Annual Report 2008

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church

Photo taken Dec. 11, 2008, by Ellen Shields

St. Charles Avenue
Presbyterian Church

a caring, covenant community

2008 Annual Report

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

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Agenda
Sunday, February 8, 2009

Call to Order	Don Frampton, Moderator
Opening Prayer	Kelly Hostetler, Vice Moderator
Declaration of Quorum and Purpose of Meeting	Robert Stickney, Clerk
Distribution of Annual Reports	Ushers
Presentation of 2009 Church Budget (see p.13)	Holly Sharp Snodgrass, Chair, Finance Committee
Election of Congregational Nominating Committee* Carolyn Baker Aimée! Bell Ruthie Frierson Matthew Hostetler Beth Poe Anne Robinson Dave White	Beth Poe, Chair, Leadership Development Committee
Presentation of Changes in Terms of Pastors' Calls*	Laura Shields, Vice-Chair, Personnel Committee
Remarks	Don Frampton
Closing Prayer	Don Frampton

***For action**

Dear Friends:

Dear Friends:

The beginning of a new year is always a time both for assessment and looking ahead. Let me attempt to summarize something of each as we embark on 2009.

The past year for St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church was one of continued growth and achievement. We added 51 new members and increased our average worship attendance by 7.7 percent, from 325 to 350. We gave away $280,000 to worthy agencies and organizations, some 18 percent of our total budget. We hosted 830 more RHINO volunteers – our grand total now is something like 3,000 – who, along with church members, built seven new Habitat for Humanity homes at Ferry Place. Witnessing the grateful families finally move in to their new homes was a huge landmark for our church.

We faithfully taught our children, our youth and our adults about God and Christ and sponsored a Bible read-through program. On Wednesday nights we hosted the likes of Robert Cerasoli, former inspector general for New Orleans, and a leader with the New Orleans Master Plan, Rafe Rabalais. We were moved and inspired by great choral performances from Children's to Chancel and marveled over the faith and depth of our youth during Youth Sunday. We bested last year's impressive pledge total, and we ended the year in the black, no small feat in a depressed economy.

This year will be one of great challenge and excitement. We have an outstanding Session whose committees are off to their best start in years. With seven houses done, RHINO charges ahead with the remaining seven houses at Ferry Place. Kelly and I are adding at least two new services to the calendar, a mid-week Lenten series and a Good Friday service. Already we have seen a nice, new group of members join the church.

The ongoing recession affects us all. While I have never worried about finances at SCAPC, I would charge us all to keep the church at the top of our list of giving priorities. I can assure you that for its part the church will remain ever prudent in its expenditures. At the same time, we must not neglect our first charge, as Christ's disciples, to care for the world – meaning our fundamental commitment to benevolences (charitable gifts). On top of all this, we owe it to ourselves to proceed with Katrina-deferred plans for needed improvements to our physical plant, including expanding an overcrowded Chapel, renovating Fellowship Hall, classrooms and bathrooms and adding a Memorial Garden with a columbarium. These would be among our challenges.

One of the great pleasures of my ministry is the opportunity to work with an incredibly gifted church staff. In particular, my partnership with Kelly Hostetler is extremely gratifying. I love being the Moderator of our Session. But my greatest joy is in serving you, the good people of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church. Thank you for the continued privilege of being your pastor.

Faithfully,

Don

Friends,

Friends,

Don has wonderfully summarized some of the past and future benchmarks for St Charles Avenue. SCAPC is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused, a beautiful balance that holds us close to the heart of God. As I look to the past and the future, I feel incredibly blessed to have encountered such wonderful people amidst this body of believers; people who have inspired and challenged me, and shown me true examples of discipleship in this world. I'd like to share just a few with you, paying forward some of the many blessings I've received from this faith community.

Sunday nights for me have been spent leading a worship service for students involved in SCAPC's Presbyterian College Fellowship, followed by a meal cooked by members of the congregation. Oh, the things that come up at that table, over those wonderful meals! One student asks for help in navigating a relationship with his girlfriend, who is not a Christian; another asks to meet with me, so that we can work through the Bible's opinion on homosexuality; and one of my favorite conversations: a young woman wants me to explain how I justify my profession in light of Paul's injunction that women should keep silent in church! How grateful I am for their probing and digging, their refusal to accept the easy answer from me, or anyone else. They have blessed me with their determination to know more of themselves and more of God.

College students are at the beginning of their life's journey—so it felt all wrong to have to hold a memorial service this summer to mourn the loss of one of our students, a beautiful young woman. We came together too many times this year to celebrate the lives of beloved members whose earthly life had ended … forcing us into a harsh awareness of how unpredictable and fragile life is. Everyone felt the strain during those times, and yet I observed the staff of this church in a consistent posture of humble service. Whatever was needed, no job too big or too small, from the senior pastor to the part-time office assistant, nothing less than 100 percent was offered to minister fully to the families and the congregation. I am so very grateful to surrounded by such gifted and dedicated staff members, who have a heart for God's work in this community.

It is a privilege to take church to those who cannot come to our building for Sunday worship. Whether visiting those who are temporarily out of commission, or stopping by with communion for those whose age or health do not allow them to come, Don and I are blessed by these encounters. Not too long ago, I visited a member in an out-of-town nursing home. The home was not particularly nice, and as I searched for this woman, I ached for her daily struggle to endure the sights and smells that I could hardly stand for a few minutes. I found her outside, sitting in a rocking chair, reading her bible. She greeted me warmly and spoke about the kindness of the staff and the blessing of being outdoors on a sunny day. Her joy enveloped me and chased away my sadness for her. As I left, I found myself envying her for the richness of her hope, the depth of her faith.

The faith of this church community has allowed us to weather more storms than just Gustav and Ike this year. And we have weathered them together, with Don's and the session's guiding hands. That is the beauty of the church at its best. I hope that you allow others to help you bear the burdens of your journey, and that if your yoke is light just now, you offer to help others. That's how we are meant to proceed together, sharing the heights and the depths, leaning on each other for support, propping each other up with love and hope. May the light of Christ guide each of us this year, and always.

Blessings,

Kelly

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Chair: Jennifer Steck
Vice-Chair: Courtney Frankowski

Youth Sunday School Classes
The Youth Sunday School class (grades 6-12) is using the web-based curriculum Akaloo and studying the book of Luke. They have been working through the questions: "Did the events in the Bible actually happen?", "Is God really in charge?", "Is sin such a bad thing?", "Why should Christians care about politics?" and "If Jesus saved us, do our actions matter?" In January, the Youth Group led the 10:30 service on Youth Sunday.

Bible Adventures
The Kindergarten -3rd grade Sunday School Classes continued with the Workshop Rotation Method. The 2008 theme was the "Word of God." The rotations were "How the Bible Came to Be," "The Psalms," "Christmas: a Gospel Comparison," "The Beatitudes," "The Great Commandment," "Holy Week: A Gospel Comparison" and "Acts of the Apostles." The students attended a different workshop every week including: cooking, computers, drama, art, storytelling, recreation and Bible improv. At the beginning of each class, the leaders (or Shepherds) led the group in studying their Faith Focus. This year we worked on "The Apostles' Creed" and the "Lord's Prayer." At the end of each rotation, students could trade in the "Bible Bucks" they earned for toys and books.

Challenger Class
The Challenger Class, introduced in 2007, continued to be well received. Fourth- and fifth-graders moved into their newly renovated space on the third floor. They used the Akaloo program and studied "What's so good about the Bible?", "What does God do when bad things happen?"," Why do I tell others about God?", "Why is church important?" and "How can I make a difference?" Nine students enjoyed a fun, weekend retreat at Tickfaw State Park in October when the topic was "Being a Positive Influence." Personalized, embossed Bibles were presented to nine fourth-grade students.

Pre-schoolers
Pre-school age children continued to attend their own Sunday School Class and were provided with childcare during worship. A combination of paid sitters, church members and youth helpers provided childcare for pre-schoolers, toddlers and infants during services.

Vacation Bible School
"SonWorld Adventure Theme Park" was the theme for Vacation Bible School. Approximately 75 children participated, including 31 church members and 44 non-members with more than 40 youth and adult volunteers.

LIGHT house
The Wednesday afternoon program for children in Grades k-5 was changed to LIGHT house (Learning in God's House Together). The classes met from 4:00 – 4:45 for Bible study. Kindergarten – 1st grade used Akaloo and 2nd – 5th grade were led through the Bible by Don Frampton. After class, the younger group had choir led by Ms. Peggy Crain and the older group worked the hand bells with Mr. Steven Blackmon and Daniel DeShazo. After choir, the group enjoyed dinner with the congregation and RHINO volunteers.

Youth Ministry
The Youth Ministry for grades 6-12 continued to meet on Sunday evenings under the leadership of Ellen Shields. Michele Murphy and Ellen Shields conducted the confirmation class in March culminating in May. There were 15 confirmands. They attended a retreat with other area youth groups to Feliciana. During the summer months, students took trips to the Heifer Ranch, Mo-Ranch and Montreat.

Nursery School
The Nursery School continued to offer weekday programs for 100 children under the leadership of Keflyn Fransen. Summer camp and other programs were organized throughout the year.

Adult Sunday School
During 2008, SCAPC continued to offer Presbyterian 101 and the History of SCAPC on a monthly basis. In addition to these classes, the Bible Exploration Class studied Esther and the Beatitudes as well as an Advent and a Lenten series. Other classes offered during 2008 include a study of the book, *The Road Less Traveled*, an architectural look at Sacred Spaces, Christian values and politics and a communications class. The Selley Series was led by Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Austin Theological Seminary, and raised the question of grace.

Summer Sundays
During the summer months, the church offers one combined worship service at 9:30 a.m. This year's topic was Parables of Jesus. The children were invited each week to join a special program on the parable being studied and enjoyed many different activities including art, storytelling, cooking and recreation.

These programs were made possible by the hard work, long hours and dedicated leadership of our Director of Christian Education, Michele Murphy; Youth Director Ellen Shields; the guidance of our ministers and support from the church staff and involvement of the congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Steck, 2008 chair

COMMUNITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE
Chair: Leon Hinson
Vice-Chair: Bonnie Hovencamp

Overview
SCAPC continued its commitment to restore, rebuild and revitalize our hometown: New Orleans. Committee leadership was greatly enhanced with input from acting Vice-Chair Bonnie Hovencamp, staff liaison Heather Pomfret and 2007 Chair John Morton, Jr. Mary Lou O'Keefe continued as secretary, tirelessly recording our meetings. Delia Hardie was ever present to help with photography. The 28 active CMC members administered a $170,000 benevolence budget, providing financial support and leadership to 13 institutions. A 2008 highlight occurred when the Stewardship Committee planned the Community Ministries Fair, at which each institution and its representatives were introduced to the congregation.

Supported Ministries
Carrollton United is a neighborhood organization and encompasses RHINO's Ferry Place site, Uptown Shepherds Center and Lafayette Academy. CU is a liaison between the neighborhood association and RHINO's Ferry Place project. **CMC Coordinator: Mary DeWitt Dukes, David White**. Church activities in 2008:

- Attended neighborhood organization meetings
- Provided financial support for pamphlet distribution in an effort to create a new neighborhood organization in Pension Town
- Identified Johnson/Priestley schools as potential recipients of church support

Covenant Presbyterian Urban Ministries Institute (CPUMI) serves the quickly repopulating Central City community and often partners with Berean Presbyterian Church. It provides many services, including food distribution, a business center, medical services, prescription drug service and health fairs. **CMC Coordinator: Sandy Hartman.** Church activities in 2008:

- Attended executive staff meetings
- Provided financial support for prescription eye care, interim prescription drugs and the New Orleans food bank

GED holds classes four days a week for 20-25 adults seeking their high school equivalency certificate. **CMC Coordinators: Charlie King, Patricia Livingston.** Church activities in 2008:

- Provided salaries for two instructors
- Moved classroom from church to Land Building
- Provided school supplies
- Reviewed feasibility of having a GED program at Church and confirmed the program provides a needed service to the community

Heart Smart teaches healthy eating habits to children in public elementary schools. **CMC Coordinator: Bob Cannon**. Church activities in 2008:

- Funded instructional materials to help implement program at Lafayette Academy

Lafayette Academy Charter School, founded in 2006, is a 780-student, Pre-K - 7th grade public charter school in the Carrollton area with an open enrollment policy. **CMC Coordinators: Janet Bean & Frieda McGregor .** Church activities in 2008:

- Actively participated on school board of directors
- Provided tutoring for 1st grade students
- Provided financial support for school supplies and field trips

Lusher/Fortier Charter High School is a K-12, public charter school in Uptown New Orleans. The Lusher String Ensemble often performs well-attended concerts in our sanctuary. **CMC Coordinators: Maureen Root & Cathy Franklin .** Church activities in 2008:

- Provided use of Sanctuary for musical performances by Lusher Strings
- Funded purchase of benches and tables for use in school yard
- Organized work day to do maintenance gardening on the school grounds

New Orleans Mission, founded in 1989, provides free shelter, food, clothing, job training, adult education and substance abuse rehabilitation programs for the homeless and those in need. **CMC Coordinator: Bob Cannon.** Church activities in 2008:

- Provided funds to offset operating costs of the facilities

Raintree Services, founded in 1926, cares for once abandoned, abused or neglected children. Services include: developmental disability case management, private family foster care, a loving home-like residence for girls and teaching at-risk children how to avoid drugs and alcohol. **CMC Coordinator: Kathy Randall**. Church activities in 2008:

- Actively participated on the board of directors
- Purchased Bibles for the girls living at Raintree
- Provided funds to offset operating costs of the facilities

Reconcile New Orleans, founded in 1996, provides services for at-risk Central City youth. Participants receive on-the-job culinary or construction training, as well as referrals and job placements. This program is widely known for its culinary training and hospitality program, "Café Reconcile." The facility is being renovated to provide additional training space. **CMC Coordinator: Walter Harris.** Church activities in 2008:

- Provided funds to sustain continued operation

RHINO (Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans) is SCAPC's partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build homes on Ferry Place in the Hollygrove neighborhood. Lots for fourteen new homes have been secured; five are under construction; two more will start later in the year. More than 3,000 volunteers from across the nation have participated in RHINO since 2005. RHINO is financially self-supporting. Community Ministry provides leadership for RHINO. **CMC coordinators: David White, Pat Rosamond.**

St. Thomas Clinic, founded in 1987, is the largest and most comprehensive health care facility for the uninsured in New Orleans. This independent institution receives large support from other medical services in community. **CMC Coordinators: Charlie King, Kelsey Favrot.** Church activities in 2008:

- Provided funds to sustain continued operation of the clinic

S.T.A.I.R. (Start The Adventure In Reading) is a children's literacy organization that provides volunteer tutors for public-school second-graders. During the 2007-2008 school year, STAIR served 250 students at 23 sites throughout Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes. **CMC Coordinators: Mary Lou O'Keefe, Carro Gardner.** Church activities in 2008:

- Actively participated on the board of directors
- Provided funds to sustain continued operation of the program

Uptown Shepherd's Center operates an activity center that serves about 150 multi-ethnic seniors each week. Its mission is to enhance its members' quality of life and maximize their independence. Services include meals, transportation, education, art, dancing, drama, field trips, exercise and more. **CMC Coordinator: Ann Van Horn.** Church activities in 2008:

- Provided funds to sustain continued operation of the center:
- Funded purchase of new window unit air conditioner

Victories in Service, Inc., is located in the Lower Ninth Ward. Its mission is: "to serve as a catalyst and change-agent to uplift our youth and families toward their fullest potential." Components include character and leadership skill development; physical fitness and baseball; parental involvement and parenting education; aesthetic development through the arts (choir). **CMC Coordinator: John Martin.** Church activities in 2008:

- Actively participated on the board of directors
- Provided initial funding to restart the program formerly operated as a Lighthouse program that had its facilities destroyed by Katrina

White Gift, a SCAPC program, provides Christmas gifts for almost 200 needy people. Church members purchase gifts, and the gifts are dedicated at a special worship service in December. These gifts are distributed to Raintree, Lafayette Academy, Berean, CPUMI and the three church sextons. **CMC Coordinator: Camille Zander.** Church activities in 2008

- Annual ministry organized and administered by Community Ministry Committee

Respectfully Submitted,
Leon T. Hinson, 2008 chair

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Chair: Kelly Hostetler

Overview

Congregational Care provides care and support for members of the congregation, assisting the clergy where possible. In February 2008, Phyllis Peterson withdrew as chair citing personal and job conflicts. Kelly Hostetler was acting chair during the year.

Ministries

Pantry Ministry: The committee sponsored two congregation-wide meal drives and provided containers/recipes for members to use. Church members responded with great generosity and energy. In the spring, more than 80 meals were collected; in the fall, we collected more than 60 meals, which are being delivered to church members with a need, like a hospital stay, long-term illness, new baby, unexpected crisis, moving, etc.

Correspondence: Roney Morton continued to write notes to our members for all occasions, including Lt. Andrew Partin and his platoon stationed in Iraq and our sister church in Cuba.

Baptismal Cloth Samplers: The Baptismal cloth sampler project is now headed by Judith Halverson with help from Jennie Steele, Linda Patrick, Carol Pointer and Dr. Wendi Adams. The committee gives a sampler cloth to each member family having a child baptized under 5 years of age. The sampler cloth is inscribed with the child's name and date of baptism.

Presbyterian College Fellowship: Our ministry to college students continues under the leadership of Kelly Hostetler. Mary Lou O'Keefe coordinated meals for several years and passed on the responsibilities to Candy Kirby in fall 2008. Meals were provided weekly, with an off-site Easter dinner hosted by Patricia Livingston and a Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Walter and Laurie Becker. In fall 2008, weekly attendance averaged 12-15 and is growing.

Home-bound: Various committee members regularly visited, delivered meals, made phone calls and did whatever was needed to make home-bound members feel cared for by SCAPC.

Church duties: Committee members ushered at funerals, manned the church phones as needed, worked in the kitchen for Wednesday night suppers and helped with church mailings.

Flowers: Mayson Buffington continues to deliver flower arrangements after services to Poydras Home and Lambeth House.

Membership Rolls: The committee reviewed the membership rolls for SCAPC and wrote letters and made phone calls to church members who have not attended for many years. We moved 29 members to inactive status and encouraged many members to become more involved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Van Horn, 2009 chair

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE
Chair: Lisa Alpaugh
Vice-Chair: Gail Kaliszeski

Overview
The Congregational Life Committee increases the congregation's awareness of and involvement in opportunities for Christian Fellowship.

Wednesday Night Out
The primary avenue for fellowship continued to be the Wednesday Night Out program, which serves delicious meals to church members and RHINO groups. In the spring, Don Frampton and Kelly Hostetler led an adult Bible study series following the suppers; in the fall, Don led a series for the LIGHT House children. WNO also hosted various speakers, including Alex Lemann, co-author of *New Orleans' Favorite Shotguns*; Robert Cerasoli, former inspector general for the city of New Orleans; Julia Reed, author, reporter and editor-at-large for *Vogue* and *Newsweek*; Stephen Blackmon, Director of Music at SCAPC; Sue Teall, author of *Why Not Me? Oh God, Why Me?* and Gillian Rabalais, who brought creatures from the Audubon Insectarium.

Our thanks go to Michelle Murphy for leading LIGHT House (Covenant Krewe), Jim & Bonnie Hobden, Gail LeMarie, Darryl & Beth Steinert and other assistants for preparing the beautiful suppers and to Mayson Buffington for greeting guests. We also thank Cecile Hardy of NOLA Couture for providing speaker gifts.

Special Events
In the spring we hosted our first Jazz Brunch in Fellowship Hall. Music was provided by Dr. Jazz (our own Russell Steele) and his ensemble. Matt Paull led the symphony in the kitchen, and members of the congregation led a Second Line around the tables! We thank the many volunteers for helping make this a success: Jim and Bonnie Hobden, Peggy Crain, Lewis Cocke, Marla Miller, Laura St. Clair, Beth Kohnke, Donna Davis, Ann Van Horn, Bonnie Shoemaker, Jennie Steele, Kate King, Mary Alice May, Gwen Wertz, Mary DeWitt Dukes, Rand Rutledge, Gail Kaliszeski, Courtney Frankowski, James Warren, Alex Root and Georgia Thomas.

Our committee assisted in the Heritage Sunday celebration and a luncheon benefiting our Cuban mission efforts. Price Lanier hosted a very successful "Match Made in Heaven" tournament at the Audubon Golf Course, and Gwen Wertz provided refreshments for session meetings. Our final event was a reception honoring the Elder Class of 2011. It included light refreshments and a delightful hour of Christmas music on the piano from Daniel deShazo.

After-Church Fellowship
A new effort was the addition of iced-coffee and light snacks to the fellowship hour following the 10:30 service, an idea primarily executed by Laura St. Clair with help from Jim Hobden.

We also thank Hallie White and Kim Thompson for creating artful announcements of our fellowship events and the amazing church office and sexton staff for their essential support.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Alpaugh, 2008 chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Chair: Hans Jonassen
Vice-Chair: Holly Sharp

Overview
Despite a difficult economy by the end of the year, the church generated a modest operating surplus in 2008. Total receipts were 97 percent of budgeted revenues, reflecting pledge receipts that were slightly below budget and lower-than-expected interest income. Total operating expenses were kept at 97 percent of budget through prudent expense management by staff and committee chairs, with the result being a $2,400 surplus for the year. Benevolence spending (excluding RHINO) was reduced slightly to conform to our cost containment efforts but still met our goal of 18 percent of total revenues.

The church continued to maintain a strong balance sheet with a healthy cash position. An independent audit of all of the financial activities of the church in 2007 was performed by Postlethwaite & Netterville and no material discrepancies were found.

RHINO Funds
The RHINO program had another successful year, even as the volunteers made the transition from accommodations in the Land Building to the Brent House Hotel. During 2008, RHINO received more than $200,000 and donated an additional $87,500 to the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. By the end of the year, RHINO had received nearly $1.4 million in contributions since its inception in fall 2005 and had donated $600,000 to Habitat for Humanity during the same period.

Visionary Fund
As has been customary, the Visionary Fund provided significant support for church operations in 2008. Approximately $217,000 was drawn from the Visionary Fund to support benevolences, Christian Education, missions, property maintenance, library, scholarships, pastoral housing and employee benefits. Total donations to the Visionary Fund in 2008 were nearly $500,000. Although the stock market suffered significant reductions in value by the end of the year, the overall Visionary Fund investment portfolio was off by only 23 percent for the year due to the Finance Committee's balanced portfolio strategy.

The church was the recipient of two significant bequests in 2008: one from the estate of Dr. Frances E. Evans and the other from the estate of John B. Giddens, Jr. Both gifts were placed in the Visionary Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans A.B. Jonassen, 2008 chair

OPERATING ACCOUNT INCOME STATEMENT	2007 ACTUAL YEAR END 2007	2008 ACTUAL YEAR END 2008	2008 ANNUAL BUDGET 2008	2008 VARIANCE 2008	2009 BUDGET 2009
RECEIPTS					
Pledge Payments	$1,068,105	$1,133,692	$1,159,530	($25,838)	$1,160,000
Prior Year Pledge Payments	70,045	20,349	45,000	(24,651)	25,000
Members without Pledges	59,834	55,342	60,000	(4,658)	60,000
Visitor and Loose Plate Collections	78,838	85,803	60,000	25,803	65,000
Subtotal--Donation Revenues	$1,276,822	$1,295,186	$1,324,530	($29,344)	$1,310,000
Visionary Fund Operating Draw	139,000	160,000	160,000	0	148,000
Visionary Fund Pastoral Housing Draw	34,302	35,914	35,914	(0)	28,316
Visionary Fund Employee Benefits Draw	19,874	21,378	22,148	(770)	34,557
Wedding Revenues (Net)	5,076	12,310		12,310	
Other Budgeted Misc. Revenue (Net)	6,795	(1,307)	10,000	(11,307)	10,000
Campus Ministry Revenue	14,643	11,377	13,600	(2,223)	11,600
Interest Income (Net of Fees)	24,708	5,803	20,000	(14,197)	5,000
Total Receipts	$1,521,221	$1,540,661	$1,586,192	($45,531)	$1,547,473
DISBURSEMENTS					
Benevolences:					
Presbytery Tax	(14,817)	(15,178)	(15,178)	0	(13,614)
Greater Church	(80,252)	(77,514)	(77,514)	0	(52,890)
Seminary Support	(2,300)	(2,300)	(2,300)	0	(2,300)
Local Projects-Community Ministry	(155,562)	(159,598)	(171,677)	12,079	(166,761)
Missions	(2,800)	(15,260)	(15,375)	115	(6,175)
Total Benevolences	(255,730)	(269,850)	(282,044)	12,194	(241,740)
Adult Christian Ed	(3,124)	(4,981)	(5,700)	719	(5,800)
Children's Christian Ed	(13,911)	(17,425)	(17,900)	475	(16,259)
Youth Christian Ed	(13,858)	(17,734)	(17,850)	116	(14,866)
Speaker Series	(1,988)	(1,901)	(2,000)	99	(2,000)
Congregational Care (incl Campus Ministry)	(9,271)	(11,270)	(12,322)	1,052	(12,695)
Congregational Life	(16,585)	(18,776)	(18,198)	(578)	(18,727)
Property	(247,430)	(251,221)	(260,550)	9,329	(248,106)
Membership	(377)	(1,301)	(1,350)	49	(1,400)
Music	(56,741)	(68,718)	(70,738)	2,020	(65,520)
Personnel	(727,221)	(784,929)	(805,000)	20,071	(850,000)
Leadership Development	(784)	(972)	(950)	(22)	(950)
Stewardship	(1,220)	(1,582)	(3,600)	2,018	(3,600)
Worship	(2,004)	(3,048)	(2,500)	(548)	(3,000)
Office	(66,990)	(83,951)	(84,990)	1,039	(62,310)
Visionary Fund	(559)	(596)	(500)	(96)	(500)
Total Expenses	($1,417,794)	($1,538,255)	($1,586,192)	$47,937	($1,547,473)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	$103,427	$2,406	$0	$2,406	$0
Sources of Unbudgeted Funds					
Funds from Gifts & Memorials	684,735	265,359			
Funds from Property Maintenance Reserve	35,278	36,590			
Funds from Prior Year Surplus	81,500	485			
Funds from Insurance Claims	366,459	10,945			
Total Sources of Unbudgeted Funds	$1,167,972	$313,379			
Uses of Unbudgeted Funds					
Gifts & Memorials Expenses (incl. RHINO)	(684,735)	(265,359)			
Audit Expenses	(12,500)				
Capital Expenditures	(470,737)	(48,021)			
Total Uses of Unbudgeted Funds	($1,167,972)	($313,379)			

OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
ASSETS					
Cash & Equivalents	$232,196	$564,980	$1,079,262	$853,741	$670,557
Deposits in Transit and Acc Receivable	$62,476	$162,187	$152,269	$81,963	$73,422
Due from Visionary Fund		$28,424		$121,006	$146,948
Other Assets	$13,432	$43,541	$33,955	$15,397	$12,382
TOTAL ASSETS	$308,103	$799,133	$1,265,486	$1,072,107	$903,309
LIABILITIES					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	$3,180	$1,591	$0	$4,317	$6,861
Accrued Liabilities	$21,453	$30,502	$22,712	$10,336	$11,877
Deferred prepaid pledges received	$166,252	$180,777	$167,674	$213,450	$235,573
Other Deposits received	$5,161	$26,354	$11,662	$3,812	$2,500
Due to Visionary Fund	$7,505		$50		
Temporary Gifts & Memorials	$1,300	$6,950	$5,540	$200,555	$25,774
Total Current Liabilities	$204,851	$246,174	$207,638	$432,470	$282,585
Gifts & Memorials					
Unrestricted Gifts & Memorials	$10,413	$35,178	$13,653	$10,314	$12,374
Restricted Gifts & Memorials	$47,415	$49,697	$79,607	$62,413	$71,053
RHINO Fund		$135,449	$495,357	$232,903	$212,965
Total Gifts & Memorials	$57,829	$220,324	$588,616	$305,630	$296,392
Other Liabilities					
Sanctuary Renovation Fund			$105,191	$0	
Reserve for Major Maintenance (PPRSM)		$9,347	$25,147	$14,869	$3,279
Bank Loans Payable		$30,626	$20,841	$0	
Total Other Liabilities	$0	$39,973	$151,179	$14,869	$3,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$262,680	$506,472	$947,433	$752,970	$582,255
CAPITAL					
Prior Year Surplus	$45,422	$292,661	$318,053	$319,137	$321,053
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	$308,103	$799,133	$1,265,486	$1,072,107	$903,309

VISIONARY FUND (Formerly Known as the Trust Fund)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
NET ASSETS					
Cash--Money Market Fund	96,542	195,630	1,916,976	228,300	504,235
Investments at Market Value	2,267,545	4,132,902	2,675,655	4,626,623	3,563,931
Due From (To) Church Op Acct/Others	7,505	(28,424)	10,050	(121,006)	(146,948)
Net Fund Assets	$2,371,591	$4,300,107	$4,602,681	$4,733,916	$3,921,217
NET FUNDS					
Unrestricted Fund	$392,832	$396,234	$401,445	$466,130	$568,814
Benevolences Fund	$804,254	$789,810	$849,725	$861,120	$642,290
Missions Fund	$116,806	$114,914	$123,631	$125,311	$93,464
Seminary Support Fund	$44,395	$43,598	$46,905	$47,533	$35,453
Counseling Fund	$11,237	$11,035	$11,872	$12,031	$8,974
Favrot Fund	$172,592	$184,909	$223,171	$229,328	$171,045
Christian Education Fund	$62,157	$61,041	$66,786	$67,679	$51,710
Flowers Fund	$17,119	$16,811	$18,087	$18,329	$13,670
Music Fund	$43,221	$42,445	$45,665	$46,382	$34,594
Speakers Fund	$43,363	$42,584	$45,815	$46,428	$34,628
Property Fund	$182,617	$179,543	$193,163	$196,540	$146,789
Meier Campus Ministry Fund	$55,610	$54,611	$58,754	$59,540	$44,408
Maddox Property Maintenance Fund		$1,031,516	$1,109,766	$1,124,615	$838,798
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	$105,605	$108,538	$120,939	$127,819	$89,347
Trustees' Discretionary Fund	$32,127	$31,108	$34,663	$36,634	$29,100
Reddoch Scholarship Fund	$33,152	$30,579	$28,167	$29,135	$21,078
Turfitt Scholarship Fund	$114,894	$110,427	$123,183	$130,191	$103,454
Phifer Library Fund	$28,118	$28,167	$31,228	$33,144	$24,599
Employee Benefits Fund	$111,491	$243,110	$225,893	$209,671	$139,220
Pastoral Housing Fund	$0	$779,126	$832,682	$843,799	$641,723
Lupberger Theological Fund			$11,143	$11,776	$17,298
Peirce-Geiser Fund				$10,780	$11,899
Evans Property Maintenance Fund					$158,865
Total All Funds	$2,371,591	$4,300,107	$4,602,681	$4,733,916	$3,921,217

EARNINGS--YEAR TO DATE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Beginning Asset Balances	$2,223,270	$2,371,591	$4,300,107	$4,602,681	$4,733,916
Realized Investment Income	73,707	85,326	131,090	120,500	167,028
Realized Capital Gains (Losses)	3,188	2,883	66,101	88,659	(462,894)
Contributions Received	62,046	1,952,963	80,839	74,160	494,662
Draw for Church Operations	(88,000)	(89,000)	(114,000)	(139,000)	(160,000)
Draw for Employee Benefits & Pension	(17,384)	(24,090)	(27,404)	(29,822)	(34,453)
Draw for Pastoral Housing		(16,551)	(31,827)	(34,302)	(35,914)
Other Distributions Made	(12,946)	(13,646)	(84,255)	(2,092)	(20,237)
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	127,710	30,631	282,030	53,133	(760,891)
Ending Asset Balances	$2,371,591	$4,300,107	$4,602,681	$4,733,916	$3,921,217

VISIONARY FUND COMMITTEE
Chair: Richard Freeman

Overview
The Visionary Fund Committee sponsored Visionary Sunday on April 20, 2008. Visionary Sunday kicked off the annual endowment campaign and distributed marketing materials produced by the church office. The materials educated the congregation regarding current and planned gifts to the church's endowment and recognized donors to the Visionary Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard W. Freeman, Jr., 2008 chair

{Please see the financial report on the Visionary Fund on the opposing page.}

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Chair: Anderson Baker

Nominating Committee
The Leadership Development Committee organizes the Nominating Committee, which develops a slate of potential new Session members and examines their willingness and ability to serve as Elders.

Elder Training
The Committee is also responsible for training classes for incoming Elders. On November 17, 2008, the members of the Class of 2011 shared their faith journeys and were examined and approved by the Session.

Officer Assignment
Leadership Development also nominates the Chairman and Vice Chairman of each Session committee for the upcoming year. Each Session member normally serves a committee for a period of three years—the first year as a member, the second as Vice Chairman and the third year as Chairman, which coincides with the third and final year of the Session member's term.

Presbytery Meeting Commissioners
The Leadership Development Committee also recruits Elders to attend three Presbytery meetings over the course of the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Anderson Baker, 2008 chair

MEMBERSHIP C0MMITTEE
Chair: Louise Hoffman
Vice-chair: Jennie Steele

Welcoming Visitors
Committee members sent a welcome note to first-time visitors, in addition to a note from a minister. My thanks to Patricia Brinson, Olivia Manning and Sissy Curry for faithfully writing these new-visitor notes. With the ministers' guidance, a committee member contacted visitors to express interest in that person's joining the church. I am grateful to Margaret Maxwell who was in charge of providing SCAPC coffee mugs as gifts to visitors.

Joining the Church
Each Sunday, the ministers invite anyone interested in joining the church to meet in the chapel after the 10:30 service. One of the pastors will be present with at least three elders (this constitutes a meeting of the Session.) The minister leads a brief service, and the new member is welcomed into the church either by transfer of membership, reaffirmation of faith or profession of faith. The new members' photo and bio appear in the church bulletin when he or she is introduced during the worship service.

Orientation
Orientation meetings were held soon after a person joined and usually included those who joined over a period of several Sundays. The meetings provided information for new members to consider how they could become involved with the church's work. The committee chairs of Christian Education, Community Ministry, Congregational Care, Congregational Life, World Missions, Stewardship and Worship and Music were present to explain the work of their committees. New members are given information about the Presbyterian Church, the history of SCAPC, stewardship and other items. This year, seven orientation meetings were held in January, March, April, May, July, October and December.

New Member Receptions
In March, Kate King served as chair of the new-member brunch at Olivia and Archie Manning's home. In June, Jennie Steele chaired the reception held in Fellowship Hall after a Summer Sunday service, and the congregation was invited. Margaret Maxwell chaired the November brunch at the home of Julia Reed and John Pearce. The committee provided food for all three gatherings.

Summary
The new members we welcomed this year will add significantly to the life of our church. Some were new to the city; some have been worshipping with us for a long time. We are thankful for their commitment as they join our vibrant community. Thanks to our diligent committee members, the brunches and reception were great successes. Vice-Chair Jennie Steele was always there to help, and many thanks to Kelly Hostetler for guidance and to Hallie White, Pierce Young and Kim Thompson for excellent support from the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Hoffman, 2008 chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Chair: Richard Root
Vice-Chair: Burt Carnahan

Overview
A church is often only as strong as the pastors guiding it, and we are blessed to have one of the strongest leadership teams in our memory. Senior Pastor Don Frampton continues to provide his unique brand of leadership to the congregation, displaying spiritual and administrative strengths that define his ministry.

Associate Pastor Kelly Hostetler has seamlessly integrated into our church and community since joining our church home in 2007. To the surprise of absolutely no one, Kelly has met and exceeded all of our expectations as Associate Pastor. From her valuable counsel in committee work, to her engaging sermons, we are fortunate to have her at SCAPC.

Director of Music Steven Blackmon continues to amaze us by providing a wide range of outstanding choral and orchestral programs that greatly enhance our worship experience.

Personnel Changes
Long-time employee and wearer of a hundred hats, Hallie White, moved on in spring 2008, but we were blessed to obtain the skills of two new office employees, Kim Thompson, Web and Publications Coordinator, and Emily Fleshman, Assistant to the Pastors. We're grateful for these talented individuals, who seem to appear whenever we have a need.

RHINO Project Manger Sarah Edgecombe departed, with our gratitude for a job well done. Kate Snider replaced her and is doing a fabulous job. The work at Ferry Place with Habitat for Humanity, and RHINO overall, continues in good hands.

Staff
Fortunately, the rest of the staff has remained and continues to do an excellent job. Michele Murphy as Director of Christian Education and Ellen Shields as Director of Youth Ministries continue to impress. Continuing their fine work are Carro Gardner, as an assistant in the office, Keflyn Fransen as Nursery School Director, and Sara Warren, as Wedding Coordinator. Pierce Young and Carol Pointer still keep the office running smoothly, as does Heather Pomfret's work with Young Adults and Community Ministry. Donald Jefferson, Tyronne Smith and Terry Patterson work tirelessly and keep the church buildings in excellent shape.

Wayne Willcox somehow makes it all seem so easy, as he juggles a hundred tasks at once as our Director of Administration, making sure it all fits together.

The only accomplishment of the Chairman of the Personnel Committee in 2008 was that he did not break the well-oiled machine by interfering in its work with suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Root, 2008 chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE
Chair: Woodie Van Horn
Vice-Chair: Don Charles

Overview
The committee has completed another successful year due to the hard work and guidance by all its members. The committee saw the departure of the RHINO guests from the Land Building.

Key Accomplishments
Some of the key accomplishments and activities of the committee in 2008 include:

- Carpeting and painting the second floor, stairways, halls, kitchen and cabinets of the Land Building
- Installation of an additional children's bathroom on the second floor of the education building
- Relocation of nursery school classroom to second story.
- Reflooring and repairing of some of the nursery school classrooms
- Repainting of the STAIR offices
- Repainting several classrooms and offices
- Replacement of all chandelier lights in the sanctuary
- Air conditioner system repairs
- Elevator repairs
- Replacement of telecommunications systems for the church office
- Oak tree trimming on the St. Charles Ave. and State Street sides of the church.

The Committee wishes to thank the Hard Hats for their valuable service to the church and for continuing to keep the church advised of property needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Woodie Van Horn, 2008 chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Chair: Germaine Vorhoff, Chair
Vice-Chair: Brett Dorsey

Participate in the Possibilities
"For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27)

Our church is a very active congregation, as you can see through these reports. We are attracting active new members to share the energy created as we act on our faith. Some of our long-term pledgers have had health problems or life changes, so new pledgers are particularly appreciated.

Hallmarks of the 2008 Campaign included:

- Update of the brochure and cover letters to reflect the impact of pledging
- Establishment of a multi-interest/age committee.
- Two phone-a-thon nights to reach out to peers to reinforce the importance of each pledge, no matter the size
- Brunch after Community Ministries Sunday to highlight the ministries good works and thank our congregation
- Great "Minute for Mission" speakers, who highlighted music and Christian education
- Participation of Stewardship members in new member orientation and brunch
- An active follow- up call committee
- E-mails and online payment options
- A thank-you note committee, so each pledger knows his/her gift is appreciated

The theme of this campaign was, "*How will you participate in the possibilities that He is striving to shape?"* And how you participated! Sixty new units pledged this year and our total pledges should reach $1,160,000. It is a pleasure to be part of a community of faith built with people like you.

Respectfully submitted,
Germaine Vorhoff, 2008 chair

WORLD MISSIONS COMMITTEE
Chair: Donna Davis
Vice-Chair: Laura St. Clair

Overview
A major focus of the World Missions Committee in 2008 was our successful effort to raise $30,000 toward repairs of the Juan G. Hall roof in Cardenas, Cuba. Our goal was to include diverse groups in our church; our projects included Cuba coin banks for the children, an evening of Salsa dancing, a Cuban brunch and the sale of prints by Cuban artist Roberto Bermudez-Rosetti. We were thrilled to bring funds to Cuba when members of our congregation visited in November. Plans for 2009 include two more adult trips to Cuba.

Special Offerings
The Missions committee sponsored PC(USA) collections for One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering and Joy Offering. In addition to these church-wide offerings, the committee sponsored an offering for Henry Coates, a SCAPC member who committed to a one-year mission as a Young Adult Volunteer in Nairobi. To find out more about Henry's work, visit www.pcusa.org/yav/who/blogs.htm. We also sponsored a collection for relief funds which were distributed in the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Youth Mission Trips
To promote a sense of mission among youth, we sponsored SCAPC 's Youth Mission trip to Heifer Ranch International in June and the annual Western Night event for the Ulster Project.

Missionaries
Dennis and Maribel Smith continue their work in Guatemala. Dennis' visits to New Orleans for medical treatment permit us to see him frequently. **Dr. Michael and Nancy Haninger** continue working at the Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo. **Les and Cynthia Morgan** requested a one-year leave of absence in November to spend time with their 22-year-old son, Everett, as he fought cancer at M.D. Anderson Hospital. Everett died in late December. In their November request, the Morgan's indicated they intend to return to Bangladesh in the future. For updates on these missionaries, search by name at: www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/missionaries.htm. Lastly, after many years in the field, Sue Ellen Hall retired from the Sudan. As a result, we committed to support the work of the **Reverend Bob Gamble** with homeless youth in Odessa, Ukraine in 2009. His link is www.thischildhere.org.

Disaster Response Team
In August, an off-shoot of the World Missions Committee began meeting as the Disaster Response Team. We've been discussing ways our congregation can help with Gustav recovery. Several members of our congregation participated in a one-day, clean-up project in Laplace and Baker. We're also gathering information and discussing the creation of a guide to help other communities start a recovery program, based upon the RHINO program.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Davis, 2008 chair

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE
Chair: Mary Alice May

Communion
Committee members prepared the communion elements and recruited elders to distribute them. The communion trays and linens were periodically examined and replaced or repair as needed.

Baptisms
The committee obtained Session approval for presentation of children for baptism.

Flowers
Members of the committee coordinated a schedule of floral arrangements given in honor or memory of a loved one. Two new, white floral arrangements were purchased for use. Special floral arrangements were provided for Heritage Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter and Christmas Services. Poinsettias and memorial wreaths decorated the sanctuary during Advent.

Ushers, Acolytes and Children's Message
The committee coordinated ushers, acolytes and presenters of the children's message.

Special Services
Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter and Easter time Services: The Palm Sunday service included a children's procession with palms and a special choral service with orchestra under the direction of Steven Blackmon. A mid-day worship service was held on Ash Wednesday and a Maundy Thursday evening service was held with communion. Mid-week prayer services , held during Easter time, were well received by the congregation.

Heritage Sunday: A special service was held to celebrate the Presbyterian Church's Scottish heritage and included kilts and bagpipes.

Summer Sundays: A single, unified service was held at 9:30 a.m. in place of the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Special activities were planned for the children during the service, and the children shared what they had learned with the congregation at the conclusion of worship.

Christmas Services: Two Christmas Eve services were held: a family service at 5 p.m. featuring a youth tableau and a traditional service with communion at 7:30 p.m. The choir and orchestra, directed by Steven Blackmon, presented the annual "Celebration of Carols" the Sunday before Christmas.

Other Special Services: Other special worship services included Confirmation Sunday, Youth Sunday, the Selley Series and Gospel Sunday, featuring the Chancel Choir.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Alice May, 2008 chair

ELDER CLASS OF 2008

Lisa Alpaugh

Anderson Baker

Cathy Drennan

Richard Freeman

Calvin Grier

Leon Hinson

Shannon Holtzman

Hans Jonassen

Mary Alice May

John Morton Jr.

Betsy Nalty

Tim Pettitt

Richard Root

Jennifer Steck

Germaine Vorhoff