

United Presbyterian Church of Sackets Harbor  
Deacon's Report 2009

The Deacons of the United Presbyterian Church of Sackets Harbor have, as always, supported our church mission during 2009. We have worked to continue our traditional annual events as well as supporting several new missions.

During the Easter season the Bradberry family continued in their tradition of organizing and putting on a wonderful breakfast after the Easter Sunrise service at the Battlefield. Sarah Rogers and Sue Chawgo came forward again to organize and make all the men of the church very happy with their free Father's day subs. Everyone else was supportive and purchased subs to enjoy too.

The Deacons were able to support the new church website with a \$500 grant they wrote. The money is being used to help pay the monthly fee for the internet services required for the website.

The Deacons usually honor each woman in the congregation on Mother's day by giving them a carnation. This year we decided we would make a contribution to the Victim's Assistance Center in honor of our woman instead. We presented this plan to the congregation and were delighted at the response. Everyone was in favor of our plan!

We also supported Sackets Harbor's local Welcome Neighbor program hoping to make our presence more visible in the area.

It was brought to our attention that the school was initiating a new program to provide food staples for school children. Many children receive free breakfast and lunch each school day. However, some of these same children, as well as younger siblings, have very little to eat during the weekends. Backpacks are filled with food that children take home on weekends. The food is child-friendly, nonperishable and easily consumed. Backpacks are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before the weekend or holiday vacation so there is little or no stigma associated with participating. Backpacks are returned the next school day, hopefully.

So how could our church help? The Deacons choose to provide 20 backpacks. You can find some great deals buying backpacks in October. We also donated \$200 to help get started with the food.

Deacon's kept in touch with members and friends who were ill or not able to attend church for one reason or another during the year, through the mail. We also sent Christmas correspondence to snow birds, shutins, and others who have been absent .

Jubilee shop was again a wonderful experience. Community businesses, organizations, and individuals again this year opened their hearts and provided the funds for the churches in the Town of Hounsfield to help local families during the Christmas season. We were able to make Christmas a little brighter for 18 families with 54 children. Members of the local 5 churches participated in the shopping and had a great time . Parents on the receiving end, wrapped their childrens' gifts, and as always, were very grateful.

The Deacons look forward to another year of supporting our church. Members in 2009 were Melanie Parker-Geurtsen, Moderator, Eileen Edwards, Sue Chawgo, Helen Miles, Patti Stephens, MaryJo Deans, and Judy Fiorentino.