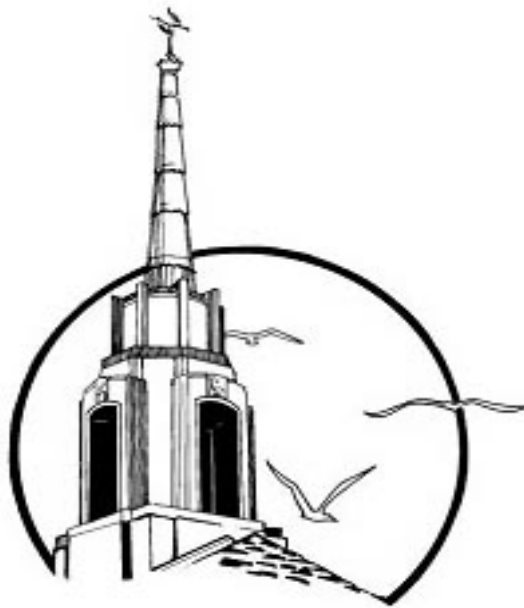


2008

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.fpggh.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 172nd 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 171st 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>
Total	\$136,627	\$98,309

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

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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

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

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
Total Gains in 2008	85

LOSSES IN 2008

Certified	6
Deaths	16
Other	79
Total Losses in 2008	(101)

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	

OFFICER CLASS OF 2009, 2010, 2011
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SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Rick vandenBerg

Class of 2009		Class of 2010		Class of 2011	
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

Class of 2009		Class of 2010		Class of 2011	
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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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
Assets:			
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>
Liabilities			
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	2008		2009
	Actual	Actual	Budget	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 ¹		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

¹Transfers from Special Funds were used to cover General Fund operating losses.

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

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

ADULT EDUCATION

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		\$5,713.97
Receipts		
Contributions	\$4,701.00	
Interest	\$61.09	
Refund	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		\$4,762.09
Disbursements		
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		-\$6,763.20
Balance December 31, 2008		\$3,712.86
Local Mission Fund		
Opening Balance January 1, 2008		\$500.00
Receipts		
Transfer from Regular Account	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		\$0.00
Disbursements		
Pastor's discretionary Fund	\$0.00	
FPCCCC	\$0.00	
Other Disbursements	\$0.00	
Total Disbursements		\$0.00
Balance December 31, 2008		\$500.00
Total Closing balance both accounts		4,212.86

Respectfully submitted,
Dwana Brink, Deacon Treasurer

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COMMITTEE

Committee members for 2008: Elder Melinda Mendels, Marcy Engelsman, Mary Heyer, Kay McCrea, Muriel Mersereau, Sheila Thielbar

Staff liaison, Rick Campbell

The mission of the First Impressions committee is: *To create an atmosphere of warmth and personal acceptance, providing a welcoming environment for people to take the next step on their faith journey.* The members of this committee staff the Welcome Center each Sunday, place calls to recent visitors on a monthly basis, assist at New Member classes, host a welcome table at the annual church picnic, and plan and implement church-wide guest services. In 2008, the committee began providing Welcome Bags for visitors after each service. The bags contain informational brochures, the Gathering Band CD, and a First Presbyterian Church magnet and pencil.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Mendels

JOYFUL NOISE



**“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14**

Now in its 11th year of childcare and 17th year of preschool, Joyful Noise provides high quality, nurturing care for children in a Christian setting, presently serving more than 100 children in daycare and preschool.

We provide a variety of activities and lessons that stimulate spiritual, social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth in all children. Bible stories, music, art, field trips, prayer, story telling, computers, science, large muscle play and celebrations are all a part of our everyday program. We also provide nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Joyful Noise employs 16 full time and 10 part time staff. Their dedication to Joyful Noise and the children and families they serve has been a blessing.

In 2008 Joyful Noise:

- Continued to visit our grandfriends at Christian Haven
- Provided scholarships to many families
- Was named “Best in the Lakeshore” by Tribune voters
- Hosted 300 people at our annual Teusink’s Pony Farm picnic
- Walked in the Coast Guard Kid’s Parade with 70 Joyful Noisers
- Held an open house & book fair in September with over 180 in attendance
- Received recognition from GHHS Community Based Training program
- Hosted a family movie night in Fellowship Hall
- Kids planted flowers donated by GH Garden House
- Hosted interns from local colleges and GH High School
- Families donated items to Women in Transition for emergency housing
- Donated items to the Muskegon Animal Shelter
- Welcomed First Pres. volunteer readers for the BOOK IT! program
- Raised \$5,823 in fundraising profit
- Held a clothing swap for families to share children’s items
- Hosted a 10th anniversary celebration
- Held our first golf scramble fundraiser
- Decorated eggs, played Bingo & Wii with our grandfriends at the Senior Center

- Hosted a parent seminar with Dr. Al Winebarger
- Held a spring clean up day with 6 families helping
- Referred 7 children for special services

In the past year, our Joyful Noise staff:

- changed more than 30,000 diapers
- used over 9,000 vinyl gloves
- used over 70,000 wet wipes
- wiped noses over 50,000 times, using over 580 boxes of tissues
- served over 56,000 meals and snacks (\$25,400 in food cost!)
- served over 780 gallons of milk
- washed over 125,000 pairs of children's hands
- each washed their own hands over 2,000 times
- used over 208,000 paper towels (hand drying, table sanitizing)
- took out over 3,700 bags of trash
- used more than 30,000 sheets of paper
- used over 40 gallons of tempera paint, 2,000 sheets of construction paper, 15 gallons of glue, a couple of pounds of sparkles, and over 400 markers
- worked a combined total of more than 40,000 hours
- read over 7,800 books
- rubbed over 14,000 backs at nap time
- gave more than 7,400 pushes on the swings
- gave over 56,000 hugs
- prayed with the children over 4,680 times
- And prayed for our program, church, and children's families over 2,600 times

You can give us a helping hand in 2009 by participating in fundraising opportunities, joining our advisory committee, praying for our program and our staff, children and their families, donating toward our scholarship fund, donating much needed items such as tissues and other paper products, or volunteering to read to, or rock a child.

We truly feel privileged to work with our kids, their families and the community. We also feel blessed to have the support of so many kind people in our church's congregation. We will continue to reach for what God calls us to do, bringing the love of Christ to our community's children.

Respectfully,
Sally Segers, Director

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven consists of the following board members; Guy Terrill (Chairman) Nancy Hunter (Secretary) Donna vandenBerg, Scott Fowler, Bruce Campbell, Carol Hall, Margaret Spoelman, Tom Cook, Jill Osborn and Carroll Bennink. The committee is always looking for new board members, therefore; if you are interested in serving please contact one of the board members and join us for a meeting.

The budget for 2008 for the Mission Committee was \$105,000. Due to difficult economic times the Trustees asked us during the year to lower our budget by \$20,000 to \$85,000

We focused our attention and financial support to the following needs in our community in the calendar year 2008.

We have continued our focus with our support of Faith in Action International and their work in Haiti. We continue to work with Tom Braak closely and realize that this year was especially tough due to several hurricanes that hit Haiti this year.

Donna vandenBerg leads the committee work with the Emergency Prescription Program, This program works in conjunction with Love INC, NOCCOA and The Salvation Army. This program's mission is to help members of our community in need of assistance with the high cost of prescription drugs. The program has been very successful in fulfilling this important need in our community.

We continued our financial support of The Peoples Center which provides food, transitional housing, clothing, information and counseling for people of need in our community.

Carol Hall led the committee's work with The Supper House in Muskegon. Every fourth Monday of the month, our church provides financial assistance and volunteers to support this program to serve meals to people in need.

In partnership with St Patrick's Church and the Ottawa County Court System, we continued our outreach program that meets twice per month in our Lounge. As hosts, we provide a meeting place, volunteers and Christian Hospitality to those working to overcome prior bad decisions and drug addiction.

The Mission Committee once again supported the efforts of our church with the "Hands To Serve" compassion weekend. The committee helped coordinate this very successful weekend where our congregation gave their time, effort and services to many activities that help our community. This has turned out to be an excellent way to get people involved and extending Jesus Christ's compassion for people thru this project.

We continued our substantial financial support of Tri-Cities Ministries and the work they do in our community.

We had a sub committee work with PARA in helping a refugee family move to Grand Haven. This was very successful, and the Mishra family is doing very well with continued support from our Church.

We gave both Financial and volunteer support to Habitat for Humanity and helping build a house for a family in our community.

Once again, The Mission Committee oversees four special offerings during the calendar year. *One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering and Christmas Joy Offering*, all were a great success this year thanks to the generosity of our congregation.

The committee started a program for 2009 that the church would collect food items on the First Sunday of every month, rather than just doing this during the Holiday seasons. During these hard economic times the need at local food pantries has increased dramatically. The first two months of this project have been a great success with a vanload of goods going to The People Center.

Separate from our committee's work, but as a continued Mission of our Church, we support the work of the Joyful Noise Daycare and Pre School program which provides child care services for families in our community.

With the Lord's help, our committee can do wonderful things.

Respectfully submitted,
Guy Terrill, Mission Committee Chair

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS MINISTRIES

Summary:

2008 was another year of growth for Arts ministry. Music, dance, dramatic reading of scripture and visual art were all incorporated into worship with several priorities in mind:

- Expressing our love and passion for God through artistic expression.
- Exploring ways to reach all members of the community through the Arts.
- Introducing these forms to the children of our congregation by inviting them to help lead worship with music, drama, dance and art.

I. Ensemble Activity:

- a. Geneva Choir –The Geneva choir continues to lead our congregation with excellent music and singing. Their weekly rehearsals prepare them for Sunday worship and extra services. Geneva Choir assisted in the TAIZÉ worship services during Lent as well as for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, special services for the retirement of Associate Pastor Karin Fowler, and Christmas Eve. Mike D'Oyly directed the group from August through December while I (Maryanne Beery) was on sabbatical with my family. He brought many soloists to the Sunday morning services and also the choir from Mona Shores High School. Geneva choir thrived and grew musically and in number under his leadership.
- b. Children's Choir – Our children's choir has more than doubled in size again this year and participated in worship services every four to six weeks. The children start their rehearsal time with scripture and devotions, move on to singing in unison, ringing chimes, playing rhythm games, having a snack together, and enjoying our time preparing music for our congregation. Jane Stoepker was leading this group from September through December and did a wonderful Christmas program with speaking parts and music. She is to be commended on her excellent leadership and energy in growing the group in numbers and in faith.
- c. Carillon Bells-Our bell choir continued to participate every six to eight weeks for worship on Sunday morning. Weekly rehearsals include learning and playing through our music, inviting soloists to accompany us on our selections, and much laughter and fun. This group again experienced many personnel changes during 2008. We are fortunate to have several new ringers with us and look forward to sharing our musical ministry with the congregation. Jane Stoepker led the Carillon Bells from September through December. Everyone appreciated her willingness to direct, her commitment to the group, and the fine musical outcome of those rehearsals.

II. Programming:

- a. TAIZÉ services held in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings during Lent.
- b. Maundy Thursday service with dramatic reading by congregational members and guest dancer, Bethany Sweir.
- c. Easter morning 7am service with dramatization by and dancing by Bethany Sweir. Congregation is invited to sanctuary where they deliver flowers and sing with organ and trumpet trio.
- d. July brings a volunteer "summer pick up choir".
- e. Summer special music includes many vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles from our congregation.

III. Artist Series:

- a. Muskegon Chamber Choir kicked off our new Community Artist Series in fine form during a December concert in our sanctuary.
- b. Alma College Choir will perform in our sanctuary with the Mona Shores Choir Saturday, February 7, 2009, and will then participate in the 9am worship service on Sunday, February 8, 2009.

Plans for the 25th anniversary of the International Church Music Festival taking place in Rome, Italy during June 2009, are taking shape. There are close to 25 participants signed up for this exciting and historic festival.

Workshops for bells, children's choirs, dancing, and drama are available at many conferences here in the state. It is the desire of many volunteer musicians to attend some of these conferences in the future.

It is important for our congregation to continue to communicate what artistic programs they would like to see during worship on Sunday mornings. We are fortunate to have a vast amount of talented and willing Artistic people in our midst.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryanne Beery, Director of Music and the Arts

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The committee participated in many meetings throughout 2008. Members of the present committee include Tom Cook, Bob VanDyke, Bruce Campbell, Danielle Beals, Neil Blake, Allen Winslow and chairman, Carroll Bennink.

- Our first task was to fill the vacancy of our hospitality coordinator. We chose Sally Bryant after interviewing many fine candidates. We feel she has done a great job for us.
- In July, we granted Maryanne Beery a leave of absence so the entire family could be together while Eric was on sabbatical in Europe. Jane Stoecker and Mike D'Oyly took over her duties while she was gone. She will return at the beginning of 2009.
- We have been looking at the budget for personnel and felt that we had too many fulltime positions. We needed to lower the number of employees to help us meet our budget, but we also needed to use some of them more effectively.
- Russ Gable's resignation was the event that allowed us to look closely at our alignments without ending anyone's employment. We discussed the youth leadership positions and made Matt Fisher the head of both middle school and senior high youth groups.
- Part of our budget and time study also led us to the decision to make the gathering band leader a part time position. We offered this position to Dave Clinansmith but he chose to resign which left this position open and will need to be filled in 2009. A temporary solution is being worked on and a committee will be formed to find a more permanent replacement.
- When Karin Fowler retired the committee was given the task of hiring an interim associate minister. Rick Campbell was available. With our firsthand knowledge of his ministry, we then asked him to interview for the position, which he did. The committee then recommended Rick to the Session and we are privileged to have him as our interim associate minister today.
- We have had a difficult time making sure the building is secure at night so the committee recommended that we hire someone to help visitors find their meeting places, monitor, and lock the building on Monday – Thursday evenings when most meetings and activities are held. The Session agreed and we hired David Anys who started this job on January 5th, 2009.
- Our unstable economy and its effect on our budget are factors that led the committee to hold the line on salaries for the coming year. We hope that increases can be considered again next year.

It has been a busier year than normal and I thank the committee for its excellent work.

Respectfully submitted,
Carroll Bennink

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Membership in Presbyterian Women is open to all women. PW members are those who choose to participate in or be supportive of Presbyterian Women in any way. PW intentionally seeks the membership of women inclusive of all ages, races, ethnicities and geographical locations so that it may reflect the rich diversity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PW determines its own leadership, program and budget. Decisions are made by voting or consensus at gatherings that have representation from appropriate groups.

Presbyterian Women have six Circles which meet monthly at different times for Bible study and fellowship. The Circles come together several times a year for a Gathering that includes a program and sometimes a breakfast or luncheon.

In December we made our famous Jewel Chip Candy and held a "PW Holiday Bake Sale". Both were a tremendous success because of the support of the members of the congregation. The purpose of our fundraisers is to raise money to support local and international charitable organizations.

We had about 100 senior members of our congregation attend our Annual Christmas party. We had lunch and then enjoyed a wonderful concert performed by the Grand Haven High School Choral Ensemble which also included a sing-a-long of Christmas Carols.

Our calendar year is from September 1 – August 31. Our scheduled Gatherings for the 2008 – 2009 year are:

- September 18: "Hunger In The Tri-Cities"
- October 23: Harvest Soup Luncheon
- December 18: Annual Christmas Party
- February 19: "Hunger In The Tri-Cities" Part II
- April 9: Maundy Thursday Luncheon and program with Spring Lake PW
- May 21: "Spring Flower Arrangements"

Respectfully submitted,
 Donna vandenBerg
 Moderator, Presbyterian Women

ANNUAL REPORT – PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008

Balance on Hand September 1, 2007 **\$ 927.15**

Receipts:

Circle Pledges	2,874.10
Least Coin	12.27
Thank Offering	1,712.00
Two Cents Per Meal	215.96
Jewel Chip Candy Sale	515.10
Study Books	498.00
Interest	49.63
Program	1,228.00
Baked Good Sale	439.00
Kitchen Shower	1,610.00

Total Receipts: **9,154.06**

Total before Disbursements: **\$10,081.21**

Disbursements:

Lake MI Presbyterian Women	1,290.00
Least Coin	12.27
Thank Offering	1,712.00
Study Books (2007 & 2008)	1,364.00
Candy Expense	34.65
Program	1,032.95
Misc Expense	25.89
Kitchen Expenses	1,699.40
Year End Gifts / Mission Giving	2,725.00

Total Disbursements: **9,896.16**

Balance on Hand August 31, 2008 **\$ 185.05**

YEAR END GIFTS 2007 – 2008

Love, INC	575.00
International Aid	100.00
Faith In Action International	500.00
The People Center	450.00
North Ottawa Council on Aging	400.00
The Salvation Army	300.00
Mission for Area People / Supper House	400.00

Total Presbyterian Women Mission Giving **\$2,725.00**

Submitted by,
Ruth Suchecki, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This year's **Consecration Sunday, "Responding to God's Blessings"** concluded on Sunday, October 19 after several weeks of communication to the congregation via the Tidings, bulletins and testimonies. Members were asked, in this economically difficult time, to prayerfully consider how we could continue the wonderful programs, staff and missions of FPCGH through their generous financial support. We continued the tradition of a special fellowship, following the services, with treats/music in the lounge.

Results of Consecration Sunday's Commitment Pledges:

	Number of Pledges		Dollars	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Year:	2008	2009	2008	2009
Increased:	106	67	\$ 337,981	\$ 261,292
Decreased:	37	62	98,908	117,684
Same:	92	128	268,434	299,318
New Commitments:	75	47	172,944	81,948
Submitted card w/o amount	15	16		
Total	325	320	\$ 878,267	\$ 760,242

The committee developed an **Endowment Brochure** to be available in 2009. The tri-fold brochure encourages members to "leave a legacy" to the FPCGH Omega Endowment Fund.

The Stewardship Committee planned **Good \$ense**, a Biblically based, practical, easy to use program for financial planning and habits through the Willow Creek Program. The sessions are planned for January – February.

The committee served as an input and endorsement body as well as monitoring the progress of the **Capital Campaign, "Daring Disciples: Our History Continues"**.

The Stewardship Committee continued to encourage members to participate in the **Meijer Rewards** modified program.

The Stewardship Committee: Allen Winslow, Lisa Luckey, Staci LeFurge, Dave Folkert, Ed Hanenburg, Cal Bruhn, Andy Brown, Kathy Olds, ex-officio Tom Cook and Chair Steve Groters, continue to emphasize that stewardship is NOT a six-week blitz on giving, but a continuous acknowledgment that everything we have is a blessing and gift from God. Giving is a joy not a sacrifice.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Groters, Chair

STUDENT MINISTRIES

This ministry exists to: Confront the lost
Challenge the found
Conform the mature into the image of Christ and
Commission leaders to do ministry
in short: **WIN - BUILD - EQUIP - SEND**

WIN - Over the past 12 months of ministry our group has witnessed nearly 75 students make first time commitments to accept Christ as their Savior, and nearly 120 re-commitments! Our group has maintained its numerical size for the past couple of years now and is presently ministering to 130-160 regular students (students attending at least every other week). This past year we have seen over 80 new students (never attended before). With nearly 100 students attending our Wednesday night middle school program (Aftershock) we value every square foot of usable area. It often becomes very difficult to track new students and make sure they are greeted by a leader and connected with the correct groups. As a result, an addition to our ministry team is our new student database. This new program greatly increases our effectiveness in tracking student attendance, **new** students, and allowing for better small group leader contacting with students.

BUILD - Once we have made contact with students and they have made a commitment to Christ, we commit to creating an atmosphere that will build students' faith and help them grow in their relationship with Christ. Currently, we offer two main programs for middle school students that meet on a weekly basis to meet this goal, Youth Group (Aftershock) and Breakfast Club (Sunday school). Breakfast Club focuses on the basics of the Christian faith (the Bible, Prayer, Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Fellowship). Breakfast Club continues to meet following the worship and praise portion of the Gathering service. This year, we have had 25-35 students each week at Breakfast Club. Aftershock, our weekly youth group meeting on Wednesday nights, focuses again on the basics of the Christian faith, but from a more topical and practical standpoint. Our attendance hovers around 100 students for this weekly program. This year we have 15 Small Group Leaders that have committed to ministering to a single group of students. This group of leaders becomes **my** small group, and is the frontline of this ministry to middle school students. These leaders share their faith as an example to their students. These relationships directly impact student growth.

Our ministry to High School students is based around our Sunday night youth group (Impact). Currently this program sees around 50 regular students (students that attend at least every other week). This ministry is based around the same philosophy of small groups that our middle school ministry does. This year we have 4 small group leaders committed to building relationships with our high school students and demonstrating Christ to them. One of the largest challenges for our ministry right now is finding more small group leaders to take a vested interest in the life of our high school students.

Each year we offer several trips that challenge students' faith and help them to grow in their relationship with Christ. Nearly 200 students attended faith-building events outside of regular youth group meetings such as: SpringHill Winter Retreat, Indoor Rock Climbing, Summer Celebration, Lake Ann Work Retreat, Chicago mission, Mexico mission, Colorado and other events. After reading that list, I hope that it is evident that our students are not only having their lives changed, but impacting the world around them.

EQUIP - We strive to equip students with the tools to *do* ministry, not just be recipients of ministry. In this last year we've placed over 150 students in the mission field. With events like our Lake Ann Work Trip, Kentucky Mission Project, Chicago Mission trip, Mexico Mission trip and Compassion Weekend to small acts of service in our own community; we do every thing possible to provide students with opportunities to do ministry. Each of these missions gives us the opportunity to teach and more importantly show students how to serve God and express their faith to others. Through these projects, many of our students experience missions for the first time in 6th or 7th grade. One of the strengths of this current ministry is preparing students to express their faith in word and deed. Our students are not the "church of tomorrow" they are making a difference in the lives of people TODAY!

One of the best training grounds we have for equipping student to do ministry is Aftershock. At our weekly middle school program many of our small group leaders are high school juniors and seniors.

These leaders are students in our high school group being equipped with the tools to do ministry and then given the practice teaching and guiding our middle school students.

SEND - Finally, this ministry is focused on creating not Christian followers but Christian LEADERS in our own community and wherever God takes them in the future. We currently have a team of 19 small group leaders that volunteer on a weekly basis. We feel that through equipping these leaders to do ministry and then providing an atmosphere where they can practice their leadership skills on a weekly basis we are creating the Christian leadership of today and tomorrow. Much like Christ's example with the disciples, our middle school ministry has become a training ground for high school/college students to become part of a process of learning, doing, then going. Our High School group continues to grow deeper in their love for God and for those around them.

Another addition to the "send" portion of our ministry is seen in the First Priority Campus Clubs. Again, this year I have the honor of being a Campus Coach for Lakeshore Middle School (where ~70% of our students attend). During the lunch hours once a week each grade has a non-denominational Christian bible study and testimony. The best part is that it is entirely **student-led**. Many of our students (middle school and high school) are the ones taking charge and leading this weekly program in their schools. It is merely a testament to the caliber of student leaders that we are cultivating as early as middle school.

FUTURE CHANGES -

1. Over the next year I hope to re-design the structure of our high school ministry. Currently, the middle school and high school groups have a nearly identical setup. I feel that the high school group would benefit greatly from a change in format.
2. Due to the change in the staffing of our student ministries program, I am anticipating a need for a much larger volunteer base to help run our groups weekly meeting. We could easily use a sign-in team, bean bag crew, and sound/projection team to help run both of our youth group meetings.

CONCERNS -

1. The departure of our High School Director. This change has had a profound impact (no pun intended) on not only my daily and monthly schedule but the way ministry will be done here at First Pres.
3. For the past 6 years the limiting size of Fellowship Hall for our 100+ middle school students has been a weekly headache. We continue to try and utilize every square foot to accommodate the number of student this ministry draws in.
4. We are in great need of more small group leaders for our high school ministry.

JOYS -

1. The departure of our High School Director. No, I'm not joyful that he's gone; I guess when I asked God for a "growth experience" God didn't hold back.
2. A year ago we launched FPCYouth.com, our youth group website. This has been a great addition to our ministry giving students one more way to stay connected to Aftershock and Impact, and allowed for much better communication with small group leaders. Online devotions, prayer requests, videos, permission slips, and surveys are just the tip of the iceberg for this site.
3. Falling gas prices have helped eliminate some of the high cost of our youth group trips!

Submitted by:
Matthew Fisher, Director of Student Ministries

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee addresses many of the aspects of worship at First Presbyterian. The committee is composed of the Head of staff, the music staff (contemporary and traditional), two Elders and representatives of the congregation from both services. Together we strive to create an atmosphere that will enhance the worship of our Lord and encourage all who participate to know of His love.

This was another exciting year for the worship life of our church. During the year, the committee worked on many issues including the following:

- Plans to renovate the organ were finalized with the Lauck Pipe Organ Co. A down payment of \$20,000 from the Erickson Fund was paid and work should start sometime in 2009.
- The Art Series Sub-committee continued to work on providing free community concerts in the sanctuary. The Muskegon Chamber Choir performed Dec. 20th and plans for next year include the Alma College Choir. Member of the sub-committee are Maryanne Beery, Diane Jones, Becky Yonan, Matt Fisher, Mike D'Oyly and Ron Mass.
- Thanks to the efforts of Diane and Tom Jones, eight pieces of pottery were purchased for communion service and are now in use.
- A Taizé worship service was held Wednesday nights for Lent, as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The Easter services were well attended and extra seating should be made available in 2009 to accommodate everyone in the sanctuary.
- There continues to be much discussion on the decorating of the Chancel area walls. Kelli Jullie's work on banners has added great visuals for our worship experience. Shelly Nietering has offered her help as an interior decorator for future decoration of our beautiful sanctuary.
- Risers for the choir were purchased. They consist of stacking sections that can be easily moved and reconfigured for any size choir. They have enhanced the sound and improved the visibility of our choir.
- The Gathering Service Planning Team recommended a redesign of the bulletin and the addition of sermon notes. Binders are provided so the congregation can store their notes for future reference. This change will be evaluated further in 2009.
- Other items worked on by the committee were: a weekly closing song for the Gathering service, a patriotic pre-service for the 4th of July, new choir music folders were purchased, a special service for Hands to Serve weekend, decorating the church for the Advent season, and the Communion schedule for 2009.

Tom Cook and Karin Fowler provided the congregation with a number of wonderful sermon series this year. Particularly popular was the summer series on the book of Acts and the Advent "Love, Peace, Hope, Joy" series.

Average Sunday Worship Attendance in 2008 is depicted by the following data:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
9:00 Service Attendance	243	255	258
10:30 Service Attendance	227	218	206
Total Attendance	470	473	464

The Worship Committee would love to receive input from the congregation about things they want to see and improvements we can make. You can provide this input in writing to the church, or in person to any member of the committee. Your Worship Committee members are: Maryanne Beery, Dorothy Bennink, Tim Bullerdick, Rev. Tom Cook, Mike D'Oyly, Bari Johnson, Diane Jones, Tom Jones, Kelli Jullie, Michele Smith, and Daphne Weber.

We would like to thank the following people for their past service on the Worship Committee: Dave Clinansmith, Donna Harris-Kober and Alishia Terrill.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Bullerdick, Chair