

The Church at Horseshoe Bay

The Year 2008

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation was held on January 18, 2009. Rev. Johnny White gave the opening prayer. Board of Trustees Chairman Wayne Anderson welcomed attendees and recognized the outgoing Board members, as follows: Jim Jorden, Susan Rantzow, Maryellen Richardson, Jeff Robinson, and Bill Sweet. The following new Board members were elected by the congregation: Eddie Baird, Beverly Brascom (to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Brascom), Joan Morrow, Bob Shafer, Stan Smith, and D.J. Yows.

Board Members and Department Heads

The members of the Board of Trustees for the year 2008 were:

Wayne Anderson – Chairman of Board

Beryl Ann Owen – Vice-Chairman of Board and Chairman of Personnel
Department, Membership Committee and Nominating Committee

Ronnie Rudd – Treasurer and Business Management Department Chairman

Jerry Dunn – Assistant Treasurer and Investments & Endowment Planning Chairman

Bob Shafer – Strategic Planning Committee Chairman

Stan Smith – Insurance & Legal Affairs Committee Chairman

Trevor Dupuy – Worship Department Chairman

Carol Parker – Benevolence Department Chairman

D.J. Yows – Benevolence Department Vice-Chairman

Suzanne Owens – Corporate Secretary and Parish Services Department Chairman

Beverly Brascom – Parish Services Department Vice-Chairman

Joan Morrow – Education Department Chairman

Charlie Thornton – Grounds Department Chairman

P. T. Williams – Building Department Chairman

Eddie Baird – Chairman of Public Relations Department and Music Committee

FINANCIAL

Contributions and other income totaled \$903,550. Expenditures for benevolence, salaries and benefits, and building and grounds, among other items, amounted to \$752,896.

Building and Expansion Project

45% of the congregation returned ballots concerning this project, with 90% of the votes cast to proceed with the plan. The plan includes adding 2,136 sq. ft. to the Fellowship Hall; adding 355 sq. ft. to the kitchen and reorganizing it; reworking the Administration area to house the Library and Education Department; adding 636 sq. ft. to the Parlor and converting it to the Music/Choir Room; and building a new structure for Administration. The Board has begun discussions with a professional project management firm to assist as we move forward. The balance in the Building Fund on December 31, 2008 was \$863,196. This figure included a transfer in 2008 of \$185,339 from the Operating Fund to the Building Fund. The total of the Fund balance and pledges for 2009 and 2010 is \$1,267,965.

BENEVOLENCE

Benevolence is our opportunity to share God's gifts to us – both material and spiritual – with those in need. In 2008, the committee gave \$204,802 to 35 organizations which were budgeted and also made special gifts as needs were brought to the committee's attention. These funds represented 27.5% of the weekly offerings. Additionally, offerings totaling \$10,227 from the Christmas Eve service and from Christmas and Easter flower contributions were used to make a number of one-time gifts and to meet special needs. The "Christmas for Others" program delivered gifts to 320 children, and a Bible was included for each family receiving gifts. The third annual Benevolence Bazaar, showcasing the missions and other benevolent organizations supported by the Church, was held in December.

Mission to Rio Bravo, Mexico

Two groups from our church participated in the mission to Rio Bravo in February, "to make that Christian difference" by building casitas, making repairs to facilities, helping to provide medical and dental care, teaching English, and conducting Bible study.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Endowment Planning – The Endowment Fund was created to perpetuate the life of the Church in cases of emergencies and to fund approved projects and activities not included in the annual Operating, Benevolence or Memorial Gifts budgets. At the end of 2008, the Endowment Fund balance was \$84,904, a decrease in value of \$34,741 from year end 2007. When the fund reaches \$500,000, on an annual basis 6% of the market value may be used for religious or charitable purposes.

Insurance and Legal – This committee ensures that Church property and sponsored ministries are adequately protected with liability insurance and legal representation. Professional counseling liability coverage and insurance bond coverage for employees and volunteers were added to our insurance coverage during 2008.

Strategic Planning – This committee was formed in 2006 to examine both long- and short-term issues facing the Church. Membership growth, required services and physical space needs are all under consideration.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

In 2008, the department was split into two separate areas due to the time requirements for each area. The offices were reorganized and new furniture was purchased. An overall two- to three-year landscaping plan was developed to upgrade the current facilities and minimize high maintenance areas. The south entrance to the parking lot across the road was repaved, as well as the walkways and utility cuts in the main parking lot. At the request of Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Forshee, their name was removed from the Fellowship Hall, which is now known simply as “The Fellowship Hall”.

Remembrance Garden

The garden, which was completed in 2007 at a cost of \$301,553.59, was dedicated in October. A policy for engraving names on the stones in the Remembrance Garden was developed and approved by the Board.

The Board also approved a revision of the existing Wedding Policy for the building and garden.

WORSHIP

The Worship Department is responsible for supplying and serving all of the elements for Holy Communion, altar flowers, special services, ushers and greeters, and music. This year the pastoral staff continued to produce high quality worship experiences to meet the broad range of religious needs represented in our interdenominational church. The Chancel Choir, consisting of 45 active choir members, the 19-member Hand Bell Choir, and 15 vocal and instrumental soloists, provided beautiful music throughout the year, including a presentation of the *Messiah*. In addition, there were 24 guest musicians. Dr. Daniel Zamora became our interim organist following the retirement of long-time organist Karen Carson.

EDUCATION

The primary mission of the Christian education program is to be a major element in the ongoing faith commitment and development of mature disciples of Jesus Christ. The three Sunday morning classes are based on a “study plus service plus fellowship” model. The *Bible Study Class* meets in the Fellowship Hall for a one-hour study of the scriptures. The *Women’s Bible Study* meets in the Nursery/Meeting room. Study materials include relevant Christian books and DVD courses based on the Bible. The *Seekers Class*, new in 2008, seeks to increase understanding through study of topics relevant to Christian scholarship and life applications in today’s world. *Coffee and Conversation with the Pastors*, also new in 2008, meets on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor, with the Pastors available for an in-depth discussion of the previous Sunday’s service. *Pastors’ Forum*, which meets on Thursdays in the Parlor, is a lively discussion group led by the Pastors that allows participants an opportunity to take part in an open forum on a variety of topics. The Church Library, located in the Parlor and open during regular office hours, operates on a self-checkout basis. “Books and Scones”, which is a book club for women and is an active extension of the Library, meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. The Church Nursery is staffed on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

PARISH SERVICES

This department, which depends on a large group of very dedicated volunteers, serves all members of our church, through Coffee Fellowship, Congregational Care, Special Events, Caring Cards, Historian, Membership, WOW, and Men of Faith. The **Coffee Fellowship** volunteers serve coffee, punch and cookies at both services and also help with the Thanksgiving Celebration in November. The **Congregational Care** committee provides care for our church members in times of need. New programs added this year are the Grief Support Group, serving members who have lost loved ones or who have gone through difficult times, and the Prayer Ministry, for those in need of special prayer on their behalf or for loved ones who are in need. **Special Events** include the Ice Cream Social, the Church Picnic, the New Member Dinners in the spring and fall, and the Thanksgiving Celebration.

This was the fourth year for **Women of the Word (WOW)**, which hosted a luncheon and a coffee in 2008. In the fall, it also hosted its third retreat at Camp Buckner. This group sponsors service projects, including “Bear the Burden”, where stuffed bears are collected and donated to children experiencing a crisis in their lives, and “Diaper Drive”, which benefits clients of the Helping Center and the Family Crisis Center.

The **Membership Committee** has found that by year end 2008 we have 773 adult members with a local address. There are 450 family units, including 114 single members and 13 others whose spouse is not a member. 2008 saw the addition of 56 new members, the deaths of 17 members, and the loss of 19 members due to moves. The net gain in membership for 2008 was 20. The committee implemented new procedures for greeting visitors and assimilating new members. New Member Receptions were held in March and November.

The mission of **Men of Faith** is to create opportunities for fellowship and fun, spiritual growth, and sharing of the gospel message for men of our community by initiating and supporting programs that demonstrate Christian values. The membership is comprised both of men from our church and from other churches in the community. The group has held several very successful Men’s Fellowship Breakfast events since its inception. There are presently 70 men signed up to be involved in and actively support the various endeavors planned.

PERSONNEL

In 2008, the Personnel Committee was removed from the Business Management Department and made a stand-alone department. The Church’s Policies and Procedures manual is being updated and revised. The committee made recommendations to the Board in December of factors to be considered in setting the 2009 personnel budget. Because the Church’s growth had stretched our support staff, Kena Richert was employed as Administrative Manager. Organist Karen Carson retired in October, and an interim organist from San Antonio, Dr. Daniel Zamora, was hired.

Senior Pastor Pete Christy was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree by the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and was honored with a surprise “graduation” exercise at the June 1 worship services.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

This department worked with St. Paul the Apostle Chapel on several items, including a joint printed *invitation to worship* that was distributed to the hotel and motels in the area. A new sign with directions to both churches was erected on Highway 2147. Events and special services of both churches were publicized with articles in the newspapers. The department also promoted the Men of Faith Fellowship breakfasts and designed brochures about various services offered by our Church.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for the 2009 Board of Trustees candidates was composed of Beverly Brascom, Jim Breedlove, John Brooks, Jan Browning, Phil Caldwell, Fritzie Glanville, and Beryl Ann Owen, Chairman. Wayne Anderson, Pete Christy and Johnny White were *ex-officio* members. The following candidates were approved by the Board at its December meeting: Jerry Gray, Peggy Jordan, Kenneth K. Lindgren, Scott Matthews, Charlie Sugg, and Jo Ann Warren.

Church Website

Webmaster John Richardson is now assisted by Fred Klingensmith. *Zeecon.com* is our new Internet provider.

Scholarship Fund

Scholarship funds were depleted in 2008. Our commitment to a student currently on scholarship was funded from the General Fund.