

MOVING FORWARD IN 2011

The team whose ministry highlights you have read on the preceding pages is poised for another year of surprises, challenges, and opportunities (often one and the same!). Your prayers, suggestions, and encouragement are integral to the collective impact this church will have for the Kingdom in the coming months.

- Deb is gearing up to represent the Great Plains Conference at General Conference this summer in Rochester, New York, where we will celebrate 150 years of Free Methodism and the ways God has guided and blessed his church.
- Dallas will continue to walk alongside the Christian Education Team as they examine how it is we equip disciples of Christ to know, to live, and to convey Hope to a world in need of the Savior.
- Zach anticipates teaching the Passages program for incoming 6th and 7th grade students this summer, and prays for stamina, insight, and increasing parent support as he “flies solo” with middle school and high school students.
- Jan can’t wait to see how the children under her watch will grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus, and how bridges being built to non-churched homes will result in fruit for the Kingdom.
- Rebekah looks toward the installation of a digital sound system and upgrades to existing equipment, as well as continued dialogue among the congregation, worship arts volunteers, and staff about what effective worship ministry looks and sounds like at MFMC.
- Carmen continues to step up to the challenge of streamlining and maximizing our ministry capabilities through the use of technology, even as she so graciously welcomes — almost daily — walk-in guests in need of assistance, love, and support.

There is inadequate space to list all the reasons we look forward to 2011. But here’s one that keeps energizing me (Deb)...and it has a lot to do with the box to the right.

The radical generosity demonstrated in this year’s financial review is humbling. The turnaround in giving from 2009, even in the face of uncertain economic times, can only be attributed to God’s blessing and the faithfulness of His people. In addition to contributions that exceeded expenses, our indebtedness was shaved down by over \$70,000! And all of this as our attendance averages fell slightly, leveled off, and have now gradually turned upward.

The monthly payment on the house loan (five rental properties surrounding the church) is covered by rental income. And the two-year Forward by Faith campaign is coming to a close on April 30 of this year. There is exciting news on the horizon as to how we might retire the remaining FBF debt by the end of 2011, and free up funds for ministries both at home and abroad.

Stay tuned!

Some people are under the mistaken impression that the senior pastor of a church “runs” things. Anyone who has spent any time in the MFMC office knows that command central is located at the desk of the office manager. It would be both inappropriate and incomplete to present an annual report without a few updates from our office manager, Carmen Zeisler. Her work has benefitted not only the staff, but the entire church community in ways that might not be obvious at first glance. Here are just a few highlights:

- An on-line directory with the most up-to-date contact information available (and password protected), including current family portraits courtesy of Kenney Photography. The church family doesn’t have to wait until the next printed directory to have the most current information because the office manager updates electronically as new information is received.
- A streamlined contact and response system — including a dedicated phone line — for Outreach McPherson, and better control of the ever-changing inventory of furnishings, food, and appliances.
- A new database and tracking system for Outreach McPherson that provides critical, up-to-the-minute information on support and request history.
- A spreadsheet system to streamline and track incoming inventory for Thanksgiving Baskets.
- Updated building usage forms for all events (community and church-sponsored) which assist with programmable heating/cooling as we attempt to minimize utility costs.
- Updated forms and fee schedules for weddings.
- Spreadsheets to catalog different events and how they can most effectively be promoted and communicated to both congregation and community.
- A streamlined publication schedule for bi-monthly newsletter McPherNotes (available online and by mail as requested).

Many thanks to the Cooneys, Ruth Brandt, Vera Schra, Gladys Pauls, Missy Mayse, and so many other volunteers who assist the office manager and the entire ministry team week after week.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

	2008	2009	2010
Budget			
Income	\$523,675.50	\$554,535.00	\$520,928.00
Expenses	506,234.99	484,368.71	518,518.32
	446,425.79	510,247.26	517,409.91
Surplus (Deficit)	59,809.20	(25,878.55)	1,108.41
Other Income			
Designated Non-budgeted	\$ 39,578.03	\$ 48,298.90	\$ 43,503.75
Light Fire/Forward by Faith	108,952.96	74,598.11	71,407.65
Rental Income	37,201.80	38,392.42	40,307.15
Other (fundraising/memorials)	27,333.25	25,497.54	27,205.44
Total Income	\$719,301.03	\$671,155.68	\$700,942.31
Indebtedness			
House Loan	\$ 83,458.25	\$ 68,540.69	\$ 54,350.02
Light the Fire Loan	192,225.24	135,167.95	79,016.16
Total Indebtedness	\$275,683.49	\$203,708.64	\$133,366.18

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

McPherson Free Methodist Church, 1010 S. Maple Street, McPherson KS 67460

The year 2010 began with a life-altering rumble, followed by devastation and heartache such that the world seldom sees in real time. For the people of Haiti, January 12 will forever be remembered as the



By Joe Raedle, Getty Images

date when, following 30 seconds of earth-quaking destruction, over 230,000 residents had suddenly lost their lives, by conservative government estimates. And that was only the beginning of the trauma that the nation of Haiti has faced for the past 365 days...and counting.

So why begin the McPherson FMC Annual Report on such a “down” note

seemingly so unrelated to our little corner of the world? Perhaps it’s because we understand that there is no such thing as “our little corner” in the Christian community. There are no borders, no barriers imposed upon responsible, Holy Spirit-led compassion. We are connected to hurting people in our own backyards and across oceans by virtue of our love for Jesus and all of his creation.

The world map now on the sanctuary wall is not there for aesthetics. It is there to remind us every time we enter that space that the world doesn’t begin and end at our thresholds. There are people from within our own ranks who are serving around the world, people for whom we pray and to whose ministries we contribute.

Locally, we have chosen to partner with other churches and not-for-profits in our community to serve those in need

and encourage those who are looking for a fresh start in life. I believe God has brought blessing to the McPherson Free Methodist Church in 2010 in part because of the generous, yielded hearts of His people to His leading in this regard. The stories of people coming alongside those who are hungry or hurting, discouraged or lonely, doubtful or depressed, have been on the increase as the months have passed.

As you read through the pages of this report, my prayer is that you will be encouraged and challenged by all that God has accomplished in our midst, and eager

to carry on as we follow His lead in the year to come.



Photo courtesy of Kenney Photography

Pastor Deborah Somerville

One of the many ways God has blessed our church in 2010 is through the volunteer ministry of Rev. Tom and Karen Mayse, retired Superintendent of the Great Plains Conference and former pastoral team member. Tom and Karen have served the church as visitation pastoral couple since September, giving a minimum of 8-10 hours per week in this capacity.

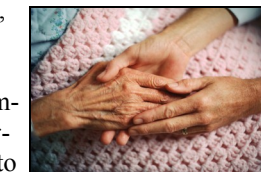
Their primary ministry has taken place in hospitals and nursing/retirement homes. Through the fall they visited nearly 300 persons,



Photo courtesy of Kenney Photography

bringing to individuals and families the love of Christ on behalf of the McPherson FMC.

Tom and Karen’s hearts for ministry and selfless service have not only brought much comfort to others, but have also provided invaluable support to the pastoral staff. Their spirit of collaboration, their far-reaching history within the community, and their kind-hearted nature afford both comfort and encouragement to all to whom they minister.



In addition to volunteer service to the local church, Tom is also employed half-time as a chaplain with Hospice and Home Care of Reno County/McPherson. In that capacity, he also offers a bereave-

ment support group in conjunction with the chaplains’ office at The Cedars.

For more than 10 years Tom and Karen have led various community groups for adults in their home. That ministry continues even as Karen maintains her full-time work in the Student Development Office of Central Christian College. On the Sunday mornings that Tom and Karen are *not* greeting people as they exit the worship service by way of the west doors, Tom is assisting with pulpit supply in various Free Methodist churches in the area.

Thank you, Tom and Karen, for giving of yourselves in such selfless service.

2010 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

DALLAS BURGESON

Hospitality Team

- This past year assistance was provided to folks with hearing difficulties to better enter into worship; delivered cookies to new families as one of several touch points with newcomers; provided meals to the sick, underprivileged, and uninitiated.
- The on-line pictorial directory has made it possible to put names to faces and access contact information more easily, keeping everyone better connected.
- Database upgrades have allowed us to create newcomer and attendance reports, making follow-up calls to those we've been missing.
- Ushers, greeters, bus drivers, class leaders — all have worked diligently to welcome any and all who come through the doors.

Membership

- We received 12 new members, three who transferred their membership, and one youth member became an adult member.

Groups and Classes

- Accountability partnerships were emphasized during the 2010 Lenten Season, followed by a community group focus during the Easter Season.
- Quality adult Sunday school class options continued through 2010 with the addition of two new teachers and a class specifically for college-age students.
- A Christian Education Restructuring Team, led by Lowell Ensey, began an evaluation process of the CE program from oldest to youngest — from curriculum to sequencing to values taught to stated goals to transitions from one age group to another. The team will carry on with this process well into 2011.
- The Sunday evening worship service at The Cedars transitioned to new leadership as of November 1, with a number of individuals from MFMC assisting with

preaching/teaching, greeting, assisting residents, distributing hymnals, arranging the worship space, serving communion, and playing the piano. Susan Ballou is now the primary overseer of this ministry.

Men's and Women's Ministries

- TWIGS (Today's Women in God's Service) sponsored four major outreach/social events; coordinated Bible studies, including two series by Beth Moore; initiated the "Cupcake Club" in the fall as a way to invite women from the community into homes for fellowship and cupcake creations.
- Men's ministry kicked off in the fall with a worship/fellowship event; a Monday night Bible study; and plans for hands-on support of Omega House in 2011, a local ministry to men with addictive tendencies.



Indian Corn Cupcakes

Benevolence and Outreach McPherson

- Forty-five families benefitted in 2010 from financial assistance through the church's benevolence fund.
- Outreach McPherson was honored by the greater McPherson community as two of its founders, Jeff and Sue Odermann, were awarded Philanthropists of the



Thanksgiving Baskets Assembly Line

Year by the county's Community Foundation. They were presented \$500 for OM ministries, and in December OM received an additional \$800 for the annual Thanksgiving basket program.

- In the twelve months of 2010 Outreach McPherson's impact was felt: 137 were provided furniture, 110 benefitted from the food pantry, 137 received diapers, 127 had Thanksgiving baskets delivered to their homes, and 27 received other forms of assistance.

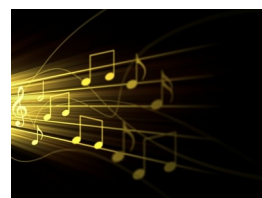
placement on the platform to de-emphasize the singers' physical presence and reinforce their role as worship leaders and not performers.

- Created the format and coordinated a Sunday evening all-church Christmas program with the Children's Ministry department.

Rehearsal Space and Sacred Space

- Assisted the pastors with thematic and seasonal décor appropriate for Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas.
- Purchased and ceiling-mounted a new rear projector in the sanctuary, freeing pew space.
- Researched digital sound reinforcement as the current system continues to age.
- Cleaned and organized the sanctuary overflow room and worship arts library/resource room with help of CCC volunteers.

NEIGHBORS
REBEKAH



Celebration Choir

- Continued to develop the mission of a worship leading choir, choosing meaningful, appropriate, yet musically challenging pieces for worship.
 - Added one new member and welcomed back three former members.
 - Reconfigured the choir's

FLEMING
ZACH

Middle School

- Jackie Case taught the spring series, "Beginning in Jesus," asking the question: Who is Jesus? She also taught the fall series "Operation: JOLT!", looking at different parts of the body to personify how we use each as we follow Jesus.
 - Two effective outreach events for middle school students — YJAM and Friday Night Live — welcomed over 100 students to each.
- Twenty-six students attended Sky Lodge Christian Camp in Wisconsin June 28-July 3.



High School

- The spring series taught by Pastor Zach focused on the Book of Acts and "Church As It Should Be," exploring specific elements of the early church and what we can learn and apply today. The fall series, "Better Together," focused on community and what it



- means to worship, serve, grow, and play together.
- Two highlights of the summer included "Remix: Vintage," where older adults shared their spiritual journeys with the students.
- International Youth Conference, July 11-18 in San Diego, CA, was a significant event and experience for the thirteen students who attended from our church.

More Good News...

- We celebrated two first-time commitments to Christ.
- Jackie Case completed her college internship as a part of her training in youth ministry at Central Christian College.
- We partnered with MCSMA (McPherson Community Student Ministry Alliance) for several community-wide events: Baccalaureate, "Senior Bash," See You at the Pole, and Fields of Faith.
- Relationships were nurtured through the high school ministry team and one-on-one opportunities for dialogue and prayer.

Sundays ushered in numerous volunteers caring for our infants up to age 2 in the nurseries. Musicians led grades 1-5 in opening songs. Sunday school teachers instilled biblical values as they taught and nurtured age 2-grade 5. Children's Church for 3s-Kindergarten reinforced age-appropriate Bible teaching. And children in grades 4 and 5 served the Lord by distributing Friendship Folders during morning worship.

Wednesdays were never dull as scores of children gathered for MarketPlace, where children age 3 through grade 5 enjoyed Bible teaching, crafts, and any number of surprises. Some of those surprises included special kick-off events in September and January, and pizza and movie nights in October and April. We saw children from the community coming to MarketPlace and appreciated the opportunity to establish relationships with their parents.



The Pulsher Family enjoying MarketPlace

More Good News...

- Friendships were being built over lunchtime meals with children in grades K-5 at their school cafeterias.
- Vacation Bible School took off on a High Seas Expedition with approximately 130 children and staff on board.
- A number of infants were baptized or dedicated.
- Our church was privileged to serve nearly 100 children and their families on a regular basis throughout 2010.
- The Children's Ministry Team, made up of parents of children in our program, remains active and caring.
- Invitations to the community to gather at local landmarks provided additional opportunities to bring the

love of Jesus to others: the summer swim night at the water park in July; the family movie night at the bandstand following the all-church picnic; and the Fall Festival at the YMCA in October.

- Not to mention breakfast and bingo, junior youth camp, trip to the zoo, skating party, surprise fun day, breakfast in the park, movie and craft night, and back-to-school party.

Reflections from Parents...

- Bingo and movie night brought together children of mixed age groups. Older children enjoyed helping the younger ones. It's great to see that interaction.
- Junior youth camp is wonderful; my children took a step forward in their faith every year after camp.
- The fall party at the YMCA was a lot of fun. I enjoyed seeing high schoolers lead games; it freed up parents to spend more time with their kids.
- My children like the singing at the beginning of Sunday school. Our daughter makes sure on Sunday we're not running late so she doesn't miss it.
- I like how MarketPlace is set up. The children get to know the rotations and look forward to the variety of activities available.
- The most important highlight is the love of children and God our Children's Ministries Director exhibits. We appreciate the dedication, organization, and time Jan gives to make all the opportunities our children have in church possible.



JANODELL