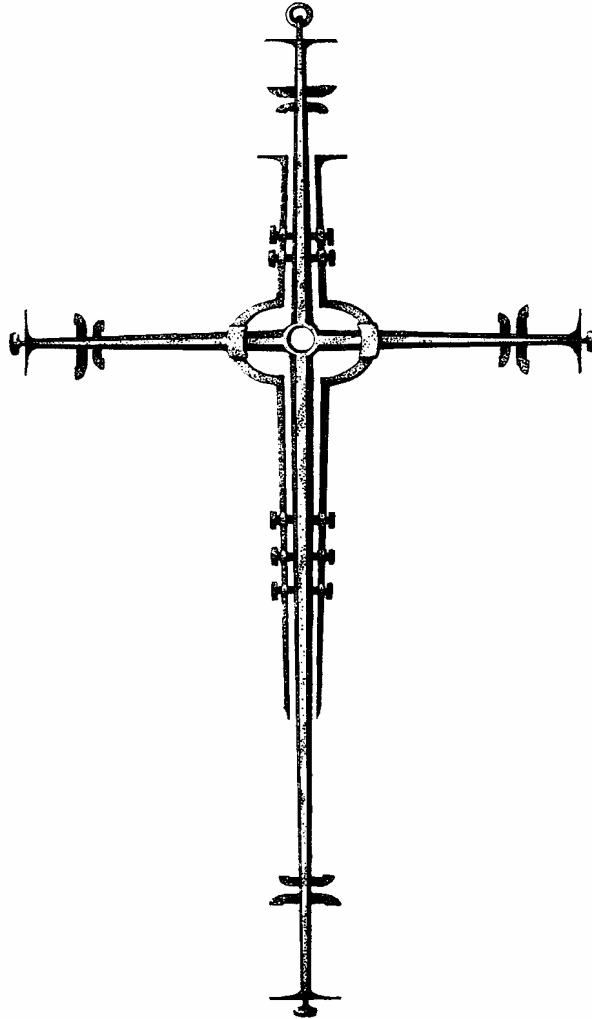


WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
611 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



Report of the
NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
Of the Congregation
Sunday, September 28, 2008
12:00 P.M.

DOCKET

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER (Rev. Dr. Tim Beal)

ELECTION OF ELDERS

RECEIPT OF 2007/2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

REPORT ON STATUS OF BUILDING

TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS

Motion for approval of 2008-2009 clergy remuneration

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

CLOSING PRAYER (Rev. Nancy Lincoln-Reynolds)

WRITTEN REPORTS

THE SESSION MINISTRIES

	PAGE
1. Ministry of Property Management	2
2. Ministry of Family Life	3
3. Ministry of Christian Education	4
4. Ministry to the Local and World Community.....	5
a. Mission Giving Report	6
5. Ministry to the Congregation.....	7
a. Membership, Necrology	7
b. Board of Deacons Reports.....	7
6. Ministry of Welcome & Evangelism	8
7. Ministry of Worship	9
8. Ministry to Youth	9
9. Ministry of Policies and Personnel	12
10. Ministry of Stewardship and Finance and Budget	12
a. 2007/2008 Year end Financial Results	13
b. Operating Budget 2008/2009	13
11. Building Committee	14
12. Capital Campaign.....	14

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION 15

THE FOUR ANCILLARY BOARDS

Woodwise.....	16
Pastoral Counseling Center.....	16
The Community Center.....	17
Child Development Center.....	18

LIST OF ELDERS AND DEACONS AS OF July 1, 2008 19

2007 - 2008 ANNUAL REPORTS

Ministry of Property Management

Ministry Mission Statement:

The mission of the Property Management Ministry is to provide oversight of the physical structure, grounds and all associated property of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church so that the members can accomplish the work of God in a safe and secure setting. While providing support of all kinds, the ministry shall provide expert advice in the area of property management, maintenance, landscaping, and associated maintenance support services.

Ongoing Ministries:

- “Rehabs” are a group of men and women that meet each Thursday morning for breakfast before taking care of a wide variety of maintenance tasks in and around the Church.
- The beautiful gardens around the Church are cared for and improved by Jane Iglehart and other dedicated members. Jane is in the process of turning over the lead of this ministry to Elizabeth Wyble. Thanks, Jane, for all your efforts and caring of the church grounds
- Working with the Building Committee on matters relating to the upcoming construction.
- We continue to maintain and improve the buildings and grounds.
- Support the many volunteers, including the REHABS, in their efforts of improving and maintaining the properties.
- Find ways to save money and still meet the needs of the congregation and community.
- Find and implement energy saving solutions.
- Provide the best possible support to the Church Staff, Session, Ministries, Committees, and the Congregation.

Current Year’s Accomplishments:

- Replacement of the sanctuary heat and air conditioning unit
- Care for the landscaping around the church
- Replacement of exterior CDC office door
- Repair and replacement of lobby baseboards
- Installation of speakers in the gallery for overflow services
- Cleaning of sanctuary and fellowship hall ceiling beams
- Care and maintenance of important trees
- Fall leaf rake
- Painting of CDC Classrooms
- CDC Intercom installation
- Table tops for fellowship hall
- Installation of new kitchen steamer
- New door closures for the sanctuary doors
- General painting throughout the church
- Siding repair outside of the church library
- Implemented “Environmental Initiative” to reduce maintenance costs and initiate looking toward making Woods Church “Green”-friendly
- Repair and replacement of offices windows which had lost their thermo pane seal

Future Ministry Goals:

- Selection of exterior painting contractor to repair and paint shingles and trim including the steeple
- Repair failed seal in steeple windows
- Remove alkali stains on cement block around the stairways to the Lobby, Narthex and Sanctuary

- Replace caulk on the cement railings at all entrances
- Manage the trees that will be affected by the new construction and may include moving or replacement of memorial trees
- Assist in the new construction plans, including the storm water runoff areas and the planting that will go along with them
- Replace doors, windows and air conditioners in the 150 wing
- Rework and remodel cabinets in 150 wing
- Replace the main entry signs (after construction)
- Refinish chancel floors
- Replace radiators in Room 401 and fellowship hall
- Replace windows in Room 401
- Replace carpet in Room 401
- There are many other items on our Future Project list that will be done as time and funds permit
- Develop a comprehensive list of all major future maintenance projects, the date last accomplished, their costs, and their approximate due date so projected future maintenance expenses can be planned.

Family Life Ministry

The Family Life Ministry seeks to develop programs to strengthen and support families of all ages and stages in our congregation (inter-generational), in accordance with our vows at baptisms. These include programs of Christian nurture and faith development as well as fellowship activities which connect us with others in our faith family.

Our faith based events such as Vacation Bible School (July 23 – 27, 2007 afternoons), the Advent Festival (Dec. 2, 3 – 7 pm) and Ash Wednesday activities (Feb. 6, 5:30 – 7:30) continue to grow to a filled-to-capacity level. There was a full house at both of the Children’s Christmas Eve services, which Family Life helps Christian Education with, and the TGIF Family Movie Nights were well attended by young families from the church and the CDC. Family Life also participated in the Educator’s Sunday prior to the school year starting welcoming Dr. Maxwell, the Anne Arundel County Public School Superintendent, and passing out apples for all the educators in the congregation.

Family Life also provided support and coordination to the SERRV Shop and Beads for Life jewelry sales during the Mission Marketplace in December. Discounted clearance items had been bought after Christmas 2006, so SERRV sales continued for five Sundays before Christmas. Over \$11,100 was sold, which was the most ever.

This year we also co-sponsored, with Local and World Ministry, an evening concert by the African group Milele. This group filled the sanctuary with joyful rhythm and even got some of the “frozen chosen” members up out of their seats clapping to the beat.

Coordinated by Karen Royer, the Family Life childcare services continued to provide paid childcare for parents participating in church activities, especially for ChristCare groups with that need.

As the end of the 2008 program year found the church redefining our purpose and vision, the Family Life Ministry began preparing for our new role as part of the Families with Children Ministry. To support the Woods’ vision of “Becoming more like Jesus” through spiritual growth, this new ministry will combine Sunday School activities with Family Life events to better strengthen the faith journey of our children and their families.

Christian Education Ministry

Our mission is to offer quality educational and fellowship programs for children and adults in which we learn about and experience the Good News of God's love, strive for an ever-deepening understanding of our relationship with God in Christ, and discover how best to put our faith into practice as Christ's disciples.

2007-2008 was a year of transition and growth. We welcomed Laura Albanese as Director of Children's Ministry—she brought her energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspective to our ministry. This year middle school and high school education transitioned to the Youth Ministry. CE also spent time this year re-organizing itself under Woods' new vision to launch two new ministries for 2008-2009—Families with Children and Adult Education.

Children's Ministries provides comprehensive Christian education for children from cribbery through 5th grade to give them a solid foundation in faith. Highlights of the year include:

- ✚ Teaching approximately 360 enrolled students
- ✚ Providing 3rd grade Bibles to over 40 children (including those we missed from 4th and 5th grade the years before)
- ✚ Sponsoring a Communion Class in the spring for twenty families
- ✚ Building the foundation for Workshop Rotation (a new format which allows children to experience the stories of the Bible) beginning in September 2008
- ✚ Collaborating with Local and World Ministry in Sunday School events—Mission Day in December, collecting health kits during Lent, promoting the Crop Walk with kids
- ✚ Partnering with Family Life Ministry for Christmas Eve service and Vacation Bible School
- ✚ Distributing weekly communication between staff and Sunday School teachers
- ✚ Offering the First Ever Bring Your Parents to Sunday School in June

As one student expressed it, "Sunday School is like steps..., each one you get closer to God."

Adult Education enjoyed a record breaking year in terms of attendance. Participation increased by 54% over 2006-2007 as a result of offering a variety of classes, small groups, special events and retreats designed to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation.

The Men's and Women's Bible Studies and Disciple Classes continue to grow in both numbers and opportunities for faith journeys. A member of a disciple group reported that they felt they were getting "a meaningful foundation toward becoming a truly devoted disciple."

Other classes included great faith life applications such as Caring for Creation, Humble Servant Leadership, Spiritual Discernment and Dark Night of the Soul. Bible Studies are offered on Sunday mornings, evenings and throughout the week. This year participants explored the Bible and its history as well as in depth studies of specific books of the Bible. The Revelation classes culminated with Tom Key's One Man Revelation show which was said to be "brilliant and inspiring".

And finally from a participant who sums up what we strive to provide for all members throughout the year, "In more ways that I can enumerate I was nurtured, stretched and blessed by this year's women's retreat weekend. Thank you for feeding me on so many levels..."

Small Group Ministry –ChristCare is committed to enabling Christians to be transformed by the power of Christ through small group Bible study, prayer and worship, fellowship and mission, so that they may serve Christ more faithfully in the world. This year we offered 17 different ChristCare groups, which addressed a wide variety of topics. We offer groups exclusively for men or women, as well as co-ed groups and thematic groups (ex- for mothers of young children). We continue to recruit and train new leaders to form additional groups, and have been instrumental in helping new members deepen an understanding of their faith and building small group programs out of successful adult education classes.

Library Ministry—Our library is full of wonderful resources for your perusal and for you to borrow. The library committee has been busy cataloguing all the books into a database, weeding out old books and reorganizing the space to ensure we have an inviting and appealing library. We have supplementary materials for adult education offerings as well as new books for children and adults. Stop by and check out our collection of large print books, DVD, movies, CDs, magazines, and more.

Ministry to Local and World Community

The mission of the ministry to Local and World Community is to promote, encourage and resource the efforts of Woods to be God's instrument of blessing in the world. Together we empower mission with financial support, volunteers and the use of our building. We support more than 30 organizations in the areas of affordable housing, elderly and disabled support, hunger relief, homeless support, and nurture of children and families beyond our congregation.

Throughout the year, the ministry helps members of Woods engage in direct service and more than 700 people have been involved in Mission activities this year. Woods' financial support is divided between direct support to local projects and support of mission at the Presbytery and General Assembly levels. This year we pledged 3 years of financial support for two PC(USA) missionaries to run the crisis nursery in Mzuzu, Malawi for children abandoned or orphaned because of AIDS or other life threatening conditions and two members of the congregation participated in a travel study seminar to Malawi. This is part of Woods' growing partnership with Ministry of Hope and PC (USA) and it is our hope to expand our global involvement both in Malawi and the wider world.

Our congregation is very active in building decent affordable housing with Brooklyn Curtis Bay Coalition, Arundel Habitat for Humanity, and Rebuilding Together. This year we completed the second of a five year financial pledge supporting Habitat. We support homeless shelters in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore city and serve as a host for one week of a rotating emergency winter shelter. Woods Church volunteers help prepare, pack and deliver over 30,000 meals annually for Meals on Wheels and Harundale Free Lunch Program. We provide non-perishable food, financial support and volunteers to Severna Park Assistance Network. Woods is also the community sponsor for the Anne Arundel County Representative Payee program assisting low income individuals unable to handle their finances.

At Christmas we provide more than 300 gifts to local families in need. Scholarship funds for children in the Woods Child Development Center are also part of our mission as is a scholarship for Meadowbrook Preparatory school in Jamaica offered to a child from our sister Church, Meadowbrook United in Kingston, Jamaica,. We also offer support by means of volunteers and school supplies to Glen Burnie Park Elementary School, Ben Franklin Middle School and the Hau Kola Learning Camps in S. Dakota. In addition, we support the Severna Park Community Center whose programs are offered in a Christian environment open to all.

Many organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Scouts, and various community associations enjoy the use of our facilities. This ministry also organizes our participation in four special offerings each year CROP Walk, Christmas Joy Offering, Souper Bowl Sunday, and One Great Hour of Sharing. Local and World Ministry hopes to expand future mission opportunities and to increase the percentage for mission in the Woods Church operating budget from its current target level of 13.5% of contributions income.

Mission Giving Report for 2007-2008

Beyond our operating budget Woods Church makes an “extra commitment” to mission by responding to special giving projects and opportunities.

Extra Commitment Giving

Advent Concert –	\$1,438
Alternative Gifts at the Mission Marketplace – Heifer International, Medical Benevolence, Presbyterian Disaster, Jamaican Children’s Projects, Giving Back and Eco – friendly gifts.	\$8,202
Cecelia McKay Fund	\$2,981
Christmas Joy Offering	\$18,943
CROP Walk	\$3,907
Guatemala Partnership - VBS Onil Stoves and Scholarship from Summer Celebration offering	\$964.
Harkness Fund (Seminary Support)	\$4,159
McPherson Fund (Seminarian Support)	\$1,256
Men’s Bible Class - Rebuilding Together and various gifts	\$5,277
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$11,374
Presbyterian Women of Woods – Mission gifts both local and global.	\$6,600
SERRV Shop/Beads for Life – from the Mission Marketplace	\$11,669
Souper Bowl Sunday –	\$3,151
Thanksgiving Offering— Disaster recovery in Guatemala, Meadowbrook in Jamaica and Rancho Bernardo Church in California	\$5,976
Woodswise—Sunrise Resident Assistance Fund	\$290,560
WoodsWork 2007 - Gift to Habitat for Humanity	\$48,545
Total Mission Giving from Extra Commitments	\$425,002

Within our operating budget:

Local and World Ministry	\$289,838
Congregation (Counseling Center Client Assistance)	\$2,800
P-2 Pension Support (for pastors <u>not</u> at Woods)	\$26,200
Total Mission Giving from Operating Budget	\$318,838

Grand Total for Mission: \$743,840

This list was our attempt to highlight some of our extra financial commitment to mission. Woods Church also makes a significant commitment to building use with mission in mind. In addition, our members give freely of their time and talents in our community through service to others.

Ministry to the Congregation

The Ministry to the Congregation oversees numerous ongoing activities which touch the lives of many in our congregation. Hundreds of volunteers are involved in nurture and fellowship activities. The nurture activities include the Deacons, the Stephen Ministers, Prayer Tree, Caring Connections, Eldercare Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Pastoral Counseling. The Ministry also supports services such as blood pressure screening, and legal assistance. Active fellowship groups include Hilltoppers, WoodsWids, Breadbreakers, Softball team, Bridge, Quilters, Hospitality Coordination, and the St. Patricks Day dinner. Senior Fellowship Dinners have continued to be well attended."

Membership and Records Report June 12, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Communicant Members (June 12, 2007)		2,099
New Members welcomed during the year	126	
Restored to Active Roll	<u>+ 11</u>	
	137	
Losses		
Members Transferred to other churches	(3)	
Transferred to Inactive Roll	(106)	
Removal from Rolls	(18)	
Deceased	<u>(29)</u>	
Total Removals	(156)	
Total Active Members (June 30, 2008)		2,080

The Necrology Roll of Members

(Members who have died between June 12, 2007 & June 30, 2008)

Richard Alfred Barr	Esther Simpson Hopper	Helen Jean Martin
Marilyn Sischo Betts	Clifford Boyer Hyatt	Della Karpeles McKnew
Wayne Cecil Black	Aaron Stanley Johnson	Karl Joseph Nelson
Barbara Roth Boswell	Donald Jung	Marion Morris Overman
Margoleen Brown	Julia Ann Jung	Laura Mary Shaw
Edith Clement	Joseph Keating	Robert Smith
Elsie Zinnert Dehne	William Kommers	William R. Stallings
Lester D. Drugmad	Beatrice G. Langley	Royal Wells Wigley
Oliver Henry Fulton	Emily Rose Leclare	Thomas Winterfeld
Virginia Estelle Gathman	Louis O. Maas	

Report of the Deaconate

The Deaconate consists of three classes of 12 members each, at least two of whom are youth deacons. This is a very "hands-on" ministry. The deacons serve the needs of the congregation in care, support and sympathy. This service takes the form of cards and notes, telephone calls, visits, flower delivery, educational support and special events.

Each week, the deacons receive from the pastors the names of about 55 people to be contacted. These individuals include those who are hospitalized and bereaved, anticipating surgery, and families of newborns. Often the deacons reach out to nonmembers for whom prayer requests have been made. At the end of the week, the results of these contacts are sent back to the clergy and entered into the database by Pam Anger. This information is critical to keeping our pastors informed about the lives of our congregation.

Report of the Deaconate continued

Deacons deliver four flower arrangements each Sunday to those who are celebrating a special event, are sick or bereaved. Each year each deacon is paired with one or more of our homebound members. Loving and lasting relationships are formed with this one on one contact program. Deacons are responsible for visiting or making other contact with each homebound person at least once a month. More than 50 homebound individuals and couples are visited regularly by the deacons.

The Prayer and Baptismal Shawl Ministry provides these hand stitched shawls for distribution to those we wish to wrap in the love and prayers of Woods and to our newborns. The Elizabeth Ministry supports families of new babies.

Special events for those needing care and fellowship included Christmas Caroling to homebound persons and Senior Fellowship dinners in the fall and spring. In-home communion is offered to the home-bound working in partnership with Elders three times this year as we extended the boundaries of Woods' sanctuary. The deacons also hosted luncheons at Sunrise and Ginger Cove assisted living facilities. We have sent over 200 birthday cards to our "over 80" members. Deacons often assist in the regular worship services provided by John and Lucia Robinson at Sunrise and Genesis Truckhouse.

The deacons meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month for fellowship, training and planning. Future plans include continued training in how to interact with those in need, and refining the ways in which we care for our members and friends.

Welcome & Evangelism Ministry

New Members

The format of the New Member Classes has been revised and last year we hosted three cycles of classes. Each cycle consisted of six classes per group of new members and a welcome dinner or lunch with the Elders before the member joined. Woods welcomed 61 new members in addition to 67 Confirmants. New members were encouraged to join at the service of their choice instead of only the 9:30 service.

Welcome Letter for Home Buyers

Purchasers of new homes in the immediate Severna Park area have been sent a welcome letter with an invitation to visit and worship at Woods.

First Friends Program

The First Friends program is being reinstated. The call has gone out to the congregation that we need volunteers to be a "first friend" to our new members, offering to lend assistance, advice and answer questions as they get to know Woods. Sign-up cards have been included in bulletins for congregation members to become a first friend.

Woodstock

The last Woodstock was August 2007. The 2008 Woodstock will occur in the fall with a date to be determined.

Ecumenical Worship Service

Following the Severna Park Christmas Tree lighting, Woods Church hosted an Ecumenical Worship service in the sanctuary.

Advent Music CDs

Free CDs of Christmas music as recorded by the musical talent at Woods were made available at the Starbucks at Giant, Admiral Cleaners and The Big Bean Coffee House. Free copies were also distributed to all families in the congregation after services on December 23rd and 24th, 2007.

Hispanic Service

A worship service that is being held by a Hispanic church group in the Woods sanctuary on Sunday afternoons has now grown to well over 100 worshippers.

Name Change

This year has seen another name change to further define the purpose of the ministry, from "Welcome and Evangelism" to "Welcome and Membership", taking effect August of 2008.

Ministry of Worship

The word “rejoice” (to feel joyful; be delighted) appears 156 times in the NIV version of the Bible. Paul said “**Rejoice in the Lord always; Again, I say rejoice.**” (Philippians 4:4) As the Ministry of Worship, we encourage believers and seekers to rejoice in and praise God on a regular basis. The purpose of each aspect of the ministry is to facilitate this worship, and this past year was no exception. Monthly art exhibits were displayed in the church’s gallery, and in other locations, and enjoyed by the members of Woods and the local community. The annual summer Arts Camp continues to be an effective vehicle for faith development for our children. As is our custom, chancel preparation included banner and parament hanging throughout the church year. Lovely sanctuary flower arrangements for Sunday services, and smaller arrangements for Deacon delivery, were arranged by the flower committee. The Communion Chairman and committee faithfully carried out communion preparation for all regular and special services and in-home communion. Ushers, lectors and sermon transcribers were recruited and trained for their service. All Saints banners were made for use on All Saints Sunday. (If this great service is to continue in its current form, volunteers from the congregation will be needed to assist in the preparation.) The church was lovingly decorated for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Music, which is a large part of this ministry, has involved all ages in the various worship services, as well as in concerts and special presentations.

Speaking of which, this past year, the adult choir’s Advent Concert, entitled *Christmas in Poetry and Music*, featured both musical selections and poetry readings. In lieu of a Lenten Concert, the adult choir presented a major musical work as the cornerstone of all three worship services on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Other good news includes the completion of the sanctuary **organ upgrade**.

This summer, our Music Director, Ray Weidner, left Woods to follow God’s call in a new direction, after years of faithful service. Though we were saddened by his leaving, we rejoice that God brought **Marcia Slentz-Whalen** to serve in an interim capacity. This is the second time Marcia has been our Interim Music Director, having served from 1992-93. She counts it a tremendous privilege to have this “déjà vu” opportunity saying, “It isn’t often that God gives one a shot at the same job a second time. After 16 years I am very excited to get to ‘stand in the gap’ once again.” Her warm spirit and musical gifts are a blessing to us.

Worship leader Hilda Gore has continued to bring strong leadership to the contemporary service. She oversees the projection, sound team, and worship team. The worship team capably leads the vibrant music at the 11:00 service, in addition to looking for ways to serve outside the church walls. Last Christmas, they participated in a concert at the Annapolis Statehouse. This summer, they gave a concert at National Presbyterian Church, and received a stipend towards Woods’ capital campaign. They also recently played at a fundraiser for the Arundel House of Hope which coordinates the Winter Relief program for the homeless. And this fall, they provided music and energy (as did the band from the Hispanic service) at the **church-wide picnic** kicking off the church year.

In closing, we are grateful for God’s blessing on the ministry and **rejoice in the lives that have been touched**. Mike Kobett, one of our volunteer projectionists, recently attested to this very fact. “It’s been almost one year since we first visited Woods and I am still so very thankful that we have FINALLY found a church that truly celebrates our Lord and the hope he brings. I have enthusiastically invited friends and coworkers to the service and have made copies of several of the sermon MP3 files for a few people I know. My two year old daughter Tori likes to dance and clap to the music and there are some Sundays when our son Calvin wants to skip Sunday school just to sing along to all the songs. I am very thankful and proud to be a member of Woods church. Thank you for everything the church offers.”

Ministry to Youth

Woods Youth Ministry provided spiritual development and Christian fellowship for hundreds of youth in 2007-2008. The Youth Ministry Committee, Youth Advisors, and Youth Volunteers, our Summer Intern, Laura Williams and countless parents helped to support the worship, service, spiritual growth, and mission activities of the youth in our church and community.

Fall 2007

The Fall began with the kick-off of the 2007-2008 **Confirmation Class**. This was a large class with 74 participants. A team of leaders guided the weekly discussion of faith questions, church history and bible study. Elders served serving as sponsors met monthly with their confirmands during Sunday meetings and during the week to build relationships and serve as a resource to each confirmand. Members of the congregation open their homes for special events, and the confirmands spent two weekends on retreat. In the Spring, the sixty-nine participants re-confirmed their baptismal vows or were baptized.

The youth traveled to River Valley Ranch, in Carrol County Maryland, for **Middle School, High School and confirmands Fall retreats**. The youth participated in outdoor activities such as horseback riding, paintball, a high-ropes course, skateboarding, and a corn-maze. Throughout the weekends, we had music, Bible lessons and small group activities.

The **Middle School Sunday School** focused their attention on studying the first five books of the Bible. One hundred-eleven middle school youth who participated studied scripture, participated in drama, music and games. Thirty-eight **High School Sunday School** used Living the Good News, an RCL Lectionary-Based Program, to guide discussion with the High School aged youth.

Youth ministries hosted a **back to school party for college age young adults** in August at Bill Batemans. Twelve youth, a group of church staff and adults enjoyed discussion about the coming year.

See You At The Pole, a gathering of high school church leaders, youth to pray for God's blessing and guidance for the school year. It's a time to pray for teachers, school leaders, community leaders and the nation. This year, 120 High Schoolers and 65 Middle Schoolers met in front of their schools. Middle and High Schoolers assembled and mailed sixty-three **care packages for college students**. The packages included notes, candy, and essentials. These provided the opportunity to make a connection to church members all over the country and let them know that they were in our prayers.

Spring 2008

On January 13, 2008, Woods and the Severna Park Community Center hosted "**Navigating Your Way through the Hard Times**", an ecumenical, community-wide event that drew over 1,000 residents from the Severna Park area and beyond. The event was focused on teen depression awareness and suicide prevention and was spawned out of the tragedies that befell the Hamilton and Grifo families in the spring of 2007. The untimely death of Emily LeClare in early December pushed this event into new territory and it took on a life of its own. The event was planned by four churches beginning in the early Fall of 2007: Woods Memorial, St. Martins in the Field Episcopal, United Methodist and Our Shepherd Lutheran, and included food, speakers (The Chalk Man, Dr. Andre and Cathy Gvozden, Lee Ferrell, Dr. Scott E Smith & Dr. Nancy Lincoln Reynolds), a band (Captive Free), counselors and a great deal of community fellowship. Severna Park HS, Severn HS & AA County Schools and a host of other organizations contributed to this event. The four churches now meet regularly to share ideas and plan joint events.

In February, both the High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers held their **winter retreat** at WISP Ski resort in Western Maryland. The theme of the high school retreat was "He Restores My Soul" and was an opportunity to find their rest in Christ, something needed in their busy lives. They also spent the day skiing together. The Middle Schoolers enjoyed a day of tubing, snow-ball fights, and fun-and games, along with bible study and bible drama.

During the Spring, the **Middle School Sunday School** turned its attention to the prophets in the Old Testament. This communicated some lesser-told Bible stories and had the youth wrestle with the concept of "Faithfulness." The **High School Sunday School** used videodisk lessons by Rob Bell, best-selling author, Christian speaker, and founding pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church located in Grandville, Michigan.

Woods Youth traveled to Baltimore to attend a concert by **Milele**. The band members were childhood friends in Kenya, up until High School when they were separated to follow the path of their

individual lives. Each of them pursued school and work in different arenas, however, one day, 10 years later and 10,000 miles away from home in California, all four of them found themselves in the same room at a prayer breakfast. They started singing together as a pastime but it slowly not only evolved into a successful musical ensemble, but also a unity of friends committed to remedying social injustices, poverty and resulting oppression. Milele has traveled extensively and succeeded in becoming well known musical ambassadors in Kenya as well as Christian circles in the US. What began as a celebration of God through music, became using music as a vehicle to carry out work that would move and spread the love of God.

The Spring Ended with Woods Memorial hosting an **ecumenical sporting event**, with participants from churches across Severna Park, at Cyprus Creek Park. The event featured a volleyball tournament, frisbee football and other field games. The High School Seniors were treated to a recognition dinner, and all enjoyed some pizza.

Summer 2008

Ninety Middle School aged youth participated in **The Great Escape**, a week packed full of fun held on the University of Pittsburg, Johnstown campus. The Great Escape Johnstown is a week packed full of fun at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Youth participated in large recreation activities on the sports fields on campus, move into large and small group meeting times in the afternoon, enjoy some free time for playing sports, then wrap up with a large, powerful evening filled with music and a message. During the week, the youth also spent a day at an amusement park and another white-water rafting. The Great Escape pushed the youth spiritually and developed lasting friendships and memories, while also showing them that being a Christian can be a whole lot of fun!

Arts Camp, an overnight church camp for children entering 4-7th grade, engaged campers with various creative and performing arts to provide an enriching week that was educational, stimulating, and fun. Twenty-two children participated in daily worship, music, art, dance and drama. The camp was held at West River Camp, a Methodist camp located on the West River, near Galesville. The theme this year was “The books of the Bible.”

Woodwork, an annual youth lead mission program, celebrated its 24th anniversary this Summer as they traveled to Portage County Ohio to build three homes. One hundred and thirty High Schoolers and a team of forty advisors participated in the week-long event. As a part of the trip, the participants raised \$15,000 to donate as a gift to the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Portage County. On Sunday morning of the week, the participants worshiped The First Congregational Church of Ravenna, The Church in Aurora, First Methodist- Ravenna, First Christian Church of Kent, and the Presbyterian Church of Kent. The theme of the week was “Pieces of Me” and the discussions and small group activities focused on identity, relationships, trust, acceptance, love, faith and Hope.

Driftwood, a mission trip for college aged young adults followed Woodwork to Portage County Ohio. The team finished hanging siding and laying roofing tiles on the three habitat homes. They also completed a significant amount of the drywall. In the evenings, the young adults enjoyed fellowship, music and small-group Bible study.

The High School Youth had the opportunity to participate in a new event this year, called “**Fun in the Son.**” The focus of this weeklong event, in Jekyll Island, Georgia, focused on Spiritual Development. Fun In The Son provides an environment of love and acceptance. It is in this atmosphere that the Gospel is presented through music, speaking, dramas, and, most importantly, in relationship between students and their leaders. This year’s theme was “Collide” and focused on how God connects and impacts Christian’s lives.

The Youth Ministries Summer Intern and Woods Mission Coordinator organized a series of mission projects for youth, called “**Woods Action.**” Thirteen youth participated in a variety of faith-in-action projects across Anne Arundel County. Youth landscaped at the Arundel House of Hope, served a lunch to the needy with the Harundale Free Lunch program, helped Woods Local & World Mission committee sort and deliver school supplies to Glen Burnie Park Elementary, and served lunch at the Sarah's House shelter.

The Summer ended with the Youth Director planning the 2008-2009 Youth Ministries activities. The theme for all programs will center on finding our “Identity” in Christ. We will strive to embody Wood’s vision to be a community of disciples seeking to share Gods transforming love with all.

Ministry of Policies and Personnel (P2)

The P2 ministry works with the Head of Staff and the Executive Director of Administration to develop and implement personnel practices that will promote an efficient utilization of staff resources in accomplishing Wood’s Purpose and Vision. In addition the ministry serves, upon request, as a resource to other church ministries, committees and staff in their efforts to develop policies supportive of their missions.

During the 2007-2008 year, P2 continued addressing personnel and policy needs of a church in transition. P2 successfully transitioned Wood’s retirement plan from a SEP to a 403(b) plan, and placed the 403(b) plan with the Board of Pensions for the Presbyterian Church.

Laura Albanese was hired as the full-time Director of Christian Education. Brandon Brewer joined Woods full-time, as the Director of Youth Ministry. Bob Smith was hired as an Audio/Visual Technician, on a part-time basis. As Woods said good-bye to Carol Wiles, P2 assisted in the hiring of Sheila McPhee, as full-time Director of Local and World Missions. Woods also said good-bye to James Nick, who had served as a custodian. Late in the 2007-2008 year, P2 began planning for the departure of Ray Weidner, Director of Music.

Finally, at the end of the 2007-2008 year, the P2 ministry was converted to the Human Resources Ministry.

Ministry of Stewardship & Finance

The ministry of Stewardship and Finance is responsible for the church’s investments, budget preparation and monitoring, oversight of internal controls and the development and execution of the annual stewardship campaign.

The investment sub-committee has worked diligently to insure that the Woods investment portfolio has continued to grow over the past fiscal year. The investment portfolio was again actively managed to insure a solid increase in value. In calendar year 2007 the annual rate of return on our investments was **3.6%** vs an S&P index of **3.53%**. Through September 16, 2008 our rate of return on investments is minus **(13.2%)** vs an S&P index of minus **(17.35%)**.

Goals for New Year:

- Work with capital campaign leadership with the various elements of the building expansion.
- Reestablish the SOAR committee to work with families and individuals in planned giving to Woods.
- Continue to update and revise standard operating procedures for accounting and finance procedures.
- Increase communication of our stewardship program to the congregation.

Woods 2007/2008 Financial Results & 2008/2009 Budget

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
	Actual	Actual	Budget
<u>Revenues</u>			
Contributions			
Pledged Giving	\$1,663,935	\$1,692,049	\$1,897,000
Non-Pledged	\$431,398	\$429,519	\$365,700
Loose Offering	<u>\$37,682</u>	<u>\$33,965</u>	<u>\$34,000</u>
Total Contributions	<u>\$2,133,015</u>	<u>\$2,155,533</u>	<u>\$2,296,700</u>
Other Income			
Church School	\$2,720	\$2,343	\$2,300
Apportionment	\$25,136	\$28,969	\$29,000
Building Use	\$13,258	\$20,549	\$25,000
CCW Lease Payments	\$54,919	\$54,000	\$54,000
Support of Maint.	\$4,900	\$8,300	\$8,400
Interest Income	\$7,021	\$3,833	\$3,800
Kitchen Income	\$67,444	\$64,532	\$65,000
2006/2007 Deficit Income	\$0	\$26,334	\$0
Endowment Income	\$0	\$39,810	\$0
Total Other Income	<u>\$175,397</u>	<u>\$248,670</u>	<u>\$187,500</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$2,308,412</u>	<u>\$2,404,203</u>	<u>\$2,484,200</u>
<u>Ministry Expenses</u>			
Deacons	\$10,919	\$10,612	\$10,200
Welcome and Membership	\$16,588	\$17,258	\$15,200
Worship & Sacraments	\$35,657	\$34,319	\$33,500
Adult Education	\$12,636	\$7,655	\$12,975
Youth	\$40,849	\$46,736	\$45,000
Families with Children	\$22,325	\$16,414	\$21,550
Property Management	\$203,148	\$213,560	\$211,150
Personnel & Policies	\$1,489,408	\$1,485,560	\$1,531,825
Local & World	\$280,381	\$289,839	\$308,800
Stewardship & Finance	\$198,130	\$197,818	\$206,600
Kitchen	<u>\$88,615</u>	<u>\$87,761</u>	<u>\$88,000</u>
Total Ministry Expenses	<u>\$2,398,657</u>	<u>\$2,407,528</u>	<u>\$2,484,200</u>
Net Gain / (Loss)	(\$90,246)	(\$3,325)	\$0

Building Committee

Building Committee, chaired by Karen Kissam, presented its recommendation for the best design of a building expansion of the west wing of the church in June. When cost estimates were received at \$5.5 million, the Building Committee consulted again with the architect and contractors to see if the designated need (4+ classrooms and an auditorium that can seat 200+) could be done at a lower cost. After revisions by the architect that eliminated a basement level and reduced the slant of auditorium floor, the estimate of the cost of construction and furnishings was changed to \$4.7 million. This figure exceeds the original cost estimate by \$1.5 million and would require raising an additional \$2.7 million beyond the current campaign. In view of these developments, the Building Committee is awaiting an assessment by the Session of the best options for meeting our ministry needs. Plans were submitted to the county for reconfiguring and repaving the parking lot. As soon as final approval is received, this project will be completed. Although bids have not been completed, it is expected that the cost of this project will be considerably lower than the original estimate of \$595,000.

Woods Capital Campaign Financial Results

	2005-08/08	
	Actual	Budget
<u>Revenues</u>		
Pledge Contributions	\$3,216,357	
Other Income	\$238,996	
Total Revenues	<u>\$3,455,353</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Organ Refurbishment Community Center	\$196,023	\$192,000
Grant	\$500,000	\$500,000
New Churches	\$300,000	\$300,000
Parking Lot	\$0	\$595,000
Connectivity	\$0	\$50,000
Counseling Center	\$0	\$15,000
Building	\$325,990	\$3,240,000
Administrative	\$123,926	\$108,000
Total Ministry Expenses	<u>\$1,445,938</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>
Net Gain / (Loss)	<u>\$2,009,414</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Presbyterian Women of Woods

The Presbyterian Women of Woods (PWOW) share a mission with the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, the Synod and the Presbyterian Church (USA). We strive to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study; support local and world mission; work for justice and peace; and help to build an inclusive and caring community of women. All women of Woods are recognized as members of PWOW.

CIRCLES

We support small groups which meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship. Five circles currently meet, four during the day and one in the evening. All circle members meet jointly in the fall to “Kick-Off” the year of Bible study and in the spring for an end-of-the-year picnic. As with all PWOW events, circle membership is open to anyone at any time during the year. During Circles special offerings are collected including: Fellowship of the Least Coin—which supports worldwide mission, Thank Offering—a 100-year tradition including support for health ministries, and Birthday Offering—celebrating the birthday of Presbyterian Women and supporting missions not included in the General Assembly mission support.

BAZAAR

The major PWOW event for the year is the annual Christmas Bazaar in November. The craft items, baked goods, plants, books, and other donated items are generated by Woods members who also supply their time and talent to make this a successful Woods event each year. This event raises funds for our annual budget. The 2007 Bazaar raised \$14,237. This money supports our church programs, the Presbytery, and outside missions such as YWCA, Salvation Army, Sarah’s House, SPAN, and others that follow.

MISSION

It is consistent with our goals that many of the missions we support focus on women and children. They include: Baltimore Outreach, Brooklyn Curtis Bay Coalition, Christian Education, Church Women United, Community Center, Jane Egenton House, Eleanor Corner House Shelter, General Assembly/PW Mission, Arundel Habitat for Humanity, Lighthouse Shelter, McKim House, Missionaries, New Windsor, PW Presbytery Synod, Salvation Army, Sarah’s House, SPAN, Synod Scholarship (Gathering), and YWCA Domestic Violence

FELLOWSHIP

This year PWOW representatives attended the Presbytery Spring Gathering for all women in the Baltimore Presbytery on April 18th at Kenwood Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. Over 100 women attended from churches in the Presbytery. They enjoyed a morning of fellowship, worship with special music, and lunch. The theme was “Celebrating Twenty Years of Presbyterian Women; 1988-2008.”

PROGRAMS

This year, 2008, PWOW sponsored a Mother-Daughter Banquet in honor of Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, and all the special women in our lives. It was held May 10th, 2009 in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner was served and afterward a special performance by the “Sound of Sinatra” completed the evening. Children’s activities were provided and fun was had by all who attended. PWOW also held a circle picnic in June of 2007 (and this year June 10th, 2007) which included all circle members and provided lunch and fellowship.

FOUR ANCILLARY BOARDS

Woodswise

The Severna Park Elderly Housing Corporation

Because of the vision, resourcefulness, and hard work of several persons at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sunrise Assisted and Independent Living was built on property acquired by the church in order to provide housing for area seniors.

Completed in 1997, Sunrise is a joint venture with Baltimore-Washington Medical Center (majority partner) and the Sunrise Senior Housing Corporation, who lease the land from Woods. An important function of Woodswise is assuring their adherence to the terms of the lease.

The income received from this lease is primarily used to provide financial assistance to qualified Sunrise residents so that they can afford to continue to live in their homes. In the calendar year 2007, a joint sub-committee of Woodswise and Sunrise staff, the Neighborly Care Fund Committee, meets regularly to examine applications from residents for subsidies. The committee dispenses funds from Woodswise rental income of \$109,895 and \$180,665 from funds contributed by Sunrise for a total of **\$290,560**. This represents an increase of more than \$40,000 over the amount disbursed in 2006.

It is the goal of Woodswise to help all residents who are in need of assistance, regardless of whether or not they are members of Woods. Specific guidelines relating to income, assets, and the applicant's Sunrise costs determine whether a resident is qualified to receive assistance, the amount of which varies according to need. Awards are reviewed at least annually. An important element of the subsidy program is **confidentiality**. The identities of those applying for assistance are not included in the applications submitted to Neighborly Care.

Applications for assistance are available from Sunrise management. Persons who have questions about the subsidy program may contact members of the Board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Harley Williams, President; Betty Butler, Vice President; Kay Hashagan, Secretary; Frank Galloway, Treasurer; Al Johnston, Community Director; Bette Richter, Sunrise Liaison Director; Julie Erickson; Marilyn Horton; Jean Andrews; Bob Laszewski; Bob Belt; Frank Goetschius, and Mary Lewis. Gary Hashagan is expected to join the Board this fall after approval by the congregation. The Pastor of Woods is an ex-officio member of the Board.

Pastoral Counseling Center

The counselors in the Woods Counseling Center wish to thank the congregation on behalf of their needy clients for providing funds that allowed them to receive counseling at minimal cost.

During this fiscal year, a total of 42 individuals or families directly benefited from the Client Assistance Fund, which made it possible for them to receive mental health care and spiritual support in coping with difficult situations. This assistance has become even more critical in these tough economic times as needs are mounting sharply. Job layoffs and rising gas, food, and electric costs impact most powerfully the poorest among us.

Approximately one fourth of those benefiting from this fund were members of Woods, but all were from Severna Park or nearby communities. The maximum amount granted per counseling session was \$20. Most of those receiving assistance had incomes of less than \$20,000 per year and several were unemployed, often due to job layoffs or severe mental or physical illness. The majority had no insurance or their coverage was poor, with large deductibles and high co-pays. Each person was very grateful for the compassion and generosity of the Woods congregation.

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in need.

Submitted by Lori Janssen and Jon Williams

The Community Center

The mission of the Community Center is to offer programs and activities that will enrich and enhance family life, community life, and individual development in a Christian environment that is open to all. The Center is a place where family life is supported, recreation and health promoted, art and beauty treasured, and cross-generational contact valued.

We are celebrating our one-year anniversary in the new building. The new facility includes a gymnasium, three dance studios, weight room, 25-yard pool, therapy pool, meeting rooms, and office. We will continue to be a non-membership, pay-as-you-go facility serving the entire area.

Programs being offered in the New Center Spaces include: Carter School of Dance, RU Fit Aerobics, Exercise, Yoga and Pilates by Shelia Light, Artworks Studio, Severna Park Gymnastics, Summit Driving School, Rockcreek Steel Drums, Thursday Bridge Group, Weight Watchers, Project Linus, Budo Martial Arts, and Kendo and Iaido Martial Arts.

SPY Aquatics offers swimming lessons, water exercise classes, open lanes for lap swimming, and therapy sessions. All pool activities are growing and serving many that were not previously served in our community.

The gym is bringing many different athletic groups into the facility. We look forward to the return of Bay Area Volleyball Academy (BAVA), SPARK Field Hockey, and Indoor Soccer teams. We will also fill basketball season with St. John's, St Martins, and Green Hornets youth leagues.

The annual health fair with free flu shots sponsored by Baltimore-Washington Medical Center and a variety of support groups welcome friends and neighbors from all parts of the county. The new programs and opportunities continue to grow.

The Board of Directors meets monthly, on the first Monday, at 7 pm in a meeting room at the center. Each Board member serves on at least one standing committee that meets monthly or as necessary. Members serve a three-year term with the option to serve two consecutive terms.

Board of Directors:

Nick Codd, Chair

James Brennan

Andy Borland

Bruce Burns

Warren Brocket

Rob Collins

Chris Hutcheson

Laura Ivey, Secretary

Brian Jamieson

Tom Magette

John Meaney, Vice Chair

Skip Nees

Stew Smith

Barbara Willis

Tim Beal, Head of Staff

Dick Willis, Owner's Rep for construction

Submitted by:

Chris Marsala, Executive Director

Woods Child Development Center (CDC)

Greetings to you from the staff, parents, and children of Woods CDC. We were so very blessed last year in all ways that support our center -- finances, resources, and program.

For the first time in many years, we ended the fiscal year with a comfortable earnings margin. Several sources of unbudgeted income, savings in some budget line items, and careful expense control worked together to improve our bottom line. As a result, we were able to purchase some much needed items for the center: computers for the staff, an upgrade in the office furniture, rugs and furniture for the classrooms, nap cots for the children, and additional bulletin boards.

During the school year, all seven classrooms were refreshed with a new coat of paint and a bit of wall color. We shared the cost of an intercom with the church. With this much appreciated security system in place, we can communicate classroom to classroom, with the office, and/or with the entire center without leaving the classroom. Our staff of 28 continues to grow professionally, having devoted close to 300 hours in continuing education. Laura Albanese, Director of Christian Education, WMPC, led our chapel program, delighting the children with stories and lessons from the Bible, songs, and prayers. Tom Lerario and Anne Veach worked with us to move our bookkeeping into the church's ACS software.

Woods CDC continues to move toward Maryland State accreditation. In spring 2008, we began implementing *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*, one of six State-approved curricula for accredited schools. Using a comprehensive curricular guide for creating the classroom environment, planning and delivering lessons, observing and assessing children, and reporting educational progress sets specific and school-wide goals for our program. We expect to be able to start the validation process in 2008-09.

Thank you, members of Woods Church, for your continued support. Your facility and staff make it possible for us to accomplish our mission to create a Christian environment in which to nurture, care for, and educate young children from all walks of life.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Kemper
CDC Director

ORDAINED OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Clerk of Session: Harry Caldwell
Associate Clerk: Jeff Norris
Assistant Treasurer: Alan Lupfer

Recording Clerk: Tom Lerario
Treasurer: Tom Page Sr.

SESSION

Class of 2009

Molly Balog
Chad Baxter
Brenda Bosma

Sue Brayman
Fran Hutchison
Laura Hyde

Karen Kissam
Doug Pringle
Jim Wear
Suzanne Wood

Class of 2010

Mary Jo Greenley
Jeffery Hannahs
Laura Ivey

Paul Jones
Randy Kamischke
Thomas Magette

Thomas Page Jr.
Bradley Schoener
William Sheridan
Thomas Weissinger

Class of 2011

John Belcher
Harold Laque
Jill McCutchan

Leslie Moeller
Paul Rudoph
Marcia Slentz-Whalen

Suzanne Elliott-Smith
Greg Swartz

DEACONS

Co-Moderators: John McLaughlin, Kathryn Casey

Class of 2009

Marilyn Bongard
Sally Carrasco
Janice Keating

Myra Dennis
Beverly Haines
Jared Planz (youth)

Debbie Laite
John McLaughlin

Liz Pringle
Jean Zemo

Class of 2010

Kathryn Casey
Thomas Decker
David Fu

Kathleen Graves
Maureen Griffith
Joanne Hall

Mary Ann Kaucher
Donna Knauth
Julia Mann

Lauren Page (youth)
Judy Smith
Cynthia White

Class of 2010

Alyson Anger
Don Counts
Phyllis Eaton

Jason Jackson
Janet Kamischke
Betty Maas

Mike McTammany
Karen Olsen
Lori Pasquale

Steph Richeson (Youth)
Marty Walker