

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## THE PASTOR'S REPORT 2010

2010 was a year of growth and moving forward. There is a lot of excitement around here as we see a great many more kids, as we develop new life transformational ministries, and as we reach further into the community in the name of Jesus Christ. Our church has turned the corner, we have pulled together, we are positive and the Holy Spirit is alive and well among us! Thank you for working so hard to change direction, to deepen your walk and to be so open to the new things God is doing in our midst.

We started the year preparing for hosting the May Presbytery meeting. It helped us to work together and to accomplish a common goal. It took many people to pull it off--but you did GREAT!! We had raving reviews from people in the presbytery.

Our children and youth program continues to grow and mature and our Wednesday night Carpenter's Workshop has exploded to an average of 50 kids each Wednesday night. Sunday School numbers for all ages has risen as well and we are attracting younger families again. Running this kind of program takes a great deal of adult help—and you have come through in major ways. We can't sustain a program like this without you—Great job everyone!

Our adult education program is also going well with class offerings on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Financial Peace University has begun its second round of classes and is offering people hope in the face of debt. The Precepts class has many digging deeper, we have a class to enable our marriages to be all we hoped for, and a few book study classes as well as actual studies of the books of the Bible. We have something for everyone. MORE OF US NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THAT WE OFFER IN THIS AREA!!

We continue to deepen our ministry to the community as we intentionally develop life transformational community based ministries. The Great Banquet and Awakening continue to assist people to experience the love of God and to deepen their walk with Christ. Financial Peace University helps people struggling with their finances to get back on track. The Tuesday Free Meal feeds 60-80 people a week and brings hope and nutrition and socialization to those who need it. Our 4 youth groups are made up of many children and youth including many who are not members of our congregation—and this is a great outreach to youth in the name of Christ. We sponsored a mission trip to the Dominican Republic and brought medical care and Christ's Good News to people in need. Late in 2010, we began planning for a major new ministry, which begins January 24, 2011. It is Celebrate Recovery. This is a Christian based 12-step program designed to meet the needs of many kinds of people with many kinds of problems. There is great need in our community for this kind of caring ministry and God has led us to provide it on Monday nights year round. Also, the Deacons have done a great job developing a visitation ministry and the new Fellowship committee has taken on the job of creating fellowship opportunities for our growing congregation.

We have settled into our two worship services well. BOTH services are attracting new members and this is a healthy sign. We have 6 or 7 combined services a year and this continues to be a good thing that enables us to see one another and re-connect.

Our finances improved significantly in 2010! Every one of you really stepped up to the plate and dug deeper and committed to support what God is trying to do in us and through us in the Bryan community. As a result, God has blessed us in so many ways!! The Dream Team is meeting to seek out where God is leading us next and how we are to go about HIS BUSINESS in the years

to come. Also, you are blessed with a wonderful staff—Joanne, Larry, June, Hyla, Mary Ann and Judy. We do miss Fran, who retired this year, but Mary Ann is fitting in well and doing good work. Make sure to let your staff know you appreciate them.

I am excited about what is happening in and through First Presbyterian Church of Bryan. You are good people striving to be faithful. God is blessing us and giving us new fields of ministry to work in. Thank you all for your hard work this year. It is appreciated. I'm sure 2011 will be even better as God leads us forward. Stay focused on HIM and HIS WILL and all will be well.

Thank you for your faithfulness. It is a joy to minister alongside of you.

God's blessing to you!

*Barry*

# THE 2010 DIRECTORY OF CHURCH OFFICERS

## THE SESSION

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<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
Dina Culler	13-410 County Road H	419-636-4922	Christian Education
	(filling unexpired term of Earl Sutter)		
<b>Class of 2012</b>			
Nancy Berkheiser	213 Gary Drive	419-636-9010	Worship
Judy Shilling	05-441 County Road 13	419-636-7324	Evan/Church Growth
Tom Sprow*	902 Greystone Drive	419-636-3962	Property
Stan Tipton	415 Schartzer Court	419-636-4406	Stewardship/Finance

\*Indicates Committee Chairperson

**Clerk of Session:** Gaile Moore

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

Presbytery Representative: Various

### The Nominating Committee

#### Representing the Congregation:

Jim Hall, Tyson Horton,  
Arthur Spletzer, Vivian Taylor, and Tyson Horton

#### Representing the Board of Deacons:

Lori Bird

#### Representing the Session:

Angie Schreder, convener  
Gene Andres

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### Class of 2010

Lori Bird	310 South Lynn Street	419-636-2014
Donna Sprow	902 Greystone Drive	419-636-3962
Joe Tokunaga	110 Sunrise Lane	419-636-0610

### Class of 2011

	Address	Telephone
Dee Brickel	1240 West High Street	419-636-0067
Pat Goshorn	11-201 County Road 10, Montpelier	419-485-5007
Jana Horton	307 East Water St. Montpelier Montpelier	419-630-7108
Jenella Tilton	116 Country Club Road	419-636-6602

### Class of 2012

Laura Andres	01-386 County Rd 18	419-636-6235
Andrew Elder	869 East Bryan Street	567-239-5841
Carolyn Harrison	318 South Lebanon St.	419-636-4040
Misti Killgallon	03-758 County Road 13	419-636-1914

President of the Board of Deacons – Jenella Tilton

**First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Ohio**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**January 31, 2010**

It was determined that a quorum was present and the Moderator and Church Pastor Barry Sweet, called the meeting to order with prayer at approximately 12:17 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the annual reports of the church. Pastor Sweet began the meeting with thanks to the congregation for their support and loyalty to the church. He referred to the "Farmhouse Dinners" and thanked all who attended. Much information about the church and its members was obtained from those meetings.

Each portion of the report was reviewed by the Pastor and congregation. Pastor Sweet further reviewed the changes in the Sunday School and the youth retreat which went well. He did express some disappointment in adult education, citing that there is and was a lack of interest and low attendance, obviously this is an area to be worked on. The Tuesday meals for the community are going extremely well and have proven to be an excellent outreach. He did stress that this has been a tough year economically and church finances will be an issue for a while.

The minutes from the Annual Congregational meeting held on February 1, 2009 were read and on a motion made and seconded were approved unanimously. On the report of the Clerk of Session, some names have been moved from the active member list to inactive. The deaths for the year were named and a prayer in memory of those was led by Pastor for the following people who died in 2009: Rosalyn Dawson, Gracie Elizabeth Hall, Phyllis Mignery, Tony Mignery, Lois Clarke, Mary Donna Hayes, JoAnn Ohman, Rick Meyer and most recently, Earl Sutter.

The next item of business was the slate of Elders and Deacons as presented by the Nominating Committee. This committee consisted of Dick Brickel, Angie Schreder, Tom Goodrich, Carol Rowan, Marjorie Buell, Judy Shilling and Sara Schaper. The slate presented for the congregation was for Elders: Nancy Berkheiser, Judy Shilling, Tom Sprow and Stan Tipton; for Deacons: Laura Andres, Andrew Elder, Jane Miller, Kathryn Spangler and Dina Culler who will be filling the remaining term of Earl Sutter. The slate of the Nominating Committee was also presented: Jim Hall, Tyson Horton, Arthur Spletzer, Vivian Taylor and Jane Yahraus. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made and seconded and approved to close the nominations. Next the motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to approve the nominations for elders and deacons and nominating committee.

At this point, Pastor went on to review the reports of the committees of the church as presented. Comments and suggestions were offered at this time. The Financial Report was then presented by Chris Eschhofen and Angie Schreder. The first item being the Pastor's Terms of Call: Pastor Sweet was excused during this time. Angie explained that there were no changes from the terms of 2009. The motion was made and seconded to accept these terms as printed and the motion carried unanimously. At this time, Chris Eschhofen was thanked for his term as Treasurer and he acknowledged the transition from him to Angie Schreder, who had been approved as the new Treasurer. He also expressed his thanks to Fran Hall, the church's financial secretary for all the work she does in that position. With that the Budget for 2010 was presented with some questions and answers explained. The motion to approve the budget was made and seconded and unanimously approved.

The last item of business was to approve the By-Law changes regarding the positions of financial secretary and church treasurer. The changes included electing the treasurer for one (1) year

instead of three (3) years; describing the definition of the respective jobs and exactly what they entail. These requirements are on file for documentation. The motion to accept these changes were made and seconded and 100% of the congregation voted in favor.

The motion was then made to accept and approve all reports submitted for the Annual Report. This motion carried unanimously.

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m. Pastor Sweet closed with a prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Gaile Moore, Clerk of Session.

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING September 19, 2010**

A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, September 19, 2010. After determining that a quorum was present, the meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Barry Sweet at approximately 10:50 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to approve some suggested By-Law changes to the Church Constitution. Pastor Barry presented the proposed changes, explaining the reasoning and the fact that a two-thirds vote is needed to change. The suggestions for these changes are attached to these minutes with the changes noted in capitalization.

**The motion to accept these changes was made and seconded and unanimously approved.**

The second item of business was the acceptance of the new Deacons and new Fellowship committee as presented by the Nominating Committee. Those names are also on file with these minutes.

**The motion to accept these names as presented was made and seconded and unanimously approved.**

The third item of business was to approve a \$1,000 increase to Rev. Sweets Mileage expense account for 2010. The previous amount was \$4800 and if approved will be \$5800. If he doesn't drive as many miles as expected, the money will not be expended. This motion changes the Pastor's Terms of Call accordingly.

**The motion to accept this change was made and seconded and the motion carried.**

There being no further business to come before the Congregation, the motion to adjourn was made at 11:10 a.m. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gaile Moore, Clerk of Session.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
December 5, 2010**

The Special Congregational meeting held on December 5, 2010 was called to order at 10:40 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present and Moderator Pastor Barry Sweet opened the meeting with prayer. The purpose of the meeting was to approve Pastor Barry Sweet's Terms of Call for 2011 and to accept the names submitted for the Deacons and Elders as presented by the Nominating Committee. Pastor Barry was excused for the first part of the meeting.

It was noted that the Terms of Call and Pastor's salary had not been increased last year. The increase presented is based on a 3% increase. **The motion was made and seconded to accept this salary package. The motion carried.**

The second item of business was to accept the slate of nominees for Elders and Deacons. The Nominating Committee submitted the following names for the class of 2013: Deacons: Kathy Martinez, Bonnie Spurgeon, Laurie Krzycki with one open slot to be filled. Elders: Steve Collins, Craig Buell, Gene Andres and Karen Murray-Bever. These names will be presented to the congregation on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor were asked for and there being none, **the motion was then made to close the nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast in favor of this slate of Deacons and Elders. There were no further questions, and the motion carried.**

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

Prayerfully submitted,  
Gaile Moore, Clerk of Session

**REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Bill Harvey  
Aubrey Steele  
Sarah Marie Wicks  
Jim & Terrie Dawson  
Bob & Judy Chrismer  
Mel & Sharon Clark  
Kathy Calvin  
Anne Harlow

**MEMBERSHIPS REINSTATED**

Todd Snyder  
Russ and Bev Davies

**BAPTISM – CHILDREN**

Sophie Reynolds  
Derek Dawson  
Taylor Dawson

**BAPTISM – ADULT**

Aubrey Steele  
Jim and Terrie Dawson

**MARRIAGES**

Kasey Collins & Jacob Doehrmann  
Rob Bever & Lily Gia

**DEATHS**

Earl Sutter .....January 7, 2010  
John Schartzner.....February 16, 2010  
Mary Meckstroth .....March 3, 2010  
Ralph Clarke .....March 30, 2010  
Kathryn Ort.....July 8, 2010  
(former member of church)  
Thomas Billheimer.....December 5, 2010

**TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

**By Letter of Transfer**

David Goshorn

**Per Session Action**

None

**Request of Members**

Evan Buell,  
JC and Beth Moore

**Placed on Inactive Roll**

None

## STATISTICS

Membership, January 1, 2010.....	261
New Members.....	+11
Members Reinstated.....	+3
Deaths .....	-5
Placed on Inactive Roll.....	-0
Dismissals/Transfers.....	-3
Membership, December 31, 2010.....	266

*Gaile Moore*  
Clerk of Session

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members of the Nominating Committee were Gene Andres and Angie Schreder, Elders; Lori Bird, Deacon; Art Spletzer, Jim Hall, Vivian Taylor and Tyson Horton.

The Nominating Committee Presented the follow slate for confirmation by the Congregation on December 5, 2010

### Elders Class of 2012

Gene Andres  
Craig Buell  
Steve Collins  
Stan Tipton

### Deacons Class of 2012

Laurie Krzycki  
Kathy Martinez  
Bonnie Spurgeon

Respectfully submitted,  
*Angie Schreder*

## 2010 DEACONS' ANNUAL REPORT

In May of 2010 the Board of Deacons was reorganized. Half of the members were joined into a new committee called the Fellowship Committee. The remaining members stayed on the Board of Deacons to form the nucleus of a new board with the purpose of caring for the congregation. This has been accomplished through sending greeting cards, visiting, providing soup when needed, assisting with the serving of home communion, and sending Valentine packages to our college students.

The Deacons currently serving are the following:

Class of 2011 – Pat Goshorn, Jana Horton, Dee Brickel, Jenella Tilton

Class of 2012 – Laura Andres, Andrew Elder, Carolyn Harrison, Misti Killgallon

Class of 2013 – Kathy Martinez, Bonnie Spurgeon, Laurie Krzycki

We want to thank Joe Tokunaga for his service this year and Lori Bird and Donna Sprow for three years of service.

We are looking for new ways to care for our members and assist our pastor. Please let any of us know of any suggestions that you have.

In His service,

*Jenella Tilton*, chairman

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE 2010

The Fellowship Committee broke away from the Deacons and formed as a group in June.

Members: Tom & Holly Goodrich, Kris Lowe, Kathryn Spangler, Jane Miller, Lowell & Betty Frederick, Marilyn Scott, Kerry Sutter, Zoe Brooks, Kathy Calvin

Provided cookies and punch on the second Sunday of each month (except June, July, August) or refreshments for New Members and Graduation Receptions.

June 6 .....Graduation Reception

June 28 .....Helped provide and serve dinner at Vacation Bible School

July 25 .....Coordinated the community potluck after the Community Service at the ice rink.

October 24 .....Gumbo Get Together (set up tables, decorated hall and tables, made sign up poster, helped serve)

October 31 .....Reception for Fran Hall's retirement

November 14 .....Reception for New Members

December 19 .....Christmas Dinner after service ( set up tables, decorated hall and tables, cooked, prepared, and served food, cleaned up).

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Miller*

*[The Fellowship Committee is now a standing and permanent committee of the church. We need people to join this group as they expand and grow into the future God has for them. Please see Holly Goodrich if you can offer your time and talent.]*

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee holds monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. These meetings are open to everyone and we encourage new ideas or suggestions for opportunities to develop meaningful and uplifting worship experiences. We support Pastor Barry Sweet's sermon messages that simply address and identify current issues, and encourage us to be "intentional" about accepting God's help to be better disciples.

The Worship committee has witnessed some exciting developments through our varied worship options. We have seen an increase in attendance of all ages and participation in both of our 9 a.m. "Contemporary" and 11 a.m. "Traditional" services. Although the Worship service is only one part of what the Church is offering, we are excited to see evidence of the Holy Spirit moving around and within our church community.

Our Communion schedule continues about once a month at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. We maintained five unified services this year where our entire church family could worship at a single service. The unified services alternated between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. time slots. The Elders and Deacons have revived and maintained a home delivery communion 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*, Chairperson

The committee members for 2010:

Nancy Berkheiser – Elder, Dee Beerbower, Kristine Lowe, Carol Rowan, Vivian Taylor, Jeff Yahraus, Hyla Sharrock, June Webster

## CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir is a group of singers who love the Lord and love to sing! They lead the worship at the 11:00am service and invite the congregation to worship with them as they share their special musical offering.

Rehearsals began the first week of September on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the choir loft. Chancel Choir ends the last of May when special small groups and soloists take over for the summer months.

In early December several of the members sang in the Madrigal Choral's Christmas concert. Hyla Sharrock accompanied some of the numbers and June Webster directed.

On December 19 the Christmas program was presented during the service. For the "Renaissance Christmas" the entire front of the church was transformed into a castle and a nativity scene. The knight became a very important part of the Advent worship as he moved around from choir to congregation and ended up in the nativity scene on Christmas Eve as the Silent Knight. Dick Brickel and a crew constructed the set. The Chancel Choir was the court, clad in appropriate period costumes. The Senior High School Youth presented a lively rendition of the "*Twelve Days of Christmas*." Members of the choir took special dramatic parts and a singer and dancer from the high school youth took part. The children, shepherds, wise men and entire congregation came up to pay homage to the live Christ Child. A wonderful dinner, provided by the Fellowship committee was enjoyed by all.

Barb and John Hamilton were honored at Christmas when their daughter Leslie purchased an anthem, "*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*," for the choir in their name. A great idea!

A hymn sing was part of our worship service in the spring. With words on the screen, we sang all types of hymns from "*In the Garden*" to "*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*."

Special thanks to Hyla Sharrock, our wonderful, dedicated organist and accompanist. The choir has several soloists who shared their talents with congregation. Thanks to them. Thanks to our Praise Team, who stay to sing in the Chancel Choir.

More and more of our members are going on extended vacations and we need additional singers (even though the one we have are the greatest) to join our choir family. Two new members this year are Judy Chrismer and Tami Smith.

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 experience but we welcome anyone who would like to play.

We need subs for the choir. Let us know if you are interested. We rehearse every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Respectively submitted,  
*June Webster*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

“Our God is an Awesome God” is a contemporary song some 25 + years old, but the words sure hold true year after year, decade after decade. HE IS AWESOME and we can see His hand moving ever so gently and steadily through this past year...2010...He has given me great reason to be in AWE again!!!!

I started the year off asking God what He wanted and how He wanted it done. My agenda was--- I want everything NOW. He said slow and steady...keep following me! Listen and follow is what I have strived to do. I believe God has blessed First Presbyterian Church in the midst of it.

Winter and Spring Sunday School numbers were a little low but steady. On Sundays we were averaging 6 kids a week and 20 Adults. Carpenter’s Workshop averaged 12 kids a week. This fall we have seen numerical growth in all areas. We are averaging 14 a week and 27 adults a week in Sunday School. Carpenter’s Workshop is averaging 34 kids a week. It is not unusual though for us to have 50 kids in a single week...you just never know when they will all show up! I know numbers are not what it is all about, but it is a good way for me to keep on track and have enough food, craft supplies and helpers for the teachers.

Carpenter’s Workshop has had a lot of fun learning about God and how to live and be Christ like in this world today. The Fruits of the Spirit were a lot of fun last spring. We started in Lent and went all the way to summer break with it. We found out that we are all a little “fruity”, but those fruits were given to us by God to be His hands and feet in this world. Fall found us with the Armor of God. It was a biggy. The kids really enjoyed these lessons. It showed us how God equips us in all areas of life. From there we have gone into learning more about the Sword of the Spirit = the BIBLE. Through lessons, games, memory work and song, the kids are finding out how relevant the Bible is for today’s living.

Sunday School has been going well. We use a hands on curriculum that is designed to help the teacher teach in such a way that each student can learn in their own special way...no just sitting and listening, but being a part of the lesson each week.

Vacation Bible School went well this past June. We had 35 kids over 3 nights. This is actually 6 less then we had the year before. But the exciting part of this is that over half of the kids were our own kids. This compared to the previous year with 41 kids and only 8 of our own...or ¼ of them. This is encouraging to me, to know that we have that many of our own church family attending!!! From Prison to Palace...Joseph’s life was a lot of fun and a lot of good life lessons.

Our fall kick offs were great fun again this year. Sunday School had their Ice Cream for Breakfast and special guests...Mimes that showed us how important caring and sharing is. Carpenter’s Workshop was blessed by our own Praise Team doing a concert for us The Pizza was pretty good also! Fall Fest was a hit again with the kids...lots of fun, food and fellowship, not to mention the goody bags! Then of course, the Christmas Program...what a great way to celebrate as a family of all ages, then by presenting the Christmas story in such a special way.

YES, Our God is an Awesome God and I am awed as I look back at where we were a year ago and compare that to now...WOW....AWE STRUCK!!!

Just makes me wonder what HE has in store for 2011!!!!

God Bless you

Sincerely, *Judy Sweet*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2010 began with the “Financial Peace University” course being offered in the Chapel on Tuesday evenings. The series of classes helps attendees learn how to manage their money using a budget as well as personal discipline, and helps us look at money from a biblical perspective. The course was led by Misti and Martin Killgallon.

The church was a busy place on Wednesday evenings in 2010. The night began with a meal, and then youth of all ages gathered for class. Carpenter’s Workshop was held for young people through sixth grade. Junior High and Senior High youth groups met as well. The numbers of young people here on Wednesday evenings has steadily increased throughout the year, with over 50 youth of various ages attending each week by the end of 2010. A huge thank you goes out to all who have been involved in the various aspects of helping to make this ministry go well.

There were also classes offered on Wednesday nights for adults this year. Starting in January Pastor Barry began a book study on Max Lucado’s book “Facing Your Giants”, during Lent, Yvette Zedaker led a study entitled “Easter from the Back Side”, in the fall Jim and Terry Dawson led a study entitled “Exploring the Evidence of the Bible”, and Pastor Barry led an Advent study in December.

Sunday School continues each week between the two services at 10:00, with classes offered for everyone.

Vacation Bible School was a three day event this year, held on June 27, 28, & 29. The evenings began with a meal, and then classes and crafts geared around the life of Joseph. There were also classes for adults. Again, thanks to all who helped in any way to make this a successful VBS.

The Nursery ministry was expanded this year so that we now offer the Nursery for young children during both worship services as well as during Sunday School each week. Thanks to all who have helped make this ministry run smoothly. If you are interested in helping in the Nursery, let Judy Sweet know, we can always use some help.

Pastor Barry started a Confirmation class this fall with the new students to be presented as members in early 2011.

Those serving on the Christian Education Committee for 2010 have been Judy Sweet, Yvette Zedaker, Sarah Wicks, Dina Culler, Pastor Barry, and Gene Andres.

Looking ahead to 2011, the Wednesday activities will continue for young people as well as adults. “Financial Peace University” will be offered again this year. There will be a study of Revelation beginning in January, as well as classes offered during Lent. Sunday School will continue each week as usual. Consider where you may become involved either as a student or as a teacher or helper in any way.

Respectfully submitted

*Gene Andres*

Christian Education Committee

## **PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY**

The Precepts Bible Study met on Tuesday mornings in 2010 and did an in-depth study of three books of the Bible. From January through May, the class examined Ruth and then Ephesians. Starting again in the fall, participants began to study 2 Timothy and will finish in January 2011. Through our lessons, we have learned how to study the scriptures inductively, asking "Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?" We continue to look for ways to apply our knowledge to our daily lives. While studying together, we have developed meaningful relationships and have enjoyed Tuesday lunches after our classes and also other social events outside our regular meeting times. We invite others to join us in 2011.

*Connie Tipton*, leader

## **JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

Greetings from the Jr. High Youth Group! We are very excited to have Jr. High youth group again. We have been averaging 6 faithful kids a week, with some guests scattered in there from time to time. We have been focusing on building relationships with the kids so far, with all of us being new Youth Group leaders. In 2010 our activities included watching the movie, "To Save a Life", which is a film that explores how saving a life could be just a matter of opening our ears to the cries of those hurting through the dramatic story of Jake Taylor. The movie covers many situations teenagers face on a day to day basis, and the affects these situations have on them. It's a movie that he Sr. High had watched and our kids requested seeing it also. We also went caroling on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We all had a lot of fun even though it was VERY cold out, and it seemed those that we visited appreciated our visit. Upcoming events include attending the Winter Jam tour in Ft. Wayne on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and hosting a lock-in at the church in February. We look forward to developing the program further and are excited to see the numbers of kids rising within our youth programs.

Sincerely,  
*Tyson Horton*  
*Jana Horton*  
*Sarah Wicks*  
Jr. High Youth Leaders

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The Senior High Youth Group had a super year! We grew from 8 members to 12 at our weekly Wednesday meetings through the end of the 2009-2010 school year: Adam Israel, Alex Staup, Anna Yahraus, Aubrey Steele, Greyson Spangler, Jacob Whitman, Jessie Nichols, Josie Azzarello, Kim Tavierne, Korri McBride, Ryan Jones, and Taylor Zedaker were all faithful attendees.

During the spring the group studied the DVD series, *Are You Happy?* This DVD series explores issues teenagers deal with on a daily basis, and generated lots of in-depth discussion from the group.

The Senior High Northwoods Lodge renovation was completed in the summer and an open house held in July. A fireplace and large screen T.V., new paint, curtains, and tables were added to make the room more appealing.

The youth group had a summer retreat at Presbyterian Camps in Muskegon, Michigan at the end of July. Anna Yahraus, Aubrey Steele, Kim Tavierne, Taylor Zedaker, Alex Staup and Jacob Whitman joined adult mentors Barry & Judy Sweet and Jeff & Jane Yahraus. The youth raised money to help fund this retreat through a Flower Sale and a bake sale. The weekend was a big success with lots of laughing, swimming, rock-wall climbing, kayaking and sunsets and bonfires on the beach of Lake Michigan, as well as many good lessons, tons of snacks, and lots of fellowship. The youth presented a skit, called *God's Love/WooHoo* from the retreat to the entire congregation in the summer, and at the Carpenter's Workshop kick-off in September.

Fall meetings started in September and we welcomed new members Keeley Augsburger, Brittney Combs, Connor Robinson, Murphy Harrington and Jake Jones, bringing our total regular member count up to 18 – praise God! Pastor Barry joined our group as another leader, and we really appreciate him taking the time to join our group and be part of our youth's lives. The fall study series was a DVD entitled *Conflict*. This series talked about conflict in our lives, with family, with friends, and with God. In November, a new series, *Blockbuster Movie Illustrations* was started, and this will resume in 2011. This series uses movie clips from popular films to teach scripture.

The group watched the movie *To Save a Life* in October, and everyone was moved by the power of this film, and the message that every life is special and that we all must help each other on our walks with Christ.

A fall cookout with the Jr. High Youth Group was held at the Yahraus home on October 27. While the wind prevented us having a bonfire, and cookout, a good time was still had by all.

The youth spent the months of November and December rehearsing a song for the Annual Christmas Service. All 18 youth participated in this fun endeavor.

An additional fundraiser was added in November. To raise funds toward the summer 2011 retreat, calendars, notepads, greeting cards, and Christmas cards were sold in the Gathering Area.

On December 3, the group held their annual lock-in at the church and baked cookies and other goodies for 60 senior members of our church. This event is one of the highlights of the youth group year, and the teens really enjoy cooking, decorating and delivering the homemade treats to our senior church members.

The group continues to close each meeting in a prayer circle where each member has a chance to pray out loud their concerns and requests, and their praises and joys. Our Youth know the importance of prayer – for themselves, and for others, and we all look forward to this prayer time when we can come together in Christ and support and love each other.

We are so thankful to the congregation for understanding the importance of youth in the body of Christ and we appreciate all the support given to our group in 2010.

In Christ's Love,  
*Jeff & Jane Yahraus*

2010 Senior High Youth Group Members:

Adam Israel  
Alex Staup  
Anna Yahraus  
Aubrey Steele  
Brittney Combs  
Connor Robinson  
Greyson Spangler  
Jake Jones  
Jacob Whitman  
Jessie Nichols  
Josie Azzarello  
Keeley Augsburger  
Kim Tavierne  
Murphy Harrington  
Ryan Jones  
Taylor Zedaker

## MISSION COMMITTEE

First Presbyterian Church of Bryan supports many missions and encourages our members to be missionaries in their daily lives. We are all called to serve and help others. Our church has provided funds this year to the following missions.

- Solid Rock Mission: helping the health, education, and spiritual needs in the Dominican Republic
- Compassion International: sponsoring students in foreign countries in their basic education
- Cherry Street Mission: homeless shelter in Toledo
- Isaiah 6:8: helping the poor in Mexico
- Kairos: Christian ministry in the Toledo Correctional Institute
- H.E.L.P. (emergency assistance request, community emergency care): local help for food, rent, shelter and basic needs.
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Habitat for Humanity: help funding construction of homes for those in need
- The Sanctuary: local homeless shelter in Bryan
- Compassion Care Clinic: local medical clinic for those with no insurance or assistance
- Helping Hands Food Pantry: food pantry in Montpelier
- Presbyterian Disaster Relief: earthquake relief in Haiti
- Theological Education Fund: helps underwrite the cost of people becoming pastors

In January our church collected a large number of towels, blankets, bed linens, cleaning supplies, and other items for the Sanctuary.

Tuesday Night Free Meals continue to serve an average of 70 people. Each of the eight teams prepare and serve meals every eight weeks to people who really appreciate this mission.

On April 24 to May 1, 2010 a mission team travelled to the Dominican Republic as part of Solid Rock Missions. The doctors treated 550 people and the dentist treated 101 people. We visited a school, provided school supplies, passed out Spanish Bibles, and prayed with the villagers. Our church also funds several students which we got to meet on our mission.

On October 24, 2010 the Gumbo Get-Together (our authentic Cajun meal) was held with \$1025.30 donated to HELP.

We salute all the other efforts of our members in mission such as Outreach food cart, Youth's 30 Hour Famine, vacation Bible school's mission of food collection, Souper Bowl collection, and many others. The mission of spreading Christ's love through the world is each of ours mission. The committee welcomes suggestions and want to help each of you find opportunities to serve.

Mission Committee: Stan Rowan, Steve Bird, Connie Tipton, Craig Buell and Fred Nott

Respectfully submitted,  
*Stan Rowan*

## FREE MEAL MINISTRY

A high rate of unemployment continued in our county, and in response, our church continued its Free Meal Ministry every Tuesday night throughout the year. We had eight teams of workers, and each team served a meal once every eight weeks. Each team had its own menu and repeated it every time the team served. We used our china dishes to be good stewards of our resources.

The team captain led his/her team in set up, food preparation, serving, and clean-up. Meals were served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Funds for the meals were donated by church members over and above their annual contributions to our operating expenses. The cost of the food for the main course was approximately \$550 for an eight-week cycle. Team members also bought food items such as ice, bread, milk, tossed salad fixings and desserts as donations to the meals each week.

Our teams include:

- Joseph's Cupbearers: **Connie Tipton**, Stan Tipton, Martin Killgallon, Misty Killgallon, Penny Hallock, Jack Hallock, Shirley Mikesell, Ken Mikesell, Polly Winzeler
- Lord's Lasagna Lovers: **Linda Tumilty**, Kris Lowe, Jim Lowe, Lauren Lowe, June Webster, Tom Tilton, Jenella Tilton, Carol Rowan, Stan Rowan
- Cheeseburgers x 3: **Steve Bird**, Lori Bird, Gaile Moore, Bernadette Herman, Tami Roushia, Katie Roushia, Tyler Roushia, Lowell Frederick, Betty Frederick
- Team #4: **Laura Andres**, Gene Andres, Art Spletzer, Ann Spletzer, Susan Herman, Marilyn Scott, Alice Meuleman
- Heavenly Hashers: **Angie Schreder**, Tom Goodrich, Hannah Goodrich, Kathy Martinez, Patty Davis, Wayva Harris, Mary Lou Nichols, Pam Benedict, Teri Dawson, Jim Dawson, Taylor Dawson, Derek Dawson
- Spiritual Ronis & Cheese: **Marjorie Buell**, Craig Buell, Linda Jewel, Randy Jewel, Dee Spiess, Lyndon Spiess, Peyton Spiess, Jordan Spiess, Midge Culbertson, Darlene Mikesell
- Team #7: **Judy Shilling**, Kerry Sutter, Beth Hollabaugh, Jack Taylor, Vivian Taylor, Lois Ingle, Bill Brewer, Sharon Brewer, Neal Bever, Karen Murray-Bever
- Team #8: **Judy Sweet**, Jim Hall, Fran Hall, Dee Brickel, Dick Brickel, Deanne Beerbower, Sara Schaper, Andrew Elder, Bill Brewer, Sharon Brewer, Don Cravens, Carol Cravens

Over the last year, we averaged 68 people per week with a maximum of 83 people on July 27, 2010. We served approximately 2670 meals at the church in 2010. At 6:30 p.m., if food was left over, we offered take-outs to our guests and approximately 530 meals were carried out. So for the year, we served about 3200 meals.

Fran Hall purchased all the main course food and supplies and oversaw the weekly operation. We are grateful to all the volunteers who served each week, especially our greeter Don Butler and our faithful pan-washer Andrew Elder who is an ex-officio member of every team! We also appreciate those who gave generously to this ministry. The need for funds continues, and donations in any amount are most welcome.

This ministry made a significant contribution to the people of our community, and as long as there is a need, we hope to be able to continue our Free Meal Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

*Connie Tipton and Fran Hall*

## **EVANGELISM / CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE**

Our committee meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. The members for 2010 were Mary Lou Nichols, Alice Meuleman, Kerry Sutter, Pastor Sweet, and Elders, Patty Davis and Judy Shilling.

The year started off with new ideas to divide Evangelism / Member Care. After much discussion, it was decided that this committee would be split and now be known as Evangelism/ Church Growth with an added sub-committee, called Member Care.

Evangelism and Church Growth will be responsible for reaching out to possible new members through the newspaper, brochures and various activities. To also promote congregational growth and encourage members to share their faith with others.

The new sub-committee, Member Care, will be responsible for keeping the membership role current, encouraging new members to get involved in the church family and to promote the continued use of the Name Tag Ministry. Rita Benedict and Betty Frederick have agreed to serve on this new sub-committee.

The big project this year was having a new church directory made. In May, with much help in scheduling, and then after a glitch with the photographer, many of our church families were able to have their pictures taken. We want to thank Connie Tipton for providing all the technical planning and the lay-out of the pages which created the beautiful colored directories and brochures.

Thanks to Bruce Benedict and the church office personnel who arrange it all, the Driving Miss Elma program is still operating. This program provides transportation for people who need it, in and outside of Bryan.

Blood Pressure checks by Johnnie Flightner in the Gathering Area have continued on a monthly basis, until recently when Johnnie was in an accident. We hope she will have a complete recovery and will be back soon.

The Gumbo-Get-Together project was turned over to the Mission Committee as the money raised, goes to their projects. We all work together to make it a successful project.

We are ready to continue our work in 2011 and invite anyone who would like to serve on this committee to step forward and join us. We welcome your ideas.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Patty Davis and Judy Shilling, Elders*

## **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Prayer is one of the most important activities in the church and the Bible Study group spends half an hour in prayer each week. Leading the lessons is shared among Hyla Sharrock, Judy Sweet and June Webster.

We meet weekly and all are welcome to join the study as follows:

10:00 A.M. Prayer Concerns  
10:30 A.M. Lesson  
11:30 A.M. Shared luncheon

Respectfully submitted,  
*June Webster*

## **THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP**

The KNIT WITS, as I lovingly call us, have had a busy year. Our meeting times have been slim, but our needles have been clicking. Prayer Shawl needs were down a bit this year. We made and delivered 14 shawls.

Seeing that our need was not quite so great, we delved into a new area with the Community Pregnancy Center here in Bryan. It was told to us that each time a lady visits the center and receives word that she is indeed pregnant, she is given a pair of hand knit booties. At that particular time they we giving out approx. 180 pair a year. We decided that we would take on the goal of one year's supply of booties in addition to the Prayer Shawl needs. Our numbers are admirable! We have knit and delivered:

1 set Afghan, hat and booties  
2 Afghans  
89 sets of booties and hats  
26 pair hand knit baby socks  
86 pair of booties

I believe that number of booties is 202 pair!!!

Plus the 14 Prayer Shawls that were delivered and the 6 Prayer Shawls that are ready to be delivered when needed.

WOW...can you hear the click, click, click of those needles?

Each hand made item is prayed over as it is being made. It is then prayed over again before it is delivered. Covered in prayer is how we want each recipient to feel. To know someone cared and loved enough to make the item they receive, special for them.

All in all it has been a good and busy year. God has blessed us with gifts and talents that we can share with others. If you think that you might like to join our group...we would love to have you. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we would love to teach you. The only requirement to be a Knit Wit is to want to be a servant of God!

One of God's Servants,  
*Judy Sweet*

## **FUNERAL LUNCHEON COMMITTEE**

At the beginning of 2010, Polly Winzeler and Fran Hall asked to be relieved of their duties on the funeral luncheon committee. Judy Shilling accepted the leadership position.

We want to thank Polly and Fran for their many, many years serving as co-chairs of this committee. We also thank all the ladies who are always willing workers to help with the luncheons. We have some very faithful workers and really appreciate your help when the need arises.

In 2010, luncheons were served to the family and friends of Earl Sutter, John Schartzler, Mary Meckstroth, Ralph Clarke, and Kathryn Ort.

As a vital part of our church ministry, we are happy to provide this time of fellowship for the family after a funeral service. Anyone who would be willing to serve on this committee, in any capacity, is asked to contact the church office or give Judy Shilling a call at 419-636-7324, so I can compile an updated list. Thanks for your help.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Judy Shilling*

## STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE

The members of the committee for 2010 were Stan Tipton and Angie Schreder, Elders, Fran Hall, Financial Secretary, Kathy Martinez and Yvette Zedaker.

The purpose of the committee is to help church members better understand and put into practice the church's teaching, that stewardship involves the use of all our resources and opportunities, including time, service and wealth, to achieve the kind of life and community God envisions.

The committee members wrote stewardship articles for "News and Notes" each month.

Will Emphasis Sunday was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

In September the final payments were made to the Allegheny Organ Company and Bryan Area Foundation thus completing the remaining outstanding obligations of the Capital Campaign. Two items remaining to be done are the Parking Lot Resurfacing and Audio/Visual enhancements for the Sanctuary. The balance remaining in the Capital Campaign fund is \$68,919.56.

In October Fran Hall advised that she would be retiring as Financial Secretary. Angie and Pastor Barry interviewed applicants and hired Mary Ann Zylka. Fran provided training for Mary Ann and continues to answer questions that arise from time to time.

Fran requested that an audit be conducted at the end of her employment and it was completed by Yvette Zedaker and Scott Benedict.

Stewardship Sunday we held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The campaign this year stressed that we should "Give From the Heart." Charlie Nichols created an eight-foot high heart sculpture that was placed in the Gathering Area. Scriptures on giving and loving God we hung on the heart. A total of \$188,418 we pledged for the operating fund and \$15,360 for Capital Maintenance.

We ask you to pray for the financial health of our church through increased membership, giving, and awareness of what God would have us do to further His kingdom.

In Christ,  
*Angie Schreder*

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

1. A new dishwasher was installed in the kitchen, partly paid for with donations from the Great Banquet and Awakening communities and several individuals.
2. Poynter Plumbing replaced the chapel air conditioning unit.
3. Speakers were installed in the ceiling of the Chapel to aid in hearing the service by those in the back.
4. Speakers were installed in the ceiling of the nursery so both services can be heard.
5. Quotes were received to replace the south parking lot. Flags were attached to the tree stumps until which time the stumps will be removed when the parking lot is replaced.
6. Smith Brothers Snow Removal was hired to plow and salt the parking lots. An agreement was reached with Bryan City Schools to plow the North lot on school days in exchange for teacher parking.
7. The company that replaced the slate roof performed an inspection and replaced missing tiles and snow guards.
8. Inspections were performed on the fire alarms, the heating system, and the elevator.
9. The south parking lot was swept in the spring.
10. Farrell's Lawn and Garden was hired to landscape the slope outside the Fellowship Hall with stone and a new fence.
11. A bulletin board was hung in the hallway of the Christian Education wing for use by the youth groups.
12. The lights in the Chapel that illuminate the Good Sheppard window were repaired and a timer control added.
13. Quotes were received for adding heating and air conditioning in the Activity Room. The existing heating units are non-functional and beyond repair.
14. A wooden cross is being made for the courtyard with plans to erect it in the spring. The material has been donated and the property committee will make and install.
15. Several leaks in the rubber roofing were repaired.
16. Twenty requests were approved for the use of our facilities.
17. Additional shelving was installed in the large storage room.

Members of the property committee who served diligently, giving their time to help on various projects were Tom Tilton, Scott Benedict, Jim Hall, Tom Sprow, Jerry Spangler, Art Spletzer, and Jack Taylor.

## **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 2010, the Great Banquet community and steering committee continued to be blessed by God for guidance and vision as we moved forward with this ministry. This year two sets of banquets were held. During these four events, we hosted 101 guests. This brings to a total of 1319 men and women that have attended a Great Banquet here in our church since the beginning in September of 1997. We also are always blessed with a great support from local and area churches in this ministry.

In February 2009, our current pastor, Barry Sweet, attended a Great Banquet in his mother's home church in southern Florida. From his Banquet experience Barry graciously accepted the call to be our Community Spiritual Director. We as a community, enjoy the leadership and discernment that God provides through Barry's willingness to serve Christ in this capacity!

The committee is also humbled at the work that God does through the guests and team members on each weekend. There are several new ministries for this church and community that are being birthed as a result of people's lives being changed during these weekends. Praise God for His blessings!

At present on our steering committee, Chris Eschhofen is serving as the Community Lay Director, with active assistance from the other members: Barry Sweet (Community Spiritual Director), Rick Hanson (Music and Reunion Groups), Angie Schreder (Agape), Craig Buell (Agape), Yvette Zedaker (Treasurer), Rene Tewksbury (Kitchen), and MaryAnn Hurst (Publicity). Our new member this year is Susan Krupp (Child Care and Registration).

Preparations already have begun for four banquets in 2011. The first men's weekend will take place March 17-20th, and the women's banquet will take place March 24-27th. The fall dates are September 15-18th for the men and September 22-25th for the women.

The Bryan Great Banquet continues to host monthly gatherings, open to everyone, at First Presbyterian Church on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Chapel. For about 1½ hours, we gather for a time of worship and fellowship.

As a result of Bryan Great Banquet weekends there are many 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. Many of these groups meet here in our church. 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 God's life changing ministry here.

In His Service,  
*Chris Eschhofen*, 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 2010 – two for boys and two for girls.

- Boys' Awakening #31 was held January 22-24, with Dan Yahraus serving as Lay Director.
- Girls' Awakening #32, June 18-20, was led by Bonnie Staup.
- Boys' Awakening #33 happened July 9-11, led by Marc Tingle.
- Girls' Awakening #34 happened Nov. 5-7 with Susie Beals as Lay Director.

Eighty-two (82) 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. God often calls the Awakening to reach beyond traditional spheres of influence, and in 2010 the ministry was particularly blessed to include teens from the deaf community and a team of interpreters to help make that possible. It was an extra-special blessing for everyone involved!

The Awakening ministry provides a public website to assist in communicating information and encouraging participation. The site, located at [www.bryanawakening.org](http://www.bryanawakening.org), is a resource for registration and sponsor forms as well as general information about the ministry and related opportunities.

The Awakening plans to host four weekends (two boys, two girls) in 2011, including Boys' Awakening #35 scheduled for Jan. 14-16, with Jamie Krupp as Lay Director. 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.

Teens attending these weekends come away with a new or renewed faith in Jesus Christ, and many become more involved in their own churches OR 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 serves as the ministry's Community Spiritual Director. Gene Andres and Diana Moore Eschhofen serve as Co-Community Lay Directors. Other Steering Committee members are Chris Staup (Agape), Emily Ebaugh (Kitchen), Kevin Bock (Treasurer), Cort Goshia (Music), and Leslie Goshia (Youth Liaison).

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