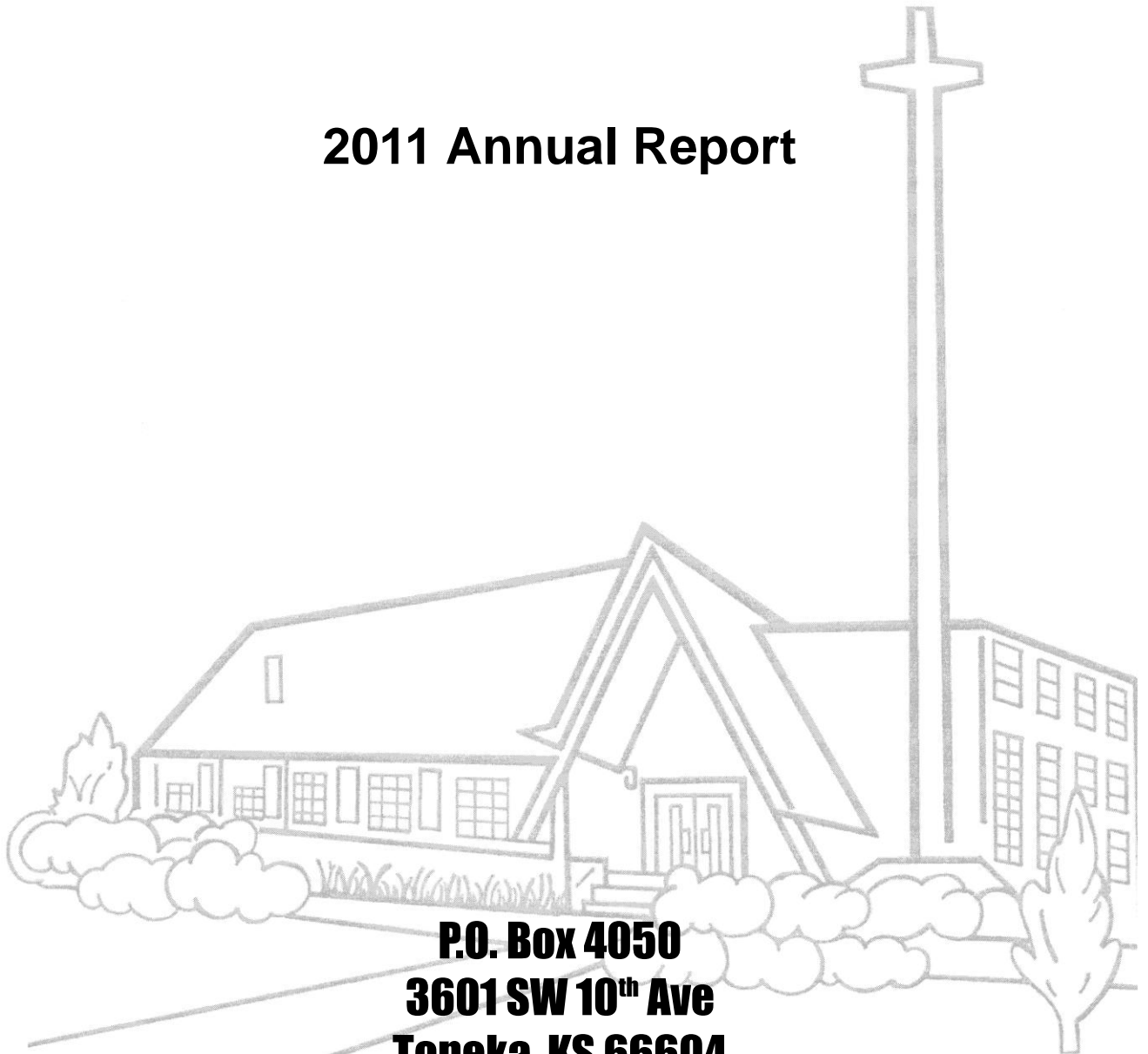


# **Gage Park Baptist Church**

## **2011 Annual Report**



**P.O. Box 4050  
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Topeka, KS 66604  
785-272-7771  
[www.gpbctopeka.org](http://www.gpbctopeka.org)  
[office@gpbctopeka.org](mailto:office@gpbctopeka.org)**

## Church Staff

Interim Pastor	Dr. Gordon Rhodes	272-7771 (Sunday through Tuesday)
Pianist/Organist	Sandy Farris	383-9720
Youth Music Director	Jennifer Berroth	
Custodian (2012)	Mark Bredow	249-4910

## Church Officers and Special Duties

Moderator (Open Position)

Treasurer	Becky Miller	273-2602
Clerk	Deb Conrad	862-0789
Financial Secretary	Kitty Miller	246-2747
(Volunteer Leadership:)		
Calling Tree Coordinator	Denzal Davison	228-9616
Praise Kids	Melissa Tillery	267-3229
Youth Director	Tricia Brown	478-9858
Worship Coordinator	Deb Conrad	862-0789

## Board Members at Large (2012)

Tracy Bredow	249-4910
Jeff Conrad (Pastor Search)	862-0789
Elise Mooneyham	272-3895
Donna Reiff (2012)	273-0047
Melissa Tillery (2012)	267-3229
Al West	273-8058

## Outgoing Board Members

Bob Brown  
Donna Schultz

## Pastor Search Team

Jeff Conrad  
Mark Loretto  
Faith Loretto  
Monique Litherland  
Velda Hanna

# Pastor's Annual Report

The year 2011 started with Linda and I driving to Topeka on January 2nd to preach for the first time at Gage Park Baptist Church on January 3rd. We met many of you for the first time that Sunday morning.

January through March was a time to get to know each other and adjust to new ways of doing things. During this adjustment time you supported Linda and me as we dealt with the death of Linda's mother. During this time some of you went through difficult times of stress in your own lives and we were able to be there for you. During this time we learned to worship together as well as to laugh together.

In April we celebrated Easter together. The Board and I began looking at the constitution and our need to find a church treasurer. Progress was slow at first because in May we had Mother's Day, graduations and the children's and youth musicals.

In June the work toward finding a treasurer picked up and in July the church voted to have Becky Miller be our Treasurer, Kitty Miller as Financial Secretary, and Deb Conrad as our new Church Clerk.

As Becky began reviewing the books in August she began noticing things that were not quite right. In August – October several issues surfaced that the Board and the church would have to deal with. That was when it became evident that God had the right people in the right positions. It was heartbreaking for me to see these things surfacing but it was also exciting to see how the Board was growing in their leadership as they led the church through that hard time.

During this year God has shown us the truth of Romans 8:28. It says, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." We have seen the leadership of this church grow stronger and the church grow stronger. We are growing in our ability to seek and discern God's will and purpose for this church.

This church is a stronger church because of the things we have dealt with together. We have also grown stronger as we studied, worshipped and ministered together during the year.

On December 31, Linda and I closed out the year by driving to Topeka for the 50th time. On Sunday, January 1, we worshiped together for the first time in 2012. God's plan for us in the new year is a very good plan. I look forward to all that God has in store for us.

Pastor Gordon Rhodes

## Search for a Moderator and a big word of thanks to Bob Brown

This past year has been a year of stress and trial for Gage Park Baptist Church. There are several individuals that we need to acknowledge for their service for their steadfastness and faithfulness in the face of trial. Bob Brown served as moderator for over seven years, but none have been as difficult and challenging as the past year. Thank you for all that you've done for us! So far we haven't been able to replace Bob. Instead, for at least the beginning of the year the moderator position will rotate, starting with Tracy Bredow, Al West, and Jeff Conrad. Thanks to Becky Miller for her willingness to tackle the Treasurer position, and Kitty Miller for taking over Financial Secretary. Without their willingness to serve, it is unlikely our church would be surviving.

## **Moderator Report**

February is our month to volunteer our time at Doorstep. Each Tuesday of the month we had four volunteers that went to Doorstep to work in the clothing room. The time is spent sorting donations that come in and assisting clients.

In October, we had the annual Fall Picnic at the Bredows. The weather was beautiful and we had our largest attendance yet. There were 60-65 people there. Many enjoyed a lively game of kick ball, while others jumped on the trampoline or sat by the fire. Others sat and visited while watching the younger folks play. A very nice picture was taken of most of those in attendance which can be seen on the bulletin board.

Tracy Bredow, Board Member (Acting Moderator for January)

## **Treasurer's Report for Gage Park Baptist Church**

I offered to take over as Treasurer in July and was elected to do so. It took a few weeks before I was able to hand over my duties as Financial Secretary to Kitty Miller, but was then able to take over the bookkeeping from our former secretary.

Over the past few years, we have had to use much of the Memorials and Designated Funds to pay our ongoing expenses. Since I've taken over the records and because of the congregation's continued faithful giving and our reduced expenses, we have been able to reimburse almost all of those funds. As of December 31, 2011, we have \$28,473.60 in savings and a CD which leaves us just \$4100.25 short to balance with the Memorials and Designated Funds. Since the first of the year, I have transferred another \$2500 to savings, for a balance due of \$1600.25.

The board and then the congregation approved a budget based upon the optimism for the future of this church. We look forward to hiring a permanent pastor during 2012 and have budgeted accordingly. Our membership and friends have pledged more than in 2011 which I believe reflects our on-going commitment to our church and belief that God has a plan for us to continue and prosper.

Plans for 2012 include completing the transfer of funds to our savings account to balance the amount in our Memorials and Designated Funds (as funds allow); put into place more rigorous and complete procedures for dual control over our finances and better reporting to our Board and membership.

I want to thank Kitty Miller for her work in reviewing past years' financial records and to Denzal Davison for her help in reconciling the accounts every month and filing the paid bills.

Attached is the Statement of Financial Position report as of December 31, 2011.

Becky Miller, Treasurer

	<u>Dec 31, 11</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1011020 · Commerce Checking	10,952.29
1011021 · Designated Savings	22,501.47
1011023 · CoreFirst CD	5,972.13
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>39,425.89</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>39,425.89</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>39,425.89</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>1012100 · Payroll Tax Liabilities</b>	
1012110 · Social Security Tax Payable	69.16
1012130 · Medicare Tax Payable	19.30
1012150 · Federal Income Tax Payable	35.00
1012170 · Kansas Income Tax Payable	74.00
1012100 · Payroll Tax Liabilities - Other	-70.30
<b>Total 1012100 · Payroll Tax Liabilities</b>	<u>127.16</u>
<b>2000000 · Restricted Funds</b>	
2140000 · Retired Min/Miss Offering-RMMO	565.00
<b>Total 2000000 · Restricted Funds</b>	<u>565.00</u>
<b>3000000 · Designated Funds</b>	
3000001 · Property Ins Procceds - Roof	4,345.00
3000002 · Youth Conference Anon Gift 2011	474.33
3000003 · B Horne Children & Youth	5,000.00
3000004 · Youth Group Fundraisers	331.75
<b>3100000 · Memorial Funds</b>	
3100029 · A. Ingle	3,795.00
3100030 · J. Teel	515.00
3100031 · W. Carlson	500.00
3100032 · F. Henderson	70.00
3100033 · H. Lister	320.00
3100035 · Kissler Estate	5,972.13
<b>Total 3100000 · Memorial Funds</b>	<u>11,172.13</u>
3100034 · Teel Camp Gift	9,990.00
5400000 · Communion Offering	1,260.64
<b>Total 3000000 · Designated Funds</b>	<u>32,573.85</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>33,266.01</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>33,266.01</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	33,266.01
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	-21,621.22
3900 · Retained Earnings	7,842.78
Net Income	19,938.32
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>6,159.88</u>

# Financial Secretary Report

Gage Park Baptist Church

## Funds Report

01/21/2012 08:10 PM

Totals for Period: 01/01/2011 to 12/31/2011

Page: 1

Fund #	Description	Amount
2	A B W	80.00
3	A B W LOVE	39.72
4	ABY (YOUTH)	545.00
5	AMERICA FOR CHRIST	304.00
6	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	466.00
7	BREAKFASTS	356.00
8	BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	4,345.00
9	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	1,200.00
10	BUILDING USE	20.00
11	CAMP SCHOLARSHIP	100.00
12	CAMP TUITIONS	1,355.00
13	COMMUNION	3,036.11
14	DINNERS	504.00
18	FELLOWSHIP	52.75
19	CHILDREN & YOUTH	156.75
20	GARAGAE SALE	313.05
21	GENERAL FUND	122,807.52
22	LITERATURE	42.45
23	MISCELLANEOUS	10.00
24	MUSIC	457.01
25	OFFICE SUPPLIES	22.59
26	ONE GREAT HOUR	422.00
29	RMMO	565.00
31	UTILITIES	0.30
32	VAN EXPENSE	1,213.58
34	WORLD MISSIONS	631.00
41	Pastor Bob Retirement Dinner	12.00
42	Harvey Lister Memorial	320.00
53	Mitten Patch	50.00
56	Worship Supplies	50.00
57	Rhodes Youth Activities	1,000.00
58	Youth raised funds	175.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>140,651.83</b>

Provided by Kitty Miller

## Needlebees and Missions

The Needlebees were originally organized for the main purpose of remodeling the church kitchen. The group consists of a core group of 6-8 women, but everyone is welcome to join. They raise money through an annual Christmas Bazaar. Over the years the bazaar has enjoyed success and an increasing reputation for being one of the premier bazaars in the city. **The 2011 bazaar had a profit of \$2928.62.**

Since its inception, in addition to holding to the original goal of kitchen remodeling, they have renovated the parlor via new carpet, new window treatment, repainting, and new furniture. One year the entire bazaar profit was donated to the general fund when the need arose.

## Opportunities to participate in giving –

Apple Market (as far as I know) is the only grocery store that sells Best Choice items. The UPC label from that brand can be turned in for cash. It takes a lot of labels, but it costs nothing to cut labels from the grocery item and turn them in to Kathy Button, or leave them in an envelope at the table just inside the exterior front door. With enough labels, Kathy sends them in and receives money, which is given to missionaries.

Another item that costs nothing but a little effort is Campbell Soup labels. They also can be redeemed for cash. It takes a lot of labels, but if enough people participate it adds up. Again, leave them in an envelope on the table or give them to Kathy.

Pop can pull tabs are collected in the cardboard house sitting on the table by the front door. They are taken to MacDonald House by Denzal Davison -- don't know they do with them but am sure it helps support them

Nonperishable food items can be left in the collection box in the parlor to be taken to Doorstep. Last year the church donated over 100 pounds of food. If everyone knows about it, I'm sure we could participate in this worthy cause at a much higher level -- just buy an extra package of spaghetti or a can of vegetables when you go to the store and drop them in the parlor collection box.

February is our church designated month to volunteer at Doorstep in their clothing store. Last year at least 6 members volunteered in this capacity during the month of February.

Elise Mooneyham, Board Member and Needlebees Representative

## Mitten Patch

GPBC continued its annual tradition of collecting clothing for Avondale East Elementary school. The estimated total value was \$614.

13 Scarves, 80 Hats, 84 Gloves, 7 Sweat Jackets, 14 Sweat Shirts, 112 pairs of socks, 46 girls underwear, 42 boys underwear, 3 sweat pants

## Vacation Bible School Supply Drive (for Avondale East Elementary)

71 Folders, 12 sharpies, 3 School Boxes, 17 Binders, 31 Pencils, 9 Thick Markers, 8 Pens, 5 Glue Sticks, 1 Set Colored Pencils, 36 Packages of Crayons, 4 Packages of Thin Markers, 18 Bottles of Glue, 24 packs of Paper, 38 Notebooks, 4 Boxes of Keenex, 7 Book Bags, 2 Kindergarten Mats

## Property Report 2011

2011 was pretty much a year of doing what had to be done. We had a couple work days to do basic cleaning and outdoor clean up. Most work was done on an individual basis by volunteers as needed. There is a lot of “behind the scene” work that most people don’t realize. With the big storm in the spring we had some wind damage to the sanctuary roof. After talking with a couple roofers, the board decided the best course was to bank the insurance check and use it as needed for repairs. The money received was small compared to the price of a new roof. The flat roof did not receive any hail damage. Greg Kramer was contracted to replace sections of the front side walk to get rid of the broken and uneven sections near the handicapped parking. This was much needed and appreciated. This project was funded by Bob Horne. Thanks Bob! Over the past year we have been able to replace much of our designated funds, so we are getting to a point of being able to focus on some much needed more expensive projects. The parking lot is in need of some repairs and resurfacing, we are getting desperate for several new heating / cooling units and the kitchen is back on the agenda to start planning again. Starting January 1st the board contracted with Mark Bredow to be our new part-time building manager. We are looking forward to having him on board to keep up with cleaning and repairs around our church. Look forward to a great new year at Gage Park Baptist Church.

Property chairman Al West

## Youth Ministries

The year 2011 was a year of turmoil yet joy for our youth. For many years, Jill Roesler had led our youth and children in musical programs that provided many of our children with their first opportunities to sing. In a world of competition and often harsh assessment of those less gifted, it has been a blessed refuge for many to learn that they enjoy singing and to have an opportunity to share their gifts with a loving and appreciative audience even if they never got the lead in a school musical or made the show choir. Currently our children are raising a joyful voice and leading worship literally from the west coast to the east coast. Several never sang a note in a high school choir yet they were encouraged to use their musical gifts at Gage Park Baptist Church, and now they are encouraging others. Sarah Goeckler carried on the tradition until midway through this year, and we are very grateful for the encouragement and love she showed them.

**Music** continues to be an important part of youth activity for Gage Park Baptist, and is an opportunity to teach our children that sometimes the best offering we can give to God is ourselves and in the form of a song of praise, thanks, and worship. Melissa Tillery is providing leadership and mentoring to our elementary school children with music. This group was traditionally called the Praise Kids. Melissa has a very challenging yet important and rewarding job of teaching the grade schoolers to work together, listen, concentrate, and to develop their vocal talents. It takes special gifts with work with a very developmentally diverse group. Some will need lots of help from parents to play the CD's over and over to learn the melody. Sometime Melissa will need help from other adults if the group is especially big or spirited.

**Friends Choir.** Our teens love to sing. We have hired a Washburn Student named Jennifer Berroth to work with them for music offerings in during church services, as well as a full service music performance. Continuing in the Board's desire to be fiscally responsible Jennifer has been hired for a limited period coinciding with the school semester. How we handle next year will depend on how well this model worked this year.

Three of our high school seniors have been helping with the praise and worship segment, with Luke Parnell, college freshman coordinating. We appreciate Bethany, Matthew, and Jordan as well as Luke sharing their music offering and leading us in worship. Blessings to Luke as he explores his educational opportunities.

**Vacation Bible School** was the big event for the church July 25-29. We had excellent participation from our youth and our church members, which we have come to expect. VBS continues to provide an opportunity to minister not only to our children and extended families, but also neighborhood children.

The youth and children had a very active year. They were able to have a blend of service, spiritual growth, and fellowship activities. We had a good group of children and youth attend summer camps and Ottawa University. We sent 10 to elementary camps and 8 attended Ottawa. We were also able to augment those experiences with attendance at Braving Discipleship at Ottawa University and learning about missionary work at the ABCCR regional meeting. The junior high group is scheduled to attend Middle High Jamboree in February. A fun inter-generational group ranging in age from very young to senior citizens went caroling together at several nursing homes.

The youth adopted a family of 5 from the Christmas Bureau, and did the shopping, wrapping, and delivery to the deserving and appreciative family. This was in addition to the normal service provided by our youth including raking yards of some of our senior members.

Fellowship activities included a trip to Garry's Berries, and as we move into the year 2012, we already have had a lock-in where the movie "Soul Surfer" was shared with lots of friends.

Tricia Brown is the Youth Director, and is assisted by Hank Miller and Kathryn Davison

## **Christian Education**

Becky and Hank Miller have been steadfast and dependable in their dedication to providing our children with the foundation necessary to grow in their relationship with Christ. Becky is currently teaching junior high and averaged about 4 students this past year. Hank has been teaching for over 15 years, and mentors our senior high group. The class size is six to eight.

Velda Hanna has provided Sunday School opportunities for our elementary school children. Unfortunately, she has very few students, usual one or two.

Children's Church is for 3-6 year old children during the last half of the worship service and provide Christ-centered activities. We have had good success getting volunteers to lead Children's Church.

We have two adult Sunday School classes. Ray Canfield leads what is referred to as the senior class, but many of our "younger" members attend and enjoy the class. It is by far the best attended class. The second class has evolved from what used to called "Pairs and Spares" which was young adults that liked to bowl. Now the class is referred to as the downstairs class, and has a varied curriculum. Unfortunately, this class is only young compared to the senior class. Most of the members are in their 50's or 60's. This class is taught by Faith Loretto. There are usually about 6 in attendance.

There is no class currently meeting that caters to younger adults, because there has been no interest. We hope that will change.

Pastor Rhodes has led a Bible Study on Mondays at 10 am. By nature, this class is mostly attended by retirees. It generally has around 20 attendees.

## **Worship**

Over the past few years, there has been minimal congregational participation in the Worship. After discussions with Pastor Rhodes, there has been a purposeful effort to increase Lay participation. Lay leaders now open the service, and there has been a concerted effort to have special music from many different singers. There have been opportunities to include our youth who play piano to play during the offering. The service continues to have a blending of traditional hymns, with modern praise and worship music, with our youth participating in musical offerings and leadership.

## **Pastor Search Report**

The year 2011 has been a pivotal year in the life of our church. We started the year without the pastor who had led our church for over 30 years. In a short time we realized how much we had depended on that pastor, and how many things we had expected him to do. Many of those things we should have been doing.

Our church was in a financial slide, and things continued to get worse. When we contracted for an interim pastor with the ABCCR office, we decided we could only afford a part time pastor. It was clear that as a congregation, we needed to become more involved in our church life. The church secretary had been handling all the bookkeeping for the church.

We were going through the motions of being a church but not taking the responsibility necessary to be followers of Christ.

Becky Miller and Kitty Miller took over the church bookkeeping. The price to be paid for our years of neglect became painfully obvious, and misappropriation of funds was revealed. Our church secretary was let go. The depth of the problem is still being investigated.

Many of our church members have been uncomfortable with special funds and fundraisers being used for general operating expenses for the church. The board feels strongly that operating expenses should be paid with pledges and offerings only.

There were concerns about the work being done with our youth. The board wanted direct accountability and more openness with Christian Education and Youth activities. There were differences of opinion on direction which resulted in a parting of the ways with those that had been in charge of those activities.

At the beginning of 2011, there was a feeling that we needed to find a new minister fast, or the church would not survive. We were looking for a savior for our church or we would die. If we were to describe what we had to offer as a church, it wouldn't have been much. We had a lot of dysfunctional situations, little in our story about serving Christ.

As we start 2012, our picture is very different. When we let Christ do his work, miracles happen. Our finances are good. We are paying our bills, repaying targeted funds from which money was taken to pay bills, and we are on top of our bookkeeping using sound accounting practices. We are willfully planning for the future by planning for succession in positions, especially positions like Treasurer. We are doing the basic secretarial duties, specifically preparing for worship and office communication, with volunteers. We are having fun doing so. Our communication is much improved. We have a calling tree that gets the word out regarding sickness and congregational needs. In the process we are becoming closer as a church. We have custodian who is coordinating maintenance and

volunteers to spiff up our building. Our children and youth activities have been retooled, using professional help only when necessary, and involving parents in activities.

We still have many deficiencies that need to be addressed. We have no permanent moderator for the year, and are using temporary moderators. This may help with on the job training for leadership, but we need to have all members of our church be fully invested in the mission of serving Jesus. We can't be afraid of trying things that may be time consuming or difficult to learn. We have to be frank and honest with each others regarding matching jobs with volunteers. In an absurd exaggeration, we wouldn't want to put the guy that just got out of prison for embezzlement in the Treasurer's position, even though he might be good with computers. We have plenty of opportunities for service, and if we each do something, no one feels like they have to do everything.

How does this affect our pastor search? We no longer need a savior to keep our church from dying, which is good because we have our savior, Jesus Christ! We have actually had people interested in joining our church, even though we haven't talked about that as a goal lately. What we need is a partner and spiritual leader for our church. We look a lot more attractive than we did last year. We have discovered we function adequately with a part time pastor although Pastor Gordon is starting to look a little stressed lately! We have learned how to minister to and encourage each other. We have learned how to do visitation, and care about each other. We have learned that we all have something to offer our Lord in service, young through old. We need a leader to build on this. There are neighborhood opportunities for evangelism and incredible potential to offer many who are broken and in need of healing the healing power of Jesus Christ. We will be getting help from the region with figuring out how to best match our needs with those that are called to serve the Lord as pastors. We have a six month plan for the hiring process, which is my schedule and not necessarily God's schedule. The past year has been fun of surprises. I will expect no less from the future!

Jeff Conrad, Board Member and Pastor Search Chairman