

**F A I T H**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**

**2010 Annual Report**

**with 2011 Budget**

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For distribution and discussion at  
**The Annual Meeting**

Northampton Township Senior Center  
165 Township Drive, Richboro, PA

**Sunday, January 30, 2011**

# Agenda for the Meeting

## **Prayer**

Jules Grisham

## **Opening Remarks and Pastoral Report**

Jules Grisham

## **Presentation of Proposed Amendments to Church Bylaws**

Jules Grisham

## **Children's and Youth Report**

Jacob Puckett

## **Deacons' Report**

Mike Yorg

## **Financial Report and 2011 Budget**

Chuck Augustine

## **Closing Remarks and Prayer**

Jules Grisham

# Faith Presbyterian Church

## Vision Statement

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God  
for the salvation of everyone who believes:  
first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.  
For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed,  
a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:  
'The righteous will live by faith.'*  
~Romans 1:16-17

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.*  
~Hebrews 11:1

Faith Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith  
committed to seeing lives renewed and communities transformed  
by the power of the gospel.

The purpose of this church is and ever will be to worship God in Spirit and truth,  
and to bear faithful witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Toward this end, we are committed to walking together as disciples of Christ –  
living by faith, loving God and one another, and abiding together as a spiritual  
fellowship and specially called, consecrated, and commissioned covenant  
community.

As a community of faith:

We are committed to...	Loving the Lord our God...
Holding high God's glory in worship	...with all our heart
Holding together in loving fellowship	...with all our soul
Holding fast to the word of truth	...with all our mind
Holding forth the word of life	...with all our strength

### **A Vision for Discipleship: Lives Renewed**

It is the sacred duty of the leadership of this church, as stewards of the gospel, to ensure that the saints are equipped with the resources needed for their work and witness in advancement of the Great Commission.

Accordingly, 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. In particular, as a PCA congregation, ours is a “confessional” church – that is, we subscribe to the Westminster Standards as containing the system of doctrine taught in Scripture.

### **A Vision for Outreach: Communities Transformed**

Faith Presbyterian Church exists to worship God and bear faithful witness to Jesus Christ. A good part of that faithful witness consists in inviting others to the new life and new hope that comes when sinners set their faith in Jesus – that those who are now enemies with God may yet be found and reconciled, and, wonder of wonders, may yet join us in our worship, work, and witness.

Accordingly, 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 **EVANGELISTIC**. 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.

Amen!

# Pastor's Report

## 2010 Annual Report

*Rejoice in the Lord always.*

*I will say it again: Rejoice!*

~Philippians 4:4

### Looking Back at 2010:

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 happy to report that our active membership now stands at 111 (consisting of 94 communing members and 17 non-communing members). In 2010, we added nine new members to our congregation (not counting the six new communicant members who had already been non-communing members prior to January 1, 2010). Of these, eight were received as communing members and one (Mikaiah Joy Puckett) was baptized in the presence of the congregation on October 24 and received as a non-communing member at that time. There were no losses from our membership.

Thus, the net attendance figures for the year show a 9% increase in overall active membership (from 102 to 111); an 18% increase in active communing membership (from 80 to 94); and a 13% increase in regular attendees (from 112 to 126).

**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 pay for our church office and 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. Perhaps the most visible change that's happened in the last year has been the expansion of our worship space in December – a change necessitated by growing weekly attendance numbers and enabled by the Senior Center's willingness to let us use additional space for the children's program at no additional cost. The feedback concerning the expanded worship space has been overwhelmingly positive. And, for my part, I consider it a thrilling success. At minimal cost in terms of our existing processes, we have added tremendously to our worship area, but in such manner that the energy level has not been diminished. The area feels – dare I say – more church-like! And we now have much more room for fellowship following the service. Most importantly, in my view, the change is scalable for more growth – i.e., the present configuration of the worship and children's areas not only works for us now, but will continue to work even if dozens more people (Lord willing) were to join our fellowship in the coming year(s).

Of course, there are always areas for improvement, and we will continue to work on bringing every detail of our worship service to the highest standard of excellence that we are able to accomplish. Specifically, we will work to improve the following three areas:

1. **Sound**: The Worship Team (consisting of Music Director Mitzi Shetzline, Assistant Music Director Rachel MacKay, Ruling Elders Tim Clydesdale and Steve Wittekind, Deacon Eric Lindbloom, Sound Ministry representative Chris Samsoe, and myself) has been meeting and discussing what is needed to optimize our sound for the newly expanded worship space, and we plan to purchase some new equipment in the coming year which should vastly improve the volume and clarity of our sound in the new space. In this regard, it is appropriate that we give special thanks to Eric Lindbloom, who dedicated many hours of service in this project of improving our sound. Thanks also to Chris Samsoe, who faithfully runs the soundboard and records the sermons most every week; and to Eric Lindbloom and Tom Real, who between them graciously filled in for Chris on those occasions when he was away.
2. **Lighting**. One of the nicest things about the Senior Center as a worship space is that it is so clean and bright. But the brightness (especially the glare of the winter sun) sometimes impacts the visibility of the PowerPoint slides used in our singing and responsive readings. At the same time, the new setup leaves the pulpit itself somewhat darker than the rest of the room. This is sort of ironic, given that the main problem is too much light, but for purposes of the sermon, there is not enough light exactly where we need it (front and center). The Worship Team has also been examining these issues and will seek to address them in the coming weeks and months. Finally:
3. **Beautification**: All that we do in our worship is for the glory of God, and the careful cultivation of a space that is conducive to worship is an important goal. Obviously, the fact that we're meeting in a rented facility whose primary (weekday) purpose is to serve as a secular community resource (a meeting area and exercise room) makes it difficult for us to cultivate a more "churchlike" space on Sunday mornings. Happily, we have come a long way in this direction (e.g., by the orientation of our service as well as by numerous design details); but there is plenty of room for improvement here. Toward this end, we are considering ways to raise the aesthetic quality and visual beauty of our worship space – aware, however, that we are trying to do so in a context of extreme constraints on our ability to store property onsite.

Special thanks are once again 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: Tim Clydesdale, vocals; Jules Grisham, drums; Virginia Grisham, guitar; Chris Samsoe, guitar; Rebecca Thompson, vocals; and Steve Wittekind, vocals. And thanks especially to Rachel MacKay for her vision and effort in organizing and managing our new youth band; and to the members of that band (David Augustine, saxophone; Jonah Clydesdale, piano; Adam Wittekind, drums; and Brandon Yorg, guitar) who practice each week and who performed a memorable and excellent jazz version of "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" at a recent worship service.

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 the teachers and nursery volunteers who give of their time so regularly to the great benefit and blessing of our children. (See the Children's and Youth Ministries Report.)

**2. FACILITIES:** One of the most serious constraints we have faced as a congregation has been the lack of a permanent place to call home. It is true, of course, that the church – the true church – does not consist in bricks and mortar, but exists wherever God's people gather in the name of Jesus – and specifically exists wherever God's word is faithfully proclaimed, the sacraments are faithfully administered, and discipline (i.e., the accountability of discipleship) is faithfully exercised.

But these things said, we can also affirm that having a place to call our own would be a thing of inestimable value, as it would provide a public arena for the work and witness of the church – a platform and permanent space from which all manner of opportunities for fellowship and community outreach would become possible that we are not now able even to contemplate in the absence of such a space. Having a place of our own would also entail the tremendous benefits (a) of grounding us in a particular community, so that we could make that subtle but critical shift from our service area being defined by wherever the houses of our congregants are located (which creates a vast and very diffused service area with low local impact), to its being defined in terms of the location of the church building, so that we would then take on the institutional heft of a public, local presence serving a definite community or region; and (b) of permitting us finally to enjoy the benefits of public visibility and recognition.

Praise God that we have continued to grow as we have over the last few years! But we must also acknowledge that this has happened essentially by word of mouth (and Internet) alone. It would surely be a great blessing and benefit for us to have a permanent home. Thus, the Facilities Search Team will continue, and even intensify, its work this year, praying for wisdom and spiritual discernment, being open to possibilities as they may arise, and being prepared for various contingencies in the event they actually do arise.

In the meantime, the increasing numbers of people participating in our events and activities have made it more difficult to host these activities from members' homes. So this year the church opted for an interim solution and rented an office space in Yardley. Having a permanent office has already brought great benefit, not only serving as the place for all manner of church meetings, classes, and Bible studies, as well as the pastor's office and church production center; but also granting us a community presence, albeit a minor one (the church's name is printed on a sign on Main Street in Yardley).

Again, our rental of an office has been a necessary and beneficial step for us, but it is only an interim one as we continue our transition from a small congregation, whose extra-Sunday fellowship activities happen in members' homes, to a growing church, whose increasingly complex organization and processes require a permanent, dedicated space.

**3. ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:** There were several small group-scale activities last year. These included a number of “First Sunday” open houses (i.e., after-church fellowship events at the pastor’s home on the first Sunday of alternate 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 meets on the third Saturday of each month, at the Grishams’ home, at which the men have been working through and discussing the Westminster Confession of Faith through the course of the entire year).

We have continued to offer the array of small groups that was established the year before, by which Thursday night have become the primary mid-week meeting night for many in the church – with (1) “The Thinkings,” our Christian book discussion group, meeting on the first Thursday of each month at the Samsoes’ home (where we have so far read through and discussed *On the Incarnation*, by Athanasius, and *The Great Divorce* and *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis); (2) the Pastor’s Bible Study, meeting every second and fourth Thursday at the church office in Yardley (where we have continued our long-term examination of “The Life and Letters of Paul”); and (3) the Women’s Fellowship Group, an evangelistic Bible study and book discussion group meeting at the Wittekinds’ home and taught by Ann Little (see the Women’s Ministry Report).

In addition, the Yardley Bible Study has continued to meet every Tuesday night at the Cacciatores’ home (where they are working through the Epistle to the Hebrews and where participants have enjoyed periodic prayer meetings and fellowship feasts).

As for church-wide events: we had the Women’s Relaxing Tea in January (see the Women’s Ministry Report); the Missions Week in March (at which Bill Campbell preached; see the Global Impact Report); the Adopt-a-Highway Clean-ups in April, June, August, and October; a Family Night at a Trenton Thunder baseball game in May; a Special Assistance Project, also in May; the Father’s Day picnic in June; the Outdoor Service and Church Picnic at Core Creek Park in September; the Movie Night under the Stars at the Wittekinds’ place in October; the Light-the-Night Walk in November (this being a large event at which many of our people volunteered in various capacities); the Gingerbread House Fest in December; and a Year-End Prayer and Praise Meeting, also in December.

**4. 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, adding articles, Bible studies, weekly audio sermons, pictures, etc.

Special thanks to Gina Puckett, who, beginning last fall, has been assisting with the weekly production of worship materials and bulletins.

**5. YOUTH MINISTRY:** Certainly one of the most significant changes that came about last year was the hiring of Jacob Puckett as our new Children’s and Youth Director. A student of Westminster Seminary, he has come under care of the Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery (under my supervision) and is laboring here as a pastoral intern en route toward (we hope and expect) ultimate ordination and pastoral ministry.

The quality of his work, his passion for the gospel, and his obvious affection for and affinity with our kids has been very encouraging. And he has not only worked effectively as our Children's and Youth Director, but has preached on three occasions.

Faith's youth program is thriving! I won't duplicate in this report information that is included in the Children's and Youth Ministries report, but I do feel it important to point out the beneficial impact this ministry has had already – as our relatively large youth contingent has had the regular opportunity to gather each week for a time of teaching, fun, and fellowship.

Thanks to Gina Puckett, who is there most every Friday night. Thanks also to Sean and Anna Dixon for their assistance to the program. And special thanks to the Resiers, who have served as the regular, weekly hosts for as many as twenty youths on any given Friday night; to the Knights and Smiths, who have hosted on several occasions; and to all the other parents who have participated and assisted in making our youth program so successful.

The other dimension of Jacob'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 continued implementation of the much-needed formal background check policy for all prospective children and youth workers at Faith Church.

## **6. CHURCH OFFICERS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TERMS AND CLASSES:**

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.

The Deacons have had a remarkably productive year (concerning which, again, I won't duplicate here information that you can read in their report). But I must say that it has been my privilege to attend the monthly Deacon meetings, and to see firsthand their passion for this church and for the diaconal calling to mercy and service. Thanks to Mike Yorg, for his excellent work as chairman of the Board; to Bob Reiser, secretary; to Eric Lindbloom, recording treasurer; and to Vince Cacciatore, Robert Knight, and Mike McCormick.

Special thanks must be given to the following three persons:

- To Paul Andrews, who stepped down from the Deacons Board after many years of active service. Paul's wisdom and faithfulness will be greatly missed on the Board. The congregation has been immeasurably blessed by his faithful service over the course of many years, and Paul steps down from active duty with our blessing and sincere gratitude.
- To Al Gramp, who has performed his duties as Treasurer with a dedication, thoroughness, and discipline that is nothing less than amazing. The congregation is fortunate to have in Al so capable and conscientious a Treasurer.

- To Jim Howard, who served with extraordinary faithfulness, steadfastness, and ability over the last several years as our Assistant Treasurer. He stepped down at the end of last year, and does so with the sincere gratitude of the congregation. (Paul Andrews has agreed to step in and be trained as the next Assistant Treasurer.)

Finally, we should note a structural change of great importance that was implemented in the last year. In the past, there were no definite terms for officers – a situation necessitated by our size, but which tended to lead to exhaustion in our officers, not providing a way out of active service even after years of faithful and productive service. The Session, with the affirmation of the Board of Deacons, has established a new system of term limits for officers, the specifics of which are set forth in the proposed amendments to the church’s bylaws (see page 12).

Simply put, the new system will work in the following manner: henceforth, the Session will consist of four Ruling Elders (plus me, as the Teaching Elder), each elected to serve for a four-year term and each having the option at the end of that term either to serve for another term or to step down from active service, but being required upon the conclusion of the second term to step down from active service for at least one year before being eligible to serve again. There will be four classes, so that one Ruling Elder’s term will expire each year. The Deacons will have exactly the same system, except that there will be six (or possibly seven) Deacons, divided into three classes and elected to three-year terms, so that two Deacons’ terms will expire each year.

**Looking Ahead to 2011:**

There are at least three areas of particular emphasis in the coming year. Obviously, these don’t and won’t displace our abiding priorities. As we have said, the core purpose of our church is and ever will be to glorify God in our worship, words, and works, as we abide together as a spiritual fellowship of Jesus’ disciples, bearing faithful witness to him who is our Lord and Savior. Amen!

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 group activities and church events.

But there are in addition to these permanent priorities three areas where we will place an intensified emphasis in the coming year:

**1. CONTINUED REFORM OF OUR STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES:** In the past year we have given a great deal of time, thought, and effort to reforming and streamlining communication patterns and decision-making processes, and to clarifying lines of responsibility and authority vis a vis staff and officers. These are necessary and important areas of focus as we shift from a smaller (“organism”) church where decisions could be made and processes implemented through informal, word-of-mouth networks to a larger (“organization”) church, requiring much more clarity in these areas. We will continue to work to improve these organizational structures and processes in the coming year. Our goal is to optimize efficiency and openness – cultivating a culture of broad ownership of the church’s vision and direction, while at the same time making sure that we’ve got processes in place to make sure decisions are made and implemented effectively and efficiently.

**2. OUTREACH:** For the past five 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. Very simple! But for me, also very profound. This verse has been and will continue to serve as a sort of personal bedrock principle for what the work of the gospel ministry is all about.

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 intentional 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. Last year, for example, I was privileged to preach at Philadelphia Biblical University and to participate in the Regional Conference on Reformed Theology at Princeton. This year, I have been invited to speak at the week-long Reformed University Fellowship retreat for the eastern Pennsylvania region, in May.

**3. A NEW FACILITY:** As mentioned earlier, 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.

**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.

*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

# Bylaws of FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Bucks County

## PROPOSED REVISIONS ONLY

### Article IV: The Session

#### Section 1: Structure and Tenure. ...

**ORIGINAL TEXT** (with revised or deleted portions in italics):

The office of Ruling Elder is perpetual and, as such, may not be laid aside easily or without good reason. An Elder may, however, request a sabbatical leave *of absence from the duties of the Session for a period of up to twelve months*. The request must be *in writing* and it must *give the reason or reasons why a leave of absence is desired*. When approved by the Session, an Elder shall not be required to attend Session or Presbytery meetings or to lead worship during the time of his sabbatical.

*These Officers* shall be the Trustees of the corporation, and as such shall hold title to all real estate and personal property owned by the church.

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

The office of Elder is perpetual and, as such, may not be laid aside easily or without good reason. *In light of health concerns or extenuating circumstances*, however, an Elder may request a sabbatical leave *or resignation from active service on the Session*. The request must be *written* and it must *indicate the reason(s) for the request*. Once approved by the Session, *the Elder shall be released from active service and its attending duties, i.e., he* shall not be required to attend Session or Presbytery meetings or to lead worship during the time of his sabbatical.

*Moreover, while the office of Elder is perpetual, the term of active service on the Session for Elders shall be four years and may be renewed for a second four-year term. At the end of any consecutive two terms of service (or by choice, after one term of service) the Elder will take a sabbatical of at least one year before being eligible to serve on the Session again.*

*The active Elders, i.e., those serving on the Session*, shall be the Trustees of the corporation, and as such shall hold title to all real estate and personal property owned by the church.

### Article V: The Board of Deacons

**ORIGINAL TEXT** (with revised or deleted portions in italics):

Section 1: Structure and Tenure. *The structure and tenure of the Deacons shall be the same as for the Ruling Elders. (Article IV, Section 1)* The congregation after hearing the recommendation of the Session shall determine the number of Deacons. The Board shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

Section 1: Structure and Tenure. The congregation, after hearing the recommendation of the Session, shall determine the number of Deacons. The Board shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary.

*The office of Deacon is perpetual and, as such, may not be laid aside easily or without good reason. In light of health concerns or extenuating circumstances, however, a Deacon may request a sabbatical leave or resignation from active service. The request must be written and it must indicate the reason(s) for the request. Once approved by the Board and the Session, the Deacon shall be released from active service and its attending duties, i.e., the inactive Deacon shall not be required to attend Board meetings and shall be released both from the rotation of diaconal*

worship duties and from any particular duties as may have been assigned by the Board in the context of active service.

*Moreover, while the office of Deacon is perpetual, the term of active service on the Board for Deacons shall be three years and may be renewed for a second three-year term. At the end of any consecutive two terms of service (or by choice, after one term of service) the Deacon will take a sabbatical of at least one year before being eligible to serve on the Board again.*

**ORIGINAL TEXT** (with revised or deleted portions in italics):

**Section 3: Responsibilities.** It is the duty of the Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality among the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, *and* shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation.

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

**Section 3: Responsibilities.** It is the duty of the Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality among the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall *support, as directed by the Session, the public worship and ministries of the church,* and shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal. *They* shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation.

**ORIGINAL TEXT** (with revised or deleted portions in italics):

**Section 8: Treasurer.** The Board of Deacons shall appoint the Treasurer of the church *and* this person need not be a member of the Board of Deacons. *The Treasurer shall draw checks against the church funds as directed by the Board of Deacons and/or the Session.* There shall be kept under the Treasurer's direction a ledger showing the cash account of all funds and a balance taken at the close of each month. These books shall at any time be available to the Board of Deacons and the Session and may be submitted to an independent audit at least once a year, if directed by the Board of Deacons or the Session.

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

**Section 8: Treasurer.** The Board of Deacons shall, *with the Session's approval,* appoint the Treasurer of the church. This person need not be a member of the Board of Deacons, *but must be a member of the church in good standing. It is the duty of the Treasurer to effectively administer and maintain the financial records of the church in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.* There shall be kept under the Treasurer's direction a ledger showing the cash account of all funds and a balance taken at the close of each month. These books shall at any time be available to the Board of Deacons and the Session and may be submitted to an independent audit at least once a year, if directed by the Board of Deacons or the Session. *The Treasurer is under the direct supervision of the Session and Deacons of the church and officially reports to the Chairman of the Board of Deacons.*

**Section 9: Assistant Treasurer.** *The Board of Deacons shall endeavor, with the Session's approval, to appoint an Assistant Treasurer of the church. This person need not be a member of the Board of Deacons, but must be a member of the church in good standing. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in paying disbursements and in drawing checks against the church funds as*

*directed by the Board of Deacons and/or the Session. The Assistant Treasurer is under the direct supervision of the Treasurer and the Deacons of the church, and reports to the Chairman of the Board of Deacons.*

**ORIGINAL TEXT** (with revised or deleted portions in italics):

**Section 9: Recording Treasurer.** The Board of Deacons shall appoint the Recording Treasurer of the church *and* this person need not be a member of the Board. The Recording Treasurer shall keep careful records of all tithes, gifts, offerings, and contributions to the church, including the names of each contributor, the amounts given, and the funds to which the contributions have been designated. At least once a year the Recording Treasurer shall provide written proof to each contributor of their contributions to the church by fund as required by the Internal Revenue Service. There shall be kept under the Recording Treasurer's direction a ledger showing these contributions by contributor and by fund. These books shall at any time be available to the Board of Deacons and the Session and may be submitted to an independent audit at least once a year, if directed by the Board of Deacons or the Session.

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

**Section 10: Recording Treasurer.** The Board of Deacons shall, *with the Session's approval*, appoint the Recording Treasurer of the church. This person need not be a member of the Board, *but must be a member of the church in good standing.* The Recording Treasurer shall keep careful records of all tithes, gifts, offerings, and contributions to the church, including the names of each contributor, the amounts given, and the funds to which the contributions have been designated. At least once a year the Recording Treasurer shall provide written proof to each contributor of their contributions to the church by fund as required by the Internal Revenue Service. There shall be kept under the Recording Treasurer's direction a ledger showing these contributions by contributor and by fund. These books shall at any time be available to the Board of Deacons and the Session and may be submitted to an independent audit at least once a year, if directed by the Board of Deacons or the Session.

#### **Article VI: Nomination, Election, and Installation**

**ORIGINAL TEXT** (with revised or deleted portions in italics):

**Section 1: Qualification of Nominees.** All nominees shall be members of the church at the time of nomination. Three non-family nominations from members of the church shall be required for a person to be nominated. *No member who is serving on the session shall be considered for nomination to the Board of Deacons unless his present term is in his last year.*

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

**Section 1: Qualification of Nominees.** All nominees *for the offices of Elder or Deacon* shall be members of the church at the time of nomination. Three non-family nominations from members of the church shall be required for a person to be nominated. *No officer presently serving shall be considered for nomination to another office unless that officer's present term is in its last year.*

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

**Section 4: Congregational Meetings for Election.** There shall be annually at least one Congregational Meeting for the purpose of election to the Session and the Board of Deacons. This congregational meeting for election shall be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January *or early February.* Additional special congregational meetings for election may be held if vacancies need to be filled.

#### **Article VII: Congregational Meetings**

**NEW TEXT** (with revised or added portions in italics):

**Section 2: Time.** There shall be an Annual Congregational Meeting in January *or early February*, at a time established by the Session.

# Board of Deacons 2010 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 some church events. Care teams handle requests for assistance. The Board members in 2010 were Paul Andrews, Eric Lindbloom, Bob Reiser, Mike McCormick, Vince Cacciatore, Robert Knight, and Mike Yorg. Mike McCormick, Vince, and Robert all joined the board in 2010. Paul Andrews has served the Board faithfully for many years and his term of service ended in 2010. The board greatly appreciates all that Paul has done over the years and welcomes his wisdom and guidance whenever he is available.

We now have a "class" system by which Deacons will have the opportunity to serve for two consecutive three year terms and then be required to take a one year sabbatical. Bob Reiser (the longest serving active Deacon) and Mike Yorg are in the class of 2011. Since their terms are up in 2011, they will therefore not be serving on the board in 2012. The congregation should be nominating new members to the Deacon board around the middle of the year if non-active Deacons choose to keep their status as inactive.

Going into 2011, Mike Yorg will remain the Chairman of the Deacon Board, Eric Lindbloom will remain the Recording Treasurer, and Bob Reiser will remain the Secretary. This was all voted on and approved by the board in December of 2010.

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 ministries of mercy in which the Deacons have been involved in 2010. Bob Reiser took the lead in this area with support for other members of the Deacon Board and the church. There are many other acts of mercy and outreach directed by the women in the church and others that are not mentioned here.

- Bob 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 11<sup>th</sup> year in the program.
- Paid for a tree service to cut the tree next to a church member's house that threatened the safety of the church member.
- Gave financial assistance to a family not associated with the church, but had a dire financial need. Their need was brought to our attention by a church member.
- Helped pay the funeral expenses for the parent of a church member
- Organized a work day at a church member's house which included gathering equipment, purchasing supplies and prioritizing projects. Twelve people participated in cutting trees and brush in the backyard, bundling and bagging yard waste, loading firewood, fixing downspouts, stripping and painting a wrought iron railing, fixing a door threshold, and other miscellaneous projects.
- Organized a work day at another church member's house. Six people participated in cutting trees, running TV cable, stripping and painting a wrought iron railing, diagnosing and ordering parts for the garage door opener, removing old gutter guards, and trimming bushes.
- Paid for the flowers given to a church member while in the hospital.
- Purchased Bibles for new communicants.
- Purchased a special present for a church member who was a recent graduate.
- Organized a successful work day at another church member's house to help rake leaves.
- Our pastor was recognized during Pastor Appreciation Month and 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.

- Donated \$100 to a Cancer Fund in memory of a church member's father who passed away.
- Gave \$300 to a church family that is in financial need.
- Canned goods and cash donations were collected for Operation Brotherhood at United Korean Church in Philadelphia. Eric went to the church and helped sort the food.
- Helped install insulation in the attic of a church member's house.
- Working on updating the Care Fund Policy to better reflect the use of that fund
- Approved paying for a cleaning service for a church member's house every two weeks.
- Discussed helping a food bank in the area. (We plan to meet with Food Bank in 2011 to see if we can help.)

**Property** (including **Facilities** and **Audio-Visual**):

Paul Andrews coordinated the management of our church property; Eric Lindbloom coordinated the audio-video for the church in conjunction with the Worship Team; and Mike Yorg was the facilities liaison with the Senior Center.

Deacons are responsible to supervise the church service on Sunday, also for coordinating and scheduling events with the management staff at the Senior Center

- The board organized the outdoor service/picnic. This included reserving the space, purchasing the supplies and food (Mike M. and Vince did the shopping), coordinating what other members brought, grilling the food, and cleaning up.
- Mike Y. continued to work on the church insurance.
- The Board distributed envelopes for Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve flower donations and the flowers were purchased for those services.
- The number of worship teams increased to 13. Also known as the set-up crews, they only have to perform this service about four times a year now.
- The Board helped coordinate and ran Top Dog Day
- Worked with the Session on expanding our worship area in the Senior Center (opening up the curtain).
- Purchased a new "wall" for the nursery.
- Robert Knight continued to work on a new setup manual since the worship configuration has changed over the last couple of years.
- Discussed a training class for the set up teams to be taught after the completion of the setup manual.

- The Senior Center was reserved for special services and other events in 2010
- Eric purchased 1-year maintenance plan for sound board laptop for \$163
- Eric bought a new larger Rubbermaid container for the sound system wires. Wires used each worship service were separated from spares.
- Paul used Auto Cad to do drawings to scale of various setup options in the worship hall.

**Finance:**

Eric Lindbloom coordinates and manages the Deacon's financial responsibilities for 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 as 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.

- Eric reviewed and discussed the 2011 Budget with Al Gramp and Chuck Augustine.
- 2009 EOY tax statements were distributed.
- Bob showed Eric how to use the Membership Plus software for recording offerings. The Deacon's laptop was transferred from Bob to Eric who has taken over the responsibilities of financial officer.
- According to Al Gramp, to be in compliance with the law, church employees getting a check from the care fund as a Christmas gift must pay taxes on the gift. It was moved, seconded, and passed to change our procedure based on Al Gramp's advice.

**Future Planning:**

- Continue to help those in our congregation with needs.
- 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.
- Complete the updated training manual and distribute to all members of set up teams, and teach classes on proper set up for our Sunday worship services.

In His Service,

Mike Yorg, for the Deacons Board = Mike Yorg, Chairman  
 Vince Cacciatore  
 Robert Knight  
 Eric Lindbloom  
 Mike McCormick  
 Bob Reiser

# Children's and Youth Ministry

## 2010 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 five 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 2010, 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 continued Faith's youth program, which meets every Friday night at the Reisers' home. In December, the Zone had its own section at the Gingerbread House Fest.

Last year, we continued 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 2010, as well as for those who helped with the Zone, planning and hosting events:

**Nursery:** Leanne Augustine  
Teri Field  
Stephanie Kaceli  
Robert Knight  
Gina Puckett  
Lisa Reiser  
Lynn Schaeffer  
Lori Tolsma

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

**Grades 4-5:** Virginia Grisham  
Jacob Puckett  
Walt Samsøe  
Steve Wittekind

**The Zone:** The Reisers  
The Knights  
Sean and Anna Dixon  
All our families who have children in the Zone!

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. 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. Six 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.

In His Service,  
Jacob Puckett, for the Children's Ministry Team = Jacob Puckett, Director  
Lisa Reiser  
Steve Wittekind

# Global Impact Team 2010 Annual Report

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

During 2010, 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 2010 was as follows:

<b>Missionaries</b>	<b>Annual amount</b>
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 biggest change in our missionary support was Bill and Christie Campbell's decision to follow God's leading to France, to work in a largely Muslim neighborhood in the north of Paris. Bill preached for our Mission Sunday in March, and after the service described their plans for mission work in North Paris. We provided a lunch, and it was an opportunity for everyone at Faith Presbyterian to spend some time with the Campbells before they left for France.

This year the Global Impact Team also provided financial support to Jeremy Samsøe when he went to China to teach English with a Christian organization. We all enjoyed getting Jeremy's e-mail updates and pictures from China and hearing his report when he returned home.

A little over a year ago, Haiti was devastated by an earthquake. Eric Schaeffer suggested that the team send a contribution for relief work to Crossworlds, a mission agency that he and Lynn had supported for many years. Eric presented the opportunity to the congregation, and we were able to make a contribution of \$270.

We also added three new members to the team in 2010: Rachel Mackay, and Joe and Ann Little.

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  
Ann Little  
Joe Little  
Rachel MacKay  
Eric Schaeffer

# Women's Ministry 2010 Annual Report

*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*  
~John 8:32

*Praise be to the Lord, for he showed his wonderful love to me.*  
~Psalm 31:21

The Women's Ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church seeks to provide opportunities for women to seek, and find the wonderful truth of God's love for us. Ann Little has been leading the Women's Bible Study/Book Discussion Group at the home of Tricia Wittekind on the third Thursday of each month. We are reading from the book, *The Search for Significance*, by Robert S. McGee, in which we are learning that more importantly than intellectually understanding the truth of God's love for us, is that we apply that truth in the most basic issues of our life: our relationship with God, our family, friends and neighbors, and also our goals, motives, and our sense of self-worth.

The women enjoyed a relaxing tea at the home of Ann Little in January where we relaxed not only with hot tea and warm scones, but with a hilarious white elephant gift exchange. We also enjoyed a game night in the fall where multiple board games were played, and integrity and honesty were demonstrated by all.

The Women's ministry team is thrilled to welcome Ann Little and Lisa McCormick to our team this year. Welcome Ann and Lisa!

Finally, WIC (Women in the Church) is the official women's organization of the PCA. The Women's Ministry Team coordinates our 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  
Ann Little  
Lisa McCormick  
Tricia Wittekind