



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST, GRAND BLANC, MI

# 2010 Annual Report

*Our mission is to enable disciples to change the world to the glory of God  
by living the teachings of Jesus our Christ.*

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# **Agenda for the January 30, 2011 Annual Meeting**

Call to Order.....Mary Powers, Moderator

Convening Prayer ..... Owen Mooney, Past Moderator

Review and Approve Minutes of the January, 31 2010 Annual Meeting

Change of Administrative Board Positions ..... Nominating Committee

2010 Reports to the Congregation

Staff ..... Rev. Dr. M. Jacob Kaufman, Interim Pastor

Administrative Board and Ministry Teams ..... Mary Powers, Moderator

Financial Results .....Deneen Munerance, Treasurer

New Business

Constitution and Bylaws..... Bylaws Committee

Update on Pastor Search ..... Pastor Search Committee

Spiritual Plan for 2011 ..... Moderator

Proposed Budget for 2011 ..... Finance Committee

Additional Business

Concluding Remarks

Adjournment

## **Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the First Congregational United Church of Christ was convened at 11:58 am by the Moderator, Bryan Riley on January 31, 2010.

Mary Powers, the vice-moderator opened the official meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting were published in the Annual Report. There were no corrections to the minutes and the minutes were approved as printed.

Mary discussed the Constitution of the church. She described the process of being nominated for Board positions in the UCC. Mary then turned the meeting over to Anne Fuhs and Jeff Zannetti to complete the election process of the 2010 Board Members.

The nominations were read:

Mary Powers for Moderator

Ann Edgcombe for Vice Moderator

Owen Mooney for Past Moderator

Deneen Munerance for Treasurer

Dan Richardson for Secretary

Lori Setera for Member at Large

Joe Bonadies for Member at Large

It was offered to the floor for any additional nominations for positions on the Administrative Board. There were no additional nominations made. With no nominations made, Jeff requested a motion to not vote on positions since there were no offices in contention. Rick Blom moved to approve board as nominated. It was seconded and the vote was made by voice.

Jeff then introduced the new Administrative Board by asking them to stand.

Bryan Riley thanked everyone that has answered the call to serve on the board for 2010.

The meeting was then turned over to Pastor Jake to begin the staff reports for the 2009 calendar year. He stated that we have had some challenges this year, but we can choose to see them as opportunities. We need to lock arms and come together for GOD. He also pointed out the goals and accomplishments for the year on the back of the Spiritual Plan.

Bryan Riley then came forward to discuss the Administrative Board and Team reports. He stated it was a year that had some conflict (and not comfortable) but also a year of opportunity. We all came together and put the church first. This shows we are on the right path. GOD still has opportunities for us.

The meeting was then turned over to Dawn Bentley to discuss the 2009 financial results. As shown, we lost over \$40,000.00 however, this is better than in 2008. An audit committee has been established to bring recommendations to the board to help in cost saving measures.

A question was asked how we still had a deficit when measures were taken back in the summer to bring the budget to a break even status.

The answer to the question was that the principal payments for the loans; CLC, new roof, the People's State Bank, and the Corner Stone were not included in the budget forecast in July. This was not caught by the board and was not included.

Another question: Administrative Board minutes showed use of money from the Capital Campaign and Upward program to pay bills....Why was this used?

The answer: About \$10,000 was used from Upward and two withdrawals were authorized by the board from the Capital Campaign to help cover bills. We now know there were 5 withdrawals. All of this was done to meet payroll and cover expenses. This is why the audit committee is being formed to establish where we are and what needs to be repaid to the Capital Campaign.

The next question was about the CLC: It shows that \$34,000 was received in revenue for the CLC. Is this before or after expenses?

The answer: It is before. You need to go down into the expense section to see the expenses for the CLC.

With no more questions, Bryan then turned the meeting back over to Mary Powers.

Mary thanked all the board members that had served last year, but are not continuing on in 2010. They were: Howard Weaver, Jeff Zannetti, and Bryan Riley.

Mary then gave an overview of the mission of the Spiritual Plan and asked Owen Mooney to discuss it in further detail.

Owen thanked Mary and stated that this is an exciting part of the Day! This is what we do! We share in the Body of Christ. It is our reason for being a church.

He first stated: Jesus Christ himself is the head of this ministry! Not the Pastor, not the Administrative Board, not an influential member! It is he that is the guide for our church. Our job is to know what his plan is and then follow it. It may not be easy, but he won't leave us alone to carry it out. He will be with us. We need to share his gifts that he gives us to share with others.

The plan was then discussed. There are 5 key purposes. Every one of them has come from the Bible.

- 1.) Worship GOD (most important)
- 2.) Discipleship
- 3.) Fellowship
- 4.) Evangelism
- 5.) Ministry

He then went over the 2009 Accomplishments and the 2010 Goals for the Church. Jeff Zannetti then showed a video of our accomplishments/events of the church. Things such as:

Relay for Life

Crop Walk

Habitat for Humanity

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Upward Program

Sunday School

The Net – Senior High

The Ring – Middle High

XYZ – Xtra Years of Zest

Fellowship

Family camping

Dinner Dance

Fall Harvest Party

Just to name a few.

All of this is part of Jesus' plan!

Mary then came forward to discuss the proposed 2010 financial budget. She stated that Paul Fuhs and Deneen Munerance have begun looking at the financials to determine where we are. They then worked with Dan Richardson who is on the Resource Team to bring the proposed budget forward.

From their investigation, one thing has already been requested and that is to form a Financial Committee. This committee would work with all the financial issues so that the Administrative Board can devote some time on the Spiritual Plan instead of always working on financials. The treasurer will report to the board any findings and suggestions from the financial committee. The second meeting of the month by the Administrative Board will devote time to financials.

The request was made to those interested in being on the Financial Committee to contact either Paul Fuhs or Deneen Munerance. As of the meeting, Dan Richardson, Bob Edgcombe, and Mike Weber have offered to serve on the committee.

Mary asked that everyone look at the budget proposal. Some expenses have gone down. One change is that the loan principal for the CLC will be reduced out for the 2010 budget year. We requested to go to an interest only loan for one year and it was granted from the Conference. We have reduced hours for our book keeper. She is only working 2 days a week. One day for the church and one day for the Learning House. The staff is still operating under the 5% pay cut made in July of 2009.

We are working on getting these financials cleared up and the information will be provided on a timely basis. We are not hiding anything. If you want to help us, give us ideas, come and ask...be a part of the church body and help.

A question was asked. It is rumored that pledges by members are reviewed/seen by some board members. Is this true? It was stated that perhaps in the past people may have had access, but in 2009 we did not see pledges. Deneen Munerance stood and stated that, being on the board for years she was never offered the information so was not aware of viewing. She stated that she did know the past pastor did see the information and felt he should not see this, because she felt it affected the way he worked with members of the church. "As the new treasurer, I do not see the need for me to see the pledges. The book keeper is the only person I feel that needs to know this information. I only need to know the total."

Mary then outlined the budget, stating the pledged amount of \$230,000 and the \$126,200 as the faith factor of the budget. This amount, the \$126,200 is the revenue we need to receive in order to have a balanced budget. We may have to do a second mile campaign to help reach this total.

Dennis DeSimone requested the floor and wanted to thank everyone that served on the board last year. He feels the board has stepped up to all the issues facing the church and is encouraged with how we are now handling things.

Mary said thank you and asked everyone to pray and listen to GOD. Let him guide us through our financial issues.

Mary then asked if there were no more questions, could there be a motion to approve the 2010 proposed budget.

Dale Wells moved to approve the 2010 budget as submitted.

Bob Edgcombe seconded the motion.

The vote was 96 approve and 1 reject.

## **New Business:**

The Upward program is going on right now and it is wonderful! They still could use some volunteers. You will definitely receive a blessing from helping.

Opportunities to get involved:

Need a Mom-to-Mom coordinator – see Jeff Zannetti. He has everything detailed on how to organize.

Jeff Zannetti offered to become one of the conference representative's for our church. We could still use one more person

Trying to fill the Church Growth team. Please see Ann Edgcombe if you are interested in being a part of the team.

Will be forming a committee for the Church Constitution update. If you are interested in being a part of the committee please contact Ann Edgcombe.

Will be forming a Pastoral Search committee in the fall. If you are interested in being a part of the team please contact Mary Powers.

We as a Board want the teams to know that they will be more involved in the running of the church this year.

Norma Burrow and Shirley Wells have agreed to be our Church's Historian. They will be replacing Ann Edgcombe who leaves the position to become Vice Moderator.

Mary stated she is looking forward to serving this year and knows everyone will be involved based on today's meeting. She reminded us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart".

Pastor Jake came forward to close the meeting. He stated to please listen to the whisper in your ear! We do not want any modern day Jonah's.

He closed with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm

# Staff Reports

## **Report from the Interim Pastor**

The conclusion of 2010 marked also the conclusion of First Congregational United Church of Christ's first full transition year. By this time next year, it is almost a given that First Church's new installed pastor will be in place. We are in a very exciting and a very crucial time!

A change of leader brings a change of style. We know that. Our surprise was the amount and intensity of emotion that appeared in the process, emotion generated by the change itself and latent emotion uncorked by a familiar leader's departure. We have done well in clarifying our emotions and in managing our feelings, as we moved through 2010. Our achievements this year are a testimony to the commitment and mature faith of each of you! FCUCC has made the most progress in one year of any interim pastorate I've held. That's a credit to each of you, and to a superb staff with whom it is a joy to serve. The staff has been at the front of transition stress. Each has built their ministry area in the process and each is a gift to FCUCC. We have grown!

During 2010, FCUCC's congregational life has expanded. Sister Circle and the SHARE Group each significantly enriched our available personal and spiritual support. FCUCC continues to develop more resources for our congregation and community, career crisis support and Financial Peace University being a couple of examples. I brought new material into the Bible study groups. The Sunday morning group was co-led with Judy Schroeder, finishing a prior study and then doing a short unit on John. I solo-led the Tuesday morning group, using *Unbinding the Gospel*, followed by a unit on Matthew. Both groups used my own material for an Advent study of the birth narratives in Matthew, Luke, and John. These studies talked about the background of the Biblical text and prompted discussion about how the message impacts our personal lives and our FCUCC life. Both groups now are studying Mark. We are growing!

Challenges facing FCUCC in January, 2010, were rooted in style. The over-arching concern really was a question of congregation/Board relationship, transparency being a major expression of that concern. In response, I have worked with our Administrative Board to initiate a rewrite of our congregation's Constitution and By-laws, to effect a more Congregational style. We are gaining a governing design for our church operation, including finance management, which will help us avoid a recurrence of stress related to these areas. I remain closely involved in that process, recommending provisions to make the final product enable both protective and productive functions. We are laying a foundation for our future growth!

Two Leadership Retreats were held this year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Board members, staff, and organization leaders were invited. Resource persons for both workshops were our Interim Associate Conference Minister, The Rev. Dr. Thom Webster, bringing expertise in UCC Congregational church life, and The Rev. Dawn Goellner, sharing her consulting and teaching background in leadership style and marketing. At the spring Retreat, we focused on approaches and skills to help us be an effective Congregational church. The fall Retreat included our new Pastor Search Committee. The emphasis then was on leadership topics, with attention also to identifying productive and unproductive leadership styles in potential pastor candidates both in oral and written communication. These events enhanced our relationship with our Association and Conference. We now are benefitting more from resources available through our UCC Michigan Conference, having enjoyed Team Leader representation at two workshops offered by our Conference last year. Networking counts. We are gaining new relationships and new skills to enable our future growth!

2010 was a strong transition year. We have not sat still! If we were to put side-by-side a picture of our congregation in January, 2010, and one from January, 2011, we would be amazed by the number of disappeared frowns, widened smiles, and the broadened base of participation. Yes, we had stress in 2010; we have had the grace to let it strengthen us rather than fracture us. We are ready for Pastor Search, and to begin a bright new future together in God's service! 2011 is before us.

So, . . . where do we go from here? Earlier, I mentioned a new operating structure. At its core, the proposal will put into practice what was basic in our current Constitution and By-laws. Over a period of time, our current operating rules gradually have been followed less closely. Some adjustments from experience will increase effectiveness. Our Administrative Board authorized ad hoc teams to do the detail work of rewriting the Constitution and By-laws. Both the Constitution and the By-laws teams have done a great deal of work in weekly and bi-weekly meetings, plus editing at home. This now has been almost a year-long process. Each team merits a vote of thanks! The drafts will be reviewed by our Board, and it will make further revisions. When our Board considers the draft to be ready for your review later this spring, all of us will receive the draft to read. I am recommending at least a couple of opportunities for us to examine it together, likely over extended coffee or lunch fellowships following worship. The draft then will go back to the Board for further adjustment in light of your congregational prayer and insight. A final product will come to a congregational meeting for confirmation.

Being good responsible Christians, we have a strong interest in finances and growth. Most of us have more experience in successful corporate finance and growth than we do in successful church finance and growth. Many principles transfer directly from the corporate world to the church world. The church world does have some unique components, and it is in those areas that stumbling blocks often are encountered. Here is a fundamental principle: if a church tries to raise income, it won't; if a church tries to gain members, it won't; if a church tries to make disciples for Jesus Christ, it will have more income and more members than it dreamed or prayed. This is a corollary of Jesus' teaching in Mark 8:35: "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." What works by logic doesn't work, and what God calls us to do does work. Guaranteed!

Not just in preparation for, but in fact to usher in, our new future, I recommend a two-point centering for our church life in 2011: internal spiritual and corporate strengthening, and an active mission outreach to the Grand Blanc region. The internal development will mean new prayer and study groups, the new worship experience being developed by Tracy and her team, and a men's equivalent of Sister Circle. These are in process now. Outreach means better contact with groups using our facilities, including promotion of the Wedding Church idea (three "Friends" couples already are in training), and active implementation of the UCC "God is still speaking" program. The Still Speaking program is very effective if it is employed thoroughly - all of us becoming full-time comma-pin-wearing ambassadors for Christ in our Grand Blanc region. I am prepared to provide the coaching, guidance, and training needed to support our church's ministry and mission initiatives. While these approaches will look very inviting to strong pastor candidates, the greater value is in how these approaches will look to God and in what miraculous ways God will choose to work through our new life together.

Our new future is before us. What that future will be depends on our commitment and our faith, and probably each equally, because our active commitment is our real faith in action. God will not do it for us. God surely will do it with us!

"God bless" in 2011!

*M. Jacob ("Jake") Kaufman, Interim Senior Pastor*

## **Report from the Director of Educational & Youth Ministries**

In the Spring of 2010, I began taking some classes to obtain a better insight on Sunday School curriculums. During this period, I discovered several new opportunities to incorporate into the educational program.

A new Confirmation curriculum was developed and presented to the Spiritual Growth Team, along with a separate church history structure, and an overview of UCC knowledge class which is now known as “The Apprentice” (class for fifth graders entering Confirmation).

Throughout this process, I began to feel a call to continue this education by enrolling into the S.T.E.M. (Systematic Training for Effective Ministries) program through the UCC Conference. I feel this will create an abundance of opportunity and knowledge to better position myself to offer the spiritual guidance the youth are in need of.

We continue to structure the programs around the five biblical commands: Worship, Evangelism, Ministry Fellowship and Discipleship. Relational Style Ministry helps us to fulfill these commands in a way that brings the young people not only closer to God, but closer to each other. Building a community of stronger young people moving forward together on their journey!

I am truly looking forward to the direction that God is leading this church. I feel so blessed to be in a position to help the Spiritual Growth of the young people involved here, and look forward to sharing it with new friends in the future.

Director of Youth & Educational Ministries

Tracy Loomis

## **Report from the Learning House Director**

As I look back over this past year, I realize that I have now been serving as the Director for almost seven years and have greatly enjoyed being a part of this ministry. It is a great privilege to work with young children and have a part in their growth and development. I believe that our program provides a great opportunity for the church to serve the community as well.

This past year, in late February, the Learning House renewed its State license with many positive praises from our State Licensing Representative, regarding our program.

In June, we had our highly anticipated end of the year program and preschool graduation. It was a wonderful evening, and highly attended.

Our Kidz Camp summer program began in late June was restructured with a variety of summer club activities, such as: sewing club, gardening club, sports club, woodworking club, science club and cooking club. This summer we also started offering Zumbatomic on Thursday mornings both for our children in the program and we advertised to children within the community to join as well. This has been a very popular event, as we have continued it through the program year bi-weekly. We also provided off-site fieldtrips and events, this was probably one of our best summer programs.

Our fall program enrollment remained about the same as last fall, which was positive. We had a high number of 4-year-old preschoolers, so we currently have two 4-year-old preschool classrooms. We opened up the choir room and divided it into a classroom, while still providing space for the church choir on the weekends. We had to have the room reviewed by our State Licensing Representative for approval, but with this space increase we now increased our capacity for 107 children onsite at a time. We have greatly appreciated the church's willingness to help accommodate the Learning House program in this way.

Our program continues to provide quality early childhood education to the children in our community and the surrounding communities as well. Our goal is to prepare each child for their next steps by exposing them to a variety of activities and creating opportunities for them to learn and explore.

Parents of the children in our program continue to be our greatest source of advertisement, as they recommend our center to their friends, co-workers and family members. The children have also continued to be involved in different service opportunities throughout this past year, such as: St. Jude's Trike-a-thon, Cystic Fibrosis Mini March, collecting food items and collecting hats and scarves during the holiday season.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support for the Learning House ministry.

Susan M. Arnould, Learning House Director

## **Report from the Director of Music**

I started in January 2010 as the Chancel and Bell Choir Director, unfortunately, we lost most of the children in the bell choir due to band practice and other school functions. We took this opportunity to focus on Chancel Choir and Fundraisers. During the Spring, we welcomed new choir members as well as former members.

We were fortunate to have Mandy Weiss who volunteered to direct the Youth Choir. The Chancel Choir organized a French Dinner fundraiser, which was a major success. We hope to do it again in 2011.

Since resuming musical roles in the church, the choirs have been kept busy. The Chancel Choir has sung at most of the services since the beginning of October.

In December, the Chancel and Cherub Choirs performed the Journey to Bethlehem, with instrumentation, which was the reason for our fundraiser last spring. It was a major success and we plan on doing this again in December.

A deep debt of gratitude goes to all choir members who have once again given their time and energy for the good of the church. Music is such a tremendous part of what worship is all about. We can't thank our dedicated singers enough for all they do to praise God with their talent and time.

We are also extremely fortunate to have wonderful musicians who donate their talents in making our worship so meaningful. We must give a heart-felt thanks to those musicians who have demonstrated such expertise: Patty Duffy, flute; Paul Engard, cello; John Mamish, saxophone and the talents of our Organist Lavonne Bomeli, Guest Organist Shirley Wells. Michelle Simon for her dance, and Dale Wells for filling in while I was gone. We are so blessed to have them with us.

What's ahead for music at our Church? We are planning another dinner fundraiser, reviving an all age bell-choir and the cherub choir. Also, work is being done on more opportunities for youth involvement in the Music program. We are looking forward to this next chapter in the musical life of our church.

Brandon Sanders, Director of Music

## **Report from the Parish Visitor**

In 2010 I visited homes, nursing homes and hospitals. Approximately 100 contacts were made during the year, including telephone calls, visits and rides to appointments. Family obligations took a great deal of time in 2010 so I made fewer contacts than usual.

It is again a privilege to serve God and His church in this ministry.

In His Service,

Barb Benson, Parish Visitor



# **Ad Board Report**

## **Report from the Moderator**

2010 – The year of transition. As I look back at this year, I marvel at how far God has brought us in a short time. Not only did we survive a traumatic, church-life changing event, we have thrived and grown. We have learned how strong we are as a congregation and have learned the importance of looking always to our Lord Jesus Christ for guidance and comfort. As we move into the Pastor Search process and seek the leader that God has chosen, I feel a sense of excitement and positive anticipation. We have so many opportunities ahead of us!

### **Church Staff:**

We are blessed to have a dedicated, faithful, strong church staff that is committed to this church and its ministry. They have worked hard this year to improve program delivery, and have instituted many cost saving measures, which have helped us toward a balanced budget in this poor economic climate. Our Director of Music has developed plans to enhance and grow our music program in the coming year. Our Director of Educational Ministries has felt led by the Lord to pursue further education through the UCC STEM program. We would like to thank Tracy for her dedication to our youth and her sincere desire to increase her knowledge and expertise as she continues to lead this vital ministry. Karen, Carla and Michelle continue to keep the church programs and buildings running smoothly. Thank you to all our staff for continuing on and helping FCUCC grow it's ministry to the Lord.

### **Learning House:**

Susan continues to do an exemplary job in providing a fine educational/care program to the community. This program continues to grow and improve each year. The staff, under Susan's leadership, provides an environment that encourages child development in a Christian setting. In addition, this program and the revenue it generates continue to help our church meet its financial goals. The Learning House is a vital part of our ministry in Grand Blanc. We owe our deepest thanks to Susan and her staff for their dedication and faith in serving the Lord in this way.

### **Core Ministry Teams:**

These teams are: Building and Grounds, Care & Nurture, Church Growth, Spiritual Growth, Resource, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Youth Ministries and Christian Life Center. In addition, we have sub groups that are a part of these teams: XYZ, SHARE, Sister's Circle and Upward. We must congratulate these teams for taking on even more leadership and responsibility in this transition year, as they continue to offer wonderful fellowship, worship and outreach opportunities to our congregation and the community. As you read the team reports, you will see what a blessing each one provides as they work to serve the Lord.

I would like to thank the members of the Administrative Board for their faith in our work here at FCUCC. We have established goals and have endeavored to meet them. There is much we have accomplished this year - establishing committees for Finance, Pastor Relations, Personnel, Constitution and Bylaws revision. We have organized a Pastor Search Committee which has begun its work to identify our new installed pastor. The Board has worked with the Interim Pastor to identify church direction and needs, so we can begin with our new installed pastor in confidence, knowing the direction in which God is leading us. The Board has been dedicated to monthly Bible study and constant prayer to strengthen our own personal faith to better lead this church. I look forward to continuing as the Moderator of this Board during 2011.

Pastor:

I appreciate the leadership that Pastor Jake has provided in guiding us through the transition process. He has been a much needed advisor in the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, facilitating leadership workshops, and helping to establish a Pastor Relations and Personnel Committee. Jake's knowledge and calm and gentle guidance has been a blessing as we make our way through this transition period.

Looking ahead, I see some goals to work on in 2011. We need to develop our evangelism to reach more people and grow our church spiritually. We need to establish a Prayer Team, and regularly review our Church Mission and Spiritual Plan to ensure we are all clear about the direction of our church ministry. We need to continue to improve communication, with everyone reaching out to others in the congregation and forming new and stronger bonds outside of our small circle of friends. We need everyone to support the Pastor Search process and pray continually for God's guidance in this endeavor. I know God has many blessings for us in the coming year. Let us all remain faithful to Him and listen to His voice. Remember this truth, which I read recently, "I don't know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future."

In Christ's Service,

Mary Powers, Moderator

# Membership Report

## 2010 Ministerial Services

<b>Total 2010 Baptisms</b> ( <i>Adults 0, Infants 7</i> ) .....	<b>7</b>
<b>2010 Weddings</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2010 Funerals</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2010 Average Adult Sunday Attendance</b> .....	<b>127</b>

**Total Membership as of January 1, 2010..... 449**

**Total 2010 Admissions ..... 4**

**Affirmation of Faith ( 0 )**

**Re-Affirmation of Faith ( 1 )**

- David Lally

**Letter of Transfer ( 3 )**

- Greg Stetkiw
- Paris Stetkiw
- Deb Wilson

**Total 2010 Removals ..... 57**

**Deaths ( 4 )**

- Charles Borton
- Gene Falk
- Rev. Conrad Heidel
- Joseph Lacina

**Transferred Out ( 7 )**

- Lorraine Black
- David Fultz
- Jeff Hayden
- Marla Hayden
- Max Hayden
- Sandra Hayden
- Art Robbins

**Moved to Inactive (48)**

- Jim, Ann & Neil Bassett
- Diane Blick
- Michael Bowers
- Lisa Carl
- Pamela Carpenter
- Kerry & Mark Eastman
- Malinda Gottschalk
- Kevin & Terry Groves
- Karl Harrison
- Jeffrey & Susan Hodson
- Jan Hulett
- Summer & Todd Jenkins
- Ronda Kotowski
- Helen Maurer
- Tina & Scott Miller
- John & Laurie Mitchell
- Dana Moore
- Pear Niec
- Cathy & Brian Pugh
- Lisette & Mark Riggie
- Sandra & Mark Robinson
- Sheri & William Schlichting
- Judy Short
- Lucille Stephenson
- Kathleen Teer
- Sandy & Shane Tiedeman
- Matthew Urick
- Karen & William Venturino
- Kelly & Mark Wagner
- Amy & Todd Warda
- Bonnie Weber
- Jennifer Wright

**Total Membership as of January 1, 2011..... 311**

*\*See Current List of Membership in Appendix*

# Financial Report

## 2010 Operating Budget/Actual

### First Congregational United Church of Christ 2010 Operation Budget & Actual and 2011 Proposed Budget

	2010		2011	
	Budget	Year-End Actual	Budget	Proposed Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Committed Offering - Current Year	\$240,000	\$231,442.30	\$240,000	\$240,000
Committed Offering - Additional	\$20,000	\$25,180.00	\$25,000	\$25,000
Committed Offering - Prior Year	\$1,000	\$20.00	\$0	\$0
Committed Offering - Future Year	\$5,000	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
Uncommitted Offering	\$79,700	\$67,354.84	\$67,000	\$67,000
Other Mission Giving	\$0	\$6,968.28	\$2,500	\$2,500
Loose Offering	\$3,000	\$2,252.09	\$6,300	\$6,300
Special Offering	\$6,000	\$5,549.04	\$200	\$200
Church School Offering	\$300	\$214.17	\$800	\$800
Spirituality Growth	\$600	\$836.49	\$1,200	\$1,200
Altar Flowers	\$1,200	\$957.00	\$0	\$0
Funeral Dinners	\$0	\$725.00	\$4,400	\$4,400
Fellowship/Coffee Hour	\$3,800	\$2,718.68	\$9,000	\$9,000
Youth Ministries	\$3,000	\$3,778.00	\$0	\$0
Interest/Dividends	\$0	\$4.47	\$13,000	\$13,000
Facility Rental	\$20,000	\$11,362.20	\$42,000	\$42,000
Learning House Facility Rent	\$42,000	\$42,000.00	\$12,000	\$12,000
Seventh Day Adventist Rent	\$12,000	\$12,000.00	\$27,000	\$27,000
Upward Program	\$22,000	\$27,815.00	\$4,800	\$4,800
Miscellaneous	\$7,100	\$10,787.04		
<b>Sub Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$466,700</b>	<b>\$451,964.60</b>	<b>\$455,200</b>	
Learning House Day Care	\$381,600	\$393,186.82	\$392,000	\$392,000
<b>Sub Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$481,600</b>			<b>\$456,900</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$841,300</b>		<b>\$841,300</b>	<b>\$814,900</b>
<b>PAYMENTS MADE ON LIABILITIES</b>				
Mortgage Principal	\$7,000	\$2,159.93	\$7,000	\$27,400
Roof Loan Principal	\$0	\$1,250.56	\$0	\$1,300
People's State Bank Principal	\$0	\$3,600.00	\$0	\$3,600
<b>Total Payments and Expenses</b>	<b>\$848,300</b>	<b>\$845,151.42</b>	<b>\$847,200</b>	<b>\$847,200</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$15,729.34)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Financial Report

## 2010 Capital Campaign Financial Summary

Capital Campaign Fund Balance - January 1, 2010		\$25,844
2010 Campaign Gifts		\$78,163
Campaign Expenses		
Interest on Borrowing	\$6,400	
Fund Raising Consultant	<u>\$ 680</u>	(\$ 7,080)
Other Uses for Funds		
Consumers Power Security Deposit	\$ 6,957	
2010 Operating Fund Loan	<u>\$15,000</u>	(\$21,957)
Capital Campaign Fund Balance - December 31, 2010		\$74,970

NOTES:

1. Capital Campaign funds were used to cover a mandated Consumers Power Security Deposit in January and February 2010. Part of the deposit was returned in December 2010 with interest and the remainder of the deposit will be received by the end of February 2011.
2. Three loans with church members, or their relatives, totaling \$128,000 remain outstanding at the end of 2010. These loans are scheduled to be repaid at the end of the campaign in April 2011, assuming adequate funds are present. There is also an outstanding \$66,000 loan with the Endowment Fund.

# Team & Group Reports

## **Report from the Art Guild**

We tried, unsuccessfully, numerous times, since 2008, through articles in the Congregator, in the bulletin and by sending personal invitations; to bring new life and hope to the Art Guild and looked at a name change that would attract new members.

The Art Guild met for the last time on March 10, 2010 to finalize the Bake Sale which was held March 21, 2010. We raised \$357.00---earmarked for the purchase of round tables. During the course of our fundraisers we were able to pay for 4 choir chairs, 4 worship banners, candle holders, purchased fabric and re-covered the bell tables, sponsored a child in the Upward Basketball program and used the final balance of \$98.00 to purchase fabric to make costumes for the living nativity which were completed in October 2010.

All of the ladies in the Art Guild used their time and talents to glorify God's name and shared their faith and love for each other and our church. We are truly blessed.

Respectively submitted by  
Dottie Fletcher

## **Report from the Building & Grounds Team**

The Building and Grounds Team is pleased to submit the following report of accomplishments for 2010.

This past Spring the Building & Grounds Team reviewed all service contracts the Church was previously committed to for lawn care and maintenance. The goal was to re-bid these services competitively seeking to reduce the annual costs in lawn maintenance fees. Final results reduced the costs of lawn fertilization by 40% and courtyard tree/shrub insecticide injections by 60%.

Lawn mowing and trimming was also going to be reopened for contractual bidding, however a member of the Congregation approached the Building & Grounds Team with a proposal for these services that could only be called a blessing. We would like to thank this individual for all the time, talent and services that was provided throughout the summer keeping our grounds as beautiful as they were.

The parking lot continues to deteriorate, and annual patching of pot holes continues. This past Spring a parent of an Upward basketball player submitted a bid to patch the 10 potholes for a reasonable fee. This practice of re-patching has been an annual event for the past 4 years and will continue until the parking lot is resurfaced or replaced.

Two posts were added at the north entrance of the parking lot. The purpose for adding these posts was to visually high light the width of the parking lot entrance which will stop the bus drivers, delivery trucks and motor vehicles from cutting their turn short and driving off the side of the pavement that causes additional damage to the parking lot and lawn.

Two pear trees were planted on the north side of the Christian Life Center from donations of a Church member, thank you. We are investigating alternatives to completing the landscaping in this area during the 2011 calendar year.

The Building & Grounds Team has continued to support most of the light maintenance needs for the Church and provides the opening and closing services each Sunday before and after worship.

### Building & Grounds team members:

Dave Rembowski, chair  
Jon Dietzen  
Fred Loomis  
Tom McLaren  
Bob Tresedder

## Report from the Care and Nurture Team

The Care & Nurture Team started the new program year with all the team members returning for the 2009-2010 program year. Unfortunately, in September 2010 we lost three team members: Louise Dodge, Jessica Whitley and Heather Bradshaw. At the start of the new program year we implemented two new goals: to keep track of our graduates who are away at school (Kaitlyn Andrykovich, Joseph Bonadies, Lindsay Krasny, Paige Shumaker and Kendall Smith) to help them stay on their spiritual journey, and for each member to visit our Special Needs members at least once a month.

We continue with the following goals: 'Welcome New Baby' cards: to Erin & Andrew Raether for their daughter Alisyn Marie, Stacy & Kevin Price for their daughter Ella Lin, Michelle & Michael Simon for their son Matthew Nicholas, Susan & John Urogdy for their son, Jesse David, Chandra & Dave Patton for their daughter Sarah Grace and Angela & Todd Zinsli for their daughter Grace Madeline. We took part in the Baptisms of Alisyn Marie Raether, Gavin Michael Allen, Ella Lin Price, and Matthew Nicholas Simon and presented the Baptism books with pictures to their parents; we took meals to these families with new babies until June when the 'Sister Circle' took over this goal, we added these new babies to our 'Cradle Roll' so we can follow these babies for three years, corsages for Marriage Sunday, carnations and a poem for Mothers' Day, cookies and a poem for Fathers' Day, Grad Sunday with six graduating seniors, 'Thinking Of You' cards, visits and meals for members that were sick or in the hospital, cards to those listed in our Prayers and Concerns; we sent 'Sympathy Cards' to those who have lost loved ones: Claude Shinn for the loss of his father, Claude, Sr.; Ron and Lynette Pruett for the loss of Ron's cousin; the family of Joe Lacina; Gerald and Sherry Allen for the loss of Gerald's mom, Josephine Ann, Chad and Erica Allen for the loss of Chad's grandmother; Sandy Gottschalk for the loss of her husband, Allen; to Richard and Judith Schroeder for the loss of Richard's dad; to Jill and Dan Richardson for the loss of Jill's sister; to Deneen and Scott Munerance for the loss of Deneen's mother, Helen; Mary and Joe Powers for the loss of Mary's dad, Larry; to the family of Gene Elizabeth Falk; Mandy Weiss for the loss of her uncle Paul; to the family of Conrad Heidel; Leota Borton for the loss of her husband, Charlie; Stacy Price for the loss of her mother, Linda; to Carol and Ed Brown for the loss of Carol's son, Rick; Betti and William Shier for the loss of Betti's mom; to Patricia and Peter Ashurkoff for the loss of their niece; Dorothy Feeser for the loss of her sister, Goldie and Joyce Stone on the loss of her sister. We hosted the funeral luncheon for Allen Gottschalk. We continue to visit, send our newsletters and cards to those on our 'Special Needs' list. These members also send cards: Lana Bellah, Paris Stetkiw, Joy Kozlowski, Joan Hoffman, Barb Cunningham, Kathy Rolfe, Dale and Shirley Wells, Joan Wilcox, John and James Dunlap and Deb Wilson. We took Easter Baskets, sent Thanksgiving cards and took a Christmas gift to many on our Special Needs list, we continue sending the 80+ birthday cards, and care packages were sent to Bryan Merkel and Jeff McDonald—their names were added at the American Legion and the VFW Hall, so care packages would be sent to them. We stay in contact with the wives of these soldiers to thank them for their sacrifice for us: Tammy Merkel and daughters, Baylee and Marcella and Wendy

McDonald and children, Josh and Amber. We sent 'Welcome New Member' cards to Debbie Wilson and children: Jake, Riley and Danielle; David Lally and son David. We worked with Barb Benson and Ann Edgcombe on the 'Absent Member List' to send 'We Miss Seeing You in Church' cards, worked on the Rummage Sale; we raised \$262.00 from collecting the VG's Community Share Points, that money added to \$357.00 from the Art Guild Bake Sale was used to purchase six round tables for the fellowship hall. Total from VG's share points to date is \$1,124.00.

The Care & Nurture Team will no longer provide Valet Parking, as it is rarely used. The SHARE Group has taken over decorating the church at Christmas. Meals for families with new babies has been taken on by the Sister Circle. Grad Sunday breakfast and celebration has been taken on by the Youth Ministries Team. The luminaries at Christmas have proved to be difficult to organize and keep going with weather conditions, so they were not done this year. A Pictorial Directory is not needed until 2012.

The team had a very busy and blessed year. We thank God for using ordinary people like us to do His work, and we thank Him for walking with us on our journey toward Him. The Care & Nurture Team is dedicated to tending to the needs of those in our church and community, loving all as God loves us.

I resigned as Chair of the Care and Nurture Team Oct. 5, 2010.

Respectively submitted,

Dottie Fletcher

Care & Nurture team members:

George & Jeanette Adams

Dawn Bentley

Mandy Weiss

## **Report from the Christian Life Center Team**

The Life Center was busy as usual throughout 2010 with a variety of events, practices, Upward, movies and more! This year there was a total of 32 different groups using the facility with a total of 120 individual rentals. This doesn't even include the Fellowship Team's Amazing Dinner Dance and Harvest Party or the Spiritual Growth & Youth Teams variety of fun packed Sidekick and Youth Events.

This year we had 5 different groups with basketball practice (not including Upward), 2 groups of softball pitching practices, 5 birthday parties, 4 wedding receptions, 1 movie night, 1 caterer rental, the Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus Dinner Theater, Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation Special Needs gym nights, Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner, and we can't forget the most amazing addition this year - the Princess Ball! Who would have thought that a simple room would bring in thousands of people from the community for so many different events?

Each year the Christian Life Center Team challenges themselves to bring in at least one new event per year. This year it was the Princess Ball that almost didn't happen. The Princess Ball was originally scheduled to occur the weekend after Upward ended so that we could include the Upward families in this event. Unfortunately, we found out two weeks prior that the castle used in the event was vandalized and equipment stolen, so the ball had to be rescheduled. Fortunately, it was rebuilt over the summer and we were able to bring this amazing production in for a beautiful fall afternoon in October. We hosted a total of 217 Princes, Princesses and their families. The event was amazing and the Life Center has never been more beautiful with a pond with live gold fish, a 60 foot castle and beautifully lit garden gazebo. We received such an amazing response to this event we will be scheduling it again for next year.

Also booked for the coming year are three different sports team practices, four wedding receptions, one birthday party and one bridal shower. It's going to be another busy year in the Christian Life Center. Be sure to book your events early, we are booking up fast this year!

Through the "Adopt-a-Chair" fundraiser the team raised enough money to purchase new chairs and the Art Guild raised funds to buy 6 new round tables. This brings our total number of chairs to 320 and our round tables to 15.

### Christian Life Center team members:

Karen Palevich, chair  
Ladd Goodall  
Lori Setera  
Michelle Simon  
Donley Voth

## **Report from the Church Growth Team**

The Church Growth Team began this session with five new members. After learning our mission, we spent several meetings brain-storming ways to effectively reach out to the unchurched and identifying ways to best help them along their faith journey.

The Growth Team has focused most recently on ways to best “leverage Upward Basketball for Evangelism”. This will include training coaches on Upward’s mission of growing “closer to God through basketball” and how best to share God’s light. Mentors will be provided to those who need help. Prayer will be encouraged in practice and games. All players and their families will be given a chance to make prayer requests which will be shared during half-time. Half-time will also include devotions and testimonials of God’s work in our lives. We hope to include Upward families in fellowship events.

The Growth Team updated the Welcome Brochure to better reflect our church today. New pictures were added and “Biblically based and grow spiritually” were added to the text. We were able then to place one in the Holiday food baskets along with a personal Christmas note and an invitation to Christmas services. This will give the FISH families a better opportunity to know who we are. A second version of this brochure with a bright colored cover will be made for the Hosts to pass out to visitors. This should help our members better identify guests and welcome them to FCUCC.

One of our goals is to make our church building as welcoming as we can. This will include a make-over of the parking lot entrance to give it better curb appeal. We are looking into cost-effective ways to replace the railing system and the lights. The transom window above the door is a perfect spot for a welcoming message. The Team approved the purchase of a 7’ x 4’ Wall Plaque with our Mission Statement on it to be placed at the end of the office corridor on the Sanctuary Wall. As people come into church from the parking lot and walk toward the Sanctuary, they won’t be able to miss what our mission is.

Small groups have been a very successful way of helping members and guests find a connection here. In the fall, the Congregation was given a survey to help identify which small groups they would be interested in forming. One of the responses was a “Caregivers” support group. We are in the process of trying to make that happen.

The Growth Team is a Team with lots of great ideas and a passion for helping the faithful move along their faith journey. A special thanks to Tracy Loomis for her guidance and support in getting us off the ground.

### Church Growth Team members:

Anne Fuhs

Owen Mooney

Michael Simon

Bethany Sly

Steven Wambaugh

## **Report from the Fellowship Team**

The 2010 Fellowship Team continued to provide events and gatherings with a smaller team and no leader. The team is working with a small group of women who share the roles and responsibilities on each event. The next year will be a challenge, but should be back to a “normal” team by the fall of 2011.

The goal of the Fellowship Team for 2010 was to encompass a larger spectrum of ages. The past few years the team has been attracting small group events with young parents. This is largely due to the fact that, this is what our team members have in common. This will not change until the degree in differences in the age of members changes. We feel that the various teams that FCUCC offers, reaches out to other age groups.

### 2010 Fellowship Events

Arrange hosts and provide basic supplies for Coffee Hour

Supply meal set up; /clean up for Annual Meeting ~ 100 People

Semi Formal Dinner Dance – Mardi Gras theme ~ 100 People

Beauty & The Beast at Whiting ~ 6 People

Kids Bop ~ 20 People (held twice)

Family Camping Myers Lake ~ 40 People

Fall Harvest Party ~ 90 People

Family Day at Spicers Orchard ~ 20 People

Provide Cake for Marriage Sunday

Advent Family Dinner ~ 70 People

There were a couple of events that had to be cancelled due to lack of funding. We no longer were able to host the “Outdoor Worship” and the “Stewardship Sunday” dinner. The amount of overhead those events take resulted in the decision to forego those activities until funds become available.

### Fellowship team members:

Kristin Ragsdale

Christy Bearden

Teresa Mooney

Erin Spicer

Paris Stetkiw

Betsy Wambaugh

## **Report from the Outreach Team**

The following Outreach projects were accomplished during 2010;

Church members led worship services at Riverbend Nursing Home on 6 separate occasions as part of the EFFECT group.

Blanket Sunday (Feb) – Church collected \$805 to purchase blankets and other items for people in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing (March) – Received monetary donations of \$1,511 from church members to carry God's message of love and hope to more than eighty countries.

Easter Food Baskets (April) were provided to 14 local families.

Relay for Life (June) – Church participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for life. Church team raised \$10,205. This was the highest fundraising team at the event.

CROP Walk (October) – Church walkers raised approximately \$1,100 with over 30 walkers.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets (November) – Provided food baskets to 15 local families.

Christmas Food Baskets (December) – Provided food baskets to 14 local families.

Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes (November) – Church members donated 125 shoe boxes to children of the world.

Mitten Tree (December) – Collected a great number of mitten, gloves, hats and scarves to donate to needy in Flint.

North End Soup Kitchen Christmas Gifts (December) – Provided gifts to 125 children from the North End Soup Kitchen.

Church members volunteered at North End Soup Kitchen on a preparing and serving meals on six occasions.

Began Backpack Program with Eastern Michigan Food Bank for 24 children at McGrath Elementary in Grand Blanc – raised \$2,400 to support this program by special collections, as well as a pancake breakfast run by the Sister Circle.

### Outreach team members:

Dennis Setera, Chair  
Georgette Engard  
Marty Royer  
Kelly Wells  
Jeff Zannetti

## **Report from the Resource Team**

Each Sunday, during the year, the Resource Team reported in the bulletin the size of the offering from the previous Sunday.

A monthly and year-to-date financial update was included in the Congregator and Sunday Bulletin each month.

In April, the Resource Team distributed the Time & Talent survey. Response to this survey was sparse. More emphasis must be placed on this in the upcoming year.

In September, Dan Richardson, Pastor Jake Kaufman and Dawn Goellner participated in a one-day Stewardship Seminar in Lansing.

This year's Stewardship Campaign was titled "Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace". In early November, a Stewardship Brochure and a letter explaining the Stewardship Campaign was mailed to all members of the church. The 3-week campaign kicked off on Sunday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> when Dan Richardson showed a DVD of pictures detailing many of the activities and ministries of First Congregational Church. On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, Dan made a presentation on the finances of our church. On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> (Stewardship Sunday) people were asked to place their pledge cards in a basket when they came to the front of the church to receive communion.

Some changes to the Stewardship Campaign from previous years occurred. The capability to pledge online through our church website was offered for the first time. Also, pledge cards were not mailed at the beginning of the campaign, but instead were mailed just prior to Stewardship Sunday. We sent "thank you" letters to all people who pledged and created a "thank you" poster listing the names of all people who pledged. The poster is displayed in the narthex. Members who had not pledged by Christmas were mailed a letter informing them of the importance of pledging. The letter contained a pledge card for them to return to the church.

As of Jan 18, 2011 we have received 107 pledges valued at \$239,024.

Submitted by Dan Richardson

## **Report from SHARE Group**

Our newly formed SHARE Group, composed primarily (but not exclusively) of newly retired people, continues to focus on our mission of service to the church and community, fellowship and spiritual development and study. This past year, we have completed a number of projects to improve the church grounds as well as multiple needed internal restorations and repairs. Included in this was the setting up and taking down of Christmas decorations for our sanctuary, which has been a challenge for the staff to complete in the past. This past summer, church members lovingly volunteered to support two neighbors in our community who needed assistance with yard work. We cheerfully provided an estimated 200 hours combined to help two sweet ladies who were recently widowed and just couldn't get their yards caught up.

We also made time to enjoy fellowship with each other and our friends. We enjoy organizing social events such as lunch at church or dinner and a play. We traveled to Detroit to see "Jersey Boys" and East Lansing to see "Mary Poppins." Everyone enjoyed these events and the associated fellowship very much. When we meet for a luncheon at church, we like to include a daily devotional with a short discussion. As we progress in 2011, we plan on continuing to follow our initial objectives of service, fellowship and spiritual growth. Come join us!

Submitted by Owen Mooney

## **Report from the Sister Circle**

Sister Circle is the new Women's Ministry group that was formed in March of 2010. The group's purpose statement is the following: *"To nourish our souls and support each other in Christ, so that God may use us to grow His Kingdom to the world."* We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm.

To grow spiritually and form friendships we began as a large group book study with attendance of 15-25 women at each meeting. We read and discussed *"Sister Circle Handbook: Discover the Joy of Friendship."* The women also had a prayer partner assigned at each meeting. They would write down prayers and concerns each week, and send encouragement to each other until the next meeting. Fellowship activities for the spring included a Yoga class and a comedy night.

The women also took over a project that was previously done by the Care & Nurture team. Erin Raether organized meals to be taken to the New Mommies of our church, there were 3 new babies born this spring.

During the summer, 10 women attended a 2-day retreat in Cleveland, OH for the Women of Faith Tour. Small monthly Bible study classes were also attended throughout the summer.

In the fall, we had Kickoff Dinner to introduce a program in which new classes and ministries were offered. The kickoff dinner was very successful with 30 women in attendance, 5 of which were new from the community, and an article in the Grand Blanc View was published about our group.

The Fellowship Classes that were offered for the fall were Book Study with Mary Powers, Craft Class with Lori Setera, and Group Exercise with Stacy Price. The fellowship classes met for one hour and then the ladies moved to their choice of ministry. The Greeting Card Ministry was led by Paris Stetkiw. This group wrote greeting cards to several of the church members including birthday, get well, sympathy, and encouragement. The Welcome Ministry was led by Bethany Sly and they discussed and implemented ways to make our church more welcoming. The Community Support Ministry was led by Jamie Zannetti. This group organized the Backpack Brunch to raise the money for the backpack program, volunteered at the Northend Soup kitchen, sorted/delivered goods for the FISH families, and adopted a child from the World Vision Ministry.

The goal of the Women's Ministry was accomplished for the year according to our purpose statement. We provided a spiritually based program to grow our relationship with God, we provided fellowship opportunities to build friendship and support, and we participated in community outreach to grow His Kingdom to the world.

### Ministry Leaders

Jamie Zannetti

Paris Stetkiw

## **Report from the Spiritual Growth Team**

The Spiritual Growth Team responsibility is to create programs and events to encourage the spiritual growth of the Congregation.

In looking at this, the team evaluated their objectives and created new opportunities for youth and adults.

The Sister Circle, led by Jamie Zannetti has been a huge asset to the spiritual life of the church and continues to grow not only in numbers but encouraging the spiritual journeys of the women attending.

Confirmation was restructured to offer a curriculum the youth can interact with and apply to their daily life, encouraging to share their faith with others.

The Apprentice group was created for the fifth grade children to prepare to enter Confirmation as a sixth grader by teaching them the history of the church, it's structure and how the Administrative Board is operated, as well as the background in the origin of the Bible and overview of the Old and New Testaments.

The Sidekick program was reimplemented and designed to help connect the younger elementary youth with the middle high. This is a great opportunity for the older youth to learn the value of mentoring and sharing their faith with others.

Adult Bible study has continued to be provided both on Tuesdays and Sundays.

The summer program encouraged families to share worship together and allowing young children a chance to experience the contemporary band that was set up by the Worship team.

Advent family night this year followed a journey to Bethlehem, where families put together a manger scene while sharing in the story of the journey to Bethlehem. This event was also combined with the Christmas Cantata.

### Spiritual Growth team members:

Jodi Olah, chair

Beth Dietzen

Peggy Riley

Deb Wilson

Jamie Zannetti

## **Report from Upward**

2010 was another awesome year in the ministry of Upward Basketball & Cheerleading. Families not only from First Congregational UCC but also from various surrounding cities continued to see the significance of Upward. Volunteers continued to step up and meet the challenge of ministering on Saturdays from 7:30am to 6pm.

Each segment (b-ball/cheer) experienced an increase in player participation by nearly 30% for the third consecutive year, totaling 300 kids. Approximately 85% of participants were either un-churched or affiliated with a church other than FCUCC.

The core elements of the marketing strategy, player evaluation process, coach & referee training, half-time devotions, picture day, and the year-end award celebration continued to serve as the basis again this year.

The Upward Team instituted a new initiative this season by engaging the game-day audience and teams, raising money to provide relief for the disaster in Haiti. It was a great way to open the eyes of many to see the how we could do our part in making this world a better place.

From a monetary perspective, each year this ministry has independently funded itself while reinvesting into the congregation.

The Upward Team has taken great pride since the inception (2007), impacting lives of hundreds of kids and thousands of family/ friends bringing them closer to God utilizing the Christian Life Center.

We look forward to the opportunity to making it even better next season!

### Upward Team

Mike Sly, chair

Christy Bearden

Denise Gibson

Mike Spicer

## **Report from the Worship Team**

The Worship Team is still committed to providing meaningful a worship experience for our congregation. The following was discussed and/or implemented in 2010.

1. We established Communion dates, set up and cleaned up the elements with the help of dedicated volunteers, served the Lord's Supper on Sunday mornings.
2. We are still evaluating Sunday morning flowers. Participation has not been at the level which would not require any expense to the church.
3. Holiday decorations were completed under the direction of the SHARE Group and other volunteers. We are extremely grateful for their help.
4. Our Christmas Cantata was well received. We have endeavored to enhance our music program but work still needs to be done on youth choirs and enlarging the Chancel Choir. We especially thank Dale and Shirley Wells and Lavonne Bomeli for their contribution to the music program.
5. We are continuing to oversee the Lay Liturgist program, the prayer readers program, Communion servers, ushers and volunteers who straighten up the sanctuary each week. Thanks again to these dedicated Christians.
6. We organized the Ash Wednesday Prayer-a-thon. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God through prayer.
7. Attendance pads were put back into the pews because the bulletin insert cards were not being completed. The pads also allow the congregation to greet visitors in their pew.
8. Worship team members secured people to pray daily for 100 days for the Upward Basketball ministry.

Again, we are grateful for Pastor Jake's presence and we are confident the Search Committee will seek a wonderful Senior Pastor Candidate. Our congregation is to be commended for continuing to do God's work during this time.

### Worship team members:

Sherry Allen  
Lana Bellah  
Barb Benson  
Rev. Jake Kaufman  
Brandon Sanders

## **Report from the XYZ Seniors Group**

(Extra Years of Zest) Seniors Group

This group has been meeting for over 25 years. XYZ meets the third Thursday of each month from September through June. Our purpose is fellowship for the senior members and friends of our Church, whether working or retired. This past year, XYZ gatherings averaged between 30 and 35 people per meeting. The programs for 2010 were as follows:

January and February - no meeting

March - 50th Anniversary Cruise - with speakers Bob and Gloria Throop

April - Spring Sing Potluck with Dale & Shirley Wells and Paul & Georgette Engard

May - The Not So Good Old Days - with speaker Dr. Michael Heberling

June - Picnic at the Wagner's

September - Labor Day Weekend Camp Out at Hartwick Pines

September - Identity Theft - speaker from the State Attorney General's Office

October - Future Plans for Grand Blanc City - speaker Randall Byrne - City Manager

November - Pastoral Search Committee - speakers Mary Powers and the Administrative Board

December - Christmas Party

Respectfully Submitted,

The XYZ Seniors Group

## **Report from the Youth Ministries Team**

In 2010, the Youth Team continued to follow a Relational Style Ministry for all ages of youth, incorporating new opportunities for worship settings with Senior High. Focus is on creating relationships through positive reinforcement, trust, joy, comfort and a good connection with each other.

The team continues to plan activities that bridge together the different age levels within the youth from toddler to senior high. The service and fellowship opportunities provided focus on fulfilling the five biblical commands:

- Worship
- Ministry
- Fellowship
- Evangelism
- Discipleship

Projects for youth included: Habitat landscaping, facilitating the concessions for Upward (paying off both Construction Zone and The Net's campaign pledge and \$100.00 toward senior high work cap), retreats to Springhill, The Net work camp to Emmaus Homes, service projects, weekly fellowship opportunities for middle and senior high, monthly opportunities for all age levels and opportunities to participate in the worship experience on Sunday mornings were provided. The team also enhanced both Confirmation Sunday and Graduation Sunday by incorporating more youth involvement in the service itself.

As young people grow in their faith, and feel safe with the relationships that are made during youth events and opportunities, they begin to invite their friends and share their faith with others. Fulfilling the circle we follow as a congregation - Learn About God, Grow With God, Create Community and Make Disciples.

This year by adding small group worship for Senior High, we feel confident in the direction we will be taking in 2011 - introducing more interactive worship opportunities for middle and senior high alike.

### Youth Ministries Team

Sherry Bonadies  
Erin Butzler  
Laryn Butzler  
Kathy Harris  
Dave Palevich

# Appendix

## Appendix - List of Current Members

Adams, George	Cuthbertson, James	Hayden, Joel
Adams, Jeanette	Damone, Lisa	Hershberger, Jack
Allen, Chad	Davidson, Dawna	Hershberger, Joy
Allen, Gerald	Davidson, George	Hicks, Brendan
Allen, Sandi	DeSimone, Danielle	Hicks, Jeanne
Allen, Sherry	DeSimone, Dennis	Hick, Michael
Amthor, Carol	DeSimone, Gina	Hick, Randy
Anderson, Jack	Dietzen, Elizabeth	Hilliker, Duane
Anderson, Libby	Dietzen, Jon	Hilliker, Robin
Ashurkoff, Patricia	Docter, Gary	Hilliker, Samantha
Ashurkoff, Peter	Docter, Jill	Hockstad, Marilee
Aurand, Janet	Docter, Nancy	Hockstad, Richard
Aurand, Kenneth	Dodge, Louise	Hodges, Brenda
Ballreich, Richard	Dodge, Scott	Hoffman, Ellwyn
Ballreich, Sharon	Duff, Joan	Hoffman, Joan
Bearden, Christina	Duffy, Patty	Homeister, Jonathon
Bearden, Steve	Duncanson, Alex	Homeister, Michelle
Bellah, Lana	Duncanson, Sherry	Ireland, Fred
Benson, Barbara	Dunlap, John	Ireland, Joan
Bentley, Dawn	Dunlap, Laurie	Jenkins, Bob
Blom, Rick	Dunlap, Madeline	Jenkins, Sally
Blouir, Stephanie	Edgcombe, Ann	Jeremy, David
Blouir, Tracy	Edgcombe, Bob	Jeremy, Judith
Bonadies, Joseph	Edwards, Robert	Jewett, Helen
Bonadies, Joseph	Emmert, Jamie	Johnson, Russell
Bonadies, Sherry	Fairman, Monica	Johnson, Sharon
Borton, Leota	Fairman, Richard	Kenkel, Gregory
Brotebeck, Kara	Feeser, Dorothy	Kenkel, Sue
Brotebeck, Pam	Ferriby, Richard II	Kozlowski, Dennis
Brotebeck, Scott	Ferriby, Sara	Kozlowski, Joy
Brown, Carol	Ferriby, Susan	Krasny, John
Brown, Edward	Fletcher, Arnold	Krasny, Lindsey
Burmeister, Donna	Fletcher, Dottie	Krasny, Shelly
Burrow, Deloy	Foster, John	Lally, Dave
Burrow, Norma	Foster, Susan	Lenz, Gloria
Butzler, Erin	Frederick, Pamela	Lenz, John
Butzler, Laryn	Frederick, Steven	Leonhard, Kelly
Byers, Jakie	Fuhs, Anne	Leonhard, Sue
Byers, John	Fuhs, Paul	Leonhard I, William
Cardneau, Heather	Fuhs, Steven	Leonhard II, William
Cardneau, Ryan	Gardner, Jim	Leschuk, Carmen
Carlson, Jack	Gardner, Lorel	Leschuk, Gregory
Carlson, Joyce	Gibson, Kay	Lewis, Margaret
Carpenter, Karen	Goodall, Kimberly	Loomis, Fred
Carr, Cameron	Goodall, Ladd	Loomis, Tracy
Carr, Chris	Gottschalk, Sandra	Lounds, Ellen
Carr, Courtney	Green, Lorna	Lounds, Matthew
Carr, Mary	Green, Raymond	Lounds, Rodney
Clark, Beverly	Haley, Dennis	Mamish, Sandra
Clark, Richard	Haley, June	McCombs, Alex
Crawford, Barbara	Harris, Austin	McCombs, Wendy
Crissey, Forrest	Harris, Clark	McDonald, Becky
Cunningham, Barbara	Harris, Jason	McDonald, Dean
Cuthbertson, Frances	Harris, Paula	McKean, Dave

## Appendix - List of Current Members Continued

McKean, Suzanne	Ragsdale, Todd	Throop, Robert
McLaren, Tom	Rathbun, Jerry	Throop, Robert
Merkel, Tammy	Rathbun, Patricia	Throop, Tina
Mervyn, Beverly	Rathbun, Rebecca	Trembley, Eleanor
Mervyn, William	Rau, Danielle	Tresedder, Robert
Metzger, Joyce	Rau, Kenneth	Urogdy, John
Metzger, Larry	Rau, Tracey	Urogdy, Susan
Michelson, Lucille	Rau, William	Valenti, Nova
Mitchell, Famah	Rembowski, David	VanHollebeke, Ed
Mitchell, John	Rembowski, Kathy	VanHollebeke, Sue
Mooney, Owen	Rhoades, Tim	Veenhuis, Chandler
Mooney, Teresa	Richardson, Dan	Veehhuis, Tracy
Moore, Allan	Richardson, Jill	Voth, Beth Anne
Moore, Geradine	Riley, Bryan	Voth, Donley
Munerance, Deneen	Riley, Peggy	Wagner, Harry
Munerance, Scott	Roche, Carol	Wagner, Jane
Munsell, Beulah	Rolfe, Kathryn	Wambaugh, Elizabeth
Myers, Gary	Royer, Martha	Wambaugh, Steven
Myers, Mary	Schroeder, Judith	Watson, Jason
Nettell, Amber	Schumacher, Ann	Watson, Michelle
Nettell, Troy	Schumacher, James	Weaver, Howard
Nicholson, David	Schumacher, Nelda	Weber, Amy
Nicholson, Donna	Schumacher, Thomas	Weber, Kennen
North, Alyce	Selesky, Harold	Weber, Michael
O'Keefe, Peggy	Selesky, Phyllis	Weckler, Eileen
Oakes, Norma	Setera, Dennis	Weckler, Ralph
Oakes, Pat	Setera, Lori	Weiss, Mandy
Olah, Albert	Seyerle, Amanda	Wells, Dale
Olah, Jodi	Seyerle, Debra	Wells, Kelly
Orr, Judith	Seyerle, Donald	Wells, Kenneth
Otenbaker, David	Shier, Betti	Wells, Shirley
Otenbaker, Deborah	Shinn, Claude	Werner, Gertrude
Ottaway, James	Shpakow, Sharon	Whitley, Jessica
Pagels, Ethel	Shpakow, Tom	Whitley, Joshua
Palevich, David	Shumaker, Paige	Wilcox, Joan
Palevich, Karen	Simi, Jean	Wilson, Debbie
Palmer, Phillip	Simon, Michael	Wiseman, Earl
Palmer, Wilma	Simon, Michelle	Wolfe, Cheryl
Patton, Chandra	Sly, Bethany	Zannetti, Jamie
Patton, Dave	Sly, Michael	Zannetti, Jeff
Pearson, Betty	Smiley, Ashleigh	
Pearson, Richard	Smiley, Bernice	
Pelkey, Marilyn	Smith, Delores	
Peterson, Jane	Smith, Kendall	
Peterson, Phil	Sobol, Michael	
Peterson, Sharon	Sobol, Susan	
Powers, Mary	Somogyi, Nancy	
Price, Kevin	Spicer, Erin	
Price, Stacy	Spicer, Mike	
Pruett, Lynette	Stableford, Anne	
Pruett, Ronald	Stetkiw, Gregory	
Raether, Andrew	Stetkiw, Paris	
Raether, Erin	Throop, Gloria	
Ragsdale, Kristin	Throop, Michael	

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

6494 S. Belsay Rd  
Grand Blanc MI 48439

*Phone:* 810-695-0550

*Fax:* 810-695-5117

*on the web at* [www.UCCgrandblanc.org](http://www.UCCgrandblanc.org)