

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

McPherson Free Methodist Church, 1010 S. Maple Street, McPherson KS 67460

Newspaper headlines and television anchors tell us of notable – and sometimes notorious – events as they unfold, often in real time. This past year we witnessed the immediate aftermath of a gunman’s rampage at a shopping center in Arizona, an Arab spring of uprisings throughout the Middle East as they occurred, the killing of known terrorist Osama bin Laden, alleged and unspeakable crimes against children by university coaches, the increase in human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad, the death of tech guru Steve Jobs, and the wedding of a prince to his princess.

We will not soon forget the images from Christchurch, New Zealand on February 22 following a 6.3 magnitude earthquake. Nor can we close our eyes or our hearts to the devastation following the March 11 9.0 magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that left the nation of Japan and the world in shock.



There have also been events in our congregation that have changed the course of life as we know it. The death of a loved one, the birth of a child, a cancer diagnosis, the marriage of a son or daughter, retirement, the loss of employment, the departure of a child to college, the chronic ailment that has brought loss of mobility or cognitive skills.

We have been impacted in a variety of ways common to the human story. But thankfully, we have not experienced these changes alone or without the full resources of faith through Jesus Christ. As someone once said, “The cup is more than half

full when filled with Living Water.”

We explored “followership” as of the first order as a disciple, through a sermon series over the course of eight weeks in January and February. We were reminded that God invites us into the middle of what he is doing. Jesus calls us to follow Him and learn His ways. The Holy Spirit empowers us for this journey. And on the way we share what He is doing, and carry on His works in His Name.



God has sustained us and revealed his truth to us as we have submitted ourselves to His Holy Word. *The Bible in 90 Days* this past fall was not a gimmick, but an exercise in faith as a church family to open ourselves to a reordered routine that allowed more of God to get into more of us.

We joined our hearts in prayer for our denomination in preparation for General Conference, lifting the church’s leadership of our nation and our world, that they might receive a clear word of direction as we take the “whole Gospel to the whole world for the whole person.”

The collective response to Advent Conspiracy was overwhelming, with nearly \$10,000 received in one offering in response to global concerns: human trafficking in Thailand, the need for water filters in Haiti, and International Child Care support for children in need around the world.

Over the course of 2011, we accomplished something together that we could have never accomplished alone. We were able to retire building debt thanks to the sacrificial giving and obedient hearts of scores of Christ followers who care so deeply

for their church and her purposes in the community and the world.

But the stories from 2011 that mean the most have nothing to do with money or denominations or a sermon series. They are the stories of changed lives: of children who said yes to Jesus for the first time; of three teens who gave their hearts to Christ, and four who recommitted their lives to Christ; children, teens and adults who were baptized; new members; college students and middle school students who were mentored by maturing Christ followers; college interns pursuing ministry; friends and strangers aided by Outreach McPherson or the benevolence fund; people walking toward true freedom in Christ.

Verses that we quite literally took to heart and memory this past year are as relevant today as they were when they were penned by the Apostle Paul:

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

God has good and challenging things in store for us as we move into 2012 under His power. Thank you for the privilege of going there with you!



Pastor Deb

2011 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Personnel Updates



Following a realignment of ministry responsibilities in late December, and with full support and approval of the Board of Administration, **Rev. Dallas Burgeson** has moved into the position of **Associate Pastor of Worship Arts and Discipleship**. This full-time post taps into Dallas's passions for music, worship, the church, and the formation and equipping of Christ followers. He continues his graduate studies at Friends University in Wichita, a program he hopes to complete by the end of 2012, with his M.A. in Christian Ministry with an emphasis in worship.

As a result of this realignment of responsibilities, the quarter-time position of **Pastor of Adult Christian Education and Visitation** has been created and **Rev. P. Thomas Mayse** has agreed to fill this post. Tom and Karen have given hundreds of hours of volunteer visitation ministry throughout 2011, and now he is entering into this more formalized relationship which taps into his passion for service in the local church. Tom is a former pastor of this church as well as the former superintendent of the Great Plains Conference. He and Karen bring years of experience and connectionalism to the community and the church.



As of August 1, 2011, **Staci Jackson** is the church's **Office Manager**, replacing Carmen Zeisler who began a full-time teaching position at Eisenhower Elementary School. A California native, Staci moved to McPherson from Temecula, California in 2010. She was already familiar with the city of McPherson, as she received her Associate in Arts from Central Christian College in 2007. She earned her BA in International Studies (emphasis in Peace



Studies) from Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, CA) in 2009. Her long-term goal is to be instrumental in eradicating poverty at home and abroad. She lives with her husband, Doug and their Italian greyhound, Mosey.

Youth Ministry — Zach Fleming

Middle School

- Teaching series throughout the year included "Made: Becoming Who God Wants Me to Be," "Incredible: Jesus' Most Shocking Miracles," "Fantastic Four: Four Stories You Won't Believe," and "Superhero," focused on what some of today's comic book heroes can teach us about what it means to follow Jesus
- Took 10 students on MCSMA (McPherson Community Student Ministry Alliance) Ski Trip in January
- Took 15 students to Sky Lodge Christian Camp in June
- Intern Chloe Walker planned and supervised various events for students throughout the summer
- Took 15 students through "Passages" program in the summer, confirming all as youth members



High School

- Teaching series included "Storyline," designed to help connect individual stories in the Bible to the meta-narrative; "Jesus, Pass the Popcorn," delving into spiritual themes in many of today's popular movies; and "Superhero"
- Took six students on MCSMA ski trip in February
- Took eight students and staff on week-long white water rafting trip to Colorado in July
- Began a weekly prayer breakfast for high school students in the Fleming home on Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m.
- Continued to train and develop a new group of student musicians for the high school worship team



More Good News...

- Three first-time commitments to Christ; four recommitments; two baptisms
- Interns: Chloe Walker completed internship in summer; Brendan Burge began his internship in the fall
- Benefitted from parent input through Student Ministry Cabinet monthly meetings and all-parent meeting in January
- Partnered with MCSMA for several community events: Senior Bash, See You at the Pole, Fields of Faith, Baccalaureate
- Began initial planning to take high school students on missions trip to Haiti in 2012
- Denominational: Serve as Youth Ministry Liaison for Great Plains Conference; attended General Conference in July

2011 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Adults and Families – Dallas Burgeson

Sunday School/Groups

- On Mission Forum – an initiative through classes and groups begun in early March to help relationally connect with various needs in the community and within the church body
- Surprised by Hope – created two short-term community groups who read and discussed N. T. Wright's book on heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church
- The Bible in 90 Days – developed an age-inclusive curriculum and schedule during the Fall, allowing everyone to be "on the same page" reading every word of the Bible together
- Continued to hold one another up in prayer and challenge one another through the study of the Word and other important discipleship topics
- Ushered 10 adults through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University 13-week course in January

Hospitality

- Welcomed Roberto Mendez into the leadership role early in the fall
- Continued to implement many of the new practices and reforms made a year ago, including newcomer follow-up and absentee calls
- Served in the areas of ushering, greeting, and bussing on Sunday mornings, as well as serving at the Welcome Center, at the 4-H building for Loaves and Fishes, and through showers for newborns and weddings

Membership/Mentoring

- Welcomed four new members into the church in the spring

- Mentored five CCC students, capped off with a celebration lunch at President Hoxie's home for the students and their mentors
- Began mentoring 15 of our Passages middle school students through the 2011-12 academic school year

Benevolence and Outreach McPherson

- Disbursed funds for 53 different benevolence requests, with aid totaling over \$3,800 to individuals not a part of the church family. Other in-house assistance was provided well beyond that amount.
- Assisted on average 20 families per month through Outreach McPherson's furniture and appliance ministry
- Delivered 180 Thanksgiving baskets, serving roughly 600 individuals with basic household items
- Continued to leave bags of groceries available following Sunday worship for those in need through food pantry ministry

Men's and Women's Ministries

- Men's ministry facilitated Battle of the Chefs community competition to benefit Omega House ministries
- Group of men attended movie "Courageous" together in April; new men's Bible study in 2012 one of the outcomes
- TWIGS (Today's Women In God's Service) sponsored Sock Hop (January) to provide several hundred pairs of socks to Mt. Hope Sanctuary and Omega House; Silent Auction and Mystery Dinner (April) to benefit Women's Ministries International; Backpacks and Blessings (August) to provide children with backpacks; Soul Spa (September), a day of physical and spiritual refreshment; Cupcake Club, a neighborhood-focused initiative; a 12-week outreach-oriented Bible study called "Start"

Children's Ministry – Jan O'Dell

Sundays

- Began *The Bible in 90 Days* in August with special curriculum called "The Story." Includes 31 lessons focusing on various Bible stories from Genesis through Revelation. Curriculum will conclude in April 2012

Wednesdays

- Scores of children ages 3 through grade 5 gather for MarketPlace during the school year, with various learning centers, special kick-off events in September and January, and pizza and movie nights as well

Vacation Bible School

- Welcomed over 100 children from both church and community for "Pandamania," a fun-filled focus to encourage children into the Word and into a relationship with Jesus

Reflections from Parents

- *Play group is a wonderful outreach...I have met families new to town, stay-at-home moms, others looking for a place to connect.*

- *MarketPlace welcomes both churched and unchurched children; a special highlight has been seeing new moms get involved.*
- *VBS and Fall Festival were highlights for me; they both touched so many lives and we will never know where the ripple created will end up.*
- *I like it when the children do the friendship folders on Sunday mornings.*
- *The Christmas program was wonderful and we really enjoyed the fellowship time afterward.*
- *Our children enjoy all the special events: field trips, breakfast bingo, Easter movie, surprise fun day, summer skating, and much more.*



BEYOND THESE WALLS...



The Global Outreach Weekend in October challenged participants in regard to the mission of God, the world God loves, and the invitation to join Him in mission locally and globally.



Camille Anderson told the youth group of how God placed it on her heart to do something for local ministries. The results: a successful all-church garage sale to benefit Mt. Hope Sanctuary and Outreach McPherson



The annual All-Church Picnic was retooled and relocated to Kerschner Apartments across from the high school, with food, games, and fellowship for all the residents as well as the church family.



Women's ministry's backpack initiative helped community families prepare their children for school.



Moving Forward in 2012...

- Praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance
- Celebrating new life in Christ and the freedom that He offers
- Striving to make *abiding in the Vine* the first goal in all ministry and missional work
- Encouraging greater discipleship, expanding and deepening the talent pool, and the sharing of gifts through worship arts
- Creating missional opportunities for all age levels and for intergenerational participation as well
- Investing time, prayer, and resources in our middle school and high school students as they grapple with how faith shapes their choices and their future
- Ministering to children and their families, deepening each child's spiritual growth and increasing their excitement for Jesus
- Implementing both short- and long-term missions opportunities as we build relationships with other cultures for the sake of the Kingdom, as well as planning and hosting a fall Global Impact weekend
- Networking with other youth workers and pastors in the community to better serve the needs of our neighbors
- Caring for those who are ill, bereaved, or in need of support of any kind
- Prioritizing and investing in repairs and improvements to our physical plant
- Helping each person hear from God and obey Him in the discipleship that comes from truly following Jesus



NEWS UPDATE! Pastor Zach is taking a group of high school students to Haiti for one week in June to assist with much-needed rebuilding projects under the auspices of Free Methodist World Missions. You will soon be hearing more about ways you can assist the students and the leadership in preparing for this life-changing opportunity abroad.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

	2009	2010	2011
Budget	\$554,535.00	\$520,928.00	\$512,315.00
Income	484,368.71	518,518.32	522,950.49
Expenses	510,247.26	517,409.91	495,468.65
Surplus (Deficit)	(25,878.55)	1,108.41	27,481.84
Other Income			
Designated Non-budgeted	\$ 48,298.90	\$ 43,503.75	\$ 79,616.39
Light Fire/Forward by Faith	74,598.11	71,407.65	79,444.00
Rental Income	38,392.42	40,307.15	39,523.20
Other (fundraising/memorials)	25,497.54	27,205.44	19,669.47
Total Income	\$671,155.68	\$700,942.31	\$741,203.55
Indebtedness			
House Loan	\$ 68,540.69	\$ 54,350.02	\$ 36,319.24
Light the Fire Loan	135,167.95	79,016.16	00.00
Total Indebtedness	\$203,708.64	\$133,366.18	\$ 36,319.24

...In the Name of Jesus