



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WHEATON

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2010 – 9:55 A.M.**

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHEATON, ILLINOIS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 31, 2010

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Annual Congregational Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton
January 31, 2010 – 9:55 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. Declaration of Quorum and Opening Prayer, Dr. Paul J. Kirbas, Moderator
- II. Open the Corporate Meeting with prayer, Craig Queen, President of congregation
- III. Motion to receive the Annual Report for 2009
 - 1) Church Ministry & Program Staff Reports (pgs. 9-24; 26-61)
 - 2) Financial Report, Mike Huesing, Office and Finance Committee Chair.
- IV. Ecclesiastical Meeting
 - Approval of Minutes (January 25, 2009, Annual Congregational Meeting)
 - Approval of Minutes (March 22, 2009 Congregational Meeting)
- V. Reports
 - 1) Congregational Nominating Committee, Sue Rohl, Moderator (p. 25)
 - A. Nominations
 - 1. Elders
 - 2. Deacons
 - 3. At-Large Members to the Congregational Nominating Committee
 - B. Nominations from the floor, if applicable
 - C. Vote (by unanimous consent, if no nominations from the floor)
 - D. Vote to dismiss with thanks the 2009 Congregational Nominating Committee
 - 2) Human Resources Committee, Tim Brink, Moderator
 - A. Approval of the Pastors' Terms of Call
 - 3) Session's Report of the 2010 Operating Budget, Steve Van Oss, Treasurer.
- VI. A State of the Church Address, Dr. Paul J. Kirbas, Pastor
- VII. Closing Prayer, Dr. Jay Moses, Associate Pastor

Pastor/Head of Staff - Dr. Paul J Kirbas

2009 Annual Report

2009 was a pivotal year for us here at the First Presbyterian Church, and much of my focus during this last year has been in both looking back and looking ahead. It was the year of our Centennial, and the motto of our Centennial celebration aptly describes what 2009 was all about: “Celebrating our Past, Believing in our Future”.

I was very thankful for our Centennial Committee and the wonderful leadership that they offered. Together, we worked on the many details of our celebration, culminating in that special and memorable Sunday of April. It was wonderful to be together, with both past and present leadership, as we lifted up the past 100 years.

Once the “Celebrating our Past” part of our year was over, we then turned our attention to “Believing in our Future”. We formed a task force to lead us in a process of developing a new Vision Statement for our church. Together, we have been working hard to plan and implement the first step of that visioning process, our “Blizzard of 1/10/10”. As I write this report, the event has just occurred, and it was a very successful program. Thank you to all of you who participated.

As Head of Staff, I am well aware that successful church programming takes committed lay leaders and a capable and dedicated staff team. It has been a wonderful blessing and joy to be leading your church staff. Individually, our staff members carry out their responsibilities with joy, energy, and amazing talent. Together, we form a highly cohesive team. The staff team on the First Presbyterian Church is a very strong and healthy one. We were particularly blessed in 2009 to have the Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck join our team as our part time Coordinator of Pastoral Care. Kyle has quickly become a strong anchor of our Pastoral Care ministries.

Although I can point out particular highlights of the year, it is the ongoing, week to week responsibilities that fill most of my time. I find great personal meaning and satisfaction in my ongoing ministry of preaching and teaching, of leading and visioning, and of being with the people of our church in times of pastoral care, special moments such as weddings and baptisms, and offering a comforting presence in times of death and loss.

In short, it has been a true blessing to serve as the Pastor/Head of Staff of this strong and vital church. I look back to 2009 with thanksgiving, and look forward to 2010 with great anticipation. Indeed, I am celebrating our past, and believing in our future!

In God’s Love,

Paul J Kirbas

First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton
December 31, 2009 Operating Budget Preliminary Results
December 31, 2010 Budget

	<u>2009 Preliminary Results</u>	<u>2009 Operating Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>2010 Operating Budget</u>
Operating Income				
Contributions:				
Pledge Receipts	\$1,067,236	\$1,100,000	(\$32,764)	\$1,112,000
Unpledged Receipts	130,300	90,000	40,300	120,000
Initial Offering (Per Capita)	7,770	8,000	(230)	20,000
Loose Plate Offering	9,497	10,000	(503)	9,000
Special Designated Gifts	10,162	10,000	162	10,000
Bequests	<u>25,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Contributions	1,249,964	1,218,000	31,964	1,271,000
LTV - Staff Supplement	40,000	40,000	0	0
LTV - Capital Imp. Supplement	10,000	10,000	0	0
LTV - Mission Supplement	25,000	25,000	0	0
TOTAL	<u>\$1,324,964</u>	<u>\$1,293,000</u>	<u>\$31,964</u>	<u>\$1,271,000</u>
Operating Expenses:				
Staff Personnel	740,896	\$772,847	(31,951)	\$768,963
Mission Outreach	115,000	115,000	0	100,000
Worship	17,823	18,975	(1,152)	17,675
Administrative	139,391	145,425	(6,034)	137,950
Youth Ministry	13,356	13,600	(244)	13,600
Christian Education	9,560	12,167	(2,607)	11,000
Member Life	5,548	9,550	(4,002)	9,300
Utilities & Maintenance	<u>222,532</u>	<u>247,862</u>	<u>(25,330)</u>	<u>237,400</u>
TOTAL	\$1,264,106	\$1,335,426	(\$71,320)	\$1,295,888
Net Results From Operations	60,858	(42,426)	103,284	(24,888)
Other Receipts and Disbursements:				
Investment Income	11,862	14,427	(2,565)	10,500
Building Use fees	11,998	10,000	1,998	12,000
Misc. & Other	1,200	1,200	0	2,400
Gain (Loss) on Investments (tentative)	4,745	0	4,745	0
Repair & Replacement Fund	(10,000)	(10,000)	0	0
Loan Principal and Interest Payments				
Community Bank		0	0	0
Synod		0	0	0
Line of Credit		0	0	0
	<u>\$80,663</u>	<u>(\$26,799)</u>	<u>\$107,462</u>	<u>\$12</u>

First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton
Preliminary Balance Sheet
12/31/2009

Cash & Investments:

Operating Cash	\$286,660	
Other Cash	4,724	
PW Funds & Transitional Housing Funds	\$2,755	294,139
Fidelity Mutual/Bond Funds	312,871	
Smith Barney Mutual Funds	59,469	372,340
Pastor/Staff Housing Assistance Loans	<u>134,498</u>	
Total Cash & Investments		\$800,976

Property & Equipment:

Land	\$240,000	
Buildings	1,834,129	
Building Addition	5,141,988	
Furniture & Equipment	<u>218,154</u>	
Total Property & Equipment		<u>\$7,434,271</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$8,235,248</u></u>

Liabilities:

Loan Payable - Community Bank	\$0	
Prepaid 2010 Pledges	78,205	
Other	<u>753</u>	
Total Liabilities		\$78,958

Fund Balances:

Operations Fund	\$78,937	
Benevolence (Missions) Fund	63,007	
Preschool Fund	24,327	
Equity in Property & Equipment	<u>7,451,874</u>	
Total Fund Balances		\$7,618,145

Restricted Funds:

Temporarily Restricted	\$202,338	
General Endowment	278,482	
Permanently Restricted	<u>57,325</u>	
Total Restricted Funds		<u>\$538,145</u>
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal & Restricted Funds		<u><u>\$8,235,248</u></u>

First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Illinois
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 25, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton was called to order by Moderator Dr. Paul J. Kirbas following the 8:40 a.m. worship service at Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 10:01 a.m. in the Ministry Center. Moderator Kirbas sought and gained validation of a quorum from this clerk and proceeded to open the meeting with prayer. He reviewed the agenda. He then called Elder Mabel Koshy, President of the Congregation, to the stage so that she could lead the Ecclesiastical Meeting. Elder Koshy presented the 2008 Annual Report and asked Elder Mike Huesing to come forward to present the Financial Report on behalf of the Office and Finance Committee. He highlighted the overall financial situation of the church and announced that the church is currently debt free due to an anonymous gift. Elder Koshy thanked Mr. Huesing for his presentation and sought and gained a **MOTION** to receive the Annual Report and to close the corporate meeting. The motion carried.

Moderator Kirbas returned to the podium to moderate the congregational meeting. He sought a **MOTION** to approve the congregational meeting minutes from:

- January 27, 2008 (Annual Meeting)
- April 13, 2008
- September 16, 2008
- November 4, 2008

The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

He then invited Elder Fred Rosen as Moderator of the Nominating Committee to the stage. He recognized the hard work of the 2008 Nominating Committee. As he presented the slate of candidates for the office of Elder (Class of 2012), he asked the following people to stand:

- Annette (Calderwood) Shoemaker
- Tom Cloke
- Jill Jakubowski
- Donald A. Josephson

He sought nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a **MOTION** to elect the candidates to the Office of Elder was made, seconded, and approved.

Elder Rosen then presented a slate of candidates for the office of Deacon (Class of 2012) again asking them to stand:

- Rosamary Bradford
- Bev Cheairs
- Jan Foster
- Janet Fuson
- Donna Laidlaw
- Denny Lawson
- Anthony "Anth" Lechiara
- Peggy O'Neal
- Betsy Quinn
- Sue Yencheck

He sought nominations from the floor. As there were none, a **MOTION** to approve the elect the slated candidates to the Office of Deacon was made, seconded, and approved.

Elder Rosen presented the recommended 2009 Nominating Committee reminding the assembled body that the committee consists of two Elders currently serving on Session, two Deacons currently serving on the Board of Deacons, and five members at large. The following people were being slated as members at large:

- Val Amundson
- Mark Spehr
- Bob Young
- Agnes Kenton
- Betty Strunk

He sought nominations from the floor and, hearing none, received a **MOTION** to elect the proposed candidates to the 2009 Nominating Committee. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

In conclusion, Elder Rosen thanked the 2008 Nominating Committee:

- Fred Rosen, Moderator
- Sue Rohl, Vice Moderator
- Jon Boba, Deacon
- Kyle Walker, Deacon
- Mary Jane Bauer
- Tom Cloke
- Dave Trumpy
- Kim Van Oss
- Jane Wilson

He sought and gained a **MOTION** that the 2008 Nominating Committee be dismissed from their duties with applause. The motion was seconded and the congregation responded with applause.

Moderator Kirbas returned to the podium and asked this clerk to address the congregation on behalf of the Session to the congregation. This clerk explained that the Session had approved the 2009 budget at the Called Meeting on January 13, 2009. By approving that budget, the Session had eliminated the position of Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. Within Presbyterian polity, permanent positions at local congregations filled by ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament need to be approved by the local Presbytery. This clerk stated that changes to permanent positions of Minister of Word and Sacrament need to be first approved by Session, then by the Congregation, then by the Committee on Ministry, and then by the Presbytery. Session's decision was based upon the proposed budget submitted by the Office and Finance Committee and recognized the challenges of creating a balanced budget. It was reported that the Session is considering several options to provide the coverage of the pastoral care needs of the congregation utilizing our current permanent pastor positions and augmenting their work with non-ordained staff. It was also reported that the congregation can always entertain the re-creation of a permanent position in the future should the financial situation change. This clerk then sought and gained a **MOTION** to eliminate the position of Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care. The discussion that followed demonstrated the difficulty of the action being taken. Comments from the members of the congregation clearly reflected the concern for providing for pastoral care of the faith community. After suitable opportunity to receive comments, a vote was called. The first vote was verbal and was inconclusive; therefore, a second vote taken by the show of hands. The second vote, while definitively a majority, continued to show that the congregation was not fully in support of the action.

Moderator Kirbas then called Gwen Patterson as the Moderator of the Human Resources Committee to the stage to present the proposed changes to the Pastors' Terms of Call. Rev. Paul Kirbas and Rev. Jay Moses and their families excused themselves. Ms. Patterson announced that the committee was recommending a 1.75% increase in the Pastors' salaries as presented in the budget. She noted that even though most of the market indicators were recommending between 3% and 4% cost of living increase, the committee felt that in light of the budget and current economic impact on the church, a smaller increase was recommended. She sought and gained a **MOTION** and a second. After discussion from the congregation, the motion carried. Ms. Patterson then explained that the HRC was also recommending an increase to the annual base salary of Rev. Jay Moses by \$2,236. This additional salary treatment is being recommended in light of his recent completion of his doctorate work and to bring his salary more into range of other pastors of his capability, education, and experience. A **MOTION** was made and seconded. Following discussion, the motion carried. Rev. Kirbas and Rev. Moses and their families returned to the Ministry Center to applause.

Moderator Kirbas then asked Elder Mike Huesing to come to the platform to present the 2009 Operating Budget. He announced that Elder Steve Van Oss, Treasure, was unavailable to attend the meeting. Mr. Huesing highlighted the budget and entertained questions. The budget was received by the congregation.

Rev. Paul J. Kirbas returned to the stage. He offered a presentation he called “In Season and Out of Season”. He referenced II Timothy 4:1-2 as scripture – “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word, be urgent in season and out of season...” He contrasted the current times with those faced by the church in the late 1920’s as reported in the church history written by John Houlston. He highlighted various metrics of membership, attendance, website hits, giving and pledging. He concluded his presentation with favorable signs of the future state of the church and sought a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, seconded, and carried. The meeting was closed with prayer at 11:03 a.m. led by Rev. Jay Moses.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Matt Stremel, Clerk of Session

Concurred by:

Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas, Moderator

First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Illinois
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 22, 2009

A called meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton was brought to order by Moderator Dr. Paul J. Kirbas immediately following the 8:40 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 9:49 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Moderator Kirbas obtained validation from this Clerk that a quorum was present and opened the meeting with prayer. He reminded those in attendance that the purpose of the meeting was to fill the one remaining open position for the office of Deacon for the Class of 2012.

He then invited Elder Sue Rohl, Co-Moderator of the 2008-09 Nominating Committee, to the pulpit. She explained that the committee was able to present a candidate for the office. Dianne Lambert has agreed to have her name placed on the slate. The Moderator sought additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he sought and gained a **MOTION** and second to elect Dianne Lambert to serve as Deacon for the Class of 2012. The motion was seconded and carried.

A **MOTION** to close the meeting was made, seconded, and carried and the meeting was closed with prayer at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Matthew Stremel, Clerk of Session

Concurred by:

Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas, Moderator

Audio/Video Ministry Team 2009 Annual Report

2009 was the eighth full year of operation for the A/V Ministry Team. The purpose of the team is to provide audio and video support for church functions. This includes consultation, setup, testing, operation and putting away of audio/video equipment. The team also acts as an advocate for enhancements to the systems. The team functions as a “small group” and normally meets two Saturdays per month depending on the need to support church activities. Meetings begin with check-in and prayer followed by a business meeting, training and hands-on exercises.

This year the team continued to support the Heritage and Tapestry services while another team supported the Celebration services. The team produces a CD for at least one service each Sunday, and it provides the audio sermon for the Church’s web site. The CD is then placed in the church library. Audio and video of each Tapestry Service was made available in an “Infants’ Room” in Sanctuary Hall. A/V support has also been provided to Pathways Classes as needed throughout the year and many of the classes have been recorded on CDs, which are then placed in the church library. Some of the classes have also been made available on the website. During the year support was provided for a number of special events including Supper Club, Easter and Christmas services including overflow (video and audio). A particular challenge was providing audio and video for the Centennial Celebration Sunday on April 19, 2009 when the service was held simultaneously in the Sanctuary, the Ministry Center and the Rotunda and the sermon was preached en route from the Ministry Center, through the Rotunda and into the Sanctuary. A number of memorial services were also supported.

Those who have served in an A/V capacity this year are Ed Ballard, Bill Blake, Ron Hands, Joe Kyle, Derrick Rohl, Susan Miller, Bob Stevens, Tate Wayland, Bill Wetteroth, Mike Zenisek and John Herndon, facilitator.

Additions to the A/V equipment this year include adding a new video projector, a new 6’ projection. We also joined with Buildings and Grounds to purchase window shades for the north side of Stewart Hall

As a small volunteer group we make every effort to provide for all of the A/V needs of the church, with the exception of the Celebration Services. Please note that ample advance notice is a necessity for the scheduling of our team members. The office has A/V request forms which we prefer to be submitted two weeks in advance of an event. Forms are also available on the church’s web site.

The Team would welcome anyone interested in becoming a part of the A/V Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Herndon
A/V Ministry Team Facilitator

Buildings and Grounds 2009 Annual Report

Committee Members: Don Bauer, Brian Elliott, Dave Ruggles, James Giambrone, Kathy Young, Dick Worcester, Joan Reuss, Roger Benson, Rosamary Bradford, Randy Foster, and our newest member Tim Gravit.

2009 was another good year for the committee with the help of Scott Rice and Miguel Barrera. Besides the day to day routine, we addressed some problem areas.

We have been nursing along our 55 year old Sanctuary Boiler for several years. This past summer we replaced it with two smaller, more efficient units. We also have a new computer system that monitors and controls the new boilers and rooftop heating and AC units.

We continued to work on solving our flooding problems. We added new drainage systems in the courtyard and on the east side of the Sanctuary.

Scott and Miguel gave the Undercroft a new look. They replaced the floor, after the tough job of removing the 80 year old existing tile. They also patched and painted the walls and ceiling.

Other projects completed during the past year include refinishing the Parish House floor, resurfacing the parking areas, repairing and painting the Cloister, building new MC movable steps, adding 100 amp service to the MC, remodeling the Parish House bathroom, adding rubber step covers to the steps leading to the pre-school rooms, placing building maps in 3 locations, and replacing the broken Stewart Hall hot water heater with a smaller more efficient unit.

Building Security is now an issue we have to deal with because of an incident. The buildings are not as accessible as they used to be. We have added locks to the five doors leading to the MC. Some other areas are now locked. It is unfortunate, but a sign of the times.

Lower costs for Natural Gas and Electrical Power and better control of our Heating and AC units have helped our Budget. The biggest budget line problem in 2009 was one which we cannot control. We were already over our snow plowing budget BEFORE the 21" of snow that fell in December.

Plans for 2010 include numbering all the doors for the Fire Department. New shades are being installed on the north side windows in Stewart Hall. We also have plans for a new Memorial Garden to replace the grass area outside the Narthex.

Randy Foster, Chairman

Caritas Team Ministry 2009 Annual Report

Caritas Team Ministry has continued to grow and change in our seventh year to meet the needs of our community at First Pres. In 2009 we have increased the scope of our Meal Team and successfully developed a Visitors Team.

Caritas is a Latin word which means “charity”. The Greek word means “giving of the heart.” There is a Latin phrase “Ubi Caritas et amor deus ebi” which means “Where there is loving care, there also is God”.

Caritas continues to provide much needed support, friendship and encouragement to members of our church family. The average number of active teams during a month is 6. These teams can range from long standing teams existing for many years to support for just a few days. We depend heavily from the referrals from our pastors, Deacons, staff and members of the congregation to get news of the needs in our congregation. Not all of these communications result in a new team, but each is researched and the request is evaluated. We have been so blessed to have Rev. Kyle on our team to give us guidance and leadership.

We have seen an increase in our CaritasTeam model being implemented by small group, PW circles and even in neighborhoods in Wheaton. This is very gratifying.

The Caritas Steering Committee meets monthly to discuss the existing teams, review any new referrals and discuss future training dates, meetings, etc. Unfortunately Maryanne Kyle left our committee where she has served for many years as our Trainer. Job and family responsibility caused Patti Buh to also resign. Jean Crane served as our Referral Coordinator for the majority of the year. When Jean decided to step down, Robbie Spehr offered to take on the role as Referral Coordinator.

Each CaritasTeam is a group of trained volunteers who do what they love to do; help others in need, when they are able to volunteer. Whether a CaritasTeam is helping an individual or family by running errands, offering a meal or just by visiting, we are sharing Christ’s love to the Caritas Team friends and their families.

Our Meal Team project continues to thrive and grow. Members volunteer to furnish meals. When we receive a request for a meal, an e-mail is sent out to all of the Meal Team volunteers. It is so gratifying to see how quickly folks respond that they are willing to prepare and deliver meals to church members who expressed needs for a meal. We have been able to offer meals to approximately 35 members and families.

Luanne Matlock Brennan and Dianne Lambert have developed our Visiting Team. Working with the Deacons and church staff we have offered a visitor to about 25 of our members. We ask our visitors to commit to visiting the church member once a month for about an hour. Some of our members live in care facilities or in their homes. The requests from members and their families for the Visiting Team continues to increase. We have a great need for volunteer visitors. Rev. Kyle has been training these volunteers and is working on a schedule for them to meet quarterly.

The Caritas Ministry is always looking for new opportunities to serve our congregation and looking for more volunteers to allow us to respond to the needs.

The Caritas Steering Committee

Ann Flansburg, Facilitator

Robbie Spehr, Referral Coordinator

Luanne Brennan, Visiting Team Coordinator

Jean Crane, steering committee member

Jeanne Kovanda, Meal Team Coordinator

Dianne Lambert, Visiting Team Coordinator

Andrea Schewe, steering committee member

Marge Stevens, steering committee member

Career Ministry 2009 Annual Report

Career Ministries completed its 2nd year of ministry in 2009. We had a very productive year.

Working closely with Gary United Methodist Church, an 8 week workshop was offered in January and February for individuals looking for new positions or considering changes in their careers. Dave Cox, creator of the workshop, led the sessions, which were attended by over 85 people at the Saturday morning sessions.

In the Spring and Fall, we hosted educational opportunities offered during the Pathways Sunday School hour. The classes were led by inside and outside speakers, including Wes Bleed, former news director of WGN Radio, Vickie Austin, Life Coach and Career Counselor, and Dr. Dan Tomal, author of HR related books, college teacher and consultant.

Perhaps, the most effective aspect of Career Ministry was the Monday evening small group meetings for those seeking employment or a change in careers. Hosted by Gary United Methodist and First Presbyterian on an alternating basis, the sessions provided an opportunity for individuals to meet first, in a large group setting for a spiritual message and a message on job search strategy and secondly, in smaller, facilitator led groups where participants talked through issues of importance to them. The program, dubbed "Between Successes" was felt to be very supportive and insightful.

It is anticipated that during 2010 some or all of the above endeavors will continue to be offered. We are especially thankful for the small group facilitators who shared their time, talents and wisdom with our ministry.

We consider it a blessing to have worked with so many fine people during 2009 and we look forward to enhancing the programs and offerings during 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Stephenson and Jim Carr

Children's Ministries 2009 Annual Report

One of the truths that our children are taught over and over is that “the church is people” – not a building or a program, but the people who are here to learn about God’s great love for all people and how to share that love with others. “The people” are what make our ministry with children here an important and successful ministry. We learned many years ago at our first LOGOS training school that we need to call leaders into ministry who love God, love young people, and have gifts to share – in that order. And we do have so many volunteers who are willing to share that love and their gifts and give so deeply of themselves. When we make an annual report, it spans two “program years,” the last part of the 2008-9 year and the start of the 2009-10 year. So there are two sets of teams to give thanks for – one has ended their ministry and the other is still in progress. Some of the volunteers have been on both teams and have served for many years – that is because they are serving as a calling and they believe in what they are doing. Thanks be to God for each one of them!

Just last month we were lead in worship on Christmas Eve as our children read scripture and prayers and played much practiced music to offer their gifts. Artists also shared their gifts. I am thankful to all our young people who helped us celebrate Christmas.

Our Sunday morning team includes wonderful teachers and child care providers. They have been using the LIVE B.I.G. (believe in God, believe also in me, John 14:1) curriculum as their guide. The teachers serve in teams to provide consistent leadership for the children.

Our teachers for 2008-2009 were:

2 year olds	Heather Bormann, Sarah Konfirst
3 year olds	Stacy Chojnacki, Henrieta Ribeiro, Beth Bach-Pomatto
4 year olds	Jennifer Boba, Sharri Moses
Kindergarten	Margie Burgess, Sarah Hess, Nancy Walker
Grade 1	Karen Arakawa, Joan Nelson, Debbie Queen
Grade 2	Laurie Aalbue, Alice Meyer, Deb Orr
Grade 3	Sarah Bowers, Allison Brink, Karen Meyer
Grade 4	Elaine Garner, Carol Molino, Tim and Lisa Shine, Steve Stephenson
Grade 5	Kip Fontana, Denny Lawson

The 2009-2010 program year teachers are:

2 year olds	Heather Bormann, Sarah Konfirst
3 year olds	Beth Bach-Pomatto, Julee Lockard, Susie Mitchell, Henrieta Ribeiro
4 year olds	Carol Brcka, Pam Gilbert, Jane Kimball
Kindergarten	Jennifer Boba, Ruth Lange, Sharri Moses
Grade 1	Stacy Chojnacki, Kate Hinson, Steve Stephenson, Nancy Walker
Grade 2	Karen Arakawa, Tammy Brokaw, Alice Meyer, Joan Nelson
Grade 3	Sarah Hess, Lisa Musleh, Tara Schreiner, Lisa Shine
Grade 4	Laurie Aalbue, Pam Bienduga, Sarah Bowers, Karen Meyer
Grade 5	Denny Lawson, Tim Shine, Angela Stephenson, Elizabeth and Van Lear

We have a dedicated staff that provides childcare during worship for our youngest members. Thanks to Heather Bormann, Sarah Konfirst, Emily Creer, Zoe Edwards, Natalie Kinsey, Emily Lechiara, Andrea Molino, and Hayley Sanzotti for this current year and also Grace Goodwin, Sharri Moses and Matt Matosian who were part of the 2008-09 team. LOGOS, our midweek ministry, is also successful because of the dedication of leaders who are called to that ministry. Each class, K-5, has a Bible lesson each week that is taught by those who are called to a teaching ministry.

2008-9

Kindergarten	Sherry Halleran, Bev Gleich, Shelley Iliff
Grade 1	Julie Hardwick, Debbie Queen
Grade 2	Carol Brcka
Grade 3	Lisa Keup
Grade 4	Tammy Brokaw, Angela Stephenson
Grade 5	Donna Ayers, Elaine Garner, Beth Bach-Pomatto

2009-10

Kindergtn-Gr 1	Lisa Larson
Grade 2	Julie Hardwick, Sharri Moses
Grade 3	Shelley Iliff
Grade 4	Melanee Burns, Debbie Queen
Grade 5	Elaine Garner, Elizabeth Lear, Lisa Shine

The children also have a time for recreation with the goal of great fun for everyone. They rotate every 3 weeks between games in the Ministry Center, craft projects, and activities in the Undercroft. MaryBeth deBolt and Sharon Carroll have planned the Ministry Center games for both program years. Janice Zeuch has been planning craft projects for both years and Kim Hands joined her this year to plan crafts for the children in grades 3-5. During the 2008-9 year Elizabeth Lear and Cathy Thompson lead the Undercroft time and this program year Carol Molino and Allison Brink lead grades 3-5 and Stacey Nielsen and Kelly Padera lead grades K-2. Each of these leaders is creative and fun to be with! All Bible study classes and recreation times are supported by a wonderful group of “shepherds” who lead the children to each activity and stay with them for guidance. We share a meal together thanks to a group of dedicated cook teams who rotate every fourth week. Christine Miller, Nancy Gambaiani, Steve VanOss and Heidi Gagnon are the leaders of these teams – each with 6-7 members. Every table has an especially kind and patient volunteer to eat with a group of children each week as their Table Parent. Jay Moses is our “dinner dean,” and leads us in a prayer and thanks to our cooks each week. Other kind and dedicated volunteers set the tables, wash the table cloths, do our shopping, and put away our decorations. We gather in the sanctuary at the start of LOGOS each week to learn about and practice for Sunday worship and to also learn about ways to share God’s love with others through service and sharing. Some of the service opportunities have been Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, Operation Support Our Troops, Christmas Sharing Ministry, People’s Resource Center. We have some children with very generous hearts!

Summer Vacation Bible School was another example of wonderful people being the church together. Over 40 adults and teens came together during that week in June to make a great week for the kids at “Camp E.D.G.E” (Experience and Discover God Everywhere) We had a team of teens who acted out the scripture each day, many who guided each class station to station, and leaders for each activity. Thanks to Gail Bolin- Kaenel and Barb Pearson for leading the service time, to Tammy Brokaw and Janice Zeuch for leading games, Allison VanOss and Zoe Edwards for leading music with David Lincoln, and Sharri Moses and Lauren Spehr for leading crafts. What a great week!

Our annual Easter Craft Party and Egg Hunt was another fun event for the younger children and their families and so was the new Family Christmas Caroling. Thanks to our Children’s Ministry Team for coordinating those events. That team is such a positive group – and eager to serve our children.

Sarah Bowers and Lisa Keup retired after the 2008-9 program year having given many years of faithful service and leadership. Our team now includes Beth Bach-Pomatto, Jennifer Boba, Susie Mitchell and Megan Zorn – a great group to meet with each month. We welcome your prayers and your ideas for how to help our children know how much they are loved by God and to learn how to follow Jesus Christ.

I want the congregation to know how thankful I am for the opportunity to serve our church family as the Coordinator of Children's Ministries. It gives me much joy to work with the children and the volunteers and I thank you for the privilege. One of the favorite parts of my job is to be with the children on Sunday mornings during the sermon time – they are such fun to be with! I believe that all that is good is from God, and God is here among us.

With thanks,
Shelley Iliff

Church Administrator 2009 Annual Report

Not a day goes by without my receiving some email or advertisement discussion group about how churches can improve or change. Technology is usually at the center of these opportunities to change: Online Church Community Networks; Churches using the Internet to Create Community, Mission and Discipleship; Churches Promoting Social Media During Sermons; the Twitalyzer – Tool to Measure your Impact and Success on Twitter; Church Management Systems; & the State of the Church Online, to name some. Should we Blog, have a Facebook Page, TM our questions to the pastor during worship, Twitter our every move, and or even offer worship via the WEB for those who just can't make it on Sundays? What are we ready to embrace here at First Pres? I have often been asked to look into ways we can give Online and register for events Online. I am happy to say that after a lot of research, and help from some of our web team Ed Ballard, and Ben Crane, and with approval of session, we are ready to provide the convenience of Online Giving and Event Registration to our members and friends in 2010. Be looking for more information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

I serve as liaison to various ministries of the church: Stewardship, Office and Finance, Human Resources, Communications, Building and Grounds, Gifts and Memorials, Wedding Coordinators, and the Preschool. Tiffany Carter also serves as staff liaison to the Communications Ministry Team and Scott Rice serves as staff liaison to Buildings and Grounds. It is exciting to be involved with each of these ministries in the church, and each of their annual reports is sure to highlight what we have been doing throughout 2009. This was my last year as the bookkeeper for the Churches United for Hardship Assistance (CUHA), an organization to benefit those in need which receives contributions from our church and many other churches in Wheaton, as they are going to a different accounting system beginning January 2010.

One of the highlights of my year was serving on the planning team from the Chicago Chapter of NACBA for the National NACBA Conference in Long Beach. My particular role was as registration chair, but also included managing many facets of the conference onsite in July. There were so many wonderful volunteers that I was also able to attend many valuable workshops and network with administrators from all over the country. Topics of particular interest were “The Recession Proof Church – Funding Ministry in Challenging Times” – on Stewardship, “Coaching Upward” – on Leadership, “Turning the Ordinary into the Extraordinary” – on effective/efficient use of ministry resources, HR Accounting, and Tax & Legal Updates. It is also exciting that one of our regular and most renowned presenters on Tax and Legal Updates at the NACBA National Conference will be our speaker for the May Chicago Chapter meeting. I have also been honored to be invited to participate on the NACBA Professional Training and Standards (PT&S) Committee for the 2009-2010 association year. I have been involved in a leadership role with planning and attending the bi monthly local chapter meetings of NACBA, with topics such as communication, legal/tax issues in churches, safety and security, and networking. These meetings provide fresh and current information on best practices in all areas of church administration.

The Administrative team at First Pres includes an incredible group of staff who keep this Church running effectively. Our team includes Janet Rynne, Administrative Assistant, Scott Rice, Facility Manager, Tiffany Carter, Publications Coordinator, and Joan Johnson, Financial Secretary. Additionally, we have an excellent preschool team, lead by Preschool Director, Chandra Gravit, providing a safe environment and compassionate learning experience for children as they prepare for elementary school. Our Wedding Coordinating Team had a change this year, with Karen Joyce leaving, and Tanya Downing joining veteran coordinator Nancy Gambaini. They continue to commit their expert assistance providing brides and their families a most memorable day.

Churches of our staff and size often have more administrative support, particularly for program and pastoral staff. I am constantly impressed by the ways this entire staff works together to accomplish the ministry and mission of the church - it is definitely a team effort, and everyone pitches in to do more than their share! One important way we support staff as a church is by providing excellent technology tools – and this year had to replace about half of the staff computers, with the others requiring replacement in 2010. We will also have to replace our server in 2010 which is nearing the age of replacement and functionality – this is a more expensive project.

Thank you for all the ways you support our entire administrative staff, and encourage us to faithfully serve God and this congregation each day.

May God's richest blessings be yours in 2010,

Jan Buscher
Church Administrator

**Clerk of Session
2009 Annual Report**

Total Membership 12/31/08 **1555**

Additions:

Profession of Faith-17 and under	28
Profession of Faith-18 and over	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	7
Certificate of Transfer	6
Reinstatement	<u>2</u>

Total Gains 44

Removals:

Certificate of Transfer	15
Deletions from Active Rolls	2
Moved from Active to Inactive	16
Deaths	<u>11</u>

Total Losses: 44

Membership 12/31/08 **1555**

Baptisms:

Adult	0
Infant	<u>7</u>

Total Baptisms 7

Weddings: **6**

Communions: **6188**

Memorial Services & Funerals: **12**

Respectfully submitted,

D. Matthew Stremel, Clerk of Session

College Ministry/20 Something - CHCF 2009 Annual Report

CHCF Ministry at First Pres. began in 2007 and was formed as a way to keep our College age students connected to our church and to reach out to those college students attending school in the area. CHCF is a time for worship and fellowship. Our hope is to reach out and keep in touch with this age group. The motto of CHCF is “We are here to enrich our friendships, maintaining a strong faith can sometimes be tedious without close friends to confide in. CHCF is here for food; and no not just food to fill our stomachs (even though that is a great thing), but for spiritual nourishment that will help us live our lives with the energy of God.”

Change - Over the past 2 years, the ministry has changed into 2 separate groups. The first which focuses on those attending College reaching out via technology during the school year and meeting during holiday breaks. The second group is called the “20 something small group ministry” which allows those who are just out of college a way to re-connect with our church.

Weekly Activities - During 2009, primarily through our Facebook page and e-mail, we stayed connected with those prior WF students who are away at college during the school year. For the 20 somethings, we met each Thursday night doing a small group bible study. During one of our meetings, while discussing the book of Esther, we assisted with stuffing envelopes for the Centennial Celebration.

Summer Breaks - The 2 groups came together during breaks. During the summer months, gatherings were planned for every other week beginning mid May. Our activities included, Meet and Greet, Worship under the Stars, Dinner outings and every other meeting was a cooking class called “Mama Sue’s Cooking for Christ”

With so many college students getting their first apartments and the 20 something’s heading out on their own, I thought it would be a great way to share some basic cooking skills and simple recipes with this group. In addition, it’s another way to stay connected with God and the church. There were 10 easy rules to follow:

1. Pray first – as all we do is for the glory of HIM;
2. Wash your hands and remember safety in the kitchen;
3. Talk with each other and Learn from each other
4. Cook together
5. Pray again – hoping that what we’ve cooked serves HIM well
6. Eat together sharing joys, concerns and whatever is happening in each other’s lives
7. Worship at the table
8. Clean up together – leave the kitchen as clean as when we arrived
9. Share the load – basically, help carry supplies back out to the car; and of course
10. Have Fun

Thanksgiving Break - During the Thanksgiving break assisted by the WF leaders, we gathered together ate lunch and created gingerbread houses. Allison Tirone spoke to the group regarding staying connected to our faith during the challenging college times. Due to my personal health issues, I was unable to prepare any specific activities for the CHCF group over Christmas break. However, I was able to connect with some of the college students individually over the break.

Statistics –According to PCUSA website regarding religious life on college campus’,

- Students want to change the world, desiring to find purpose and meaning in their lives through service opportunities.
- Students need relationships to grow, including challenging mentors and companions on their faith journeys.
- Churches need to reorient themselves towards college students for the sake of the gospel, meaning rethinking church mission and ministry to embrace the vision and longing of students, and so to utilize their gifts.

And yet,

1. 2% attended religious services regularly before going to college, but by their junior year only 29% still attended regularly. (source: SIHE)
2. Only 1 out of 3 high school students expects to continue being involved with church once they're living on their own. (source)
3. 3/4 of juniors report that they regularly pray, that religion is helpful to them, and that they often discuss religion with their friends. (source: SIHE)
4. Around 1/5 of college students are extremely skeptical about religion and the possibility of God's existence. (source: SIHE)
5. 2/3 question their religious beliefs occasionally. (source: SIHE)
6. 1/2 say their professors never give an opportunity to discuss the meaning of life or spirituality in their classes. (source: SIHE)
7. 2/3 say their professors never encourage such discussions. (source: SIHE)
8. 17.6% of students list "none" as their religious preference, the highest percentage in history. (source: HERI)
9. "Americans in their twenties are significantly less likely than any other age group to attend church services, to donate to churches, to be absolutely committed to Christianity, to read the Bible, or to serve as a volunteer or lay leader in churches." (source)
10. "Only 3 out of 10 twentysomethings (31%) attend church in a typical week." (source)

So why should we focus our attention on College age students? For that matter, why focus on High School or Junior High age students? It is our opportunity to make a difference in these students’ lives and to equip them as they make plans to change the world.

Local Colleges – Although I try to reach out to the students that attend First Pres from our local colleges we are at a disadvantage. 1st, many of the other churches in the area offer transportation to and from the church, 2nd other churches have put more pastoral and financial backing towards this ministry. Most recently I found that Knox Presbyterian church in Naperville has an Associate Pastoral position opening with a focus on college and young adult ministry. 3rd, as a volunteer, I am unable to allocate much time to this ministry due to other commitments.

Next Steps - Beginning on Jan. 2010, I will continue to offer a 20 something small group on a weekly basis. For our college students, I am proposing that like many other churches in this area, we put a higher focus on our college ministry in the coming year and shift this responsibility from a volunteer to a paid staff putting a greater emphasis on this ministry.

I feel greatly blessed to have the opportunity to serve and work with our college students and the 20 something group. If any group of people has the ability to change the world, it is college students. That's why I feel honored to serve this group, while at the same time I feel a great responsibility. I feel the responsibility to equip this generation to be able to affect change in our world and in our churches. Being that college ministry holds a very important place in my heart, I am hoping that our church will embrace this ministry and move it forward.

Blessings,

Sue Massaro

Communications Ministry 2009 Annual Report

Understandable and free-flowing communication is the key to any successful organization. Here at First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton getting timely information to our congregation and the community will always be one of our most important challenges.

The Communications Ministry has evolved over time and has grown to include the following primary functions:

- Web site – **www.firstpreswheaton.org** has been the fastest growing portion of the communication ministry. It is staffed by an excellent team of dedicated members who are involved with the design of the site as well as posting information on the site in a timely manner.
- Press Releases – Sending out press releases with hopes that the local newspapers will print them and /or write an article about the event.
- Advertising – All aspects of paid advertising for the church.

Our website, **Firstpreswheaton.org**, again continues to be a very important part of our ministry. In 2009 our website received 843,854 hits which is about the same as 2008 and 28,063 unique visitors which is also about the same as 2008. In 2010 the web team will continue doing an excellent job of keeping our website fresh and up to date. The web team is currently working to revamp the website's appearance in order to give it a fresh new look.

2009 was another good year for First Pres' public relations efforts as many of our press releases were run by local newspapers. Public Relations continued to be an important tool for getting the word out about the church and its members.

We continued to use the Wheaton/Glen Ellyn Sun, Wheaton Leader and Daily Herald as our primary publications to place print ads. We placed several ads throughout the calendar year mostly around Easter and Christmas.

In 2009 we completed the installation of the new brochure stand in the Sun Light Rotunda which holds the newly designed brochures and pamphlets for many of our church's teams and committees. In 2010 we have started a new project to move the delivery of First Pres' monthly newsletter from mail to electronic. Currently we email the This Week publication to over 1000 church goers. By emailing the newsletter the church will save a substantial amount of money by reducing the printing and postage costs.

2009 has been a great year for the Communication Ministry. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2010. As always, we are open to church members who feel called to assist any of our teams. If you are interested, please leave your name, phone and e-mail at the church office to the attention of the Communication Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hands

Communion Preparation 2009 Annual Report

We had 38 Communion Services - 28 in the Sanctuary and 10 in the Chapel.

My helpers were:

Valerie Amundson
Mary Breitzke
Scott Downing
Peggy O'Neil

The total cost (bread, juice and paper doilies) for the services amounted to \$217.77.

Joan Reuss, Chairman

Holiday Flowers 2009 Annual Report

Easter - lilies and hydrangeas
Christmas - poinsettias

The total cost was \$1,864.37.

Joan Reuss, Chairman

Congregational Nominating Committee 2009 Annual Report

The Nominating Committee convened in August of 2009, meeting approximately weekly through December. Various efforts were used to encourage nominations of Deacons and Elders by the congregation, including bulletin and newsletter articles, encouragement from the pulpit, and a Nomination form available in the bulletin and on the website. Our charge was to nominate four Elders, eleven Deacons, and five at-large members for the 2010 Nominating Committee.

After prayerful consideration the following nominees are proposed for election:

Elder Class of 2013

Cindy Bass	Anne Gaertner
John Gassensmith	Greg Oltman

Deacon Class of 2013

JoLynn Brown	Arlyne Clacher
Pat Dettmer	Donna Estler
Ed Fussner	Alan Konfirst
Jeanne Kovanda	Kris Mast
Kathryn Pinto	Dan Spiegel
Mark Stapleton	

The following nominees for the 2010 Congregational Nominating Committee are proposed:

Jean Crane	Robb Frank
Kathy Hailman – Deacon	Sue Hervey
Don Josephson – Elder	Craig Queen – Elder
Phil Slocum	Robbie Spehr
(Add'l Deacon)	

The Board of Deacons will provide one additional member.

We are a blessed congregation with many qualified and willing individuals. The Nominating Committee is grateful and pleased that these nominees have accepted the call to serve our congregation. Our work has been a privilege and the committee is honored to have had this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2009 Nominating Committee:

Sue Rohl, Moderator	Paul Kirbas, ex officio
Craig Queen, Vice Moderator	Mark Spehr
Valerie Amundson	Betty Strunk
Kathy Hailman	Kyle Walker
Agnes Kenton	Bob Young

Connections Ministry Coordinator 2009 Annual Report

The Connections Ministry Coordinator position was created to help new and existing congregational members to feel an enhanced sense of **belonging** to this church. This position helps the church to be more intentional and committed to the **assimilation** and **integration** of members in the life of the church. In other words; we want **you** to feel **connected** with other Christians in the church.

Those are the kinds of things that I have been working on. To do that, I continue to have contacts with all the organizations and groups that are currently in the church (more than FIFTY!), and also with the leadership of those groups. Just as importantly, I meet personally with those of you who joined in the past four and a half years (and also those of you existing members who wanted to be more connected), to learn more about what's important to you, what your gifts are, and what you are passionate about. With this information, I suggest groups and organizations that might be interesting to you and get your concurrence that these sound interesting. Then I contact the chairs of those organizations, asking them to contact you and invite you to that organization.

In these past 12 months, I have talked with 10 people (160 since starting the role), and made 34 referrals to organizations (449 since starting the role). It has been fun to talk with all of you, to hear about your interests and lives, and get to know you a little better. I look forward to talking with more of you!

The real goal, of course, is to have **everyone** in the church feel connected ... with God, to this church, and with each other. That is going to be tougher because I don't naturally come in contact with all of you all the time. So, I will need your help: if you joined this church ... yesterday, five years ago, or 45 years ago ... and haven't found what you are looking for, **please contact me**. Email me (pburgess@firstpreswheaton.org) or give me a call (630-668-5147, x-33) or we'll work together in finding that connection!

Also this year, I organized the "Connections Expo" on the first Sunday in September, where most of the groups and organizations of the church were assembled in the Ministry Center to help you find interesting organizations and people to connect with.

In Christ's name,


Paul Burgess

Board of Deacons 2009 Annual Report

Mission

Deacons provide an active ministry of sympathy, witness, service and prayer following the example of Jesus Christ. To do this, we respond to individual needs, joys and concerns; seek to strengthen the bond of Christian community within this congregation; and extend the hand of Christian fellowship to our community and the world.

Areas of Ministry

Ministry of Sympathy

•**Parish Families** - To promote a spirit of belonging and respond to individual needs, the deacons are responsible for reaching out to their assigned parish families throughout the year via phone calls, visits, care cards, letters, e-mails and/or celebration cards (e.g., birthday, anniversary, confirmation). As a part of those connections, parish members were reminded of and invited to participate in church activities. Home communion is also offered to those who are homebound.

•**Parish Units**- The deacons encouraged individuals and families to connect with and minister to others within their parish unit by calls, visits, preparing meals, or other activities to build community within the church family. This year our parish units were remapped to make parishes more geographically compatible. Many deacons got whole new parishes and many parish families are now in new parish units.

Ministry of Witness

•**Homebound Members** - The deacons were in regular contact with our members who are unable to worship with us. Deacons sought to serve communion to homebound members when requested. Homebound members are provided with the opportunity to receive CDs of Sunday services, and a CD player if needed. A number of our homebound members continue to regularly enjoying copies of the CDs.

•**Holiday Remembrances** - The deacons coordinated delivery of Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias to our neighbors and to our homebound members. The Genesis youth group capably supported this ministry by delivering the lilies and poinsettias to the church's neighbors.

•**College Student Ministry** - We continued to have a deacon dedicated to ministry to our college student members connecting with them via facebook, e-mail, care cards and care packages. Electronic access to sermons and church announcements was encouraged. The College ministry worked with the CHCF efforts to assure our contact list was current.

•**Military Ministry** - The Deacon Board continued to support those serving in the military with prayer and care cards.

•**New Members** - Deacons reached out to new members by visiting one of their new members' classes, and attending their reception.

•**Thanksgiving Offering** - The deacons allocated the 2008 Thanksgiving Fund to the People's Resource Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Ministry of Service

•**Centennial Sunday** – Deacons helped in many ways, from greeting, helping with parking, providing punch and coffee and many cakes. It was a great day!

•**All-Church Picnic** - Deacons hosted the all-church picnic in early September. Activities included a shared meal with special events including carnival games, moon jump, kids' races, cake walk, face painting, volleyball, and water balloon toss. Attendance was good. This year we had it directly after the 10:00 service and the congregation seemed to like it. The congregation's generous donations resulted in most expenses being covered.

•**Senior Luncheons** - Deacons hosted two Senior Luncheons in May and October to provide an opportunity for fellowship and fun. In addition to a shared meal, speakers included Dr. Paul Kirbas who spoke on “The Power of Prayer: Where Faith and Science Agree” and in October Pastor Kyle spoke on the Pastoral Care ministries and David Lincoln and “The Humble Singers” entertained the seniors in the sanctuary.

•**Memorial Receptions** - Memorial receptions continued to be a vital ministry offered to grieving families. As hosts, the deacons offered baked goods and beverages (coffee, tea, and punch.) When more substantial food was desired, deacons coordinated planning with the family and the party responsible for the catering. There were 6 memorials with receptions held this past year.

•**Blood Drives** – This year, we continued to have one blood drive on October 27th during Sunday morning. We are thankful for the 44 participants of our church members and friends in giving the “gift of life”.

•**Food Pantry** - Once a month, the church designated a Food Pantry Sunday coordinated by the deacons. Congregational contributions of non-perishable food items were delivered to the People’s Resource Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry. Food Pantry Sunday is the Sunday prior to communion being served. In an effort to be more liturgical and thinking we will give and then receive.

•**Fellowship and Flowers** - Each Sunday, deacons greeted worshippers and offered coffee and lemonade for the fellowship gathering following the 8:40 a.m. service. After Sunday services, chancel flowers were delivered to 1 or 2 members who were in need of prayer but unable to attend worship services.

•**Shalom Vesper Services** – Were discontinued in May, and Pastor Kyle is going to provide a quarterly service. In the month of December, there will be a “Blue Christmas” service held on December 20th.

•**Committee Participation** - Deacons participated as members in various committees including the all-church Nominating Committee and the Umbrella Team; and actively supported other efforts (Membership Committee, special event committees, Red Carpet Committee). We participated in the “Connections Expo” that took place in September on start up Sunday in the ministry center.

Ministry of Prayer

•**Prayer for Parish Families** - Deacons pray for their parish families on an ongoing basis. The Board of Deacons also prayed for each parish family on a rotating basis in our board meetings. Parish families were contacted to solicit any special prayer requests, both joys and concerns.

•**Prayer for Others** - In each meeting, joys and concerns of the Deacons and others known to them were lifted in prayer as a part of our ongoing worship and fellowship. Prayer concerns were also shared real-time via e-mail and calls throughout the year so we could respond effectively to care for one another within and outside of our community of faith.

The Board of Deacons feels blessed to join you in serving in this church as we seek to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Blake, Moderator
Laura Boynton, Vice Moderator

Genesis 6th – 8th Grade Ministries 2009 Annual Report

“Each one of us has a body with many parts, and these parts all have different uses. In the same way, we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body, and each part belongs to all the other parts.”—Romans 12: 4-8

The **purpose** of our Genesis Ministry is to continue with the nurturing of Christian relationships begun in the elementary grades, further the youth’s biblical education and to encourage a developing relationship with Christ in order to prepare them for confirmation and to cross the bridge into the fellowship of our High School youth group, WF. During this process, we encourage our youth to look beyond their middle school world to areas where they may be able to help others less fortunate than they are.

Our **goal** is to bring the middle school youth together in a fun, loving, Christian environment to form and nurture lasting friendships with fellow lovers of Jesus Christ through participation in Sunday school, LOGOS, retreats, BLAST, VBS, off site outings and mission work. Currently we have 104 youth listed on our three middle school rosters: 33 sixth graders, 32 seventh graders and 39 eighth graders. Of these youth, 75 participate in our mid-week LOGOS program.

The **Genesis Ministry Team** has continued to provide insightful and supportive leadership for the Middle School program. Lynne Danekas has been our facilitator the last year and a half. I so appreciate her leadership, support guidance and friendship.

In **Sunday school** we are using The Covenant People by Presbyterians, for Presbyterians as our curriculum. Sixth grade is studying the Old Testament, seventh grade the New Testament and eighth grade “I Know My Bible,” an overview of both testaments. We started the program year with a breakfast focused on friendship and participation. In order to encourage attendance, our 8th grade class has had several breakfasts in the meantime. The first Sunday of Advent, each youth was given a day by day calendar entitled “*a prayer for each day, Advent 2009*” put out by Creative Communications for the Parish. The participation in our education hour classes continues to be sporadic. We teachers strive to make our lessons as interesting and interactive as possible to keep our youth attending. This year all the middle school classes are located next to each other in Stewart Hall. We started a “donut smorgasbord board” outside the classrooms during the coffee time, in between services, for all the youth to enjoy just before class. It has become quite a social time for both youth and adults. We are blessed with loving, dedicated Sunday school teachers, many having taught for consecutive years. Elaine Garner and Debbie Queen assist Mary Kinsey in 6th grade. 7th grade is led by Paul Fuson and assisted by an all male cast of Scott Downing, Anthony Lechiara, Tom Brcka and Greg Oltman, such wonderful male mentors for our 7th graders. Jerry Meyer and Karen McKee returned to 8th grade for the eleventh year in a row!

In February ‘09 we had 41 youth and 6 adults go to East Troy Wisconsin to Timber-lee Christian Retreat Center for their winter Xtreme retreat. The theme, “unrefined”, was taken from Isaiah 64:8, “...Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are all formed by your hand.” Bill Allison was the speaker and the music leadership was provided by our favorite band, “Daniel’s Window.” The weather was perfect and we had lots of fun tubing, tobogganing and participating in the broomball tournament.

Our Genesis **LOGOS** attendance began as a group of 71 youth and we had four join making our total 75. Our small group Bible study continues to be the favorite of the youth. Our curriculum this year was “Can I really RELATE?” by David C. Cook. Each lesson was developed to be teen-relevant and spiritually enriching. It was leader friendly and enjoyed by the youth. Again we are blessed with 18 devoted Bible study teachers, many returning for the second and third year, willing to dedicate their Wednesday evenings to our middle school youth, encouraging them in the development of their understanding of Jesus Christ and a relationship with Him and each other. We have had several new families join this fall and it is exciting to see the ministry grow through our youth’s evangelism. Our “Giving Back to God” time after dinner continues to provide our youth with many mission opportunities both at church and out in the community. We started the year with the question, “What are we called to do?” followed by an activity to help the youth get to know each other. We continue to “changing-up” this time between speakers, worship, and mission projects. A church neighborhood food drive for Christmas Sharing, a speaker from Operation Support Our Troops-Illinois, stuffing and labeling stewardship letters for our church families, making ornaments for the seniors we visited at Christmas, a baptism scavenger hunt and communion workshop were on the schedule for after dinner. Two annual highlights of our LOGOS program are the visits to our seniors at Christmas and our participation in Christmas Sharing. Both events included special dinners along with many adults assisting in driving and organizing. Overall our Genesis LOGOS is staffed by 45 committed adults willing to share their gifts, love, time and spirituality, with our middle school youth.

BLAST led by Karla Coolidge and her dedicated team has taken us to many fun places this past year. A Kane County Cougar’s game, an afternoon at Splash Mountain, jumping into pits of foam at Premier Gymnastics, a late night at the Wheaton Sports Center and our favorite, March Madness continue to be a venue where our Middle Schoolers can bring their non-FPC friends to enjoy good Christian fun.

September was highlighted by our **fall retreat**. Up to Timber-lee we went with 38 youth, 6 adults for Timber-lee’s first ever Middle School “Jump Start” fall retreat. Our speaker was Dave Creek and worship was led by our very favorite band “Daniel’s Window”. During the day we participated in a team-building course, a huge box ball game, horseback riding, tower climbing, archery, craft house and game room. Late night fun was a hayride, bonfire and s’mores. One of the best parts was the youth from Elmhurst Presbyterian church and their leader Diane Slocum going along with us. Many friendships were made and renewed.

Mission opportunities alternate each month with BLAST and retreats. Helping out at the People’s Resource Center, going to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and our annual all church clean-up keep us busy and very mission minded. Returning in June was our *VBS-Service Squad* with 21 fifth through eighth graders and 10 adult helpers. Each day after a brief devotion we left to go out into the community for a service project. We had a food drive, went to the DuPage Animal Shelter to wash and play with 10 abandoned puppies, to the DuPage Convalescent Center to play bingo with the residents and hand out fleece heart pillows as prizes we made earlier in the week, assisted out very own Josie Reuss at Adams Park and did weeding and planting here at First Pres and wrapped up the week at Feed My Starving Children and then lunch out. What a great week and how wonderful to see the joy in the youth’s faces serving others! Our middle school youth were also responsible for delivering Easter lilies and Christmas Poinsettias to the FPC neighbors.

It is hard to believe I have been the Middle school coordinator for seven years. Each one has brought new adventures and a growing ministry. One thing remains constant, the amazing middle school youth we have here at First Pres. How truly blessed we are and what an opportunity to build the Kingdom of God. I could not do this ministry without the never ending support of such dedicated parents and adults who love our middle schoolers as I do.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to fulfill God's calling. I continue to be God's instrument for our youth.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary H. Kinsey

Gifts and Memorials Committee 2009 Annual Report

The Gifts and Memorials Committee administers funds and gifts given in memory of deceased members, or in honor of someone in gratitude of our church's work.

Our guidelines for usage are:

Does it augment worship?

Does it enhance study?

Does it aid in our mission outreach commitment?

Will the gift add beauty, or greater function in our facilities?

The Gifts and Memorials Committee makes all decisions to determine the expenditures of these funds.

In 2009 Gifts and Memorials received designated memorials to the Gardens/Landscaping fund, the Organ Fund, Sunday School, A/V, the Preschool and a landscape project for the front area of the church by the Narthex, along with many undesignated memorials which are used at the discretion of the G & M committee following its guidelines. We purchased the new Celtic Processional Cross for worship, and two Bunn Coffee Servers to add to the four that came with the new Coffee Makers provided by Papa Nicholas.

The committee generally is scheduled to meet quarterly, but has been meeting a little more frequently in order to acclimate new members and review its policies and procedures and will be making recommended changes and updates to session in 2010.

The following members serve on the Gifts and Memorials Committee: Anita Brechtel, Dee Hicks, Jane Mitchell, Peter Richey, Fred Rosen, Dick Yanney and Kathy Young. Jan Buscher is the staff liaison to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Buscher,
Committee Staff Liaison

Human Resources Committee 2009 Annual Report

The Human Resources Committee (HRC) has the responsibility to provide advice and make recommendations to Session on employee benefits, personnel policies, conflict resolution, staffing plans, salaries, personnel budgets, and other personnel matters. In conducting its work, the HRC reports to Session. HRC members are Cindy Bass, Roger Benson, Tim Brink, Paul Luhrsen, Mike McKee, and Gwen Patterson. The Session liaison is Steve Van Oss. The staff ex-officio members are Jan Buscher, Church Administrator, and Pastor Paul Kirbas, Pastor/Head of Staff.

Changes to the pastors' terms of call as proposed by the HRC were presented to the congregation in January 2009 and approved by the congregation. The personnel budget for 2010 was developed and recommended. The HRC also recommended appropriate modifications to employee Healthcare plans.

In 2009, an HRC member chaired the nominating committee for the Coordinator of Pastoral Care position with representatives from the HRC and the various pastoral care ministries. Timing of the annual "Joys and Concerns" interviews with church staff members was adjusted in order to better fit with program year performance management. The committee also discussed performance reviews with the Pastor/Head of Staff and Church Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Brink, Chair
Human Resources Committee

JUST Correspondence Committee 2009 Annual Report

This year we marked twenty years of service in this committee to the inmates of DuPage County Jail. In 1989 a group of us gathered to explore the possibility of a correspondence Bible study with those incarcerated at the jail. We received encouragement from the JUST staff, the social service office at the jail in charge of educational and worship opportunities there.

With this response, we examined a number of possible texts, finally choosing a series of six booklets that have a Q/A format with students reading a passage from the Old or New Testament and giving an answer to a question posed. There are also many chances to relate the ideas to the student's life experiences. They are written in a straightforward style easy to grasp. If the student finishes all six, he or she is given a certificate of completion.

These texts have proved successful over the years. We have engaged with hundreds of men and women who are looking for a better answer to the problems of their lives. We on the committee realize that many who work with these booklets may simply be looking for a better chance with a judge at a trial or a way to pass the time that may hang heavy on their hands. If we can reach even a few whose lives might truly change for the better, it would be very worthwhile. They could return to society far more productive and far better able to be stable sons or daughters, husbands or wives, fathers or mothers... and better citizens of our communities. And finding Christ wouldn't do them a lot of damage, either! I frequently write to them that they can go forward, blessed to be a blessing to all those whose lives they touch.

The format is a once-a-week exchange of books: our committee members bring reviewed books to our mail slot at the church, and one of us takes them to the "booking" desk at the jail to swap for the newly finished ones. Our contact with inmates is limited to the books and the comments made in them. Some of us also have been screened to go inside the jail, but that is not part of this particular mission.

Our committee this year consists of Marilyn Gebhardt, Sue Hervey, Barbara Huszagh (chair), Lorrie Leahigh, and Carol Potter. Toward the end of the year, health and family problems have made Carol take a break from the books. I might mention, also, that Sue has been fitting time in between "grandmothering" to triplets, and Lorrie cut her right hand badly but got back to the booklets the first minute she could. Marilyn and I have been with the committee since its start, and we can provide continuity through the years to the many fine members who have joined us. We also provide publicity about the occasional special needs of JUST, like the candy and stamps at Christmas. We are grateful and proud that our church gives very generous support to JUST. The payoff is inmates who are enabled to participate in their many programs: anger management, AA, DA, parenting skills, GED and ESL classes, and many Bible study and group discussion opportunities. It is clear that many leave their stay at the jail much better prepared to hold a job, turn their back on addiction, or support a family.

JUST, like so many organizations, is suffering from lack of public funds now, and they are especially grateful for every bit of support they can receive to keep up the good work. And we are glad to be under the twin umbrellas of First Pres and JUST to do our share.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Huszagh, chairperson

Men's Luncheon Program 2009 Annual Report

The Men's Luncheon Program has been a part of the Church's "Connections" for nearly 20 years. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from September through May. Meetings are held at Windsor Park Manor at 11:30 for conversation and then enjoy a light lunch. Following lunch we adjourn to a private room for a talk by a guest speaker. The cost is \$10 and covers actual expenses.

Local speakers are emphasized and topics cover a wide range. To cite some examples: we learn of the missions and operations of local charities, missionaries recount overseas adventures, church members tell of work, hobby or recreational experiences, government officials tell us how our tax dollars are being used.

Program subjects for the remaining months of the current year include talks by four of our fellow Church members: Randy Foster — experiences as an American Airlines Pilot; Gwen Henry — behind the scenes of County Government; Susan Miller – A power point presentation on genealogy; Don Josephson – a talk entitled "Fun with Numbers" and finally, a talk by a city official on the Manchester Bridge project, a subject dear to all who live on the "other side of the tracks".

In the coming months the planning committee will be getting together to develop next year's program. We certainly welcome topic suggestions.

Please join us. It's fellowship, entertaining and educational.

Submitted by Dick Mitchell

Mission Outreach Committee (MOC) 2009 Annual Report

Committee Members (as of 12/31/09): Tom Boynton (chair), Jean Crane, Don Josephson (MOC member and session representative), Julie Kaufmann, Justin Mead, Jay Moses (staff liaison), Judi Nychay, Kathy Paradise, Fred Rosen, Jodi Stapleton, Mark Stapleton and Juliana Wilhoit.

OVERVIEW

2009 marked a change in direction for the Mission Outreach Committee. As with most church departments, budgetary limitations continued to be a challenge, but positive steps were made to expand the church's mission activities beyond the existing mix.

We began the process of reorganizing our missions based on the underlying needs being addressed rather than a geographic emphasis. This reorganization was completed early in 2009, and was in place by the April 2009 Mission Fair.

The April 2009 Mission Fair was a great success, informing First Pres.'s congregation members of the opportunities for them to assist in spreading God's love through either direct action or financial support.

Communication with the First Presbyterian congregation also continued apace, with *Minutes for Mission* presented on a periodic basis and educational sharing when appropriate. Website updating is underway. In addition, the committee mix has changed since 2008, with Jean Crane, Juliana Wilhoit and Don Josephson joining the group while we said goodbye to Kathryn Pinto. We thank all committee members – past and present – for their selfless participation and energy.

2009 MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

“Hands On” Mission (T. Boynton)

Our “Hands On” mission efforts included support for PADS of DuPage County, Christmas Sharing in December 2009, several events for Habitat for Humanity, and continued work with the People's Resource Center to assist less fortunate people in the Wheaton area.

Our Christmas Sharing program was again a great success in 2009, offering food, clothing and toys to the less-advantaged of DuPage County and the Wheaton area. This year we served over 160 families and involved over one hundred members of First Presbyterian Church as well. This was a 60% (!) increase in support for families in District 200 schools.

Evangelism (J. Crane)

Our committee's support ended for our “Two Sarahs,” Sarah Brouwer and Sarah Iliff as they graduated from seminary. We now are supporting Lynne Danekas in her educational pursuits at seminary. The MOC has also supported Day Star University and medical mission workers in Northeast Africa throughout 2009.

We are especially pleased to report that we have built even better connections to Wicker Park Grace, an alternative church experience located in the near Northwest side of Chicago. Pastor Nanette also participated in teaching a course during autumn 2009 at our church educational hour.

Family Mission (Kathy Paradise)

First Presbyterian's relationship with **Iglesia Presbiteriana Canto de Esperanza in Berwyn** continued to grow throughout 2009. The forging of a formal partnership/covenant continues to move forward, albeit at a slow pace. As in 2008, members of Canto de Esperanza and First Presbyterian Church shared a mission trip to Mexicali, Mexico in March 2009. Several members of Canto de Esperanza, including their pastor, Salatiel Palomino, participated in the trip, providing leadership and shared vision for this ongoing mission initiative.

MOC continued to support mission directly and indirectly within First Presbyterian, as evidenced by events such as Hoops for Hope and funding assistance for the WF summer mission trip.

In March, twenty people participated in our fourth **Family Mission Trip to Mexicali, Mexico**. The relationships formed the past years with the three local congregations in Mexicali were strengthened, with the involvement of three new partners in mission this year: 1) members of Canto de Esperanza joined us in shared mission and planning; 2) members of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Carol Stream joined in work and communion, and 3) the Korean Presbyterian Seminary in Mexicali hosted a joint communion service involving all parties. A fifth trip is planned for April 2009.

Justice (Mark Stapleton)

First Presbyterian's "Justice" mission partners include Abraham's Children, NAMI, Calcutta support, JUST of DuPage, and the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center.

We are actively pursuing support for Christian Mission workers in Calcutta, where the horrific practice of sex trafficking of women and children continues apace. In relationship with the organization **International Justice Mission** as well as Satyanandan (a local Christian pastor) we are seeking to discern what God might be calling First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton to learn and do. During 2009 the MOC supported Satya with prayer, Skype communication sessions and financial support.

Hospitality (Justin Mead)

2009 saw a solid increase in First Presbyterian's support for interfaith efforts, particularly with our Muslim brethren in the Chicago area. Pastor Jay Moses assumed the role of Muslim Relations Coordinator within the Chicago Presbytery and is actively engaged in outreach to other faith groups (Islam, Mormonism and Judaism in particular). Concerning local refugee support, we look forward to expanding our local support and involvement with "Welcome to America" packs for Exodus World Services.

INTO 2010 AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Mission Committee is looking forward to the challenges facing mission work in 2010. While outside economic factors will continue to keep our overall spending levels unchanged (at best), the Committee will keep examining our mission activities to best apply the knowledge, resources and energy of all First Presbyterian Church members to the continuation and expansion of God's work. We believe our new structure will facilitate active participation by church members who may otherwise not choose to be engaged in mission work.

Additionally, the inter-faith initiatives begun in 2008 will continue and expand in 2010.

As always, mission at First Presbyterian would not be possible without our generous congregation and their outpouring of time, talent and treasure; our mission champions who give so much of themselves for the missions they love; and the individuals on the Mission Outreach Committee whose vision and energy for Christ's mission inspire us all.

Respectfully Submitted, Thomas Boynton

Music Ministry 2009 Annual Report

2010 marks the beginning of my seventh year to serve First Presbyterian Church as Director of Music Ministries and Organist. It was also a great pleasure to be a part of several Special Events and Worship Services as part of our Centennial Celebration. First Presbyterian is alive and full of the Lord's blessing. Here are some of the highlights during 2009:

- On Sunday, February 22, our Westminster Choir and several other local church choirs participated in the Wheaton All Church Choir Concert at Edman Chapel. This was a part of the 150th Birthday Celebration for the Village of Wheaton. It was an exciting event as the Westminster Choir sang with a choir of 250 people from Wheaton College, local church choirs, and the local high school choirs. I had the pleasure of volunteering for the planning committee that put this event together.
- On Sunday, April 19, we had an orchestra of 28 instruments and 50 singers to provide the music for our Centennial Worship Service. The music was simply amazing. The Worship Service occurred in the Sanctuary and Ministry Center.
- The Westminster Choir started our program year in September. The Westminster Choir rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings and sings almost every Sunday at the 8:40 and / or 11:00 AM Worship Services.
- We celebrated Worship with the Annual Feast of Carols Service on Sunday, December 6, 2009. This included several ensembles at First Presbyterian Church.
- A new Worship Service called "Advent Pajama Vespers" was offered on Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. This new Worship Service was created for families in the church with young children. Despite the very poor weather the day of the Service, the response was overwhelming with support. We will be offering more of these Services in 2010.
- Taize Prayer Services occurred ten times during the calendar year.
- A special thanks to Paul Burgess for serving as our accompanist for the Westminster Choir.
- Our Celebration Service Coordinator Jeff Leavitt resigned at the end of the year. It has been a pleasure working with Jeff Leavitt over the last two years and he will be missed at First Presbyterian Church.
- A committee is currently meeting to discuss our Celebration Service and the hiring of a replacement for the position of Celebration Service Coordinator.

To conclude, I need to thank the instrumentalists, vocalists, and all of the ensembles that volunteer their time, week after week, month after month. Without them the wonderful musical expression heard on Sundays and other times simply would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Lincoln
Director of Music Ministries

Nan Montgomery Library 2009 Annual Report

Many new titles of print and non-print items have been added to the adult and children's libraries during the year with budgeted funds and also with many very welcome gifts. Families continue to check out the books from the children's library, while the adult library has added titles mentioned in sermons, adult education classes, and in the study guide of the Presbyterian Women. The library also works closely with study groups in recommending titles and in adding these titles to the collection. New acquisitions are reviewed in the "Library Notes" in the monthly newsletter. Members can access this information on the library segment of the church website. This year the website listed these library bibliographies: Presbyterian Resources (What It Means to be a Presbyterian), the Horizons Bible Study, Bible Study Resources, The Contemplative Path, and, Videos in the Adult Library.

The CDs of the Sunday morning services continue to be popular for checkout. The Sound Team has made CDs of special speakers in the Pathways adult education program. DVDs have been produced for special events in the life of the church, e.g., Easter Sunday and Youth Sunday.

Long-term goals of the library include more space and computerization, in order to better serve the members of the church.

The Library Committee:

Milli Birkemeier
Luanne Brennan
Janet Cederquist
Betsy Fikejs
Marge Stevens
Helen White

Office and Finance Committee 2009 Annual Report

To the Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton:

2009 was a year in which we weathered the financial headwinds reasonably well. Enclosed is a summary of the preliminary operations along with a comparison to the original 2009 budget. Giving from members (for general operations) was \$1,249,964. The giving was supplemented by LTV transfers of \$75,000, non-operating income of \$19,804 and offset by \$1,264,106 of net expenses. The resulting surplus was \$80,663. This is a positive result, but it was driven by LTV transfers and net positive investment returns.

During 2009 we spent the remaining funds raised during our Live The Vision Campaign. We received a total of \$1,529,452 out of the pledged amount of \$1,728,308. The LTV Campaign allowed us to completely pay off our mortgages, fund some amounts for Mission, urgent capital repairs and some limited staff expansion. We no longer have any LTV funds that can contribute toward the operating budget.

The general economy, the decreased pledges for 2010 and increasing expenses will present us with continued financial challenges. You will note that the 2010 budget currently shows a balanced budget. This is predicated on a slight increase giving (back to about the same amount as 2008) and some difficult reductions in spending.

A little giving history (total contributions per year for operations):

2001	\$1,172,223	2005	\$1,134,369
2002	\$1,206,313	2006	\$1,172,001
2003	\$1,199,945	2007	\$1,212,493
2004	\$1,241,881	2008	\$1,272,488

My sincere thanks to a great group of committee members: Bob Denney, Neal Halleran, Beth Spiegel, Lisa Vlieg and Dick Yanney and also to Phil Slocum and Annette Shoemaker, our Session liaisons during the year.

Lastly I want to say thank you to our Business Administrator, Jan Buscher and our Financial Secretary, Joan Johnson. Their tireless efforts continue to make our committee work easier.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael A. Huesing
Chairman Office and Finance Committee

Office & Finance - Investment Committee 2009 Annual Report

As of November 30, 2009, First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton had \$648,542 of invested funds. This was comprised of \$141,704 in cash and equivalents (22% of all invested funds), \$372,340 in stock and bond instruments (57%) at either Fidelity or Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and \$134,498 in mortgage receivables (21%). These funds are divided into long-term assets of \$442,454 (68%) and the balance of \$206,088 (32%) in short-term holdings.

These funds are invested in broad, low cost, equity and bond mutual funds. As of December 31, 2009 the five year return ranged from 0% to 4%. The one year return was 16% for the bonds and up to 41% for the stock funds.

A summary of the change in funds is depicted in the data below.

Partial Balance Sheet Comparison: 2009 vs. 2008	2009	2008	\$ Change	% Change
Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$ 141,704	\$ 198,771	\$ (57,067)	-29%
Investments	372,340	369,760	2,580	1%
Mortgage Receivable	<u>134,498</u>	<u>142,698</u>	<u>(8,200)</u>	<u>-6%</u>
Total Assets without Property & Equipment	\$ 648,542	\$ 711,230	\$ (62,688)	-9%

Our committee members are Bob Gagnon, Anthony Lechiara, Mike Rohl, Phil Slocum and Jan Buscher serves as an ex-officio member.

Phil Slocum, Investment Committee Facilitator

Pastor, Congregational Ministries 2009 Annual Report

Greetings in the new year of 2010!

Can it really be true that a whole decade has passed since the Y2k crisis? Time passes relentlessly, but God's gift of community gives us warmth and companionship along the way. 2009 was a good year for my family, both my children now reside "over the fence" at Emerson Elementary School (Halie is now in 2nd grade, Connor in Kindergarten), Sharri continues to be the 'head captain' of our home, while still finding time to volunteer at different teaching opportunities, and believe it or not, our family enlarged as well to include our rabbit, "Bailey" (Halie named her, can you tell?) As all these things pass along, we give thanks for the kindness and grace which the members of First Presbyterian Church have given us.

The Pathways (Adult Education) program had a strong showing in 2009. Pastor Paul tackled some the issue of end times speculations, along with a look at comparative stories between Islam and Christianity. Continuing our Mission emphasis, we had a class which highlighted the issues surrounding the country of India and her children, which ended with some of the issues that the Indian community continues to have within our own Chicagoland. The Fall brought a well attended class on C.S. Lewis while we were also visited by friends from our sister 'emergent' church Wicker Park Grace who shared the new ways of doing church in this millennium. Even as I write this we have a great opportunity for continued learning within the new year, with Professor Gene Green (Wheaton College) sharing about Global Christianity, Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck sharing on ways of finding God in our experiences (journaling), and a continuing class, "That the World May Know", which helps deepen and appreciate the land and stories of the Bible.

The Mission Outreach Committee conducted its Mission Fair in the Spring of 2009 which included a new approach to sharing our ministry partners (thematic) along with a color coded approach (think "follow the yellow brick road") to experiencing the Mission event in the ministry center. The partnership with Canto De Esperanza (Cicero) and Heritage Presbyterian Church (Carol Stream) continued in 2009 with our 4th annual visit to Mexicalli. On the home front, we hosted the Christmas Sharing program for the third time as a church. We served hundreds of people (almost 200 families) who came to find some financial help and some hope. It is exciting seeing the gospel in motion within the church, and especially within the ministry center. Our joint relationship continued with Faith Lutheran and First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn in 2009 with a three way sermon by the three pastors which 'traveled' to each church site (my favorite, was of course, here at First Pres) which culminated in a joint musical choir event that benefited the poor in our area. The Mormon Ward of Wheaton (Church of Latter Day Saints) joined our church for food and joint discussion in the Fall of 2009. For all who attended and were involved it was a fascinating conversation and journey; it was billed as "Finding our Common Humanity" and I believe we did just that.

In 2009 I was asked by the Presbytery of Chicago to fill a new volunteer position, called “The Muslim Relations Coordinator.” In this role is became my job to attempt to reach out to the Muslim community, and to facilitate interaction within Chicagoland between Presbyterians and Muslims. In the Fall, a successful kick-off event was held that included 13 representatives from our Presbytery, and many Islamic Centers. A joint Declaration was signed, stating our goodwill towards each, and promising more intentional interaction in 2010. This role has been challenging and life-changing. I give thanks for a church that supports such endeavors, and sees the current need for the Body of Christ to reach out to “strangers” to find “friends”.

There are so many more things to write about (did I mention the Easter Vigil coming to First Presbyterian this Easter?), but I hope this brief letter gives you enough to continue the conversation in 2010 about so many good things that are happening here. I thank you so much for allowing me to be a Pastor among you, and for the encouragement you have been to myself and my most loved ones (my family).

Peace to you,
Pastor Jay
Epiphany 2010

Pastoral Care Coordinator 2009 Annual Report

Since starting my time with First Presbyterian in June, I have been blessed to find not only a warm and welcoming staff and congregation but a robust and compassionate pastoral care program. My principal responsibilities have been resourcing the Deacons, Stephen Ministry, Caritas, and Presbyterian Women. I have also been involved with our Career Ministry as well.

We have encouraged deacons to provide home communion for those in their parishes who cannot come to church and I have accompanied several deacons on these visits. We have also provided a time for deacons to participate in an invitation to the offering litany to highlight our food pantry offering the week before communion. In addition, I led the deacons in a special Advent worship this year.

Stephen Ministry had already set up a partnership with Blanchard Alliance Church to provide training for new Stephen Ministers which will take place January to May 2010. We are encouraged to have a new class of Stephen Ministers and I have been active in making appropriate referrals for folks who may benefit from having a Stephen Minister as well as speaking at the Stephen Ministry Retreat.

Our Caritas Ministry is also going strong, providing much needed services for folks who need them. We now have a meal team for providing meals to those who need them and a visiting team providing an important connection to our church for those who are shut-in or who could use a friendly visitor. We have individual care teams for several of our members as well. I have provided Visitor Training and referrals to this vital ministry of the church.

For PW I have provided resources to the many circle bible study leaders who are studying the book of Joshua. I have also visited with several circles during their meetings and plan to continue that practice. Since I consider the Career Ministry to be an important pastoral care area, I have visited many times with these weekly meetings and provided devotions.

In addition, I have been able to participate in worship, preach, and do several memorial services. The Shalom/Vesper services were discontinued due to low attendance before I came, but one of the highlights for me this year was the “Blue Christmas” service which was a special service acknowledging those who are having a difficult time during the season.

Finally, I have had the wonderful privilege of visiting many of our folks in the hospital, care facilities or in their homes. We have a terrific pastoral caring team and it’s been a blessing to do ministry among you.

Yours in Christ,
Kyle Roggenbuck

Pathways Adult Christian Education 2009 Annual Report

Our mission is to help members grow in their faith and knowledge of Christ, to enjoy fellowship with each other, and to acquire the education and skills needed to live as Christians in our fast pace and uncertain world.

Classes: The Pathways classes for 2009 were many and varied, with the continual striving to bring different paths to the congregation. We had a combination of classes led by members of staff, lay members, and outside speakers. Topics included church history, theology, mission, leadership, spirituality, and faith. The classes are typically attended by a total of 100-150 people per week, ranging from small discussion groups to larger lectures. Pathways classes are offered on Sunday mornings from 9:55 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. from September through May, unless there is a conflict with another church-wide event.

New offerings from Pathways this year included a “book club” and an ongoing video-based bible study called “That the World May Know.” Pathways also teamed up with the Career Ministries to offer a series of classes to help with job searches and career planning.

Some of our prior classes are available on recordings in our church library and also in audio and/or video format that can be downloaded from our church website.

Bible Studies: Pastor Jay Moses continued the Tuesday morning bible study with the gospel of Matthew.

The Pathways team is dedicated to bring adult Christian education to our church. We believe in the potential to transform the church through learning, and we welcome input.

The Pathways team would like to thank Karen Parkinson for her many years of service to the team.

Your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Psalm 119:105

Respectfully submitted,

The Pathways Team,

Andy Leonard, Chair
Jay Moses, Staff Advisor
Sandy Crittenden
Scott Illiff
Agnes Kenton
Mark Martillaro
Karen Parkinson
Peter Richey

First Presbyterian Preschool 2009 Annual Report

The 2009-2010 school year marks the preschool's 42nd year in operation. We feel honored and blessed to continue our tradition of commitment to early childhood education and mission in this Church.

This school year, we have eighty-nine students enrolled in our program. Due to the economic downturn, parent requests for more days of preschool per age group, and the last two years of struggling to fill the three year old afternoon class, we made significant changes to the structure of our program this year. This year and for the foreseeable future we are offering a two-day and a three-day three year old program; a three-day and a four-day four year old program; and, a two-day two year old program.

For the first time in two years, the preschool ended in a break-even position. All indicators for the next school year predict that we will continue to balance our budget.

Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year looks very good. Currently, we are almost completely full in both the three year old and four year old program. Enrollment for the two year old program will begin in January.

This year was a re-licensing year for the preschool. The preschool is now re-licensed by the State of Illinois for three more years of operation. Our capacity and space was increased to accommodate the new two year old classroom in LL103 which means that all of our programs are now licensed.

One of the biggest selling points for our preschool when visitors and newcomers tour our facility is our staff. Visitors and parents are always impressed by the fact that we have two equally qualified teachers in each classroom and by our low staff turnover rate. As Director, I am grateful for our dedicated and loyal preschool staff. This year Pat Dettmer retired after serving our preschool for many years. With the changes to our class schedules, we were able to fill her spot with existing staff. We now have several teachers who teach in multiple programs.

The other compliment we receive from new visitors is on our beautiful and spacious facilities. Because the preschool is a licensed early childhood center through the Department of Child and Family Services, we are inspected annually by DCFS, the Department of Health and Safety, and the Wheaton Fire Department. With the help and support of Scott, Miguel, and the Buildings and Grounds committee, we always pass our inspections and are able to offer a clean safe environment for the children.

We extend our thanks to those of you in the congregation who donated over the past year to both our scholarship fund and our gifts and memorials fund. We also extend our thanks to our parents who provided both our three year old and our four year old programs with a monetary and gift donation to the preschool this holiday. We appreciate all of your generosity!

We could not operate without the support and encouragement of the Church congregation and staff. Behind the scenes of our preschool, we are provided with constant assistance and guidance from Jan, Janet, Tiffany and Joan on the Church staff. Thank you!

Chandra Gravit
Director, First Pres Preschool

Presbyterian Women 2009 Annual Report

Presbyterian Women continues to be a vital ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton. We celebrate fellowship and friendship in our seven Circles, at our monthly luncheon & gatherings and being together in service. Our Circles offer opportunities for its members to build strong relationships with women of the church, strengthen their faith through bible studies, and serve the community through various mission opportunities. The seven circles are *Martha Circle* led by Linda Lanier, *Grace Circle* led by Melanee Burns, *Hannah Circle* led by Elizabeth Lear and Tanya Downing, *Joy Circle* led by Liz Timmer, *Martha Circle* co led by Kay Jenner and Barbara Newton, *Rebecca Circle* led by Jayne Gaw and Juanita Day and *Ruth Circle* led by Nancy Howser. Our program year is from September to June.

The PW Coordinating Team meets on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 from September to May. The 2008-2009 officers are Moderator - Kim Van Oss, Secretary – Alice Lechiara, Treasurer – Jan Higgins, Program Chairs – Jan Foster & Andrea Schewe, Devotions/Bible Study – Lynne Danekas, World Service – Phyllis Josephson, Alice Lechiara & Doris Wiechmann, Rush University Medical Center – Phyllis Josephson, Mission Interpretation – Kathie Samuelson, Staff Advisor – Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck, Sunshine – Janet Cederquist and Dorothy Mackie, Publications/Directory – members of Joy Circle, Historian/Scrapbook – Jeanne Kovanda, Box Tops for Education (Kemmerer Village) – Lou Ann Jones & Ronda Riffle, Nominating Committee – Dianne Lambert & Elizabeth Lear and Pecan Sales – Dianne Lambert and Judy Den Uyl.

The 2009-2010 Horizons bible study is *Joshua, A Journey of Faith*. Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck meets with the circle's study leaders the first Monday of each month. This study will be used from September 09 through May 10.

On Sunday, February 8, PW hosted the first annual *Vintage Memories* Luncheon. 114 ladies attended and 20 women created a tablescape with their own vintage memories for the luncheon tables. Tickets were \$15.00. Kathryn Gould was chair of this wonderful event.

The Chicago Presbytery PW Spring Gathering was held at our church on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Jane Wilson coordinated this event. 60 women from the Chicagoland area attended. Peoples Resource Center was recipient of our mission efforts that day in that a collection of art supplies was collected for the PRC clients.

On Sunday, April 26, the women of FPC *Celebrated Remarkable Women* with everyone attending worship. Under the planning leadership of Maryanne Kyle and Liz Timmer, members of PW planned and participated in all three of our morning services. A women's choir under the direction of Georgia Hamilton sang. Pat Locke gave the message at the 7:30 and 8:40 services and Diane Slocum gave the message at 11:00 am.

In May, PW raised over \$300 from our annual plant sale. Two different Saturday mornings were designated as pick up days for the flowers church members ordered. The flowers came from We Grow Dreams Nursery in West Chicago. This project was led by Lisa Blake.

The women of Ruth Circle opened up their 2nd meeting of the month to all women therefore calling the third Tuesday of each month *The Doll Shoppe*. All women are invited to come to Stewart Hall between 9:00 and 11:00 am to help sew yarn hair on surgical dolls that are given to Rush University Medical Center in addition to knitting comfort cloths and little caps for the babies born prematurely.

On May 21, the annual *Nets for Malaria* workshop was held in Stewart Hall. A dozen women spent the morning assembling nets that cover beds in parts of the world where mosquitoes are carriers of malaria. This annual project is under the leadership of Doris Wiechmann and Phyllis Josephson.

At the last meeting of the Coordinating Team 2008-2009 in May 2009, we voted to distribute \$4800 to the following local service agencies, most of which are some of FPC local mission partners: Women's Board at Rush University Medical Center - \$500, People's Resource Center - \$500, ESSE Adult Day Care - \$450, Family Shelter Services - \$450, Interfaith Food Pantry - \$450, Outreach Community Center Older Adults Program - \$1000, Outreach Community Center - \$450, JUST of DuPage - \$450, P.A.D.S. - \$450, DuPage Daze - \$100.

At our last monthly gathering of the program year 2008-2009 year we celebrated friendships at a Strawberry Breakfast and Installation of Officers on Thursday, May 7, 2009. We honored Ruth Chambliss with an Honorary Life Membership to PW for all her years of service to Presbyterian Women.

Karen Scouten, past PW moderator and member of Ruth Circle, was one of three voting delegates from Presbyterian Women of Chicago attending the 2009 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in July 2009. Bea Grabowski, member of Joy Circle, was also one of more than 2500 attendees to this annual gathering.

Throughout our program year, under the leadership of Ronda Riffle and Lou Ann Jones, we are collecting labels with UPC codes that read *Box Tops for Education* and *Labels for Education* and send them to Kemmerer Village in Assumption, Illinois so they can redeem the labels for school supplies.

At our first monthly gathering for the new program year 2009-2010, members of PW gathered on Thursday, September 3 where we enjoyed fellowship over sack lunches and then filled 37 health kits and 100 school kits at our annual *Mission Possible* celebration. Using donated supplies we filled bags with a wash cloth, towel, soap, toothbrush and comb for the health kit and filled colorful recycled bags with pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors, and paper for the "Back to School" kits. These kits were sent to Church World Service, a cooperative of 35 denominations for distribution when needed worldwide.

On Tuesday evening, October 20, members of PW and guests were treated to very entertaining and inspirational message given by our own Mabel Koshy. Members of Joy Circle provided refreshments.

On Sunday, November 8 PW held our annual Bake Sale. Over \$750 was raised for our annual Plus Giving at the end of our program year.

At our November Gathering, our own church member Dee Garner shared her childhood stories and memories of *Wheaton Past* with those in attendance. The members of Rebecca and Martha Circles were the luncheon hosts.

We celebrated December at our monthly gathering with a speaker from Klein Creek Farms who shared what Christmas was like back in the 1890's here in our area. The luncheon hosts were members of Ruth Circle.

The PW circles collected \$285 which Jan Higgins, PW treasurer, sent to the Chicago Presbytery as our part in a denomination wide PW Thank Offering which is collected each fall. Starting in the late 1800's, the Thank Offering now uses forty percent of the total offering for worldwide medical missions and the remaining sixty percent for creative missions selected from project proposals.

Throughout the year, various Circles host the monthly *Lunch & Learn* at Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream for their Older Adults Program which has grown to serve lunch for over 70 adults.

During November, PW members Dianne Lambert and Judy Den Uyl sold over 200 one pound bags of pecans, which benefited Erie Neighborhood House in Chicago. Erie House established in 1870 empowers members of these communities to reach their fullest potential with educational programs for all ages and annually serves over 5000 participants.

During the month of December, our very own PW members shared Christmas with many. Members of both Hannah and Grace Circles helped with Christmas Sharing during the week of December 7. Members of Elizabeth Circle filled boxes with homemade cookies which were delivered by the Board of Deacons to our FPC homebound members. Christmas cookies for homebound has been a circle tradition for 25 years. Fifteen members of Ruth Circle gathered the morning of December 8 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds to help People's Resource Center with their Share the Spirit program. The members helped families select gift items from new toys, household items and gift cards. They added to the gift items 11 basketballs and 7 soccer balls which Jane Wilson had purchased with money donated by circle members. During the month of December, PW sponsored a Christmas tree for the DuPage Convalescent Center. Church members took from the tree, ornaments listing needed items such as CD players, candy, cookies, postage stamps, batteries, calendars, and gift cards. These donations were presented to the residents at their Christmas party. The tradition of providing gifts for the residents was started by Kay Iverson more than 20 years ago when her son Don was a resident. In the beginning Elizabeth Circle donated the gifts, and in recent years PW has expanded this project by inviting all church members to participate. Through the collection of box tops from members of our congregation, almost \$200 was donated to Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian Child Care Agency in time for their need to purchase Christmas presents for the children. Kemmerer Village opened in 1914 on a 400 acre farm in central Illinois left by Philip Kemmerer to the Presbyterian Church. Originally an orphanage it now serves about 100 children, ages 12-19 referred by DCFS, Department of Correction and county probation offices. The Village provides residential care and an on-grounds school. Phyllis Josephson delivered to Rush University Medical Center in Chicago baby caps for newborns, surgical dolls with fancy yarn hairdos and colorful gowns all loving made by women of PW. These surgical dolls are used by the doctors and nurses as therapy aides for children facing surgery. Many members of PW work year round on these projects for the Medical Center. Although the name is now Rush University Medical Center, it still has the Presbyterian and Episcopalian affiliations on which it was founded.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Van Oss
Moderator, Presbyterian Women

Red Carpet 2009 Annual Report

Our **main** role has been to facilitate the new member class, Believing, Belonging and Becoming. At the request of Pastor Paul, the committee moved forward to allow new members to join with a less time commitment.

In 2009, we organized 3 new member classes (Feb, May and Oct) with a total of 14 new members received.

A new format was tried out for 2009; we held the new members classes after the 11am service in Fellowship Hall. Kathryn Gould organized a light lunch to be served. We also incorporated a “re-connect” time for all new member groups to meet with Pastor Paul, Pastor Jay, Paul Burgess and the entire RC committee.

This social time gave the new members a chance to meet the entire group of new members; it was held on Sunday, May 17th.

Invite you to our Celebration of New Members

*Joining a new church can be an exciting experience, but when the actual class ends, where does one go to continue in learning and reconnecting with other new members. On Sunday, May 17th after the 11am service, Red Carpet has invited all members who have joined from Jan. 2007 to the present to come get **RE-CONNECTED!***

Since trying this format, the committee has decided to go back to the original format, 3 consecutive Sundays during the Education Hour and the 4th Sunday, welcoming the new members during the 8:40 service.

We lost two members of our committee; however welcomed 5 new people (Mary Burge, Donna Estler, Julie Kaufman, Barbara Newton and Emily Schmitz). We feel our current size of 11 members allows us to properly assist with the work and continuity of the vision of Red Carpet.

We were able to continue our mission to provide church wide fellowship activities. In 2009, headed by Robb Frank, we were able to organize 4 events.

May: FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT--"CARS" 75 people attended

July 17-19: FELLOWSHIP TRIP About 18 FPCW and other friends took the train to Dearborn MI. Stayed at the Dearborn Inn, and spent the day at The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Everyone enjoyed a fellowship dinner at the Inn

October 30: FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT "The Ghost and Mr Chicken" movie night 50 attended

Dec 7: FELLOWSHIP TRIP 37 attended. Fellowship Dinner at Grand Lux Cafe, and Chanticleer concert at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue, Chicago

We continue to review our visitor tracking system and work closely with Paul Burgess to promote connections and participation in the life of our church.

We ask for the prayers and participation of the members of First Presbyterian as we continue to realize our vision for hospitality and strive to answer our call to **Welcome Everyone as We Would Welcome Christ Himself.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Burge, Jane Daniels, Donna Estler, Robb Frank, Marsha Geddes, Kathryn Gould, Doug Houle, Rosanne Houle, Julie Kaufman , Emily Schmitz, Pastor Jay Moses

Single Adult Fellowship 2009 Annual Report

Operating within the framework of fee-based events and individual contributions, the SAF planned and presented the following activities during 2009:

- January 17 - 15 people filled food packets at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora.
- February 7 - 42 people attended an all day retreat led by Pastor Paul Kirbas. 14 participants were non-church members who learned of the event through local newspapers.
- May 2 - 14 attended a May Day celebration with appetizers and desserts at Fran Brocker's home.
- July 23 - 9 attended a picnic supper and Wheaton Band concert at Memorial Park.
- September 6 - 24 attended the Labor Day picnic at Sue Hervey's home.
- October 24 - 25 attended Oktoberfest held at Lorrie Leahigh's home.
- November 15 - 16 people attended the 4th Annual White Elephant Bingo and supper in Stewart Hall.
- December 5 - 30 people attended the Wheaton College Christmas Concert with holiday dessert following.

A total of \$20.56 of budgeted funds were used during 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Hervey & Karen Parkinson
SAF Coordinators

Stephen Ministry 2009 Annual Report

Stephen Ministry continued to serve and minister to members of our congregation this year. We held a Spring get together as well as our annual retreat in November 2009.

The following goals were identified for this program year and their status:

1. Promote awareness of Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian church:
 - Stephen Ministry has a regular contribution to the church bulletin and monthly newsletter.
 - Stephen ministry brochure is available in at the information desk.
 - St. Ministry information is available on the church web site.

2. Nurture and Support St. Ministers at the First Presbyterian church for encouragement and growth in their ministry:
 - A Fall retreat was held to provide spiritual growth and nurturing for care givers in October 2009. Our speaker was Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck.
 - A Spring party was held to further nurture Stephen ministers. Continuing education is provided at all supervision meetings to educate, support and nurture St. ministers
 - Stephen Leaders conduct monthly meetings in order to nurture one another and work towards our vision.

3. Recruit new Stephen Ministers and provide new training class in 2010:
 - We are partnering with the Stephen ministry program at the Blanchard Road Alliance Church in Wheaton IL to provide a training class for all interested members from both churches. The class is planned to start in January of 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Henrieta Ribeiro, Facilitator

Stewardship 2009 Annual Report

Your Stewardship committee active members are: Harold Crittenden, Christine Miller, Chris Carroll, Dennis Anders, Peter Richey and Denny Lawson. Staff representatives on Stewardship are Head of Staff, Dr. Paul Kirbas and Church Business Administrator, Jan Buscher.

In 2009, your committee has moved from its role of “Interpreting” Stewardship to a role of communicating Stewardship needs. Our focus has been on providing the congregation with information that is meaningful in understanding the personal relationship we have with God as it relates to our Stewardship.

In 2009, we continued our Consecration Program which focuses on the personal relationship we have with God. The culmination of that program is Consecration Sunday when members and friends are given the opportunity to commit their giving as a regular part of spiritual worship. Our hope is that our members and friends will see stewardship as a component of their spiritual life and not as a way to meet a church budget. Indeed, the Church budget is set as a result of giving. While the majority of our work is done from July to December, we continue to communicate Stewardship principles throughout the year by providing biblical inserts and individual comments in written communication.

We enter 2010 being hopeful. Hopeful in that while we struggle to meet our objectives, the faithfulness and generosity of this congregation in trying economic times continues to be strong. While individual giving has increased by approximately 4%, the total number of commitments (including only those members and friends that have provided pledges in the past) is down by approximately 8% (actual pledges – 2009 pledges were 335 at this same time last year). This is incredible faithfulness considering the number of families that are impacted by hard economic times. In 2010, we plan to modify our program to more closely meet the expectations of our congregation and the charge from our Elders. The following is a financial summary of 1st Pres Stewardship over the last 6 years*.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PLEDGE COMMITMENT HISTORY 2005-2009

Campaign Format	Box	Mailing	Binder	Binder	Consecration Sunday	Consecration Sunday
YEAR	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
# of Pledges	453	363	445	431	366	337
Amount Pledged	\$995,837	\$923,398	\$1,072,395	\$1,132,011	\$1,072,250	\$1,025,091
Income Budget	\$1,236,500	\$1,071,581	\$1,280,650	\$1,248,838	\$1,293,000	\$1,271,000
<i>Other Receipts budgeted</i>	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$15,627	\$24,900
Expense Budget	\$1,274,691	\$1,271,612	\$1,338,851	\$1,375,443	\$1,335,426	\$1,295,888
<i>mortgage expenses</i>	\$82,928					
Over/Under	-\$109,119	-\$184,031	-\$40,201	-\$108,605	-\$26,799	\$12
Giving Receipts Pledged & Unpledged	\$1,138,345	\$1,172,134	\$1,278,143	\$1,272,428	\$1,278,111	
Average Pledge	\$2,198.32	\$2,543.80	\$2,409.88	\$2,597	\$2,930	\$3,042
% CHG		116%	95%	108%	113%	104%

750 in town Active Member pledging units, 33 out of town member pledging units
1535 Total Members

*Based upon data collected as of 12/29/2009

TESSS 2009 Annual Report

The TOO EARLY SHORT STACK SOCIETY is a Men's Breakfast group. It meets every Friday morning at the Seven Dwarfs Restaurant on Roosevelt Road. There are two distinct chapters:

The 6:00 am Group – for those who like to get up before the birds and the 7:15 am Group for the late(?) sleepers.

There are no officers, no minutes no by-laws, and no agenda (hidden or otherwise). We start off with a prayer, have a short devotion, and spend the rest of the time enjoying good food (a short stack of pancakes is a favorite, hence the name) and plenty of conversation. We collect dues, a dollar from each member present. The monies collected are used to acquire needed “stuff” for the church which are not included in the church budget. In the past two years the breakfast groups have contributed \$940 for audio visual equipment, Interfaith Food Pantry, Christmas Sharing and the Older Adults program.

For further information bout TESSS contact Hal Crittenden at 630-668-7754.

Ushering 2009 Annual Report

The ushering teams are as strong, flexible, and friendly as ever. New members are a constant source of ushers. A few families are finding ushering is a wonderful mission where the entire family can participate together as a family.

We have a requirement of seven ushers on each of the ten ushering teams. At year end, the following Usher Roster indicates we have a full complement of 70 ushers. Thanks to the Hospitably Committee and Paul Burgess for promoting ushering while they educate our new members.

The ushering staff is dependent on the Worship Committee to be advised of worship service changes and deviations. We remain flexible and are constantly watching and prepared for overflow and any other special worship requirements.

Usher Coordinator, Paul Luhrsen

First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton Usher Roster

	<u>First Sunday-8:40 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>		<u>First Sunday-11:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>
1	Keith Swinden, Head Usher	248-1313	1	Kyle Walker Head Usher	871-0079
2	Dennis Bass, Captain	898-4228	2	Jay Seymour	752-1630
3	Darren Lange	665-3025	3	Doug Krynicki	653-4350
4	Connor Ostrander	653-8778	4	Van Lear	469-0531
5	Lee Ostrander	653-8778	5	Roy Peregrine	653-2523
6	Earl Swearingen	665-1319	6	Michael Spires	784-9503
7	Paul Verden	665-6798	7	Justin Seymour	725-1630
	<u>Second Sunday-8:40 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>		<u>Second Sunday-11:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>
1	Pat Goodwin, Head Usher	836-0650	1	Bill Todd Head Usher	871-9383
2	Brian Elliott Captain	665-5364	2	Eric Gaertner Captain	942-8041
3	Don Bauer	653-9118	3	Lake Bachar	510-0321
4	Nathan Goodwin	836-0650	4	Doug Boyd	876-1463
5	Phil Lorenzini	653-5957	5	Danny Nubie	876-9405
6	Mike Pomatto	653-9113	6		
7	Dave Trumpy	665-4194	7		
8	Dick Worcester	665-5472	8	Colter & Gibson Danekas	668-7354
	<u>Third Sunday- 8:40 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>		<u>Third Sunday-11:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>
1	Thomas Cloke, Head Usher	690-3519	1	Ron Hands, Head Usher	653-8805
2	Thomas Breitzke, Captain	690-3585	2	Brian Shaver, Captain	393-7217
3	Lori & Dennis Anders	293-5950	3	Andrew Bratzel	665-6949
4	Dick Routsen	653-4265	4	Brian Burns	690-4869
5	Dick Yanney	668-3934	5	Steve Fuller	871-8312
6	Bruce Zimmerman	790-2703	6	Will Kadera	456-4733
7			7	John Kocinski	497-6494
	<u>Fourth Sunday-8:40 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>		<u>Fourth Sunday-11:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>
1	Anthony Lechiara, Head Usher	462-0536	1	Greg & Austin Oltman, Head Usher	510-7326
2	Craig Queen, Captain	653-5578	2	Tim Shine, Captain	668-6101
3	J. L. Calderwood	871-1766	3	Judy Den Uyl	406-0968
4	Will Calderwood	871-1766	4	Mark Dykema	682-4357
5	Bob Gagnon	692-3368	5	Brad & Tom Henning	462-6808
6	Morgan Gagnon	692-3368	6	Rob Kelley	514-9434
7	Emily Lechiara	462-0536	7	Mike Nauert	653-5265
8	Emily Queen	653-5578	8	Joan Nelson	773-3005
9	Jack Queen	653-5578	9	Emma Shine	668-6101
	<u>Fifth Sunday-8:40 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>		<u>Fifth Sunday-11:00 a.m.</u>	<u>Service</u>
1	Jeff Alvis, Head Usher	665-2325	1	Mike Zenisek, Head Usher	690-1323
2	Ken Knicker, Captain	690-7071	2	Tom Bienguga, Captain	681-8236
3	Jan Higgins	665-0099	3	Dave Chiesa	221-0537
4	Erik Johnson	681-2105	4	Mike Rechsteiner	682-1869
5	Dean Incopero	510-0302	5	Peter Richey	260-9447
6	David Nichting	682-1360	6	Jon Wylie	520-0403
7	Marion & Rufus Robbins	665-2209	7	Gerry Merritt	690-1518
				Ben Crane	665-5662

Visual Arts Committee 2009 Annual Report

During 2009, the Visual Arts Committee provided visual enhancements for worship as well as throughout the church through the use of many different art forms. This year we have been focusing on 4 different areas:

1. Making banners to visually remind us of the fundamental tenants of our faith. Plans are now underway to make many more banners to decorate our church and remind people of God's presence in our lives. Particular thanks to Ruth Lundy, the Banner Lady, for her sewing skills and for her willingness to help other committees, such as Worship Coordinating, when they need a costume sewed.
2. Displaying religious art in the rotunda and along the wall to Stewart Hall so that the congregation can see what area artists, including church members, are doing to help them experience God's presence. During the past year, Anita Brechtel hung the photography of Bob Stevens and Phyllis Josephson and Kathy Paradise. In addition, Kathy Suhr from the Centennial Celebration Committee hung the photographs of the past head pastors of our church. We also implemented a new photo display called Church Life. Phyllis Josephson takes photos of recent church events and displays them to remind us of the highlights of our church year.
3. Working on decorating the Rotunda and Sanctuary and Ministry Center to make them visually pleasing and pleasant places to come to worship God. We particularly want to thank Joan Reuss who has taken on the responsibility of decorating each Sunday, as well as ordering flowers and decorating for Christmas and Easter. Also, along with Jo Albert from the Celebration Service Worship Committee, Beth Burgess, and Margie and Tim Burgess, were responsible for decorating the Ministry Center for Celebration services last spring.
4. Assisting other committees, particularly Members Alive, with projects that help people to feel welcome when they enter the church. In order to secure funds to decorate the Rotunda, Visual Arts held a Garden Walk of gardens of church members. People who attended were treated to 12 lovely gardens, and many people requested that we make it an annual event.

Our committee is comprised of Anita Brechtel, Beth Burgess, Ruth Lundy, Joan Reuss, Cathy Thompson, Kathy Young, and Phyllis Josephson.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Burgess, facilitator

Worship Coordinating Committee 2009 Annual Report

The purpose of the Worship Coordinating Committee is to ‘to oversee the logistical preparation of the Sunday worship experience, to envision and implement creative companion pieces to the worship themes of the Sunday morning Heritage and Tapestry worship services, and to educate the committee and the congregation about Reformed Worship Services (why we do worship the way we do).

Members of the Worship Coordinating Committee include: Paul Kirbas, Jay Moses, Kyle Roggenbuck, David Lincoln, Shelley Iliff, Mary Kinsey, Allison Tirone, Joan Reuss, Alice Lechiara, Phyllis Josephson, Susan Drinan (Session Representative) and Ann Herndon, Chair.

Logistical support was provided to the Usher Chairman, Pulpit Associates Coordinator, Flower Committee Co-Chairmen, Communion Server Coordinator and Shepherd Company.

Some worship themes implemented included: Planning for Palm Sunday activities, Easter week including Ash Wednesday- ‘Living Last Supper’ on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday, Pentecost, arranging for Acolytes and for families to light the Advent candles for each service during Advent, All Saint’s Sunday, and Christmas Eve Services. Also this committee oversaw the drama presentations for Sept. 20, Oct. 11, and Dec. 13.

This committee recommended and oversaw the purchase of a Processional Cross with pole. This was purchased with monies from Gifts and Memorials.

Plans were made to have an “Easter Vigil” on Holy Saturday, April 3, 2010. Rev. Jim Hoenig from Faith Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn spoke to the Committee about their Easter Vigil. It was approved that their church join with us here for this “Vigil” next year.

An Umbrella Team meeting was held in May to receive Dr. Kirbas’ yearbook for 2009-2010. In addition to Umbrella Team members Deacon Representatives, Session Members and all Committee Chairs were invited.

Worship Coordinating Committee would like to thank all those who have worked together behind the scenes to make our Sunday morning worship experience run smoothly with beauty and with love.

Ann Herndon, reporting

WCC - Pulpit Associate 2009 Annual Report

We now have 19 active Pulpit Associates and three substitutes. No new volunteers were added to the roster in 2009. Four of the current PA's resigned. Ann Herndon and Andrea Schewe retired after many years of faithful service. Youth (under the direction of Mary Kinsey) assumed responsibility for reading one Sunday each month from January through April.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Lambert
Pulpit Associate Coordinator

Worship Flowers 2009 Annual Report

Congregational support for the chancel flowers ministry remained strong as approximately 68 arrangements were ordered for Sunday services in 2009. Fifty three of these arrangements are “standing” orders, meaning that the same members request these arrangements year after year. Expressions Florist on Front Street continues to be our florist of choice for the Sunday flowers and the white carnations used for All Saints Sunday. Arrangements are still priced at \$45.00 or \$60.00 with no delivery charge. A committee member relays the church’s floral needs for each Sunday to the florist, on a monthly basis. The bulletin announcements, usually a celebratory or memorial note, are confirmed with the donors and then sent to Tiffany Carter for inclusion in the bulletin.

Palms for Palm Sunday 2009 were purchased from Wheaton Religious Gift & Church Supply. Their palm supplier donates a portion of their sales to four non-profit organizations benefitting environmental and humanitarian efforts in the U.S. Individual palm strips, instead of fronds, were ordered this year for the Sunday school to use in making Palm Sunday crafts.

Due to the new security measures of the church, flower delivery and placement of the arrangements in the Sanctuary has been challenging. Flowers are now usually delivered on Fridays instead of Saturdays. Unfortunately, the committee has lost members due this new schedule.

The committee still discourages leaving memorial flowers or wedding flowers in the Sanctuary because they detract from the arrangement that was ordered for that week. The Son-Light-Rotunda remains an excellent spot to display arrangements when we occasionally have more than the two floral displays that the chancel can hold.

All in all, the worship flower program continues to be a success, allowing the congregation one additional way to express praise and thanksgiving to the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Burge
Betty Wittmayer

WF: High School Ministries 2009 Annual Report

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”
(James 1:17, ‘09-‘10 Theme Verse)

WF exists to:

- 1) grow in High School youth a **love for God**
- 2) model Christ to the world by **serving others**
- 3) encourage each other in faith by **fellowshipping together.**

High Schoolers gather for our main weekly event at **Sunday night WF**, where youth participate in games, snack time, prayer, worship, devotion, and small groups. The majority of our programming is led by High School students on our **Student Leadership Team**, who continually impress adult leaders with their dedication, sincerity, and boldness of faith.

In January, WF participated for the first time in **World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine**, a nation-wide fasting event designed to gain solidarity the world’s hungry children and raise money to combat hunger-related deaths through World Vision’s ministries. The fast also included a food drive and time spent packaging food for hungry families at Naperville’s Feed My Starving Children.

February brought a trip to **Timberlee’s Winter Xtreme Retreat**, where youth enjoyed many outdoor activities, devotions by Jeff Kline, and high-energy worship sessions led by Peter Eide. Youth were most impacted by one time of blessing through anointing and one exercise of forgiveness and affirmation using candles. Jeff Kline’s message to serve others in a way which truly touches the heart led youth to reconsider traditional service projects and seek out more interpersonal service opportunities in the future.

March’s **Country Western Roundup** was a wildly successful mission trip fundraiser, bringing in over \$7,000 to subsidizing the trip cost by \$165 per participant! The generosity of our congregation was overwhelming, especially considering the uncertain economic climate of the time! In response to God’s clear provision, youth chose to “tithed back” a portion of the funds to purchase blankets for the Oklahoman families they would soon serve.

In May, Confirmands attended the **Confirmation Retreat** at Dickson Valley Retreat Center, where youth were challenged to fight for spiritual growth with the “armor of God” described in Ephesians. Later, Confirmands became church members at the **Youth Sunday** service. This service also celebrated our ‘08-‘09 theme; “Flip: God’s Counter-cultural Kingdom” and seven graduating seniors shared heartfelt lessons learned while growing up in the church.

In June, WF and Southminster Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn’s youth group traveled together to Seminole, Oklahoma for a **Group Workcamps Mission Trip**. The trip’s theme “Reveal” led our youth to reveal God’s love to the elderly and disabled by completing minor construction projects. Many youth were touched by the gratitude of the “residents” they served and felt inspired to continue serving others in God’s name.

In September, student leaders dedicated the '09-'10 school year to the theme “**The Year-long Christmas: God’s Good Gifts**”. The goal is that youth begin to recognize the many good gifts God gives us (i.e. community, identity, individuality, His presence, His comfort) and learn practical ways to “give back” in thanks (i.e. loving God with heart mind and strength, fruits of the spirit, God-honoring conduct with friends family and dating, prayer) all while developing peer relationships of Christian encouragement. Also, a new program rethinking traditional Sunday morning youth education was created and named “**The Edge**”. This program abandons a lecture format and relies on the youth themselves to discuss a relevant topic each week. The Edge has been well-received and has brought many non-WF attendees to First Pres.

October’s annual **Fall Retreat** challenged youth to “Just Do It: Be Bold in Faith”, following the example of the early Christians in Acts and the challenge of I Corinthians 16:13-14; “Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Do everything in love.” As a result, youth initiated a new “Bring-a-friend-to-WF Night” designed to encourage each another to boldly talk to friends about their faith. Both the retreat and **Bring-a-friend Night** were filled with energy, laughter, and fun as youth enjoyed fellowshiping with one another.

During the 2009 year, I have frequently been impressed by the quality of our youth. From sacrificing personal free time for church events to initiating new youth group practices in direct response to retreat curriculum, it is clear that our High School youth have a heart for God’s truth and for service. Please pray for our youth as they navigate the challenging years of their adolescence and for the WF program as we work to reach youth with God’s love and Word.

God Bless,

Allison Tirone
High School Ministries Coordinator

Special Thanks to...

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