

# 2009 Annual Report



The First Baptist Church  
Manasquan, New Jersey  
Presented at the Annual Meeting  
January 31, 2010

## Pastor's Annual Report 2009

All of the reports contained in this Annual Report will help you know important *facts* about the great year we all just shared together. I'm not sure that any of us will be able to adequately express the *feeling of excitement* that permeates First Baptist Church as we continue to extend God's invitation, express God's love, encourage God's people and be empowered by God's spirit.

As I look back over 2009 several highlights emerge:

- Our Lenten journey which began with a moving service of prayer stations in the Fellowship Hall and continued through holy week with beautiful 3-dimensional artwork created by our Youth Group (with help from Carolyn Kelly, Melissa Robinson and Pastor Martha)
- Easter Dinner for 200 prepared for distribution in Lakewood Town Center. It rained buckets, but we set up tents and made dinners to go for disabled residents of a nearby facility and to deliver out to the homeless in "tent cities" in the area.
- A crisp, but compelling Easter Dawn service with the return of a perennial favorite drama, "The Ragman"
- Don Smith, Director of Camping for Baptist Camp Lebanon, came to church in May and recruited three of our young people to work at camp. Josie Gratzel, Victoria Hooten and Matt Smith joined Deb, Coleen and Brittany Kelleher and Killian Ferdine in representing First Baptist at camp this summer.
- As winter turned to spring our attention turned to the church exterior as we replaced the faded coverings on the Reynolds window with bright clear acrylic, painted the exterior of both towers and the Fellowship Hall and repaired the flat roof over Fellowship Hall.
- Our Sunday School also reprised an old favorite, performing "Kid's Praise!" Odette Cummings, assisted by Stefanie Green and Josie Gratzel did a great job with the music and our prop mistress, Rhonda Maraziti and her assistant, Denise Gratzel helped bring the show to life. I admit I am biased, but a highlight of the show was Gavin's solo when he sang, "We're all Children of the Lord."

- A personal highlight for me was the opportunity to represent ABCNJ as an ABCUSA General Board member at the Biennial Meeting in Pasadena, California.

Amy Agolioti joined Christina Hancock-Stefan of Central Baptist Church in Atlantic Highlands in serving as Regional Youth Delegates to the Biennial.

- While I was in California, I received a call from my daughter, Sarah, telling me not to panic, but letting me know that mom had hurried over to church because the clock tower had been struck by lightning and the church was on fire! That report only turned out to be half true: Lightning, yes. Fire, no. A special thank you goes to Pastor Martha and to Carolyn Kelly for their leadership through that crisis and a DOUBLE THANKS to Carolyn for her follow up on the insurance claim and working with all of the contractors to make the repairs.
- Summer brought us two excellent Vacation Bible School programs. Thanks to Susan Love and her team for our trip to “Crocodile Dock” and to Cathie Oliver for serving as the director of the Community Vacation Bible School.
- Thanks to the Board of Trustees, headed by Steve Crawford, for their due diligence as we pursued the possibility of purchasing the house that adjoins the rear of the Errickson House lot and faces Branin Place. After careful study of all of the factors the board concluded that the purchase was not a viable option for FBC at that time.
- At the Annual Meeting in 2009 we announced our intention to finalize plans for the renovation of the sanctuary and hopefully complete the project by September 2009. Those plans were put on hold, first so that we could fully explore the possibility of purchasing the Branin Place property, and later due to budgetary challenges that we faced throughout the year. Our hope is to go back to the drawing board this spring and bring forth an affordable proposal that meets the congregation’s current and foreseeable needs. Two significant improvements which were made were the new flooring in the Church vestibules and the renovation of the choir loft and choir entrance.
- Throughout the summer and continuing into the fall we offered a third worship service each Sunday morning at 8:00 AM. These “EPIC” services were designed to be Experiential, Participatory, Image-Driven and Community Building. Although the service met a need for some members, attendance dwindled in the fall and we decided to discontinue the service.

- We continued to put our Faith in Action all through the year, making lunch for the homeless, providing clothing for Minister Steve's outreach in Lakewood Town Square, and collecting food for the Manasquan community food pantry. Our biggest project was going out the tent city to build four teepees in October. Thanks to generous donors we were able to fully underwrite that project and provide Minister Steve with a 50 x 16 foot tent and 4 pews (from our choir loft) to serve as a chapel for tent city!
- Another generous donation this year was the beautiful landscaping in front of the church. The beach grass has been re-located to more manageable locations and a professionally designed garden has been planted.
- As all of these projects were coming together there was a contagious excitement in the air which prompted one of our Trustees, Matt Maraziti, to suggest that we needed to host an "open house" to invite our friends and families to First Baptist Church. Of course, Matt was instantly made the chairman of our first annual Harvest Open House and the event was a huge success! We sent fresh made pumpkin pies from Delicious Orchards as invitations and we had approximately 200 folks show up for worship that Sunday. The kids were entertained by a gospel magic show during the Sunday school hour. Later everyone enjoyed a special coffee hour, hosted by the Board of Trustees and a soup luncheon hosted by Apples of Gold. We ended the evening with home grown talent at a coffee house with a fun mixture of "sacred" and secular music.
- The choir rounded out the year with a beautiful Christmas Cantata and the Sunday School warmed our hearts and tickled them too with their video presentation, "Live from Bethlehem."

None of the above would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our members and friends who gave their time, talent and treasure cheerfully to support the work of First Baptist Church. My thanks to all of the members of the boards and committees, to the choir and praise team for their leadership in worship, to Dave Maye for keeping our sound system in working order and our on-line sermon-player up to date, to Susan Love and the Sunday school and VBS teams, to Catherine O'Hagan and the God Squad team, to Melissa Robinson and Fran Maye for all of their help with FYBY, to Susan Love, Bette Wary, Fred Niemann and George Smith for their work organizing our Softball and Baseball teams, to our women's ministry groups for their work at church and for their support of our missionaries, and to our men's fellowship for the money saving work they do each month to keep up our property.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the incredibly talented group that makes up the paid staff at First Baptist Church. Each of them are experts in their own right and together they are an unbeatable team. We genuinely enjoy working together and we all appreciate your support and encouragement throughout the year. Please pray for each of them regularly as they continue to serve the Lord on your behalf.

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. Martha J. Bevacqua | Associate Pastor for Discipleship |
| Carolyn Kelly           | Church Administrator              |
| Debbie Napolitano       | Church Secretary                  |
| Wendy Craig             | Organist / Choir Director         |
| Stuart Hooten           | Praise Team Leader                |
| Donna DeFranzo          | Sexton                            |
| Joyce Burrows           | Nursery Attendant                 |
| Adrienne Adamo-Craven   | ASL Interpreter                   |
| Stefanie Emery          | ASL Interpreter                   |

As Pastor Martha and I are finishing the last few draft picks for our CECL “Dream Team” I am excited about what we’ll be learning together at the Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership at Green Lake, Wisconsin this year. Our hope is that we will be able to continue to build on the positive momentum we have experienced in recent years as we encourage each member of First Baptist Church to dig their roots deeper in faith and stretch their branches further in outreach.

May God bless us all in our work for the kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe Gratzel, Pastor

## Associate Pastor's Annual Report 2009

As I look back over the past year, I can't help but grin like a Cheshire cat. Pastor Joe and I often talk about how sweet a season of ministry we're in. There's an expectant excitement that God is moving powerfully as we continue to seek his vision for our mission to the world. Who knew ministry could be so much fun!

The year began with the winter and early spring as a time of prayer and preparation. One of the things we were looking toward was beginning our journey through a program funded by the Lily Foundation at our American Baptist Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. The Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership program, better known as CECL, is designed to help us discern and fulfill the God-breathed vision for our mission to the world as followers of Jesus Christ.

May was a time of beginnings. I attended the first of five sessions of CECL that will take place over the next two and a half years. The session focused on the need for Pastors to have a healthy and growing walk with the Lord themselves, to lead by example, because a church is only as healthy as its Pastors. The September session included spouses for the latter half of the week and focused on nurturing healthy marriages for Pastors as well. (Tony and I were sorry Pastor Joe and Denise weren't there as well – we learned a lot and laughed even more as Tim Gardner brought his wit and wisdom to the session.)

The end of May marked the beginning of our new Christ-centered, biblically based, 12 step Celebrate Recovery ministry. I learned a valuable lesson about beginning a new ministry at the Jersey Shore at the beginning of the summer season! The turnout wasn't very good – there were many Friday evenings that only the leadership team consisting of women's small group leaders Holly Orgo and Jeannie Hines and men's small group leader, Joe Orgo, and myself were there.

After prayerful consideration, we decided to take the summer months to regroup and to relaunch Celebrate Recovery in September. The team spent time praying and preparing. We changed our meetings to Wednesday evenings, and by September 23<sup>rd</sup> we were up and running again.

The road to recovery from our "hurts, hang-ups and habits," through the transforming power of our Higher Power, Jesus Christ, at Celebrate is going strong. Lives are being impacted. The ministry continues to grow and attendance has improved significantly. It's not only a blessing to the folks at FBC, but is also part of our outreach. As word of the ministry grows, we've had several newcomers from the community. The leadership team and I were overjoyed when at the end of December our group had passed the 90 day mark necessary to be listed on the Celebrate Recovery website.

The prayer and preparation that marked the first half of the year continued to unfold. In June while Pastor Joe was in Pasadena attending the ABCUSA biennial, we spent a week meeting in the morning and evening for prayer. We prayed for wisdom for our ABC family as they discussed and voted on important decisions for our future as a denomination. We prayed for discernment of God's vision of our mission as his church. We prayed for our leadership. We prayed for the lost. We prayed for our church, for our community, for our country, and the world. We praised God and thanked him for the responsibility and privilege to be intercessory prayer warriors.

From that week of prayer many blessings have come. One of those blessings is our weekly time of prayer on Thursday between 6-7 p.m. Not a week has gone by that we don't share with one another how precious and sweet this hour of prayer continues to be for us. (Come join us and be blessed too!)

We've also joined with other churches in our area to form the Shore United Prayer Coalition. Praying each week at our respective churches, we had our first monthly meeting at FBC in October. During these ecumenical monthly prayer meetings, we came together to agree in prayer against complacency in the home and the church, for the spiritual battle raging for our youth and the tragic suicides that have grieved our community, and for our lost family, friends and neighbors.

As the year ended, Pastor Joe and I looked toward assembling the lay leadership team that will work with us as part of the CECL program in discerning the vision and implementing the vision path to realize God's mission for FBC. I've dubbed it the "Dream Team," certain that God has dreamed a dream for us, a vision that will lead us into the places God is already working in the world to join him in The Great Commission. And God *always* dreams bigger dreams for us than we dare dream ourselves.

As I reflect on the year that's passed and look to the year ahead, it's occurred to me that 2009 has ended the way it began – with praying and preparing. God's blessed our socks off, and I'm certain we've only begun to ride the wave of the Holy Spirit. No wonder I'm grinning again!

In His Service,

Rev. Martha Bevacqua

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**  
**First Baptist Church, Manasquan, NJ**  
**January 25, 2009**

The Annual Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Joseph Gratzel at 6:48 pm.

The minutes of the January 27, 2008, June 22, 2008 and September 7, 2008 were presented for review. The following corrections in the Annual Report were noted:

- page 6, Pastor Martha hired at \$10,000 for 20 hours per week, not 20 years.
- page 6, Trustee Board, not Trustee Committee
- page 12, Moderator, not monitor
- Page 20, Jo Ciricolo's term ends 2009, not 2008
- Page 24, Sunday Service is at 9:00am, not ):00am

Motion made by Stefanie Green to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Jayne Linfante. No discussion, motion carried.

Old Business:

Pastor Martha Bevacqua will be attending The Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership (CECL) in Green Lake, Wisconsin in the Spring and Fall of 2009, 2010 and ending in the Spring of 2011. Our goal is to become "missional", and learning how God will lead us to make a difference in our community and how to hone our vision. The tuition is \$9,000, but due to scholarships, the tuition cost to the church is \$600 for Pastor Martha. There is a \$100 per person lodging cost for Pastor Martha anyone else who attends. Over the course of the program Pastor Martha, Pastor Joe and a small group of key lay leaders will have opportunities to attend several of the sessions. Air fare is not included in these costs. Money will be used from the Daniels bequest .

New Business:

Steve Crawford presented initial plans for the renovation of the sanctuary. Things have been getting done piecemeal and the Board of Trustees is trying to set forth a plan to spend approximately \$25,000 each year for the next three years to improve the buildings and grounds. The first project would be to replace the lexan that covers the stained glass window at the east end of the sanctuary at a cost of \$6,000. Other plans include redoing the sanctuary wainscoting so that all matches, upgrading the audio/video system. \$15,000 has been received from the estate of Erma Dorrer and these funds will be the seed money with a campaign to raise additional funds.

*Question* - Will the sanctuary be yellow as shown in the picture? *Answer* - No

Pastor Joe commented on the picture and noted that the two hanging lights are gone and the screen has been moved to the wall. The choir loft will be changed to one



level and various removable seating arrangements tried out to suit the choir. The wainscoting will be brought to the edge of the stairs.

*Question* – What about Praise Team? *Answer* – The seating will be removable which will help to accommodate Praise Team.

*Question* – What about all the clutter? *Answer* – Praise Team’s stuff will be cleaned up and organized.

*Question* – Will any front pews be taken out? *Answer* – No, but there is a possibility that they might be shortened, depending upon traffic flow, but that is not currently planned.

*Question* – What about the organ? *Answer* – The organ and baptistry will remain as is. The expense was prohibitive to make any changes.

Volunteer labor will be used for a lot of this project, with the finish work being done by professionals.

*Question* – Will there be a chance for objections to the final plan? *Answer* – Yes, as we go forward. Input is wanted and needed, with the goal being to present one plan in writing.

*Question* – Does the picture show the extension of the choir loft? *Answer* – not sure.

*Question* – What is the time frame for input? *Answer* – Three weeks, which will be announced via e-news and bulletin.

*Question* – Any changes to the pews? *Answer* – Not at this time, cushions or padding was estimated to cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000.

#### Election of New Members:

Moderator John Linfante stated that this was the fourth consecutive meeting where new members had been elected.

Deacon Jayne Linfante presented the list: Move from Inactive to Active: Kathy Habick; By Baptism: Billy Morton, Clyde Morton, Janet Morton; By Letter: Marilyn Bruno, Lisa Morton; By Profession of Faith: Chris SanFilippo, Maria SanFilippo, John Bruno.

Motion to accept – Odette Cummings; seconded, Rose Wipperman. No discussion, motion carries.

#### Annual Report:

##### Non-financial aspect:

Motion to accept the Annual Report as presented and corrected, less the financials by Jayne Linfante; seconded Fran Maye. Discussion: Pastor Joe asked that we acknowledge the work of Len Owen, Church Historian, by way of applause and the congregation responded resoundingly. Motion carried.

2008 Financial Aspect:

Carolyn Kelly asked that a correction be made to Page 36. The total of Unrestricted Assets should be increased by about \$1,000 which is the balance carried in the credit card account. Also a digit appears to be missing from the total.

Motion to accept the 2008 Financial portion of the Annual report by Jo Ciricolo; seconded by Rose Wipperman. Discussion: *Question* – Are the restricted funds available as listed? *Answer* – Yes. No further discussion, motion carried.

Bette Wary thanked the congregation for their support of the Step Up to the Plate campaign which raised \$13,332. Tithing will continue to be encouraged. She asked that the Boards, during their reorganization send people who are ready to serve on the Stewardship Committee. A “CrackerJack” thank you was passed out by Josie Gratzel.

Pastor Joe reminded us to use the FBC link to Amazon.com which has brought in about \$250. We are also looking into Christian Value Network for a similar plan.

Bette Wary reminded people to use envelopes for their giving.

2009 Budget:

Moderator Linfante stated that in 2008 we spent the most money ever, but ended the year with a deficit of only \$3,000. He then asked for a motion to approve the 2009 budget, pages 38 – 40. Motion by Donna DeFranzo; seconded by Stefanie Green.

Discussion:

*Question* – Why is the Musician/Sub line all lumped together? *Answer:* Because it has always been that way, but we will change it.

*Question* – Biennial is this year in Pasadena, CA, is there money for anyone to attend? *Answer* – Pastor Joe serves on the National Board and his air and pre-meeting lodging will be paid for by ABCUSA.

*Question* – CECL is not shown in the budget, where will that money come from? *Answer* – The Daniel’s Bequest.

Pastor Joe noted that all staff received a COLA raise and that Debbie Napolitano, secretary and Carolyn Kelly, administrator, will be given two weeks of paid vacation.

Vote was called and motion to accept the 2009 budget carried.

Denise Gratzel made a motion that a plaque in memory of Rev. Horace and Dorothy Daniels be placed in the Sunday School Hallway as the funds for the upgrade came from the Daniels Bequest. Seconded by Mike Applegate. No discussion, motion carried.

The correction on page 36 (refer to page three of minutes) should be \$193,865 plus the \$1,000 addition for a total of \$194,865. Thank you, Mike Applegate.

Pastor Joe stated that a basket would be on the side table to help offset the Deacons' response to one of our members who is facing eviction.

Election of Officers:

Moderator Linfante presented the slate of officers by way of a handout.

**Diaconate:** Donna DeFranzo and Fran Maye, second terms; Steve Cashour, first term; Fred Niemann, unexpired first term.

**Trustees:** Joe Fusco and Allen Robinson, second terms.

**Christian Education:** Catherine O'Hagen and Robin Vogel, second terms.

**Missions:** Marion Herzog, first term; Diane Rexrode, second term.

**Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer:** Bette Wary, Len Owen

**Financial Secretary/Assistant:** Kim Rasmussen, Melissa Robinson

**Church Clerk:** Carolyn Kelly

**Moderator:** John Linfante

**Church Historian:** Donna DeFranzo

Motion by Steve Crawford to accept the slate of officers, second by Jo Ciricolo. No discussion, motion carried.

John Linfante then reviewed the list of Committees, thanking Don Okerson for his continued service as Usher and also thanked Chuck Mohr, ad hoc member of the Ushering Committee. The Stewardship Committee will be filled once the Boards reorganize.

There being no other new business, the meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Martha Bevacqua at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kelly  
Church Clerk

# Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

May 3, 2009

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Joe at 10:30 AM.

New Business: Steve Crawford presented information regarding a request to change Pastor Martha Bevacqua's hours from 20 per week to 25 per week, with a salary increase of \$2,500.00.

This will allow Pastor and her husband to participate in medical insurance provided by ABC-NJ.

Insurance costs will be paid by the Bevacquas.

Motion to approve the recommendation by Trustees: Mike Applegate

Seconded: Stefanie Green

Discussion:

Q - How are we going to pay for this since we are already in a deficit?

A - From regular income, we are closing the gap.

Q - Aren't expenses usually higher at the beginning of the year?

A - Yes, but we are in better shape than we were at this point of the year in '08;

\$4,215 is needed each week to meet budget.

Comments - We need to do what is needed to keep Pastor Martha; do Boards and Committees need to make cuts; part of Pastor Martha's job is follow-up with guests, so she could be helping to fund her own increase; funding comes from the people in the pews; as new opportunities have presented themselves, Trustees have gone out on a limb to support them and we, as a congregation have risen to the challenge.

Vote was called - unanimously approved, with a round of applause.

## BIENNIAL

Pastor Joe is seeking appointment by the church to be our delegate to the ABC-USA Biennial to be held in Pasadena, CA. The major focus will be the restructuring of the Board from 160 members to 65 members. Most of the cost for the trip will be born by ABC-USA.

Motion to name Pastor as delegate: Odette Cummings

Seconded: Fran Maye

Q - Will we have adequate coverage while Pastor is gone?

A - Yes, Pastor Martha will be here; it is Pastor's MOU that he be allowed to attend.

## SANCTUARY MODIFICATION

Steve Crawford stated that the original plans for capital fundraising have been pulled back.

Painting of the front and towers is underway and cleaning of the stained glass window and replacement of the acrylic have been complete. A/C is fully functional.

Pastor Joe stated that the next step is to have George Smith build to large, raised panel samples for us to see. They will go below the wainscoating and across the front. We hope to use home-grown labor which should reduce the cost from \$10,000 - \$12,000 to \$3,000 - \$5,000. There will be further presentation to the congregation for approval before the first nail is driven.

Q - Where are funds coming from?

A - Fund were allocated and voted upon at an earlier meeting, and much less than allocated will be used.

### DEFICIT

At the end of March the deficit was about \$6,600 which did not include Pastor's medical insurance. The trend of giving is improving.

John Linfante thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting with prayer at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kelly  
Clerk

# Minutes of the Congregational Meeting

June 7, 2009

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Joe at 12:30pm.

Jayne Linfante, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons, made a motion to vote into membership by profession of faith, Amy Agoliati, seconded by Walter Pendleton.

Discussion: Amy is a junior at Manasquan High School and will serve as a youth delegate to the Biennial, paid for by a scholarship from ABC. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bette Wary and seconded by Kieran Maye to appoint Pastor Joe as our delegate to the Biennial. Motion carried.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the purchase of 4 Branin Place, Manasquan, to serve as a parsonage.

John Linfante laid down the following ground rules:

- The Board of Trustees will make a presentation.
- Discussion to follow with all questions addressed to John Linfante
- No motion is to be called.
- Only active members over the age of 18 can vote.
- Microphones are to be used.
- One question per person until everyone has had a chance to speak.

Steve Crawford, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, introduced the Board members and proceeded with the presentation. Since 4 Branin Place is an adjacent piece of property, the Board felt an obligation to look into the purchase of this home. Three important questions need to be addressed:

- Should we go forward?
- What is a reasonable price?
- What is the best way to finance the purchase?

Question 1 – Should we go forward? The addition of this piece of property would increase the church's total parcel of land by 33%. The consensus of the Board is that it is a fine, well constructed home and with some renovations for Gavin, it meets the needs of the Gratzel family. Photos of the home were shown. As to the pool, no additional insurance is needed other than for a church sponsored youth activity.

Question 2 – What is a reasonable price? The owner is asking \$599,000, it is appraised at \$589,000 and the Board agrees that \$565,000 is an appropriate offer.

Question 3 – What is the best way to finance the purchase?

- Option 1 - \$565,000, 10 yr. mortgage with a balloon payment or repayment after 10 years.
- Option 2 - \$500,000 mortgage
- Option 3 - \$400,000 mortgage

So, back to the 3 questions.

Greg Love: Trustees feel Option 3 is the best choice

Steve Crawford: We get adjacent land and a good house, but how can we accomplish this?

Option 1 will require the personal guarantees of the congregation, indicating a commitment on the part of the congregation.

Option 2 is 20% down and still would require the guarantees for the congregation.

Option 3 represents 25% down and no guarantees.

John Linfante: State your name, 2/3 vote is needed, questions may be submitted in writing.

Laurie Waugh: It is a good idea. What is the closing time frame? The Gratzel home needs to be sold, can we wait until that is done?

Steve Crawford: We will not wait. Diana Hamilton has indicated that \$600,000 homes are not moving. The listing agent has had no other interested parties.

Laurie Waugh: What about taxes?

Steve Crawford: There are none

Cathie Oliver: What is the mortgage on the Gratzel house?

Steve Crawford: \$170,000. \$165,000 which was the amount from the sale of original parsonage could be applied to the down payment.

Donna DeFranzo: Do we have to take assets from the bank to make the down payment?

Steve Crawford: \$165,000 is now invested in a diverse portfolio.

Marion Herzog: Will Pastor have any equity?

Steve Crawford: No and Pastor is OK with that.

Pastor Joe: The trend is away from parsonages. We can't pay a new pastor enough to move into this community. Deferred income will be his retirement income. New pastor might need to be provided with some other form of equity.

Steve Crawford: We can only guess about the future and the property gives us flexibility. The Errickson House is not in the best shape and the house could become the “new” Errickson House.

Jean Applegate: What is the largest amount available for a down payment? and, asking for Frank Applegate: What is the pool liability?

Steve Crawford: \$165,000 available for the down payment for a monthly payment of \$2,577, which is \$259 more than currently being paid for housing. As for pool liability, there is none, but the pool may not be used for church sponsored youth activities.

Jean Applegate: Can we be assured that the pool won't be used in that manner?

Steve Crawford: Yes.

Diana Hamilton: An umbrella policy would be recommended. This is a dangerous time for Pastor to be selling his house. How much money would the church have left after the down payment?

Steve Crawford: There is a cushion of about \$40,000.

Alice Owen: Who pays for the renovations needed for Gavin?

Steve Crawford: Those expenses would be absorbed by the Gratzels.

Jo Ciricolo: Who pays for appliance repairs, etc.? How can we vote without those answers?

Steve Crawford: We are just trying to set parameters at this point.

Joe Fusco: Pastor Joe would maintain the house on a basic level. Things like roof repair would be the responsibility of the church.

Steve Crawford: Let's let the discussion mature.

John Linfante: The major portion of the house components would be the responsibility of the church.

Kieran Maye: What will the vote be?

Steve Crawford: Back to the 3 major questions.

Karen Morris: Is the price negotiable since there has been no other interest?

Steve Crawford: The room to negotiate is probably less since the appraisal.

Karen Morris: Things aren't necessarily selling at appraisal price.

Steve Crawford: The seller wants to realize \$550,000, with a realtor fee of \$15,000 bringing the price to \$565,000. If we can reduce the price, we will.



Mark Megill: This is a 20 year commitment to pay off, plus the maintenance. Does Pastor Joe have any vision as to how long he will stay? If we are in need of an interim, it could be a struggle.

Pastor Joe: He has been here for 13 years and this will be his last pastorate. If he is hit by a bus, having a parsonage is an advantage for an interim. Additionally, the cost of an interim would be significantly less than what we currently pay him. Interims often come from out of the area and housing could be an advantage.

Buck McGeoch: Interest rates are rising.

Steve Crawford: Good point.

Tony Bevacqua: In this economic down turn, from a business stand point, it seems a no brainer to invest in real estate. In the future the property could be sold if need be.

Denise Gratzel: God will not allow their house not to sell, God is in charge. Any changes made for Gavin will be able to be undone.

Donna DeFranzo: If you own property, you need to take care of it.

Cathie Oliver: Can we put a "contingent upon sale of Pastor's home" clause in the contract?

Steve Crawford: No, because the sale and purchase are not the same people/entities.

Karen Morris: Will the sanctuary renovations be slowed down?

Steve Crawford: Yes, they will take a back seat

Mike Applegate: We have purchased and sold 2 parsonages in the past due to economic times and the needs of the Pastor. Trustees have stuck their necks out. It is a no brainer and we all need to make the commitment as we are all the owners.

Greg Love: This should not be viewed as just a parsonage, but the point is that it is a contiguous piece of property.

Written questions were submitted but all had been previously addressed.

Don Okerson: These are tough economic times, can we project income, as there a chance it will go down. Has anyone looked into this?

Steve Crawford: There is a momentum going.

Don Okerson: With our older members, there is/will be a loss of giving.

Steve Crawford: There is no way to make an accurate guess.

Pastor Joe: Addressing the trend in giving – we ended May in better shape than in the last few years, it is a positive trend. In each of the last 5 years, one of the top five givers has been lost and there is the possibility of a \$30,000 loss this year.

Jean Applegate: Has there been a study of the average age of members?

Steve Crawford: No, we need to look at that.

Alissa Lansing-Hamilton: What about the 9:00 service giving?

Steve Crawford: 9:00 service giving has been looked at, the seniors are on fixed income and the torch is being passed.

MOTION: Steve Crawford:

I make a motion to purchase the house at 4 Branin Place at a price not to exceed \$565,000. Furthermore, to finance by a down payment of up to \$165,000 with a mortgage rate not greater than 6% on a 10/25 mortgage.

Seconded: Bette Wary

Mike Applegate: Amend the motion to a written ballot.

Seconded by Alissa Lansing-Hamilton.

Vote to amend carried.

Discussion:

Donna DeFranzo: Is this an adjustable rate mortgage?

Pastor Joe: No, it is amortized as if it is 25 years, but due and payable at 10 years. At the 10 years mark, the bank can opt to continue the mortgage, refinance at a new rate, or call it, or we could sell the property.

Donna DeFranzo: So the payments stay the same?

Pastor Joe: Yes, level payments for 10 years.

Bette Wary: We would have the option to refinance or sell.

Melissa Robinson: Will there be any further meetings?

John Linfante: This vote will be granting the Trustees permission to purchase the house.

Steve Crawford: We will keep the congregation informed.

Jayne Linfante: Will the Board try to negotiate a lower price.

Steve Crawford: Yes, the Trustees have an obligation to do so.

Betty Lansing: I didn't understand where the down payment is coming from, is it from stocks?

Steve Crawford: Not stocks per se, from diversified funds that have been moved into better options. There will be no further investments with Merrill Lynch.

John Linfante: There will still be \$40,000 available in other accounts.

Mike Applegate: A reminder that a 2/3 vote is needed, an abstention is a NO vote.

John Linfante explained the ballot, which does not have to be signed. Jo Ciriciolo and Martha Diana will count the ballots.

John Linfante called the motion,

Pastor Joe thanks everyone for their civility and respect of one another.

Bette Wary stated that the Board of Trustees has worked hard and are cognizant of what they do.

Mark Megill accompanied the congregation as we sang "Revive Us Again" and "Find Us Faithful".

The vote was recorded as:

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Abstention: | 1  |
| No:         | 8  |
| Yes:        | 48 |

48 votes represented 84% approval, motion carried.

There being no new business, the meeting was closed with prayer by Deacon Jayne Linfante.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Kelly  
Church Clerk

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Minutes of Congregational Meeting  
September 13, 2009

Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Joe at 10:40 am.

Motion: Jayne Linfante moved that Walter Pendleton be elected to fulfill the term on the Board of Deacons left vacant by Steve Cashour, who recently moved.

Seconded: Fran Maye

Motion carried.

Prayer Walk will begin on 10/4, sign up sheets available.

Pastor Joe gave a summary of our current financial situation. We have a \$15,000 deficit as of August 31. Everyone should have received a letter from the Stewardship Committee about 10 days ago, which was sent to members and friends. For the first seven months of this year, there have been 150 giving units, some as low as \$2 and some as high as \$10,000 per unit. Fifty have given in excess of \$500. We are not asking people to go into foreclosure or not have food on their table, but to give consistently at whatever level. Use of envelopes encourages weekly giving. The problem of inconsistent giving is across the board, both long time members/friends and those newer to the church.

Don Okerson stated that most of us can give up something, after all, it is not our money, it all belongs to God.

Sunday school teachers are needed.

John Linfante closed the meeting with prayer at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Kelly  
Church Clerk

## 2009 HISTORY

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

As we have just finished a decade of having to say “two thousand, two thousand one, two thousand two”, etc, it will be interesting to see if we once again begin to say “twenty-ten” as we used to say “nineteen ninety-nine”, and so on. But, for now, two thousand nine ends the first decade of “two thousand” history in the life of First Baptist Church, Manasquan. Many goals have been reached in the past year, and many plans have been made for our future. Many servants have given of their time, talent, and treasure, and we have taken steps together as a church family to invite, encourage, and equip God’s people to Be the Church.

The following report is an effort to reflect our “family’s” attempts at Being the Church in 2009—a year we spent restoring our structure, serving our present, and discerning our future. Goals, actions, and activities of the separate boards, committees, and fellowships are included in their own individual annual reports for 2009, and are not included here.

#### ASSOCIATION EVENTS

First Baptist Church participated in the activities of its extended family, the North Shore Association, ABCNJ, and ABCUSA throughout 2009. Pastor Joe’s years of committed service to these groups was enhanced this year by Pastor Martha’s service as Secretary and Odette Cummings service as Moderator for the North Shore Association, one of the eight associations comprising ABCNJ.

In June, Pastor Joe journeyed to Pasadena, California, as a delegate for FBC to the ABCUSA Biennial Meeting. North Shore Association’s Biennial Youth Scholarship to become a youth representative at that same meeting in Pasadena was awarded to Amy Agoliati, who represented FBC. The Regional Youth Representative is recognized as a delegate for the local congregation, and is responsible for voting and participating in all denominational business presented at the Biennial, just as Pastor Joe was.

On September 12, FBC hosted the ABCNJ Council meeting including a continental breakfast and lunch.

On October 25, housed at FBC, Manasquan, and co-hosted by FBC Long Branch, the Celebration Worship program of the North Shore Association’s Fall Rally was presented. “Let’s Get Growing: Celebrating the Harvest” was the theme. The cooperative effort was a gift to all involved and was a meaningful fellowship opportunity. FBC Long Branch cooked and brought their preparations along to our church.

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

Bible study opportunities were available throughout the year, kicked off in January when Pastor Joe began a four week study of “The Bible According to the Lucy Show. Nineteen participants enjoyed this first of the year Bible study that included dinner each week.

Spanning late February through early April, a Lenten Bible Study based on Max Lucado’s book Cast of Characters, began on Ash Wednesday. It continued Monday mornings and evenings throughout Lent. The focus was a description of common people in the hands of an uncommon God.

Beginning on April 20, a 5-week Monday Bible study about Parenting Your Teenager began its successful run through the end of May. At the same time, “The Life You’ve Always Wanted”, filled another 6-week Monday Bible study slot.

Monday Bible studies continued, and beginning on Friday evenings in October, Fred Niemann led a “40 Days of Purpose” Bible Study exploring the topic “What on earth am I here for.”

## **BUDGET**

Even after an exhaustive effort by the Stewardship Committee’s Ping Pong campaign and the FBC men’s dedication to completing work and repairs themselves in an effort to create an in-the-black year end budget report, FBC ended up with an operating deficit of approximately \$15,000.

## **BUILDING USE**

The Food Pantry storage in the basement of Errickson House during First Presbyterian’s building project was completely moved back to First Presbyterian Church by the beginning of July.

Cub Scouts met monthly in Fellowship Hall

Cheerleaders practiced in Fellowship Hall during the spring

AA held weekly meetings at FBC

FBC provided the facility for weekly grief counseling beginning in autumn

One evening per weekend, beginning in autumn, Dr. Halas’s basketball clinic met in Fellowship Hall.

## **CECL**

In January, the program launch of CECL (Center for Excellence In Congregational Leadership) was announced and an overview given. In May, Pastor Martha headed to the American Baptist Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin, where she attended the first of five training sessions in CECL's two and a half year program. Pastor Martha's and Pastor Joe's goal is to use this program to increase the spiritual and relational health and vitality of our church and equip us to reach the community for Christ. Most of the cost of this pursuit of excellence was underwritten by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, with the balance funded by the Daniels Bequest.

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

Celebrate Recovery is a Christian-based, weekly support/study group that helps people achieve victory over their habits, hurts, and hang-ups. The introduction of this program in FBC was a 2009 initiative led by Pastor Martha Bevacqua.

## **CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST, MANASQUAN**

December 13: Chancel Choir Cantata (both services)

December 13: Christmas Dinner and Program performed by the Sunday School children. Also, Santa came down the chimney.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm- Family Worship

10:00 pm- Candlelight Service

## **CHURCH BUSINESS**

FBC held its Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25. John Linfante moderated. As usual, the purpose of the meeting was to receive and review annual reports from boards, officers, and committees; to elect board members and officers for the coming year; and to review the following year's budget. Coffee and dessert were served.

At the Congregational Meeting held June 7, participants discussed the possible purchase of a parsonage on property backing up to our Errickson House property. The Board of Trustees had thoroughly researched the financial impact of such a purchase, and they expertly informed the congregation of three options available to them. The congregation then voted to dedicate a designated amount of money along with a specific financing plan, thus enabling the Trustee representatives to negotiate the purchase of this property. During the next several months, this purchase was negotiated, an offer made and accepted, and the property went into attorney review.

During the home inspection, it was discovered that the heating/air conditioning system was faulty. Negotiations broke down when the owner of the property refused to complete repairs, and the offer of purchase was withdrawn by FBC. As historian I would be remiss if I neglected to comment on how well the entire church family worked together during this stressful time. Let those who write the next 100-year history make note of the 'turn-of-the-century' church family that loved one another!

A congregational meeting was held on September 13, to elect Walter Pendleton to fill an empty seat on the Board of Deacons.

The Church Planning Meeting held Saturday, December 5. was attended by approximately 15 people.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS/FORUMS**

The "Bang, Bang You're Dead" drama about teen violence was presented at Manasquan United Methodist Church on May 3. Its purpose was to raise awareness and promote solutions for teen violence and suicide.

A Community Hymn Sing was hosted by FBC in April.

Cathy Oliver again directed the Community Vacation Bible School August 3-7.

Pastor Joe and the Praise Team participated in a Revival Service hosted by FBC Long Branch, on October 9.

## **EVENTS**

In addition to our commitment to feeding the hungry, we fellowshiped by feeding ourselves at the annual Chili Cook-Off on February 15. Many fine chili recipes were tasted and evaluated as a fire burned in the fireplace, Bill Lee and a friend provided music, and perhaps best of all, a town visitor won one of the chili cook-off prizes!

Two July Fellowship events included a coffee house featuring the Praise Team, and the annual Blue Claws Baseball game road trip.

Delicious Orchards pies accompanied many invitations to folks being asked to attend FBC's Open House, Soup Luncheon, and Coffee House on November 22. That morning many new guests arrived with congregants who had invited them, and spent the day participating in Open House events.

Thanksgiving dinner at FBC, with all the trimmings including football, was hosted by Walter and Cathy Pendleton.



## **FEEDING THE HUNGRY/HELPING THE NEEDY**

2009 was a year filled with FBC's commitment to Faith In Action projects in addition to its usual fellowship events. One part of these projects was providing lunch for the homeless in January and February. Another was the Faith In Action weekend April 18 & 19, which included collecting donations of food for the Food Pantry, sorting and delivering clothing and making and delivering lunches to the homeless in Lakewood, completing yard work projects in Manasquan, Brick, and Brielle, and beautifying Alice Hemphill Park. Concluding the weekend, a Coffee House at FBC featured performances by Chris SanFilippo and Josie Gratzel.

Collecting and sorting winter wear for distribution to the needy was a major commitment of time as was the spring clothing drive for men's jeans and children's clothing meant for distribution during the April Faith in Action weekend.

Monthly food collections at local supermarkets began as part of the Be the Church effort in order to help the Manasquan Food Bank. 60 bags of groceries were collected in February alone, and the collection effort continued throughout the year.

Dinner (in pouring rain) for approximately 200 in Lakewood Town Center on Saturday, April 11, was prepared, assembled, and delivered by a group of FBC youth and adults.

FBC Supported the Manasquan Food Pantry in its effort to provide Easter dinner to over 100 needy local families.

Once the pantry had moved back to First Presbyterian, several members of FBC partnered with FPC to help provide manpower for distribution of food through their newly expanded Ministerium Community Food Pantry.

Many men from FBC reached out again in October to Minister Steve Brigham's Outreach Church ministry in Lakewood. The men took their breakfast meeting to Tent City where they shared the morning meal with the homeless and spent the remainder of that day building teepees and chopping wood for winter preparedness.

Via Family Promise, in November, FBC partnered with FBC Long Branch to help shelter homeless families in Long Branch. This commitment included preparing a dinner, providing overnight hosts, and preparing breakfast.

## **GUEST PREACHERS/SPEAKERS**

On January 18, Rev. Vern E. Mattson, Associate Regional Pastor and Area Minister of the ABCNJ, presented his sermon: "A Message of Hope".

On February 22, Pastor Steve Brigham, from the Lakewood Outreach Church, presented at both services his sermon based on the scripture in Luke about the parable of the banquet. Following second service, lunch was provided for the homeless community to which Pastor Steve ministers.

Denise Gratzel's sister Debbie was baptized on April 20, during the first service at which Denise presented a message discussing how past and present brokenness prepares us for future service.

Our former associate pastor and friend Dr. Jim King presented his sermon entitled "Dr. Fosdick's Credo" at both services on April 26.

Rev. Dr. Will Librizzi was our guest speaker at both services on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

On December 6th we were pleased to have in the pulpit as our guests, the Nzungas, our missionaries to Haiti.

## **LENT and HOLY WEEK**

Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday, began Soup and Scripture for 2009. FBC provided soup, and Rev. Dr. Librizzi was guest speaker. This community event was hosted by First Presbyterian, Manasquan.

FBC's Ash Wednesday evening service was a well-attended, spiritually uplifting one that took place in Fellowship Hall. Stations were prepared and set up by our pastors, youth group, and others. Pastor Joe Gratzel introduced the five stations, and each station was hosted by a deacon who presented a thematic message. Attendees heard about the 'Fire' of Prayer, the 'Ashes' of Humility, the 'Water' of Compassion, the 'Bread' of Service, and the 'Wine' of Forgiveness. In the candlelit atmosphere, participants pondered these Holy Lenten messages.

Sunday sermons during Lent followed these same themes.

Holy Week services included

- Palm Sunday procession beginning at the Gazebo in Voorhees Plaza
- Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday, April 9, attended by approximately 50 worshipers
- Good Friday, a community service at Manasquan United Methodist Church, April 10
- 9:00AM service at FBC
- 11:00AM service at FBC
- Son Rise Service at the Manasquan Inlet at 6:00AM

## **PRAYER**

Along with a revived recognition of the power of prayer came a revitalized dedication to praying at FBC. Not only did Pastor Joe and Pastor Martha pray with individuals daily and pray for their congregation by name, the congregation prayed for them and for one another regularly. Requests for prayer were stated in weekly worship services, in paper and electronic bulletins, in the Spires, through a prayer chain, in prayer services and walks, and directly with one another.

Pastor Martha headed a week-long morning and/or evening prayer meeting in the FBC sanctuary beginning June 20<sup>th</sup>. The purpose was to pray for our missional calling as the Church of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit's presence was apparent as the participants shared and expanded one another's praises, thanksgiving, and intercession requests.

An Ecumenical Prayer Service on October 3 was held at FBC.

The annual Prayer Walk was organized this year by Walter Pendleton. Between October 4 and 11, Manasquan neighborhoods were covered in prayer by volunteers walking or driving their assigned routes and praying for individual families and homes.

Prayer meetings between services offered another opportunity to share one another's burdens and joys.

Church meetings, practices, and services began and ended in prayer.

People prayed together by phone or as accountability partners,

Two or three individuals could often be seen praying with one another in an out of the way corner of the sanctuary, in hallways, or in a meeting room.

## **REPAIRS, REFURBISHING, and RESTORATION**

Keeping our historical building maintained was challenging in terms of priorities, time, and finances. The cost of all that was accomplished in 2009 was significantly reduced by those talented individuals who completed much of the work themselves.

2009 boasted:

- Completion of the air conditioning installation for the sanctuary
- Construction of a pocket doorway leading out of the choir loft
- Beginning of reconstruction of the choir loft space making it adaptable for use by the Praise Team too
- Repair of thresholds and laying of new floors in both foyers
- Removal of carpet and laying of new flooring in two Sunday School rooms and the library
- Installation of new, clear safety glass protecting the Reynolds stained glass window (depicting the baptism of Jesus).
- Priming and painting the clapboard on the front of church and the towers
- Relocating and fencing the trash can area
- Partial completion of the north tower roof repair

Lightning struck the north Spire of FBC on June 25, 2009. That our church did not catch fire is one of those 'recognizable' miracles! Having insurance was a blessing too. By early July, the spire had been temporarily repaired, replacement of the damaged electrical components was being conducted, and new, matching slate for the roof had been ordered. By year's end, scaffolding still surrounded the tower and the slate replacement work was often weather-delayed. The problem of reliable phone service in the church building remained unsolved. However, the many activities of the congregation had been uninterrupted!

## **SOFTBALL TEAMS**

The men's softball team coached by Fred Niemann and George Smith began practices early in the spring at Mallard Park and started the season games with a win of 9-2 over the Trinity Bible Fellowship team.

The women's softball team coached by Susan Love opened its season on May 4, and the schedule included a game every Monday through July 7.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School at FBC was directed by Susan Love. Planning began as the new year opened, and fundraisers and meetings were well under way by March for this week-long July event. An average evening gathering of 57 'campers' as well as an equal or greater number of volunteer staff necessary to present the program, shared together their love of Jesus.

## **SOME THINGS WE TRIED TO LAUNCH, BUT ...**

Because the 9:00 AM service often reached 80% capacity, an EPIC (experiential, image-driven, participatory and connected) service was introduced into a 7:45AM Sunday slot at the beginning of summer. Although well-loved, EPIC drew only a few attendees, and concluded on December 6.

The between-services prayer group hosted by the deacons was appreciated by the very few who participated.

The New Life class for new Baptists didn't draw a following in spite of the preparation by its presenters.

Sunday School teachers were too few too often.

Coffee Hour hosts were too, too few too, too often!

So did we go down in defeat? Absolutely not. How will we know without trying. Will we try again? Certainly – these ideas or even better ones!

One of the beautiful things about the First Baptist Church family is that we are fluid and changing – sometimes viscous like molasses and sometimes like a stream.

2009 First Baptist Church Historian's Report

Respectfully submitted by Donna DeFranzo

## Boards, Officers and Committees

|                                  |                           |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>DEACONS – 3 years</b>         | <b>TRUSTEES – 3 years</b> | <b><u>CHRISTIAN ED. – 3 years</u></b> |
| 1. Martha Diana 09^              | 1. Steve Crawford 09      | 1. Rhonda Maraziti 09^                |
| 2. Jo Ciricolo 09*               | 2. Greg Love 09           | 2. Steve Glancy 10*                   |
| 3. Jayne Linfante 09*            | 3. Matt Maraziti 09       | 3. Meghan Campion 10                  |
| 4. Fred Niemann 10^              | 4. Tom Rasmussen 10       | 4. Catherine O’Hagen 11*              |
| 5. Mike Applegate 10*            | 5. Joe Rexrode 10         | 5. Robin Vogel 11*                    |
| 6. Odette Cummings 10            | 6. Joe Fusco 11*          |                                       |
| 7. Donna DeFranzo 11*            | 7. Allen Robinson 11*     | Susan Love, Superintendent            |
| 8. Fran Maye 11*                 |                           |                                       |
| 9. Steve Cashour 11              |                           |                                       |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
| <b><u>MISSIONS – 3 years</u></b> | <b><u>TREASURER</u></b>   | <b><u>FINANCIAL SEC’Y</u></b>         |
| 1. Cathie Oliver 09              | 1. Bette Wary             | 1. Kim Rasmussen                      |
| 2. Carolyn Kelly 09              | 2. Len Owen, Assistant    | 2. Melissa Robinson, Ass’t.           |
| 3. Denise Gratzel 10*            |                           |                                       |
| 4. Marion Herzog 11              |                           |                                       |
| 5. Diane Rexrode 11*             |                           |                                       |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
| <b><u>HISTORIAN</u></b>          | <b><u>MODERATOR</u></b>   | <b><u>CLERK</u></b>                   |
| 1. Donna DeFranzo                | 1. John Linfante          | 1. Carolyn Kelly                      |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
| <b><u>USHERING</u></b>           | <b><u>PRC</u></b>         | <b><u>FLOWER/DECORATION</u></b>       |
| 1. Don Okerson                   | 1. Melissa Robinson       | 1. Stephanie Crawford                 |
| 2. John Linfante                 | 2. Greg Love              | 2. Marilyn Bruno                      |
| 3. Mark Rogich                   | 3. Mike Applegate         | 3. Cathie Oliver                      |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
|                                  |                           |                                       |
| <b><u>MUSIC</u></b>              | <b><u>AUDITING</u></b>    | <b><u>STEWARDSHIP</u></b>             |
| 1. Stefanie Green                | 1. Joe Fusco              | 1. Bette Wary                         |
| 2. Mike Applegate                | 2. John Elmer             | 2. Joe Fusco                          |
| 3. Odette Cummings               |                           | 3. Carolyn Kelly                      |
| 4. Melissa Robinson              |                           | 4. Fred Niemann                       |
| 5. Sue Smith                     |                           | 5. Meghan Campion                     |

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

|                                  |               |              |     |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----|
| <u>Active Members - 1/1/09</u>   |               |              | 143 |
| <u>Deaths:</u>                   | Penny Estelle | Ruth Okerson | - 2 |
| <u>Baptism:</u>                  | Steve Glancy  |              |     |
| <u>Active Members - 12/31/09</u> |               |              | 141 |
| Inactive (Non Resident)          |               |              | 22  |
| Inactive                         |               |              | 30  |

# Board of Deacons Annual Report 2009

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS:

Jayne Linfante, Chair; Donna DeFranzo, Vice-Chair; Jo Ciricolo, Treasurer; Martha Diana, Secretary; Mike Applegate, Fran Maye, Odette Cummings, Fred Niemann, and Walter Pendleton who came on the board in September.

## WATCH-CARE LISTS:

Every member of the congregation has a deacon assigned to him/her via the Watch-Care lists. These lists are updated on a continuing basis. The deacons keep in touch with those on their lists and render assistance as needed. The congregation is encouraged to contact a deacon whenever they require assistance of any kind.

## COMMUNION AND VISITATION:

On a rotating basis, deacons prepare and serve communion the first Sunday of each month and give the prayers for the elements. Monthly deacons visit those who are unable to attend church and offer communion to them.

## DEACONS' FUND:

During this past year the Board of Deacons continued to assist families and individuals in need through your contribution to the Deacons Fund. The various needs we have addressed include food, clothing, rent, utilities, medical, home repair, auto repair, gasoline cards, child support and transportation, as well as other personal needs. We also supported the ABC – NJ Pastors' emergency fund and the local food pantry. We had 45 recipients with a total disbursement of \$8,535.61.

## ASL INTERPRETERS:

The ASL interpreters are now signing at the 9:00 am service for our hearing impaired congregants.

## GUEST MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES:

Pastor Steve Bingham, pastor of the Lakewood Outreach Ministry Church, spoke at both services on February 22.

Dr. Will Librizzi spoke on May 31. He is both a minister and a licensed psychologist.

Mr. Don Smith, Director of Camping at Baptist Camp Lebanon spoke during the year.

## BIBLE STUDY AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

Bible studies were held throughout the year every Monday, at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm conducted by either Pastor Joe or Pastor Martha. Fred Niemann conducted a study of The Purpose Driven Life in October. Also in October another Prayer Walk was held, organized by Walter Pendleton.

#### PRAYER AND MEDITATION:

An opportunity to participate in prayer and meditation is held in the sanctuary after the 9:00 am service and before the 11:00 pm service each Sunday. Walter Pendleton will be in the sanctuary at this time for all who wish to participate.

#### CELEBRATE RECOVERY:

This program was begun in September with Pastor Martha providing the leadership.

#### FELLOWSHIP:

Another successful Chili Cook-Off was held in February and prizes were given out. The hottest chili was won by a man who happened to see our chili cook-off notice on the church sign and decided to attend.

On July 31, we attended a Blue Claws game after enjoying a picnic on their premises.

In October the Deacons held a breakfast between the 9:00 am and 11:00 am service.

#### LENT AND EASTER SERVICES:

On Ash Wednesday, a service was held in Fellowship Hall, whereby five stations were set up: Water/Washing, Bread/Sacrifice, Grape juice/Confession, Ashes/Humility. Music was provided by the Praise Team.

Palm Sunday: We walked to the gazebo and met with other churches for a service in lieu of the 9:00 am service. Regular 11:00 am service was held in the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday: A 7:00 pm service was held in the sanctuary. The theme was Shadows of Christ along with elements of the Seder.

Easter Sunday: Services were held at the inlet at sunrise with worship in the sanctuary at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

EPIC SERVICE: This service started July 1 at 7:45 am for those who wished to attend an earlier service. Communion was offered every Sunday. This service continued through November.

THANKSGIVING: Many thanks go to Walter and Cathy Pendleton for the Thanksgiving dinner they prepared and served in Fellowship Hall. About 28-30 people enjoyed their hospitality and cooking skills.

#### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:



On December 13 a beautiful cantata was presented at both services. The Christmas dinner with a program by the children was held in the evening.

There were two services on Christmas Eve, one at 7:00 pm and the other at 10:00 pm.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Flower Committee: Donna DeFranzo, Liaison to this committee, wishes to thank Stephanie Crawford for her leadership of this committee.

Transportation: We have a list of volunteers who will pick up anyone who would like to attend church but cannot get there by themselves. You only have to call the church office or Martha Diana to arrange for a ride to and from church.

Nursery: Joyce Burrows reports that we have had a total of 32 children in this nursery this year.

Respectfully submitted:  
Martha Diana, Secretary

# Music Committee Annual Report 2009

MUSIC COMMITTEE Mike Applegate serves on the Music Committee as a liaison assisting in coordination between the Deacons, Choir, Organist and Praise Team. This facilitates better communication between all involved and, hopefully, leads to more meaningful worship.

Melissa Robinson, Chair of the Music Committee, reports the music program has continued to be a blessing to the worship experience at First Baptist Church. While still under the leadership of Stu Hooten, the Praise Team has added some new talent, both vocally and instrumentally. The removal of the pews in the choir loft has allowed for joint use of that space. The Praise Team was able to move the drums and bass guitar to that area, thus “decluttering” the chancel area and helping with their sound issues. The Chancel Choir is happy with the removal of the pews, also, as they now have new comfy stackable chairs. Under the leadership of Wendy Craig, the choir continues to lead the traditional 11:00 am service. With the help of some additional singers, the choir performed a beautiful cantata this Christmas at both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services. The Music Committee would like to thank, Stu, Wendy and all the musicians for continuing to serve the Lord with their gift of music which adds so much to the worship experience.

## Board of Trustees

Members: Steve Crawford, Chair; Matt Maraziti, Vice-Chair; Joe Fusco, Greg Love, Tom Rasmussen, Joe Rexrode, Allen Robinson; Pastor Martha Bevacqua, Pastor Joe Gratzel. Bette Wary attends as Treasurer and Tony Bevacqua participated as a non-voting member.

As dictated by the Constitution and By-Laws of The First Baptist Church of Manasquan, the Trustees endeavored to manage, maintain and improve the resources and properties of the Church during 2009.

### Trustee Organization

The positions dictated by the Constitution were filled as follows:

Chairman – Steve Crawford

Vice Chairman – Matt Maraziti

Secretary – Pastor Joe Gratzel

Stewardship Committee Representatives – Bette Wary, Joe Fusco

Several new ad hoc committees were formed to facilitate the administration and responsibilities of the Trustees including:

Finance Committee – Greg Love, Joe Fusco, Bette Wary

Outreach Committee – Pastor Martha Bevacqua

Building/Maintenance – Matt Maraziti, Joe Rexrode

Grounds – Allen Robinson, Tom Rasmussen

### Building and Grounds

Many maintenance and improvement projects on the buildings and grounds were completed in 2009

- The stained glass windows at the front of the church were cleaned and recaulked, the protective lexan covering was replaced
- The front façade of the church was painted and the towers and other parts of the church building were given fresh coats of paint
- Soffits and fascia for Fellowship Hall were painted
- Repair of a leak in the western portion of Fellowship Hall roof was completed
- Landscaping improvements were made at the front of the church where many shrubs were added
- New floors and doors were added to the vestibules of the sanctuary
- A new safe was strategically placed in the Errickson House
- Fellowship Hall Library was painted and new flooring and bookshelves were added

- Basketball rims in Fellowship Hall were replaced
- The sanctuary air conditioning project was completed
- Lighting of the bell tower/clock was upgraded
- Structural changes were made in the choir loft
- Audio visual equipment was upgraded

### Financial

The negative impact of the global economic turndown of the prior year extended into 2009. Based on the market changes, the Finance Committee members worked in collaboration with John Kelly and adjusted the Church's investments to minimize the impact. As the year progressed and the market began an upturn, discussions were held to make changes to continue to maximize the return of the Church's investments in the changing economic environment.

The 2009 proposed budget totaled \$219,000 and a deficit of \$15,000 was recorded at the end of the year. Much of the deficit was a result of decreased return on investments. The larger initial losses were buffered by improvements in the latter part of the year.

### Special Projects

Much time and effort was put forth into investigating the possibility of acquiring a parsonage for the church. This situation came to light when an adjacent property to the church, 4 Branin Place, was put on the market in the spring. The Trustees presented the possibility to the congregation and the congregation voted to approve the acquisition. However, after a complete analysis of the property and building was completed, it was decided that it was not in the best interest of the church to acquire it and the offer to buy was rescinded.

During the summer, a bolt of lightning struck the northern spire/clock tower and caused structural damage to the tower, clock and many electrical systems in the church. As a result, the slate roof of the clock tower was replaced and structural damage repaired. Electrical systems, including the fire alarm system, were replaced and upgraded. The expenses incurred as a result of the lightning strike were largely covered by insurance reimbursements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Crawford

# Board of Christian Education

## Annual Report 2009

CE Members: Robin Vogel, Chairperson, Susan Love, Steve Glancy, Rhonda Maraziti, Meghan Campion, Pastor Martha, Pastor Joe

The Board of Christian Education's mission is to provide meaningful opportunities for children, youth and adults to develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus and equip them to serve in His Name.

### CE Events of 2009

Summer 2009 Sunday School curriculum was a 10 week, Veggie Tales program. Each week began with a puppet show, video clip and then a lesson. The class was a combined group of pre-k through 6+h grade.

Beginning in September 2009, we divided Sunday School into three classes: pre-k through 2nd grade, 3rd grade through 6th grade, and 7th grade through 8th grade. We have been using a curriculum for the lower grades which is simple to use and easy for volunteers to follow. The upper grades have been using discussion topics relevant to their lives and building from that topic each week.

Sunday School has been running a Kid to Kid fund raiser to send Goats to children in Haiti. We have been able to raise money for approximately 7 goats so far!

This year's Children's Day Program was a lot of fun and a great success! The children practiced for weeks and presented a combination of singing, dancing and acting in a show about sharing God's Word. Afterwards, the family picnic was enjoyed by all at Arden s day camp.

Our Christmas program was also a great success this year! The children performed "Live from Bethlehem" recorded by Rhonda Maraziti and spliced together by Pastor Joe, which turned out to be a fun comedy about the birth of Jesus.

VBS was once again, successfully run by Susan Love, who organized approximately 50 children, many volunteers, and an excellent program featuring Jacque le Croc at the Crocodile Dock.

God Squad, made up of youths in 4th grade through 7th grade has been very busy this year, with approximately 10-15 in attendance regularly. God Squad has been run by Pastor Martha and Rose Wiperman.

FYBY has also been busy this year with approximately 15-20 youths in attendance regularly. FYBY has been run by Pastor Joe and Melissa Robinson.

Respectfully Submitted, Robin Vogel, Chairperson

## Board of Missions

Members: Diane Rexrode, Chairperson, Carolyn Kelly, Denise Gratzel, Cathie Oliver and Marion Herzog

The duties of the Board are to provide knowledge of missionary activities of ABC/NJ and ABC/USA. We also oversee the four special mission offerings: World Missions, America for Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing and Retired Ministers and Missionaries, as well as other mission giving.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of this Board, rolling up your sleeves and working alongside us. Easter meals were prepared and delivered to the homeless and once again we had a "Faith in Action" weekend. On October 17, we went out into our community to serve. We sorted and donated clothes for the needy; we had a door-to-door food collection as well as a food collection table at the Sea Girt Foodtown; yard work was done for some of our senior members; we made lunches for the homeless in Lakewood; we also had over 20 people, consisting of members, family and friends build 4 tee-pees as shelter for the Lakewood camp. Also, through our church, a huge tent and pews from our choir loft were donated which will be used as a chapel for worship services. Minister Steve Brigham from the Lakewood Homeless Outreach was our guest speaker in February and again in October.

We continued to work diligently with the Manasquan Food Pantry. We had monthly food collections at various local supermarkets and some of our members are now volunteering on a regular basis at the pantry. The food Pantry provided over 140 complete Thanksgiving meals to those in need.

We thank you for helping support the "Compassion Child" ministry and our sponsor child, Manny Lopez-Lopez, via our "Manny Can" in the back of church.

The collection of shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse was again a success with 26 boxes being collected for distribution throughout the world. Since last year's "Giving Tree" was so well received, we did it again and went about 24 gifts to the Murrow Indian Children's Home. Thank you for your generous presents for these children.

In December, the Nzungas, our Haitian missionaries, came to both services are blessed us with God's message. We hosted a special brunch for them during our regular coffee hour. Money was raised to go towards their airfare and there was money to spare that went towards their Missionary Partnership Team. On other international mission news, it was recommended by ABC-NJ and the Rwanda Task Force Team that no monies be set to Rwanda at this time. The current recommendation is that we support the cooperative project between ABCNJ and the Baptist Churches of Uganda to support Rwandan refugees living in Uganda.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we were the one night hosts at FBC Long Branch for Family Promise. Six folks from our church cooked taco dinners for 20, and we provided two overnight chaperones that also made breakfast for everyone. We are looking forward to hosting again in the near future.

One of the bible's most repeated commands is that we love our neighbors. In this way we are demonstrating God's love. If we love our neighbors, the most important thing we can do is to *pray for them*. Our works are limited but with God's blessings we can show His abundant love.....

In His Service,

Diane Rexrode, Chairperson

## Stewardship Report

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30

Committee members: Bette Wary, Chairperson, Carolyn Kelly, Meghan Campion, Joe Fusco, Fred Niemann, Karen Diana, Pastor Martha and Pastor Joe

If there were a symbol for stewardship, it would be 3 T's entwined in each other. To visualize and understand that symbol, one would have to know what the 3 T's are and how each individual in the congregation can be a good steward. A goal for the 2008 Stewardship Committee was to once again impart that information and understanding to the congregation. Hopefully, we accomplished that goal. As a reminder, those 3 T's are time, talent and treasure.

Once again this year, the Committee held a breakfast to thank everyone for his/her support of our church, not only in the programs, but also financially. To help with the budget, the “Ball is in your Court” began in January and continued to December. This program was based on the game of ping pong. We had money goals set throughout the year. Sometimes, we made it, other times we did not. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, this program raised an additional \$6,210 towards meeting our 2009 budget.

This Advent season, the Stewardship Committee presented everyone with a daily devotional booklet and an Advent offering envelope. Throughout the Advent season, this offering realized \$1,842 towards meeting our 2009 budget.

To all of you, we the Stewardship Committee, thank you for your commitment to our church.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in many different ways to make the past three years of my tenure as chair of Stewardship a wonderful experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Wary, Chairperson



## American Baptist Women's Ministry Annual Report

All women of First Baptist Church are members of American Baptist Ministries. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. In addition to the meeting and devotion time lunch and fellowship are enjoyed with pot-luck lunch in September, December and May.

This year's program "Women-Destined for God's Purpose" was accomplished by members telling about various women of the Bible ABW oversees the church library which has many good books available for circulation. Our Sunshine chair remembers shut-ins with cards. Each month there is a reading from the Bible as part of our Spiritual Growth.

The meetings in November and March are White Cross work days, devoted to rolling bandages for hospitals in Africa, trimming postage stamps and food labels for various mission projects and collecting can pull tops.

Mission Projects include Love Gift, Degenring Scholarship Fund, American Bible Society, Special Interest Missionaries, items for Congo, Philippines, Disaster Relief as well as donations to the Murrow Indian Home in Oklahoma. We collect eye glasses and cases for the Haitian Eye Clinic. Items made by the Knit Wits were sent to various organizations.

Contact was maintained with missionaries in the United States, Chile and Zambia. During the meetings, interesting letters were read from these missionaries as well as updates on missionaries throughout the world. We keep in touch with our missionaries by sending birthday and Easter cards with notes about our ABW activities. We also send cards with monetary gifts at Christmas.

ABW participated in the Community Women's Christmas Program. Pastor Martha Bevacqua was the guest speaker. We also provided refreshments and participated in the program.

We sold flowers in the spring as a fund raiser. Board of Missions and Apples of Gold provided support for some of our undertakings.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KNIT-WITS FOR 2009

Our objective continues to be providing knitted or crocheted items for American Baptist related American Indian schools and churches.

Items provided totaled about 60 and consisted of baby afghans, lap robes, mittens, hats, scarves, several baby sweaters, childrens' sweaters and a few preemie hats.

After displaying our year's accomplishments in Fellowship Hall in November these items were sent to First Crow Indian Baptist Church, Lodge Grass, MT, Rainy Mountain Indian Baptist Church, Mountain View, OK and Hopi Mission School , Kykotsmovi, AZ. Several items were also taken to the Geraldine Thompson Home in Wall.

Those knitting on most Tuesdays at 1:30 in members' homes include Jean Applegate, Jo Ciricolo, Alice Hemphill, Marion Herzog, Betty Lansing, Cathie Oliver, Alice Owen and Ruth Zimmer. Several items were also provided by Chris Sandford, Carolyn Kelly and Reba Okerson. This year we were saddened by the passing of devoted knitter, Ruth Okerson.

We invite other ladies to join us. You will not be asked to pay dues, hold an office, disclose your age or explain why you miss a meeting occasionally. Usually needles, yarn, patterns and instructions are available. If you are free on Tuesdays and are interested in helping others, ask any of the above individuals for more details.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kelly, for the Knit-Wits

# Apples of Gold

## A Christian Women's Fellowship

Our group is based on prayer, work and fellowship together as we meet the many needs of our church and community.

We would like to thank you for your support to our many outreaches and fundraisers. Without you, we cannot continue to do the Lord's work.

Our group continued to support/sponsor:

- Murrow Indian Children's Home
- Baptist Camp Lebanon
- White Cross
- Manny, our Compassion Child
- Camp Lebanon scholarship

We sold pies at our Annual Soup luncheon, flower bulbs in the fall. Our Annual Christmas part was held at the home of Carolyn Kelly.

In the month of October, 18 or so women went on Retreat to Camp Lebanon. There, we studied the art of Rest, Sleep and How to Eat Well. But more importantly, we learned how important it is to have God's Peace in our lives. Not the Peace that the world gives, but the Peace that passes ALL understanding.

Apples of Gold continues to remember our shut-ins with cards and goodies.

Thank you to all the group's members who give of their time, talents and treasure to allow us to show kindness and compassion as our Lord would have us see fit.

A special invitation is extended to all women of the church to come and join us in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Gratzel

## GOD SQUAD 2009 REPORT

Our God Squad group consists of approximately 15 kids ranging in ages from 11 - 13. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 4:30-6 PM. Our regular meetings take place in fellowship hall where we begin our time together with goofy games. We retreat to one of the Sunday School rooms for a healthy snack and a brief lesson.

Rose Wiperman is in charge of organizing volunteers to direct our game sessions as well as volunteers to provide snacks. Catherine O'Hagan provides the lesson at each meeting. Some of our volunteers throughout the year included Kathy DeFeo, Denise Gratzel, Michael Gratzel, Pastor Joe, Stephanie Crawford, Lisa Armando, and Susan Love. We welcome anyone who would like to participate in this small group's activities.

This group does attempt to take a trip each season. Some of our past trips in 2009 included lunch at Windward Beach, a pool pizza party at the Craven's house, and a trip to Seaside's water park. We concluded our year with a Christmas party at church which included cookie baking, Christmas caroling, tree decorating, and a gift exchange.

We look forward to another year ministering to our church tweens!

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine O'Hagan

# TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

## *A covenant for clergy and congregations*

"**Together In Ministry**" reflects the New Testament concept of the Christian Church as a partnership among its members. Our Church heritage has set apart certain of these partners for particular roles in shepherding the People of God, as ordained Clergy.

"**Together In Ministry**" encourages the partnership of clergy and congregation, pastor and people, to be the Body of Christ in carrying out Christ's purpose and ministry for us, together.

Partnership is relationship; relationship is enlightened, enriched, and enforced by covenanting together in local church ministry. "**Together In Ministry**" presents commitments for the pastor and for the congregation, and mutual standards for their life and ministry together.

We commend this statement to your prayerful reflection and adoption.

There are three sections to the document: the Pastor's Commitment, the Congregation's Commitment, and Together in Ministry (which expresses mutual commitment).

### **The Pastor's Commitment**

Taken from Ministerial Leaders Covenant and Code of Ethics

Having accepted God's call to leadership in Christ's Church...

- I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of our American Baptist Churches; I will not accept a position in the American Baptist family unless I am in accord with those traditions and practices; nor will I use my influence to alienate my congregation/constituents or any part thereof from its relationship and support of the denomination. If my convictions change, I will resign my position.
- I will respect and recognize the variety of calls to ministry among my American Baptist colleagues, and other Christians.
- I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues in neighboring churches.

- I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession. I will help lay persons and colleagues to understand that ministerial leaders should not expect or require fees for pastoral services from constituents they serve, when these constituents are helping pay their salaries.
- I will not seek personal favors or discounts on the basis of my ministerial status.
- I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, sexual integrity, financial responsibility, regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for ministerial and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.
- I will recognize my primary obligation to the church or employing group to which I have been called, and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry.
- I will personally and publicly support my colleagues who experience discrimination on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, physical impairment or disability.
- I will not proselytize from other Christian churches.
- I will, upon my resignation or retirement, sever my ministerial leadership relations with my former constituents, and will not make ministerial contacts in the field of another ministerial leader without his/her request and/or consent.
- I will hold in confidence and treat as confidential communication any information provided to me with the expectation of privacy. I will not disclose such information in private or public except when in my practice of ministry, I am convinced that the sanctity of confidentiality is outweighed by my well-founded belief that life-threatening or substantial harm will be caused.
- I will not sue my ministerial status position or authority knowingly to abuse, misguide, negatively influence, manipulate, or take advantage of anyone, especially children.
- I will report all instances of abuse as required by law to the appropriate agency. In any case involving persons working in ABC ministry, I will also report the circumstances to the appropriate regional and/or national denominational representative.
- I will show my personal love for God as revealed in Jesus Christ in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the vocation to which we have been called.

## The Congregation's Commitment

### Congregational Covenant and Code of Ethics

Affirming our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit...

- We will, when seeking pastoral leadership for our church, work with our American Baptist Region, include resources recommended by the Region, and conduct all negotiations with integrity and openness to God's leading.
- We will not discriminate in the selection of qualified leadership with regard to age, race, gender, marital status, national origin, and physical impairment or disability.
- We will recognize and assume the responsibility of providing adequate and appropriate financial support for our pastor.
- We will provide our pastor with the necessary facilities and time for work and study.
- We recognize our pastor's need for physical and spiritual renewal and will provide adequate periods of time for vacation and spiritual renewal.
- We will provide financial assistance for our pastor's participation in appropriate continuing education events.
- We respect the privacy of the pastor's family and/or residence and will not make unreasonable demands on them, nor require different standards of conduct of them.
- We will recognize the freedom and obligation of the pastor to proclaim the truth as he or she understands it.
- We will seek to support our pastor without comparison to previous leadership.
- We will call on our pastor for all pastoral services. At the initiative of our pastor, other pastoral leaders may be invited to share in such services.
- We will promptly inform our pastor of illnesses and other special needs requiring pastoral care.
- We will affirm the call, preparation, and commitment of our pastor, and will give support through prayer and encouragement; we will support our pastor's leadership in our church, our community, and the larger mission of Christ.
- We will observe these principles in relationship to other members of our church staff, consistent with their responsibilities.
- We will covenant together to pray regularly for our pastor.

## Together in Ministry

Recognizing that we, as pastor and people, are called together in the ministry of Christ...

- We will work together to create an effective ministry that will renew, strengthen, and enable the whole people of God to minister within our congregation, in our community, and to the whole of God's world.
- We will accept our responsibility for the moral and spiritual development of our community and will strive to live up to the standards of Christian citizenship consistent with Biblical teaching.
- We will be sensitive to the moral and ethical soundness of every program or project we are asked to support.
- We will meet all of our financial obligations and endeavor to maintain an honorable credit reputation in our community. We will deal with integrity in all our transactions.
- We will welcome all who seek membership in our church without regard to their economic, cultural, ethnic, or marital status.
- We will seek to minister in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ to all people, in our community and world.
- We will encourage understanding and harmony among the whole body of Christ and will show evidence of our sincerity through involvement in cooperative endeavors.
- We will provide for periodic constructive evaluation of the life and ministry of our whole congregation.
- We will, in the event of any tensions or problems arising between us, promptly seek to resolve them in a spirit of mutual respect and Christian understanding with help from our American Baptist Region.
- We will conclude pastoral and staff relationships in a spirit of Christian love and understanding.
- We will recognize our relationship and responsibility to our denomination, and through time, talent, and money will seek to give support to our mission.
- We will honor, respect and esteem the high call of God on our pastor recognizing that the pastor is gifted to preach, teach, lead, and equip us for ministry. (Eph 4:12)

Prepared by the Ministers Council, 2001  
Revisions 2006



## 2010 Goals for First Baptist Church of Manasquan

### 1. Membership

- a. Visitation of members
- b. Follow-up of guests and new members

### 2. Leadership Development

- a. Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership
- b. Discipleship education

### 3. Property

- a. Improvements to Sanctuary
- b. Develop long term plan for Errickson House

### 4. Finances

- a. Maintain funding for current programs
- b. Develop long and short term investment program

## Financial Secretary's Report

|  | Jan - Dec<br>09 | Jan - Dec<br>08 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>         |                 |                 |
| <b>Income</b>                          |                 |                 |
| <b>OPERATING FUND</b>                  |                 |                 |
| 4010 - Unified                         | 177,413         | 175,594         |
| 4020 - Plate                           | 11,000          | 9,744           |
| 4021 - Snow Day Envelopes              | 1,715           |                 |
| 4925 - Ping Pong (Step Up)             | 6,380           | 13,522          |
| 4030 - Sunday School                   | 229             | 80              |
| 4040 - Interest and Dividends          | 66              | 190             |
| 4050 - Envelope Defrayal               | 151             | 64              |
| 4064 - Advent Envelopes                | 1,892           |                 |
| 4065 - Christmas Offering              | 2,435           | 1,841           |
| 4070 - Flower Offering                 | 762             | 749             |
| 4075 - Building Use                    | 970             | 3,724           |
| 4090 - NON Mission Designated          | 10,945          | 20,834          |
| <b>Total OPERATING FUND</b>            | 213,958         | 226,342         |
| <b>MISSION DESIGNATED INCOME</b>       |                 |                 |
| 4095 - ABW Love Gift                   | 172             | 233             |
| 4095 - America For Christ              | 1,044           | 1,851           |
| 4095 - Compassion Child                | 369             | 429             |
| 4095 - Designated Mission Other        | 707             | 2,254           |
| 4095 - One Great Hour                  | 611             | 1,001           |
| 4095 - Pennies for Lebanon             | 71              | 37              |
| 4095 - Retired Ministers               | 423             | 471             |
| 4095 - World Missions                  | 612             | 586             |
| 4095 - Goat Project                    | 422             |                 |
| 4095 - Lakewood Outreach               | 1,783           |                 |
| 4095 - Global Food Crisis              |                 | 70              |
| 4095 - Tents                           |                 | 125             |
| <b>Total MISSION DESIGNATED INCOME</b> | 6,214           | 7,057           |
| <b>Total Income</b>                    | 220,172         | 233,399         |

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Rasmussen, Financial  
Secretary**

**Note: This report does not include any transfers for operating expenses or insurance payments for lightning strike.**

Trustees Account  
Summary of Non Operating and Restricted Accounts  
As of December 31, 2009

|   |            |               |                |
|---|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Unrestricted Assets                               |            |               |                |
| Merrill Lynch Account - unrestricted portion      | 164,846    |               |                |
| Manasquan Svg. CD 0680                            | 10,396     |               |                |
| Manasquan Svg. CD 0683                            | 12,552     |               |                |
| Checking Account - non-restricted                 | 22,943     |               |                |
| Credit Card Account                               | <u>929</u> |               |                |
| Total Unrestricted Assets                         |            |               | 211,666        |
| Restricted Assets                                 |            |               |                |
| Daniels CD - Scholarship                          | 3,809      |               |                |
| Rienstra CD - Interest Only                       | 5,240      |               |                |
| Jensen CD - Scholarship                           | 6,706      |               |                |
| Pass-It-On (Russ Diana Memorial)                  | 1,159      |               |                |
| Restricted Portion of checking account            |            |               |                |
| Insurance on steeple                              | 22,850     |               |                |
| Restricted Portion of Merrill Lynch Account       |            |               |                |
| Music/Bell Choir                                  | 509        |               |                |
| Corriea (keyboard)                                | 560        |               |                |
| Oliver (organ)                                    | 50         |               |                |
| Horne (garden)                                    | 195        |               |                |
| R. Olmstead                                       | 1,415      |               |                |
| M. Olmstead                                       | 1,385      |               |                |
| Brown   | 2,045      |               |                |
| DeGroat   | 1,400      |               |                |
| Ward  | 75         |               |                |
| Hulsart (flowers)                                 | 71         |               |                |
| Fell. Hall Drape Fund                             | 589        |               |                |
| O'Neill   | 125        |               |                |
| Chapman   | 1,000      |               |                |
| Dorrer  | 445        |               |                |
| Lamey   | 27         |               |                |
| Dishwasher  | 1,395      |               |                |
| Rwanda  | 500        |               |                |
| Applegate Fund                                    | 1,721      |               |                |
| Ely   | 85         |               |                |
| R. Okerson  | <u>990</u> |               |                |
|   |            | <u>14,582</u> |                |
| Total Restricted Assets                           |            |               | <u>54,346</u>  |
| Total Assets in Trustees Accounts (non operating) |            |               | <u>266,012</u> |

Trustees Account (checking)  
Sources and Application of Funds  
For the twelve months ended 12/31/2009

|                               |               |                    |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/2009    |               | \$ 6,566*          |
| Receipts                      |               |                    |
| Interest on Account           | 340           |                    |
| Dorrer Bequest                | 15,600        |                    |
| Anon. Donation                | 5,000         |                    |
| Cashed C/D's                  | 24,638        |                    |
| Memorials                     | 990           |                    |
| Steeple Insurance             | 48,020        |                    |
| Refund Parsonage Dep.         | 1,000         |                    |
| Landscaping                   | <u>2,500</u>  |                    |
| Total Receipts                | <u>98,388</u> |                    |
| <br>Total Cash On Hand        |               | <br><u>104,654</u> |
| Disbursements                 |               |                    |
| Applegate request             | 1,250         |                    |
| Window & Painting             | 9,881         |                    |
| Parsonage Deposit             | 1,000         |                    |
| CECL                          | 569           |                    |
| Fellowship Hall Roof          | 3,985         |                    |
| Steeple                       | 22,900        |                    |
| Landscaping                   | 2,030         |                    |
| Snowblower                    | 600           |                    |
| Operating Expenses            | 11,574        |                    |
| Lightning                     | <u>5,372</u>  |                    |
| Total Disbursements           | <u>59,161</u> |                    |
| <br>Ending Balance 12/31/2009 |               | <br><u>45,493</u>  |

\*The starting balance is \$300 more than the 2008 ending balance due to an outstanding check that was finally voided.

| <b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANASQUAN</b>        |               |               |  |
|---|---------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Trustees Report and proposed 2010 Budget</b> |               |               |  |
|   | <u>ACTUAL</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> |  |
|   | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2009</b>   |  |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                   |               |               |  |
| 4010 Unified Offering                           | 175,594       | 181,563       |  |
| 4020 Plate Offering                             | 11,585        | 11,000        |  |
| 4025 Step Up To the Plate (PingPong)            | 13,522        | 6,380         |  |
| 4030 Sunday School Offering                     | 80            | 229           |  |
| 4040 Interest & Dividends                       | 190           | 66            |  |
| 4050 Envelope Defrayal Offering                 | 64            | 151           |  |
| 4065 Advent Envelope Offering                   | 0             | 1,892         |  |
| 4070 Flower Offering                            | 749           | 762           |  |
| 4075 Use of Building                            | 3,724         | 970           |  |
| 4080 Income Undesignated                        |               |               |  |
| <b>SUBTOTAL - FOR CURRENT EXPENSES</b>          | 205,508       | 203,013       |  |
| 4090 Income Designated                          | 20,834        | 35,254        |  |
| 4095 Contingent Missions                        | 7,057         | 6,213         |  |
| 4096 Transfer to cover Operating Expenses       |               | 23,967        |  |
| 4041 Transfer of Funds for Capital Expenditures |               | 13,865        |  |
| 4042 One Time Transfer for Pastor               |               |               |  |
| 9399 Transfer of Funds for Deficit Reduction    |               |               |  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                             | 233,399       | 282,312       |  |

|                                     | <u>BUDGET</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> | <u>PROPOSED</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                                     | <b>2009</b>   | <b>2009</b>   | <b>2010</b>     |
| <b>MINISTRY</b>                     |               |               |                 |
| 5010 Pastor's Salary                | 30,153        | 30,258        | 30,153          |
| 5015 Social Security Offset         | 4,864         | 4,416         | 4,864           |
| 5020 Utilities Allowance            | 5,607         | 5,607         | 5,607           |
| 5035 Housing Allowance              | 27,819        | 27,819        | 27,819          |
| 5040 Medical Insurance              | 21,028        | 17,180        | 15,171          |
| 5050 M&M Retirement                 | 10,954        | 11,201        | 10,954          |
| 5060 Continuing Ed                  | 750           | 196           | 750             |
| 5065 Professional Dues              | 150           | 40            | 150             |
| 5075 Books, Periodicals, Etc.       | 150           | 91            | 150             |
| 5080 Medical Flexible Spending Acct | 1,854         | 2,125         | 4,613           |
| <b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>               | 103,329       | 98,933        | 100,231         |

| <b>WORSHIP SUPPORT</b>                   | <b><u>BUDGET</u></b> | <b><u>ACTUAL</u></b> | <b><u>PROPOSED</u></b> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
|  | <b>2009</b>          | <b>2009</b>          | <b>2010</b>            |
| 6010 Musicians and Subs                  | 16,500               | 17,555               | 16,500                 |
| 6015 Add'l Ministerial Staff             |                      |                      |                        |
| 6015A Associate Pastor Housing Allowance | 10,920               | 13,169               | 13,420                 |
| 6015A-1 Social Security                  | 677                  | 633                  | 677                    |
| 6015A-2 Medicare                         | 158                  | 148                  | 158                    |
| 6015A-3 Convention                       | 100                  | 45                   | 100                    |
| 6015A-4 Professional Dues                | 50                   | 60                   | 50                     |
| 6015A-5 Books, Periodicals, Etc.         | 75                   | 128                  | 75                     |
| 6015B Youth Leader*(see line 7040)       | 4,160                |                      |                        |
| 6016 Youth Leader Social Security        | 258                  |                      |                        |
| 6017 Youth Leader Medicare               | 60                   |                      |                        |
| 6020 Musician Social Security            | 1,023                | 1,080                | 1,023                  |
| 6021 Musician Medicare                   | 239                  | 252                  | 239                    |
| 6035 Musician Continuing Ed              |                      |                      | 400                    |
| 6040 Organ Maintenance                   | 1,500                | 1,930                | 1,500                  |
| 6050 Music - Chancel Choir               | 500                  | 320                  | 300                    |
| 6055 Music - Praise Team                 | 200                  | 412                  | 200                    |
| 6056 CCLI License                        | 400                  | 354                  | 400                    |
| 6060 Flowers                             |                      |                      |                        |
| 6070 Pulpit Supply                       | 600                  | 200                  | 300                    |
| 6080 Diaconate/Communion Supplies        | 300                  | 41                   | 400                    |
| 6090 Worship Supplies                    | 550                  | 691                  | 600                    |
| 6095 Misc. Supplies                      | 300                  | 1,102                | 300                    |
| 6100 Stewardship                         | 600                  | 727                  | 600                    |
| 6170 Outreach                            | 1,000                | 3,790                | 1,500                  |
| 6175 Discipleship                        | 500                  |                      |                        |
| 6180 200th Anniversary Committee         |                      |                      |                        |
| 6185 Interpreter                         | 3,120                | 2,640                | 1,040                  |
| 6190 Nursery Attendant                   | 1,300                | 900                  | 1,350                  |
| 6191 Nursery Attendant SS                | 80                   | 56                   | 80                     |
| 6192 Nursery Attendant Medicare          | 18                   | 13                   | 18                     |
| <b>TOTAL WORSHIP SUPPORT</b>             | <b>45,188</b>        | <b>46,246</b>        | <b>41,230</b>          |

**BUDGET    ACTUAL    PROPOSED**  
**2009            2009            2010**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

|  |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| 7010 Curriculum                          | 500   | 703   | 1,000 |
| 7020 Supplies & Equipment                | 200   | 73    | 100   |
| 7030 Activities                          | 250   | 112   | 100   |
| 7034 Children's Day                      | 100   | 294   | 100   |
| 7035 VBS                                 | 2,000 | 2,658 | 2,000 |
| 7036 Rally Day                           |       |       |       |
| 7037 Christmas                           | 200   | 456   | 200   |
| 7038 Family Ministries                   | 100   | 322   | 400   |
| 7040 Youth Leader                        |       |       |       |
| 7045 Youth Leader SS                     |       |       |       |
| 7046 Youth Leader Medicare               |       |       |       |
| 7047 Youth Leader - Work Camp            | 225   |       |       |
| 7048 Youth Leader - Conferences/Cont. Ed |       |       |       |
| 7050 FYBY                                | 600   | 1,355 | 750   |
| 7051 God Squad                           |       |       | 250   |
| 7000 Christian Ed - other                |       |       |       |
| <b>TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>         | 4,175 | 5,973 | 4,900 |

**MISSIONS**

|   |       |        |       |
|---|-------|--------|-------|
| 8005 Basic                                | 3,509 | 3,509  | 3,509 |
| 8010 Missionaries - Clark                 | 768   | 768    | 768   |
| 8015 Missionaries - Russian Missions      | 768   | 768    | 768   |
| 8020 Missionaries - Suterlin (was Turley) | 768   | 768    | 768   |
| 8025 Missionaries - Murrow (was Watonga)  | 768   | 768    | 768   |
| 8040 Eastern Seminary                     | 209   | 209    | 209   |
| 8070 Camp Lebanon                         | 523   | 523    | 523   |
| 8075 Work Camp Scholarship                | 550   |        |       |
| 8100 North Shore Assoc.                   | 75    | 75     | 75    |
| 8130 Designated (non budget) Mission      |       | 4,522  |       |
| 8150 Local Missions - undesignated        | 250   |        | 150   |
| 8165 Mission Education/Dinner             | 100   | 21     | 100   |
| 8170 Fellowship of Christian Athletes     | 75    | 75     | 75    |
| 8180 Rwanda Project                       | 300   |        | 150   |
| 8185 ABWM White Cross                     | 200   | 200    | 200   |
| 8190 Regional Missions                    | 500   | 500    | 500   |
| <b>TOTAL MISSIONS</b>                     | 9,363 | 12,706 | 8,563 |

| <b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>                 | <b><u>BUDGET</u></b> | <b><u>ACTUAL</u></b> | <b><u>PROPOSED</u></b> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
|  | <b>2009</b>          | <b>2009</b>          | <b>2010</b>            |
| 9010 Secretary                             | 6,300                | 5,654                | 6,300                  |
| 9020 Secretary - Social Security           | 391                  | 351                  | 391                    |
| 9021 Secretary - Medicare                  | 91                   | 82                   | 91                     |
| 9025 Administrator                         | 5,775                | 5,798                | 5,775                  |
| 9026 Administrator - Social Security       | 358                  | 360                  | 358                    |
| 9027 Administrator - Medicare              | 84                   | 84                   | 84                     |
| 9030 Postage                               | 1,000                | 617                  | 500                    |
| 9040 Office Supplies & Maint               | 4,000                | 6,351                | 5,000                  |
| 9050 Communications (Telephone / Internet) | 2,000                | 2,412                | 2,500                  |
| 9051 Internet                              |                      |                      |                        |
| 9060 Custodian/Sextant                     | 4,095                | 4,095                | 4,095                  |
| 9061 Custodian - Social Security           | 253                  | 254                  | 253                    |
| 9062 Custodian - Medicare                  | 60                   | 59                   | 60                     |
| 9070 Custodial Supplies                    | 600                  | 1,008                | 700                    |
| 9080 Lawn Care/Snow Removal                | 1,000                | 240                  | 500                    |
| 9090 Fuel Oil                              | 2,500                | 2,391                | 2,500                  |
| 9100 Gas                                   | 4,500                | 5,061                | 5,000                  |
| 9110 Electricity                           | 5,500                | 6,382                | 6,300                  |
| 9120 Bldg. Maintenance                     | 2,500                | 10,110               | 5,000                  |
| 9125 Lift Maint & Inspections              | 1,900                | 1,080                | 1,900                  |
| 9135 Security Monitoring                   | 450                  |                      | 450                    |
| 9140 Water & Sewer                         | 1,000                | 921                  | 1,000                  |
| 9150 Fire Ext. Inspect & Repair            | 50                   |                      |                        |
| 9160 Pest Control                          | 425                  | 453                  | 450                    |
| 9170 Insurance - Multi & Umbrella          | 9,000                | 8,811                | 10,137                 |
| 9180 Insurance - Workers's Comp            | 800                  | 886                  | 900                    |
| 9190 Donations First Aid & Fire            | 75                   | 50                   | 75                     |
| 9200 Safe Deposit Box Rental               | 28                   | 30                   | 28                     |
| 9205 Subscriptions/Other                   | 200                  | 194                  | 200                    |
| 9210 Convention/ABCNJ                      | 200                  | 80                   | 200                    |
| 9220 Van Maintenance / Insurance           | 1,000                |                      |                        |
| 9300 Misc. Expenses                        | 1,000                | 1,988                | 1,000                  |
| 9320 Maintenance - Salary                  |                      | 2,602                |                        |
| 9321 Maintenance - SS                      |                      | 161                  |                        |
| 9322 Maintenance - Medicare                |                      | 37                   |                        |
| 9350 Designated Expenses                   |                      | 53,192               |                        |
| <b>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>           | <b>57,135</b>        | <b>121,794</b>       | <b>61,747</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                        | <b>219,190</b>       | <b>285,562</b>       | <b>216,398</b>         |



