

**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.

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

MINISTERS



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.”

- 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?”

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 futher 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 form 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, Gourock, 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.”

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."

- 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.

- “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.

- .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 competed, 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.

- “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 Cup-board.
- 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

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 Keny 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.”

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-

MINISTERS

Rev. Hugh
Outterson be-
comes Interim
Pastor

day of each month for Communion when Pastor Outterson 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 Outterson for laying a fantastic ground work for this candi-

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.”

Rev. Bob Rochelle becomes pastor

1995

- 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

- “Pigeons are posing a real problem here. They are not inside the building, but are roosting in the louvers.”
- A letter from members of the congregation regarding Pastor Bob was brought to the council. A special closed meeting of the council was set for March 18. Outside conflict resolution help sought.
- Stewardship and Finance work “on a set of Gatherings based on those in the fall but with a different purpose, to focus on the other two parts of a member’s pledge: sharing time and talents.” These were ultimately cancelled because of insufficient sign ups.
- A noise device was installed to scare the pigeons.
- No Vacation Bible School this year.
- Strawberry Social cancelled.
- Shirley Filiatreau is a full Elder, serving in Auburn.
- In July, a Conflict Management Team from Presbytery presented their findings about the conflict with Pastor Bob.
- Fred Tanner works on the steeple. Final bill was \$19,950.
- The council decided that written reports from each committee be included with each month’s agenda to allow members “think time,” with better decisions being made.
- Emme Cortelyou takes on the responsibility for sending cards to those who are ill.
- Front doorways are repainted.
- Request made to the Presbytery of Geneva for an exemption regarding the treasurer being elected yearly.
- Small window panes are installed in the doors of the 2 offices.

1999

- Talent/Variety Show took place February 21.
- 5 major offerings are approved for yearly collections: One Great Hour of Sharing, Blanket Sunday, Peace Offering, Christmas Joy Offering, and 2-cents-a-meal.
- Floors in the Social Hall, the Lounge, and the stage refinished. New draperies are installed in the Social Hall.
- Rev. Sam Edwards (Executive Presbyter), Rev. Dick Haynes (Presbytery Stated Clerk), and Rev. Bob Stoppert (CLD District Superintendent) discuss the annual election of the church treasurer. The Council voted to retain the original constitutional provision for the treasurer. The Council decides to continue their practices regarding the election of the church treasurer, making the Presby-

Partnership for Ontario County asks The United Church of Phelps to join them in the pursuit of a county free from alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use and abuse.

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.

tery aware of their decision.

- It is determined that “the Bailey Music Fund is the source of monies for substitute organist.”
- Trustees work with the Village Board on the possible sale of land at the Methodist Park to be used for a new Fire Department building. A special congregational meeting is called for the purpose of voting on the sale for September 19. At the congregational meeting, the motion to sell the property to the Village of Phelps was defeated.
- A fund is established to help the Townsend family’s expenses with Sean’s health issues.
- The youth group sells “Let There Be Peace” t-shirts.
- The location for the baptismal font in the sanctuary is discussed and moved to its original location.
- Betty Mussack encourages people from the congregation to become involved on the Methodist Conference committees.
- A Christmas Bazaar is held on December 4, offering crafts, gifts, wreaths, used Christmas items, baked goods, and lunch.
- A mailbox system for the Council members is purchased.
- The baptismal font is repaired.
- A celebration to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The United Church of Phelps was held on November 21.
- Ellen Bristol resigns as organist, effective March 30.

2000

- Work begun on finding a CE Coordinator.
- A coffee clutch during Sunday school hour for parents who drop their children off is begun.
- Ted Mullen challenges the Council to “make an honest effort to invite one person to come to church with them.”
- \$165.59 given to the St. Felix Community Food Cupboard from Souper Bowl donations.
- Youth group trip to Kingdom Bound, Darien Lake, in early August.
- The 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service discontinued “with the understanding that the committee will continue review of the purpose and format changes to possibly resume in the fall of 2000.”
- The church purchased a copyright license from Christian Copyright Licensing Inc.

MINISTERS

- Rev. Rochelle resigns as pastor.
- A conversation with Bob Stoppert, DS, raised the following comments/reflections:
 - need for church family unity
 - need for strengthened Christian Education program
 - progress has been made regarding understanding the structure of the church but unsure a change in pastors will be the major portion of the solution to the current unhappiness
 - resistance to change is a problem
 - need for the congregation to grow
 - need “younger ideas” in order to grow
 - need to live out the mission statement
 - need to listen, share ideas and concerns more openly
 - frustration that people aren’t willing to be leaders
 - potential exists for growth
 - need a paid Christian Education coordinator
 - need for a Policy Handbook to help clarify traditions from policies
 - “issues are continually being brought up instead of dealing with them and resolving them”
 - the entire council needs to be more involved in the resolution process rather than a few individuals
 - “This is not the same congregation of the past. We can backslide for a number of reasons, but it’s more important to move forward.”
- Children loitering at the Methodist Park site are an issue. Graffiti is found on the benches.
- Council members and committee members are asked to check on members not currently attending worship service.
- Kay Oosterling hired as church organist beginning August 27.
- Praise songbooks introduced to worship.
- “No Skateboarding” sign posted in front of the church
- Lynch’s Furniture agrees to replace all drapes in the fellowship hall at no cost.
- “A motion requesting assistance to the Phelps Lions Club in obtaining gifts for children in local families who are having difficulties, financially and otherwise, by enlisting members of the congrega-

Interim pastor
Bruce Barden
begins

Rev. Shirley
Filiatreau
appointed as
pastor

October 15

tion to provide wrapped and marked gifts...”

- Praise singing each Sunday at 10:45 begins.

2001

- New drapes for the fellowship hall are installed.
- A new area rug for the parlor is purchased.
- The Wild Lilies present a program on May 20.
- “No Skateboarding” sign disappears.
- Bishop Violet Fisher visits the congregation on June 25.
- Stage curtain ordered; funded by memorial funds.
- Roofing project completed
- “Council approved the use of our parking lot on August 4th, the Saturday of the Sauerkraut Festival in the morning for a car seat safety check.”
- Rally Day, September 9, with Ice Cream Sundae Party following worship.
- UCP’s float in the Sauerkraut Festival wins 6th place prize.
- September 11—the church is open for people to come in to pray.
- “A choir supper at the Pastor’s home was successful and there are 3 new members.”
- New office building drapes.
- About 30 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child were collected.
- “Position of accompanist will be advertised and inquiries will continue to be made locally and through area colleges.”

2002

- “...six applications for Custodian were received and reviewed. Tom Filiatreau has been named to the custodial position.”
- February council meeting did not have a quorum
- Received \$21,088.27 from NYSEG from the church being changed from commercial to residential status. The money was invested.
- 30 Hour Famine Project by the youth group brought in \$650 to fight hunger.
- Mother’s Day Chicken BBQ held to benefit camperships. 250 chickens prepared and sold out with 14 youth helping.

MINISTERS

9/11 Terrorist
attacks on the United States

- The drawing of The United Church of Phelps began being used as bulletin covers.
- Vacation Bible School, July 15-19, 6-8 p.m.
- Upon request from the congregation, some Sundays would have a “quiet time” before service begins and the praise singing is omitted on communion Sundays.
- The church steeple is lit with lights placed on the roof.
- Finances are sound enough to hire a Christian Education Director. Mary Ruggles is hired for this position.
- Eleanor Brignall submits the winning name for the newsletter: One Voice.
- 31 Church World Service kits were completed.
- “Council was reminded that it’s the Church’s attitude that really makes visitors feel comfortable and welcome.”
- “Presbytery meeting scheduled at our church November 15, 2003”
- In June, the Girl Scout Court of Awards takes place in the sanctuary. April Adams of our congregation received the God Award, highest award given by the Girl Scouts.
- “Dave Clark has completed a survey of 58 Main Street church property as this information was not available in Church records.”
- “Homework Haven”, a Christian outreach program providing homework help for 3rd grade and up “while exposing those non-church attenders to a Christian atmosphere and showing church as a non-threatening place” is started.
- “Mary Ruggles moved that UCP organize and run a pie baking contest for CAPP on October 26, 2002, seconded by Marion Donnelly and carried.”
- Donation jars are available for fellowship gatherings or classes serving coffee with the money going to World Relief designated for Nicaragua. The coffee used was Nicaraguan.
- At the end of 2002, the church is in a very good financial position.
- Chris Howard built new roof over side CE Building entrance.

2003

- Council recommends to the Trustees that 2 artificial trees and garland be purchased for the sanctuary for fire safety and difficult installation/removal of large trees plus the lengthy cleanup after.
- “Pastor Shirley reports that our Membership List needs updating and a committee selected to set up an inactive member list.”
- The church finances those Sunday school teachers who attend a training session in March.
- “Necessary purchases by church members for various projects and activities will be done by using a Shoppers Club card from Wegmans and Chase Pitkiin when possible.”
- “A reminder that Committee Chairpersons must contact the Trustees before any repairs, maintenance or upkeep is done on the building.”
- The Evangelism Committee sent letters to inactive members living out of state or outside a 50 mile radius from Phelps in NY state.
- The blocks in the ceiling of the office entrance way were replaced by Kan Overslaugh and Gib Scott.
- Chrissy Stevens is employed as per diem accompanist. She becomes full time accompanist in the fall.
- 24 Health Kits were completed and \$239.00 donated for further supplied for Church World Service.
- Discussion around the need to make the sanctuary wheel chair compatible.
- Discussion of an early contemporary worship service to be offered this fall. Council put 2 stipulations on this idea: that the service be well thought out and organized before being offered; Pastor Shirley will support this service but will not be responsible for leading them.
- Mary Ruggles resigns as CE Coordinator effective June 4, 2003.
- “A.J. Tierson was authorized to purchase 200 pens for approximately \$100 plus shipping and handling. They will be offered for sale at \$2.00 each and any not sold will be used in hospitality bags.”
- Kay Oosterling presents information on a Yamaha Clavinova, a keyboard instrument being sold by an individual for \$850.
- The Smorgasbord Supper netted \$620.
- The Personnel Committee recommends A. J. Tierson be hired as Lay Associate. “Part of the new job description includes planning and administering youth activities and organizing an alternative

MINISTERS

AJ Tierson hired
as Lay Associate

worship service. As AJ Tierson is already working in these areas, the Personnel Committee further recommends that he be the Lay Associate hired.”

- 12 large tables (seating 10) and 4 small tables are purchased for the dining room.
- Project Troop Care shared with the congregation.
- “Brian Hemminger’s team has been working on new Visitor Bags which will include information concerning UCP including layout of the church, pen, Newsletter, note from Pastor and business card, welcome brochure and a seasonal gift.”
- Missions Committee promotes E.L.F.S. Holiday program through Ontario County Community Action program. Two families receive food for Christmas dinner and gifts for all family members. There was also the suggestion that the congregation work with the Golden Agers Group who would provide names of seniors who would appreciate a gift during the holiday season.
- 2 new Dell computers and Epson printers were installed; a laptop was purchased.

2004

- Pancake and Sausage supper planned for February 24.
- Request by some of the elder members of the church for additional handicap parking.
- Don Sabin stops in West Virginia on his return from Florida to participate in the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Program April 17-24.
- Metal handicapped parking sign placed to mark the spot nearest the back door of office area.
- “Thirty Years as The United Church” celebrated.
- Jesse Sheckler brought a fund raiser idea “that his company is willing to help with for a capital fund drive for painting the sanctuary. His company, Heart Land Studios, makes porcelain giftware. Jesse is proposing a commemorative piece for the 30th anniversary of The United Church to help this drive.” The Council approved this fundraiser of a “commemorative bun warmer/plaque in brown.”
- Program on domestic violence offered to the community on May 4. Robert Knight is the guest speaker.
- An Easter banner was created by the sewing group for the sanctuary.
- “A.J. asked about the skunk in the cellar and how it was handled. He said there is a hole that has been there, and needs to be taken

care of.” Trustees take care of the cellar windows that were allowing skunks access to the building.

- Whale of a Sale netted \$838.85 profit. The Smorgasbord netted \$643.90.
- A weekly treasurer’s report is in the bulletin, comparing last year at this time with current.
- “A letter from the Lofty Oaks Association was forwarded by the Cheney Funeral Home stating that trees will be planted in memory of Jesse Goodman and Helen Mark.”
- “40 Days of Purpose” program introduced to the church by Shirley. The book “Purpose Driven Life” program material was ordered to be used.
- Missions Committee organizes a community walk, scheduled in October, with the participation of all interested churches in the town. The funds raised would be used for mission work, but not CROP. 25-30 people walked at this event raising \$1,184 for a local project.
- Tea-zar held on November 13 at the church.
- Pie Booth made over \$1000.
- “Painters are working on repairs and preparation for painting [the sanctuary]; the sound system will be wired by Jerry Clark and Brian Manzer; Chris Howard removed the spotlights from the ceiling and repaired the ceiling, readying it for painting; the medallions on the ceiling will be painted; carpet will be shampooed; a light switch will be placed at the bottom of the balcony stairs to turn on lights up there; the fabric on the organ pipe boxes will be replaced.”
- The church bought a square for \$200 on the Phelps-opoly game.
- “Chairman Harold Hebding asked us to think about the following “thoughts for the future” - What is the reason for the At-Large members of Council, should there be more youth on the council and committee, the process of selecting a Pastor in the future, (when Shirley leaves).”
- Janet Walters resigns/retires. Jo Gifford was hired as church secretary.
- Bill Broomfield pointed the brick in the front of the church and fixed the flashing. The broken window leading into the cellar crawl space was bricked up.
- Bees in the belfry sting the painters.
- “It was agreed that each month an announcement in church would be made to recruit people to work on folding, stapling the newsletter.”
- Lion’s Club angel tree tags received. Also participation in the Ontario County Elves Program—2 families were given to the church.
- November 20 Chicken and Biscuit Dinner at 6 pm, followed by the Shout Humbly concert.

2005

MINISTERS

- The January meeting was started by Chairman Harold Hedding stating “that we hear what is going on in Iraq, but really don’t know much about the Middle East Christian. He played a tape by the Rev. Lloyd Saatjan.”
- Ad hoc groups were formed: flowers; decorations; kitchen committee.
- Motion made and passed that the food collected by the congregation which had been sent to the Clifton Springs food cupboard, be donated to the St. Francis food cupboard in Phelps. Any clothing collected to continue to go to Clifton Springs.
- Assemblyman Kolb sent a letter with items needed for Project Veteran’s Care
- Gorham United Methodist Church sponsored Heart of the Finger Lakes work camps during the summer.
- “Wesley Carlson told about his Eagle Scout project of painting the gym at the Community Center on February 26. He asked if the church will support him and if he could send a sheet on a clipboard for volunteers.”
- 57 youth camped out at the church for the 30-hour Famine in February.
- The Christian Education Committee proposed making VBS an ecumenical event, including the Catholic and Faith Community Churches.
- The Evangelism Committee requested a name change to Outreach.
- Mission Walk date: May 22. Money raised to stay local; \$1081 raised. \$213 was given to the Community Center; \$350 to Presbytery disaster assistance trip in the fall of 2005; \$300 to the community Thanksgiving dinner; \$100 to VCS.
- “As a result of the pastor’s report there was a discussion about how to get chairmen for our fund raising events. It was decided the Finance Committee will discuss fund raising ideas and how to get these chairs and workers for these items.”
- Office for the Aging sought nominations for Senior Citizen of the Year.
- “AJ Tierson will declare his candidacy for ordination. The beginning step is our support which requires a special congregational meeting, the scheduling of which will be announced from the pulpit.”

- New pew Bibles (larger print New International Version) purchased. Cost of the Bibles was taken from congregation memorials and memorial funds.
- “Since the 2 cents a meal monies are not staying local at present, the [Missions] committee recommends we change and have it go directly to the St. Francis food cupboard.”
- “The cross lighting needs to be brighter and may require the area to be repainted a brighter color.”
- “Marcia Gibbs is nearly up to speed with the new financial software.”
- Personnel Committee recommends that the trustees look into upgrading the phone system to allow for transfer of calls.
- Coffee hour, on June 19, was in honor of Shirley’s 10 years of ordination and 2 graduates: Emily Tierson, Stephanie Donlon.
- Health and Service Committee chair, Marva Fridley, “asked for suggestions of other work or service her committee could do. Some ideas discussed included helping St. Francis food cupboard, creating sunshine baskets for people in the hospital, helping with the fall garage sale and smorgasbord, or participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life next spring.”
- September was open house month for the church, with special music and activities each Sunday.
- Sunday School started out well with 44 in attendance.
- There was discussion about forming a cancer family support group for the congregation.
- A Thanksgiving dinner at the Community Center was planned for November.
- Tea-Zar held November 12
- “New Family Sunday” discussed as a way to increase Sunday School attendance.
- The Food Cupboard donations and Pennies from Heaven contributions were combined.
- Christmas fell on Sunday this year. It was decided to offer one service at 11 a.m. with communion. Christmas Eve service will be a family service at 7 pm with no later service.

2006

- Youth group has Super Bowl sub sale. Netted \$603, thanks to the Clifton Springs Hospital that donated much of the food.
- Sacred Dance group formed for 2nd-12th graders.

- Outreach Committee in charge of the Strawberry Social “and plans a “strawberry recipes” bulletin for it.” They also worked on plan for a new directory and a church cookbook.
- 30-Hour Famine raised \$1,600.
- Food Cupboard moved to the Community Center with help from the Boy Scouts.
- “The “walk” this year will only involve our church, on May 21.”
- A cantata will be done during the Easter service.
- Stewardship and Finance report that “February’s receipts were WAY love, putting us behind in our goal, for no known reason.”
- RADA knives to be sold at the Tea-zaar.
- “Pat Hemminger will appear on Channel 12 doing a presentation on Part D for the Office of the Aging on March 18, 20 and 28.”
- Trustees deciding whether to repair or replace the church sign. They chose a new sign for out front and 2 new signs at the entrances to the village on Rt. 96.
- AJ appointed as Licensed Local Pastor to this church by the Methodist Bishop. With this appointment, AJ is able to perform marriages, baptisms, and serve communion.
- A thank you note from UMCOR was received acknowledging the congregation’s donation of \$858.50 for Katrina relief.
- “Kitchen needs refurbishing— open cupboards should be covered, gas leak in stove, need more refrigeration, other needs—Charlotte Howard and Jane Pederson will co-chair a committee to set priorities and determine how far \$5000 will go.”
- The village has a problem with parking on N. Wayne Street by church attendees. The newsletter and bulletins were used to alert people to the need to park on Main St., in the telephone company lot, or village lots.
- TVs and DVDs were donated for the Sunday School.
- New sign for the front of the church.
- “Pat Mastellar sent a note asking permission to place a basket to gather donations for “Safe House.””
- “Shirley brought up the problem of others parking in our lot when we need the space, on Sunday mornings and during weddings and funerals. Jesse suggested printing flyers to put on their windshields telling them they can apply for a parking permit which would include the caveat: that we will notify them when the CAN-NOT park there.”

- “Marcia Scherbyn mentioned the skateboarder concern again; between 4:00-6:00 pm 3 to 6 boys ride our steps sidewalk and parking lot on bikes and skateboards; we will notify the police again and ask them to keep an eye out.”
- CE Committee donated \$100 to the United Methodist Children’s Fund in honor of Vacation Bible School.
- Gary Clock resigns as communion steward. Nan takes over the job.
- Presbytery honors Sam Edwards on September 9 with an open house at Camp Whitman.
- “AJ reported for the Outreach committee that they approved plans for a church website that will cost us \$185 to get going through Finger Lakes Technologies (\$70 for domain name, \$90 to buy program, \$25 for Dec. to Finger Lakes Tech. after our 3 months free).” unitedchurchofphelps.org was up in September; the Outreach Committee to oversee the site. Costs covered under Utilities Expense in next year’s budget.
- Rose Copper-Brown received favorable comments about the Family Festival and the new Sunday School curriculum.
- Hosted the Charge Conference on November 1.
- “It was suggested that the Music and Worship committee consider a change in greeting people—have one person at front door to greet and another inside the sanctuary to hand out bulletins. This will enable parishioners to read the postings on the bulletin boards.”
- Missions Committee dispersed their funds as follows:
 - Emanuel Church (Newark) Food Cupboard \$100
 - Vittums’ spring mission \$300
 - Community Center Thanksgiving \$250
 - Phelps Community Cupboard \$200
 - House of John \$300
 - Camperships for next year \$300
 - Pastor’s discretionary fund \$400
 - Webb Family “Habitat fromHeaven” \$350
- Ran out of “newcomer greeting” bags

2007

- Fund raiser for the youth group mission trip to NYC was a Super Bowl Sunday sub sale. Profit over \$400.
- Ash Wednesday pancake supper planned
- “We spent less than we had budgeted; there was approximately \$3,600 left.”

- The new Executive Presbyter (replacing Sam Edwards) began on Feb. 26—Joelle Davis-Moriarty.
- Junior Youth group started.
- There was an increase in pledge units this year.
- Women’s Breakfast, February 24.
- “Jesse recommended more security for the church’s computers and possibly having remote access available in order to work on the web page.”
- A “lovely gift from Mickey Denniston of a ceramic Noah’s Ark and animals” was received. A suitable display case to show off and protect this gift was purchased, using memorial funds.
- There was special interest in sending a non-member to church camp this year.
- Formation of a technology committee was created and charged with inventorying, overseeing, controlling and setting up security for the computers, telephones, TVs, DVDs, audio equipment. Photocopier, and website.
- 1/2 of the spring Walk-a-Thon proceeds given to the Phelps Community Center for paving the north parking lot.
- “As an experiment the ushers will pass out the fellowship pads during the praise music time; Passing the Peace will be “relocated” to 1st or last in the service; hymnals need to be redistributed.”
- Over 20 pounds of socks were shipped to a homeless shelter in NYC as a result of a mission trip there.
- In April, Pastor Shirley sends letter about her retirement plans to Personnel. Her retirement will be on or before June 30, 2008. “A Council discussion regarding how to go about choosing a new pastor led to a straw vote showing 6 favored a Presbyterian (following our established pattern of alternating), 5 favored a Methodist (Bishop appoints, you don’t wait), and 1 toss-up. Continued discussion led to a motion made by Jesse Sheckler, seconded by Kathleen Corcoran, to hold a special Council meeting on May 29 to discuss the forms designed to give a picture of the Church and community and to recommend a denomination.”
- “Even though we are \$2000 behind our projected income at this time we are still operating in the black so no need to panic...”
- “The drinking fountain is gone, finally!”
- In May, Pastor Shirley Filiatreau, dated May 14, announced her retirement effective December 31, 2007. “We had three options to consider:

1. AJ Tierson, currently serving as our Associate Pastor on an appointment through June 30, 2008, could be appointed full-time pastor upon Shirley's retirement.
2. Request that the United Church of Phelps begin the process to search for a Presbyterian pastor.
3. Inform the Methodist District Superintendent that we are ready for a full time United Methodist pastor, other than AJ, to be appointed.

After many questions and comments from Council members and congregation Members, Ted Mullen proposed the following as a corollary to #1:

The Council will form an ad hoc committee to interview Pastor AJ to help determine the compatibility of AJ and the United Church of Phelps and to make a recommendation to Council relative to his appointment. This motion was seconded by Pat Hemminger and passed by a show of hands vote.

It was decided the committee should be made up of a representative from each of the teams/committees as well as volunteers from the congregation.

Nan Clark then called for a vote, by paper ballot, on the three options. Option #1 received a large majority of the votes."

- Estimates for fixing the chimney bricks and furnace received.
- "Ginny brought up the idea that we need to go on record that we will return to the Presbyterian route to secure our next pastor when AJ leaves (assuming he stays for now)."
- Youth group made \$1200 on Festival lemonade stand.
- \$300 was collected for a mission project at VBS.
- Broomfield Masonry repaired the chimney at no cost.
- Kitchen committee working on designing a new kitchen, with the hope of financing it with help from the Preston Foundation and investment interest.
- AJ's position was approved through June 2008. "Left unanswered—what happens after June 2008?"
- AJ presides at his first baptism on July 15, 2007.
- Family Festival went well.
- Stewardship and Finance Committee recommend "that team heads be more accountable for their spending, with the chair approving any purchases for the team and letting the treasurer know what's being purchased."
- "...received a letter from the Methodist Bishop asking for \$1000 per church (over a 3 year period) for upgrading the facilities at

Casowasco; Missions team has some money that could go toward this; an article will be placed in the newsletter.”

- “Several people expressed concern for Jo’s welfare when she’s here alone—suggestions included door locks with an intercom and a window into the hall from the office.”
- Media and Technology team recommended FLTG move the current modem into the kitchen. A new wireless card purchased for Jo’s office computer.
- \$200 sent to Hospice in Naples (Hospice house).
- Collected items for care packages for military and college.
- Office hours for September-June 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Monday through Friday. July and August 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- New freezer and refrigerator.
- New boiler for heating the church purchased at a cost of \$24,000. Asbestos removed when the old boiler is removed at a cost of \$5,000.
- Pie contest at the Phelps Harvest Festival
- Babysitting services provided at the church on December 7 and 14 for “harried parents who need to finish shopping.”
- Personnel team recommends Council establish a church plan stating the needs and goals for the United Church of Phelps and prioritizing them, to be reviewed and updated as needed at least annually.
- “Preston Foundation denied our request for assistance with the new boiler expense.”
- “Some concern expressed about the possibility of contacting MRSA during communion.”
- Designation of “clerk” is changed to “secretary” of council in order to more closely match the actual job.

2008

- New phone system is installed. Fax machine arrives.
- Stained glass window repaired by Ann Hadsell.
- “We need a person in charge of the kitchen to keep things clean, make sure supplies are purchased, and keep a calendar schedule for us of the room.”
- Souper Sunday raised \$214 for the boiler fund
- New “cool” names were suggested for the different Sunday school levels: PreK—Jump Start; K-5—Power Up; 6-8—Rev It; 9-12—Turbo Charged. Children’s Church renamed Break Out. 3-5 youth group—JAM; 6-12 -FOG.

AJ Tierson becomes pastor

- White acolyte robes ordered.
- Visitor bags replaced with an attractive folder of information.
- \$1,034.77 donated to One Great Hour of Sharing
- Kitchen cabinets, flooring, countertops have been selected
- Established a computer lab
- New drinking fountain installed; railing for sanctuary stairs being readied.
- AJ is appointed for another year (June 2008-June 2009) at the United Church of Phelps
- Participated in the Phelps Business Expo on May 15.
- Invited to hold the Strawberry Social with the Railway Stop in June. Tourist Bureau did not proceed with this.
- Locks changed.
- "...all were invited to help Vicci Cook with painting at her house June 21-22."
- Trustees report a need to revisit the fee schedule for use of the building.
- Strawberry Social netted \$836.05 profit.
- The new Methodist Bishop is Marcus Matthews.
- Cart purchased for use in the kitchen
- Bibles presented to 3rd graders in November.
- Smorgasbord made a profit of \$830.17.
- Postcards inviting people in the community to the Christmas services were sent out.
- A motion was made and approved to form an ad-hoc committee to manage the marketing and advertising for the church. Jed Brandow agreed to head this committee.
- Pictorial directory pictures taken in May.

2009

- People express concern over Council being referred to as the Leadership Team and committees being called teams.
- Frank VanNostrand is custodian.
- Peg Carlson brings the idea of a "Paper Sunday" when parishioners donate paper products to the church to help with current expenses.
- Marsha Gibbs is treasurer.
- Support for the VanNostrand Family after a house fire.
- A very active conversation by the Leadership Team on The Mission, Vision, and Core Values for our Worship. The following are included in the minutes:
 - "The need was brought up to be able to obtain updated equipment for the worship service. The Trustees reported that prices are being compared to purchase equipment that has been requested for this."

- “The need to not detract from the beauty of the Sanctuary.”

- “The need for balance of modernization without losing connection/closeness currently felt by our group/people/congregation.”

-Some churches have decided to have two services: one traditional and one modern.

- “A discussion on our change/growth of this church body in the past 10-15-20 years was mentioned.”

- “Change is constantly happening however we do not want to lose our theologically sound worship and music.”

- “There is a need to look at the music for worship and the transition of change that the congregation is continuing to experience with support of the personnel team for consideration of continuing with current staff or change staff duties. Possibly stretching duties of staff needs to be considered.”

*An ad hoc committee was developed to form a Visioning process to develop realistic outcomes. “The group includes Dawn Norton, Paul Norton, and Karen Morocco?, AJ Tierson and 2 additional persons to be invited by Pastor AJ Tierson.”

- The Leadership Team approved being a drop-off location for “Wheels for the World” to receive wheelchairs.
- “Inspiration in the Park” - 10-11 bands for 2 days of performances
- A summer lunch program done at the Phelps Community Center in connection with the summer recreation program by the Women’s Circles for approximately 8 weeks.
- Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee:
 1. “We recommend the church move forward with beginning a pre-school ministry to begin in September 2009.” Motion passed.
 2. “We recommend the church adopt hosting a weekly community dinner sponsored by the church with a love offering available to cover expenses only to begin at the Schaffer family’s convenience as they are the initial contact personnel.” Motion passed.
 3. “We recommend that the church develop a logo that identifies us as “The United Church of Phelps” and adopt the tag-line which sums up our mission, vision, and core values.... “Glorify God, Follow Christ, Live in the Spirit.” Motion passed.
 4. “We recommend that a member of the Trustees and Ad-hoc Team member begin to develop options for a Welcome Center.

We suggest looking at the current Nursery.” Motion passed.

5. “We recommend that the Personnel Team work with the Pastor to develop job descriptions for: Worship Leader and Staff Musician. Changing: Organist/Choir Director to Staff Musician or position name to be determined and eliminate the accompanist position for a Worship Leader.” Motion passed.

6. “We recommend the Trustees look into putting a handicap door/button at the ramp entrance at their convenience.” Motion passed.

- Church began using Paychex for payroll from June-December 2009 at \$48 per month fee.
- People express being nervous about “extreme” changes being made.
- The United Church of Phelps joins Wellspring Church for Vacation Bible School.
- Chaffing dishes arrived for use in the kitchen, The Mission Team verbally agreed to help with sterno supply.
- The Personnel Team brought two motions to the August meeting of the Leadership Team:
 1. Motion to eliminate the accompanist position as of September 1, 2009 church service. Motion passed but not unanimously.
 2. Motion to modify the hours of the secretary position of the church to not exceed 20 hours a week starting on September 1, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jo Gifford resigns as secretary effective September 23.
- The Mission Team reported that 20 meals were provided to the Clifton cancer center for clients.
- A new program is initiated: collecting aluminum pop tops to be given to the Ronald McDonald House.
- The Strawberry Social profited around \$438.
- Marsha Gibbs is hired as secretary starting September 24.
- The church becomes an official partner with Angel Food, providing meals to the Clifton Springs Oncology outpatient services.
- Coffee-Conversation-Communication Meetings were held.
- The Outreach Team decided on a new church logo for shirts, hats, and other items.
- The ad hoc advertising team ends in December and the Outreach Team takes over this responsibility with Jed Brandow continuing to work in this area.

2010

- Sunday School is now one class: K-5
- Plans for a golf tournament: cost \$60 per person which included golf and dinner.
- Pay pal was added to The United Church of Phelps website
- Current investments moved to the Community Bank
- Whale of a Sale profit \$865.05
- Light gray shirts with the new church logo on them were ordered.
- A “noisy offering” for Clean Water in Nigeria was approved.
- Christian Education reported a donation total of \$500 for the fund drive for malaria.
- Outside faucet installed.
- Purchased QuickBooks for Non Profits 2010 through Jim Cheney for \$279.95 plus shipping for use in reporting financials. This program installation goal was for the first of the year. Manual financial recording would no longer be needed.
- Hot dog sale netted \$70. (Whale of a Sale?)
- Possible winter concert on a Friday night for a fellowship event with a group called “Christian Brothers”.
- Red Bird Mission—4 boxes of supplies and \$365 were donated for this ministry.
- Bank of Phelps donated \$60 to the church for support.
- The Smorgasbord Dinner reported a profit of \$663.
- The ad hoc advertising and marketing committee was dissolved.
- Replacement of carpeting in the hallway and stairs by the kitchen was done.
- Folding chairs were purchased in part by The Ladies Circle.
- Rechargeable batteries now in use.
- The Missions Team learned of children at a local school with clothing needs and provided the needed garments.
- Holiday Bazaar’s profit was \$1,123.91.

2011

- At the annual meeting, the following revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws were made:

-ARTICLE VI- THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES change: From nine to seven. The Board of Trustees shall have seven Church mem-

bers elected by the congregation. The quorum at meetings change from five to four.

-ARTICLE VII-SECTION 2-APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS: From six to four. There shall be a minimum number of 4 members on each committee, including the Chairman, one half of whose terms expire each year.

-SECTION 3-NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Change: shall consist of eight Church Members, each to serve a term of two years, four of whose terms expire each year to: four Church Members, each to serve a term of two years, two of whose terms expire each year.

- \$40.34 received from Pennies from Heaven
- 20 pounds of socks sent to NYC
- Charlotte Howard, Marva Fridley and Ann Webster did an inventory of all the items in the kitchen.
- Phelps post office no longer doing bulk mailing starting February 1. All bulk mailing to now go through Newark post office.
- “Christmas Tree giving was wonderful this year even though there were last minute children added.”
- Health & Service decided not to hold a Fall Smorgasbord. Instead, a dinner on May 21 will be hosted.
- “...the new speaker system is working very well!”
- Hosted the Presbytery meeting on March 5.
- An idea for a scrap metal collection as a fundraiser was referred to the Trustees.
- Members of the congregation asked to adopt a youth (from Sunday School) for the summer months, praying for that youth.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to review the church investments.
- A new form was presented for outreach/church fund raisers to be monitored by the Stewardship and Finance Team. A motion was made to try this for one year.
- New faces are noticed in worship.
- The Methodist Park was reassessed at \$47,600.
- Whale of a Sale: \$1,079.
- Annual conference offering this year was “Helping Haiti Heal”. \$50 from Missions was donated.
- In researching foam products vs. paper products, the Leadership Team decided to continue buying paper products instead of foam whenever it is feasible.

MINISTERS

- “Pastor AJ reminded everyone that we should shop at the best value places and use the UCP credit card and take a tax exempt certificate with us.”
- “The Methodist had conversation regarding the approval of petitions for ordination of gay and lesbian persons at the General Conference.”
- Welcome to Phelps Day, July 30th, with a 5k run and several events including historical tours, cupcake war, and dish to pass.
- Sunday school had 15 children registered. Each week prior to individual classes there was a “Shake it up with Missy Krissy” (Christina Albrecht).
- The Missions Team initiated a project to help students at Midlakes by providing things like sneakers, sweat pants, and socks. A new program (Fill a Backpack) was initiated by Midlakes which provides food to children who receive free lunches for the weekends.
- Personnel Team is “looking into hiring someone to fill the position of full time nursery care person. This would be a paid position, \$1,200.00 per year with extra pay for the ‘special Occasions’ as needed. An anonymous person has paid for the 1st year.”
- Titles of positions were changed: from secretary to Administrative Assistant and the organist position was changed to Music Coordinator.
- The sign in the Methodist Park was painted.
- A concern about the lack of prayer at meetings was raised. Pastor AJ encouraged prayer “for the issues on hand before a meeting and to always open a meeting with prayer. Brian suggested asking for prayers before a meeting starts.”
- \$79 was given to the local food cupboard.
- “Nan Clark mentioned that she is reaching out to those in the congregation that are noticed to not be attending or at events and she is getting positive responses from those that contact is made.”

2012

- 2011 ended in the black.
- “The Phelps American Legion has approached our church to host the traveling POW/MIA display for a month in September 2012. A brief discussion followed and all agreed that this would be an honor”
- Media & Technology Team searched for a camera to tape worship services with.

- “David Hicks reviewed the changes in the Head Usher position. He noted assistance from Lee Walters whom completes the attendance count for the Sunday morning worship service. Dave noted he still tries to greet and talk to new people as he can. He expressed his recent observations; that he has received a lot of help from fellow members, he feels we are a more fluid and open group in that he has heard more laughter and an overall “good spirit”, and also that people (in the congregation) have been welcoming to those going through difficulty.”
- Shirley Filiatreau is honored with Pastor Emeritas status.
- In September, “it was noted with excitement that we are currently operating and meeting the current financial needs of the church.”
- The smorgasbord made \$782, serving 102 dinners.
- \$375 was donated to the Red Bird Mission trip.
- “Box tops for education helped a school completely fund 3 bus routes. Soup labels went to buy vehicles.”
- “\$185 was received from the “Fresh Bread Sale” on World Communion Sunday and was donated to The Pehlps Food Cupboard.”
- New website is up and running.
- A camcorder was purchased to video the worship services.
- “The Personnel Team recommends a 7 year period of holding on to old team records, newsletters and bulletins. These items take up a lot of space in the church office including the file cabinets. After seven years these documents become out dated and not useful for future ministry.”
- 41 Christmas shoe boxes collected
- Paul Norton met with Mr. Graham for review of the sound system to have a hearing enhanced system and sound to the nursery room.
- In November, a question came up on the bird dilemma with sidewalks being significantly soiled.
- “David H. reported that he believes the atmosphere in the congregation seems to “resonate well”. He made the reference to a warm response with his observation of Pastor AJ Tierson now including greeting/mingling in the congregation prior to the start of the worship service.”

2013

- 19 ppunds of socks shipped to NYC
- An energy audit found the church to be 90% efficient.

- Work begins on a new church directory
- The Whale of a Sale raised \$1,700 plus. Some items from the sale were distributed to recent fire victims in Palmyra, the House of Concerns, and the Viet Nam Veterans association.
- 33 pounds of men's clothing sent to NYC
- Repairs were made to the carpet/floor by the doorway of the upstairs Men's room.
- A newer piano was given to the church to replace the older one in the Stage Room.
- A security system is installed at the back entrance of the building where the offices are located.
- A basket became available for monetary donations on Food Cupboard Sunday for those who do not have goods to provide but would like to donate toward the cause.

2014

- New curtains, review of the toys and books in the nursery area and some of the furniture was upgraded.
- "As supporters of the Geneva Family Counseling group it was decided to help with their current Baby bottle fundraiser..."
- The roof over the stage room was replaced.
- A motion was made and passed 'To have only members of The United Church of Phelps and regular attendees be able to receive the e-mail prayer chain.'
- A new sound board was installed for the Media and Technology Team.
- The Trustees work on getting quotes for new carpeting throughout the church and new lighting for the Fellowship Hall.
- Issues surrounding concern about the proper use of the assigned parking spaces for visitors were raised.
- Pastor AJ was instructed to draft a letter to the Tyre Reform Church stating the church's stand on gambling.
- Remnants from the Whale of a Sale were sent to Asbury UMC, Vienna Gardens (for Bingo prizes), and the Restore.
- Missions Team collected and sent care packages to our college youth.
- "A letter from a person in California was received after he obtained a postcard at an antique store and returned it to the place of origin."

2015

MINISTERS

- 90 children were aided with Christmas gifts along with the Lyons Club Christmas 2014.
- “There have been lots of people in attendance” in worship.
- “A discussion arose on the greeters and a concern that newcomers may not be welcomed individually. A mention from a visitor was made known to Pastor AJ Tierson. Comments on possible ‘greeter training’ or possibly assigning certain people to take turns with an assignment to ‘greet’ newcomers. This is to be looked into further.”
- Trustees decide to cease the salting part of the snow plowing contract for budget control and will have Frank do as needed.
- The Historical Society gave a memorial sign to be placed in the Methodist Park.
- There was “a concern of a few members on why we have summer service at the Methodist Park. A response will be prepared and given back to the members. It was decided to continue this as it is only 1 time in July and 1 time in August and there are members that enjoy the different venue.”
- All advertising for events or announcements began coming through the church office to help with staying within our budget.
- Deb Rockefeller and Liz Gridley express interest in doing a dinner once a month to help “get more energy” in the church and help with socialization. Cost to be about \$5. A theme will be included on occasion.
- “Pastor AJ Tierson made an announcement that starting 2/1/15 he will be pastoring part time; 3/8 time, at Shortsville Presbyterian Church. Their service is at 9 AM on Sundays. They would like to do a joint Holy Thursday service and Good Friday.” The congregation raised concerns about the additional ministry responsibilities added. Pastor AJ Tierson responded by saying that the position at Shortsville was not “an installed” position, but a “temporary stated supply” position. The Leadership Team was reminded that The United Church of Phelps pastor position is not a full time position. “The overall hope is to help sustain the Shortsville church community and also have some fellowship opportunity between UCP and Shortsville.”
- “A concern was brought up to the group of the size of the snow mounds in front of church by driveway and this will be address by one of the Trustee’s.”
- Questions continue to arise regarding Pastor AJ’s service to Shortsville: “what days are Pastor AJ Tierson available in the of-

office? Currently pastor office times are on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for day to day operation with the need to be flexible when needed. Another question to clarify is the current status of the pastor position which some members of the congregation did not realize is not full time only “3/4” time. Another question came up regarding the “shared services” of our pastor as a local nearby church has his services also. At present Pastor AJ Tierson is an interim pastor at a nearby church.”

- The Trustees get quotes for upholstery that is in need of replacement.
- The Whale of a Sale raised \$1,500.
- “A brief discussion came before the group to announce the blessing of a student to be sponsored in part by our church family. Becky Midodo from Kenya, Africa will be attending RN nursing school at a nearby college (FLCC). She will be staying at one of our members’ home. (Kathe and Doug Latch). Pastor AJ Tierson made a motion to open up an account for Becky M. at Generations Bank with Kathy Latch as one of the signers for the bank account as she is the main sponsor for Becky during her stay in USA. If an amount is greater than \$5,000 a second signature would be required. Reports and/or statements are to be provided to the treasurer quarterly that will show disbursements and/or activity.”
- “A fun time was had by all during VBS this summer which had 30 participants.”
- A new computer was ordered for Pastor AJ Tierson.
- “A request has come forward to be presented to the Leadership Team regarding the consideration of the church obtaining a means of accepting credit card payments at functions and/or other venues. A “square” was suggested that could be used at dinners, bazaars, or fund raisers and other events or times...” A motion was made and passed for UCP to obtain a “square” for debit/credit card transactions at no charge for a trial period.
- A new mission project was started: collecting empty discarded prescription bottles to be sent to areas in need.
- The UCP accounts were moved from the Community Bank NA to Generation Bank.
- The Trustees presented the “Adopt a Pew” fundraiser to replace the cushions in the sanctuary. The cost was \$300 per pew.
- Music & Worship Team review the hymnals as they consider the need for new ones. It was voted to raise funds for replacement and updating the Presbyterian hymnals to start in the spring of 2016.

- “A concern was brought to the attention of the group present that there were new people in attendance during the Sunday worship service that were not approached during the passing of the peeeeeace and it has been encouraged that it is everyone’s responsibility to make visitors welcome.”
- Pastor AJ Tierson installed as a Presbyterian pastor on December 6, 2015.
- “There is a Community Thanksgiving dinner being prepared for November 22nd by Teresa and Don Shaffer and Bonnie Hobbs.”

2016

- “A question arose as to whom is responsible for ordering supplies used in the kitchen? It was mentioned that Charlotte Howard is the contact person however has had some health issues over the past few months and Betsy B. to contact her to see if she is able to continue or perhaps would need assistance.”
- Projectors are installed in the sanctuary.
- Outreach noted that the congregation was doing a better job with greeting newcomers.
- “Pastor A.J. Tierson brought before the Leadership Team that The Village of Phelps has contacted the church regarding a desire to upgrade the electric pole and wiring at The Methodist Park on Main Street Phelps with no cost to the church.” Motion passed to allow this.
- The Missions Team met on 2/8. “The team has decided to support Jaime’s [Donnan] mission in Laos for \$15/month for 2 years.”
- This was the Strawberry Social’s 50th year!
- The downstairs bathroom by the sanctuary made into a unisex bathroom.
- The sign at the Methodist Park fell and needed repair.
- “A general reminder and announcement is for everyone to be mindful of whom is parking in the visitor parking spot.”
- At the February meeting: “An update on our sponsorship of Becky Midodo whom is staying with Doug and Kathe Latch during her nursing education. It has been estimated the need of \$15,000 for school tuition, books, and other fees. A discussion followed bringing up ideas for fundraisers and community support.”
- The breakers on the pole near the large evergreen in the Methodist Park that has been lit during the Christmas season are not viable any more. “A new electric box exists on the west side of the driveway. The smaller tree will be used for Christmas lighting from this date forward.”

- Socks and clothing were put together and sent to South Wedge Missions in Rochester.
- Stewardship and Finance reported at the April Leadership Team meeting a positive balance of approximately \$4000.
- Pews reupholstered and some need wood work done.
- “The local Lyons Club as offered to replace the existing sign for the cemetery which is located on the park property; the Trustees have accepted.”
- Nan and the prayer team pray for children to come to Christian Education classes.
- “The railings are up on the stage. Thank you to Glenn Webster.”
- The nursery is updated with new curtains, a wall divider for the nursing area to include a door.
- Brainstorming ideas and goals raised for meeting with Rev. Betsy Crimmins:

Easily Accomplished: better coffee, Keurig Machine

Sunday service: old time hymns, contemporary music, interaction during service (lift people up), praise music at beginning of service

Church interaction: more deacons, more welcoming more children attendance, more youth attendance, more younger adults

High School Senior project to bring them into the Church
Assimilation—from pew to active

Discipleship

Group studies

Group prayer

Bring outside people to events

Ask people to come to events

Intergenerational help

2017

- Hosted the Presbytery meeting on March 28.
- “Installation of New Office Copier is complete. Costs are reduced, service/productivity is increased. Very welcome addition.”
- Family Promise of Ontario County introduced. Pastor AJ Tierson signs the Covenant between Family Promise and United Church of Phelps, with the church being a supporting Congregation (not a host congregation).

- Whale of a Sale brought in around \$1700.
- A pew modified in the sanctuary to accommodate a wheelchair.
- Baccalaureate Program at Midlakes High School so more graduates will feel more welcomed and will attend.
- Tot group meets every week starting in September.
- Clean up buckets for disaster victims was a new project.
- October 29 was Becky Midodo celebration day with a lunch featuring simple Kenyan food provided. Becky shared photos of her home in Kenya.
- Christina Albrecht reported at the October meeting: “We joyously welcome an increased number of children in our programs.”
- New pictorial directory.
- Trustees report a request to have live stream in the Nursery and Wi-Fi throughout the building. An addition of 2 handicapped spaces added to the parking lot.

2018

- AJ reports the Ecumenical Clergy Council is researching Active Shooter programs
- AED is researched
- Health & Service do a “total kitchen make-over to include inventorying and cleaning”
- “The Chaplain of the Ontario County Jail contacted our leadership and asked if we would welcome released prisoners to worship. Consensus is, as it has always been, we welcome all.”
- An opportunity to have pen pals with jail residents was discussed. “This would be a monitored exchange of letters between inmates and adults.” At a later meeting, it was reported that there were no interested people for this ministry.
- Trustees accepted the bid from Superior Reflections to refinish the fellowship hall and researched air conditioning for the fellowship hall.
- “The Chair requested that a written report be submitted following every meeting of a team. It creates a history and reports on significant activities.”
- No VBS this year.
- Trustees requested “that changing pews for wheelchair accommodation be pursued. Discussion followed around constructing a non-intrusive barrier on edge of parking lot, maybe a fence with

planters. Work is also continuing on streaming the Worship service live into the nursery.”

- Concern was raised about the need to be sensitive to folks not wishing to shake hands due to spread of germs.
- On June 10, Becky Midodo’s graduation party and secret house warming shower was celebrated with a cookout.
- Trustees report the wooden floor in the fellowship hall will be refinished. Kanga Roof will replace the roof for the office area. :”Air conditioning project will inquire about available community funding and will be on hold until application for grant is reviewed.”
- Donations from Whale of a Sale went to Asbury First UMC and Seneca House of Concern.
- “It was mentioned that signage used to advertise our major fundraisers are difficult to manage. Linda Kataskas will provide information on available sandwich type signs and boards to replace current systems of signage for events.”
- A Peacemaking Recognition Banquet, sponsored by the Presbytery of Geneva, was held to hold up individuals from worshipping communities who characterize peacekeeping, missions, or advocacy in their service. The leadership team nominated the Albrecht family: Hope, Christina, Eddie and Scott Albrecht.

MINISTERS