

2008 Annual Report



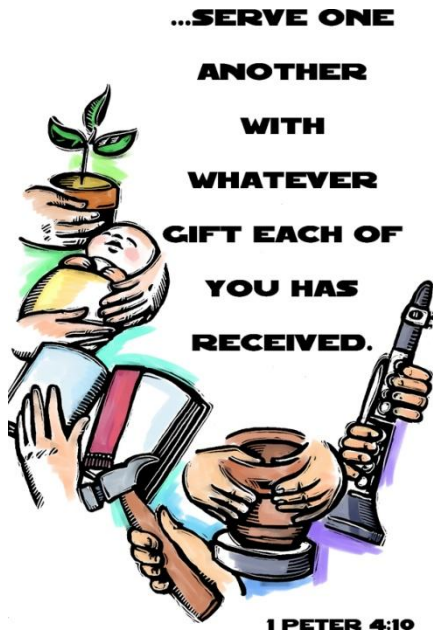
1 Kings 2:2-3

Wyoming Ave. Baptist Church

123 E. Wyoming Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19120

Rev. Luis Centeno, Pastor

Report of the Pastor



The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:7-11

"THE ACT OF SERVICE AND LOVE"

Are we a community of faith optimistic? That means, with hope, and a future? In 2009/ Or are we a community of faith that is becoming pessimistic, feeling hopeless and overwhelmed about the future.

When asked if he had hope in a world packed with so much trouble, Billy Graham answered with the following story :

I have total hope. I was in the Senate dining room some time ago and Senator Magnuson from Washington called me over to his table and said, "Billy, we're having an argument here on optimism and pessimism. Which are you?" I said, "I'm an optimist." He said, "What makes you an optimist?" I said, "I've read the last page of the Bible. It's going to come out all right."

Amen to that.

1 Peter 4:7-11 tells us how to keep a vital, optimistic faith – a walking, talking, and living faith. This is how you can do it biblically. We are encouraged to be clear minded and self-controlled, so that we can focus in our life of prayer, which is needed today. We can love each other deeply, because love makes forgiveness and reconciliation possible. We can

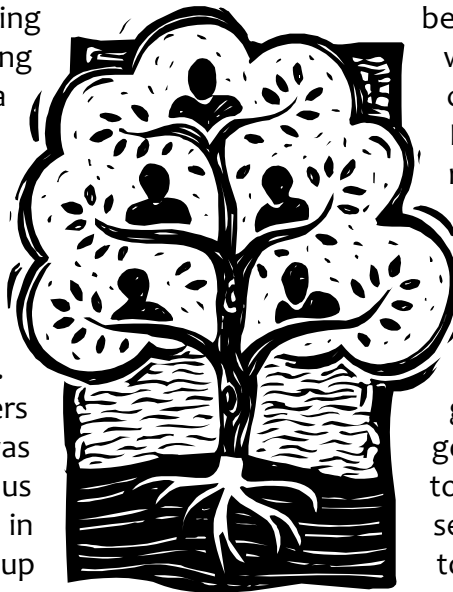
offer hospitality to one another and to strangers freely, without complaining or getting tired of doing what is right. We can use the gifts, the abilities, and the talents God has given us to serve those within the body and our community. We can be found faithful in sharing God's grace in the many forms with others as he has done with us. We are to speak God's words into one another's lives.

We know that if we are to do any of these things, it is only through God's strength. We know that God will be praised through Jesus Christ, who we represent. So that would be a pretty good, biblical 2009 – serving and loving – don't you think? He is worthy to be given the glory and the honor and the power forever and ever. Amen!

MINISTRY UPDATES

The Second Mile Men Bible study has slowly gone through some faith-testing times as individuals and as a group – physically, emotionally, and especially spiritually. And even though our numbers have decreased, I am very encouraged for those who have been faithful in going forward and developing character. They are seeing evidence of spiritual growth in their faith and walk with the Lord, even though they are in the midst of a spiritual battle. We praise the Lord that the men had opportunity to go to Whosoever Gospel Mission and spend time putting retreat was another blessing together and heard a through our friend Doug forward to two more women in June.

When we see one of our the trainers, we give God raising up men for himself. taken the prospective leaders anger management, which was but for anyone who joined us Ojilvia have been very active in see others beginning to rise up We are all leaders in one way or worse. May we be the kind of leaders that seek the glory and honor of the Lord, building up the church of which Jesus Christ is the head. Let us be servant leaders in building the Kingdom, his body, and for reaching out to the lost. How about you? Is he calling you to make yourself available to be equipped, to become a biblical leader? Pray to see how God would lead you to be part of this prospective leadership of the church.



beds together. Our men's when we participated challenging word from God Logan. We're looking retreats – men in May,

trainees becoming one of the glory. Yes, Jesus is Jason Martinez has just group through a course on good not just for the leaders to sit in. Jason and his wife service in the church, and we to serve the Lord in his church. another, for better or for

Our Family Fall Festival was a huge blessing and I, as your pastor, cannot thank you all enough for the help and the support and the involvement that many of you have given.

Surely God used others in our community as well, to help us with this event – the police, the cancer treatment center, and other partners that made it possible. We are so grateful to our heavenly Father that the gospel was preached and the people saw the good works of his people and praised him in heaven.

We cannot say enough about the importance of prayer. “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2) In just the last few weeks, we have been encouraged by the small groups that have been meeting in the church and in various homes to pray for our church, our people, and our city. Make yourself available for times like these – you will not regret it.

In 2008, we were able to hold two Family Life Seminars in collaboration with Refuge. These times have helped those who attended to come to a deeper understanding of the matters which affect our families. We thank the Lord for the many who came from our church and from other churches. We certainly always encourage the church to be equipped in responding to the various testing and trying of our faith that often plague the families in our church and in the culture. May God give us wisdom as we look for more opportunities in the future to strengthen our church to be better prepared to respond to the crises that we see around us. May he bless these efforts, and we thank him for Refuge and others who come alongside the church.



THE PRAYER
OF THE
RIGHTEOUS
IS POWERFUL
AND
EFFECTIVE.

J A M E S 5 : 1 6

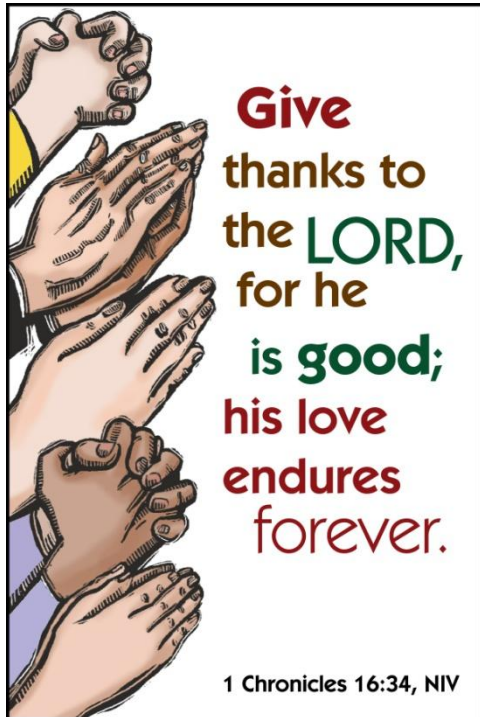
My every-Friday roll-call chapel at the police district continues to be a great opportunity to share encouragement, support, and the gospel to these men and women who are just like you and me – but with one difference. They are exposed to a level of evil, violence, and crime in ways that we never fully understand. The deaths of eight officers this past year have certainly been difficult and challenging. Never has there been this type of death among law enforcement in one year. Two of the officers who were killed were from the 24th district, who I knew personally. One was from the 15th district, and I knew him personally. I had personally known the fiancée of yet another of the officers. These connections provided critical opportunities to provide grief counseling and comfort.

Another way that I serve in the police department is by providing suicide prevention training. One of the sessions that I held at the 24th district was attended by Charles Ramsey, the new police commissioner. He was encouraged and wants us to do it for higher-ranking officers. Pray with us as we continue to work with these men and women in law enforcement.

During National Police Week, we are able to reach out to 160 officers with recognition and encouragement. This was a huge event for many officers, who were moved that we were

willing to embrace and love them. We continue to get response even many months after the event. We were also blessed to have various Christian officers minister during a special Sunday worship service, and we have seen other officers return to following the Lord as we minister among them.

We had 6 or 7 open air meetings, and I want to thank those “faithful, fruitful followers of Jesus” who took part in these outreach events. We were blessed with honest responses to the gospel as some gave their hearts to the Lord – and many more “prodigals” who were called again to return to consistent walking with the Lord. We praise God for the way he used the open air meetings, and for the special partnership we had with Children’s Safe Harbor who joined us with the children’s choir for some of the meetings. (Speaking of Children’s Safe Harbor, I had the privilege of speaking at their retreat, and I was amazed at how they are shaping the lives of young people. May God continue to uphold and support this work.)



Thanksgiving was a time when we are able to bless 60 families with an abundance of food provided mostly by Billy Matos, once part of the mafia in South Philadelphia, who gave his life to the Lord many years ago. He provided 60 turkeys and several cases of potatoes, carrots, and lots of fruit. We gave half (30 turkeys, etc.) to Bethel Temple, and God provided even more from Church of the Saviour and other churches to bring us right back to 60!

I praise the Lord that we as a church were able to have the Christmas Toy Sale that was encouraging to many of the families. I want to thank my wife who took charge of this, and the many of you who came along to bless and assist her. We served 45 families and 160 kids, in addition to being able to help another church who found themselves suddenly without resources to help their own community. We filled a pick-up truck with extra toys to partner with this other church as a blessing.

God was glorified! Church of the Saviour and the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Bethel Temple, and you were all involved in making this possible.

I praise the Lord for the way that he has been pleased to raise up Sunday School teachers. Bill and Sandy, Joey and Jeanne, and Dave and Glenna have stepped up to the plate to provide the Crossroads class, and to support and encourage that group of adults. Thanks to George Parcell, Debby and Becky, and the Walters for their gifts of sharing and teaching the word of God for the equipping of the church.

PARTNERSHIPS

We were blessed to have visits from church youth (and adult) groups to help with repairs in our building, with Vacation Bible School, and with reaching out to our community. This was an incredible blessing to our fellowship, and to many of these brethren as well.

- Central Wesleyan Church, Holland, Michigan – 25 people
- Covenant Presbyterian Church, Doylestown – 12 people
- Grace Bible Church, Dunmore, Pennsylvania – 16 people
- Chinese Bible Church of Maryland – 15 people

We look forward to other groups coming this year to continue the work that Jesus has given us to do. God has allowed these brethren to come and be a blessing to us.

I was glad to see how our partnership with the Whosoever Gospel Mission has continued to grow. Their work and service for our children has been an encouragement and a blessing to our church. We were glad to see the many families who took part in the Christmas party here. We are happy not only to be able to support their work with men, but also to have them work here with children.

Another partnership to pray for is that with Refuge. Elizabeth Hernandez, the director, and Diane Langberg have done several seminars here that we have benefitted from. They asked me to be the chairman of the board of Refuge, and Refuge is fresh, cool water to the soul and the heart, as people receive balanced counseling from the word of God. Continue to pray as we partner and as I lead this group, that God would give me wisdom and discernment.

A FEW NUMBERS

As a missionary for American Missionary Fellowship, I have to submit monthly reports of my meetings and work. Looking back on the whole year of 2008, here are some numbers:

- 867 meetings and counseling sessions
- 730 messages, devotionals, and Bible studies
- 6,691 people exposed to our ministry

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

As the people of God, we are called to hold each other up in service to the body and to the world. As you hold me up for my service outside of the church, please be in particular prayer for my ministry in the following areas:

- Ministry to police officers, including roll-calls, counseling, support fellowship, and suicide prevention training
- Outreach to Muslims, building relationships in the community.
- Chaplaincy at the Cancer Treatment Center, where I am frequently on-call.
- Chairmanship at Refuge

Also pray for the following events that are upcoming in the life of our church. Think about ways that you can get involved to help minister to God's people and the community.

- Valentine's banquet
- Blood drive – February 21
- National Police Week in May
- Men's retreat in May
- Women's retreat in June
- Mother's Day, Father's Day, Children's Day
- Church picnic

Sincerely, your pastor, brother,
and friend in Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Luis Centeno". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Luis Centeno

Report of the Assistant Pastor

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

The passage mentioned above, like the rest of Holy Scripture from Genesis through Revelation does resonate with my total outlook on ministries. Like the rest of its kind, it trains and undergirds me to stay focused and on task. By it, a passion and enthusiasm springs within me that brightens and sharpens His vision for His service. My immaturity, inadequacies, and frailty of body and spirit are no longer hindrances.

Currently, my services have been reduced to strictly visitations and transportation of those who need me whenever and wherever. This means that Wyoming Ave. Baptist Church has an emergency number that has many more digits than the public 911. Our emergency number (my home) is (215) 324-2260. Whenever you call this number, it is more than the entire church for Rose and I would come to you in the name of the only living God of the church who is almighty to save in Christ Jesus. So husbands, couples, wives, parents, children and singles call and together we will “have a little talk with Jesus” and He will make it right. His peace will swallow up the storms of our lives and families.

In the last week of September 2008, Betty Mitchell slept away into eternity. I would wish that at one point in our deliberation we shall observe a moment of silence in her honor. She served the Lord in this church and as a Sunday School teacher and other areas of ministry with proven compassion, commitment, discipline, and integrity, all her productive years. She was clean, neat, and loved flowers up to her in her last days.

Today, one of the endangered segments of our membership is made up of the elders. You see them come to our Sunday programs of Sunday School and worship. You know them and would do well to pick their brains and hearts for the service of the Lord.

Of those who no longer come here for worship on account of their age and failing health, we have Mrs. Stella Newton, who lives with one of her daughters, Mrs. Wandabelle Eibner in ACT retirement facility on Norristown Rd., Mrs. Allene Murray in Chestnut Hill Lodge, Miss Miriam Kramer and Miss Ruth Paul, both in Pilgrim Gardens retirement home, and Mrs. Elizabeth Beattie in Richboro Care Center on Twining Ford Rd.

Mrs. Mary Rice has been of tremendous support to this ministry to our shut-ins and the sick. In recent months she has sponsored trips to the homes of Mary Ann Hinchcliff; Mrs. Stella Newton, accompanied by Mrs. Florence Crockett and Rose; to Roxborough hospital to visit Ruth Paul; and to Einstein Hospital to visit Mr. Robert Scheffler. Apart from these interventions, Mrs. Mary Rice also does a god job at keeping me informed of some members needing my attention. My wife and I are happy that Mary is our mentor in these ventures.

Our ministry to Muslims currently lacks zest. For lack of a better word, I describe it as anemic. A number of issues account for this present condition. Among many other factors is the state of the Meetings for Better Understanding, between Christians and Muslims, which were the lifewires which invigorated, envisioned, and inspired the ministry, but steadily ran out of steam. Until today it has been very difficult for Rose and I to know who is where in relation to this ministry. Another factor is that the Mosque has been relocated from where it has been. Previously we took advantage of our walking proximity and visited it on Fridays and had some contacts.

These debilitating circumstances notwithstanding, Rose and I are still pressing on with three Muslim families: Fatiha from Morocco, Jamal from Syria, and Mardina from Cameroon. Pray that we make a breakthrough on the current impasse that makes our contact less frequent with these families.

The ministry on the Cameroon front is gradually but steadily advancing. We are proud of and praise God for the financial contributions our church is making on this project. However, not many tools are being gathered by our members. A few churches and individuals from outside W.A.B.C. are bringing some remarkable tools. We are thankful to Mr. and Mrs. Parcell, who determined to donate more to add to their first consignment of tools already donated to us.

Pray for the Hillings (Roland, Elizabeth, and their 5-year-old daughter, Hannah) who are on their way to Cameroon via India and Belgium on Jan 28th and 29th. Mr. Roland and his family are prospecting to serve CVAI n Cameroon where Mr. Roland would be project manager for CCVA constructions. They fly into Philadelphia International Airport on February 9, 2009.

Thank you so very much for joining us with explosive joy at the celebration of our first grandchild Jaden. Our pastor, the Rev. Luis Centeno, brought one of his very powerful sermons on that occasion from Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

I would particularly like to thank Mrs. Mary Rice who made every effort while I was away taking a hand at grandmother-hood, to see that my husband Rev. Daniel ate well-cooked food from her hands. Our Cameroonian men and my husband in particular are not good in the kitchen!

Grace to you all from us.

Rev. Daniel and Rose Ndimantang

Report of the Sunday School Superintendent

Our children's ministries touch kids in Feltonville in a variety of ways. Here are the highlights of 2008:

SUNDAY MORNING

In 2008 we continued with the practice of asking the kids to worship with their families at the beginning of the church service until the time comes for them to exit, usually after the main worship time. Then we all meet upstairs for our own Bible point time, afterward breaking up into 2 or 3 age-based groups, each with its own small group leader. Curriculum materials have been a mixture of past-season VBS materials from various publishers, and other theme-based 5 or 13 week curriculum sets. There are usually anywhere from 10 to 20 total kids in attendance each week, although not always the same group of kids each week. This weekly attendance is down a bit as compared to previous years, but if they all came at the same time there might be as many as 40.

The challenge for the new year is finding new ways to encourage members of the congregation to volunteer. The more people get involved, the easier the task becomes! Just to get you thinking about it, here's what is asked of a volunteer on any given Sunday:

- Volunteers are given a packet of instructions, no more than a few pages, telling you everything you need to know about the activities for your group.
- All materials are laid out on a tray or table in the small group meeting area.
- Depending on the age group (age 4 – grade 1, grades 2-3, grades 4-5), there might be puzzles, Bible verses to look up, review questions, discussions, games, a simple craft, coloring, or a snack-with-a-purpose. Not every type of activity is done every Sunday.

That's it! If you can read and follow the instructions, and enjoy getting kids to do fun things, you can do it!

A big THANK YOU goes out to all of the small group volunteers who did come forward to help throughout the year. To schedule the Sundays you would like to help, just sign up on the chart on the bulletin board.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School was "Power Lab," taking us to a wacky science lab where we learned about Jesus' power. 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 decorated "GO (Gospel Outreach) balls," brightly colored soccer balls with colors that tell the plan of salvation, accompanied by booklets in English and Swahili. These were sent to the International Bible Society for distribution in South Africa by local pastors. Thanks goes out to those who contributed to VBS in various ways to decorate, provide the unusual snacks, and present the Bible in exciting new ways.

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

On October 31, we had our fifth "Fall Family Festival," giving the kids in our community a fun and safe alternative to knocking on doors for candy. Like last year, the event required blocking off Wyoming Avenue to make room for the huge inflated games and all of the booths. 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 (thousands?) of cookies for the Whosoever Gospel Mission, and the Philadelphia Park racetrack ministry. Thanks to those who came and made it a success.

LOOKING FORWARD

As always, we end the year with great opportunities ahead of us. Please consider how you might fit into the many opportunities we provide our kids. We ask for your continued support, through prayer, in bringing out children, and joining us in the work.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Crockett
Sunday School Superintendent

Report of the Board of Deacons

This report isn't very long, because I think Pastor Lou gave a pretty good overview of what has been going on in the church. Seeing Jason step up to teach the youth and the prospective leaders has been very encouraging. Hearing that the women's group has grown in strength is also encouraging; watching the men's group struggle less so. But here are a few things that I think we should remember as we look back at 2008, and as we look ahead.

HARVEST CRUSADE

In October, many of us attended the Harvest Crusade at the Wachovia Center. The church provided tokens, and encouraged people to invite their friends and family members. It was great to see a little boldness in reaching out, and it was great to see people who were invited and open to attend. May God use this witness as part of his plan to bring people into his kingdom, establish them firmly, and mature his people.

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Pastor Lou and Debby already mentioned this in their reports, but there is one additional point worth mentioning. It is amazing to see so many of you actively involved in serving on a pretty demanding night like the festival. Many people, from teens on up, were involved in planning, preparing, bringing candy, cooking food, serving, and manning the booths – not to mention the Herculean cleanup afterwards! So keep up the good work for the King.

120TH ANNIVERSARY

The 120th Anniversary of the church is coming up in 2011 (the church was started in 1891). We're putting together a committee to plan a big homecoming for people who have been part of the church throughout the years, and also to push for a significant fundraising campaign to do a couple of large projects in the church:

- **Stained glass windows:** The last time the windows were repaired and the protective coverings installed was in 1980. Thirty years have taken a toll, and we need to replace the protective coverings, and fix some of the glass. What I'd like to see is a clear covering and bright lighting from inside, so the beautiful art on the windows will light up Wyoming Ave. at night. One of the things that disappears in the inner city is art, and we've got some great material hiding in plain sight!
- **Children's Ministry space:** The middle level with the bathrooms and the nursery and children's classroom is most definitely in need of a total renovation. The paneling on

the walls is warping, the ceiling is falling apart, and the bathrooms aren't exactly "pleasant" – especially the men's room. So what could we do if we started from scratch in that area? A nursery with more room and natural light from windows? Bright and clean bathrooms? Better planned space for kids and special programs?

The possibilities get me excited. It's going to require a lot of hard work and a lot of sacrifice, but I think we can celebrate together with God's people who have called Wyoming home at one point in their lives, and work together to put resources in place to support the witness and mission of the church going forward.

EACH ONE AN INTEGRAL PART

As I ponder our church and its ministries and the people, I am very much struck by the significant impact that each person has on the body as a whole. For good or for bad, the spiritual condition and the service of each has a huge effect on the larger family at Wyoming.

The men know this. When a single man gets on fire for the Lord, his passion is contagious, and he helps to strengthen a few other men. Men's group had almost 30 guys in it in the late spring! But a few people get lazy, get busy, get choked by stress or family turmoil, and men's group drops to 8.

I know that numbers aren't a good gauge of spiritual condition, but they demonstrate the point. How you are walking with the Lord has a huge impact on the Christians around you, and can make a difference in whether or not a non-Christian has any desire to meet Jesus.

When you go through battles or dry spells and withdraw from the church, do you realize that you're being selfish, that you're silently declaring that life is all about me and how I feel? People here the message loud and clear, and become equally disenchanted. Jesus didn't come to be served, he came to serve and to love. You may not think that you have anything to offer, and that you're not important, but your faithfulness in something as simple as attending worship and Bible study has a huge impact on the life of the church and the growth of the kingdom. Are you willing to show up?

Weaker, stronger, older, younger – every individual person is an integral part of the body.

“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

That’s part of what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12. And then he goes right into chapter 13, talking about love. Read his words, and rejoice that God has brought us together. Stop focusing on my own needs, and start focusing on how I can serve and love my brothers and sisters. (I’m talking to me, but if this applies to you – you get the idea.)

ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Greek word from which we get “deacon” literally means servant. Each of the Deacons is involved in significant ministry and service in the church – from children’s ministry to youth to Sunday School to visitation and discipleship. As capital “D” Deacons, we represent and lead the entire church, who are all called to be deacons.

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.

At Wyoming, the Deacons also serve many of the roles of New Testament elders. Along with the Pastor, 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. Encourage and pray for us as we seek to lead God’s people.

In Christ’s mercy,

Walt Rice, Jr.

Report of the Board of Missions

Just two things:

- Thank you for your faithfulness in giving towards missions, so that we could follow through and meet all of the commitments we made to our missionaries.
- We're glad to see that the Whosoever Gospel Mission has finally finished rebuilding, and has re-opened its Germantown program after the devastating fire a few years back. We are proud to be able to support them in various ways, and look forward to seeing how our partnership can grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hinchcliff

Youth Group

The youth meet every Friday night at the church for Bible study. Over the past few months, we've been studying the doctrinal basics of the Christian faith. The lessons so far are:

1. God exists.
2. God has spoken.
3. God is love.
4. God is just.
5. God is infinite.
6. God is omni- present, scient, potent.
7. God man humans in his own image.

You might think that the series would be “dry” and “boring,” but as we look at God's character and how he made us, just about everything that we face in the world comes into clearer focus. What does it mean that we are to respect God's image in one another, and in ourselves? It means that we can't live like the world lives, because we muck up the image in us. We need to put on the new self and be restored in the image of the Creator. (Paul talks about this in Colossians 3.)

My sister Jen has been a great help in all of this.

In addition, Jason Martinez has been leading a Sunday morning class going through the book of John, chapter by chapter. Everyone, including the teens, needs to have a firm foundation in Scripture to be able to understand God's will for our lives. We can talk about the important issues like abortion, homosexuality, promiscuity, and violence, but unless you know who Jesus is, and what he said and did, there's no foundation.

We are part of a larger ministry in North Philadelphia called ONE, that includes a bunch of churches – Bethel Temple, Lighthouse Family Center, Spirit & Truth, Urban Worship Center, Urban Hope, Highway Tabernacle, and others. We go to youth rallies every other month, and to a retreat at Camp Andrews in October.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Rice, Jr.
Youth Leader

Homebuilders / CrossRoads

For the first 8 months of the year, Homebuilders finished the study booklet "How to Make Your Remarriage Last". During this time, we averaged 6 to 8 people.

The leadership team (Bill & Sandy Burton, Joey & Jeannie Munoz, David & Glenna Deem) decided that since a significant portion of our attendees were not married, we would shift the focus of the class to include a topic of interest to almost anybody – how to communicate in a more Christ-like manner. To make the group more inclusive of non-married people, we changed the name to CrossRoads.

We chose a DVD series produced by the Christian Counseling & Education Foundation called, "War of Words". Two weeks were devoted to each DVD session – the first to watch the DVD and the second to discuss the DVD in more depth. Attendance has been as high as 14 and has averaged around 8 or 9.

The most encouraging part of this course for us has been to see the growth in Christ-likeness of some of the attendees. Clearly some are "getting it" that sanctification is something God wants for each of us and will produce in each one of us by His grace when we are willing to have Him do so.

The leadership team met once again in mid January and decided that when we complete the "War of Words" course, we will shift our focus to studying a book of the Bible. Of course, if you have any suggestions as to which book you would like, please let one of the leaders know.

Why not join us in CrossRoads and grow in the Lord along with us?

For the leadership team,

David & Glenna Deem

Women's Fellowship

The Ladies of Virtue Bible Study is held at our home every Tuesday 7 to 9. This year we had other ladies from other fellowships, such as In The Light Ministries, come and share with us. It was exciting to hear what God is doing for them and through them. Then we had some of our own ladies lead the study, they shared on what God was teaching them at that particular time in their life. It has been a blessing to hear such wonderful testimonies of God's redeeming love.

We had a Ladies Retreat that took place on May 2nd thru 4th at Spade. The theme was Healing for Wounded Hearts. Our guest speaker was Vickie Smith, wife of our Regional Director from American Missionary Fellowship, of which we are missionaries under. Thanks to the Hessel Fund, we were able to help some ladies that couldn't afford to pay. The weekend turned out to be a blessing to all twenty ladies that attended. We were blessed through music, fellowship, food, and especially the message. During the summer we stopped so that the ladies could be involved in Vacation Bible School and other church activities. Some other activities that took place were movie night, eating out, and visits.

We started back up with a book series Design For Discipleship, the first book called Your Life In Christ, led by Bobbie Jo. We were finished by Christmas break and had a party with the Men's Group. Some of our ladies helped out with the Family Fall Festival, Thanksgiving baskets as well as our Christmas Shop. Thank you, ladies, for letting God use your spiritual gifts this past year.

We are His workmanship Eph. 2:10

Elsie Centeno

Membership Changes in 2008

ADDITIONS

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

Melvin Mance (baptized August 3, 2008)

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

Erika Drayton
Melissa Rice

REMOVALS

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

Courtney Rice (letter of transfer to Chelten Baptist Church)
George Rice, III (letter of transfer to Chelten Baptist Church)
Hazel Pasciullo (no letter requested; unknown church)
Marnito Selorio (no letter requested; became member at Cedar Grove Church)
Erlinda Selorio (no letter requested; became member at Cedar Grove Church)
Katherine Smith (letter of transfer to Goodwill Tabernacle Baptist Church)

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

Doris Astfalk
Betty Mitchell
Charles Schimpf

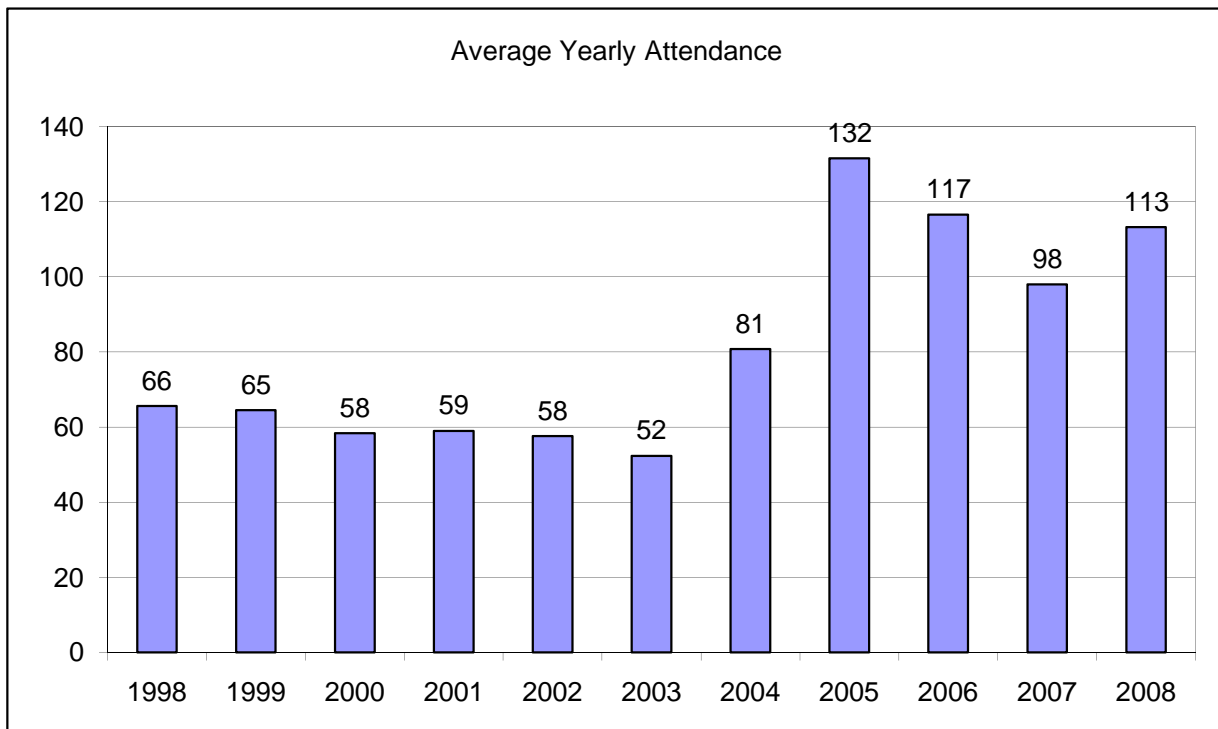
Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church Average Monthly Attendance, 1998 through 2008

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sunday Morning	59	63	61	50	56	65	49	93	120	99	130
January	59	63	61	50	56	65	49	93	120	99	130
February	68	64	60	49	58	50	62	120	93	91	142
March	62	70	63	55	61	54	68	156	126	85	162
April	79	72	62	66	58	68	66	119	159	103	131
May	57	63	65	58	58	59	66	128	138	100	119
June	56	64	63	59	57	53	82	127	113	102	112
July	63	52	57	65	51	43	82	135	122	107	90
August	68	55	52	59	46	49	93	96	86	80	73
September	63	60	55	78	65	49	99	126	111	81	106
October	68	65	58	56	60	46	95	179	124	113	106
November	70	70	51	57	57	52	97	154	94	111	99
December	74	76	53	56	64	42	112	154	101	103	91
Year	66	65	58	59	58	52	81	132	117	98	113

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Holy Thursday			37		47	44	30	80			87
Good Friday			30		36	21	57	144			116
Easter			80		64	89	86	222	248	158	235
Thanksgiving Eve			38		23	22	51		75		41
Christmas Eve			84		66	56	141		168	165	134
New Years Eve			26		22	31	65	40	50	77	48

Membership:

Plus		1	2	2		2	4	13	5	6	3
Minus	-1	-5	-6	-6			-4	-4	-8	-5	-9
Inactive	-41			-27							
Members	151	147	143	112			104	113	110	111	105



Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church

2008 Financial Report and 2009 Budget

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
Income			
4000 · Unrestricted Contributions			
Regular Offerings	87,650	85,756	82,800
Sunday School	750	344	400
Total 4000 · Unrestricted Contributions	<u>88,400</u>	<u>86,100</u>	<u>83,200</u>
4400 · Restricted Income			
4410 · Bible Courses & Conferences			
AACC Conference Food Income		1,439	
Family Life Seminar		365	
Men's Retreat		1,502	
Weekend to Remember		895	
Women's Retreat		990	
4410 · Bible Courses & Conferences - Other	3,000		4,000
Total 4410 · Bible Courses & Conferences	<u>3,000</u>	<u>5,191</u>	<u>4,000</u>
4420 · Building Fund			
General Building Fund	14,300	12,894	14,300
Total 4420 · Building Fund	<u>14,300</u>	<u>12,894</u>	<u>14,300</u>
4430 · Children and Youth Ministries			
Children and Youth Ministries	4,000	3,969	4,250
Scholarship Fund		315	
Youth Ministry Fundraising		284	500
Youth Retreat Fees		707	1,100
Total 4430 · Children and Youth Ministries	<u>4,000</u>	<u>5,275</u>	<u>5,850</u>
4440 · Diaconal & Community Ministries			
Christmas Toy Sale (Donations)	600	1,760	1,500
Christmas Toy Sale (from Sales)		133	150
Fellowship Fund	1,800	3,817	3,000
Special Events and Dinners			
Family Fall Festival		4,724	5,500
Special Events and Dinners - Other	3,000		500
Total Special Events and Dinners	<u>3,000</u>	<u>4,724</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total 4440 · Diaconal & Community Ministries	5,400	10,433	10,650
4450 · Directed Ministry Staff Support			
Support for Daniel Ndimantang	2,000		
Support for Luis Centeno		1,120	1,200
Total 4450 · Directed Ministry Staff Support	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,200</u>
4470 · Memorials Committee Funds	1,000		1,000

	2008 Budget	2008 Actual	2009 Budget
4480 · Missions			
4480.10 · Missions Fund (General)	14,300	14,492	14,300
4480.20 · Cameroon Mission (CVAI)		920	
4480.70 · Special Offerings	400	237	400
Total 4480 · Missions	14,700	15,649	14,700
4490 · Pastor's Ministry Expenses	500	360	500
4495 · Police Ministry	1,500	9,030	8,500
Total 4400 · Restricted Income	46,400	59,952	60,700
4800 · Other Income			
Facilities Use Fees	750	800	2,500
Flowers Income	800	1,019	1,000
Investment Income	200		200
Mission Work Groups	1,000	5,320	4,000
Workday/Meeting/Practice Meals	100	20	50
Total 4800 · Other Income	2,850	7,159	7,750
4900 · Legacies & Bequests		3,390	
Total Income	137,650	156,601	151,650
Expense			
5000 · Church Home			
5010 · Building Improvement & Maint			
Air Conditioning	2,000	868	250
Annex		394	1,000
Door Latches & Locks	100	12	100
Electrical	600		600
Exterminating	100		100
Fellowship Hall		2,694	
Fire Extinguishers	200	792	200
Grounds Maintenance	100		100
Handicapped Access Ramp	250		250
Maintenance Supplies	600	271	600
Nursery		364	
Parsonage	300		300
Plumbing & Heating	500	911	500
Showers	250		250
Stone Pointing and Concrete	6,000		7,500
Welcome Room		2,839	500
Workday Lunches		28	50
5010 · Building Improvement & Maint - Other	1,000	250	1,000
Total 5010 · Building Improvement & Maint	12,000	9,421	13,300
5030 · Utilities			
5031 · Church Electric	5,500	4,275	6,500
5032 · Church Gas	15,000	12,555	13,500
5033 · Church Telephone	1,150	1,140	1,200
5034 · Church Water and Sewer	650	794	850
5036 · Annex Electric	550	630	1,000
5038 · Annex Oil	2,000	2,085	2,750
5039 · Annex Water and Sewer	250	221	300
5042 · 127 Utilities	3,800	2,947	3,500
Total 5030 · Utilities	28,900	24,647	29,600

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
5045 · Insurance	10,500	10,462	7,500
5050 · Sexton's Salary	6,000	6,936	7,000
5051 · Sexton's Supplies	350	357	350
5055 · Licenses and Permits	250		250
5060 · Memorials Committee Funds	1,000		1,000
5065 · Real Estate Taxes (127)	800	835	835
5070 · Security Monitoring	875	927	950
5090 · Miscellaneous	200		200
Total 5000 · Church Home	60,875	53,586	60,985
5100 · Church Ministries			
5110 · Pastoral Ministry and Staff			
5111 · Staff Salaries (from Church)			
Asst Pastor Housing Allowance		346	
Asst Pastor Salary	5,000	4,654	
Pastor's Housing Allowance		400	
Pastor's Salary	23,500	23,500	27,500
Total 5111 · Staff Salaries (from Church)	28,500	28,900	27,500
5112 · Staff Salaries (from Missions)			
Asst Pastor Salary (Missions)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total 5112 · Staff Salaries (from Missions)	5,000	5,000	5,000
5114 · Staff Salaries (from Directed)			
Asst Pastor Salary (Directed)	2,000		
Pastor Housing Allow (Directed)		481	1,200
Pastor Salary (Directed)		639	
Total 5114 · Staff Salaries (from Directed)	2,000	1,120	1,200
5115 · Staff Ministry Expenses			
Asst Pastor's Mileage Expenses	1,250	1,193	1,250
Pastor's Ministry Expenses	1,500	1,479	1,600
Total 5115 · Staff Ministry Expenses	2,750	2,671	2,850
5118 · Pulpit Supply	500		500
Total 5110 · Pastoral Ministry and Staff	38,750	37,691	37,050
5120 · Bible Courses and Conferences			
AACC Conference Food / Labor		60	
Bible Study Materials		334	
Family Life Seminar		762	
Men's Retreat		1,758	
Weekend to Remember		795	
Women's Conference		600	
5120 · Bible Courses and Conferences - Other	3,000		4,000
Total 5120 · Bible Courses and Conferences	3,000	4,309	4,000
5130 · Children and Youth Ministries			
Sunday Bible School	2,500	414	750
Vacation Bible School	1,800	2,974	3,000
Youth Group	200	491	500
Youth Retreat Scholarships		120	
Youth Retreats	1,000	1,260	1,300
Total 5130 · Children and Youth Ministries	5,500	5,259	5,550

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
5140 · Diaconal & Community Ministries			
Assistance for Persons in Need	923	1,456	1,177
Christmas Toy Sale	800	1,395	1,500
Christmas Toy Sale -> Missions		300	
Evangelism & Outreach Materials	2,300		2,000
Food Cupboard (Fellowship Fund)	900	2,775	3,000
Police Ministry		9,184	7,500
Special Events and Dinners			
Church Dinners		734	1,000
Family Fall Festival		4,730	4,750
Hospitality Supplies	1,000	518	750
Missions Conference Lunches	675	830	850
Special Events and Dinners - Other	5,400		
Total Special Events and Dinners	<u>7,075</u>	<u>6,812</u>	<u>7,350</u>
Total 5140 · Diaconal & Community Ministries	11,998	21,921	22,527
5150 · Worship Ministry			
Flowers	800	693	800
Music	300	384	300
Piano Tuning & Repair	200	250	250
Worship Supplies	50	167	200
Total 5150 · Worship Ministry	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,494</u>	<u>1,550</u>
5185 · Mission Work Group Expenses		2,506	2,500
Total 5100 · Church Ministries	<u>60,598</u>	<u>73,180</u>	<u>73,177</u>
5200 · Church Office			
Bank Service Charges	100	33	50
Books	75		75
Copiers	2,000	1,374	2,000
Miscellaneous	100		100
Offering Envelopes	250	501	300
Office Supplies	800	397	650
Pastor's Secretary			3,300
Postage	150	168	200
Total 5200 · Church Office	<u>3,475</u>	<u>2,473</u>	<u>6,675</u>
5400 · Support of Other Ministries			
5410 · Missions Fund (General)	7,875	8,213	7,875
5420 · Cameroon Mission (CVAI)		920	
5470 · Special Offerings	400	237	400
5480 · Visiting Missionary Speakers	750	700	750
Total 5400 · Support of Other Ministries	<u>9,025</u>	<u>10,069</u>	<u>9,025</u>
5500 · Payroll Expenses	1,377	1,296	788
Total Expense	<u>135,350</u>	<u>140,604</u>	<u>150,650</u>
Repayment / Addition to Endowment Funds	2,300	14,536	-
Net All Current Funds	-	1,461	1,000

Missions Fund 2008 Report and 2009 Budget

	2008 Budget	2008 Actual	2009 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		
Individual Missionaries			
Vicky Beattie, Sudan, Africa (SIM)	500	500	500
Jack Cordell, Race Track Ministries, Philadelphia (ABC)	500	500	500
Thomas and Sharon Huckel, Hananeel House, Phila.	500	500	500
Duthene and Maxia Joseph, Haiti (CrossWorld)	500	500	500
Barry and Peggy Owen, Taiwan (WorldVenture)	500	500	500
Rebekah Poteat, Togo, West Africa (ABWE)	500	500	500
Philadelphia-Area Ministries			
Alpha Pregnancy Services	500	500	500
Amazing Grace Ministries	300	400	500
Children's Safe Harbor	300	400	500
Good Shepherd Ministry (ABC)	500	500	500
Grace Settlement House (BCM Int'l)	500	500	500
Whosoever Gospel Mission	575	845	575
Other Institutions & Missions Organizations			
Christ's Home For Children	300	300	300
Kodiak Baptist Mission (ABC)	300	300	300
Mission Aviation Fellowship	300	300	300
Pocket Testament League	200	300	300
Others			
Missions Conference Expenses	675	830	675
Visiting Missionary Speakers	750	700	750
Student Aid	200	568	
Total General Budget	\$14,000	\$14,743	\$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

Fund Balances, December 31, 2008

	<u>Starting Balance</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/08</u>
General Fund	-\$11,146.22	\$627.33
Building Fund		
General Building Fund	\$0.00	\$2,221.31
Air Conditioning	\$1,185.00	\$317.29
Total Building Fund	\$1,185.00	\$2,538.60
Missions Fund		
General Missions Budget	\$1,163.37	\$913.06
Disaster Relief	\$416.87	\$350.09
Cameroon Missions	\$240.81	\$240.81
Total Missions Fund	\$1,821.05	\$1,603.96
Deacons' Fellowship Fund	\$347.06	\$0.00
Christmas Toy Sale	\$562.30	\$760.30
Police Ministry	\$700.00	\$545.77
Robert Wood Johnson CHLP Grant	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Endowment Fund	\$21,336.55	\$24,726.63
Uncleared Items and Liabilities	\$581.54	\$1,915.14
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$17,387.28	\$34,717.73
Checking Account		\$27,616.67
Certificates of Deposit		\$3,510.98
United States Treasury Bonds		\$3,390.08
Petty Cash		\$200.00
TOTAL ALL MONETARY ASSETS		\$34,717.73