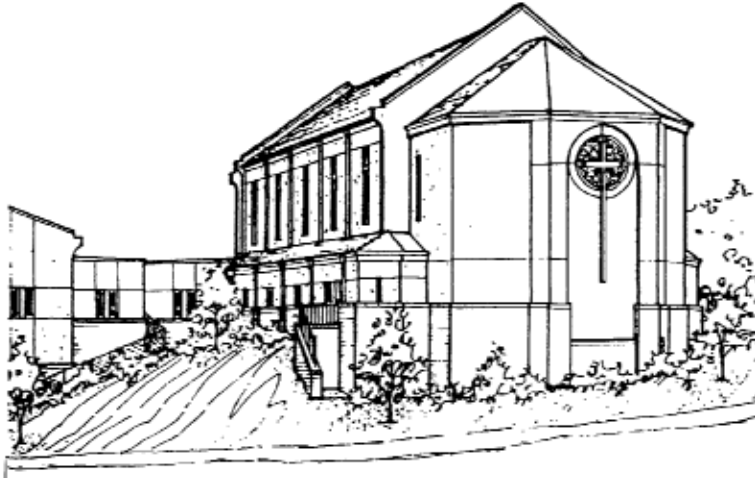


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR 2008**

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION  
ON MARCH 15, 2009

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## MISSION STATEMENT

## **OUR IDENTITY**

We are a Christian community of diverse backgrounds, coming together as a family of God, seeking God's will for this church and our community. United, we share a central belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We ascribe to the Reformed Tradition as expressed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We accept the Holy Scriptures, *The Book of Confessions* and the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as guidelines for our Christian faith.

## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is:

- To witness actively to God's saving love revealed in Jesus Christ.

Our focus, discerned through our 2003 mission study, will be upon:

- Reverent, orderly, dignified, and meaningful worship
- Informed, inspirational, challenging, and dynamic preaching
- Effective pastoral care by laity and clergy
- An active and growing program of education, service, and fellowship for our children, youth and adults of all ages
- An expanded emphasis on local, national, and global mission
- Meaningful involvement of new members
- The provision of an adequate staff to accomplish the mission

We engage in our mission through a multi-fold pattern, recognizing our responsibilities to:

## **OUR CONGREGATION**

First Presbyterian Church has been a presence in Franklin and Williamson County since 1811. Our facility on Franklin Road puts us in a position to be a witness for the gospel for many years to come. We are committed to:

- Providing vital worship in the Reformed Tradition;
- Promoting Christian education which communicates the traditions of the faith community to succeeding generations;
- Enabling a congregational life which nurtures and strengthens us as disciples of Jesus Christ;
- Serving others, recognizing that God's blessings are intended for sharing.

## **OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Franklin and Williamson County are located in a growing and wealthy region of Middle Tennessee. The growth and wealth in our community sometimes obscures the great needs of some of its people. We are committed to:

- Ministering to the needs of those who are poor in spirit as well as those who are economically disadvantaged;
- Providing a context for articulating a Christian perspective in an increasingly secular environment;
- Opening our doors and arms to all persons regardless of age, race and other human conditions.

## **OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST AROUND THE WORLD**

Technological and economic developments remind us daily that we live in a global environment. Paradoxically, the era in which we live is one in which our vision of global need is narrowing. As members of the one universal Body of Jesus Christ, we are committed to:

- Being open to the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world today and to God's continuing reformation of the Church universal;
- Supporting the global ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);
- Seeking opportunities beyond denominational boundaries which provide the possibility of working for peace, justice and the healing of creation.

## CHRIS JOINER, PASTOR

*“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid” (Mark 16:7-8).*

Mark provides what I think is the best Easter story of all, because he chooses to end it in a most peculiar way. Whereas the other gospels tell a host of post-resurrection stories, Mark, in the earliest manuscripts we have, ends his with the women fleeing the tomb and saying nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. I love the story because I know it doesn't end this way after all, and Mark knows it too. By the time his gospel was written, the church was alive and well, and the proclamation of Jesus' death and resurrection was spreading. Mark knows that eventually at least one of those women overcame her fear, opened her mouth, and told the good news. I believe he leaves it open-ended because he knows that each generation of Christians will need to hear the news again, sometimes in the midst of great fear and uncertainty, and based on nothing more than the word of a promise to move out toward Galilee and meet the Jesus that goes on ahead of us.

The calling of the church in each generation is to answer that summons to go, in the power of the resurrection, and join Christ in the work he is doing in the world. The story of First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2008 is just such a story, and I am grateful to be a part of it as your pastor. In the latter months of 2008, we, along with the rest of our country and world, faced economic circumstances that are quite fearful. We are determined to move forward, despite the fear that surrounds us, and continue to answer the call to be the church. Christ goes on before us, summoning us to faithful service. In 2008, we answered the call. I look forward to renewed service in 2009.

In this report I want to take a few moments to outline my particular calling in this place and the ways I have tried to be faithful to that call.

### *The Call of the Pastor*

1. Preaching and Worship Leadership (They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...the breaking of bread, and the prayers)

*“The preached Word or sermon is to be based upon the written Word. It is a proclamation of Scripture in the conviction that through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ is present to the gathered people, offering grace and calling for obedience. Preaching requires diligence and discernment in the study of Scripture, the discipline of daily prayer, cultivated sensitivity to events and issues affecting the lives of the people, and a consistent and personal obedience to Jesus Christ. The sermon should present the gospel with simplicity and clarity, in language which can be understood by the people” (W-2.2007).*

*Report for 2008:* Karl Barth once defined preaching as “human speech in and by which God speaks like a king through the mouth of his herald.” He went on to explain this in a way that has stayed with me ever since and informed my understanding of preaching: “God wills to attest God's revelation. God himself – not we – has done this and wills to do it. Preaching, then, takes place in listening to the self-revealing will of God. Preachers are drawn into this event. It is of concern to them. They are called by this event...Preaching is not a neutral activity. It is not an action involving two equal partners. It can mean only Lordship on God's side and obedience on ours.” Barth believed that God continues to speak, and that it is the special vocation of preachers to listen for the voice of God through Scripture and through the events of the time. It is only here that we can properly understand his famous dictum that preachers should preach “with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.”

I take preaching very seriously and see it is a primary calling I have as Minister of Word and Sacrament

here at First Presbyterian. It is a task that requires discipline and preparation. I continue to spend at least twelve to fourteen hours a week in preparing the sermon. In 2008 I preached fifty-four sermons in Sunday worship, 4 wedding homilies, and 3 funeral sermons. I presided over 19 baptisms.

The “breaking of bread” for us is a sacramental moment in worship conducted once a month. Beyond that, it points us to the sacramental ministry of the church, which in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, enacts in our midst the ministry of Jesus as passed on by the tradition. I presided at Holy Communion eleven Sundays, Maundy Thursday, and on Christmas Eve, in addition to four Communion services in conjunction with Officer Training, and five Lenten midweek services.

I also continue to lead Preschool Chapel once a month. I am grateful that the consistent message I receive from members of this church and the Session, is that preaching is important and that I should take the necessary time for reading, study, prayer, and preparation that ensures faithfulness to the task.

*Vision for 2009:* I continue to take part in a preaching group funded by the Lilly Foundation. I prepare two papers for this gathering, and interact with my colleagues and a scholar while at the event. In 2009 our scholar will be Christine Yoder, Hebrew Bible professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. I am actively exploring various seminary Doctor of Ministry programs in preaching, and trying to decide the best time to pursue this degree. The programs involve mostly working from home and going for short two week residencies during the summer and winter. I am grateful to continue receiving encouragement from the session to prioritize study in an effort to constantly remain faithful and improve my preaching ministry in this place as well as encouragement to pursue the Doctor of Ministry. After we see how things shape up with our first child going to college, I plan to inquire with three different seminary programs for this degree. I am also planning another summer sermon series, this one on the Book of Proverbs, which will coincide with a summer monthly Bible study and congregational reading opportunity.

## 2. Teaching

*The Pastor is responsible for studying and...teaching the Word* (Book of Order, PCUSA, G-6.0202b).

*Report for 2008:* Closely related to preaching is the ministry of teaching. Teaching differs from preaching in that it gives greater opportunity for interaction and usually involves more time and study. I continue to teach a Wednesday Night Live adult study. In the winter and spring of 2008 I led a class on the Bible and science. In the summer of 2008 I prepared and led a summer study on the Book of Genesis. We had over 80 people participate in this summer study. In the fall, I led a study exploring the concept of grace, looking at it from a variety of perspectives.

I continue to lead a morning Bible study on Wednesdays. In 2008 we explored the Book of Romans, using Tom Wright’s *Paul for Everyone* and Karl Barth’s *Epistle to the Romans* as guides. In the fall we studied Richard Foster’s newest work, *Life with God: Reading the Bible for Spiritual Transformation*.

I was also able to be part of a team of leaders and teachers in our Confirmation Class and Covenant Partner Program for sixth graders. Each year we have a tremendous group of dedicated, curious, and smart sixth graders who are willing to tackle big questions as they take this significant step of faith. I am honored to play a small part in helping them confirm the promises made in their baptisms. We continue to use a curriculum written by a team of people from our church. It is a top-quality piece that has strengthened the program. We also continue to conduct Confirmation as a year-long process, and that has been a great success.

I continue to teach in the first and last weeks of the Inquirer’s Class, with a variety of committee chairpersons coming in and leading the other weeks in an effort to familiarize our guests with the

programs of the church. We have seen a steady number of folks come into membership through these classes.

*Vision for 2009:* I plan to continue to teach in Wednesday Night Live, with plans for the summer for reading the Book of Proverbs to coincide with a sermon series. I am continuing our Wednesday morning adult study with a study of Richard Foster's classic book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* in the spring. As I said last year, I envision this church continuing its grand tradition of engaging the faith with thoughtfulness, through a respect for diversity of opinion and a commitment to growth through education and dialogue. As a part of that commitment, I am working with the Christian Education Committee to develop a Wednesday Night Live fall study in partnership with Gary Brown that will be a study of world religion spiritualities, complete with presentations and visits from representatives of those religious traditions.

### 3. Pastoral Care

*"The pastor is responsible...with the elders, to exercise pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying..."*(Book of Order, PCUSA, G-6.0202b).

It bears repeating each year that we currently average 429 persons in attendance in weekly worship, which places our congregation in the category of what is considered a large church. We are what are referred to in church leadership circles as a "corporate-sized" congregation. This size creates the need for two emphases in pastoral care: ministerial staff related care and lay care.

*Report for 2008:* We have a need to staff this church with ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament sufficient to ensure consistent care of persons through all the stages of life. This care shifts when churches reach our size to less one-on-one counseling and intensive care, and more crisis care, with referrals to counseling services for those who require more regular, one-on-one care. We regularly refer persons and families to counseling centers in this area, and will continue to do so as the need occurs.

In 2008 I visited persons in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and in homes. I cared for grieving families in the midst of crisis. I also had several longer term counseling relationships, though I am slowly phasing out of this aspect of counseling as the congregation grows. Even though I love this aspect of my call, I am beginning to recognize more and more that one or two ministers cannot adequately provide the time necessary in a church this size for long-term counseling relationships.

We continue the monthly practice of taking communion to our homebound and shut-in members, which C.J. and I have done along with two other elders each month.

I continue to give thanks for the Stephen Leaders and Ministers of this congregation, who have organized and implemented a program of one-on-one lay caring ministry that is second to none. Through ongoing continuing education and the calling of new Stephen Ministers, this program ensures a quality and consistency of care for our members. We also began and strengthened a small group ministry which provides opportunity for caring support.

*Vision for 2009:* The second critical emphasis in pastoral care for a congregation this size is the empowerment of laypeople in caring ministries. As I mentioned earlier, the Stephen Ministry program is one significant way we are addressing this need. Another way will be to create more and more small group opportunities within the church that enable persons to get together and provide care for one another, as well as education and mission. We hope to build on the success of these programs as we move into the future. I am especially encouraged at the prospects of a ministry to and with those who are unemployed and a new ministry for our young adults.

The administration of the church's life is another responsibility of the pastor that touches and empowers the responsibilities listed above. I conduct weekly staff meetings, and work collaboratively with each member of the staff to ensure that the work of the church is done. We have implemented an expanded annual staff retreat, which has been helpful in helping us form ourselves as a team. This team approach to ministry is crucial for our success in fulfilling the call of God here.

In the administrative area I do want to share one change that we have been slowly making over the past two years in our committee structure and let you know the vision behind this change. Many of our committees have formed ministry teams, which function as a subcommittee of the group and call persons to be involved in the ministry in a more hands-on way. For example, the Christian Education Committee has formed a Children's Ministry Team, a Youth Ministry Team, and an Adult Ministry Team. These teams meet separately from the committee, and can have as many members as they like serving on them. The ministry teams report to the committee, which then reports to the session.

The effect of this change is an explosion of activity in several of these areas, as the people most passionate about particular ministries are called to serve on hands-on planning teams. I could tell story after story of the ways many of our long-standing ministry programs have been revitalized by this change, and we have seen a significant expansion of creative ideas and new ministries forming.

This structure fulfills an old Reformed understanding that all the people of God are called by virtue of their baptisms to ministry within the church. By creating a means whereby more and more people can recognize and answer that call, we are fulfilling the Great End of the Church: the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the people of God.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the Committee on the Ministry of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery, and on a task force of the presbytery council seeking to help the presbytery prepare for an important vote in May, 2009. I believe strongly that as a Presbyterian, part of my work is fulfilled in service to the presbytery, synod, and general assembly.

### *The Work of the Session and Staff*

I am committed to providing chances for continuing education for the leadership of this congregation at both the session and staff level. I have implemented reading programs for both these groups and am working hard to help foster a continued atmosphere of learning and growth as spiritual leaders. The Session is currently reading *Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian*, by Tom Long. The Session gathers in the sanctuary for worship before each session meeting, reminding ourselves of the reason for our existence and preparing ourselves for the worshipful work we engage in when we meet. Likewise, I encourage the staff here to be first and foremost spiritual leaders of the various groups with which they work, keeping before them the mission of Christ.

I am also deeply committed this year to working closely with the leadership of each committee to foster a spirit of teamwork in ministry across all areas.

I am thankful to be able to work in close partnership with the session, committees, and staff of this church. Together, they bring a commitment to growth, professionalism and skill, and a deep and abiding faith to Jesus Christ to every aspect of the life of this church. We are fortunate to have each one of them. Each one of them, and each member of this church are fortunate to be a place where we can contribute to the ongoing story that Mark leaves open-ended. Christ is among us; he is also going out ahead of us into a world starved for Good News. We are summoned to follow. May we do so in 2009 and beyond.

Peace,  
Pastor Chris

## C. J. THOMPSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Greetings in Christ, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, TN,

If you are reading this, hello. I am midway through my third year here and I still love serving this congregation. We have so much going on in so many different areas of the church that we are experiencing space problems. What a great problem to have. We are continuing to grow even though the housing boom is well past.

I remember that when I came into this presbytery, I was asked what gifts I would bring. I told presbytery "brevity," and they laughed. So I will keep things short here as well. To be frank, I am finding it difficult to look back over the year. Rather, I want to look forward. With the exception of my email newsletter, the past year was very similar to the previous year. We had the same programs and the same successes. It was a great year, just very similar to the year prior. It is the year to come that looks like it may be shaped very differently.

There are a lot of new faces and new ideas on the committees that I resource; Mission, Outreach and Congregational Care. I am encouraged and inspired by their energy and ideas. They have some great things coming for us. We are beginning to build a ministry for and with those who are unemployed. We are exploring a new young adult ministry that at this point could take any number of shapes. It is time again to probably start a new Sunday school class. These are exciting times and I am excited to be a part of this community as we enter them.

## REPORT OF JULIA W. McGIRT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Worship is the center of our spiritual life at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. Music in worship endeavors to enhance our worship experience. The music program at First Presbyterian Church is blessed to have many talented, dedicated volunteers giving freely of their gifts and time.

From our *Book of Order* (W-2.2008):

The Word is also proclaimed through song in anthems and solos based on scriptural texts, in cantatas and oratorios which tell the biblical story, in psalms and canticles, and in hymns, spirituals, and spiritual songs which present the truth of biblical faith.

Music for Sunday worship is offered by adult (Chancel and Chapel) and children's and youth (Cherub, Canticle, Carol, Chorister and Youth) Choirs. Handbell and chimes (Carillon, First Bells and Random Ringers) choirs play for services regularly. Our brass, bagpipe, woodwind and strings participants also enhance our worship with music. A word of thanks is in order for the many volunteers who accompany, conduct and coordinate these programs.

The choirs also provide special offerings in music for Advent and Christmas, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Service, Hymnfest, Kirkin' of the Tartan, Psalm Sunday, Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day), Wednesday Night Live programs, funerals and, sometimes, weddings.

Much of the preparation and coordination of the yearly music program occurs as some 30 leaders and youth attend the denomination's Conference on Worship and Music at Montreat, NC, in June. There studies in music, choral as well as instrumental, are offered by outstanding clinicians; worship is celebrated daily.

Music is a great and glorious gift from God. We believe that if there is to be great music in the world, there is no place more appropriate than in the worship of God. Those who lead the music program are committed to musical excellence as our appropriate offering to God in worship. We believe church music is to exalt God rather than human emotions. The music program involves the people of the congregation, dedicated to "reverent, orderly, dignified and meaningful worship." (Mission Statement, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN)

## REPORT OF KIM JOINER DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

I am grateful to you the congregation and to God for allowing me this opportunity to serve among you. The Christian Education Committee and newly-formed Children's Ministry Team have supported and affirmed my work in many ways. I have had a great deal of support from the host of volunteers that continually serve and provide quality Christian education and love in our children's programs. My heartfelt thanks go to all of you.

I am reminded of a book that we have in the Children's Library: *Cookies Bite-Size Life Lessons* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, which I have learned from maybe more than the children. The book refers to the life lessons that can be learned from making chocolate chip cookies. I love chocolate, and to be able to teach using a chocolate metaphor is delicious. There are more little life lessons than I can include here but I include just a few to whet your appetite:

*Cooperate – you add the chips and I stir* - Our church and preschool and outside groups share space and cooperate on a daily basis.

*Patience – waiting for the cookies to be done* – We have the vision and we are patient.

*Proud – I sure do like the way my cookies turned out* – We have a wonderful facility, excellent staff, and a plethora of programs.

*Compassionate – you can have part of my cookie* – Our children are shown compassion and given opportunities to be compassionate.

*Content – just you, me, and a couple of cookies* – You, me and God!

Thanks be to God that we are all working together to provide our children the life lessons it requires to grow and mature in the faith. These life lessons are not only for the children but for us all. I pray that we will continue to live and learn together.

Please take time to read the Christian Education report where I have highlighted the many children's programs that we offer.

Peace be with you,

Kim

## **REPORT OF NATE COLLIER DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES**

To the Members of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin,

This past year was a great one for the Youth Ministry at FPC Franklin. We started some new things and continued some of the old. As always, everything we do is directed at teaching and challenging our youth to learn and grow in Christ and to lift him up. That is what we do and what we will continue to do.

This past year we implemented a re-organization of the CE committee by starting the Youth Ministry Team. This is a group of parents and youth workers who meet to set direction for the youth ministry as a whole. They are instrumental in making the youth ministry run smoothly and they are involved in every aspect of the youth ministry. The members of this team are: Janet Cothron, Cathy McCall, Laura Beth Russell, Gay Shanafelt, Charles Thomas, Julie Thomas and Debbie Turri. These adults are a great group and they are committed to the best youth ministry for our teens.

Our Sunday School program has seen a change this past year. The two main teachers that had taught middle school since I arrived “retired.” Donnie Whiteman and Tim Kelly have been missed in that class. Thanks to both of you for your dedication over the past few years. Our new teachers are Brian Lapps and Chad Fowler, both of whom are doing an outstanding job. The youth really get a lot out of their teaching. Our high school group saw some additions as well. Laura Beth and Scott Russell joined Russ Phillips teaching the older group. They do a great job downstairs.

Our confirmation class is an extremely successful program for our sixth graders. Each confirmand is teamed up with a confirmation partner to go through the process of confirmation. The confirmation partner works with their confirmand as a mentor and guide. Susan Burns leads our confirmation class and does an excellent job along with her partner Dan Crunk. Great job you two!

The Sunday night program has continued on from last year. Our middle and high school groups meet separately at 5:30 PM. The first Sunday of the month we have a combined dinner with First Friends. The rest of the month we take the entire hour and a half to meet. The high school group meets all together with Gay Shanafelt and Charles Thomas as leaders. The middle school start by meeting together then split into small groups according to gender to discuss the topic of the night. Our middle school leaders are Adam Crunk, Julie Thomas, Debbie Turri, and Sam Webb. All the Sunday night leaders do a great job.

Wednesday nights for the high school are discussions about current events and how we are to live as Christians in this world. Clarke Oldham has stepped in to lead this time with the high school and does a great job leading the discussion. Jenni Peterson had led this group on Wednesday nights for a couple of years and I thank her for her service to the youth department. On the other side of the hall, the middle school group explores the gifts and talents that God has given them. Last spring they practiced and produced the dinner theater “The Case of the Duplicate Date Nut Loaf.” In the fall they presented the Christmas Dessert Theater, “The Jingle Bell Mystery.” Those who weren’t acting were able to design the sets and do the artwork. They also have started a puppet ministry and have presented Bible based stories to the children on Wednesday nights. Susie Collier leads the middle school on Wednesday nights.

Of course our biggest events of the year are our mission trips. We couldn’t do these if it wasn’t for the generosity of the congregation. You support our fundraising efforts and we appreciate it! The fundraising efforts wouldn’t be possible without the hard work of Janet Cothron and Cathy McCall. These two ladies do a great job of keeping the fundraisers organized and effective.

Last summer the middle school group went to Atlanta for their mission trip. Nineteen youth and seven

adults participated in this trip. We worked in the inner city with organizations that help the poor and homeless. One of the favorites was Café 458. This is a small cafe that serves the homeless restaurant style, which means our youth were able to be waiters and waitresses for the day. They helped prepare the food, serve it and clean up afterwards. We also worked at Project Open Hand (meals on wheels on steroids), the Community Outreach Center and the Atlanta Food Bank.

The high school group went to Nassau, Bahamas and worked hard! Twelve youth and four adults participated in this trip. We landscaped St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, and painted their manse. In addition to that we built a fence with concrete and sealed a roof and mixed the concrete by hand. We had four full days of working outside in 90 degree heat and high humidity. Needless to say every night we were exhausted. I have heard many who went say that they would go back and do it again in a heartbeat.

Last summer we also had five youth participate in Montreat for High School Week One. It was a good week of fellowship and learning how to “throw open the doors” to Christ and others.

Our summer activities also included trips to Nashville Shores, the beach (Percy Priest Lake), and bowling. Many youth participated along with a great group of adults. The summer was capped off with the Middle School Kick-Off Lock-In, in which 56 middle school youth participated. It was a wild night.

I feel very fortunate to be working with your youth here at FPC Franklin. I also am very fortunate to have such a great group of committed adults with whom I get to work side by side. Without their involvement this youth ministry would look a lot different. Our youth ministry is growing and it is exciting to be a part of it.

Our ministry is centered on God and what he is doing for us and through us in the world. I pray that we will continue to show Jesus’ love to a hurting and needy world.

In Christ,  
Nathan Collier

## REPORT OF BONNIE L. WOODARD PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear First Church Members:

In reflecting on this past year I give thanks to God for his guidance in our ministry to young children. We have been blessed to have the opportunity to teach children about God's love as well as an educational opportunity for church members and the community.

The preschool offers three, four and five year olds a two, three or four day a week program. The school has 134 children with 12 teachers, 3 teacher aides, a music director, preschool director and assistant director. The teachers have college degrees. It has been a pleasure to add Cindy Blackburn and Kristie Hillenmeyer to our faculty. Our Music Director, Julia McGirt, is also the Director of Music for the church. The children go to music once a week. We feel very blessed to have Chris and Kim Joiner, C. J. Thompson and Tiffany Bechtel as our Chapel Leaders. They bring years of experience in teaching young people about God's love. Chapel is held every week in the sanctuary.

The children have had the opportunity this year to take field trips to Let It Shine, Owl's Hill Nature Center, the Warren Park Nature Center and Walden Pumpkin Farm. We work hard preparing the children for kindergarten and the next level in their development.

Speaking for the preschool staff, we feel that we are blessed to be a part of the church and its ministry.

Yours truly,

Bonnie L. Woodard

### FEES (per year):

	<u>2007/2008</u>
TUITION	
2 Day Session	\$1,305
3 Day Session	\$1,953
4 Day Session	\$2,448
REGISTRATION & MATERIALS FEE	
2 Day Session	\$50
3 Day Session	\$75
4 Day Session	\$100

## THE SESSION 2008

<u>CLASS OF 2008</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2009</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2010</u>
Vivian Coble	Hunter Battle	Darcie Cross
Hugh DuPree	Betty Frazer	Alice Darnell
Susan Haws	Lynne Hutson	Jim Mahurin
Mike Henry	Patti Kelly	Susan Oldham
Jim Keener	Steve Lewis	Jim Petersen
Bill Lewis	Kevin Litton	Mike Porter
Jerry Pratt	Randy Moore	Margaret Roberts
Robert Rains	Anne Rutherford	Anne Snow
Eddy Roumen	Inge Smith	Margaret Whiteside
Nancy Faye Williams	Kim Whiteman	Susan Williams

The session consists of the pastor, the associate pastor, and the elders in active service. The session usually meets on the third Sunday of each month for its stated monthly meetings. In addition, the session occasionally gathers in called meetings each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor for the purpose of receiving and dismissing members, sharing information about the state of the church, and conducting business that cannot wait until its next stated meeting. The session is responsible for the mission and government of the church, and has the responsibility and power to:

- provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church, that members may be better equipped to articulate their faith, to witness in word and deed to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to invite persons into a new life in Christ;
- receive members into the church upon profession of faith, upon reaffirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, or upon satisfactory certification of transfer of church membership, provided that membership shall not be denied any person because of race, economic or social circumstances, or any other reason not related to profession of faith;
- lead the congregation in participation in the mission of the whole Church in the world;
- provide for the worship of the people of God, including the preaching of the Word, the sharing of the Sacraments, and for the music program, in keeping with the principles in the Directory for Worship, and to appeal to the presbytery for a duly trained and authorized elder in those extenuating circumstances where an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament is not available to meet the needs for the administration of the Lord's Supper;
- provide for the growth of its members and for their equipment for ministry through personal and pastoral care, educational programs including Sunday School, sharing in fellowship and mutual support, and opportunities for witness and service in the world;
- develop and supervise the Sunday School and educational program of the church;
- lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing and reconciliation in the communities in which the church lives and bears its witness;
- challenge the people of God with the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship of money and time and talents, developing effective ways for encouraging and gathering the offerings of the people and assuring that all offerings are distributed to the objects toward which they were contributed;
- establish the annual budget, determine the distribution of the church's benevolences, and order offerings for Christian purposes, providing full information to the congregation of its decisions in such matters;
- lead the congregation continually to discover what God is doing in the world and to plan for change, renewal, and reformation under the Word of God;
- engage in a process for education and mutual growth of the members of the Session;
- instruct, examine, ordain, install and welcome into common ministry elders on their election by

- the congregation and to inquire into their faithfulness in fulfilling their responsibilities;
- provide for the administration of the program of the church, including employment of non-ordained staff, with concern for equal employment opportunity, fair employment practices, personnel policies, and the annual review of the adequacy of compensation for all staff, including all employees;
  - provide for the management of the property of the church, including determination of the appropriate use of church buildings and facilities, and to obtain property and liability insurance coverage to protect the facilities, programs, and officers, including members of the session, staff;
  - maintain regular and continuing relationship to the higher governing bodies of the church;
  - establish and maintain those ecumenical relationships necessary for the life and mission of the church in its locality;
  - serve in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline;
  - keep an accurate roll of the membership of the church and to grant certificates of transfer to other churches, which when issued for parents shall include the names of their children specifying whether they have been baptized, and which when issued for an elder shall include the record of ordination.

## ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Chuck Cairatti, Darcie Cross, Sara Hinds, Bob Ligon, Rick Moody, Bill Moore, Jerry Pratt, Jim Roberts (Vice Chair and Clerk) and Fred Williams. **Chairperson:** Randy Moore. **Staff Resource:** Chris Joiner.

The Administration Committee is responsible for short-range and long-range planning, administrative costs, and personnel matters. It evaluates the performance of church staff members, makes recommendations concerning salary adjustments and serves as a forum to listen to grievances by members of the staff or the congregation.

During 2008, the committee's work included:

- ongoing monitoring of our administrative costs;
- careful analysis of our administrative expenditures for 2008, resulting in the projection and proposal of budget & staff salary details for fiscal year 2009;
- successful completion of performance evaluations of our staff & pastors;
- evaluated cost/benefit of outsourcing bookkeeping and payroll duties after departure of church bookkeeper. As a result, outsourced payroll processing to Paychex and contracted with Christine Beck, CPA, for financial reporting;
- transitioned church newsletter to web-based delivery on an opt-in basis to save costs & resources;
- purchased a replacement photocopier for the church office after performing a detailed analysis of the church's printing and copying needs & requirements (after using loaned equipment for a year).

As a committee, we wish to express sincere gratitude for our talented, dedicated staff and pastors. We encourage the members of First Presbyterian to make a special effort to communicate often with individual members of the staff, and let them know how much they are valued and appreciated.

We ask for your continued prayer and support during the coming year, and, as always, welcome your input.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Janet Hiebert, Jim Mahurin, Susan Oldham, Anne Snow and Debbie Turri.  
**Co-Chairpersons:** Dan Crunk and Jenni Peterson. **Staff resources:** Kim Joiner and Nate Collier

Our committee had another busy and exciting year overseeing and supporting Christian educational opportunities for all ages (infant through adult) serving our congregation and community. The programs include: Sunday School for children, youth and adults, Vacation Bible School, Children's Worship I and II, Wednesday Night Live Adult Bible study and WNLKids, youth activities, First Friends, the Annual Congregational Retreat at NaCoMe, children's and adult libraries, the Blake Lecture Series and the nursery.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - We have classes beginning with 2 year olds through Adults. We are blessed with devoted teachers, some of which teach year after year. There are 8 adult Sunday school classes, offering a diversity of subjects including traditional Bible studies of the Old and New Testaments, a study of early Christian history, contemporary lessons on raising children and a deeper study of Pastor Chris' sermons. The New Member/Inquirer Classes, which are designed to provide information about the Presbyterian Church USA and our congregation in particular to those who are considering membership, have been well attended.

For children, we are offering 9 grade level classes, August – May. We continue to use Akaloo curriculum. The 2008-09 teachers are:

**2 year olds Room 113** Ann and Ken Zander and Jennifer and Chad Story

**3 year olds Room 114** Alice Darnell, Donna Moffatt

**\*Pre-Kindergarten Room 103** Dave and Dana Yates

**\*Kindergarten Room 104** Shelly and Becky Hughes

**1st grade Room 101** Mark and Kim Lewis

**2nd grade Room 102** Joy Crunk, Susan Oldham

**3rd grade- Room 115** Tom and Mickey Wilhoite

**4<sup>th</sup> grade – Room 116** Greg and Paula Hoover

**5<sup>th</sup> grade – Room 210** Tiffany Bechtel, Valerie Blackburn

(\* name change)

In the summer, we offer Rotation Workshops for elementary-aged children and traditional class for preschoolers. We offer two rotations: Joseph: Living in the Land of Many Colors and the Fruits of the Spirit.

Joy Crunk, Susan Oldham and Kim Joiner taught a sacraments class for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. This course, offered during Sunday school hour, began on September 7 and ended on World Communion Sunday, October 5. A parent/child class was held Sept. 7 at 5:30, and Duke Ellis helped the group prepare the Communion elements on October 4.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**—In Spring 2008, 21 6<sup>th</sup> graders completed our first year-long (August-May) Confirmation program. Those students concluded their study with an examination by the Session and confirmation in May. In August, we began a new session for 15 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Each confirmand continues to be assigned a Covenant Partner, an adult member of the congregation who mentors the confirmand. The covenant partner, shares their own experience as a person of faith, completes a study of the book of Luke with the confirmand and assists the confirmand in completing their written Statement of Faith. This partnership continues to be a vital and valued part of the confirmation experience.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM (CMT):** In May we formed this team to help coordinate all the children's ministries. Valerie Blackburn serves as chair. Members are: Rhonda Moyers, Tiffany Bechtel,

Anne Snow, Tom Wilhoite, Kelly Oldham and Adrienne Ohrt.

**KIDS' MISSION PROJECTS:** Every sack lunch that goes out for Room in the Inn includes a personal, handmade letter or card from a child of our church. We have made these cards in Sunday school, WNL, and collected cards for VBS offering. The First Friends group made 30 school supply bags for Project Joy. Our VBS projects included the cards, collecting money for recycling bins, food items for Graceworks and shoes for Soles for Souls. The First Friends and Parents helped with the Heifer table at the Alternative Gift Fair.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—** Rainforest Adventure, July 7-11. A multigenerational Sunday School was held July 6. The 5-day VBS was held each morning from 9 to 12 noon. We had 250 children and 85 dedicated volunteers that went on a Rainforest Adventure. We discovered what it means to be stewards of God's creation. Through Bible stories, songs and lots of fun activities, the children experienced stewardship and how we as God's people Share, Give, Grow, Love and Praise. Debbie Turri and Christine Grisham organized a very successful and creative week. Our church borrowed decorations from two other local churches and were able to pass them on to another church at the end of our week. This enhanced our stewardship theme even more.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP—** Our church offers Children's Worship I for ages four and five. We offer Children's Worship II for those in Kindergarten and First grade. The 8:30 worship option combines the age groups, and the Kindergarten and First graders are brought back to the sanctuary during the Apostles' Creed. The younger children remain in Room 212 until the end of the service. It is our goal for this worship time to be a structured learning environment to help prepare our children to understand and participate in our corporate worship services. The Children's Worship I program is coordinated by Rhonda Moyers. The 8:30 leaders are: Shelly Hughes, Carol Enoch, Nancy Cowie, and Martha Johnson. The 11:00 leaders are: LaDonne Basham, Alice Darnell, Caroline McCaleb, Margaret Rogers, Michele Boyette, Lisa Butler, Mary Fowler, and Shawn Raines. Rhonda Moyers and Kim Joiner rotate through both services. Valerie Blackburn coordinates the Children's Worship II program. Valerie, Anne Snow, Sharon Roumen, Denise Shaw, Greg Hoover, Amy Carroll, Sarah Lopacinski, and Chris Jewell are the Children's Worship II leaders.

The Time In/Time Out group helped paint the Children's Worship room this past year. This group shares space with an adult Sunday school and the playgroup co-op.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE KIDS (WNLKids)—** We continue to use PowerXpress curriculum for the 7:00 to 7:30 Christian Education portion of WNLK. Tiffany Bechtel has served as recruiter for rotation workshop leaders. Our lessons have focused on how to live out our faith as children of God.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT WNL—**Pastor Chris Joiner has taught a well-attended Bible study in the Spring and Fall 2008 following dinner on Wednesday Nights. Likewise, Pastor C.J. Thompson has led a small group Bible Study using the Lectio Divina method in Spring 2008.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES -** The youth program has been steadily expanding with increasing attendance. Last summer our high school group took their mission trip to Nassau, Bahamas. This was an exciting trip, not only because we were out of the country, but because we were able to experience a new culture while working hard. Some of our jobs while in Nassau were painting, weeding, sealing a roof, and mixing and pouring concrete by hand. Every night we were exhausted but happy. The Middle school group went to Atlanta and did a shorter version of the High school trip. We worked at Project Open Hands, Café 458 (with the homeless) and at the Community Outreach Center. Our Sunday School classes are going well, with new teachers and an involving curriculum. Youth also attended a number of retreats at NaCoMe and enjoyed fellowship on the Senior High Ski Retreat. The Youth Group provided leadership at the annual Youth Sunday worship services.

**SEXUALITY RETREAT (COURSE 1) -** We had 14 students. The retreat was very successful, and

Susan Haws led the course. Evaluations were given to all students and parents. The Presbyterian Church (USA) curriculum is no longer available, and it was discussed among the leadership the possibility of writing our own. Janet Hiebert contributed two great meals for everyone. Dan Crunk and Kim Joiner served as facilitators.

FIRST FRIENDS— Susan Haws, Sarah Lopacinski, and Kim Joiner lead this group for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They went on the annual overnight trip to NaCoMe, enjoyed a rock wall team-building field trip, met twice monthly, and continue to use the Quest curriculum.

BIBLES FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS - We presented 22 Bibles, New Revised Standard Version Children's Version.

SUMMER CAMP AT NACOME—We received a memorial gift to be used to pay ½ of the camp and conference fees to NaCoMe and Montreat. We helped 5 children attend “You and Me” camp and at least 15 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders to attend camp at NaCoMe.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT NACOME— Our annual retreat was held May 2-4 and we hosted close to 100 church members at NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center in Pleasantville, TN. This event was designed to be a time of relaxation, recreation and spiritual enrichment for our families. The weekend included an adult study and a children's program, which culminated in some intergenerational activities. There was also great food, fun and games, all in the beautiful setting of NaCoMe.

ADULT LIBRARY—Our adult library continues to expand and serve as a vital resource to our congregation. The Stephen Ministry Library, housed in the adult library, continues to grow with an inspiring collection of new books. Last year's additions focused on spiritual disciplines. The library also maintains audiotapes of all sermons and special events.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY— In addition to a collection of over 800 books and videos, the children's library was home to Miracle Monday book clubs during the summer of 2008. These programs offered Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders a chance to read, discuss and participate in activities centered on children's books with Christian themes. A used-book sale was held in February, and we made approximately \$1000. This has become an every-other-year project to raise money for the library. This year the money was also used for some refurbishing of our nursery. Susan Oldham continues to offer library assistance.

PRAYER GARDEN - During Lent our children had the opportunity to experience a variety of ways of praying in a special Prayer Garden created just for them. The Children's Library (Room 210) was transformed to a Prayer Garden with 10 prayer stations. The children visited the garden with their Sunday school class and the WNL Kids rotation included this as a workshop. Rhonda and Mike Moyers assisted with this project.

BLAKE LECTURE SERIES - The Blake Lecture Series is an endowed educational program that is led annually by a well-known theologian or author. Laura Mendenhall, President of Columbia Seminary, led the 2008 Blake Lectures.

NURSERY - Our infants through 3 year olds are well-loved and cared for on Sundays, special services, Bible studies and WNL. We use volunteers to help in the nursery for worship services. Jennifer Barton is our volunteer coordinator. Our staff co-coordinators are Adrienne Ohrt and Kelly Oldham. The staff members are: Linda Cairatti, Shelly Johnson, Lynn Koziura, Robert Oldham, Rachel Thompson and Karen Updegraff. Thank you to all our staff for making our nursery a safe and loving environment. The Time In/Time Out group volunteered their time to paint the nursery. Funds from the book sale were used

to upgrade a few items.

The Christian Education Committee takes seriously our responsibilities to provide diverse, nurturing and spiritually challenging opportunities for all age groups in our congregation. We have a responsibility to our congregation to guide and support them in the use of God's gifts.

We welcome your support, feedback and ideas. You are welcome to attend our meetings and programs and to join us in our work and ministry!

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Betsy Adgent, Don Bittick, Janet Cothron, Janet Hiebert, Kathy Morris, Anne Parsons, Jim Petersen and Margaret Rogers. **Chairperson:** Lynne Hutson. **Vice-Chair:** Mike Porter. **Staff Resource:** C.J. Thompson

The Congregational Care Committee is responsible for programs and activities that are designed to: welcome and assimilate new members; encourage all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to participate actively in the life of the church; and care for the members. Programs that the committee was responsible for in the year 2008 included:

1. **Small Group Ministry/Christ Care:** In 2007, the committee felt the need to formalize the training, operations and structure of the small group ministry program along the lines of the Stephen Ministry program. Rather than one-to-one Christian care, the ChristCare Small Groups are gatherings of 5 to 12 people that meet regularly to focus on 4 activities: 1. community building and care; 2. biblical equipping; 3. prayer and worship; and 4. missional service. Don Bittick and C.J. Thompson were trained as Equippers. The two ChristCare Small Group Leaders who have active small groups are Lisa Butler and Martha Johnson. This ministry cares for members on a group basis as FPC grows larger. Additionally, we have a knitting group led by Julia McGirt, a Fantasy Football group led by Don Bittick, and a book club led by Cathy McCall
2. **Breadbreakers:** This program is a less structured and more informal fellowship opportunity than the ChristCare small group ministry. Members of the congregation are placed in small groups, which meet several times for dinner and other recreation. We decided this year to start in the first quarter of 2009 instead of in the fall.
3. **Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministry gives us an effective way to train and organize members for providing one-on-one confidential Christian care. This care is offered to many individuals, whether they are struggling with a major crisis or simply a challenging time of life. This does not supplant the pastor who will always be there in a crisis. It enables the church to provide long-term, consistent, follow-up care that would otherwise not be possible. All Christians are called to care for and love one another. By equipping laypeople we can help them fulfill their calling as Christians and we expand the caring ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.
4. **Called to Serve Meal Ministry:** This is a subcommittee of individuals within the church who prepare home-cooked meals for members who have recently welcomed a new baby into their home, who have had surgery/illness, or who have recently experienced a death in their family. The members of this committee include: Carol Busby, who coordinates meals for one time needs and Janet Hiebert, who coordinates meals for families or individuals with longer term needs. Julia McGirt and Adrienne Ohrt also serve on this subcommittee.
5. **Flower Ministry:** This ministry was new in 2007 and is under the leadership of Anne Parsons. Members of the Flower Ministry share the Sunday worship flowers with members of our church congregation who are not able to attend the worship service. Members of the Flower Committee break down and arrange the flowers into smaller vases for delivery.
6. **Inactive Member Identification:** The committee has been working to identify inactive members and contact them. The goal of this activity is not only to encourage persons to reengage in the life of our church, but also to identify those who no longer wish to be members so our rolls will be accurate. We review this on a consistent basis and make contact through one to one conversations or through written communications.

7. Pictorial Directory: In 2008, we started the photography process through the use of LifeTouch. We are completing the final proofs of the directory; after that is complete we will be able to provide a secure, password protected, online directory. The directory is a tool to help the congregants become familiar with one another. We hope this will be complete by the end of first quarter 2009.

8. Other programs the committee is exploring is a Transportation Ministry for those who need help with transportation to church events/services especially in the evening. Additionally, we are looking at a Career Transition group for those having concerns about their jobs, job loss, and career transitions. We are also looking at different types of programs focused toward younger adults/singles.

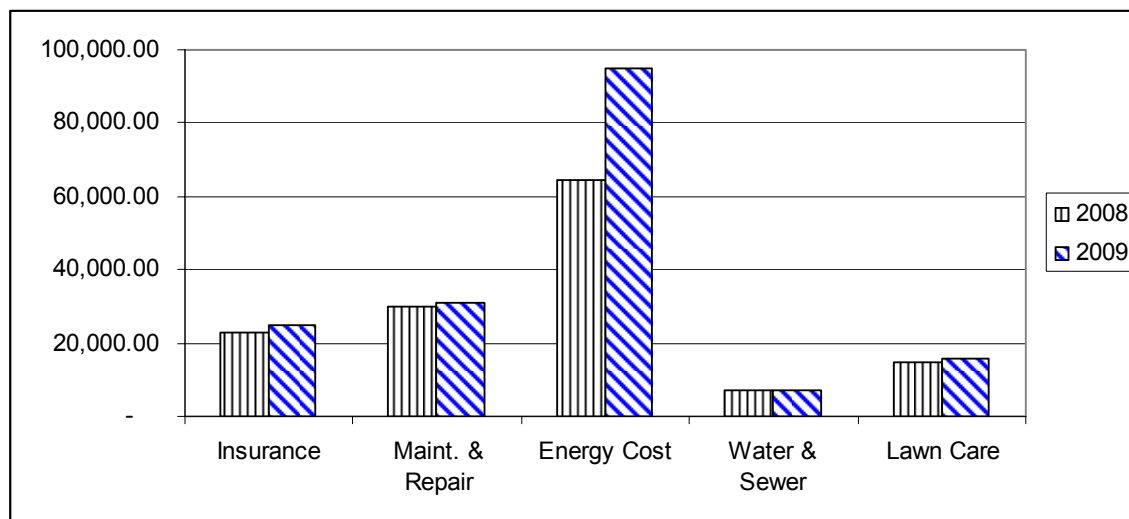
## FACILITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** John Brevard, Duke Ellis, Paul Hutson, Hank McCall, Knox McCharen, Ken Mounts, Art Rietz, Ed Snyder, Joel Tomlin, Reid Frazer, Margaret Whiteside. **Chairperson:** Bill Lewis. **Co-Chairperson:** Jim Mahurin.

The Facilities Management Committee is responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and repair of the church facilities, vehicles and grounds.

2008 was dominated by rapidly increasing energy costs. A warm summer, greater use of church facilities combined with rate increases from both electric and gas utilities, resulted in a twenty (20) percent increase in energy costs.

This is a serious situation which, unchecked, could consume a full third of the entire facilities budget next year. The chart below shows the projected increases of non-Mortgage budget categories between 2008 and 2009.



This clearly illustrates the impacts of increased energy costs upon the budget.

Several steps were taken to reduce, or contain these costs, most notably reinstating thermostat set back programming. This however, is just the beginning of steps that must be taken to control these expenditures. 2009 will see a renewed focus to further reduce energy consumption throughout the church. This may include: The introduction of digital thermostats; replacement of incandescent light bulbs with florescent devices; and changes in landscaping to reduce air-conditioning use.

We wish to again thank Glenda Andrews, Jerry Russell (J.R.), and Peter Riek, for their tireless efforts in keeping First Presbyterian Church, Franklin in top shape. We are truly blessed to have people of these talents, skills, and patience involved with our church.

The following is a list of a few of the duties and accomplishments of the committee this past year.

1. Reinstatement of thermostat scheduling and programming;
2. Support annual meeting of Quarterly Presbytery meeting;
3. Complete testing, cleaning, and inspection of fire sprinkler system;
4. Institute church wide recycling program;
5. Conduct workdays to trim the hedges, trees, weed flowerbeds, paint, clean, etc.;
6. Inspections of church roofs;
7. Replace lights in parking and common areas.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Lucy Battle, Donna Brevard, Carol Busby, Vivian Coble, Rick Cross, Betty Frazer, Hope Hallum, Mary Fran Ligon, Kevin Litton, Missy McKeand, Nancy Moody, Linda Patrick, Margaret Roberts, Mark Runnion and Cathy Stubbs. **Chairperson:** Betty Frazer.  
**Staff Resource:** Julia McGirt

The Fellowship Committee provides opportunities and events that bring members and guests together, strengthening relationships with God and with each other. Programs and events that the committee was responsible for in the year 2008 include:

- Wednesday Night Live – held weekly from September through May. This evening provided a delicious meal, fellowship, Bible study and choir practices. In joint effort with the Mission Committee, hospitality was extended to Room in the Inn guests.
- College of Elders dinner prior to Sunday evening Blake Lecture.
- Reception following Monday evening Blake Lecture.
- Time In/Time Out – a fellowship for mothers who assist with various church projects, coordinate the Easter Egg Hunt and Children’s Fall Festival.
- Refreshments for Easter Day.
- Progressive Dinner in April.
- Primetimers – Fellowship group open to any member or guest for meals, plays, concerts and trips to places of interest.
- Annual Church Picnic in September.
- Flowers for the sanctuary. A flower committee arranges flowers in-house for Sunday morning worship services. On Monday the committee breaks the flowers down into small arrangements for a newly formed committee to deliver to shut-ins.
- Women’s Retreat.
- Meals for members following hospitalization or out-of-town funeral for close relatives.
- Help with food and flowers for Presbyterian Women meeting.
- Preparation of a musical slide presentation to present to Session and is now available on the website.
- Advent and Christmas decorations for the church.

## MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Hugh DuPree, Hank McCall, Randy Moore, Mark Nickell, Joel Tomlin and Bob Updegraff. **Co-Chairpersons:** Jim Roberts and Anne Rutherford. **Staff Resource:** Chris Joiner.

The Memorial Garden Committee (formerly Columbarium Committee) is continuing its feasibility work to determine not only the level of interest for creating a memorial garden on church grounds but also the costs of such a project both initial and ongoing. Concept drawings were presented to the congregation in summer 2007 to gauge interest in the project. Those drawings are shown as a link on the Church's website. As of December 31, 2008, 56 people within 34 family units had indicated interest many by making a \$100 advance deposit for the privilege of interment.

During 2008 meetings were held with the church's architect in an effort to formalize plans for construction from which pricing will be established. With that information the Committee will present its recommendations to the Session and then make additional presentations to the families who have expressed interest together with others who may want to hear more about this effort. It is desired to raise all funds necessary prior to construction. This project, both initial and the ongoing maintenance, is designed to have no financial impact on the church's operations.

The Memorial Garden Committee was created in response to a growing interest among church members. A Memorial Garden is a special place created for the placement of ashes of the dead following cremation. Just as the church speaks to us and ministers to us in special ways at all the significant turning points in our lives—birth, baptism, marriage, times of crisis, and sickness—it is altogether fitting for those who have been part of the community of faith at First Presbyterian Church to have their ashes interred at the church as well.

## MISSION COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Fred and Sue Banner, Larry and Alice Darnell, Bill Eberle, Paula Hoover, Patti Kelly, Kris McCain, Martin McGirt, Clata Miller, John Moulton, Lisa Butler and Sam Webb. **Chairperson:** Steve Lewis. **Co-Chair:** Patti Kelly. **Secretary:** Susan Williams. **Room in the Inn sub-committee chair:** Lisa Butler. **Lena Reynolds sub-committee chair:** Alice Darnell. **Habitat for Humanity sub-committee chair:** Sue Banner. **Global Missions sub-committee chair:** Patti Kelly. **Local Missions sub-committee chair:** Susan Williams. **Staff resource:** C. J. Thompson

The Mission Committee is charged with the task of developing and supporting local and global mission projects. Our church members generously give their time, talent and financial support to a variety of activities and organizations. In 2008 we made the decision to establish Ministry Teams who will meet separately to deal with a particular mission focus. The Mission Committee is now a six person committee with Pastor C.J. as the resource. Each of the six members is in charge of a particular Ministry Team.

We operated on a budget of \$23,100. Here is the breakdown of how the budget was set for 2008,

### Local Missions

Room in The Inn	\$3000
Nashville Cares	\$500
Martha O'Bryan	\$450
Monroe Harding	\$450
Graceworks	\$450
My Friends House	\$450
Habitat for Humanity	<u>\$9900</u>
Total Local Missions	\$15,200

### Global Missions

Living Waters for the World	\$5000
Global Missionary Support	<u>\$1000</u>
Total Global Missions	\$6000

### Other Mission Projects

Pastoral Counseling Cntr.	\$1000
Vanderbilt Divinity	\$450
Vanderbilt Presbyterian Min.	<u>\$450</u>
Total Other Mission Projects	\$1900

Total Missions Budget                      \$23,100

### Room in the Inn

Chair: Lisa Butler, supported by the RITI Ministry Team & RITI-CHD (Campus for Human Development) Christ Cares Group

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008, began the fifth year of hosting ten guests for 21 weeks, Nov. 5<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>, alternating men and women each week. At this time Room In the Inn (RITI) is working on an emergency plan to provide services for five additional guests in the event of weather related cancellations of other congregations. RITI is one of more than 150 congregations that support the program through the Campus for Human Development.

Each week RITI provides a clean bed, dinner at WNL, bedtime snacks, a book cart with reading material that doesn't have to be returned, television, DVD's and VCR's in each room. Also included are clothing, backpacks, bags, new underwear, socks, toiletries, showers, breakfast and a lunch for the next day. The program also offers the opportunity to share prayer concerns for the congregation to pray for. The guests can make free long distance calls and RITI also offers to mail any cards or letters free.

In 2008 RITI was able to host the night before Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For each holiday the guests are offered small gifts such as special lotions, hand warmers, pens, notebooks, crosses purchased through the Greater Gift (SERV), and other small tokens as appropriate. Special craft projects are also offered for the guests. Christmas Eve's project was the ladies making a small fleece blanket to keep or give as a gift. As available RITI schedules someone to come and give haircuts, manicures, craft holiday cards and jewelry projects.

Support from the congregation provides funds for meals, laundry, linen replacement, etc. This is secondary to the tremendous amount of support received in service, such as providing transportation, making the cots each week, staying overnight as a host, providing lunch or breakfast items and donations of staple supplies. Younger children participate by making cards to include with the lunch bags. Confirmands, older children and adults help to deliver the guest requests each week. Support is also provided to Campus for Human Development where the program is coordinated.

It is the belief of the RITI leaders, that for one night a week, five months a year, the love of Christ can be modeled by offering a safe, warm shelter and acceptance to those in need.

### Global Missions

Chair: Patti Kelly

A Greater Gift: Patti Kelly coordinated the second year of Serrv International's global market called A Greater Gift. This event was held in conjunction with the Lena Reynolds School of Missions, each month, from July through October. Sales of goods totaled \$4,860, with proceeds of \$800 earned to go toward a global mission project in 2009.

Alternative Gift Fair: Our second Alternative Gift Fair was held in Wilson Hall during Advent. This event enabled donations to be given in honor of someone. Token gifts were shared along with a donation card. This year we focused on four mission areas. Tables were set-up for Room in the Inn, Living Waters for the World/Medical Missions, Graceworks, and Heifer International. Total donations for this event were \$11,013.

### Habitat for Humanity

Chair: Sue Banner

In 2008 the congregation again participated in helping the Mosiej family with their home. The building took place primarily in November and December on Good Neighbor Road in Franklin. The congregation made contributions and gifts totaling approximately \$15,000 to go along with the \$9900 budgeted by the church. Once again the congregation rallied to help Habitat with the goal of impacting affordable housing in our community. This was the sixth house built in partnership with Habitat and the first house under the ***Building New Traditions*** initiative that calls for partial involvement in houses from 2008 to 2011. This was the first year that a fund raiser was used to reach the monetary objective. It was a **Not So Newlywed Game** that included a dinner and participation by many of the members of the congregation. This event may be an important part of the ongoing commitment to Habitat in raising funds to support the commitment by the church.

### **Lena Reynolds School of Mission**

Chair: Alice Darnell

The purpose of the Lena Reynolds School of Mission program is to promote personal involvement of the congregation in both local and world missions. It is designed to inspire members to get involved in helping God's people whenever possible. In 2008, there were three Sundays where all the adult Sunday school classes were hosted to share different mission programs. In August the Habitat for Humanity build was promoted for the fall. In September, the minister and students of the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Student Fellowship spoke. In October, teams of church members reported on mission trips. Six individuals reported on the trip to build a pure water system in Guatemala with Living Waters for the World. The team that had just returned, reported on the trip to New Orleans to help rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The trip was coordinated through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

The Lena Reynolds Work Day was facilitated on a Saturday in September. There were around 60 people going to six different sites for work. Also involved were students from the Vanderbilt PSF. Two groups went to help local families with work around the home. Others went to the Campus for Human Development, Graceworks, Mercy Children's Clinic and other local missions.

### **Local Missions**

Chair: Susan Williams

Local Missions is made up of several organizations that are either in Williamson or neighboring counties. Graceworks received money through the Share the Table program. Also the Alternative Gift Fair helped to fund this local charity. Currently Clata Miller and Bill Eberle serve as members of the Graceworks Board, representing the church. Nashville Cares, a Nashville organization serving HIV/AIDS victims is supported by our church. Currently the church supports two individuals through this program. Martha O'Bryan is a Nashville organization sponsored heavily by the Presbyterian Churches in the local area. It is largely responsible for caring for the families living in the James Cayce homes in Nashville. Miss Martha's Ice Cream Crankin' and the Joyful Noise service are ways that the church supports this ministry. Meals on Wheels is another organization supported by the church. There are several deliveries made to individuals in need of a hot meal and companionship. The Mercy Children's Clinic received money from the Pentecost offering. Bridges of Williamson Co. also received money from the Peacemaking offering. Finally, the Vanderbilt Campus Ministries received funding from the Mission Committee.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Joyce Crutcher, Ellen Dickinson, Rita Ferari, Jerry Houston and Peggy Reynolds. **Chairperson:** Robert Rains. **Staff Resource:** C.J. Thompson.

### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Great Commission calls us to go forth into the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ. We will strive to communicate this message to the surrounding community wherein FPCF is a place where they can worship with us in the Reformed Presbyterian Tradition. We will continue to offer the Inquirer's Class to guests and those interested in learning more about the ministries of this church and the history and doctrine of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

### **Committee goals addressed:**

We continue to focus on making the church more inviting to guests during worship.

We had an information table (newsletter, building map, inquirer information, etc) placed in the narthex.

We continue to make improvements to the website including streaming audio and pod casts.

We discussed and researched ways to make FPCF readily recognized in the surrounding community as a Christian church that offers traditional Reformed worship.

We continue our study of methods of evangelism to enable us to implement ways to reach out to the un-churched and the surrounding community.

### **Committee responsibilities accomplished and ongoing:**

- Maintain data on prospective members (guests) from the Ritual of Friendship pads.
- Call and welcome guests weekly.
- Send personal notes to second-time guests.
- Deliver bread to guests.
- Change to digital format for audio sermons, lectures and other events.
- Open our church and distribute water for 4th of July visitors.
- Organize refreshments for Sunday hospitality with Sunday School classes.
- Maintain FPCF web site. Join hosting service which improved the web page.
- Facilitate Inquirer's Class and host Inquirers' dinner
- Photograph & post pictures of new members and complete information cards for office.
- Advertise in Fact Bulletin Book, given out by Welcome Wagon and local papers.
- Advertise in The Shepherd's Guide.

## PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Susie Collier, Tiffany Bechtel, Melinda Henderson, Margaret Roberts and Cathy Stubbs. **Chairperson:** Mike Henry. **Vice Chairperson:** Jon Ohrt; **Members:** Bonnie Woodard, Resource

The Preschool Committee is responsible for establishing internal policy for the operation of the Preschool. It provides oversight and direction to the Preschool by: establishing the budget, aiding the Director and staff in implementing the Preschool program, reviewing and recommending staff candidates, and assisting the Administration Committee in conducting the annual review of the Preschool Director.

The Preschool is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church. In addition to teaching skills in a nurturing environment, the Preschool seeks to encourage children towards a better understanding of their Creator. The Preschool is open to three-, four-, and five-year old children from both the congregation and the community at large. Children can be enrolled in one of three sessions: two days, three days or four days per week.

During 2008, the Committee's work and accomplishments included:

- The State of Tennessee Department of Human Services awarded the Preschool with a 3 Star Rating, its highest rating
- Support to the Parent Advisory Team (PAT) and their activities such as Christmas celebration week, teacher appreciation week and the playground project
- Participation in the First Presbyterian Church Vision 2011 Task Force
- Provision for hearing, sight and speech screenings to students
- Produce and make available at the graduation ceremony a DVD full of pictures of the students commemorating their school year
- Maintain a Christian education environment that included a music program, chapel and fields trips
- Conduct three sessions of summer camp for any child, four to seven years-old
- Increased tuition to be able to add additional teaching assistants, and increase the schools share of cost for building maintenance and utilities from \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually.
- Added a video security system.
- Added the following positions:
  - Assistant to the Director
  - 2 teachers assistants

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Kevin Carroll, Garry Collins, Sara Hinds, Mark Blackburn, Robert McCain, Hunter Battle, and Susan Burns. **Chairperson:** Jim Keener. **Staff Resource:** Chris Joiner

The Stewardship and Finance Committee has successfully completed its duties for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. The committee provided a ministry of oversight and direction in the financial operations of the church, working with the congregation to encourage generous giving in response to God's abundant grace.

First Presbyterian Church completed 2008 with a deficit of approximately \$100.00. Total contributions to the operating fund were \$808,432, down \$26,000 over '07. Loose plate contributions for the year were \$135,965, up approximately \$28,000 from '07. Total cash operating expenses for the year were \$975,088 a decrease of \$38,074 from '07. Financial statements were prepared in a timely manner and presented to the Session each month. Current mortgage statistics are as follows:

Loan balance @ December 31, 2008	\$1,346,674.33
Principal payments made in 2008 from operating budget	\$ 57,469.31
Interest payments made in 2008	\$ 87,680.81

The Committee refinanced the mortgage in order to take advantage of lower rates and to improve cash flow in March 2008. The previous loan was coming due in 2009, so the refinance was needed. This loan is a fixed rate mortgage of 6.1% and does not have a balloon payment like the previous loan. The loan has an amortization period of 15 years.

The Endowment Funds of First Presbyterian Church are invested in a balanced growth fund, one of a series of mutual funds managed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation. The balances of the funds as of December 31, 2008 were as follows:

FPC Endowment Fund (undesignated)	\$96,855.75
Transportation Fund	1,869.78
Lee College Scholarship Fund	9,589.48
Thomas D. Walker Scholarship	12,870.50
Ministerial Loan Fund	14,068.29
Blake Lecture Series Fund	16,039.91
Lena Reynolds School of Mission Fund	184,729.75
Presbyterian Women's Fund	<u>4,587.49</u>
TOTAL	\$340,610.95

During 2008, our committee was responsible for the successful completion of the following activities:

- Financial statements were prepared in a timely manner and presented to the Session each month.
- Refinancing the Church mortgage to take advantage of the low fixed interest rates as well as a traditional fixed rate mortgage.
- The budget for the year 2009 was prepared and presented to the Session for approval.

- Restricted mission contributions for 2008 were \$52,383. The operating budget contributed \$64,350. The total for 2008 given for missions was \$116,733. Those contributed for specific offerings were paid out to those programs on a timely basis.
- Stewardship and Finance Committee will continue its ministry to provide financial leadership in the life of our church and encourage generosity. Financial information is available if you are interested. This may be obtained from the Church Accountant, or any member of this committee. If you have an interest in serving on this committee, we welcome you. Please contact the church office or any committee member. Our goal is to make the most efficient, proper, and responsible use of your financial commitments to our church.

As members of First Presbyterian Church, we all have much for which we can be thankful. We are looking forward to 2009. Our financial goals are challenging for 2009 due to the decrease in pledges, but this congregation always responds accordingly. Our mission work continues to expand locally and abroad. There will be many areas for our members to respond to God. We would like for the church to prayerfully consider ways we as individuals and as a church can get involved in this ministry.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Bill Carver, Rita Ferari, Millard Jefferson, Sue Mahurin, Sara Posthuma, Anne Rutherford and Nancy Faye Williams. **Chairperson:** Hugh DuPree. **Staff Resources:** Chris Joiner and Julia McGirt.

The Worship Committee has the responsibility of planning for our regular Sunday worship services and for special services throughout the year. As an adjunct, we also prepare the sacraments, ensure that our music program is complete, schedule ushers for each service and schedule elders to serve communion and maintain sanctuary continuity. Weddings and funerals are also under the committee's area of responsibility.

Paraments – This year the committee was responsible for placing new paraments in the sanctuary.

Communion Guild – A group of men and women formed a subcommittee to take care of the preparation and cleanup of all Communion services. This dedicated group undertakes this phase of our worship service thoroughly and effectively – both in functions and organization. Communion Guild members include Fred and Sue Banner, Bob and Alice Boyce, Susan Burns, Reed Cothron, Duke Ellis, Rita Ferari, Doug and Chris Halleen, Claire Henry, Pat Hesson, Colln Henry, Millard and Cornelia Jefferson, Betty Leftwich, Mary Fran Ligon, Kris McCain, Adrienne Ohrt, Anne Parsons, Robert Rains, Jarrell Raines, Anne Rutherford and Betty Willoughby. Duke Ellis prepares our communion bread and we are grateful for the time and effort that Duke puts into this. We also had two generous anonymous donations of two additional communion trays. These trays were needed for the Easter and Christmas Eve services.

Music – We are most fortunate to have Julia McGirt as our Director of Music. She continues to expand every phase of our worship services to include new choirs, bagpipes, hand bells, brass ensemble, cello and other strings, etc. In addition, Julia publishes bulletin inserts that relay to the congregation the history and meaning of the music we sing and hear. Randy Frame and Tom Wilhoite continue their excellent musical presentations.

Ushers – The scheduling of a Head Usher (an elder) for each service, in addition to the scheduling of regular ushers is done through the Worship Committee by Rita Ferari. A checklist is used to insure continuity during every service.

Funerals – Two elders are asked to be present at funerals held in our sanctuary to be sure our Funeral Guidelines are followed.

Wedding Committee – Doris Tapscott is in charge of all weddings at the church. Her subcommittee has done an outstanding job in this function at our church. Wedding Committee members include: Debbie Combos, Janet Frame, Becky Hunt, Laura Lewis, Nancy Sevier, Anne Snow, Doris Tapscott, Sarah Neil Webb, Nancy Faye Williams and Dana Yates.

Budget – The Worship Committee has finished this year over budget mainly from the music program. The committee was able to balance the budget by using restricted funds allocated for music. While the budget is small in comparison to some other committees, it is of necessity that we continue to ensure our worship programs remain viable and relevant.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women is an organization with a rich heritage at this church. Historically, the women of this group have served the church and community faithfully in many different ways. As times have changed the group has tried to respond to the needs and availability of our women today.

Presently, PW is composed of women of all ages and has approximately 30 active members in the Morning and Evening Circles. There are nine monthly meetings each year. Circles meet at the church or in members' homes. For our Bible Study this year we are using the Horizons Bible Study. Individual circle members serve as study leaders. The time spent in fellowship and forming friendships is invaluable.

Presbyterian Women is financially supported in full by its members through pledges.

Presbyterian Women supports several local community organizations. PW coordinates the Angel Tree which benefits local elementary school children and their families; Bridges, a domestic abuse shelter; the Boys & Girls Club; My Friend's House, a local boys' home; and the Martha O'Bryan Center. They also remain involved with Graceworks Ministries. Christmas cards and cookies were sent to over 300 prisoners in the Williamson County Correctional Facility. At Christmas, PW provides gifts for church staff members.

As a member of First Church, each woman is also a member of Presbyterian Women and is welcome to all activities. We continue to evolve in a way that allows us to be of greater service to our church and community.

### OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

Moderator	Nancy Faye Williams
Treasurer	Janet Cothron
Historian	Betty Willoughby
Community Coordinator	Janet Cothron
Congregational Care	Janet Frame

### CIRCLE CHAIRPERSONS

Morning Circle	Adrienne Ohrt
Evening Circle	Janet Frame

### BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

Morning Circle	Nancy Faye Williams
Evening Circle	Kathy Morris

**ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE**  
**YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Active Members (as of 1/1/08) .....	822
New Members Received .....	69
Members Transferred .....	19
Members Moved to Inactive or Deleted .....	1
Deaths .....	3
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS .....</b>	<b>868</b>
Baptized Members (Baptized children who have not yet been confirmed) .....	214
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (as of 12/31/08) .....</b>	<b>1082</b>
Baptisms in 2008 .....	17 children, 2 adults
Average Worship Attendance .....	429
Sunday School Average Attendance .....	260

**FINANCES:**

	<u>2008 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2008 BUDGET</u>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>		
Pledged Contributions	\$808,432.00	\$850,000.00
Loose Plate Contributions	135,965.00	107,200.00
All Other Income	16,770.00	16,300.00
Plus Prior Year Pledges	<u>13,843.00</u>	<u>11,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$975,010.00</b>	<b>\$985,000.00</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Administration Committee	\$587,437.00	\$583,008.00
Christian Education Committee	19,553.00	23,800.00
Congregational Care Committee	3,247.00	4,200.00
Facility Management Committee	282,330.00	288,000.00
Fellowship Committee	3,562.00	3,500.00
Mission Committee	64,350.00	67,100.00
Outreach Committee	1,243.00	2,792.00
Stewardship and Finance Committee	1,855.00	1,400.00
Worship Committee	<u>11,521.00</u>	<u>11,200.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$975,098.00</b>	<b>\$985,000.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME (NET LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$88.00)</b>	

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2009**

**BUDGETED REVENUE**

Pledges .....	\$840,989.00
Loose Plate .....	139,000.00
All Other Income.....	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE .....</b>	<b>\$979,989.00</b>

**BUDGETED EXPENSES**

Administration Committee .....	\$583,000.00
Christian Education Committee .....	23,500.00
Congregational Care Committee .....	3,900.00
Facility Management Committee .....	284,539.00
Fellowship Committee .....	3,400.00
Mission Committee .....	22,600.00
Presbytery Pledge.....	44,000.00
Outreach Committee .....	2,700.00
Stewardship and Finance Committee .....	1,350.00
Worship Committee .....	<u>11,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$979,989.00</b>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PRESCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2009/2010**

**BUDGETED INCOME**

Tuition. ....	\$252,200.00
Registration & Fees.....	9,700.00
Summer Session.....	15,000.00
Miscellaneous .....	<u>11,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$288,400.00</b>

**BUDGETED EXPENSES**

Administration Expenses .....	\$234,150.00
Summer Session Expenses.....	12,000.00
Office Expenses .....	3,550.00
Education Expenses .....	20,200.00
Property Expenses.....	18,100.00
Other .....	<u>400.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>\$288,400.00</b>