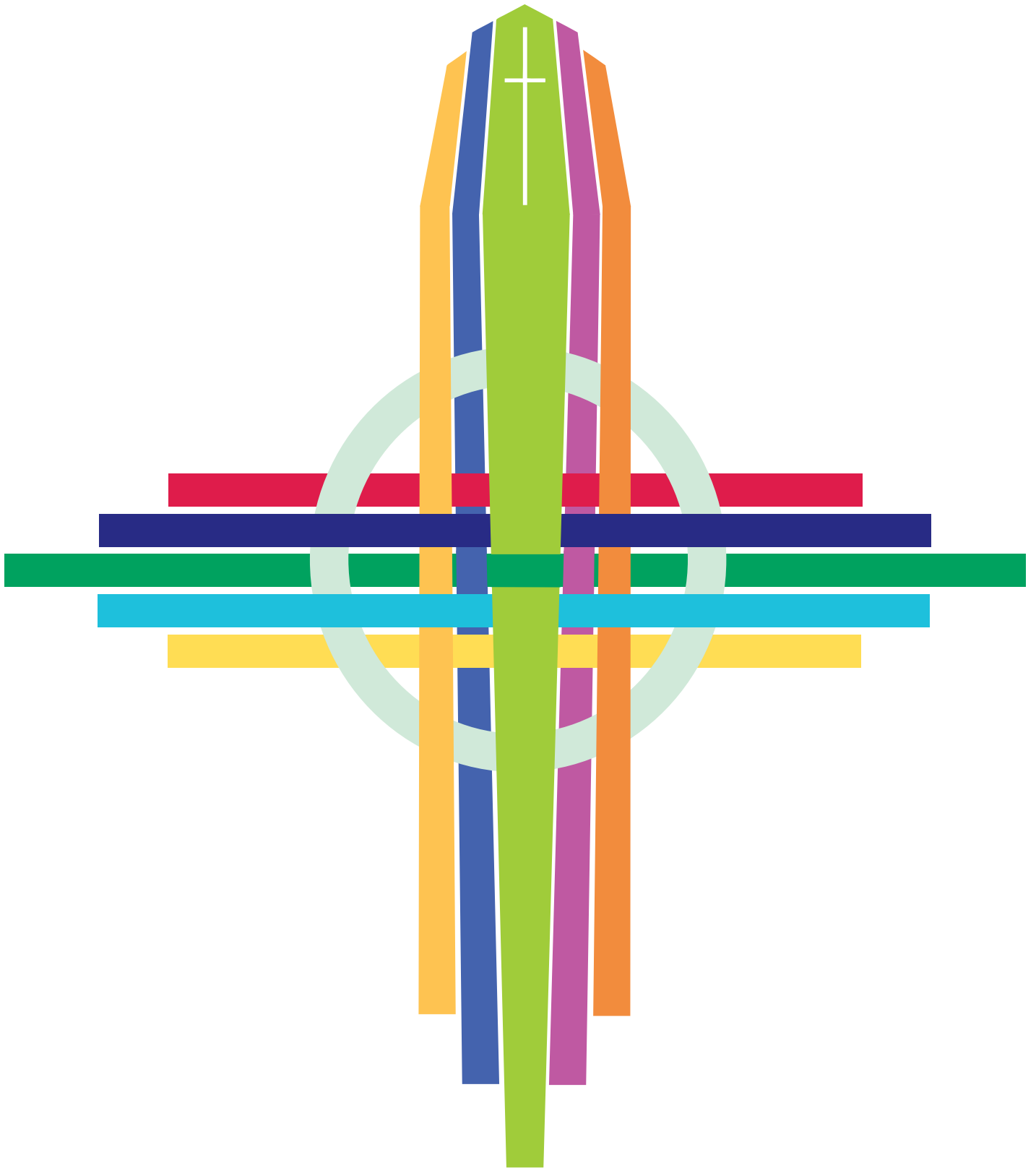


Weaving



The Fabric of Faith

A Message from the Interim Pastor

On behalf of the session, staff and committees of Shallowford Presbyterian Church, I welcome you and all who peruse the following pages. I want to express the joy and excitement I feel when I think about the future of this great church. What a wonderful time to be a part of the life and ministry of this vital and active congregation!

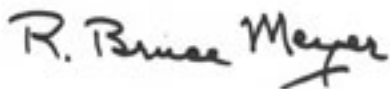
As we review our work over the past 12 months we do so with grateful hearts and expectant hopes. This is a church ready to move Christ's mission forward in new and exciting ministries for all God's people. Whether you are young or old or somewhere in between -- whether you are new to the faith or seasoned with many years of experience this is a place for you to continue to grow in wisdom and understanding as well as nurturing your soul and strengthening your faith.

As you review the following pages I hope you will sense the joy, hope and grace of Jesus Christ which flows throughout the life and ministry of this welcoming, mission oriented and intellectually vibrant faith community. And I encourage you to join in the mission of Shallowford Presbyterian Church described in our mission statement below:

"In response to God's love, Grace, and Truth as made known in Jesus The Christ, we will...

- Gather as a community to worship God through word, sacrament and music...
- Nurture and support those in our church family...
- Provide for spiritual growth, learning, fellowship and celebration...
- Reach out locally and globally through ministries of compassion, empowerment and reconciliation."

Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Bruce Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Reverend. Dr. R. Bruce Meyer
Interim Pastor

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ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Committee is the basic blocking and tackling committee. We do a lot of behind the scenes work that supports the daily functioning of Shallowford Presbyterian Church. It is work that needs to be done, but certainly not high profile work normally. Our goal is to be Invisible. If our function is transparent, it means we have done our job well and things are working smoothly.

In the past year we have reviewed insurance, examined utility usage, and revised policies that affect the every day functioning of the church.

To help control utility costs, we requested the Buildings and Grounds Committee to set the air conditioning thermostat a degree or two higher in the warmer months. In the cooler months, the sanctuary and other spaces will be set a degree or two cooler than previously set. This small adjustment makes a noticeable difference in our utility costs. We are doing our best to reduce our utility bills while still providing a safe and comfortable environment.

Another area we addressed is a new copier for our church. We were able to gain capability and several generations of technology upgrades for a lower monthly price with a new contract. A special thanks to Barton McMillan for his help in the copier process.

Much of our work is in response to a particular problem that arises and is brought to our attention. Policies are reviewed and, if necessary, changed or eliminated to better shape our church's response.

We hope to continue to perform our job quietly and effectively and remain in the background, leaving the spotlight for missions both local and global.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds Committee manages the physical property that comprises Shallowford Presbyterian Church. Everything from the plumbing to the heating and air conditioning systems, from the parking lot to the ball field falls within the scope of our committee.

Buildings and Grounds is both a stewardship and a mission committee. Members of the committee are charged with being good stewards of the resources allocated to the upkeep, use, and maintenance of the property. Our mission is to ensure that the facilities and grounds of the church are available for the programs and events that take place on the property.

The economy has been slow but the need to repair and maintain our church campus has not -- these costs keep growing. So you will notice that the congregation will have more opportunities to help with the maintenance and repair items via habitat styled events. One such event already underway is the adopt-a-plot program. The Building and Grounds Committee has identified several garden/flower beds or plots that need some tender loving care. The Building and Grounds Committee is asking various groups in the church to adopt these plots and turn them into eye catching areas of interest around the church campus.

During a walk through meeting conducted by members of the Building and Grounds Committee and members of the session prior to the June Session meeting, several building repair and safety issues were identified.

The grounds at Shallowford are vast and varied, from an activity field to a memorial garden and everything in between. This past summer we installed 6000 square feet of Bermuda sod, and added flowers to the sign in front of the church. We need to re-establish a water line to the pavilion for vacation bible school and other summer camps and repair and upgrade the sprinkler system to ensure that our grounds and landscapes mirror the warm welcome that visitors receive from our members.

The Chapel building was dedicated in 1962 and has had little renovation. For the 2009/2010 year we will rebuild the walkway canopy. Lighting issues as well as carpet stretching/replacing have been identified.

The Education building was dedicated in 1968 and renovated in 2000. During the coming year, we plan to upgrade the exhaust hood in the kitchen, mitigate moisture in the library, and paint the Great Hall. We also hope to improve the HVAC system in the 2nd floor of the Education Building.

The Sanctuary building was dedicated in 1974 and renovated in 2000. This year, we completed the installation of a new dimmer system, installed a new elevator from the office to the Sanctuary, and have planned new handicapped parking. We will complete an energy use analysis of the entire facility and an engineering analysis of the mechanical systems.

Due to the nature of our committee, our projects require large sums of money. We are working closely with Finance, Stewardship, and the Capital Campaign Committee to establish a long-term fund that will help finance the costs of such projects. We are also exploring the use of designated gifts to ensure the facilities remain useful in the future.

Our committee stands on the shoulders of all those who have come before us. We hope to emulate the hard work and dedication of all of the past members who have passed on to us these fine facilities. Our goal is to continue the work and pass on fine facilities to future church members.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The CE Committee works hard to make sure there are opportunities for everyone. There are Sunday school classes for all ages and an infant nursery for the youngest members of our church family.

9:30-10:30 Sunday morning around Shallowford is a busy time.

Our preschool class is for ages 3 through pre-K and provides a fun introduction to our story of faith, with imaginative and creative lessons. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade attend the Workshop Rotation Classes. Students learn through drama, computer lab, cooking, movies and art, allowing the children to experience the Bible stories in different ways. This year we have revamped the curriculum, building on the foundation laid by the original writing team. We have worked to make the curriculum user friendly and to ensure the scope of the stories we cover is complete.

For our youth, we have found a wonderful, digital curriculum. LinC (Living in Christ). This is an ecumenical youth study that deals with cutting edge issues. It challenges youth to think about their faith and beliefs. With the immediacy of on-line technology and an exciting interactive approach, LinC helps to provide relevant information about current issues that have immediate impact on youth. Our teachers, in turn, are then able to help youth apply their faith to their daily experiences. In January, all eighth graders are invited to attend confirmation classes, culminating in the confirmation retreat weekend in the spring at which time they may choose to join the church.

We offer ten weekly classes for adults, each with a different study focus and format. We added 2 new adult classes this year. The Prayer Shawl Class is one of the adult classes and provides shawls for those in special circumstances. The Pairs and Spares Class is for anyone looking for fellowship, new friends and meaningful Bible Study. In addition to the weekly adult classes, we offer Guest Quarters three Sundays a year, inviting all adult classes to come and hear speakers of interest. We offer a 3 week Inquirers' Class four times a year for those interested in joining Shallowford.

As a mid-week opportunity, we have a Wednesday morning group. This year, Tom Buchanan has led these folks through the books of Ecclesiastes, Revelation and Genesis, bringing the texts alive with scholarly analysis and relevant discussions.

Way to Go! Good Neighbor Tour was the theme for this summer's Vacation Bible School. Children age 3 through 3rd grades explored the Golden Rule through stories, art and song. The 4th and 5th grade students served as tour guides for the younger children, giving both groups a tangible example of what a good neighbor looks like. With 73 children and 37 volunteers, VBS was a week of learning and fun.

To support these educational programs, we maintain a library and resource room. The library is an inviting place to find resources for teaching or books for personal use. The resource room is chock full of art supplies and learning aids to spice up any lesson. Of course, our greatest resource is our volunteers: 60 adults helping with Sunday morning classes, almost 40 VBS volunteers, and 9 committee members. This committee could not function without the willingness and dedication of members of the Shallowford family. We are grateful for our volunteers and for everyone who attends our classes and programs.

CHURCH FAMILY MINISTRIES

The mission of Church Family Ministries is to create and provide opportunities for Christian fellowship at Shallowford Presbyterian Church. The committee seeks to fulfill this mission not only by discerning the needs of our members and offering activities to meet those needs, but also by providing interesting “entry points” for members of our larger community to experience Shallowford and its ministries. The work of the committee is driven by a desire to reach out to both members and to our neighbors with programs to help us all connect with one another.

During 2008-2009, the Committee ...

- Provided many opportunities for fellowship and learning through 75 Diner (re-named and re-organized as Grace Connection in August 2009), Church-wide luncheons, and the Fall Church Retreat. These programs provided valuable bonding opportunities in which we could share experiences and grow in faith together.
- Sponsored the creation and distribution of Advent devotional books, with all entries written by Shallowford members and friends.
- Offered Sunday morning coffee and facilitated a delicious breakfast every Sunday morning during the school year.
- Recruited new committee members who reflect the diversity of the church’s membership, including both experienced and new church members.
- Was the umbrella for the work of Shallowford Presbyterian Women. This large and vibrant group serves the needs of church families and the community as outlined in the SPW report.

The goals of the Committee in 2009-2010 include ...

- Enhancing existing programs to support further the vital work of fostering fellowship at Shallowford, with special emphasis on building up Grace Connection as a valuable and valued opportunity for our church family to connect with one another and to invite friends and neighbors to church in an easy, non-threatening way.
- Planning and delivering an outstanding Fall Church Retreat.
- Working with our caterer, the Buildings & Grounds Committee, and other interested parties in insuring that our church kitchen is clean and stays clean, that it may be a credit to our church in the eyes of both members and visitors.
- Continuing to support the important work of SPW.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee provides support and various modes of care to our congregation as well as the wider community.

The ministries of this committee currently include:

- **Alzheimer's Support Group** provides support to caregivers of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. An average of 25 people attend the weekly support meetings. We hosted annual Christmas luncheon for the caregivers. This support group is serving sixty people.
- **Hi! Seniors** had 300 participants in the last year in local day trips as well as overnight trips out of town.
- **Bereavement cards** were sent to 53 individuals and families on the 1st anniversary of a loved ones death.
- The **Funeral Guild** hosts receptions at the church following memorial services when the family accepts this offering. During the last year, three receptions were hosted by this guild.
- **Shallowford Center for Counseling and Development** served 50 people from our community and church.
- **Care Ministers** provide one-on-one support to shut-ins and members of our congregation experiencing some type of stress or crisis. They meet monthly for support and training. 22 care ministers have gone through training this year which includes communication and listening skills.
- **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** continues to provide prayer shawls created by church members. This year shawls were delivered to more than 127 individuals. We sent 58 prayer squares to troops in Afghanistan and have prepared 96 more, which will be sent this coming year where they are needed.
- **Shut-in communion** reassures critically ill members that they are vital members of the church. Robby Carroll and Bruce Meyer, accompanied by elders, took communion to 37 individuals.
- **The Prayer Network** ensures that each individual in our church family is prayed for by name for 1 month each year. Each member of our church family received (or will receive) prayers for a month during 2009.
- **Shallowford Institute** held Financial Peace University classes, which began in January with 15 people enrolled. A relaxation class was held on November 1, 2008 with 24 participants.
- **Training** programs were provided for **leaders** in the church.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee's role is clearly defined by the Book of Order. We are to oversee the financial records, prepare financial reports, coordinate the budget process, and help the session manage the financial resources of the congregation. The committee also provides stewardship by anticipating and communicating financial issues, establishing effective internal controls and overseeing compliance with the controls.

During 2008-09, the committee:

- **Recommended the Faithful Ones stewardship program to Session.** This program, which asks that each member contribute a dollar each week, has been very successful and an inspiration to all of our members. It was conceived as a way to engage all members of the church in contributing toward its missions and ministries in a way that does not represent a financial burden for anyone.
- **Conducted the 2009 budget meeting.** The purpose of the meeting was to align our proposed spending with reduced pledge amounts for 2009. The budget planning meeting was a wonderful example of how committee chairs and staff members work together to accomplish a difficult task. By working together, we were able to reduce the 2009 budget by \$120,000 from the 2008 budget and still meet both the ongoing operating needs and the church's long-term goals.
- **Developed a plan for deferring certain 2009 expenses.** Based on January and February pledges, there was some concern regarding the 2009 financial outlook for the church. By working with staff members and committee chairs, we were able to identify certain expenses which could be deferred until later in the year, allowing ongoing operating expenses to be funded but creating a reserve which Shallowford could use, if needed, to meet its financial obligations.
- **Initiated the 2008 annual financial review.** The financial review is performed to ensure that the bookkeeping, flow of funds, use of funds, and internal controls are appropriate and working. This review fulfills the committee's obligation to ascertain that the financial resources of the church are used appropriately.

The Finance Committee also serves as a resource for other committees and the entire church. In this role, we work with all groups to develop budgets that support the programs, missions, and ministries of the church. Once completed, we monitor the ongoing financial progress against the budget and work with Session and the committees to adjust spending when necessary. Perhaps most importantly, the committee provides proper controls to ensure that the resources of the church are used wisely and for the intended purposes.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Local Missions provided a variety of outreach programs in our community. Through the generosity of our members, who contribute both time and funds, we have been able to provide:

- **FOOD PANTRY** – For over 25 years, Shallowford has provided emergency food to individuals and families. The number of people obtaining this assistance increases every year. Donations from church members and monies allocated in the annual budget stock the Food Pantry. In addition, outside groups using our church facilities have been asked to donate food.
- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** – For over 20 years, Shallowford has worked through this non-profit, ecumenical organization. Habitat is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to promoting adequate, affordable shelter as a matter of conscience and action. This year we are working with DeKalb Habitat to complete a home in Lithonia. The response from Shallowford members volunteering their time, money, and skills has been overwhelming again this year.
- **DRUID HILLS NIGHT SHELTER** – Now in its 27th year, this facility located on the campus of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, provides supper, breakfast, counseling, and a place to spend the night for 30 homeless working men. The men stay at the shelter until they are able to rent their own place. Shallowford volunteers prepare and serve dinners twice each week for 7 months. The volunteers absorb the cost of the food.
- **INTERFAITH OUTREACH HOME** – Since opening its doors in 1992, IOH has provided over 250 families with shelter and counseling until they can graduate to independent rental housing or save enough money to become first time home buyers. Shallowford supports this cause in our budget as well as through donations of time and money from our members. We have participated in many projects for IOH, and our SPC Circles have donated various supplies to the families living there.
- **BENEVOLENCE MARKET** – On a Sunday morning just before Thanksgiving Day, we invite representatives from charitable, social and non-profit groups to display their mission works to our congregation. At this time we have the opportunity to support these causes by purchasing alternative Christmas gifts in the name of family or friends. Specially designed gift cards let the recipients know that a contribution to the organization was made in their honor.
- **NETWORKS COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES** – Shallowford and several other local member churches support this mission that provides financial aid to our neighbors in need in the Northlake, Embry, and Tucker communities. During its four-year existence, there has been steady growth in the number of clients seen, assisted or referred to other agencies. Our contributions and support help our community prosper.
- **SHALLOWORD BUILDING AND GROUNDS USAGE** – Providing our church facilities to outside groups is a mission of the church to our community. Groups that request to use our facilities are non-profit and community, fellowship, missions, or sports oriented.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

The Long Range Planning Committee presented the Long Range Plan to the Session for Approval in September 2006. The Session adopted this plan for implementation beginning in January 2007. There has not been an update presented to the session since the 2007 adoption.

Goal 1: Mission/Service (Present – 2008)

To respond to God's call to serve "the least of these," we will work intentionally and creatively to provide the opportunity for all Shallowford members to participate in mission opportunities.

Status: There continues to be an increase in mission opportunities. Our efforts continue to support the rebuild of the Gulf coast hurricane disaster.

Goal 2: Ball Field/Activities Ministry (2008-2009)

To optimize the manner in which we utilize the precious resource of the SPC ball field space. We will consciously strive to expand its use by both the congregation and the community.

Status: There have been several approved community uses, like cookouts and organized soccer games and practices. The field has also been improved with the planting of additional sod. The adjoining county owned green space has added a nature walking trail. Recently the session discovered some unauthorized uses by local soccer teams and passed a motion that the field would be closed until a proper process was established for use of the field.

Goal 3: Shallowford Institute/Training (2007-2008)

To educate and inspire our congregation, staff, and others within the community to more fully develop our God-given gifts as we love and serve one another in Christ, we will create an institute.

Status: Robby Carol has assumed leadership of the institute and with his leadership the church continues to add educational seminars like Dave Ramsey's financial peace university and Stephen Covey's, 7 habits.

Goal 4: Center for the Arts (2009-2010)

To build upon Shallowford's strong music ministry and the potential to grow spiritually through the arts, SPC will create a task force to study the possibility of creating a Center for the Arts to serve our community.

Status: Emily Floyd has replaced Bob Chambliss and continues to bring new programs that continue to lead us in developing this goal.

Goal 5: Membership Growth (Present – 2010)

To enhance and expand SPC's mission, we will focus on membership growth by engaging both new and current members.

Status: Bruce is leading this effort with helping to lead us in interim position as we search for a new pastor.

Goal 6: Long Term Aspiration (2009-2010)

To fully develop the goals of this Long Range Plan, we need to establish a Minister of Missions and Director of Recreational Activities.

Status: This is on hold until we bring our new pastor to Shallowford.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

An excellent staff is essential to the work of our church. The Personnel Committee works to ensure that the congregation has outstanding staff, that the staff is well supported and fairly compensated and that staff members continue to grow in their respective areas.

Because our staff touches the entire Shallowford family, the work of Personnel touches everyone. Our activities include hiring, ensuring that staff members are adequately compensated, budgeting, ensuring staff access to continuing education opportunities and other resources, and yearly goal setting and appraisals. This past year the Committee has actively supported or participated in several hiring committees, including the Interim Pastor Nominating, the Children's Choir Director hiring committee and the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Continuing education opportunities for program staff enable staff members to continue their spiritual growth and further develop skills. Given this year's budget constraints, the staff has used creative, cost effective approaches to continue their education through staff meetings, professional organizations, local conferences and professional reading.

Each year the Personnel Committee oversees an evaluation and feedback process for each staff member. Through the Annual Performance Appraisal Process, accomplishments are recognized, key skill areas are assessed and goals are set for the upcoming year. For each staff member's performance appraisal, the Personnel Committee includes three to four members of the congregation to provide relevant input. The supervisor conducts the annual performance appraisal with oversight from the Head of Staff and Personnel Committee.

During 2009-10, the committee will work to ensure that we continue to have outstanding staff to lead our expanding ministries. A highly qualified, competitively compensated staff is essential to our work at Shallowford, but even modest yearly raises mean that Personnel costs will continue to increase. Additionally, benefits costs such as health insurance can be expected to continue to rise. An increase in overall giving means that we can meet increasing Personnel costs without negatively impacting other aspects of mission and outreach.

PRESCHOOL

Shallowford Presbyterian Preschool has served our community's children for over 45 years and is a vibrant and enduring legacy for our church. Our past school year included a new Director, a robust enrollment, more continuing education for staff members and increased involvement by church members and staff. SPP continues to nurture children and weave a rich tapestry; enriching families, connecting our church and community and sharing God's love and grace with all who come through our doors.

We were blessed to start our 2008-2009 school year with Sarah Wikle at the helm. Sarah was a preschool parent, teacher and an active church member who sings in the choir – invaluable experiences on her way to becoming the Director! We have also been blessed and inspired by “Mr. Tom” (our own Tom Buchanan-Director of Christian Education). He has mesmerized his young audience, regularly conducting the preschool's Thankful Circles. Tom is always available to participate and lend a hand.

This year the preschool has benefited from the talents, generosity and time of many church members and groups. Anchor Shepherd has enchanted students and teachers alike. She has used her extensive background in child development and education to conduct a training session for our staff. Anchor was also actively involved in storytelling during the preschool's popular Summer Fun camps. The Fourth Tuesday Circle has adopted us and put to use their considerable skills and hard work to beautify our entrance, organize the resource room and keep the library tidy. Our church members continue to provide selfless acts of involvement and care that improve both the quality of life at the preschool and the connectivity with the church body.

One of the most apparent acts of generosity last year was the installation of our Toddler Playground. Lisa (a former SPP teacher) and Willard Arbor donated the funds to build this new playground. David Rosselot expertly oversaw the development and installation process, along with Sarah Rigby and Millie Staggs (an SPP teacher). We now have play areas that are appropriate for all of our preschool ages.

As with any community, along with the and joyous events and additions to SPP, we've shared sorrow and loss. As a staff member faced a serious illness, we rallied around her family with love, caring support and fundraising to ease their burdens. While she is no longer on staff, we continue to walk with her as she faces her health challenges. We've also seen increased need for financial assistance and were able to adjust our budget to increase our spending on our Tuition Assistance Program during the school year. SPP and SPC continue to work together to help families in crisis.

No SPP report would be complete without discussing the Joy of Giving (JoG). Our signature fundraiser was our most successful to date. SPP depends on the JoG to fund a significant portion of our budget and enable us to keep our tuition affordable, invest in improvements and offer financial aid. Our Silent Auction chair, Theresa Lee, designed and executed an ambitious campaign that netted record numbers of donations. Our auction couldn't be successful without bidders and SPC members didn't let us down! The JoG is a herculean effort, that depends on the myriad of church volunteers that work during this big event. With their assistance, we had an efficient bid closing and check-out process, countless bake sale items and plenty of elves in the Secret Santa Shop. We received great support from our members, preschool parents and community. Thank you all!

We look forward to a new academic year that builds upon our successes from last year. We are welcoming over 130 students this year. Our preschool continues to honor its history, writes new chapters and weaves an ever more vibrant and rich fabric of tradition; joining children and families, community and church.

SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Shallowford Presbyterian Women (SPW) offers women an opportunity to serve God in the local church, community and world through stewardship, service, education and fellowship.

SPW sponsored five circles that met for educational Bible study and fellowship each month from September through May. SPW is financed by pledges over and above individual pledges to the church budget.

During 2008-09; We supported Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly ministries as well as:

- Santa Claus Express and Angel offering for Presbyterian Homes
- Columbia Friendship Circle
- Thornwell Home and School for Children
- Fellowship of the Least Coin
- Birthday Offering
- Thank Offering

This year, SPW's projects of sharing God's love through service included:

- Supported of Shallowford's Food Pantry on an ongoing basis;
- Provided a card ministry that expresses grief, joy and appreciation to members of the congregation. A total of 108 cards were sent this year.
- Honored each newborn of church members with a rose in worship and a children's Bible and provided meals to the newborn's family.
- Sent Valentine's Day boxes to each college student. Over 60 boxes this year.
- Organized two Advent worship services and an Advent Luncheon.
- Assisted with church receptions and special events.
- Provided support and assistance to the Bereavement Guild.
- Prepared meals for circle members' families in times of illness or death.
- Collected hundreds of Box Tops for Education and Campbell's labels to provide monetary support to Thornwell Home for Children.
- Supported Columbia Friendship Circle, Tucker High School Habitat for Humanity, Phillips Tower, Interfaith Outreach Home and Mountain View Personal Care Home.
- Prepared and served meals at Druid Hills Night Shelter.
- Provided a card ministry for Shallowford men and women who serve in the armed forces.
- Additional Financial support to ministries selected by individual circles.

On April 19, SPC celebrated SPW Day in two worship services and an SPW sponsored Church-wide luncheon. We were honored to have Dr. Laura Mendenhall preach at both services. In addition, the Coordinating Team served as Liturgists and SPW members served as ushers.

During this year the CT conducted a survey of SPW members to collect ideas for improving the role of SPW, not only in the church and community, but also in the lives of its members. CT will consider the survey results as they implement new programs and activities.

STEWARDSHIP

The past year at Shallowford Presbyterian Church has certainly been memorable. Last fall, the Stewardship Committee was hard at work, engaged not only in our usual labors of the annual campaign but also in assessing what impact the financial downturn of the economy would have on our efforts.

Borrowing the artwork and theme from the 2008 Montreat Youth Conference, the stewardship campaign was entitled *Throw Open the Doors*. We demonstrated through three weeks of skits, letters and email the various ways doors at Shallowford open:

to God's love through his grace,
to the good work being done from our hearts,
to a future filled with possibilities.

We then celebrated the campaign with our annual Pigs on Fire feast.

As feared, the economic uncertainty had a negative impact on pledges, which decreased 6 percent from the year before to \$1.148 million. While the number of donors slightly declined, some donors were able to increase their giving. As a result, our average gift remained the same. These gifts reflect the faith of the congregation to support the work and ministries of Shallowford.

Out of concern over decreased first quarter pledge receipts, the *Faithful One* campaign was conceived. Beginning in April, every member of the church was asked to join our *Faithful One* program by giving one additional dollar per household member each week. As of the end of August, \$8,619 in Faithful Ones offerings have been received. Prior to the implementation of the *Faithful One* campaign, the average loose offering was \$117. That has grown 161% to an average of \$305 a week. What an appreciative return for just a small gesture of faith! We can attribute the success of the *Faithful One* campaign to an inspiring letter penned by B.J. McMillan, monthly skits which highlight a program funded through the budget, an article in the monthly e-newsletters, a plug in the Sunday bulletin, the design of FO our *Faithful One* mascot, and the ministers asking folks to come forth with their tithes, offerings and faithful ones.

The faithful support of so many reminds us of the fact that Shallowford will not only survive but thrive and will emerge stronger than ever. We appreciate what the members of Shallowford have already done this year and are forever grateful to them for their prayers and love for the church.

The Thank You Committee is a Stewardship sub-committee responsible for sending hand-written, personal notes to those who make financial contributions to Shallowford in memory or in honor of someone.

SUPPORT & ENDOWMENT

The Session established the Support and Endowment Plan in 1991 to encourage devises, bequests and long-term gifts to the church. The Support and Endowment Committee was created to oversee the Plan. The Committee's responsibilities include encouraging contributions to the Plan, monitoring the Plan's investments and reviewing requests for disbursements from the Plan's monies.

Contributions to the Plan come from various sources, most commonly from outright gifts, such as significant gifts from members and memorial gifts, and gifts from wills and bequests. The Committee consults regularly with planning professionals at the Presbyterian Foundation who are available to assist the Committee in fulfilling its duties. The professionals at the Presbyterian Foundation are also available to consult with individuals who desire to make gifts to the Plan.

The Plan's monies are currently divided into four primary groups of funds:

- The **Endowment Fund**, which is designed to be invested and generate income for the Special Church Support Fund and the Mission and Benevolence Fund;
- The **Special Church Support Fund**, which supports special projects related to (1) the upkeep and maintenance of the Church's physical environment and (2) special ministries and outreach to disadvantaged, elderly or homeless individuals;
- The **Mission and Benevolence Fund**, which supports extended mission work and various benevolences; and
- The **Specified Use Funds**, which have been designated by donors to be used for purposes such as supporting the music, youth, young adult or other specific ministries of the church.

During the twelve months from July 2008 to June 2009, the value of the Plan's assets, like investments generally, declined significantly. The market value of the assets in the Plan that are available for immediate use *declined approximately 17%* during this period. This includes minimal distributions to fund projects and *no contributions to the Plan*.

The Committee has actively monitored the Plan's investments, including holding meetings in addition to its regular quarterly meetings to review the Plan's performance and has met with the Presbyterian Foundation's advisor to evaluate the Plan's continued participation in investments sponsored by the Presbyterian Foundation. While market conditions appear to have stabilized since the first of the year, the Committee continues to monitor the Plan's investment strategy carefully.

The Committee welcomes any questions from members of the congregation about ways in which they can contribute to and support the Plan.

WELCOMING

The Welcoming Committee is responsible for outreach to those seeking a church home. It seeks to foster a welcoming atmosphere to visitors, and to follow up with visitors, providing information and invitations to return to Shallowford.

We are blessed with our unique “Betty Marie Door” through which every visitor and member is welcomed with open arms and given directions for whatever needs they may have. They may be directed to our Information Center, which is located in the Atrium and provides a central location for all information about our worship services and other SPC activities. Volunteers are located at the Information Center and handicap entrance to assist and answer questions.

An elder is assigned to be at the Information Center following worship to answer questions.

Prospective new member information is gleaned from Friendship Pads, SPC member references, publicity programs, and random inquiries.

The Welcoming and Christian Education committees work together to offer 3 Inquirer's Classes throughout the year. The Inquirers Class coordinators contact and follow up with prospects to attend the three classes conducted quarterly. All are encouraged to review the Time and Talent form to determine where their God given talents can be applied to become involved beyond church attendance and to enrich their worship experience.

Each new member is assigned to a Welcome Committee member for follow up with committee chairs to assure that contact is made according to selections on the Time and Talent form. Pictures of our new members are posted on the bulletin board in the Education Building as well as printed in the newsletter.

Our latest publicity effort is an exciting ad on Children’s Choirs and Grace Connection in the Hawthorne Happenings Newsletter. The newsletter will be available to more than 500 families of students, Hawthorne Elementary staff and pickup from information areas at the school. Thanks to Nancy Jester, Margaret Jones, and Tom Buchanan. Effort on advertisements, brochures, newsletters and banners continue as finances permit.

The committee works with the Church Administrator to determine members absent for a specified period of time. The absentees are contacted to let them know they are missed, the reason for the absence and possible reference to Congregational Care, the pastor or other staff member. This activity may involve an audit of records and recommendations to the Session regarding membership status.

WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

Burkina Faso / ASUDEC

2008/2009 Funding Level: \$8,800/\$10,000

In 2008, SPC funding and private donations helped complete a hotel-like boarding house started by and dedicated to the memory of Flo Snyder. The house will provide income to this impoverished Sahara Desert community—as well as a place for SPC members to stay on mission trips. This November, SPC's 5-person mission team will stay in this house. John, Leta, and Andrew Bogle and Darl and Cherie Snyder (Flo's husband and daughter) will visit Burkina Faso at their own expense. They will visit facilities in several locations and learn about the programs and issues our partners face.

Carmel Community Ministries

2008/2009 Funding Level: \$11,000 / \$8,000

This year, WWM provided \$5,000 for the addition of a computer lab to this youth slum ministry in Delhi, India. 5 computer workstations were purchased and equipped with internet and web cams. Many of the children had never seen a computer and some were even afraid to touch them. After only a few months, the children are making huge progress. We have begun voice and video chats with Rev. Koshy and will soon begin live interviews with the children and provide opportunities for our children to interact with them online.

Another successful program this year was Crayons for Carmel. SPC Sunday school classes sent a large shipment of school supplies to the children at Easter with notes of love and encouragement.

Fontera de Cristo

2008/2009 Funding: \$0/\$0

In response to several issues raised after the 2007 Agua Prieta mission trip, WWM led an evaluation of the FdC ministry. This lengthy and on-going evaluation has yielded steps to address the issues and has established a continuing dialog with Mark Adams, the US Coordinator of FdC. WWM will plan a trip to Agua Prieta in the fall of 2010 for SPC members who wish to learn more about this border ministry, life on the border, and the spiritual and political issues this ministry confronts.

We continued our support of CRREDA (Center for the Recovery and Rehabilitation from Drugs and Alcohol) through funding to upgrade their electrical system and purchase a truck.

Heifer International

2008/2009 Funding: \$3,000/\$3,500

WWM currently gives financial support to this mission. Heifer provides education and opportunities to families around the world to acquire and care for animals that will feed them and help them become economically self-reliant. Farmers learn sustainable, environmentally sound agricultural techniques.

Just Coffee – Fair Trade Coffee Cooperative 2008/2009 Funding Level: \$200/\$500

Through SPC's continued use and purchase of coffee, along with hundreds of other churches across the nation, a village in southern Mexico has been renewed and revitalized. Salvador Urbina is the home to over 40 families of coffee growers who provide the coffee you buy and drink each week at SPC.

Living Waters for the World 2008/2009 Funding Level: \$12,000/\$9,000

This mission of the Synod of Living Waters brings the gift of clean water to communities around the world. In February of 2009, SPC installed its second system in Chiapas, Mexico in the village of Union Roja. This and the first system (installed in 2006) provide sales of 60 to 110 bottles of clean water per day. The price of water in both villages where SPC has installed water purification systems is still only 20% of what large vendors offer and is free to schools, churches and those who cannot afford it. A follow-up trip to Union Roja is being planned for spring of 2010.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

People choose to attend worship for a variety of reasons, but most of us come to worship to encounter God and to experience something mysterious and transcendent. We hope to discover God in something that occurs in worship – the music, the prayers, the readings, the sermon, the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, or being part of the community of worshippers. The Worship Committee reviews and shapes the content and style of Shallowford’s worship services along with the staff.

During the past year, the Worship Committee:

- Invited guest ministers to preach during the interim period in the fall of 2008 including a dramatic presentation of the book of Ruth on World Communion Sunday.
- Welcomed Dr. R. Bruce Meyer to the pulpit to serve as interim pastor
- Observed Holy Week with a Seder Dinner including Holy Communion, a Good Friday service and Easter Sunday morning services of worship
- Provided a cross for members and guests to decorate with flowers on Easter morning
- Celebrated the musical gifts of Beth Christie as interim Children’s Choir director
- Welcomed Ann Crouch as Children’s Choir Director
- Received and dedicated handbells from Pilgrimage Presbyterian Church
- Used a variety of instruments in worship: organ, piano, string, percussion, winds, brass, harp, banjo, guitar

The Worship Committee supports an extensive music program involving over 170 people each week in rehearsal and/or worship.

The Chancel Choir usually sings at the 11:00 a.m. worship service every Sunday. In 2008-2009 the choir led worship with Vivaldi’s Gloria on the second Sunday of Advent, the Ellingboe Requiem during the Lenten season and an Appalachian gospel music service in the spring.

The Chapel Choir, composed of 60-70 youth from grades 7–12, sings regularly at the 11:00 a.m. worship service as well as leading worship on Youth Sundays. Highlights of Chapel Choir include leading the Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service and an annual summer tour, this year to the northeastern United States.

The Shallowford Bell Choir, grades 7-12, play 63 cast bronze English handbells. In addition to its solo anthem repertoire, the Bell Choir accompanies the Chancel Choir. Shallowford Presbyterian offers a complete children’s choir ministry for ages 3 through 6th grade (**Cherub**, **Trinity**, and **Westminster Choirs**, as well as **Westminster Bell Choir**). In choir, children learn to use their gifts and talents to serve God through music.

The Worship Committee also organizes and oversees the logistical details related to worship:

- Organs, pianos, autoharps, and Orff instrument maintenance
- Ushers and the sound system
- Presentation of Bible and the symbols of communion during worship
- Communion preparation
- Worship banners and flowers including Advent/Christmas and Easter decorations
- Advent Readings and Readers/Candle Lighters

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Youth and Young Adult Ministry serves the call to help church and community members grow in their faith. As their faith grows, so does their ability and desire to become leaders at Shallowford or wherever God may lead them in the future. The Youth and Young Adult Ministry hopes to provide such opportunities.

The Youth ministry at Shallowford provides a Christian community for 6th through 12th graders as they attempt to grow together toward their full potential in Christ through worship, discipleship, service, study, and fellowship. This Christian community seeks to guide our young people in developing and deepening a faithful relationship with God through Jesus Christ, while encouraging them to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them in their daily lives.

During the past year, the youth of Shallowford have led us in two worship services, served the congregation at church wide lunches and dinners, collected cans for the SPC food pantry, and grown together as a group through other retreats and fellowship opportunities.

One of the major highlights of the past year was the annual trip to the Montreat Youth Conference in July. This year we took 31 youth and adults to Montreat for a time of worship, learning, and fellowship with people from other Presbyterian churches around the country.

Another highlight was our third youth mission trip, this year to a South Dakota Indian reservation. Twenty four youth and adults spent the week working alongside people from the community painting member homes and providing day care for community children.

Finally, an important aspect of the opportunity for the Youth to grow in service to the congregation and the community has been fund-raising activities. The youth have been working to provide childcare at Friday evening Parents' Nights Out child care and Rent-a-Youth for various services needed by the congregation.



SHALLOWFORD

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