

PAROCHIAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Members received in 2006:		
By baptism—children	14	
By baptism—adults	4	4
By affirmation of faith	16	16
By transfer from ELCA	5	3
By other transfer	0	0
Statistical adjustments:	0	0
Baptized youth confirmed in 2006:		10
 Total received:	 39	 33
 Members removed in 2006:		
By death	12	12
By transfer	5	3
Statistical adjustment:	6	6
 Total removed:	 23	 21
 Membership December 31, 2005:	 1154	 846
Net change in membership:	16	12
Membership December 31, 2006	1170	858

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	2006	2005
Average Sunday worship	409	415
Average Lenten midweek	154	162
Average Advent midweek	127	158
Confirmation/Reformation	494	552
Thanksgiving Eve	130	188
Christmas Eve	395	711
Easter	879	811

MINUTES



NOVEMBER 19, 2006
Congregational Meeting

Attendance

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

Call to order

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 minutes of the Sunday 30 April 2006, Sunday 21 May 2006, and Sunday 10 September 2006 congregational meetings.

State of the Mission Endowment Fund

Bob Linden, chairperson of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, presented the state of the Mission Endowment Fund. A “giving options” handout was also reviewed. Highlights included a Mission Endowment Fund total of \$292,294, as of 31 October 2006; income of \$74,500 from Heritage & Hope and \$97,000 from McCallum IRA; and application for a \$10,000 grant.

2007 spending guidelines

Bob Yost, treasurer of Mountain View, presented the proposed and recommended spending guidelines for 2007. Highlights included a category review of the six broad categories of the spending guidelines—pastoral and staff benefits, benevolence, administration, programs, property, and

debt service; the remaining debt service consisting of a 25-year loan of \$720,000 at 7¼ percent; and just slightly more than a five percent increase from the 2006 to 2007 spending guideline.

It was M/S/P that “the congregation of Mountain View Lutheran Church adopt the 2007 Spending Guidelines in the amount of \$915,305.00.

2007 SWWA Synod Assembly delegates

It was M/S/P to “accept Dave Ekse, Laura Livingston, and Mark and Julie Williams as the lay delegates representing Mountain View Lutheran Church at the 2007 Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly.

Announcements

New ministry group chairpersons were introduced to the congregation: Fred Moebius, Stewardship; Kim Lawson and Monique Vaswig, Discipleship; Cindee Beck, Youth; and Karen Ekse, Education.

Benediction

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins, Recording Secretary

MINUTES



SEPTEMBER 10, 2006
Congregational Meeting

Attendance

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

Call to order

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

Announcements

- President Kevin thanked the following groups for their help: (1) Group Life Ministry Group for the meal and preparation; (2) Discipleship Ministry Group for setting up the gym for the lunch and meeting; (3) Education Ministry Group for cleaning up the gym after the lunch and meeting; and, (4) the staff for their work during this especially busy time of year.
- President Kevin summarized the meeting agenda.

Food Bank presentation

The church council has done as much as visioning and preparatory work as possible on the Food Bank without congregational approval. The council is recommending a two-phase project. Phase One will cost a total of \$650,000.00—(1) \$550,000.00 for a 10,000-ft.² Food Bank renovation project; (2) payoff of the Hiott/Peters land purchases; and, (3) Phase 2 feasibility study. Phase Two will involve remodeling of the Administrative and Gathering Spaces.

Phase One is Great Commandment work, responding to neighbor in need; Phase Two is Great Commission work, being more welcoming and hospitable to neighbor.

There is a need for a grantwriter, since FISH Food Bank is pursuing its own grant process for another FISH Food Bank.

We are closer to meeting our spending guidelines than any time in Mountain View's past. We trust that this is the work of the Spirit.

A presentation was given on the proposed Food Bank renovation project, which included:

- The need to proceed soon before building codes change.
- The need to address safety concerns and delivery challenges of the current facility.
- The need for a new Food Bank (60% of building use) and Community Center (40% of building use).
- The inclusion of design input from our Food Bank facilitators, Ann Yost and Pat Clement, and FISH Food Banks; as well as considering City of Edgewood code changes and required implementations.
- An explanation of elevations sketches, site plan sketches, basement plan sketches, and main floor plan sketches.

MINUTES, CONT.



SEPTEMBER 10, 2006
Congregational Meeting

President Kevin read and entertained the following motion:

We, the members of Mountain View Lutheran Church, do hereby authorize the congregation to proceed with Phase One of a two-part capital campaign to raise \$650,000.00 to be dispersed between three areas:

1. *Food Bank renovation project of 10,000 ft.2 and \$550,000.00 total.*
2. *Payoff of the Hiott/Peters property purchases.*
3. *Feasibility study of the Administrative and Gathering Space renovation project for Phase Two.*

Discussion ensued. After a period of questions and answers it was M/S/P to end debate. It was M/S/P for a voice vote. **It was M/S/P to adopt the above motion.**

Staffing presentation

The council presented Pastor Randy Olson as an addition to the staff of Mountain View. This is in response to (1) a need for increased staff response to additional program needs, such as Saturday night worship; (2) the departure of Pastor Scott Brents for another call; and, (3) the need to maintain current programming, such as adult education and Wednesday Night Live.

Pastor Randy's responsibilities will include: (1) one-third of the preaching and presiding for Saturday night worship, with occasional preaching and presiding at Sunday morning

worship; (2) some teaching; (3) overseeing Phases One and Two of the capital campaign, especially with his experience of running two capital campaigns in the past eight years.

The 2006 spending guidelines salaries were reviewed, along with brief discussion regarding the Community Coordinator and Children's Ministry Director positions.

Council members read and entertained the following motion:

We, the members of Mountain View Lutheran Church, do hereby authorize the congregation to issue a term-call for Pastor Randy Olson for a period of three years at two-thirds time, with annual review and renewal subject to both parties.

It was M/S/P to amend the motion to read:
We, the members of Mountain View Lutheran Church, do hereby authorize the congregation to issue a contract for Pastor Randy Olson for a period of three years at two-thirds time, with annual review and renewal subject to both parties.

Discussion ensued. After a period of questions and answers it was M/S/P to end debate. It was M/S/P for a voice vote. **It was M/S/P to adopt the above motion.**

Don Mott was presented as the building committee chairperson.

Benediction

Adjournment Ω

MINUTES



AY 21, 2006
Annual
Congregational Meeting

Attendance

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

Call to order

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

Annual report

The congregation was encouraged to read the Annual Report, previously received, that contains reports from staff, clergy, lay leadership, and ministry groups.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Sunday 20 November 2005 congregational meeting.

Nominating Committee member elections

The Nominating Committee consists of three members elected from the congregation and two members appointed from the church council membership. It was M/S/P to elect Karen Fink, Dave Gray, and Dirk Pettitt to the Nominating Committee. It was announced that Kevin Dahl and Ken Edmonds will represent the church council.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee member elections

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee was in need of additional members. It was

M/S/P to elect Jon Edmonds to the Mission Endowment Fund Committee for a three-year term.

Church Council member elections

The Church Council consists of six to twelve members elected for one-year terms. It was M/S/P to elect Tracy Becht, Kevin Dahl, Ken Edmonds, Bruce Sisco, Ken Swanson, Jon Thieman, and Julie Williams to the Church Council for one-year terms.

Ratification of change to Mountain View Constitution regarding Mission Endowment

It was M/S/P to ratify 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; as per the adoption of said changes at the Sunday 20 November 2005 congregational meeting.

MINUTES, CONT.



AY 21, 2006
Annual
Congregational Meeting

Report from the President of the Congregation

President Kevin addresses the congregation regarding:

- The governance model change in 2003 that established the church council as the primary visioning group of the congregation.
- The focus on congregational depth as opposed to breadth—verticality versus horizontality, discipleship versus membership, and faith versus numbers.
- The importance of education, stewardship, and life together.
- A reminder of “Increase Our Faith” as the stewardship theme.
- The current financial standing of the congregation, including being \$7,000.00 over spending guidelines and \$32,000.00 over expenses—faithful and consistent giving, as opposed to the normal “roller coaster ride.” He also encouraged the congregation to continue to be faithful and consistent.
- Dave McCallum left \$97,000.00 to the Mission Endowment Fund upon his death. Jon Edmonds will write a newsletter article explaining how other members can follow Dave’s example.

Food Bank presentation

The current facilities of the Food Bank are inadequate for its need and use. A steering committee has been formed for a new Food Bank building committee to vision for a new two-story facility that includes space

for the Food Bank, storage, and the ability to encompass more services and programs. The committee consists of Hans Lindstrom, co-chairperson; Barney Wagner, co-chairperson; Tracy Becht and Julie Williams, to examine and pursue grants for funding; Beth Elliott, representing FISH Food Banks; and Ann Yost and Pat Clement, the current Food Bank coordinators. All are excited by this ministry, as is the leadership of Mountain View.

Beth Elliott, executive director of FISH Food Banks, spoke about the history of FISH, the history of Edgewood Community Food Bank, explained the relationship between FISH and ECFB, and highlighted the need for additional services.

Summer youth directors

Members Peter and Karla Briggs have agreed to work with the junior and senior high youth for the summer months, especially focusing upon events.

Benediction

Adjournment Ω

MINUTES



APRIL 30, 2006
Congregational Meeting

Attendance

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

Call to order

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

Intern proposal

President Kevin addressed the congregation regarding the proposal to accept an intern at Mountain View.

- The possibility was explored prior to the departure of Pastor Scott Brents for another call.
- It is a good fit with our emphasis of Word and Sacrament ministry, education, and the importance of seminary training—especially as evidenced by the inclusion of \$100,000.00 for seminary scholarships in Mountain View's Heritage and Hope Centennial Campaign.
- Mountain View has a lot to offer as a leader in the church.
- The intern would get a well-rounded experience at Mountain

View—preaching, teaching, and leading and working with various ministry groups.

- It is helpful during a time of staff transition.
- The cost, somewhere around \$30,000.00 for one year, would be covered by the budgeted line items for an associate pastor.

President Kevin entertained a motion *to call an intern for one year, at the cost of approximately \$30,000.00.*

Discussion ensued. It was M/S/P to end debate.

It was M/S/P to call an intern.

Benediction

Adjournment Ω

SENIOR PASTOR

There is not a day that goes by in which I do not learn all over again or for the first time, with a wrinkle, what it means to be a parish pastor. And, while there are obvious duties and responsibilities associated with the calling—preach, teach, administer the sacraments, and visit the sick—there are additional challenges associated with being a Senior Pastor in a congregation the size of Mountain View.

The first responsibility—outside of the obvious aspects of the calling—is to provide vision, along with the leadership, toward the future. In the past year, such vision has principally unfolded in the congregational willingness to remodel the existing Food Bank and provide a Community Center. The vision is to extend ourselves in the Spirit of Jesus Christ toward the world in deeper and more provocative ways—the enacting of the vision made known, concretely, in the Community Center/Food Bank.

A second piece that I have principal responsibility for is the identifying of staff people to carry out the vision. This is, in some ways, the most vexing of challenges as we seek to enact the vision as it is made known.

As a congregation we advanced the position of a full-time Community Coordinator who would have the responsibility of in-house discipleship coupled with an external focus involving agencies and institutions in the world, to facilitate greater outreach in areas of peace and justice. The position fits the vision; the person has not yet been identified. I am finding it very difficult in the current climate to identify people, whether a Community Coordinator or a Youth Minister, who are prepared to embrace the challenges of ministry in the twenty-first century.

A third aspect of my assumed responsibility falls in the area of recruitment, for lack of a better term. This piece involves recognizing existing gifts of people in the congregation for leadership, teaching, and ministry group involvement, in addition to either asking them myself or conveying the possibility to another who takes the responsibility of the invitation. Self-evidently, this model of recruitment is destined to failure in a congregation the size of Mountain View. Leadership, however, is taking significant steps to engender chairperson recruitment, teacher recruitment, and overall leadership responsibility as a part of

SENIOR PASTOR

the duties of the existing council and appointed disciples—each called to conversation, identifying future leaders and followers in congregational life.

The year of 2006 brought with it change and the obvious joys and challenges faced by all of us as a Lutheran congregation living in the twenty-first century. While I have, at times, been perplexed, even mystified, by the ongoing dynamics, I have been deeply grateful to the council and to the congregation, as a whole, for demonstrating necessary patience and reflection in a time of monumental transition. I trust that 2007 will continue to provide, by the Spirit of the Living God, doors that open and doors that close. In the meantime, we will worship, educate, fellowship, and extend the love of Christ to the world. Ω

Pastor John L. Vaswig

PASTOR

During my tenure with you at Mountain View Lutheran Church, from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, I have had the privilege to be involved with a variety of ministries. Though the chief of those ministries has been the *Treasured Hearts* Appeal for the Mountain View Community Center and Edgewood Food Bank, others have included the Ministry of Peace and Justice, preaching and presiding at worship, Bible study and other teaching, and some pastoral care opportunities.

The Ministry of Peace and Justice at Mountain View is alive and well, and providing nourishment in the daily acts that invite the Kingdom of God into our needy world. Those directly involved in that ministry have sought to educate the whole congregation in the areas of peace in our world and the care of the earth, as well as to advocate for those whose voices often go unheard in the halls of power. Their leadership in the ELCA World Hunger Appeal at Mountain View resulted in a wonderful dinner together celebrating the food of many nations, and not inconsequentially, the raising of over \$5000 for feeding the hungry!

Of course, you certainly all know how much I value the preaching office of the pastor, as well as serving at the Table of our Lord. That has been an opportunity that has meant much to me, as has the opportunity to engage in some leading of Bible study and teaching.

It is in the *Treasured Hearts* capital appeal that I have invested the most time these past six months. For a pastor to engage in such a process presents some difficulties; my theological training and thinking regarding deep Christian stewardship will always rebel at fund-raising “techniques.” That being said, the compelling nature of our common mission to build the Mountain View Community Center and provide a new and suitable home for the Edgewood Community Food Bank, has led those who have served on the steering committee of the *Treasured Hearts* appeal to combine the fund-raising process with the foundation of excellent theology. I am most appreciative of the work of this committee (and *all* who have helped): Dr Don Mott, who serves as chair; Michael Brauhn, serving as vice-chair and leader in the Q & A sessions; Marlys Cheney, who led us in the Prayer Vigil; Chris Duskin, who led

PASTOR

those Hospitality callers in contacting the whole congregation; Dick Erickson and Dave Lawson, who led in the Commitment Visits; Hans Lindstrom, who has kept us “in the loop” regarding the building process and who was invaluable in the Q & A sessions; Laura Livingston, who has worked so hard making certain our Congregational Commitment Banquet was a first-class event; and Jon Thieman, whose job as Follow-Up Chair is just now beginning, as he tracks giving to the appeal. Karen Aaserud, as Publication-Promotion Chair, was responsible for all the printed material, particularly the colorful and compelling newsletters. Barrie Mott, serving as Resource Chair, served the committee and the congregation by creating list upon list of congregation members, and taking care of the mailings, besides being the all around helpmate to Don! My colleague, Pr. John Vaswig, provided valuable theological input and support, as might be expected. As I write this, the total dollars committed to building Mountain View Community Center are not yet known, but I do know that the journey on which this congregation has entered has brought us all to a new place, certainly with greater concern for the hungry and needy

neighbor in our midst, but also to an examination of our own priorities and use of the produce of God’s good earth. “For where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also.”

I give thanks to God for you and our partnership in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!. Ω

Pastor Randy Olson

CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

The work of developing and implementing the vision for Mt. View Lutheran Church continues to be the driving force behind most of the work of the church council. To be faithful in this work requires frequent self-scrutiny and evaluation of “where is the church now?” In determining a direction for our congregation, we attempt to strike a balance between great commandment work (to love one another) and great commission work (making disciples). We also try to keep a healthy balance between responding outwardly to the needs of the world and looking inward at the needs of Mt. View Lutheran Church.

The most significant move made by council in response to this “vision work” in 2006 was to propose the 2 – phase capital campaign that was approved by the congregation at a special congregational meeting in September. In phase 1 of this project we agreed to raise \$650,000 to build a new community center which would serve as a new home to our food bank. Approximately \$100,000 of this money would serve to pay off the land north of the church that was recently purchased and also would be used to begin initial work on phase 2 of the campaign. The council felt that

this portion of the campaign certainly maintained an outward focus that responded to needs within our community and in fact was a loving response made in the spirit of the great commandment.

In phase 2 of the project, we agreed to address facilities needs here at Mt. View – specifically addressing shortcomings within our fellowship hall/administrative space and gathering space directly outside the sanctuary. This portion of the project has an inward focus, designed to demonstrate faithful stewardship of the facilities we have as well as (hopefully) anticipating new growth, development and possibilities for ministry in the future. The council classifies this as primarily great commission work. The greater extent to which we can be welcoming and hospitable to the stranger and the more possibilities for ministry that engages the stranger in the life of the church, the more “disciple-making” can take place.

As we move through 2007, we will continue to wrestle with discerning the will of God and His plan for us here at Mt. View. As always, we welcome your input and questions.

CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

Serving on the church council during the past year have been, Tracy Becht, Kevin Dahl (president), Ken Edmonds, Bruce Sisco (treasurer), Ken Swanson, Jon Thieman, and Julie Williams. I would like to thank each for their hard work, dedication, and faithfulness over the past year. We would also like to thank all who continue to pray for leadership and support and encourage us in the work we do. Ω

Kevin Dahl

INTERN

2006 marked the first time in many years in which Mountain View Lutheran Church undertook the mission of teaching and training an Intern. Your willingness to create space so that I might learn and grow is commendable as is your heart for the future of the church.

During this time I have greatly benefited from the leadership of the Senior Pastor. He has great wisdom and is a wonderful teacher. I have also benefited from a very knowledgeable and efficient council and staff. This tremendous leadership gives me hope of what could be as I consider my own pastoral leadership for the future.

As a congregation, I have found Mountain View to be very hospitable and welcoming. You are a congregation with a great depth and breadth of knowledge that challenges me as a teacher and a preacher. You are a congregation that seeks to make a difference in the world for the sake of the Gospel. This is indeed very hopeful for the future. You are also a congregation that faces challenges that while not unique to the church are uniquely magnified in the Northwest. The many and various

demands on time, talent, and resources must be acknowledged as they are and not embraced lightly.

This internship process has been a tremendous growing experience for me. I feel as if my public confidence improves daily as does my ability to articulate the gospel. I have felt challenged in teaching confirmation, as I have had to learn and translate much of Luther's theology from the language of the academy to that of the students. The "Hope for the Weary" service has also uniquely challenged me. This service has given me opportunities in preaching that many of my peers will not receive and has helped me to "think outside the box" in terms of how worship in this culture might be expressed.

The greatest challenge and opportunity for me thus far in my internship year has been in the area of outreach. Since my undergraduate degree was in engineering I tend to think in formulas and systems. As most of you likely know, there is no formula for evangelizing the Northwest neither is there a system. There is only the Gospel of Jesus Christ and while that is more than enough, we Lutherans tend to

INTERN

struggle with articulating a faith that is filled with paradoxes. As my internship year has developed I have met with church leaders, I have read books, and I have pondered this subject deeply. My final internship project will present some of my thoughts on outreach in the Northwest, this coming May.

It has been a privilege for me to live, serve, learn, and grow in this place. You have been so gracious to me. May that Grace abound more and more throughout your work and ministry in the world. Ω

Ben Quanbeck

LEADER OF THE PUBLIC SONG

now and again, I get a chance to tell someone *what I do for a living*. I begin with the mouthful of “Well, I am...my job is to...uh, I am the musician who...” eventually ending up with the heap of words, “my official title is Leader of the Public Song, which is as much of a job description as it is a title.” There generally is no follow-up question.

In all honesty, I enjoy nearly everything about my job. This of course alludes to the fact that there are parts of it that I don’t like. This is true, but as I grow in my vocation and grow as a disciple of Christ, I discover that most of those little areas that I don’t enjoy are those things I don’t do very well, or at least that I fear I will fail at. But far exceeding these ‘minor’ issues, are the joys and privileges that come with working in God’s church; in *our* church.

I have been privileged to plan worship for a Lay Renewal Congregational Retreat, Wednesday Night Live, Sunday mornings, Confirmation retreat, and this year, the new *Hope for the Weary* on Saturday evenings. I have also had the joy of rehearsing our Adult Choir in preparation for the *Tina Berg*

Memorial Concert, Sunday morning worship services, as well as the many worships of Holy Week in which their song provides our community opportunity for meditation and reflection on God’s Word through music.

Fortunately, when there are times that I am weary and cannot come up with one new idea or inspired piece-of-music-that-fits-just-so, I have the privilege of working with wonderfully talented congregational members. Jennifer Garrett, Director of the Bells of Mountain View and Carmen Van Soest, Director of Mountain View Children’s Choir are a vital part of our music at Mountain View. In addition, the Worship Band members are dedicated volunteers who offer their time again and again throughout the year to assist in providing meaningful worship. Not only are they present in worship, but also they show up to Saturday morning or Friday evening rehearsals, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* training events and special congregational events.

I grew up looking forward to summers – the longer days, warmer weather, but mostly I longed for the more relaxed schedule. NOT!

LEADER OF THE PUBLIC SONG

Summers at Mountain View are full of energy and continued responsibility. One of the highlights of the summer is Vacation Bible School. I love this part! From writing and directing skits to arranging music for trumpet, saxophone, violin and tambourine, VBS is a week where I am reminded of God's presence and the vitality of life in this place.

The children this year brought that same vitality to worship as well, where we had our first official *Summer Music* opportunity for the children of the congregation. We heard from young pianists, violinists, trumpets and vocalists – and we rejoiced!

And so I rejoice again with you, Mountain View, and give thanks to God for the gift of this place and my time here. Ω

Amy Boers

VISITATION PASTOR

I greet you again in the words of St. Paul to the churches of his time: “Grace and peace to from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It has been a joy to work with you at Mountain View Lutheran for another year.

It is a deep and abiding privilege and inspiration to serve in ministry and mission with the many dedicated and talented lay leaders and staff under the leadership of Senior Pastor John Vaswig.

I have worked Tuesdays and Wednesdays most of the year, but am happy to be working one day per week now. I work Tuesdays as Visitation Pastor, with my primary calling to visit the many homebound people. I bring them the sacrament of Holy Communion and a bulletin from the most recent worship service to help them feel connected to the community of Christ at Mountain View Lutheran. I have also visited people at the hospitals and given bereavement counseling and conducted funerals, when needed. It has also been my privilege to assist with Holy Communion at worship

two Sundays per month.

Martin Luther taught: “The Christian is to be a perfect, dutiful servant of all.” Yes, all Christians are called to **serve** God in the world.

I am so thankful for your partnership in the Gospel and for your prayers and expressions of appreciation for Barb and me.

Sincerely, your servant in Christ. Ω

Pastor Dean W. Berg



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.

The church's mission to bring the Eucharist to those unable to attend regular services was met by assigning Eucharist Deacons to bring communion to church members who were unable to attend regular services. Eucharist Deacons made 117 visits to 32 church members in 2006.

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 support to individual church members who are unable to attend worship services.

Grief Support Deacons offer individual support and care during times of loss and grief through visits, phone calls, and cards.

Prayer Deacons offer personal prayers at the altar during both worship services on the fourth

Sunday of each month.

There are six Card Ministry Deacons who send cards to members during challenging times and on joyous occasions. This ministry has sent a total of 345 cards this year for a variety of reasons. Twenty four "shut in" members receive cards on a regular basis. The newly baptized receive cards at baptism. There were eighteen this year. They also receive cards on their baptismal anniversary and again on their anniversaries for the following three years. Additionally, Jan Sisco calls all names on the prayer chain periodically to note any changes.

There are approximately 31 Deacons involved in the deacon program. Many of these individuals serve in more than one of the above programs.
Ω

Janet Bender

The Discipleship Ministry Team is in the midst of some change. In 2006 Sherry Styve chaired the team. Sherry is moving from the area and will no longer be a member at Mt. View. Thank you for your hard work and service to Christ and His Church Sherry!

In January of 2007 Monique Vaswig and Kim Lawson took over as the new co-chairs. We are in the process of recruiting additional team members and defining the mission of the team; while continuing to work on tasks that have been Discipleship's focus over the past few years. The Women's Retreat in January and the first Mt. View "Marriage Class" were both supported by Discipleship Team members and other volunteers. We will sponsor a class in the future called "Building Rituals in Your Home." We hope that participants in these classes will be part of small groups that will continue to meet for fun and fellowship in the future. We continue to support and sponsor the Easter Egg Hunt, New Member dinners, and other multi-generational activities in congregational life.

If you would like to be part of the team for 2007 (or if you'd like to hear

DISCIPLESHIP

more about the possibilities for Discipleship at Mt. View) please contact Kim or Monique or leave a message with Lynn in the office. Ω

Kim Lawson

Monique Vaswig

EDUCATION

The Church's ministry in education is to form and equip wise and faithful disciples who will live out their baptismal vocation both in the Church and the World. This ministry addresses both mind and heart. It shapes the way we think, feel, and act."

—from "Our Calling in Education, A Lutheran Study"

Through the efforts of dedicated staff and lay volunteers a solid foundation of education programs currently exist at Mountain View.

Current Program Overview:

Adult Education is offered on Sunday morning and on Wednesday evenings. Sunday morning education includes a variety of instruction, including guest instructors, educational instruction presented by a Pastor, informational presentations by ministry groups, and guest speakers who come to share information about their ministries. Wednesday evening instruction is currently taught by Pastor John Vaswig.

Sunday morning education for children and youth is offered for ages 2 years through 12th grade. The

Sunday School program used a lectionary based curriculum, *Life Together*, during the winter and spring quarter of 2006. A church year based curriculum, which presents material in sequential order and covered the book of Genesis, was used in the Fall 2006 quarter.

Wednesday Night Live education is offered for children ages 5 years through 6th grade. Wednesday night children's instruction is currently designed to correspond with the content of the adult education class, allowing for connectedness between age groups and providing a tie in with the closing worship service.

Confirmation instruction is taught for 7th and 8th graders on Wednesday evenings. This program is a two-year program that currently covers an Old and New Testament overview in one year and instruction on Luther's small catechism the other year. The format of the program allows for group instruction followed by small group discussion time and provides annual educational retreats.

Vacation Bible School is a one-week program generally held the second week in July. VBS programs provide educational opportunities for pre-

EDUCATION

school through sixth grade children at Mountain View, as well as provide a great opportunity for outreach into the local community.

The Children's Christmas program is held on Christmas Eve. The program is traditionally held after the 7:00 pm worship service. This year, with Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, the program was held during the 9:30 am Sunday School hour.

Summary of 2006:

An education sub-committee developed excellent supplemental lesson material, developed sermon notes for younger grade levels, and initiated participation of children in the worship service on a regular basis during the 2005-2006 Sunday school year. This illustrates a very important point about available education materials and curriculums. Generally speaking, available curriculum materials do not fully cover all the basics of our Lutheran faith. If we are to adequately teach the Lutheran faith at Mountain View, as we are called to do, it is necessary to supplement standard Sunday School curriculum (think outside the box, perhaps). Supplemental instructional

material, sermon notes for younger ages, and worship service participation were not continued in the Fall of 2006 (start of a new Sunday School year).

In May of 2006, Education Ministry submitted a report to the Church Council with respect to Mountain View's mission and vision statements and core convictions. This report suggested no revisions to the existing statements or core convictions be made. The consensus reached in the report was that education was a strength at Mountain View, but the report also offered several practical ideas including presentation of a collection of children's Bible stories to the families of baptized infants and children, more frequent parenting classes, age appropriate sex education, adult mentor instruction, prayer as a topic of study at all ages, and preparation of educational and instructional materials as a resource for parents (modeled after a booklet prepared by the Anacortes Lutheran Church). Education Ministry considered presentation of a collection of children's Bible stories to the families of baptized infants and children in accordance with the Education Ministry report submitted to the Church Council. At this time a

EDUCATION

book that would suit this idea has been reviewed, however implementation of presenting this resource to parents has not yet been pursued.

Vision for 2007:

Looking forward, the goals for Education Ministry for 2007 are two fold. These goals include establishing an overall "big picture" vision of our education programs, providing for continuity of instruction from birth through adulthood, and second, promoting and inspiring attendance in education programs.

More specifically, a top priority is to establish a scope and sequence of material we intend to cover in Pre-School through 12th grade education. The goal of the "big picture" in this age interval is to provide a consistent, organized sequence of instruction, at increasing understanding levels, coordinated between Wednesday evening education programs and Sunday morning education programs, to insure that all age appropriate aspects of our Lutheran faith have been adequately taught. The established scope and sequence can be adhered to, despite the change in Sunday School teachers, Sunday

School coordinators, or confirmation instructors from year to year. In theory, a new coordinator or instructor can come into a program with a guide as to what has been taught over the last several years and what logically needs to be taught next.

Adult education programs, while no less important, are more difficult to map out. Unlike children's education, in which we can easily determine a logical sequence of stories and teachings, presented at increasing age appropriate understanding levels, adult programs tend to vary based on the particular needs of the group of adults. Options for meaningful adult education will also be evaluated.

Educational opportunities can be of the highest quality, but will only be beneficial if they inspire attendance. We live in a world of competing priorities for our time on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. How do we convey the importance of education in the faith at all ages? How do we overcome the idea that education stops at confirmation? How do we "compete" with worldly priorities? The questions are easy to pose. Ideas and perhaps some answers are what we will pursue in

EDUCATION

the coming year.

I believe it is important to start by defining what we are trying to accomplish. We follow the defining of our goals, with evaluating the means in which to implement them. It is at this point that our ministry group can begin to evaluate and understand the meaning of the idea "Confirmation for Life". It is at this point that the picture of what "Confirmation for Life" means and what it might look like, can begin to unfold.

"We are a people of God committed to a life-long journey of teaching, learning, understanding, and believing God's word." Ω

Karen Ekse

Food Bank

We are grateful for the generous gifts God has given to us at Mt. View, that we might share them with the hungry in our community. Our client numbers continue to increase. We fed 3,158 individuals in nine months in 2003 (our first year of operation), as compared to 12,903 individuals in 2006.

The most exciting news of 2006 for the food bank, was the decision of the congregation to build a new food bank and community service building! A new facility with a walk-in cooler/freezer will allow us to accept more fresh and frozen food and to distribute it more efficiently. Our board visited close to a dozen different food banks in the Seattle-Tacoma area to find a good plan. We have spent many hours gathering information in preparation for grant writing and the capital campaign. Our biggest challenge for 2007 will be providing food while the new building is being constructed!

Most importantly the food bank is about people, those who serve and those who receive. Kaitlyn Ginther-Hutt, one of our young Mt. View volunteers, shared this in a school essay. "I wondered what life was like

for some of these people. Did they have grandchildren and go to college? Did they constantly have to scrape their savings account to pay for clothing and an education? Why aren't the people that are the same inside not the same outside? Was their house burnt down or were they burglarized? Was it the smoking costs or was it just because they did not have money to pay for college to get a better education and a higher paying job? I wondered this and much more. These people are the same as us, and we need to treat them as we would a best friend or a grandparent. When I left the Food Bank, I had a great time getting to know people and was very grateful for what I had done to help the community."

We are moved by the Spirit of God to act as the hands and heart of Jesus as we share what we have been so generously given. Ω

Pat Clement

Ann Yost

Treasured  Hearts



MISSION ENDOWMENT

The purpose of the Mountain View Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund continued to be that of providing permanent financial support of the mission and ministry of Mountain View Lutheran Church in response to the Holy Spirit.

Committee meetings were held on a quarterly basis in 2006. The Endowment Fund continued to grow in assets. The end of year balance for the Fund was \$289,309.11. This represents a 64% increase in the value of the fund over the previous year. A mid-year sizable contribution to the Fund was responsible for the noticeable change.

Education about the Mission Endowment Fund has become the committee's priority. To that end, the committee hosted an estate planning seminar in March at Mt. View with well known Tacoma attorney Bob Pittman. The seminar was well received. Monthly church newsletter and bulletin announcements remained a major source of information regarding the Endowment Fund. At November's congregational meeting, committee chairman Bob Linden gave a presentation about the fund. He also explained several ways

congregational members could contribute to the Fund.

An application was developed in 2006 to solicit eligible Fund grant recipients. The Church Council also gave the Mission Endowment Committee its priorities regarding the annual distribution of dollars from the fund. The council indicated its desire that the distribution be used for the construction of the new fund bank and community center at Mt. View. The Endowment Committee agreed and recommended that such a distribution be made. The Council approved the recommendation and ten percent of the Fund's previous year June 30th balance or \$10,132 was given as a grant to the project.

Members Jon Edmonds and Bruce Sisco represented the Mission Endowment Committee in its participation last year in the All Saints' Carnival in October. The committee is seeking additional involvement in other church related activities.

The Endowment Committee's goal throughout the year was to educate, inform, and assist congregational members in making gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund. As the

MISSION ENDOWMENT

Fund continued to grow, the possibilities for supporting current and future local, regional, and world ministries increased. Our committee remains dedicated to this endeavor.

Bob Linden

Peace & JUSTICE

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

Committed to study, education, and service within and beyond Mt. View, the Peace and Justice Ministry Group spends time each month in discussion of current events and consideration of written commentary, besides leading action that reflects the Gospel message of love for neighbor. We read and pray, together and individually, for peace, wholeness, and reconciliation in the world and in individual lives. Study documents this year included the Kairos Statement, ELCA Social Statement on Peace, and various articles. We identified where our Areas of Focus will be and now have a document that will help us maintain a direction that is meaningful and manageable.

Our study group this year included Kristi Ceder, chairperson; Barb Hull, recording secretary; Richard Hull; Carolyn Belk; Rick Belk, Jr.; Janet Bender; Barb Henrichsen; Beth Ann Johnson; Jon Petersen; Chris Ray; Ken Swanson; and Charlotte Thompson. Intern Ben Quanbeck and Pastor Randy Olson served successively as staff liaison, and Ann

Yost attended as Food Bank representative. 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 Building on Faith and Thrivent Builds
- Pierce County Hunger Walk
- Peace Community Center feeding program
- Puyallup Armory meals
- Gifts at Christmas for Seafarers and for Peace Community families and local families, plus Alternative Giving opportunities
- ELCA World Hunger Appeal Dinner

We coordinated the Sunday School offering receipts and presented programs to the students on global and local needs.

We sponsored four educational presentations on consecutive Sundays: Alternative Giving, Lutheran Public Policy Office and advocacy, ELCA Social Statement on Economic Life, and new Food Bank information.

Recognizing the need for political

Peace & JUSTICE

accountability in the policies and practices of taxation and government spending, representatives from the group met with legislators during Lutheran Advocacy Day in Olympia.

Several members attended educational meetings and seminars including Hunger Symposium in Belfair with guest Larry Rasmussen and the January '06 Justice symposium in Tijuana.

We polled the congregation and devoted one Sunday to recognizing and praying for the various organizations supported by our members either through the Mt. View Benevolences or through individual offerings of resources.

We were involved in discussion of the Food Bank and have made suggestions for an expanded role of community care that will be possible with the new facility. We look forward to the challenge of leading and encouraging peaceful and just lives that resonate throughout our community and the world. Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, we hope.

Peace: Completeness and wholeness

that originates with God; reconciliation.

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

Kristi Ceder

PROPERTY

The duties of the Property Ministry Group are to recognize and rectify problems that occur in maintaining our church facilities, as well as improving all existing buildings, grounds, and supervising the custodial and furnace contracts. Projects are coordinated with the Honey Doers and Heritage groups. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

PAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Permits were obtained to clear the unimproved land. The debris from clearing was ground up and spread over the non-wetland area.
2. The entrance cross to the Sanctuary and entrance sign to lower parking area were chemically treated with a wood preservative.
3. Gary Bray offered his service to spray all the blackberry vines on unimproved properties just for the cost of the materials.
4. Youth request for private doors into their youth room were approved and installed.
5. A second water meter requirement for the Chapel was installed. The Water Co. "grandfathered" us in, saving us the \$5000-per-share fee.
6. The Church sponsored Boy Scouts donated service hours to spread 70 yards of Beauty Bark over the campus grounds.
7. Rotted boards on the front steps of the Chapel were replaced and painted by the Honey Doers.
8. Three wall-hung first aid kits were purchased, in the interest of safety, and hung in the three kitchen areas.
9. A large Rubbermaid container was purchased to hold empty cardboard containers, which were declared fire hazards when stacked against the outside kitchen wall behind the Fellowship Hall.
10. Recently acquired property north of the gym was surveyed and approved for fencing in order to establish boundaries.
11. Broken windows were replaced in front of Sanctuary. (Efforts of Worship Ministry Group and Honey Doers.)

PROPERTY

12. Air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall was repaired.

Ministry Groups to carry on our Church's mission. Ω

STRUGGLES AND CHALLENGES

Darrel Hagen

1. One of our greatest "Grounds" accomplishments was bringing the unimproved properties under control from brush and blackberry vines.

2. Getting volunteers to donate their time and labor for painting Sunday School rooms, buildings, and other ongoing necessary projects.

3. Obtaining necessary permits and permission from the City of Edgewood to complete our work tasks is challenging!

4. Fixing the roof leaks in the Fellowship Hall.

GOALS

1. To complete last year's projects, such as moss removal from the roof of campus buildings, getting paint projects done, completing fencing project, and complete clearing of unimproved property south of upper parking lot.

2. To serve our Lord in every way possible, working together with other

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 annual Bible Study Event, Synod Retreat, Synod Convention and Mt Rainier Cluster Event. Flora Larson was the delegate to the Synod Convention.

The WELCA 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, prayer teams, 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.

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

Two scholarship bake sales were conducted with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund. \$500.00

scholarships to four high school seniors who will attend non-Lutheran schools were awarded. Thrivent "Care in Congregations" provided \$500.00 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's benevolences are listed for the family to know where their money goes. The circles provide monthly cleaning of the church kitchen. New coffee pots were purchased.

A Spring Tea was held on June 3 which was attended by approximately 100 women.

At the yearly Thankoffering Sunday, thankoffering envelopes are included 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. Over 200 quilts were shipped to Lutheran World Relief, 12 quilts given to high school graduates, 7 baby quilts given to newly baptized babies, 107 quilts given to the Edgewood Food Bank clients.

Women of the ELCA

Additional quilts were available for donation “sale” with money used to purchase quilt batting and other quilting supplies. Quilters attended a Thrivent luncheon and received several rolls of quilt batting from Thrivent.

2006 benevolences were given to Edgewood Food Bank, World Vision, Tacoma Rescue Mission, Lutheran Bible Translators for Rob and Eshinee Veith, Lutheran Bible Translators for Carl and Melody Knight, Wycliffe Bible Translators for Norm and Patricia Purvis, Tacoma Seafarers’ Center, Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy, YWCA Women’s Support Shelter, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary-Berkley, ELCA World Hunger Global Barnyard, China Service Ventures, Lutheran World Relief, and Salvation Army. Ω

Carol Fossum

WORSHIP & 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, Jennifer Garrett, Bob Kostelecky, Art Larson, Flora Larson, Tim Nole, Barrie Mott, Carmen Van Soest, and Pastor John. Head Ushers are Dave Cheney, Dave Ekse, Wes Grenlund, Bob Kostelecky, and Mark Williams

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

Worship Assistants are Kevin Dahl, Ken Edmonds, Barry Johnsrud, Jennifer Garrett, Todd Kelley, Nancy Nole, Ben Quanbeck, Karl Stumo, Bass and Carmen Van Soest.

Worship Team members are Glenn Anderson, Jim and Debbie Hushagen, Bill and Joan Kohler, and Rod Ray plus occasional guest musicians.

Art Larson resigned after many, many years of faithful service to the worship and music life of our congregation.

The Worship and Music Ministry Group is responsible for implementing

inspirational worship experiences with a Lutheran-Christian persuasion. Education of the congregation is vital as well as listening to and responding to worshipers and then giving worship planners input, advice and feedback on what happens in worship.

The 2006 congregational theme was *Increase our Faith* and included the fruits of the spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Joan Root and Barrie made clerestory banners expressing the theme for the sanctuary.

Marylou Ginther resigned as Flower Coordinator after 22 years of service. The position was filled by Cecily Kearney but she later resigned and Altar Guild is looking for a new Coordinator.

Carmen Van Soest was hired as youth choir director. Practices were held on Wednesdays before Wednesday Night Live and later changed to Monday at 5 p.m. to accommodate Carmen's school schedule. The children's choir is learning its music well and is a wonderful addition to our worship. They will likely sing for worship once a month or so.

A healing prayer service was held on February 12 as part of our regular Sunday worship. It lasted about ½ hour longer than usual as parishioners came

WORSHIP & MUSIC

forward to the altar for prayer and anointing with oil by pastors and deacons. It was a very meaningful experience for all those who participated.

The Tina Berg memorial concert on February 26 was very successful and resulted in an offering of \$3,417 that was contributed to the Food Bank. The concert featured Lutheran Norwegian heritage and music. The Scandinavian food dinner before the concert was a gift from Tina's family and was coordinated and served by Jennifer Gray-Austin and members of WELCA Circles.

The Lenten theme was *Pondering the Parables*. It was more of a teaching service and included a power point picture presentation prepared by Troy. There were no worship folders, and low lighting and Taize-like music contributed to the contemplative mood. However, attendance was down so it was decided to return to the more familiar format next year.

The Bell Choir gave miniature concerts at Wisdom House, Stafford Suites in Sumner and Mill Ridge Village in Milton. It was a most enjoyable experience for participants as well as the audience.

The 6th grade Sunday school class helped serve at several worship services as part of ongoing Sunday School

education about why and how we worship. Bob Kostelecky met with them before worship to discuss their jobs.

It was decided that the Worship and Music Ministry Group would no longer meet monthly but rather seasonally 5-6 times a year. It was hoped that would enable discussion of larger issues and suggestions and perhaps assignments for consideration.

A CD burner for recording services was purchased with a cash gift from a congregational member. Tim and Amy met with sound operators to go over the new equipment.

At the suggestion of Kristi Ceder, chair of the Peace and Justice Ministry Group, Peace and Justice Sunday was held on July 23. The purpose was to celebrate and encourage discipleship among Mountain View members. It included the tree from our *Increase our Faith* logo and congregational members brought forward leaves with names of various organizations that promote peace and justice in the larger world and are supported by our members.

Summer schedule of worship at 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. began on June 18 and returned to 8:15 and 10:45 on September 9.

After much discussion by staff, Congregational Council and Worship

WORSHIP & MUSIC

and Music, a thirdworship service was added beginning on September 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel. The purpose is to provide worship alternatives for people in a culture that is preoccupied with choices. The theme is *Hope for the Weary* and is a quiet and contemplative service. After the homily the congregation is invited to ask questions. *Figures of Hope in Scripture* were selected as subthemes. Rod Jacobson made an altar, a font and plants were purchased, and Amy's Mom made lovely paraments for them as well as appropriate wall hangings. Keith and Julie Nelson agreed to set up and take down the chapel most of the time as it needs to be ready for Adult Education on Sunday. In January it was decided to offer soup following worship the first Sunday of each month.

Intern Ben Quanbeck train two new acolytes in September and two more in January.

The confirmands led the worship on Confirmation/Reformation Sunday with help from Amy and Intern Ben Quanbeck.

Bob Yost, Linda Belk and Karen Ekse gave homilies for Thanksgiving Eve worship.

Midweek Advent theme was *Psalm 27: Of Whom Shall I be Afraid?; Teach Me Your Way; Wait for the Lord* and used

Holden Evening Prayer. Offering was divided between ELCA World Hunger and local hunger.

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

Christmas Eve was on Sunday so worship services were held at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 and 11 p.m. The children's Christmas program was in the gymnasium between the 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

Ω

Barrie Mott

ALTAR GUILD

altar Guild provides a vital part in each Sunday's worship service by preparing the table for communion. We also prepare communion for special services i.e. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and on request for funerals and weddings. The Saturday night service, Hope for the Weary, was added in September 2006 and we prepare communion for this service also.

We are responsible for changing the paraments to correspond with the church calendar. Other behind-the-scene duties include making sure the pews are in neat order and supplied with pencils and offering envelopes, keeping the candles filled with oil, cleaning the baptismal font, and washing and pressing altar linens and acolyte robes.

Twenty-one dedicated members served in 2006. Each member serves two months a year and at least two Sundays during the summer. We had seven members resign in 2006, and added four new members that began serving in 2007. We are always in need of new members. Flora Larson and Diane Nelson serve as co-chairpersons. We also have help from spouses Gary and Lindy who are always willing to do what ever is asked of them.

Milton Safeway supplies the altar

flowers at a cost of \$35 for the two bouquets. Members of the congregation provide for the flowers for each week. The flowers are picked up from Safeway by the Altar Guild Chairperson and placed in the vases at the Altar for Sunday worship. The flower coordinator is responsible for the placing the order with Safeway. Cecily Kearney served in this position for 2006.

Several members of the congregation bake the communion bread and do a wonderful job in keeping our freezer full. A new bread recipe was tried, but because it was difficult to bake we went back to the previous recipe.

Flora Larson makes the baptismal napkins that are given to each baptized, infant to adult. Each child is also given a quilt that is hand made by our quilters. Flora is in charge of the Christmas poinsettias and the Easter lilies that are placed at the Altar during those very special seasons.

Thank you all for your participation and the sharing of your gifts. May God Bless our Ministry. Ω

Flora Larson

Diane Nelson

YOUTH

as friends in Christ we grow in faith."

2006 was again somewhat of a trying year for the Youth Committee. After several years of chairing the committee, Daryl Bakke resigned from the committee in order to pursue other Spirit-led activities at church. At the request of Pastor John, Cindee Beck took over the chair position until a late year job change took her to Minneapolis. After Cindee's departure, Dirk Pettitt took over the chair position of the committee. In addition to the numerous leadership changes, current membership on the committee has dropped to what has to be an all time low of two members.

Peter and Karla Briggs accepted the position of Interim Youth Leaders during the summer months. The variety of program offerings and eager response from the youth really reinvigorated the youth program. Many thanks to Peter and Karla for all their effort and the momentum created. During this time, doors were installed to the youth room to separate it from the other areas of the chapel basement (thanks Honey-Doers) and furniture was also purchased to complete the room (thanks Kristi Cedar for delivering).

With a lack of staffing and a still unfilled Youth Director position, Pastor John recruited several young adult members from the congregation to participate in the youth activities. The committee is still responsible for the planning and scheduling of events with the Young Adult Leaders being responsible for conducting the events. The team (Youth Committee members and the Young Adult Leaders) are targeting two Sunday evening gatherings for the Junior High youth every month and one for the Senior High youth.

Also, occasional all-youth events are being conducted for larger events. With the help and guidance of Ben "The Intern" Quanbeck, the Young Adult Leaders are conducting devotions and reserving time for prayer at each and every gathering.

Major events conducted during 2006 include: Presidents' Day Ski Trip (thanks Terry Jensen and Pat Lambert), Easter Breakfast (major fund-raising event for the youth), summer outings with Peter and Karla, Flathead Lake trip (thanks to parent drivers and Connie McCrossin for once again organizing), church Lock-Ins, and a Christmas Shopping event to purchase gifts for targeted families. Unfortunately, sufficient interest did not exist to justify a trip to San Antonio to attend the National Youth Gathering.

In 2007 the team will continue the Sunday evening events and maintain the targeted frequency for the Junior High and Senior High gatherings. As this report is being written, we have already had another successful Presidents' Day Ski Trip (thanks again to Terry Jensen and Pat Lambert) and several Sunday evening gatherings. By the time this report is published, we will have had conducted our first Lock-In for the year. Plans are also in place for the Easter Breakfast, a Senior High trip to Holden Village, and a Junior High trip to Flathead Lake. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events in the monthly newsletter, in the Sunday bulletins, and by checking the youth board. We hope and pray that we continue to attract youth and grow the program.Ω

Dirk Pettitt

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE CONVICTIONS

PRAYER

We regularly communicate with God through individual and group prayer to seek his guidance, deepen our faith, and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

STEWARDSHIP

We respond to God's gifts through the faithful and responsible commitment of our time, talents, and money to further God's work.

EDUCATION

We are a people of God committed to a lifelong journey of teaching, learning, understanding, and believing God's Word.

COMMUNITY/ LIFE TOGETHER

We find joy, comfort, and strength in the physical presence of fellow Christians gathered as one body of Christ.

OUTREACH

We are compelled by the Holy Spirit to invite and welcome all people into the life, hope, and salvation of Jesus Christ's Gospel and God's loving embrace.

LUTHERAN THEOLOGY

We base our expression of Christian faith on the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel, emphasizing the unearned and undeserved gift of God's grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

PROCLAMATION

We declare our faith and publicly proclaim the Gospel so that by hearing all may know the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Love

We live out the New Commandment to love one another through selfless acts of compassion, respect, tolerance, integrity, and generosity, loving our neighbor as Christ loves us.

DISCIPLESHIP

We live our lives following Christ's command to love one another and share the Gospel.

VISION STATEMENT

Through God's grace we will be a community of believers wholly dedicated to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ.