

FAITH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

2009 Annual Report
with 2010 Budget

For distribution and discussion at
The Annual Meeting

Northampton Township Senior Center
165 Township Drive, Richboro, PA

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Agenda for the Meeting

Prayer

Jules Grisham

Opening Remarks and Pastoral Report

Jules Grisham

Deacons' Report

Mike Yorg

Financial Report and 2010 Budget

Chuck Augustine

Closing Remarks and Prayer

Jules Grisham

Faith Presbyterian Church

Vision Statement

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.*

~Hebrews 11:1

Our Heart: The Gospel

The gospel of Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything we do at Faith Presbyterian Church.

What is the gospel? The gospel is the life- and world-changing message (literally, the “good news”) concerning the coming of God’s Kingdom in the person of its King, Jesus, “the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

The gospel is a message of new life and new hope for all the world: that Jesus is the reigning Lord of all; and that he, Jesus, is the Savior of all – of all without exception – who put their trust in him. In Christ – in his life, death, resurrection, and reign in glory – we are shown both the **Way to Life** (which is **by grace**, through faith in him who died in our place on the cross) and the **Way of Life** (which is **by faith**, a vital assurance concerning God’s faithfulness to his own promises and a living trust in the person of Jesus as our alone hope and Savior).

The gospel is the liberating message that our salvation is none of our own doing, but wholly of God; and, this being so, that we can now rest in the incomparable assurance that nothing, nothing in all the world – not even our own failings – can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus! “For God so loved the world that he sent his Only Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

As far as we are concerned, therefore, the gospel is powerfully twofold: it is the message that we are more sinful and flawed than we had ever dared imagine; but it is at the same time the assurance that we can be more loved and accepted than we had ever dared hope, because Jesus Christ, in our place and in our stead, lived the life we ought to have lived, and died the death we ought to have died, to save us. And as we come more and more to understand the full import of this astonishing message – as we come more and more to know ourselves in the light of the gospel – then we become more and more amazed by the sheer extent and purely gracious character of God’s love for us, and we are in turn enabled more and more to live boldly as disciples of Christ, and to become thereby the people God intended us to be – being no longer deformed and delimited by fear, but living heavenward and assured of God’s love for us in Christ.

This gospel, finally, is a message which reveals the painful reality of what we are (sinners, alienated from God and one another, enslaved to the compulsions of our own self-centeredness, and afraid of the prospect of death’s ultimate triumph), and sets it against the reality of what we ought to have been (saints, enjoying communion with God and one another, living boldly in the assurance of God’s love for us, and abiding forevermore in the blessings of life in his presence); but which then gives us Christ, who bears us across that immense chasm from brokenness to glory, with the blessed consequence that **what we are** (deformed humans) no longer keeps us from being **what we ought to be** (reformed humans), because even now we are in process of becoming **what we will be**, as we allow ourselves to be shaped by God’s Word into **what he wills us to be**. Amen!

Our Vision: New Life

We desire to see lives renewed and communities transformed by the power of the gospel.

A Vision for Discipleship: Lives Renewed

We desire to walk together as disciples of Christ, living by faith, loving God and one another, abiding together as a spiritual fellowship and covenant community, bound together in one shared confession of Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. Toward this end, the purpose of this church is and ever will be to worship our Gracious and Sovereign God and to ensure that the saints are equipped with the resources needed for their work and witness in advancement of the Great Commission.

Therefore, all that we do together as a community of faith is structured in such manner as to continually **DEEPEN** us in our walk of faith, whether through worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, or outreach.

Thus, we are **ORTHODOX** in our faith and practice. We are seriously committed to the Lordship of Christ over all areas of our lives and to the authority of his Word, and are firmly grounded in the great creedal and confessional truths of historic Christianity.

A Vision for Outreach: Communities Transformed

We desire that Faith Church exist as a shining beacon of the light of Christ, and that we as individuals be faithful witnesses of that light, in the communities we serve. Toward this end, our mission is to invite others to the knowledge and enjoyment of new life and new hope in Christ.

Therefore, we seek to **DRAW** others into the fellowship and family of God, by being faithful witnesses of Jesus in our words and works.

Thus, we are self-consciously and intentionally **MISSIONAL**. We are committed to never becoming a closed society, but rather to remaining an open community, being sure always to send a welcoming message of invitation to any and all who would come to learn more of the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Our Fellowship: A Worshiping Community

We seek to enjoy the blessings of God in the fellowship of God's people, glorifying and enjoying God as an orthodox, intergenerational worshiping community.

Pastor's Report

2009 Annual Report

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard*

~Romans 10:14

For the past few years at our Annual Meetings we have set forth two ongoing goals – specifically, that we would strive to enhance and improve:

- the **VITALITY** of our congregational life and worship, and
- the **VISIBILITY** of our church in the wider community.

I am very happy to report that we have made significant progress on both these fronts through the course of last year. On the “visibility” side, we had a number of successful events and ongoing small group activities. But the truly dramatic advances were made in the area of “vitality,” where we have seen tremendous growth, not just in our numbers, but in the dynamism and joy that is so evident in our fellowship. In the past year, it has been my singular privilege to serve as pastor of this congregation, where I have seen the power of the gospel really at work – with healings, restorations, reconciliations, and an ongoing and subtle, but quite evident, deepening of the bonds of our congregational commitment to Christ and to one another. Praise God for these things!

Now as we look ahead to a new year and toward a new set of challenges and opportunities, our primary focus must be on reaching out to our community and impacting them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. **VISIBILITY!**

We have reached a point as a congregation where our administrative structures and processes have been updated; our website and publications have been revamped; and, most importantly, our worship services have been beautified, energized, and reordered in subtle, but important ways, as we have continued to study God's Word and to seek his guidance for how best and most faithfully to glorify and enjoy him in our worship.¹ Above all, by God's grace, we continue to see that singular mark of a true and vital church, which is the joy of fellowship in Christ manifested in the love we bear for one another. Now the time has come to reach out and let our friends, neighbors, and family members know that we are here and that they are invited.

Let this be the year Faith Presbyterian Church turns its spiritual, human, and material resources outward in an all-out effort to reach the lost and invite them to new life and new hope in Christ. And let Romans 10:14 be our guiding motto: How will they believe unless they've first heard? And how will they hear unless they come?

¹ On this last point, one of the most profoundly gratifying things I have ever heard as a pastor is when visitors have told me – and I've heard this on more than one occasion – that they had the feeling in worshipping with us at Faith that this is what worship in the early church must have felt like – intimate, joyful, reverent, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, and biblical. Amen! And may that ever be so!

Looking Back at 2009:

As I look back at the previous year, I am grateful to God for his provision, not merely in sustaining us here, but in building us up and giving us hope for better things to come. To get the numbers right out of the way:

First, in terms of **membership**: I'm very happy to report that we reached a milestone of sorts last year, in that our active membership has just passed the 100 mark (to 101)! In 2009, we added twenty-seven new members to our congregation (not counting those new communicant members who had already been non-communing members prior to January 1, 2009). Of these, twenty-one were received as communing members, including twelve new adult members by transfer, and nine covenant children by profession, following their completion of the Communicants Class. In addition, eight children were received as non-communing members (of whom two were baptized in the presence of the congregation).²

With regard to losses from our membership last year: *first*, Iris Roberts, the mother of Evelyn Thomas, went home to be with the Lord, May 7, in Evanston, Illinois; *second*, Evelyn Thomas married John Maclutsky, July 18, and moved to Albany, New York; *third*, Laura Feeney married Matt Zagacki, August 1, and moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania.³

Thus, the net attendance figures for the year thus show a 31% increase in overall active membership (from 77 to 101), and a 31% increase in active communing membership (from 61 to 80).

Second, we ended the year with the **budget** "in the black," with income far ahead of expenses – a fact which means that we are in a better position not only to finance additional staff (e.g., the Children's and Youth Director) but also to begin focusing in a more concentrated way on considering options for a new facility.

All of this is good news, needless to say. But I am also encouraged by a number of developments in areas that mere numbers and statistics do not reveal. It is not my intention to duplicate the reports of all the various ministries which are included in the later pages of this report, so I will focus on some of the primary areas of accomplishment in the last year:

1. WORSHIP: This is the epicenter of what we do together at Faith Presbyterian Church. Special thanks are in order for our Music Director, Mitzi Shetzline, who has been "instrumental" in providing leadership for our worship music; and for our Assistant Music Director, Rachel MacKay, whose vocal and keyboard gifts bless our worship each week.

Thanks also to the Worship Team and to those who performed during the course of last year: David Augustine, saxophone; Tim Clydesdale, vocals; Justin Fannon, piano; Jules Grisham, drums; Virginia Grisham, guitar; Tom Real, guitar; Chris Samsøe, guitar; Rebecca Thompson, vocals; Adam Wittekind, drums; and Steve Wittekind, vocals.

² Note that Joe Little is a Teaching Elder in the PCA and a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery; for this reason he, though a regular attendee, is not counted as a member of this church.

³ I should add that I was very privileged to officiate at both weddings.

Special thanks are in order for our Audio-Visual Team that works in conjunction with the Worship Team. Specifically, we are grateful to Tom Real, for his faithful service over the course of many years in running the soundboard and recording the sermons most every week. Last year, he decided to step down from that duty, in order to attend and worship as a civilian for a while; fair enough. We say, Well done, Tom! Thanks to Chris Samsøe who graciously, and very competently, took over the Sound Ministry from Tom. Thanks also to Eric Lindbloom, for his continued oversight of the projection ministry; and to David Augustine, Jonah Clydesdale, Justin Fannon, Connor Field, Bobby Reiser, Elizabeth Schaeffer, and Brandon Yorg for projection.

Thanks to all the many Setup Team volunteers for being so faithful in arriving early, setting up, and breaking down; to all those who provided hospitality during the course of the year, something which adds so much to our life and fellowship together; to the greeters, who have faithfully served as our friendly first contacts each Sunday morning; and to the Deacons for overseeing the entire process.

Finally, no discussion of our weekly worship service would be complete without reference to the invaluable service provided to our congregation and its children by the God's Garden program of Sunday School classes. Special thanks to Lisa Reiser for her passionate and extraordinarily effective service as Coordinator of Children's Ministry these many years. Thanks also to the teachers and nursery volunteers who give of their time so regularly to the great benefit and blessing of our children.

2. ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS: There were several small group-sized activities last year. These included a number of "First Sunday" open houses (these being after-church fellowship events on the first Sunday of most months, designed to provide visitors and new attendees an opportunity to get to know the pastor and other members of our church, and vice versa); and the continuation of several Bible studies and prayer groups (e.g., the Men's Breakfast, which continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month, at the Grishams' home).

In the fall, our array of small groups was rearranged so that Thursday night has become the primary mid-week meeting night for many in the church, with "The Thinklings" (a Christian book discussion group) meeting on the first Thursday of each month at the Samsøes' home; the Newtown (Pastor's) Bible Study meeting every second and fourth Thursday at the Grishams' home (where they have been continuing their long-term examination of "The Life and Letters of Paul"); and the Women's Fellowship Group (a new evangelistic Bible study and discussion group for women) meeting at the Wittekinds' home. In addition, the former Men's Bible Study has been reconstituted as the Yardley Bible Study (now open to both men and women), meeting every Tuesday night at the Cacciatores' home. In their aggregate, these changes have had the desired effect of adding a number of people to regular participation in the church's small group activities, by offering more variety and less frequency.

As for events: we had the Missions Conference in March (which featured a number of exciting and well-attended events and focused on the gospel's advance in Africa; see the Global Impact Report); the Adopt-a-Highway Clean-ups in April, June, August, and October; a Special Assistance Project in May (see the Deacons Report); the Father's Day picnic in June; the Fall Picnic at Core Creek Park in September; the Light-the-Night Walk in October (this being a large event at which many of our people volunteered in various capacities); a Movie Night under the Stars at the Wittekinds' place, also in October; and the Gingerbread House Fest in December (which drew well over 100 participants, including large number of unchurched guests).

3. ADMINISTRATION: Administration tends to be forgotten as the unglamorous part of church life, but it is certainly crucial in providing the underlying structures and processes for accomplishing our mission. During the past year, we continued to work on, improve, and expand our website, which now includes a number of articles, Bible studies, audio sermons, pictures, etc. We also revised the Welcome Brochure and participated in a “get acquainted” event at Philadelphia Biblical University (thanks to Lisa Reiser and Lynn Schaeffer for participating).

Special thanks to Wendy Niemann, who assisted with the weekly production of worship materials and bulletins for much of last year; to Eric Lindbloom, who assisted with the input and generation of our financial reports; and to Dawn Clydesdale who designed our new church logo.

4. YOUTH MINISTRY: Certainly one of the most significant changes that came about last year was the hiring of Joseph Bibb as our new Children’s and Youth Director. He (and his wife, Allison) have been instrumental in launching our long-awaited junior high youth program, called “The Zone.” Again, I won’t duplicate in this report information he’s included in the Children’s and Youth Ministry report, but I do feel it important to point out the beneficial impact this ministry has had already – as our relatively large contingent of junior high (6th-9th grade) kids have been given the opportunity to gather each week at the Reisers’ home for a time of teaching, fun, and fellowship, and to enjoy special events and outings on the “Third Sundays” of each month (e.g., bowling, movies, etc.).

For some time, I have considered the launching of this ministry to be the most pressing area of heretofore unmet need for our church. Given that the junior high years are a key threshold period of spiritual formation, when children begin to stand more autonomously from their parents and are subject to a barrage of often negative patterns of social dynamics, it is essential that we reach the spiritual and developmental needs of these children now – that we continue intentionally to cultivate and sustain bonds of fellowship between them as a group; and, most importantly, that we continue to engage and encourage them in their walks as followers of Christ.

The goal, therefore, has been to develop a program that would provide an opportunity for our junior high kids to meet regularly for fun, fellowship, and continued spiritual development; to provide a safe environment for kids to creatively and constructively deepen in their walk of faith during these crucial years of passage; and to provide such a positive experience that they would actually look forward to coming again – hopefully bringing their friends along as well.

One further aspect of the program is that it is explicitly about equipping our children to “graduate” from the youth program, not as from some autonomous alternate universe sharing little interaction with the “adult” church, but as already integrated and believing/participating members of our community of faith. Thus, *first*, parental involvement and participation is a key aspect of the program; and *second*, regular involvement of the children in the volunteer dimension of Sunday worship is another (e.g., most of the children serve on Sunday volunteer rotations, either on the projector or, as needed, in the nursery paired with the assigned adult).

The other dimension of Joseph’s work duties has to do with the Children’s ministry, where he has assumed responsibility for overseeing the teaching schedules, the recruitment of new nursery and teacher volunteers, and the implementation of a much-needed formal background check policy for all prospective children and youth workers at Faith Church.

Thanks to Joseph and Allison Bibb, for their good work here in the last few months; to Lisa Reiser, for her years of faithful service to this church and her incalculable impact on the lives of our children as she has overseen the Sunday School program; and to the Reisers, Knights, and others parents who have participated and assisted in making “The Zone” so successful.

Looking Ahead to 2010:

There are at least three areas of particular emphasis in the coming year. Obviously, these don't and won't displace our abiding priorities. The core business of our church is and ever will be the worshiping of our great God and Father, in and through Christ Jesus our Lord, in Spirit and truth. And we will continue to work on cultivating, sustaining, and deepening the bonds of fellowship with Christ and with one another – especially as this happens in the context of participation in small groups. But there are in addition to these permanent priorities three areas where we will place an intensified emphasis in the coming year:

1. OUTREACH:

For the past four years, the basic orientation of my ministry has been based in a very simple sense of calling and commission from the Lord Jesus Christ, one that has given me a clear understanding of my daily mission here:

“Feed my sheep,” Jesus said to Peter in John 21:17. This seems to me as profoundly important a commission as any pastor could receive. And this verse has been, and will of course continue to be, my prime directive, as it were.

During the last few years, this has entailed an almost exclusive focus on congregational life. Recall our formula from the vision statement at the beginning of this report, that a church needs to focus not just on DRAWING people but on DEEPENING the people already there (and vice versa)? Well, for the past four years, my primary emphasis has been heavily weighted on the “deepening” side of the equation, on engaging in the life of this congregation at every level – teaching, fellowship, and administration. And, for what it's worth, I believe this has been appropriate to our needs, given our size and structure.

But now, in light of our continued growth, I have begun to discern the need to shift away from the almost exclusively internal focus I've sustained for the past few years, and to work in a more focused manner on various forms of outreach through community and other engagement – i.e., by writing, teaching, interacting in the community, and so on – and spending relatively less time, for example, on the administrative dimension of the job.

2. OFFICERS, OLD AND NEW:

A special note of thanks is in order for the officers who have served our congregation so faithfully and diligently in the past year.

The Session has met at least once every month to pray for the congregation and to provide oversight and guidance for the vision and governance of the church. It has been and continues to be a great privilege to serve with Chuck Augustine, Tim Clydesdale, Jeff Dearie, and Steve Wittekind. I have been continually impressed by the grace, patience, forbearance, humility, and mutual respect that have characterized our relationships and interactions, and I'm grateful indeed to be serving with such capable, dedicated servants of Christ.⁴

The Deacons have undergone a large turnover during the last year, as Brian Smith has taken a sabbatical from active duty; as Jeff MacKay stepped down from active duty in the summer; as Evelyn Thomas got married in August and moved to Albany, New York; and now, as Paul Andrews prepares to step down in the spring. The congregation has been greatly blessed by the faithful service of each of these people over the course of many years, and they step down from active duty with our blessing and sincere gratitude.

We're also grateful, of course, to those who will continue to serve as active Deacons – to Mike Yorg, chairman; Bob Reiser, secretary; and Eric Lindbloom, recording treasurer. Special thanks are in order for these servants of our congregation, who work so diligently and competently on behalf of our congregation week in and week out. Their labors will be relieved shortly by new Deacons and Deaconesses – for whom the nomination process officially ends today. Then, all those who have been nominated, who are qualified and willing to serve in the diaconal ministry, will be trained in Officer Training classes scheduled to begin in the early spring.

Finally, special thanks are in order to Jeff Dearie, for his years of service as Treasurer of this congregation. He will be stepping down this year, to be replaced by Alfred Gramp. Thanks to Al for his willingness to take on this critical service for our church. And special thanks also to Jim Howard, for his faithful (and continuing) service as Assistant Treasurer.

3. A NEW FACILITY: Finally, we will continue to keep our eyes open for opportunities to purchase or lease a permanent, affordable facility that is centrally located, visible, with a sign, and that would provide a “24/7” platform from which to proclaim the gospel and serve our community.

⁴ The Clydesdales have just left for Australia for reasons related to Tim's work, but will return to us in a few months time. We will as a congregation continue to pray for their health and wellbeing until they return.

In Summary: For each of these areas of special emphasis in the coming year, we, the Session, stand together. We are blessed by a wonderful combination of unity and purpose, by a boldness which is prepared to proceed, and by a desire above all to seek, discern, and wait upon God's will. We earnestly implore you to share your wisdom and insights with us, to pray fervently, and to set your minds and hearts to this important work. We are at a critical threshold in the life of our congregation. Let us stand together, unashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. Amen!

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

~1 Corinthians 15:58

Soli Deo gloria!

Jules Grisham, for the Session = Jules Grisham, Pastor
Chuck Augustine, Clerk
Tim Clydesdale
Jeff Dearie
Steve Wittekind

Board of Deacons 2009 Annual Report

*Just as each of us has one body with many members,
and these members do not all have the same function,
so in Christ we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.*

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.
If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.
If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;
if it is encouraging, let him encourage;
if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously;
if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;
if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

~Romans 12:4-8

The Board of Deacons oversees mercy ministries, church property and finances. Deacon Oversight Teams coordinate church activities in these three areas of ministry at worship services and church events. Care teams handle requests for assistance. The Board members in 2009 were Paul Andrews, Eric Lindbloom, Jeff MacKay, Bob Reiser, Brian Smith, Evelyn Thomas, and Mike Yorg. Three of these Board members are not currently active; one moved away and two are taking a much needed rest. The congregation will be nominating new members to the Deacon board soon.

Going into 2010, Mike Yorg will be the new Chairman of the Deacon Board; Eric Lindbloom is now the Recording Treasurer; and Bob Reiser the Recording Secretary. This was all voted on and approved by the board in December of 2009.

This Annual Report is not just the work of the Board, but also the work of the congregation. All glory goes to the Lord, not to the Board, for all that was accomplished through our church this year.

Mercy:

The CARE fund is managed by the Deacons and funded by offerings from the congregation to support our mercy ministry. Since we do not want to take away from the operating budget of the Church, the Deacon Care Fund offerings are taken during Good Friday and Christmas Eve; which are in addition to our regular Sunday worship. Please keep in mind that we live in a world of great need and Care fund offerings are encouraged and greatly appreciated at anytime throughout the year.

During the year we have demonstrated the love of Christ in tangible ways to those in the congregation and in the community during difficult times, times of need and joyous occasions. Gifts are given from our Care fund to recognize, encourage, and acknowledge the church staff and others who have done something special for our church. We provide financial assistance to those in need, upon request and interview.

The following is a list of some of the ministries of mercy in which the Deacons have been involved in 2009. Jeff McKay took the lead in this area until his departure from the Deacon Board. There are many other acts of mercy and outreach directed by the women in the church and others that are not mentioned here.

- Continued to organize our community service project of picking up litter along our adopted highway on Double Woods/Ellis/ and Fulling Mill Roads in Middletown Township. This is our 10th year in the program.
- The Care Fund was used to help one family from the congregation both financially and with some basic home repairs.
- Our Pastor was recognized during Pastor Appreciation month and he was presented with a card and gift.
- Christmas gifts were presented to church staff in appreciation of their service to the church during the year. The music team and Children's ministry coordinator were recognized for their years of service to the congregation.
- Organized a work day at a church member's house.
- Many Bibles were purchased for recent communicants.
- Flowers were sent to the funeral of a former church member.
- After learning of the great challenges facing Bagudekia Alobayu, authorized \$500 sent to him from the Care Fund.
- Leanne Augustine brought to our attention a local family that needed help with paying their heating bill. Authorized \$200 to help.
- Helped a church member move furniture from their residence.
- Added new greeters to the schedule, and updated the list of responsibilities for greeters.
- Organized a successful work day at another Church Member's house to help rake leaves.

Property:

Paul Andrews coordinates the management of our church property. Deacons are responsible to supervise the church service on Sunday, and also for coordinating and scheduling events with the management staff at the Senior Center.

- The board organized the outdoor service/picnic. Jeff McKay and Brian Smith worked overtime at the grill.
- Mike worked on our insurance policies to make sure we have appropriate coverage, including an Umbrella policy to cover a large claim.

- The Board distributed envelopes for Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve flower donations and the flowers were purchased for those services.
- Purchased a stamp with the new church name on it for use with endorsing checks.
- Our new church name was put on our 4 signs used for worship services and on the Adopt-a-highway signs.
- The number of worship teams increased from 10 to 11.

Audio/Video:

Eric Lindbloom coordinates the audio/video for the church.

- New volunteers have been trained and are helping with the projector during the service
- Assisted with setup of two speakers for the back of the worship hall.

Events:

Before she got married and moved to Albany, Evelyn Thomas coordinated events held at our church plus the ones that we are involved in other places.

- The Board assisted with the Light the Night walk at Bucks Community College, at which many church members volunteered. Shirts were made for volunteers.
- The Board helped coordinate the outdoor worship service, “Top Dog Day,” and our tables at the Choice One Banquet.

Finance:

Bob Reiser coordinates and manages the Deacon’s financial responsibilities in the church. The Board received and recorded the gifts given to the Lord’s work and distributed the gifts to the ministries for which they were designated. The deacons counted and recorded the offerings and prepared them for deposit. The treasurer made the deposits, allocated the offerings to the proper fund, provided financial reports for each fund to the board and to the session, provided the annual report to the congregation and maintained the financial records. Eric, Admin Assistant to the Treasurer, processed expense reports, wrote checks for payroll and expenses, and maintained the checkbook and files. Bob, the recording treasurer, maintained a database of offerings, a spreadsheet of weekly offerings to each fund and provided a year-end statement of giving to everyone giving to the church.

- Mike reviewed and discussed the 2010 budget with Jeff Dearie.
- Eric and Bob wrote a letter to the bank with instructions regarding our name change; had the church name changed on the bank account and financial account.
- Got a new tax exempt rewards cards at Staples with name change.

- A new laptop computer was purchased for Deacon use. An updated version of the program Membership Plus version 11.0 was purchased to record and manage church offerings.
- Setup a website on “boxnet” for treasurer, assistant, and recording treasurers to have access to the general spreadsheet of general offering and budget information

Facilities:

Mike Yorg coordinates and is our contact person between the church, and the Senior Center. Given the growth the Lord has blessed our congregation with, we recognize the need to explore other options regarding our Sunday services. Mike has been part of the Facilities Search Committee that is looking for other places.

Future Planning:

- Explore more needs in the community and see how we can be of assistance, such as we were able to help a family purchase their oil for heat.
- Continue to help those in our congregation with needs.
- Complete a “go to” list that can be posted on our website so everyone will know the correct contact person for each issue.
- Continue to explore other facilities options for our Sunday Services
- Train new Deacons

In His Service,

Mike Yorg, for the Deacons Board = Mike Yorg, Chairman
 Paul Andrews
 Eric Lindbloom
 Bob Reiser

Children's and Youth Ministry

2009 Annual Report

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is
– his good, pleasing, and perfect will. ~Romans 12:2*

Children's Ministry Mission Statement:

The Children's Ministry team provides nursery care during Sunday morning worship for children under five years of age, and age-appropriate Bible classes for children from age two through grade six during the second half of the Sunday morning worship time.

Faith Presbyterian Church acknowledges that parents have the primary responsibility for the spiritual nurture of their children. God's Garden, our children's ministry, exists to glorify the Father, and to support and encourage parents in raising their children in a loving family of believers.

Our **goals for the children and youth** of our church are that they may:

- Grow in their relationship with Jesus;
- Increase their knowledge, understanding, and application of Scripture;
- Increase in their passion to love and serve one another with their spiritual gifts; and
- Develop their commitment to impact their communities, nation, and world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Youth Ministry Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Youth Ministry is to nurture in the development of mature Christian disciples; to support, affirm and encourage the youth in the church; and to be a resource for parents and families.

- To make disciples and followers of Jesus Christ by providing compassionate and personal care through biblical friendship and guidance;
- To encourage each youth toward a greater understanding of God's desire for their lives in a cultural context that is often contrary;
- To teach Scripture and appropriate parts of the *Westminster Standards* in an age-appropriate style; and
- To strengthen the fellowship among teenagers by encouraging friendship, trust, and compassion towards one another.

Activities and Programming during the Past Year:

In 2009, volunteers staffed the Nursery every Sunday; and there were two God's Garden (Sunday School) classes, one for children Kindergarten-through-Grade 3 and another for children Grades 4-5. We also launched Faith's Youth program, called "The Zone," which meets every Friday night at the Reisers' home, as well as every "Third Sunday" for special fellowship events and outings. In December, the Zone had its own section at the Gingerbread House Fest.

Last year, we began to implement a Session-authorized system of mandated background checks for all children and youth workers from this time forward at Faith Presbyterian Church.

Special thanks are in order to the following people who assisted in the Nursery or taught Sunday School classes during 2009, as well as for those who helped with the Zone, planning and hosting events:

Nursery: Leanne Augustine
Dawn Clydesdale
Kay Howard
Nordis Lindbloom
Lisa Reiser
Tricia Wittekind

K-3's: Dawn Clydesdale
Debbie Dearie
Kay Howard
Lisa Reiser
Tricia Wittekind

Grades 4-5: Virginia Grisham
Walt Samsøe
Steve Wittekind

The Zone: Allison Bibb
Tim Clydesdale
The Knights
The Reisers
All our families who have children in the Zone!

Special thanks also to Virginia Grisham and Lisa Reiser who directed the Children's Christmas Choir, which sang at the Christmas Eve service.

In the spring, a Communicants Class was offered for children at the threshold of junior high, who were about to graduate from God's Garden (as well as some other younger children). This was an opportunity for those children who desired, in accordance with their parents' desire, to learn more about the faith we profess and proclaim together. Seven children attended the class last year, professed their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and were admitted as communing members of our church. Another class will be offered this spring for the current sixth graders.

Goals for the Coming Year:

- Faithfully continue to foster an environment for the children of the church which focuses on Jesus' redemptive love for his creation through the Zone and God's Garden and the nursery.
- Continue to bring about new enriching programming opportunities for the youth in the Zone through Third Sunday outings and Friday night fellowship.
- Develop a model for service in the community.

In His Service,

Joseph Bibb, for the Children's Ministry Team =

Joseph Bibb, Director

Lisa Reiser

Steve Wittekind

Global Impact Team 2009 Annual Report

*That thy way may be known on the earth,
Thy salvation among the nations. ~Psalm 67:2*

During 2009, the Global Impact Team continued to send financial and prayer support from our church to the church planters and missionaries that our congregation supports, and to pass on news and updates from them to the congregation.

Our support in 2009 was as follows:

Missionaries	Annual amount
Bill and Christie Campbell	\$1,200
Kin Lam	\$1,200
Bagudekia Alobeyo	\$1,200
Robert Carr	\$3,000
Fred Klett (Rock of Israel)	\$1,500
Frank Sindler	\$2,400

The Mission Conference in March highlighted African missions. Bagudekia Alobeyo spoke at our Saturday missions dinner. Bagu is an African pastor who is currently leading an African immigrant church in Philadelphia. He told us about his trip to Congo to rescue many family members from the dangerous situation caused by the rebel fighters there. Our congregation was able to provide assistance to him through the Deacon's Care Fund toward the cost of resettling his family. On Missions Sunday, Frank Sindler preached and gave a presentation about his work directing outreach to Muslims through Mission to the World, the PCA's mission agency. Thanks to Clare Fannon for hosting the dinner at which Bagudekia spoke, and to Kay Howard for designing the beautiful flyer for the conference.

In October, Robert Carr visited Faith Presbyterian. Robert and his wife Lois are missionaries in Kenya. Robert provides mentoring and support to local church planters, and Lois, who is a nurse, coordinates a program to help children in the slums in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

This has been a year of transition for the team. Evelyn Thomas and Clare Fannon left the team this year and Eric Schaeffer has joined us. We would particularly like to thank Clare for hosting the Missions Dinners for the last several years, and initiating the World Vision Hope Tree project.

On behalf of our missionaries and their families, the Global Impact Team would like to thank you for your prayers and your financial support throughout the year.

In His Service,

Chuck Augustine, for the Global Impact Team = Chuck Augustine, Chairperson
Kay Howard
Eric Schaeffer

Men's Ministry 2009 Annual Report

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.. ~Colossians 2:6-7

The purpose of the men's ministry is to set our hearts apart – that is, to be holy through introspection by study of the Word, prayer, and fellowship.

The Yardley Bible Study:

Last year, the Men's Bible Study became the Yardley Bible Study, where both men and woman were invited to participate. Thanks to Mike and Lisa McCormick for the suggestion to do this.

Weekly studies in a question and answer format through the book of the Romans. We picked up from the endpoint in 2008 and in 2009 our studies were from Romans 7:13 through chapter 12. We used the *Faith Foundations Study Guides*, by Alan Perkins, as our study aid.

Other topical short studies related to the main study were certain theological concepts: "Life in the Spirit" (3 weeks); "Free Will/Advocacy" (1 week); and "The Church Body" (1 week). These short studies added depth to selected topics from our main study.

Our group had six prayer meetings over 2009. The 2009 prayer meetings' focus was God's promises. A fellowship dinner generally precedes each prayer meeting. The seeds of an annual tradition were planted being that the last meeting of the each calendar year will be devoted to praying for the families in our congregation as we did in 2009.

Italian Night Dinners are dedicated to a time of fellowship and fraternity among the participants in the Yardley Bible Study and their loved ones all coming together to share food, the joy of laughter, the seriousness of life events, and God's word. There were four Italian Night Dinners in 2009.

As we look forward to 2010, the group will complete the study of Romans in April 2010, and will then begin the study of Hebrews. Our men will attend the Society of Brothers, a faith-sharing weekend event, January 2010. A "Day in the Way" will occur February 14, 2010, which will be a day of spirituality devoted to prayer, meditation, consideration, and thankfulness for the many promises God has given to us. The day will culminate with dinner and a movie.

The Men's Breakfast:

The Men's Breakfast continued to meet at the Grishams' home on the third Saturday of each month. Through the course of the last year, Pastor Grisham has led us in a chapter-by-chapter discussion of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. We will continue meeting in 2010.

In his service,
Vince Cacciatore, Men's Ministry Coordinator

Women's Ministry 2009 Annual Report

*Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

~Psalm 46:10-11

The Women's Ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church seeks to provide opportunities for women to be still before God and to rest in the God of Jacob, our fortress. We encourage and provide opportunity for women to deepen their personal relationship with the Lord; to cultivate relationships with the other women in the church; and to reach out to friends and neighbors.

For the first half of 2009, the Women's Prayer Group continued to meet on the first Thursday of each month, at the Samsoes' home, for a time of study, discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Virginia Grisham led us in discussion as we worked through *Praying God's Word*, by Beth Moore.

In the fall, the gathering at the Samsoes' home on the first Thursday of the month was opened to both men and women, and became "The Thinkings," a Christian book discussion group (about which, see the Pastor's Report).

At the same time, a new Women's Fellowship Group was formed, that has been meeting on the third Thursday of each month at the Wittekind's home, for a time of study, discussion, and prayer. Tricia Wittekind has been leading us in discussion as we've been working through *Facing Your Giants*, by Max Lucado.

Finally, **WIC (Women in the Church)** is the official women's organization of the PCA. The Women's Ministry Team coordinates Faith Presbyterian Church's participation in the annual Philadelphia Presbytery WIC retreat and other events as they are offered.

In His Service,

Leanne Augustine, for the Women's Ministry Team = Leanne Augustine, Coordinator
Virginia Grisham
Tricia Wittekind