2009
Annual Report

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Palestine, Illinois
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CALL OF MEETING
ASCERTAINING A QUORUM
CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF DOCKET
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CLOSING PRAYER
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2009

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Palestine, Illinois was held on Sunday, January 18, 2009 immediately following morning worship service. The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by the Moderator, Rev. Paul K. Phillips, who opened the meeting with prayer.

The Moderator stated the call of the meeting was to conduct the business of the First Presbyterian Church of Palestine at its annual gathering. The call for the Annual Congregational Meeting was announced on the previous two Sundays, as is stipulated by the Book of Order. It was ascertained by the Clerk of Session that a quorum was present.

A motion was passed to approve the Docket in the Annual Report. The minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting of Sunday, January 20, 2008 were approved as printed in the Annual Report.

The Moderator requested a motion to accept the Pastor's Report, Session Reports, Committees and Special Group’s Reports, and the Church School Reports. The motion was made and passed with no discussion.

The meeting was turned over to Elder Eric Fulling to present the names chosen by the Nominating Committee as the proposed slate of officers. Elder Fulling thanked the Nominating Committee for serving and giving of their time. The proposed slate of officers presented were: Elders, Class of 2011 – Cindy York and Nancy York; Trustees, Class of 2011 – Kent Boyd, Doug Goodwine, and Linda Russell; Inter-Church Committee, Class of 2011 – Mindy Fulling; Local Benevolence Fund Committee, Class of 2010 – Judy Winger; Nominating Committee for 2009 – Megan Ellis, Angie Ertin, Francine Phillips, Lynn Pifer, Loretta Shanes; Sunday School Co-Superintendents – Eric Fulling and Carolyn Ripley; Substitute Sunday School Superintendent – Michelle Goodwine; Sunday School Co-Secretaries – Karren Greene and Greg Knoblett; Pastoral Relations Committee – Betty Lou Lawhead and Diana Nickum. The slate of officers was approved by voice vote with no discussion.

The Moderator recognized Reese Fuller and turned the Annual Congregational Meeting over to him as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Reese thanked his fellow Trustees and Sandy Ellis for their time and hard work. The Trustee's Report was approved with no discussion. The Treasurer’s Report was approved. Reese then presented the Auditor's Report as submitted by Dawn Biggs, which was approved by the congregation:

"The following examination of the financial material furnished to me by Sandra Ellis, Secretary/Treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church, can in no way be considered an audit of the church's financial condition. The material received consisted of bank account information on eight checking and savings accounts, weekly contribution reports and offering worksheets, monthly financial reports for the calendar year 2008, investment account information, and weekly attendance summaries. Entries were scanned for reasonableness. The month of July 2008 was randomly chosen to validate record keeping procedures. Total weekly income was traced from the weekly offering worksheets to weekly contribution reports, deposit tickets, bank statement, and monthly..."
report. The check register was scanned for reasonableness. Interest income was compared between the bank statement and monthly report. Deposits, disbursements, and transfers were traced to the monthly report. The monthly bank reconciliation was also examined.

In view of the above measures, I believe there are no material errors or irregularities. All entries appear to be in order. Dawn M. Biggs, CPA"

Mr. Fuller turned the floor over to Sandy Bryans as Clerk of Session to discuss the Proposed Budget for 2009. The Clerk commented that few pledge cards were received for 2009. Questions from the floor were taken and answered by the very capable, Sandy Ellis. It was approved by voice vote to accept the Proposed Budget for 2009.

The Clerk then turned the meeting back over to the Moderator who asked if there was any miscellaneous business to come before the congregation. Hearing none, he accepted the motion to adopt the 2008 Annual Report. The motion was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Moderator, Rev. Phillips at 11:40 a.m.

Sandra G. Bryans, Clerk of Session
Pastor’s Report
Rev. Paul K. Phillips

2009 was a year of restoration! Perhaps the biggest restoration was the remodeling of our sanctuary, classrooms, library and two new offices for the Secretary/Treasurer and the Pastor. They are beautiful as is all the work that was done. The planning and preparation took time and tireless efforts by many people. We are grateful to all who helped; the Remodel Committee, the Trustees and especially to Kent Boyd and Judy Kincaid for their vision and perseverance. We are also truly grateful to Don and Inez Winters’ Estate, without which we could not have done this project. We re-dedicated the sanctuary, classrooms and offices in a special worship service on November 22, 2009.

2009 had hardly begun when I had my left hip replaced on Jan. 8th. It was a successful surgery, but after a few days in the hospital and another thirty days at home doing therapy I was spinning my wheels. When I think back to last January I am still overwhelmed by the gift of the congregation (and Pleasant View) to not only keep my son Andrew and I supplied with food, but also fill the pulpit with Karren Greene, Jim Bryans and Rev. Paul Gettinger. Your generosity and support made a difference in my restoration and I am grateful to all of you.

2009 also was the year that both congregations revisited the Yoke Agreement between Pleasant View Church and the First Presbyterian Church. After much discussion and debate the First Presbyterian Church voted to keep the Yoke Agreement. I admit that there were misunderstandings, that people felt hurt and betrayed. Looking back, I acknowledge my own complicity in the misunderstandings, thinking it was best to have other people moderate some of the meetings. There were unhappy parishioners from both churches. So, let us begin the healing process and to restoring the good will between the two churches. One of the things we did this year with Pleasant View is the renewal of Adult Bible Study classes with both churches. We did a six-week Lenten Study and a thirteen-week study of the book of Hebrews. We also continued our tradition of Maundy Thursday service at Pleasant View and the Christmas Eve service at the Presbyterian Church. And we shared fellowship time and meals. The Inter-Church Committee will continue to work towards restoration as we plan more fellowship activities that can be shared between the churches.

I am continually reminded of the strong and capable leaders in our church. Both the Session and the Trustees were filled with people willing to work, and lead and support this church and its commitment to the community. Sandy Ellis gets many things done as the Secretary and Treasurer, although much goes unnoticed. She is diligent and hard-working and I am very appreciative of her work. I attended the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois meetings throughout the year with Elder Clara Seeders. Our travels took us to Decatur, Mt. Vernon, Greenville, and Effingham. I serve on two Presbytery Committees, the Nominations Committee and the Records Committee.

2009 had its full share of sadness and grief. We witnessed the deaths of many of our wonderful people. I feel privileged to officiate at funeral services. They are a part of ministry and they serve as an opportunity to begin healing and restoration to the family’s loss. Yet, even afterwards we still need time to grieve. We need a place where our sorrow can be freed and our joy in life restored. I believe this congregation provides that type of place; in our weekly worship services, in our special fellowship times, and in the prayers and deep friendships shared with one another. This year we held our second Service of Remembrance with a candle lighting ceremony at the beginning of December. I was honored and privileged to be blessed with the
friendship of Steve Miller, Alice Bryans, Emogene Mefford, Lillie Hout and Dorothy Magill. I also officiated at funeral services for Max Chiddix, Freeda Cline Taylor, Vera Bex Buchanan, Kathy Lea Knoblett-McCollister, and my wife’s cousin, Helen Ann Forney.

I am grateful for the mission outreach of our church. In 2009 we added a new mission when we supported a Foodmobile, with Pleasant View, and handed out food staples to people at the Palestine Fire Department. In addition to this event, we supported the community through Union Vacation Bible School, Community Good Friday and Easter Sunrise Services, Community Thanksgiving Service and the Christmas Eve Service. We supported the Labor Day Parade again, worked the concession stand at the Bull Bash, supported the Lighting of the Park with our choir, and One of my most treasured times of ministry is when we conduct worship service at Crawford Memorial Hospital, Long-Term Care Unit and at Cotillion Ridge Nursing Home. These times together with the nursing home residents are truly special and meaningful for all involved. I am grateful for those who come to support the service with their singing and especially for Carolyn Ripley who plays the piano each time.

We had fun during Brent Vernon’s Ventriloquist show, during our Cook Out and Game Night, our Talent Show/Spring Fling and barbecue. Who was that, “Couple of Swells?” They were so good, or not, they were called to an encore performance for the Crawford County’s Got Talent at the Fife Opera House.

I enjoy the Children’s Christmas Program very much. Thank you to Linda Ryan-Catt for her long hours to prepare the children for such a wonderful service. And a big thanks to all the children. This year they presented “A Shepherd’s Story,” and they were terrific. I held a set of six confirmation classes for several youth and we still plan to bring them into membership in the near future. Our children continue to grow and amaze me during the Children’s Time in worship. I sense they are getting ahead of me. I like seeing them help with the worship service, lighting the candles, collecting the offering, and running the sound system. I look forward to seeing more of them in future worship services.

Our Union Youth group started out well in 2009. We had several fun times together, bible studies and fellowship. Unfortunately, by the end of the year we realized that we needed to start over again. The “Union” idea did not prove to be beneficial for all of our children and so we will begin a new Youth Group in the New Year.

Our worship services remain the primary focus of my ministry. We have a tremendous choir and choir director. We are grateful for the beautiful sanctuary and the welcoming provided by our parishioners to visitors and to one another. It is always a blessing to bring a message of hope and love to you. 2009 saw new members Richard and Jane Hudson and Chuck Felkamp join us. We have a very strong Adult Sunday School program at First Presbyterian Church. I am so grateful for each and every class, their leaders and teachers and participants. We also witnessed the joining in marriage of Loretta Shanes and Chuck Felkamp. These are always joyful times for all of us. I also officiated at the wedding of my nephew Jeff Padgett to Franny Condou in Whittier, California and Mike Eakins and Brenda Ryker at the Pleasant View Church.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Thank you for your prayers, for the financial support, for your kindesses and generosity given in so many ways. Thank you for vacation and study leave time off. Thank you for the new office. I am looking forward to 2010 and furthering our commitment to Christ and to one another.

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Paul
Session Report
Sandy Bryans, Clerk of Session

It has been a humbling honor to serve the congregation this year. The Ruling Elders for the year 2009 are the following: Sandy Bryans, Mary Ann Fulling, Charlie Nickum, Clara Seeders, Cindy York, and Nancy York.

Pastor Paul had hip surgery on January 8, 2009. He was back in the pulpit on February 8th. The new elders, Cindy and Nancy were installed on February 8, 2009. That day we had Elder training after a lunch at the church. In the month of January we had Karren Greene, Jim Bryans, and Rev Paul Gettinger as our pulpit supply.

I will try to give some of our activities in calendar order. In March we approved to help Pleasant View with the Harvest Food Mobile. We would help unload food, set up, and distribute the food, as well as pay half of the amount of the food, $1500.00. Also in March the Pastor held a "New Member class and Weekly Sunday Evening Bible Study. For a fun night we had Brent Vernon, a singer and ventriloquist give a concert. In May, Richard and Jane Hudson joined our congregation. Later that month we had a well-attended Graduate Picnic. This picnic was held as an Inter-church meal with Pleasant View. The wonderful talent of the church family was realized at the "Talent Nite/Spring Fling. I am not aware of any further engagements anyone had.

In July Pastor Paul had an Adult New Member class. There was also a six-session Confirmation class for youth thirteen years old and up. Vacation Bible School was held the last week of the month, in conjunction with the Christian Church.

Terry Postlewaiete asked for a new recruit for her active Tweens n Teens Class. Mindy Fulling and Cindy Boyd were happy to be working with that age group. Thank you, Mindy and Cindy!!

August was the month we met with the Trustees and the Church Improvement Committee regarding the Remodeling Project for the Fall of 2009.

There was also a "Cook-out and Game Night sponsored by the Variety Pack Class. We welcomed Chuck Felkamp as a new member.

In September, we worked the South concession stand at the Bullbash on the Wabash. What a together experience!

The months of September and October were stressful/happy times for the entire congregation. The remodel project was completed, under budget. The talk of dissolving the yoke with Pleasant View was upsetting to some and disturbing to others. The sanctuary and the congregation were both refreshed and ready to "move on" after the vote to not dissolve was taken and the improvement project was completed. I think there was a clearer understanding of love, fellowship, and families worshipping together. Re-dedication service was November 22, 2009.

We had a first time - yard sale to help raise monies for the church. Thank you Dave and Judy Winger for hosting the Church-wide Yard Sale.

In November the Inter-church Committee organized the annual
Thanksgiving meal. The Session also manned the dessert portion of the “Lighting of the Park.” All monies received went back to the Lighting Committee.

December 13th was a busy day, with the Children's Christmas Program during morning worship, and then downstairs for the annual Koinonia Class delicious luncheon for all. We were delighted to have several children participate in the Christmas Program – “A Shepherd’s Story.” They were: SHEPHERDS-Foster Biggs, Kendra Biggs, Charlie Catt, MaryAnn Catt, Resa Fuller, Lindsay Ryan, Cole Wesner, and Lance Wesner, ANGELS-Alexia Zane and Marisa Zane, NATIVITY-Mary - Lindsay Ryan, Joseph – Matthew Trimble, King - Caleb Trimble, King - Gavin Postlewaite, and King - Connor Erton. The program was directed by Linda Ryan-Catt.

Carols and Candles on Christmas Eve is the best way to feel Christ, the "reason for the season".

Missions remain the same: March - Marion Mission, April - Christian Care Crisis Center, May & September - Oblong Christian Children's Home, June - Kemmerer Village, July - Crawford County Habitat for Humanity, August - Palestine Grade School Character Counts Program, October - Robinson Food Pantry, Nov - Lighthouse Mission, of Terre Haute, and December - S.W.A.N.

Special offerings for the year are: Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, and Christmas Joy. This year we had the privilege of matching congregation support for the new Palestine Library, $2220.00 was sent to the Library. Thank you to everyone for your support.

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<tr>
<th>Session Statistical Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Active Membership, January 1, 2009.........................175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received by Certificate of Transfer .....................................1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received by Confession of Reaffirmation of Faith....................2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restored to Active Membership .............................................0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal..............................................................................178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissed to Other Churches ..............................................0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placed on Inactive ............................................................0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removed...............................................................................0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths................................................................................4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal..............................................................................4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Active Membership, December 31, 2009.........................174</td>
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Worship Committee
Charles Nickum

The Worship Committee again provided communion the first Sunday of each month and during the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. Arrangements were made for Advent Sundays.

The pulpit was filled by Rev. David Schwingle, Sandy Ellis, Rev. Paul Getttinger, Karren Greene, Jim Bryans, Rev. Tim Flagg with Paul Shaw of the Terre Haute Lighthouse Mission, and members of the Session. Pastor Paul’s hip surgery required the use of more pulpit supply than is usually necessary. The Worship Committee is grateful for all who filled the pulpit.

Commissioner to Presbytery
Clara Seeders

Pastor Paul and I have traveled to four meetings of the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery this year. On February 12th, we attended the meeting in Greenville, IL. On May 14th, we were privileged to attend the meeting and retirement celebration for Dick Malmberg held in Effingham, IL. We traveled to Mt. Vernon, IL on September 24th – a very rainy day. Our final meeting was held in Decatur, IL on November 19th. These meetings are very informative and they provide an opportunity to meet our church members and make friends beyond our immediate church family.

Memorial Fund Committee
Mary Ann Fulling

The Memorial Fund received donations this year in memory of Wanda Rosenberg, Lillie Hout and Dot Magill. There were no expenditures for 2009.

Pastoral Relations Committee
Charles Nickum

This was a year which demonstrated the need for an active Pastoral Relations Committee which would work closely with the minister, the Inter-Church Committee and members of the Pastoral Relations Committee provided by Pleasant View Church. No Pastoral Relations Committee members were provided by Pleasant View Church this year.

After discussion with Pastor Paul, the committee felt the need to bring a vote to the members of our church regarding the question of whether the yoke with Pleasant View should be broken. Much thought was given to this serious matter. The committee brought this situation to the Session, and the Session voted unanimously to break the yoke. When the vote was taken to the congregation, the members voted to continue the yoke.

The situation which developed this year showed the need for both churches to have an active Pastoral Relations Committee, thus promoting good communication between the two congregations and Pastor Paul.

Benevolence Fund and Food Pantry
Clara Seeders

Financial assistance is available to members of the local community as needed. We were able to assist all who made requests in 2009. We also support the local food bank with monthly donations of $75.00. In addition, we have a Food Drive in the months of January and July. Each year, several pounds of food is collected and distributed to the food pantry here in Palestine.
Our Home Church
Jim Ellis

Two thousand nine marked the 47th year of circulation for “Our Home Church.” The newsletter is mailed to about 240 readers each month. It is also uploaded to the church website where it is presented in full color, usually before it is published. A few more members have opted out of the mailing list in favor of the online version.

It is important to remember the content of the church newsletter is greatly dependent upon on what you share. Reports of Sunday School, Youth Group, and other church activities are always welcome. Members and friends of the church are also encouraged to submit articles on any variety of subjects including vacation recaps, family events, or personal achievement.

News and information for the newsletter may be submitted by a variety of methods: emailed to firstpresby@1stpresby-palestine.org, left in the mailbox outside the pastor’s office, or phoned in at (618) 586-2329. Email or typed submissions are preferred as both result in fewer errors but all methods are accepted. The normal deadline for information is the Sunday prior to the first Friday of each month so that it is ready to print by mid-week.

Mary Green continues to lead the volunteers who gather each month to assemble, fold, and prepare the newsletter for mailing. The crew includes: Noralee Buntin, Mary Bush, Marilyn Henderson, Letty Homan, Mary Laughead, Guileen Manuel, Ginny Phillips, and Carolyn Ripley.

Media
Jim Ellis

Cindy Boyd faithfully serves as the church liaison to the Daily News. Her weekly reports help make First Presbyterian’s presence known in the community.

The church’s website features a calendar of events, a birthday and anniversary listing, and weekly updates of the sermon title and scripture readings are provided. The church newsletter is published online in full color and is usually available a few days before it arrives in the mail. Even this report will be available online following its approval at the annual meeting. All suggestions and ideas are welcome.

Probably the biggest change in the church’s internet presence has been the adaptation of Prayer eChain to a more modernized version complete with graphics, personalized messages, and automated subscriptions. Currently, there are nearly sixty individuals subscribed to this service, although only half are actually reading the emails. Be sure to check your email spam folder and make any necessary changes to security settings to be sure the messages will be received. If you would like to be included in the Prayer eChain, simply visit the church website and follow the links.

www.1stpresby-palestine.org
**Inter-Church Committee**

Mary Ann Fulling

The Inter-Church Committee which consists of five members from the Pleasant View Church and five members from the First Presbyterian Church met three times this past year. Our first meeting was held at the Manse in April for the purpose of planning the Graduates’ Picnic. Seven of the ten members were present as well as Pastor Paul and Ginny Phillips. The picnic was held in the basement of the Presbyterian Church with approximately 55 present. Five graduates were honored. Members of the committee furnished drinks and a beautifully decorated sheet cake.

Our second meeting was a Special Called Meeting for the purpose of discussing the possibility of dissolving the Yoked Agreement between the two churches. The meeting was held in the Pioneer Room of the Village Hall. Nine members of the committee were in attendance. Rev. Robert Phillips, a minister in the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery, was the Moderator for the meeting. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made for each church to hold Congregational Meetings on September 20th for the purpose of open discussion by all members of the congregations.

The Inter-Church Committee held its third meeting in October at the home of Mary Lee Shaw. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold. The first purpose was to discuss what had transpired at the Congregational Meetings and ways to improve and correct some of the issues which had arisen. All ten members were present with Pastor Paul Phillips moderating the meeting. Also in attendance were Rev. Steve Moore and his wife representing the Committee on Ministry of the United Church of Christ and Rev. Carol Phillips from the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. The committee voted at that time for the Presbyterian Church to have a Congregational Meeting to vote by secret ballot on the issue of dissolving the Yoked Agreement which had been in place since 1965.

The second purpose of the meeting was to plan the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Members of the committee provided turkey, ham, dressing, noodles, rolls and drinks. Approximately 60 people attended the dinner which was held in the First Presbyterian Church basement on the evening of November 22nd. Members of the Inter-Church Committee for 2009 were Cindy Fulling, Mary Ann Fulling, Mindy Fulling, Mary Ann Gerrity, and Cindy York from the Presbyterian Church. Members from the Pleasant View Church were Noralee Buntin, Francie McCord, Sharon Miller, Vicki Perkins and Mary Lee Shaw. Heartfelt appreciation and thanks are extended to each member for all their time and efforts in making this a successful year for the Inter-Church Committee.
Vacation Bible School
Pastor Paul

The 2009 edition of Union Vacation Bible School was held at First Christian Church, July 27th – July 31st. We opened with the traditional parade of bicycles and walking behind Palestine’s Police Car and Fire Truck, with sirens going and people stopping to wave to the children. The theme was SonRock Kid’s Camp. We had wonderful music each day. The children learned some great songs, all with biblical references. The daily biblical truths taught to the children were: 1) Accepted by Jesus, 2) Protected by Jesus, 3) Saved by Jesus, 4) Forgiven by Jesus, and 5) Living for Jesus. These daily truths were reinforced through the crafts and snacks they made, the songs they sang and their Bible lesson, taught by Pastor Aryn from FCC.

The Methodist Church did not participate in the Union VBS this year. The Presbyterians were in force with volunteers, Karren Greene and Sandy Bryans (Kitchen); Group Leaders, Linda Russell, Linda Ryan-Catt, Diana Nickum, and Terry Postlewaite. Mindy Fulling led the music program and Pastor Paul led the opening and closing programs.

During the week we averaged 29 children, down from 32 children last year. We split the children into age groups, and had several area youth who helped with recreation and crafts. The children took a daily offering and at the end of the week the total amount collected was $229.00. The children voted that the money go to the Palestine Public Library. Aren’t they wonderful? The children are amazing to watch during this week of fun & study, fun & music, fun and snacks, fun and crafts and more fun. We think they all had a terrific time while learning about Jesus.

Many thanks to all the volunteers. We couldn’t do this without your generous support of time, talent and money.

Youth Group
Dawn Biggs and Lugene Bond

Representatives from First Presbyterian Church met with a representative from First Christian Church in the fall of 2008 to organize a Union Youth Group. This group gathered for activities, usually once a month, such as bowling, movies, and game nights. Of course, each activity is accompanied by pizza or other such kid friendly food!

Our activities slowed down in the summer due to various baseball and softball schedules. We managed to squeeze in a putt-putt outing and a wiener roast during Memorial Day Weekend. On the 20th of December, we joined the Presbyterian Church Church Carolers for caroling around town then back to the basement for pizza and a game of Dirty Santa.

In late 2009, we felt the need to re-evaluate our youth plans. Starting in 2010, the youth of First Presbyterian and Pleasant View will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of each month on their own. On the third Sunday of each month, we'll be joining with the youth of First Christian Church. Students in grades sixth through high school are encouraged to attend and bring their friends from 6:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. in the church basement. Friends, fun, and food are guaranteed! Watch the church bulletin for updates in time and plans/outings for the Youth Group.
**Christian Education and Sunday School Committee**

Clara Seeders

The Christian Education and Sunday School Committee held a meeting with all those who were teaching a class or working in the Christian education department to discuss various materials that were currently being used and whether we should update those materials in order to make the classes more active and interesting to the students. Several samples and catalogs were looked at and teachers shared ideas of what worked in their classes. The standing order from Presbytery Publishing was cancelled and classes are teaching from various sources. Terry Postlewaite retired from teaching the Tweens and Teens class. Thank you Terry for once again helping to teach our young people. Mindy Fulling and Cindy Boyd agreed to team-teach the class and we are so grateful for their prompt volunteering. If anyone has any questions or would like to volunteer to teach any classes, we are always needing substitutes and would welcome the extra help.

**Membership, Fellowship, & Evangelism**

Sandy Bryans

The "New Member" classes have helped add to our membership numbers. Richard and Jane Hudson have joined our membership. Chuck Felkamp joined us with a letter of transfer. We welcome them and are glad they are with us! The entire congregation is charged to be ministers. May the coming year be one of happiness, growth, and good health.

Elder Nancy York has used her computer, with talent, to make diagrams of our floor plan and where the classes are. This will soon be sent out in the Newsletter to help newcomers find the class they would like to attend.

This year we lost four member ladies: Freeda Taylor, Vera Buchanan, Lillie Hout, Dorothy Magill, and good friend, Emogene.

We continue to have the monthly Fellowship breakfast the second Sunday of the month. The treats are ready for consumption at nine o'clock a.m. in the basement. We follow with Sunday School in the basement. Hope to see more faces there in 2010.
Mission Committee
Nancy York

The Mission Committee provided support to the following activities in 2009.

January – Food drive for the Palestine Food Pantry collected canned goods, other non-perishable items, and monetary donations. The church sponsored two food drives in 2009 at the request of the Pantry, the second drive scheduled for July.

March – Locally, supported the Food Mobile sponsored by Pleasant View with donation of $750 and volunteer hours. Food not distributed in Palestine was donated to the Oblong Christian Children’s Home.

In March, the church also made a $700 contribution to the Marion Medical Mission, a non-profit organization that “responds to Christ’s call to serve by working hand-in-hand with God’s people in Africa.” The contribution was designated to dig two wells that provide safe drinking water.

April – Donation of $100 to the Christian Care Crisis Pregnancy Center in Robinson, IL. This organization provides “spiritual encouragement, Biblical counseling, practical assistance, baby care items, life counseling, friendship and prayers.

May – $250 donation to the Oblong Christian Children’s Home. The Children’s Home serves children between ages 5 and 17 who need out-of-home placement for a variety of reasons. The Home is operated solely on donations from churches and individuals.

June – $250 donation to Kemmerer Village. Located in Assumption, IL, Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian childcare agency, helps young people build a healthy and constructive life for the future.

July – $250 donation to the Crawford County Habitat for Humanity.

Also in July, over 25 shopping bags of food items were collected and donated to the Palestine Food Pantry along with two cash gifts.

August – $250 donation to the Palestine Grade School Character Counts Program. This program promotes positive character traits with weekly and monthly activities and rewards. It relies on donations to continue.

Also in August, a $2,000 match contribution was made to the Palestine Public Library Fund. The Church committed to match up to $2,000 in contributions made to the fund by church members.

September – The second annual contribution of $250 was made to the Oblong Christian Children’s Home.

October – $250 donation to the Robinson Food Pantry. Provides food to area families in need.

November – $250 donation to the Lighthouse Mission, Terre Haute, Indiana. Lighthouse Mission serves the needs of transient, homeless and needy families in the Wabash Valley.

December – $100 donation to S.W.A.N. (Stop Women Abuse Now). SWAN helps women and children with safe shelter and legal rights advocacy.
The Choir
Linda Ryan-Catt

The choir has continued to be an important part of worship services for the year 2009. In addition to providing anthems for Sunday worship services, the group also provided special music for the beautiful Maundy Thursday service at Pleasant View. Easter brought a wonderful opportunity to once again perform the *Hallelujah Chorus* complete with organ, piano, and tympani accompaniment. It is always an awesome experience to have the choir perform such a powerful piece of music. We also honored our graduates and veterans with special musical numbers, sang two special anthems for the Thanksgiving service, and prepared special music for the dedication of our newly refurbished sanctuary. As always, the choir performed in the annual community festivities of “Lighting of the Park” for the Christmas holiday season; and, of course, no year would be complete without the choir participating in our beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service.

In addition to providing music for traditional services, the choir took part in other facets in the life of our church and in the lives of its members. We had great fun preparing for and participating in the church talent show this year. We also had the great pleasure to sing at the wedding of Loretta and Chuck Felkamp; and we were so very honored to participate in the service honoring the life of our beloved fellow choir member, Dorothy Magill.

The choir continues to explore both traditional and contemporary music for worship. In addition to singing traditional favorites, we have obtained a great deal of beautiful new music thanks to a generous budget afforded by the church, as well as additional contributions made to our music program.

We are so pleased to fill the choir loft with such talented and dedicated people. Members this year have included Sandy Ellis, Mary Ann Gerrity, Ginny Phillips, Virginia Price, Loretta Felkamp, Cindy York, Mary Ellen York, Sharon Biggs, Janice Fuller, Mindy Fulling, Joan Fulling, Michelle Goodwine, Karren Greene, Dorothy Magill, Cheryl Mefford, Carolyn Ripley, Jim Ellis, Max Fulling, Jerry Russell, Jim Bryans, Chuck Felkamp, Eric Fulling, Don Magill, Jeff Shaner, and Robert York. We have also appreciated guests Bob and Ken Fuller, Don Runyon, and Christopher Fulling joining our group to sing.

As always, we continue to appreciate the talents of our organists: Joan Fulling, Cheryl Mefford, and Linda Ryan-Catt. We enjoyed having DeEtta Welte join us again to provide organ and piano music for the Christmas Eve service. Joan and Cheryl continue to be invaluable resources to our group as accompanists, and we have enjoyed utilizing the electronic keyboard to enhance our instrumental music from time to time. Kyle Fulling and Sarah Laski also joined us with their instruments this year as well.

Working with this group is indeed a blessing! Each and every member not only contributes a voice to the choir, but also gives freely of his or her time, energy, faith, and friendship. It is a real privilege to work with such dedicated, talented and generous people.
Nominating Committee

The following nominees for 2010 are respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

For Elders, Class of 2012 (3-year term)................................................................. Austin Calico
Ginny Phillips

For Trustees, Class of 2012 (3-year term)................................................................. Chuck Felkamp
Richard Hudson
Greg Knoblett

For Inter-Church Committee, Class of 2012 (3-year term)................................. Jim Ellis

For Local Benevolence Fund Committee, Class of 2011 (2-year term)............ Sharon Biggs

For Nominating Committee (1-year term) ............................................................... Nancy Attaway
Curt Goodwine
Pam Reinbold
Jackie Shaw
J. D. Trimble

For Sunday School Co-Superintendents (1-year term / alternating monthly)........... Eric Fulling
Carolyn Ripley

For Substitute Sunday School Superintendent (1-year term)............................. Michelle Goodwine

For Sunday School Co-Secretaries (1-year term / alternating monthly).............. Karren Greene
Greg Knoblett

For Pastoral Relations Committee (1-year term).................................................. Marie Davis
Jan Judge

The Nominating Committee met on Thursday, November 19, 2009 and again on Monday, November 30, 2009 with the following members present: Clara Seeders, Charles Nickum, Judy Kincaid, Linda Russell, Francine Phillips, and Angie Erton.
Superintendent's Notes
Carolyn Ripley

The main responsibility of Sunday School Superintendent is to lead opening exercises at First Presbyterian Church at 9:20 a.m. Eric Fulling and Carolyn Ripley share the responsibilities – changing every two months. We share joys and concerns of our church family and those from the surrounding area.

Joan Fulling, Cheryl Mefford, and Carolyn Ripley have assisted by playing the piano for Happy Birthday or Anniversary and for our morning hymn.

For most months, on the second Sunday, we have Fellowship Breakfast downstairs at 9:00 a.m., provided by one of our various Sunday School classes. Mother’s Day and Father’s Day breakfasts are special.

We make sure that Mother’s Day carnations are presented to all mothers on that Sunday, recognize young people who are changing classes in Sunday School in September, and provide a Christmas treat for all those in attendance on the Sunday before Christmas.

We encourage everyone to join a Sunday School Class!

Primary Class
Jane Goodwine and Jan Judge

No report submitted.

Juniors Class
Jane Goodwine and Jan Judge

No report submitted.
Tweens and Teens Class
Cindy Boyd and Mindy Fulling

Mindy Fulling and Cindy Boyd assumed the duties of teaching the Tweens and Teens class in September, 2009, after Terry Postlewaite retired again! Terry left big shoes to fill. Mindy and Cindy aspire to be great teachers, just as Terry was. "Team Teaching" was decided as the best route to take to accomplish this. We alternate months so that the kids don't tire of us and we keep fresh ideas flowing at all times.

We are blessed to teach several 4th - 8th grade students on a weekly basis. The energy and happy, go lucky attitude that they bring to class is contagious. Our regular students include Mary Ann and Charlie Catt, Resa Fuller, Foster Biggs, Katherine Knoblett, Jackie Caton, Cole and Lance Wesner. We are always glad to welcome other children that our students might bring as visitors.

We follow the lessons in our regular curriculum, but sometimes stray from that path and "do our own thing." No matter what we are teaching, we enjoy hearing what the students have to say, because in the end, we are learning from them as well.

Tweens and Teens Class
Regions Bank of Palestine, Savings Account #608782066

BALANCE ON HAND, January 01, 2009 ......................................................... $ 20.20
Receipts:
Interest ................................................. 0.00
Total Receipts ........................................... $ 0.00 ............... $ 0.00
BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009 ................................................. $ 20.20
Senior High Class  
Dawn Biggs and Lugene Bond

Our class has acquired some new members during this church year. Jenna McKeef is our stable Senior and she was joined in September by newcomer Freshmen, Jack Murphy and Logan Wesner. We always welcome visitors!

During 2009, we pulled together to host our assigned Fellowship Breakfasts in January and July. In the winter, we again sponsored meals at the Light House Mission in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Our lessons are sometimes random. We like to discuss various topics from Choose Your Top Three and Gimme Five books, along with the High School Talk. During Advent, we follow the International Sunday School Advent lessons. We also search for current topics electronically as the mood strikes us.

Our groups are consistently small, but we always have interesting discussions. We enjoy learning new things about each other as we continue to become closer during our Sunday School time.

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Senior High Class  
Regions Bank of Palestine Savings Account #608781969

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<td>Total Disbursements</td>
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<tr>
<td>BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009</td>
<td>$105.10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

---
The Class
Lynn Pifer

Bible study, the book "John 3:16", the DVD discussion presentation of "When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back In the Box", and Henri Nouwen's advent meditations "Living in Hope", have been our Sunday School material this year. We are so happy to welcome five new members to The Class, plus to have the Crossroads rejoin our group.

We enjoyed organizing the preparations for the Labor Day Float and appreciated all the help in the construction. We are grateful to Tim Tanner for his service to our country and for riding on our church float as the soldier returning home. It was a powerful "shining moment."

We worked with the Variety Pack Class to make and sell homemade lasagna and desserts for the Wine and Arts Festival. Our funds will be going to help two individuals in the community.

Forty-plus gathered at the home of Doug, Lynn, and Jack Pifer for the combined Christmas party with the Variety Pack Class. What fun!

Our lives are richer for having known and having been taught, challenged, loved and accepted by Dot. Her witness to her faith gives us peace.

The Class
First Financial Bank Savings Account #3564641520

BALANCE ON HAND, January 1, 2009............................................................... $ 294.30
Receipts:
  Interest................................................................................................. $ 1.36
  Half proceeds from Lasagna sales-Wine & Arts Festival 423.50
  Total Receipts............................................................................... $ 424.86
BALANCE ON HAND AND RECEIPTS.................................................. $ 719.16

Disbursements:
  Flowers / Memorials ................................................................. $ 108.96
  Total Disbursements .............................................................. $ 108.96
BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009................................. $ 610.20
Variety Pack Class
Sandy Ellis

The Variety Pack class sponsored the Fellowship breakfast on May 10th – Mother’s Day and again on October 11th.

On August 30th our class sponsored our second annual Cook-out and Game Night. We served the usual cook-out menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats with all the fixins. We had a good crowd and several different games were played such as Apples to Apples, Dominos, and Mad Gab to name a few. It is good to see the mixture of ages playing the games. It was a great evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

We once again partnered with The Class in selling lasagna dinners at the Palestine Wine & Arts Festival in October. The wind was an issue this year but our stand did not blow away. This festival grows bigger with each year but there were more food stands as well, so our profit was down a little bit but it is good to be out and represent our church in our community.

This Fall, we sent donations to the Marion Medical Mission (for one shallow well), the Oblong Christian Children’s Home, and Feed the Children.

Clara Seeders took some time off from teaching due to some health issues so Mark Catt, Eric Fulling, and Sandy Ellis took turns leading our discussions in class. We are glad to have Clara back in class with us taking her turn in the weekly rotation. We follow various topics, some current and some from the International Bible Study lessons or whatever else we think is interesting. We still have empty chairs to be filled by anyone who would like to join us.

Variety Pack Class
First Robinson Savings Bank Savings Account #1021302

BALANCE ON HAND, January 1, 2009................................................................. $ 165.03

Receipts:
Interest................................................................. 0.82
Art & Wine Festival.................................................. 423.50
Weekly Special Offering........................................ 557.00
Total Receipts ...................................................... $ 981.32

BALANCE ON HAND AND RECEIPTS ................................................. $ 1,146.35

Disbursements:
Oblong Christian Children’s Home ....................... $ 350.00
Marion Medical Missions .................................... 350.00
Feed the Children.................................................. 150.00
Cookout & Game Night Expenses .......................... 95.43
Gift .......................................................................... 30.00
Total Disbursements.............................................. $ 975.43

BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009................................. $ 170.92
The Koinonia Class is very fortunate to have two very interesting and very competent teachers. Jim McNary and Linda Russell provide lessons which encourage much thought. Various sources have been used for study. The last few months the class decided to use the booklet, Our Daily Bread, as a major source for discussion.

Two Fellowship breakfasts were provided, and the class also cooked and served the traditional Christmas Dinner. The dinner is a fun project for the members of the class. It also seems to be enjoyed by the congregation. The leftovers from the dinner were sent to the home of Jerry and Linda Russell where the class and guests enjoyed them that evening.

Several members of the class helped in the remodeling of the church, the revamping of the church library collection, and the decoration of the church for Christmas. These projects allowed many members to meet and eat together after the work for the day was complete.

Outstanding music talent was presented by the class during the Spring Fling with their Kitchen Band. The attire the group wore was a fashion designer’s dream – or perhaps nightmare. The rehearsals were certainly lots of fun.

The Koinonia class has a wonderful problem. The problem is the fact that our group is so large, we must have two rows of chairs when all of us attend. We invite others to join us so we will need to have three rows of chairs.

---

**Koinonia Class**  
**Regions Bank of Palestine Savings Account #608780607**

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<td>Pizza</td>
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<td>Breakfast Rolls</td>
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<td><strong>Total Disbursements</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009</strong></td>
<td>$280.94</td>
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</table>
Philathea Class
Don Magill

Each end-of-year report on our class seems a little more negative than the last.

Only a few short years ago our class record listed eighteen members with pretty regular attendance. Today we show approximately nine members on our book with an average attendance of about five. This seems to be a normal decrease, but nevertheless, it is still depressing.

And of course, our Sunday School collections are also reduced in size. What used to be impressive collections for the Kemmerer Village are down accordingly. We need a new and greater effort to gain the old time success.

We strive to send $150 to Kemmerer now in June and $250 at Christmas time. This year we have missed these totals considerably, obviously because of fewer members.

Teachers are mostly Carolyn Biggs, Mary Bush, Ginny Phillips, with occasional other volunteers. Our goals are for exchange of ideas, participation in discussions, and interest and growth in our faith and understanding by all.

We will strive for more attendance and greater spiritual understanding and wisdom during the coming year – and a greater reward for all our efforts.

Philathea Class
Regions Bank of Palestine Free-Checking Account #0087557428

BALANCE ON HAND, January 1, 2009 ................................................................. $ 58.90
Receipts:
  Weekly “Penny Collection” ................................................................. $ 324.50
  Total Receipts ................................................................. $ 324.50 $ 324.50
BALANCE ON HAND AND RECEIPTS ................................................................. $ 383.40
Disbursements:
  Kemmerer Village ................................................................. $ 375.00
  Total Disbursements ................................................................. 375.00 $ 375.00
BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009 ................................................................. $ 8.40
Trustees Report
Virginia Price, Secretary

Trustees serving in 2009 included Larry Biggs, Sr., Kent Boyd, Reese Fuller, Mary Ann Gerrity, Doug Goodwine, Judy Kincaid, Virginia Price, Linda Russell, and Robert York. Reese Fuller served as Chairperson, Mary Ann Gerrity as Vice-Chairperson, and Virginia Price as Secretary.

† The electrical rewiring of the church was completed.
† The mixer board was moved out of the choir loft to the back of the sanctuary.
† The brick on the exterior steps was tuck pointed.
† Four hearing devices for the hearing impaired were purchased for use in the sanctuary.
† Reese Fuller volunteered to replace Max Fulling in opening the church on Sunday mornings.
† The concrete sidewalk at the west entrance was repaired.
† The major project in 2009 was the Fall Remodeling Project which consisted of painting and replacing the carpeting in the sanctuary, class rooms, and pastor's study, upholstery of the seat cushions on the pews, moving the secretary's office to the northeast class room, purchasing new desks and cabinets for the pastor's study and secretary's office and new chairs for the Library, and Koinonia Class room. Trustees serving on this Church Improvement Committee were Kent Boyd and Judy Kincaid.
† The shrubs around the church and manse were trimmed and dead ones removed and the landscaping cleaned up.
† A tree around the manse was trimmed, a limb over the garage was trimmed and the big limb at the church was trimmed.
† The leak in the bell tower was repaired, steps caulked and the roof patched.
† A new Miele vacuum cleaner was purchased.
† A 10 foot fiberglass ladder was purchased.
† New mats for all entry ways were purchased.

Thank you to all of the Trustees for their service. The terms of Reese Fuller, Mary Ann Gerrity, and Virginia Price expire this year.
Treasurer's Report
Sandra D. Ellis, Treasurer

BALANCE ON HAND, January 1, 2009 ................................................................. $

RECEIPTS
2009 Offering Envelopes:
  Local Mission .................................................... $
  General Mission ....................................................
  Total ................................................................. $
Worship Service Loose Collection ...............................................................
Church School Offerings .................................................................
Birthday Offerings .................................................................
Initial Offering Envelopes ...............................................................
NOW Account Interest ...............................................................
Money Market Account Interest ...........................................................
Miscellaneous:
  Teresa Nash Recital fees ....................................................
  Funeral Dinner donations ....................................................
  Second Prize – Labor Day float ....................................................
  Mont Eagle Mills contribution ....................................................
  Garage Sale proceeds ............................................................
  Total Miscellaneous Income ...................................................
Total Income .............................................................................. $

Other Receipts and Contributions:
  One Great Hour of Sharing .................................................... $
  Peacemaking Offering ..............................................................
  Pentecost Offering ...............................................................
  Christmas JOY Offering ...........................................................
  Community Food Bank – contributions ........................................
  Palestine Library Building Fund - contributions .........................
  Operation Christmas Child – contributions ................................
  Capital Improvement Plan – redeem Cert. #438 ........................
  Total Other Receipts and Contributions ........................................ $

BALANCE ON HAND AND RECEIPTS ...................................................... $

DISBURSEMENTS
Operating Expenses:
  Minister's Cash Salary .................................................... $
  Minister's Housing Allowance ..............................................
  Minister's Travel Allowance ................................................
  Minister's Medical Deductible ................................................
  Minister's Continuing Education ............................................
  Minister's Books / Professional Fees ..................................
  Minister's Pension ..............................................................
  Minister’s Death & Disability ................................................
  Minister’s Medical Insurance .............................................
  Minister’s 403b Match Amount ............................................
  Secretary / Treasurer's Salary ................................................
  Custodian's Salary ..............................................................
  FICA Taxes - Employer's Share ............................................
  Mowing Expense ...............................................................}
  Pulpit Supply and Mileage ....................................................

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Treasurer's Report, continued
DISBURSEMENTS, Continued

Operating Expenses, continued:

- Worship and Membership Expenses
- Offering Envelopes (25 sets)
- Choir Music and Supplies
- Copyright License
- Organ & Piano Expenses
- Sunday School Curriculum
- Church School Expenses
- Sunday School Class Supplies
- Programs and Fellowship
- Youth Group
- Inter-Church
- Flowers
- Vacation Bible School
- Per Capita: Presbytery (169 x $35.14)
- Church Supplies
- Office and Newsletter Expenses
- Office Equipment Rental
- Repairs & Maintenance - Church
- Repairs & Maintenance – Manse
- Custodian Supplies
- Utilities - Church
- Insurance
- Miscellaneous

Total Operating Expenses

Benevolences (General Missions):
- General Assembly
- Synod of Lincoln Trails
- Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

Total Benevolences

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES AND BENEVOLENCES

Other Disbursements:
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Peacemaking Offering
- Pentecost Offering
- Christmas JOY Offering
- Palestine Library Building Fund
- Community Food Bank – Contrib. & ’08 Pmt
- Operation Christmas Child
- Living Church Fund Expenditures-reimb. in 2010..

Total Other Disbursements

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

BALANCE ON HAND, December 31, 2009

* Includes Restricted Funds: Christmas JOY Offering (paid in 2010)
Peacemaking Offering (our 25%)
Pentecost Offering (our 40%)
Living Church Fund Expenditure
The Living Church Funds*

Special Funds*

Savings*

*For a complete financial report members should contact the church office. Copies are also available prior to the annual meeting.
**2010 Proposed Budget**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Income for Year 2009 (January through December)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projected Income for 2010 (5% over Total 2008 Receipts)</td>
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<td>Pledges made for 2010</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEVOLENCES (General Missions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>44% General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% Synod</td>
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<tr>
<td>44% Presbytery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Benevolence (Food Pantry)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Benevolences</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>OPERATING EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ministers' Package:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Base Salary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>(includes retirement savings to be elected by the Pastor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Allowance</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-Total - Base Salary</strong></td>
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<td>Continuing Education</td>
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<td>Books</td>
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<td>403b Match Amount</td>
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<td><strong>Ministers' Total Cash Package</strong></td>
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**Total** **Pleasant View** **Presbyterian** **Totals**
2010 Proposed Budget, continued

OPERATING EXPENSES
Secretary / Treasurer's Salary .................................................................
Custodian's Salary ..................................................................................
Mowing.....................................................................................................
Payroll Taxes .......................................................................................$...
Pulpit Supply ($100.00/Sunday) and Mileage ($0.50 per mile) .......................
Nursery Attendant ..................................................................................
Worship & Membership ........................................................................
Offering Envelopes (30 sets) .................................................................
Copyright License ...................................................................................
Choir Music & Supplies .........................................................................
Organ & Piano Expenses .......................................................................$...
Sunday School Curriculum .....................................................................
Church School Expenses .......................................................................$...
Sunday School Class Supplies ...............................................................$...
Programs & Fellowship .........................................................................
Flowers ....................................................................................................
Inter-Church Projects ............................................................................$
Vacation Bible School ............................................................................
Church Camp, Synod School & Conferences .........................................$
Youth Group ..........................................................................................$
Per Capita: Presbytery (175 x $36.29) ....................................................$
Church Supplies ....................................................................................$
Office and Newsletter Expenses ............................................................$
Office Equipment Rental ........................................................................$
Repairs & Maintenance .........................................................................$
Capital Improvement Expense ...............................................................$
Custodian Supplies ................................................................................$
Utilities (Church) ................................................................................$
Insurance ...............................................................................................$
Miscellaneous ........................................................................................$
Sub-Total ..............................................................................................$

Total Operating Expenses ..................................................................... $...

MISSIONS / SPECIAL PROJECTS
Mission Supplies and Donations / Special Projects ............................... $...
Total Missions / Special Projects ...........................................................$...
(Money for items in Missions / Special Projects comes from interest earned on Certificates of Deposit, not from contributions.)

TOTAL BENEVOLENCES / OPERATING EXPENSES / MISSIONS ............ $...
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<td>Green, Mary E.</td>
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<td>Bond, Isaac</td>
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<td>Greene, Chester L., Jr.</td>
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<td>Bond, Lugene</td>
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<td>Greene, Chet</td>
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