and instead to use it as a National Peace Academy.
- Rev. Wright recommends recognition of the birthday of Martin Luther King.
- Revision to the Hartmann Scholarship: committee to select the senior to receive the scholarship appointed annually by the Church Council and consist of 3 people: 1 man, 1 woman, members of the church. 1 of the 3 a school guidance counselor who is a member of the church, when one is available. The pastor of the church. Georgia Hartmann to serve on the committee in an advisory capacity. No member of the committee to be a parent of a senior who is eligible for the scholarship.
- Ralph Barbalace of St. Francis Roman Catholic Church spoke to the Council regarding the Nuclear Arms Issue, with the hope the the United Church of Phelps co-sponsor 2 informational meetings on the issue with them through “support, prayers, participation and promotion of the issue of freeze and disarmament.”
- Trustees request that “all meetings from outside sources be calendared in the church office.”
- “With action of General Assembly, we are to be known as—Presbyterian Church of United States of America.”
- Envelope contributions up. Interest rates higher.
- Request by June R. Pickering to use the church to start a nursery school by September 1, 1983. Trustees approved this the school to run from September to June.

MINISTERS

2nd space shuttle, Challenger made a successful voyage, including the first US space walk in 9 years. Sally Ride, age 32, was first woman to be a crew member.

- Vacation Church School had an average attendance of 49.
- Dire need for 2 apartments for 2 refugee families.
- Tim Wright met with the Council to ask for a letter supporting his "sincerity on his position of Conscientious Objector to a military draft and war. He stated his willingness to work in an alternative service." A committee was formed to draft said letter to bring to the November meeting for approval. Letter sent in December to the Board of Church and Society in Washington, DC, the Office of the Stated Clerk of the PC (USA), and the Central New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- First prize was received for the float in the Sauerkraut Parade.
- Organ recital by Shirley Warren of Seneca Falls planned for November 20.
- Plans made to purchase Bibles for the pews to be given by the generosity of a member.
- A used Thermofax copier purchased.
- December 18, Russ Hicks' nephew gave a recital at the church.
- Edith Johnson, Church Coordinator of Christian Education, resigns effective December 31, 1983.
- "Plans are in the making to set the bell saved from the Methodist Church on the property..."
- Figures for the cost of the replacement of the church roof to be received.
- 2 folding cots with springs and mattresses provided to one of the refugee families.
- 5 year evaluation of Rev. Wright's ministry reviewed by the Presbytery. The pastoral and congregational relationship found to be "generally good."
- Christmas Supper held on December 18, with Santa and candy canes for the children.
- Barbara Schafer unable to continue as secretary; Janet Walters replacing her.
- 1983 ended in the black with \$2,000+.

#### 1984

- Celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United Methodist Church and the 10th anniversary of The United Church of Phelps.
- Salary for the Coordinator of Christian Education reduced to \$4500-5200.

- Secretaries hours reduced from 6 hours per day to 5 hours.
- Stewardship and Finance came up with a revised budget, with a \$3,000 deficit. Council members were requested to “increase their pledges to act as an incentive for others to increase pledges.” Revised budget was approved.
- Trustees plan to have a 3-year capital funds drive to raise \$30,000 for building projects.
- Carter Cortelyou is recommended by Council to the Candidates Commission of the Presbytery of Geneva as a candidate for the professional ministry.
- Young people and lay people to read scriptures at church services.
- Capital Campaign became “Trustees Pledge Campaign” with \$30,000 for maintenance projects and \$15,000 to replenish Trustees Funds.
- Received a letter from The United Methodist Church of Syracuse stating “The congregation of the Phelps United Methodist Church is to be congratulated for having paid 100% of its Conference Apportionments for the fiscal year of 1983.”
- Donna Wilkes hired as Coordinator of Christian Education.
- Dorothea Taylor resigned as part-time church secretary. Barbara Schafer resumes her 3 day a week position. Janet Walters to temporarily fill the vacancy left by Dorothea; Janet becomes the permanent part-time secretary.
- The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District contracts to use the driveway and West Main Street property for the loading and unloading of school buses. The contract states that the school district will maintain the West Main Street property.
- There is a need for a new amplification system in the sanctuary.
- Rick Yancey required Visual Aid equipment to be used at his home for his school work. Rev. Wright inquired about such equipment with the Vue Com Inc. company in Rochester. Cost of the equipment \$2550.00, shipping \$50.00, and plastic sheet \$9.00. Council approved the purchase, with the understanding that there would be an attempt to raise the money through donations.
- Summer youth trip to Muskingum College, New Concord, OH: 7 youth, Donna Wilkes, Ted Mullen made the trip. Fun activities along with service activities were experienced.
- Replaced the roof over the church offices.
- Family Night Supper on December 9, followed by an organ concert by Cj Sambach.

- Presbytery of Geneva in the process of purchasing a computer.
- The Methodist Conference held a meeting regarding the Pension Fund Drive. The Conference requested a goal of \$24,006 from The United Church of Phelps. "The Council, at the September meeting made a motion to accept the decision of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, that due to other commitments, we would participate in the Fund Drive at a later date."

## MINISTERS

1985

- 577 food items collected during the 1984 year for the Community Cupboard
- "January's receipts down, possibly due to weather conditions keeping attendance low."
- "Motion made by Stan Shannon to ban all smoking within The United Church of Phelps, second by Charles DeWeaver, carried. Council gave unanimous approval to this motion for health and fire reasons. Signs will be posed for "NO SMOKING.""
- The Junior High's have a "Starve-In" raising \$122.40 for missions.
- The church building is now fully accessible to handicapped persons.
- Acid Rain Conference at Lands End, April 29-30.
- Council adopted the Commitment to Peacemaking, with special emphasis on peacemaking in family and community; also the Covenant of Compassion.
- Trustee issues: the sanctuary roof; a new hot water heater for the church kitchen; pointing of bricks; electrical work on the organ; additional outlets installed in the secretary's office; patio door installed in the parsonage. Anonymous gift of \$1000 given for beautification of the church.
- Rev. Wright attends an ecumenical seminar sponsored by Sojourners in Washington, DC. He committed only to legal demonstration there.
- Senior High summer program plans included adoptive grandparents activities and church cleanup projects.
- Junior High's volunteer to usher twice a year.
- Eidelweiss benediction used when there was no choir. Because of copyright restrictions, this was suspended in November.
- Office equipment needed updating. Roland Penta offered computer help to overcome current problems with addressograph machine. Copier needing to be replaced.

Ronald Reagan began 2nd term as President.

New Midlakes School opened.

- Trustees report that insurance company will reimburse the church for the tree on West Main Street property destroyed by an auto accident.
- A purchase offer for the West Main Street property was received and rejected by the Trustees.
- Presbytery had a speaker who recommended urging US Government to remove support for Contra in Nicaragua and to cooperate with Contador a efforts at peacemaking in Central America.
- Barbara Schafer resigned as part-time secretary. Janet Walters begins as full-time church secretary.
- \$600 was sent to the Battered Women's Shelter in Lyons from area churches through Church Women United.
- Janie McKnight and David Crosby present information concerning Community Intervention and Adolescent Chemical Abuse at the December Council meeting. A community group was formed to address these issues.
- "It was reported the fire alarm system proved its worth on December 8 by preventing a fire in the CE building. A faulty thermostat there has now been repaired."
- Presbytery heard a report on Domestic Violence.
- 943 food items, 1180 items of clothing and \$65 toward food costs were contributed to the Community Cupboard this year

## 1986

- Christopher Wright spoke to Council in January about his position as a Conscientious Objector: he was conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form, citing as reasons his upbringing, religious training and beliefs with scriptural references. Chris was willing to perform community service rather than participate in war. It was voted to support his stance and that a letter be written to support this stand and sent to the proper denominational offices.
- Charles DeWeaver reported that 1984 ended in the black, although only 92% of Presbyterian commitment had been met.
- Betty Mussack was representative to the Council on the Community Substance Abuse Committee.
- Pledges were about \$1,000 below last year.
- A new motor installed on the addressograph plate-making machine. A used 1983 model 3M copier was purchased for the office.
- The kitchen floor replaced. "Humps" removed.
- An appeal from the local Teachers' Association received for help

The movie "Lady in White" was filmed at the Phelps Central School building on Main st.

in resolving the Faculty-School Board conflict.

- Charles DeWeaver “reported that we are starting with a very low surplus from 1985, that frequent reports will be made on financial matters and that we hope pledges will be kept up to date.”
- Slides on Nicaragua shown to the Sunday School; children donated school supplies to be sent to Nicaragua.
- Senior High’s lead worship on February 23.
- Conference reorganization.
- Presbytery searching for a new Executive Presbyter.
- A new appeal was received for resettlement of a Laotian refugee. The need for English language instruction and for funding for refugee expenses was noted.
- At the February 11 meeting, Rev. Wright presented a request for dissolution of his pastoral relationship with this church in order to accept a call to be pastor of Overlake Park Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, Washington. A special meeting of the congregation was called on Sunday, February 23 immediately following worship.
- “As an introduction to the Methodist approach to assigning a pastor, Superintendent Spier asked for this church’s priorities in the matter. Worship and Preaching, and Leader among Leaders turned out to be the [Personnel] committee’s major qualifications for a new pastor.”
- A “bat” problem in the church.
- “Trustees proposed sale of the parsonage because of high costs of upkeep and heavy maintenance responsibility for Trustees. Much discussion followed with emphasis on Methodist expectations that parsonage and utilities be furnished. Council sentiment opposed sale of the property at this time.”
- Stewardship and Finance “also had concerns about utility costs at the parsonage. This committee’s recommendation as to pastor’s starting salary is \$17,000 to \$19,000 with appropriate increases available for succeeding years. Copies of Methodist statistics relating to pastor’s salaries in this district were distributed to Council members for study. Margaret Hicks moved, seconded by Nickie Shannon, that a starting salary of \$18,000 be recommended by Council. The motion carried. A further recommendation of a \$2100 car allowance (annual) was moved by Margaret Hicks, seconded by Mildred Parmelee, and carried. Roger Peck moved that Utility Allowance for 1986 be as budgeted (\$2500). The motion was seconded by Betty Mussack and carried.” After receiving communication from Superintendent Spier, the base salary was raised to \$20,000.

## MINISTERS

Rev. Leonard  
Hackney supply  
pastor through  
Easter



- Several concerns were raised which might be addressed in the interview [with a new pastor]: the candidate's interest in children, attitude toward lay participation in the service of worship, NOT a dictator type."
- A resolution from the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign concerning Testing Resolution was approved. Copies of the complete resolution to be made and sent to the President and to our Senators and Representatives.
- Mr. Gary Hakes interviewed as candidate for the next pastorate. "The committee found Mr. Hakes acceptable and are working out details of budget adjustments. It was noted that Mr. Hakes is interested in buying the parsonage if satisfactory terms can be reached."
- "Individual witness to faith by committee members will continue to appear in Newsletter."
- In May, "... concern was expressed about current low level of giving."
- A new refugee family expected in Phelps. "The family includes a mother, daughter, granddaughter and 17 year old son. Bedding, towels and other housekeeping supplies will be needed."
- Gifts of a pine tree and a flowering quince bush were received from Presbytery.
- September: 'Charles DeWeaver "indicated that the church was "back in the black" at the end of August, though not by much."
- "Gary Fisher, who has been consulted concerning our public address system, offers a totally new system: microphones, speakers, amplifier—for \$4,339.00. The same system, without new speakers, would cost under \$2,000.00. Discussion of this proposal brought out difficulties involved in installing a ceiling speaker in our sanctuary, value of a wireless microphone, objection to multiple speakers, and resulted in a recommendation that the committee should pursue the matter further and refine the proposal considering the points brought out in the discussion. Memorial Fund money will be used for this purpose when a decision is reached."
- Day Care Center ends their use of the building.
- New sound system ordered, including a wireless microphone as well as hearing assistance equipment.
- Parsonage sold to Gary and June Hakes.
- New Executive Presbyter for the Geneva Presbytery: J. Grant Lowe.
- Bishop writes a letter on peace and nuclear problems.

## MINISTERS

Gary Hakes  
becomes pastor

- “In answer to a question concerning use of the Gloria Patri in worship services, Gary Hakes responded that various parts of the worship routine are being rotated and that the Gloria Patri will appear again soon.”
- Blanket Sunday offering was \$1400.
- Rev. Hakes asks if the new communion trays (with glasses) are too heavy? The Council suggested using disposable plastic glasses instead of glass ones.
- Fran VanKirk offered use of her home Apple ITE computer in the office.

## 1987

- “Nelson and Joan Reppert may be invited to conduct a special worship service in our church. Their specialty is Creation Theology (not related to Creation-Evolution controversy).”
- Personnel Committee met in January and “affirmed the church’s satisfaction with Gary Hakes’ services as pastor.”
- Health and Service reported in February the need for men’s footwear at the Community Cupboard.
- Music and Worship reports that they are “aiming for communion once a month.” There was discussion concerning the more frequent scheduling of communion service. Pastor Hakes “said that there is a world movement in this direction, emphasizing thanksgiving rather than penitence. Council agreed to try it out this year and see what congregational reaction is.”
- Dramatized version Bible tapes were purchased to use with visually handicapped parishioners.
- Quorum for Council meetings is 9 members.
- A prayer circle and prayer chain is established.
- Rev. Gary Hakes goes to Israel.
- The Conference office moved to First Methodist Church in Syracuse. The Finger Lakes District went back to an older model of organization with more activity at the district level.
- Recommendation “that groups using the church should turn thermostats to 50 degrees when they are through and that church areas not in use be kept at 50 degrees.”
- Presbytery talks about relocating of the Presbytery offices.
- Video equipment ordered: 27” monitor, VCR with GoTo capability, full-size CamCorder (Camera-Recorder), all Zenith equipment.

- “A Junius High baseball game with a team from St. Paul’s (Syracuse) and the Onondaga Native American Nation has been arranged for the afternoon of May 31 in Phelps, resulting from the Junior High visit there.” Due to the death of a Reservation leader, the young native Americans did not attend.
- “The Jewish Temple visit by Junior and Senior Highs and leaders was an interesting experience which included a Brotherhood Service with a speaker from LeMoyne University (Roman Catholic).”
- Donna Wilkes and Jane Rudio direct the 4th & 5th grade camp at Camp Whitman, July 5-11.
- Rev. Hakes elected President of Finger Lakes Planned Parenthood.
- Vacation Church School attendance averaged 45 students, with 13 staff members—down 10 from 1986.
- Carol Lazenby resigns as choir director.
- Carter Cortelyou moves to Falls Church, VA to assume church responsibilities there.
- “A Methodist Mandate requires that an outside financial audit be performed on all church finances every fourth year and at any pastoral change. In this matter, Roger Peck moved, seconded by Doug Gover, that our Council protest this mandate. The motion was carried.”
- “Prayer group resumption is uncertain this fall.”
- “New choir director has been secured.” - Cynthia Hunt
- Church & Society Committee is established.
- “Hugh Johnson reported that the audit required by Methodist Conference will be done by the Conference at no cost if requested.”
- Rev. Hakes requests a Junior High acolyte class to explain church symbolism, especially as it relates to candle lighting.
- The drinking fountain near the church offices was removed due to frequent malfunction.
- “Mr. Hakes stressed that the ministry of the church involves all its members, not only the Pastor.”

## 1988

- Betty Fox, Council Clerk, needed to step back from her duties and Janet Walters substituted for her until she was able to return.
- New carpeting for the Library.
- Trustees “Reported on office rearrangement—Secretary will move

to room formerly used as Library; Christian Education Director will have middle room (formerly Secretary's Office); Library will be in former CE Director's office."

## MINISTERS

- Rev. Hakes attended an AIDS Consultation for New York and Pennsylvania.
- Ron Grube requests to do pastoral counseling in the United Church of Phelps. "This would be a part of the required practicum in his training program. This service would be part of an organized program to be known as Ontario Pastoral Counselors, which would include at least one other counselor in addition to Mr. Grube. He presented his qualification for this work and indicated that he saw as potential clients: families, developmentally disabled persons, church referrals and possibly school referrals. Because this program would involve use of some parts of the church building, Mr. Grube was told that Trustee approval as well as a Council recommendation would be needed, and that he would be notified as soon as these steps have been taken." Council approved, with supervision, the pastoral counseling program on a yearly basis, subject to acceptance by the Trustees. Trustees also gave approval.
- "One large expense—telephone installations. The church now has 3 incoming lines which can be used interchangeably, as well as capability for interoffice communication. No long-distance calls can be made from phones in the kitchen or hall."
- "Mr. Hakes raised the question of eligibility for infant baptism in this church. His opinion, that one or both parents must be members of this church, was supported by Council members present."
- Council endorses June Hakes "as a person whose character is appropriate for leading events on Human Sexuality."
- No Junior Church was offered in the summer.
- A recommendation was made to purchase ceiling fans for the sanctuary using memorial funds.
- Trustees work on Building Use Rules with representatives of Women's Association.
- Vacation Church School had a very small attendance.
- "Only 11 people attended the Church Picnic at Seneca Lake Park on July 31. Committee recommends that this event be dropped for a few years."
- Sunday School teachers were hard to come by. It was decided to NOT hold classes on holiday weekends. The Church School year would be divided into three 10 week blocks, with teachers asked to commit to one 10 week block instead of the whole year.

- Crop Walk was postponed until Spring 1989.
- Choir director, Cynthia Hunt, marries—Mrs. Michael Calabrese.
- A new scholarship formed as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Crothers by their daughter. Applicants must be a senior in an area high school, accepted by a 4-year college.
- The Evangelism Committee works on a Welcome Packet for newcomers to the church.
- Council approved having an ad in The Merchandiser concerning church service times, etc. as an outreach step.
- Parking lot paved.
- Personnel Committee reports a need for a job description for the position of Caretaker, including snow removal.
- Weekly coffee hours began in November.
- “Council was encouraged by an increase in attendance at both worship services and Church School classes. There were questions raised as to whether the church is meeting the congregation’s needs in such areas as spiritual growth, day care, latch-key children, tutoring, ministry to young couples, pastoral calls, a group home for the elderly.”
- Rotary paid \$10 per week for use of the kitchen.
- Church carillon repaired.

## 1989

- Purchase of new Gestetner Scanner for the church office.
- An organ concert by CJ Sambach was given on July 30 to start of the Bicentennial Celebration in Phelps.
- “Mr. Hakes stated that a new “Policy on Use of Church Facilities” has been adopted by the Trustees regarding charges for use of church facilities.”
- New church pictorial directory.
- Sue Clickner attends Presbyterian Youth Triennium as a counselor. Minutes report the Camp and Conference Fund “is in desperate need of funds from anyone wishing to contribute....”
- Missions Committee “sought Council approval to subsidize the cost for a theological student at University of Thailand (Missary Marcy Punnett teaches at the University and encourages as many churches in Geneva Presbytery to fund a student as possible) for a one year period—\$750.00 total cost.” \$967.00 pledged; the balance of \$217.00 sent to be used for students where needed. An-



The Berlin Wall was opened to the West after 28 years.

other \$750.00 was donated by an anonymous person.

MINISTERS

- “Permission given to Janet Gunkler for using Kitchen and a classroom for teaching Laotian cooking and English, will be advised there are certain days when it will not be convenient for her to use the kitchen.”
- “Trustees have established a policy on the use of church tables – no charge to community organizations or church members, a charge of \$10.00 per day per table for commercial use of tables and nonmembers.”
- Rev. Leonard P. Hackney named Pastor Emeritus.
- Council voted to continue having a Baccalaureate service for all Seniors graduating from Midlakes High School. Mr. Hakes agreed to consider on with this service.
- Church Vacation School not held due to low enrollment in 1988.
- Pastor Hakes distributed a “membership report” to Council in October. “Concerned about the people who become new members but do not attend church or become actively in the church; one of the primary reasons people are not getting involved or attending church – “we are comfortable” – there is not a major problem confronting people as a whole – no major conflict to bring people together. Also, the majority of younger married people are “working couples” - both out in the working world – the only time they are home together are weekends – perhaps thought should be given to mid-week service; house meetings with active members, then drawing in the inactive members to attend house meetings; formation of a Men’s Social Club; letter drawn up by the Pastor, Secretary and Evangelism Committee members to be sent to inactive members –letter to be presented to Council for approval before mailing. It was the consensus of opinion that obviously there is not one solution to the problem of membership inactivity.”
- Special offering taken for the victims of Hurricane Hugo. A total of \$650.00 received.
- “Pastor Hakes is currently working with a person who has AIDS. Asked if this church wants to be public about accepting people with AIDS? Helen Mark moved that the following statement be made public (via bulletin, Newsletter, current Church ad in The Merchandiser, etc.) “The United Church of Phelps is open to all who would worship here regardless of sexual orientation, AIDS, other abled.” Motion seconded by Harold Hebding, carried.”
- Authorization to use 25% of the Peacemaking Offering, controlled by the local church, to support the project of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the American Bible Society. For every \$10.00 contributed, the American Bible Society would send 3 Bi-

bles to the Soviet Union.

- Motion made and carried to purchase 200 of the new Methodist Hymnals and 200 new Presbyterian Hymnals when they are available in June 1990.
- Trustees work on the repair and refurbishing of stained glass windows in the church, using Memorial Fund monies to pay for the work.
- December 2—"Deck the Hall" family party held to decorate the Chrismon Tree and the Church School classrooms.

## 1990

- Ended the year "with a little less of a balance than the previous year, but in the black."
- 6-week Active Parenting class offered, taught by a couple trained by the Cooperative Extension.
- Reported that in 1989, 1580 items of clothing, 500 items of food, 90-100 toys, a bushel of oranges were donated to the Community Cupboard.
- Christmas offering (1989) totaled \$2602.59.
- Brian DeCann becomes a candidate for ministry; moves back to Kentucky.
- Pastor Hakes takes a nine day trip to Israel.
- Purchased equipment for Kindergarten room: kitchen unit and large set of blocks.
- Chancel Drama scheduled for Sunday, March 25.
- The March Presbytery of Geneva meeting was held here.
- Pastor Hakes stressed the importance of checking with the church office before planning a meeting.
- A concern is raised "about new members joining the church and not providing activities (such as Share a Saturday Group) for these people to take part in and get to know members of the church."
- "...possibility of closing church balcony during worship except for Christmas and Easter due to problems of disruption and extra work for Communion Stewards during worship will be brought before the Trustees..."
- Church secretary position changed from hourly wages (\$6.70 per hour) to salaried (\$9100 annually), 27 hours per week, excluding August (15 hours per week).

## MINISTERS

- Trustees report at the April Council meeting:
  - The Village water official states large increase in church water usage. Originally thought there was a leak outside after the meter. Later discerned it was a “malfunction of toilets and faucets inside that may be causing large consumption of water.”
  - ”Insurance company informed Trustees if Custodian, John Gifford is plowing parking area as part of his job, the insurance will cover him (liability), if he is paid extra to plow the parking area, the insurance will not cover him.”
  - ”Bathrooms are not being cleaned properly, will look into hiring someone to clean them. Ted will inform John Gifford Trustees will trade bathroom cleaning service for the snow plowing.”
  - ”...approved closing off balcony except for large attendance services due to complains of excessive noise from children and young adults.”
- “PURPOSES OF THIS CHURCH were listed:
  - To interpret and exemplify Christ in our community and the world.
  - To proclaim Christ by serving people, healing hurts, nurturing each other.
  - To support and cooperate in ecumenical efforts.
  - To provide a place and way for traditional rituals.”
- “Suggested as a New Emphasis was : The return to ministry of ALL believers (not just the pastor).
- April 29 Fire damage in the church: roof shingles; ceiling damage; rafter damage. Organ did not receive damage from the fire. \$200 donated to the Phelps Fire Department. Repairs to take up to a year to complete and were postponed for a time due o wedding commitments and the Christmas season.
- Pastor Hakes is a member of the Board of Chaplains at Geneva General Hospital.
- “Comments on use of new Methodist Hymnal and the number of hymns being used in the service of worship—some favorable, some not.”
- “Attendance for Church School has been above average for Nursery through Grade 8.”
- There was a discussion about a new order of worship by Music & Worship Committee..
- Fran VanKirk resigns as Financial Secretary and Trustee. Marsha



Gibbs approved to fill the vacancy of Financial Secretary.

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- .An intentional effort to include handicapped people in worship led to a concern of folks in wheel chairs on the west side of the sanctuary aisle leaving no room for exiting in case of an emergency. The decision was made to request handicapped people sit in front of the modesty rail in the very front of the sanctuary when in attendance for worship.
- Parking by tenants of Hazel DeWandel across the street in the church parking lot was discussed. At issue was the cars being left in the parking lot on Sunday morning, "preventing church members from using parking spaces, and also during the first snow storm of the winter..." Matter referred to the Trustees by the Council. Trustees determined that the tenants will be allowed to use the first 2 parking spaces at the north end of the parking lot during the week.
- "Sharing Group meeting on Wednesday evenings interested in alternate service of worship at 8:30 A.M. on Sunday mornings with about a 45 minute service. Organist and choir not required. Much discussion on this subject, Music & Worship Committee and group should meet to further discuss this...."
- Brian DeCann approved for candidacy in the ministry of the United Methodist Church on December 11.
- Resignation of Cindy Calabrese as Choir Director. She served the church for 3 years in this position.

1991

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship services approved.
- Letter sent out by Stewardship & Finance Committee to all church members and friends informing them of a \$25,000 deficit.
- Concerns regarding the cut back on the budget, the inability to find a chair for CE Committee, resignations of two people from important positions in the church, and the direction the church is taking.
- One Great Hour of Sharing and mission project is sending letters to men in service overseas.
- Carol Lazenby serves as acting Choir Director.
- Piano purchased in memory of Gary Adams, placed in the sanctuary. The piano in the sanctuary that was purchased and dedicated to four previous pastors moved to the Lounge. The piano in the Lounge moved to the dining room.
- Sanctuary restoration from the fire done. The Antiphonal Organ

USA and allies at war with Iran.

removed—"not good stewardship to try to put this back."

- Positive feedback on the 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service.
- Special congregational meeting to approve a budget for 1991. Revised budget adopted.
- "Margaret Rector received a letter from Geneseo United Methodist Church (through a member of that church who was originally from Phelps) along with a "peace candle" in a small glass container and how this originated in 1986 when a group of Americans attended a Russian Orthodox Church service. At the close of the service an elderly woman pressed a three ruble note (about \$5.00 American money, but a significant gift for this elderly woman) into the hand of Presbyterian pastor, Dr. Blair Monie who served a church in York, PA. Embracing Dr. Monie, the woman asked him to buy a candle with it and light it in his church as a symbol of peace. Pastor Monie purchased a candle, placed it on the communion table, and lit it during each service. The church bought other candles in glass containers and sent them to other churches with the request that they be lit during their services as a symbol of our common hope for peace. The candles have since spread out across our world. Margaret Rector moved that we accept this candle and participate by sending a candle/candles to other churches, second by Kathy Keller, carried."
- Health & Service Committee "made up a new and more complete list of what the Health & Service Committee does. One goal for this year is to make a better effort of visiting more shut-ins, shut-ins should have more contact with the church."
- Donna Wilkes resigns as CE Coordinator, effective March 15. She served in this position for nearly 7 years.
- Request for \$100.00 donation from Geneva Presbytery regarding Camp Whitman's financial problems.
- Sanctuary work completed, except for the organ, in time for the Easter service.
- The Steering Committee recommended that the following statement be the current mission of the church: "to reach out and receive people as they are, so that together all may be the living, loving, serving body of Christ."
- "Letter received from NCNY Conference urging churches to receive a Special Offering to aid the Kurds, the Iraqi situation, Bangladesh, Sudan and Ethiopia. Motion made by Bob Spink to have a special offering to aid the Kurds, the Iraqi situation, Bangladesh, Sudan and Ethiopia as a one time offering, to be received Sunday, June 9, 1991, second by Betty Fox, carried." A little over \$800 collected.

## MINISTERS

- “Members of the committee taking on responsibilities formerly done by the CE Coordinator.”
- Upon a request for the old Methodist hymns from a small church in Bittinger, MD, 60 hymnals were given to them.
- Music & Worship Committee approved holding a mid-week service on Wednesday during the summer to meet the needs of people “who feel the need for this service.”
- A child care program started June 3, using the Nursery Room on the first floor. Phelps Progressive Childcare Program—used the church 15 hours per week.
- The church softball team requested funds to pay for balls and t-shirts.
- New electric strips installed on two walls in the dining room.
- Decided not to look for a new CE Coordinator.
- “Adopt a Student” project started: different church families adopt a college student, keeping in touch with the student and subscribing to “Alive Now” for the student.
- Evangelism Committee focuses on bringing inactive members back into the church.
- A need for a Publicity Committee for the church was discussed to handle ads in The Merchandiser, possibly taking on the newsletter, and working on a new activities brochure. Church & Society committee was in charge of these things but they were not active at this time.
- Dedication service for the new Yamaha Upright Grand Piano, given in memory of Gary Adams, scheduled for October 27 at the regular worship service.
- “Shirley Filiatreau (presently attending seminary in Rochester) ... approached the [Personnel] committee with a proposal to fill the Coordinator of Christian Education vacancy..... Motion made by Roger Cullen that Shirely Feliatreau be appointed to this position and that an unpaid position be created called Sunday School Superintendent. Motion seconded by Tim Cortelyou. After a very lengthy and thorough discussion by Council with many questions asked and many left unanswered, Ted Mullen moved that the above motion be tabled until the October 8, 1991 Council Meeting when hopefully Roger Cullen could come back with answers to many of the questions left unanswered. Second by Betty Fox. Carried.” Eventually voted down.
- A one-time special campaign to raise \$5,000.00 to repair and refurbish the upper levels of the front of the church approved.

- Restructuring of Methodist districts: from 7 to 6.
- Concern expressed over finding one of the front doors of the church unlocked as well as the kitchen door unlocked on several different occasions, as well as the office area door.
- “Treasurer commented we are on the plus side of the ledger this year as compared to the minus side last year at this time.”
- Community Cupboard in Clifton Springs leader resigns and there is reorganization of this project.
- Lloyd “Butch” Giese is interested in the position of Choir Director to begin January 1, 1992.
- All remaining hymnals, replaced by the new hymnals, are donated to Butler Shock Incarceration Facility in Red Creek, NY.
- Donation received for the purchase of carillon tapes.
- Rev. Hakes reports that his uncle and father died.

## 1992

- 1991 ended in the black.
- Use of a communion rail for the service of communion raised.
- “Roger [Cullen] suggested it might be a good idea to have a “Church Calendar” posted on one of the bulletin boards in the church, listing all the events going on in the church each month.”
- Crash bar installed on the side ramp door entrance, with a new lock on the other door at the bottom.
- The congregation became a member of NYS Interfaith IMPACT (NYS Council of Churches) for \$200 per year. “Being a member gives churches a chance to exercise their responsibility to present the moral and ethical dimension on tough issues.”
- A committee established to administer the Totman Memorial Fund.
- A planning retreat was held at Casowasco on February 28 and the outcomes are as follows:
  - “established goal of helping all people find their personal ministry opportunities.
  - We plan to highlight the various ministries on a regular basis with things such as a Ministry of the Month program or Minutes for Ministry during worship.
  - Will institute a form of commissioning service for all committee members..
  - We plan to hold ministry oriented coffee hours with further

goal of weekly coffee hour.

-Increase ministry information in the newsletter perhaps to include photos.

-Establish and use a bulletin board for ministry information.

-Have underlying theme for lent of ministry evaluation culminating in special Easter program during service involving Body of Christ theme perhaps with puzzle pieces given to congregation, each representing a part of the body of Christ.

-We may return to this theme at Pentecost.

-Develop a ministry information packet for new members and allow each program committee chairperson to meet with new member classes.”

- “A data base containing information on all church members will be developed by Personnel to assist the church in tracking ministry activity as well as biographical information. Database will include items such as occupations, skills, current and past ministries and committee service. One goal of this project is to discover the “hidden ministries” undertaken by individuals in the church at their own initiative, and relate them to committee functions. Planning groups ought to be able to work from this base of information when setting priorities in the future.”
- Agreed to join in a tribute to Bishop Forrest C. Stith by “participating in Bishop Stith’s efforts to raise funds for an entrance to The Africa University in memory of the Reverend James Spear. A total of \$10,000 has been secured, an additional \$20,000 is suggested, if the cost of the entrance is less than the amount raised, the remainder will be given for scholarships in Jim Spear’s memory.”
- The church is the 4th highest contributor to the Community Cupboard.
- Music & Worship have been informed that “some members of the congregation do not like choir moving to front of chancel area.”
- Annual Conference asks pastors and lay members to pay their own expenses to attend. The Council voted to pay expenses for the pastor and lay member, not to exceed the total of \$275 for Annual Conference.
- “Letter received from the Village of Phelps regarding renumbering of properties in the village—the new number for The United Church of Phelps is “58”. “
- “Letter from James Pollard, Director of the Conference Council on Ministries, including the CCOM STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY IN SEARCH FOR JUSTICE in regard to the Rodney King case in Los

## MINISTERS

Angeles and the committee's belief that a grave injustice was done to Mr. King and to all people of good will who try to the best of their ability to uphold the democratic principles of this country."

- The Sunday School children were involved in producing the bulletin for Children's Day with the theme of this year being "We Have Ministries Too."
- Church & Society Committee pursue the plight of the farmers (rising costs for them) and Child Care in the Community and Church.
- Evangelism Committee works on a visitation program; church activities brochure; keeping in touch with college students; and starting a prayer chain.
- Howard Home Improvement installed new eaves and downspouts.
- Flags in the sanctuary are checked for cleaning. The American flag was beyond cleaning; a new flag was purchased by Helen and Wally Mark in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Clifford J. Kenfield .
- Custodian, John Gifford, died August 9.
- Pastor Hakes reports that he was moved "by the many deaths this summer affecting our church family."
- Phelps Progressive Child Care does not reopen in the fall due to the low enrollment.
- Acolyte program started with 5th and 6th graders participating.
- Frank Van Nostrand and Diana Hatch approved to fill the position of Custodian.
- New entrance signs for the church for the Village of Phelps, with symbols for both denominations made by David DeWeaver.
- Adult mission trip to Puerto Rico in 1993 has been changed and people interested in this type mission work are asked to go to Florida and area hit by Hurricane Andrew.
- Viv Parmelee recognized for 42 years as a choir member.
- Win Vittum playing hymns on piano with the organ.
- Carpeting of nursery and all rooms and hall upstairs done by Kenny Carpet of Geneva.

## 1993

- Member-at-Large Bob Spink "spoke to the fact that younger people are needed to serve on Council, along with younger people are needed as members, attending church and participating in activities of the church."

- “Letter to be written by Pastor Hakes to General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church denouncing decision made by G.A.’s Permanent Judicial Commission that set aside the call of Jane Adams Spahr as co-pastor of Downtown Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY. Pastor Hakes submitted his letter for approval.” Council voted in support of the letter as written.

This letter caused some conflict in the congregation. Bob Lazenby and Lyle Baker attended the February Council meeting to strongly oppose the letter the Council approved, stating that sending such a letter on church letterhead led others to believe the entire church agreed with the letter’s statement. They suggested that the letter should have been sent to the entire congregation for their input before approving the letter. “It is good for all to be able to speak out on such pressing issues. The letter approved by Council was signed by fourteen members of Council and Pastor Hakes, and sent to James E. Andrews, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and to John Fife, Moderator of the General Assembly.

- In a conversation with Presbytery representatives about the ministry of the church, the following categories were lifted up as strengths of the congregation: “mission, work projects in the church, community service, maintain high level of mission giving and apportionment payment, developing and improving Christian Ed program, strong music program with dedicated organist and choir director, strong Women’s Association, we are a committee structured church with most committees doing a good job, strong pastoral calling program for those in the hospital, reach out to many needs in the worldwide Christian community.” Improvements included: “visitation – including shut-ins and those non-attending members of the church; following up on new members, getting them involved in the activities of the church; working on increasing attendance Sunday morning service of worship; getting parents of children attending Church School active in work in the church; supporting both denominations resources, not just for Christian Ed.; involvement in both connectional church bodies; allow Pastor to be driving force at Council meetings; being a more friendly church.”
- “Adult class meeting Sunday mornings has been reviewing a video and printed material supplied from Church Women United, on three different national health care proposals. After reviewing this material it was decided to write to Mrs. Hillary Clinton, who was selected by President Clinton to lead in finding a National Health Care System for our country, the basis for this letter was to show support for what was being recommended by Church Women United and to offer any type of assistance she felt would be of

help. A letter will also be sent to Church Women United to let them know that we are supporting them and have sent a letter to Mrs. Clinton.”

- Music & Worship working on the design of under pew hymnal racks. Tim Cortelyou donated cherry wood for the new racks to be made by some men in the congregation.
- Robert Lazenby, church organist, resigns effective September 1 or as soon as a replacement can be found.
- “Church school attendance still strong with average of 42.”
- Pastor Hakes appointed to another church effective July 1, 1993. Personnel met with Presbytery representatives to discuss the process of finding an interim pastor.
- A 3 year pledge drive is taken to pay for work on the exterior of the church, removing approximately 2,000 bricks and replacing them at a cost of \$50,000.
- Ellen Bristol hired as organist.
- “Pastor Outterson recommended to David [Hicks] as Chairperson of Missions Committee that \$1000.00 be donated through the Reverend Marcy Punnett at Payap University, Thailand as a scholarship for a student at the University. This money would come from the savings in pension payment for Hugh which was originally thought to be 28% but because he is retired the payment amount is 12%, thus saving The United Church 16% for pension payments. Hugh had asked the Personnel Committee during his interview to have \$1000.00 designated for a student at Payap University. After much discussion, David Hicks moved that we provide \$1000.00 this year for a scholarship for a student at McGilvary Faculty of Theology, Payap University, Thailand, second by Margaret Rector, carried.”

## MINISTERS

Rev. Hugh  
Outterson be-  
comes Interim  
Pastor

## 1994

- “Senior Choir” changed to “Chancel Choir.”
- “...now having choral response after the Lord’s Prayer and after the Benediction.”
- “Memorial gift of new front door by Lyle and Charlotte Baker in memory of Charlotte’s mother, Mary Laney.”
- A concern about storing the chairs in front of the heat runs in the dining room on the east side raised the possibility of purchasing two new carts for the chairs.
- The 9:00 a.m. worship service is discussed. “...decided to give members a chance to conduct the service except on the first Sun-



day of each month for Communion when Pastor Outtersen will conduct the service.”

- District Superintendent Gary Judson made a presentation to Council on the style of ministry of churches, “Cluster churches”: The Family Church, The Pastoral Church, The Program Church.
- “Church School Rooms—Will ask Trustees to have chalk boards remounted, “excess” items be removed from unused classroom, lighting changes, curtain replacement.”
- Youth group conducted the sunrise service on Easter.
- Work done on the books in the library to make it more appealing for the congregation’s use.
- “Trying to renew interest in Prayer Chain and its availability.”
- The Trustees report that the insurance company has valued the building at \$1,900,000.00.
- “Church School “Superintendent” - after serving for several years, Wayne Keller is resigning. Wayne spoke to Council regarding Council making a decision as to whether or not the C.E. Director position (paid or unpaid) should be filled. Wayne’s personal feeling is that it is essential to have someone to oversee the Christian Education program of the church. Donna Wilkes moved that we appoint a special committee to investigate the feasibility of creating the position of C.E. Director to take responsibility of directing the C.E. program of the church. Margaret Hicks seconded the motion, carried. COMMITTEE: Roger & Donna Cullen, Wayne Keller and Donna Wilkes.
- Evangelism Committee worked on a float with the theme of the 20th Anniversary for the Sauerkraut Festival parade.
- Thai Dinner held with Marcy Punnett and 85-90 people in attendance.
- Carl Mallaber made music stands for the Bell Choir.
- Pastor Nominating Committee reported on a candidate for pastor. A biographical sketch and the terms of call were distributed to the Council. “The vote was unanimous by the Committee in the selection of the candidate – of all candidates interviewed, this person seemed to fulfill all the requirements set forth in the Church Information form prepared by the Committee. Remarks made by Sue and committee members present—strong in pastoral care with congregation, very caring person, good speaker, “comfortable as an old shoe”, like the way his wife interacts with him, very enthusiastic about coming here, feeling that God has brought us this pastor and his wife, enjoyed his sermon. Donna Wilkes commended Pastor Outtersen for laying a fantastic ground work for this candi-

## MINISTERS

date to come here..... Sue stated that this is the second marriage for the candidate and his wife, have six children, none living with them.”

- 20th Anniversary Committee decided to use the following ideas during the year: crockery with picture of church on the items selected, float, musical event, historical presentation at Harvest Dinner, family night supper, chicken barbecue on September 24, charter a boat for trip on Erie Canal on September 17, homecoming of pastors, dedication of trees/shrubs in front of church.”
- A congregational meeting was held on June 5 following worship for the purpose of calling a pastor. “The Reverend Robert S. Rochelle, Jr., was the unanimous choice of the Pastor Nominating Committee, and the financial terms of the call were approved by the Church Council at the May 10, 1994 Council meeting. A detailed background of the candidate was presented. An opportunity for questions was given.” Votes were cast: 126 total; 124 yes votes; 2 no votes. “The Council Chairperson announced that the Reverend Robert S. Rochelle, Jr. will be our next pastor. At this point Bob Rochelle and his wife, Bonnie were brought into the meeting and received a hearty welcome from the congregation.”
- Ad Hoc Committee recommendations regarding a C.E. person:
 

“Create and fill a new staff position called CE Coordinator as soon as possible to provide for fall 1994 program coordination.

Fund the position in this fiscal year at a level sufficient to provide 6 hours of staff time per week.

Fund a 1995 budget line sufficient for 10 hours per week.”
- Music & Worship is looking for piano players for the early service. “...would like to look into purchasing handbells or chimes, so Ellen Bristor does not have to bring them from Newark.. Council gave permission to look into purchasing above with monies from Memorial Fund being used.”
- Executive Presbyter Grant Lowe resigns.
- Trustees researching a computer system.
- Music & Worship Committee met with Bob to discuss concerns the congregation had brought to them: “many people would not participate in the intinction style of communion because of the germs that could be passed around; early service—those attending disappointed that Pastor Bob was not participating in the service, thought lay people were doing it temporarily until we secured a new pastor. Resolved above by serving communion the way we are use to, and both Bob and lay people are working together on the early service.”

## MINISTERS

Rev. Bob Rochelle becomes pastor

1995

MINISTERS

- Rev. Rochelle becomes Vice Moderator of Presbytery and chair of the search committee for a new Executive Presbyter.
- Rev. Rochelle proposed funding, actively recruiting, and hiring a CE Coordinator by August 1996.
- Trustees approved the purchase “(upon recommendation of the Computer Committee) of an Apple computer system to serve both the church office and the Pastor’s Study. Total cost for the system will be completely met by the Beth Dodge Legacy.”
- A Suggestion Box is placed in the church for the congregation to make suggestions to committees.
- Church School attendance down from the prior year with 44-49 children attending.
- Palm Sunday event is a reenactment of Holy Week.
- “The [CE] Committee brainstormed ways to encourage more young people to participate in summer camp opportunities.”
- Maundy Thursday service started at 6:30 p.m. with a “stone soup” meal followed by communion.
- Pastor Bob asks a layspeaker be asked to give the message at the 8:30 a.m. service the first Sunday of every month. He would officiate at communion.
- Personnel reports that they cannot find an interested candidate for Christian Education Coordinator.
- “Trustees proposed that a committee be formed to receive suggestions on the use of the former Methodist Church lot, including its maintenance and our liability. Margaret Hicks moved that we approve the formation of a Task Force to assist the Trustees in deciding what actions to take on the use of the former Methodist Church lot, seconded by Frank Lower; carried.”
- Rev. Bob Stoppert becomes the new District Superintendent.
- “CE Ad Hoc Committee–Wayne Keller: no report. Donna Cullen stated that the purpose of this committee was to decide what should be taught in our Christian Education program, that this should not be left solely to the discretion of the Church School Teachers. She further noted that this is a Council Committee, not a CE Committee.” Later, Wayne withdrew from leadership of this committee, “citing lack of interested persons to help in the task of this group.” Motion to dissolve this committee carried.
- Participants in the Camp Whitman Music Camp lead worship on July 30.
- “Beginning June 4 water will be available on the communion

plates for those who are allergic to grape juice.”

- Sam Edwards becomes the next Executive Presbyter for the Geneva Presbytery.
- “Pastor Bob has decided to print in the bulletin the words for the Doxology, Gloria Patri, and Lord’s Prayer in an effort toward greater inclusion of all who come to worship.”
- “The results of a 12-18 Month Review of Pastor Bob Rochelle’s first year of ministry here at The United Church were shared by Rev. Sam Edwards, Executive Presbyter; Peg Davison, member of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry; and Rev. Charles Hurst, member of the Presbytery Committee on Strategy. We noted an atmosphere of joy in our congregation, an attitude of acceptance and inclusion by Pastor Bob, and a feeling of impatience among Council Members to move further toward carrying out our Mission Statement.”
- “There will be no live creche Christmas Eve because no transportation or supervision of live animals can be found.”
- The Music & Worship Committee noted both positive and negative comments about coming forward for communion elements.
- “Trustees have approved the purchase of new office furniture for the Church Office.”

## 1996

- “The [Personnel] committee continues to work on letters of employment for all staff. This will be an annual piece and the letters will include job descriptions as well as figures for compensation and length of vacation.”
- The Trustees purchased a snowblower and are looking into a storage shed.
- “Church and Society: The question arose as to the status of this committee. Carl Mallaber noted that no chairperson could be found and that there were too many issues for the limited number of people on the committee.”
- Jane Pedersen “proposed that our congregation support one student at Magivary University for one year. It was the consensus of the Council that her committee present this idea to Council along with methods to raise the \$750 necessary.”
- A one day Vacation Bible School held on July 31. The theme was the Good Samaritan. 32 kids participated.
- Trustees reported “on damage to the slate roof causing about 40 tiles to crack resulting in leaking of water into the organ compart-

ment. One bank of pipes was affected. Discussion centered on the necessity of repair if this bank is not used. Cost (estimate) of repairs is \$1400 for the roof and \$1800 for the organ. Routine maintenance will be done on the organ and insurance should cover the excess cost.” A second estimate determined that the problem started with the chimney in the Parlor.

- “Extensive plumbing repair has been done caused by candle wax in the pipes. John [Birdsey] noted that it is expensive to repair the plumbing under the kitchen sinks.”
- Harold Hebdig noted that one issue causing concern at the Methodist Conference was lottery advertising in schools targeting youth.
- 110 people attended the Mother/Daughter Banquet.
- Dave and Jean Vittum begin life in the Philippines.
- The Missions Committee issued a mission challenge to the congregation to benefit Marcy Punnett (scholarship), Sarah Woodard, and Dave and Jean Vittum. The challenge will be for donations, using 20th Anniversary (\$630) as the matching amount, every dollar from the congregation will be matched by an additional amount of funds. At a later meeting, the Vittum’s were removed from being recipients of this challenge.
- Pastor Bob built a taller step platform for scripture readers.
- “Various congregation concerns were addressed: briefer scripture lesson introductions, sharing the peace twice a month, Baptismal Font placement.”
- “At the WAUC meeting on September 12, a motion was carried that at receptions following funerals and memorial services, cookies and a beverage only be served.”
- The Carillon didn’t work all summer.
- The Evangelism Committee sets up a system of name tags for the entire congregation. They will be available but not mandatory.
- The Missions Committee met “to form a plan to support David and Jean Vittum as missionaries in the Philippines. The committee recommended that this take three forms: individual and private gifts, a one-time congregational collection, and a line item in the Extended Mission Budget to ensure continuing stable support. Jane [Pedersen] moved that The United Church give \$2400 annually from its Extended Mission Budget to David and Jean Vittum through Grace Brethren International Mission, seconded by Sue Clickner; carried.”
- The stewardship drive fell short of the budget goal. “The committee has concerns about this and cites two possible factors: the fact

that some families have left the church and the high school taxes. It recommends that the Christian Education Directorship not be filled for 1997 and that there be no staff salary increases, both to help bring a balanced budget to Annual Meeting. The Pastor's Housing and Salary figures were cited as having a negative response among the congregation. After discussion of this and the reason this procedure is used, Sue Clickner moved that those two figures be exchanged -Salary will be \$20,000 and Housing will be \$14798—seconded by Pat Hemminger; carried. It was the consensus of the group that Carl [Mallaber] take two suggestions back to his committee: cut all areas in the budget and eliminate the Christian Educator Director position."

- WAUC members vote to disband the women's group as of February 1997 "due to lack of interest, a sad time for this group."

## 1997

- Horace and Nancy Underwood ask for prayers for them during Korea's internal problems.
- "Council members suggested further ways to save money: cutting the custodian's salary after March 31 (new person on the job) and asking members to assume some of these duties, holding committee meetings in homes and lowering the temperature in the sanctuary or holding services in the Social Hall to lower utility costs, working on raising income, holding fund raisers for specific projects."
- "Pastor Bob urged us to encourage conversation and communication between the congregation and him."
- "Congregational Motion to rework & further study the 1997 Budget. Pastor Bob urged that Council set a date for a separate meeting to consider this issue. Carl Mallaber moved that this occur on Sunday, February 16, at 12:30 pm with brown-bag lunches, seconded by Jim Caves; carried. It was noted that this will be an open meeting and therefore open to any congregational members. Carl will invite Marsha Gibbs. The meeting will be promoted in the bulletin and via an announcement at the worship service that day." The result of the special meeting was to establish a subcommittee of Council to draft a letter to the congregation "explaining the situation in which we find ourselves, including apportionments and what they represent, what additional money is needed to balance the budget and requesting a response by March 15. The consensus of the group was that the apportionment clauses should be struck from the motion; both John [Birdsey] and Carl [Mallaber] agreed. The motion carried."

- “Several responses to the ad for custodian.”
- “The sign-up sheet for the Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil is full. Sue raised the question of whether to heat the sanctuary for this. Donna Cullen moved that we change the location of the Prayer Vigil to the Nursery, giving participants the choice of using that room or the Lounge (also heated on the Nursery thermostat) or the sanctuary (unheated), seconded by Patti Forshay, carried. Pastor Bob and Sue noted that there will be comfortable chairs and lights and reading material in all three places and that notes would be posted on the doors.”
- The roof is repaired. Now the organ repairs can take place. Ellen Bristol is finding more and more things that need fixing in the organ.
- Trustees work to reduce the jobs performed by the custodian, seeking volunteers in part and taking on some of the duties themselves. “Fran is preparing a weekly and yearly schedule of his duties to help the new custodian.”
- Carl Mallaber resigns as chair of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, citing “a lack of support on Council for the work of his committee and extra job responsibilities as reasons.”
- At a special meeting of Council concerning finances, many issues were raised:
  - investments: Trustees “will keep better watch of [short-term and long-term] investments and take action when appropriate.”
  - “History shows that at best we take in 95% of this promised amount [pledges].”
  - “Different giving patterns exist now: Older members (high givers) have died and new members (lower givers, shorter-term givers) have joined. There is giving without envelopes.”
  - “We are not overspending, we are under-earning.”
  - 7 viable fundraisers were identified: Strawberry Social, Bake Sale in connection with the Phelps June Happening, Pie Booth, Harvest Dinner, \$1 charge per book for the new church directory, Christmas Concert, Recipe Book which is professionally marketed, Fundraisers for Christian Education supplies.
  - Voted to present a budget without raises for personnel. The congregation concurred at a congregational meeting held April 6.
- “Becky Santay spoke about her eagerness to do a fund-raiser that builds community, whether it is in our church or our village.”

- Meals on Wheels is changed from a project of the church only to a community effort.
- The Underwoods (missionaries supported by the church) finish their ministry as missionaries and become employed by the English Department at the University in Seol, Korea.
- Stewardship and Finance committee propose the interviewing of old and new members on a regular basis, with photos taken for a bulletin board introduction, and to be included in the newsletter to discern interests, needs, and abilities. "Every committee must be dedicated to Stewardship. We have one of the best organs in this part of the state and therefore, with the cooperation and help of Music and Worship, a series of organ concerts is proposed. These could take place on Sunday afternoons in the Fall, Winter and Spring with free-will offerings or admission charged. It was suggested that this could be tied to other community events."
- Correspondence from David and Jean Vittum expressed their joy in being supported by our congregation.
- Mike Riley is the new custodian.
- Presbyterian Church (USA) adopt Amendment B (Fidelity and Chastity). Geneva Presbytery did not vote in favor of this amendment.
- Discussion about a Hospitality Committee.

-A proposal from an Ad Hoc Committee as approved:

\* Trustees will assume responsibility for and fund basic kitchen maintenance items: paper towels; napkins; table covers; coffee; tea bags; sugar; creamer; dish soap; matches; salt and pepper.

\* The Strawberry Social, Pie Booth, and Harvest Dinner to become "pet projects" of 3 committees.

\* Family Night Suppers and Coffee Hours to be scheduled by the Council. Each Committee will take responsibility for one month.

\* Memorial receptions and unscheduled events (meals in an emergency) to lie with the Health and Service Committee.

\* Possible creation of a deacons committee to visit shut-ins and those hospitalized, give rides to church, follow up on visitors to the congregation, other lay ministry jobs.

- The Music and Worship Committee discusses baptism and advised that it be every other month, but flexible.
- Charlie Ver Straete hired to mow the Methodist Memorial Park, with Wayne Keller volunteering to help
- Janet Walters reports the profit made at the Strawberry Social in



1996 was \$284.86 and in 1997 was \$304.00.

- Trustees report that “a solution to the pigeon problem is in progress.”
- Results of the Fall Gatherings on Areas for Church Growth: Attendance particularly young adult and youth; Fellowship, especially adult, men, sunshine group, and youth programs; Outreach Christian Children’s Fund, community events, elderly, mission work, mutual ministry, world, younger generation; member participation; membership; music, especially chancel choir, children’s choir, junior choir, music specials; Social Events; staff, Christian Ed. Coordinator, youth director; Sunday school, especially adult and children; Worship Experiences, after sermon dialogues.

1998

- “Discussion ...on the position of Treasurer. It was noted that the Treasurer is elected by the congregation, is a voting member of Council but not of Trustees (but sits in on Trustee meetings) and is instructed by Trustees. The Nominating Committee decides how to arrive at a name to fill this position, which name is then presented to the congregation for approval. It was re-emphasized that this is a difficult position with 2 “bosses”, Council and Trustees. The latter is considering appointing 2 representatives to work with the new treasurer, citing the need for everyone on Trustees to learn about this area of responsibility and the many investments we have. John Britting noted that under New York State law, church funds are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees.”
- Treasurer, Pati Forshay, resigns.
- There was a suggestion that an outside auditor be used every year when auditing the books.
- “We should inform the membership through newsletters and announcements through the year about the progress of the budget.”
- The Ad Hoc Committee shared that the Stewardship and Finance committee will accept responsibility for the Pie Booth, Health and Service for the Strawberry Social, and Church and Society for the Harvest Dinner.
- John Britting reports that personnel committee members were generally supportive of Pastor Bob. John noted two comments, “that Pastor Bob seems too controlling and that his sermon content has led to some questions. John urged us to bring these concerns to the committee or to Pastor Bob directly.”
- Church office cupboards are finished and installed. The Parlor is painted.

MINISTERS