



Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Certainly the past couple of years have been unusual and frustrating times financially. The changes in the economy have affected most of us, and consequently have affected the church budget. We trimmed \$200,000 from the 2008 budget in order to create the 2009 budget. We should have trimmed more, but we added a large "faith pledge" and also used some reserve funds. At the end of the year we trimmed another significant amount in order to create the 2010 budget. Our budget is \$400,000 leaner than it was two years ago. We have ten less staff positions and less money for missions and benevolences. But our worship attendance, youth programs, fine arts ministries, hands on community mission involvement, children's programs, and other services continue to grow and offer a strong witness for Christ.

The famed author, Dr. Spencer Johnson, tells the story of a young man living in a valley who decided to climb a nearby mountain. He had never scaled the peak before. It was a struggle, but he finally reached the summit. He wanted to reach the summit in time to watch the sun set. He imagined what it would be like to see the sunset from the mountain top. Unfortunately, by the time he reached the peak, the sun had set. He was disappointed and said out loud, "I missed it." An old man, who lived on the mountain, overheard what the young man said and asked him how he liked the view. The young man said, "What view? I missed the sunset." Whereupon the wise old man encouraged the young man to look up. When he did, he saw a magnificent star filled sky. He had never seen anything like it when he lived in the valley. He had missed seeing the sunset, but he saw the heavens as never before.

What Dr. Johnson relates in this little parable is a new way of saying, "When life serves you lemons, make lemonade." It's something of which we need to be reminded. We may have missed the sunset, but the star filled sky is magnificent. Our church finances have been tight, we've had to make significant cuts, say goodbye to beloved staff, and reduce our mission support. But God is very much at work in and through the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland. Good things are happening. People are coming to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Youth are growing in their faith. Young couples are being married. People in the hospitals and nursing homes are being visited and cared for. Children are learning about the love of Jesus. Older adults are finding fulfillment and hope. People are reaching out to others with missional love. The stars are brightly shining. Look up!

I am determined to exhibit a positive, faith-filled tone in my ministry in 2010. I encourage you to lift up your eyes and see the sky filled with God's wonderful stars.

My personal highlights for 2009 included:

- Participating in and teaching "Through the Bible in 90 Days."
- Going on the mission trip to Malawi and Kenya.
- Being installed as National Chaplain of the Shriner's.
- Chairing the Future of the Presbytery Task Force.
- Enjoying the wonderful 10th Anniversary celebration.
- Welcoming a 7th grandchild into our family.
- Defeating proposed changes to our ordination standards.

I am going to miss working with my colleague, David Ross Drain. He has been a close friend, confidante, and incredible associate for the past 10 years. God has worked through him in the ministry of the Gospel for 38 years, and he deserves his retirement. I rejoice that he will be nearby so we will continue our friendship.

Our church has been blessed to have had Hunt Berryman directing our church finances for 3 years. He is a generous man, with great wisdom, a keen mind for business, a big heart for this church, and a love for his Lord.

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I miss those whose positions we had to cut due to our budget reductions, yet such cuts were necessary in order to balance our budget and not continue deficit spending.

Cecelia Moore graduated from seminary this past year and has been ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. She will be filling the pastoral care position vacated by David Drain, as well as continuing to oversee the Christian Education program and staff.

I am delighted to welcome Kenny Ellis back to our staff to assist Celie with adult education, assist Tim with youth ministry, assist Craig with the Vine service, and oversee the development of our small group and discipleship ministry. Officially we are experimenting with the position of Director of Discipleship for this next year.

Elena Nicholas brings to our finance office a new set of eyes as to how we go about doing business as a church. She is a very wise, insightful, enthusiastic, and delightful person.

As Dickens observed, "It was the best of times, and the worst of times." But, as Presbyterian and Reformed Christians know, Jesus is Lord, God is sovereign, and His Kingdom is moving and growing world wide, including this small corner of His Kingdom which we call First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, Florida.

And, as Charles Dickens wrote elsewhere, "May God bless us one and all." — *Pastor Mike Loudon*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

It is a great privilege to express the heart of this congregation for each other and for our Lord and Savior. This is a congregation that cares! My task includes backing and aiding Pastor Mike in whatever ways I can, including substituting for him in leading staff or other meetings and being available for consultation and counsel; it includes some preaching, teaching, and worship leadership; it includes Pastoral Care such as hospital visitation, Home Communion, counseling, and, especially, funerals, all of which I have done often and regularly, and it includes being primary clergy staff for our Congregational Care Council and Older Adult Ministries. I also coordinate the Good Samaritan grants to assist those related to our church family who are going through non-recurrent financial emergencies. Much of the year was devoted

to transitions; duties such as teaching the Presbyterian Women Bible Moderators or coordinating our support for our members in Seminary, were turned over to Pastor Cecelia Moore. I also serve in the wider church as Vice President of the Trustees of our Presbytery, aid neighboring churches, as Moderating the Session for the Church of the Highlands while they have no pastor, and represent our church in a number of groups such as the Ministerium.

Congregational Care Council, under the thoughtful leadership of Elder Steve Stambaugh, is composed of a few elders such as Sandra Ellington, the new chairperson, and area leaders who each provide a marvelous ministry:

- ADULT MINISTRY is led by Pastor Dick Huggins. SOS continues to offer well supported monthly luncheons and meetings and FUN 'N FELLOWSHIP has had trips and other activities for a slightly more vigorous set.
- BLOOD DRIVES are held throughout the year coordinated by Isabel Cumming.
- CARE NOTE Booklets offering pastoral insight and inspiration are coordinated by Marge Boyer.
- CARE TEAMS coordinated by Jackie Hansen provide meals and, when possible, even transportation to medical appointments.
- HEARING ASSISTANCE devices for worship services are provided and serviced by Bob Reed and, through the Memorial Committee, inoperable ones were replaced with new units.
- HEAVEN HELP US, under John Foley, Jr., was active in helping parishioners with their homes, including taking down a huge tree that threatened the home of a single mother, and building an entrance ramp for a physically challenged, active parishioner.
- HOSPITAL VISITATION, whether early in the morning prior to surgery or during rehabilitation in Nursing Homes, has been emphasized and our team that includes Hazel Howell, Judy Kemp, Ann Marshall, Roger Schwabe, Ava Ann Severance, Ted West, Don Winslow, as well as Pastors Mike, Dick, and Cecelia, have been faithful in visiting.
- PRAYER MINISTRY saw a transition from Jeanne Young – who we thank for her many years of effective service – to Marcie Cummings while Madelyn Mitchell continued with the telephone and Jackie Hansen with the e-mail prayer chains.
- STEPHEN MINISTRY saw the training of nine new Stephen Ministers and all the available ones have had assignments already; also Cecelia

Moore was trained as a Stephen Leader and Jackie Hansen awaits training while Pastor David Drain and Marion Drain have retired from Stephen Ministry leadership.

- SWEETHEART BANQUET continued as a special event for those married fifty or more years.

Both my wife, Marion, and I have loved our ten years with you during my service as Pastor. I celebrate our great team and staff, the other pastors and program heads, as well as those such as Bev Jones, Jackie Hansen, and Linda McDonough who are all so excellent, as well as friends. Because of the economic realities, I will not be replaced and Pastor Cecelia Moore and Pastor Mike will cover my former areas of service. Now that I am retired (thank you for my WONDERFUL recognition and all your special greetings), I am not permitted to serve in these areas according to the terms of my pension and the ethics of my profession. But after being invisible for a little bit, I look forward to joining with you as an active and faithful parishioner, when I am not preaching elsewhere or traveling. For this is a great congregation, under an outstanding Senior Pastor, Dr. Mike Loudon. We thank you and Praise God for you.

—Pastor David Drain
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

MINISTRIES AND MISSION

• Adult Ministries

Adult Ministries is aimed at reaching adults over the age of 50 with programs and activities that engage the mind and the body. Our senior members have for many years enjoyed our SOS ministry.

SOS was organized to amplify the “Spirit of Service” for older adults. The format for this program has been to enjoy a variety of subjects at a morning meeting on the second Friday of each month from October through May, followed by lunch. The programs feature speakers on a wide range of topics. Of course, some of the programs feature a light format, and offer a change of pace with presentations by some of our youth groups.

Another side of our Adult Ministries is for the more active over 50 members. “Fun ‘n Fellowship” was created to offer expanded day trips, social outings, extended group travel, and nature hikes. One such event was bird watching at the Circle B Bar reserve.

Future activities include a lunch cruise on the St. John’s River, and another outdoor event at the Circle B Bar reserve.

The Adult Ministries Council is comprised of two committees, which serve as a planning and coordinating team for the various activities which both sides of our 50 family enjoy.

More information can be gained from our director, Pastor Dick Huggins, at dick@fpclakeland.org or 686-7187, ext. 230.

—Rev. Dick Huggins,
Parish Associate, Adult Ministries

• Missions

A missional church understands itself to have been sent into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that is both passionate and respectful.

During the spring of 2009, a team from FPC, led by Pastor Mike Loudon, traveled to Africa to visit the Crisis Nursery in Malawi which we had built the year previously. The team also visited Embangweni Hospital in Malawi where they discovered an urgent need for an x-ray machine. At the present time we are raising funds to purchase such a machine. The next week, the team went to Kenya to see and work at various projects that FPC has sponsored for the last five years.

During the summer of 2009, in striving to join in God’s work in Lakeland, our church held a local workday at Beth-El Farm worker Ministry where we built a porch on the front of a reception area, sorted and bagged food for the weekly distribution, and organized school supplies for the children returning to school in August. Also during the summer, we held our annual food drive which was a blessing to many of our local benevolences. In the fall, our church held a Saturday workday at Anchor House, a home for boys in crisis, where we landscaped and painted the lines for a basketball court. Our local mission committee also sponsored a Saturday tour of four of our benevolences – Anchor House, Talbot House, Noah’s Ark, and Parker Street – to see the work each is doing in the community. Later in the fall, FPC was a relay center for “Operation Christmas Child,” a project sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse. We received and packed over 3000 shoe boxes with gifts inside for shipment to children all over the world as a witness to Christ’s love. The Saturday before Thanksgiving we, and Lighthouse Ministries, organized a food distribution program at First Baptist Church of Eaton Park in the Oscar Pope neighborhood where more than sixty members from our church volunteered to

distribute turkeys and food boxes to over 100 families. Our Scout troop also provided a cookout for the neighborhood families who shared in this wonderful morning. Oscar Pope Elementary School is a year round project for us as we provide school supplies and clothing for the children. During Christmas, we again sponsored the Rudolph Roundup toy drive for about 150 needy children in our community.

“The Bag Ladies,” volunteers clean, decorate and distribute suitcases to foster children through Heartland For Children. The suitcases give the foster children something of their own to take from place to place and are deeply appreciated.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has distributed 321 shawls since it began. The guidelines to receive a shawl are: in mourning; serious health problems; hip replacement/knee replacement; caregivers for someone home bound or seriously ill; moving from the area for health issues; not able to care for themselves because of health or age; going thru an extremely difficult time; home bound. Members and friends who cannot knit or crochet have helped with this ministry by being called occasionally to deliver a shawl.

Cross cultural trips have expanded the horizons of our youth, as well as our adults. In June, the youth traveled to the Dominican Republic for the fourth year and helped share the gospel with the local people in small villages, which encouraged and inspired both our youth and their DR counterparts.

Members of our congregation who go overseas share the good news of Jesus in a passionate and respectful way. Phil Shaver, from our congregation, and his wife, Sharla, returned to serve in Kyrgyzstan in 2009. Frank and Nancy Bertram once again volunteered in Kenya for the 12th year. They have also been serving in Malawi for the second year. Kenny Ellis, who joined Community Partnership International (CPI) in 2007, has been working short term in Haiti since then. Kenny has led one trip to Haiti for our church, and will be leading teams from now on to work more closely with the churches there. We are a strong missional community doing God's bidding in a troubled world.

—Nancy Bertram, Mission Coordinator

• Evangelism

The Evangelism Committee is responsible for creating a welcoming system as a web of fluid relationships, serving as an entry point for life in our congregation. This includes, but is not limited to, working to show the love of Christ through revealing the opportunities of worship, learning, and fellowship to visitors and members alike. Evangelism Team

members are charged to create a safe environment in which all who God sends to our church may explore spirituality and community provided by the First Presbyterian Church.

Our tasks are important ministries, and we always must make sure our volunteers realize they are the voice and face of Jesus Christ for visitors, new members, and people in the community.

Major accomplishments and milestones for 2009 included...

- Increase in first-time visitors to FPC at all services.
- After a church-wide greeter recruiting and training process, we have tripled the number of Sunday morning greeters at the main entrances, Welcome Center and at entrances to Vine. Also created new, standardized name tags for all greeters.
- Established newcomer pizza parties 6 times per year after worship.
- Developed a new member assimilation process, now including a database and a coordinator for assimilation.
- A new marketing committee, organized under the Communications Department, explored new ways to share FPC with the community, including a re-designed web site and more effective publicity.

• Vine

Now over two years old, Vine Community is an emerging missional community of First Presbyterian Church, centering on its worship gathering at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

Vine is more than a contemporary worship service. It is a connecting point for people to experience the good news of Jesus Christ, grow in their faith, and learn a discipleship of servanthood in the context of authentic community. It is...

- A fusion of ancient Christianity and today's technology into a multi sensory worship experience.
- A missional community demonstrating love for its city and world through concrete acts of grace and love.
- A place of acceptance and growth for people on a spiritual journey.
- A people gathered around and empowered by the real story of Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the vine, you are the branches."
- A new worship gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, for people who struggle to find a place in our culture to express their spiritual longing.

In short, Vine has become a new and wide open

entryway for many new friends to experience the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church!

Vine is guided under the auspices of the Session and Pastor Loudon, along with a group called Vine Leads, which oversees the whole ministry of the community; the Vine Worship Planning Team, along with the Creative Arts Team, which together plan worship; and a group called The Seven which oversees the hundred or so Sunday morning volunteers.

Major accomplishments and milestones for 2009 included...

- Community projects including workdays at Anchor House and Beth-El, a Thanksgiving food distribution in Eaton Park, cheering section for Breast Cancer Walk, school supply and snack drives for Oscar Pope School, and participation in the June Food Drive.
- Creation of five new small groups for sharing life, prayer, and study of God's Word.
- Three "Vine Nights" held in October at Black N Brew Coffeehouse in downtown Lakeland for fellowship, appreciation of art & music, and meeting new friends from the community.
- Every other month Newcomer Pizza Parties after Vine for fellowship, meeting new people, and sharing information about FPC.
- Four "Serve Sundays" linking Vine participants to volunteer opportunities on Sunday morning and in the community.
- Over 200% increase in number of people greeting newcomers and guests on Sunday mornings, with four new greeting stations.
- Establishment of "VineCares" ministry to link Vine people with each other to meet special needs.
- Special worship gatherings including a youth-led service, "Palette" service for creative arts in worship, Maundy Thursday, creation care, and Plan BE (stewardship).
- Under the leadership of Pastor Loudon, the creation of a whole new leadership and planning structure, begun by a planning retreat in May and a two-year plan for growth and greater effectiveness.

— *Craig Sumey,*
Associate Pastor for Congregational Development

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Council and the Director of Christian Education, Cecelia Moore, oversaw all educational activities and functions here at FPC. These include overseeing Little Shepherds pre-school, the

Library and Book Club, the Student Life Department, Activities Committee, Craft Room, Scouting Program, Scholarship Committee, Children's Ministries and Adult Growth, including the Institute program on Wednesday evenings, WOW classes, adult Sunday School classes, and Presbyterian Women.

The C. E. Council enjoyed its year under the leadership of Elizabeth Baker and looks forward to 2010 under the leadership of Elder John Fitzwater.

Cecelia Moore, Director of Christian Education

• Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry continued to thrive this year with many of our traditional activities and a few new programs. The FPC community again enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and church-wide picnic on Palm Sunday. In addition, this year we had the special opportunity to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Little Shepherd's Preschool. In May we were reminded of God's gift of children during the Celebration of Life when parents presented their babies born in the past year. We had our best year ever of Vacation Bible School with over 300 children and 100 volunteers at FPC for one week in June to sing God's praises at the "Crocodile Dock." On a cool day in the fall we joined with the Activities Committee for the church-wide Fall Fair and picnic on our front lawn. A new program for the third graders was added this year which included meeting for three weeks of Bible training before the Children received their Bibles on October 25. Everyone enjoyed this and we hope to expand on it next year. December brought the Advent Celebration and fun Christmas crafting and caroling. Our thanks to Lin and Jim Hamer for making this a fun intergenerational event. The children's pageant on Christmas Eve was another wonderful way for the children of the church to know and share God's gift in Jesus Christ.

The Children's Ministry programs continued to thrive this past year with the help of our wonderful volunteers who teach Sunday School, Kids, Etc., Assembly, and Kids Klub. Thank you to the leaders of these programs, Trudy West, Nikki McConnell, Susan Stephens, and Nancy Carter for their loving efforts, time and energy. We also included a missions segment in many of our activities and thank you to Susie Moerschbacher for leading many fun and interesting projects. Through all these activities we pray we are achieving our mission to make and mature young disciples and teach them the love of Christ.

It has been a great year of exciting opportunities of teaching, nurturing, growth and outreach. We

appreciate everyone who gives of his or her time, talents, and resources so that this wonderful ministry can continue to touch the lives of many children.

—Lisa Scott, Chair
—Lauri Smith, Asst. Chair

• Adult Growth

2009 was a busy and productive year for advancing adult education at FPC. The Adult Growth Committee met quarterly and was well attended.

The year started with the “Read the Bible in 90 Days” program. 725 Bibles were given out and the founder of the program, Ted Cooper, came and spoke to various groups. It was a very meaningful study and it generated good discussions and enthusiasm. It brought us closer together as a church and gave us a deeper understanding of God’s Word.

Institute and Sunday School classes continue to do well. Kenny Ellis established new small Bible study groups. Adult Ministries, led by Rev. Dick Huggins, continues to have SOS luncheons and fun activities. PW had a number of successful “Gatherings” and luncheons. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has delivered over 300 shawls. The library is fully computerized and the Book Club thrives. St. Andrews, under the direction of Dr. Paul Suich, is responsible for many Bible studies and retreats. Raymond Dhue led a very successful summer joint Sunday School class for 6 weeks and a joint Christmas class, “On the Road to Bethlehem,” with the help of Dr. Baudendistel. An Advent brochure was sent out to the congregation to enhance study and prayer.

Teacher Appreciation Sunday was held in October and the Esther Kelley class celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a luncheon. Memorabilia from all the years was displayed. A tree was planted to honor and celebrate the occasion.

The Adult Growth Committee looks forward to a rewarding 2010 in service to God. May His be the glory!
— Marilyn Leonard, Chairman

• Little Shepherds

The start of 2009 brought a new pay scale for the teachers at Little Shepherds. This allowed for more consistent pay rates among the staff, and a pay scale for any new hires. Another needed addition to Little Shepherds in 2009 was a school-wide curriculum. After much research, the WEE Learn curriculum was chosen to be implemented in all of the classrooms. The teachers were very excited to have a curriculum to guide them in their daily lesson planning. This curriculum also meets all of the standards for Kindergarten Readiness.

Little Shepherds continued to be blessed with 26 staff members in 2009 with no teacher turnover. Enrollment was down slightly from previous years, and no age groups had lengthy waiting lists as in years past. This was a definite result of the struggling economy. Some parents also opted to take advantage of Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten for their four year olds. This caused a drop in enrollment in the 4 year old classes. Because of the financial strains many families are feeling, a scholarship fund has been started for families who qualify. We hope to continue growing this fund in order to serve more children in the coming years.

Little Shepherds continued the annual events, such as the costume parade, Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas Chapel and concert, Daddy Daughter Dance, Circus performance, Splash Day, and Mother’s Day Tea. All of these events were fun for the children and well attended by the parents.

With continued church support, Little Shepherds was blessed in 2009 to be able to continue providing wonderful quality childcare. Although numbers were slightly lower than expected, Little Shepherds was able to pay the church back for some operating expenses.
—Carrie Joyner, Director

• Student Life Ministries

2009 was a great year for the Student Life Department! Despite tough economic times and a tighter budget, I am proud to report that we endured with flying colors. Our teens went on mission trips, retreats, and conferences, and still had fantastic Wednesday night worship services. More and more, our teens are discovering what it means to live a Christ-centered life in turbulent times. Below are some highlights of our jammed-packed year:

- Teamed up with LightShine to provide a Sunday night program that includes Fine Arts and small group Bible studies for both middle school and high school students.
- Continued to provide a dynamic Wednesday night worship service for middle and high school teens (called Ignite).
- Used a data base system to e-mail parents on updates and reminders every week. This alone fostered outstanding parental involvement in weekly Student Life activities.
- Continued our “Teen Connection” visitation system with members’ kids that included after Sunday service lunches, attending sporting activities, as well as various other interaction opportunities.
- Worked with four local mission’s organizations

(Anchor House Ministries, Lighthouse Ministries, Eaton Park Food Distribution, and Salvation Army). Our teens also raised money to help fund an inner city church in Tampa to reach teens in their area.

- Took 16 teens and parents on the summer “Dominican Republic Family Missions Trip.” This was our 4th consecutive year ministering to the people in Sosua, DR. This trip included many fund-raisers – bake sales, church wide yard sale, personal fund-raising, and more!
- Linked up with the Presbyterians for Renewal (PFR) summer activities camp and took 14 high schoolers to “Fun in the Sun” in Jekyll Island, GA.
- Linked up with PFR again and took 10 to the middle school camp called “The Great Escape” in Ocala, Florida.
- Completed a massive renovation to the new multi-purpose youth hall known as “The Beach” (located above the current youth center). This room serves as a café, game room, small group area, and middle school meeting place. Also updated our current youth center. None of the costs came out of budget line items.
- Tim endured foot surgery 3 days after the DR mission trip, then 4 weeks later survived pneumonia in both lungs and the swine flu (at the same time! And he did not miss a single summer camp with the kids!)
- Held several youth parties, attended many Christian music concerts, had many movie nights, went to some of the best teen conferences, and made it through two incredible lock-ins!
- Held separate middle and high school Christmas parties.
- Welcomed aboard Mr. Kenny Ellis as a Student Life assistant (he’s awesome!!!)
- Dried countless tears, had countless laughs, and brought so many teens closer to Jesus Christ.

—Tim Timmes,

Director of Student Life Ministries

• Activities Committee

2009 has been a rebuilding year for the Activities Committee (rebuilding on the great successes of 2008). We continue to grow our volunteer base to include a cross representation of all walks of life throughout the congregation.

The Committee kicked off the season by hosting the congregational Spring Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt. The event was a perfect blend of food, games, fellowship, and weather! We had the extra special

treat to have Warren Barfield in concert on the front lawn, which brought in visitors from all over to participate in this event.

One of the most successful ministries that church provides is Summer Camps. These camps offer a wide variety of activities for the children of our church and community. What a pleasure it is to see visitors walk the halls of our church and for them to see all that FPC has to offer. The camps would not be successful without David Joyner. His leadership, as well as his sharing of God’s Word, often make the camps a unique ministry for our church.

Our Second Annual Family Skate Party was held in September, and we doubled the number of participants over 2008.

The Fall Fair is always a hit with the numerous activities (games, trains, balloons, face painting, pumpkin decorating, food and music). The countless volunteers help organize, implement, and ensure that this is a huge hit year after year.

The Craft Room, Fitness Center, and the use of the gym are all made possible through the Activities Committee. As we move into 2010, these three areas will be a major focus to develop.

— Michael Carter, Chairman

• Library

What is a library? It is a welcoming place for all church members to enjoy. It also provides a place for small groups to meet and discuss and research. Our reference section has excellent resources to be used in the library. Any library should have technology for searches of the book you are looking for. Most libraries have several types of media available. The best libraries are automated with a checkout system that saves time and makes it available for borrowing items during the day. A librarian is necessary. Janet Snapp is available most Sunday mornings when we are open from 9:00 until noon. Libraries cannot exist without volunteers who shelve books, catalog, and keep up with the 8000 items available in our collection! I think our church library is equipped for all of these needs, and we look forward to serving our “customers” in 2010.

—Janet Snapp, Chairman

• Scouting

2009 was a busy time for the scouting program at FPC, with the Cub Scout Pack and Troop 104, along with Thunderbird District meetings and training every week.

There was camping by the Cub Scouts at Kissimmee River State Park, Lithia Springs, Fort Desoto, and Hardy Lake Camp. Both cubs and

parents participated at the district week long day camp at the Sun 'n Fun grounds, Lakeland Airport. There were day activities that included bowling and riding on an Amtrack train. The boys participated in Pinewood Derbies in the pack and district level. They celebrated Scouting's birthday with a Blue and Gold Banquet and observed Scout Sunday by presenting the Colors at church services. The Cubs held fund-raisers and worked on service projects. They participated in Scouting for Food with collected food going to five food banks in the area. The Cubs also collected and donated goods to Goodwill and Talbot House. As the school year began, the pack participated in school roundups and signed up new boys and parents to keep the pack growing.

Troop 104 joined the Cubs in some of the activities, like Scouting for Food and Scout Sunday. At times, the WEBELOS camped with the troop at District and Council Camp-o-rees. Some of the older scouts helped as staff at day camp. The troop had monthly camp outs to the Everglades National Park, Alexander Springs, Mutual Mines, Fort Desoto, including a service project at the park. Summer camp was at Camp Raven Knob, Mt. Airy, NC (home of Mayberry RFD). A group of 5 scouts and 3 adults attended the National high adventure Sea Base down in the Florida Keys. This trip is part of the rotation to high adventure bases at Philmont in New Mexico, and Northern Tier in Ely, Minnesota.

Boy scouts worked to earn money for scouting activities serving food at a Manufactured Home Show, selling flower bulbs, Christmas wreaths, and car wash. The troop worked service projects around FPC and 8 boys and 10 leaders assisted with food distribution at First Baptist of Eaton Park in conjunction with FPC.

The greatest pleasure comes with having 5 scouts earn the rank of Eagle during 2009. A big THANK YOU to all at First Presbyterian Church for your help, guidance, and encouragement. You have helped make our scouting program outstanding.

— Wade Whiddon
Charter Organization Representative

FINE ARTS

Departmental Accomplishments

- Overall enrollment in Chancel Choir and LightShine increased slightly during 2009. More students and recent graduates of Southeastern and Florida Southern have become involved.
- The Vine service achieved new levels of coherence

and teamwork as Pastors Sumey and Loudon worked even more closely with HL McConnell and Dr. Gordon. Cooperation among pastors, musicians, and lay leaders seemed to produce an increasingly greater sense of congruence in the later months of 2009.

- Fine Arts Ministries cooperated with the pastors to transition several "special services" from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. In some cases these moves were made to encourage participation from those who regularly attend Vine worship, but in other cases the switch was made to provide better technical support for the services.
- Several individuals expressed interest in developing a new bell choir. We began "Acclamation Ringers" with some experienced players and a few new players.

Special Events

- Jan. 12 Concert by the Westminster (New Wilmington, PA) Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Robin Lind.
- Feb. 22 The Chancel Choir presented a performance of Franz Schubert's Mass in G. A professional orchestra accompanied the concert. Soloists for the Schubert mass were Renee Hawk, Susan Holmes, Hugh Jones, and Harry Pettit. Additionally, Mary Grace Gordon sang Schubert's famous, Shepherd on the Rock with accompaniment by guest artists Anne Satterfield (clarinet) and Yung-Eun Choe (piano).
- Mar. 22 Members of LightShine presented Strawberry Smash once again in 2009 with M.C.s Lauren Lute and Timbo Williams. This year, we invited special musical guests, The Over 55 Showband, directed by FPC member, Roger Hewitt. Amanda Nicotera and Britt Gordon performed as guest artists with the band.
- July 12-18 A Table for Five...Thousand was the Summer Fine Arts Camp production. Forty-one students grades 3 – 8 participated, supported by a crew of adults and high school students of ten. The highlight of the camp was an unexpected visit from a Pygmy Rattlesnake who eventually met his maker at the hands of our custodial staff in Dr. Gordon's office.
- Sept. 24-27 HIS Company produced Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," the first production of a "classic" theatre production in their brief history.
- Oct. 10 Festival Singers of Florida, a professional choir under the direction of Dr. Kevin

Fenton, presented a concert which was not well attended.

- Oct. 31/Nov. 1 Cornerstone Dance Company presented a workshop for liturgical dance on Oct. 31. The ten participants in the event performed in Vine and in the Classic services at 10:30.
- Dec. 14 The combined choirs of First Presbyterian Church presented an hour-long concert entitled, "The Glory of Christmas," featuring guest musicians Carlos Santiago (guitarist and tenor) and the Clarion Brass. Nearly 600 people, making it the most well attended concert in recent history, attended the concert.

Additional Special Services

- Jan 18 The Sunday before the Imperial Symphony's annual opera, FPC welcomed guest soprano, Stella Zambalis, to perform with Mary Grace Gordon in a special arrangement of the Negro Spiritual, "In dat great gettin' up morning."
- Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday services were held in the chapel. Southeastern University's Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Gordon, provided special music.
- Mar. 23 The Chancel Choir combined with the Southeastern University Chamber Singers to provide special music for the annual rally of the Polk Ecumenical Action Committee for Empowerment at the Church of the Resurrection in Lakeland.
- Apr. 5 The Palm Sunday service included a dramatic interpretation of Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem, scripted and directed by Chris O'Connor.
- Apr. 10 The Good Friday Tenebrae service was led by Dr. Drain with music provided by Chancel Choir, including chorales from the St. Matthew Passion, JS Bach.
- Apr. 12 Fine Arts were heavily involved in Easter services. Dr. Gordon and Mr. Campbell provided music for the 5:30 Sunrise service. Guest brass players for the identical 8:15 and 10:30 Easter services joined Chancel Choir.
- Oct. 18 Fine Arts Dedication Sunday involved all of the ensembles of FPC, including the Kid's Klub Choir, Alpha, Festival Ringers, LightShine, Jubilation, Chapel Ensemble, and Chancel Choir.
- Nov. 25 The adult choirs of FPC participated in the PCUSA Thanksgiving Eve service at North Lakeland. Over twenty singers from our choir joined forces with choristers from North Lakeland

PC and other local PCUSA congregations.

- Dec. 24 The 5:30 Family Christmas Eve service moved from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. Kid's Klub, Alpha, and LightShine provided the first twenty minutes of the worship experience by presenting a collection of carols, spiritual songs, and dialogue entitled, "Emmanuel—God With Us," written by Dr. Gordon and directed by Danielle Kern. Chancel Choir sang music for the 8:00 and 11:00 services, with special preludes by Carrie Bean (cello) and Rita Fandrich (piano) and an offertory by Festival Ringers at 8:00.

Additional Special Events

- Yearly Southeastern University's Presbyterian Series continued in 2009. SEU presents eight to ten concerts and recitals per year in the sanctuary with crowds that can approach 400 people.
- Apr. 18 The Sunshine Chorus, under the direction of FPC member Trudy West, sang their annual concert at FPC.
- Apr. 19 The Lakeland Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. Larry Sledge, performed their spring concert in the sanctuary of FPC.
- May 28 The Fine Arts Department provided music for the meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. David Campbell was the service organist and accompanist for the event.
- Jun/July Members of the Fine Arts Ministry and students from LightShine participated in the annual Montreat Conference on Music and Worship.

—Dr. Daniel Gordon,
Director of Fine Arts Ministries

• HIS Company

Our Drama Ministry has undergone a variety of changes over the years. We changed our name and our missional focus. While we are still dedicated to offer dramatic presentations to benefit the life of our church, our format now includes performers from other congregations and a goal to offer one or two large productions during the year. In 2009, we offered four performances of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." We had a cast of 24 representing nine different churches in Lakeland. We also offered solo performances featuring two to three of our Company for Sunday School classes and suitable for all churches.

Our Mission Statement is: "HIS Company represents theatre arts in Lakeland with productions dealing with moral issues in terms of faith and life. Our aim is to offer substance, entertainment, and the Christian world view of the human condition."

We reached the decision in 2009 to enlist

supporting donors from our community to fund future productions while maintaining our base support and production center at FPC. —*Rev. Dick Huggins*

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

The St. Andrew's Ministry has three primary goals. The first goal is to provide a forum for significant training and seminars on aspects of our personal and faith journey. The second is to provide small group study and teaching opportunities for ongoing prevention training. Finally, we want to provide a readily available counseling option for the members of First Presbyterian Church.

To achieve our first goal this year we offered a seminar to our graduating seniors in High School - a personal development weekend designed to prepare them for the worldview and lifestyle transitions they will likely face as they move on to employment, college, or the military. To achieve our second goal this year we offered premarital training sessions, offered parenting seminars to parents in the Little Shepherds Program, as well as to single moms in the Second Chance Program, offered Boundaries classes to the men and women of Lighthouse Ministries, offered a class for staff on setting Boundaries and "The Nine Things You Must Do to Succeed," led three classes for the "Read the Bible in 90 Days" program, taught classes for the Agape Class on Islam, the Gospel of Mark, and Esther, as well as teaching at the LAMP breakfast. The Institute classes offered in the fall of this year included "Hot Topics for Young Parents" and a Wednesday night series taught to the Youth on "How to Not Marry a Jerk."

Finally, we have provided over 500 hours of counseling and referrals to members of our congregation and to those who have been referred by ministers of our Presbytery. We provide short-term individual and marital counseling and referrals to appropriate medical and professional counselors for long-term needs. —*Paul S. Suich, Ph.D.*

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITY

• Property & Administration

The facility is a blessing to the congregation and the community because of the comfortable venue it provides for all to gather, to fellowship, to eat, to learn,

to pray and to share the love of Christ with others. Many improvements were made to the property during 2009. The painting of the outside of the church was completed. New energy maintenance software was installed to gain greater operating efficiencies. Landscaping was added in our Memorial Gardens and throughout the property. The floors of Fellowship Hall were refinished. —*Elena Nicholas,*

Director of Administration and Finance

• Communication

The Communications Department continued to enhance and promote all the mission and ministries of FPC in 2009 through all forms of advertising, print production, announcements, and electronic communications.

The electronic newsletter – *First Family E-News*, which was added in 2008, continued to be a huge success in keeping members and friends up-to-date with FPC. The printed church newsletter changed to a monthly mail-out with the help of a group of dedicated Mail Team Volunteers.

The June "Big Tent" Conference for Church Communicators sponsored by the PCUSA in Atlanta, GA gave new insight into communicating through social networks and reaching out beyond the walls of the church.

A Marketing/Advertising Committee was created (*Linda McDonough, Coordinator; Chris McArthur; David Gordon; Jason Rodda; John Fitzwater; Jorgeanne Carpenter; Kenny Ellis; Kim Spurlock; Lisa Scott; Mary Grace Gordon, and Roger McQuown*) and tasked with overseeing the advertising budget for the church, and focusing on ways to enhance the marketing aspect of FPC to the community. A task force was commissioned (*Jorgeanne Carpenter, coordinator; Amy Royal; Brandt Merritt; Chris McArthur; Jason Rodda; Lisa Scott, and Mary Grace Gordon*) to oversee the development of a more up-to-date church web site encompassing FPC, Vine, Fine Arts and Youth sites into one cohesive church site.

Maintenance contracts for printing/copying equipment, computers and material resources were reviewed and negotiated to achieve the best price structure.

The IT group, Cipher Integrations, continued to monitor and support the server, workstations and network for the church.

The Communication Assistant's position was eliminated, due to lack of funding, which will greatly impact the department in 2010.

—*Linda McDonough,*
Director of Communications

2009 Financial Summary (Number in Thousands)

Revenue

	Budget	Actual
Pledge Contributions	1,692	1,654
Non-Pledge Contributions	275	212
Loose Cash Contributions	20	19
Faith Pledge	133	70
Little Shepherds	30	25
Operating Fund Transfers	80	117
Scheduled Fund Transfers	9	9
Investment Income	25	1
Total Revenue	\$2,269	\$2,129

Expenses

	Budget	Actual
Ministry & Worship	424	411
Christian Education	282	286
Fine Arts	293	281
Mission	289	284
Evangelism	10	7
Property & Administration	971	904
Total Revenue	\$2,269	\$2,173
Operating Loss Carry forward		<\$44>

• Finance

Our congregation continues to give generously and contributed \$1.955MM this past year. However, all pledge and non pledge giving in 2009 was approximately \$72,000 lower than 2008 giving. To make up for this revenue shortfall, operating reserves were used and the church will be carrying over a \$44,000 deficit into the 2010 fiscal year. Our budget for 2010 is \$2.055M which is over a 9% decrease from the 2009 budget. The church views “its” money as a resource belonging to God entrusted to our management, our faithfulness and our responsibility. As stewards of the church’s resources, we take great care in managing all that God has given us.

Not included in the numbers are the special gifts that our congregation so generously gives in support of various missions and ministries and special celebrations. What also is not reflected in the numbers is the amount of time and talent that our congregation gives to the church. God has empowered FPC with volunteers who generously donate countless hours to our various ministries and committees.

—Elena Nicholas, Director of Administration and Finance

2009 Session Report

Active Membership (January 1, 2009)	1,466
Gains:	
Profession of Faith/Re-Affirmation	40
Transfer of Letter	23
Total Gains	63
Loses:	
Transfer of Letter	13
Death	25
Removed by Session	14
Total Loses	<u>-52</u>
Total Active Members (December 31, 2009)	1,477
Affiliate Members	54
Inactive Members	790
Baptized (but not yet confirmed members)	497
Total Other	<u>1,341</u>
Total Adherents	<u>2,818</u>

The Session, Pastors and Staff

Class of 2010

Michael Carter
Terry Dennis
John Fitzwater
Louie Holmes II
Doris Lyons
Oz Mutz
Betsy Phillips
Jason Rodda
Richard Sellers
Lauri Smith

Class of 2011

Ed Carley
Tom Champeau
Raymond Dhue
Sandra Ellington
Patrick Fagan
Lynn Grady
Thomas Manske
Jennifer Royal
Roger Schwabe
Al Sheppard

Class of 2012

Susanne Coffman
Walt Engle
David Finger
Ted Hogan
Don Hubbard
Marjorie Lewis
Beverly Mansfield
John Snapp
Chris Stone
Kay Strong

The Rev. Dr. John B. (Mike) Loudon, Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Mr. Craig M. Sumey, Associate Pastor/Congregational Outreach and Development
The Rev. Cecelia Moore, Associate Pastor/Congregational Care and Christian Education
Dr. Paul S. Suich, Director of St. Andrew Ministry
Dr. Daniel Gordon, Director of Fine Arts Ministries
David Campbell, Organist
H. L. McConnell, Vine Worship Leader
John Lowery, Sound Engineer
Dan Renz, Technical Director
The Rev. Dick Huggins, Coordinator. of Older Adult Ministries
Danielle Kern, Children's Choral and Drama Director
Tim Timmes, Director of Student Life Ministries
Jo Ahearn, Assistant to Christian Education
Kenny Ellis, Director of Discipleship
Nancy Bertram, Missions Coordinator
Carrie Joyner, Director of Little Shepherds' Preschool
Tami Trent, Assistant Director of Little Shepherds' Preschool
Chrissy Browne, Nursery Coordinator
Nancy Carter, Kids Klub Coordinator
Elena Nicholas, Director of Administration and Finance
Jackie Hansen, Administrative Assistant
Bev Jones, Executive Secretary to the Pastors
Gina Brossart, Financial Assistant
Linda McDonough, Director of Communications
Gwynn Butterfield, Food Service Director
Custodians: Danny Donovan, Richard Smith,
, Sterling Hagins, Thomas Fowler, Todd Green, Dan Nixon



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