

The year 2009 has been one for the record books. We have seen the best and the worst of humanity. Names from the previous year evoke a wide range of memories and responses: Sullenberger, Madoff, Blagojevich...Obama, Tiger, Suleman...the king of pop, the swine flu, health care reform...buyouts and bailouts...economic downturns...no more analog, and no more Jon and Kate with their eight!

There is no denying the impact of the economy and joblessness over the past year within our local community and church. Much prayer has been offered in this regard, and resources have been brought to bear on behalf of those who have found themselves in difficult circumstances. God has been faithful.

It would be tempting to focus on the challenges of our budget this past year and the shortfall that is apparent in the graphic below. I am sobered by that reality. Your Finance Committee and Board are as well. Budget reductions and salary freezes are in place for 2010. Diligence remains the watchword in this regard.

But we also know that the bottom line knows no bounds, no limits, where matters of eternity are concerned. Among many other blessings, I am thankful for...

- ◇ The single mom who is finding her way to renewed spiritual and physical health
- ◇ The young parents, new to faith, who are putting prayer to the test in their marriage and family
- ◇ Missionaries we continue to support so that they can carry on for the sake of the Kingdom
- ◇ Four children and two adults who gave their lives to Christ
- ◇ Five children and one adult who professed their faith through baptism
- ◇ The generous responses both locally and beyond our borders to the needs of the less fortunate
- ◇ Our partnership with church planters who are bringing the Good News of Jesus to new locations in Kansas and Missouri

There is no spending freeze in play, no limit, no bottom line to God's grace and mercy among us. He able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. From him the whole body is joined and held together by every supporting ligament, as it grows and is built up in love.

We do not know what 2010 holds for us. But we know who does. Let us seek God's heart and mind so that his purposes for his church universal, of which we are a part, may be fully realized in the year ahead. — Pastor Deb

FINANCIAL REVIEW

	2007	2008	2009
Budget			
Income	\$537,794.00	\$523,675.50	\$554,535.00
Expenses	509,484.33	506,234.99	484,368.71
Surplus (Deficit)	1,632.15	59,809.20	(25,878.55)
Other Income			
Designated Non-budgeted	\$ 49,140.35	\$ 39,578.03	\$ 48,298.90
Light Fire/Forward by Faith	160,030.43	108,952.96	74,598.11
Rental Income	38,788.00	37,201.80	38,392.42
Other (fundraising/memorials)	17,692.30	27,333.25	25,497.54
Total Income	\$775,135.41	\$719,301.03	\$671,155.68
Indebtedness			
House Loan	\$ 99,202.31	\$ 83,458.25	\$ 68,540.69
Light the Fire Loan	286,010.15	192,225.24	135,167.95
Total Indebtedness	\$385,212.46	\$275,683.49	\$203,708.64

Looking Ahead in 2010

With
Deb, Dallas, Rebekah, Zach, and Jan

- Prayer!
- Biblical teaching and preaching
- Encouraging the cherished missing toward an encounter with Christ
- A decentralized response team to assist with pastoral care and visitation
- Opportunities for missional service beyond our borders
- Further professional and spiritual development of the ministry leadership team, interns, and ministerial candidates
- Expansion of the mentoring base beyond middle school students
- Promotion of accountability partnerships and groups as an exercise of personal holiness
- Increased fruit in the realm of relationship-building
- Greater service and attention to the community through Outreach McPherson, and women's and men's ministries
- Increased understanding and renewing of the mind through classes and workshops
- Greater intentionality regarding intergenerational ministry
- Further development of dramatic elements in worship
- Investment of time and resources into the musical and leadership development of worship team vocalists and instrumentalists; attend worship-leading conference as a team
- Further assess and improve sanctuary audio/visual systems
- Encourage an open, compassionate, unified atmosphere among worship arts volunteers
- Oversight of CCC worship arts intern throughout the spring semester
- Middle school focus on the person of Jesus and what it means to accept him as both Lord and Savior
- High school study on the Acts of the Apostles and what the 1st Century church teaches about community and discipleship
- Intergenerational summer offering, "Remix: Vintage"
- Middle School Camp in late June
- International Youth Conference in July in San Diego
- New CCC interns in the summer (Chloe Walker) and fall (Stephanie Clark)
- Host church for 2010 MHS Baccalaureate service
- A focus on deepening each child's spiritual growth and increasing his/her excitement about following Jesus
- Service to the entire family as they worship together
- Play Dates and other special events as more effective means of outreach into the community

Prepared for distribution to the membership of the McPherson Free Methodist Church at their Annual Meeting on January 31, 2010

McPherson Free Methodist Church

Annual Report 2009

Benjamin Titus Roberts (1823-93), principle founder of the Free Methodist Church wrote in 1883: "The great want of the times is men and women in every neighborhood who, in everyday life, year in and year out, manifest before the world practical holiness." Living honest and ethical lives, regardless of how humble their circumstances, such persons are true witnesses of the gospel. Roberts goes on: "Such persons are needed to keep alive in the minds of the people, the true idea of what it is to be a Christian. They are needed to comfort the afflicted and relieve the distressed. They are needed as friends to be consulted by those in trouble. They are needed to keep before the world examples of holy living."

Holiness extends to every area of life. The Apostle Peter's admonition is as timely for the Christ follower today as it was when he first penned it: "...Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires

you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Accepting the promises of God by faith, believers enter into a deepened relationship with Christ. They are enabled to love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind, and their neighbor as themselves. They are made perfect in love, not performance.

This Annual Report is about so much more than facts and figures. It provides information, to be sure, such as the 2009 financial overview. But more than that, it provides a glimpse into the heart and soul of a church striving to equip people — men and women, boys and girls — to live lives of practical holiness...honest, ethical, soul-caring, and soul-winning lives governed by the love of Christ.

Pastor Deborah
Somerville



ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM

The past year has seen changes to the leadership team of the MFMC. The Board of Administration and the Great Plains Conference approved the hiring of full-time associate pastor, Rev. Dallas (Jerilyn) Burgeson, who began in March of 2009. In addition, the half-time post of worship arts director was filled by Rebekah (Jason) Neighbors, who signed on in April. God's leading was evident throughout the hiring process as these gifted young leaders accepted the invitation into ministry among us. You will find on the inside pages further evidence of their faithfulness in service and heart for the church.

Late in the Fall, Office Manager Pat Reimer sensed God's leading into a new career in nursing, requiring her to return to college as a full-time student. While it was difficult to see her leave, God provided a most capable individual to step in and bring her unique skill set to bear upon the inner workings of church life and oversight. Carmen Zeisler assumed the position as of January 1. Zach, Jan, Eugene, and Deb are celebrating their contributions to the team as 2010 gets underway.



Rebekah Neighbors



Dallas Burgeson



Carmen Zeisler

2009 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dallas Burgeson — Associate Pastor, Discipleship and Outreach

Elements and Exercises

- Created a framework for making disciples based on six elements of discipleship, each helping Christians to “remain in the vine” according to Jesus’ word picture in John 15
 - Devotion — Sunday morning worship and Wednesday prayer service
 - Community — Cell groups
 - Service — Ministry opportunities
 - Thought — Sunday school
 - Direction— Mentoring
 - Holiness — Accountability groups

Financial Peace University

- Began a DVD curriculum facilitated by Calvin Hawkins and taught by Dave Ramsey to assist class members in thinking biblically about money, and to put into action intentional steps toward debt elimination and greater financial peace

Sunday School

- Worked with team leader Carol Ruth Haddock to further solid biblical teaching by gifted and experienced instructors.
- Began an easy-entry framework for attendees to try out new classes, teachers and subjects each quarter

Passages Mentoring

- Established a network of mentoring relationships between middle school students and adults

Cell Groups

- Consulted with team leader Sharon Walker and a number of veteran group leaders to clarify vision and encourage a continued expansion of fellowship
- Began a new group in the Fall, with another beginning in early 2010

Hospitality Team

- Continued to expand and further train the faithful team of ushers and greeters
- Worked closely with team leader Cliff Hawkes to create a number of new positions and processes meant to build stronger ties among staff, congregation, and guests
- Began work on a new digital pictorial directory and updated picture wall
- Established a strategic partnership with Outreach McPherson in order to help both ministries bear more fruit

Membership

- Developed a new five-session membership curriculum
- Received 11 new members, 3 adult members from youth membership, 5 transfer members



Zach Fleming — Student Ministries Pastor

Middle School

- Spring teaching series “Conversations with God,” tackled tough questions middle schoolers ask about faith, God, church...
- Fall teaching series (taught by Jackie Moore) “Myth Busters,” addressed some of the myths surrounding our relationship with Jesus and how to use Scriptures to discern truth
 - Took 16 students to Sky Lodge Christian Camp in Montello, WI, June 29-July 4
- Provided three successful outreach events (“Friday Night Live”) with over 100 students attending each

High School

- Spring teaching series “Conversations with God,” tackled tough questions high schoolers ask about faith, God, church...
- Fall teaching series “ReClaiming Sexy Back” addressed issues of sexuality and relationships in a high school context
- Conducted summer mission project, “God of This City,” with 12 students serving for a week in the McPherson community
- Sponsored numerous outreach events (5th Quarter, Super Bowl, Spring Fling, See You at the Pole, New Year’s Eve, etc.)

Additional Highlights

- Four first-time commitments to Christ
- Successful small group ministry for both middle and high school students
- The launch of the mentoring program for Passages (middle school) students
- Oversight of two interns: Michael Warren (Lincoln Christian University) and Ransom Hawthorne (Central Christian College)

Rebekah Neighbors — Worship Arts

Celebration Choir

- An increased level of musicianship, with challenging and varied pieces for rehearsal and ministry
- Established a “worship leading choir” approach to the choir’s role in morning worship

Worship Team

- Created a core of vocalists/instrumentalists with the intent to know one another well, both personally and musically, with the goal to create cohesion, trust, and new opportunities for freedom and expression in worship

Audio/Visual

- Facilitated software and hardware upgrades, including new mics and drum equipment
- Alleviated some challenges associated with sound reinforcement in the sanctuary
- Recruited and trained additional technical support team members

Rehearsal space and sacred space

- Reorganized and remodeled the choir room with the help of volunteer painters and memorial funds to replace choir chairs
- Assisted pastoral team with seasonal and liturgical décor, and made upgrades to platform configuration

Christmas Concert

- Presented challenging orchestral and choral concert of worship, *Agnus Dei*, following several months of intense rehearsals and preparation; attendees expressed appreciation for quality and scope of its message



Jan O'Dell — Children's Ministries

Sundays

- A team of 25 volunteers faithfully serve in the nursery through 5th grade each week
- Teaching curriculum for age 2 through grade 5 is biblically sound, with music and children’s church serving to reinforce the lessons
- Students in grades 4 and 5 assist in morning worship with distribution of Friendship Folders

Wednesdays

- Another team of 25 volunteers assist on Wednesday evenings
- Marketplace during the school year for age 3 through grade 5 — various stations for teaching, crafts, and lots of surprises
- Nursery care for young ones during choir rehearsal and Marketplace

Additional Highlights

- Approximately 100 children and their families served by the children’s ministry of MFMC
- Deepening friendships with grade school children throughout the year
- Lunch dates at various schools with students in grades 1-5
- Nearly 130 children impacted by “Crocodile Dock,” this year’s Vacation Bible School program
- Two infants dedicated; five children baptized
- An active and productive Children’s Ministry Team made up of parents who advise, pray, and participate in children’s ministry
- Presentation by Victor Shiro of “Out of the Box” ministry, which helped children better understand how to be a Christian
- Junior Youth Camp with 15 children attending
- Special events: breakfast and bingo, trip to the zoo, skating party, back-to-school party, surprise fun day, breakfast in the park, movie and craft night, ceramic painting

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I used to have so many answers in how to lead children to Christ. I have no answers anymore! The thing I do know is it's all about relationships—healthy ones that really are truthful and supportive and kind.

I love the shepherding concept and a separate role for the teacher in Wednesday night classes. It takes the load off of one person and is shared by all, thus the Body working together. This gives the adults working with the children a chance to get to know each other as well.

Thank you for having this area of service to help families. It gives the kids a place to feel safe, nurtured and loved. It gives parents a place to receive, pause, and evaluate their own walk with God.

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