



**SHEPHERD'S
CORNER**

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20,21

Treasurer's Report

October 2009

Jan-Oct 2009

Jan-Oct 2008

Income		
Operating Income	351,829	366,762
Total Income	351,829	366,762
Expense		
Witness	19,925	25,876
Administration	199,519	194,443
Property	145,074	166,231
Worship	2,906	5,483
Christian Education	11,998	12,835
Congregational Care	2,600	2,339
New Membership	128	0
Stewardship	452	645
Building Loan Payment	9,891	22,969
New Vehicle	<u>21,287</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	413,779	430,821
Net Income	(61,950)	(64,059)

NOTE

Our congregation's special offerings through October were:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
One Great Hour	874	1,282
Pennies for Hunger	1,414	1,688
Peacemaking	299	368
Pentecost	375	479
Blanket Fund	935	0
Mosquito Net Project	784	0



IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Seth & Charity Washburn on the birth of their son, Seth Porter born December 15th. The proud grandparents are Charles & Donna Goodwin and Jimmy & Carolyn Washburn.

Shoe Box Ministry

"For millions of children, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are a tangible expression of God's love and constant presence." Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse has started this ministry. A simple shoe box filled with soap, wash cloths, toothbrushes, toys, gloves, hats, school supplies and gum or hard candy is filled and sent to children in almost 100 countries.

In our church the women at the Singles' Luncheon donated such items and we filled 8 boxes. Chan and Alice Heins, on their own, donated 12 filled boxes. So 20 shoe boxes were turned in this year. Donna Smith who is in charge of this ministry in Lee County has told me that all together Lee County donated 4,545 shoe boxes from churches, organizations, and individuals. We thank Chan and Alice, and the women from the Singles' Luncheon for their generosity. If you'd like more information on this program please call Karen Miller at 776-6280.

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Today I found out, thanks to the Internet.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality that the children could remember. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.

The Witness & Benevolence Committee would like to share with you the results of YOUR participation in the second Alternative Christmas Gift program. Ten local agencies and one missionary will receive \$5,548 thanks to you remembering the birth of Jesus by giving gifts in honor and/or member of family and friends. God's gift of Jesus to us was remembered as we gave gifts to others in need. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The following is the amount given to each agency:

Helping Hand Clinic	\$810
CUOC	509
Habitat for Humanity	319
Meals on Wheels	424
Outreach Mission	748
Helping Fund	435
Breadbasket	779
HAVEN	474
Salvation Army	390
Hispanic Ministry	650
Missionary - Ellingtons	<u>10</u>

\$5,548

the following was received by Stuart:

Dear Dr. Wilson,

I wanted to express my gratitude to you for opening the doors of the Harper Center so that everyone might delight in the fabulous entertainment provided by the Festival Singers at their annual "Feast of Carols" concert last Sunday. My brother, Winifred, and I talked about the afternoon's performance all the way during the drive back home. The holiday lights adorning the houses that dotted the woods around Jordan Lake provided the perfect backdrop for singing carols and remembering how much we had enjoyed Mr. Kelly's marvelous music and inspired arrangements. I found "The Way" especially heart warming. The "Carol of Bells" was lovely, Ms. Lilley's solo was powerful, and the Medleys were tremendous fun.

I greatly appreciate the leadership, hard work and long hours Mr. Kelly must have put in to pull such a splendid show together. He and his entire ensemble have my deepest respect. The jubilant result of their labor was just what you hope a Christmas concert will be. I had a wonderful time.

Again, my sincere thanks goes out to all involved. Bravo!

Respectfully,

Thelma R. Stanback

(P.S. Since I've worked at Duke Hospital for over 20 years, I personally found the jest about the doctor and plumber hysterical! However, you might wish to advise Mr. K. not to set aside his musical talents for a career in comedy just yet...He's good, but "He ain't no George Burns!")