



# First Pres Challenger

WORSHIP grow  
SERVE

Equipping God's Family at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno

January 2010

## The Annual Report For 2009

### God's Blessings for First Presbyterian Church By Scott McCallum

Each year I have the pleasure of reporting to you as the Clerk of Session. You will find the details of the 2009 activities in the Ministry Team Reports. My report focuses on the spiritual health of Session, and the state of our church.

**This is a congregation that loves each other, and loves being with each other.**

During my time with Session, I have learned more and more about our eternal relationship with Christ. In the past, I have shared my observations on how the Lord has unified Session in spirit, and how the Lord has used prayer to give Session the confidence to be obedient to His Word. I also reported how God has given us a role in grand accomplishments through faith. This year I have observed more than any other year, the blessing of gratefulness.

Scripture tells us that we should not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, *with thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in

Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. (Phil 4:6-7).

In 2009, we had a lot to be anxious about. I am very grateful for the elders, and I am pleased to report of Session's sincere dedication to His will, their trust in His Word, their commitment to believing prayer, and their gratefulness for His blessings.

One of our greatest steps in faith was our congregation's decision to leave the PCUSA. It was a decision that took several years of diligence, prayer, discernment, planning and obedience. As we saw the PCUSA's devotion to the Word deteriorate, we began to feel a sense that the denomination was conforming to the world. We saw a denomination where polity prevailed over scripture. I witnessed a Session with a solid love for Christ and a commitment to His will. As I reported last year, I saw a unified Session, who could not accept the revision of scripture, and who could not ignore the salvation of those being misled. On November 2, 2008, our congregation concurred with Session and made the monumental vote to leave the PCUSA, and join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (EPC).

It is amazing to witness God's blessings, when you are obedient to His Word. His blessings always surpass human comprehension. In God's perfect tim-

ing, the day that we joined the EPC was the same day that we completed our Mission Possible Campaign.

We celebrated our installation in a way that only God could have planned. That was a very special day for me, and a day that I was very grateful to be a part of this congregation. Scott Griffin, my best friend from childhood (and with whom I accepted Christ as a junior higher in this Church), was the EPC ruling elder, whom God selected to receive our Church into the EPC.

I will never forget that day. I was overwhelmed with thanksgiving for Session, for our pastors, and for all of you. I will never for-

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Special Sunday**  
**Schedule**  
**January 31, 2010**

**8:30 a.m.**  
Brunch and Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall

**10:00 a.m.**  
Joint Worship Service

Regular Schedule Resumes  
On February 7

## God's Blessings (continued) by Scott McCallum

get how I felt a huge weight being lifted from me that day, and how I thought that this was a glimpse of heaven.

I am grateful to report that our elders continue to be obedient to God's Word, pray as a matter of course, are compassionate and respectful of each other, and truly seek the will of the Lord over their own.

A difficult task for any managing board is the adoption of a budget. To adopt a budget, you must reconcile your dreams with reality.

I am grateful to report that 2009 was another year, in which God faithfully provided the perfect measurement of funds to sustain His ministries at First Pres. Even in our current economic times, our ministries have grown, and our revenues have matched our expenditures; all because of Him.

In preparing the 2010 budget, the elders prayed over each line item of their ministry team's budget. The result was a 2010 budget that is approximately five percent larger than 2009, but one that is flexible to meet the uncertain times.

God has also blessed our Church with a Christian Education program that continues to grow. We now have the babies to fill our new nursery, the preschoolers to fill our new Sunday School rooms and the elementary, junior high and high school students to fill the expanded facilities acquired through our Mission Possible Campaign. God has also expanded our AWANA program to the extent that we now have a shortage of teachers and space.

Our congregation and visitors

have grown as well during 2009. Our membership now exceeds 800 members, and those who attend our Sunday Services now average over 500 a week. This is a congregation that loves each other, and loves being with each other. This year we have enjoyed Satellite Sundays together. We went to the new California Academy of Science, on a river rafting trip, and to the Woodward Park Shakespeare Festival. If you have not been on a Satellite Sunday (which usually occurs on a Saturday), then plan to do so in 2010.

**We have a healthy congregation, with members who have a passion to serve.**

Our congregation continues to be faithful and obedient in our Mission and Evangelism ministries. Jamie shared a vision, which Session adopted. We believe that God is calling our Church to be a conduit for Him. Session therefore views our Mission budget as our tithe, and sees our members' dedication to our Mission Partners as a sign of a healthy congregation.

Each year, our Mission Budget exceeds ten percent. The 2010 Budget is no exception. Since prayer is such a vital part of all ministries, the Mission Ministry Team has assembled a prayer list. The list is on our website. I invite you to take a look at the list, and pray for our Mission Partners.

We have a healthy congregation, with members who have a passion to serve. In 2009, volunteers from our Church helped to produce the Hope Now movie to tell the story of God's grace about Hope Now for Youth. Many of you prepared and served meals to the cast and crew, worked security, and provided the necessary support for the production. We are looking forward to its release in the movie theaters in 2010.

Our deacons also reflect our congregation's spiritual health.

Last year I reported the deacons' decision to institute our own food program to replace the Angel Food Distribution program, which had terminated in 2008. Our deacons began the Neighbors R Us ministry.

At the time, we had no idea what God had in store. During 2009, we not only gave food, but we also met other physical needs of families in our neighborhood, from clothes to school supplies. Each month, children from our neighborhood arrive hours early to receive groceries and supplies from our deacons. We have received the good news of families accepting Christ as a result of this ministry.

2009 has been a year filled with blessings, for which we are grateful. I ask that you continue to pray for this church, its members, its pastors and staff, and its leadership. But as you pray, I ask that you pray with thanksgiving.

We have a Lord and Savior whose plans for us exceed more than we can comprehend. I am grateful for that truth, and I am grateful to be a member with you in this church.

# Ministry Team Reports

## Adult Nurture

The Adult Nurture Committee in 2009 included Mindy Franklin, Phil and Cathy Ross, Jay Pope, Margaret Wilson, Kathy Hamlin, and Rev. David Abdo. We have had a very active year of service. Most noticeable are the changes that have taken place to room 104, now known as “Common Grounds.”

Kathy Hamlin deserves special recognition for faithfully overseeing the completion of the phase I remodeling of this room, making it much more fellowship friendly. Future plans are to complete the installation of a gas fireplace insert and a large flat screen wall TV for visual media. The 2009 conferences were quite successful, with about 80 men attending the men’s conference in May and approximately 90 women present for the October women’s conference.

Adult Nurture also sponsored several “Satellite Sunday” events, which are a variety of activities designed to promote fellowship and build relationships. Satellite simply means that the events typically occur away from the church property and on days other than Sunday. Last year’s events included a trip to the California Academy of Science, whitewater rafting on the Kings River, and attending a Shakespeare play at Woodward Park. Women’s Bible studies continued to thrive in 2009.

Our committee also provided the refreshments and oversight for the Easter brunch between services. Finally, through the Church in Society committee, which included Keith Walsh, Jim Dice, Francis Weaver, Vince Correll, Donald Norman, Paul Deffebach, and Brian and Jeanne Dolan, we helped resource and finance our church’s successful transition to our new denomina-

tional home within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

—Chris Rosik

## Christian Education

### Nursery/Preschool

2009 has brought some change in the nursery and preschool ministry area. In June, Corrie Sands resigned after five years of serving as director. She served our youngest in a loving and dedicated way. Thank you, Corrie for the beautiful foundation you have given our littlest treasures for many years.

We also appreciate Stacy Johns for serving as our nursery coordinator as she stepped down from that position in the summer. She served our babies and toddlers faithfully.

Our church is growing with little hands and feet! In this comes the importance of getting young ones into the Word. The goal is to begin to teach these little hearts that Jesus is their friend and Savior. Through playing, listening and talking our little ones learn from 32 dedicated volunteers each Sunday.

The current nursery coordinators are a dynamic duo of Rebecca Pope and Michele Cooper. They are the loving faces of our nursery that currently serves seventeen babies and toddlers. These littlest ones are cared for and nurtured every Sunday morning by many wonderful volunteers.

In preschool we have 46 children ages 2 to 5 downstairs on Sunday mornings. These energetic and sweet children are learning all the Old Testament and New Testa-

ment stories from the Word. I am thankful and the children are blessed by those who faithfully serve on a regular basis. These children are learning the truth and are having fun too! We have so many precious preschool children that we are running three classes at the 11:00 service hour, two during the education hour and one class at the 8:30 service.

—Sarah Crantz

### Elementary Department

Children from Kindergarten through grade 6 at First Pres have had another great year going deeper in their understanding of God’s Word. Through the faithful service of 40 Sunday morning volunteers, children are interacting on a practical level with strong biblical truths from both the Old and New Testaments. Grades K-4 continue to learn from the monthly rotation cycles of Bible Knowledge, Games/Drama, Media, and Art/Cooking. Five shepherds make a nine-month commitment to be with these children every week, building relationships and helping them apply what they are learning to their lives.

Rhonda Pope equips the rotation teaching teams with their monthly curriculum and Craig Hill leads the children in singing and worship at the start of every Sunday.

The 5-6 grade class under Wendi Norvell’s leadership continues to be a vital, relational atmosphere in which children build friendships and take their knowledge and application of biblical principles to a richer, deeper level. God has also provided excellent teaching teams for our 8:30 and 11:00 K-2 graders, who are dismissed from the worship services, and I praise Him for each person!



# Ministry Team Reports, Continued

The AWANA ministry for pre-school through grade 6 is thriving and continues to grow on Wednesday nights under the leadership of Craig and Ruth Hill. It takes over 40 dedicated men and women to build into the lives of 135 eager, excited children each week! Jim Cousins continues to provide creative, delicious dinners beforehand for our dinner crowd.

Winter camp at Sugar Pine and summer camps at Calvin Crest were great opportunities for children to make friends and go deeper with God. The summer Networker ministry provided many opportunities to foster friendships, build mentoring relationships and help children grow in their faith.

Vacation Bible Blast was just that, a blast. Our leadership teams were empowered and enthusiastic and close to 150 children were blessed by their ministry. The Spirit of God moved mightily on Thursday of that week as 51 children responded to the gospel message presented at the end of the morning! A follow up letter and pamphlet were sent to each child.

It is a joy to watch the church “treasures,” our children, blossom and develop in their minds and spirits under the excellence and integrity of our Elementary Ministry volunteers. We look forward to God’s leading as we move into 2010.

—**Marcie York**

### *Junior High*

This year the junior high students experienced a Spring break mission trip to San Francisco with the high school group and Bethany Inner City Church students. We learned about ourselves, one another and who God is. We helped serve at Martin Park and the Neighborhood Thrift Store for the 30 Hour. Fam-

ine. We continue to financially and spiritually support Paulus, a student whom we sponsor through Compassion International.

We said goodbye to Nathaniel Bliss and Tyler Ruiz as advisors. On Wednesday nights we enjoyed the A1 building while studying the Gospel of Mark, the book of James, and topical discussions.

On Sunday mornings we studied the Sermon on the Mount, prayer and what it means to have a devotional life, what it means to follow Christ, God’s love and the history of the Bible. Our servant-leadership group met with mentors throughout the year to experience discipleship.

—**Craig Blodgett**

### *Senior High*

Our senior high group, the SOURCE, enjoyed a tremendous year of growth, fellowship and

ministry in 2009. There were several new students who joined the group this year as well as a large freshman class transitioning to us in the summer. We also added several new adults to our ministry advisor team. For the spring semester, we enjoyed winter camp in January, a Super Bowl party in February, mission trip training in March, a combined mission trip to San Francisco with Bethany Inner-City Church and our junior high group in April, graduations in May and June and the wonderful help of youth intern, Justin Beatty. We had a tremendous team of three Networkers during the summer who led activities including summer camp, a bike trip and crazy special events.

This fall, we enjoyed an Advisor Hunt at Fashion Fair, a Youth Worship and Celebration night, a retreat in Santa Cruz and a Christmas Party. Our theme for the year

## Financial Report

*A complete financial report and budget for 2010 will be presented at our Annual Meeting on January 31, 2010.*

Annual Budget for 2009	\$ 1,295,571
Total Income	\$ 1,282,525
Total expenses	\$ 1,291,043
Effect on operations	\$ (8,518)

# Ministry Team Reports, Continued

has been “Building the Body of Christ.” We are grateful for our youth center, our partnership with Hope Now for Youth and Bethany Inner-City Church and we look forward to God’s guidance and blessing for 2010.

—Rev. Greg Ehlert



## Church Care

Major renovation work to the exterior of our sanctuary was completed this year. Many thanks go to Robert Wood for his leadership and guidance throughout the project. Ongoing maintenance required significant expense in the repair of most major appliances in our kitchen. We want to say thanks to all the volunteers who spend countless hours caring for our facilities, especially to Charlie Schuler who spends every Friday working on some items from our “to do” list.

—Dean Lloyd

## Deacons

### Our Mandate:

“Share each other’s troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2).

### Our Joy:

- Everyone who gives us the opportunity to serve our Lord
- All who respond to “Harvest of Helpers” and join us in serving
- Pastors Lana Roberts and Paul Armstrong, plus the church staff

who give us wise counsel and much needed help.

- Our moderator through July 2009, Gloria Watts, who left all our documents perfectly organized and up to date.

### Our Activities:

- Visited Seniors That Are Really Special (STARS). We are currently visiting 34 STARS. In 2009 we made at least 414 visits, 317 phone calls, sent 133 cards, and served 6 communions to STARS.
- Set up Communion at 25 services; switched to gluten-free host.
- Served at Special Events: Business meeting, Hope Now Movie production, New Again Celebration.
- Distributed food to needy families and organizations, including World Impact and Evangel Home.
- Collaborated with Love INC to meet needs in our community.
- Provided over 100 meals to people in our congregation.
- Hosted 10 Memorial Receptions.
- Assigned 6 Shepherds to congregants needing support.
- Neighbors aRe Us served about 1000 meals, gave out 80 food boxes to help families during the holidays, and provided an opportunity for our community to share with us in prayer and fellowship.
- Sent out numerous cards and letters of encouragement.
- Transported almost 100 people to church or appointments.

### Our Strength:

“Great is His faithfulness, His mercies begin afresh each



day.” (Lamentations 3:23).

### Our Request:

- That you continue to alert us to the needs around us – you can use the new “Deacon’s Prayer and Care” cards you can find in the pew racks.
- That you pray that God will keep us faithful, and that people will see the love of Christ in our activities.

—Pauline Kliever

## Evangelism

The Evangelism Ministry Team (EMT) consists of Stuart Conrad, Dave Kimball, Skin Mead, and Tina White. Our Staff Advisor is Pastor Greg Ehlert, whose enthusiasm and vision continue to have a positive effect on the remainder of the team.

After many hours of prayer and discussion throughout much of 2008, along with the expertise of an outside design team, we were proud early this year to have launched our new web site for the benefit of all First Pres members and regular attendees, as well as for others outside our family who wish to learn more about our church and its activities.

Included in the site are regular reminders of youth, Christian Education, and other activities, information on each week’s upcoming sermon, a calendar of upcoming events, audio files of each week’s sermon, and a printable copy of the weekly *A Place for You* and the monthly *Challenger* newsletters, among many other items. The EMT encourages you to visit our website regularly at [www.fpcfresno.org](http://www.fpcfresno.org) to see what is going on at First Pres.

As we have been doing for several years, the EMT, under the leadership of Skin Mead, continued to make yard signs available to all who wish them, to be placed in front of our homes to announce Easter Sun-

# Ministry Team Reports, Continued

day and Christmas Eve services at First Presbyterian Church.

These signs can be seen in front of homes throughout the greater Fresno/Clovis area, for the benefit of those who might wish to find a place to worship on these very special days on our calendar.

The Evangelism Ministry team feels that we should all be prepared to “tell our story” to others as the situation may present itself. To that end, we sponsored a three-week Adult Education class in the Spring, during which we encouraged each member of the class to develop a story to be told and provided tools for doing so.

The class was very ably led by Greg Ehlert, with assistance from Tina White and Skin Mead. Over 20 people attended, and we plan to repeat the class in the Spring or Fall of 2010.

In December, we began a program whereby everybody attending either the 8:30 or 11:00 service on Communion Sunday received a name tag, a main purpose of which is to make people more comfortable in greeting one another during and after the service. We plan to continue this program on Communion Sundays in future months.

—Dave Kimball

## Missions

Here’s the top ten things your Mission Ministry Team wants to highlight from this past year:

10. Sixteen of our young adults ended their year at Inter Varsity’s Mission Conference, URBANA, spending five amazing days in St. Louis. Thanks for all you did to help them get there.
9. Bob and Linda Osborne returned, again, to Erseke, Albania, to serve as house parents for the Torchbearer’s Bible School there.

We are delighted to get to send them once more.

8. God provided new coordinators for the Angel Tree project, Tina Beatty and Julie Barrows, who did a great job. We reduced the number of kids this year to what our church seems to be able to handle. Many thanks to all of you who purchased gifts and then made a sweet time happen at our Angel Tree Party.
7. We spent time with several visiting missionaries, some of whom spoke in Sunday School classes and others who shared with our ministry team. We support some delightful people who serve in such a wide variety of places doing some wonderful ministry. What a joy to be the bridge between them and you.
6. Peter Witt once again traveled close to North Korea for a medical trip, some of you heard his report on that experience in a Sunday School class, and many of you prayed for him. What an amazing connection.
5. We continued the annual tradition of sending Christmas gifts to our mission partners who are overseas. Thanks for taking their requests and connecting with them in this personal way.
4. Scott and Kristi Jett went to Nepal in the Spring on a short term mission trip they organized all by themselves, and then they went again in December, taking Sierra and Gabriel this time and



two other adults, Amelia Miller and Adam Sheppard. We look forward to what God will do with this connection.

3. A group of families have launched, quietly, a monthly opportunity for family service ministries. We call it ABCS, mostly for the last names of the women who started it, but also because it is about establishing a foundation in their families that we serve together. They did a paint project here at the church, have helped with Neighbors aRe Us dinners and have other neat projects planned for 2010. This is the fruit of lots of prayers!
2. Our contribution to the New Again Celebration was a Concert of Prayer. It was a lovely evening, attended by those willing to brave the storm that night. Many thanks to eleven who selected the perfect music for the evening. We hope to do it again in 2010. It ended with folks grouping around mission team members to pray for specific missionaries. That’s something you’ll hear much more about in 2010 — Mission Partner Support Teams.
1. Though officially a ministry of the deacons, we celebrate the way you all have embraced and supported the launching of the monthly dinners, Neighbors aRe Us, as a tangible outreach to the community around our church. We are especially proud of the way this congregation embraced the wild idea to go ahead and host the dinner that landed on Thanksgiving Day. What a lovely day for our body!

—Steve Skibbie

# Ministry Team Reports, Continued

## Networkers

Our theme for the summer was Proverbs 27:17 in which we learned how to sharpen one another in following Christ. We had a terrific summer with eight students, wonderful host families and guest speakers. The leadership group (N.E.T.) was made up of: Steve Skibbie, Dan Barrows, Eric Crantz, Donald Norman, Jim Cousins, Scott Norvell, Wendi Norvell, Hannah Franklin, Susan Glover, Rhonda Pope, Sarah Lloyd, and Laura Magnee. They did an outstanding job mentoring and shepherding the group of students this year.

—Craig Blodgett

## Personnel

There have been few changes in our Pastoral or Program Staff in 2009. Corrie Sands resigned her position as Children's Director, Nursery to Preschool, to devote more time with her family. We are grateful for Corrie's five years of service and her devotion to these children. Sarah Crantz was hired to fill this position. There are growing numbers of children in our church in this age group. Sarah has a Master's Degree in Special Education and is well qualified for this demanding position along with the help of many members that volunteer caring for and teaching these children about Jesus.

Fred Rodriguez, Jr. left his position as Custodian in order to devote more time in continuing his education. We wish him the best. Oscar Rodriguez was hired to fill this position working with Fred Rodriguez, Sr. Oscar is a hard worker and always willing to pitch in along with Fred Sr. to meet all our custodial needs. We welcome both Sarah and Oscar to our staff.

Our pastoral staff remains strong, gifted and faithful in their calling to minister to all members of First Presbyterian Church.

Our visitation teams along with our pastors and deacons are busy responding to those members who are shut in, or have health issues, pending surgery or death in a family or loved one.

I'll say it again as I have the past three years, we are truly blessed with our Pastoral and Support team. Let them know they are appreciated.

—Phil Crantz

## Prayer

Prayer is the life-blood of our church and the key to our personal development in Christ. There is no way to capture even a fraction of this dynamic conversation in this report but there are ways for you to connect to ongoing prayer ministries within the life of First Pres. Here are some opportunities.

Through our Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry, we have seen God move miraculously in our midst recently as we have prayed expectantly for healing, mercy, job concerns and salvation. Praying for one another should be one of the most natural acts within the Body of Christ.

The goal of the Sunday morning prayer ministry time is to address the prayer needs of our body at First Pres more intentionally while modeling consistent prayer in our most visible gathering.

We invite you to step forward after any worship service and engage one of our prayer partners or pastors in a time of prayer or

praise. You could also do this in the pews with a trusted friend.

It is hard to think that someone might come to church and leave with the same burdens they walked in with. Let's encourage one another to commit to deep and regular prayer as we celebrate our worship life together.

James 5:14: Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:16: Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Galatians 6:2: Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Pastor's Prayer Partners (PPP) is about twelve years old and continues to pray faithfully during each worship service in the Prayer Room. During that time, prayer is offered inviting the Holy Spirit into our worship time, praying for the pastor and message and lifting up the needs of the congregation. The team also steps into the sanctuary at the end of each service to pray for any that might have a prayer concern or praise.

Prayer Partners have a quarterly breakfast/prayer meeting full of worship, sermonette and prayer for our staff. It's important to know that our pastoral staff and full-time program staff do attend and very much appreciate the sacrifice of time and energy that our PPP's take on.

Our PPP's not only pray on Sunday through the services, but daily over the prayer requests shared by various staff members. Thus our



# Ministry Team Reports, Continued

campus is constantly being prayed for!

Pastor's Prayer Partners always welcomes new prayer warriors. Would you consider serving in this vital ministry in 2010? Contact Jim Herbert at 226-4558 for more information.

—**Brian Roberts**

## *Worship*

### *Worship and Music*

2009 has been a year of diverse

worship at First Pres. We are blessed with talented music staff: Bill Barbour, Carol Dice, Connie Ellenberger, and Daphne Saul, as well as volunteer pianist Walter Saul. We have an abundance of musical riches and are overflowing with God's blessings.

In February Full Court Pres presented a musical called "Jailhouse Rock" in both Sunday services. It was good for the children to preach God's Word in

song to the congregation and a blessing to all. The Brass Ensemble provided music frequently throughout the year and contributed special music for Easter, October New Again celebrations, and Christmas. The Joyful Ringers, directed by Carol Dice, provided lovely music for our services in the first half of the year. Carol took the fall semester off for health reasons. Kids Praise singers directed by Krista Moore blessed our services in the spring and is currently on hiatus as we search for a new director as Krista resigned in the fall.

The Chancel Choir has had a very positive year. Several new singers joined us for the regular season, for the Easter Choir, and Christmas Choir. We have a wonderful time in rehearsal and in praying for one another. In addition, many joined the choir for our October "New Again" celebrations October 11 and 18. In addition to their regular musical offerings throughout the year, the Chancel Choir provided special music for Easter services, New Again Celebrations and Christmas Eve. It's a pleasure to work with them as we honor and glorify God through song.

The Chancel Choir sponsored a performance of the Golden Chain Theatre's "Awful Awakenings at Asphalto" in May. Dessert was served by the high school youth at intermission and a good time had by all at this entertaining melodrama.

The choir also participated in the filming of Skin Mead's movie, "Hope Now."

Walter Saul presented a piano recital on October 30. Money raised from the concert benefited our Worship ministry. Over the summer the choir created a church cookbook called "Feeding the Flock." Over 400 delicious recipes from our con-

## *Current Church Officers*

### **Elders**

**Scott McCallum —Clerk of Session**

#### **2010**

Roxanne Cousins —Worship Chair  
Phil Crantz — Personnel Chair  
Janelle Grunberg, — Christian Education Chair  
David Kimball — Evangelism Chair  
Brian Roberts — Prayer Chair  
Chris Rosik — Adult Nurture Chair  
Tina White — Evangelism

#### **2011**

Dennis Du Pertuis — Nominating Committee Chair  
Mark Ford —Finance Chair  
Julie McGuire — Equipping Chair  
Scott Predmore — Christian Ed.  
Phil Ross — Adult Nurture  
Steve Skibbie — Mission Chair

#### **2012**

Jamie Franklin — Mission  
Lisa Goodell — Christian Education  
Dean Lloyd — Church Care  
Skin Mead — Evangelism  
Ian Mynderup — Worship  
Jay Pope — Adult Nurture

#### **2013**

Paul Abajian —Evangelism  
Andy Bergstrom — Personnel  
Eric Crantz — Prayer  
Denise Fink — Adult Nurture  
Deborah Hughes — Evangelism  
Scott Norvell — Christian Education  
Chuck Radke — Worship

### **Deacons**

#### **2010**

Marilyn Bokemeier- Communion  
Karon Chambers — Memorials and Co-Moderator  
Kathy Hamlin — Memorials and Secretary  
Bob Parkman — Transportation  
Carol Rudolph — Communion  
Walter Saul — Special Events  
Roger Taylor — Deacons' Corner

#### **2011**

Kimberly De Wolf — Memorials  
Carol Dice —Sunshine, Vice Moderator  
Pauline Kliever — Communion and Co-Moderator  
Don Scrivner — Food Closet  
Ben Shaver — Love INC.  
Beverly Tomasevich — Meal Support

#### **2012**

Julie Barrows —Memorials and Treasurer  
Debbie Haman — Meal Support  
Billy Jane Houston — Meal Support  
Joanna McKnight — Food Closet  
Anita Ullner — Special Events

#### **2013**

Buzz Burleson  
Jean Burleson  
Jeanne Durbin  
Anne Ellis  
Dave Norman  
Debbie Norman  
Frank Magnee

## Ministry Team Reports, Continued

gregation were compiled and it was sold beginning in October. In fact, if you missed getting a cookbook we still have some available

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Messiah Sing-Along on November 29 was a great success! The church was absolutely packed and we sang God's scripture in joyful celebration. The "Soup-along" team once again provided a delicious meal following the music. This event is a wonderful way that we reach out to our community through song. It is such a pleasure to present this fabulous music as a gift to others. I am truly grateful for the many volunteers who join together to enhance worship. Many people work together each Sunday so we might see and hear the services.

We also have an abundance of musicians in our congregation who have blessed us in special music for offertories over the summer and in special ensembles. We are appreciative of each member of the music ensembles, parents of the littlest singers who faithfully bring them to church to rehearse and sing to Jesus, the sound technicians, powerpoint operators, ushers and greeters, prayer warriors, behind the scenes decorators, those who record our services and download them to CD's and the website, those who help set-up and take down banners and risers, fix burned out lights, and especially you, members of our congregation, who join us in worship! Soli Deo Gloria! (only to God's glory!)

—Dr. Julie Carter

### Worship Arts

Once the Sanctuary exterior was completed in October, we were able

to go to work in November and early December, tackling some long-awaited maintenance on our lighting system. Many thanks to Jim Dice and Dean Lloyd for devoting ministry hours to getting the lifts rented and in place, helping our lighting technician as needed, and even changing all the bulbs in the chandeliers to brighter and "greener" CFL's. I noticed some of the choir members wearing sunglasses during rehearsal—that's a sign that we've succeeded.

We are thankful for all of the people who participate in the several groups that lead and enhance our worship services every week, throughout the year. There are about 30 volunteers who serve on both worship teams, in the areas of sound, power point, and by recording and making sermons available on CD's and online.

A special "thank you" goes out to Jeff Sands and Kurt Sterling for jumping in to help the Worship Team one Sunday in February when our usual technician was called away to an emergency. Also, as one of the originators of our worship band, Eleven, Jeff has had a big part in their service to the congregation these four-plus years. Thanks, Jeff, for giving abundantly of your time and energies, and may your next endeavors be blessed.

Thank you also to all the elders and deacons who participate in the privilege of serving communion on the first Sunday of each month. In the same way, we appreciate our worship elders, Roxanne Cousins and Ian Mynderup, and thank them enthusiastically for their able leadership in 2009.

—Rev. Lana Roberts



## Necrology Report

Rev. Thomas Patten  
01/07/2009

Jim Bybee  
01/20/2009

Rev. Jonathan Evans  
02/25/2009

Mildred Kellenberger  
03/25/2009

Harold Chatfield  
03/29/2009

Hildegarde (Hilde) Upton  
04/05/2009

John Cotton  
05/10/2009

Franklin Jones  
08/13/2009

Mary Jane Siverly  
08/17/2009

Sam Barkman  
08/31/2009

James Dougherty  
11/01/2009

Virginia Cristando  
11/10/2009

William (Bill) Wiggins  
11/19/2009

Helen Lasher  
11/22/2009

Samuel Kermit Koontz  
12/19/2009



# Nominations For Church Office

## *Elders*

### **Paul Abajian**

Originally from Downey, CA, Paul met Ann while living in Pasadena. He has been married for 15 years and has three children ages 5 to 11. Paul currently works as a broadcast producer by creating, filming and producing commercials for clients in Fresno and Los Angeles. God is teaching him the power of prayer, particularly with his wife and children. He is looking forward to allowing Christ to use and grow in him in new ways as he serves the church body.

### **Denise Fink**

Denise grew up at First Pres. She and her husband, Rich, have been members since they returned to Fresno in 1990. Currently she is part of the leadership team for WEBS (Women's Evening Bible Study). This Bible study has filled a real need for her to be in the Word on a regular basis and has encouraged her to trust in the Lord for daily strength. Denise anticipates the spiritual growth that will come with serving alongside our pastors and elders as a part of the Adult Nurture team.

### **Scott Norvell**

Scott has attended First Pres for five years. Scott and his wife Wendi have been married for almost 25 years and have three children, Luke (21), Chris (19) and Kaylene (14). Besides playing tuba in the brass ensemble, Scott has enjoyed being an advisor for the high school ministry. He has also participated in the Vacation Bible Blast and helps out occasionally at AWANA. This past summer he was a part of the Networker Team and enjoys serving the Body of Christ whenever he can. Scott has been a teacher for Cutler-Orosi Unified Schools for 20 years and looks forward to serving First Pres in this new

capacity as a Christian Education elder.

### **Chuck Radke**

Chuck and his wife Karen began coming to First Presbyterian Church in January of 2006 after attending the 2005 Christmas service. They knew they had found their church home soon after they started attending regularly, and they became new members during the spring of that year. The Radkes are actively involved in the church's AWANA program, and God has been nudging them in the direction of greater involvement for about a year. Chuck is excited about the opportunity to serve as an elder for Worship and to become more involved in church polity.

## *Deacons*

### **Anne Ellis**

Anne grew up in the Episcopal Church but began attending First Pres at the invitation of Julie Eberly more than 15 years ago. She joined First Pres soon after, and was married in the church in 1995 to Jim. They have a son, Robbie, who is 11, and a daughter, Janie, who is 9. Anne and Jim teach the drama/games portion of Sunday School. She has served as a deacon once before, and she is looking forward to being more actively involved in the church. God is at the center of her life, and has always guided her in all new adventures.

### **Frank Magnee**

Frank has attended First Presbyterian Church for 18 years. Prior to that Frank and his wife Laura attended Palos Park Presbyterian Church on the south side of Chicago. God has been a constant source of blessing in his life both in marriage and family. They have two beautiful daughters, Cara and

Crista, both graduates of Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. Frank recently retired from Walgreen Company which is what brought the Magnee family to California and to First Pres. He looks forward serving the church as a deacon

### **Dave Norman**

Dave has appreciated other ministries and has been blessed by serving others. He would like to continue to serve others in our church body. God continues to show Dave how to support and love others especially in times of joy and need. One of the blessings he has enjoyed in ministry is the fellowship with others with an interest and gifts of service. During his most recent service in the Networker ministry he came to learn that intentional service to others can be a blessing to both, and he often believed that he received the greater blessing. He looks forward to the opportunities that deacons bring to reach out, help bless and be blessed.

### **Debbie Norman**

Debbie enjoys ministry and wants to serve others in our congregation. God continues to show her how to love others and how we can do His

## *Annual Sunday Worship Attendance*

### Year Attendance

1999:	29,843
2000:	29,838
2001:	28,414
2002:	28,256
2003:	27,335
2004:	29,146
2005:	29,030
2006:	29,557
2007:	27,837
2008:	28,752
2009:	27,776

# Nominations For Church Office, Continued

work with one heart and one purpose. One of the blessings Debbie has enjoyed in ministry is the fellowship. Because of this, she felt honored and excited when called about becoming a deacon. She enjoyed the many aspects of the Networker Ministry, such as being an advisor, being part of the core team and then being one of the leaders, and now she welcomes the opportunity to serve as a deacon.

## *Nominating Committee*

### **Ann Abajian**

Originally from Fresno, Ann met Paul while living in Orange County. She's been married for 15 years and has three children ages 5 to 11. She works part time doing freelance public relations work, and serves in Bible Study Fellowship. Recently, God has been revealing to her how He is the bread of life, and that true food and satisfaction come from believing in Christ and doing His will. She is looking forward to working alongside other members of the church and encouraging the church body to serve Him in new ways.

### **Catherine Alkire**

Catherine has been a First Pres member for more than 20 years. Over the years she has been involved with many ministries and served on staff as part-time Children's Director for four years. Her husband John passed away in 2004, so now she is a single mother to four amazing children; Alexandra (18), AJ (16), Brad (13), Emily (12). Catherine is an elementary teacher and currently work three days a week teaching an intervention program to kids performing below grade level. She loves being a part of Bible Study Fellowship and studying God's word. She also enjoys reading, traveling, and going out to lunch with friends.

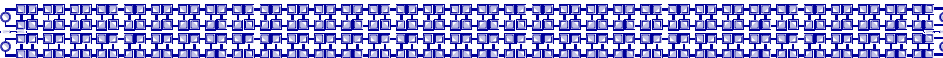
### **Jim Cousins**

Jim came to First Pres when he was in college. He and his wife Roxanne have two daughters who grew up in the church. Jim has been involved in a number of ministries over the years including Seekers, Seeker Christmas Trees, Junior Highs, Networkers and Christian Education elder. He has also provided food for the AWANA program.

### **Kathy Hamlin**

Kathy is wife to Kent Hamlin and

mom to Eric and Rachel Hamlin. She has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1988. After joining the church, she led Full Court Pres for thirteen years. She was Interim Adult Choir Director for one year, was active in Women's Ministries and was chair of Women's Conference. Currently, Kathy serves First Pres as a deacon on the Memorials committee. She also lead in the conversion of the old high school room to Common Grounds, and assists with weddings and other church events. Kathy is honored to be asked to serve on Nominating Committee.



<i>Membership Report</i>						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Membership Jan. 1</b>	862	881	896	906	916	807
<b>Membership Dec. 31</b>	875	896	906	916	807	821
<b>Gains:</b>						35
Letter	14	6	12		3	2
Professions	6	27	3	13	7	3
Reaffirmation	20	8	18	13	29	28
Reinstated	2	1			1	2
<b>Losses:</b>						21
Death	11	12	13	14	13	9
Transfer	8	8	6	2	5	4
Inactive Roll	10	1	1		129	8
Erased	0	6	1		1	0
Ordained	0		2		1	0
<b>Marriages*</b>	4	2	6	11	7	5
<b>Funerals</b>	14	15	7	12	17	15
<b>Baptisms</b>			11	4	9	9
Infant and Children	10	7	10	3	7	4
Adults	2	0	1	1	2	5
<b>*By First Pres ministers</b>						

## Deadline Information

**The deadline for the March Challenger is February 19 at 5:00 p.m.** It will be mailed out **March 3.** Please contact Daphne Saul (252-4064), [daphne4926@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daphne4926@sbcglobal.net), or leave in newsletter box in church office. **The deadline for "A Place for You" is each Monday at 5 p.m.** Please submit announcements to Cheryl Eaker (485-6460) or [staff@fpcfresno.org](mailto:staff@fpcfresno.org) and put Cheryl Eaker's name in the subject box.

## First Pres Challenger January 2010

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Published monthly by  
First Presbyterian Church  
1540 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721-1277



## The Ministry Team

Rev. James Evans, Senior Pastor  
Rev. David Abdo, Executive Pastor  
Rev. Lana Roberts, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Paul Armstrong, Pastor to the Congregation  
Rev. Thomas Parsons, Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. H. Spees, Pastor-At-Large  
Bob and Rosemary Avery Chaplains  
Craig Blodgett, Assistant Youth Director  
Dr. Julie Carter, Coordinator, Worship and Music  
Sarah Crantz, Birth-Pre K Children's Director  
Rev. Greg Ehlert, Youth Director  
Susan Glover, Administrator  
Terry Jaurena, Mission Director  
Marcie York, K-6 Children's Director

### Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Daphne Saul  
Editorial Board: Karin Cook, David Kimball, and Paula Lloyd.

If you would like to send an e-mail to any staff member at First Pres, please address it to: [staff@fpcfresno.org](mailto:staff@fpcfresno.org) and include the name of the staff member in the subject box.

First Presbyterian Church  
1540 M Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-1277  
559-485-6460  
Fax: 559-485-1538

Return service requested

## For Your Information

### New Babies

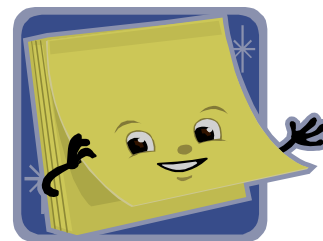
Lucy Rosario McEntee  
November 16, 2009  
Parents: Ben and Danielle  
McEntee

Westin Trace Slaughter  
January 4, 2010  
Parents: John and Sarah  
Slaughter

### Thank you

Many thanks to the deacons for furnishing food, flowers, and their time for the memorial service for Helen Lasher. The deacons provided for 100 people the day after Thanksgiving. It is amazing what God's people can do, and we will be forever grateful.

—The Lasher Family



### Special Sunday Schedule January 31

**8:30-11:00 a.m.** Children ages 2 through 7 come to the Art Room for breakfast and activities, thanks to the Pink House.

**8:30 a.m.** Ages 8 through adults meet in the fellowship hall for brunch and the Annual Congregational Meeting. Cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

**10:00 a.m.** Joint worship service in the sanctuary.

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