

Annual Reports from Committees

Balsam Bee – Mary Moore, chair

The Balsam Bee was held Saturday, July 27, 2024, 3:00-8:00 p.m. All attending enjoyed the usual grinding, stuffing, sewing, and fellowship. In addition to the usual downstairs activity, three sewing tables were set up on the Chapel lawn.

Thanks to John Burrows and the balsam-cutting crew for just the right amount of balsam, to Loretta Lepkowski for the “mama and baby moose” drawing for the 2024 pillow design, to Mike Rankin for a new approach to pillow display and table set-up downstairs, and to Barb Morgan, Susan Taylor, and John View for keeping the flow of guests and pillow sales well ordered. Thanks, too, to those who took pillows home and finished the sewing after the event, so all pillows were for sale quickly after the Bee, and to all who made our first-time guests feel welcome.

The pillow price remained at \$20 for a large pillow, and after-sales also included 35+ smaller \$8 “holiday” balsam bags made by the ladies of the Bazaar’s holiday booth. Sales of pillows will continue in the side room until all pillows are gone. The next Bee is scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2026, with much enthusiasm on the committee for holding the event at the new time of 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. based on a suggestion by Lorraine Schunck.

Discretionary Committee – Judy Bean, chair

No checks have been sent at this time.

Facilities Committee – Dan Conable, chair

With unstinting support from the Trustees and the congregation, it has been a banner year addressing the needs of our beautiful house of worship and summer minister’s residence, including taking care of some things that have needed attention for years. Our signature achievement of the year was the purchase and installation of the new lighting systems in the sanctuary and side room, spearheaded by Jack Nettleton and made possible by a very successful fund-raising campaign led by Bill Locke and Katy Beltz. (The new carillon was another outstanding accomplishment this year, but this was handled almost entirely by Terry McSweeney as the chair of the Music Committee; the Facilities Committee cannot take credit.) Under Ken Stankiewicz’s knowledgeable direction, a roofing contractor was hired to install a new sloping, rolled rubber roof on the belfry. This should make leaks which have been occurring on and off for decades a thing of the past. While that project was underway, our masonry contractor reset the stones around the top of the belfry and cleaned and repointed the upper face of the front of the church. We are planning to finish cleaning and repointing the rest of that

area this fall. During the winter, with Dick Shore managing the project from Kentucky, the unused and badly deteriorated storage shed in the lower area of the Chapel grounds was torn down and all the debris removed.

Other improvements have included:

- Installation of a smart thermostat, repairs to furnace and changes in how we manage heat in the winter (savings of about \$2500 over costs from last year)
- Changes in phone service at the Chapel and Manse (savings of about \$1500)
- New signs for the parking lot and for chapel tours
- Handicapped parking signs near the walkway from the parking lot
- A new refrigerator for the kitchen (more of a project than you would have thought. Thanks, Joanne Carey!)
- Replacement of emergency lighting on the main floor of the Chapel and installation of new emergency lighting and exit signs in the basement, along with other minor but necessary electrical upgrades
- A cabinet for the internet gear in the side room
- A booster pump to provide adequate water pressure on the second floor of the Manse
- A new post to support the signs for the Manse on South Bay Road

And, of course, lots of other little repairs have been handled as they have come up, with the ever-dependable assistance of Tom Thibado and his crew.

Projects for the coming year include:

- replacement of the antique power supply to the chapel, including having National Grid install a new power pole on our side of Big Moose Road, underground wiring from the pole, and a new 200 amp breaker panel
- replacement of the ramp from the main dock to the break wall on the Chapel waterfront and a new cover for the pumphouse
- continuing our ten-year repointing project by completing work on the main face of the Chapel

Thanks, as always, to the diligent members of my committee, and to the Trustees and congregation for recognizing that, by making well-considered and timely investments in our properties, we are assuring that they can be passed along to future generations in even better shape than they were received.

Flowers – Gayle Stankiewicz and Susie Nettleton, co-chairs

Flowers are being managed by a team this year: Gayle is the primary contact person, monitors the online requests, payments and ordering of altar flowers. Joan Robinson picks up the arrangements, brings them to the chapel and returns the vases each week. Susie Nettleton created and tends the beautiful outdoor planters. We also have help from other volunteers when needed.

Flowers are provided by Mountain Greenery. Arrangements continue to be \$60 per vase. To date all vases have been paid for by donors and only 2 remaining Sundays are

open. In the event no flowers are donated we would use the flower budget to purchase a vase.

We continue to work with the webmaster to improve the online request and payment process while maintaining the option to pay by check.

The committee requested a budget of \$1500 to cover Sundays with no donors, delivery charges when flowers can't be picked up, the cost of the plants for the outdoor planters and other contingencies. As of July 31, no funds have been spent.

Gifts and Memorials – Kathryn Orbanek, chair

The committee greatly appreciates the prior service of Connie Menand and Pat Sturges, as well as their diligence in turning over the materials and details of the various records and processes.

The committee has reorganized to cover three primary areas of responsibility and is comprised of members Katy Beltz, Bill Locke, Mary Moore, and Kathryn Orbanek.

Memorial Sunday:

In 2024, we honored 11 members of our community who passed since our 2023 Memorial Service.

Pew Plaques:

Three pew plaques in memory of loved ones were inscribed and mounted in pews. A mapping activity collaborated with Mary Moore, Jay Taylor, and Richard Widdicombe will be conducted in August 2024.

Memorial Gift Acknowledgements:

The committee has instituted a process to notify families if a memorial gift is made to the chapel in memory of their loved one(s). This personal note lets the family know a gift was made and who provided it. Twelve memorial donations were reported to families thus far in 2024.

2024 Gifts Activity:

The approved Gifts Policy is being posted to the BMCC website, along with the approved list of items the church would accept as gifts. The 2024 approved list contains replacement waterfront benches at the lakeside.

The official Gifts Record Book is being updated to include donations & gifts since 2019 (Covid).

Two families donated a replacement carillon to the Chapel in 2024. It was dedicated on July 7 and is enjoyed by the community daily.

Interior Chapel Lighting upgrades were funded by donations of \$32,169 from 60 donors.

Guides' Dinner – Steve Schanely, chair

The 2024 Guides' Dinner was an overwhelming success and very positively received.

There were 180 tickets sold. In addition to providing an extraordinary event that served as community fellowship, the committee had secondary goals of donating all profits to the Fulton Chain Area Food Pantry and documenting all processes and procedures to create a template that would allow this legacy to continue. Gross and net proceeds to be donated to the food pantry are yet to be determined. The expected donation should be in excess of \$5,000. Thirty-four volunteers and seven committee members contributed to this success.

There were 10 or more local vendors and individuals (not including committee members) that donated food and/or equipment, without which this event would have not been possible.

I want to personally thank the committee members: Doug and Bonnie Bennett, Kathryn Orbanek, Betsy Hadden, Joanne Carey and Mary Moore. This was a lot of work but was truly an act of passion for these committee members. It was also a complete team effort... right down to eating the steak.

Mathias Music Endowment – Miyako Schanely, chair

The Mathias Music Endowment Fund was established in memory of Fred and Cleta Mathias to perpetuate the strong music program of the Big Moose Community Chapel, to encourage talent in the arts, and to subsidize Chapel Musical performances. Since 1999 the fund has supported the studies of 22 students in a wide variety of disciplines in music and the arts and has also subsidized musical performances at Big Moose Community Chapel and other venues nearby.

Interest earned on the Fund to be distributed this year totaled \$2286. In keeping with the missions of the Fund, this year the committee allocated these funds as follows:

- \$800 to Sterling Brownell, of Old Forge and Lowville, for musical studies at SUNY Fredonia where he is working toward a B.A. in Music with a major in recording technology.
- \$750 to Olivia Phaneuf, of Old Forge and Austin, TX, for Doctor of Musical Arts studies at UCLA in saxophone performance.
- \$700 to Lily SlatonBarker, of Eagle River, AK, for studies at the University of Oregon toward a Master of Music in Violin Performance.

Membership database – Richard Widdicombe

The chapel's membership database is maintained digitally and is constantly evolving. Updates are logged and also shared with Bill Burrows, Jr. who maintains a shadow database. Mary Moore, Judy Bean, Susan Taylor and the Chapel Treasurer are all active in sharing additions and deletions.

Currently, there are 379 members in the database, which is used for Chapel newsletters and a couple of annual communications. Mailings help us discover address changes and uncover deaths and changes of family circumstances.

Music – Terry McSweeney and Miyako Schanely, co-chairs

In keeping with Big Moose tradition, music has played an active role both in our summer worship and in performances for the community. We are grateful to Jennifer Evans, Laura Rankin, Nic Steltzer and Jay Taylor, who have all provided beautiful organ and piano music for worship. Our dedicated choir members have blessed us with their talents throughout the season, and we are all grateful for the new lighting!

The Summer Music Series consisted of five performances this season, with many returning favorites. Dan Berggren kicked off our series, followed by Scott Sileo, Fritz Henry, Peggy Lynn & Dan Duggan, and Ann Carey. These concerts drew fans from both within and well beyond our Big Moose Community.

Members of the choir donated a new piano to the chapel. This is a digital instrument that will not require tuning and will withstand the winter conditions better than a traditional piano. It also provides advanced sound and recording features that present tremendous opportunities for future use in worship and performance. Many thanks to our choir and to Brian Johnston and Terry McSweeney for spearheading this effort!

Nominations – Sara Burrows, chair

This year's Nominating Committee members are Sara Burrows (chair), Joan Robinson and Kathryn Orbanek.

Nomination of Trustees:

- The committee met on several occasions over the summer to discuss names of potential trustees. The longstanding criteria remain as:
 - Availability
 - Demonstrates hard work and initiative
 - Participation in worship services
 - A willingness to help in Chapel and Trustee activities

- Based on these criteria, the committee nominates Mary Moore and Martha Widdicombe for another term. The committee also nominates the following new candidates: Linda Martin, Mark Mayer, Michael Eastwood, Vicky Menand, and Joan Robinson.

Other nominations:

- Clerk: Miyako Schanely
- Auditor: Peter and Associates
- Officers of the Board of Trustees:
 - President – Susan Taylor
 - Vice President – Kathryn Orbanek
 - Treasurer – Mark Mayer
 - Assistant Treasurer – Jerry Rutherford

Outreach – Steve Schanely, chair

The Outreach Committee reports the following distribution of the 2024 budgeted Outreach funds:

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| Home Aide Service of the Central Adirondacks, Inc. (HASCA) | \$ 2,679 |
| Fulton Chain Area Food Pantry | \$ 2,000 |
| House of the Good Shepherd | \$ 800 |
| Health and Wellness Fund | \$ 750 |
| Hospice & Palliative Care (Oneida, Herkimer, and Eastern Madison Counties) | \$ 700 |
| YWCA Mohawk Valley | \$ 700 |
| Big Moose Fire Department | \$ 600 |
| Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services | \$ 500 |
| Hope House | \$ 500 |
| Old Forge Library (Food Pantry) | \$ 500 |
| Community Transport | \$ 400 |
| Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Food Pantry | \$ 200 |
| Total | \$10,329 |

Our 2024 allocation of \$10,329 reflects an increase of \$2,806 (or 37.34%) over the 2023 allocation of \$7523. Plate in 2023 was very strong.

A team of volunteers prepared food and served at Hope House in Utica on August 15th. The team included Pastor Lee Vance from Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Church. This was an initial attempt to team with Niccolls in our Outreach to Hope House.

If anyone has any other organizations they would like to propose be considered for 2025, please contact Kathryn Orbanek via email at kathrynaorbanek@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone, volunteers and contributors, for enabling Big Moose Community Chapel to reach out in Christian love and care to the wider world. Thanks, team!

Prayer Group – Mary Moore, coordinator

The group is privileged to receive requests to share joys and concerns throughout the year. All communication is confidential unless specified to share with the larger Chapel community. The dedicated email is BigMoosePrayer@gmail.com.

Public Relations / Publicity – Mary Moore, chair

The committee has had a full year of print and electronic communication to distribute information about worship and other Chapel events. Deadlines for 2025 have been established and communicated, and any questions should be sent to Mary Moore at BigMooseMittens@gmail.com.

The committee appreciates all efforts to meet deadlines as publicity and other schedules need to be planned and met throughout the entire calendar year. All publicity, print, and promotional needs and materials should be submitted to Publicity for proper scheduling, vetting, design, review, and release to the appropriate outlet. Schedules are key to the work of the committee, and information received in a timely manner is appreciated. Our media outlets definitely appreciate the Chapel as a good customer in our press release timeliness, thoroughness, and advertising purchases. As always, anything which is unusually newsworthy or serious in nature should be referred directly to Chapel President Susan Taylor, as she is the official Chapel “voice.”

Quilt Raffle – Mary Moore, coordinator

A quilt was received in late July from the Pointed Pine Quilters, and it was decided to hold it for a season-long raffle next year, with a drawing on the last Sunday in September 2025. There may be another quilt being made for the Chapel, and the raffle coordinators will touch base with the PPQ about that this summer. Laura and Mike Rankin will help coordinate the raffle in 2025 and work the quilt raffle booth at the Bazaar.

Sunday School – Mary Moore, chair

Sunday School has welcomed new and returning Sunday Schoolers and a few parents in 2024. To make the Chapel’s “next gen” members an active part of worship, acolytes were selected from Sunday School and trained to light the candelabras at the opening of the worship service as guided by Worship Chair Barb Morgan. Continuing Linda

Martin's Sunday School tradition, one toddler Bible has been given in 2024 as a gift from the Chapel--always in consultation with a parent or appropriate adult first.

Sunshine Committee – Judy Bean, chair

On behalf of the chapel family, the Sunshine Team mailed messages of care throughout the year to members of the extended Big Moose community for a wide array of reasons ranging from "get well" to "sympathy", and "thinking of you" to "thank you". Some of these communications featured special cards designed by Mary Moore.

The following messages were sent the last 2 months:

| | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|
| 7/10/24 | Larry and Karen Schunck Jim and Kristen Schunck | Sympathy – loss of mother |
| 7/12/24 | Susan Rimato | Sympathy – loss of son |
| 7/18/24 | Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Engelbert | Thinking of you |
| 7/30/24 | Al Popkess | Get well |
| 8/12/24 | | Thank you notes for Balsam Bee |

Please continue to notify Judy Bean as needs arise.

Ushers and Coffee Hour Hosts – Phyllis Sanzone, chair

This summer the trustees again took the lead in signing up to usher or host coffee hour. The rest of the slots were filled by people contacted through the lists from last year's volunteer survey, or who stopped by the chapel events table during the coffee hour. It was great to have some new people welcoming worshipers to the chapel, as well as bringing and helping serve the coffee hour goodies. We also made necessary revisions to the usher and coffee hour hosts check lists. A big THANK YOU to everyone who served in either of these capacities this year!

Volunteer Coordination Committee – Steve Schanely, chair

Surveys:

There were no numeric survey results reported last year so I would like to report survey results for both 2023 and 2024.

- 2023 yielded 35 survey results that expressed interest in volunteering in 1 or more areas. Most actually expressed interest in volunteering in multiple areas. There were also additional survey respondents that were positive and supportive but were not able to volunteer due to geographic or physical limitations.

- 2024 yielded approximately 20 total responses. 12 of the 20 were 1st time respondents. The other 8 responded both years. 17 of the 20 respondents expressed interest in volunteering in 1 or more areas. The remaining 3 respondents were positive and supportive but were unable to volunteer due to geographic or physical limitations.

We feel as though the reduced number of respondents was because most of those that responded in 2023 did not feel they needed to respond again in 2024.

The 2024 survey attempted to reach out to more than 1 family member in each household and encouraged next generation respondents. This met with very limited success.

7 Committee chairs/individuals received survey results in specific areas to assist with their specific needs.

The remaining survey results will be disseminated as appropriate prior to the annual meeting.

The surveys also provided a list of 21 volunteers for the Guides Dinner. A targeted approach via email blast in late 2023 also yielded 23 volunteers. These efforts resulted in more volunteers than needed to fill mission requirements for the Guides' Dinner.

There are no plans to do a survey in 2025 at this time. We are, however, planning a targeted approach to assist in gathering volunteers for the 2025 bazaar.

Website – Vicky Menand and Susan Taylor, co-chairs

Working in conjunction with the publicity/communications committee, the website continued to support Chapel information dissemination this season. Susan Taylor trained Vicky Menand, the new webmaster co-chair, on the use of Wix, our website host. Website content was reviewed, and some older content was hidden. The publicity/communications committee and the website team continue to work with committee chairs to update information on pages related to their committees such as flowers, memorials, and weddings. A meeting was held with the Memorial Gift chairperson to discuss a revamp of the Gift policy and layout of the web page for donations and gift giving.

This season the email blast frequency was increased to include a Monday morning summary of the upcoming week's events as well as other event reminders as needed. Vicky has taken over the sending of all email blasts with Susan as a backup. To ensure that all communications are successful, and email accounts do not go inactive on Wix, new Chapel members will now receive instructions to sign up for email communications themselves thru the Chapel website.

Special thanks to Mary Moore, Publicity/Communications Comm. Chair, for continuing to create the most beautiful, informative graphics for the website/emails. We have received positive feedback on both, and we look forward to taking on some more challenging technical improvements of the website in the future.

Weddings – Joanne Carey, chair

This season the Chapel hosted 4 weddings. Two of those celebrations involved local couples. The Wedding Committee also put together a policy regarding Use of the Property after a Wedding. This type of request is very infrequent and has a lot of strict guidelines attached to it. Thank you to the Wedding Committee members who hosted weddings and for their input on the new policy/guidelines.