



FIRST
UNITED
CHURCH
of Oak Park



Annual Report 2009

*an open
community
united in love
& justice*

Julie R. Harley, Lead Pastor,
Leah Fowler, Associate Minister of Youth and Adult Education
Mark Buck, Interim Associate Pastor for Membership and Mission
Marylen Marty-Gentile, Director of Children & Family Ministries,
Jeff Foels, McCormick Seminary Intern
William Chin, Director of Music Ministry
Cathryn Wilkinson, Organist,
Judith Loevy, Operations Manager,
Julie O'Shea, Financial Administrator
Joan White, Nursery School Director,

jrh@firstunitedoakpark.com
jfowler@firstunitedoakpark.com
mbuck@firstunitedoakpark.com
marylen@firstunitedoakpark.com
jfoels@gmail.com
bill@firstunitedoakpark.com
cathryn@firstunitedoakpark.com
operations@firstunitedoakpark.com
financial@firstunitedoakpark.com
jwhite@firstunitedschool.com

Deacons

Carl Nauert, *Chair*
chnauer@sbcglobal.net

The Deacons continue to foster a culture of caring in the congregation, providing a variety of services and providing ways for members to support each other. We continue to evolve and expand our Prayer Ministry, allowing each Deacon to better care for their assigned flock. We piloted the use of MemberLink allowing us to see the most current version of the Church directory, thereby communicating with our members in a timely and effective manner. Beside holding our flock members in our prayers and the standard periodic communications, we are striving to support members with concerns by finding ways the Deacons and the Church can support them in their time of need.

In addition, we continue to provide care for all members of the congregation through ministries under the auspices of the Deacons: the Visitation Team (for shut-ins), PALS notes, flower delivery, home meal delivery, memorial service receptions, ushers, greeters, PrimeTime, prayer shawls, a birthday party for our 90 year old members and home visits. Feel free to contact any Deacon if you would like to get involved with any of these Deacon ministries.

Faith in Worship Committee

Scott Haldeman, *Chair*
shaldeman@ctschicago.edu

The Faith-in-Worship Committee supports the staff as they lead the congregation in prayer and song, in telling the stories of our faith and in preaching. The major accomplishment of 2009 was another year of rich and engaging worship.

A second goal, toward which we took initial steps in 2009, is to integrate more fully the efforts of those who attend to worship, music and the arts. For example, we seek to nurture more intentionally the relationship of Music-at-First to congregational life and to support those who create and install our sanctuary art.

A third task we engaged, again in a preliminary way, was to open the worship planning process to more voices. Conversations about both specific upcoming services and entire seasons are a regular part of the Committee's agenda. The staff invited members to a number their planning meetings; however, few of us actually participated. Experimenting with new ways to engage both the Committee and the wider congregation in preparing worship will continue.

Lay Ministry Support Team

Pauline Coffman, *Chair*
p.coffman@sbcglobal.net

We were delighted to welcome Jeffrey Foels to our staff as part-time McCormick Seminary intern for 2009—2010. Jeff is here two days a week and is involved in several different aspects of ministry. His supervisor is Lead Pastor Julie R. Harley, and he meets periodically with our support team.

Christian Education

Youth Committee

Co-chairs

Judy Bradeen

JAB1022@aol.com

Kathryn Heavey

kathryngh@hotmail.com

The Youth Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the pastor having oversight of FUJI and FUSH, the church's two youth groups. This year, the Committee welcomed Leah Fowler and gave her our support as she began her work with the youth of First United. We also welcomed three new members to the Committee: Stan Faust, Lisa Lowry, and Sharon Stolz. We provided support to FUJI and FUSH parents by offering an evening of discussion regarding the joys and challenges of raising teenage children. We initiated a new practice of inviting youth board moderators to our meetings, and including FUJI and FUSH advisors in the distribution list for the minutes of our meetings. Finally, we solicited the input of FUSH youth, advisors and the Youth Committee in the deliberations as to where and when work camp would be held, and the final location was announced much earlier in the year, to allow for planning by both FUSHes and their families.

Children's Ministry Committee

Co-chairs

Andrea Alter

leap4@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Metric

barbarametric@comcast.net

Throughout the year, Children's Ministry facilitates the ongoing work of the Church School. Children's Ministry members serve as liaisons between the Church School classes and parents. Children's Ministry coordinates Gathering Day in September, and provides support for Hanging of the Greens, the Christmas Eve pageant, and the year-end church picnic. Children's Ministry demonstrates appreciation for Church School leaders by hosting Leader Breakfasts and gifting "Three Nice Things" throughout the year. Children's Ministry attends to other church life details, such as providing activity materials for children during worship, cleaning the nursery three times annually, and scheduling acolytes and nursery helpers for Sunday worship services.

Adult Education Committee

William Tweedley, *Chair*

William.tweedley@alum.ptsem.edu

The Committee provided programming created around monthly themes identified by our pastors, and consistent with the church's Wildly Important Goal of "creating and maintaining a framework that nourishes the spiritual welfare of the congregation." Our events were advertised through a brochure, the monthly newsletter and some mid-week e-mail reminders. Classes were led by pastors, members and outside spiritual leaders, using a variety of educational styles, and addressing the diverse educational desires of our congregation.

Bergstraesser Library Committee

Cindy Palombi, *Chair*

cindy.palombi@sbcglobal.net

The Committee met monthly in addition to small groups that met for monthly work days. Revisions were completed on the Policies and Procedures statements. The library's new cataloging software was installed and the children's collection has been cataloged. Work continues on the adult collection. Two new periodicals have been added and worship recordings are now available. The Committee has submitted monthly news articles in the *Messenger Bell* encouraging the use of this beautiful space.

Interim Pastor Search Committee

Tom Wolford, *Chair*

twoford59@ngelaw.com

After Rev. Mamie Broadhurst left First United Church staff for missionary work in Colombia, the Interim Pastor Search Committee interviewed numerous candidates for the position. After a thoughtful process of discernment, and approval by Church Council, Rev. Mark Buck was chosen as Interim Associate Pastor of Membership and Mission and began his work on our staff in late August. The members of the Interim Pastor Search Committee were: Marcia Ashton, Renee Davis, Chris Davis, Dan Pietrini and Tom Wolford.

Annual Report 2009

3

Faith in Action Committee

Bob Hahn, *Chair*

bobpathahn@sbcglobal.net

In response to God's grace and blessings the Faith In Action Committee has committed First United's resources globally and locally with major mission efforts as well as continuing to support our resident mission programs.

Globally we have committed to addressing peace and justice in Colombia by supporting the missionary work of Mamie Broadhurst, helping the indigenous peoples with land rights, offering sanctuary and addressing U.S. policy towards Colombia.

Locally our major mission project surrounds the issue of hunger. We have supported the food pantry with facility, food drives, volunteers and funds. As a major mission initiative we will continue to address the issue of hunger by addressing and understanding the root causes of hunger as well as helping to distribute food to the hungry. First United continued to welcome the Walk In Ministry, Cluster Tutoring and PADS. Not only were funds provided but also many volunteers helped run and administer these programs.

Communications Committee

Martha Reese, *Chair*

martha@martinreese.com

We built awareness of the church online directory MemberLink, promoted its use, and offered hands-on assistance to members wishing to update their profiles and upload photos. We increased usage of the Lounge bulletin board as a medium for communication about church-related programs and offered how-to guidance to prospective users. We developed a system for reaching out to new community residents with a welcome message from First United. We participated in the team that initiated improvements to the Narthex ambience. We have begun working on the transition from paper to electronic editions of Messenger Bell. We have launched a subcommittee to evaluate the structure and effectiveness of the church website.

FFUN Committee Report

Co-chairs

Carole Ferguson,

prideandprejudicefudge@yahoo.com

Janet Kenealy,

kenealyfam@sbcglobal.net

The FFUN (Fellowship at First United) Committee has completed its first full year as a newly formed group charged with promoting fellowship and hospitality at First United. Our year began last January with the Congregational Breakfast in which we coordinated a hot breakfast for the 120 members in attendance. The Committee didn't let a little rain hamper the annual Church Picnic which had to be held indoors due to the inclement weather. Hot dogs, chips and salad/side dishes were on the menu. In celebration of Gathering Day this past September, the FFUN Committee hosted a root beer social immediately following worship. Plans are in the works for the next Congregational breakfast and for a Show Tunes Sing Along in February.

Personnel Committee

Co-Chairs:

Allen Parchem

aparchem@rhrinternational.com

Elan Long

elong@springsmart.com

Personnel Committee served as a Pastoral Search Committee which resulted in a call to Rev. Leah Fowler as Associate Pastor for Youth and Adult Education beginning in July 2009.

Rev. Kelly Brouwer completed her contract with us in June 2009. Rev. Mamie Broadhurst, Associate Pastor for Membership and Mission, resigned from our staff in June 2009 to become a missionary in Colombia.

We reviewed and rewrote the job descriptions for all staff positions to ensure consistency and clarity. This work has provided a sound foundation for discussions of reorganizing responsibilities as we move towards calling a new part-time Associate Pastor for Membership and Mission and for addressing several individual employment matters. The Liaison Program has been reviewed and redefined to ensure that we provide healthy and timely support to our individual staff members and improve our understanding of the challenges and opportunities that face our congregation and our staff.

Endowment Committee

Gene Armstrong, *Chair*

geneann1113@yahoo.com

We watched the market value of the endowment sink to a low at the end of March, then rise to prior-year levels by the end of September – whew! Our Account Managers were unaffected by the FDIC orchestrated takeover of Park National Bank by US Bank, and our endowment was never at risk when that takeover occurred.

Planned Giving Committee

We held a congregational breakfast to introduce several planned giving concepts and inform members of the church about our activities and plans. We held one-on-one meetings with several members who were interested in planned gifts to the church. We prepared a list of attorneys who are able to provide estate planning advice and service. We obtained materials related to planned giving from both denominations, and met with a representative of the Presbyterian Church-USA who counsels and advises churches about planned giving programs and opportunities.

Associate Pastor Committee

melinda Haag, *Chair*

mshaag@yahoo.com

Our search committee was elected to fill the Associate Pastor for membership and Mission position. The position was posted on the UCC and PCUSA websites in the fall of 2009 and we select a final candidate in the spring of 2010.

Annual Report 2009

FIRST UNITED CHURCH of Oak Park

Combined Operations

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	Dec 31, 2008	Dec 31, 2009
Cash	\$ 115,027	\$ 129,539
Investments at cost	2,834,887	2,543,319
Unrealized Investment Gains (Losses)	(357,979)	165,697
RISA Loan	25,000	25,000
Chicago Community Trust Loan	40,000	40,000
Pastor Housing Equity Note	33,000	—
Presbyterian Foundation Gifts	56,299	56,299
Total Assets	\$ 2,746,234	\$ 2,959,854
Liabilities		
Building Loan - Park National	\$ 375,000	\$ 250,000
Restricted Operating Funds	\$84,766	\$125,812
Net Capital Project Unfunded	\$ (370,228)	\$ (244,438)
Endowment Funds at Market		
General Endowment Fund	\$ 795,873	\$ 878,023
Special Mission Endowment Fund	1,259,583	1,365,554
Pastoral Housing Fund	294,823	311,327
Building Fund	1,089	—
Women of the Church Fund	26,675	31,945
Priebe- Nursery School Support Fund	18,723	22,433
Gebhard-Christian Mission Travel Fund	55,355	64,208
Alice Flowers-Music Fund	47,149	56,480
Harrison-General Program Support	22,032	—
Harrison-Forest Home Cemetery Care	26,574	31,811
Memorial Fund-General Fund	13,700	—
Haines- Jr Hi Scholarship Fund	5,000	5,000
Haines- Sr Hi Scholarship Fund	5,000	5,000
Presbytery Foundation-Memorial Gift	11,408	11,408
Presbytery Foundation-Charitable Interest	44,891	44,891
	<u>\$ 2,627,875</u>	<u>\$2,828,080</u>
Fund Principal & Net Activity	\$ 28,821	\$ 10,400
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,746,234	\$ 2,969,854

Operations of the First United Nursery School and The First United Evening Division are not included here.

Sources and Uses of Funds

General Operations	Actual 2008	Approved Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Approved Budget 2010
Sources of Funds				
Pledge Income	\$ 598,459	\$ 603,103	\$ 622,197	\$ 636,500
Mission Endowment Draws	183,377	158,342	158,342	142,719
Other Endowment Draws	100,074	91,686	91,686	88,673
Other Income	117,269	123,500	169,321	119,500
Total Sources of Funds	\$ 999,179	\$ 976,631	\$ 1,041,546	\$ 987,392
Uses of Funds				
Pastoral & Administrative Staff	\$ 540,810	\$ 540,284	\$ 547,935	\$ 516,341
Other Personnel Costs	17,129	4,100	3,575	4,900
Admin & Building	211,185	214,100	253,438	230,000
Faith in Learning	22,061	25,885	24,885	22,830
Faith in Worship	15,200	19,600	18,851	17,915
Faith in Community	9,511	11,820	10,840	13,070
Faith in Action	183,283	160,842	171,622	165,919
Total Uses of Funds	\$ 999,179	\$ 976,631	\$ 1,031,146	\$ 970,975
Net General Operations Fund	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 10,400	\$ 16,417

Endowment Operations

Sources of Funds	2008	2009
Investment (Losses) Income	\$ (813,703)	\$ 455,749
Endowment Funds Received	—	3,730
Investment Expenses	(9,245)	(7,678)
Total Sources of Funds	\$ (822,948)	\$ 451,801
Uses of Funds		
Draws from Endowment Funds	\$ 257,954	\$ 251,595
Total Uses of Funds	\$ 257,954	\$ 251,595
Net Sources (Uses) of Endowment Funds	\$ (1,080,902)	\$ 200,206

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of the following in 2009:

John Armour	<i>Memorial Fund</i>
Ed Bergstraesser	<i>Special Mission Endowment Fund</i>
Jean and Bonnie Bonthron	<i>Memorial Fund</i>
Joanne Gsell	<i>Memorial Fund</i>
Albert Henders	<i>Music Fund</i>
Sharon Masson	<i>Memorial Fund</i>
Ann Siler	<i>OPRF Food Pantry</i>
Cynthia O'Reilly	<i>Memorial Fund</i>
Gerald Potts Jr.	<i>Youth Fund & Evening Division</i>

Annual Report 2009

7

Buildings & Grounds Committee

John Zaruba, *Chair*
Zaruba@bigtoys.com

Major Accomplishments 2009

1. Receiving a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for \$5,000 to replace the lighting in the Nursery School.
2. All lighting in the Nursery School, The first floor hallways, Rooms 14 & 15, and the gym was replaced with energy and cost saving lighting.
3. The Gardening Committee completed a total redesign of the church grounds.
4. Repair, restore and paint the window trim on the East Sanctuary Windows.
5. Floor tiles replaced in the Nursery School Hallways and bathrooms.
6. Clean, repair, and paint all of the kitchen cabinets.

Goals for 2010

1. To be able to replace the flat roof over the Nursery School classrooms.

Finance Committee

Claudette Zobel, *Chair*
Claudette@zobel.com

For the fifth consecutive year, the congregation of First United Church maintained its commitment to a balanced budget in 2009. This was possible because committees and staff monitored their expenditures with great care.

Given the difficult financial situation of the country it is exciting to note that the congregation increased its 2010 pledge income to \$674,938 and added 46 new pledging units to its rolls. The success of the stewardship campaign enabled the Finance Committee to budget for a modest staff increase, make a much needed increase in the Building and Grounds Committee budget, plan for the payment of the interest expenses on our building loan and make a congregational contribution to our mission budget.

First United Nursery School

Megan Lewis, *Board President*
meganlewis@comcast.net

The Nursery School had a wonderful year in 2009! We implemented new programming that included a two-year-old class that meets two days a week, an early start (8:15 am) for our morning students and an extension to our morning classes with our Lunch Bunch. We have positioned ourselves as the leader among the local preschools and our enrollment reflects that. Once again, the fundraising efforts of our Board exceeded expectations!

Membership Report 2009

Members January 1, 2009	779
New Members Added	40
Confirmands	12
Members Removed by Death	11
Other Members Removed	120
Total Members December 31, 2009	700

FIRST UNITED CHURCH *of Oak Park*

848 Lake Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60301
708.386. 5215

fax: 708.386.7480
office@firstunitedoakpark.com

www.firstunitedoakpark.com