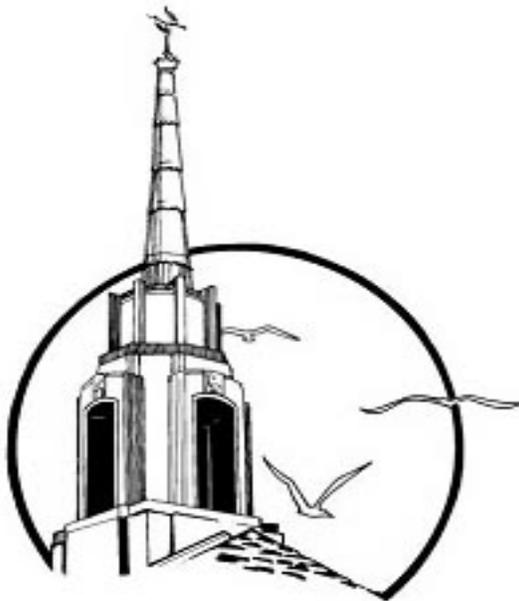


2007

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE TWELVE MONTH
PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007



First Presbyterian Church

508 Franklin Avenue
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

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AGENDA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

Date: February 3, 2008

CALL TO ORDER
CONVENING PRAYER AND SONG
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2007 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 25, 2007**

Rev. Thomas H. Cook declared a quorum present (minimum 118, 155 were present) and opened the 171st Annual Meeting at 10:01 a.m. with prayer. Rev. Cook appointed Thomas Jones, Clerk of Session to serve as secretary for the meeting in accordance with *Book of Order* G-7.0307. Rev. Cook stated that notification of the meeting was in order and complied with the Bylaws of First Presbyterian Grand Haven and the *Book of Order* G-7.0302 a.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 170th Annual Meeting on February 26, 2006 as printed in the 2006 Annual Report. The motion was approved.

SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Cook reviewed several of the key activities in the life of the church over the past year. He noted that he is now serving on the International Missions committee of Rotary. He also now serves on the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Rev. Cook made note of some of the successes for First Presbyterian Church for 2006 including the very strong stewardship campaign with a significant step forward in giving. However, he noted that there had been no increase in the number of families making a financial commitment to the church. He challenged the congregation to increase the number of families making a financial commitment.

Rev. Cook noted that he is very pleased with the life in the church and with the leadership in the congregation.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tom Creswell, Treasurer, reviewed the financial report for 2006 and budget for 2007. He made particular note of the strong giving in 2006 that allowed the church to cover the debt to the general fund incurred by deficits in prior years. The budget for 2007 of \$1,094,033 provides for a small surplus without reliance upon the distributions from the Alpha and Omega fund to balance the budget as has been done in recent years. He noted that with the sale of the Lincoln Street property, the church was able to retire the debt from this purchase. Tom noted that, as the building project progresses, the Session anticipates a follow-on capital campaign.

Bernie Fridsma questioned the use of the Alpha and Omega fund distributions to cover the deficit in the budget. It was noted that while these funds are generally intended for special or new projects, the funds are not designated for particular projects. During the financial difficulties the congregation experienced in recent years, the Session elected to use these funds to help balance the operating budget.

Byron Carpenter noted his disappointment in the amount budgeted for Ministries and suggested that if the giving for 2007 appears to produce a surplus, that the Session consider restoring additional funds to the Mission giving.

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 Tom Jones reviewed the terms of call as printed in the 2006 Annual Report. The proposed terms of call for the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor for 2006 are:

	Rev. Cook, Sr. Pastor	Rev. Fowler, Assoc. Pastor
Salary	48,000	4,702
Housing	35,269	59,000
Pension Plan	9,787	7,524
Health, Dental, Disability and Life Insurance	23,939	18,722
Ministerial FICA Reimbursement	6,273	1,600
Continuing Education and Books	3,000	2,000
Reimbursed Expenses[Travel, Dues, etc.]	5,700	500
Total	\$131,968	\$94,048

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Terms of Call as presented. The motion was approved.

Rev. Cook and Rev. Fowler were invited to rejoin the meeting.

Tom Cook mentioned the status of the building project and the commitment to stay in the current sanctuary. He noted that the building committee has had a site survey conducted to identify issues in the current building that should be addressed either during the construction project or in the not too distant future. He noted that the Session currently anticipates a follow-on capital campaign in 2008 to cover the remaining costs of the building project. Rev. Cook acknowledged that the church has received a donation to cover the cost of re-carpeting the sanctuary. He also noted that the Trustees have established a building reserve fund that will allow us to address major maintenance expenses in the future without reliance on the operating budget or special giving.

Carol Fridsma asked about the prospects for hiring a new Parish Nurse. Rev. Cook indicated that this is not expected to happen in the near future. The budget does not support adding a staff person for this function and many of the aspects of this position are now being addressed by volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was closed with the congregation singing the Doxology.

Attested:

Rev. Thomas H. Cook
Moderator

Thomas S. Jones
Clerk of Session

SR. MINISTER'S REPORT

The measures used to judge a church's ministry can be mercurial. Trying to find accurate ways to describe a successful church will be a subject for book writers forever, because too often what makes a church a good church are intangibles. Unlike the manufacturing world you can't really count widgets and gizmos produced or measure sales in numbers (though you can take a look at membership trends). Unlike medicine, you really can't count numbers of patients treated, surgeries performed or beds filled. Unlike sports events, you can't base a church's success on Sunday worship (though it is an important indicator of life in a church). You can't judge a bottom line in terms of year-end profits (though you can take a look-see at how actual income measured against projections and judge how the money was spent).

When it comes to an annual report, how do you measure a year? Certainly this year we can look at our building and compare it to a year ago and say "wow!" Dan Vos Construction and our Building Committee under the leadership of **Gordon Naumoff** did an outstanding job renovating our 50 year old building and the addition of the "Gathering Area" has had an enormous impact on Sunday morning hospitality. We can look at the budget and see, under the guidance of Treasurer, **Tom Creswell**, and the Trustee's chair, **Ross Carter**, that income exceeded revenues by year end and we have broken the cycle of using Alpha and Omega funds inappropriately make it balance; we have no rolling deficit, and we are starting to build a reserve account to care for our beloved building. We can look at membership, baptisms and worship numbers and see that 2007 was a healthy year. Looking at the mission budget tells you we are a church committed to important activities through the Mission Committee under the leadership of **Guy Terrill**. This all says there are "numbers" that tell us some things about our church's ministry but there are more important measures having to do with faithfulness.

I don't know how many folks have told me there is a huge spirit in this church... a spirit of worship, fellowship and discipleship... its measured in its *Spirit Décor*... and is evident in everything. As a congregation we are a blessed family of faith. As disciples of Christ, the vision for our ministry and mission is gaining more clarity. We are blessed with a variety and strength of people and resources, blessed with an active and building faith, blessed with a vision for the possibilities God places before us, blessed with financial resources to reach for those possibilities. We

are blessed with strong leadership in our session and a vast and growing pool of potential leaders who are committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ, and to this family of faith we call our church. Many thanks go to each one of our session members. Aside from those mentioned above they are: **Don Anderson, Carroll Bennink, Pam Blake, Tim Bullerdick, Bruce Campbell, Steve Groters, Nancy Hunter, Wendy Keefe, Donna Kober, Brett Lewis, Melinda Mendels, Kathy Olds, Becky Sanchez, Bob Van Dyke, Terri Wolters** all under the able and faithful leadership of their clerk, **Rick vandenBerg**. And let's not forget the work of our deacons who are forever in the trenches of pastoral care as they extend the hand of Christ in the lives of folks who could easily lose hope.

God blesses us with a great music ministry, calling into it great leaders like **Maryanne Beery**, Director of Music and the Fine Arts, **Mike D'Oyly**, organist and **David Clinansmith**, the Gathering Music Director. Our children ministries are top drawer. **Winnie McNergney's** vision and creativity has made our Sunday school program a model for many churches. **Matt Fisher** and **Russ Gable** touch the lives of a ton of youth, with a missional message that places them in faith challenging contexts. Many of these youth come from "unchurched" backgrounds. You can read about all these and many more ministries in this report.

What really keeps us going are the folks in the office. I don't know what we would be able to do without **Kelli Jullie** and **Christina Ramones**; they are the nerve center of the church. **Karen Nienhouse** doesn't let anyone in the office without putting a smile on their face and **Vicki Butcher** makes sure the decimal points are all in the right places. We miss **Bill Bussell's** leadership after his retirement as church administrator but we look forward to **Allen Winslow** taking the helm in that position. We lost **Sheila Nicholas** this year but I know how much we all appreciate the creativity and class she brought to our church's hospitality, setting the stage for the one who will take her place.

Karin Fowler is my professional partner in ministry and how grateful I am for the opportunity to share this task with her. She makes work fun. There is no pretence; it's a shared ride in our leadership and I am grateful for her faithfulness, vision, dedication and loyalty to this church. She had her hand on the helm through some difficult times in our church's life and she brings wisdom and intelligence to our ministry that is invaluable.

Of course the person who really makes it happen for me is my wife of 26 years, **Martha**. Much of the good ministry that has happened in any church I have served has come through this dynamic and compassionate woman who is the mother of my children. I thank God for the patience she has for me and the weird hours I sometimes keep and for her tolerance as ministry interrupts our lives as husband and wife, mom and dad. Without Martha there would be no "me" to serve you.

For your information, aside from my duties as your senior minister, I serve on the Committee on Ministry for Lake Michigan Presbytery and on the Board of Tri-Cities Ministries. My membership in Rotary is active and enjoyed as I develop my involvement in the community. My hope and desire is that you will pray for and encourage me as I complete my Doctor of Ministry degree this year through Columbia Theological Seminary. I believe that its outcome will have a profound effect on our future.

I know this report is too long... and if you are still reading I hope you will continue to do so and take in all of the wonderful things this Annual Report puts before you.

In Christ's love,
Tom

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT

What a year! If I had to describe 2007 in just two words, I would have to say that it was a year of “additions” and “improvements!” The interior and exterior of our building and property at 5th and Franklin have been updated, redecorated, painted, papered, carpeted, landscaped, added to, and renovated – and we are all thrilled to have the beautiful surroundings and additional space. But it hasn't been just physical additions and improvements. We've seen improvement and an additional sense of energy and enthusiasm among our members and guests that has become contagious.

The highlight for me this past year was **Compassion Weekend!** Sat. and Sun., Oct. 20 and 21 found nearly 400 children, young people and adults from our church wearing royal blue “Hands to Serve” t-shirts and serving about 25 of our community's social service agencies. Service opportunities ranged from planting dune grass and cleaning up beaches, to assembling kits and mailings, visiting long-term care facilities, helping shut-ins with fall clean-up, boxing and moving books at the library, as well as cleaning and painting. It was more than evident that 1st Pres. has a passion for reaching out to those less fortunate and joyfully helping wherever they're needed. A special thanks to my husband, Scott, and Ross Carter for their leadership. There's no question that this will become a permanent event in the church calendar.

Another highlight was the establishment of the **Karin Fowler Pastoral Care Training Fund** at the Grand Haven Community Foundation – in honor of my (ahem) milestone birthday. This fund will be used by lay people and clergy to participate in training classes to better serve the pastoral care needs of our members.

New educational opportunities have also invigorated our spiritual lives. The *Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* program, the first in a four-phase study published by Cokesbury, was begun in September with nearly 50 participants (in 4 different small groups) committing to a 34-week overview of the entire Bible. This is a program that is aimed at developing strong Christian leaders through daily study, prayer, preparation, support and servanthood. Graduates of this study will continue their studies next year in subsequent studies that will take them deeper into selected portions of Scripture. Our goal is to add new groups every year and eventually involve as many members as possible. I also offered a class on “Bible 101” and continued to offer a monthly preparation study for the women who lead the PW Bible studies on the books of Jonah and Ruth for their circles.

The night before Ash Wednesday at the start of Lent, I worked with the Fellowship Committee to bring the first annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and “The Follies” Talent Show!** In the following weeks, during the more meditative time of Lent, we offered beautiful, candlelit **Taize service** on Wednesday evenings. The staff worship team has worked closely to provide new and fresh worship opportunities, including banners, dramatizations and art. I've also had the honor of officiating at weddings, baptisms and funerals, sharing in the various steps of “life journeys” with the congregation.

Small groups are always available, a men's breakfast gathering, women, couples groups, a Healing Shawl knitters group, several Brunch Bunches, weekday Bible studies and discussion groups, as well as golf and softball teams. We are always looking for new ways for people to connect in interest groups. “Opportunity Sundays” several times a year give all members a chance to lend their time and talents to the life of the church.

In addition to preaching, teaching and providing pastoral care, I served as staff liaison to Fellowship Committee, Spirituality and Discipleship Committee, Deacons, and the new “First Impressions” committee which works hard to provide warm hospitality to all our guests and new members. Tom and I facilitate our new member classes and in 2007, we welcomed a total of 47 new members into the church. We are so thrilled with each new class and the special gifts and talents they bring to the church.

As a member of Lake Michigan Presbytery, I served on the Shepherding Ministry Team. I've also been a part of a Women Clergy “Journey Group” at Western Seminary that is supported by a grant from the Lilly Foundation. Over a three-year period, we worked together on issues that face women in the ministry and in preparation for our final presentation, we traveled to San Francisco Theological Seminary in April and then to Ghost Ranch near Santa Fe, NM, in September.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your prayers and support of me and our entire staff. 1st Pres. is an amazing church and I am so honored to be a part of it.

Blessings,
Rev. Karin Fowler

CHURCH STAFF - 2007

MINISTERS: Rev. Thomas H. Cook, Pastor Head of Staff
Rev. Karin C. Fowler, Associate Pastor

PROGRAM STAFF:

Director of Music and the Fine Arts	Maryanne Beery
The Gathering Music Director	David Clinansmith
Organist	Mike D'Oyly
Middle School Ministries Director	Matt Fisher
Senior High Ministries Director	Russ Gabel
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Kelli Jullie
Director of Children's Ministries	Winnie McNergney
Joyful Noise Director	Sally Segers

SUPPORT STAFF:

Business Manager	Bill Bussell
Financial Services Assistant	Vicki Butcher
Maintenance Director	Dan Coulier
Hospitality Coordinator	Sheila Nicholas
Custodian	Gail Goldberg
Membership Services Assistant	Karen Nienhouse
Administrative Assistant	Christina Ramones

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 2007
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Church Membership, December 31, 2006	1,167
GAINS IN 2007	
17 years old and under (Confirmation)	12
18 years old and over	22
Restored to Active	11
Certified	25
Total Gains in 2006	70
LOSSES IN 2007	
Certified	4
Deaths	11
Other	6
Total Losses in 2006	(21)
 TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2007	 1,216

ADULT NEW MEMBERS

Christopher Austin	Nancy Fuller	Jared Olson	Brianne Taylor
Steve Balk	K.C. Hoffman	Angela Perrier	Burton Taylor
Tiffany Balk	Jack Jansma	Armand Perrier	Andrea Thayer
Kathryn Bandstra	Lori King	Carol Perrier	Eric Thayer
Steven Bandstra	Jennifer Klaassen	Courtney Perrier	Robyn Vandenberg
Andrew Becker	Kurt Klaassen	Margaret Pingle	Melanie VerDuin
Rebecca Becker	Hazel Kragt	Jana Reenders	Michael VerDuin
Kathy Colliver	Mariann Lampe	Mark Reenders	Annette Whitney
Brian Cryst	Paul Lampe	Jane Stoepker	Robert Whitney
Julie DeVecht	Sheila Nicholas	Jim Stoepker	Luke Witham
Tony DeVecht	William Nicholas	Bonnie Tammen	Melissa Witham
Jeffrey Frey	Devin Olson	Daryl Tammen	

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Hillary Adams	Jonna Hersrud	Grace Sterenberg
Charlie Ainsworth	Bryan Kiel	Clare DeVeau
Lindsay Blauvelt	Keaghan Ottenbaker	Kole Suchecki
Anna Fonte	Lauren Pofahl	Tyler Mulliken

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Parnell	Angeline O'Connor	Thomas Wagasky
Clara Ledinsky	Milton Miller	Claire Hekman
Lewis Birckhead	Kay Eaton	Donald Wessel
Hazel Schippers	Katherine Kooiman	

BAPTISMS

Gavin Austin	Owen Haaksma	Lydia Rotman
Kaitlyn Bays	Jack Jerovsek	Emma Rotman
Lucile Beber	Noah LaMore	Rachel Ryan
Carson Berko	Lucia Londot	Jadon Thayer
Brady Cotton	Lando Mendoza	Robyn Vandenberg
Naomi Force	Lukus Mendoza	Peter Ver Duin
Greta Fuller	Nolan Portenga	Luke Witham

OFFICER CLASS OF 2008, 2009, 2010

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Rick vandenBerg

Class of 2008

Bruce Campbell	846-4296
Steve Groters	842-2176
Nancy Hunter	846-1006
Bret Lewis	847-0168
Kathy Olds	842-7691
Guy Terrill	847-9927
Rick vandenBerg	844-0741

Class of 2009

Don Anderson	842-8590
Pam Blake	842-2038
Tom Creswell	842-6113
Wendy Keefe	844-6190
Gordon Naumoff	846-3424
Becky Sanchez	847-1564

Class of 2010

Carroll Bennink	842-5363
Tim Bullerdick	846-5888
Ross Carter	846-1157
Donna Kober	847-9937
Melinda Mendels	847-1631
Bob Van Dyke	846-3078
Terri Wolters	844-6814

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chairperson: Michelle Potter

Class of 2008

Ann Anys	846-2867
Diana Groters	842-2176
Michelle Potter	846-1023
Pat Rickert	844-5257
Barbara Scott	846-4969

Class of 2009

Suzie Brink	296-0684
Byron Carpenter	842-8858
Don LaBeff	847-6003
Peggy Leach	296-0808
Les McClellan	846-9564
Chuck Watson	846-4752

Class of 2010

Henni Campbell	846-4296
Lee Elenbaas	846-3087
Pat Elenbaas	846-3087
Tom Engelsman	844-1526
Dan Luckey	842-1758
Judy McAlister	846-3353
Lynne VanderMeer	842-7037

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Don Anderson	Marg Coffey	842-7686	Kelly Keefe	844-6190
Co-Chairperson: Pam Blake	Mark Sanchez	847-1564	Alishia Terrill	847-9927
Deacon: Byron Carpenter				

TREASURER'S REPORT

Two in a row! Due to your generous support of First Presbyterian Church and its missions we have had a surplus in our budget for two years in a row. Thank You! In 2007, revenues were \$1,095,000. This number was right on budget and \$100,000 higher than 2006 revenues. This was a remarkable growth in one year and came on top of the \$100,000 growth in our revenues we saw in 2006. We have been blessed with generous support for our programs and missions even during these difficult economic times.

Annual expenditures were \$1,070,000. This represented an increase of \$105,000 from 2006 and was \$24,000 less than budget. The additional expenditures in 2007 fall primarily into two areas: first we were able to increase our gifts and programs by approx. \$60,000. This is ministries such as Love, Inc., Habitat for Humanities, youth programs, and many others. The second area where we spent additional dollars was in the Trustees budget which increased approx. \$40,000. Late last year a decision was made by the Trustees that we need to take care of this wonderful new building we have by setting aside funds for the maintenance and repair of the facility. Toward that end we set aside \$24,000 in 2007 in a reserve account for future costs of maintaining the building and grounds (roof, mechanical, etc). This had not been done in the past and is part of the \$40,000 increase from 2006. The other areas within the Trustees budget that made up the balance of the increase were maintenance and utilities .

Your generous support and efforts by the session have allowed us to not use the distributions from the Alpha and Omega funds we receive from the Community Foundation for any operating expenses.

The positive financial results for 2006 and 2007 are a significant milestone for First Presbyterian Church. Our ability to impact the world around us by serving those in need and sharing Christ's word through our missions and programs continues to grow. Our remarkable volunteers and congregation, dedicated staff, and an engaged session help make it all possible.

2008 Budget

The 2008 budget is based on our Consecration Sunday results and Session and staff input on expenditures. The generous pledges from Consecration Sunday have allowed us to budget revenues of \$1,125,697, just slightly less than a 3% increase over 2007.

Expenses for 2008 are budgeted at \$1,126,371 which is an increase of \$55,751 over 2007 actual expenses or approx. 5%. The exciting part of this budget is the increase of \$21,000 for the missions and programs of the church. The additional increase is in the personnel area of \$35,000 which allows for increases in health care costs and personnel costs. This budget will allow us to have a break even budget for 2008. This is without any transfers from special funds to balance the budget.

As I look ahead, I see significant opportunities for our church as we determine how best we can fulfill our mission and "Respond to God's call". We have significant momentum at First Presbyterian Church as evidenced by the generous gifts people provide and more importantly the significant number of people involved in all of our programs and missions. The West Michigan economy will provide us challenges as needs become greater and sometimes gifting becomes more difficult. However, the continuing commitment and prayer from all of us (staff, session, and every member of the church) will allow us to build on our momentum and move forward into our future with vision, passion, and excitement as we respond to God's call.

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

	12/31/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005
Assets:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	453,870	1,130,182	753,382
Other Assets	(703)	275	1,279
Fixed Assets (at cost)	<u>5,231,239</u>	<u>4,417,176</u>	<u>5,038,349</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,684,407</u>	<u>5,547,633</u>	<u>5,793,010</u>
Liabilities			
Prepaid Pledges	57,720	22,869	16,540
Bank Loan Payable	657,000	-	672,500
Other	<u>43,072</u>	<u>19,117</u>	<u>14,673</u>
Total Liabilities	757,792	41,986	703,713
Fund Equity	<u>4,926,614</u>	<u>5,505,647</u>	<u>5,089,297</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	<u>5,684,407</u>	<u>5,547,633</u>	<u>5,793,010</u>

First Presbyterian Church - Grand Haven, MI
Comparative Statement of General Fund 2006 and 2007 Revenue and Expenditures
with 2007 and 2008 Budgets [and transfers in from Special Funds]

	2006	2007		2008
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
General Fund Revenue:				
Adult Giving	948,306	1,045,252	1,075,200	1,092,697
Loose Plate	31,795	34,890	15,800	28,800
Per Capita, Youth, and Other	<u>9,014</u>	<u>14,872</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>4,200</u>
Total of all "Giving"	989,115	1,095,014	1,095,200	1,125,697
Rents and Other Revenue	<u>4,392</u>	-	-	-
Total General Fund Revenue	993,507	1,095,014	1,095,200	1,125,697
General Fund Expenditures:				
Personnel	717,337	725,994	737,422	760,575
Ministries and Benevolence	52,000	96,231	95,000	105,000
Session & Per Capita Assessment Paid	21,785	29,044	29,773	27,895
Trustees [operating expenses]	115,266	153,994	149,100	149,020
Fellowship	12,871	14,861	18,345	18,345
Health	384	-	1,200	1,200
Youth Ministries	21,225	27,436	29,343	29,736
Worship	11,987	14,482	14,250	15,000
Children's Ministries	8,299	5,577	10,400	10,400
Adult Education	<u>4,401</u>	<u>3,002</u>	<u>9,200</u>	<u>9,200</u>
Subtotal General Fund Expenditures	<u>965,555</u>	<u>1,070,620</u>	<u>1,094,033</u>	<u>1,126,371</u>
Pastor Nominating Committee	-	-	-	-
Total General Fund Expenditures	965,555	1,070,620	1,094,033	1,126,371
General Fund Operating Revenue over/ (under) General Fund Expenditures	27,952	24,395	1,167	(674)
Transfer from Special Funds ¹	<u>29,076</u>	-	-	-
Incr./(Decr.) in General Fund Balance	57,028	24,395	1,167	(674)
Beginning of Year Fund Balance	<u>(57,028)</u>	-	-	-
End of Year General Fund Balance	<u>-</u>	<u>24,395</u>	<u>1,167</u>	<u>(674)</u>

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

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

Serving the church in 2007 as Trustees were: Sue Buitenhuis, Ross Carter, Tom Creswell, Melissa German, Jim Kober, Ken MacLeod, Ray Nelson, Kathy Olds, and June Ribbink. The Trustees were supported by Business Manager, Bill Bussell.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Recommended to Session the write-off of \$654,000.00 in fixed assets from the books of the church to update true value. Session concurred.
- Recommended to Session renovation of the Church organ at a cost not to exceed \$180,000.00. Funds for the renovation to come from new capital campaign. Session concurred.
- All bequests, special funds, and designated funds have been managed in accordance with the Book of Order.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

- The 2008 budget has been prepared and approved by Session.
- Monthly monitoring of the 2007 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.
- Detailed mid-year review of operating statements with year end projection of operating results.
- Conducted a financial review of the church's 2006 records according to generally accepted accounting principles. No problems observed.
- Recommended to Session a \$1,200,000.00 loan for the church renovation and addition project. Session concurred.
- Supported the need for the 2008 capital campaign, "Daring Discipleship".
- Initiated study into new use and reconfiguration of endowment funds.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Conducted spring cleanup of church grounds.
- Implemented a new landscape plan in conjunction with the renovation project.
- Conducted fall cleanup of the church grounds.
- Approved spring 2008 refreshing of new landscaping by GH Garden House.

ADMINISTRATION

- Involved in interviews and selection of new Business Manager.
- 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

BOY SCOUT TROOP 246

Troop 246, Boy Scouts of America is chartered to First Presbyterian Church and meets here in Fellowship Hall every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The current Troop is in its 20th year of operation. Original Troop 1 was chartered to our Church in 1925 and continued for over 50 years. We maintain a close relationship with Cub Pack 3005 chartered to the United Methodist Men. We are looking forward to a parent/son outing and a cross over of new members from the Cub Pack in February.

Our program is serving 15 boys with a program that includes monthly campouts or activities and a week long encampment at Gerber Scout Camp that belongs to the Gerald R. Ford Council, BSA. We participate in a number of service projects that included compassion weekend this last year. Our boys were recognized by the City Council on January 21st for their work at the Grand Haven Ski Bowl.

The Scouting program continues to teach these young men life skills and to live by a code of ethics expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

Terry Potter, Committee Chairman
Robert Ver Duin, President

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Serving on the Building Committee for 2007 were: Don Anderson, Carroll Bennink, Dottie Bennink, Bud Dawe, Bob Swart, Norm Styck, Gordon Naumoff and Tom Cook. Bill Bussell, Business Manager has also been in attendance.

The following is a recap as to our year:

- Completed the Sanctuary/Transept renovation with Dan Vos Construction and subcontractors.
- Removed, replaced and repaired windows in the Chapel.
- Completed changes to connector, renovations and relocation of offices, rear entryway and redesigned and constructed a new serving kitchen.
- Installed a fire suppression system.
- Selected Acoustics by Design for the audio engineers.
- Outside grounds and parking area completed as per plans.

Respectfully submitted, Gordon J. Naumoff, Chairman

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE



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

2007 proved to be an exciting and productive year for the Children's Ministries Committee. Many planning and brainstorming hours were contributed by our committee members; Danielle Beals, Wendy Keefe (Elder), Julie Marcus, Keli Olson, Jill Osborne, Linda Skinner, and Winnie McNergney (Director). Together we focused a great amount of energy and time reviewing, fine-tuning, and supplementing our programs. A new logo, modified security policy, discipline policy, and music programs are just a few significant results of those efforts which will be ongoing to achieve specific long-term goals to ensure high quality and effective programming.

We were not able to offer the Easter Egg Hunt or Vacation Bible School this year due to construction of the church building. However, we are delighted with new offices and classrooms to accommodate our growth. We shared the following special events with other committees; Shrove Tuesday Dinner and Follies, All Church Picnic, Compassion Weekend, Advent Craft Fair, and the Christmas Cantata. We also presented Bibles and Bible and Communion Training to 3rd Grade children, Play People fellowship for 4th & 5th Grade children, 5th Grade send-off to middle school, and some visits in homes to welcome newborns.

Thank you to the many volunteers who give love, effort, and humor to the children to provide them with an active and meaningful faith journey as they learn to know Christ.

Respectfully submitted, Children's Ministries Committee

DEACON BOARD

Committee members for 2007: Ann Anys, Barbara Scott, Daphne Weber, Diana Groters, Rachel Walsh, Byron Carpenter, Chuck Watson, Don LaBeff, Les McClellan, Peggy Leach, Suzie Brink, Dan Luckey, Henni Campbell, Judy McAlister, Lee Elenbaas, Lynne VanderMeer, Pat Elenbaas, and Tom Engelsman.

Co-Chairpersons: Michelle Potter and Pat Rickert

Staff Liaison: Rev. Karin Fowler

Liaison to the Men's Group: Joe McCrea

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 wonderfully 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 Shore Haven
- Monthly serving of home communion
- Weekly delivery of the sanctuary flowers to various shut-ins, homebound, and those recovering from health issues.
- Providing assistance with funeral luncheons 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, out of which have come both a new relationship with Christian Haven and a new coordination with the Men's Group. The men have expressed an interest in continuing with the spirit of Compassion Weekend, which is at the true heart of the Deacon role. To that end, the Deacons and the Men's Group will touch base and coordinate to identify and jointly serve those in need. During the holiday season, members of our group partnered with the Presbyterian Women to host the ever-popular Christmas gathering for our seniors and to deliver jewel chip candy to our shut-ins during the December visitations.

In closing, it's been a wonderful and gratifying year for those of us on the Board of Deacons. We look happily forward to 2008 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
Annual Report 2007**

Opening Balance January 1, 2007		\$1,731.91
Receipts		
Contributions	\$7,424.85	
Interest	\$84.35	
Refund	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		\$7,509.20
Disbursements		
Bingo Supplies	\$160.96	
Center For Women in Transition	\$0.00	
Home Touch	\$219.70	
Deacon Supplies	\$26.35	
Coffee Pot	\$176.00	
Funeral Expense	\$1,922.28	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	
Home Communion Kits	\$112.45	
Nursing Home Music	\$400.00	
Presby. Women(Food Bask.)	\$0.00	
Salvation Army Grand Haven	\$0.00	
Stamps & cards	\$0.00	
The People Center	\$0.00	
Tri-Cities Love, Inc	\$0.00	
Tri-Cities Ministries	\$0.00	
Upper Room	\$509.40	
Heritage Luncheon	\$0.00	
Holy Trinity Ch.(Thanks. Food Bsk.)	\$0.00	
Total Disbursements		\$3,527.14
Balance December 31, 2007		\$5,713.97
Local Mission Fund		
Opening Balance January 1, 2007		\$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, 2007		\$500.00
Total Closing balance both accounts		6,213.97

Respectfully submitted by Dwanna Brink, Treasurer

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members for 2007: Elder Terri Wolters, Elder Pam Blake, Kim Beber, George and Barbara Bryant, Betty Jo Enell, Jane Hettenbach, Roger Miedema, Barbara Nelson, Ann Rotman, Glen Weigert, Melissa Gross, Jeff and Lisa Hurley, Vicky Frantz and Norm Styck

Staff liaisons, Rev. Karin Fowler and Sheila Nicholas

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, two softball teams, a golf league, and new events for '07 were the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and "The Follies" Talent Show, and the small group fellowship, 'Dinners for Eight'. They also assisted Sheila Nicholas this past fall with coordinating photos for the new pictorial directory. 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

This new hospitality and welcoming committee, which is led by elder, Melinda Mendels, met for the first time in May of 2007. A mission statement was written by the committee in June. The group's mission 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 place calls to recent visitors, assist at New Member classes, and plan and implement church-wide guest services. In 2007, the group provided a welcome table at the church picnic, created a new pew guest card, planned "Bring a Friend Sunday", and began to look into the possibility of providing welcome bags to guests.

Respectfully submitted, Melinda Mendels, Elder

THE GATHERING

God has been blessing our church yet again this year!

The Gathering Band has grown to include several new people with the unique talents that they bring to our worship. We are continuing to seek out and use the God given talents of the members of this church. Our bible study and prayer time on Thursday nights is one of the highlights of my week. Gathering together with our small group to talk and pray together is very awesome.

We have a youth worship band going again. This team of between 4-7 high school students leads worship every Sunday night at Impact. I hope to use this team for our regular Sunday morning Gatherings once in a while too.

Through our building project, we have completely overhauled our sound, lighting, and video systems to improve our worship times. Our sound system upgrades included a digital mixing board, new speaker system, and an in ear monitor system for the Gathering Band. All of these things work together to make the sound in our sanctuary the absolute best it can be. Our new lighting system allows us great versatility in the look of our chancel and sanctuary. The video system upgrades allow for great versatility in how and when we use the screen. It is also wonderful to be able to use the camera to help people in all parts of the sanctuary see what is going on in special parts of worship.

We have begun meeting with a committed group of people to try to do more drama, videos, and other special elements as part of our worship. It has been great to see how God can reach people through various types of media.

Respectfully submitted, David Clinansmith, The Gathering Music Director

JOYFUL NOISE

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

During 2007 Joyful Noise staff provided a variety of activities and lessons to stimulate spiritual, social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth in children age infant through school age. Bible stories, music, art field trips, prayer, storytelling, computers, science, large muscle play special projects and celebrations are all a part of our everyday program.



Joyful Noise employs 16 full time and 8 part time staff. All of our employees attended the 2007 MiAEYC seminars in Grand Rapids and two employees attended the national ECE conference in Chicago. Two of our employees completed their Early Childhood Education Associates Degrees in 2007, and another began her courses for her ECE degree. Staff dedication to Joyful Noise and the children and families they serve has been a blessing.

In 2007 Joyful Noise:

- Continued to visit our grandfriends at Christian Haven
- Hosted over 200 people at our annual Teusink's Pony Farm picnic
- Provided scholarships to many families
- Held an open house in September with over 170 in attendance
- Walked in the Coast Guard Kid's Parade with 70 Joyful Noisers
- Received recognition from GHHS Community Based Training program
- Planted flowers donated by GH Garden House
- Sent over 50 pounds of supplies to a troop in Iraq
- Hosted a book fair
- Hosted a family movie night
- Hosted interns from local colleges and four from GH High School
- Donated over 200 pair of socks to a women's shelter in Muskegon
- Welcomed the stories from 1st Pres. volunteer readers Julie Bennett and Nancy Moss during the BOOK IT program
- Hosted a booth at the Baker College Career Fair (Thanks Marti!)
- Raised \$7,589 in fundraising profit

In the past year, our Joyful Noise staff:

- changed more than 28,000 diapers
- used over 60,000 vinyl gloves
- used over 70,000 wet wipes
- wiped noses over 56,000 times, using over 600 boxes of tissues
- served over 27,000 meals and over 14,000 snacks
- 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 2008 by participating in fund raising 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 (thanks for continuing to send ice cream buckets Sylvia!) or volunteering to read to, or rock a child. 2008 will be a year of celebration as we observe our tenth anniversary of childcare and sixteenth anniversary of preschool!

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
Joyful Noise Advisory Committee and Joyful Noise Employees

"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

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Win - Build - Equip - Send

WIN - What a year! Over the past 12 months of ministry our middle school group has witnessed over 60 students make first time commitments to accept Christ as their Savior, and nearly 100 made re-commitments! Our group has maintained its numerical size for the past couple of years now and is presently ministering to 100-130 regular middle school students (students attending at least every other week). This past year we have seen over 70 new students (never attended before). The remodel of Fellowship Hall has increased the overall appeal of our meeting space, and has allowed us to rearrange our band's setup, allowing for more floor space for students. The addition of two video projectors has also allowed for more floor space in our meeting space. With nearly 120 students we value every square foot of usable area.

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 programs that meet on a weekly basis to meet this goal, Aftershock and Breakfast Club. 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 25-40 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. In the past year, we have grown our leadership team to 16 small group leaders that have committed to ministering to a single group of students. These leaders share their faith as an example to their students. These relationships directly impact student growth.

Each year we offer several trips that challenge students' faith and help them to grow in their relationship with Christ. Over 150 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 and other events. Some of our small group leaders have also offered weekly bible studies for students to deepen their understanding of Christ working in their lives.

EQUIP - We strive to equip students with the tools to *do* ministry, not just be recipients of ministry. In this past year we've placed over 100 students in the mission field. With events from our Lake Ann Work Trip, Kentucky Mission Project, 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 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 making a difference in the lives of people TODAY!

SEND - Finally, this ministry is focused on creating not Christian followers but Christian LEADERS. We currently have a team of 16 small group leaders that volunteer on a weekly basis. Many of these leaders are high

school/college. 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. The large numerical size of our current group stresses the need for more leaders with hearts for God and students. 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 hour 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 are the ones taking charge and leading this weekly program. It is merely a testament to the caliber of student leaders that we are cultivating as early as middle school.

CONCERNS – The limiting size of Fellowship Hall and lack of small group rooms for our 120+ students may be a reason for future program shifts (i.e. moving small groups to off-site locations on separate nights)

Rising gas prices and the large number of students attending our trips cause inflation in our event prices and keep us on the lookout for transportation alternatives.

JOYS – The remodel of Fellowship hall and the addition of 4 new class rooms has been a great joy for our ministry. It has allowed some new technology for our meetings and provided more space for our 16 small groups to meet comfortably.

This past fall we also 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 allowing 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.

Christian Underground (a 5-week scenario of the persecuted church) happens once every three years. This past fall a team of 30+ people made this curriculum a tremendous joy for our ministry.

Submitted by: Matthew Fisher, Director of Middle School Student Ministries

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, 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 2007 for the Mission Committee was \$95,000.

We focused our attention and financial support to the following needs in our community in the calendar year 2007.

Due to financial restraints for the last couple years, we had not been able to support "The Mission of the Presbyterian Church USA" (Presbytery & General Assembly) This year however, we were able to allocate some of our budget and reestablish our giving to the Presbyterian Church USA.

We have continued our focus with our support of Faith in Action International and their work in Haiti. A mission team from our church that included Tom Cook was sent to Haiti last spring and was a great success.

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. We also purchased baby high chairs for Supper House use.

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.

Nancy Hunter and Scott Fowler represented the Mission Committee with their work on this year's Compassion Weekend board with the theme, "Hands to Serve". They helped coordinate teams of church members of all age groups to fill specific needs in our community and beyond. This program was very successful and well received and provided an opportunity to do the Lord's work at the grass-root level.

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 two woman refugees from Somalia relocate to the Tri-cities. Lul and Kiin have moved on to Iowa and Minnesota where there is a larger population of Somali nationals that will lend support for an easier transition to American life. We will continue with our support of refugee's relocation projects in the future.

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.

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 & FINE ARTS MINISTRIES

2007 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, and Christmas Eve. There was much excitement in worship when our hard work on an anthem for brass, organ and choir came together to celebrate our Church Re-Dedication Sunday. Geneva Choir also spent eight weeks prior to Christmas preparing a challenging program of music for the Advent and Christmas Season. It is a time of spiritual and musical growth as we learn and prepare this music for worship.
- b. Children's Choir – Our children's choir has more than doubled in size 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 just enjoying our time preparing music for our congregation. Again this group was to be praised for leading the Sunday school children so well in our Christmas Pageant.
- 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 some soloists to accompany us on our selections, and much laughter and fun. This group again experienced many personal changes during 2007. We are fortunate to have several new ringers with us and look forward to sharing our musical ministry with the congregation.

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. Pentecost is celebrated with dramatic scripture reading and four young dancers, all members of the church.
- e. July brings a volunteer “summer pick up choir”.
- f. Summer special music includes many vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles from our congregation.
- g. Preparations begin in October for “Calling All Angels” a Christmas musical. Children from our congregation from Kindergarten through High School participate in the chorus, as soloists, and readers.

III. Artist Series:

- a. Guest organists from The Interlochen Arts Academy perform for members of our church and community.
- b. Maryanne Beery and Michael D’Oyly present “I Heard it in Church” to kick off our new community Artist Series.

Plans for a future trip, specifically the 25th anniversary of the International Church Music Festival, Rome, Italy, June 2009, are in the works. 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 2007. Members of the present committee include Tom Cook, Bob VanDyke, Bruce Campbell, Danielle Beal, Neil Blake, and chairman, Carroll Bennink.

- Committee chairmen changed in the Spring and the membership did also. A big thank you went to our past chairman, Ken Clark, and committee members Bill Fickes, Steve Groters, and later in the year, Jennifer Koster.
- We welcomed Bob VanDyke, Danielle Beals, and Neil Blake as new committee members.
- Most performance reviews were completed by the end of the year. The rest will be completed soon.
- Performance reviews were completed for the ordained staff.
- Salary information and performance reviews were considered before we determined our salaries budget for 2008.
- Our Business Manager, Bill Bussell, retired as of the end of the year and we interviewed several candidates and hired Allen Winslow to take over this position.
- A lot of time was spent studying health insurance policies but we stayed with what we have had because the insurance rates did not increase as much as they have in the past.
- Our hospitality coordinator, Sheila Nicholas, resigned at the end of the year and a new one will be hired at the beginning of 2008.
- The sexual misconduct policy which had been approved in 2006 was put in place but more footwork needs to be done so that all areas of the church are aware and in compliance with the policies.
- Our committee has space for a couple of new members if you are interested.

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. Our December Gathering was our second "Annual Christmas Party". The senior members of our congregation were invited for a luncheon, hymn sing and Christmas concert performed by the Mona Shores High School Choir.

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.

We are thinking of having a Rummage Sale but currently do not have a Chairperson so we are uncertain whether we will have one in 2008.

Our calendar year is from September 1 – August 31. Our scheduled Gatherings for the 2007 – 2008 year are:

- September 19, Dr. Carol Bechtel, Author of our *Horizons* Bible Study Guide
- October 18, Fatoumatta Sise; "A Woman of Two Cultures"
- December 20, Second Annual Christmas Party
- February 21, Easter Parade
- March 20, Maudy Thursday – Last Supper Drama
- April 17, Ed Post, "Favorite Vacation Places in U.S."

Respectfully submitted by

Donna vandenBerg

Moderator, Presbyterian Women

ANNUAL REPORT - PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

September 1, 2006 - August 31, 2007

Balance on Hand September 1, 2006

\$2,140.38

Receipts:

Circle Pledges	2,965.00
Least Coin	22.51
Thank Offering	1,977.00
Cents-Ability	48.79
Jewel Chip Candy Sales	583.90
Study Books	443.00
Interest	91.71
Program	517.00
Misc. Donations	400.19
Angel Card Sales	258.00
Total Receipts:	7,307.10

Total before Disbursements:

\$9,447.48

Disbursements:	
Lake MI Presbyterian Women	1,725.00
Least Coin	22.51
Thank Offering	1,977.00
Cents-Ability	48.79
Study Books	712.50
Candy Expense	53.58
Program	1,107.55
Misc Expense / Gifts, Angel Cards	273.40
Year End Gifts / Mission Giving	<u>2600.00</u>
Total Disbursements:	8,520.33

Balance on Hand August 31, 2007 **\$ 927.15**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN YEAR END GIFTS 2006 - 2007

Love, INC	300.00
International Aid	300.00
Faith In Action International	300.00
The People Center	300.00
North Ottawa Council on Aging	300.00
The Salvation Army	200.00
Mission for Area People / Supper House	250.00
Heartside	150.00
Women's 2008 Retreat (Given Midyear)	500.00
Total Presbyterian Women Mission Giving	\$2,600.00

Submitted by: Ruth Suchecki, Treasurer

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRIES

Win-Build-Equip-Send

We experienced the following success in our four areas of spiritual focus...

Outreach – We continue to enjoy new faces in our youth program. Between our regular meetings, concerts, and outreach events, we saw more than 40 new students visit our ministry. Many of them continue to attend and have allowed First Presbyterian to become their home for spiritual growth.

Growth – With our Sunday night IPACT meeting, our Sunday morning EQUIP class, and our summer Backyard Bible Study meetings, we consistently minister to 50-80 students each week. Our weekly meetings are the backbone of our ministry, providing all of the components necessary for spiritual growth for our youth: fellowship, worship, large groups, small groups, and prayer. We have worked hard to continue to provide the basics of faith and a place for students to process their questions, so they mature and are equipped to be involved in ministry and missions work.

Ministry – Our student participated in a number of ministry and missions projects this year. In the spring, we sent a team of 26 students and leaders to Reynosa, Mexico for a week where they led Vacation Bible School for children and organized a construction project to renovate a local church. In November, 28 students braved the cold night as homeless people in box houses to raise over \$1000 for local ministries and our own mission trips. December saw a team of 26 students and leaders spend a weekend doing inner-city mission work in the soup kitchens and homeless shelters of Chicago. During the Christmas season, our students and leaders donated over \$600 to adopt two different families and provide gifts for the holiday season. Our youth faithfully made a difference in the world around them through our missions and ministry opportunities.

Leadership – We've enjoyed a consistent team of leaders through most of the year. Our current team of 7 leaders represents one of the deepest and most skilled leadership teams that I have ever had the chance to do ministry with. They are very capable with leading small groups, they have wonderful counselling skills, and they spend a lot of time with students outside of the youth group setting to build relationships. They are an amazing team to work with.

SPIRITUALITY & DISCIPLESHIP AND ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This committee's objectives are to encourage and provide opportunities for members to:

- Discover and develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Enhance one's discipleship to Jesus Christ.

We developed these guidelines when we decided what would help a Presbyterian become like Christ by living a Christian Life. We are trying to offer education courses to support this:

Presbyterian Christian

Bible Knowledge

Old & New
Testament

Trinity

God, Son,
& Holy Spirit

Christian Living

Relationships
Following in Jesus Footsteps

Following these objectives we have offered and/or supported the following resources and opportunities during the year.

We did not offer any new Adult Education classes in the spring 2007, because the major construction and remodeling of the church was being done.

1. After a review process instituted to submit and approve class materials, the church offered several different adult classes. The following resources were used:

- A. The Case for Faith
- B. Companions in Christ
- C. Specialty class: Man and His God in Art and The Holy Spirit within
- D. Disciple

For two years we discussed, studied, and sent two people (Rev. Karin Fowler and Kelli Jullie, to the conference for the Disciple class. Fall of 2007 the Disciple course was offered and we currently have four classes meeting through May 2008.

2. Small group Bible studies that are ongoing are: Men's Monday Night Fellowship and Thursday Morning Companions.
3. Presbyterian Women Circles are studying Ruth and Jonah.
4. During the year, quarterly 12 - hour Prayer Vigils were participated by individuals or small groups praying for health and life of the church, individuals, community, country, and nation. Members pray with staff before Sunday worship services.
5. After each Sunday service, prayers are offered by elders of the church in the more quiet setting of the Bride's Room.
6. The Lakeshore Chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician (an international interdenominational organization encouraging churches in Christ's ministry of healing through prayer and healing missions) had a Healing Mission on September 14 and 15 sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church. The event was hosted by St. Pat's. The guest speaker was Father Matthew Linn, S.J. He spoke on Healing Life's Experiences. We were extremely pleased with 150 people in attendance. We received several new members.
 - Lakeshore Chapter general meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00P.M. They are viewing a videos series on Healing with Francis McNutt and praying for individuals. The Lakeshore Chapter would like to get the community involved the in the Healing Ministry of Jesus.
 - the Lakeshore Chapter is planning on a Healing Mission for Sept. 19&20, 2008 with the guest speaker being Rev. Matthew Linn, SJ.
8. We ran the Alpha course only once in the spring. We focused on attracting young adults (ages 25 to 45) to become involved.
9. In 2007 we worked with a group of doctors, praying for them and for their patients.
10. The 2007 Lenten Wednesday night Taize' services and soup supper were well attended.

11. We have a budget for Adult Education for the year 2008. Four projects are being worked on:
1. Taize' Services are planned for Wednesday nights at 6:00P.M. with a soup supper to follow running February 6 to March 19. We will offer prayers for people after each Taize' service.
 2. We are trying to involve more young adults involved in classes.
 3. The Disciple classes will continue.
 4. We hope to work with other churches to pray for people in need in our community that are not church people.

We wish to give thanks to Rev. Darld Black, Larry Braak, Jan Burton, Rev. Karin Fowler, Rev. Tom Cook, Marg Coffey and Marianne Lipcsei for their commitment as members of this committee and to the many prayers, who have given their time and gift to this most important ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Smith, Co-chair and Elder

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This year's Consecration Sunday ("Joyously Responding to God") concluded on Sunday, October 14 after several weeks of communication to the congregation via the *Tidings*, bulletins and testimonies. Consecration Sunday occurring in the 2nd week of October allows session to better determine pledge income for budget purposes. Members were asked to prayerfully consider how we could continue the wonderful programs, staff and missions of FPCGH through their generous financial support. A special fellowship following the services was held in the lounge to celebrate our giving.

Results of Consecration Sunday's Commitment Pledges:

	Number of Pledges		Dollars	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Increased:	106	115	\$337,981	\$413,758
Decreased:	37	69	\$98,908	\$160,586
Same:	92	29	\$268,434	\$ 81, 264
New Commitment:	75	61	\$172,944	\$159,416
Submitted Card w/o amount	15	29		
Totals	325	303	\$878,267	\$815,024

Meijer modified the Community Rewards Program. The change of using only cash or a Meijer Card adversely affected the income for Joyful Noise and the Church (About \$7,500 in '06). A Member can continue to register to have 5% of their bill, for qualified purchases, given to the Church or Joyful Noise.

The committee offered a Biblically based, practical, easy-to-use tools for developing healthy financial planning and habits through the Willow Creek Good \$ense program. Four church members were trained and presented the 3 day, two-hour program to 14 members. It was well received and planned again for February/March 2008. Good \$ense is a sound program that will met participants needs in financial planning

The Committee endorsed the Church Financial Campaign Services (CFCS) to assist with the Capital Campaign. CFCS is a nonprofit mission entity of our General Assembly. CFCS has vast experience, knows Presbyterian Church (USA), is theologically based and Biblically rooted, emphasizing principles of good stewardship.

The Committee will welcome a new "theme" for the 2008 Consecration Sunday, "***Responding to God's Blessings***".

The Stewardship Committee: Bill Bussell, Lisa Luckey, Carol Brown, Dave Folkert, Kathy Olds, Ed Hanenberg, ex-officio Tom Cook and Steve Groters want to continue to emphasize that stewardship is NOT a six-week emphasis on giving, but a continuous acknowledgement that "everything we have has been a blessing and gift from God". It's a joy.....not a sacrifice.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Groters, Stewardship Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee addresses many of the aspects of worship at First Pres., including the schedule for worship services, when and how communion will be observed, decorations and other displays in the sanctuary, and the use of music, dance and art in the service. The committee is composed of the pastoral 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 an exciting and challenging year for the worship life of our church. During the year, the committee work on many issues including the following:

- We purchased a baby grand piano for \$5,500 with money from the Erickson Fund.
- Three Easter services were held at 7am, 9am and 11am. Attendance was down slightly from previous years due to the end of spring break.
- A Taize' type of worship service was again used for the Lenten season. Taize' is a candle light, meditative, service held Wednesday nights in the chapel. 40-50 people attended each week.
- Renovation of the sanctuary began shortly after Easter, and we did not miss a single Sunday service in the sanctuary.
- Replacing the communion table, baptismal font and pulpit were explored by a subcommittee. Dan Vos Construction was hired to build the new elements, including plant stands. The glass bowl for the baptismal font was made by Harry Boyer in Harbor Springs, Michigan.
- A new sound booth was built in the back of the sanctuary, and a new sound system was added to help enhance the worship experience.
- A subcommittee looked into renovating our beautiful Austin organ. Three proposals were received and the Lauck Pipe Organ Company was selected and work should begin sometime after the completion of our Capital Campaign. Cost is estimated at around \$200,000.
- A dedication service for the newly renovated sanctuary was held September 16th.
- Two special worship services were held, Sunday, October 21 to celebrate our first Compassion Weekend. We had a 9am and 5pm service, with a pizza supper following the 5pm service.
- An Art Series subcommittee was started to organize various musical presentations in the sanctuary that would be open to the public. The first one was a beautiful concert put on by Maryanne Beery and Mike D'Oyly.

Average Sunday Worship Attendance in 2007 is depicted by the following data:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
9:00 Service attendance	243	255
10:30 Service attendance	227	218
Total attendance	470	473

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 better yet, in person to any member of the committee. Your Worship Committee members are: Maryanne Beery, Dorothy Bennink, Tim Bullerdick, Dave Clinansmith, Rev. Tom Cook, Mike D'Oyly, Bari Johnson, Diane Jones, Tom Jones, Kellie Julie, Donna Harris-Kober, Michelle Smith, and Alishia Terrill.

We would like to thank the following people for their past service on the Worship Committee: Rick vanderBerg (past chair), Nancy Braak, Barb Butterworth, Deb Stanley, and Cheryl Wabeke.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Bullerdick, Chair