

THE 189TH ANNUAL MEETING

At the First Baptist Church of Granville, Ohio

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At the
First Baptist Church
of Granville, Ohio

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Father Gregory Fruehwirth, a monk of the Order of Julian of Norwich, describes a holiday tradition in his Wisconsin monastery involving the Magi figurines spending “twelve days wandering from the Christmas tree all around the monastery, hopefully to arrive, twelve days later, at the crèche on the vigil of the Epiphany. The novice brothers and sisters move them about secretly so that the Magi and camels surprise you as they appear progressively in stairwells, windowsills, bookshelves, and even on top of the fax machine” (Fruehwirth, *Words for Silence*, p. 37). The image of the wandering Magi, looking for a place to offer their gifts in service of a vision of hope and peace, seems especially apt for the journey made by the congregation of the First Baptist Church in its recent past. The journey has been ongoing since previous pastor Reverend George Williamson announced his plans to retire; the journey has wound through places pleasurable and disappointing; the journey sometimes has been smooth, other times tumultuous, still other times so arduous that taking one more step seemed impossible, and other times almost mechanical, continuing because no other option presented itself; the journey alternately raised and undermined congregational morale; the journey lately seemed as if it would never end, that the long-sought holy birth of new church life and purpose would never be reached, that the congregation might simply keep wandering through the stairwells and bookshelves and pastors and program ideas and budgetary challenges that were forever rising, offering a hint of promise, only to wither in short order.

Yet as I write this annual report, in the last days of 2008, I sense that our church is at last able to see the stable we have been seeking these past years. A new energy is present among us as God’s spirit manifestly stirs excitement and anxiety at the prospect of a different church being borne in our midst. And just as three Magi brought three cherished gifts, we are presently unfolding three rich ministries that will conclude our present journey and launch us into a new kind of journey, as a new kind of church that both draws from our tradition while creatively reworking that tradition.

Almost a year ago, FBC member Carol Whitt described a vision for our moldy, long-neglected church basement that would transform it into an art studio and community gathering place, returning FBC to a position it once held as a center of community life, but in a distinctly different and contemporary way. Many months and volunteer hours later, Whatever Works unveiled its possibilities for us during the December Candlelight Walk, when hour after hour people streamed into the church basement, enjoyed soup and cookie decorating and jewelry making and fellowship that could not be found anywhere else in such a warm, creative setting. It was a sweet and poignant moment, as this church that has so often found itself standing outside community acceptance and approval became instead the place everyone in town wanted to come. The ancient church practice of hospitality, of welcoming others into one’s spiritual home not in order to change or convert them, but simply because such welcome is the charitable, Christian practice to which we are called, is now installed in our moldy old basement, a place of beauty and fellowship and sharing where before there had been ugliness. As is always the case with the practice of hospitality, some are skeptical of the value of this new ministry, even whether it can rightly

be called a ministry if it does not grow our membership and our budget in significant ways. Yet hospitality is not about results, but about process, about learning to welcome those who are different from us and who may well never become part of us. Perhaps Whatever Works, and the transformative possibilities it brings to our church, can be likened to the Magi's gift of frankincense: just as frankincense comes from trees that grow in inhospitable places and is used to create sweet-smelling perfumes, so has Whatever Works been borne in our inhospitable basement and has become a source of creativity and beauty for the entire community.

Again almost a year ago, our Mission and Social Action Committee launched into a deliberate period of research and discernment, searching for ways our church gifts might best be matched with specific community needs. The result of the Committee's research came in September in the form of a new outreach program, Fourth Sunday Lunches on the Square, with our commitment to prepare nutritious and free bag lunches for distribution in Newark, on a day when food pantries are typically closed, and at a time each month when public assistance funds are typically exhausted. The first Sunday brought the preparation and distribution of 50 bag lunches; the most recent Sunday distribution required 200 lunches; in January we will partner with Trinity Episcopal Church in Newark to add indoor seating and hot soup to our free bag lunch offering. The lunch program has been a remarkable success, both in terms of the need it is meeting and in terms of the energy and commitment it has inspired in our congregation. The program has also challenged us to look long and hard at many of our assumptions about church outreach, our motives for "doing good," and our attitudes towards those we choose to help. These challenges are controversial, often inspire difficult, probing debates among us—and clearly demonstrate the power of mission work, done in response to God's call, to transform those doing the work, as well as those being served by the work. The Lunches on the Square program is having an effect similar to that of the Magi's gift of myrrh, simultaneously pungent, unsettling, and healing for the community beyond the walls of our church as well as for the congregation within the church walls.

The final, golden gift of the Magi surfaced most recently in our congregational journey, and like gold its value will appear over time, rather than immediately. This gift is being forged in our children and youth ministry in the form of a radical change in the Sunday School program. After a time of struggle, disappointment, and soul-searching, the Christian Education Committee recognized the folly of trying to offer a traditional model of Sunday School in our nontraditional setting, and instead turned to a novel program and curriculum called PeaceJam, becoming one of only three Baptist churches in the nation providing this program. PeaceJam is an activist, service learning based curriculum that focuses on the primary sources of conflict in our world and teaches strategies for resolving and healing conflict at its roots. One especially intriguing element of PeaceJam includes direct, ongoing work with all the living Nobel Peace Prize laureates. PeaceJam gathers up many of the most important, lasting characteristics of our church as an activist, peace-and-justice oriented congregation, and directs them into new areas of study and practice. Like the other two new ministries, this educational ministry has already evoked a combination of enthusiasm for its possibilities and anxiety about the changes in expectation and functioning it will require of us.

In addition to accompanying the congregation in a time of wandering, I have found myself doing my own personal wandering since coming to Granville. This transition—from one denomination to another, from one style of congregation to another, following the extraordinarily large footsteps of a beloved former pastor—proved far more challenging for me than I had anticipated. Likewise, my ongoing struggle to find the proper balance between pastoral leadership that supports and pastoral leadership that directs has been hard to finesse, so that I missed the appropriate balance at least as often as I found it. I regret the degree to which my own uncertainty unnecessarily prolonged the congregation's time of wandering. Yet with the emergence of new ministries in our church has come the emergence of a new strength and focus in my own ministerial style, so that I look forward now to our journeying more closely and confidently together.

A Native American story describes a tribal elder offering wisdom to young people upon their successful completion of the traditional vision quest, when a journey is made from adolescence to adulthood. The elder warns the youth, "As you travel through life, you will come upon a great chasm. Jump! It is not as far across the chasm as you may think" (adapted from Joseph Campbell). Though our congregation has come a long way in a journey of transition, and though we can see the long-sought stable in the distance, we have not arrived there yet. A sizeable chasm lies before us, a chasm created by budget shortfalls, a scarcity mentality, unwillingness to change habitual ways of functioning, an inability to heal old rifts, a concern about the loss of a comfortable kind of church, a fear of taking risks that could as easily result in failure as in success. The chasm looks much too far across for us to jump safely and expect that all of us will land on the other side. God promises to keep us from falling, but we doubt whether even God could hold us up all the way across such a divide. Yet unless we jump, we will never complete our journey to the stable, never know the special joy and satisfaction that comes from sharing the gifts of our church with those beyond our church, never discover ourselves undergoing the special kind of transformation that comes when passion rather than caution drives our actions, when a holy calling rather than personal preference invites our engagement.

So as we step forward into 2009, the question before us is no longer where are we going, but what are we willing to do to get there? The divine child is still waiting for us to arrive.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Fuson Hurt

Report of the Church Moderator

In 2008 the Board of the First Baptist Church of Granville consciously adopted a different posture. Changing the board's agenda from reviewing committee reports to supporting church projects was an initiative to help us to focus on the future of FBC. At our first meeting in January members discussed various interests that church members were pursuing in order to select two or three areas to support as a Board. It was difficult to pick just three focus points since there are so many worthy projects that people in our congregation want to support, but it is important to concentrate our resources, leave committee work to committees, and keep the Board's attention on our collective community vision. Most faith traditions know where there is no vision, the people perish.

By April the Board decided to focus time and energies on getting the Whatever Works Art Space Project started, bringing more information to the congregation regarding dual affiliation with the UCC, and supporting MSAC's efforts for a local mission project.

First, the Board held several discussions about how to support the Whatever Works Art Space Project. Many volunteers helped to rehabilitate the basement to create a welcoming new space for the Art Project. Although there is still much work to be done, still many leaks to be fixed, this project is off to a great start. Currently the Whatever Works Art Space is donating 10% of its income to the church and 10% to the Woodlands. The 2009 FBC Board will continue to support this project, weaving the partnership between the Whatever Works Art Space and the First Baptist Church of Granville.

Second, in a Congregational meeting the church decided to commission a second UCC task force, charged to present opportunities for our congregation to experience the United Church of Christ through partnering with a sister church and other opportunities. The Board offered support to UCC Taskforce II to lead the congregation through the process that would eventually result in a vote of whether or not to dually affiliate with the UCC. The taskforce met several times over a six-month period and then reported to the Board that they wanted to table the discussion of dually affiliating with the UCC. Since the congregation voted to have opportunities for discovery presented to them, the Board asked Judith Thomas and Gini Lohmann Bauman to guide our community through three to four learning experiences about the UCC. Judith and Gini will be starting this process in January and helping our congregation with meaningful discussions about the process. Please remember that this will be a congregational decision.

Finally, the Board agreed to focus energy and support on MSAC's work to find a local project to help people of need in our community. MSAC researched the needs of our county and proposed that the Board continue to support the food bank through focused items that are not easily procured, and feeding the community through lunches on the square on the fourth Sunday of each month. These lunches are helping to relieve some of the hunger in our community when other avenues for food have been exhausted. The MSAC team put a lot of energy and research into finding meaningful ways for our church

to help our community. The FBC Board fully supports and looks forward to the next stages of Lunches on the Square.

The Board's transition to a structure that, primarily, sees its responsibility as supporting the ongoing work of the church has gone well, yet our entire community has much work to do. In particular, we must commit ourselves to finishing the revitalization building project begun six years ago. Finishing what we promised to do should rank first among the many demands for our resources.

Personally, one of the things that attracted me to becoming a member of the First Baptist Church of Granville was the diversity in beliefs and spirit. I have discovered that it is sometimes difficult in a diverse community to stick with tasks to completion. It is my sincere hope for our community that we can respect our diversity, but also honor obligations that we have made as one.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Flynn

Report of the Interim Choir Director

Our first full year with a part-time choir (and choir director) has been very interesting. The adult choir practices the last Thursday evening of each month and sings on the first and third Sundays of each month (although special church occasions and member travel schedules sometimes combine to alter that schedule).

Karen Graves and Jackie Dawson worked together to schedule wonderful special music for the second and fourth Sundays. We continued to enjoy our regular Fifth-Sunday Hymn-Sing.

Jackie Dawson has taken the first steps toward reactivating a bell choir. We will build on this good start as we go through 2009. Jackie has also been a devoted advocate for involving children and youth in music for our Sunday-morning worship services—a safe and supportive environment in which our younger musicians can flourish.

The former choir room below the choir loft and organ chamber is being cleaned up and de-cluttered to become the Elinor Eschmann Dunham Music Room, future home of the Eschmann Handbells (given by Elinor Dunham in honor of her parents).

The various musicians of the church take great pleasure in sharing their gifts with you, the congregation. We hope you enjoy what you have heard.

On behalf of all the musicians...
Sandy Ellinger

Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting
January 20, 2008 12:50 PM

Approximately 50 people were in attendance

Mike Robertson called the meeting to order and thanked the Rancho Ebenezer Brigade for lunch.

Kathy Hurt opened in prayer.

Joan Novak moved to accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. Nancy Reeb seconded. Vote was unanimous to accept.

Sharon Flynn moved to accept the committee reports. Sandy Ellinger seconded. Vote was unanimous to accept.

Recognition of 2007 Governing Board members.

Recognition of Staff and committee members.

Recognition of Volunteers.

Ken Klatt presented the slate of officers for 2008 and moved to accept the list. Karen Graves seconded. Discussion followed.

Jan Hoffman is not listed as co-chair of Worship committee and needs to be.
Jean Feeney is not on Social committee but is on Outreach and Membership committee.
Ceciel Shaw needs to be added to Christian Education committee.

Vote unanimous to accept amended slate.

Kathy Hurt thanked Mike Robertson for service as Board moderator and applause with a standing ovation were given, Karen Graves awarded Mike with special photos and frames.

Karolyn Burkett requested the new Board members be introduced. This was done.

Mike Robertson prefaced the Budget report with comments and explanations.

Pages 1-3 were distributed individually, reviewed in turn and questions fielded.

Nancy Dobbelaer explained the rationale for increase in Christian Education funding request.

Julie Reiswig told more about Baptist Peace Camp.

A request was made to break down the Christian Education expenses into their division of

funds.

Page 4 was distributed, reviewed and questions fielded.

Thanks given to Carol Whitt for income from Makers Market.

Request was made to get pledge statement letters out to congregation before the end of the year to notify where we stand in our giving.

Gratitude was given to Eloise DeZwarte for her work with the endowment and efforts to keep it growing.

Mike Robertson reiterated the positive aspects of our financial standing, highlighting the favorable contributions expenditures and suggests a "13th month" plan. This would be an extra month's equivalent payment to the current pledges we've made. Much discussion ensued.

MSAC award from revitalization fund versus the long term maintenance fund. Property committee has many concerns about financing the building's necessities. Revised proposal from Finance committee to add \$5500 to 13th month plan in order to reflect the long term maintenance fund. Hopefully this 13th month plan will cover the \$17,000 deficit. Motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as amended. 1 vote nay. No abstentions. All other votes in favor. Tom Burkett moved we don't pay ourselves back the \$7800 to the endowment until we see where we stand with the 13th month plan. Diane Jaquish seconded. What if the 13th month fails? A voice vote was inconclusive. A hand vote was suggested. Discussion followed. To deplete the endowment is financial suicide. Tom withdrew his motion, but Diane resubmitted it: 4 votes aye. 26 votes nay. 5 abstentions. Motion defeated.

Karolyn Burkett thanks the Revitalization committee for their hard work.

Tess Caley moved to adjourn. Jan Hoffman seconded. Vote unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Sheila Lafferty, Church Clerk

Report of the Church Clerk

Resident Members

Additions: 2 Total

By Baptism (1)
Audrey Garove

By Letter / Christian Experience (1)
Karen E. Overholt

Losses: 6 Total

By Death
Ruth Avery
Mary K Campbell
Louise (Darrow) Carroll
Peter Marshall

By Letter
Marilyn Dresser
Randle R. Mixon (Rick) correction from 2007

Membership Summary December 31, 2007

Resident Members	258
Associate Members	13
Non-Resident Members	<u>60</u>
	331

Membership Summary December 31, 2008

Resident Members	256
Associate Members	12
Non-Resident Members	<u>59</u>
	327

Average Attendance

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	58	74	72	86	74
February	99	88	77	95	79
March	135	96	78	91	70
April	86	89	83	102	73
May	79	67	69	80	67
June	68	65	90	62	44
July	57	48	43	69	43
August	60	44	43	62	44
September	83	100	83	94	68
October	76	87	85	72	58
November	78	75	98	78	57
December	69	63	75	68	69

Average Sunday Attendance

2004	-	79
2005	-	75
2006	-	75
2007	-	80
2008	-	62

Highest Attendance for a Sunday

2004 (275)	-	March 14
2005 (113)	-	September 11
2006 (146)	-	November 5
2007 (132)	-	April 8
2008 (89)	-	December 21

In Ministry & Mission

Report of the Christian Education Committee

2008 has been a year full of activity, transition and major discussions about what our Christian Education program should look like in 2009. We have met once a month; held a committee retreat in September and have had multiple discussions via email.

In 2008 we have welcomed and said goodbye to our CE Director, Jacquie Sutton. Our committee members as we started off the year included Jessica Bury (Denison Lily Intern), Ceci Shaw, Samantha Smith, Julie Reiswig, Beth Bryson (co-chair), Diane Jaquish, Patti Burkett, Felicia Fagg, Nancy Dobbelaer (co-chair) along with Kathy Hurt and Jacquie Sutton. During the year we said goodbye to Felicia and Jessica and then in December we added 2 youth representatives, Rachel Dobbelaer and Hiliary Bryson. 2009 will bring more transitions as the committee membership changes and as we change the look of the CE Director position.

Some of our highs in 2008 have included....

- ▶ Daniel Rainwater, Seth Dobbelaer, Rachel Dobbelaer, Bobbie Jaquish, Leah Dobbelaer, Zachary Dobbelaer, Jessica Bury, Dan and Nancy Dobbelaer and Mike Robertson all traveled to Nicaragua in March to live and work at Rancho Ebenezer for a week. All were involved in planning and fundraising prior to the trip and then upon their return they planned a worship service, created a power point and wrote thank you notes to the many supporters of the program.
- ▶ In May, the youth planned and led the worship service for our annual Youth Sunday Worship Service.
- ▶ In June, the Granville Ecumenical Bible School was sponsored by and held at St Edwards, Jacquie Sutton led recreation and helped recruit volunteers from our church to participate and support the event.
- ▶ In July, Julie and Jeff Reiswig, Tom Burkett, Claire Jaquish, Anna Burkett, Daniel Rainwater, Maggie Burkett and Morgan Oxenrider spent the week at Baptist Youth Camp in Laurel Ridge, NC. On September 7th, the youth led worship based on some of their experiences at camp. In November, Julie Reiswig attended the Fall planning retreat for the 2009 BYC camp.
- ▶ In November, as we looked forward to 2009 and the change in Sunday School curriculum, Morgan Oxenrider, Maggie Burkett, Bobbie Jaquish, Rachel Dobbelaer, Hiliary Bryson, Daniel Rainwater, Tom Burkett and Julie Reiswig traveled to Kalamazoo, Michigan to be a part of Peace Jam Slam which included a retreat for the youth and training for the leaders.
- ▶ The High School Baptist Youth Fellowship has been active throughout the year as they have met twice a month. Their activities have included Broom Hockey on Reiswig's Pond, games and pizza, ice skating, an impromptu trip to Wooster to listen to Ishmael Beah who

had been a child soldier in Sierra Leone, yard work that was their contribution to the Candlelight Bazaar, along with movies and discussions.

- ▶ On December 21st, we once again had a youth led service as we celebrated the Advent/Christmas Season with our annual Christmas Program.

Our not so highs in 2008 have been...

- ▶ Low Sunday School attendance
- ▶ Lack of congregational involvement in the CE Program
- ▶ Knowing that our CE Director leadership was changing again

Looking forward.....

After lots of soul searching and discussions amongst the committee about what things are most important to our congregation and our youth, the CE Committee made the decision to change the look of our CE program in 2009. While our Sunday School attendance is small in number it is great in energy and so we have looked for ways to harness that energy and move in a different way. With that in mind the CE Committee has chosen to adopt Peace Jam as our curriculum. Peace Jam will allow us to incorporate First Baptist's emphasis on peace, the scriptural call to be peacemakers and Peace Jam's studies that include the opportunity to learn about many Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and specifically about Jody Williams (a peace prize winner whose focus is to get rid of landmines). With our new curriculum we will have 2 Sunday School classes on most Sundays and will have a multi-age class one Sunday a month. We are looking forward to having many members of the congregation be involved in this new and exciting adventure.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Dobbelaer, Chair

Report of the Mission and Social Action Committee

In 2008, the Mission and Social Action Committee was comprised of Amy Mock, Laura Joseph, Julia Brodie, Mary Fleming, Jack Shuler, and Lyn Robertson. I want to thank all the members of this very strong committee for their commitment, dedication, and hard work on developing and carrying out outreach efforts.

During our first meeting together, we decided to target the church's efforts at local, national, and international levels. At the local level, we began by spending a few months finding out about the services being offered to people in need in Licking County, hoping to find a gap in services we felt we could fill. This resulted in initiating Lunches on the Square, reviving monthly collections for the Food Pantry, beginning a mentoring program, calling for volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, and contributing to Coalition of Care. Nationally, we chose to continue our strong tradition of sending funds to the American Baptist Churches (ABC/USA), The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the Alliance of Baptists, and The Fellowship of Reconciliation. Our international project continues to be Rancho Ebenezer, a teaching farm, in Nicaragua. We also sent \$500 to Mark Hare, a Presbyterian missionary in Haiti, to help with hurricane relief.

The following list details the activities we organized and in which members of the church participated.

Rummage Sale

We held the annual rummage sale June 7 and raised about \$1500 for Rancho Ebenezer. The money will be used for the February/March trip to Nicaragua; part will subsidize the trip itself and part will go toward equipment and materials to be used there.

Food Pantry

Monthly collections for the Food Pantry are now well established, and we are contributing several baskets of food or personal items each month. We asked people to keep in mind that the Food Pantry can buy most foods for \$.04/pound, but they cannot buy tuna, peanut butter, or personal products in this way. We stressed that the Food Pantry is always in need of money and that the need is even greater currently due to the current national financial crisis. For these reasons, in addition to money, we designated certain items for each month:

September: Personal Items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, tissues, feminine products, razors, paper towels, etc.)

October: Tuna

November: Peanut Butter

December: Personal items

Lunches on the Square

On the fourth Sunday of each month, everyone was invited to help make bag lunches after the church service, and a small number of people were designated to take them to the square in Newark and give away to anyone who came for them. We sent flyers to the food pantries and

to the Methodist Church on Fifth Street, and we informed the Coalition of Care about this effort. The fourth Sundays were chosen in order to help people who have used up their food stamps and their eligibility for the Food Pantry. The fourth Sundays in 2008 were: 9/28, 10/26, 11/23, and 12/28. We began with 50 lunches, doubled that number the next two months, and took 200 lunches in December. The December 28 worship service was dedicated to the making of the lunches. Each lunch included a meat or tuna sandwich, an apple, and a homebaked cookie; the cost of each lunch has been slightly over \$1.00.

Mentoring

In December, Judith Allee, Parent Support Coordinator, Mental Health America of Licking County held a session for people wanting to become mentors for people in financial crisis, and eight church members participated. We expect this to grow in 2009.

Habitat for Humanity

Four church members worked on two different Saturdays in the summer. The Feminist Class took lunch to the worksite on another Saturday. MSAC would like to facilitate more volunteering for Habitat.

Coalition of Care

In addition to sending our usual contribution to this local agency, MSAC bought ten tickets for each of two coalition events, a gospel concert and a pasta dinner, and distributed them to church staff and members. MSAC members also worked at the dinner; some are attending coalition meetings.

This has been a building year for MSAC, and we expect to strengthen each of these efforts in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Robertson, Chair

MSAC BENEVOLENCES - 2008

\$	18,774.00	STARTING BUDGET
\$	1,000.00	Licking County Housing Coalition
\$	400.00	East Mound Community Center
\$	6,500.00	ABC/USA
\$	1,800.00	Assoc of Welcoming/Affirming
\$	100.00	Colgate Rochester Seminary
\$	25.00	National Council of Churches
\$	25.00	Ohio Council of Churches
\$	25.00	World Council of Churches
\$	1,100.00	Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
\$	200.00	Fellowship of Reconciliation
\$	400.00	Alliance of Baptists
\$	3,000.00	Coalition of Care
\$	500.00	First Love
\$	500.00	New Beginnings Women's Shelter
\$	1,804.60	Miscellaneous MSAC expenses
<hr/>		
\$	1,394.40	Balance of funds remaining

Cash contributions for Licking County Food Pantry: \$354.00

Miscellaneous MSAC expenses (\$1,804.60) included:

- \$ 534.60 lunches on the square
- 460.00 paid to Coalition of Care fundraising
- 110.00 Pride Parade
- 100.00 Torture Banner
- 500.00 Amesville Presbyterian for Haiti
- 100.00 Rancho Ebenezer rummage sale fundraiser

Report of the Outreach and Membership Committee

The Outreach and Membership Committee has only had 2 main projects this year. Both of these have taken considerable time to complete. The first was to complete the FBCG photo directory. This was finally completed around September after several holdups on the production end. The second project went considerably smoother. FBCG sent a respectable contingent to the annual 2008 Pride Parade in Columbus. While walking in the parade, participants handed out rainbow peace necklaces, bottled water and Frisbees. All of these items had contact information for First Baptist. We look forward to a larger presence in 2009. One final project that is ongoing is to make sure that there are 2 greeters for Sunday morning service. Larry Moore used to do this and we decided it was important to maintain this contact with people entering our church. A personal heartfelt “welcome” goes a long way. Plans are still in the works for redesigning the website.

As our mission focuses change so will our outreach. We look forward to these new opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,
Tess Caley, Chair

Report of the Social Committee

The social committee has been involved almost every month in activities related to the business of making our space more easily used for social activities. In February we worked on cleaning up the coffee bar to organize storage space. We advertised for our Second Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast that was served in the CE Building between 8:30am and 10:30 am. (before church). In April we provided coffee for the Nicaraguan Mission Project. In July we worked with members of the CE Committee to clean up the CE kitchen by sorting through and getting rid of items no longer used. In September we provided and cooked hot dogs and hamburgers outside for our Annual Church Potluck. We also provided buns, condiments and cold drinks. We planned outdoor activities but found that impossible because of rain. In October we cooked, set-up tables, and provided brunch for Stewardship Sunday in the chapel. We continue to maintain the supplies for the chapel kitchen and make sure coffee and snacks are available after church each and every Sunday. We no longer provide cake in celebration of monthly birthdays. We are now discussing money-making activities.

We would like to express a special thanks to the following people who provided snacks for coffee hour: (some did this more than one time).

Ceciel Shaw & Jack Shuler
Jerry Moore
Rita Potts & Amy Canini
Beth Bryson
Julia & Bill Brodie
Mary Fleming
Tess Caley & Sheila Lafferty
Patti & Tom Burkett
Jerry Griffin & Judith Thomas
Audrey Garove & Karen Overholt
Mission to Nicaragua
Laura Joseph
Jean Feeney
Lyn & Mike Robertson
Karolyn Burkett
Fletcher & Gwynyth Chmara-Huff
Diane Jaquish
Jan Hoffman
Jerry Mercer

The Social Committee consists of the following people: Jerry Mercer, Tess Caley, Sarah Burkett, Amy Canini, Jean Feeney, and Nancy Reeb

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Reeb, Chair

Report of the Staff Relations Committee

Staff Relations Committee, 2008

1. In 2008 the Staff Relations Committee (SRC) welcomed new member, Norm Gearhart.
2. The SRC conducted its annual compensation study using the most recent Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) data as a guideline. Few comprehensive compensation studies are available. Apparently, no comparable Baptist studies exist. First Baptist Church of Granville has attained equity pay levels for administrator and custodian but still lags behind regarding fair compensation for organist and pastor. The SRC has written five-year plans for reaching equitable pay levels in these positions and bases yearly budget requests on that information.
3. The SRC reviewed the pastor's evaluation of job performance for administrator, custodian, and organist and conducted its annual evaluation of the pastor.
4. Jacquie Sutton resigned as part-time Christian Education Director, effective 28 December 2008.
5. The SRC altered the job description of the administrator allowing her to contact vendors for church maintenance from a list of contractors prepared by the Property Committee, up to a limit of one thousand dollars. The Church Board approved the change so that repairs can be addressed in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Graves, Chair

Committee Members: Norm Gearhart, Karen Graves, Dick Lucier, Judith Thomas

Report of the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee's goal is to work hand-in-hand with the pastor to create meaningful worship experiences that transcend our congregation's multiple faith traditions and backgrounds.

Easily said. Not so easily done.

Every decision involves both philosophical and practical considerations. Every decision pleases some, displeases others. Every person is in one position or the other at some point.

Our conclusion? Reaching our goal requires celebrating everything we have in common, and using that energy to weave a congregational fabric that will stretch and give to accommodate our differences without ripping at the seams.

As always, congregational feedback is vital to our work. You are invited to communicate directly with any member of the committee as well as to attend any of our meetings (the first Sunday of each month, in the West Parlor 15 minutes after the end of the service).

With faith in our collective ability to reach the goal, we are...

The Worship Committee

Sandy Ellinger & Jan Hoffman, co-chairs

Bill Brown, Faith Callison, Jackie Dawson, Dee Fontana, Lyn Robertson, Judith Thomas

To Be Good Stewards
of What I Have
Entrusted To You

Report of the Property Committee

No report submitted

Report of the Finance and Endowment Committee

This report briefly describes the significant financial challenges that our church is currently facing. Additional information can be found in the 2008 Financial Statement and the proposed budget for 2009 that was adopted by the Church Board.

1. Financial Challenges During 2008: Financial Deficit and Investment Losses

- a. In 2008, our expenses (\$198,509.85) exceeded our income (\$183,163.53) by \$15,346.32.
 - i. The good financial news in 2008 related to our expenses. They were about \$8000 lower than our 2008 budget anticipated and only about \$5350 above our 2007 expenditures. Thus, our \$15,346 deficit was generated by a shortfall in income, not by excessive spending.
 - ii. The income from our pledging units was \$20,651 lower than the budgeted amount; this was the most significant factor contributing to the 2008 deficit. The actual pledge income was \$5443 less than the amount that had been explicitly pledged, and our 13th month program received \$15,208 less than had been projected. The pledged and 13th month accounts are combined in the \$20,651 figure because it was often impossible to determine whether a particular contribution was meant for the 13th month program. This illustrates the importance of having realistic pledges and contribution goals. If we had collected all of our pledges and the 13th month projections in 2008, we would have ended the year with over a \$5000 surplus.
 - iii. On a more positive note, our unpledged offering income netted \$2313 more than had been anticipated in the 2008 budget. These unpledged offerings reduced the total Contribution budget deficit from \$20,651 to \$18,338.
 - iv. Reduced income in other areas also contributed to our deficit. We received \$1636 less than anticipated from our investments, \$1457 less from renting our facilities, and \$1920 less from our fundraising activities.
- b. In 2008, our endowment, which is invested with The Columbus Foundation, lost \$101,587, about 22.4% of its 1/1/2008 value. As 2009 began, it was valued at \$352,045.
 - i. This investment loss will noticeably reduce our investment income in future budgets since we have been using as income 5% of the average of the account's value on the first day of the proceeding three years.

- ii. This income use is within the accepted norms for charitable institutions, as is our investment strategy.
2. Financial Challenges During 2009: The projected \$20,814 deficit in the budget for 2009 adopted by the Board
- a. The good news for 2009 is related to our pledges; they have increased to \$134,132. This is \$5558 more the amount that was explicitly pledged in 2008 and \$10,727 more than the amount that was actually collected from pledges.
 - b. The proposed budget tries to hold down discretionary expenses without harming our programs. The projected expenses are \$3280 less than the actual 2008 expenditures. The 2009 budget does not include funds to make the annual payment to our loan from our Endowment; we made this loan payment in 2008.
 - c. A noticeable part of the projected 2009 deficit relates to losses in income from revenue sources not related to contributions. Our Fund-Raising budget is now estimated at only \$500; it is hoped that members will volunteer to engage in fund-raising activities to boost this source of income. Other revenue sources, Investment Income and Rent Revenue, are also lower, but our control over these sources is limited.
3. The Finance and Endowment Committee also worked with MSAC to develop principles for governing fund-raising activities not directly related to supporting the Church Budget. The principles that were adopted are on file in the FBC office, but they will need to be revisited during the 2009 year. Certain problems were revealed as we sought to apply them in 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Novak, Chair

Report on the Revitalization Project

There was no activity in 2008. A balance of over \$23,500 remains in the Revitalization Campaign Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Reiswig

Report of the Stewardship Committee

The financial conditions made the job of the Stewardship Committee more difficult than usual. Pledges were substantially less than last year due to the financial condition of the economy and the loss of some parishioners. We are hopeful that the folks who did not pledge will continue to provide as much financial support as they can. We also would thank those who trusted their faith and made a pledge.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Martin, Chair

Report of the Nominating Committee

2009 Slate of Officers

Officers

Moderator	Sharon Flynn
Vice Moderator	Ceciel Shaw
Church Clerk	Sheila Lafferty
Financial Secretary	Mike Robertson
Treasurer	Rita Potts
Member-at-Large	Audrey Garove
Member-at-Large	Karen Overholt

Committee Chairs

Christian Education Committee:	Nancy Dobbelaer
Finance and Endowment Committee:	Joan Novak
Mission and Social Action Committee:	Lyn Robertson
Nominating Committee:	Ken Klatt
Outreach and Membership Committee:	Tess Caley
Property Committee:	
Social Committee:	Nancy Reeb
Staff Relations Committee:	Karen Graves
Stewardship Committee:	Beth Bryson
Worship Committee:	Jan Hoffman

Current Composition of Standing Committees

Christian Education Committee:	Nancy Dobbelaer (chair), Patti Burkett, Julie Reiswig, Samantha Smith
Finance and Endowment Committee:	Joan Novak (chair), Eloise DeZwarte, Jan Hoffman, Rita Potts, Mike Robertson
Mission & Social Action Committee:	Lyn Robertson (chair), Julia Brodie, Jackie Dawson, Mary Fleming, Laura Joseph, Jack Shuler
Nominating Committee:	Ken Klatt (chair), Karen Graves, Nancy Reeb.
Outreach and Membership Committee:	Tess Caley (chair), Jean Feeney, Dee Fontana, Bobbi Jaquish, Carol Whitt
Property Committee:	(No chair), Gery Bauman, Bill Brown, Dan Dobbelaer, Jack Esslinger, Lou Jaquish, Ken Klatt, Jerry Mercer, Charlie VanNess Ex officio member: Louise Gemmell.
Social Committee:	Nancy Reeb (chair), Sarah Burkett, Tess Caley, Amy Canini, Jean Feeney, Jerry Mercer
Staff Relations Committee:	Karen Graves (chair), Beth Bryson, Norm Gearhart, Judith Thomas
Stewardship Committee:	Beth Bryson (chair), Ceciel Shaw
Worship Committee:	Jan Hoffman (chair) Faith Callison, Sandy Ellinger, Dee Fontana, Sheila Lafferty, Lyn Robertson Ex officio member: Jackie Dawson.