

Preparing for the Harvest

"Open your eyes and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest!"

John 4:35

Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church ~ 2007 Annual Report

Report of the Pastor

STRIVING FOR SINLESSNESS AND TRUE LOVE

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him...

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. (1 John 3:1-6; 16-23)

This chapter is an eye-opening chapter to the fact of what uncompromised love looks like. If we follow through with what we read here, this is life changing. Living in fellowship with God and with each other as children in the same divine family is a calling for each of us. It is wonderful to see the purifying influence of the blessed hope we see in verses 2 and 3 of this chapter. As we love God, he will help us strive for sinlessness, as we see in verses 6 and 9. Of course, many of us are troubled by this, saying, "How can we live sinless in this world?" Again, I say, only through the person of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit will this be possible. John knows that many of the children of God that love him and each other battle with sin each day (1 Corinthians 10:13) – and we are reminded that we have an advocate when we do sin (1 John 2:1-3). But in this chapter, John is referring to those who don't love God and seem not to be bothered with habitual practices of sin. That's the person the apostle is describing.

*From the
Pastor*



He makes it clear that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8). We are called to love other believers, whether or not they love us in return. This is one evidence of the assurance of salvation (v. 14). The indwelling Spirit is also there to assure us (v. 24). What a chapter this is for a loveless world like ours. What bitter feud and estrangement characterizes so many Christians today who fail to love God and each other. But praise be to our wonderful heavenly father – we are beginning to see, feel, and experience some new Holy Spirit wind that is fanning the flames of love in our midst. So let not the world, the flesh, or the devil quench this new wind. Let us show our continuing love toward God by spending time with him in prayer and with him in his word, meditating on his person. Also, let us love each other by spending time in the word and in prayer, and in worship together, in serving each other and those in our community. May the glory and the honor and praise of his name be magnified among all the peoples with whom we interact. Never forget, we can only go so far as we go together in and through the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

MINISTRY UPDATES

The Second Mile Men's Bible Study continues to be an incredible blessing and challenge to each of the men who participate. We have anywhere from 15 to 20 men who participate each week. One of the most exciting and blessing experiences we have witnessed is not only seeing people come to faith, but also to see the growth and development of our own men who have stepped up to the plate. These men are showing their gifts and their desire and passion for the Word of God. This has been deeply encouraging. We had a men's retreat last January that was very blessing and encouraging. We have had men step up and work around the church and for those in need. We have seen godly men rising up and growing the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our "Prospective Leaders" training occurs every other week. We share dinner and fellowship, and spend about 2 hours discussing what it takes to be a leader in the church, in the service of our Lord.

The Family Fall Festival was an incredible blessing, particularly to see such a large representation from our own church in preparing and ministering to our community. Many in our community experienced great blessing – and they are still, to this day, speaking of that day. If you'd like to see some photographs from that day, visit our church website.

We started taking Fridays to go out and visit newcomers and those who desire a visit from our church. We found the experience blessing and encouraging, and have seen families recommit to fellowship, and also come to know Jesus Christ. We are learning to love our community with God's *agape* love. Also on Fridays, before we visit, we have gathered on Fridays for personal and corporate prayer.

We hosted a training session run by American Association of Christian Counselors in October, teaching how to respond to grief and trauma. Three of our women were able to participate in these courses free of charge, and are better prepared to minister in the congregation in times of great need.

We also hosted a youth worker training conference called “RELOAD” – I participated by presenting a session on violence and gangs with one of the detectives from the Police Department who is an expert on gangs in the inner city.

In partnership with other churches, we had an International Worship Night, led by a worship team from an Indonesian church. It may have been different for each of those who attended, but different is good – when it is for the glory of God.

On Thanksgiving, we continued our annual dinner with lots of help from Tony and Lily and many others. The response to the food baskets was not as extensive as we would have expected, but there was plenty of food available for all who requested it.

Home Builders has been designed with the purpose of strengthening our families within the church – both single parents and couples who desire to strengthen their family ties. Sandy and Bill Burton and Joey and Jeanne Muñoz are currently leading this class, and may be gaining additional help from a couple who are visiting with us for a season. Also from Church of the Saviour, Frank Carioli has come alongside to help with the youth Sunday School class. We are also glad to have Lois, his wife, with us from time to time. I believe this is a direct answer to our prayer to raise up people both within and outside the church to minister with us.

Upcoming events to pray about:

- ◆ Our church picnic
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Continued partnership with the Whosoever Gospel Mission, and the afterschool program, and possible partnering for drug and alcohol counseling
- ◆ Children’s Safe Harbor possible partnerships, sharing life in the culture of death among children
- ◆ Men’s retreat in June, and a women’s retreat in May.
- ◆ National Police Week
- ◆ Mother’s and Father’s Day, and even Children’s Day

Other areas of ministry to continue to pray about:

- ◆ Work with the police, doing roll calls, serving as a chaplain
- ◆ Chaplaincy at the Cancer Treatment Center of America, and the patients and their families, for whom I’ve done some funerals
- ◆ Continued relationship building with the Muslims in our community, and with other ministers who focus on Muslim outreach.

Your pastor, brother, and friend,

Luis Centeno

Report of the Sunday School Superintendent



"Wyoming" is becoming the "place to be" for more Feltonville kids than ever! Here are some of the different ways God is drawing the young ones to Him:

SUNDAY MORNING

In 2007 we continued with the highly successful large group / small group format, using materials called "Living Inside Out." No programming was offered at the 9:30 hour, and kids in grades K-5 were asked to worship with their families at the beginning of the church service until the time came for them to exit. Then we all met upstairs for our own singing and Bible point time, afterward breaking up into small groups of five or six kids, each in its own age group, and each with its own small group leader.

This method of staffing worked very well for the better part of the year. Then in the Spring, it started to become more difficult to obtain volunteers to head up the small groups. By year's end we were in a situation where we had to go back to splitting the kids into two groups, each with up to 10 or more kids, because on most Sundays the only staff members available were Debby and Becky Crockett, the director and assistant director. In addition, the publisher of the "Living Inside Out" curriculum had decided to not produce any more materials after the first year's worth. To stretch out the remaining materials, some month's programs were based on the essential portions of various 2007 VBS programs other than the one we used in our VBS. Some of this material, since it was being used in the Fall after most churches were finished with VBS, was donated to us by 2 churches we had contact with online.

So as 2007 came to a close, we were faced with finding new materials and with finding new ways to encourage members of the congregation to volunteer. But still, a big THANK YOU goes out to all of the small group volunteers who DID come forward to help throughout the year. As we move into 2008, everyone is encouraged to find out what Children's Ministry is all about, and to answer the call to be a part of this most important privilege in God's Kingdom.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School was "Avalanche Ranch," taking us to a cattle ranch high in the Rockies to learn about God. Our format was the same as last year, with no graded classes for older children. Small groups of about five children of mixed ages, or "crews," traveled from one activity to another over the course of the evening, led by their crew leader. These crew leaders were mostly youth visiting from a Chinese church near Baltimore, Maryland.

For this year's "hands-on" missions project, the children stuffed "Prayer Bears," brightly printed with the name of Jesus in English, French, and Spanish. The bulk of these were sent to a hospital in Cameroon along with scripture booklets in French, and a small number of the bears were given to Beky Poteat to take back with her to Togo. Thanks goes out to those who contributed in various ways to decorate, provide the unusual snacks, and present the Bible in exciting new ways. Special thanks goes to those who had their first time working in the ministry, due to the program's being offered in the evening for the first time in 30 years!

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

On October 31, we had our fourth "Fall Family Festival," giving the kids in our community a fun and safe alternative to knocking on doors for candy. For the first time, the event required blocking off Wyoming Avenue to make room for the huge inflated games and all of the booths. Young children were invited with their parents to come inside the building for a scaled-down version of the same fun going on outside for the older ones. Young and old were treated to an evening of fun, games, prizes, great music, fabulous food (much of which was donated by businesses in the area), and the preaching of the Gospel! Thanks to all who made it possible.

COOKIE DAY

In November, the Sunday Bible School sponsored the annual cookie day, producing hundreds of cookies for the Whosoever Gospel Mission After School Program, and the Philadelphia Park racetrack ministry. Thanks to those who came and made it a success.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

This year, our kids joined with kids from Church of the Saviour to put on the musical "The Mystery of the Manger." The program was performed at both COS and Wyoming. On the day of the performance at COS (in Wayne, PA), our kids spent the afternoon between rehearsal and performance having food and fun at Chuck E. Cheese's in Berwyn. An amazing time was had by all! A big thanks goes to Jen Rivera, Wanda Montanez, Frank from COS, and all the others who made it possible by giving their time to work and be with us.

THE CHALLENGE

This remains the same, year after year. Praise be to God that the children continue to be with us, not just for special events, but every week as we gather for Bible study, prayer, and worship. As always, we end the year with great opportunities ahead of us. Please consider how you, a member of the church of yesterday, might fit in to the many opportunities for service to the church of today, our kids. We ask for your continued support, through prayer, and in bringing out children, and joining us in the work.

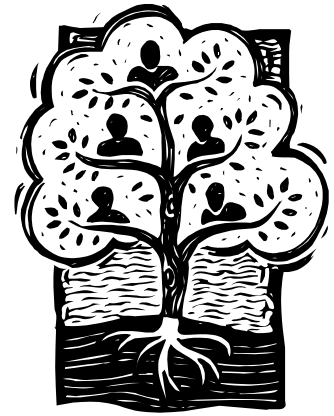
Respectfully submitted by Debra Crockett, Sunday School Superintendent

Report of the Board of Deacons

THE SPIRIT AT WORK

The biggest theme of our work as a church in 2007 was this: **you stepped up to the plate**. God is moving among us to mature us, his people, in character, commitment, and service.

If you look at attendance, we are a smaller church than in 2005 and 2006. While our numbers have not increased, **we have grown together** as the body of Christ – in maturity, in wisdom, in ministry one to another. The men's and women's fellowships continue to be a "flash-point" for the work of the Spirit among us, bringing men and women into fellowship with the Lord, and into fellowship with his people. These times of family building have made us stronger and more focused on the gospel.



*Growing
Together*

We had amazing volunteer involvement in Vacation Bible School, the Family Fall Festival, the church flag football team, and other events. In areas where we had relied on other churches for staffing, you stepped up to the plate, not only filling the gaps, but building a sense of "community" with one another and with our neighbors.

UNITY IN THE BODY AND WORSHIP

We reported last year that we felt it was necessary to have two separate worship services, one with a more traditional flavor, the other more contemporary. Well, it was an idea that fell flat on its face with you, the congregation. You valued unity above personal preference – people renewed their commitment to corporate worship, and that was that. (Shirley says, "us old goats are getting used to the way things are.") Praise God!

We have had a mix of live and recorded music in our services, including the worship videos for many newer songs, to try to incorporate a more contemporary sound. As the congregation grows (particularly in maturity), we are looking at engaging those of you with musical talent to improve the quality and variety of our worship. Mildred Arroyo has already started working with teenagers to form a youth choir, and those interested in worship will begin meeting on a regular basis this January.

PRE-SCHOOL: END OF A SEASON

Sadly, this past year saw the end of a long season in the life of church. One of our pre-school teachers, Annie Rodriguez, died suddenly in May, just after school ended for the

summer. With the shrinking number of students, the difficulty of finding another qualified teacher, and the inability of the church to financially support the school, we decided not to open the Pre-School for the 2007-2008 school year. This is not just the end of a season for the church, it is an end of a season for long-time teachers Nancy Dambach and Shirley Parcell. Nancy worked for the school for over 30 years, and Shirley for 20 years. For the last few years, Nancy was also director of the pre-school.

We are already thinking of how we can re-make in ways that make it a more helpful ministry to our community and also self-supporting. Pray that God would provide guidance and wisdom and opportunity as we look forward in faith.

MINISTRY TEAM CHANGES

This past year also brought with it changes in our body and in the ministry team at the church. Coz and Joyce Crosscombe joined CityNet Ministries as missionaries, and are now working with a large group of churches. Coz in particular helps churches “network” with each other to share resources, skills, and knowledge. Their membership continues to be at Wyoming, but they are in the process of visiting churches to find a good base for their new ministry. We continue to support Coz and Joyce through our missionary budget.

Jen and Maher Salhani joined the American Missionary Fellowship, and continue to meet with and build up the Muslim Bridge Team. The outreach to Muslims in this area has radically changed over the past two years, and they are praying and seeking the Lord’s guidance as to how he wants this work reformed. We continue to support Jen and Maher through our missionary budget.

Following Marion Burke’s retirement as secretary in 2006, Jen Salhani stepped in to fill the position. With Jen Salhani’s departure in March, Pastor Lou has been mostly without an assistant in the office. Thankfully, God brought Jen and Harold Rivera to the church in the fall, and Jen has been volunteering a couple days each week in the office. Many secretaries wait to answer phone calls – Jen will be calling you to get you involved.

In July, Pastor Marni resigned from his position at the church, and he and Linda are now at Cedar Grove Church. We pray that God would continue to work in their lives and bless their ministry together.

This coming year, Pastor Daniel will be transitioning into his role as director of Comprehensive Vocational Academies, Int’l, the group that was formed to implement the vision God has given to Pastor Daniel for a Christian vocational school in his home country of Cameroon. For the near future, we will be providing Pastor Daniel with a place to stay, free of charge, and with a significant level of annual missionary support. Please pray that God would raise up faithful and generous givers to complete what is needed in Pastor Daniel and Rose’s personal support, as well as the funds needed to build and start the school in Cameroon.

GROWING LEADERS

For the first time in many years, we see the number of servants in the congregation growing instead of shrinking. From among these are rising a new harvest of leaders for this church. Pastor Lou is leading a "Prospective Leaders" class using Warren Wiersbe's book, *On Being a Servant of God*.

We praise God that he is preparing men and women to lead his people. While the church has changed and diversified amazingly over the last few years, the leadership has come mostly from the "old church." It is time that the leadership of the church fully reflects the people in the congregation – old and young, and of different cultures and ethnicities.

OUR ROLE AS DEACONS

As I look back on the past year, I'm wondering about the role of the Deacons in the church. Where do we fit in this fabric of the body?

- (1) As "Deacons," a word which means "Servant," we are servants of God set apart for serving his church. We seek to relieve the pastors of much of the regular work of the church that would keep them occupied. Each one of us is fully committed and involved in different areas of service in the church: Worship, Adult Sunday School, Youth, Children, Finances, and Building.
- (2) As Deacons, we are supposed to lead you into service for Christ. God has gifted his church with pastors, teachers, etc., to prepare his people for works of service. We are to lead by example, by instruction, and by encouragement. Pastor Lou has taken the lead in offering a class on "Prospective Leadership," and we are seeing more and more people involved in service.
- (3) At Wyoming, the Deacons also serve many of the roles of New Testament elders. We are responsible for providing direction and vision for the church, for dealing with division and disagreement among the body, and with formative and corrective discipline. These are tasks that are very difficult for us, and for which, quite honestly, we are not well prepared. Continue to encourage us as we seek to be peacemakers, not just appeasers, and as we work with Pastor Lou to articulate a strong vision for the future of this church – God's church in this place.

Respectfully submitted by Walt Rice, Jr.

Report of the Board of Trustees

The good Lord has blessed us in so many ways this past year. Indeed, it has been a year that has turned us around, in that, the Holy Spirit has convicted and changed many of our lives in a very positive and loving way toward committing ourselves more fully as good stewards for the cause of Jesus Christ here at Wyoming.

Many, many things too numerous to mention in this brief report were accomplished this past year and the Board of Trustees wishes to thank one and all who have expressed their love and concern for the many physical needs of our wonderful church by utilizing their God-given gifts and talents toward this end.

May the Lord also continue to bless our monetary efforts, which enable us to provide a clean, safe, and desirable environment for our Sunday School and Church activities. One very major work project that has been pending for some time now, due to the lack of necessary funds, concerns the exterior stone pointing and reinforcement work to the superstructure, which needs to be done as soon as possible. Remember, The Lord loves a cheerful giver, and you have shown your love and cheerful concern in this effort... we have begun a good work for the Lord, let us not falter now.

Respectfully submitted by George Parcell, Chairman



Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

*"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."*

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

Report of the Board of Missions

Praise the Lord! We were able to meet our proposed budget for 2007. Thank you one and all for your generous giving of support to our missionaries.

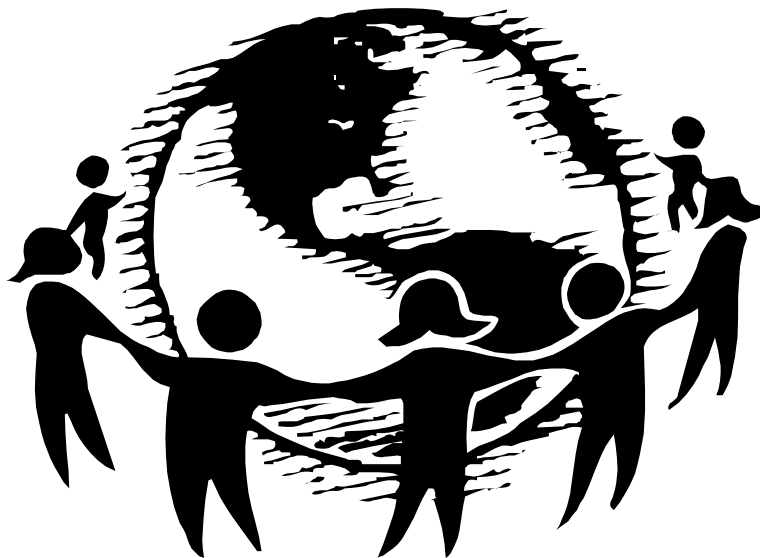
Once again we had a Missions focus month in October. Various groups participated in the making and serving of the lunches each week. Our guests included:

- ♦ Bob Emberger and Heather Rice from the Whosoever Gospel Mission
- ♦ Dick Trout, former pastor of Maranatha Tabernacle, and now working with Amazing Grace Ministry, a food ministry based in Delaware
- ♦ Joe Darrow, with American Missionary Fellowship, who is serving at Cornerstone Community Church in Kensington
- ♦ Rebekah Poteat, one of our supported missionaries serving in Togo, Africa

Miss Rebekah Poteat also spoke to the Sunday Bible School children and brought a message from Togo. She was given a gift of 20 bears made in Vacation Bible School to take with her back to Togo. The other nearly 90 bears were sent to Cameroon along with pocket Bible books in French.

Various members and friends participated in making cookies for the Race Track Ministry again this year. The "Change for Missions" jug was filled up in time to send Pastor Daniel to Cameroon with an extra gift – half of the change was given for his ministry there, the other half towards the Missions budget. The total amount from the jug was \$451. Thank you for each little thing you do to support our missionaries.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Hinchcliff



Ladies of Virtue



About a year ago we felt a need to start a Lady's Bible Study. We started off with about ten women, called our group Ladies of Virtue (L.O.V) taken from Proverbs 13. Our first meetings were led by Elizabeth Hernandez (Refuge). She started us with the topic on "Holiness", and then we decided to do the study on The Lie's Women Believe and the Truth that set them free by Kay Arthur. Elizabeth started to feel too weak from her illness to continue coming down each week, so I had to take over and lead the study.

We were able to organize our first Women's Retreat which took place in June at Spade. Seventeen Ladies attended and we were all blessed through the speaker Teresa Verdecchio and her worship team. The topic for the weekend was the Alabaster Box found in Luke 7:37-50. It was great to see how Ladies of different backgrounds and age bonded and worked together and made it such a blessed weekend.

After having the summer off, on September we resume our studies. I decided to give others the chance to share with the rest of us what God has been teaching them. So each week we are being blessed with hearing each others heart. We are now averaging about 15-20 ladies each week.

This all takes place in my living room at 1209 E Wyoming Ave. We start at 7 p.m. thru 9, with fellowship, worship, bible study and end in prayer. Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of each Lady, as she seeks to equip herself with God's Word.

Bobbi Jo has kindly offered her spiritual gift by e-mailing a devotional each day, which consist of prayer requests and reminder of all events.

Here are a few brief comments from some of our ladies.

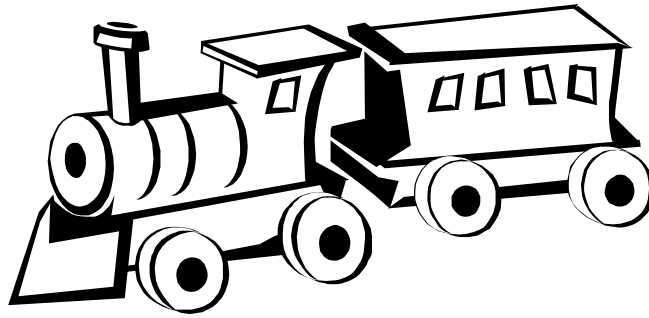
"Tuesday night bible class has been great. We get to know each other in a personal way. The prayers are so uplifting. The retreat was well organized and we really had fun. I did not hear anyone say they did not have fun." (Pat)

"The Bible study has been very helpful to me. I enjoyed the message everyone gives, especially the paper which Bobbi Jo did. I used the paper for Thanksgiving dinner." (Kathryn)

"It is great to see how God is moving in the hearts of the women's bible study. And I'm excited to see what God is going to do this year. The women are being opened and transparent as we pray for each other. God is moving. Amen" (Bobbi)

"I find that the women's bible study has encouraged my participation because of the relationships I've developed over the years. The message always applies in one area or another." (Sandy)

Yours in Christ, Ladies of Virtue, Elsie Centeno



Christmas Toy Shop

This year I had the privilege of running this ministry. We started a little late in asking for donations, but we were tremendously blessed. Church of the Savior, First Baptist of Blackwood N.J., American Missionary Fellowship, Wyoming Ave Baptist Church and Whosoever Will Gospel were the ministries who help us accomplish this year's Toy Sale.

We give thanks to all of you who gave time, toys, money, tape, bake goods, wrapping paper and especially for Kristie, Jenny, Bobbi, Sue, Emily, Issam, Oji, and some of the teens who help wrap.

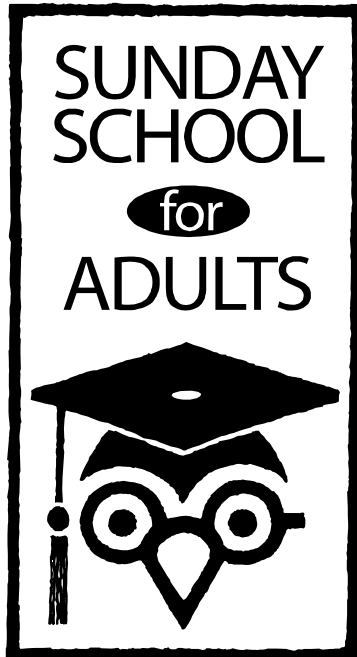
The way we got the families that we served was that we gave 10 applications to Bethel Temple, St. Christopher, In The Light Ministry, Aspira, Wyoming Ave Baptist and called last years contacts. These organizations then referred to us families that were in need. We were able to serve 57 families totaling 116 children who were blessed because of this act of love.

I can tell you many stories that bless my heart during those long hard two weeks, but I'll share only one. This young pregnant wife, who has two girls at home, was refer to us because the money she saved for Christmas gifts for her girls and the rent money was stolen so someone gave her ten dollars because she was told that we charge a little amount to help get more supplies. Kristie helped her pick out a couple of stuff for her girls and even for the unborn baby, the whole time we were wrapping she had this worry look because we gave her so much. When we finished she asked me what did she owe, I told her nothing that we just wanted to bless her and she burst out crying, she couldn't stop thanking us enough.

I thank God for allowing me to be His channel to serve Him in whatever He calls me too.

Submitted, with thanks, by Elsie Centeno

Adult Morning Sunday School Report



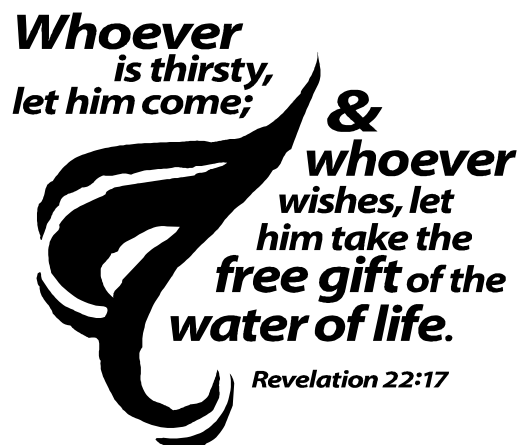
For the past few years we as a class have been active in the Faith Weaver adult bible studies program. These studies have been very beneficial for a better understanding of the Bible and the great blessings derived from them concerning real life applications and relationship building. However, at the request of the class for a change of pace, we are at this present time studying the book of Revelation.

"Revelation" means to reveal or unveil that which is hidden. A special blessing is offered to those who read, hear, and obey the teachings of this book. The message is that Jesus is coming again and we should live every day in anticipation of that coming!

It is important to keep in mind that this book must be understandable or it could not provide the reader with the promised blessing. While Jesus is the central theme of the book, all the events move toward one consummation: "The bringing in of the covenanted Kingdom." The book therefore is a prophecy. It should also be pointed out that when taken in its entirety, this book gives us hope for the future. Spiritualizing or allegorizing the book as some interpreters tend to do destroys its intended meaning!

So, if anyone is interested in this type of Bible study, come and join us, you may enjoy it, and if you're so inclined, you may receive the promised blessing Jesus offers in Revelation chapter one, verse three.

Respectfully submitted by George Parcell



Membership Changes in 2007

The following people were baptized at Wyoming and accepted into membership:

William Burton (baptized July 1, 2007)

Anthony Rivera (baptized July 1, 2007)

The following people transferred their membership from another church to Wyoming:

Sandra Carrion Burton (from Bethel Temple Community Bible Church)

The following people were accepted into membership by testimony of Christian faith and prior baptism:

Amanda Irizarry

José (Joey) Muñoz

Freddie Ortiz

The following members passed away and were removed from the membership rolls:

Roland Crockett

Mary Hampton

Doris Kirk

Grace McKendry

George Rice, Jr.

Financial Reports and Budgets

WHAT IS A BUDGET?

What is a church budget? A church budget is a declaration of mission. It contains a number of vital ingredients.

- 1. A budget is the result of thought, prayer and planning. Jesus, in principle, made it very clear that before any work is undertaken the cost must first be counted (Luke 14: 28-33) .*
- 2. A budget is an attempt to do things decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40). If we do not know where we are going, we might wind up someplace else.*
- 3. A budget is a declaration of belief and commitment to God's work. It affirms financial support of God's work (Matt.6:33).*
- 4. A budget is an act of faith. It declares trust in God relative to the future (Heb. 11:6), as well as belief in His work (Mark 26:15, 16).*
- 5. A budget is a tool that helps each member plan his total stewardship. Giving to the church must be first (1 Cor. 4:1-3).*
- 6. A budget is a challenge. It should stretch each member. It must be realistic, but at the same time contain enough challenge to cause each member to increase his giving.*
- 7. A budget is an agreement. It must not be viewed as, "Their budget," or "The church's budget." It must be viewed as "Our budget."*
- 8. A budget is a plan that brings each family together for prayer, Bible study, meditating, and planning, which leads to a "Here is what we will give, God being our helper!"*

Basic Budget Numbers

General Fund

\$ 1,700 per week

The general fund is for the normal ongoing expenses of the church and its ministries. Pastor Lou's salary, church utilities, insurance, and office expenses all come from the general fund.

Building Fund

\$ 275 per week

The building fund is used to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the church buildings. In addition to regular work, this fund covers major projects necessary to keep the building safe and comfortable.

Missions Fund

\$ 275 per week

Even though things are very tight within the church, we are committed to supporting missionaries and other organizations that reach out with the gospel to our city and our world. Just as each family sets aside a tithe for the church, so also we as a church set aside a tithe to support missions here and abroad.

"Faith Priorities"

As we look forward in faith, these are a few things that we see as important for the health of the church. With your faithful stewardship we are getting closer to these goals –

1. **Support a full-time pastor with benefits.** Currently we pay less than half of what Pastor Lou requires, and he must raise support from outside the church.
2. **Commit at least a "full tithe" to missions.** Even in our relative poverty, we need to be generous and faithful in supporting God's people outside our fellowship. We may reach this goal this year – but we'll need to continue to commit to this priority.
3. **Financially commit to community outreach events.** The Family Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, and National Police Week events are supported primarily from outside our fellowship. We need to be committed and "fully invested" in these events.

Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church

2007 Financial Report and 2008 Budget

	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
Income			
4000 - Unrestricted Contributions			
Regular Offerings	86,000	70,795	87,650
Sunday School	1,600	753	750
Total 4000 - Unrestricted Contributions	<u>87,600</u>	<u>71,548</u>	<u>88,400</u>
4400 - Restricted Income			
4410 - Bible Courses & Conferences			
Bible Study Materials		314	
Men's Retreat		730	
Total 4410 - Bible Courses & Conferences	<u>3,000</u>	<u>1,044</u>	<u>3,000</u>
4420 - Building Fund			
Stone Pointing Work	6,000		
General Building Fund	12,000	13,622	14,300
Total 4420 - Building Fund	<u>18,000</u>	<u>13,622</u>	<u>14,300</u>
4430 - Children and Youth Ministries			
Vacation Bible School		415	
4430 - Children and Youth Ministries - Other		2,500	
Total 4430 - Children and Youth Ministries	<u>4,500</u>	<u>2,915</u>	<u>4,000</u>
4440 - Diaconal & Community Ministries			
Christmas Toy Sale (Donations)	200		600
Christmas Toy Sale (from Sales)	300	423	
Fellowship Fund	2,000	1,802	1,800
Special Events and Dinners			
Family Fall Festival		2,400	
Thanksgiving Dinner		350	
Special Events and Dinners - Other		26	
Total Special Events and Dinners	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,776</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Total 4440 - Diaconal & Community Ministries	<u>5,500</u>	<u>5,001</u>	<u>5,400</u>
4450 - Directed Ministry Staff Support			
Support for Daniel Ndimantang	200	1,800	2,000
Supt for Coz & Joyce Crosscombe	50,000	18,680	
Total 4450 - Directed Ministry Staff Support	<u>50,200</u>	<u>20,480</u>	<u>2,000</u>
4470 - Memorial Committee Funds	1,000	-	1,000
4480 - Missions			
Missions Fund (General)	13,100	13,232	14,300
Cameroon Mission		576	
Philippine Missions	600		
Special Offerings	250	522	400
Total 4480 - Missions	<u>13,950</u>	<u>14,330</u>	<u>14,700</u>
4490 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses	-	650	500
4495 - Police Ministry	-	700	1,500
Total 4400 - Restricted Income	<u>96,150</u>	<u>58,741</u>	<u>46,400</u>

	2007 Budget	2007 Actual	2008 Budget
4700 - Pre-School Tuition	20,000	9,085	
4900 - Other Income			
127 Rent	1,000	2,543	
Facilities Use Fees	3,500	650	750
Flowers Income	800	817	800
Workday/Meeting/Practice Meals	100		100
Investment Income	400	791	200
Mission Work Groups	7,500	1,181	1,000
Total 4900 - Other Income	13,300	5,982	2,850
Total Income	217,050	145,356	137,650
Expense			
5000 - Church Home			
5010 - Building Improvement & Maint			
Air Conditioning	2,000		2,000
Annex Improvements		2,500	
Door Latches & Locks	100		100
Electrician	600		600
Exterminating	100		100
Fire Extinguisher Maint	200	172	200
Grounds Maintenance	50	98	100
Handicapped Access Ramp	250		250
Maintenance Supplies	250	584	600
Parsonage Maintenance	300		300
Plumbing	500	1,155	500
Second Floor Offices	200	29	
Showers	250		250
Stone Pointing & Concrete Work	6,000		6,000
5010 - Building Improvement & Maint - Other	500	973	1,000
Total 5010 - Building Improvement & Maint	11,300	5,511	12,000
5030 - Utilities			
5031 - Church Electric	5,500	4,148	5,500
5032 - Church Gas	16,500	12,413	15,000
5033 - Church Telephone	950	1,109	1,150
5034 - Church Water and Sewer	600	601	650
5036 - Annex Electric	550	529	550
5038 - Annex Oil	1,500	1,557	2,000
5039 - Annex Water and Sewer	250	204	250
5042 - 127 Utilities	3,000	3,516	3,800
Total 5030 - Utilities	28,850	24,078	28,900
5045 - Insurance	12,000	9,485	10,500
5050 - Sexton's Salary	5,000	7,727	6,000
5051 - Sexton's Supplies		121	350
5055 - Licenses and Permits	250		250
5060 - Memorials Committee Funds	1,000		1,000
5065 - Real Estate Taxes (127)	800	778	800
5070 - Security Monitoring	875	846	875
5090 - Miscellaneous	200	-	200
Total 5000 - Church Home	60,275	48,546	60,875

	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
5100 - Church Ministries			
5110 - Pastoral Ministry and Staff			
5111 - Staff Salaries (from Church)			
Asst Pastor Housing Allowance	4,500	4,500	
Asst Pastor Salary	7,000	6,986	5,000
Pastor's Salary	20,000	19,500	23,500
Total 5111 - Staff Salaries (from Church)	<u>31,500</u>	<u>30,986</u>	<u>28,500</u>
5112 - Staff Salaries (from Missions)			
Asst Pastor Salary (Missions)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Dir Ministry Dev Sal (Missions)	300	300	
Jen Mori Support (Missions)	150	150	
Muslim Outreach (Missions)	150	150	
Total 5112 - Staff Salaries (from Missions)	<u>5,600</u>	<u>5,600</u>	<u>5,000</u>
5113 - Staff Salaries (from Grants)			
Muslim Outreach (Payroll Exp)	320	320	
Muslim Outreach (Salary)	4,180	4,180	
Total 5113 - Staff Salaries (from Grants)	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	
5114 - Staff Salaries (from Directed)			
Asst Pastor Salary (Directed)	184		2,000
Dir Ministry Dev Sal (Directed)	41,400	18,078	
Total 5114 - Staff Salaries (from Directed)	<u>41,584</u>	<u>18,078</u>	<u>2,000</u>
5115 - Staff Ministry Expenses			
Asst Pastor's Mileage Expenses	800	1,521	1,250
Coz's Ministry Expenses	6,000	3,978	
Pastor's Ministry Expenses			
Family Fall Festival (Min Exp)		349	
Pastor's Ministry Expenses - Other		1,186	
Total Pastor's Ministry Expenses	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,535</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Total 5115 - Staff Ministry Expenses	8,100	7,034	2,750
5116 - Legal Expenses		1,000	
5118 - Pulpit Supply	250	300	500
Total 5110 - Pastoral Ministry and Staff	<u>91,534</u>	<u>67,498</u>	<u>38,750</u>
5120 - Bible Courses and Conferences			
AACC Conference Food / Labor		1,289	
Bible Study Materials		414	
Men's Retreat		673	
Total 5120 - Bible Courses and Conferences	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,377</u>	<u>3,000</u>
5130 - Children and Youth Ministries			
Church Support of Pre-School	2,468	3,451	
Sunday Bible School	1,600	2,706	2,500
Vacation Bible School	1,800	1,254	1,800
Youth Group	200	43	200
Youth Retreats	1,000		1,000
Total 5130 - Children and Youth Ministries	<u>7,068</u>	<u>7,453</u>	<u>5,500</u>

	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
5140 · Diaconal & Community Ministries			
Assistance for Persons in Need	250	1,179	923
Christmas Toy Sale	800	500	800
Christmas Toy Sale -> Food Bank		423	
Evangelism & Outreach Materials	2,300	89	2,300
Shut-in Mailings	50		
Hospitality Supplies	2,300	801	1,000
Food Cupboard (Fellowship Fund)	1,750	588	900
Special Events and Dinners			
Church Dinners		480	
Family Fall Festival		2,400	
Missions Conference Lunches	675	565	675
Thanksgiving Dinner		200	
Budgeted for Special Events	3,225		5,400
Total Special Events and Dinners	<u>3,900</u>	<u>3,645</u>	<u>6,075</u>
Total 5140 · Diaconal & Community Ministries	11,350	7,225	11,998
5150 · Worship Ministry			
Communion Supplies	50		50
Flowers	750	1,214	800
Music Supplies	600	145	300
Piano Tuning & Repair	150		200
Total 5150 · Worship Ministry	<u>1,550</u>	<u>1,359</u>	<u>1,350</u>
5185 · Mission Work Group Expenses	<u>6,000</u>		
Total 5100 · Church Ministries	120,502	85,911	60,598
5200 · Church Office			
Bank Service Charges	300	64	100
Computer Programs & Books	50	44	75
Copiers	2,000	1,769	2,000
Misc.	100	8	100
Offering Envelopes	250	161	250
Office Supplies	800	200	800
Pastor's Secretary	875	587	
Postage	150	47	150
Total 5200 · Church Office	<u>4,525</u>	<u>2,880</u>	<u>3,475</u>
5300 · Pre-School Program			
5310 · Teachers' Salaries	20,500	11,645	
5330 · Payroll Expenses	1,568	891	
5350 · Pre-School Supplies	200		
5360 · Advertising	200		
5399 · Support from Church	(2,468)	(3,451)	
Total 5300 · Pre-School Program	<u>20,000</u>	<u>9,085</u>	
5400 · Support of Other Ministries			
5410 · Missions Fund (General)	6,575	6,475	7,875
5420 · Cameroon Mission Trip		1,031	
5440 · Philippine Missions	600		
5470 · Special Offerings	250	522	400
5480 · Visiting Missionary Speakers	750	500	750
Total 5400 · Support of Other Ministries	<u>8,175</u>	<u>8,528</u>	<u>9,025</u>
5500 · Payroll Expenses	4,342	3,297	1,377
Replacement of Endowment Funds			<u>2,300</u>
Total Expense	<u>217,819</u>	<u>158,247</u>	<u>137,650</u>
Net Income	<u>(769)</u>	<u>(12,891)</u>	<u>-</u>

Fund Balances, December 31, 2007

Balance 12/31/07

General Fund -\$11,146.22

Building Fund

General Building Fund \$0.00

Air Conditioning \$1,185.00

Total Building Fund \$1,185.00

Missions Fund

General Missions Budget \$1,163.37

Disaster Relief \$416.87

Cameroon Missions \$240.81

Total Missions Fund \$1,821.05

Grant Funds

Mustard Seed \$0.00

Robert Wood Johnson CHLP \$2,000.00

Total Grant Funds \$2,000.00

Deacons' Fellowship Fund \$347.06

Christmas Toy Sale \$562.30

Police Ministry \$700.00

Ndimantang Support \$0.00

Endowment Fund \$21,336.55

Uncleared Items and Liabilities \$581.54

TOTAL ALL FUNDS **\$17,387.28**

Checking Account \$13,676.30

Certificates of Deposit \$3,510.98

Petty Cash \$200.00

Employee Advances (owed to the church) \$0.00

TOTAL ALL MONETARY ASSETS **\$17,387.28**

Missions Fund 2007 Report and 2008 Budget

	2007 Budget	2007 Actual	2008 Budget
Our Local Missionaries			
Daniel and Rose Ndimantang (CVAI)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Coz and Joyce Crosscombe (CityNet Ministries)	300	300	300
Maher and Jen Salhani (AMF)	300	300	300
Individual Missionaries			
Vicky Beattie, Sudan, Africa (SIM)	450	450	500
Jack Cordell, Race Track Ministries, Philadelphia (ABC)	450	450	500
Thomas and Sharon Huckel, Hananeel House, Phila.	450	450	500
Duthene and Maxia Joseph, Haiti (CrossWorld)	450	450	500
Barry and Peggy Owen, Taiwan (WorldVenture)	450	450	500
Rebekah Poteat, Togo, West Africa (ABWE)	450	450	500
Philadelphia Ministries			
Alpha Pregnancy Services	450	450	500
Children's Safe Harbor			300
Good Shepherd Ministry (ABC)	450	450	500
Grace Settlement House (BCM Int'l)	450	450	500
Whosoever Gospel Mission	525	525	575
Other Institutions & Missions Organizations			
Anadarko Christian Center (ABC)	300	300	
Amazing Grace Ministries			300
Christ's Home For Children	300	300	300
Christ's Home For the Aged	300	300	
Kodiak Baptist Mission (ABC)	300	300	300
Mission Aviation Fellowship	300	300	300
Murrow Indian Children's Home (ABC)	200	200	
Pocket Testament League	200	200	200
Others			
Missions Conference Expenses	675	565	675
Visiting Missionary Speakers	750	500	750
Student Aid	100		200
Total General Budget	\$13,600	\$13,140	\$14,000

(ABC) American Baptist Churches
 (ABWE) Association of Baptists for World Evangelism
 (AMF) American Missionary Fellowship

(BCM Int'l) Bible Centered Ministries International
 (CVAI) Comprehensive Vocational Academies, Intl.
 (SIM) Serving in Mission

Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church

Average Monthly Attendance, 1997 through 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sunday Morning											
January	68	59	63	61	50	56	65	49	93	120	99
February	71	68	64	60	49	58	50	62	120	93	91
March	80	62	70	63	55	61	54	68	156	126	85
April	68	79	72	62	66	58	68	66	119	159	103
May	69	57	63	65	58	58	59	66	128	138	100
June	64	56	64	63	59	57	53	82	127	113	102
July	62	63	52	57	65	51	43	82	135	122	107
August	56	68	55	52	59	46	49	93	96	86	80
September	65	63	60	55	78	65	49	99	126	111	81
October	94	68	65	58	56	60	46	95	179	124	113
November	71	70	70	51	57	57	52	97	154	94	111
December	74	74	76	53	56	64	42	112	154	101	103

Year	70	66	65	58	59	58	52	81	132	117	98
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	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Holy Thursday				37		47	44	30	80		
Good Friday				30		36	21	57	144		
Easter				80		64	89	86	222	248	158
Thanksgiving Eve				38		23	22	51		75	
Christmas Eve				84		66	56	141		168	165
New Years Eve				26		22	31	65	40	50	77

Membership:

Plus	8		1	2	2		2	4	13	5	6
Minus	-7	-1	-5	-6	-6			-4	-4	-8	-5
Inactive		-41			-27						
Members	193	151	147	143	112			104	113	110	111

