



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* GLEN ELLYN ANNUAL REPORT 2011

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE P. KOTT, A SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST  
WHO CAME TO KNOW THE LORD 25 YEARS AGO.  
STEVE HAS BEEN A GUEST OF PADS AT FIRST PRES.

**Table of Contents**

**Congregational Meeting Reports:**

January 9, 2011.....	2
January 30, 2011.....	3-4
November 13, 2011.....	5
2011 Annual Report Of The Clerk Of Session.....	6

**Staff/Ministry Reports:**

Rev. David Bianchin.....	7
Rev. John Curphey.....	8
Church Administration.....	9
Director of Congregational Care .....	10-11
Director of Children and Family Ministries.....	12
Director of Music Ministries .....	13-14
Director of Westminster Preschool Ministry .....	15-16
Director of Youth Ministries.....	17-18
Director of Adult Education .....	19
Children’s Ministry .....	20-21
Deacons .....	22
Family Ministry .....	23
Finance and Administration Ministry .....	24
Youth Ministry .....	25
Membership Ministry .....	26-27
Missions Ministry .....	28
Personnel Ministry .....	29
Properties Ministry .....	30
Stewardship Ministry .....	31
Worship Ministry .....	32

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
of JANUARY 9, 2011

The meeting was opened in prayer and called to order by moderator, Interim Pastor, Rev. David Bianchin at 10:10 am.

The Congregational Meeting was called by the Session for the sole purpose of:

• **Electing Elders and Deacons**

A quorum of the Congregation being present, Pastor Bianchin introduced Elder David Buckley and Elder Catherine Novaria, co-chairs of the nominating committee. Elders Buckley and Novaria described the process followed to select the slate of nominees to serve as Elders and introduced the candidates for Elder.

**Slate of Nominees for Elders**

Bob Clauss  
Lisa Jones  
Steve Norvid  
Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay

The Moderator asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded that the Clerk strike a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees for Elder. Motion carried unanimously.

Elders Buckley and Novaria presented the slate of nominees to serve as Deacons and introduced the candidates for Deacon.

**Slate of Nominees for Deacons**

Tricia Black  
Linda Carter  
James Covert  
Steve Fessenbecker  
Judy Fitzgerald  
Dave MacKenzie  
Bob Meggenberg  
Kathy Miller  
Dan Minkus (2 year term)  
Marilyn Storms

The Moderator asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded that the Clerk strike a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees for Deacon. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Pastor Bianchin adjourned the meeting at 10:20 with prayers of gratitude for the Nominating Committee and the new Elders and Deacons.

Minutes recorded by  
*Marjorie Craddock*  
*Clerk of Session*  
*Rev. David Bianchin*  
*Interim Senior Pastor & Moderator*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
of JANUARY 30, 2011**

Following the sharing of a meal and fellowship, the Annual Congregational meeting was opened in prayer and called to order by Interim Moderator, Rev. David Bianchin at 1:14 pm. The Clerk verified that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the following Congregational Meetings be approved. Motion carried.

Special Congregational Meeting of January 3, 2010  
Annual Congregational Meeting of January 31, 2010  
(including minutes of annual meeting of corporation)  
Special Congregational Meeting of May 23, 2010  
Special Congregational Meeting of October 3, 2010

**MEETING OF THE CORPORATION**

The Moderator suspended the meeting of the Congregation in order to call to order the Meeting of the Corporation.

Louis Kohley called the meeting to order. The following names were placed in nomination to be officers of the Corporation.

President: Lou Kohley  
Vice President: Jim Drasal  
Secretary: Marjorie Craddock  
Treasurer: Suzi Benes

There being no further nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded that the slate of officers be accepted. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Corporation be adjourned and that the meeting of the Congregation resume. Motion carried.

**RECEPTION OF REPORTS:**

Reports of Pastors:  
Pastor David Bianchin  
Pastor John Curphey

**Reports of Administrator and Directors**

Administrator, Suzi Benes  
Director of Member Care, Cinda SiligmueLLer  
Director of Children & Family Ministries, Mickie O'Donnell (Video Presentation)  
Director of Preschool Ministries, Susan Clary  
Director of Youth Ministries, Jocelyn Smolik

**Reports of Elders & Board of Deacons:**

Annual Clerk's Report for 2010 (amended)  
Children's Ministry  
Board of Deacons  
Family Ministry  
Finance & Administration Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Membership Ministry  
Missions Ministry  
Personnel Ministry  
Properties Ministry  
Spiritual Formation Ministry  
Stewardship Ministry  
Worship Ministry  
2010 New Members  
2010 Confirmands  
2010 Members with the Lord

It was moved and seconded that the 2010 annual reports listed above be accepted. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

For the 2011 Nominating Committee: Elders appointed by Session: James Drasal and Tara Savino. Deacon appointed by Board of Deacons: Becky McFarland.

Elder Novaria presented the Nominating Committee's slate of congregants to be elected by the congregation, as follows: Jane Day, Dave Eldersveld, Deb Ritter and Dale SiligmueLLer were nominated to represent the congregation on the 2011 Nominating Committee.

The Moderator called for nominations from the floor and there being none, it was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and that the Clerk strike a unanimous ballot for the named nominees to the 2011 Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE PNC (PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE)**

Co-chair Peggy Peterson introduced Co-chair Gordon Murphy and committee members Mark Birchler, Duska Pearson, Em Griffin, and Debbie Page and talked about the work the committee has already completed in preparation for beginning their actual search. (Member Kevin Minkus was unable to attend.) Moderator Bianchin indicated that the Session would be holding a special meeting on January 31, 2011 to review and approve the CIF (church information form) prepared by the PNC.

**PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL:**

The Moderator called on Rev. Curphey who spoke about the changes in his terms of call and answered questions from the Congregation. Rev. Curphey left the hall while the congregation considered his 2011 Terms of Call as follows:

(continued on next page)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of GLEN ELLYN ANNUAL REPORT 2011

(continued)

First Presbyterian Church Terms of Call 2011							
John Curphey	Jan - Feb 2011		After 3/1/11 adjustment		2 months	Total Annual Budget	
	Annual	Per Pay	Annual	Per Pay		10 month	12 month
Salary Annual	28,377.52	1,182.40	7,718.00	321.58	4,729.59	6,431.67	11,161.25
Housing Annual	38,000.00	1,583.33	38,000.00	1,583.33	6,333.33	31,666.67	38,000.00
SS Supplement (7.65%)	5,077.88	211.58	3,497.43	145.73	846.31	2,914.52	3,760.84
	71,455.40	2,977.31	49,215.43	2,050.64	11,909.23	41,012.86	52,922.09
Pension/Medical (+annuity, x .315)	20,908.92		14,401.17		3,484.82	12,000.98	15,485.79
Reimbursements	5,000.00		5,000.00		833.33	4,166.67	5,000.00
	97,364.32		68,616.60		16,227.39	57,180.50	73,407.88

It was moved and seconded that the 2011 Terms of call for Rev. John Curphey be approved. The motion carried. Rev. Curphey rejoined the meeting to the congregation's applause.

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2011 BUDGET:**  
Finance & Administration Elder Roser

**AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS:**  
It was moved and seconded to amend the church by-laws to change the Session Quorum from 1/3 of the ruling elders to 1/2 of the ruling elders. Motion carried by voice vote.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

**OFFICERS RETREAT**

Dave Buckley reported that the Elders discussed the recommendations of the Mission Study at the 2011 Officers Retreat. Priorities were placed on the recommendations and Session will be planning their work for the coming months based on those priorities.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the moderator and adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by  
*Marjorie Craddock*  
*Clerk of Session*  
*Rev. David Bianchin*  
*Interim Senior Pastor & Moderator*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
of NOVEMBER 13, 2011

The meeting was opened in prayer and called to order by moderator Rev. John Curphey at 10:05 am. The Congregational Meeting was called by the Session for the sole purpose of electing Elders and Deacons. A quorum of the Congregation being present, Pastor Curphey introduced Elder James Drasal chairman of the nominating committee who presented the slate of nominees to serve as Elders beginning in January, 2012, and introduced the candidates.

**Slate of Nominees for Elders**

Betty Crane  
Kathryn Jordan  
Mark McAndrew  
Deborah Ritter  
Clifton Snyder  
Jeffrey Wallace

The Moderator asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded that the Clerk strike a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees for Elder. Motion carried unanimously.

Elder Drasal introduced Susan Buck who has been appointed Clerk of Session, beginning in January, 2012.

Elder Drasal presented the slate of nominees to serve as Deacons beginning in January, 2012, and introduced the candidates.

**Slate of Nominees for Deacons**

Kathryn Alcock  
Paul Bischoff  
Ron Blauwkamp  
Janet Carlson  
John Day  
Isaac Edwards  
Christina Rees  
Barbara Rundell  
Janet Rynne  
John Schreiber  
Martha Zelenka

The Moderator asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded that the Clerk strike a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees for Deacon. Motion carried unanimously.

Rev. Curphey led the congregation in prayers of gratitude for the Nominating Committee and the new Elders and Deacons. It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marjorie Craddock, Clerk of Session*  
*Rev. John Curphey, Associate Pastor and Moderator*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of GLEN ELLYN ANNUAL REPORT 2011

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS  
2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE CLERK OF SESSION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

Membership as of January 1, 2011	1,118
Confirmands received	25
New members received	8
Members reinstated	5
Deaths	6
Members transferred by letter	14
Members removed by their request	16
Members removed by Session	151
Membership as of December 31, 2011	969

DEATHS of ACTIVE MEMBERS:

June Hansen  
Elizabeth Joan Barber  
Marie Corbett  
Bruce Knowles  
Albert Mitton (Elder)  
Norma Sleckman  
Bobbie Jean Holmes (Elder)

NEW MEMBERS:

Curt Cohoon  
Jeanne Edwards  
Lance Frederick  
Shana Frederick  
Marc Giovinga  
Molly Giovinga  
Bryan Harden  
Margaret Harden  
Heather Kramer

CONFIRMANDS:

Ashley Black  
Katy Brainerd  
Rick Brainerd  
Dylan Brambora  
Jenna Brambora  
Jamie Butkus  
Melissa Carter  
Juliet Chernesky  
Will Dodillet  
Nick Drell  
Danny Evans  
Sam Ferrone  
Nick Kalita  
Shannon Kerr  
Megan Kostolansky  
Nick Loos  
Morgan MacKenzie  
Jackson Nagle  
Hannah Ohlmann  
Annika Pearson  
Kelsey Peters  
Morgan Riley  
Will Schillinger  
Parker Swartz  
Michael Wittenberg

BAPTISMS:	Infant	6
	Adult	0

MARRIAGES RECORDED: 6

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marjorie Craddock*  
*Clerk of Session*

**J. David Bianchin, Interim Pastor**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last year I began my report by using the metaphor of a journey. We have continued on that journey together in 2011, and I believe we have accomplished a lot; we have come a long way. During the year we saw our Pastor Nominating Committee bring to us a wonderful pastor in Chris Griggs. I am excited about what Chris will bring to the church and trust that God will richly bless your relationship together.

I am very thankful for our Staff and the good work they did in 2011. Each Staff member worked very hard both for and with you. We have such a talented Staff, and I have enjoyed working alongside them. We have some of the strongest programs in the area, and our Staff are a big reason for this.

The Session has also worked extremely hard this year. They have met for several additional meetings in order to move the church organizational structure-changes ahead, and they have met having to make some very hard financial decisions. Being a leader often involves making hard choices and the Session has had to do so. I am grateful for the passion and care that your Elders have constantly brought to their leadership.

I want to repeat something I said last year because I believe it to be important and true: I want to thank those of you who have given enthusiastic support to the church over the past year, and also, equally, to those of you who have stayed with the church during the difficult transitions we have undergone, even in disagreement. It is a testament, in both cases, to your love for Jesus Christ, and for this church body.

I am heartened by many things. Most of all, I sense great anticipation for the months ahead. I sense that you are ready to start the next chapter of this great church's life and ministry, and that brings me great joy.

I'd like to close by thanking you for the opportunity to serve Jesus Christ with you over these past two years. It has been a privilege to be with you and I will watch with great interest the wonderful things God will do in you and through you in the months and years ahead.

Alleluia!

*J. David Bianchin*  
*Interim Pastor*

**John R. Curphey, Associate Pastor**

2011 has been a year of growing hopefulness for First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn. The Pastoral Nominating Committee worked diligently throughout the year, sifting through PIFs and interviewing candidates. In December, they announced the decision of their nominating process and the occasion for their candidate to preach on January 8, 2012. Interim Pastor, Dave Bianchin, continued to offer a spirit of graciousness to the congregation, and supported the staff with consistent friendliness and warmth. The congregation responded warmly to new efforts through educational ministries, mission outreach, and worship renewal.

2011 was a year for adult small groups on Sunday mornings. Several videos series, including a series by Robb Bell, two series by Timothy Keller, and one Christmas series by Rick Warren provided good stimulus and inspiration for discussions.

2011 was a year of irregular attendance in worship. While many members indicated their commitment on other levels, worship attendance was not as strong as it has been in previous years.

2011 marked a very positive year for the Session of the church. Elders worked cooperatively, and in good spirits to navigate the waters of financial uncertainty. A special thanks goes to retiring elders who worked hard through three years of transition, the intentional reduction of the number of Elders, the restructuring of Session work and ministry teams under councils, and the demand for special flexibility through both wanted and unwanted change. My thanks go to Dave Buckley, Marjorie Craddock, Carolyn Crosby, Marj Dolbeer, Jennifer Eldersveld, Lou Kohley, Catherine Novaria, Jean Roser, and Tara Savino.

2011 was a good year for the Deacons. Under the leadership of Paul Drennan and Susan Buck the Deacons sponsored the fall fundraiser Cowboys, Cookin, and Cash. A special thanks goes to all who made it work. The Deacon's visitation team and the extended communion team provided visits to many of our home-bound members. Their commitment and caring were strongly noted this year.

2011 was a year of transition for staff, as we said goodbye to Megan Marshall, Director of Music Ministries, and welcomed Bryan Harden, a new Director of Music Ministries. Bryan has stepped in with enormous energy and talent.

2011 marks the first year in which I have changed my hours to being two thirds time in the church and one third time at the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center. This re-balancing is working well.

2011 was a good year for me personally. Following a health wake up call in the spring, I increased my regiment of exercise, made some diet changes, and tried to re-prioritize my thinking around what is most needed. This year Barbara continued on as a first grade teacher at Longfellow School in Wheaton; this marks her 16th year teaching there. Ruth enjoyed her first year of marriage to Adam Anderson. They moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan and enjoyed buying their first house. Addie is just now preparing for a year of mission with Youth with a Mission. She begins in Worcester, South Africa, for training, and then is assigned to children's ministry in a nearby country in the southern part of the continent of Africa.

As we enter the New Year, I am extremely optimistic about the future of First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, and I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us.

Respectfully submitted,  
*John Curphey*  
Associate Pastor

## **Church Administration Report**

### **Financial Review**

Research focused on the Christian non-profit sector reveals that church donation trends tend to trail the general economic patterns by about 18 months. If that follows for First Presbyterian of Glen Ellyn, then we're right on schedule, and ready for our trajectory to start heading up! 2011 ends with a miraculous +\$2,040, testimony to God's great faithfulness, and to His great wisdom in leading our Finance Ministry and Session, who have led our church family through a very difficult stretch. Our deepest gratitude to Elder Jean Roser and the Finance team, who put a great deal of time and energy into ongoing monitoring and projection calculations, creating the Narrative Budget for clarity, and for keeping our finances as tight possible, so we could be in the strongest position possible, as we close 2011. Also contributing to this are the many volunteers who kicked in even more time and resources, budget reductions in all areas, and a very creative staff, who helped make this happen. Our Finance team: Elder Jean Roser, Gary Alcock, Harley Jordan, Bob Novaria, Dave Page, Deb Ritter, Dale Siligmuller.

Some quick stats: we received nearly 95% of the pledged amount of \$916,225; plus \$370,322 in non-pledged giving/income; more than \$17,000 in donations directly to mortgage/principal reduction; and around \$129,000. designated for missions, passing through First Pres (includes 53rd Sunday, but in addition to the funds sent through the Operating account of \$88,900.).

### **Administration**

Our efforts to reduce, re-use, recycle, email, and "let's not spend that" have been paying off, with Admin operating expenses decreasing by about 20% year-over-year, with ongoing contract reviews/reductions, decreased expenses associated with postage and office supplies, holding off on computer/software upgrades, and this year, a slightly reduced Per Capita.

This year, we launched our new and improved website with much excitement (and a great reception!), under the direction of Beth Cipriano, with help from Bill Crosby (thanks Bill!). If you haven't visited it yet, please do so at [www.firstpresge.org](http://www.firstpresge.org), and be sure to check the member portal (please call the church office if you need help, or to give us your email address).

### **Properties**

After a very project intensive 2010, our focus on 2011 has been on general maintenance, with the exciting news that we'll be replacing the main sump in the John Knox Hall pit, with much financial support from the recent First Pres auction. This area of our lower level continued to be vulnerable to water overflow during down-pours, and the new Weil pump -- with its enormous pumping capacity -- will be very welcome this spring! Related to this, we changed insurance carriers this year, and realized a 22% cost reduction, with only a slightly higher deductible. Many "thank you's" to the Properties Ministry team for their tireless energy, enthusiasm to "get it done," sense of urgency, sheer number of volunteer hours, and devotion to ensuring the integrity, safety and comfort of the First Pres campus: Elder Lou Kohley, Karen Blake, Doug Fiene, Shawn Lowe, Gene Montgomery, Jeff Pelot, Andy Retelny, Marv Ritter, John Schreiber, Clif Snyder, Charlie Varvaro, Mike Walters.

### **To Our Volunteer Corps...**

Year after year, you keep coming back, and we can't thank you enough: the "Counting Ladies" Dee Hampe, Marion Hebenstreit, Sharon Kenworthy, and Ruth Mulholland; our dutiful bookkeeper, Sheryl Nielsen; the Properties 24-hour "on call" team of Lou Kohley, Mike Walters, and Shaun Lowe; our proofreader Sara Robertson; our bulletin helpers, Mikey Anderson, Nancy Elliot, Dick and Dorothy Fergus, Mary Hackman, Sara Robertson, and Marilyn Storms; our Librarian, Ginny Jenkins; and to those who help us in the office, Jason Holland, Susan Buck, Kathy Hartge, and many others. As we've said before... we couldn't do our work without your work, and we're all blessed by the work we do together.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judy Andersen, Suzi Benes, Beth Cipriano, Cathy Colten,  
Sheryl Nielsen, Mario Nieves  
Administrative Staff*

## **Director of Congregational Care**

As Director of Congregational Care, I serve the people of First Pres by coordinating, facilitating and resourcing acts of care for folks in need. I also coordinate, resource and direct ministries which provide environments of discipleship and spiritual formation.

### **Highlights of 2011:**

Care Council - It has been a joy to serve with Elders Debbie Page, Steve Norvid and Jan Chindlund on the newly formed Care Council.

- Partnering with Gordon Murphy and Suzanne Colton, we had home meetings with the vibrant Cameroon community of First Pres. Especially memorable was a Potluck Brunch after Sunday worship.

The Parlor was filled with folks who enjoyed specially prepared Cameroon and USA dishes. Gaston Mbateng gave a memorable talk about the geography and history of Cameroon. Folks then shared unique memories about growing up in their particular country.

- 4th at First (July 4th) –Elder Steve Norvid got together a great team who cooked/served 500 hotdogs, hundreds of popsicles and gallons of lemonade. This outreach event on the lawn of First Pres benefited PADS. Thanks to the generosity of Aldi Food and the GE community, we were able to donate \$1100.

**Pastoral Care** – At First Pres, we strive to provide care which is holistic. Nourishing meals are brought to homes by the Service Team, prayers are lifted up by two committed teams – women’s prayer chain and men’s Friday morning prayer group. Meaningful cards of encouragement are written and flowers are personally delivered by the Deacons. Whether someone is recovering from an illness or surgery or celebrating the birth of a new baby, they are cared for by the body of Christ and tangibly experience God’s love.

**Grief Support Group** – Marty Dome and I offer a support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Meeting weekly for a month, we seek to provide a place where folks can learn about the grief

process. It is a time to be with others who are grieving, to tell one’s story and know that others will understand what you are going through. It is a place to learn and remember God’s promises and to rest in Christ’s faithful, healing presence.

**Spiritual Direction** – Spiritual Direction is a ministry of listening, discernment and prayer as one seeks to be intentional about the presence and work of God’s Spirit in their lives. Several members of First Pres (Steve Dome, Alice Fryling, Marti Henning, Chris Hlinak, Alice Siehoff, Don and Jessie Vicha and myself) serve as spiritual directors for First Pres members and others in the greater Glen Ellyn community. All are graduates of Christos Center in Minnesota. In March 2012, Alice and Jessie will be presenting a Christos Center sponsored workshop on the Enneagram at First Pres.

**Women’s Ministry** – Women’s Ministry’s mission focuses on helping women to: Connect – Learn – Grow with the purpose of becoming fully devoted disciples of the Lord. Some of the highlights of 2011: Seventy women gathered for Day Apart in February. Speaker and author Lynn Austin presented, *Eve’s Daughter: Changes, Challenges, Choices*. Lynn’s message highlighted Christ as the absolute foundation for our lives. Several women gave testimonies which pointed to their faith in Christ during times of personal change, challenges, choices. Faith Builders weekly Bible study finished Beth Moore’s, *Esther – It’s Tough Being a Woman* in March 2011. The topic of discernment was a key theme in the study. To develop the topic further, we had a special weekday Morning Event on, *Discerning the Will of God* – and nearly 60 women of all ages heard from Jessie Vicha and Alice Fryling. The topic carried over to the Summer Book Club where we read and discussed (for 7 weeks) Alice’s book, *The Art of Spiritual Listening*. For 2011-2012, Beth Moore’s, *David – Becoming a Woman After God’s Own Heart* is being studied in Faith Builders. Several additional Bible studies are available for women to participate in – women are making new friends, studying the Bible and being supported in prayer. There are several Circles and a Saturday morning Book Group which meet monthly. Each of these has a unique focus and all of them foster close relationships.

(continued on next page)

**Director of Congregational Care (continued)**

Looking ahead to 2012, a newly formed Women's Special Events Team is planning for Day Apart and (new) Mom's Night Apart.

Many women of all ages serve in leadership roles – as members of the Women's Ministry Leadership team, Faith Builders Leadership team, moderators of Circles and leaders of weekly Bible studies. First Pres is blessed to have a strong Women's Ministry because of their servant hearts and leadership skills which seek to glorify God.

**Older Adult Ministry** – Lunch Bunch continues to be THE place to be on the third Wednesday of each month. Every month the group is growing – friends are inviting friends. Maurine Hoepfner puts together a winning slate of speakers presenting all sorts of interesting topics or providing an entertaining program. Susan Buck and her team – Nancy Elliott, Jane Cory and many others help to welcome everyone, decorate the themed tables and serve the catered lunch. A couple of the always popular *On the Road Trips* are being planned for 2012.

**Adult Education/Small Groups** – Small Groups during the Education Hour continue to provide a welcoming environment for learning the Faith. In January 2011, Alice Fryling authored a curriculum to coincide with the Sermon on the Mount preaching series. Participants gathered first in the Sanctuary to view a Rob Bell, *Nooma* video which provided a visual component for the sermon theme. Then, eight Small Groups with over 120 participants met to discuss the video and Alice's curriculum.

The next Small Group series (during the Lenten season) was Pastor Timothy Keller's, *Prodigal God*. Keller's teaching on Luke 15 was profound as it eloquently conveyed the 'amazing depths of God's extravagant love. For the month of May, the Small Group series focused on four additional, *Nooma* videos. Rather than assigning folks to small groups, round-table discussions followed the viewing of Rob Bell's videos. Bell's newly released book, *Love Wins* was read by many in the congregation and Bob Fryling led an evening discussion group in early June which attracted over 70 folks.

Small Groups resumed in September with Timothy Keller's, *Gospel in Life – Grace Changes Everything*. The eight-lesson DVD course focused on "the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life – first in your heart, then in your community and then, out into the world." In December, we chose Rick Warren's, *The Purpose of Christmas* DVD series as the format for round-table discussions.

The growing momentum of Small Groups has been especially appreciated for bringing people together and fostering community. I am thankful to have served alongside Elder Lisa Jones (chair of Faith Journey Council), the Adult Ed team, and the dedicated, faithful Small Group leaders – they honor God through their commitment.

My heart is thankful to be serving the people of First Pres. It is a gift of the Lord to have the privilege of seeing him at work, both in individual lives and in the community of believers. As 2012 begins, I look forward to seeing what the Lord has planned for this next season in the life of First Pres as we welcome a new senior pastor.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cinda Siligmuller*  
Director of Congregational Care

## **Director of Children and Family Ministries**

Dear First Pres Church Family,

As I read last year's Annual Report, I continued the 'sailing' metaphor that I had used in 2009. I closed last year's report by saying:

"We have much to look forward to in 2011. If we are going to be the kind of church that attracts a dynamic future looking new Senior Pastor, we need to all work hard to put our best foot forward. That means it is going to take all of us using our gifts and abilities to beef up all our ministries. It's time to get in the boat and start paddling together. The rough seas are not calm yet, and if we all just sit back and wait to see what happens, we will be tossed about and we'll get nowhere. I think we are too good for that. So please, join me for the spiritual adventure of a lifetime - our new port of call is in sight!"

Praise the Lord, this congregation of families, led by the leadership of your Elders Cathy Novaria, Jen Eldersveld and Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay, and various teams of ministry leaders for Spark, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Family Ministries, have forged ahead with greatness. It has been a privilege to participate with them. So, let's take a look at what we accomplished in 2010:

- The 2010 Sunday school "Extreme Makeover" – truly became our dynamic "Light The Way Village" in 2011. More children and adults are staying for this middle hour Sunday School option and the experiential learning has been so wonderful. Building and tearing down the Walls of Jerusalem, celebrating Passover, building a Sukkot Tent, watching movies, acting out stories, dancing and creating rap songs, along with creative art projects all help the stories of Scripture come alive!
- Summer VBS was a great success – a team approach was used for leadership in a fresh way and we noticed a sense of calm and peace throughout the week.
- Spark has brought us more "visitor" kids this year

which is a great testimony to the outreach quality of what we are offering. The Spark kids seem to love to share their prayer requests and sing together during our opening time, along with the Biblical learning in small groups and electives thanks to the leadership of Marsha Mead, Amy Hart, Audre Daniels, Nancy Norem, and Trisha Cavan in 2011

- Children are continuously more comfortable in the Worship experience as the Bags and Folders help to teach and guide them through Biblical principles that match the sermon topics and can be used for Family Devotions.
- Preschool Sunday School curriculum is web-based so that training, teaching material and creative ideas are at each teacher's fingertips 24/7 to fit any busy schedule. More parents are getting involved on the teaching rotation.
- Our 9:00 Worship Hour includes not only "Words of Wonder" but Church School opportunities for pre-school through fifth grades, thanks to the faithful teaching leadership of Marj Yuhas, Marty Zelenka, Steve Tonnison, Amy Hart, Kelly VanDyke and Katie Dodillet.
- A special time of music and song is incorporated in our Sunday morning time slot to bridge the two teaching hours between the end of the 9am Church School and the beginning of the 10:15 Sunday School. And pre-schoolers have music time too. Thanks to the leadership of a great team, Karen Felker, Sheila North-Lombardo and Curt Cohoo.

We have much to look forward to in 2012 with the coming of a new Sr. Pastor, a new structure to the Session, opportunities to be part of the various ministry teams, and casting a fresh vision together. We are about to land at the new port of call, so let's get ready to leave the rocky seas, get out of the boat and build!

Respectfully submitted,

*Mickie O'Donnell*

*Director of Children and Family Ministries*

## Director of Music Ministries

This 2011 annual report reflects the portion of the year that I have served on staff at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn. Upon joining this staff on June 13th, I have had the pleasure of serving alongside many capable, talented and willing individuals who are using their creative gifts in the area of worship arts.

The summer months were spent with a focus on assessment and administration. Week by week I made assessments of the various music ministries. I took time to establish relationships with various leaders in the area of worship arts. And I began to intentionally work towards building upon the unique strengths of individuals. I took the summer months to administrate and plan the schedules of each ministry group for the upcoming year.

By September, all the pieces were in place for a robust year of music ministry. One unifying “theme” that I continued to recognize in our volunteers was a desire to pursue excellence. These dedicated individuals continue to grow in their skill and ability. And they value a strong sense of community in the process.

### Personal highlights in the fall season of ministry:

**Reformation Sunday:** We learned of the historical significance of Reformation Sunday, and enjoyed bagpipe music as a creative backdrop to both morning worship services.

**Veteran’s Day Video:** Erik Peterson crafted a stunning video which featured veterans from within our congregation. They talked about how their faith and their service were woven together. The congregation still talks about the power of those stories that were captured on film.

**Orchestra Sunday:** I loved hearing a full orchestra along with our sanctuary choir and organ! ANYTHING involving the talents of our organist, Mary Smith!!! Mary is one of the most talented and delightful individuals I’ve ever had the joy of working with. She is a tremendous blessing to this church.

These are the various ministry groups that are currently serving at First Presbyterian Glen Ellyn:

- Sanctuary Choir

Our choir has continued to steadily increase numerically. And they have brought some beautiful music before our congregation week in and week out. They have worked extremely hard; doing their very best for the Lord. I am proud of their singing, and mostly, I am proud of how they care for one another.

- Orchestra

This ministry was a personal highlight of mine. Our church has a wealth of ability in the area of instrumental music. This group has been amazing to hear, and our congregation has loved their offering in music. I was delighted when Samantha May agreed to take on the role of Assistant Conductor for this ministry. Not only is Samantha a fine musician, she is also a wonderful educator. I learn something new from her everytime I observe her work.

- Handbells

Kerri Andersen is one of the most enthusiastic and capable music educators I have ever known. Under her leadership, we are blessed to have a wonderful handbell choir that adds another instrumental dimension to our traditional worship. This is also a ministry group that has developed a deep sense of community.

- Childrens Music

Our new “Rays of Light” children’s music ministry has sung in worship consistently this fall season. I am so thankful to the leadership team. Karen Felker, Sheila North, and Curt Cohoon are doing a wonderful job with these children every week.

- Tech Support

This is another ministry team that continues to provide behind the scenes support in worship arts. I am committed to expanding this ministry with an emphasis in recruitment in the new year. Beginning in January, our congregation will begin to see the incorporation of more media in our traditional service. While remaining true to all that is good in the context of a traditional service, I believe that relevant and excellent media pieces will add another level of energy and creativity to the 11:15am service.

(continued on next page)

**Director of Music Ministries (continued)**

• Worship Team

Our singers and instrumentalists that serve in the 9:00am service continue to bless our congregation. They are increasing in their musical ability, and I have enjoyed making music with them, and developing great relationships with that team.

• Praise Choir

This new ministry group sang in worship one time this fall, and there was an overwhelming affirmation from the congregation that this is a ministry group that they would like to hear more from. The boldness of their sound raised the level of energy in worship, and it was apparent to our congregation.

• Fishband

We have some very talented students, and Meg Riley has provided some wonderful leadership to this group. Some of these students are also participating with the adult worship team, and it is great to see some solid “mentoring” relationships taking place as our students and adults work together. I plan to become even more intentional in 2012, in the area of recruiting and equipping in ministry for these student musicians

• Worship Council

Under the servant leadership of Bob Clauss, our Worship Council meets monthly. Bob has built our monthly agendas around short range and long range ministry plans. I have been amazed at the level of creativity these individuals possess. Some of their ideas have made it from the “brainstorming phase” to the development of a strong worship experience on Sunday mornings.

What’s in store for 2012:

• April 29, 2012

Our choir and orchestra will present the Vivaldi “Gloria” during our “Celebration of the Arts” weekend at First Pres.

• I will begin looking into ways that we might create, develop and implement a drama ministry.

I look forward to the arrival of our new Senior Pastor. It will be exciting to see his vision for the future of First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn. Worship Arts is dedicated to supporting that vision with all of the gifts and talents God has given us to use for his glory.

In his grace,

*Bryan Harden*

*Director of Music Ministries*

## **Director of Preschool Ministry**

*Blessing: Noun: happiness or gratitude*

*Verb: feeling of joy, invoke blessing on, praise*

Often I am writing my annual report at the time of our Westminster Christmas Sing Program. This annual performance by our students brings joy and hope to me and all who attend every year. Families and extended families gather here in the Sanctuary to watch their “little blessings” and WE are blessed by their trust in us, faith in our program and love for this ministry here at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn. God is good.

Our ministry team has blessed us as well. With gratitude I thank First Pres Elder Jennifer Eldersveld (many thanks to Jennifer for her leadership as an Elder.) The Preschool Ministry Team moderator Becky Roscich and the ministry team are blessed with passion and enthusiasm for our school. I must note that I am grateful beyond words for the support of this team. The team works in collaboration and respect of each other and the philosophy of Westminster. Members included: Janelle Metz, Jennifer Benkert, Jennifer Schoenherr, Lynn Kaslewicz, Christy Collie, Tricia Black, Karen Stanley, Janet Carlson, and Barb Whitney.

Our “blessings” include:

**A new schedule of school session offerings:** With support of the ministry team and teaching staff, academic year 2011-2012 offered parents several options of preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment. Reconfiguration of classrooms, and teaching teams have sometimes confused individuals to know who is here when, but overall this has been an outstanding “change” and stimulation for the future at Westminster.

**Blessings with teacher staffing:** With the newly changed session offerings additional staff members were needed. Gratefully Tia Simon returned to teach, and First Pres members Elizabeth Bischoff and Sheila North blessed our ministry with their employment. We bid goodbye to Amy Kochert and Gina Harrison with gratitude for their dedication as well. With the arrival of the academic year, salaries were reviewed, we were blessed to adjust teacher’s salaries to remain competitive in the community. We are blessed by seventeen teachers who provide quality curriculum for our students and are a blessing to our ministry. Elizabeth Bischoff, Tricia Black, Janet Carlson, Kris Clark, Laura Hintz, Susan Johansen, Laurie Jossendal, Joan Knighton, Jennifer MacKenzie, April Messmore, Sheila North, Debbie Page, Dianne Saul, Tia Simon, Karen Stanley, Anne Trant, and Barb Whitney.

**The blessing of family events:** The Christmas Sing, Our Dad’s Night, Mother’s Day Tea and newly revised Fall Family Night blessed our connections with parents, extended family and siblings. It is a blessing to observe Dad’s with their children having fun and learning at Dad’s night. Moms bless us with their attendance at the annual Mother’s Day Tea, and Fall Family Night offered visits to the classrooms and lots of fun carnival style games in the gym. We are blessed with this facility to accommodate many families.

**The blessing of enrollment:** While we remain competitive we are challenged with the many fine offerings of preschools in our community. Although one local preschool closed its doors we have maintained strong enrollment with the exception of one afternoon offering. We are blessed that so many families entrust Westminster for their child’s early learning years. We have continued the Parent Information Nights as an introduction to our school and were thankful in December with a strong turnout of prospective families. Other information nights will be held in 2012.

(continued on next page)

**Director of Preschool Ministry (continued)**

**The blessing of: Kindergarten Enrichment:** Now in its third year with teachers Debbie Page & Anne Trant, the blessing of a strong sought-after Enrichment program is evident. My simple explanation to parents is this class involves “stretch & skills.” While academic learning is involved, students have opportunity to explore cultures, science, social studies and more, in an interactive setting still with “time for play.” We are also grateful that we use the church van for our monthly “field trips.”

**The blessing of community outreach:** Partnering with Pilgrim Preschool of First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn, we offered a panel discussion with local Kindergarten teachers regarding KG readiness. A second offering of a speaker regarding Speech and Language Development followed. Vacation Bible School and Circle of Grace tie in other ministries with our students and parents.

**The blessing of a supportive church family:** With our changes in sessions and classrooms, we needed assistance with cabinets, electrical and sewing. Gene Montgomery, Elaine Montgomery, Lou Kohley, Mike Walters, David & Debbie Page assisted in tasks both BIG and small. With gratitude we thank each of them.

**The blessing of personal growth & reflection:** This summer I had the blessing and support of Pastor Dave and staff to be involved in Extended School Year (summer school) with special needs children. I was an aide in a preschool classroom and enhanced my understanding and learning of these students and their needs. This will

assist me in understanding not only children’s needs but assist their parents when questions arise.

I have also been blessed with a wonderful and dedicated staff who continues to provide an outstanding ministry to our community. Their curriculum planning, brainstorming sessions, home visits and genuine love and nurture for the children AND their families is a remarkable strength of our program. Again my gratitude and thanks are more than I can express.

So with humble hearts we begin 2012 with a new blessing. The call of a new pastor for our congregation will give us guidance, vision and yes, blessing to our ministry.

We are grateful, excited, enthusiastic, curious, and yes, blessed to begin a new journey.

“Now go and serve the Lord, because we are *blessed to be a blessing.* “

Blessings,

*Sue Clary*

*Director of Preschool Ministries*

## Director of Youth Ministries

Writing a report for youth ministry is a challenge. How do you sum up what was accomplished in ministry during the previous calendar year? 2011 produced many kinds of statistics. What if I told you how many students attended our mid-week programs? Or how many volunteers give time each week to make them run? How many teenagers came to Sunday school this year? I could tell you how many retreats and events we participate in on a yearly basis, and how many states we visited on mission trip. And, better yet, we could even figure how many games of dodgeball were played, how many pizzas were eaten, how many books of the Bible were studied?

But numbers are an inadequate way of summing up what happens in youth ministry. We spend our time building relationships with students so that we can earn the right to tell them about what it means to know and follow Jesus. So, yes, we play lots of games, have lots of programs, take lots of trips and eat lots of pizza; but the most important thing we do is encourage students to give their lives to Jesus and follow him faithfully. Youth ministry is committed to growing disciples through personal relationships with students, so our programs are designed to foster these relationships by connecting all of our hundreds of students with a leader who knows and cares about them.

### Here's a look at our youth ministry priorities:

1. To partner with families to build fully-devoted followers of Christ, whatever their age
2. To provide safe and relevant community of teenagers where they are cared for and encouraged in their relationship with the Lord and to meet and know every student we have contact with – to foster meaningful relationships between students and the adults and leaders who care for them
3. Our mission statement: Youth Ministry at First Pres is dedicated to: empowering students to integrate their faith and actions by
  - teaching God's truth found in the Bible
  - encouraging deeper understanding of the faith, and
  - facilitating transformation into greater Christlikeness.

So, this is how we attempt to accomplish these priorities:

Midweek programs – the centerpiece of youth minis-

try is our mid-week programming. Junior High meets on Wednesday nights in a program called TNT. TNT continues to be our highest attended program (approx. 80, students and 20 volunteers on a typical night). It features dinner, games, worship, large group Bible study and small group discussion. This school year we have been doing a teaching series called: "The crazy adventures of a true Jesus-follower." In this series we looked at the life of Paul and what his story teaches us about being a real disciple of Christ. Senior highers participate in LIVE on Thursday nights. Attendance at LIVE has been growing this year. We average 20-25 students with four leaders. LIVE features worship, open mic, games, Bible study and discussion. This school year we've done two series, one called "Me, my date and Jesus" about dating relationships from a Christian's perspective, and the second called, "By request only" which allowed students to request the topics they wanted to talk about each night.

Sunday School – Youth ministry facilitates three Sunday morning classes for teenagers. Sixth and seventh graders rotate between Old and New Testament overviews. Eighth graders participate in confirmation class and senior highers cover different topics in Bible study every Sunday morning. This year we partnered with the church curriculum and studied Nehemiah in the fall.

Confirmation – Confirmation has three stages. Stage One is 8th grade Sunday school and covers the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Stage Two is summertime small groups centered on prayer, Bible reading and service. Stage Three is a fall small group focusing on membership and commitment. There was great joy this year when 25 students were confirmed.

Retreats and events – Youth ministry averages six retreats, two mission trips and 5-10 sleep outs, lock-ins and activities a year. We believe strongly in retreats and events because they provide students and leaders with opportunities to connect and share experiences and foster spiritual growth among all involved. In 2011 we took students on two winter retreats (senior and junior high), two spring retreats (senior and junior high) one fall retreat (senior high) as well as other annual events and activities. But one of our favorite trips every year is our Spring Break Mystery Mission Road Trip. This year we went to New York City and worked serving homeless and after school programs.

(continued on next page)

**Director of Youth Ministries (continued)**

Discipleship Small groups – Students in our ministry are encouraged to participate in small group opportunities offered throughout the year. For example, a Sunday evening small group meets each week at Jos' house to study the Old Testament. And a Monday night guys small group meets every week to have Bible study and watch the football game together.

Would you like to hear from our students what they think of youth ministry at first pres? This fall we asked a couple of them to text us what they liked the most about youth group; here's what some of them had to say:

1. There are so many reasons why I love TNT: 1. Learning about God, 2. Seeing my friends, 3. Seeing my lovely Jos, 4. I love seeing all the leaders. And THAT'S WHY I LOVE TNT! – 7th grade girl
2. I love youth ministry at first pres because you can learn about Christianity in a fun and relaxed way – Senior guy
3. I love youth ministry at first pres because of the depth of what we talk about, how open we are with each other, and jos and the leaders. O, and I also appreciate the push for us to improve our community and our own personal lives – Senior guy
4. I love youth ministry because of the retreats and spending time with people I love while growing closer to God. I love meeting new people and hearing their point of view on the Christian faith. I always feel relaxed and closer to God after retreats and I have so many memories. Though playing games are fun, I love our small group discussions – Sophomore girl

Again this year, youth ministry hired two part-time interns in September to share the load of programming, leadership and outreach with both our senior and junior high ministries. Paul Hartge and Tyler Qahhaar have been working, planning and leading with our teenagers. Their presence has been invaluable in maintaining our ministry focus and presence. It has been a fantastic experience getting to know them better and work alongside them ministering to our students. They will continue their work through the end of the school year.

You've heard me say it before, but youth ministry could not exist without the sacrificial giving of time from our many volunteers and leaders. But we still need more. Youth ministry always needs adults willing to invest in the lives of teenagers. Please don't hesitate to contact Jos or Doug Rundell if you would like to be involved.

We have one main message in youth ministry: The most important thing about you is what you believe about Jesus. Not how much money you have, who your friends are, how smart you are, how pretty or talented you are. We want our students to know Jesus as the Son of God and to accept his offer of salvation to all who would believe. This is what youth ministry is dedicated to doing: communicating God's call to students and challenge them to follow more closely in his footsteps.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jocelyn Smolik*  
*Director of Youth Ministry*

## Adult Education Ministry

The Adult Education Ministry Committee has been faithfully served by Cathy Colten, Larry Siewert, Bob Fryling, Ron Blauwkamp, Kerri Andersen, Rob Meyer, Nathan Chaney, Paul Bischoff, John Curphey, Cinda Siligmuller and Lisa Sprenkle Jones.

We engage in healthy dialogue regarding the dual desire for small groups as well as traditional education that some members desire. We seem to be leaning towards small groups as a way to build community but are always open to feedback!

The team brainstormed our top priorities and actions to help grow our church family. Our ministry team's 3-5 priorities:

- Teach the faith
- Information/Transformation
- Balance between leadership and responsiveness – being in touch with the needs of the membership
- Volunteers/engage/participate

Actions from our ministry team that will help grow our church family:

- Engage all levels of spiritual maturity with differing modalities
- Engage parents/families of Spark, TNT, VBS
- Engage members/non-members in education/transformation

### Year in Review

We started the year with Kingdom Groups. Alice Fryling graciously volunteered to develop a discussion guide to be used with the sermon series. Eight groups of 123 participants participated. In the spring, we continued small groups with the Timothy Keller series “The Prodigal God.” In May we changed the format and viewed Rob Bell’s Nooma videos in the sanctuary and followed with discussions in John Knox Hall as a large group and at our tables. Our objective was to be fluid and invite those that may not have attended a small group in the past.

Adult Education did not meet in the summer. For the fall kick-off we selected Tim Keller’s *Gospel in Life* study, an eight-session video-based study of the gospel and how to live it out in everyday life. Our small group leaders included Erik Petersen, Paul Bischoff, Mary Clauss, Don Vicha, Barb Meyer, Rob Meyer, Dan Branda, Sanda Branda, Nathan Chaney, Lisa Jones, Betty Crane, Mark Crane and Doug Rundell. We were very excited by the response with six small groups and 110 participants during the adult ed hour.

Bob Reynold’s, Chicago Presbyter, was our guest speaker on November 20th. Bob provided an update from the PCUSA on NFOG and 10-A. To wrap up the year, the Committee selected Rick Warren’s, *The Meaning of Christmas* series for Advent. We met in John Knox hall for small group discussions.

### Looking Ahead

Currently, there are ten trained Spiritual Directors at our church, providing one-on-one guidance to individuals (typically on a monthly basis). The Adult Ed team will provide support and communication for this life-changing ministry.

We will be offering Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace course in the evenings. This is a 12-week commitment and will require a registration fee (approximately \$100 for materials). Scholarships will be available.

Small group leader training is also something we will explore. Willow Creek has several video-based and on-line trainings we could access. More discussions to follow.

We look forward to the starting January 2012 strong with two different tracks - *Spiritual Formation in a Culture of Distraction* led by Bob Fryling and *The Apostles’ Creed*, led by the McNutt’s.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Sprenkle Jones*  
Elder, Adult Education Ministry

## Children's Ministry

*"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful."*

Colossians 3:15

It has been an exciting year in the life of Children's Ministry at First Pres.

In 2011, Children's Ministry added an educational component for the older children during the 9:00am worship time. New this fall, this class was designed particularly for the third through fifth graders. These children now have the option of leaving worship after Words of Wonder to attend a class geared specifically for their age group. We appreciate the team of volunteers who stepped up this fall to fill this need. Marge Yuhaus and Martha Zelenka continued their wonderful "Children in Worship" program for the four year old through second grade children.

In the preschool Sunday School program we are again consulting the TRU online curriculum. Presently, we have on average 12-15 children upstairs during the 10:00 Sunday School hour. We are hoping to see our numbers grow after the first of the year. We are blessed to have five dedicated families share the teaching responsibility of the two classrooms.

The grade school Sunday School program, "The Village", grew in 2011 as the ministry team became more creative in its use of the rotation workshop model. Mickie O'Donnell aggregated material from several curriculum programs, as well as doing a great deal of writing herself. We are grateful! Each unit runs for four weeks, during which the children explore the theme through a variety of media, including movement and music, video, story telling and crafts. In 2011, the theme for each unit paralleled the sermon series from the pulpit. Between 30 and 40 children and 10 to 12 volunteers participate in "The Village" each week. A committed teaching team is essential to the nurture of our children and we are indeed thankful for those who dedicate their time to prepare and participate each week.

The children participated in worship, singing twice this fall during both Sunday morning services, as well as during the Christmas Eve Family Service. We appreciate the work of Karen Felker, Sheila North and Curt Cohoon as they lead the children in music.

Spark continues to provide an excellent opportunity for fellowship, fun and learning to grade school children on Wednesday afternoons. It is an important time for the children of our church members while also providing a meaningful outreach to the community as many of the participants are from nonmember families. This fall Tricia Cavan and Nancy Norem joined Spark returning leader, Marsha Mead, to complete a very well organized and hard-working leadership team.

In June, almost 150 children participated in a week long Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus was a boy." A program of this size needs a large number of volunteers to be successful and we are grateful for the many people who shared their time and talent! As in years past, the contributions made by our junior and senior high students were a necessary component of the program's success.

This year has been a time of growth for Westminster Preschool. We were happy to welcome three new staff members this past fall. The children have benefitted from our new music teacher, Mrs. Shelia North. Her enthusiasm and creativity are a blessing to our program and were on display in our Christmas program this past December. We also welcomed back Mrs. Tia Simon to the delight of many veteran families. Mrs. Elizabeth Bischof has also joined our team and is loved by many families in her classroom. We are blessed to have a strong, mature staff that boasts many years of experience at Westminster Preschool.

(continued on next page)

Westminster has also grown in size. Our enrollment for this year has surpassed last year's total. We are blessed to have such dedicated families. With this new year we have added a few new programs. We doubled our enrollment in our two-plus program by offering another section of it and have added a four-day a week four-year-old program. By juggling around teachers and equipping our classrooms for more than one age level, we were able to accommodate the new programs. We continue to stay busy throughout the year, offering many seminars and classes to our families and the community. We are inviting the community inside our school and church by offering various Open Houses this winter and a Kindergarten Readiness night in January. The staff strives to provide unique opportunities for parent education and support throughout the school year.

The Nursery program has continued its mission to offer child supervision for various programs in the church. Our staff is on hand to watch children on Sunday mornings from 8:45-12:15. We also are on site during various Bible studies throughout the week and for Spark on Wednesday nights. With various budget cuts, we are striving to be good stewards of our time and talent by taking a more active role in managing the nursery use and its staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jennifer Eldersveld and Catherine Novaria*  
*Elders, Children's Ministry*

## **Deacons**

The Deacons continued their work of community building and caring in the congregation. They found ways to connect with members following the loss of loved ones, during times of illness, job loss, and other difficult transitions.

The Care Team encouraged members by sending cards upon occasions of loss or difficulty. Special cards were made in honor of newborns and baby blankets were delivered. Flowers were distributed throughout the year and particularly during the Advent season.

The Service Team continued to organize the delivery of meals. They provided transportation for those with special needs. This year they plan to organize a “service day” in the spring to help homeowners with clean up around the bi-yearly “pick up” day in Glen Ellyn.

The Fellowship Team organized and executed several “all church” social events. Those included the luncheon for the Annual Meeting, the Easter Brunch, several Wednesday night barbecues, the fellowship hour following all-church worship, and Pie in the Parlor on Thanksgiving Eve.

The Appreciation Team recognized several groups in the church for their outstanding service. There was a special recognition for the volunteers in Jerusalem Journey. Music ministry participants and Church School Teachers were recognized. The team also thanked several individuals for their dedication and service in the church through “Saint for a Day.”

The Projects Team joined with other Deacons, and non-Deacons in the organization of the fundraiser, “Cowboys, Cookin’ and Cash.” Fun was had by all and Bob Clauss won the Chili cook-off! Over \$16,000 was raised to pay for a new sump-pump, and defer costs in the operating budget.

The Barnabas Committee assisted two members this year who were undergoing financial stress. All gifts are held in confidence. At the beginning of 2012 the Barnabas Fund has a healthy reserve of money.

The Visitation and Extended Communion Teams continued to offer support to those who were ill, home-bound, or grieving the loss of loved ones. The extended communion team delivered communion to home-bound members on the Sundays in which communion was served in worship. The members of the visitation team visited members in their homes or in nursing care facilities to offer support, friendship, and spiritual care.

The Deacons increasingly enjoy the opportunities to greet members as they come to worship, and to make connections with the membership on multiple levels. The Deacons had a lot of fun this year and enjoyed working together.

Special thanks go to retiring Deacons: Jim Blanche, Lisa Chay, Lynn Cofer-Chase, Scott Daniels, Brian Dillman, Beth Edelstein, Mary Hackman, Heidi McAndrew, Dayna Moorhead, David Savino, Brandon VanDyke, Ken Wark, and Florence Wright (secretary)

Respectfully submitted,  
*John R. Curphey*  
*Pastor/Moderator of Deacons*

## Family Ministry

The Family Ministries team organized several fellowship, service, Family Camp, and worship opportunities to build community and enrich the spiritual lives of families in 2011.

### Fellowship and Service:

- Outdoor family movie night at Cantigny Park (August)
- Two service opportunities packing meals at Feed My Starving Children (July and August)
- Host Wed Night Summer BBQ (Gathering Place space at church) with a “summer camp” theme (July)

### Family Camp, Presbyterian Camps

Fri, September 2- Mon, September 5

Nearly 54 people attended Family Camp in Saugatuck, MI on the shores of Lake Michigan. 6 grandparents, 10 senior highs, and loads of parents and kids participated in both two-day and three-day stays! Co-organizers, Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay and Lisa Chay. Weekend ministries led by Mickie O'Donnell, Lisa Chay and Jos Smolik. A wonderful time was had by all, the highlight being Church outdoors Sunday morning led by Mickie and Jos!

### Unique Worship:

Families with children and young adults of all ages were encouraged to be a part of these interactive, contemporary worship experiences!

- “Journey to Easter- How Long Till We Get There?”, Lenten Family Worship  
Saturday, April 9, Chapel  
Contemplative worship, games and fellowship event, followed by a dessert bar blow-out in the Youth Lounge. Organized and led by Jos Smolik, Mickie O'Donnell and Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay.
- “Expressions”, Visual Arts Family Worship  
Saturday, May 14, Chapel  
This unique worship experience featured a professional mural chalk artist who portrayed the story of the “Miracle on the Hudson” through a live chalk art portrayal. Led by Mickie O'Donnell, hosted by the Lindsay Family, and led by our guest chalk artist.

- “Fall Back” Worship Service & Picnic

Saturday, August 27

A homecoming event to kick off the fall programs at the church. Family Ministries co-sponsored with the Deacons a church picnic before the service. Organized and led by Mickie O'Donnell.

- “Jeans and Jammies”, Global Connections Family Worship

Saturday, October 15

A unique SNaL praise and worship service which included a live skype video with our mission partners, KidsAlive in the Dominican Republic. Families donated gently used jeans, summer pajamas, and bottles of children's vitamins to donate to our partners there. Organized by Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay and hosted by the Pearson Family.

- “Candle Light Service”, Advent Family Worship

Saturday, December 12

This family worship service focused on bringing families and young adults closer to the experience of Advent through interactive worship experience in the candle lit Chapel. Led by Bryan Harden (Music) Jos Smolik, and Mickie O'Donnell.

### Prayers for Looking Forward:

Family Ministries wishes to continue the same type of fellowship, service and worship opportunities at First Pres, welcoming fresh ideas and new ways of going about things. It also wishes to prayerfully consider being intentional about “rites of passage” for children and parents as part of Family Ministries at First Pres. Mickie O'Donnell outlined ideas and descriptions for discussion at Faith Journey Council meetings in the future so that the Council can consider how these experiences can be embraced by the entire church. The team is looking forward to seeing where Christ's spirit takes us with new ideas and possibilities and under the new leadership of the incoming Senior Pastor, Rev. Chris Griggs.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay*  
*Elder, Family Ministries*

## **Finance and Administration Ministry**

The primary objective of the Finance and Administration Ministry is to preserve and protect the income-producing assets of the Church by earning a total return for each fund (Operating Accounts, Reserves, Special Funds, and Endowment Funds) which is appropriate in light of each fund's objectives and bylaws, time horizons, liquidity needs and risk tolerance. Our Lord Jesus Christ commands us to be good stewards of the gifts given us, and in the Parable of The Ten Pounds, praises those who make good use of the money given them and admonishes those who do nothing with their money (Luke 19:11-26).

### **Investment Policy, Guidelines and Objectives**

We affirmed that the Investment Policy adopted by the Session in 1997 continues to be appropriate and to meet the needs of the Church.

### **Overall Investment Performance**

Investment results this calendar year were lower than last year's. Returns on our two primary investment vehicles, the New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund and the New Covenant Balanced Income Fund, earned approximately 0.2%, and 2.4% respectively for the year ended December 31, 2011.

### **Communication on Financial Health**

Throughout this year, the Finance and Admin Ministry on behalf of Session, proactively communicated to the congregation the financial status of our church with respect to operating income and spending. This was done using various communication channels through the year including from the pulpit, a special letter/email from session, and in News and Events. We worked in the spring to identify options for spending reductions and how to cover cash flow gaps to meet financial obligations without significantly reducing the ministry impacts God has called us to make. In coordination with the Session, a Narrative Budget was written to show how financial gifts to First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn benefit the ministries we are invested in; impacting lives in the world around us.

### **Presentation in Church Financial Statements**

The investment accounts of the church are presented on a fair market value basis in the financial statements. We believe that this is the most meaningful presentation for the readers of the financial statements since it shows the actual funds available. This results in appreciation or depreciation in asset value being recognized through the income statement on a quarterly basis as we receive statements from the Foundation.

Respectfully,

*Jean Roser*

*Elder, Finance and Administration Ministry*

## Youth Ministry

### Junior High Youth Ministry

I have had the privilege of being Jr. High Youth elder for three years. During that time there has been a long season of transition at First Pres, but one of the constants that I could count on was the energy, fun and gospel being preached every Wednesday night when there was TNT. What an evangelistic outreach this program remains, as a large number of kids do not go to our church, and some go to no other church service than TNT.

Through all the change at First Pres over the last three years, Youth ministry changed very little. There were staffing changes, but attendance stayed strong, high school students stayed involved as TNT leaders, and ministry took place as Junior high kids found a fun and safe place to be among peers, enjoy life, be silly, and answer some tough questions about their faith and living it out in front of others. Most nights that I attended, I was challenged to the core as the large group Bible study discussion asked direct questions of everyone in the room. Most adult conversations do not get this raw and challenging. How exciting to know that Jr Highers experience faith on such a real level through the program, but even more through the relationships that are built with their small group leaders, the youth interns and Jocelyn.

Jocelyn highlighted some key priorities in her Directors report about youth ministry that are true for every ministry in our church: to build fully devoted followers of Christ, to provide a safe and relevant community, and to empower people to integrate their faith and actions.

The youth ministry of First Pres is making a difference in students lives. It can make a difference in your life. I volunteered to help in senior high when my youngest child was in TNT. When he moved into High School, I then agreed to be an elder for Junior High (following my rule of giving my kids space to live life without me watching over their shoulder). Seeing youth question, doubt and respond to God's call in their lives, has been a humbling and rewarding experience. Session's new structure calls for adults to step into ministry roles. As I rotate off Session, I plan on staying on the youth ministry team. My hope is that all of us at First Pres find a role to use our gifts and talents for the good of all and to bring glory to God.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dave Buckley,*  
*Elder, Youth Ministry (Junior High)*

### Senior High Youth Ministry

Many of the details of our church's youth ministries are detailed in Jocelyn Smolik's Director's report. Philosophy, priorities, activities, and numbers. There's not a lot that I could add in that department.

I do have a personal observation, though. I have had the privilege to sit in on many of the Thursday night LIVE activities. As I listen to our students discuss and debate the Christian faith and how that faith relates to their lives, I have been amazed at the depth and breadth of arguments presented by these students. First Pres – parents, congregation, helpers, staff, and others – has provided a nurturing environment for these young people, and we see its fruits.

One echo from Jos' report: Youth Ministry can always use help from adults committed to working with them to develop a deep and lasting Christian faith. This help can range from very frequent involvement to a one-off assistance. Talk to me or Jos if you feel called in this direction.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Douglas Rundell*  
*Elder, Youth Ministry (Senior High)*

## Membership Care Council Ministry

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:2-6*

Care Council work and initiatives rely heavily on volunteer support and they require low financial support.

Welcoming – The visitors' desk provides volunteers each week to greet and welcome first time visitors. In addition, bread bakers provide loaves of bread which are delivered to first time visitors. Over 50 people are involved in these initiatives.

Membership Classes – Classes are typically held 2-3 times per year. This year one class was held in Sept/Oct. Invitations to attend New Member Classes earlier in 2011 had resulted in no response. Ten new members were welcomed in 2011. [Note: Additionally, there were 25 new confirmands in 2011.]

### Assimilation

- The Care Council initiated an intentional outreach to our Cameroon community attenders. Outreach culminated in a potluck following worship on a Sunday in May, where approximately 40 people attended and shared stories at tables and as a whole group about growing up in Cameroon and in America. Prior to the potluck, we had met in one person's home where we learned that there may be nine Cameroonian-Americans who would like to be baptized, mostly children and a few adults. Approximately five volunteers organized this event.
- An "I need, I can offer" bulletin board was purchased with a donation. It is in the lower level near the Library. The purpose is to connect members with each other by sharing services and talents, such as yard work or resume writing.

Soul Care/Support: These initiatives provide important Christian support for people who are going through a difficult time in their lives. They provide a place to know the healing power of God's love through the community of believers.

- Prayer Chains—Women and Men: Cinda provides weekly prayer list to both groups of pray-ers. Number of men and women involved average over twenty.
- Grief Support Group meets the need for folks who are grieving to learn about the process/stages of grief and also to be in community with others who are suffering the loss of a loved one. Marty Dome and Cinda facilitate four week groups twice a year.
- Memorial Service Support provides a caring service to families remembering loved ones. Directed by Susan Buck, who finds volunteers to serve, usher, set up and clean up. Number of volunteers varies with the scope of the service and hospitality requested by the family. Average length of time is 4-5 hours.

### Fellowship/Community

Older Adult Ministry *Lunch Bunch* provides fellowship for older adults. In addition, Maurine Hoepfner arranges a day-long motor coach tour – On the Road Again – through the tour company, About Tours.

- Event Outcome: 40 -60 Attendees per month - Provides outreach and fellowship for a particular demographic, First Pres members and others in community attend/invite friends
- Financial cost: cost for catered lunch and occasional payment for speaker
- Financial income: attendees donate \$6 for catered lunch
- Time and Talent: Lunch event requires a reservation manager, check-in manager, set up/clean up personnel and multiple servers. Time requirement day-of is 3 hours

Wednesday Night BBQ generates community fellowship during the summer months. Some people attend these early in their relationship with our church. This last summer, responsibility for setting up, cooking and cleaning up was shared by various groups (Choir, Care Council, etc.)

- Event Outcome: 45 per week
- Financial cost: Funds to purchase meat/beverages each week
- Financial income: Several cooking groups donated the meat/beverage. Participants paid \$3/person or \$10 family.
- Time and Talent: a group to shop/set up/cook/clean up for each week

(continued on next page)

**Membership Ministry (continued)**

*4th at First* generates goodwill in Glen Ellyn community and provides funds for PADS, a mission supported by First Pres. Serve hundreds of hotdogs and lemonade on the Fourth of July. Corporate and private donations provided for expenses. Donations from attendees made to PADS. Approximately twenty volunteers are involved.

- Event Outcome: Served hundreds of people.
- Financial cost: Corporate and private donations provided for expenses of food and beverages
- Financial income: Over \$1,000 donation made to PADS
- Time and Talent: A group to shop/set up/cook/clean up

Living Crèche is a 20+ year tradition in the Glen Ellyn community generating goodwill and proclaiming the birth of Christ our Savior. This did not take place in 2011 due to budget cuts.

The arrival of our new pastor will provide an opportunity to invite new people and former members to engage in the First Pres community of faith. The Care Council believes we should begin planning so we will be ready to invite and welcome many first time visitors to Sunday worship after the arrival of our new pastor.

Additionally, Care Council believes we need to create a culture of intentional invitation. First Pres will begin 2012 with a new pastor and solid ministries in place. Current members will be encouraged to invite friends and family to join them on Sunday mornings to worship God, to know the hope we have in Jesus Christ and to be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of being sent forth into the world.

Three actions that will help our church family grow:

1. Invite others to join our Council to spark new ideas that we can implement in order to seek more members, engage members in small groups and expand base of volunteers in all church activities.
2. Facilitate in planning series of special services (quarterly, plus Easter and Christmas). Communicate that these services have been designed for us to invite new people to attend.
3. Create plan to engage or re-engage existing members (non/low church attendees) in our church life (small groups, volunteering, etc.)

Respectfully submitted,

*Steve Norvid, Elder*

*Debbie Page, Elder*

*Cinda Siligmuller, Director of Congregational Care*

*Jan Chindlund, Elder*

## Missions Ministry

Committee Members: Mike Hughes (Chairman), Dave Bianchin (Staff) Dave Buckley, Betty Crane, Bonnie Duckett, Jim Hagen, Cleveland Holmes, Elaine Montgomery, David Moorhead, Lee Mulder, Duska Pearson, Jeff Seifert, Dave Siehoff, Bill Thompson, Steve Tonissen

Missions Council is a far-reaching group. The focus is on local, national and international missions. Approximately 400 people in our church family are involved with our missions and many are involved with more than one mission or ministry. We serve in various ways such as: prayer, mission trips, board memberships, building a mission room for The Village.

One of our strengths is establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with our partner missionaries and organizations. Newsletters from our partners are shared on our mission board, so that they may keep up with doings, and also, perhaps more importantly, keep missionaries in prayer. We have recently re-instituted a weekly Prayer for Missions during the worship service. We encourage people to go on mission trips and, when possible, offer scholarships. Our STEPS program provides opportunities for expanding horizons about purposes of mission trips, and provides a means of accountability and sharing with the congregation.

Financial support by members of the congregation through 53rd Sunday is broad. Many of our members anticipate "extra giving" to Christian missions of their choice during this time. Many of our members donate privately to various missions. Others are involved with giving, both hands-on and financially, through circles, Bible studies, covenant groups, and other small groups. A large number of our members prayerfully and financially support children and students associated with some of our mission partners.

Recently, we have begun to reorganize ourselves into sub-groups to work more effectively with our missionaries and the congregation.

We expect to adopt the following mandate in 2012:

"The Mission Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, exists because of our faith in God as the creator of all and his Son who was sent to dwell with us, to teach us and ultimately to redeem us from our behaviors that are contrary to the desires and teaching of God our Father. It is because of this faith that we are compelled to bear witness to the whole of God's presence in this world and to be his hands and feet in ministering to his children locally, nationally and internationally."

**In the execution of our mandate, the Mission Ministry is charged to:**

- Strengthen ourselves and advocate the primacy of spiritual growth to the congregation as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission. "...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20
- Educate the congregation regarding God's mandate to put our faith into action.
- Excite our congregation about the work to be done and the impact of our mission work upon those served and to ourselves.
- Mobilize the congregation to become directly involved in the mission work of the church.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Barb Retelny, Marj Dolbeer*  
*Elders, Missions Ministry*

## **Personnel Ministry**

For 2011, the Personnel Ministry Team consisted of one Elder, Carolyn Crosby, members Mark McAndrew, Nathan Chaney and Mary Zienty, and Head of Staff, Rev. David Bianchin. The personnel committee has the following responsibilities:

- Review and approve position descriptions for all staff.
- Review and recommend to Session compensation and benefits packages for all staff.
- Assist in development and recommend personnel policies to the Session.
- In partnership with Head of Staff, ensure personnel policies are followed.
  - Encourage professional growth and development for all staff.
  - Confer with and support the Head of Staff on any important issues of concern related to the staff that arise.

The Team also recognizes its responsibilities to maintain confidentiality when sensitive personnel matters are at issue.

In addition, in 2011, the team worked on many issues including:

- Acting as support for search committees (for Music Director and the PNC).
- Formalizing and communicating the Role of the Personnel Ministry Team at First Pres.
- Facilitating a half-day staff retreat, which focused on personal communication styles, team effectiveness and individual development.

Once again, 2011 was a difficult year for the Session as it struggled with the necessity of reducing the church budget. While budget reduction is a challenge for all church ministries, it is particularly difficult for Personnel as there are few places to make the required cuts other than staff salaries or positions. We have tried to make changes to Personnel budget as we've had staff departures and in 2011 reduced staffing in the music area from 1 full time and 1 part time employee to only 1 full time employee.

We were thrilled to welcome Bryan Harden to the staff this year in the capacity of Director of Music Ministries.

The Personnel Ministry Team is continuously encouraged by the dedication and commitment of our staff to the cause of Christ, and we have increased confidence that God is at work in our congregation. It is a pleasure to serve this church.

Respectfull submitted,  
*Carolyn Crosby*  
*Elder, Personnel Minisrty*

## **Properties Ministry**

As the year 2011 comes to an end so does my term as Property Elder. Although it has been another tumultuous year there are many reasons to believe we are on a positive path. We have a new music director, there is more involvement in the children and youth ministries and we are in the final stages of acquiring a permanent pastor.

Listed below are the projects and small repairs done to the church in the past year.

- July flooding issues completed
- Alarm in sound room fixed
- Pew book racks repaired
- Removed ½ pew to make handicap area larger
- Sacristy sink plumbing pressure problem solved
- Replaced kitchen freezer
- Broken window in playground repaired
- Replaced 2 cracked glass lights in chapel
- Repaired north wall catch basin sinkhole
- Repaired several sections of west fence
- Sealed 8” opening in chapel for flooding
- Repaired education wing roof
- Planted new flowers and plants in memorial garden per directions of donor family
- Extended and replaced north and east downspouts outside sanctuary
- Replaced windows in education wing
- Painted south and west side of education wing soffits
- Installed light under cabinet/over sink in education wing
- Replaced parlor toilet, rotted toilet flange
- Replacing the sacristy pump at northeast corner with a Weil Duplex system; a temporary pump was installed until the new system is ready
- Attic and roof snow removal after blizzard
- Compressor #1 failed on 90 ton chiller. The unit was made to operate off of compressor #2 temporarily while insurance claim is being processed.

Our ministries' responsibilities are to take care of our physical campus. We like to think of it as our closest and one of the most important missions. As this brick and mortar provides for all of us: congregation members, personnel, visitors, various clubs and the homeless; a home under God's umbrella for many diverse forms of fellowship.

With this foundation and anchor being secure and strong, First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn has and is able to reach out to others all over the world to spread God's word and love. Without this strength, we would not have been able to accomplish all the wonderful missions that have been served.

Our ministry goal is to keep this home mission strong, safe and secure to enable First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn to reach out from our solid foundation and serve God as best as we are able with our limited resources.

I have been fortunate to have worked with a team of very generous, talented people who have freely given their time and skills to the church's needs. We have worked well together and have accomplished many small repairs and projects that were affordable to do with the limited resources we had to work with.

We are always looking for energetic volunteers to serve on Properties Ministry who have building, construction and repair experience or feel they would like to use their talents and abilities in this area.

Thank you for this opportunity. Not only have I learned a lot about the Presbyterian community, I have also met and worked with many wonderful people and hope to still participate as part of the Property Ministry in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Lou Kobley*  
*Elder, Properties*

**Stewardship Ministry**

The 2011 stewardship year has been a successful year considering the economic pressure on our church families. The key phrase linked to stewardship is “time, talent and treasure”. The time and talent gifts from the congregation to First Pres are difficult to quantify considering the large variety of ways our members support the church: music, circles, youth and adult education, facilities upkeep, Deacons and Elders, and immeasurable hours of committee work. All is well.

Unfortunately, what becomes the benchmark for stewardship success is the “treasure” aspect. How many pledges were there? How much money was contributed to meet our financial needs? Can we meet our budget? These are valid questions but not the only measure of the Stewardship commitment of the congregational. Certainly numbers are exact though the interpretation is not. The following data is current as of this report:

	2010	2011	2012
Church membership, (Dec.)	1,118	969	***
Avg. Sunday Attendance	375	350	***
Number of Pledges	243	200	178 (to date)
Dollars Pledged	\$1,067,075	\$916,225	\$801,480 (to date)
Avg. Pledge	\$4,391	\$4,581	\$4502 (to date)
\$ contributions	\$1,304,425	\$1,091,761 (to date)	n/a
Budget	\$1,500,000	\$1,352,600	n/a
		\$1,218,923 (revised)	

A strong indication of our congregation’s Stewardship commitment is the average pledge. It remains at a high level and contributions exceed pledges. More members are working toward the worship discipline of tithing. As a result, our average pledge remains high though church attendance shows a decrease.

The Stewardship theme for 2010 was BETTER TOGETHER . In 2011, the need to build strength and friendships by working together was no less important. A little extra effort would be so helpful. Thus, the theme BETTER TOGETHER + 1 was chosen. Pastor Dave Bianchin and Elder Drasal wrote a letter to the congregation expressing this thought and encouraging a strong stewardship effort in 2012. Three witness opportunities by Elder Drasal were available to promote this 2012 stewardship program.

Working under the constraints of budgetary “belt tightening” and financial responsibility to the congregation, means are limited for promoting Stewardship. The most useful and cost effective method has been through our print media: monthly Tidings and weekly News and Events. As best possible, this media was used to inform, encourage and instruct the congregation of our stewardship financial status. Informing the congregation of the 2011 PER CAPITA expense of \$30.31, paid to Presbytery for each First Pres member, was helpful in reducing

a large budget item as many members shouldered that expense by a contribution to the church. Hopefully, that stewardship discipline will continue. Another avenue pursued in building a strong stewardship discipline and a pride in the First Pres was to tell the congregation our history: a story of our growth, our strong traditions, our problems and successes. Referencing *First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, Its history 1926-1995* by John Craddock (stewardship in our Church) and Bible verses (stewardship in the Bible), (plus a little humor), weekly articles are written for publication in the bulletin. It is interesting to see God’s work in our church. Knowing our rich heritage

and ENGAGING THE PAST, we can better EMBRACE THE FUTURE.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*James Drasal*  
 Elder, Stewardship Ministry

## **Worship Ministry**

2011 began with the search for two half-time Associate Directors of Music Ministries, one for contemporary worship and the other traditional worship. Two separate search teams were formed.

The contemporary search team consisted of: Tricia Black, Jan Buscher, Bill Crosby, Zabrina Santiago Lindsay and Christina Riley. The traditional search team had Kerri Andersen, Paul Drennan, Phyllis Kidd and Janet Moser as members.

After many meetings and interviews with potential candidates the committees agreed on the same individual to lead our music ministries for both the contemporary and traditional services at First Pres. Session approved the hiring of Bryan Harden as full time Director of Music Ministries. Bryan began his services to First Pres on June 13.

We were very fortunate to have two interim music directors lead our congregation in music worship prior to Bryan's arrival. Mark Peterson did a wonderful job leading our choir for the traditional services and Steve Slagg coordinated our praise team for contemporary worship. We're very grateful for Mark and Steve's leadership and talents during the interim period.

Lent 2011 was very special at First Pres. For the first time in many years, Jerusalem Journey was performed. Olivia Albert and Jack Nies led the way and had the assistance of dozens of church members for this major undertaking. Over 800 people attended the performances with 70% of attendees non-members of our church. As a result, Jerusalem Journey was a significant outreach program for us. We also had contributions from other churches in the community, namely: Calvary in Naperville, Wheaton Bible, Gary Methodist in Wheaton and our Hispanic church friends, Comunidad Hispana.

Holy Week was highlighted by a moving and well received Maundy Thursday service, a 24 hour prayer vigil, a Good Friday Service, and three wonderful Easter morning services.

Christina Riley coordinated Celebration of the Arts Sunday in May. Anima (formerly Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus) performed brilliantly at both services. Artists within the church displayed examples of their artistic talents as well.

With the arrival of Bryan Harden, the Worship Council along with Bryan began long range planning for the upcoming church year. Through the creativity of Council members Christina and Meg Riley, Paul Drennan, Phyllis Kidd, Kerri Andersen, and Barb Meyer, planning of special worship events began. World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, a Veteran's Day video (exceptional work by Erik Peterson), and Advent planning began. The Council has begun the process of planning for the arrival of our new senior pastor with an All Church Worship Service scheduled for sometime early in 2012.

The coordination of ushers was ably accomplished by Steve Fessenbecker. Steve and the ushers did an outstanding job of welcoming and assisting members of our congregation and our guests.

Christina Wanless, Martan Walters and Mike Walters provided leadership and guidance in decorating the church for Lent and Advent.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the efforts of Tara Savino. Tara was Elder chair of the Worship Council when the year began and worked tirelessly to coordinate worship events, participated in praise team worship and did a superb job working with church staff and volunteers. Unfortunately for First Pres, Tara and her family decided to move from First Pres in April.

2011 proved to be an exciting year for Worship Ministries. Thanks in large part to the addition of our new Director of Music Ministries, Bryan Harden, the church has seen tremendous growth in numbers and quality of music groups such as the choir, praise team, orchestra, and music ensembles. We're fortunate to have a creative man of faith like Bryan leading our Music Ministries.

God has been good to First Pres and we look forward with great anticipation to a successful, spiritually enriching and rewarding 2012!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bob Clauss*  
*Elder, Worship Ministry*

*Together* LED BY THE **WORD** AND **SPIRIT**  
*we follow Christ's Call*

LIVE IN LOVE | ENJOY GOD | BUILD COMMUNITY | TEACH THE FAITH  
ANNOUNCE FORGIVENESS | TRANSFORM THE WORLD

---

*Seeking justice, loving mercy, walking humbly with God.*

COME WALK WITH US...COME WALK WITH GOD.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN  
550 N. MAIN ST., GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137 USA  
630.469.2007 WWW.FIRSTPRESGE.ORG