

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

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January 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been with you since September 2007 as your interim pastor and I'm excited to be a part of your church community. The transition between pastors is a challenging and difficult time for a congregation and being an interim is both a challenging task and a rewarding ministry. We are faced with some bumps in the road but I am impressed with the leadership in the congregation and commitment to continue to move ahead as the Body of Christ in mission and ministry.

Someone said the other day that it is difficult not having a regular pastor. I gave that some thought and said to myself, "I think I'm a regular pastor." Of course, I realized that the meaning was that there isn't a "called and installed" pastor and that my responsibility is to be a person in the transition but I am your pastor in this interim time. I realize you are anxious about the future but we will work together to continue a vital ministry as First Presbyterian Church. I am here for full-time ministry with you!

I would like to thank all of the staff for their outstanding work and their helping me to adjust to the new ministry in Bryan. I would like to give special thanks to Joanne, Fran, Karen, Jim, Hyla, June, Jenella...for they are special persons in the life of the church. I am grateful for all of the Session, the Deacons, the committee members, and volunteers in their leadership and work.

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Warren Schulz talks about words that are a part of our journey in this interim time: Change, Transition, Transformation. The leaving of a pastor brings a change in pastoral leadership and in the life of the congregation. The journey becomes one in which there is a transition and opportunity for reflection and renewal as the interim and congregation move to reach out to discern where God is leading the congregation in the future and to work at healing the past. Transformation comes in the renewal experienced in the journey and in finding the new pastor and leadership for the new day God brings.

I know it is difficult to go through this interim time. Just know that I am glad I am able to be a part of this journey of faith as we reach for the hope and promise God brings to us as a faith-filled people. Read the reports that follow as they record your faithfulness in ministry. Celebrate what you have achieved. And look toward the new day God promises to you as the First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Ohio. I am grateful to be a part of your journey!

Peace,

Pastor Gus Nussdorfer

THE 2007 DIRECTORY OF CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

	Address	Telephone	Committee
Class of 2007			
Charlie Nichols*	140 Oak Meadows	419-636-3517	Worship
Patrick O'Dwyer	701 Burr Road #16, Wauseon, OH 43567	419-337-8111	Christian Education
Angie Schreder*	1721 Colonial Lane	419-636-7455	Stewardship/Finance
Robert Sharrock*	1119 Markey Drive	419-636-1437	Mission
Class of 2008			
Scott Benedict	103 Troon Court	419-636-8662	Property
Steve Bird	310 South Lynn Street	419-636-2014	Evan/Member Care
Craig Buell	03726 State Route 576	419-636-5349	Mission
Stan Tipton	415 Scharzter Court	419-636-3796	Stewardship/Finance
Class of 2009			
Dick Brickel	1240 West High Street	419-636-0067	Worship
Alice Meuleman	PO Box 505 307 Baubice Street	419-737-2681	Evan/Member Care
Tom Tilton	116 Country Club Rd.	419-636-6602	Property
Yvette Zedaker	615 South Walnut Street	419-636-6840	Christian Education

*Indicates Committee Chairperson

Clerk of Session: Gaile Moore

Trustees: Scott Benedict, Stan Tipton, Gaile Moore

Presbytery Representative: Various

The Nominating Committee

Representing the Congregation:

Mabel Chapman, Patty Davis, Tim Hollabaugh,
Greg Johnson, and Tami Roushia

Representing the Board of Deacons:

Earl Sutter

Representing the Session:

Bob Sharrock, Convener
Dick Brickel

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2007

Deanne Beerbower	5031 County Road 11.50	419-636-2886
Carol Cravens	402 Fairview Drive	419-636-2431
Barb Gallagher	123 Oak Meadows Drive	419-636-3535
Earl Sutter	925 Cardinal Drive	419-636-2279

Class of 2008

	Address	Telephone
Martin Killgallon	1121 Townline Road #133	419-633-0176
Janis Montgomery	12669 County Road J	419-485-5330
Marilyn Scott	520 Sunny Drive	419-636-3232
Connie Stadtfeld	339 Connin Street	419-636-4363

Class of 2009

Dina Culler	13410 County Rd H	419-636-4922
Tyson Horton	626 Southwest Street	419-485-0911
Lora Manon	4055 Shireton Drive Dublin, OH 43016	614-766-1614
Mary Lou Nichols	140 Oak Meadows Dr.	419-636-3517

President of the Board of Deacons – Tyson Horton

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
January 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present and Moderator, Pastor Rob Marrow, First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Ohio, opened the meeting with prayer. The motion to bring the meeting to order was made by June Webster, seconded by Diana Moore Eschhofen.

The motion was made by Jerry Spangler, seconded by Dee Swanson that the minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on January 29, 2006 and the minutes of the congregational meeting held on December 10, 2006, be approved with the following corrections: Second paragraph Annual meeting, insert the words "the minutes of" before Annual Congregational Meeting; in the congregational meeting in December, fifth paragraph, the name of Scott Benedict should be Bruce Benedict. This motion carried. Another correction in the report noted that in the list of Deacons, the secretary is **James** Hall, not **John** Hall. This will also be corrected.

Pastor Marrow asked if there were any questions regarding this report and there were none. Chris Eschhofen, Treasurer, then presented the Financial Report. He explained a few areas of interest, i.e. cuts to the budget by the Session Committees, which helped by about \$15,000, and he expressed his thanks to those committees who had lowered their budgets for this purpose. There were no particular questions asked of Chris, but Pastor Rob passed around a comparison sheet he had compiled showing the proposed Capital Campaign Contribution and Expense Plan. He called attention to the current contribution information and especially noted how we have pledged \$588,670 towards our goal of \$600,000. He further commented that our biggest job is getting more members that in turn would generate more income, however he preferred to describe it as building disciples and membership will follow. We all should be trying to build God's kingdom. **The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Steve Bird, seconded by Ted Spangler and unanimously carried.**

At this point the changes and corrections to the rolls and statistics were noted. We currently have 27 members placed on the inactive rolls, with 328 active members. Ten members have requested to go to other churches.

Pastor Marrow then asked for remembrance and prayers for those who have died in the past year, including those who died in January of 2007. Those names included were: Robin Spangler, Helen Stine, Robert Dillman, Walter Murray, Laurena Arnos, Jane Zimmerman, Willadean Shockley, Floyd Cole and Joan Dillman.

There being no further business to come before the congregation at this time, **the motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 P.M. with prayer led by Pastor Marrow.**

Respectfully submitted,
Gaile Moore

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, July 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 11:40 A.M. by Pastor Rob Marrow serving as Moderator. It was determined that a quorum was present. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the dissolution of the Pastor Marrow's relationship with the First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Ohio and to approve the Session recommendation concerning an amendment the Marrow Mortgage Note.

Because of the nature of the subjects, Pastor Marrow excused himself and the Clerk of Session, Gaile Moore presided.

The first issue was the dissolution of Pastor Marrow's relationship with the First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Ohio. This had stated that his last Sunday would be July 15th, with the complete transaction by August 4th. **The motion was made and seconded to approve this dissolution with deep regret and the motion carried unanimously.**

The second item was the Amendment to the Mortgage Note, a copy of which was given to the congregation present. The details of this are also on file with these minutes.

The motion to approve this recommendation by the Session was made and seconded. After some discussion and questions, a **further amendment to the original amendment was made by Fred Nott to dispense with the 4% interest on the principal as stated. This motion was not seconded and thus failed.**

A vote was called on the first motion and it passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 A.M. The meeting closed with prayer. A reception for the Marrows followed in the Gathering Area.

Respectfully submitted,
Gaile Moore

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
December 2, 2007

A special congregational meeting was called for Sunday, December 2, 2007 for the First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 11:45 A.M. by Pastor Gus Nussdorfer. It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting began with a prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect the deacons and elders for the class of 2010 and the congregational members for the next year's nominating committee. Bob Sharrock reporting for the nominating committee and presented the slate for Deacons: Lori Bird, Kris Lowe, Donna Sprow and Kerry Sutter; Elders: Gene Andres, Charlie Nichols, Angie Schreder, Stan Rowan; and Nominating Committee: Rita Benedict, Nancy Berkheiser, Tom Goodrich, Fran Hall and Connie Tipton. It was asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion was made to accept these nominations by acclamation. This motion was seconded and approved.

The motion was then made to adjourn the meeting and Pastor Gus Nussdorfer closed the meeting with prayer at 11:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaile Moore, Clerk of Session

REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION

NEW MEMBERS

Josie Azzarello
Erin Benedict
Zoë Benedict
Rachael Downing
Malorie Ely
Vanessa Hardman
Adam Israel
Patrick Johnson
Katie Martin
Nicole Marrow
Jessica Nichols
Tader Shipley
Anna Yahraus
Taylor Zedaker
Thomas Billheimer

BAPTISM – CHILDREN

Cacee Joanne Azzarello

BAPTISM – ADULT

Adam Clifford Israel
Jessica Suzanne Nichols

MARRIAGES

July 7, 2007

James Thornton and Krystal Bible

August 25, 2007

Matthew Monroe and Emily Davies

October 6, 2007

Robert Inman and Emily Ladd

DEATHS

Floyd Cole	January 1, 2007
Joan Dillman	January 10, 2007
Ernest Gentit	February 2, 2007
James Gleason	May 21, 2007
L. E. “Gene” Bigler	June 7, 2007
William Pattison	June 9, 2007
Patricia Christiaanse	August 1, 2007

MEMBERSHIPS REINSTATED

None

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

By Letter of Transfer

Betty Cole

Beth Marrow

Nicole Marrow

Per Session Action

None

Request of Members

Placed on Inactive Roll

Byron and Betty Wallace

STATISTICS

Membership, January 1, 2007	290
New Members	15
Members Reinstated	0
Deaths	7
Placed on Inactive Roll	2
Dismissals/Transfers	3
Membership, December 31, 2007	293

Gaile Moore
Clerk of Session

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee convened under the direction of Dr. Robert Sharrock. Members from the Session were Richard Brickel and Robert Sharrock, from the Board of Deacons: Earl Sutter, and from the congregation: Mabel Chapman, Patty Davis, Tim Hollabaugh, Greg Johnson, and Tami Roushia.

The committee met weekly until the following slate was presented to the Congregation and confirmed on Sunday, December 2, 2007:

Elders Class of 2010

Gene Andres
Charlie Nichols
Stan Rowan
Angie Schreder

Deacons Class of 2010

Lori Bird
Kris Lowe
Donna Sprow
Kerry Sutter

The following individuals have agreed to serve on the 2008 Nominating Committee.

Rita Benedict
Tom Goodrich
Connie Tipton

Nancy Berkheiser
Fran Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Sharrock

2007 DEACONS' ANNUAL REPORT

Deacons for 2007:

Deanne Beerbower, Dina Culler, Carol Cravens, Barb Gallagher, Tyson Horton, Martin Killgallon, Lora Manon, Janis Montgomery, Mary Lou Nichols, Marilyn Scott, Earl Sutter, Connie Stadtfeld

Meeting Schedule: The Deacons meet in the Adult Sunday School room on the second Monday of the Month @ 7:00 p.m.

Continued Activities:

- Ø Card ministry for congregation- Included graduates as well as birthdays and anniversaries, and those having health or personal difficulties.
- Ø Hosting fellowship time on the second Sunday of the month. Served cookies and punch in the gathering area. Continued during June, July, and August between the two worship services.
- Ø Deacons of the Month served as pre-greeters to connect with visitors as they came into the church and offer a "Guest Handbook".
- Ø The Deacons have helped serve Communion this year.
- Ø Deacons have been acting as a representative of the church to visit those in the hospital.

Special Events:

- Ø January:
 - Took down crèche and Christmas trees and Decorations.
- Ø February:
 - Sent "Goodie Boxes" to college students.
- Ø March:
 - Planned for Easter Sunrise Breakfast.
- Ø April:
 - Served Easter Sunrise Breakfast.
- Ø June:
 - Hosted a Brunch for High School and College Graduates, and for the confirmation graduates.
- Ø October:
 - Helped with the Gumbo Get Together.
- Ø December:
 - Assembled the crèche.
 - Planned and prepared for the annual turkey dinner following the Christmas program which was postponed due to weather until January 6, 2008.

Deacons for 2008:

Lori Bird, Dina Culler, Tyson Horton, Martin Killgallon, Kris Lowe, Lora Manon, Janis Montgomery, Mary Lou Nichols, Marilyn Scott, Donna Sprow, Kerri Sutter, Connie Stadtfeld

Respectfully Submitted, *Tyson Horton*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has been active this year, sometimes like riding a roller coaster. We have experienced some quick changes that surprised us but also made for an exciting experience in our Spiritual life and congregational family.

In January, YES@6:17 offered the community an alternative Wednesday evening worship service in our Chapel. The Praise Team from our Church and other community musicians created an upbeat contemporary service followed by educational offerings by our Christian Education Committee. YES@6:17 continued into May when it was temporarily suspended for the summer, but it was not restarted in the fall, possibly because we were too busy looking for an Interim Pastor.

Pastor Rob Marrow resigned his position in July to act on a calling he had that moved him back to the Pittsburgh area. Our Church, for the most part, was surprised and saddened by Pastor Rob's departure. However, we are resolved to provide a meaningful worship experience that brings glory to God.

In the interim before our interim, we were blessed with a variety of talented guest service leaders. These included Hilary Shuford, Mike Pennington, Joyce Reader, Ed Auchard, John Manon, and Karen Wack. Reverend Gus Nussdorfer accepted our Interim position and gave his first sermon on September 9, 2007.

In December, the Praise Team "as we know them" has discontinued their participation in our regular service. As ideas and planning unfold through the Holy Spirit, there may be other opportunities for their gifts to be shared.

The Worship Committee's focus for the most part of this year has been on the declining membership of our church and what, through our worship service(s), can we offer that will enable our church to grow. Not necessarily in numbers but in spiritual sincerity and in glory to God.

Our thanks go out to all those who have joined efforts to make our worship services all that they can be. We would like to thank the Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, the Calvin Choir, our organists and pianists, guest musicians, the Bell Choir, sound system operators, greeters, ushers, and all others who give so freely of their time to facilitate our worship experience.

Special thanks go out to Pastor Gus, June Webster, Hyla Sharrock, Jenella Tilton, Midge Culbertson, and Joanne Israel for putting forth their best efforts each week and hanging on to that roller coaster so we can truly experience the Worship Service.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Nichols, Chairman

Dick Brickel, Elder; Gene Andres; Greg Johnson; Hyla Sharrock; and June Webster;
Committee

COMBINED REPORT ON MUSIC AND THE ARTS for 2007

January 3	Chancel Choir rehearsals resume for the new year
January 4	Bell Choir rehearsals resume for the new year
January 8	Worship Committee (the 2nd Monday of every month)
January 14	Choir sang " <i>Just Beyond the Manger</i> "
January 24	Wednesday evening services begins YES@6:17 and will continue on Wednesday evenings
February 14	Rehearsal for Church Women United Ensemble at 11AM in the chapel
February 21	Ash Wednesday Service- Lent begins – Christ's presented
February 25	Seven Last Words – First Word sung as anthem – all 7 sung during Lent
February 26	CWU Ensemble rehearse at 11 AM
February 28	Madrigal rehearsals begin – every Wednesday night after choir
April 1	Palm Sunday – sang " <i>Ain't No Rock...</i> "
April 8	Easter Sunday 2 services – drama at early service
May 6	Madrigal Concert – " <i>I Hear America Sing</i> " at Wesley UM Church
May 27	Pentecost – Bells and Choir
June 3	Graduation
June 25	Started summer schedule – 2 services – began Moses dramas
July 8	June Webster & Hyla Sharrock went to Westminster Music & Worship conference at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania
July 22	Moses and the plagues – quartet sang " <i>Moses</i> " dramas
August 12	Ten Commandments – kids sang " <i>The Perfect Ten</i> "
August 25	Bells played at Emily Davis' wedding from the balcony
September 2	Built a tabernacle – end of Moses' dramas
September 5	Chancel Choir rehearsals resume
September 9	Choir " <i>Praise God with Cymbals</i> " – open new season
November 4	All Saints' Day – 2 bell choirs present 2 new songs and 2 new bells. dedicated to the memory of Doris Ankenbruck and Sarah Overberg
November 11	Bell Choir plays at Trinity Lutheran Church, a repeat of last week
November 15	Messiah rehearsals start at Wesley
December 2	Messiah presented at Wesley UMC – great attendance – Hyla accompanying, June directing, and many choir members singing

- December 16 Church and Christmas program cancelled due to weather
- December 23 Christmas program at church service “*Give Us Peace*” – music, narration and Power Point by Chris Eschhofen with carol illustrations by church members.
- December 24 2 services at 5:30 PM and 9 PM with communion at both.

Special thanks to the loyalty of the Chancel Choir members. Attendance has been very steady at 25 singers.

Thanks to our accompanists, Hyla Sharrock and Marjorie Culbertson, who are great! Thanks to soloists and drama people who were extremely loyal during the summer months, presenting dramas and special music at 2 services.

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesday at 7:00 –8:30 pm in the sanctuary. Sine Nomine Bells is open to all who enjoy reading music or are willing to learn. Bell rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the sanctuary. Join us!

Respectfully submitted,
June Webster
Director of Music and Arts

CALVIN CHOIR

This year we have 7 boys and girls in Calvin Choir, ranging in age from kindergarten through fifth grade. We practice every Wednesday after school from 3:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

We sing monthly during the regular worship service. On May 13 we presented the musical, “Giddyup, Giddalong, Gideon,” during the Sunday School hour.

Marjorie Culbertson has been our accompanist and Sara Schaper and Sherry Shipley have provided assistance.

I think that singing with the choir helps the children listen carefully and learn songs that they can share with the congregation and experience the joy of singing for the LORD. Every experience singing before the congregation also helps each child grow in the confidence it takes to appear before a group.

Joyfully,
Jenella Tilton, director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Education: We began 2007 with Sunday school offerings that started in the fall of 2006. In September we offered a book study on “*If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat*” by John Ortberg. There are three classes that continue to meet and discuss this book. Some elected to take a break and join in the Advent study “*The Miracle of Christmas,*” either on Sunday mornings or Thursday mornings. There is also a group of nine that meets on Monday mornings for “Body & Soul”. Thanks to all that have stepped forward to lead one of these classes.

Children’s Education: Lora Manon and Charity Meuleman lead our pre-k through 3rd graders in “Live Big”, a new curriculum we started in September. Dina Culler and Tami Roushia work with our 4th through 6th graders in “Grapple” where they grapple with God’s Word and look at how it relates to their own lives. Jana and Tyson Horton have continued with our junior high Sunday school class with discussions on current issues teens face. Diana Eschhofen is leading our senior high group in a study of the prophets - they have found there is a lot to learn from some of the lesser known prophets..

Nursery: Yvette Zedaker continues to offer nursery care during the Sunday school hour. Adult volunteers have taken on this task during worship with the assistance of some of our youth. Nursery is offered during the summer months at the 10:30 service by a few of our senior high girls.

Second Hour: While we are striving to maintain this program, it has proven difficult to find leaders for Second hour. It is very frustrating when volunteers do not show up to teach or when they do there are only 2 or 3 children in attendance - often none at all. June Webster has taken on coordinating this through December. We hope if this is a ministry our congregation feels is important they will continue to support it.

Confirmation: Fourteen students began meeting with their mentors in the fall of 2006. This especially large group consisted of mostly 7th and 8th graders as well as a few older students. They were confirmed in May and accepted in the membership of the Church.

Vacation Bible School: “BodyWorks” was the theme of our vacation bible school. A total of forty-eight children attended over the course of four days where they learned about Jesus being the foundation for their lives.

Women’s Retreat: Plans are being made for a spring retreat with a “Spa” theme. Please watch for more information about this event early in 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvette Zedaker, elder
Christian Education Committee

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Junior and Senior High Youth kicked off the 2007/2008 year in August with a cookout at the home of Karen Wack. Many youth and their parents attended, representing grades 7 through 12. The group then began regular meetings on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 pm. We begin the evening with a light supper and finish out the evening with fellowship activities.

The youth are working toward going on an Appalachian Work Trip next summer, July 13-18. They have also invited any other church members who are interested to come along and join them. They are looking forward to a faith inspiring week working with our neighbors in need in Tennessee. They have also had an outdoor Family Movie Night where attendees viewed the movie "Facing the Giants". Attendance was not as good as hoped for but all who attended were blessed by the movie and fellowship. In December, the youth had a sleep-over at the church where they baked & delivered homemade "goodies" for some of our church family. When the baking (and eating!) was done the rest of the evening was spent playing games, watching movies and a wild game of "hide and seek"! Some of the other church mission projects this year have been helping at the Gumbo Get-Together, helping in the nursery each week, sponsoring the Adopt-a-Child Christmas gift giving, and there are many more activities already planned for the winter/spring of 2008, including fellowship activities with the Trinity Lutheran Youth.

We have a great bunch of youth who are very active in the ministries here at First Presbyterian Church. The Youth Leaders have enjoyed working and learning together with our youth. While our numbers may seem small the heart of this group is very big! We look forward to 2008 and the possibilities it brings for us to grow closer to God and each other!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff and Jane Yahraus, Junior High Youth Leaders
Karen Wack, Senior High Youth Leader

MISSION COMMITTEE

First Presbyterian Church continues to extend Christ's Love to the world. Locally we support the Sanctuary homeless shelter, Compassion Medical Clinic, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Habitat for Humanity, HELP, Reach Up jail ministry, and the Outreach food pantry. Outside of Williams County the church supports Cherry Street Mission in Toledo and Solid Rock Mission in the Dominican Republic. The Church also aids local people with immediate needs with gas and food vouchers from the church office.

We also continue to support four children through funds collected from our Sunday school collection and free trade coffee sales. Tekalgie Abebe from Ethiopia and Anna Diaz of Brazil are supported through Compassion International. Maria Rodriguez and Israel Encanacion are lifted up through Solid Rock International. Our youth also communicated with them with letters during the year.

During the year we also hosted numerous speakers and events:

December 2006 -Assisted with the government food distribution of HELP.

January Hosted Cari Senefsky of World Impact during services.

February -Youth hosted 30 Hour Famine and they also collected money for Souper_Bowl.

Lent - Congregation participated in One Great Hour of Sharing and utilized the Lenten food donation money to help send the Nichols family to the Dominican Republic with Solid rock.

April – Gideon Sunday held.

May- Assisted Jenna Graham in collecting food for troops in Iraq

July- Mike Rickenberg spoke to us from Isaiah 6:8 Ministries

October- Bob Sharrock went to Dominican Republic with Sold Rock Ministries for a Medical Mission

November- we had Gumbo Get Together II with monies going toward Desire Street Ministries of New Orleans and the Northwest Ohio Flood Relief program.

The Mission of spreading Christ's love through the world starts with each individual member of the church and our committee welcomes suggestions and new ideas to improve our outreach. We also would welcome new members to our committee.

Mission Committee:

Bob Sharrock

Craig Buell

Connie Tipton

Rick Meyer

EVANGELISM / MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

Evangelism/Member Care committee has been active in our congregation in many ways during 2007. We are very grateful to all who help with these ministries. The following is a list of the ongoing and special events for 2007 that fall under this committee:

Projects	Responsible Parties
1. Blood Pressure Clinic	Johnnie Flightner
2. Pew Books/Follow-up	Patti Davis, Shirley Mikesell
3. Dinner for Eight	Judy Shilling, Betty Fredrick
4. Driving Miss Elma	Bruce Benedict
5. Chicken Soup Ministry	Committee
6. Baby Dinners	Laura Andres
7. Funeral Dinners	Fran Hall, Polly Winzeler,co-chairmen Gaile Moore, Margaret Murray, Linda Tumilty, Deanne Beerbower, Joanne Israel, Marilyn Scott, Betty Fredrick
8. Equal Exchange Coffee	Fran Hall
9. Welcome Center/Welcome folder	Committee
10. Membership Roll Review	Committee
11. Name Tag Ministry	Joanne Israel & Shirley Mikesell
12. Great Banquet/Awakening	Steve Bird
13. Seven Last Words Mime Theatre	Kevin Gallagher
14. Gumbo Get Together III	Steve Bird
15. Marketing/Advertising	Sharon Patten

Through the efforts of many of you, *Evangelism/Member Care* continues to provide care to members of this congregation in so many ways. In times of grief-funeral dinners (5); in times of celebration-new baby dinners (1); helping us stay healthy-monthly Blood Pressure Clinic (129); staying in touch-chicken soup ministry, pew books and follow-up letters (50 letters sent), Dinners for Eight (32 attended); helping us get there-Driving Miss Elma (10 transports); helping us get to know one another-Name Tag Ministry, Welcome Center and Welcome Folder for visitors.

We also engage in Evangelism by supporting our *outreach to others*-Great Banquet/Awakening-hosting five weekends in 2007; Equal Exchange Coffee-supporting Compassion International; and Special Events-*Seven Last Words Mime Theatre* (approximately 75 attended).

Our annual *Gumbo Get Together III* hosted nearly 200 people from around the community and raised \$1,816.25 to provide relief to flood victims in northwest Ohio and to support the on-going efforts of Desire Street Ministries in New Orleans and the surrounding area. We are grateful to all of you for joining in these efforts to be the hands and feet of Christ to our congregation, our community and to the world.

Respectfully submitted, *Steve Bird, chair*; Committee Members: Alice Meuleman, Sharon Patten, Janis Montgomery, Deacon representative

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets weekly on Tuesday mornings in the library of the church at 10:00 AM until after lunch

Early in the year we studied the Presbyterian Horizon's Bible Study. "*What She Said,*" *Quotable Women in Scripture* by Dale Lindsay Morgan. In the fall we started "*Everybody's Normal Until You Get to Know Them*" by John Ortberg. This has proved to be enlightening and entertaining. During Advent, Interim Pastor Gus gave us some interesting insights on the season. We welcomed two men to our meetings in the fall and enjoyed their observations.

All are welcome to join the studies as follows:

10:00 AM	Prayer time
10:30 AM	Lesson
11:30 AM	Shared luncheon

Respectfully submitted,
June Webster

STEWARDSHIP / FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Stewardship/Finance Committee members for 2007 included Angie Schreder, elder; Fran Hall, church financial secretary; Chris Eschhofen, church treasurer; and Stan Tipton, elder.

The purpose of this committee is to help our church members better understand and put into practice the Bible's teaching that stewardship involves the use of all our resources and opportunities—including our time, talent, and treasures to serve God.

During 2007 the committee met monthly with certain goals to be accomplished during the year. Here are some of the accomplishments and concerns of our committee.

1. An internal audit of the church was done by Angie Schreder and Steve Collins with help from Fran Hall and Chris Eschhofen.
2. Several existing funds of the church were invested in C.D.s with local banks improving their return from approximately 1% to approximately 5%.
3. Information on ways of giving to the church through a personal will was presented to and passed out to our congregation in May.
4. The capital campaign funds that were received in this the first year of a four-year campaign amounted to \$187,500 and represent approximately 35% of the total amount pledged.
5. The furnace loan of \$33,000, which carried a 7.5% interest rate, was paid off in June 2007. The remaining church loan of \$129,000 carries a 6.75% rate and is being paid off monthly. The committee hopes to continue paying off this debt early as capital contributions are made in 2008.
6. The annual stewardship campaign was held in November using bulletin inserts, personal testimony of several of our members, letters to the congregation, and a stewardship sermon by our pastor.
7. The First Presbyterian Church Fund in the Bryan Area Foundation is \$104,410. as of the end of 2007.
8. For 2006 and now 2007, our church has received approximately \$11,000 less than it has spent each year. If this trend continues, our church will find itself in financial difficulty. The deficit so far as been covered by using excess cash from the checking account.
9. This committee will be looking for ways to reverse this deficient trend in 2008 even as we realize that we have fewer giving members than we have had in the past. Please pray for an improved financial status for our church through increased membership increased giving by our existing members or whatever method God would have all of us use to further His kingdom through our church.

In His Service,
Stan Tipton

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Scott Benedict was the chairman of the 2007 Property Committee

Jack Taylor and Scott Benedict were in charge of the furnace and air conditioning systems.

The sound system and electrical systems were overseen by Lach Ohman.

Tom Sprow and Art Spletzer were in charge of the church's interior.

Tom Tilton and Jerry Spangler looked after the exterior of the church.

Jim Hall was an important addition to our committee as he helped bring attention to areas that may have been overlooked without his daily routines and dedication to our church maintenance program. I want to thank Jim for his input and help throughout 2007.

Some of the accomplishments for 2007:

Jerry Spangler and Art Spletzer did the second coat painting on the bell tower.

Our computer network system saw tremendous upgrade in March thanks to the donated efforts of time and money by Bob Meuleman to enhance our computer system. He replaced our dial up system with a broadband system that frees up the phone lines and increases the speed. He also has put in a wireless router and firewall system to allow members and visitors wireless access throughout the building. There are many other technical aspects of this system in addition to all the wiring and behind the scenes work and testing that Bob did, and we sincerely thank Bob for his efforts and generosity.

We had the sewer pipe bored out by S&S Directional Boring to eliminate tree roots, and to allow better flow.

We had work done by Stark's to the pressure tanks that help our heating systems and also replaced one of the boilers.

We entered into an agreement with the American Red Cross local Williams County chapter to use our church facilities for an emergency shelter in case of a major disaster.

We had a new amplifier installed by Eric Harter in the sanctuary to help enhance the sound system, and one that will handle future upgrades for our audio/visual systems.

We also replaced four of the large plate glass windows in the lower educational rooms because of cracks and safety concerns.

We took down a large dead tree on the north parking lot, thanks to the help of Jerry Spangler and Art Spletzer.

The committee changed out all of the flood light bulbs over the Choir loft and the pulpit and communion table area.

We need to replace the ceiling tile in the downstairs kitchen, and that will hopefully be a project completed in 2008.

Scott Benedict, Property Committee Chairman

I would personally like to thank all the men who served on the property committee for all the volunteer time and work they did to keep the cost of repairs down.

GREAT BANQUET OF BRYAN MINISTRY

The purpose of the Great Banquet is to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to make Him known. The objective of the Great Banquet is to have those who attend the three-day weekend continue their experience by serving Christ in local churches, homes and work places. The Great Banquet guides people to live a life of grace and to respond to higher levels of Christian discipleship. This weekend experience is for anyone who: 1) wishes to strengthen his or her spiritual life; 2) wants to have a better understanding of prayer and the sacraments; 3) wants to learn the importance of study and Christian action; 4) strives to live a Christian life that bears fruit for God; and 5) seeks to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to make Him known.

In 2007, God led the Great Banquet through a series of challenges and changes. The spring banquets were cancelled when the registration deadline passed without the minimum number of guests registered. In July, Pastor Rob Marrow's departure from Bryan necessitated a change in the spiritual leadership of the Great Banquet ministry. Dave Meriwether, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Paulding, graciously stepped in to take on the role of Community Spiritual Director. In the late summer and early fall, volunteers from the Great Banquet community began an effort to contact as many as possible of the 1070 people who have attended Great Banquet weekends since 1997. Community members provided valuable input regarding plans for the future of the ministry. As the October banquets approached, the Steering Committee opted to cancel those weekends as well.

At the end of November, Greg Johnson, who has served as Community Lay Director of the Great Banquet ministry since it began at this church 10 years ago, stepped down from that position. His notice to the community read, in part, *"God has blessed me and my family tremendously through serving in this capacity... after 10 years of service in Bryan, it is time for new leadership in the GB Community. I feel that this position is a position that should be passed on, as Christ taught the disciples who went out and taught others... Our Lord and Savior has wonderful plans for the future direction of this movement..."* The community cannot begin to adequately express its gratitude for all that Greg and Nancy have done. We are particularly blessed that Greg continues his involvement and commitment to the ministry, and is providing valuable assistance in the transition to new leadership. At present, Chris Eschhofen is serving as the interim Community Lay Director, with active assistance from the other members of the Great Banquet Steering Committee: Rick Hanson, Cathy Saneda, Angie Schreder, Dee Swanson, and Polly Winzeler.

Preparation already has begun for two banquets in 2008. The men's weekend will take place April 10-13, and the women's banquet will take place April 17-20.

The Bryan Great Banquet continues to host monthly gatherings, open to anyone, at First Presbyterian Church on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 pm.

As a result of Bryan Great Banquet weekends there are more than 75 small groups that meet weekly with the desire to continue to mature in Christ and to hold each other

accountable in a Christ-centered lifestyle.

The Great Banquet Steering Committee offers praises to God for his continual provisions and many thanks for the support of First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to continue this ministry.

In His Service,
Chris Eschhofen
Interim Community Lay Director
Bryan Great Banquet Community

THE AWAKENING

The Awakening is a three-day Christian renewal experience for teens, designed to bring participants to an awareness of the need to accept Jesus as their Savior. The focus of the Awakening is commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. During the event, youth are inspired, challenged, and equipped for a close, personal relationship with Jesus, and for Christian action in the home, school, work place and community.

Four Awakening weekends were held in 2007 – two for boys and two for girls.

- Boys' Awakening #19 was held January 19-21, with Cort Goshia of Bryan serving as Lay Director.
- Girls' Awakening #20, June 15-17, was led by Tracy Trausch of Paulding.
- Boys' Awakening #21 happened July 13-15, led by Barry Rubel of Bryan.
- Girls' Awakening #22 happened Nov. 2-4 with Barb Gallagher of Bryan as Lay Director.

Seventy-seven (77) teenage “sleepers” from the northwest Ohio area attended these weekends to develop or improve their relationship with the Lord, and more than 120 additional teens and adults participated in the weekends as team members.

The Awakening plans to host four weekends (two boys, two girls) in 2008, including Boys' Awakening #23 scheduled for Jan. 21-23. The weekends are open to any teenager who is at least 15 years old or has completed at least a partial year of high school.

Most of the teenagers who have attended these weekends have come away with a new or renewed faith in Jesus Christ, and many have become more involved in their own churches OR have become involved in a church for the first time. It is exciting to see teens focus their energy and enthusiasm on seeking a better relationship with God.

The Awakening Steering Committee includes adults and youth representing several different area churches. Dave Meriwether, pastor of the Paulding Presbyterian Church, and Bruce Brown serve together as the ministry's Co-Community Spiritual Directors. Gene Andres and Diana Moore Eschhofen serve as Co-Community Lay Directors. Other Steering Committee members are Jeff Yahraus (Agape), Patrick O'Dwyer (Communications), Kevin Gallagher (Youth Followup/Special Events), Barb Gallagher (Kitchen), Emily Ebaugh (incoming Kitchen), Stacey Bock (Treasurer), Cort Goshia (Music), and Megan DeNoi (Youth Liaison).

During 2004, the Awakening ministry offered financial contributions to Lampstand Ministries and the First Presbyterian Church capital campaign.

We are grateful to the church for their support of this life-changing ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Eschhofen and Gene Andres

Co- Community Lay Directors

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CHURCH BYLAWS

APPENDIX A

