

## Congregational Meeting Minutes | 20 November 2005

### Attendance

141 voting (confirmed and baptized) members of the congregation were present, which establishes a quorum.

### Call to Order at 12:15 p.m.

President of the Congregation Kevin Dahl opened the meeting with prayer. He declared a quorum established and present.

### Announcements

- President Kevin extended the appreciation of the council and the congregation to the meeting meal team of Barrie Mott, Barb Edmonds, Chris Ray, and Joan Root.
- President Kevin extended the appreciation of the council and the congregation to the Honey Doers for their work on repairing Pastor Scott's office.
- Congregational retreat is 10, 11, 12 February 2006.

### Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the 15 May 2005 congregational meeting minutes as written.

### Vision unfolding

Pastor John spoke about the vision that is unfolding, especially out of the conversations had during the Every Member Stewardship Dinners. He addressed the married themes of (1) gratitude and (2) essential connectedness. These were further defined in:

1. Gratitude for life together,
2. Worship—the significance and reverence in conduct and liturgy,
3. Education,
4. Deacons—the outward extension of the Sacrament of Holy Communion,
5. Caregiver ministry, and
6. Gratitude for staff.

These two themes and six areas were the basis, along with small group conversations, for the Every Member Stewardship Dinners Top Ten List.

Pastor John also addressed the current state of youth ministry. The council has allocated long-term temporary use of one room of the chapel basement for the youth who were displaced from the Food Bank, as well as \$1000 to furnish the room. Advertisements for

a youth director have been placed in forthcoming issues of *The Christian Century* and *The Lutheran*. This will help broaden our search for a youth director on a national scale.

### Vision and priority

President Kevin reminded those gathered of the council governance change to a smaller council with a more intense focus on vision. This creates a tension between vision and spending guidelines—between the envisioned dream and everyday reality. He addressed two of the main themes of the Every Member Stewardship Dinners and how they impact spending guidelines—appreciation of the staff, whose salaries comprise 50% of spending guidelines; and outreach ministry, the largest portion of which is benevolences, which account for 16.75% of spending guidelines.

### Spending guidelines presentation

Treasurer Bob Yost gave an overview of the proposed 2006 Spending Guidelines, consisting of (1) a summary of categories, (2) a comparison of large categories from 2005 to 2006, (3) a narrative summary and explanation of the numbers, (4) and two charts for aid of interpretation. He then answered questions from congregants regarding the debt that Mt. View currently carries on the Education Building.

It was M/S/P to change the amount of the proposed 2006 Spending Guidelines on the written ballots from \$870,370.00 to \$869,750.00.

### Spending guidelines vote

The 2006 Spending Guidelines were voted upon by written ballot.

### Campus improvements vision

President Kevin addressed the first four items listed on the Every Member Stewardship Dinner Top Ten List, and explained to those gathered why the church council views them as priorities.

1. Food Bank—meaningful community outreach, and a way of living out the Gospel. There is a need to expand operations as the need of the community increase, which necessitates improvements to the current space, and the need for more space.
2. Administrative/Fellowship/Gathering Space—the least functional space on campus, with plenty of problems and need for maintenance and/or repair. There is now an opportunity to vision what this space could, would, and should look like.

3. Capital Funding of Staff Salaries and Programs—the spending guidelines of the past two years have been very conservative. We need new ideas to embellish resources, perhaps regular capital campaigns to strengthen our reserves, something many other churches do.
4. Columbarium—the most countercultural item on the list. It does not deny death, in a culture that does. It allows members to move from baptism to the grave as part of the community of Christ embodied at Mt. View.

There was discussion to use the Every Member Stewardship Dinner Top Ten List as a ballot for those gathered to prioritize by number, since some felt other items were more important than some of these four, although the list was *not* a ranking of the items by priority. After a few failed attempts to use the list as such a ballot, it was M/S/P to give congregational assent to the council pursuing the four above items.

**Property acquisition update**

Bruce Sisco presented information on the adjacent property approved for acquisition at the annual congregational meeting of 15 May 2005. Three of the four parcels were purchased, with the fourth awaiting court proceedings to settle a property dispute before any decision can be made as to purchase. That means that the initial need for funds of \$124,000 for the four parcels have become \$99,988 for three parcels—\$27,688 of which has been paid, with principal in the amount of \$72,300 still owed. Congregational response to the need has been pledges in the amount of \$72,300, \$53,385 of which has been received. Two of the parcels (Hiott purchase) must be paid by September 2007; the other parcel (Peters purchase) must be paid by August 2010.

**Spending guidelines vote results**

The 2006 Spending Guidelines were approved with 135 in favor and 2 against.

**Constitutional amendment vote**

It was M/S/P to adopt changes to the Mission Endowment Committee (C20.02) that would (1) reduce the council representation to match council realities (the governance model change), (2) give the Senior Pastor a vote, and (3) make the president of the council no longer a necessary participant.

**2006 Synod Assembly delegates vote**

It was M/S/P to unanimously elect Barb Edmonds, Ken Edmonds, Cathy Kostecky, and Jon Thieman as lay delegates to the 2006 Southwest Washington Synod Assembly.

**Prayer, benediction, and adjournment**

The meeting ended with closing prayer, a benediction from Pastor John, and then the meeting was officially adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins, Recording Secretary

Every Member Stewardship Dinners Top Ten

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proper Food Bank Facility with two stories, loading dock and educational space upstairs (razing of old building and reconstruction)—allows for additional services, to include nutritional and vocational training, as well as health services (and perhaps Parish Nurse)</li> <li>2. Administrative, gathering, and youth space remodel and renovation</li> <li>3. Staff and programs resource capital campaign</li> <li>4. Columbarium</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Education—programs, preschool, elementary school, after school program, parenting program, our own confirmation curricula</li> <li>6. Youth Ministry enhancements</li> <li>7. Senior Living Center</li> <li>8. Building another church and/or sponsoring a small congregation in need—long-term commitment</li> <li>9. Expanded mission trips</li> <li>10. Additional Habitat for Humanity participation—another Habitat House</li> </ol> |
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## Congregational Meeting Minutes | 15 May 2005

### Attendance

137 voting (confirmed and baptized) members of the congregation were present, which establishes a quorum.

### Call to Order at 12:15 p.m.

President of the Congregation Kevin Dahl opened the meeting with prayer. He declared a quorum established and present.

### Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the 14 November 2004 congregational meeting minutes as written.

### Elections

It was M/S/P to cast a unanimous ballot for everyone listed on the ballot. It was then M/S/P to approve all persons on the ballot. The vote was unanimous. The following members were elected:

1. Nominating Committee  
Sonja Dahl, Chris Duskin, Russ Hamburg
2. Mission Endowment Fund Committee – 1 year term  
Jon Edmonds, Ann Yost
3. Mission Endowment Fund Committee – 2 year term  
Joel Edwards
4. Mission Endowment Fund Committee – 3 year term  
Bob Linden, David McCallum, Barrie Mott
5. Church Council  
Tracy Becht, Kevin Dahl, Ken Edmonds, Dave Lawson, Bruce Sisco, Jon Thieman, Julie Williams

### Property Acquisition

Bruce Sisco and Kevin Dahl gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the property adjacent to the church, and why now is the time to acquire the property. They showed a slide locating the property. They spoke to why we should buy the property: (1) it is probably our last chance to purchase the property; (2) the land allows for flexibility of possible uses, such as parking, a youth house, or other uses; and (3) even if we cannot use it then we can sell the land once it appreciates to help fund other future mission and

ministry. Next, they presented the monetary figures—\$124,000 overall purchase price; \$37,164 due at closing; for property 1 (3 parcels), \$50,000 over 2 years at 7% interest (interest paid quarterly); for property 2 (1 parcel), \$39,000 over 5 years at 7% interest (interest paid quarterly). Funds are to be obtained by separate stewardship efforts and opportunities for giving.

President Kevin then entertained a motion: The Mountain View Lutheran Church Council recommends that the Congregation vote to proceed with the acquisition of the property defined as four parcels in Edgewood, Washington at a total cost of \$124,000, and identified as (1) parcel 4045000041 (property 1); (2) parcel 4045000050 (property 1); (3) parcel 4045000060 (property 1); and (4) parcel 4045000031 (property 2).

The floor was opened for debate. Questions followed concerning perk tests, the minimum size for single family homes in Edgewood, elaboration on the use of the property, wetlands concerns, funding concerns, fair value of the lots, that if all giving units of the church gave proportionally that each giving units burden would amount to approximately \$250 for the overall price, and questions about rezoning the property from residential to commercial or gaining a conditional use permit.

It was M/S/P to end debate. President Kevin reread the motion. It was M/S/P to acquire the land.

### Annual Report

Pastor John highlighted the work of the staff and ministry groups in preparing their individual reports, and encouraged all congregational members to read the Annual Report in its entirety. He thanked the staff for their work. He spoke about not hiring a youth director immediately, but instead gathering a Youth Vision Team together to discuss and vision about what youth ministry could and should look like at Mt. View in the future. We are an adult ministry oriented congregation. How do we therefore respond to 3 to 23 year olds?

### Prayer, benediction, and adjournment

The meeting ended with closing prayer, a benediction from Pastor John, and then the meeting was officially adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins, Recording Secretary

## Report from the SENIOR PASTOR

The prevailing question for me as the Senior Pastor of Mt. View Lutheran Church is: *how can we continue to deepen our lives of faith as disciples of Jesus Christ?* In other words: *how do we intend to continue to embody the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and in deed toward one another and the world?*

As we retrospectively examine 2005, we can wonderfully and hopefully say that God has made God's self known, via the Holy Spirit, in this splendid community of faith. We can say a Mt. View Lutheran-sponsored Habitat for Humanity house was built and paid for by God's beloved disciples at Mt. View. We can say that people continue to be fed, in increasing numbers, at the Edgewood Community Food Bank. We can say that Deacons continue to respond to the hospitalized and shut-in. We can say that 2005 saw additional benevolence dollars distributed for the sake of the world, from a congregation whose mission is to respond to the world in the name of Jesus Christ. And, yes, we can say people of all ages were educated in the faith via Sunday morning classes or Wednesday Night Live offerings. Yes, I believe it can be suggested that certain members were moved into the area of discipleship in the giving of financial resources to undergird and uplift the existing ministry.

Simultaneously, we can say challenges exist before us. The challenge of consistent worship, where we are basically flat in our worship attendance. The challenge of outreach, where in creative conversation we seek to invite the neighbors into the worship experience. And, the challenge of our youth, where we continue to be confronted by the need for a full-time youth director, even as we thankfully have part-time directors this summer.

I believe 2005 positioned us to proceed ahead in many areas of leadership development and the radical call to articulate, or rearticulate, vision. The council leadership has been in, and will be, focusing on a vision for the congregation that is consistent with the mission and vision statements of the congregation.

I also believe we must say what the greatest challenges we face are, and they are with the world. Whether due to the worlds of sports, leisure, laziness, or adequate distraction, we are finding regular worship attendance to be a struggle, and it has become increasingly difficult to develop volunteers and disciples to teach Sunday school classes, serve in the Food Bank, help foster a meaningful youth program, serve on a Wednesday Night Live

meal team, or teach WNL classes. Clearly there remain challenges coming out of 2005, and the crux of the struggle is moving members to be disciples. Discipleship implies giving up of one's self for the sake of the Gospel and for the sake of the neighbor. It is to experience the tension of choices—whether worship, education, retreats, or Bible studies—and become involved, not because of some leadership mandate, but because of the call of Jesus Christ to enact the gifts he has presented to you.

While 2005, with its multiple manifestations of faithful ministry, signifies a congregation compelled toward the future, there seems to be a reticence to get involved at even the most rudimentary and critical level of worship. This will also be the ongoing struggle in 2006. We need to find compelling creative ways to instill within our community a balance between responding to immediate concerns and needs in our community while simultaneously finding ways to respond radically and wholly to a world in deep distress.

The mission remains incomplete and the challenges rather forthright. Therefore, we as a community of Christ, living from the Gospel's compelling Word, will engage discipleship; we will deepen our commitment—loving each other and the world in the Spirit of Jesus Christ crucified.

*Pastor John L. Vaswig*

## Report from the ASSOCIATE PASTOR

In the tenth chapter of John's gospel we read, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Yes, we all know the story of Good Friday and Easter. Jesus laid down his life, "on his own accord," for the whole of creation. Humanity sought security in its ability to take life and Jesus placed his security in the living God who brings resurrection over death, the result of sin.

The pages of scripture make it clear that there is only one good shepherd, for only Christ died for the creation as a whole. Having said this, we are invited into the life laying down process as well. In 1 John, chapter three, we read, "We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us and *we ought* to lay down our lives for one another." It is a mystery as to the whole extent of what this means for us to give up our life for another. There's the literal loss of life for another and there is the death of the self for others. It is this death of the self that began to take place this year in our Peace and Justice Ministry team.

## Report from the VISITATION PASTOR

We gathered for an all day Saturday retreat and began to ask ourselves what peace and justice really meant. We talked about our desires to be a light for Christ to our neighbor and we spoke of the impending struggles that that would bring, because such a life lived out challenges where we place our securities for daily life. We continued our in-depth look into peace and justice over the next 10 months at our regular meeting times. We used prayer, *lectio divina*, conversation, scripture reading, and various books to guide us. It was a time to look deep within our own hearts and acknowledge what parts of our lives we would need to lay down in order that our neighbor might experience wholeness, restoration, and equity in this life. The time together moved us to become more aware of the political decisions we make in our communities and how they affect those struggling to survive. We attended the Lutheran Day of Advocacy in Olympia and spoke to our leaders on significant issues. We offered four sessions in the Sunday morning adult education hour to provide a new perspective on various issues. We gathered as a congregation once again for the Hunger Meal to help support the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

In each case, we had to acknowledge the call to lay down some part of our life—our time, our way of thinking, our finances, our desire to serve self—in order to faithfully bear witness to the love of the one who laid down his very life for you and me. I see this happening in many ways at Mt. View. I see it in a community of faith gathering around an altar railing to pray for one another at worship after a retreat on community. I see it in workers at the food bank donating time and a piece of themselves to the clients coming through the doors. I see it in leaders committed to this community of faith through the giving of time, talents and treasures. I see it in a people gathered together at WNL willing to struggle with long held views on death and resurrection. I see it in people willing to take the worship and bible study experience home and carry it into their daily life and day-to-day decisions. I have seen it in me as well. I could list more, but I think you get the picture.

What a privilege it has been to serve in this place called Mt. View. What a privilege it has been to grow together with you, side by side, for the faith of the gospel.

In Christ,

*Pastor Scott Brents*

Dear people of Mountain View Lutheran:

This past year, we have been working with all of the ten thousand plus congregations of the ELCA under the theme “Living In God’s Amazing Grace.”

This theme is especially meaningful for me because one of my ordination verses was Galatians 1:15—“But God in his grace chose me...and called me to serve him.”

I am so thankful for Mountain View Lutheran, which gives me the opportunity and privilege to help carry out this inspirational theme, under the leadership of Pastor Vaswig and with all the dedicated staff and lay leaders.

I have been working two days per week and sometimes more, if needed, as Visitation Pastor. My primary calling is to visit our many homebound people, bringing them the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I have also made calls on people in the hospital, given bereavement counseling, and conducted or assisted with funerals when needed. It has also been my privilege to assist with Communion when needed. In addition, I have taught the Wednesday morning Bible study each week, as well as made inactive member and stewardship visits.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the meaningful ministry of Pastor Scott Brents. I count it a blessing to have worked with him and wish him “the best” as he moves to a new place of ministry.

And now: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Pastor Dean Berg*

## Report from the DISCIPLESHIP COORDINATOR

*Our hearts are filled with gratitude oh giver of all gifts.  
For mercy, grace, and blessings our voices to you now we lift!*

This first verse taken from our new offertory response, written by Amy, reminds me of the constant thanks I give to God for this community of faith and God's disciples. What a joy and blessing it is to be in your midst.

As God's disciples we seek to live out meaningful ways to share His word and light with others. As I examine this last year, I am grateful for new ministries that emerged, as well as the continuation of "annual" ministries. In addition to my coordination of Wednesday Night Live teachers and meal teams, I lead Sunday school closing and a stellar VBS with Amy, and responded as staff liaison to outreach, discipleship, nursery, and group life ministry teams. Following are some other highlights from this past year.

At the request of council and Pastor John, I met in early January with Theresa Martin, graphic designer, who was referred to me by a dear friend. Theresa worked with various colors, typefaces, and the ministries of Mountain View to design a new logo for the church. We were so pleased with her efforts that she designed our yearly stewardship theme for 2006.

Also in January, the sexuality retreat for high school and junior high youth was held. In ten years of lay ministry this was one of the most meaningful weekends I had engaged with our youth. They were truly open, honest, and willing to learn what God seeks for their lives.

At the end of February, I flew to Minneapolis for a continuing education class centered around "Dependable Strengths" training. This three-day training allowed me the opportunity to grow in my knowledge of gift assessment, while creating the chance for me to be trained as a national facilitator. I put this new knowledge to immediate use with our 2005 new member class. Over the next three months, I conducted over thirty gift interviews with each of our 64 new members. Through the interviews, discussion ensued regarding the God-given gifts of each new member, and how those could best be used through the ministries of Mountain View. I would dare to say they are one of the most involved classes in recent years.

April brought the annual Lutheran Educational Aid Fund (LEAF) scholarship dinner that supports our 15 Lutheran college students. The response from the congregation continues to overwhelm me as they financially support each student with a \$1,000 scholarship.

The summer brought new ministry happenings to the disciples of Mountain View. The discipleship team put two "fun" events together for the congregation. Over sixty people joined us for our first trip to a Tacoma Rainier's baseball game, where we tailgated and watched fireworks in the warm July heat. In August, the team co-coordinated with the outreach ministry team our first ever FREE carnival. The intentional hope of this event was to reach out to the community and welcome strangers onto the site of Mountain View. From the roasted pig to the Jazz Disciples band to the variety of carnival booths, this event reached out to over 250 people from Edgewood, Milton, Sumner, and Puyallup. We look forward to carrying out this ministry again in 2006.

In September, it was a joy and privilege to serve on the site of Habitat as the Mt. View community built a home for the Farve family. It was also a momentous time as we celebrated the gifts given through our Pastors as each of them celebrated their ordination anniversaries. Through a dinner and program we highlighted Pastor Dean's fifty, Pastor John's twenty, and Pastor Scott's ten years of ordination.

The fall brought ministry through the women's retreat held this year at the Cascade Retreat and Conference Center in Yelm. Over 60 women gathered for worship, Bible study, and Christian fellowship. This year we choose not to have a speaker, instead engaging one another in God's Word through small group Bible study. Finally, as we concluded the calendar year but began the church year, our annual Advent dinner continued to grow in numbers and understanding. This year over 250 "counter-cultural" disciples, dressed in blue, came out for dinner, program, and fellowship.

*Our hearts are filled with gratitude oh giver of all gifts.  
For mercy, grace, and blessings our voices to you now we lift!*

Peace be unto you as we share God's mission and ministry in 2006,

*Krista Sichert-Bush*

## Report from the LEADER of the PUBLIC SONG

As many of you know, I am responsible for planning the music portion of worship here at Mountain View. Many times in preparation, I find that my work not only includes finding music, but texts for litanies or prayer responses. It is this continuous collaboration between text and music that is of particular interest and privilege to me. So, I thank you for the continued freedom to find music, both from the past and newly composed, for our worship here that praises God and uplifts the Holy Scriptures to us all in new ways.

- Together with Barrie Mott, Chairperson of Worship and Music, and Pastor John, a number of meaningful conversations regarding the implementation of a third worship service for Mountain View were had to the conclusion that at this time, with our current staffing, we were not ready to begin a third worship.
- Ash Wednesday was February 9, the earliest in memory. Holy Week services were filled with music by the choir, band, and ensemble—adding to the richness of these historic services of the Church.
- Following Easter, I attended the Institute for Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University in Indiana from April 4-7. This was a wonderful time for me to find new resources, gain insight into worship and simply rest.
- VBS “Construction Zone” was again well-attended and a great outreach ministry of this church. There were many children who shared with the congregation on Sunday, July 17 the music they learned throughout the week.
- I served as worship leader (with members of the worship band from Mountain View) for the Pacific Lutheran University Religion Conference in July. There were five different worship services throughout the conference.
- It was with great pleasure that I was a part of the Clergy Ordination Celebration Dinner—“50 20 10”—on September 11<sup>th</sup>. That morning was also Gathering Day, where we began the Sunday school year of education. With Krista Sickert-Bush, I

prepare the closings for the 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school hour from 10:15 – 10:30am each Sunday, and we began those “Closings” the following week.

- We also began preparing each grade of the Sunday school for participation in the worship service one Sunday a year. They were given the responsibilities of singing, ushers, greeters, acolyte and sometimes lector.
- October was extremely busy with the ninth grade Confirmation planning retreat, followed immediately by the Women’s Retreat in Yelm, in which we worshipped three times together.
- The year finished with outstanding brass for the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service and the Sunday School Children’s Christmas Program at 7:00pm worship.

*Amy Boers*

## Report from the PRESIDENT of the CONGREGATION

During the past year, your church council has been preoccupied by one word—vision. We have striven not only to imagine the possibilities for “what might be” at Mt. View, but have sought to discern God’s will for our church. Through prayer, scripture study, and honest conversation we have attempted to faithfully envision the direction the Spirit would lead us. It is difficult, often frustrating, and sometimes even painful work, but we remain committed to it and, as always, are grateful for your prayers and support.

In the past 4 months, and especially since Pastor Brent’s departure, the reduced number of clergy/staff has served to sharpen our vision focus. While this certainly presents short-term challenges to ministry, the council, along with Pastor John, sees this as an opportunity to explore a variety of models for staffing. We feel strongly that future staffing decisions must align with the vision we continue to imagine and articulate. Hosting an intern for the upcoming year should provide leadership with the flexibility needed for proceeding thoughtfully.

Other areas of council involvement over the past year have included the fall leadership summit, the congregational retreat, staff evaluations, and the formulation of the 2006

stewardship theme. Council members have also stepped in as temporary ministry group liaisons in the absence of an associate pastor.

Serving on the church council during the past year have been Tracy Becht; Kevin Dahl, president; Ken Edmonds; Dave Lawson; Bruce Sisco, treasurer; Jon Thieman; and Julie Williams. I would like to thank each for their dedication, willingness, and commitment to each other and to Mt. View Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin M. Dahl*

Church Council President

## Report from ALTAR GUILD

Greetings:

In 2005, there were 19 women who served the congregation at Mt. View Lutheran Church. Two new members joined and will start their duties in the year 2006.

Our main task is to prepare for Holy Communion each week for Sunday services. This requires setup and clean up of the Altar and placing the flowers in the Altar vases. We change the paraments to correspond to the church calendar and supply the pews with envelopes and pencils. We also set up communion for funerals, weddings, and special services—Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve.

In the spring of 2005, Virginia Johnson, with 25 years of service to Altar Guild, retired from the chairperson position but remained on the schedule until the end of the calendar year. The Altar Guild honored both Marvin and Virginia with a luncheon for their long dedication to Mt. View.

In the fall of 2005, Marylou Ginther, with 22 years of service to Altar Guild, retired the flower coordinator position.

Flora Larson and Diane Nelson will serve as co-chairpersons of Altar Guild. Cecily Kearney will take over the flower coordinator position in January 2006. Flora Larson

will continue to be in charge of the Christmas poinsettias and the Easter lilies, and place them on the Altar when the time is right.

Men and women members of our congregation bake the communion bread.

Over two dozen baptismal napkins were made and given to those baptized, infant through adult.

The Altar Guild receives help from several men who volunteer all year. Ken Edmonds hung banners and changed the large paraments. Lindy Nelson drilled out all the pencil holders in the pews. Gary Larson, Terry Wolfe and Marvin Johnson were also available to help.

To the women of Altar Guild, thank you for your participation and the sharing of your gifts. May God bless our ministry.

Gods Peace,

*Flora Larson*

*Diane Nelson*

Chairpersons

## Report from DEACONS

The Deacon Ministry programs seek to respond to congregational care needs. As members of the Christian community we are privileged to serve in the following programs.

1. Eucharist Deacons take communion to homebound or hospitalized members of our congregation. Eucharist Deacons made 120 individual visits in 2005.
2. TLC Deacons visit long-term care members. The main part of this program is to make a connection once a month or more, primarily with people on the Visitation Pastor's list. This provides one-on-one deacon support to individual church members who are unable to attend worship services.
3. Prayer Deacons offer prayers at the altar during worship services. Prayers with deacons are offered at both services on the fourth Sunday of each month.

4. Grief Support Deacons offer support and care during times of loss and grief through visits, phone calls and cards.
5. Card Ministry Deacons send cards to members during challenging times and on joyous occasions. Over 300 cards were sent in 2005.

Members of the Deacon Ministry also provided a soup supper during the Lenten and Advent seasons.

In 2005 there were 31 Deacons participating in the deacon ministry. Several Deacons served in more than one program.

*Joan and Russ Hamburg*

Head Deacons

## Report from DISCIPLESHIP

***To create a foundation of lifelong Christian living by connecting people of all ages.***

Our team has been very busy this past year. We implemented several new ministries opportunities for the congregation.

In January, we had a couple of team members take major roles in the 7-12 grade sexuality retreat. Karen Feller, from our team, worked very close with Krista and the other sexuality retreat committee members. With her knowledge of counseling teenagers, she was a great help in working with the youth of our congregation as they dialogued about human sexuality and their lives as disciples of Christ.

In February, we supported the ministry of Lenten soup suppers by preparing and serving one of the meals.

In the spring, we held our first Easter egg hunt. We wanted to give the families with children ages 0-12 a new option for fellowship and outreach to those they know. After stuffing & hiding over 1,000 eggs, we divided the children into 3 age groups and used Sunday school rooms and the basement of the chapel. We decorated each room with streamers, as the weather was not going to cooperate with us! We hope to have an Easter egg hunt outdoors one year!

After much discussion at our ministry meetings, we decided to host three NEW summer events. We wanted to give the congregation opportunities to gather together during the summer with events that would be interesting, but also that would allow ways for people to know one another. Our first event was the Tacoma Rainier Baseball game night with approximately 60 people attended. We enjoyed tailgating before the game as well as the game itself. It was a beautiful night for a baseball game & fireworks.

In August, our second event and our first ever FREE carnival came to fruition. The carnival was a huge success with the congregation and well as an outreach for the community. Each of the ministry groups created a carnival booth and the Fred Albert family prepped and roasted a pig! Tony and Judy Lisher donated smoked salmon that was wonderful. The Jazz Disciples band donated their time and played for us, and of course everyone wanted to hear more! We rented a huge slide for the kids, although the parents had more fun sliding down. The face painting and the picture and frame making were also a big hit with the children. To top it all off, each child received tickets from the booth and then they could go and pick out prizes at the prize booth. And finally, the best part was that the congregation sponsored this event so everything was free for those who came. It was great to see many of our food bank families there, the Farve (Habitat) family, and many others from the Edgewood, Milton, and Puyallup areas.

Later in August, the Feller family hosted the hike to Mt. Rainier. We had 30+ eager hikers and they had a beautiful day for a hike. It was a flat hike so even the "novice" hiker could have a good time. Needless to say, each of these summer events was a meaningful way for people to connect to our church community and our team looks forward to hosting events like these again in the summer of 2006.

In the fall, our team was the catalyst for the Women's retreat. We got a committee together of women who were *not* on the discipleship team to form the Women's retreat committee. We met throughout the summer working out all of the details. We chose not to have a speaker, so Krista and Amy put together very inspirational worships for the women. We held it at Cascade Camp and had at least 40 women come out for the overnight. Beside worship, we broke into small group for more intimate Biblical discussions. The women had free time for crafts, just to sit and talk, or take a hike around the camp. It was a beautiful setting and many did go out exploring. We have heard from many of the women that they want another one!

In December, we prepared and served soup and bread dinner for Advent midweek dinners. The team also hosted the annual Advent. Our theme was "Beyond the Chaos-

Advent Hope" and we decorated the tables with empty mangers to symbolize our waiting for Christ's second coming. We were to get together the Thursday prior to make the mangers, but the weather did not cooperate with us, it snowed! We all met early Sunday morning in the gym and made the mangers and did the set up. We had at least 250 people there that night dressed in their blue to celebrate the season of Advent. We also had alternative giving ideas on the table this year, for the congregation to use. This ministry continues to evolve and provide wonderful counter-cultural ways to celebrate the Advent/Christmas season. We are so grateful for all who come!

In closing, we would like to invite you to come join the Discipleship team, you are always welcome to come and check us out. We seek to faithfully create meaningful fellowship and educational events that help establish your foundation for a life of Christian living.

*Sherry Shyne*  
Chairperson

## Report from FOOD BANK

We are thankful to our pastors, congregational leadership, and the congregation for the vision of a food bank. It has given us a wonderful opportunity to reach out to people in our community in the name of Christ! Members of Mt. View have worked side by side with volunteers from other churches, schools, community businesses, and service groups. Food and monetary support have also come to us from individuals, churches, schools, businesses, and other groups.

It is obvious that the Spirit of God is active in this ministry, as shown by several opportunities we have had to serve our families. We were able to minister to one young family with a very ill child who may have Cystic Fibrosis. The mother arrived at the food bank one Saturday before her child's surgery to be comforted by two volunteers with daughters with CF. Pastor John also happened to arrive and was able to talk and pray with her. We've been able to support another ill client with food, a washer and dryer, and other household items. Pastor Scott recommended a pastor in close proximity to this man's home.

Saturday morning Men's Bible Study has been graciously putting on coffee in the chapel to warm our clients on blustery winter days while they wait. It has given us opportunities to get to know clients better and help with needs other than food. Clients have been able to fellowship and support one another as well. Several of these mornings a nutritionist has given out samples with recipes made from food bank foods.

Our client numbers have increased dramatically since we opened in April 2003. Numbers served:

- April – December 2003      3,158 individuals
- January – December 2004    9,202 individuals
- January – December 2005    11,756 individuals

We hope to have a new facility in the future to enable us to better meet the needs of the hungry as we have been called to do as Disciples of Christ.

### Advisory Board

*Pat Clement and Ann Yost*, Co-coordinators

*Judy Lisher*, Reports

*Kim Soeder*, Volunteers

*Diane Nelson*, Resources

*Steve Peterson*, Deliveries

*Barb Edmonds*, Friday Preparation

*Sandi Swanson*, Site Cleaning

## Report from GROUP LIFE

The year 2005 was somewhat quiet for Group Life, but we did add one more event to our list.

Easter Vigil 2005 was busy. We served roughly 180 congregation members, including new members and their families. Breakfast casseroles, sausage links, fruit salad, coffee, and juice comprised the menu for the evening. Our team included Debbie Maute, Brenda Ancheta, Karen Slavens, Tina and Greg Thomas, plus Shelly and the boys, Kathy and Terry Jensen, Debbie and Jim Findley, Linda Roa, Kari Wittgens, Jon Arnhold, and myself.

Our next event for 2005 was the LEAF Scholarship Dinner. On the menu was tenderloin of pork, salmon fillets with honey Dijon sauce, steamed asparagus, and Caesar's salad. We served cheesecake with strawberries and raspberry sorbet for dessert. We had 100 attendees for this noteworthy event. "Lifers" who helped included Monique Vaswig, Debbie Maute, Meleney Albert, Linda Roa, Kari Wittgens, Karen Slavens, and me. Terry Jensen and Jon Arnhold washed dishes.

In June, we had the Graduation Breakfast for 40 people. We served French toast, original Joes, and home fries. Kari Wittgens, Greg and Marlene Jolly, Laura Livingston, Fred and Meleney Albert, Linda Roa, Jon Arnhold, and myself cooked, served, and cleaned with help from the Discipleship Team.

We added a very fun and new event in August 2005. A Community Carnival was held in the church parking lot on a very HOT Saturday. Group Life's involvement with this, of course, was the food. We had a special menu—an authentic roast pig, cooked over coals in a concrete block oven. Lifer Fred Albert created this particular menu item, with assistance from his son Jeff Albert and Jon and Griffin Arnhold. The pig was a hit, as were the salad recipes contributed by another Lifer, Meleney Albert. Other hands in that hot kitchen included Laura Livingston, Debbie Findley, Karen Slavens, Kari Wittgens, and myself. Another temporary Lifer for this event was Judy Lisher. We also had chips, hot dogs, lemonade, ice cream cones, and sundaes.

The Confirmation Dinner was held on October 29, 2005. There were 70 people in attendance. We served turkey breast, gravy, roast bliss potatoes and yams, peas, green salad, and confirmation cake for dessert. Red gingerade punch and coffee were also

served. Linda Roa, Fred Albert, Kari Wittgens, Greg and Marlene Jolly, Karen Slavens, and Jon Arnhold helped out.

Advent Dinner 2005 brought almost 250 people out to eat ham, roast potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, and cookie sundaes. On hand to help with this grand event were Greg and Marlene Jolly, Kari Wittgens, Sarah Bruil, Skip and Janice Harrison, Karen Slavens, Linda Roa, Monique Vaswig, Fred and Meleney Albert, Jon Arnhold, and myself.

In all honesty, I never really know who is going to be able to help, but the folks whose names appear most frequently are basically who I would call Group Life. They are the ones who will say no if they have to, but they show up more times than not. We have had a lot of fun planning, cooking, prepping, serving, and, even cleaning. I am so thankful that we are able to do this for our congregation and the community-at-large. I look forward to more events and wonderful times together with Group Life.

Faithfully submitted,

*Patty Arnhold*

Chairperson

## Report from MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Committee members: Jon Edmonds; Joel Edwards, financial secretary; Jim Hushagen; Amy Lewis; Bob Linden, chairman; Dave McCallum; Barrie Mott, secretary; Bruce Sisco; Pastor John Vaswig, staff liaison; Ann Yost.

In our congregation's response to the Holy Spirit, the Mountain View Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund's purpose is to provide permanent financial support of the mission and ministry of Mountain View Lutheran Church. To that end, the Mission Endowment Fund Committee is charged with soliciting, processing, and distributing grant requests in accordance with requirements established for the fund. In addition, the committee educates and promotes the fund and seeks additional donations to the fund. It is the responsibility of the committee to report each year to the congregation details regarding the fund. The committee also assists donors in depositing gifts into the fund.

This year, the committee focused, in part, on organizational matters. The committee reestablished rotating terms and term limits for its membership. Members were assigned positions of responsibility throughout the year. Emphasis was placed on increasing committee membership. Regularly scheduled committee meetings were held each quarter.

The committee addressed several issues this year. One item included the disposition of a piece of land gifted to the endowment fund. Committee members also dealt with requests for distributions from the fund for the year. The committee is allowed to distribute up to ten percent of the previous year's June 30 balance. Initially, the committee considered three project requests. The committee decided to distribute funds to support the Mexico Mission Trip. When the trip was cancelled, the committee then decided to give the distribution for the expansion of the Edgewood Community Food Bank, in the amount of \$8,730.

Committee members' future efforts include the development of a standardized grant application form. Members are formulating a simple way to report to the congregation on the financial status of the endowment fund. These reports would appear on a regular basis in the church Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters. The balance in the endowment fund ending on December 31 was \$176,424. This represented a 57% increase over the previous year. The committee plans to schedule educational events to promote charitable giving and future gifts to the endowment fund. The goal is to increase endowment fund awareness, and, therefore, opportunities for ministry and mission at Mountain View Lutheran Church.

Submitted by

*Bob Linden*

*Amy Lewis*

Chairpersons in 2005

## Report from OUTREACH

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Mark 16:15

The Outreach Ministry team members are: Melisa Cary, Cathy Kostelecky, Kayt Lambert, Dorothy Peterson, Krista Sickert-Bush, Sandy Swanson, and Kelley Thieman. Skip Harrison is our new chairperson, as of fall 2005. Kim Lawson remains a member of the team after six years as chairperson.

We also have former members who remain active for special projects. Alice Brynestad and Jane Duffy help with coordinating the narthex greeters and visitors of visitors. Suzanne Kelley assists with all of our newspaper advertising.

The Outreach Ministry team continues to be devoted to helping all Mt. View members to be Disciples of Christ through invitation and witness. We are especially intent on welcoming the newcomer. We continue to seek members who are interested in helping with the Narthex Greeter, Visitor of Visitors, and our newly instituted Hospitality Host positions.

In 2005, we participated in a variety of activities including the All Edgewood Carnival at Mt. View. We assisted with Vacation Bible School registration and follow-up with non-members. We advertised in local papers for Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas services. Additionally, we provided the congregation with flyers and invitations that they were encouraged to use to invite friends, neighbors, and family to Mt. View.

Pastor John focused several adult education opportunities and sermons on outreach, emphasizing that we are ALL personally called to be witnesses.

We are reading a book called *Radical Hospitality*, and have had meaningful discussions about our personal and corporate hospitality at the beginning of each Outreach Meeting. As we move into 2006, we are focused on texts from 2 Peter 1:16-19 and again from Matthew 5:14-16. Our Outreach Ministry team has embraced the theme of "Be a lamp shining in dark places" for the coming months.

We are reminded of the dark-light metaphor that we experience during Holy Week. And, we are beginning to seek ways to help the Mt. View congregation to become LIGHTS in dark places as well as just lights to each other.

*Kim Lawson*

Chairperson

## Report from PEACE and JUSTICE

*"As disciples of Christ we are called to share hope with our neighbor through acts of compassion."*

Seeking to better understand and implement our mission, the Peace and Justice Ministry Group met in the spring to discuss our roles and set goals. The retreat led us into a “year of study”, during which we committed to continue our regular activities, limit new projects, and devote our major energy to investigation and discussion. We agreed to read and pray, together and individually, and to be particularly receptive to our daily exposure to peace and justice issues.

We began with the Bible, led by Pastor Brents through the many references to peace and justice, and then worked through two books—*Let the Servant Church Arise* and *Beyond Guilt: A Christian Response to Suffering*. We called on Linda Ingham to lead us in listening and contemplation through *lectio divina*. We also engaged in discussion of various texts offered by members. We are now in the process of relating all this to the Mt. View mission and to the concerns and understandings of the congregation.

Pastor Scott Brents was with us for this period and we were sorry to lose his fine leadership and support. Our original study group has grown, and now also includes Tracy Becht who is providing Church Council support and leadership. Current members are Kristi Ceder, chairperson; Carolyn Belk; Janet Bender; Darcy Gray; Barb Henriksen; Barb Hull, recording secretary; Richard Hull; Beth Ann Johnson; Jon Petersen; Chris Ray; Ken Swanson; and Charlotte Thompson. In addition we have a consistent group of dependable volunteers.

The Peace and Justice Ministry Group served with the congregation in these activities:

- Habitat for Humanity Women Build and Building on Faith—125+ volunteers
- Pierce County Hunger Walk—80+ walkers raised over \$9000

- Peace Community Center feeding program—dinner for Hilltop 4 times/yr
- Puyallup Armory meals—dinner for homeless 4 times/yr
- Gifts at Christmas for Seafarers and for Peace Community, Habitat for Humanity, and Exodus Housing families
- World Hunger Dinner—international cuisine and \$4000+ for ELCA Hunger Appeal

We coordinated the Sunday School offering receipts and presented information on the ONE campaign, World Hunger, and local family housing needs.

We sponsored four educational presentations on consecutive Sundays: a Fair Trade Fair, Socially Responsible Investing, Washington State’s Tax Structure, and Associated Ministries’ Community Connections.

Representatives from the group attended educational meetings and seminars: Lutheran Advocacy Day in Olympia, Hunger Symposium in Belfair, Global Poverty meeting in Tacoma, Justice symposium in Tijuana.

*Peace: Completeness and wholeness that originates with God; reconciliation*

*Justice: Restoration of a situation or environment, which promotes equity and harmony in a community*

*Kristi Ceder*

Chairperson

## Report from PROPERTY

The Property Ministry Group serves Christ by overseeing the maintenance of the buildings, property, and grounds shared by our congregational family at Mountain View Lutheran church. We monitor contracts with custodial, furnace, and lawn care service, and coordinate projects with the Honey Doers and Heritage Group.

### OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. A large locust tree was removed on the north lawn and three “Weeping Alaska Cedars” were planted. (Substituted for a “Norway Spruce” which wasn’t available.) The trees were planted in honor of our centennial celebration.
2. Permits were obtained to certify the wetlands in order for us to proceed to clear the brush from the unimproved land.

3. Scaffolding was rented to replace numerous burned out lights in the gym and on campus, and fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were replaced as necessary.
4. Unimproved drain field land south of the food bank was cleared with a brush hog and berries and brush sprayed.
5. Spotlights for the cross in front of the sanctuary was rewired and replaced.
6. Improvements were made to the gutters on the north and east side of the office/social hall and facial boards repaired.
7. User fees for our facilities had to be increased in order to meet the rising cost of upkeep and maintenance.
8. The Property Ministry Group operated a "Spin to Win" booth at the summer carnival that was very successful.
9. Carpets throughout the educational building were cleaned and treated with Scotchguard and all broken wall sockets were replaced.
10. An old broken water pipe in front of the church by the water meter was fixed by Property Group members, following a lot of digging and hard work, which saved the church from a large plumbing bill.
11. The food bank received new thermostat and gutters.
12. Extra garbage pickup was arranged due to overflowing conditions.

**PROPERTY GROUNDS** were sprayed, pruned, weeded, and maintained in the usual fashion, along with irrigation systems. There is much concern about the increased vandalism we are experiencing and we are considering installing a security camera. Also, due to the heat and summer drought some of the plants not receiving irrigation were lost and had to be replaced.

**STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES** for next year are mainly, to survey and establish our perimeter boundaries and get as much congregational help as possible to clear the unimproved areas.

- Air conditioning is still needed in the Education Building but is an expense that must wait until financing is available.
- Sunday school rooms need volunteer painters as does some of the outside of the Social Hall which needs repainted.
- The Chapel is due to be repainted. Funds are available, so the job may be completed this summer.
- Plans are underway to have moss removed from all buildings roofs.

**GOALS FOR 2007** are to press forward on all uncompleted tasks in 2006 along with new goals formulated for the rest of this year.

*Blanche Lauver*  
Secretary

## Report from STEWARDSHIP

Our 2005 Stewardship emphasis was "Side by Side for the Faith of the Gospel." Continuing the long-term emphasis on "whole life" stewardship, we divided our focus into four quarterly themes—Witnessing Side by Side, Living Side by Side, Serving Side by Side, and Giving Side by Side. Throughout the year, we presented numerous temple talks, informational presentations, and writings to the congregation. We highlighted the opportunities and challenges of witnessing and service as the core of the Christian life. During the "Living" quarter, our emphasis was placed upon a series of Every Member Dinners. During these dinners, more than 100 members had the opportunity to share dinner together and to just get to know one another better. The feedback from the dinners was overwhelmingly positive. God's people genuinely enjoyed getting to know one another.

During the fourth quarter, our emphasis on Giving Side by Side once again led us to conduct Every Member Dinners. Once again, well over 100 members had the opportunity to meet together before Consecration Sunday, to share a meal and to meaningfully discuss the concept of financial stewardship and to provide input on the ongoing vision for ministry at Mountain View Lutheran. By the end of the year, our annual pledges totaled almost \$725,000. Thus far in 2006, our giving has lived up to our commitment to God's work through and at Mountain View Lutheran Church. Finally, at the end of 2005, we provided some year-end emphasis on including Mountain View in year-end giving, and upon completion of the 2005 commitments.

Respectfully,

*Barry Johnsrud*  
Chairperson

## Report from WOMEN of the ELCA

The mission statement of Women of the ELCA is: “To Mobilize Women to Act Boldly on their Faith in Jesus Christ!” Women from Mountain View act boldly on their faith by attending the Bible Study Event, Synod Retreat, Synod Convention, churchwide Triennial Gathering, and Mt Rainier Cluster Event (Mt View hosted the cluster event). Elaine Lewis was the delegate to the Synod Convention. The Women of the ELCA monthly general board meetings are open meetings and anyone can attend.

The Mountain View Women of the ELCA handbook lists all the names of women in circles, Bible study groups, quilters, book club, serving team, altar guild, and synod women’s board. Dates for events during the year are listed. All women of the church receive this booklet. Additional handbooks are available.

An approved model constitution was prepared and distributed to the membership. A revised scholarship application form was approved.

Lutheran World Relief Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate is available for sale to Mt. View church members and friends one Sunday a month. This is not for profit

Two scholarship bake sales were conducted. \$500.00 scholarships to five high school seniors who will attend non-Lutheran schools were awarded. Thrivent provided \$300.00 to the scholarship fund. A garage sale was held in the home of one of the members. All profit went to the scholarship fund.

The Serving Committee sends thank you notes to the families who donate money for serving at events. In the thank you, the past year benevolences are listed for the family to know where their money goes. A set of dinnerware and two 30-cup coffee makers were purchased for the church kitchen. The circles provide monthly cleaning of the church kitchen.

The yearly Thankoffering Sunday has thankoffering envelopes in the worship folders. All money received is sent directly to Churchwide Women of the ELCA.

The quilting women meet every Wednesday morning. A Sunday morning quilt blessing is held once a year. 289 quilts were shipped to Lutheran World Relief, 13 quilts given to high school graduates, and 8 quilts given to the Habitat home family. Additional quilts

were available for donation, with money used to purchase more quilt batting and other quilting supplies. Quilters attended a Thrivent luncheon and received free quilt batting.

2005 benevolences (except Tsunami Relief, which was actually distributed in January of 2006) were given to Mt View Food Bank, World Vision, Tacoma Rescue Mission, Lutheran Bible Translators, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Tacoma Seafarers’ Center, Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy, YWCA Women’s Support Shelter, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminar, Heifer Project International, China Service Ventures, Lutheran World Relief, Salvation Army, and the Tsunami Relief Fund.

*Carol Fossum*

Chairperson

## Report from WORSHIP and MUSIC

*As Disciples of Christ we are compelled by the Holy Spirit to worship, pray, love, learn, and invite all to experience God’s grace and celebrate the Good News in Jesus Christ.*

Members: Amy Boers, Dave Cheney, Ken Edmonds, Jennifer Garrett, Wes Grenlund, Terry Jensen, Virginia Johnson, Bob Kostelecky, Art Larson, Flora Larson, Tim Nole, Barrie Mott, Mark Williams, and Pastor John.

Soundboard operators include David Allen, Ken Edmonds, Dave Gray, Paul Linden, Tim Nole, Gary Pouley, Ken Sturgeon, and Bryan Vlok.

Worship Assistants are Kevin Dahl, Ken Edmonds, Barry Johnsrud, Jennifer Garrett, Todd Kelley, Nancy Nole, Krista Sickert-Bush, Carmen and Bass Van Soest.

The Worship and Music Ministry Group is responsible:

- To arrange for all that is necessary for the worship life of this congregation
- To invite, train, support and/or schedule Altar Guild, ushers, greeters, acolytes, lectors, worship assistants, and others
- To recommend candidates for hiring and be involved in the review of those employed: Leader of the Public Song, bell director, nursery attendants, and others who might be involved in the worship and music life of the parish
- To provide for the care of paraments, vestments, and worship ware

- To recommend guidelines for weddings and funerals to the Congregation Council

Education of the congregation is an important function of Worship and Music, as is listening to and responding to worshipers and then giving worship planners input, council, advice, and feedback on what happens in worship.

The 2005 congregational theme was *Side by Side for the faith of the gospel*, with quarterly emphasis on witnessing, living, serving, and giving, which stressed the importance of community and engagement. Joan Root and Barrie made clerestory banners for the sanctuary expressing the theme.

Amy prepared a new Gathering Song book and it was placed in the pew racks.

Pastor John, Amy, and Barrie met several times to discuss the possibility of a third worship service and considered such things as time, format, etc. Amy prepared a report and after discussion with Council, Worship and Music, and others, it was concluded that although a third worship service would increase worship attendance, the increased work and responsibility on staff and lay did not warrant its initiation at this time.

The theme for Lent was *The Desert Experience*—sparse and reflective. Palm Sunday focused on Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday included confession, absolution, foot washing, communion, and stripping of the altar. The Passion from John's gospel was read on Good Friday. Fifty new members from varied religious backgrounds were received at the Easter Vigil.

The Bell Choir performed several short concerts at local retirement homes. It was a most enjoyable experience for participants as well as the audience.

A new antenna system for the wireless microphone for Pastor Scott was purchased and installed. All wireless microphones are now connected to one antenna. A headset microphone was purchased (gift of a member) for Amy to enable spontaneity as the Spirit moves. Two new acolyte candlelighters were purchased. Chimes for the Bell Choir were purchased with funds from the Tina Berg memorial.

Virginia Johnson retired as Altar Guild chair after 30 years in Altar Guild and 25 years as chair. Flora Larson and Diane Nelson will replace her as co-chairs.

Twenty-eight new and old acolytes were trained in September. Special thanks to Terry and Dirk Pettitt who took and recorded pictures of each to assist Head Ushers in identifying them.

Second- and fifth-grade Sunday school students participated as greeters, ushers, and lectors at worship services in October. The Head Ushers were very helpful in training them, and it was a good experience for all. Other classes will participate in 2006. It is part of ongoing Sunday school education about why and how we worship.

The confirmands led the worship on Confirmation/Reformation Sunday.

Midweek Advent theme was *Beyond . . . Homeland Security; Beyond . . . Denial and Escapism; Beyond . . . This Life: Trusting in the World to come*. Holden's Evening Prayer was used.

Bob Linden's Small Group decorated the Christmas tree for our sanctuary.

Christmas Eve worship services were held at 7 and 11 p.m. The 7 p.m. service included the Children's Program. There was one service on Christmas Day at 10 a.m.

*Berel E. Mott*  
Chairperson