

2012

Annual Report to the Congregation



REV. MARJORIE WILHELMI
MODERATOR

**NORTHBROOK
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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THE DOCKET
ANNUAL MEETING
NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 27, 2013

1. Opening Songs.....Todd Säger
2. The Call to Order.....Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
3. Establish Quorum.....Clerk – Tricia LaSota
4. Opening Prayer.....Rev. Wilhelmi
5. 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved by the session.
6. Moderator’s Report.....Rev. Wilhelmi
7. Staff and Session Committee Reports
8. Finance Report.....Bill Travis
9. Approval of the Terms of Call for Marjorie Wilhelmi for 2013.....Barbara Burnham
10. Recognition of those who have joined the church eternal and triumphant.....Rev. Wilhelmi
11. Motion to Adjourn
12. Closing Prayer.....Rev. Wilhelmi

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SESSION

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
Moderator

Tricia LaSota
Clerk of Session

Class of 2013

Barbara Burnham
Brian Long
Bob Lympers
Seglinda Kelle-Pritchard
Bill Travis
Stephanie Wicker

Class of 2014

Kathy Bauhof
Kim Bowden-Adair
Nancy Gifford
Keith Larson
Portia McDonald
Tracey Watt

Class of 2015

Winnie Davies-Hancock
Larry Guindi
Lois Kurta
Judie Murdock
Derek Stottlemeyer
Karen Vander Weide

DEACONS

Class of 2013

Nancy Best
Mary Butler
Mary Hendrien

Class of 2014

Joan Gonzales
Mary Lou Harrison
Marilyn Thomas

Class of 2015

Peggie Schiller
Bill Stetson
Jeff Wilhelmi

STAFF

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi, Pastor
Todd Sager, Director of Music
Dan Gross, Contemporary Music Director
Sherrill Heinrichs, Director of Church Education
Ken Stetson, Youth Director
Barbara Paulson, Administrative Secretary
Kathy Varnas, Financial Secretary
Pamela Grim, Preschool Director
Larry Brown, Custodian

CLERK OF SESSION

Membership Statistics

Total Active Church Membership as of 1/1/12 408

Gains in 2012

Profession or Reaffirmation of Faith 14

Reinstatements from inactive

Total Gains 14

Losses in 2012

Certificate Losses 6

Move to inactive 1

Other Losses
Deaths 11

Total Losses 18

Total Active Church Membership as of 12/31/12 404

Baptisms in 2011

Owen John Hurbis Derek Stottlemeyer Max Van de Vyver

In Memory of those Transferred to the Rolls of the Church Triumphant in 2012

Lynette Brown	Walter Dellinger	Carl Neppach
Jean Burdakin	David Leckie	Dan Nesbitt
Carl Capello	Gretchen Lyon	Alma Wetters
Gertrude Chappell	Jean MacLaclan	Tracy Franks (inactive)

New Members in 2012

2012 Confirmation Class

Scott Caspersen Alex Guindi Lauren Guindi

By Profession, Reaffirmation of Faith, or Certificate of Transfer

Cheryl Ardis	Bruce Hermes	Derek Stottlemeyer
Carolyn Beauvais	Linda Hermes	Sharla Van de Vyver
Daniel Gerwin	Phyllis Klinger	Shawn Van de Vyver
Valeska Gerwin	William Newman	

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Did you know I've been your pastor for two years now?! Those 24 months have flown by for me, and probably for you too, as the world just seems to keep spinning faster and faster. I am grateful for so much that happened in 2012 as we learned and grew together.

One of the greatest blessings for me has been to witness the development of the session—your elected leadership—as they have grown into a dynamic, discerning group that prays together and thinks carefully and theologically about what God is up to in our midst. Together, we've been learning about leading change in this changing world and about the courage and faith it takes to be faithful followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

One result of that work was the decision to form a "Balcony Group" – a group that takes a step out of the crowd to gain a broader perspective and clearer view of possibilities. The months that have passed since our formation in August have been a time of learning and listening together, of opening our hearts and minds to think and see with imagination and love. We're poised to engage the whole congregation in a conversation to help us reconnect with the basics: Who are we? What is the heartbeat of Northbrook? What makes us tick? How are we uniquely wired, gifted, resourced as God's people? Soon you'll be invited to bring your voice to this congregation, and I hope you'll do so with joy and expectation.

This is just the first step along the journey of discovery. We will also be working to answer these vital questions: Who is our neighbor now? What do they look like? What are they looking for? How do we reach out to them with the love of Jesus Christ? What is God calling us to be and to do for this time and this place? This is an exciting adventure that I know will challenge and change us, and that I pray will lead us all—as individuals and together—to become a vibrant family of faith.

I believe that as the body of Christ we find our heartbeat in worship. That's why I am so excited about the decision we made last year to become one community worshipping together. This is a big change for Northbrook, in some ways a certain acknowledgement that the packed sanctuary that required multiple worship times is a thing of the past. But it is also an acknowledgement that we want to become a congregation for the future: one that reflects the kingdom of God in all its diversity of age and style, of experience and energy, of dreams and desires. Together, I believe that we will encourage each other into new ways of seeing and being that will help us remember our heritage and appreciate our traditions, even as we look forward into a new future that brings a fresh breath of creativity and new life.

It's an exciting time to be at Northbrook. Something's happening here. There's an energy and anticipation that feels like the herald of good things about to be born. I pray with all my heart for the winds of the Holy Spirit to refresh our faith, the grace of Jesus Christ to unite us in authentic love, and power of our Creator to make all things new.

In anticipation of an exciting adventure together ~

Marjorie

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH EDUCATION

As your Church Educator, I continue to provide staff support for Children's Ministry, Adult Education, Mission Connection, Membership, Stewardship and the Access Committees along with our Elders – Kathy Bauhof (chair), Karen Vander Weide, Seglinda Pritchard (chair), new elder Lois Kurta, Bill Travis, Stephanie Wicker (chair), new elder Winnie Davies-Hancock, Brian Long (chair), new elder Derek Stottlemeyer and Janine Moran. I would like to express my gratitude to each of these leaders and the great teams of committee members we have for giving so generously of their time and energy, their love of and commitment to Northbrook. It is an overwhelming privilege to be your educator.

We have been blessed with so many talented volunteers who breathe life into all our offerings. They are the people who move them from just church programs to opportunities for ministering to one another. I want to say "thank you" to those persons who share their faith by volunteering in a variety of "teaching/learning/relationship-building" rolls with the children, youth and adults of this church:

- to our adult education Bible Study facilitators including Rev. Thom Heinrichs, Grant Burnham, Michael Bauhof and Marjorie Wilhelmi;
- to our KIDS' Connection and LOGOS teachers including Judy Owen, Phil Owen, Liz Lustenberger, Shelley Tengler, Karen Vander Weide, Barb Stetson and Ken Stetson;
- to our LOGOS Table Parents who build lasting relationships with our children and youth by showing them through word and deed what it means to be a Christian person in this time and place - Joyce Vander Weide, Karen Vander Weide, Bill Stetson, Shelley Tengler, Ken Stetson, Bill/Martha Mack, Cheryl Clemens, Phil and Judy Owen and Tommy Mack;
- also thanks to our worship leader for the Joyful Noise kids, Kari Gorman, who loves them all unconditionally and with enthusiasm;
- to our LOGOS kitchen coordinator who sees to it that the we are all well fed on Wednesday evenings, Lori Sandercock, and to Iva Voight our *every week without fail* LOGOS volunteer;
- and to the *Where in the World* kids and their leaders (Kathy Bauhof, Mary Butler, Karen Vander Weide, Joyce Vander Weide and Joyce Hamburg) who have embodied the teachings of Jesus in their daily life as they care for members of our congregation and surrounding communities.

Without the leadership and support of these many people and volunteers, we could not offer the high quality educational opportunities to our children, youth and adults, to guide them as they begin and support them as they proceed along their faith journey.

This year children, youth and adults of all ages were introduced to the labyrinth. As we walked together during Lent, walked on world Labyrinth Day for peace, and walked as individuals throughout the year, we found that the labyrinth offered us an opportunity to "put feet to our prayers." We experienced a walking meditation that connected our minds, bodies and spirits. As one church member told her story..."I couldn't seem to find my way, until I let God be my guide and I walked and walked and walked, and I found peace and hope."

I invite each of you to become ever more aware of all that God is doing among us, and to commit yourself anew to follow wherever our Lord leads. These are great and challenging times for the world and for the church, but we have the privilege of serving the risen Christ, whose news for the world is always good!

Blessings,
Sherrill Heinrichs

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH

I can't believe how blessed I've been to have the opportunity to be the Youth Director at Northbrook. Being a member of this Church my whole life I was always astonished at the happiness it brought me being here and Northbrook's strong ability to evoke the joy of worshipping God in such a tight knit community. Now that I work here and have seen everything from a different behind-the-scenes perspective, it's only furthered my stance on what an awesome place Northbrook is. I want to especially thank Marjorie, Sherrill, Grace and the rest of the church staff for all of their patience, help, and wisdom during the transition.

Mid-Highs

Typically our Mid-High meetings run from 4:00 to 6:00pm on Sundays. We usually begin with a quick few minutes just to catch up and talk- see how everyone's week has been going. Then we dive into some Bible study: for the first few months we studied the book of Job, learning about the different twists and turns life can take. I always enjoy seeing the different and unique questions that get brought up- they really make for an intellectually packed workshop. We finish up our meetings playing a crazy game that we've picked up over the years, which get everyone, including me, a little too riled up.

We've also had the opportunity to do some other activities this year, both for mission and fellowship. One of our mission activities that we especially enjoyed was the work we did for the Greening of Detroit. We went down to a neighborhood in Detroit with about 400 other people and planted trees to help improve the areas environmental health. It was a very enlightening experience that taught us the value of our environment as stewards of our planet and forced us to appreciate what we have. Our fellowship activities gave us a chance to really get to know each other and enjoy each other's company as a group.

Senior Highs

So far I've really enjoyed our Senior High group, both meeting new high school-ers or getting to know one's I've seen around church. Although our weekly meetings are set-up to resemble a similar agenda of the Mid-High's, I'm always excited to see the different directions they end up in. I really saw a lot of growth in our group during our Thanksgiving Potluck where we brought everyone together for, literally, an all you can eat buffet, and a time to be thankful during the holiday season. The unity and the community I saw forming made me feel truly blessed to work with the kids we have at Northbrook. I'm really looking forward to our lock-in in January and hope that we can continue to learn about our faith and strengthen our bond.

Fall Retreats

Both the Mid and Senior High groups took a trip back up to Loon Lake Retreat Center (the site of camp Mahn-Go) to see our beloved camp ground once more and to engage in a fun, faith-based weekend. The Mid-Highs had the opportunity to give back to LLRC by assisting some of the camp employees with tasks around camp. All of us were more than happy to do it thanks to all the wonderful years we've spent up there. The Senior High's retreat got an extra dose of spook when we stop off at a heart-thumping haunted house on our road trip north. Both groups had a blast and were sad to leave, but were happy to know we'd be back next year for church camp.

LOGOS

This year for LOGOS we decided to dedicate more time together as an entire group by extending our dinner time to include a LOGOS-wide activity for everyone to participate in. This gave us an awesome opportunity to grow as a faith-based community and build bonds with people we otherwise may not have had the chance to. Before dinner I had the opportunity to work with the Mid-Highs on worship skills, in order to more involve them in our Sunday worship. We were able to see the diversity of ways to praise God through our many different activities: leading prayer during worship in Spanish, preparing the stewardship video "One Bite at a Time," constructing Advent candles, and participating in the Christmas Eve service. With the Senior Highs after dinner we engaged in "Boy Meets World" Bible Study, where we connected to an episode of Boy Meets World to God's lessons and followed it up with an activity that applies to the theme. It was a great way to learn about life's lessons and think about the problems we face every day.

PYCT

The PYCT committee has made my job much easier, and without it we would not be able to run Youth Group the way we do without the work of its members: Karen Vander Weide, Tracey Watt, Joyce Vander Weide, Kim Annett, Bonnie Annett and Jimmy Mack. We are looking forward to adding a couple new members for 2013 to continue the great work this group does.

Plans for 2013

In 2013 we have some big plans and events. This year's Mission Trip will be to Davenport, Iowa where we will be joining an organization called Group Workcamps to assist in repairs and maintenance to homes of the less fortunate or those physically unable to perform repairs. We will also be sending a group to the Presbytery's Youth Triennium 2013 at Purdue University where youth are invited to come together to learn unique and exhilarating ways to grow in their faith. Finally, we will once again be teaming up with Orchard United Methodist Church for Camp Mahn-Go 2013. We are excited to continue the tradition that has had a profound impact on youth both at Northbrook and Orchard over the years.

Ken Stetson
Youth Director

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

A new adventure awaits us this coming February. A combined service, and for lack of a better term, one in which we will include "blended" music. It is commonplace for churches to toss about the terms contemporary or traditional in reference to their musical tastes. I find this to be somewhat of a misnomer. In reality, all worship that takes place in the here and now *IS* contemporary. I've often smirked to myself over the years when our contemporary service sang songs that were older than the songs we sang at the traditional service.

So what we're really talking about is styles of music, or various genres. Fortunately for us we have over a millennia of styles from which to choose. Everything from Georgian and Ambrosian Chant, to whatever Chris Tomlin wrote yesterday. What is most important is not so much the style as much as the theological content. I can tell you from being somewhat of an historian of church music there have been many times we didn't get this right. One of my all time favorite examples of this is a hymn that appeared in American church hymnals around 1920 when the telephone was becoming commonplace. It is entitled, "The Royal Telephone", the music is as bad as it gets and the theology is dreadful to say the least. If you looked at it and didn't know the history behind it you would surely think it was a joke. The sad part is, it wasn't.

So what does this mean and where are we going from here? I'm not perfectly sure. What we do know is our worship will be driven by scripture and themes. Those scriptures and themes will lead us to appropriate materials, including music, art, drama, etc... We are free to create and be creative. This means at times the choir and organ will lead us, other times a soloist and an instrumentalist. We will not be having drums every week, nor will we be having organ every week. Sometimes we will have both. We will seek a balance of styles, in those styles we will seek selections that are theologically solid, we will strive for excellence, we will rehearse, show reverence, be mindful of people's comfort levels, exhibit dignity, and make as worthy an offering as possible. Our worship is an offering to the Maker of heaven and earth and the Savior of our souls. We shall proceed accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Sager, Director of Music

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons is a nurturing arm of the church, with the care and concern for church members being the top priority. Deacons provide care in a confidential and comforting manner. Our traditional duties and responsibilities include the Prayer Chain, support for grieving members, visitation and care of shut-in and hospitalized members, home communion, emergency meals, transportation needs, cards and notes such as condolence, care and concern,

celebratory and birthday cards, care pamphlets by the library, and the Prayer Boards at the entrance doors. We are guided by the goals and objectives of our pastor our community and the policies and procedures outlined in the approved Deacon Manual.

The Deacon Board once again sponsored the Grief Support Workshop provided in the fall to our members and the surrounding community. This workshop is an 8-week series of presentations and discussions. Presentations were provided by the *New Hope Center for Grief Support* and discussions were facilitated by church members. Feedback told us that the workshop made a significant difference in the various grief journeys and participants felt welcome and cared for.

This year we attempted to “spread the responsibility” of this activity among all the members of the board. This worked, but it did not seem to be the most efficient means and there was some discussion about creating a separate committee to provide this meaningful and valuable service to our community. It cannot be overemphasized what a large activity this is and time commitment it requires should not be underestimated.

We continued to support and/or sponsor:

- Lunch Bunch - a monthly fellowship group that goes to lunch together on the last Sunday each month, after second service. We tried a Breakfast Bunch group also, but it never really caught on and had to be cancelled.
- Senior Resources – an information section on the slat boards in the main hallway. This contains a quarterly newsletter and brochures specifically targeted to seniors.
- Prayers for all members- we extended the practice of an expanded Prayer Chain which ensured that every church member and others in our community will be specifically prayed for during the course of the calendar year.
- Monthly articles in *Northbrook Notes* on a variety of topics, including health related issues.
- Hosting Coffee Hour

Marjorie provided processes and training for home communion. Special emphasis was placed on that mission this year. This is central to our pastor’s vision, so it will be continued.

In addition, Marjorie shared a part of her vision for the Deacon Board and we altered several processes:

First, each deacon accepted the responsibility for attempting to contact all special needs member, shut in’s etc. once per month. The objective was to insure that the members knew they were cared about and that any needs we may be able to assist them with would be addressed. As an adjunct to this, our previous method of having one Deacon responsible for sending birthday, get well cards, etc. to members was modified to require the Deacon responsible for that member to send the card. The goal is to further foster a relationship between the Deacon and individual members.

Second, given the limited resources and possible liability to our church, we discontinued the formal offerings of rides to members. We continued to attempt to facilitate people who needed rides to church functions by connecting those that needed transportation with those who lived in the general area and would be capable of providing it. However, this will be a much more ad hoc service as opposed to one the deacons would publicize.

The outgoing Deacons this year were Bob Golden who was fulfilling Barb Pyett’s last year, James Francis and Phil Owens. The incoming Deacons are Peggy Schilling, Bill Stetson and Jeff Wilhelmi.

On a personal note, as the moderator I would like to thank the board and the church for allowing me to serve. Further, I would like to thank Marjorie for better defining her objectives for our group. The mission of all Deacons is to help the pastor in the life of the church and this is made easier with the clear communication and guidance that she provides our group.

Respectfully submitted,
James Francis, Moderator

NORTHBROOK PRESCHOOL

Northbrook Preschool currently has 15 three year olds and 15 four year olds. Ideally, we would like to have at least 24 children enrolled in each program. We have made some additional changes this year to increase our enrollment. Our MWF children were given an option to add Tuesday and Thursday to their week again this year. We have 5 children registered for the program and are hoping to increase the numbers next year. The three year old program's extra day has 8 children currently enrolled and continues to be popular. We use the room #7 for those children attending on that day and on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the 4 year old children. We continue to offer extended days until 2:00 PM on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Eight children are currently enrolled. For the second year, we offered to have the three year olds eat lunch at school and stay until 2 pm in December. It was well received and we are now offering the extended day 1 to 2 times a month. This is an introduction to staying until 2 pm for the MWF program which prepares them for the full day experience in Kindergarten.

Due to the decreased enrollment, we have 5 teachers, one less than last year. Tricia LaSota works in our 3 year old program on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. She is the lead teacher for the Wednesday program. Barb Borich is the lead teacher for the Tuesday enrichment program for the four year olds. Kerry Callaghan, the Assistant Director works five days a week in both programs. We have a strong, experienced staff and continued to enrich the curriculum which meets and/or exceeds the core requirements set by the State of Michigan.

Due to poor attendance and cost, we will not be holding an Open House/ Registration this year. We continue to advertise, but our web site, sign, and reputation are the key factors in obtaining students for our program. With support from the Access Committee, we are sending postcards to target subdivisions via the post offices Every Door Direct Mail program. We are hoping this will increase our visibility and name recognition which in turn will increase our enrollment.

The warm friendly atmosphere, open door policy, Thanksgiving, Easter, Christmas, Mom's Valentine Party, Dad's Day, our farm trip, and the end of the year picnic all add to making Northbrook Preschool a great place for families and their children.

The success of our school is a direct result of the facilities, church support, and staff. The wonderful help from Barb and Kathy is greatly appreciated. Larry has been key to maintaining our classrooms and equipment. Evonne takes care of the daily cleaning of the classrooms. Also, Sherrill has been such a great source of help and her consultation has been so beneficial to all of us.

The Preschool and its staff continue to maintain our outstanding reputation in the community. A very high percentage of our students are siblings and friends of siblings, which is a strong endorsement of our program.

Northbrook Preschool contributed \$3,000.00 to the church this year.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Grim
Director

ACCESS COMMITTEE

The Access Committee has been very active this year, making strides to maintain systems already in place, making sure we provide easy access for Northbrook members and visitors.

We have been active promoting Northbrook by advertising in free community event announcements, in local papers (*Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle*, *Oakland Press*, *Royal Oak Tribune*) and on the local access TV channel. As events were brought to our attention we contacted the media outlets by printed article and announcement slides. Easter was our strongest advertising time with a full color ad that ran for two weeks. Christmas was again, a beautiful 1/3 page advertisement in the *Eagle*. We sent ads to our media partners regarding the Grief Workshop, Alternative Gift Market and advertised in the local Detroit Country Day Championship football Program.

Bill Jordan continues to update the wall monitors with pictures and announcements of coming events and services. This year we replaced the monitor computer and added new software that has more features and has the latest updates. Bill also continues to update and improve the website. Thanks so much, Bill, for your steadfastness and great contributions to communicating with the congregation and the community. We also have an active Facebook page, filled with pictures of Northbrook events.

We purchased new banners announcing our Summer Worship; "Journey Through the Wilderness". A special thanks to Keith Larson for the banner frames. We partnered with the Northbrook Preschool in an attempt to get children and parents involved and attending this outstanding school. We also spent budgeted money to help with a mailing to area residents and former parents that would encourage them to tell others about the school. We redesigned the friendship pads that are found at the outside aisle of the pews and encourage everyone to please sign them. We look forward to redesigning and reprinting the pew cards (blue) that will detail our single service.

In a cooperative effort with the Building and Grounds Committee, we recommended a re-stripping of the parking lot for handicapped parking, allowing more spaces. Again, thanks to that group for a great finished product. We are working on church signage together.

We are meeting with a consultant to help us develop a system for the library which will allow hearing impaired members and guests to increase their ability hear and thereby interact more comfortably in classes and discussions.

As committee chair, I would be remiss not to mention the work, contributions and effort of the committee. They have my deepest appreciation for their time and talents. The committee this year consisted of Carol Marsh, Janine Moran, Bill Jordan, Bob Golden, Tom Jarabek, Sherrill Heinrichs, and the newest member, Derek Stottlemeyer.

Faithfully,
Brian Long

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Adult Education committee continues its mandate to bring challenging programs to the entire Northbrook congregation and interested community members and friends to lifelong learning as essential aspects of the Christian life. We are people of faith "living the love of Jesus Christ." The fellowship of believers helps in our development as citizens and followers of Jesus as we spread his love to the greater community.

This past year has brought a shift in programming with the strongest emphasis on Biblical study as led by Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi whose numerous series were ones that drew the largest attendance and had a most profound impact on those attending. The fellowship of sharing interpretations of Scripture and life experiences continue to stretch our minds throughout our daily lives. Deep gratitude goes out to Marjorie for her exciting grasp of the Bible and Biblical history. We continue to reach out in daytime brown bag lunches with book discussions, movies, and lectures. Any suggestions for future programming are welcome.

Plans are in place to continue our core programs. However, new opportunities in health care, hospice care, senior adult issues, Medicare, issues of death and dying, and other issues/problems with which we might be of assistance will strengthen our congregational life.

SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class with Rev. Thom Heinrichs

Began the year with a study of the prophets—Jeremiah, followed by Daniel. Then a study of the Acts of the Apostles. The present and continuing discussion centers around *The Words that We Live By*. EXCELLENT!

11:00a.m. Sunday morning Bible study led by Michael Bauhof and Grant Burnham—the text is Feasting on the Word taken from the lectionary and Rev. Marjorie’s sermons. All are welcome in either of these vibrant study/discussion opportunities.

MENS CONNECTION—morning breakfast/study/fellowship. This group began with a study by Adam Hamilton’s book Why? Making Sense of God’s Will. Then they began viewing Rev. Tony Campolo’s films; later accessing the Presbytery Resource Center with videos on *Three Great Monotheistic Religions/One God*; now viewing films on the branches of Christianity. This is a beautiful way to begin Thursdays, men.

WEDNESDAY MORNING/EVENING BIBLE Study—Rev. Marjorie began the year with a 18-week in-depth study of Shirley Guthrie’s CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE/on the Reformed Tradition and Why we Believe it. This class was extremely challenging in content with the participants writing their own faith statement to support their beliefs at the end of the class. On completion of that series she shifted to an Old Testament study—What is the Story? After Thanksgiving-we had a short study of the significance of Advent and what it means to celebrate this holy time. Our thanks go out to you, Marjorie, for the wisdom and preparation time you bring to these experiences. Plus they make studying FUN! The opportunities to grow together abound.

EXPLORING PRAYER— Takes place the 3rd Tuesday evening in the sanctuary for a nine-month journey of exploring different styles of prayer and meditation. Led by Pastor Marjorie, this is a beautiful, quiet, peaceful experience lasts 45 minutes and begins at 6:00 p.m. Marjorie supplements this class through the month with messages of encouragement by e-mail.

A Synopsis of this year’s Adult FOCUS programs: Mitch Albom’s film *Have a Little Faith*; SAVE OUR CHILDREN COALITION with Katie Pace Sander updating us on the children in Michigan’s foster care program; The Orphan Train Ancestry presented by Arlene Robinson who spoke about the large number of orphans who were placed in Michigan families after being orphaned by families in the east or in Europe; *The Way*, a beautiful and poignant film by Martin Sheen about walking the pilgrimage walk from southern Pyrenees across northern Spain to San Sebastian and shared with us by Co Abatt; Paulette Lein’s presentation and important book discussion on Isabel Wilkerson’s The Warmth of Other Suns, covering covers the three migrations of African-Americans during the 40s, 50s, 60s., very important in helping to understand the experiences of citizens in Detroit, Milwaukee, and Chicago, among others. Our thanks go out to each and all of you for your service.

KNIT WITS- 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.— What a great opportunity to do needlework and mental health at the same time! The prayer shawl ministry begun by Mary Hendrien during this year has been especially appreciated by members and friends who need extra comfort during tough times or illness.

Area Agency on Aging held a large symposium in Sterling Heights that gave Lenore Mueller and me a major insight to the greater needs as our population ages. There will be more on this in 2013.

Our thanks go out to each of our committee members who come to meetings prepared with great ideas for future programming. Kudos to Sherrill Heinrichs, our staff representative, who facilitates contacts quickly through her computer. Her work with making the labyrinth available to this congregation has been such a gift! Thanks again, Sherrill.

Great goodness go out to Rev. Thom Heinrichs, Grant Burnham, and Michael Bauhof for the generosity of spirit and heart each of you have shown in the sharing of wisdom through volunteering to teach for many years of study, whether formally or informally. Your commitment is appreciated.

Also on the committee are Lenore Mueller, Jo Colville, Co Abatt, Nancy Gifford, Mary Hendrien, and our newest elder member, Lois Kurta. This is a group who has worked tirelessly on this program for many years. Blessings on each of you for the excitement you bring for lifelong learning.

Respectfully submitted,
Seglinda Kelle-Pritchard

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Well, I continue to be excited to be a part of this committee. These are people who love the children of Northbrook and work hard at creating new and exciting ways of helping them Live the Love of Jesus Christ. The committee is composed of Joyce Hamburg, Karen Vander Weide, Mary Butler, Margaret Babb, myself, and our amazing Christian Education Director, Sherrill Heinrichs. I love working with all these women and appreciate them so much for their time and talents.

We are responsible for KIDS' Connection on Sunday mornings which includes picking great curriculum and getting dedicated and loving teachers for the nursery and classes through 5th grade. I can't thank these teachers and caregivers enough for all the time and effort they put in to teaching, and loving and caring for our children.

Our very active and well attended LOGOS program on Wednesday afternoons also falls under this committee. It takes a lot of volunteers and staff to run this so successfully and we appreciate them all so much. From teachers, to table parents, to cooks, to worship leaders, to those who clean up, we couldn't do it without all of you!

We also have a mission program called *Where in the World Kids*. It is primarily for our Kindergarten through 5th graders, but we always invite parents and siblings and anyone else to join us. We do mission projects inside and outside church (we shopped for and made Easter baskets for children of prisoners at Oakland County jail), make crafts to sell at the alternative gift market (very popular sheep this year!), Christmas carol at Evergreen Nursing Home, and again served a successful pancake breakfast to contribute funds to Ryan Rocks outdoor adventures (a wonderful organization founded by the Millers in honor of their son Ryan).

Again I love being a part of this committee not only because I get to work with wonderful people but because helping to train up our children is what we are all called to do as part of our baptismal vows. This is what God asks of us. We welcome ALL help in any of our programs or this committee. Please come and give it a try. You won't be sorry you did!

In Christ,

Kathy Bauhof
Chairperson

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Our Task Statement: We encourage fellowship among individuals, families, guests and visitors to help them to know one another and to develop meaningful relations within the Northbrook community. This is achieved through fellowship and special events including socials, funeral and memorial receptions, outings, picnics, potlucks, team events, coffee hour, etc. We actually consider ourselves the "entertainment committee." Our committee is also responsible for new members, helping them to become involved in the life of the Northbrook community. Our committee also has two sub-committees under its umbrella: Northbrook Garage Sale and Presbyterian Women of Northbrook.

We began the New Year with the Annual Meeting luncheon on January 22. In February we hosted an inter-generational Bowling Night on the 12th. April brought our first annual Rib Luncheon as a fundraiser for our Race for the Cure team. This was a huge success and will be put on again in 2013. Mother's Day we provided carnation corsages for all the ladies. May 19th CLC helped host the Second Mile Center Art Auction. In June we celebrated several High School, College and Graduate School Graduations. We had 16 honorees! October brought us the annual Chili Cook-off which was a great success. In November CLC hosted a lunch for the Advent Christmas decorating. In December we celebrated Christmas with our now annual Cookies and Carols. Twice a month Judy Owen provides a Soup Supper on Thursdays for our senior members.

Our committee also graciously provided luncheons and/or receptions for several of our members who had been called home to the Rolls of the Church Triumphant.

None of the above would be possible without the combined effort of a wonderful committee: Cheryl Clemens, Sue Koss, Connie McGuineas, Judy Owen, Phil Owen, Bill Stetson, and Barb Stetson. I would like to thank each of them for their hard work, their dedication and their willingness to do whatever is needed.

Kimberly Bowden-Adair, Elder
CLC Chairperson

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF NORTHBROOK

Presbyterian Women of Northbrook is a diverse group of women who serve the church, our community and the world by living the love of Jesus Christ.

PWN plays an active role in many aspects of church life. With pledges and donations we continue to support many missions like Christian Women United and Big Family of Michigan. We gave 4 college scholarships to church members for \$1,600. We sold "Shop for a Cause" coupons sponsored by Macy's to give to our missions. In November PWN participated in the Alternative Market and raised money for "Bead for Life" which supports Ugandan women trying to escape poverty and Beaumont Hospital's Sharing and Caring Breast Cancer Support Group. We are currently collecting returnable cans and bottles which will also be used for our mission work.

PWN supports the FUN group. This is a group of women of all ages who come together to enjoy FUN activities like game night, going to a play, a Tiger baseball game and a monthly informal book discussion. Thanks to the leaders of this group for their enthusiasm and energy in providing FUN options for the women of the church.

To honor the women of Northbrook Church we hosted a coffee hour in February during "Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday". In May we sponsored a Spiritual Tea with Marjorie as our guest speaker. Also, in December we hosted the PWPD Gathering an event that brings together all the Presbyterian women from the Presbytery of Detroit. And finally, we collected cold weather items for the Mitten Tree for Second Mile.

Special thanks to the Coordinating Team of Bev Crosthwaite, Joyce Hamburg, Mary Simons, Audrey Upward, Barbara Davidson, Connie McGuineas and Roberta Campion .

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Stetson, Moderator

MISSION CONNECTION COMMITTEE

Your financial gifts, prayerful support and hands-on work make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors at home and around the world! As a congregation we touch hearts, meet urgent needs and share the Good News of Jesus Christ through our mission giving.

Northbrook Presbyterian Church designates 10% of its annual budget to the Mission Connection Committee to distribute as well as all other gifts given to the church. The committee also raises money for mission throughout the year through the offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with a percentage of some of these offerings used for missions in our local area, as well as through fundraisers like the Chili Cook-off, the *Where in the World Kids'* Pancake Breakfast and the garage sale, and our yearly Alternative Gift Market. Collection bins for clothing, magazines, calendars are located in the center hallways and are distributed to Fort Street and Westminster churches on a weekly basis.

The following is a list of our budgeted Mission spending from the congregation's yearly pledges:

A Place of Refuge	\$1,500.00
American Indian Health	1,000.00
Angel Tree	25.00
Baldwin Ave Community Center	1,500.00
Bound Together	750.00
Care House of Oakland County	1,000.00
Cass Corridor Youth Adv.	1,500.00
City Mission	1,000.00
Detroit Shared Mission	6,500.00
Ecumenical Ctr/Int. Residence	1,500.00
Ecumenical Theo. Sem.	500.00
Emergency Walk-In Pastor Fund	3,000.00
Ft. Street Open Door	938.18
Freedom House Outreach	1,500.00
Gambell Presbyterian	1,000.00
Gen. Assembly Shared Mission	4,000.00
Habitat Blitz Build	2,000.00
Hands-On Mission Projects	1,000.00
H.E.L.P.	500.00
Howell Center	500.00
Hunger Program	2,000.00
Lighthouse Emergency	1,000.00
Mission Yearbooks	135.00
Missionary Support 1	1,500.00
Missionary Support 2	1,500.00
Kenya	500.00
Open Door Rescue Mission	1,000.00
Samaritan Counseling Center	500.00
Second Mile Center	2,000.00
S. Oakland City for Homeless	2,000.00
S.O.S.	1,000.00
Synod Shared Mission	1,600.00
Theological Education Fund	500.00
Undesignated	<u>5,781.82</u>
Subtotal:	\$52,230.00

The following is a list of our additional Mission spending that came from Congregational donations and funds:

Missionary support from MacKay Fund	6,666.66
Syria Relief	1,000.00
Chili Cook-Off for Ft. St. Open Door	619.00
Alternative Gift Market:	
SERRV	1,107.00
Eq. Exchange Coffee& Chocolate	767.20
Pal Craft	472.00
UNICEF	362.00
Cass Community	25.00
Presbyterian Missions Support	614.00
Knit Wits	136.00
Kenya Missions	15.00
Ghana Missions	5.00
Maya Works	61.00
PWN Beads for Life	563.00
Partners for Just Trade	221.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	265.00
Heifer Project	370.00
MI Animal Anti-Cruelty Soc.	100.00
FashionABLE	36.00
Gently Used Items	39.00
Gleaners Backpack Program	5.00
Hurricane Sandy Relief	10,160.00
Hygiene Kits	130.00
Ryan Rocks Outdoor Adventures	1,000.00
Presbytery USA Offerings:	
Christmas Joy Offering	1,834.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,298.02
Pentecost Collection	663.00
Peacemaking Offering	669.75
A Place of Refuge via Men's Connection	350.00
Presb. Women of Northbrook:	
Breast Cancer Bracelets	20.00
Scholarships	2,000.00
Race for the Cure Rib Luncheon	1,077.80
Grace Centers for Hope	100.00
Gleaners	100.00
Big Family, MI	100.00
Church Women United/Least Coin	113.85
Seminary Student Loan	3,000.00
WITW Kids Easter Bks. Prisoners' Children	<u>329.50</u>
Subtotal:	37,355.78

Total Mission Giving: \$89,585.78

The Mission Connection Committee also provides opportunities for people of all ages to witness their faith with compassion by participating in hands-on mission experiences to help others in our community and around the world. Members of our congregation participated in the following hands-on mission work this year:

Alternative Gift Market
Angel Tree - 91 Angels filled
Barnabas Youth Opportunities Center Painting Day
Common Ground Sanctuary
Garage Sale
Sponsored Second Mile Art Auction
Kroger Community Rewards
LOGOS New Signs for Mission Collection Boxes
Food Drive for Second Mile
Northbrook Sponsored the Presbytery of Detroit Mission Fair
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Second Mile Center
WITW Kids Nursing Home Singing
World Medical Relief Hands On Work Group

American House Get-togethers
Barnabas Youth Opportunities Center Flower Planting
Chili Cook-off benefiting Fort Street Open Door
Fort Street Open Door
Health Festival at Second Mile
Knit Wits and Shawl Mission
LOGOS A Soldier's Valentine
Macy's Shop for a Cause
Martinsburg Youth Mission Trip
PWN Mitten Tree
Pink Warriors Breast Cancer Walk
Weather Disaster Victims
WITW Kids Easter Baskets for Prisoners' Children

None of the above would have been possible without the combined effort of a wonderful committee: Bryan Adair, Sue Boese, Winnie Davies-Hancock, Trisha LaSota, Carl VonEnde, Seglinda Pritchard, and Sherrill Heinrichs. I thank each and every one of them for their hard work, their dedication and their willingness to do whatever is needed. I would also like to give special thanks for the guidance, fantastic knowledge, and passion for mission of our staff advisor, Sherrill Heinrichs; to Seglinda Pritchard for her on-going passion for Fort Street Open Door which includes weekly delivery of clothing collections and leading the quarterly on-site support to; of Northbrook members; to Winnie Davies-Hancock for countless hours and tireless efforts to make the Alternative Gift Market such a success, to Tricia LaSota and Sue Boese for their coordination of our Angel Tree; and to Carl VonEnde for all his hours of research and planning of the upcoming 2013 Adult Mission Trip.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Wicker, Chairperson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2012 Nominating Committee

Bill Jordan – Chairperson, Session member
Kim Bowden-Adair – Session member
Mary Hendrien – Deacon member
Vicki Back
Edna Gatsby
Dick Keier
Connie McGuineas

This year's Nominating Committee met in July along with staff members Sherrill Heinrichs and Marjorie Wilhelmi to select a slate of nominees to fill six (6) three-year positions on Session, three (3) three-year positions on the Board of Deacons, and two (2) two-year positions on next year's Nominating Committee. The following nominees were presented:

Nominees for Elder, Class of 2015:

Winnie Davies-Hancock	Lois Kurta
Derek Stottlemyer	Larry Guindi
Judie Murdock	Karen Vander Weide

Nominees for Deacon, Class of 2015:

Peggie Schiller Jeff Wilhelmi
Bill Stetson

Nominees for Nominating Committee, Class of 2014:

Michael Bauhof Barb Stetson

This slate of nominees was elected for these positions at Northbrook Congregational Meetings on October 21, 2012 and, due to a change in the nominee list, on December 16, 2012.

Thank you to the members of the Nominating Committee for their service and to Marjorie and Sherrill for their help in this process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Jordan, Chairperson

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

There were a few changes to the Staff at Northbrook in 2012. In August with a heavy heart we said good-bye to Grace Iglehart our Youth Director. At the same time William Clemens left his position as Sunday custodian to attend college. In September we were blessed to have the position of Youth Director filled by Ken Stetson. We were also able to fill the position of Sunday custodian.

The committee reinstated the important task of staff reviews. The yearly process of reviewing all staff members is important for the growth of the staff and for connection to one another and Northbrook members.

With the completion of Marjorie Wilhelmi's second year as pastor we are blessed to have her energy and devotion to our Committee and the members of Northbrook.

We are so grateful to have such a dedicated core staff: Sherrill Heinrichs – Director of Christian Education, Todd Sagër – Director of Music, Dan Gross – Director of Contemporary Music, Barb Paulson – Administrative Secretary, Kathy Varnas – Financial Secretary, Pam Grim - Pre-School Director, Larry Brown – Custodian and our new member of the staff, Ken Stetson – Youth Director. Without their commitment to Northbrook we would not have the continuity in all our church programs.

Many thanks to the members of the Personnel Committee for their faithful service this past year. Terri Hurbis, Portia McDonald, Frank LaSota (new member) and Marjorie Wilhelmi spent many valuable hours to insure the best support for the staff.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Burnham, Chair

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION TEAM (P.Y.C.T.)

2012 was a very fun and productive year in youth ministry. Both the mid- and senior high youth groups met weekly for Bible study, games, and fellowship throughout the school year and the summer.



The mid-high and senior high youth groups started out the year with a winter retreat at Spring Hill camp in northern Michigan. The kids (and adults) had the amazing experience of worshiping with a rock band and 700 other people, listened to a wonderful speaker who encouraged us to grow in our relationships with God, grew closer as a group, played broomball, went tubing, and just got to hang out together.

For the senior high mission trip this year we went to Martinsburg, West Virginia to do home repair for local residents. This kind of work lets us help make a big difference in the lives of people who really need it. Thanks to Grace Iglehart, Kenny Stetson, and Joyce Vander Weide for giving of their time and talents on this trip. Thank you to the whole congregation for your year-long support of the mission program through our various fundraisers. You have helped make a difference in the lives of our youth and the people of Martinsburg.

One highlight of the summer is always our week at camp. This year we once again partnered with Orchard UMC and went to Loon Lake Retreat Center in Hale, MI (the camp formerly known as Mahn-Go-Tah-See). Our theme this year was "Going the Distance." In our morning devotions, daily Bible study, and evening devotions, we learned how we can run God's race by persevering, being flexible, being focused, practicing, and being coached by Jesus and other Christians. We also had a lot of fun with our evening activities, campers choice activities, meal times, and everything else. Thanks to all the counselors and junior counselors; it is because of you that the week was so amazing!



Once again, we have had a busy fall and are excited to continue into the spring with our various fellowship, Bible study, worship, and mission activities. Both the mid and senior high youth groups had weekend retreats (at Camp Mahn-Go!) where we did Bible study, played games, did team building activities, and cooked some meals on the campfire.



This summer we said good-bye to Grace Iglehart and welcomed Kenny Stetson to the position of youth director. We have been very blessed to have such amazing youth directors. Our thanks goes out to Grace for the three years that she spent leading our youth. And to Kenny for starting this year with so much energy and enthusiasm. Also thanks to Joyce Vander Weide, Meg Bauhof, and Meredith Riggan for your dedication to the youth by working regularly with the mid highs and/or senior highs. Thank you to all the members of the PYCT committee this year for your work planning and coordinating all these amazing events: Bonnie Annett, Kim Annett, Claire LaSota, Jimmy Mack, Joyce Vander Weide, and Tracey Watt.

In Christ,
Karen Vander Weide
PYCT Chair and Youth Advisor

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

As part of Session, the Worship and Music Committee has the goal of providing meaningful, spiritual and enriching worship experiences for all that come to worship at Northbrook. The committee is responsible for overseeing the coordination and scheduling of Communion preparation and servers, greeters, ushers and liturgists. Other areas of responsibility include providing for the weekly and seasonal plants and flowers related to worship and the sanctuary; special seasonal decorations; and providing support for the worship and music programs.

The year was filled with celebrations and remembrances. A special Ash Wednesday Service began the Lenten season. Followed by palms decorating the church for Palm Sunday and Taize-style service for Maundy Thursday. On Easter day, a special service was presented to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

For the summer we combined services and had one service at 9:31 based on Acts 9:31-“Meanwhile, the church through Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.” This one service was outside, in Fellowship Hall or was in the Sanctuary depending on the elements of the music and liturgy of the service.

In October we had a special guest musician Dr. Calvin Taylor who presented a Sermon-in-Songs worship format featuring scriptures followed by musical selections.

Also, in October the Worship and Music Committee presented a motion to Session to go to one worship service. The motion passed and the change will be effective early in 2013.

The Advent season opened with the “Hanging of the Greens” event during which a lunch was served by the Congregational Life Committee, followed by the decorating of the church with the festive Christmas decorations. The early Christmas Eve service the whole story of Christmas told in story, scripture and song. The later Christmas Eve Service was a Taize-style worship with lessons and carols. In both services everyone was presented with a candle that was lit during the singing of “Silent Night”.

I would like to thank the dedicated and committed members of the Worship and Music Committee: Kim Alger-Norton, Cheryl Clemens, Nancy Gifford, Todd Sager and Marjorie Wilhelmi. Plus, I would like to thank our “support” group of Bill Travis and Diane Joppie for sanctuary door greeters and Joyce Hamburg for Communion preparation.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Voight-Stetson, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance section of the Annual Report will be distributed as a separate document. The close proximity timing of the Session meeting to approve the 2013 budget and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation prevented the Finance report from being included in the Annual Report pages.

Bill Travis
Finance Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE GROWTH FUND

Northbrook Presbyterian Church

**Building Endowment Balance Sheet
December 31, 2012**

	\$
Current Assets	
Due From General Fund	7,973.10
Income Fund - New Covenant	43,055.41
Growth Fund - New Covenant	<u>225,217.70</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>276,246.21</u>
Total Assets	<u>276,246.21</u>
Net Pledges Received	348,500.72
Transfer From MacKay Endowment Fund	100,000.00
Retained Funds - see below	<u>(172,254.51)</u>
Total Fund	<u>276,246.21</u>

<u>Schedule of Retained Funds</u>	Cum Through <u>Prior Year</u>	Cum Current Year To <u>Date</u>	Retained <u>Funds</u>
Interest	69,942.81	3,510.77	73,453.58
Capital Gain/(Loss)	27,315.57	31,122.26	58,437.83
Total Receipts	97,258.38	34,633.03	131,891.41
Projects	(301,021.06)	-	(301,021.06)
Supplies & Other	<u>(3,124.86)</u>	-	<u>(3,124.86)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>(304,145.92)</u>	-	<u>(304,145.92)</u>
Cumulative Receipts Over/(Under) Expenditures	<u>(206,887.54)</u>	34,633.03	<u>(172,254.51)</u>

MackKay Endowment Balance Sheet

December 31, 2012

\$

Current Assets

Due From General Fund	5,152.73	
Balanced Growth Fund - New Covenant	<u>512,044.54</u>	
Total Current Assets		<u>517,197.27</u>

Total Assets

517,197.27

Estate Receipts

Gross Receipts		644,901.26	
Less Transfers To Other Funds			
Mission Fund	(64,490.13)		
Office Renovation Fund	(25,697.36)		
Roof Fund	(80,000.00)		
Pastor Search Fund	(1,658.31)		
Building Endowment Fund	<u>(100,000.00)</u>	<u>(271,845.80)</u>	373,055.46

Retained Funds - see below

144,141.81

Total Fund

517,197.27

<u>Schedule of Retained Funds</u>	Cum Through <u>Prior Year</u>	Cum Current Year To <u>Date</u>	Retained Funds
Interest	16,867.79	8,245.66	25,113.45
Capital Gain/(Loss)	81,139.47	45,791.63	126,931.10
Fund Utilization	(3,233.97)	(4,668.77)	(7,902.74)
Cumulative Receipts Over/(Under) Expenditures	<u>94,773.29</u>	<u>49,368.52</u>	<u>144,141.81</u>

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

*O Lord, support us all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and
the fever of life is over...
and our work is done.
Then in your mercy...
Grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest,
and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

In Memory of those Transferred to the Rolls of the Church Triumphant in 2012

Lynette Brown	Walter Louis Dellinger	Jean MacLaclan
Jean Burdakin	Tracy Franks	Carl Neppach
Carl Capello	David Leckie	Dan Nesbitt
Gertrude Chappell	Gretchen Lyon	Alma Wetters