

## PASTOR'S REPORT

In August, I began my fifteenth year of ministry here at Second Church, preaching and teaching, performing other services as needed by members and friends (weddings and funerals), providing pastoral care, counsel, and administrative tasks in support of the Session and its committees, and attending the inevitable meetings.

2009 has presented some interesting challenges, such as the uncertainty surrounding the finances of the congregation due to the economic downturn that began in late 2008. Second Church has fared fairly well so far in this area, as outlined in the Stewardship and Finance Committee report, below. We also have been affected by the unusual winter weather since the beginning of December, with every service from December 4 through January 10 affected by snow, ice, cold, or a combination of these elements.

Among the sermons I delivered in 2008 were three series: a Lenten series on the Sermon on the Mount, an August series on the book of Galatians, and a series in November on Mark 10. I also participated in the Staunton Presbyterian Pulpit Exchange, preaching at the Olivet Presbyterian Church. On March 21, 2010, I will again participate in this exchange, preaching this year at Bethany Presbyterian Church. The evening before Thanksgiving, Second hosted the Thanksgiving worship with First Presbyterian. In 2010, it will be our turn to go to First, as this joint service moves into its fourth year. In Advent, I began using the common lectionary to suggest preaching texts and ideas. The effect of this is that my sermons may at times follow the lessons being studied in the Adult Sunday Bible Study class.

I offered two Bible Studies during 2008:

- A winter-Lenten study on the gospel of Matthew, which went hand-in-hand with the Lenten sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount.
- A Fall study on Revelation. This was a repeat of the study I offered in 1996, updated into the PowerPoint format I have used in recent years.

Studies planned for 2010 include the minor prophets of Joel and Zechariah (Winter-Lent).

The only service that I give beyond my responsibilities to Second Church is my continued service as Co-Moderator of the General Assembly's Form of Government Task Force. We held one face-to-face meeting in 2009, and several conference calls, using Go-to-Meeting.com. I have made several trips to interpret our work within Shenandoah Presbytery and around the Presbyterian Church for presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly entities and conferences. The Task Force will meet one more time in April 22-24, 2010, and then will attend the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly July 1-10 in Minneapolis to present our work. Unless the Assembly continues our existence, that will conclude my service on this committee.

I have agreed to serve as the Moderator of Presbytery Council in 2010, replacing the Rev. Jason Whitener, who is leaving Tinkling Spring for a new call. This involves four meetings during the year.

In 2009 I concluded my participation in one of Shenandoah Presbytery's Rehoboth Groups, which is a small group of ten pastors, lay pastors, and educators who meet occasionally for study and fellowship. We had two gatherings in 2009, February 2-5 at Richmond Hill monastery/retreat center in Richmond, and August 30-September 5 in Duck, NC. We held our last official meeting in Harrisonburg on November 30, for a movie and dinner.

– Dan Williams  
Pastor