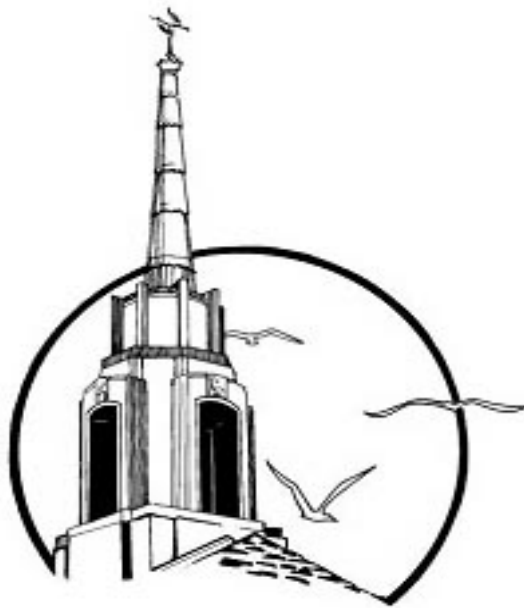


# 2008

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE TWELVE MONTH  
PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008



*First Presbyterian Church*

508 Franklin Avenue  
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417  
Phone: (616)842-6760

[www.fpgh.org](http://www.fpgh.org)

### **Our Vision**

We are called to celebrate God's grace as a Christ-centered community of acceptance, growing in faith and living as Christ's hands to serve.

### **Our Mission**

As members of First Presbyterian Church we will:

- Provide relevant and engaging worship that nurtures a growing community of faith.
- Grow our faith by promoting quality educational opportunities to all.
- Affect people's lives by creating a culture of acceptance where differences are valued and connections to one another are fostered in a Christ-centered church.
- Remain a beacon in our community by building on our rich missional heritage as a church that serves locally, regionally and globally.

**AGENDA**  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

Date: February 8, 2009

CALL TO ORDER  
CONVENING PRAYER AND SONG  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2008 Annual Meeting  
REPORTS:  
    Pastor Report  
    Treasurer's Report  
    Approval of Terms of Call  
OLD BUSINESS  
NEW BUSINESS  
ADJOURNMENT

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF**

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
10:00 a.m., Sunday February 3, 2008**

1.0 Rev. Thomas H. Cook declared that a quorum was present (minimum 122, 163 were present) and opened the 172<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting at 10:10 a.m. with prayer (benediction from first service). Rev. Cook appointed Frederic P. vandenBerg, Clerk of Session to serve as secretary for the meeting in accordance with *Book of Order G-7.0307*. Rev. Cook noted that notification of the meeting was in order and complied with the Bylaws of First Presbyterian Church Grand Haven and the *Book of Order G-7.0302 a*.

1.1 A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of February 25, 2007 as printed in the 2007 Annual Report. The motion was approved.

2.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR ELDER AND DEACONS:

Elder Pam Blake presented the following candidates to serve open terms of Elder and Deacon as follows:

Deacons Class 2008

Barbara Nelson  
Verna Schoonveld

Session Elder Class 2009

Pat VerDuin

Deacon Class 2009

Doris VandenBrand

2.1 A motion was made and seconded to elect these candidates for the Officer positions listed. The motion was approved.

3.0 SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Cook reported on the status of the Church. In particular he noted the completion of renovations to the building and recognized Elder Gordon Naumoff, Chair, and the entire Building Committee for their exhaustive work in making the plan into reality. He noted that the debt to complete the renovations will require a Capital Campaign and explained the Congregation will learn more about this at next Sunday's Services.

4.0 Rev. Cook noted some of the many church and public activities in which he has become involved including Lake Michigan Presbytery Committee on Ministry, Tri-Cities Ministries, and Habitat for Humanity, etc. He also indicated that as a part of completing the requirements for his Doctor of Ministry degree the congregation will be introduced to, and participate in, the Appreciative Inquiry process.

5.0 TREASURER'S REPORT: Rev. Cook, in the absence of Treasurer Tom Creswell, reviewed the financial status of the Church as outlined in the 2007 Annual Report. In particular, he noted that the budget is now allowing for the creation of a Reserve for repairs to the building.

6.0 REVIEW OF TERMS OF CALL: Rev. Cook and Rev. Fowler excused themselves from the meeting as the proposed terms of call were reviewed. Clerk of Session Rick vandenBerg reviewed the terms of call as printed in the 2007 Annual Report. The proposed terms of call for the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor for 2008 are:

	<u>Rev. Cook, Sr. Pastor</u>	<u>Rev Fowler, Assoc Pastor</u>
Salary	\$48,000	\$0
Housing Allowance	\$35,269	\$66,942
Pension Plan	\$9,952	\$7,881
Health, Dental, Disability, Life Ins.	\$25,746	\$19,386
Ministerial FICA Reimbursement	\$6,273	\$1,600
Continuing Education and Book Allow.	\$5,687	\$2,000
<u>Reimbursed Expenses [Travel, Dues]</u>	<u>\$5,700</u>	<u>\$500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,627</b>	<b>\$98,309</b>

6.1 A motion was made and seconded to approve the Terms of Call as presented. The motion was approved. Rev. Cook gave a brief Trustee's update noting in particular the status of the Omega Fund. He then made some closing comments and thanked the Congregation for all of their support and help during the past year.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was closed with the Congregation singing the Doxology.

Attested;

Rev. Thomas H. Cook  
Moderator

Frederic P. vandenBerg  
Clerk of Session

### SR. MINISTER'S REPORT

2008 was a year for laying claim on our future. As Daring Disciples we now have a clear vision for the mission God has asked us to accomplish. 2008 was also a year for saying good byes to faithful and loyal servants.

Two major projects were completed. The first was the successful **Daring Disciples Capital Campaign**. We wanted to pay off the projected 1.1 million dollars in building expenses, raise enough money to renovate the church's organ, to fund Habitat homes in the future and support Faith In Action International's vision for a building and education center in Verrete, Haiti. The total financial goal placed before the congregation by the Session of the church? "Let's raise 1.5 million dollars in financial commitment to be paid over a three year period." An excellent and active committee (**Bill Bussell, David and Julie Frazier, Brian & Melissa Gross, Ed & Nancy Hanenburg, Mart & Dottie Johnson, Tom Jones (chair), Wendy Knoth, Ken & Bev MacLeod, Ron Mass, Guy & Alishia Terrill, Chuck & Val Watson**) took on the task and in these tough economic times, to date, we raised commitments for nearly 1.4 million dollars. Income on the campaign has enabled us to pay down the debt on our building project to about \$500,000. At the same time we partnered with Herman Miller Co. to build a Habitat home for beloved members of this church, **Becky and Frank Steinhauer**. That in itself is enough to be grateful for as we count our blessings as a congregation.

Another huge goal was achieved in the past year. An Action Learning Team (**Danielle Beals, Bari Johnson, Jennifer Koster, Bret Lewis, Mark Sanchez and Rick vandenBerg**) took on the enormous task of discerning God's vision and mission for our congregation through a process called Appreciative Inquiry. Over three hundred members of the church were interviewed with special attention paid to the life-giving experiences, identifying the positive core of our family of faith and to your dreams and wishes for the church's future ministries. After a year of honing, developing and applying the Appreciative Inquiry approach the results are stunning. We now have a vision that was generated by our whole congregation and a mission we can pursue in unity.

### OUR VISION

We are called to celebrate God's grace as a Christ-centered community of acceptance, growing in faith and living as Christ's hands to serve.

**OUR MISSION: As members of First Presbyterian Church we will:**

- Provide relevant and engaging worship that nurtures a growing community of faith.
- Grow our faith by promoting quality educational opportunities to all.
- Affect people's lives by creating a culture of acceptance, where differences are valued, and connections to one another are fostered in a Christ-centered church.
- Remain a beacon in our community by building on our rich missional heritage as a church that serves locally, regionally and globally.

What is cool about this vision and mission is that it comes from **YOU** the people of First Presbyterian Church. It is unique to our context in Grand Haven, MI. I believe we will find these vision and mission statements, adapted by the session with outspoken enthusiasm, will become defining statements in discovering the future God has in store for us.

2008 was a year of loss as well as a year we celebrated **Karin Fowler's** retirement. Most know that Karin and I had a great relationship as partners in ministry. It was difficult to accept her decision to retire but she and Scott are entering a new phase in their lives. We sent her off with a wonderful fanfare, singing "Happy Trails" and donning her with weirdly appropriate attire; a crown a purple cape and a scepter. What's great is that Karin and Scott will still be members of our church, and this will be great for all of us as long as, we respect the boundaries that Karin wants to maintain as a member and not a minister. We now have **Rick Campbell** on board as our interim Associate Pastor. Rick is incredibly qualified and has been a great fit into the team at First Presbyterian. I'm delighted and grateful that he is on board.

We also said good bye to two long time employees and members of the First Presbyterian Team, Russ Gabel and Dave Clinansmith. We thank them for their great work in Youth Ministries and on the Gathering Team. **Matt Fisher** is applying his outstanding skills, expertise and enthusiasm to both Aftershock (Middle School Fellowship) and IMPACT (Senior High Fellowship) and I am grateful for his vision, talents and skills. They continue to grow and define themselves for their new future.

2009 will be a challenging year as we walk side by side with members who are living through a great financial crisis. What's particularly tough is that we all feel the pinch of an economy that is bottoming out. We were unable to make our budget this year and the session and all the committees have been very responsible in their spending, so as not to create a deficit. Unfortunately in 2009, as revenues are projected to diminish, we also feel amplified needs in our community to serve through missional ministries and to serve those who have become the victims of the economy that has gone south. What is important to know is that I am sure God will give us the ability to stand with those in need and I believe our vision is right on when it declares that: **We are called to celebrate God's grace as a Christ-centered community of acceptance, growing in faith and living as Christ's hands to serve.** God would not have given us this vision if God didn't feel we didn't have the ability to pursue it, but this is where we need to be up front about our faith. This year will require not just commitment, not just responsibility, but more than ever it requires that we must be willing to make sacrifices as we live as Christ's hands to serve. So let us walk together, side by side, and hold that vision in front of us and declare our citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your pastor, but there is someone I must thank because she really makes me look good: My thanks to **Martha**, my wife for 27+ years, and my partner in ministry. Thanks be to God for her goodness and compassion. And, thanks to all the members of **Session** and the **Deacons** whom you will find listed one way or another in this annual report for it is their leadership and partnership that makes all the ministries of First Presbyterian Church possible. And finally, thanks to a great staff that leads with faith and commitment in a way that makes it a joy to come to work in the morning.

Peace,  
Tom Cook

**CHURCH STAFF**

MINISTERS: Rev. Thomas H. Cook, Pastor Head of Staff  
 Rev. Richard D. Campbell, Interim Associate Pastor

PROGRAM STAFF:

Director of Music and the Fine Arts	Maryanne Beery
Youth Ministries Director	Matt Fisher
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Kelli Jullie
Director of Children's Ministries	Winnie McNergney
Joyful Noise Director	Sally Segers

SUPPORT STAFF:

Night Host	David Anys
Hospitality Coordinator	Sally Bryant
Financial Services Assistant	Vicki Butcher
Maintenance Director	Dan Coulier
Organist	Mike D'Oyly
Custodian	Gail Goldberg
Membership Services Assistant	Karen Nienhouse
Administrative Assistant	Christina Ramones
Business Manager	Allen Winslow

**TERMS OF CALL**

**2009 TERMS OF CALL - PASTOR HEAD OF STAFF**

Salary	\$49,143
Housing Allowance	36,413
Pension	10,203
Health, Dental, Disability, and Life Insurance	26,215
Ministerial FICA Reimbursement	6,273
Continuing Education and Book Allowance	3,000
Reimbursed Expenses [Travel, Dues, etc.]	<u>5,700</u>
Total	\$136,947

**2009 CONTRACT - INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Salary	41,000
Housing Allowance	19,000
Pension	7,128
Health, Dental, Disability, and Life Insurance	18,084
Ministerial FICA Reimbursement	4,780
Continuing Education and Book Allowance	0
Reimbursed Expenses [Travel, Dues, etc.]	<u>0</u>
Total	\$89,992

<b>CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS</b>
-------------------------------------

Church Membership, December 31, 2007 1216

**GAINS IN 2008**

17 years old and under (Confirmation)	22
18 years old and over	25
Restored to Active	8
Certified	30
<b>Total Gains in 2008</b>	<b>85</b>

**LOSSES IN 2008**

Certified	6
Deaths	16
Other	79
<b>Total Losses in 2008</b>	<b>(101)</b>

**TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2008** **1,200**

**ADULT NEW MEMBERS**

Dick Aubrey	Amy Dalman	Kristin Hibbard	Shirley Shuman
Ginger Aubrey	Ryan Dalman	Scott Hibbard	Mark Sluiter
Jackie Baden	Doug Doering	Mary Helen Hoffmeyer	Marla Sluiter
Nancy Bassett	Jason Duram	Ron Hoffmeyer	David Thorsen
Ken Bassett	Cami Duram	Karen Hollidge	Mary Thorsen
Phyllis Berner	Ken Ennenga	Ken Hollidge	Sue Turkstra
Brenda Boterenbrood	Jerry Erwin	Fred Jeisy	Ann VanDenBerg
Brandy Bruhn	Lois Erwin	Carmen Jeisy	Chris VanDenBerg
Calvin Bruhn	Sarah Jane Essebaggers	Pam Kidd	Ward Verseput
Bruce Bultman	Dreyton Hardy	Joan Klaasen	Jean Verseput
Kristen Bultman	Heather Hardy	Douglas Nietering	Beth Wiersma
Chris Coffin	Mary Hendon	Shelly Nietering	Bud Wynne-Parry
Nicole Coffin	Harvey Heyer	Amy Polston	Jeanne Wynne-Parry
Amanda Cook	Mary Heyer	Kevin Polston	

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Chelsey Bassett	Sarah Kober	Nick Mendels	Ali Steggles
Hayden Creswell	Zach Konarska	Colin Ottenbaker	Luke Walburg
Trevor Dirheimer	Ben Lewis	Adam Poel	Meghan Wasson
Lindsey Flaquer	Joe Lukasik	Lauren Reenders	Mackenzie Yoas
Molly Gancarz	Jacob Lukasik	Marshall Rusco	
Jamie Jullie	Shane McNamara	Gretchen Spoelman	

**IN MEMORIAM**

Evamarie Andersen	Iris Davis	Al Jacobson	Mary Ann Sherwood
Doug Baker	Florence DeBoer	Charlotte Johnson	Jim Snyder
June Bohn	Ivan Fosheim	Ron Kemink	Don Theleen
William Boyer	Alma Goorman	Charlene Lorenz	Emery Thibdaue

## BAPTISMS

Ayden Ayers	Ayden Cotton	James Pfeifle	Avery Taylor
Liam Becker	Caleb Cryst	Sofia Polston	Juliana Thayer
Zachary Bruhn	Saydee Duram	Emily Riemersma	Mazie Warner
Courtney Coffin	Carson Hardy	Addison Saurbaugh	Mackenzie Yoas
Chris Coffin	Brody Ledet	Adelaine Schabbel	

<b>OFFICER CLASS OF 2009, 2010, 2011</b>
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### SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Rick vandenBerg

<b>Class of 2009</b>		<b>Class of 2010</b>		<b>Class of 2011</b>	
Don Anderson	842-8590	Carroll Bennink	842-5363	Bruce Campbell	846-4296
Pam Blake	(616)402-1121	Tim Bullerdick	846-5888	Dave Folkert	846-3586
Tom Creswell	842-6113	Ross Carter	846-1157	Carol Hall	847-1581
Wendy Keefe	844-6190	Donna Kober	847-9937	Bret Lewis	847-0168
Becky Sanchez	847-1564	Melinda Mendels	847-1631	Lisa Luckey	842-1758
Pat VerDuin	842-1794	Bob Van Dyke	846-3078	Kathy Olds	842-7691
Charlie Parker	842-9586	Terri Wolters	844-6814	Rick vandenBerg	844-0741

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Chairperson: Michelle Potter

<b>Class of 2009</b>		<b>Class of 2010</b>		<b>Class of 2011</b>	
Suzie Brink	296-0684	Lee Elenbaas	846-3087	Ann Anys	846-2867
Byron Carpenter	842-8858	Pat Elenbaas	846-3087	Ken Ennenga	846-1688
Peggy Leach	296-0808	Tom Engelsman	844-1526	Sarah Jane Essebaggers	842-5062
Les McClellan	846-9564	Dan Luckey	842-1758	Staci LeFurge	846-2575
Chuck Watson	846-4752	Judy McAlister	846-3353	Barbara Nelson	846-4439
Doris VandenBrand	842-2794	Lynne VanderMeer	842-7037	Michelle Potter	846-1023
				Leslie Ver Duin	842-1334

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Don Anderson	Carol Brown (616)399-3647	Kelly Keefe	844-6190
Co-Chairperson: Pam Blake	Anne Guimond 842-9547	Mark Sanchez	847-1564

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>
---------------------------

In 2008, revenues were \$1,048,000. This number was below budget by almost \$77,000 and lower than revenues in 2007 by \$47,000. Our revenues reflect the difficult economy in 2008.

Annual expenditures were \$1,078,000. This represented a slight increase of \$8,000 from 2007 and was below the budget of \$1,126,000 by \$48,000. We were above budget in the Trustees area primarily from the purchase of an energy management system for both heating and air conditioning and were able to cover a portion of the costs with a transfer from the Omega fund of \$6,400. We continued our transfer of \$12,000 to our maintenance reserve account to provide for the long term upkeep of the church. We reduced our budgeted expenditures for the Missions Committee, Youth, and Worship areas due to our reduction in revenues.

We finished the year with a positive overall fund balance of \$1,785 due to the strength of our church finances the previous two years. First Presbyterian Church continues to impact the world around us by serving those in need and sharing Christ's word through our missions and programs. Our remarkable volunteers and congregation, dedicated staff, and an engaged session help make it all possible.

### 2009 Budget

The 2009 budget is based on our Consecration Sunday results and Session and staff input on expenditures. The pledges from Consecration Sunday have allowed us to budget revenues of \$1,045,000. The budgeted revenues are similar to 2008 actual results.

Expenses for 2009 are budgeted at \$1,044,000 which is a decrease from 2008 actual expenses of \$34,000. The budget projects expenditures of \$100,000 for the Mission Committee which is an increase of \$15,000 from 2008. The Youth budget also has a slight increase from 2008 levels. Staff changes have allowed us to lower expenditures in the Personnel area and allowed us to provide the additional money for our Missions area and Youth. The budget as approved by session is a break even budget in 2009.

As I look ahead, I see significant opportunities for our church as we determine how best we can fulfill our mission and truly be "God's hands to serve". We have significant positive energy at First Presbyterian Church but we also face the challenge of a very difficult economy. The needs we have to meet in our own church family, the local community, and in our missions in different areas around the world continue to grow. Each of us (staff, session, and every member of the church) through prayer and our continuing commitment to God's plan can help First Presbyterian Church meet the combined challenge of the growing needs of all of God's children along with the reduced resources we have available. This continuing commitment and prayer from all of us will allow us to respond to God's call and move forward into our future with vision, passion, and excitement.

If you have any questions regarding the reports provided please feel free to contact any member of the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Creswell, Treasurer

### First Presbyterian Church - Grand Haven, MI Comparative Balance Sheet

	12/31/2008	12/31/2007	12/31/2006
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	488,551.42	453,870.01	1,130,182.00
Other Assets	55,309.00	(702.72)	275.00
Fixed Assets (at cost)	<u>5,256,735.76</u>	<u>5,231,239.28</u>	<u>4,417,176.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,800,596.18</u>	<u>5,684,406.57</u>	<u>5,547,633.00</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Prepaid Pledges	20,289.00	57,720.28	22,869.00
Bank Loan Payable	522,000.00	657,000.00	-
Other	<u>73,691.89</u>	<u>43,071.86</u>	<u>19,117.00</u>
Total Liabilities	615,980.89	757,792.14	41,986.00
Fund Equity	<u>5,184,615.29</u>	<u>4,926,614.43</u>	<u>5,505,647.00</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	<u>5,800,596.18</u>	<u>5,684,406.57</u>	<u>5,547,633.00</u>

**First Presbyterian Church - Grand Haven, MI**  
**Comparative Statement of General Fund 2007 and 2008 Revenue and Expenditures**  
**with 2008 and 2009 Budgets [and transfers in from Special Funds]**

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2008 Budget	2009 Budget
General Fund Revenue:				
Adult Giving	1,045,252.12	1,009,100.81	1,092,697.00	1,001,000.00
Loose Plate	34,890.02	30,069.52	28,800.00	30,000.00
Per Capita, Youth, and Other	14,871.94	9,653.95	4,200.00	14,000.00
Total of all "Giving"	1,095,014.08	1,048,824.28	1,125,697.00	1,045,000.00
Rents and Other Revenue	-	-	-	-
Total General Fund Revenue	1,095,014.08	1,048,824.28	1,125,697.00	1,045,000.00
General Fund Expenditures:				
Personnel	725,993.57	740,949.55	760,575.00	695,308.09
Ministries and Benevolence	96,231.43	84,839.43	105,000.00	103,134.00
Session & Per Capita Assessment Paid	29,043.57	29,140.44	27,895.00	27,895.00
Trustees [operating expenses]	153,993.68	161,957.24	149,020.00	151,613.00
Fellowship	14,860.62	8,906.03	18,345.00	10,000.00
Health	-	-	1,200.00	-
Youth Ministries	27,435.64	24,645.03	29,736.00	26,802.00
Worship	14,481.93	14,109.66	15,000.00	13,650.00
Children's Ministries	5,576.90	9,339.93	10,400.00	10,400.00
Adult Education	3,002.20	4,892.06	9,200.00	5,200.00
Subtotal General Fund Expenditures	1,070,619.54	1,078,779.37	1,126,371.00	1,044,002.09
Pastor Nominating Committee	-	-	-	-
Total General Fund Expenditures	1,070,619.54	1,078,779.37	1,126,371.00	1,044,002.09
General Fund Operating Revenue over/ (under) General Fund Expenditures	24,394.54	(29,955.09)	(674.00)	997.91
Transfer from Special Funds <sup>1</sup>	-	7,345.53	-	-
Incr./(Decr.) in General Fund Balance	24,394.54	(22,609.56)	(674.00)	997.91
Beginning of Year Fund Balance	-	24,395.00	-	1,785.00
End of Year General Fund Balance	24,394.54	1,785.44	(674.00)	2,782.91

<sup>1</sup>Transfers from Special Funds were used to cover General Fund operating losses.

<b>TRUSTEES COMMITTEE</b>
---------------------------

Serving the church in 2008 as Trustees were: Lee Brink, Sue Buitenhuis, Ross Carter, Tom Creswell, Jim Kober, John Lepard, Ken MacLeod, Ray Nelson, Kathy Olds, and June Ribbink. The Trustees were supported by Business Manager, Allen Winslow.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT**

- Recommended to Session the purchase of new chairs for the lounge at a cost of \$6,000.00. Funded out of the Memorial Fund. Session concurred.
- Recommended to Session the purchase of a computerized HVAC management system at a cost of \$10,000.00. Funded out of Omega fund. Session concurred.
- All bequests, special funds, and designated funds have been managed in accordance with the Book of Order.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE**

- Monitored closely softening revenues in 2008.
- Recommended to Session various spending cuts totaling \$41,000.00. Session concurred.
- In conjunction with Stewardship committee finalized a reconfiguration of our endowment funds, thus making them more bequest friendly.

- Monthly monitoring of the 2008 budget and operating statements conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles and the Book of Order.
- Treasurer's reports carefully reviewed on a monthly basis.
- Conducted a financial review of the church's 2007 records according to generally accepted accounting principles. No problems observed.
- Recommended to Session \$10,000.00 in start up funds to begin the new Community Concert Series. Funded out of Alpha Fund. Session concurred.
- The 2009 budget prepared.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Conducted spring clean up of church grounds.
- Detected leak in church steeple and working towards resolution.
- Enlisted the support of Lee and Suzie Brink and Jane Poort to work on the Memorial Garden. Huge improvement.
- Approved purchase of new cabinetry for Joyful Noise.
- Approved various repairs and maintenance concerns for First House, next door to church.
- Fall cleanup day and backup date were snowed out.

#### ADMINISTRATION

- Reviewed maintenance contract with KONE Elevator Service.
- Entered into contract with Lauck Pipe Organ Company to renovate organ at a cost of \$220,000.00. Designated funds to come from Capital Campaign.
- Continually observant of church business policies and procedures. This to assure church's continued compliance with various statutes and business codes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ross E. Carter, President

<b>ADULT EDUCATION</b>
------------------------

**Objective:** "To encourage and provide opportunities for members to: Discover and develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and to enhance one's discipleship to Jesus Christ."

**Accomplishments:**

1. Developed and amended: Procedure for Review of Proposals for studies.
2. Developed an evaluation tool that participants used to provide feedback on class studies.
3. Offered the following studies this year: Disciple I, Disciple II, Monday Men's Group (What's so Great about Christianity, Life of the Beloved) Thursday AM Small Group (A Women of Worship, The Irresistible Revolution, The Shack). Total Number of participants 82
4. Men's Bible Study Breakfast consists of 13 men who meet the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Vic's Restaurant. They are currently studying First Samuel. The Breakfast tradition began at least 30 years ago, during Dave Peterson's pastorate, or earlier. Originally, a minister conducted the lesson, continuing until the time of Mike Fry's departure. He informed the men that there was no one replacing him, so the breakfast group would be responsible for providing its own Bible Study leader which it has. (Submitted by Byron Carpenter)
5. Provided a workshop on "Biblical Storytelling" with Rev. Richard Ward, Karin Fowler's professor and mentor at Yale Divinity School.

Approximately 50 individuals within the congregation and within the faith community participated and gained an appreciation for the art of storytelling.

6. Offered a Women's Retreat entitled "Exploring the Way". The Retreat was held at Camp Geneva and Retreat Center. 26 women attended the retreat. They focused on six spiritual practices; journaling, sharing their spiritual journeys and holy listening.

We'd like to thank Committee members: Marge Coffey, Lee Brink, Suzie Brink, Nicole Ruble, Carol Folkert as well as Karin Fowler for the sharing of their time and talents during this year.

Respectfully Submitted: Pat VerDuin, Elder & Chair

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE



LIGHTHOUSE: *Stay Anchored to Christ – Shine and Share His Light*

The Children's Ministries Committee supports the training, programs and special events for children newborn through fifth grade. There are approximately 25 children in each age and grade class. Children are guided on their faith journey through a variety of activities including training, Sunday classes, and special events. This year we were excited to offer the Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School again with a freshly renovated building and more classrooms. Children and their families participated in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show, All-Church Picnic, Hands to Serve mission to our community, and Advent Wreath and Craft Fair. Fourth and fifth grade children enjoyed "Play People" fellowship events, and 27 third grade children received Bibles along with Communion and Bible Training. A 9:00 a.m. preteen class was added to the Sunday schedule.

Over 250 birthday cards were sent to children throughout the year. Our rotation curriculum continued to be given to other churches for their use in developing the rotation model of Sunday School.

I wish there was space to list names of all of the wonderful volunteers who give their time and love of God to lead His kids each week. The support of the pastors, church staff, and church family is also very much appreciated. Thank you. Special thank you to the Children's Ministries Committee members: Wendy Keefe (Elder), Rachel Cotton, Deb McMaster, and Linda Skinner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Winnie McNergney, Director of Children's Ministries

## DEACON BOARD

Committee members for 2008: Ann Anys, Suzie Brink, Henni Campbell, Byron Carpenter, Lee Elenbaas, Pat Elenbaas, Tom Engelsman, Diana Groters, Don LaBeff, Peggy Leach, Dan Luckey, Judy McAlister, Les McClellan, Barb Nelson, Verna Schoonveld, Barbara Scott, Doris VandenBrand, Lynne VanderMeer and Chuck Watson.

Co-Chairpersons: Michelle Potter and Pat Rickert  
Staff Liaison: Rev. Karin Fowler / Rev. Rick Campbell  
Liaison to the Men's Group: Joe McCrea  
Liaison to the Order of St. Luke: Michele Smith and Darld Black

According to our Book of Order, "It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from the session."

In the fulfillment of those duties, the Deacons have had a very busy and productive year. Our dedicated and caring members have brightened the lives of many through our varied ministries:

- Visitations to nursing home and private home shut-ins
- Running of twice-monthly bingo events at Sanctuary at the Shore
- Monthly serving of home communion
- Weekly delivery of the sanctuary flowers to various shut-ins, homebound, and others as suggested by the church staff
- Providing assistance with funeral luncheons and other events as needed
- Visiting families with newborns through the Cradle Call
- Assistance with nursing home Sunday services
- Sending of get-well and sympathy cards to members in various situations of need
- Assistance to members as requested and approved through the Deacon's fund

There were other special events this past year in which the Deacons took an active role. Many of our members either led or served in Compassion Weekend projects. Our communication member, Lynne VanderMeer, created her own project to send a large number of cards to our homebound members. During the holiday season, we obtained jars of candy from the Presbyterian Women for delivery during our monthly visitations. We also assisted with the holiday luncheon held for the elder members of our congregation.

The largest change for our group came as we had to say goodbye to Karin. As our staff liaison, she had helped us with coordination and assistance in many ways. We were very sad to lose her, but we've been very pleased to welcome Rick Campbell in filling that role. He's been a wonderful resource for us, and I'm happy to report that things are moving very smoothly.

In closing, it's been a busy and very gratifying year for those of us on the Board of Deacons. We look happily forward to 2009 as another year of opportunities for us to extend the blessings and the grace of the Lord to the members of Christ's church whom we serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Potter

### First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons Financial Report

Opening Balance January 1, 2008		<b>\$5,713.97</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Contributions	\$4,701.00	
Interest	\$61.09	
Refund	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		<b>\$4,762.09</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Bingo Supplies	\$86.96	
Center For Women in Transition	\$500.00	
Home Touch	\$0.00	
Deacon Supplies-Flower Vases	\$42.07	
Love, INC	\$500.00	
Funeral Expense	\$531.63	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$500.00	
Home Communion Kits	\$69.35	
Nursing Home Accompanist	\$600.00	
Presby. Women (Candy & Senior Lunch)	\$1,237.50	
Salvation Army Grand Haven	\$500.00	
Stamps & cards	\$0.00	

The People Center	\$1,000.00	
Carnations-Valentine's Day	\$18.89	
Tri-Cities Ministries	\$500.00	
Upper Room	\$676.80	
Heritage Luncheon	\$0.00	
Holy Trinity Ch.(Thanks. Food Bsk.)	\$0.00	
Total Disbursements		<b>-\$6,763.20</b>
Balance December 31, 2008		<b>\$3,712.86</b>
<b>Local Mission Fund</b>		
Opening Balance January 1, 2008		<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Transfer from Regular Account	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Pastor's discretionary Fund	\$0.00	
FPCCCC	\$0.00	
Other Disbursements	\$0.00	
Total Disbursements		<b>\$0.00</b>
Balance December 31, 2008		<b>\$500.00</b>
Total Closing balance both accounts		<b>4,212.86</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Dwana Brink, Deacon Treasurer

<b>FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE</b>
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Committee members for 2008: Elder Terri Wolters, Elder Pam Blake, George and Barbara Bryant, Bruce Campbell, Betty Jo Enell, Vicky Frantz, Chuck & Kim Fuller, Melissa Gross, Jane Hettenbach, Roger Miedema, Barb Nelson, Norm Styck, Glenn Wiegert. Committee helpers included Ann Rotman, Lisa Hurley, Jean Mulder, Sally Kenrick, and Kim Beber.

Staff liaisons, Rev. Karin Fowler (through Nov. 2008), Rick Campbell, Sally Bryant

The committee's objective is to promote fellowship and compassionate friendship as a lifestyle for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. We plan and promote inter-generational and large group events, as well as encouraging new social groups and the formation and continuing function of small group ministry.

This year's events included, the All-Church Picnic held at Pottawattamie Park, Family Advent Wreath and Craft Fair, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the 'No-talent,' Talent Show, and the small group fellowship, Member Mixes (a.k.a. Dinner for Eight) and new for 2008 was Game Night. Fellowship members along with the Franklin Street Café teams provide help for the Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship.

A special thank you to the committee members and the congregation for supporting our work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terri Wolters



















