

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## THE PASTOR'S REPORT 2009

2009 has been an incredibly busy year!!! Our church is busy, active, and doing important ministry and work in people's lives. It is a joy to be your pastor and work along side of you. The year started out with 20+ Farmhouse Dinner Meals at our home. We enjoyed sitting down to a meal with you and then gathering to talk about our church, it's issues, its potential and its future. We had over 200 people into our home in the last year and we enjoyed every minute of it. I firmly believe we are a strong church with a great future.

We had some staff changes this year. Jim Hall retired in December and we welcomed Larry Clappe to our staff. Karen Wack resigned in May and Judy Sweet became the Interim Director of Children's and Youth Ministries. In September, she was called to become the permanent Director. We changed this position from one that focused on adults as well as children—to one that ONLY focused on Children and Youth. This was one of the results of the Farmhouse Dinner Meals. Almost all of you said you wanted us to rebuild our Sunday school programs and outreach to younger families. Since June, we have held Sunday School every Sunday and we even offered Christian Education for ALL ages the year around. Vacation Bible School was a huge success and we had TONS of help and lots of kids. Our youth ministry has taken off as well. Jeff and Jane Yahraus truly love your kids and are great youth leaders. We held our first Youth retreat at Michindoh in Michigan and we had a great time learning about God in a fun setting. We have 2 more retreats scheduled in 2010. They were involved in the 30-hour famine to raise awareness and funds for the hungry. Our youth program has remained strong this fall and we were excited when the youth ministered to our older members by making and taking them 50 boxes of Christmas cookies and worked so hard on their part in the Christmas program—a musical piece by the Trans Siberian Orchestra. Our younger kids have been active as well—monthly going to Bryan Care and Rehab to play bingo with the residents and learning about God on a weekly basis. Marjorie Buell, Dina Culler, Jenella Tilton and Sunshine Collins are doing a great job with this group! Also, Sunday school attendance has been slowly increasing.

In terms of Adult education—it has been a mixed year. We had 10 men go to a Men's conference in Fort Wayne and we hope to get even more to go this year. We have offered more adult classes and have been excited by the addition of The Precepts Class taught by Connie Tipton. The Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer group continues to be a very strong group and this group does some mighty wonderful ministry! Our attendance for adult classes on Sunday morning has been steady but it could be a lot stronger. Our Wednesday adult class attendance has severely declined. To be honest—this has been one of my great disappointments here at the church. So few of us are in regular Bible Study or attending a class of some kind. We will never become the church we have the potential to become if we are not grounded and centered in God's Word. Each of us needs to be in a study, a small group or a class of some kind in order to learn and grow so we can be faithful to the Living God in the midst of our everyday lives. I want to challenge YOU to commit to growing in your faith by attending a Bible Study or a class this year. For me, this is NOT an optional part of our spiritual journey—but an intentional and required part of our relationship with Almighty God.

First Presbyterian Church is also involved in many wonderful ministries. God is using the Great Banquet and Awakening Ministries in amazing ways. Lives are being changed and people are growing in their faith in ways we rarely see in the church. I urge you to support this ministry and pray for it—as all 8 weekends are HUGE undertakings. But the results are worth all the time and effort. We also embarked on the Tuesday Free Meal. Wow—what a ministry!! We feed weekly

anywhere from 40-80 people. We have 8 meal teams and 8 different menus. Our church members have underwritten this ministry over and above their regular giving—and we have been deeply blessed. We are truly helping needy people and they are deeply grateful, I think WE get as much out of it as they do. I also have a Pastor's Discretionary Fund to assist needy people—that is funded by congregational members donations. Our mission giving also supports our vouchers for food and gas. We have numerous requests for financial help every single week and we have been able to assist hundreds of people. Our church is becoming known as a caring and compassionate people of God. Our Deacons are doing a wonderful work of caring for people and they are beginning to focus more and more on this aspect of their calling. We, as a church, are involved in many other ministries as well. I'm proud of each of you, as you are the hands and feet of Jesus in this time and place and all across the world.

I have also sensed that we are adjusting to having 2 worship services each Sunday. You are working hard at getting along and seeing the good among us. The unified services seem to be helping keep us united as a church family. Worship is good and the music is wonderful—in both services. We truly worship the Lord and seek him out here at First Presbyterian.

Another area of concern however, is our finances. We cannot continue to under fund our budget or our programs and ministries will suffer. We will not continue to move in a positive direction as a church unless this problem is solved. We have had great difficulty at times paying our bills. At one point our deficit was over \$21,000 and we had less than \$500.00 in the checkbook. While we ended the year with only a \$7600.00 deficit—it is still a deficit. We cannot function like that again this year. There have been discussions of cutting staff or all the staff taking a pay cut. Frankly, this is a real possibility if we end up in the same situation again. The staff has not had a pay raise in a couple of years, the CE position has been cut back to half time, and the staff is stressed because of this. You are blessed with a wonderful staff that I hope you appreciate. While we know the economy is challenging for us all—we need to dig deeper-- if we can-- to increase our weekly giving. I believe the resources exist for us to be faithful financially and solve this problem once and for all. I know we can do it.

All in all, it was a great year and God is moving among us. This church is growing spiritually and numerically. We have a great future. Judy and I are glad God called us here and we look forward to the adventure ahead in 2010. You are great people and we are excited by what God is doing in our midst. See YOU in worship and in ministry this year!

*Barry*

**THE 2009 DIRECTORY OF CHURCH OFFICERS  
THE SESSION**

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>Class of 2009</b>			
Dick Brickel*	1240 West High Street	419-636-0067	Worship
Alice Meuleman*	PO Box 505	419-737-2681	Evan/Member Care
	307 Baubice Street		
Tom Tilton*	116 Country Club Rd.	419-636-6602	Property
Yvette Zedaker*	615 South Walnut Street	419-636-6840	Christian Education
<b>Class of 2010</b>			
Gene Andres	01-386 County Road 18	419-636-6235	Christian Education
Charlie Nichols*	140 Oak Meadows	419-636-3517	Worship
Stan Rowan	729 Cardinal Drive	419-636-3019	Mission
Angie Schreder*	1721 Colonial Lane	419-636-7455	Stewardship/Finance
<b>Class of 2011</b>			
Scott Benedict	103 Troon Court	419-636-8662	Property
Steve Bird	310 South Lynn Street	419-636-2014	Mission
Patty Davis	208 Indiana Drive	419-636-7486	Evan/Member Care
Earl Sutter	925 Cardinal Drive	419-636-2279	Stewardship/Finance

\*Indicates Committee Chairperson

**Clerk of Session:** Gaile Moore

**Trustees:** Tom Tilton, Angie Schreder, Gaile Moore

Presbytery Representative: Various

**The Nominating Committee**

Representing the Congregation:

Marjorie Buell, Lowell Frederick,  
Carol Rowan, Sara Schaper, and Jeff Yahraus

**Representing the Board of Deacons:**

Tom Goodrich

**Representing the Session:**

Angie Schreder,  
Dick Brickel

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### **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

### **Class of 2010**

Lori Bird	310 South Lynn Street	419-636-2014
Kris Lowe	426 South Lebanon	419-636-2083
Donna Sprow	902 Greystone Drive	419-636-3962
Kerry Sutter	925 Cardinal Drive	419-636-2279

### **Class of 2011**

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Holly Goodrich	153 Anna Lane	419-636-4080
Tom Goodrich	153 Anna Lane	419-636-4080
Marilyn Scott	520 Sunny Drive	419-636-3232
Jenella Tilton	116 Country Club Road	419-636-6602

President of the Board of Deacons – Tyson Horton

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Moderator and Church Pastor Barry Sweet at 10:17 A.M. It was determined that a quorum was present and Pastor Sweet opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the annual report of the church. Pastor Sweet started the meeting by thanking the church for choosing him to be their pastor and he remarked about the great potential of this church and its members. He felt we were a dynamic congregation and said that the staff sees the need to becoming financially stable and considered God the God of all resources.

Each portion of the report was reviewed by the congregation, the first of which was to approve the minutes from last year's annual meeting, the special meeting held on January 6, 2008, the special congregational meeting held on August 24, 2008, and the special congregational meeting held on November 16, 2008. Some corrections were noted from two meetings, i.e. the special meeting on January 6, under the names of those who were chosen for the nominating committee, the name "Sutton" should read "Sutter"; and on the special meeting held on November 16, the names submitted for Elders and Deacons should both say class of 2011 instead of 2009. With these corrections noted, the motion was made and seconded to approve these minutes. The motion carried.

At this time, Pastor Sweet asked for those listed in the Clerk's Report who had died in the past year be remembered in a moment of prayer. He also included those who had died in 2009.

- It was pointed out in the report for the Pastor Nominating Committee that two paragraphs had been left out and they were available in a special hand out prepared by the committee.
- Under Christian Education, it was noted that the confirmation class was to begin in January 2009 and would have five participants. The Great Banquet and Awakening Committees along with their reports thanked Chris Eschhofen for his assistance as Lay Director for the whole community.
- The Financial Report was reviewed by Chris Eschhofen, Treasurer, and he pointed out specific items including the Pastor's terms of call which had already been approved. The motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report and unanimously carried, and **the motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget for 2009. This motion carried.**
- Pastor asked if there were any further questions regarding this report, and there being none, **the motion was made and carried that the Annual Report be accepted as presented. This motion carried.**

Pastor Barry closed the meeting with remarks regarding thanks for making the praise and worship service a permanent part of worship and gave more thanks to the staff and others who put the report together to save some money. He thanked Jim Hall for taking care of the church. Marjorie Buell thanked all for approving the 30-hour famine and commented on how this program keeps us able to contribute to World Vision.

There being no further business to come before the congregation, **the motion was made and seconded to adjourn at approximately 10:50 a.m.** Pastor Sweet closed the meeting with prayer.

**REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Bill & Sharon Brewer  
Sunshine Collins  
Judy Karnes  
Jane Miller  
Norma & Dan Murray  
Mike Pennington  
Jay & Christie Perdue  
Heather Collins  
Sean Culler  
Katie Roushia  
Jordan Spiess  
Greyson Spangler

**MEMBERSHIPS REINSTATED**

Gene & Dee Andrews

**BAPTISM – CHILDREN**

Benjamin David Meuleman  
Aiden James Sweet

**BAPTISM – ADULT**

None

**MARRIAGES**

Randy Jewell & Linda Coy  
Evan Buell & Katie Baker  
Emily Andres & David Powell

**DEATHS**

Rosalyn Dawson ..... January 14, 2009  
Gracie Elizabeth Hall ..... January 2009  
Jon & Lori Ely’s Granddaughter  
Phyllis Mignery ..... February 5, 2009  
Friend of the church  
Tony Mignery ..... February 23, 2009  
Lois Clarke ..... March 12, 2009  
Mary Donna Hays ..... September 25, 2009  
JoAnn Ohman..... November 29, 2009  
Friend of the church  
Rick Meyer..... December 17, 2009

**TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

**By Letter of Transfer**

Tammy O’Dwyer

**Per Session Action**

None

**Request of Members**

Ryan Buell  
Emily Harrington

**Placed on Inactive Roll**

Jason Allomong	Nancy Johnson
Bruce Arps	Ajay Johnson
Lindsey Bird Reynolds	Marjory Johnson
Amy Cravens	Patrick Johnson
Russ Davies	Ruth Killgallon
Bev Davies	Stewart Killgallon
Evan Davies	Jennifer Krzycki
Emily Davies Monroe	Todd Krzycki
Scott Davis	Lori Ladd
Patrick Gallagher	Aaron Martinez
Ann Green	Melinda Meuleman
Julie Harrison	Emily Overberg
Helen Jackson	David Roushia
Greg Johnson	Luther Rupp

Sara Lynn Smith

**STATISTICS**

Membership, January 1, 2009 .....	281
New Members .....	+15
Members Reinstated .....	+2
Deaths .....	-5
Placed on Inactive Roll .....	-29
Dismissals/Transfers .....	-3
Membership, December 31, 2009 .....	261

*Gaile Moore*  
Clerk of Session

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Members of the Nominating Committee were Dick Brickel and Angie Schreder from the Session, Tom Goodrich from the Board of Deacons and Carol Rowan, Marjorie Buell, Judy Shilling and Sara Schaper from the congregation.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for confirmation by the Congregation.

### **Elders Class of 2012**

Nancy Berkheiser

Judy Shilling

Tom Sprow

Stan Tipton

To take Earl Sutter's remaining term: Dina Culler (Class of 2011)

### **Deacons Class of 2012**

Laura Andres

Andrew Elder

Jane Miller

Kathryn Spangler

### **2010 Nominating Committee**

Jim Hall

Tyson Horton

Arthur Spletzer

Vivian Taylor

Jane Yahraus

Respectfully submitted,  
*Angie Schreder*

## 2009 DEACONS' ANNUAL REPORT

### **Deacons for 2009:**

Kerri Sutter, Dina Culler, Lori Bird, Donna Sprow, Tyson Horton, Jenella Tilton, Lora Manon, Tom Goodrich, Holly Goodrich, Mary Lou Nichols, Marilyn Scott, Kris Lowe

**Meeting Schedule:** The Deacons meet in the Library on the third Monday of the Month @ 7:30 p.m.

### **Continued Activities:**

- Card ministry for congregation- Included graduates as well as birthdays and anniversaries, and those having health or personal difficulties.
- Served cookies and punch in the gathering area on the second Sunday of the month. Continued during June, July, and August between the two worship services.
- Deacons of the Month served as pre-greeters to connect with visitors as they came into the church and offer a "Guest Handbook".
- The Deacons have helped serve Communion this year.
- Deacons have been acting as a representative of the church to visit those in the hospital.
- We also took on the Soup Ministry and have had the opportunity to visit, minister, and offer some home cooked soup to those in our congregation that cannot get out.
- Initiated the welcome center this year. (a small cart with a guestbook and an updated info packet)

### **Special Events:**

- January:
  - Took down crèche and Christmas trees and Decorations.
- February:
  - Sent "Goodie Boxes" to college students.
- March:
  - Planned for Easter Sunrise Breakfast.
- April:
  - Served Easter Sunrise Breakfast.
- May:
  - Hosted a Reception for High School and College Graduates and also a separate one for this year's Confirmation class
- October:
  - Helped with the Gumbo Get Together.
- December:
  - Assembled the crèche.
  - Planned and prepared for the annual turkey dinner following the Christmas program.

### **Deacons for 2010:**

Kerri Sutter, Lori Bird, Donna Sprow, Jenella Tilton, Tom Goodrich, Holly Goodrich, Kris Lowe, Marilyn Scott, Laura Andres, Andrew Elder, Jane Miller, Kathryn Spangler

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Tyson Horton*

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee holds regular meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. These meetings are open to everyone and we encourage new ideas or suggestions for opportunities to develop meaningful and uplifting worship experiences. The current committee members for 2010 are listed below.

The Worship Committee has seen some exciting developments through our variety of worship options. We have seen an increase in attendance and participation in both our 9:00 AM “Contemporary” and 11:00 AM “Traditional” services. Although the worship service is only one portion of the mix, we are excited to see much more evidence of the Holy Spirit moving around and through our church family.

Our Communion schedule continues about once a month at the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services. We incorporated five unified services this year where all of the church family could worship at a single service. The unified services alternated between the 9:00 and 11:00 time slots. The Elders also delivered communion each month to our members who are not able to attend worship services.

“We are the Church” is a phrase which indicates that all of us together as a congregation bring glory, honor and praise to God through our acts of worship and discipleship. We want to thank all of those groups and individuals who give so freely of their time to facilitate our worship experience.

It is our prayerful intent of the Worship Committee that everything that is said and done during worship allows many to come together, as a diverse group of ages and lifestyles, to worship the Lord in the unity of the Body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Charlie Nichols*, Chairman

Dick Brickel, Elder  
Art Spletzer  
June Webster

Dee Beerbower  
Vivian Taylor

Kristine Lowe  
Jeff Yahraus

Carol Rowan  
Hyla Sharrock

## CHANCEL CHOIR

Would you like to join the Chancel Choir? It's a group of singers who love the Lord! They lead the worship and invite the congregation to worship with them as they present their special musical offering.

A great Hymn Sing was part of our worship service in the spring. With words on the screen, we sang all types of hymns for "In the Garden" to "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High."

Early in Advent many of the choir members sang in the community presentation of *Handel's Messiah*.

In December there was a wonderful response to a choir for Rick Meyer's funeral from several different churches. Fifty voices celebrated Rick's life singing "Joy to the World" and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The Christmas Program on December 20 joined together people of all ages to present *Peace on Earth* through songs, dances and costumed drama.

Thanks to Hyla Sharrock, our wonderful, dedicated organist and accompanist.

More and more of our members are going on extended vacations and we need more singers (even though the one we have are the greatest) to join our choir family. Try us, you may like us! We rehearse – Wednesday evenings in the choir loft from 7:30 – 8:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted,  
*June Webster*

## SINE NOMINE BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir has been ringing since 1991 when Johnnie Flightner purchased a three octave set with tables and pads in honor of her husband, Robert. Many of the present members are charter members. There are eleven ringers for three octaves. Since then, bells have been purchased honoring members who have passed away, Sarah Overberg and Doris Ankenbruck. It's much easier to play if you have had some musical training but we've had some who persisted and made it.

This season for Linda Coy and Randy Jewell's wedding in the courtyard and were honored to be part of it.

We would like to have some subs for the choir. Let us know if you are interested. We meet every Thursday at 7:00 PM for an hour rehearsal. The Trinity Lutheran bell ringers have been most cooperative, especially Lynette Diaz, and we thank them.

Respectively submitted,  
*June Webster*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

This has been an exciting 6+ months for me. I stepped into this job in mid May when Karen Wack resigned.....three weeks away from VBS AND GOD WAS GOOD!!!! I believe this is called "hit the ground running." On June 10<sup>th</sup> Crocodile Dock was the theme for our one day VBS. From 9:00 am until 4:00 pm we covered all five days of lessons. Music, games, crafts and food were all plentiful and well received by the 41 kids that attended. It took 43 volunteer helpers to pull this all off. We also had MOLLY the goat visit us for a kick off to our mission project...Heifer International. We raised approx. \$175.00.

From there we began Summer Sensational Sunday School. While it was a bit risky to offer a summer program-it went well.

With fall upon us and all classes manned, we were ready for Sunday School with regular classes. Ice Cream for Breakfast was our kick off. Over 100 kids and adults attended this event. Representation from each class and youth group were present to share what exciting things they had planned for the year. Our surprise guest was a Christian Magician, Kevin Wack, that dazzled us with his special way of telling us about Christ. We officially started classes on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The average attendance for fall: Adults-28, Youth-4, Kids-6. There certainly is room for improvement. [Note to Parents: we need your kids! and you!]

The Carpenters Workshop: Where Obedient Servants of Jesus are Created and Built, started on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. We have done some fun and exciting things. We have had a Dinner Theatre with parents attending to see their kids perform. The end of October we held a Fall Fest with, games, food and a lesson about pumpkin carving.....of course with a Christian message. Every month the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class goes to Bryan Care and Rehabilitation Center {formerly Harborside} to play Bingo with the residents. The Christmas program included the kids from Sunday School and Carpenters Workshop in a grand production of *Perfect Peace*. The Senior High kids did a wonderful job by performing a Trans-Siberian Christmas tribute.

Average numbers for Carpenters Workshop has been: Adults-12, which is mostly workers, Youth-10, Kids-13.

It has been an honor working with such wonderful teachers and youth leaders and some mighty great kids! I love this job and am glad God called me to this position. We have some great plans for 2010! We hope to see you and your kids or grandkids in a class or youth event soon! Get ready for a great 2010.....

*Judy*

Children and Youth Director

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

January 2009 began with offerings for adults on Sunday morning as well as Wednesday evening programs. Youth groups continued to meet on Wednesday evenings as well. Five students completed the confirmation process, meeting with Barry as well as their individual mentors. Heather Collins, Sean Culler, Katie Roushia, Greyson Spangler and Jordan Spiess were presented as new members and accepted into the congregation in May. Vacation Bible School was held again as a one day event on June 10 from 9:00-4:00. Our theme was "Crocodile Dock". Thanks to Judy Sweet and Marjorie Buell for stepping up and coordinating VBS in the wake of Karen Wack's resignation. It wouldn't have happened without them. We hired Judy as our interim CE director while a separate committee conducted a search for a permanent candidate for this position. After interviewing applicants, it was presented to session to hire Judy Sweet as the permanent CE director. Judy rolled out a new youth Sunday School program for the summer months that has continued on into our fall programming. We kicked off our new Sunday School year with "Ice Cream for Breakfast" on 9/13/09. This event was attended by well over 100 people of all ages and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Wednesday evening youth programming changed names from "Covenant Connection" to "Carpenter's Workshop". A Fall Fest was held on 10/28 for the elementary aged youth and was attended by 23 children, junior and senior high youth were helpers for this event. The prayer shawl ministry has continued to meet and is now making hats and booties for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. There is a rotation in place for nursery workers for the 11:00 am service, at this time there seems to be a need for additional nursery care during the 9:00 am worship as well as the Sunday School hour. We welcome anyone who would like to share in this ministry to care for our youngest members. Our annual Christmas program was coordinated by June Webster and Judy Sweet and presented on December 20th followed by dinner compliments of the Deacons.

Plans are underway to bring new class offerings for adults in the coming year and to continue with our youth programs. Attendance for Carpenter's Workshop has been steady and we hope to increase our attendance on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Yvette Zedaker*, Elder  
Christian Education Committee

## **PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY**

A new Bible study using materials from Precept Ministries started in the fall. Class participants studied 2 Peter on Tuesday mornings from September through November. We studied the scriptures, discussed what we had learned, and listened to lectures by Kay Arthur, founder of Precept Ministries. We gained a new appreciation for God's divine power which "has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (2 Peter 1:3).

*Connie Tipton*, leader