



— THE —
GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
— CHURCH —

Annual Report 2009

230th Annual Congregational Meeting
February 7, 2010

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INTERIM PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

2009 was a busy and intense year in the life of Georgetown Presbyterian Church. A year ago we elected members of a Pastoral Nominating Committee. Since then, they have been trained, have written a Church Information Form, and, since its posting last May, have been working hard at reviewing résumés, listening to CDs of sermons, and interviewing selected candidates. The process requires patience, and they have shown it. Whether their resulting recommendation comes in a few weeks or some months hence, they have been approaching the task as they should in looking for a person who will live and grow with this congregation.

But the congregation has hardly been holding its breath in the meantime. Over the last several months, session has been engaged in an ongoing discussion about membership, both the church's responsibility to members, and the responsibility of members to the church to which they belong. This is an important discussion, and all the more important here as it has been difficult to get members' participation in activities and in service to the degree necessary to be the sort of church we all want to be. The Session in the coming six months will be engaged in a study of spiritual leadership, so that they can be more effective and discerning spiritual leaders.

As you read through this annual report, you will notice some wonderful events that have taken place in the last year, and some very good ideas that have been put in place. The Worship Committee instituted a Lenten series in which on each evening in Lent, members met at different homes in our area, as well as at Georgetown University and Ingleside. The response was enthusiastic and the atmosphere of worship and fellowship uplifting. This idea was repeated during Advent, with a wonderful supper and carol sing in addition to Vespers. Worship and Children's Ministries are looking for new ways to involve families in worship doing such things as Bible bearing, bell ringing and candle lighting. Mission's annual Music for Mission raised over \$40,000 for mission projects; they are also sponsoring a trip to Uganda this summer. Adult Issues each Sunday morning continues to present a series of lively and interesting speakers. The Georgetown Campus Ministry under Sherry Krokowski's able leadership has been flourishing.

The end of the year brought the sad news that the Rev. Merritt Schatz would be leaving her position by the end of May in order to better seek a new call. She has brought much to this church over the years, and she will be missed. Take the time to express your appreciation at some point. But also take time to re-read her letter. It goes to the heart in a very personal way of what it means to have a call and to respond to it.

This has been a rewarding and sometimes wearing year for me. It has certainly been busy. In addition to working with the session and duties in worship, I have been teaching a Monday night Bible study, which has been a wonderful time of fellowship and study. We went through the Old Testament in the winter and spring, Paul, John and the Letter to the Hebrews in the fall, and now are thinking through what the spirituality of worship is. In addition, I have been teaching for the Reformed Institute, and serving on that board along with several of our members. All of this has been a chance to leave this church with a deeper and better understanding of what it means to be a church. It is the best I can do for it, and the best thing I can give the next pastor.

Peace,

Eric

ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Georgetown Presbyterian Church continues to be blessed with outstanding pastors and a strong staff. Our interim Senior Pastor, Dr. Eric Springsted, continues to provide excellent leadership through his preaching, teaching, and leadership of the Session. In particular, Dr. Springsted has taught New Members' classes as well as Adult Education classes on the Old Testament and on Paul, John and the Letter to Hebrews. In his role as Moderator, he has worked to make the Session more efficient and to understand the role that the church leadership plays in the spiritual life of the church. In addition to these activities, he has continued to be active within the National Capital Presbytery and the Reformed Institute.

As she has throughout her tenure, Reverend Merritt Schatz provided leadership in all of her varied roles with grace and enthusiasm. We have been blessed by Merritt's service in innumerable ways including her work with the Deacons and her continuing her leadership role in our denomination's national disaster response team. In December, Merritt informed the Congregation that she intended to end her service to Georgetown Presbyterian Church on May 31, 2010, as she seeks to discern God's will for her next call.

We continue to be enriched by the talent and dedication of John Lintner and the members of our Choir. John's dedication to excellence and his thoughtful selections of music add a rich dimension to our worship experience.

With any organization, the operation of our church office depends on the skill and hard work of our church assistant, Paula Thines, and our bookkeeper, Barbara McClure. Both Paula and Barbara continue to keep the church office and financial activities working smoothly behind the scenes.

In May of 2009, Amey Upton completed her internship with the church upon her graduation from Wesley Theological Seminary. The congregation benefited greatly from Amey's dedicated service, including her work with our ministry to students at Georgetown University, with Junior High and Senior High groups in preparation for Youth Sunday, and, in general her calm and steady presence throughout her time with our congregation.

Alex Bullock, Chair

ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Steve Hopkins and his Committee have been offering and running the Sunday morning Ad Ed Issues Class with a richness of topics that life in a Washington Presbyterian church embraces: from Wesley's OT Professor Denise Hopkins on the prophet Jeremiah; Georgetown University Professor Bruce Douglass, celebrating John Calvin's 500th Anniversary; GPC member reporting on her Peace Corps service, Laura Belazis (Mozambique); Kara Vanderkamp (Niger); banking development specialist Marty Crowson on the Philippines; Jennifer Hillman, Sr. Transatlantic Fellow on the German Marshall Fund; two Congressmen (both Republican), Fred Upton and Roy Blount Jr., politics; Dr. Rob Dugger on the U.S. Economy and Susan Krause Bell on "Reform of the Financial System"; Terry Nagi on the Environment; Ted Farrar on Church World Service and the attempt to eradicate hunger; Lindsay Buss, CEO of "Martha's Table" in the U St. neighborhood...and finally, Dr. Eric Springsted on "What it Means to Live in a Secular Age." We don't necessarily have the answers, but we certainly DO know how to ask the questions!

The Adult Education Ministries Committee's program has been particularly enriched since the arrival of the Rev. Eric Springsted, PhD, because he loves to teach! On Monday evenings Eric outlined during the January-May semester the basic story of the Old Testament, from Genesis to the Fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C., the Babylonian exile (539 B.C.), and the restoration of Jerusalem, with the building of the Second Temple under Ezra and Nehemiah in the 4th century, the Hellenistic period with Judea under the Ptolemies, finally the leadership of Judas Maccabeus with the Maccabean Revolution celebrating Hanukkah and the rededication of the Temple in 164 B.C., a veritable romp through Biblical history!

Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick led the Summer Reading program about Henry Ward Beecher, whom author Debbie Applegate called "The Most Famous Man in the World," at least in late 19th C Brooklyn N.Y. at Pilgrim Congregational Church. Among other famous children of Dr. Lyman Beecher, Henry's fame emphasized not only the ecclesiastical or the literary, but also the political, religious, and the carnal.

In September, long-time GPC member, Jill Fri, opened the Ad Ed Issues Class with a history of our church, followed in October by Rev. Merritt Schatz, Sheldon Ray and others with an overview of our relationship with the National Capital Presbytery and the outlook for Meadowkirk, NCP's new conference and retreat center which already is proving valuable in our work.

Then, speakers from crisis-torn situations around the globe described shattering stories about Darfur (Elder Lee Watenpaugh, Dale City); Pat Davies (GPC) and Jan Smart, leaders of the Children of Uganda orphanage, gave updates on education there as well as sustainable agriculture (COU was a major beneficiary of GPC's 2007 and 2008 Evenings of Music for Mission); Kiva, a micro-lending website which enables entrepreneurs to get access to money to fight global poverty, was described by its leader, Austin Choi, and GPC's Youth Group has been actively participating; Nancy Lindborg, President of Mercy Corps (Art Johnson used to serve on this Board), discussed some of the global activities in its effort to "alleviate suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build secure, productive, and just communities." Former Ambassador Philip Wilcox (now CEO of the Middle East Peace Foundation in DC) gave a painstakingly thorough and brilliant talk on "Peace for Israel and Palestine: Can President Obama Succeed?" that needs to be reprinted...it was that good.

Gregory Smith of the Pew Forum on Religion in Public Life focused on its 2007 survey of religious affiliation and religion "switching" in the US; the Executive Director of Miriam's Kitchen discussed "Poverty in DC and what we can do about it". Miriam's Kitchen is supported by GPC with volunteers and \$\$\$, providing breakfast and other services to 200 homeless persons daily; former GPC member and Pentagon retiree Ed Rowe presented a mind-boggling update on "National Security Reform," a not-to-be missed analysis.

Rev. Eric Springsted graciously helped our A.E.I. class understand St. Thomas Aquinas in two Sunday morning sessions, and it was very gratifying. Then, we greeted Advent with Wesley Seminary's O.T. Prof. Denise Hopkins introducing us to the chronology of the ancestry of Jesus in the First Chapter of Matthew, and speaking especially about the four women, Tamar (an almost forgotten daughter-in-law), Rahab (a prostitute and madam), Ruth, and the wife of "Uria." Unfortunately, snow cancelled our December 19 meeting, so we hope to hear a lot more about them later!

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Buildings & Grounds Committee had a busy year in 2009. Many projects were completed, including the following major ones:

1. Removed mold in walls of Balch Hall
2. Replaced hot water heater in church
3. Cleaned and repaired drains around outside of church
4. Replaced crumbling stonework in courtyard
5. Replaced exterior front door to Balch Hall
6. Prepared manse for new rental
7. Replaced heating system in manse

* * *

This year promises to be as challenging as 2009. We are planning the following projects:

1. Conduct a 10-year audit of buildings and grounds
2. Implement further energy/environmental changes
3. Replace air conditioning unit above Sunday School rooms
4. Improve courtyard landscaping
5. Paint portions of church interior

Tom Lotterman (chair)
Russell Porter
Roy Henwood

First Day of Sunday School	September 13, 2009		Pancake breakfast Recognize Children's Church New students
Youth Retreat	Sept 19-20, 2009		Meadowkirk reserved
Pumpkin Painting	Oct 25		Proceeds donated to FLOC – 30 pumpkins painted
Homeless walk	Nov 8		25 participants with the Children's Ministry budget paying half of the children's registration fee. A member of the Georgetown Ministries staff came and spoke prior to the walk about their program.
St Nick Dinner	Dec 5		The Christmas tree was decorated with Crismons at the start of the night followed by Santa's visit and crafts in the Colonial room. Christmas Ornament Gifts were handed out by Santa
Advent	Nov 29-Dec 20	Liza Marshall	
Christmas Pageant	Dec 24 th	Jennifer Hillman	Due to the 20 inch snow storm practice was cancelled. Jennifer Hillman worked via email and with the Holy Spirit to pull off another meaningful Christmas Eve pageant. She had much help in the costume and coordination area.

Major issues:

1. Low attendance 9:30-9:45 Sunday School- the CM performed a church wide phone survey over the summer to identify issues to improve participation. Continued debate over the impact of 9:45 Sunday school. Core families provide most of the teaching. Parent meetings were held in the fall to reach out to different age ranges and gather ideas.
2. W2W and Children's Church- staffed by the Wisdoms, John Schmidt, Katy and John Brandenburg and a limited number of families. Focus on worship in contrast to education.
3. Youth group: great leaders, active core of children, broad participation from Sunday am to 5 pm youth group. Successful youth retreat in the fall. Youth retreat cut from the budget for 2010.
4. 4 children underwent confirmation classes and became members of GPC.
5. New initiative of Communion series for Children's Church. To be repeated for 2010.
6. Budget: maintained the paid care givers, cut retreat. CM represents under 2% of entire church budget.

Submitted by John L. Marshall

CAMPUS MINISTRY

We were truly blessed again in 2009 with an amazing and dedicated (if somewhat small) group of Georgetown students who together comprise the Georgetown Presbyterian Student Fellowship.

During the Spring 2009 semester, Jennifer Thalman (a seminary student at Wesley Theological Seminary) and GPC member Sherry Rutherford Krokowski provided leadership for the group. As Jennifer moved out of the area following her graduation in May 2009, Sherry continued working with the students and, along with Interim Senior Pastor Eric Springsted, represented GPC on Georgetown University's Protestant Council.

A summary of campus ministry activities from 2009 includes:

- Bi-weekly fellowship meetings on campus throughout the spring and fall semesters, focusing on themes including social justice, exploring new spiritual practices, and scripture study. Currently, regular fellowship meetings on campus take place every other Thursday evening at 7:30pm, usually at a student's apartment.
- Regular attendance at bi-monthly Georgetown University Protestant Council meetings, at which GPC is one of approximately a dozen ministries represented.
- January 2009: GPC campus ministry leaders organized a weekend retreat which was attended by several of our students, focusing on a study of spiritual practices led by Jennifer Thalman.
- March 2009: Members of the Georgetown Presbyterian Fellowship and GPC campus ministry leaders organized a Wednesday night Lenten service for members of the GPC congregation which was held at the Copley Crypt on campus.
- September 2009: We participated in the University's Campus Ministry Fair to help raise awareness of and generate interest in the Georgetown Presbyterian Student Fellowship.
- October 2009: In response to a generous invitation by Rev. David Gray, Sherry and several students attended a lecture at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church given by Eboo Patel, the founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Corps. We were all very impressed and uplifted by Eboo's message of interfaith service, and enjoyed an evening of great fellowship.
- October/November 2009: Several of our students worked together with members of the Protestant Council and Georgetown's Protestant Ministry Coordinator to organize the November 1, 2009 Protestant Affiliated Ministries lecture and worship service which featured noted theologian Dr. Gordon MacDonald.
- As we ended 2009, we have worked together with other Council members and Georgetown Campus Ministry to organize a weekly Protestant-led ecumenically theological conversation on campus. This idea grew out of a successful ecumenical conversation of Orthodox and Protestant students begun during the Fall semester. These conversations will begin in the Spring Semester on Wednesday, January 20.

As we look forward to the new year, we continue to seek additional leadership from the church congregation for GPC's campus ministry activities. I strongly encourage anyone who may be interested in working with these bright, talented, articulate, engaging, and energetic students to contact either Eric or myself.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Rutherford Krokowski

FLOWER COMMITTEE

This year a long-time member of our committee, Virginia Howard, moved out of town, and she is very much missed. However, we have had several new people join our committee.

As a group, we decorated for Easter and this Advent season we did our progression for preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth, by adding something new each week. We especially thank Clifford Ford for his help in hanging the wreaths over the front doors.

We welcome any who would like to join us. A new member will always work with an experienced arranger until they are comfortable doing it on their own. Let the church office know if you are interested or call Jill Fri directly.

Members of the committee are: Patricia Berl, Meredith Ferro, Grace Fleming, Hiroko Hersey, Judy Hopkins, Frank Johnson, Janet Lanman, Nancy Roll, Helen Romness, Margaret Wisdom, Jessica Staszak, Kent Stevens and Marlene Wright. Thank you, all. -

Jill Fri, Chair

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

The deacons of the Member Care Committee for the Georgetown Presbyterian Church (GPC) had a busy year in 2009. One of the major functions of the committee was to organize the sign up process for delivering sanctuary flowers to members of the church who are unable attend Sunday services. Each Sunday the two sanctuary flower arrangements are delivered to the homes of members by volunteers from the congregation or members of the Member Care Committee. Church members are always grateful and very happy to know that the church is thinking about them in their times of need. For Christmas and Easter services, the sanctuary is filled with flower arrangements and these are also delivered to residences of members of GPC to let them know that on these special days, our thoughts are with them. The Member Care Committee enlisted the help of church members and coordinated the deliveries to over 35 people in DC, Maryland, and Virginia at the holidays. In addition to flower deliveries and visits to church members, the Member Care Committee also helped coordinate meals for members who experienced a death in their family.

MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Recognizing that times of transition in pastoral leadership can challenge our sense of community and collective identity, but also present opportunities to strengthen our ties as a community of faith, the Session in late 2008 developed a set of general “expectations” for the Session and for our pastors to address these opportunities. Among these was the expectation that the Session would proactively seek to strengthen our ministry to the congregation by reaching out to members who have not been attending regularly, and by engaging and connecting with visitors and prospective members.

The Session asked the Membership & Evangelism Committee to develop a program that would help implement these goals and help strengthen our community in this time of change. In 2009, the Membership & Evangelism Committee focused its efforts on implementing this Membership and Visitor Outreach Initiative.

During 2009, the Committee met nine (9) times and undertook the following activities to advance this outreach initiative:

- ***Fellowship Pads*** – with the aid of Amey Upton, the Committee investigated, designed and implemented the use of fellowship pads in the pews, where members and visitors can note their presence and identify (in the case of visitors) their contact information for church follow-up
- ***Visitor Tracking and Outreach*** – to enhance GPC’s ability to track and contact visitors, the Committee investigated and coordinated with church office staff to purchase church database software, and worked with Eric and Merritt to systematize GPC’s procedures for following up with visitors through regular correspondence from the clergy and personal contact from the Committee members
- ***GPC Brochure*** – to educate members and visitors about GPC’s many opportunities for congregational involvement, the Committee wrote, designed (with the able assistance of Diane Whatley), and produced a new color church brochure
- ***After Worship Greeting*** – to help visitors and members feel welcome, the Committee instituted this practice of Session members’ greeting departing worshippers on Sundays after service to provide another opportunity for conversation and contact
- ***Communication to the Congregation*** – during the year, the Committee developed articles for the bi-weekly Memo updating the congregation about new initiatives, supported the Worship Committee’s Lenten Worship series by calling and/or emailing all members who have joined GPC within the past five (5) years to encourage their attendance, and wrote the congregation in the fall encouraging re-engagement and participation in GPC activities
- ***New Member Engagement and Classes*** – the Committee contacted individuals who indicated an interest in joining GPC to answer questions and encourage them to join. On behalf of the Committee, Stan Whatley participated in the three (3) new member classes that Merritt and Eric led in the fall for the entering class. The Committee also investigated ways that new member classes in the future could be structured to accomplish their purpose while minimizing scheduling obstacles for new member prospects.

In addition to the above, the Committee undertook other ongoing membership tasks, including:

- ***Membership Rolls*** – with the significant assistance of Ann Hunt, the Committee made recommendations to the Session regarding member roll revisions, including investigating circumstances in particular situations and conducting personal outreach to individuals whose involvement with GPC had declined

- **Special Member Recognition** — the Committee mounted a congregational recognition of the 100th birthday of Lazarus Todd, and Nancy Bradley and Helen Romness visited Mr. Todd to deliver the birthday card Mrs. Bradley designed
- **Blast Email Policy** — Stan Whatley investigated options that would enable GPC to more easily use “blast” emails to communicate with the congregation and the Committee recommended to the Session that this means of communication be used more frequently
- **GPC Website** — the Committee provided support during the year to Ann Hunt’s ongoing efforts to update the GPC Website.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kuhn (co-chair)
Stan Whatley (co-chair)

Membership & Evangelism Committee:

Elizabeth Avery, Nancy Bradley, Gene Bradley, Katherine Buckley, Julie Goffe, Anne King, Joshua Pitcock, Katie Seaman Pitcock, and Kent Stevens.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2009

Active Members 12/31/07 **432**

Membership Gains in 2009

Professions of Faith, Reaffirmation, and Restoration		
17 and Under	5	
18 and Over	4	
Certificate Gains	5	
Other Gains	0	
Total Gains		14

Membership Losses in 2009

Certificate of Transfers -Out	0	
Deaths	5	
Other Losses	41	
Total Losses		46

Total Active Members 12/31/09 **400**

Total Inactive Members 12/31/09 **70**

Affiliate Members 12/31/09 2

Robert Bell, Clerk of Session

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

By the direction of the Hospitality Committee and through member volunteering, the Congregation enjoyed fine cuisine and hospitality through the many organized weekly and special events. These hosted events provided opportunity for the Congregation to perform its mission through Christian fellowship, including fundraising.

Following the Sunday Worship Service each week, a member of The Hospitality Committee or a member from the Congregation volunteered to provide Lunch Bunch (for the months of September through May) and Punch Bunch (for the months of June through August). This service provided an opportunity for members, guests and visitors of the Congregation to enjoy a meal, while getting to know each other in a congenial setting and building Christian fellowship.

In addition, the Hospitality Committee executed two New Member Receptions, one on April 5th and the second on November 22nd. Many members volunteered their time and provided much food. These receptions were well attended and facilitated the welcoming of our new members.

On April 12th, Easter Sunday, the Hospitality Committee, along with member volunteers, hosted a hot breakfast for the ministers, the choir and the Sunday school teachers. The breakfast served about 48 people and provided quality nourishment for these staff/members between services.

One of the events this year, The Music for Mission Dinner held on April 18th, as part of Music for Mission Auction/Fundraiser, was planned and organized by The Hospitality Committee and fed approximately 150 people with the help of many members (including the teens) of our congregation. Careful planning and providing much of the food at cost enabled a higher return of revenue for this mission event.

Additionally, the Hospitality Committee hosted, along with other church members, a Farewell Reception for Amey Upton, our minister intern, on June 7th. This grand reception was given to honor Amey, while giving members the opportunity to express their gratitude to Amey for all her dedication and work while an intern at GPC.

Saturday, September 19th marked the date of the Annual Church Picnic held at Glen Echo Park. The Hospitality Committee planned this fun event, as well as purchasing food from an outside vendor. The Committee appreciated members bringing many other dishes.

In addition throughout the year, members of the Hospitality Committee and other members of the Congregation volunteered to provide receptions for family and friends, following memorial services.

One of the biggest of this year's events was the St. Nicholas Dinner held Friday, December 4th in the Colonial Room. We had a big turnout of nearly sixty members and guests. This event provided an opportunity for members (and guests) to celebrate the Christmas season, while enjoying a festive candlelight dinner. The dinner was followed by a joyous time of singing Christmas carols.

The Hospitality Committee is very appreciative of all the volunteers who have made valuable commitments to the mission of the church, through their volunteer efforts to support the activities and events organized and hosted by The Hospitality Committee for the benefit of the Congregation.

Susan Hobbs, Chair

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Two major accomplishments during 2009 were the completion and dedication of the Balch Memorial gravestone at Oak Hill Cemetery, and completion of an updated and revised edition of the Short History of Georgetown Presbyterian Church. In addition, the Committee continued work on Phase II of its Oral History Project, completing an interview and transcript of former associate pastor Richard Austin and forming a task force to begin to work on how best to organize and present to the congregation another volume similar to "Glimpses", incorporating all the interviews of our former pastors. In addition, Susan Page just last week conducted an interview of Merritt Schatz, which will be transcribed and included in the compendium.

Balch Memorial: On September 19th, the congregation celebrated the stunning contributions of Dr. Stephen Bloomer Balch to our congregation and community by dedicating the new memorial gravestone during our worship service, and by conducting a dedication service at Oak Hill Cemetery, on a shimmering, sunny afternoon. The new gravestone is stunning, and we invite those who could not attend either commemoration ceremony in September to visit Oak Hill Cemetery to see it and the plaque dedicated to Dr. Balch in the lovely chapel there, perhaps when the weather becomes more tolerable. Our thanks to Charlie Alexander, who shepherded this project from start to finish, displaying impressive patience and diplomatic skill in negotiating with the folks at Oak Hill, and with our brilliant but hard-to-reach stone mason, and who wrote an excellent summary of these events for Memo and also crafted a letter for Session to send to the Oak Hill officials thanking them for their assistance and cooperation.

Revised and updated Short History: Jolene Blozis led the effort to revise and update the excellent Short History that has proved to be an excellent introduction to our church and its impressive history, which the Committee approved at its December meeting. The new edition will be reproduced on our printer early in 2010, and is replete with additional photographs that make it even more attractive and interesting to read and savor. Watch for it; a copy will be made available to each member of the congregation.

We sadly report a great loss to our committee and the church family with the passing of Barbara Bowersox on February 14, 2009. Barbara labored in the vineyard of the church archives and for the church as a whole for many years to preserve our history and share it with us all. She was without question a great asset to the committee and a great friend to us all. She is missed.

Other matters the Committee has worked on this year include:

+++ preparation of a plaque to be placed on a handsome pole in the church garden, and approval of the text, that will provide those who wander into the garden a bit about our church, to whet their appetite to learn more.

+++ approval of the suggestion to move the old baptismal font -- which had been outside in the Columbarium, and was deteriorating in the weather -- inside and clean it up. An appropriate wall plaque will be placed above it, in the lower floor hallway, opposite the refurbished Balch gravestone, which was moved to the church from Oak Hill earlier.

+++ Doug McFadden has been preparing columns for Memo that continue the tradition begun and carried on so well by Barbara Bowersox for so long.

+++ The Committee has begun to consider a memorial project to appropriately commemorate Barbara's love for, and many contributions to our church, which would involve preparing a short DVD including both historical photographs, text, sound, and video, that could be set up to be shown to visitors and others interested in learning more about our church.

+++ Jill Fri, Ann Hunt and Jolene Blozis have been collaborating on how best to prepare a finding guide to the several boxes of archival materials now in our Heritage Room, and work on this project is expected to continue this year.

+++ The Committee ended 2009 under budget, even after reducing its budget by half from 2008.

The members of the Committee are: Charlie Alexander, Jolene Blozis, Jack Bowersox, Jill Fri, Peggy Garrett, Judy Hopkins, Ann Hunt, Elizabeth Jackson, Doug McFadden, Susan Page, Tracey Price, Phil Fleming and Rev. Eric Springsted.

For the Committee, Phil Fleming, Chair

SESSION MISSION COMMITTEE

Overview:

GPC's mission work is thriving and focused. Since 2008 our giving has been driven by our mission statement, to go "narrow and deep" rather than "wide and shallow." Our aim is to have a more meaningful impact on the groups we contribute toward, and to establish closer connections between those groups and GPC members. Our focus is on children. We have continued to fund and support traditional Presbyterian mission projects, but we have gone beyond those denominational connections to start our own mission traditions. In April we hosted the second Evening of Music for Mission which netted \$43,000, divided evenly between Children of Uganda and Martha's Table. Our undesignated mission budget for 2009 was \$8,000. Here are the year's Mission highlights:

1. Children of Uganda Orphanage - We funded schooling for our "adopted" kids at COU, Bob and Jane, totaling \$1350. We voted unanimously to send an additional \$4,000 to COU, which will fund two scholarships for two kids for two years. We are so blessed to have Pat Davies on our committee, and Pat is the chairman of the COU board. We have heard from Pat and Jan Smart at Mission Committee meetings, Adult Education classes, and in youth group about exactly how COU spends its money. Margaret Kasekende, the program director in Uganda has met with us twice this year to bring us first-hand news of COU kids and programs. Sarah Cowan, the COU Peace Corps volunteer, also came to GPC and gave us a moving slide show with first-hand news of the kids and the perma-culture project. Thanks to these wonderful connections, Alice and Susan Bell have been inspired to begin organizing a GPC mission trip to Uganda in June 2010, and bake sales have raised over \$1,000 to date! We have worked closely with John and Emma Marshall of Children's Ministries to organize a book drive to stock the COU library, and once funding is secured, we are shipping 20 boxes of books! With the additional funds raised through Music for Mission we contributed over \$26,000 to COU in 2009. (See more at www.childrenofuganda.org)

2. Remember Niger - We allocated \$2,000 to Remember Niger for teacher scholarships. This will fund two years of teacher education, which is a beautiful investment in the future because a teacher will impact the lives of so many children! This covers course fees, books, and living expenses. Scholarship recipients agree to teach at a church school for a minimum of 10 years following the program. Executive Director Kara VanderKamp has joined us at GPC to speak at Adult Ed., for Mission Committee meetings and the Christ Market over the last few years, and she is a fantastic advocate for the children of the world's second poorest country. Kara has also volunteered her time to help us plan the GPC mission trip to Uganda, and to assist with a mission fundraiser, and there is a chance that she will accompany the group. See more at www.RememberNiger.org.

3. Kiva - We allocated our remaining \$650 to Kiva, the microfinance group. This is actually a loan and not a donation, and so with a 98% repayment rate, we can reasonably expect this money to be available to re-lend. Our previous loans totaling \$990 were paid back in full by borrowers in Peru, Ecuador, Cambodia, Tajikistan and Vietnam. These borrowers were selected by our youth group, using the Kiva website. In addition, GPC youth Betsy Ray has been doing volunteer work with Kiva in Vietnam, where she has interviewed 34 borrowers and written up their bios to be posted to the Kiva website. Through David Roll we were able to hear Kiva's general counsel, Austin Choi, address Adult Ed. And this January (2010) in Adult Ed., David spoke about the work of Lex Mundi with social entrepreneurs such as Kiva, with Betsy sharing her on-the-ground Kiva experiences. More special GPC connections that really allow us to put faces with those we are helping! These are loans that change lives, and most of the recipients report that they use their savings to educate their children. See more at www.kiva.org.

4. An Evening of Music for Mission (M4M2) - Our second bi-annual fun-and-elegant event was held at GPC on April 17. The Rolls hosted a beautiful sponsors' party, and Susan Hobbs and Robin Jones catered a delicious dinner in the Georgetown Room. Jonda McFarlane, Susan Bell, and Katy McBride organized and ran a hugely successful silent auction, with items as diverse as the Romness's Bethany beach house, dinner at Halcyon House and Crispina MacDonald's tango shoes! Elizabeth Fitchjian once again donated the spectacular flowers. Over 150 people attended and/or volunteered in various capacities. Over \$43,000 was raised, after expenses, and the money was divided equally between Martha's Table and Children of Uganda.

5. Gifts for Christ Market - Thanks again to Judi Crowson, Barbara McClure, Sharon Brooke and a great team for their diligence and enthusiasm at the market held on Nov. 8 and 15. While funds raised were less than previous years, for a recession the turnout was surprisingly good: Children of Uganda \$2245; CWS Blankets \$275; Equal Exchange \$358; GPC Mugs \$37; Notecards \$54; Heifer \$3875; Georgetown Ministry Center \$490; Central Union Mission \$250; Miriam's Kitchen \$420; Martha's Table \$250; Serrv \$2267.24; Remember Niger \$1051; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \$100; Total \$11,672.24.

6. One Great Hour of Sharing - Thanks again to Judi Crowson for leading the charge which brought in a total of \$8,078.49. This was actually \$1,000 more than 2008, a miracle in dire economic times!

7. Martha's Table Pantry Project - Working with Executive Director Lindsey Buss (who spoke at Adult Ed. and gave two moments for mission at church), we organized a GPC work day to refurbish the large food pantry at Martha's Table. Youth group members Jacob Schatz, Lizzie Schatz, and Alex Ray, plus Pat Davies, Alex Bulloch, Nancy Roll, MB and Sheldon Ray and Rev. Merritt Schatz rolled up their sleeves, put on gloves and scrubbed, painted and reorganized the pantry to allow Martha's Table the additional space it needs to buy food in bulk at cheaper rates.

8. Stewardship Time and Talent Presentation - Special thanks to Pat Davies for helping to draft the Mission brochure and Power Point presentation.

9. Mission Committee Website Update - Special thanks to Ann Hunt for her technical genius!
www.gtownpres.org/mission

10. Budget and Relationship with Deacons Outreach - We met this summer with the Deacons Outreach Committee. For at least 10 years, Deacons' Outreach has focused on local charities, while Session Mission has focused on international and national work. After much discussion, the 2010 budget reflects increased parity between the two committees, and discussions continue about how best to optimize our limited mission money. The 2009 Mission budget also included:

- ▶ \$30,000 contribution to the Presbytery/General Assembly
- ▶ \$4500 donation to the Theological Education Fund
- ▶ \$2500 to the Reformed Institute

11. Mission Speakers at Adult Education - Judi Crowson and Mary Beth Ray worked with Steve Hopkins and Anne Johnson to put forward mission-related speakers at Adult Ed. Kara Vanderkamp spoke on Remember Niger in January. In February, Church World Service Regional Director Ted Farrar described the international work of CWS and its interaction with denominations in the US. Pat Davies and Jan Smart gave a colorful presentation on COU, with an emphasis on perma-culture (sustainable agriculture); Kiva general counsel Austin Choi spoke on the scope and focus of Kiva's microfinance programs around the world; talks were also given by Scott Schenkelberg from Miriam's Kitchen; Lee Watenpaugh on a Darfur mission project; and Lindsey Buss spoke about Martha's Table and long-term solutions for poverty and homelessness in Washington, DC.

12. Prayers for Members' Mission Efforts - Working with Rev. Merritt Schatz, we encouraged a sermon focused on mission, and requested that worshipers write down the various organizations that they were involved with in our community and abroad. The list was amazing, including over 120 organizations as varied as human rights work, food for the needy, and help to the aged, sick and disabled. We have requested prayers for each of those groups and the volunteers who serve them.

Meet the Faces of GPC Mission:



Bob Ssevubya – Primary 6, Children of Uganda

Bob lost his mother to AIDS, and his father lives in Kampala and does not provide care or support. On school holidays, Bob stays with his grandmother in Ssanje Village in Rakai District. His grandmother is a peasant farmer. GPC's annual sponsorship provides Bob with food, shelter, medical care, clothing, and a good education. By supporting his welfare and education, we are planting the seeds of recovery in a homeland troubled by war, poverty, and HIV/AIDS.



Jane Nayiga—Secondary 4, Children of Uganda

Jane's parents both died from AIDS. After their deaths, Jane and her sister went to stay with their aunt, but she had 6 children herself and could not afford to care for the additional children. GPC's annual sponsorship provides food, shelter, medical care, clothing, and a good education. Our support gives her hope for her future and the opportunity to grow in to a healthy, self-sustaining adult. For more information on our work in Uganda, see www.childrenofuganda.org.



**The new library at the Children of Uganda Orphanage Sabine School:
kids + books = smiles!**



Refurbishing the pantry at Martha's Table in October: hard work made lighter by many hands.



The second Evening of Music for Mission in April 2009—it was sold out and netted over \$43,000, divided between Children of Uganda and Martha's Table.

The GPC Session Mission Committee Mission Statement:

The objective of GPC's Mission Committee is to spread the good news of the Bible through word and deed. We aim to help God's children in need, whether that need is local*, national or international. Needs include, but are not limited to, hunger, shelter, clothing, education, and disaster relief. Whenever possible, we aim to send members to help first hand. Otherwise, we send money, supplies and prayer. The Mission Committee should also:

- Serve as GPC's experts on mission
- Elevate GPC members' awareness of mission need and current events
- Encourage members' participation in mission
- Stimulate prayer for mission
- Encourage pastor involvement in mission
- Correspond with missionaries
- Prepare a thoughtful mission budget to present to Elders
- Update Elders to maintain dialogue and interest

* local projects in conjunction with the Deacons' Outreach Committee

Respectfully submitted, GPC Mission Committee Chair, Mary Beth Ray;

Co-Chair, Judi Crowson;

Members: Susan Bell, Pat Davies, David Roll, Rev. Merritt Schatz, Terry Nagi, Elizabeth Fitchijian, Kent Stevens, Tyler McGreevy.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and the Book of Acts describe how the couple Priscilla and Aquila opened up their home for the worship and fellowship gatherings of the early Church in Corinth.

Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 1 Cor 16:19

In 2009, members of GPC followed this example, opening up their homes for worship services during the Lenten and Advent seasons. Worship services were held on Wednesday evenings during Lent in each of the geographic communities where GPC members live. Services were held in D.C. at the home of David and Nancy Roll in Georgetown; the Northern Virginia suburbs at the home of Liza and John Marshall; the Maryland suburbs at the home of Russell Porter and Beth Sanner; the Georgetown University campus; and at the Ingleside retirement community. These services were led by Eric, Merritt, and Amey Upton and included some light refreshments and a time of fellowship. Many thanks to all involved in hosting and planning these special events.

Likewise, during Advent, Dick and Susi Stoll opened their home for a Wednesday evening worship service that included prayer, reading, and meditation on the Advent themes of hope and patience. The service at the Stoll' was extremely well attended, and was followed by a light supper and some carol singing with Dick Stoll accompanying on the piano. This event was a reminder that our Congregation sings with great enthusiasm.

New this year was a summer series of Healing/Wholeness worship services on Wednesday evenings in the chapel. These services, as the *Book of Order* counsels, were first and foremost a time of waiting in faith upon God. The services were centered on prayer, including prayers of thanksgiving for God's promise of wholeness, and for the grace we have received as well as prayers of intercession for others and supplication for ourselves.

As usual, our regular worship services on Sunday mornings were blessed with strong preaching. Our thanks go out to Eric, Merritt, and our intern, Amey Upton, for terrific sermons and for leading us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper the first Sunday of each month and on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Pentecost, and Christmas Eve.

John Lintner and the choir once again delivered exceptional music, most notably, the brilliant presentation of the Pergolesi "Magnificat" on December 13th with string quintet and harpsichord. Thank you choir; you are truly appreciated. Also, thank you Karla Rivera for your conducting, Javier Gonzalez for your vocal coaching, Alvin Carpintero for your musical work with the church school, and John for blessing our Congregation with such beautiful music.

Special kudos are also extended to the numerous other participants in leading worship, including the ushers, greeters, Communion servers, soloists, flower arrangers, Bible bearers, and, of course, our school children (particularly for their enthusiastic participation in the Pentecost Sunday service).

Respectfully submitted by Kent Stevens on behalf of the Worship/Music Committee.

- The Worship/Committee includes Traudi Downey, Jill Fri, Al Johnson, John Marshall, Ian McDonald, Katie Novaria, Laura Speer, Mary Kay Spink, and John and Eric.
- The Committee typically meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the church. Please join us.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship was responsible for two major initiatives at GPC in 2009: Time and Talents and the annual Pledge Campaign. Additionally, Stewardship is responsible for planned giving and major gifts. Within the context of these activities, Stewardship has sought to achieve the following:

- Encourage giving from a sense of joy, thanksgiving and praise
- Facilitate understanding of the role that stewardship and giving plays in one's spiritual journey and in Christian transformation

The 2009 Stewardship Committee members are: Lori Martens and John Schuhart (Co- chairs), Steve Hopkins, Valencia Crisafulli and Karl Mattison.

TIME AND TALENTS

Stewardship continued its responsibility for Time and Talents – a program designed to encourage non-financial support of the church and its activities. The idea behind the program is to create greater excitement about the giving of one's time and talents, as well as to facilitate interaction and fellowship among our congregation. Each committee of the church sponsored a booth which described the activities of that committee, and offered opportunities for members to sign up and become involved in the work of that committee.

Stewardship held the second annual "Time and Talents Fair" on September 20th. Unfortunately, attendance on that Sunday was low, resulting in a lower than expected turnout for the Fair and fewer signups than in 2008.

PLEDGE SEASON

Using the theme of "Funding Christ's Mission in the World," the Pledging Campaign this year encouraged proactive stewardship in the face of uncertainties arising from the economy as well as the transition period of GPC pastoral leadership. The kick off was held on September 26th, culminating in Stewardship Sunday on October 18th.

The Committee has continued to provide weekly updates to the congregation tracking upcoming year pledging relative to past year's pledge levels. In November, a follow-up letter to individuals who pledged in 2009, but not yet for 2010 was mailed. Starting in December and continuing through January, we have been conducting follow up telephone calls with members.

As of January 28, 2010, we have received 123 pledges totaling \$ 413,364. 29 pledgers thus far have increased their pledges over 2009. A small number of households continue to provide disproportionate financial support of GPC. 8 member households provide more than a quarter of total pledge income (28%). Nonetheless, total amount pledged (\$413,364) and number of pledgers (123) to date are below last year's totals in both categories.

PLANNED GIVING AND MAJOR GIFTS

Special gifts from the congregation play an important role in supporting the programs of GPC, beyond contributions received through annual giving and planned giving. These gifts meet specific needs and often are given in memory of a loved one. The generosity of the congregation in making these gifts is a blessing to GPC, for which we all owe the donors a debt of gratitude.

In 2009, special gifts were given to support the General Fund, the Memorials Fund and Mission projects. It is our practice to memorialize special gifts in the Session minutes and in the memorial book in the Georgetown Room.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Budget for 2009

Summary: The Session approved the 2009 operating budget assuming Income of \$786,312 and Expenses of \$805,515 with a net operating deficit of \$19,203. The Income assumptions included withdrawals of \$57,000 from discretionary invested funds and \$7,680 from the Music Fund. Actual income was \$788,995 and expenses were \$832,456, leaving a budget deficit of \$43,461 covered from discretionary invested funds.

In total, invested funds of \$83,504 were drawn including \$20,000 for the Pastor Emeritus pension, compared to originally forecasted invested funds draws of \$103,883.

Income: Cash contributions were \$8,033 greater than budgeted because non-pledged income and “plate” contributions more than made up for a \$6,280 shortfall in pledged contributions. Manse rental income was approximately \$6,500 lower than the budget primarily because the Manse was vacant for one month. Other income categories were close to projections so that total income for 2009 was \$2,683 above the budget.

Expenditures: Two categories of expenditures – the Manse and Buildings & Grounds - were significantly higher than budgeted. Manse expenditures were \$15,237 higher than budgeted due primarily to higher than anticipated property taxes. Buildings & Grounds expenditures were \$30,376 higher than budgeted due to emergency repairs and mold abatement, and the unplanned replacement of an air conditioning unit in Balch Hall. Other expenditure categories were close to or below projections so that total expenditures were \$26,940 above the budget.

Invested Funds Report: On January 1, 2009, GPC’s invested funds totaled \$1,141,792. Despite a declining national economy and a tumultuous investment market, GPC’s invested funds performed well, earning a return of 15.9 percent for 2009. Combined with withdrawals to support the operating fund and The Pastor Emeritus pension, the value of the invested funds equaled \$1,240,328 on December 31, 2009, as follows:

Music Fund	\$440,548
CE Fund	\$23,651
General Endowment	\$352,906
Session Discretionary	<u>\$423,223</u>
Total Invested funds	\$1,240,328

Following on the next page is a display of the operating budget for 2009 approved by the Session compared to actual income and expenditures. The operating budget for 2010 approved by the Session also is displayed.

John Schuhart, Chair, Finance and Budget Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Throughout last fall, the 2009 Nominating Committee met in person and by conference call to select the incoming classes of Elders and Deacons. Dr. Springsted conducted training at the Committee's initial sessions. After prayerful consideration and thoughtful and in-depth discussions, the Committee recommended the following nominations to the Congregation:

Session:

Class of 2011

Roy Henwood

Class of 2012

Sean Buckley
Shelley Jennings
Steve Johnson
Jane Lewis

Deacons:

Virginia (Ginny) Luster
Francesca Schinnerer

These nominees were elected during the congregational meeting held on December 6, 2009.

The Nominating Committee plans to continue its work during January of 2010 in order to find additional candidates for Deacon and to recommend "at large" candidates for the 2010 Nominating Committee.

Classes of the Session and Deacons

Class of 2010

Elders:

Alex Bullock
Anne Hale Johnson
John Marshall
Mary Beth Ray
John Schuhart

Class of 2011

Judi Coates-Crowson
Roy Henwood
Kent Stevens
Stan Whatley

Class of 2012

Sean Buckley
Shelley Jennings
Steve Johnson
Jane Lewis

Deacons:

Erika Chan
Elizabeth Fitchjian
Paul Nazarenko
Ginny Snider
Robert Sole

Juan Altamar
Meg Bender
Scott Burrell
Meredith Cracraft-Ferro
Pat Davies
Nicholas Gray
Beverly Jones
Chuck Schilke

Ginnie Luster
Francesca Schinnerer

2010 Board of Trustees

Sean Buckley	Judi Crowson	Shelley Jennings	Anne Hale Johnson	
Jane Lewis	Mary Beth Ray	John Schuhart	Kent Stevens	Stan Whatley

ASSOCIATE PASTOR MERRITT SCHATZ

2009 Annual Report

SIGNS OF HOPE

(Please continue reading past the first paragraph!)

The year 2008 was a difficult one for this congregation, and in the face of such difficulty many people stepped up with a sense of affirmation. Almost inevitably, in the following year the energy flagged, and the year 2009 seemed, in many ways, to be characterized by a sense of weariness, especially in the last quarter of the year. Sunday worship attendance dropped; teachers and leaders for the Children's educational ministries were in shorter supply (and attendance at programs discouragingly low); the Nominating Committee struggled to find persons willing to accept the call to service in leadership of the congregation. Yet as I reflected on this past year, it occurred to me that much of what is vital and essential about Georgetown Presbyterian Church was still very much in evidence. It is important not to let this inspiring truth get lost among the signs of fatigue.

One of the roles of the Church – the Body of Christ – is to equip and nurture God's children so that we may go forth into the world with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This includes reaching out to those who may not appear on our membership rolls, as well as enhancing the spiritual life of our members. GPC did much of both in 2009, and celebrated other events that reflect well on our historical role of sending people forth to serve.

We baptized a number of babies and young children (I lost count on exactly how many, but more than five) and look forward to at least three births in the congregation early this year. While I may fuss and bother about the state of our Sunday School attendance, at least we have children about whom we can debate the best way to “raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Our youth group remains strong and our Middle/Senior High Sunday School class has a stronger participation than it has in several years. The quality of faith exhibited by our young people continues to be impressive, as I was privileged to observe while leading Confirmation classes. This has been greatly due to the quality of the leaders we have in both the Sunday School and the Youth Group. Our youth leaders, who also are members of the Presbyterian Fellowship we sponsor at Georgetown University, did a magnificent job of developing and leading our first (at least in the time I have served here) Youth Fellowship Retreat at Meadowkirk this year.

The Presbyterian Fellowship at Georgetown University is another way in which we have reached out. Sherry Krokowski has taken the lead on this program, and has done a wonderful job of working with some very talented and spiritually gifted students. We have one of the stronger Protestant programs at GU, as evidenced not only by the number of students who participate in the study and fellowship activities on campus, but also by the number of students who attend GPC regularly on their own initiative.

Our Adult Issues class continued with its excellent assortment of speakers, and Eric led extremely well-attended classes in both the spring and the fall on Monday nights.

Our Sunday morning attendance may be lower, but we also experienced some exciting new services. The Worship Committee organized a series of Lenten services, an Advent service, and several Healing services, which were well-received. Our strong preaching and impressive music program continue to feed the souls and spirits of all who do attend worship here. Look around on a Sunday morning in worship and notice the number of young adults – not all of whom are students. In the fall of 2009 several of these young adults expressed an interest in having a Young Adult Bible Study and Fellowship. While this group did not begin its meetings until early 2010, the seeds were planted and the initial planning was done in 2009.

The same is true for the planned 2010 mission trip to Uganda by 8-10 members of our congregation – instigated by two of our youth. Visions of another, nearer, mission trip for more of our youth, also began in 2009. The Gifts for Christ Market continued to be a strong witness to the true blessings of Christmas (raising almost as much as in previous years – a remarkable accomplishment in the 2009 economic setting!) And who would not be inspired by the fantastic Music for Mission II which was held in 2009! In addition, our outreach through Easter baskets, backpacks, and Christmas Gifts to Marine Families continued with along with our support for the Floating Shelter, and other ministries to our community. We served lunches, delivered flowers, sent meals to bereaved families, and in many other ways reached out and loved our brothers and sisters within the congregation.

GPC also reached out with a tremendous gift of love by allowing me to travel to aid a sister congregation during Holy Week and Easter. As part of the National Disaster Response Team of the PCUSA, I was asked to go to Minnesota to pastor a church for a week while the church's own pastor went to be with her sister who was critically ill. The congregation had already suffered with flooding and feared more. Who would ask a congregation to loan their pastor (even an associate!) during Holy Week? Only one who trusted in the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church which is an expression of the love of Christ. GPC rose to the occasion and was a blessing to that congregation (and to many others who saw what this congregation was willing to do).

Finally, though there is much more I could say, we look to the way that GPC has nurtured and mentored people of faith throughout its history, and see more signs of that in this past year in the graduations of Susi Stoll and Amey Upton from seminary and the installation of David Gray as pastor of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. What a joy to attend each of these events, and to know the role that GPC has played in encouraging and nurturing each of these fine servants of God! And although I was sad to see the conclusion of Amey's internship, I felt an intense sense of pride in the ministry which she offered here, and in the growth she both evidenced and inspired among others.

I do not claim credit for everything – or even most – of what I have mentioned. Without the vision and work of dedicated members and incredible staff with which we are blessed, these ministries would not have happened. I hope that I have been a resource, a sounding board, an encourager, and a support (both physical and spiritual) for these and other ministries. My intent in this report is to remind us all to see God at work among us in the ministries we have offered by the power of the Holy Spirit, and in this vision to find encouragement to renew our joy in participating in the life of this congregation.

God is not done with GPC yet! Our dedicated Pastor Nominating Committee is wrestling with the sometimes overwhelming prospect of choosing a candidate to bring before the congregation as your next pastor. They are a faithful group of God's own choosing – pray for them, and for this congregation – and then look for whatever ways God is calling you to serve through this congregation, now, at this moment, this precious time of God. For God's vision for this congregation is for the congregation, not just for the new pastor. How are you responding to God's call to you at this time?

I close this report with the acknowledgement that sometime in 2010 (probably the end of May) I will be closing my time of ministry within this congregation. God is doing a new ministry in this place, and has a new ministry in mind for me. Glory be to God for the marvelous things that God has done and is doing!