

**Denbigh Presbyterian Church
A Celebration of God's
Faithfulness
2005-2009**

January 24, 2010

Annual Congregational Meeting

“State of the Church Address”

- **2005-2009** Long Range Planning Cycle
- What have we accomplished with God’s help?
- **2011-2015** Long Range Planning Cycle
- In **2011**, DPC celebrates its **50th Anniversary.**

Growth – Has DPC Grown in the Past Five Years?

- We seek **spiritual growth**.
- We desire **to grow in commitment to our mission** (and anticipate **growth in numbers** because of that).
- We want to **preserve the close-knit community** we now share and maintain the church's friendly atmosphere.

Spiritual Growth

- What is the evidence of **Spiritual Growth** over the last 5 years at DPC?
 - Can it be measured? Quantified?
 - Love

Growth in Commitment to our Mission

- How do we measure if we have “grown in commitment to our mission”?

What is our Mission?

- The Great Commission
- The Great Commandment

Further Definition of Our Mission

- Worshiping
- Witnessing
- Nurturing
- Supporting

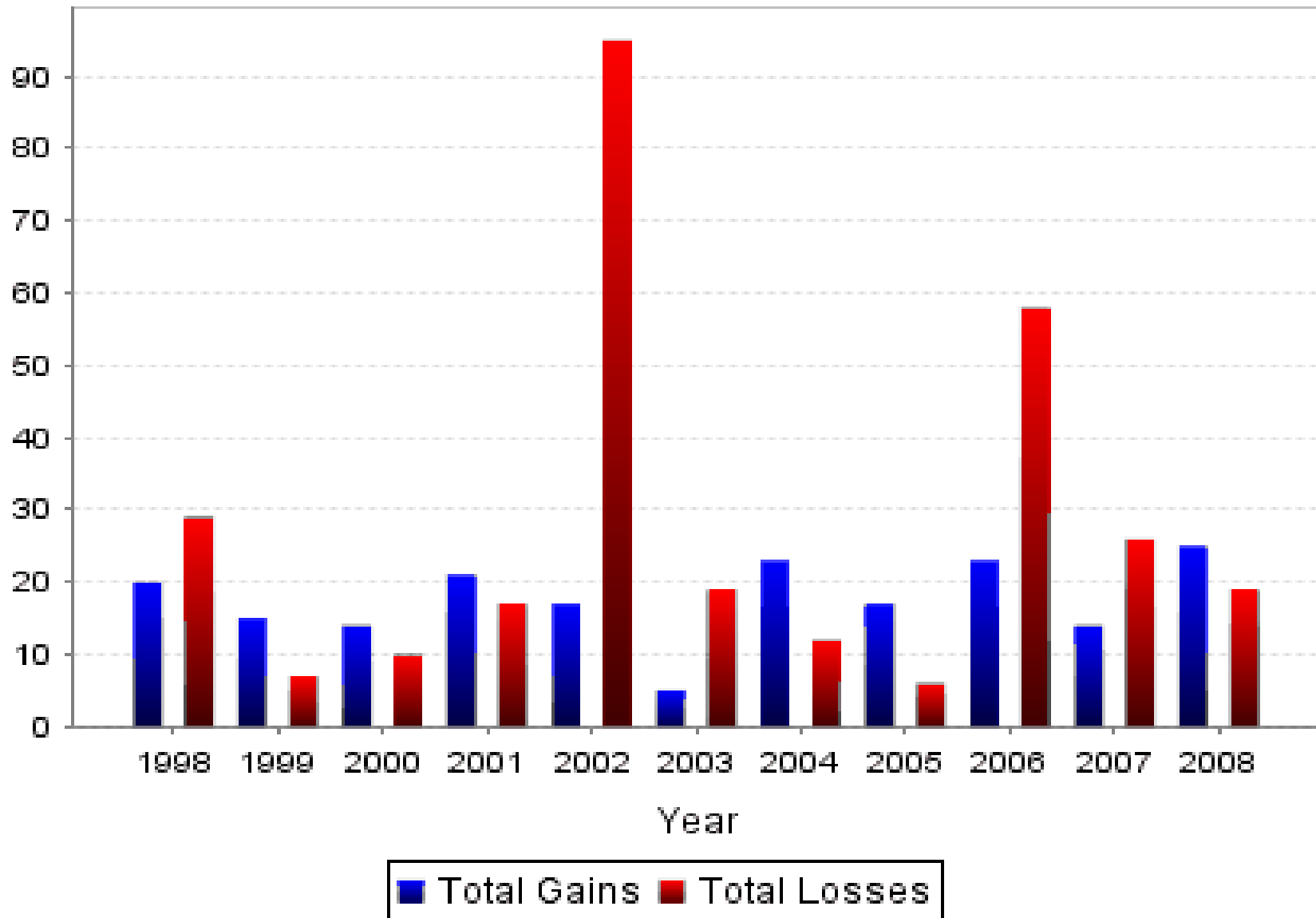
What About Numerical Growth in Membership?

- In the last 5 years we have welcomed **90** new members.
- Of those 90 new members, 59 made **professions of faith or reaffirmations of faith.**
- We **baptized** 34 infants, children, teens and adults.
- Of the 34 individuals who were baptized, 15 made their professions of faith at the time of baptism.

Membership Numbers – Points of Comparison

- Our congregation's reported total membership, **365**, was larger than the **2008 PC(USA) average, 200**.
- **The average Presbyterian Church has 200 members (the mean in 2008)**. About 27% of the total congregations report between 1 and 50 members. Another 23% report between 51 and 100 members.

Membership Gains and Losses



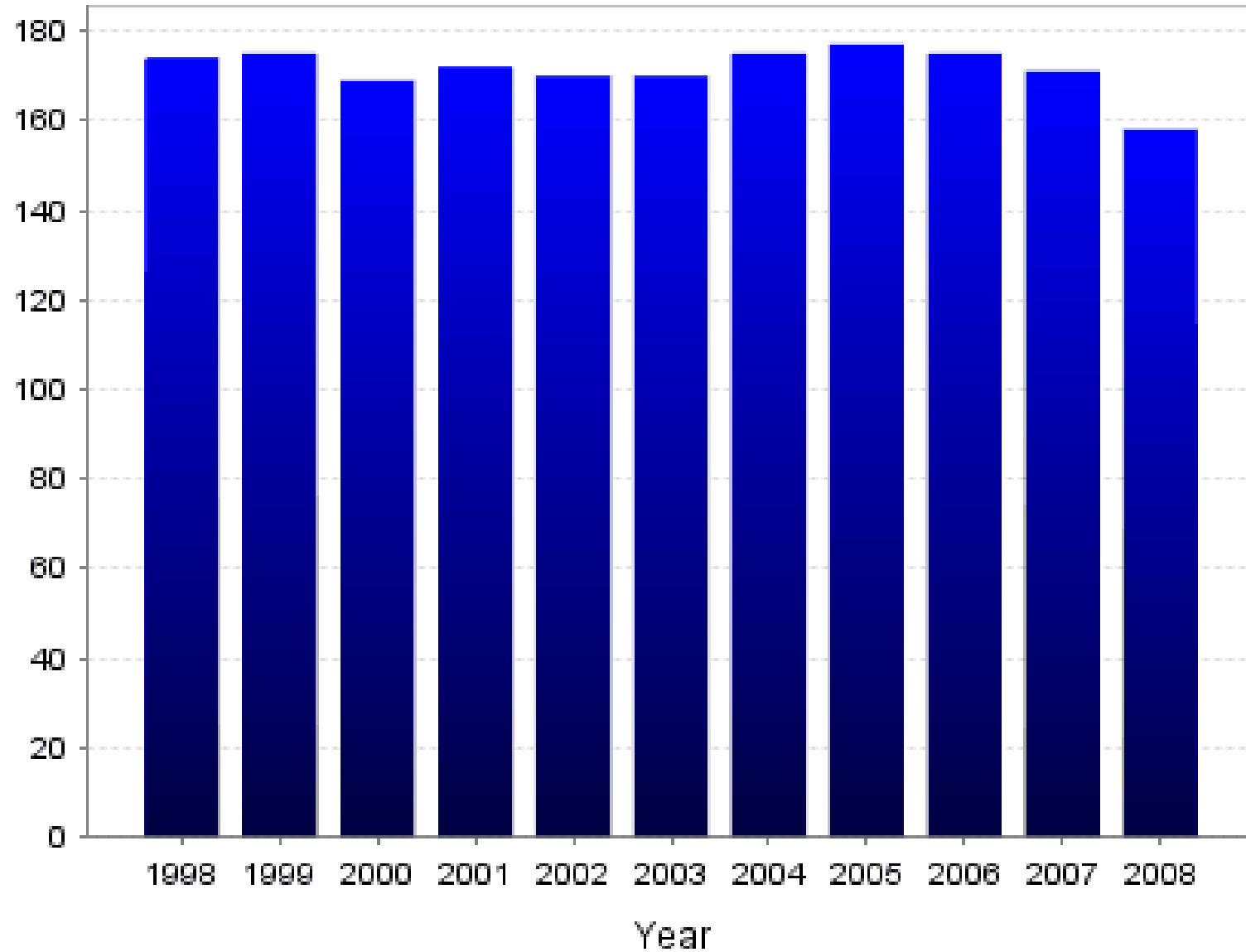
Points of Comparison – Gains and Losses

- Our congregation's reported **total gains in membership during 2008, 25**, were **larger than** the 2008 average for all PC(USA) congregations, 14. The **reported total losses, 19**, were about the same as the **2008 PC(USA) average, 19**.
- In the last 10 years Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (**PEVA**) total church memberships **decreased by 2,000**, the equivalent of losing one 200-member church per year.

What About Growth/Decline in Worship Attendance?

- Worship attendance is considered to be a good measure of church growth/decline.
- Membership numbers tell us less.
- PC(USA) Statistics

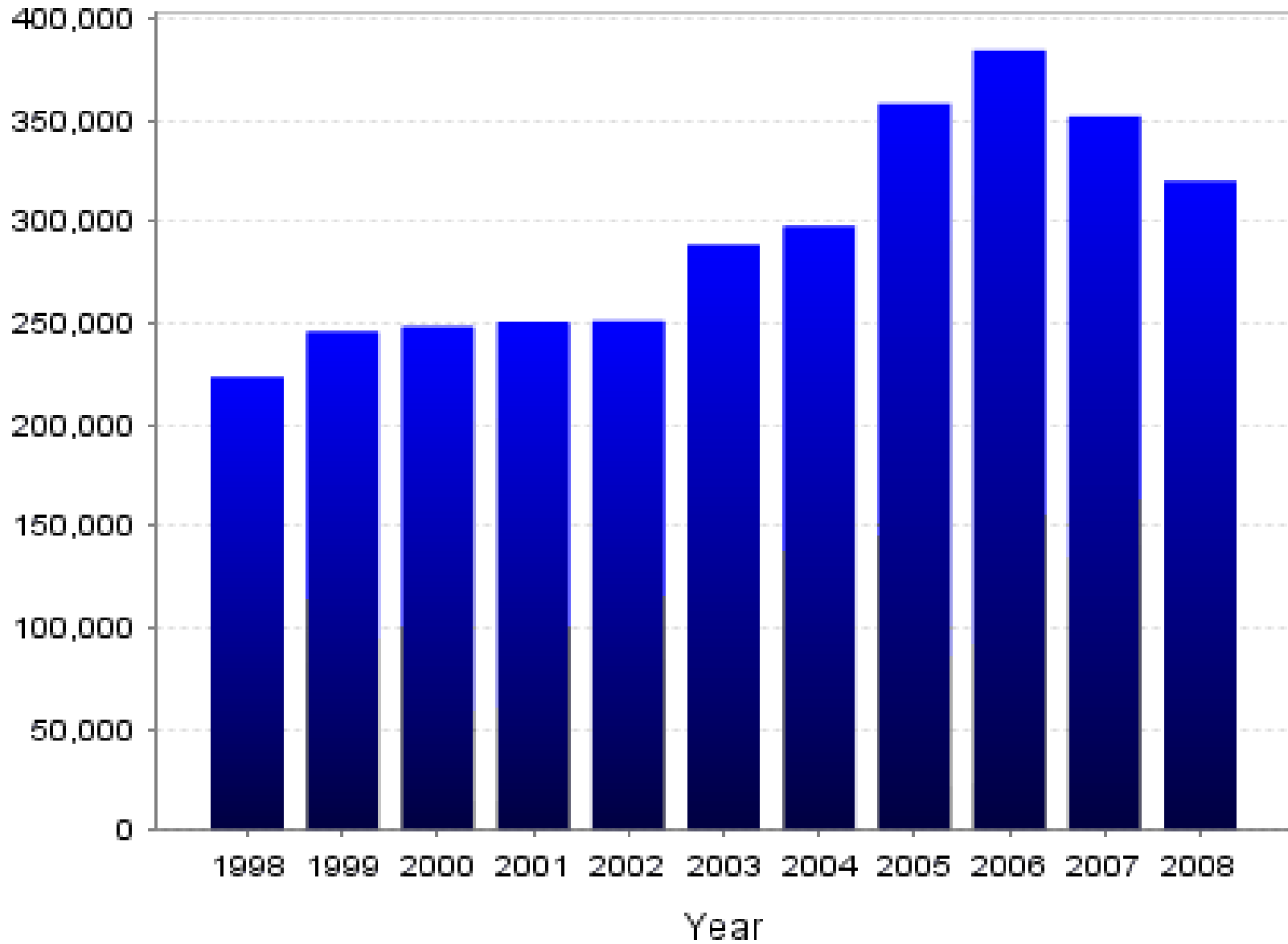
Worship Attendance Statistics



Worship Attendance – Points of Comparison

- Our congregation's reported worship attendance, for 2008, **158**, was larger than the **2008 PC(USA) average, 111**.
- This number is typical for **American Protestant congregations**, most of which average between **60 and 120 worshipers each Sunday**. While membership in the PC(USA) has declined in the last ten years, the average worship attendance has remained relatively stable.
- In PEVA, **half of our churches** attract **fewer than 100** in average worship attendance.

Giving Trends



Giving Trends – Points of Comparison

- Our congregation's reported **total contributions**, **\$320,175**, were larger than the **2008 PC(USA) average**, **\$240,320**.
- Our congregation's reported average contribution **per member**, **\$877**, was less than the 2008 average for all **PC(USA) congregations**, **\$1,109.30**.
- The reported average contribution per **worship attendee**, **\$2,026**, was less than the 2008 PC(USA) average, **\$2,175.46**.
- In **PEVA** within 5 years the probability is that **PEVA churches with full-time ministers** will **decrease** from 43 to 35.

The 5-Year Plan

2005-2009

- Worshiping, Witnessing, Nurturing, Supporting
- Overarching Purpose Statements
- Specific ideas we received from the Congregation

Worshiping

We provide increased variety in our worship services.

- Why?
- How have we done?
- Challenges we have faced

Worshiping – Examples From Congregational Input

- Add **staff** to increase the variety in worship experiences.
- Provide **additional worship opportunities**.
- Expand children's and adult's **music programs**.
- **Redesign sanctuary and narthex** to encourage and accommodate worship attendance growth.
- Increase frequency of **communion services**.
- Purchase a **new organ**.
- Purchase pew **Bibles**.

Witnessing

**We provide expanded opportunities
for witnessing at home and abroad.**

- Why?
- How have we done?
- Challenges we faced?

Witnessing – Examples From Congregational Input

- Offer annual Youth/Adult Mission Trips
- Increase foreign mission support
- Increase national and community mission support
- Increase the use of our building and grounds for community outreach
- Build a new Fellowship Hall to enhance our outreach to the community and to better accommodate existing outreach ministries (e.g., PORT)
- Create a transportation ministry

Nurturing

We provide broadened opportunities for congregational growth through Christian Education and Fellowship

Why?

How have we done?

Challenges we faced

Nurturing – Examples from Congregational Input

- Call an Associate Pastor.
- Increase leadership development and training for adults, children, teens; equip for ministry.
- Expand Children's/Youth Ministries.
- Increase Adult Christian Education and Fellowship opportunities.
- Provide marriage enrichment and parenting classes/activities.
- Increase number of all-church/intergenerational fellowship events.

Supporting

We support the church's growth in the other three areas (Worshiping, Witnessing, Nurturing) with needed facilities, equipment, staff, financial management, organizational structures and other resources.

Why?

How have we done?

Challenges we faced?

Supporting – Examples from Congregational Input

- Study efficiency of Session and Board of Deacons; restructure as needed in order to support growth in worshiping, witnessing, nurturing, supporting ministries.
- Purchase new audio visual equipment and information technology to support growth.
- Modify building and HVAC systems for greater energy-efficiency.
- Modify building to better accommodate needs of church, Pre-Kindergarten and other groups.
- Provide additional storage to free up rooms.
- Grow building fund; Establish and grow a capital improvement fund.
- Build new Fellowship Hall.

Where We Go From Here

- Conduct a thorough assessment of DPC
- Invite PEVA representative(s) to do a consultation with our congregation for assessment and goal-setting
- Interface with all committees to discern their goals for next 5-7 years
- Gather input from Congregation
- Gather information about our community
- Present 2011-2015 Plan to Session and Congregation

Scriptures to Guide Us

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.”

“Whatever you do unto the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do unto me.”