

## PASTOR'S REPORT

As a family, 2007 was like a roller coaster ride. As soon as one hill was taken, another would appear. It was a year full of twists and turns – quite a thrill ride! Both Tim and Jon graduated from their schools, Tim and Jessica were married, Jon went off to college; these events and more defined our year.

Consequently, my look back at 2007 seems like a blur. So much happened in so short a period that it is hard to put it into perspective, whether it is at home or here at the church. Here are some of the highlights of this past year:

- 2007 saw the finishing touches put on the roof project. Most of the major work was finished as the year began, but there were some small items that needed to be completed to our satisfaction. The roof is already beginning to take on the chocolate brown appearance that it will have over most of the rest of this century. The Property Committee report has more to say about this project.
- One bit of irony associated with the roof project was its impact on our investments. In recent years, our investments with Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation earned less than 5%. Then, during the year when we had drawn down our investments to cover the cost of the roof, our investments earned over 15%. Go figure!
- During 2007, we welcomed Kathy Holsinger as our new Church Secretary. Kathy has brought high level of expertise and dedication to the position that has taken back many of the things that had fallen to me by default in recent years.
- We have also been pleased to have Allen Archer with us, first as the person who was playing the organ for us, and now as our Interim Organist. Allen's love for the Lord and for organ music is not hard to miss, as he regularly blows the dust out of the instrument with his joyful playing. Allen will continue with us for the foreseeable future. I'm hoping we can somehow talk him into dropping the 'interim' tag.
- There are two persons serving the church whose volunteer efforts have been invaluable to us – Paul Wolfe, who continues to performed custodial services (often assisted by family members and several people in the congregation, when Paul is away), and Pam Snyder, who directs our three choirs: Adults, Handbell, and children/youth. Words fail to adequately describe how grateful we are for all that these two do!
- In early March, several members of the Session and I attended a church growth seminar at Massanetta Springs. A few of the things we learned there have been implemented, but these are mostly behind-the-scenes sort of items. One challenge facing the Session in 2008 is to take the necessary time to review some of the ideas that we encountered, and see what might work here.
- Not an insignificant amount of effort went into the recently-completed sale of the Rental Property to Community Bank. Some members of the Session – Jerry Fry in particular – have been working on this issue for the better part of two years. From conversations I had with bank officers, it appears that their desire for the building is more in the future than immediate, but it was a purchase that they did not want to pass up. In the immediate future, their use of the property will be mostly for parking; they were leasing one third of the lot from us for a number of years. It was indicated to me that they plan to continue with the current tenants, and may even be open to extending the existing leases that were transferred to them. As another reminder, you can still park in this lot at times when the bank is not open, maning evening meetings and Sunday services, which is essentially the same opportunity for use there was when we owned it.
- As always, 2007 featured many of the usual worship services and activities we have come to enjoy, from Christmas to Easter and times in between. Fellowship events like the Palm Sunday luncheon, church picnic, and Wednesday evening covered dish dinners and programs continue to be well supported. We also continue to benefit from the commitment and dedication of excellent Sunday Bible Study teachers for both children and adults, and Kay Mader's leadership in that ministry. Why not add your participation to this important ministry?

In my service to the larger church, I continue as the Convener (moderator) of the Highland Augusta Mission Community, which meets four times during the year, and coordinates activities within the 30 churches in Highland and Augusta Counties, Staunton and Waynesboro. I think it is nearing time for a transition in leadership there, as I have held the position for several years, and it should be someone else's turn to take over. I also serve on Presbytery's Council, which also meets four times per year. Pending an election on February 9, I am slated to serve as one of Shenandoah Presbytery's minister commissioners to General Assembly, which meets June 21-28 in San Jose, California. (I am currently the first alternate, but the presbytery was recently informed that it can send an additional minister and elder; February's vote is to confirm my moving up from first alternate to third commissioner.) I also serve as on of the leaders of the Baja Mission Team; this past summer eight of us from Second Church participated in this mission trip. Three members (including myself) are registered for this year's trip, July 20-26.

– Dan Williams  
Pastor