

# **Annual Report of the Congregation**

MOUNTAIN VIEW  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Senior Pastor John L. Vaswig

**2007**



# Reports

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## Leadership

# Senior Pastor

**D**iscipleship training is at the heart of the ministry we conduct together in the name of Jesus Christ. While such a statement may seem obvious, the actual challenge of making disciples is particularly difficult in the current climate of North American Christianity. Self-evidently, as a people living in the First World reality, we have in most cases not only essential needs met but also non-essential needs. We have leisure opportunities, material goods, and distractions in abundance. So, to teach the conviction of the amidst such abundant living is unquestioningly challenging. It is no surprise to me that while Christianity in North America and Europe is in decline the countries of Africa and parts of Asia are bursting with unprecedented growth in the Christian faith.

Nonetheless, you grow where you are planted, so to speak, and we are planted in Edgewood and its surrounding areas. Acknowledging the context, the leadership has struggled mightily this past year to envision and enable a church called Mountain View to embrace the counterintuitive, upside down world of the Gospel. And, regardless of today's prosperity preachers and the self-help gurus who have sought to align the Christian movement with accumulation and wealth, the text and the calling suggest otherwise.

I believe several moves this past year indicate the community's ongoing desire, conflicted to be sure, to live out this wondrous Gospel calling. First, I am content to believe that the efforts in building a Community Center/Food Bank in Edgewood serves as a physical reminder of our extension of Christ to the world. *"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* (Matthew 25:34b-36, 40b)

A second thing in congregational life, of equal importance to the making and living out of discipleship, is the decision to proceed ahead with the Children, Youth, and Family model of ministry. Essentially, this is the discipleship-for-life model where, cradle to grave, we seek to find compelling ways to educate and inspire all ages to embrace and enact God's baptismal gift. As we continue the search for pastoral leadership specific to this calling, the existing leadership, along with stellar conversational parties, has begun a

# Senior Pastor

process to vision what this model may look like toward the future. How might we, relying heavily on lay mentors, create events for young people, children, and youth that inspire discipleship toward the future? How do we give the parents of the same children equally inspirational events, where they are equipped to teach the faith while acknowledging the current climate and the obvious challenges? How do we enable young adults and young couples without children to believe they are essential to this community and must also be equally challenged in the discipleship life? How do we engage the pre-retirement folks, the recently retired, or our “seasoned” Lutherans, in order that they continue to walk the faith in a time when some are discouraged by what they see in the world and are befuddled by the state of the church in the twenty-first century?

The challenges of making disciples are immense. Simultaneously, I believe Mountain View Lutheran Church has set a course toward a hoped for future that is faithful to the content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While we will always make room for members at Mountain View, our goal, in keeping with the calling of Jesus Christ, is to make disciples. I believe that in construction of a Food Bank/Community Center and in a lifelong discipleship commitment, that we have set a course for years to come as a place committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

**Pastor John L. Vaswig**

# President of the Congregation

**C**hurch Council members Michael Brauhn, Kevin Dahl, Ken Edmonds, Bruce Sisco, Jon Thieman and I met an average of two meetings per month in 2007 to develop and implement the mission and vision of Mt. View Lutheran Church. The Council experienced significant changes that clearly indicate Mt. View is in a period of transition.

Four members of the Council (Dahl, Edmonds, Sisco, Williams) created a six-week curriculum for the development of lay leadership. These four members taught the first class in the fall to twelve members of the church. The curriculum focuses on prayer, biblical leadership, visioning, challenges and expectations of leadership. The intent is to teach the class again in January of 2008 and the congregation during education hour in the spring of 2008.

Council met in the summer with the Chair of the Ministry Groups to develop the 2008 congregational theme, “One Heart, One Soul, Serving One Lord.” The Council made a concerted effort in 2007 to meet with the Chairs of the Ministry Groups to calendar events and discuss overlapping responsibilities that impact everyone. These meetings have been occurring on a quarterly basis.

The Council vision a new Vision and Mission Statement created “Marks of Discipleship” which replaces the terminology for “Core Convictions”. The congregation at the congregational meeting in November 2007 adopted them. They are:

## **Vision Statement**

*We are called by the Holy Spirit to live out the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

## **Mission Statement**

*Compelled by our calling, we will invite all to worship God and teach disciples to serve Christ in the world.*

## **Marks of Discipleship**

- 1. Inviting the neighbor, welcoming the stranger.*
- 2. Observing Sabbath.*
- 3. Commitment to ten percent and beyond of money, time, and talents to Mt. View.*
- 4. Daily Bible reading.*

# President of the Congregation

5. *Daily prayer.*
6. *Lifelong faith formation.*
7. *Acts of justice and mercy.*
8. *Caring for one another.*

Council proposed at a special congregational meeting to call an Associate Pastor. After a lot of research and discussion the Council decided to amend the call for the Associate Pastor to an emphasis on children, youth and family ministry. The Council decided to stop the search for a Youth Director in lieu of the decision to amend the call. A new model for children, youth and family ministry will unfold under the direction of a new Associate Pastor. The Call Committee recommended a candidate to call in December and a special congregational meeting is scheduled for January of 2008 to issue the call to this Pastor.

Council Member Michael Brauhn has continued to lead the Treasured Hearts Campaign, which made significant progress in 2007. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Food Bank and Community Center took place in the fall of 2007. The expected completion date for the project is in early fall of 2008.

2007 was a year full of change and moving forward in implementing various visions, which required massive energy with minimum staffing. I thank the staff for their dedication and hard work in this transitional year. Without their efforts Mt. View would not be experiencing the growth in depth that she continues to. I thank my peers on the Council for their tireless work and commitment to meet and discuss the work we are called to do on behalf of the church.

In closing, please continue to keep leadership in your prayers, as 2008 will be a continuation of the changes we have experienced in 2007.

In Christ

**Julie Williams**

# Leader of the Public Song

**T**he year 2007 was once again full of activity at Mountain View in regard to her worship life. We continued as a congregation to see worship as a central part of our calling as disciples, so I remain privileged to do the work that provides opportunities for people to come and do their work – God’s liturgy.

Mountain View’s Adult Choir met September through June, providing anthems and other musical offerings for our Sunday morning worship services. In addition, from September through December, we heard from vocal quartets on Sundays, offering preludes, psalm variations and harmony throughout our worship. Thank you to all of the wonderful musicians who have helped to make these variations possible!

Children’s Choir grew this year, under the direction and leadership of Carmen Van Soest. They provided special musical offerings for us throughout the year and continue to learn about the rich heritage of the Lutheran liturgy in their rehearsals, while having fun singing.

The Bells of Mountain View provided special music for us throughout the year again. In addition, they spent many hours outside of Mountain View visiting Adult Care Centers to play mini concerts. Kimberly Rose took over the direction of our Handbell Choir mid-year, after Jennifer Garrett (Gorham) left Mountain View upon her marriage to Nathan.

During the summer, while the Adult Choir was on break, we again had the youth of our congregation provide special musical offerings for our worship on Sunday mornings. It was very well received by our congregation, and was a delight to work with the young people, instructing them of the significance of participation as worship, not performance.

# Leader of the Public Song

In September, a huge change was made on Saturday evenings from *Hope for the Weary* to *Evening Joy*. This change involved finding new music, recruiting musicians from outside of Mountain View, creating PowerPoint presentations, and rehearsals every Saturday. Many people have done a lot of work to make the changes to this service that provides the people of Mt. View another source of worship.

Outside of Sunday mornings, I was also involved with the Women's retreat worship, Synod Assembly worship, and Vacation Bible School facilitation. I serve on the Board of Directors for *Lutheran Summer Music*, and thank Mountain View for the time away to attend meetings in Minneapolis three times a year. In addition, I spent much-needed continuing education time attending the 2007 Worship Jubilee in August and a Choral Convention in April.

God's peace,

**Amy Boers**

# Reports

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**Ministry  
Groups**

# 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"

Current member of the Education Ministry Team include Christine Bruil, Becca Duskin, Ken Edmonds, Karen Ekse, Diane Hagen, and Terry Jensen.

## **Summary of 2007:**

Sunday School curriculum was evaluated and new curriculum implemented in most grade levels over the course of this year. In January 2007 the preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade levels implemented use of the Exploring Faith curriculum. This is a church year based curriculum which presents material in sequential story order and follows a 4 year cycle. In September 2007 the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade levels implemented the use of the Here We Stand curriculum with some modifications to lesson plan style. This material rotates on a 2 year cycle covering the Old Testament and the 10 Commandments one year and the New Testament and the Lord's Prayer in the alternating year. The High School class has been following the common lectionary. We are struggling to find suitable material to fit our goals in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade levels. There is no curriculum currently being used in these classes.

In May 2007 the education ministry team began preparing an educational and instructional resource handbook. This handbook will provide basics about the Lutheran faith for all ages, provide resources for parents to teach their children, and provide age level learning guidelines for parents. The goal of the handbook is to serve as a resource for education in the faith outside of formal education programs provided at Mountain View and to promote education in the faith as a life long experience. The handbook is anticipated to be complete in the spring of 2008.

In September 2007 the ministry team implemented presentation of a children's Bible Storybook to the families of baptized infants and children. The goal of this presentation is to place the stories of God and of Jesus into the hands of parents, giving them a resource to help them teach the stories and educate their children in the faith; thus,

# Education

helping them fulfill their baptismal commitments.

In October 2007 the education ministry team (re)implemented children's participation in worship services. Children between 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are given the opportunity to serve as greeters, ushers, lectors, and communion assistants during worship services.

Staffing changes and shortages over 2007 had a significant impact on the education ministry team. Tasking/recruiting responsibilities delegated from the staff to the ministry team over the course of 2007 included: organize/coordinate or aid in the organization/coordination of a senior breakfast and a confirmation dinner; recruiting responsibilities for Wednesday Night Live elementary teachers and the Christmas program coordinator (as well as finding a suitable program to put on – no suitable material was found and the program was written from scratch this year); and coordination of a Lenten soup dinner, a Saturday night soup dinner (which are no longer offered), and an Advent soup dinner (soup dinners have traditionally been delegated to ministry groups).

The ministry group struggled with the responsibility of recruitment and event organization. We were unsuccessful recruiting for WNL teachers, a Christmas Program coordinator, and/or coordinators or helpers for events. We struggled to find the time amongst the “tasking” responsibilities to pursue vision for ministry in education. We also struggled with low elementary age attendance on Wednesday nights and with finding suitable and meaningful curriculum materials in several areas of education ministry.

## **Vision for 2008:**

In 2008 I would like to, jointly with the staff and council, define the roll of the education ministry team. My hope is to move forward in the ministry of providing meaningful opportunities for education in the faith for all ages, promoting education as a life long endeavor and promoting education as part of daily life in the home and reduce the event organization and “tasking” focus that became the central function of this ministry team over the past year.

# Education

We have several education projects for 2008 we are currently pursuing, which include: completion of the education ministry handbook; a joint project with youth ministry team to put together a high school retreat focusing on the Christian perspective on sexuality; formation of a curriculum sub group to write scope and sequences for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School levels; discussion and development of ways to follow up and help recently confirmed 9<sup>th</sup> graders begin service within the Church; and a joint project with the stewardship ministry team to develop a high school time and talents card specifically addressing the high school age member.

We pray that through education in the faith, we are following the Holy Spirit's calling to form and equip wise and faithful disciples, to live out their baptismal vocation both in the Church and in the world.

**Karen Ekse**

# Mission Endowment

**T**he purpose of the Mountain View Lutheran Church's Mission 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 2007. The Mission Endowment Fund continued to grow in assets during the year. The end of year balance for the Fund was \$317,314.16. This represents a 12% increase in the value of the fund over the previous year. The Fund received \$21,993.92 in contributions in 2007.

Education about the Mission Endowment Fund continues to be the Committee's priority. Monthly church newsletter and bulletin announcements remained a major source of information regarding the Mission Endowment Fund. At November's congregational meeting, Committee chairman Bob Linden gave a presentation regarding the financial status of the Fund and announced the names of Committee members. Bob also explained several ways congregational members could contribute to the Fund.

Applications were received in 2007 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 Committee recommended and the Church Council approved the following Mission Endowment Fund distributions for 2007: \$5,000 for Lutheran Campus Ministry in Seattle; \$5,000 for Saturday's Evening Joy worship for music, instruments and instrumentalists; \$8,000 for the Edgewood Community Food Bank for a pallet jack and shelving; \$7,500 as matching funds for Mt. View Youth's Western States Youth Gathering Trip in 2008; and \$2,000 to Mt. View's Women of the ELCA for non-Lutheran College

# Mission Endowment

Scholarships after their designated monies are exhausted. The total Mission Endowment Fund distribution for 2007 was \$27,500.

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 Fund continued to grow, the possibilities for supporting current and future local, regional, and world ministries increased. Our Committee's commitments to these endeavors remain.

## **Bob Linden**

Committee Members: Bob Linden, chairman; Jon Edmonds, financial secretary; Barrie Mott, recording secretary; Amy Lewis; Darlene McCallum; Tracy Becht; Carolyn Belk; Laura Livingston; Bruce Sisco, Council Member; Pastor John Vaswig, staff

# Peace & Justice

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

Peace and Justice Ministry Group is a fluid mix of disciples who gather for prayer, study, planning, and discussion, then adjourn into the world for action that supports wholeness and reconciliation among God's people and within God's creation. At least that is our intention. Our monthly meetings are on first Thursdays at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Regular attendees this year were: Kristi Ceder (chairman), Carolyn Belk, Barb Henrichsen (recording secretary), Barb Hull, Beth Ann Johnson, Jon Petersen, Chris Ray, Cynthia Zinakova, Kathi Frey, and Sara June Sutton (staff liaison). We welcome anyone who wishes to occasionally participate in our gatherings, and we rely on a dependable group of volunteers.

Study texts included: ELCA Social Statements—"For Peace in God's World" and "Care for Creation"; Articles from Sojourners Study Guide *Holy Ground*, including "What the Heck is Social Justice?" and "Renewing the Whole Creation".

Our areas of focus this year included:

1. Keeping Hunger and Poverty at the forefront through fundraising, advocacy, and service.
  - Sponsored "Taste for the World" to benefit ELCA Hunger Appeal (\$5000+).
  - Organized Hunger Walk participation (100+ walkers, \$8000+).
  - Served dinner at Peace Community Center and Puyallup Armory (total 9).
  - Collected blankets and coats for Associated Ministries and Peace Community Center.
  - Attended Lutheran Advocacy Day in Olympia and lobbied for justice in public policy.
  - Coordinated volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.
  - Coordinated Gifts for Others at Christmas.
2. Expanding and improving individual awareness of the effects of our lifestyles
  - Conducted a survey of church campus and identified areas of possible improvement in practices.
  - Installed paper, aluminum, and plastics recycling bins throughout buildings.
  - Began work on recommended policies and procedures regarding kitchen use,

# Peace & Justice

lighting, and supplies.

- Implemented “green” practices in custodial duties, thanks to Carolyn!
  - Showed the film “An Inconvenient Truth” to a small but enthusiastic audience.
  - Promoted Alternative Giving at Christmas, resulting in \$2500+ to charities and organizations.
3. Supporting and expanding the mission of the Food Bank and Community Center
- Became the parent ministry group for a new Health and Wellness Ministry.
  - Began the process for Mt. View becoming a Red Cross Emergency Shelter.
  - Began planning for a Community Garden.

We sponsored three educational presentations on consecutive Sundays: Faith and Advocacy by Lutheran Public Policy Office, Peace Community Center by Bill Hanawalt and friends, United Nations and Human Rights by Jenn Henrichsen.

We failed to stimulate wide interest in Movie Night presentations of “SuperSize Me” and “Faith Like Potatoes”, but those who came had a great time!

Our plans for this year will include most of this, moving ahead with the Emergency Shelter plans, a “Greener” Church, and Health Ministry support. We hope to initiate a Food Bank Resource Desk, a Community Garden, and a Social Justice Book Club, and would still like to get some edgy movies to watch as a group.

*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**

# Property

**T**he 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 furnace and lawn care service, and coordinate projects with Honey Doers and Heritage Stewards.

## 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Finally obtained the necessary permits from the city of Edgewood to fence the “north” unimproved properties and complete the fence.
2. Removed the moss from the Chapel roof.
3. Contracted and completed painting the outside of the Chapel.
4. Moved all the tools and supplies from the tool shed to the temporary storage trailer, in preparation for building removal for the new food bank.
5. Helped move all the contents from the food bank to temporary quarters until the new food bank is complete.
6. Removed one weeping birch tree and topped two others in front of the Sanctuary.
7. Obtained a contract with a new furnace company, which we believe will serve us better and save us money.
8. Two beautiful benches were built in the front lawn between the Chapel and the Sanctuary by a Boy Scout, working for his Eagle Scout Badge, and donated to our church.
9. Weeds and blackberry vines were cut and sprayed on all unimproved properties several times.
10. Trees and shrubs were sprayed when needed and grounds maintenance continued throughout the year.
11. Set up a Gathering Day booth.
12. Skip Harrison has been spearheading work to clean up the north unimproved property in order to develop a community garden this summer, and possibly provide some fresh produce for the food bank.

# Property

## STRUGGLES AND CHALLENGES

1. The greatest challenge we faced was obtaining permits to complete fencing of the north unimproved property, in order to establish our boundaries, before fence prices increased.
2. To solve the Fellowship Hall leak problems.

## GOALS

1. Install a patio with table and benches between the Education Building and Fellowship Hall, which will replace the present grass area. This will not only be more functional, but will solve a drainage problem. Hopefully, we can raise the money necessary to receive matching funds.
2. Serving our Lord and Mountain View Lutheran Church by keeping our facilities functional and the grounds beautiful.

**Darrel Hagen**

# Stewardship

**T**he Stewardship Ministry Team had a challenging year for 2007. Fred Moebius took over as the new Chairman. We welcomed Chuck Huber and Skip Harrison as new members to the ministry team and Pastor Randy Olson as an advisor. Holdovers include Tracy Becht, Jon Edmunds, and Bruce Sisco.

With a new chairman and new members one of the first goals was to define Stewardship. Stewardship has been equated with the idea of fund raising. It is much more and that was brought out in the Stewardship Job Description. In the Job Description we defined some of the goals or responsibilities: meet with and coordinate activities with other ministry groups; implement methods of identifying, maintaining and distributing lists of volunteers; present opportunities for the application of Christian Stewardship in the use of time, talent and gifts; define creative ways to thank members who give their time, talents and gifts; and develop a year-round emphasis through various media for all ages.

During the year we coordinated and participated with other ministry groups for the summer picnic and going away for intern Ben Quanbeck. This event was well attended and went off well. Also, we formulated a plan to host four Stewardship breakfasts in the fall prior to commitment Sunday. We envisioned having about 40-50 persons attend each breakfast. However, participation or interest in this event was lackluster and they were cancelled.

As the new year unfolds, the Stewardship Ministry is looking to add at least one more new member. In addition, we are working on our Stewardship Education Campaign for 2008. We will learn from our experiences and mistakes of the prior year.

I would like to close with part of a Newsletter article Bruce Sisco so

# Stewardship

eloquently wrote about Stewardship. Through prayer and discernment each of us seeks to hear God's call that defines how we may serve. The call may even lead us to serve in areas in which we are uncomfortable. In Chapter 4 of the Book of Exodus, Moses, uncertain of his ability to lead, plead with God to release him from his calling:

*But he said, "O my Lord, please send someone else."*

As you know, God did not, and through much adversity over the years that followed, Moses succeeded. You may find yourself being asked by the Spirit to accept leadership or to give more of your time, talents and gifts. And, you may feel poorly equipped. Like Moses, you may say: "why me?" As you move forward in your vocation the Spirit remains with you.

**Fred Moebius**

# Women of the ELCA

**T**he mission statement of Women of the ELCA is: “To Mobilize Women to Act Boldly on their Faith in Jesus Christ!” One of the ways women from Mountain View act boldly on their faith is by attending the annual Convention and Mt Rainier Cluster Event. Flora Larson was the delegate to the Convention for a second year in a row.

The WELCA monthly general board meetings are open meetings. The Mountain View Women of the ELCA handbook lists all the names of women in circles. Dates for events during the year are listed. All women of the church receive this booklet.

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 were awarded to two high school seniors who are attending non-Lutheran colleges. Thrivent “Care in Congregations” provided \$500.00 to the scholarship fund. Twenty round tables (folding) with tablecloths were purchased.

The circles provide monthly cleaning of the church kitchen. A Spring Tea was held on April 21, 2007. 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. Quilters attended a Thrivent luncheon and received several rolls of quilt batting from Thrivent.

# **Women of the ELCA**

2007 benevolences were given to Edgewood Food Bank, Tacoma Rescue Mission, Wycliffe Bible Translators for Norm and Patricia Purvis, Exodus House, Helping Hand House, Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy, YWCA Women's Support Shelter, Lutheran World Relief, Heifer Project, and Salvation Army.

**Carol Fossum**

# Worship & Music

**M**arylou Ginther retired as Flower Coordinator, and Kelly Thieman took her place. Kelly purchased green plants to enhance the worship space in both the main sanctuary and chapel.

A prayer vigil was held on March 2-3 in conjunction with the Treasured Hearts campaign. Marlys Cheney did a beautiful job of setting up the sanctuary.

Amy's mother, Marti Davenport, made new Lenten paraments for Hope for the Weary.

Jennifer got married and attends church with her husband, so Kimberly Rose took over as director of the bell choir. The bell choir participated in the Greater Puget Sound Region Handbell Conference held at Kent-Meridian high school in May.

A subcommittee consisting of Amy, Pastor John, Dave Ekse, Jim Hushagen and Barrie met several times to consider changes to the Saturday night worship format. The quiet and contemplative Hope for the Weary service was changed to a more upbeat contemporary worship and named Evening Joy to hopefully attract young people as well as people from the surrounding community. A new logo was created. Amy and Peter Briggs take turns as worship music leader. A drum set was purchased and Dylan was hired to play drums 30 times per year. The Revised Common Lectionary is used as the text for the homily. A simple order of worship card and use of screen allows for freedom and spontaneity. All possibilities are explored and the service continues to be evaluated and refined. The use of power point presented numerous problems. We did some research, and a new computer used solely for Evening Joy will be purchased and installed in January.

The Outreach Ministry Group became responsible for training greeters, ushers, hospitality hosts and information booth attendants. Karen Slavens took over the task of making the monthly schedule and mailing it. She found some software to assist in same, and it was purchased.

Mountain View was responsible for planning the worship services and setting up the worship space for the SW Washington Synod Assembly in Tacoma on May 17-19. A new banner for the event was made by Carolee Berntsen, Terry Johnson, Flora Larson, Joan Root and Barrie. The bell choir and children's choir both participated in the

# Worship & Music

worship services. Bob was Head Usher for the entire event and recruited all the necessary help.

Various discussions were held regarding the drop in average worship attendance from 2005 (420) to 2006 (409) and possible reasons for same. The single most important factor is members' lack of inviting new people and encouraging other current members to attend on a regular basis. We continue to struggle against the culture as we seek to uphold the gospel.

Acolytes were trained in September by Barrie and Karen Slavens. Terry Jensen and Dirk Pettitt took pictures of each, and Karen put them in the narthex notebook to assist Head Ushers in identifying them.

We received a proposal from the Education Ministry Group for children in grades 3-8 to participate more regularly in worship as ushers, greeters, acolytes and lectors to help educate them about worship and to build a connection to the church through involvement. Students may also provide music during the offering in coordination with Amy. The Education Ministry Group will present the Read and Learn Bible to baptized infants/children and their parents.

Dave Cheney became the treasurer of the congregation, so he retired as Head Usher and was replaced by Stan Nye.

Lenten midweek worship services were based on Luke 12:15-34 with the topics Take Care!, What Should I Do?, Consider the Ravens, Strive for the Kingdom, and Unfailing Treasure in Heaven. The three Advent midweek themes were Waiting in Restraint, Waiting in Hope, and Waiting in Faith.

## Barrie Mott

Members: Amy Boers, Dave Cheney, Dave Ekse, Jennifer Garret Gorham, Wes Grenland, Bob Kostelecky, Flora Larson, Barrie Mott, Stan Nye, Kimberly Rose, Carmen Van Soest, Pastor John

# Altar Guild

**A**ltar Guild's main purpose and responsibility is for preparing the altar for the sacrament of Holy Communion for each Sunday worship service. During 2007 we also prepared the Communion table for the Saturday evening worship service. We also prepare Communion for special services i.e. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and on request for funerals and weddings. Altar Guild was responsible for Communion at the Friday and Saturday worship services at the Synod Assembly held at the Tacoma Convention Center in May 2007. Communion was served to 400 people at each service.

Altar Guild is responsible for changing the paraments to the color that corresponds with the church liturgical calendar. Other behind the scene duties each week include making sure the pews are in neat order and supplied with pencils and offering envelopes, keeping the candles filled with oil, clean and fill baptismal font, replace wicks in candle lighting wands, wash/ press altar linens and the acolyte robes as needed.

Seventeen dedicated members served in 2007. Each member serves two months a year and two or three Sundays during the months of June, July and August. We had one member resign in 2007 and added three new members. We typically need 20 members and two chairpersons to efficiently provide all the duties of this ministry. We presently could use additional members. Flora Larson and Diane Nelson served as co-chairpersons in 2007.

Milton Safeway supplied the altar flowers at a cost of \$35 for the two bouquets. Members of the congregation provide for the cost of the flowers 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 from January through April and Kelly

# **Altar Guild**

Thieman from May through December 2007. Flora Larson was responsible for the placing of the Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies that adorn the altar during those very special seasons.

Several members of the congregation bake the communion bread and there always seems to be an abundance of bread. Thank you bread bakers.

At each Baptism a napkin is give to the baptized, infant to adult that is personally made by Flora Larson. Each child is also given a quilt that is handmade by our quilters. A candle placed in a Dove candleholder handmade by Rod Jacobson is also given at the Baptism.

Thank you all for your participation and dedication to this very vital ministry group.

God's Peace.

**Flora Nelson & Diane Nelson**



# **Statistics**

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## **Parochial Report**

# Statistics

## MEMBERSHIP

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Members Received in 2007:		
By Baptism – Children	9	
By Baptism – Adults	4	4
By Affirmation of Faith	17	17
By Transfer from ELCA	10	7
By Other Transfer	0	0
Statistical Adjustments:	0	0
Baptized youth confirmed in 2007:		9
 Total Received:	 40	 37
 Members Removed in 2007:		
By Death	7	7
By Transfer	15	12
Statistical Adjustments:	9	7
 Total Removed:	 31	 26
 Membership December 31, 2006:	 1170	 858
Net Change in Membership:	9	11
Membership December 31, 2007:	1179	869

# Statistics

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	2007	2006
Average Sunday worship	396	409
Average Lenten midweek	140	154
Average Advent midweek	162	127
Confirmation/Reformation	494	494
Thanksgiving Eve	146	130
Christmas Eve	682	395
Easter	644	879



# **Minutes**

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## **Congregational Meetings**

# Minutes • Sunday 25 March 2007

## CALL TO ORDER

President Kevin Dahl called the meeting to order. With 165 confirmed and voting members present, President Kevin announced a quorum.

## CALL FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

President Kevin informed the congregation that the church council recommends a call be issued for an Associate Pastor. The position would involve preaching; some teaching; pastoral care; staff presence to the Confirmation program, Outreach Ministry Group, and Peace & Justice Ministry Group; and possible supervision of the Youth Ministry Group. The Southwestern Washington Synod will work with Mountain View during the call process if approved. The call process is expected to take six months to one year.

President Kevin entertained the following motion, which was moved and seconded:

*It is moved that the congregation of Mountain View Lutheran Church establish a Call Committee for the purpose of calling an Associate Pastor.*

Discussion ensued.

It was M/S/P to call the question. It was M/S/P to entertain a voice vote.  
**The motion passed.**

President Kevin entertained the following motion, which was moved and seconded:

*It is moved that the following members of the congregation be considered as candidates for the Associate Pastor Call Committee: Nancy Cohrs, Dallas Harwood, Jon Hillstead, John Knierim, Sherry Nye, Cecilia Purvis, Chris Ray, and Jon Thieman.*

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It was M/S/P to close nominations. It was M/S/P to cast a unanimous ballot.  
**The motion passed.**

President Kevin reminded the congregation to give suggestions for Associate Pastor candidates to the Call Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary

# Minutes • Sunday 20 May 2007

## ATTENDANCE

93 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 19 November 2006 congregational meeting. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Sunday 25 March 2007 congregational meeting.

## STATE OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

Chris Ray, chairperson of the Associate Pastor Call Committee, introduced the members of the Call Committee to the congregation—Nancy Cohrs, Dallas Harwood, Jon Hillstead, John Knierim, Sherry Nye, Ceciliias Purvis, Chris Ray, and John Thieman. She spoke of the work of the committee at their four meetings: (1) reviewing the call manual; (2) writing the job description; (3) meeting with Ron Hoyum, assistant to the SWWA Synod Bishop, to review the Synod's responsibilities; and (4) developing interview questions. She also requested that congregational members give names of qualified candidates to the committee.

# Sunday 20 May 2007 • Minutes

## STATE OF STAFFING

Pastor John spoke regarding the Youth Director and Community Coordinator positions. There are currently candidates for both positions. Finding the right candidate for the Youth Director is a challenge. Nationwide, there are 1400 congregations with open youth ministry positions. Luther Seminary has 55 youth candidates graduating this spring. Each candidate is entertaining six to eight, or more, job offers. Finding the right candidate for the Community Coordinator position means someone who can balance the “inreach” and outreach aspects of the job—bolstering congregational discipleship and extending into the world. The congregation needs to be very present during the process of meeting and interviewing candidates—such as youth and parents being present when the Youth Director candidate is here, and the congregation giving faithfully to the spending guidelines.

## STATE OF THE FINANCES

President Kevin spoke regarding the giving shortfall. For the first four months, the congregation is more than \$33,000 behind spending guidelines, more than \$32,000 behind comparable 2006 giving, and more than \$6,000 behind expenses. If giving does not increase, then it will be difficult to hire the needed staff positions. The request was to remain faithful to pledges and giving, especially during the summer months, which are traditionally weak giving months.

Other financial items discussed:

- A congregational member challenged other members to write a check for \$1,000, above and beyond regular giving, at the meeting, as she was going to do. Approximately eight to ten members agreed to do so.
- It was announced that Bob Yost would be completing his service as congregational treasurer. Dave Cheney has agreed to serve in the role of treasurer for two years.

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- A request for semiannual giving statements for congregational members.
- A “plug” for Simply Giving, which helps individuals and families to be consistent and accountable in giving, but also helps overall giving to be more consistent.

## STATE OF TREASURED HEARTS

Don Mott, chairperson of the Treasured Hearts Committee, stated that pledged donations to the campaign were \$669,000, with \$202,000 received to date. The pledges are above the \$650,000 in the initial motion, which is appropriate since construction costs continue to increase at a rate of one percent per month. Gordon Trucking is providing three trailers to help with the Edgewood Community Food Bank during its transitional phase.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION

It was M/S/P to elect Karen Fink, Dave Gray, and Dirk Pettitt to the Nominating Committee for one-year terms.

## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE ELECTION

It was M/S/P to elect Darlence to the Mission Endowment Fund Committee for a one-year term, and Tracy Becht, Carolyn Belk, Amy Lewis, and Laura Livingston to three-year terms.

## CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION

It was M/S/P to elect Michael Brauhn, Kevin Dahl, Ken Edmonds, Bruce Sisco, Ken Swanson, Jon Thieman, and Julie Williams to the Church Council for one-year terms.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

President Kevin announced that the church council will be laying out its vision priorities—staffing, leadership development—in more detail at the

# Sunday 20 May 2007 • Minutes

Wednesday 23 May 2007 Wednesday Night Live.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Pastor John spoke regarding:

- His thankfulness to the Spirit-led boldness and risk-taking of the members who stepped forward at the meeting to help with the giving shortfall.
- His thankfulness for the work of many Mountain View members at the 2007 Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly.
- The Sunday 15 July farewell picnic for Ben the Intern, asking members to save the date on their calendars.
- The eventual return of Pastor Dean Berg after he is fully recovered from hip surgery.
- Pastor Jon Petersen joining staff on an interim basis to help with preaching, presiding, and pastoral care.
- The past year being the toughest he has seen in congregational ministry, although good things have come of it, such as council development of a lay leadership curriculum.

Pastor John thanked President Kevin Dahl for his service to the congregation and presented him with an imprinted Bible on behalf the congregation.

## BENEDICTION

## ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,  
Troy Kehm-Goins, Recording Secretary

# Minutes • Sunday 18 November 2007

## ATTENDANCE

134 voting members of the congregation were present, which established a quorum.

## CALL TO ORDER

President of the Congregation Julie Williams opened the meeting with prayer. She declared a quorum established and present. She gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

## MINUTES

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Sunday 20 May 2007 congregational meeting.

## STATE OF THE TREASURED HEARTS CAMPAIGN

Michael Brauhn, vice-chairperson of the Treasured Hearts Committee, gave an update of work on the new Mountain View Community Center: home of the Edgewood Community Food Bank.

- Giving is good.
- Delays in construction, primarily due to the permit process, along with cost increases and inflation will mean that the entire project will be in excess of the budget. Outside gifts, new grants, and additional pledges will cover those costs.
- A bridge loan is being pursued.
- The Phase II feasibility study will commence after completion and commissioning of the MVCC building.

## STATE OF THE MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Bob Linden, chairperson of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, gave an update of ministry of the Mission Endowment Fund.

- The application process for resources was explained.

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- The allocation of resources was explained, especially the process for the past couple of years and the upcoming allocations.

## STATE OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL PROCESS

Chris Ray, chairperson of the Associate Pastor Call Committee, gave an update of the call process.

- The Committee interviewed three candidates via telephone.
- Two of the three candidates are coming to Mountain View for live interviews in early December. Both of those candidates have a capacity for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, although not the training. However, Roland Martinson of Luther Seminary has agreed to train whomever receives and accepts the call.

## VISION, MISSION, AND MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

It was M/S/P to accept the new vision statement, mission statement, and marks of discipleship for Mountain View.

### Vision:

We are called by the Holy Spirit to live out the love of God in Jesus Christ.

### Mission:

Compelled by our calling, we will invite all to worship God and teach disciples to serve Christ in the world.

### Marks of Discipleship:

1. Inviting the neighbor, welcoming the stranger.
2. Observing Sabbath.
3. Commitment of ten percent and beyond of money, time, and talents to Mountain View.
4. Daily Bible reading.

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5. Daily prayer.
6. Lifelong faith formation.
7. Acts of justice and mercy.
8. Caring for one another.

## 2008 SPENDING GUIDELINES

It was M/S/P to adopt the 2008 spending guidelines of \$932, 981.00.

## 2008 SWWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

It was M/S/P to elect Michael Brauhn, Rebecca Brauhn, Jon Edmonds, Julie Williams, and Mark Williams as delegates to the 2008 Southwestern Synod Assembly.

## NEXT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The next congregational meeting is Sunday 04 May 2008 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Pastor John Vaswig thanked President Julie for her leadership of the congregation.

## BENEDICTION

## ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary



# **Vision • Mission • Marks of Discipleship**

## **Vision Statement**

We are called by the Holy Spirit to live out the love of God in Jesus Christ.

## **Mission Statement**

Compelled by our calling, we will invite all to worship God and teach disciples to serve Christ in the world.

## **Marks of Discipleship**

1. Inviting the neighbor, welcoming the stranger.
2. Observing Sabbath.
3. Commitment of ten percent and beyond of money, time, and talents to Mountain View.
4. Daily Bible reading.
5. Daily prayer.
6. Lifelong faith formation.
7. Acts of justice and mercy.
8. Caring for one another.