

*Gaithersburg
Church of the Nazarene*



Annual Report
2007 - 2008

Annual Report for the Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene February 2008

I began this report on a cold, dreary winter's afternoon in February in the midst of some of the most difficult circumstances we've ever faced. I'm finally getting around to finishing it on a beautiful, spring like day in March and, for the most part, on the other side of that difficult time. It's a reminder to me of the hope we have in Jesus Christ our Lord! One of these days—spring and warmth and sunshine and life and Jesus forever!

I want to say thanks again this year to Kelly and Rebekah and Abby who are my greatest joys on earth! Thanks to Terry and Sally and Arnold and Michelle for being so good to work with. Thanks to a great Leadership Team that provides so much ministry with such a good spirit. Thanks to those who have led us in the New Building and Capital Fundraising efforts thus far—tremendous job. Thanks most of all to God for His grace and mercy.

Our theme for this fundraising campaign we're in is **"Building to Serve...Together."** It's become a phrase that's guided my plans and thoughts for this coming year, not just for the campaign, but for the life and ministry we share together here at GCN.



Building



We obviously have plans for new facilities and we're excited about that! Our investment in that new building is an investment in the continued ministry of this church. This building is more than a place to come (that in and of itself is a great thing!), it is a sending station for mission and ministry in the community and to the ends of the earth! And we are committed to seeing that continue.

We also have existing facilities that we need to take care of. At my house, we all pitch in. And I think that's how it ought to be at God's House. This year more than ever, I want all of us to plan on doing something to help keep up with all there is to do in keeping God's House looking good and being a great place for ministry to happen.

To Serve

This is where we get to the heart of who we are and to the heart of what we want to see happening within our fellowship and beyond the walls in the lives of our neighbors.

We've got two great calls to serve. The first is to "serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13). Whenever you read, "one another," in the New Testament, the writer is speaking of the church. We should pray for and work for and experience the kind of Christian fellowship where we bear each other's burdens, respond to needs and nurture life-changing relationships of encouragement. That's not going to happen if we're just showing up every other Sunday for a service. We've got to get connected to each other beyond that—



practicing hospitality, becoming part of a group, getting involved with others in ministry. Jesus showed his group of disciples how much He loved them by serving them (check out John 13).

Our other great call is to love our neighbor. These are the folks that God sends our way or that we encounter along the way that we can help. Serving is, once again, the sign of that genuine love. We must continue to see the church scattered all over the place and serving in Jesus' name.



Together

As ministry leaders we're making a big effort this year to plan ministry and do ministry TOGETHER. We don't want to pile activity on top of activity. We want to work together to accomplish what God seems to be calling us to accomplish.

I'm praying that a result of this planning together is that we have more opportunity to bring the generations together in the life and ministry of our church. The big event on Sunday, March 2nd, both here in the sanctuary and over at the Mother of God activity center was great! And part of the beauty of that day was seeing all the ages enjoying worship and enjoying fellowship together.

I've said it probably a dozen times over the last several months—let's stick together! Let's see what we can do together as God leads and helps us! Let's do all we can "to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). I'm a recovering peacemaker (i.e., will do just about anything to keep the peace, which is not often a good thing). But I'm not talking about avoiding conflict—you can't. It will come and we can handle that if we stay humble and keep our eyes on Jesus. I'm talking about having one heart and one mind and one purpose—to serve Christ Jesus our Lord in these incredibly challenging, full-of-opportunity days we live in here in the capital of the free world! It's no wonder that Jesus Himself prayed that we would be one (John 17)! "Together" is still the most important word to me in what has become more than a campaign theme.

Thank you for the privilege of being one of your pastors. And if you've persevered and read this far, I want you to know that I'm deeply grateful for the grace you and God have extended the likes of me.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ben

GCN Active Membership

02/05/2008

Chris Allen
Lissa Allen
Lisa Ashley
Maria Austin
Greg Baharoff
Sharon Baharoff
Fiona Baldrige
Lisa Baldrige
Sherrie Bayman
David Beall
Marie Bercaw
Adam Berg
Debbie Berg
Michael Berg
Cindy Blackmon
Harry Blackmon
Sherry Blackmon
Belinda Bradshaw
Mike Bradshaw
Tom Bratton
Martha Bratton
Hazel Britton
Hilda Brooke
Annie Brown
David Brown
Michelle Brown
Sarah Brown
Amanda Bunting
Eric Bunting
Hank Bunting
Jenine Bunting
Barbara Burr
Jo Burrows
Luwanna Cameron
Duane Caneva
Tina Caneva
Brad Chaney
Heidi Chaney
Jim Clay
Linda Clay
Laurilee Clugston
Greg Clugston
Jean Dunlevy Culpepper

Eleanor Cunningham
Floyd Cunningham
Dave Dailey
Jennifer Dailey
Matt Devan
Teah Devan
Christine DiMambro
Richard DiMambro
Angie Dunlevy
Blake Dunlevy
Dave Dunlevy
Frank Fish, Jr.
Pam Fish
Jean Fitzgerald
Patti Fitzgibbon
Diane Fitzpatrick
Mike Fitzpatrick
Traci Fitzpatrick
Cathy Frame
Dean Frame
Bob Francis
Nancy Francis
Billie Frazier
Don Frazier
Barbara Frey
Sarah Fuller
Bunnie Galladora
Gary Gillette
Paula Gillette
Violet Green
Brian Gruber
Lisa Gruber
Bruce Hadley
Cindy Hadley
Chris Harrell
Sandy Harrell
Rick Hepner
Janice Hill
Jennifer Hill
Kent Hill
Willie Hosie
Eddie Irons
Lorelei Irons

**Barbara Insley
Gail Jacobs
Karen Jones
Kathy Johnson
Larry Johnson
Pat Kane
Janet Kenly
Richard Kenly
Judy Kibby
Steve Kibby
Bertie Lambert
Benjamin Leach
Lynetta Leach
Mark Leach
Diane Moore Leaman
Gary Leaman
Lorraine Loy
Robin Loy
Silas Loy, Jr
Bob Mathis
Julie Mathis
Ruth McCrory
Glenn McPhee (Attending New
Lisa McPhee Beginning Church)
Debbie Mikus
Mike Mikus
Patti Mills
Ken Mills
Suzy Misfeldt
Dee Neff
Bill Neil
Kendra Neil
Russell Nicholson
Patricia Norris
Tim Perry
Ashlee Prestipino
Kim Prestipino
Nick Prestipino
Sophia Proctor
Darcy Quinn
Kelsey Rosario
Allen Ross
Kathleen Ross
Jennifer Sekhar
David Sharp
Jennifer Sharp
Laura Sharp
Lisa Sharp**

**Ben Spitler
Kelly Spitler
Rebekah Spitler
Christy Stein
Eric Stein
Mary Stephen
Fred Stepler
Lynn Stepler
Dudley Strickland
Jacque Strickland
Frank Sweeney
Terry Sweeney
Paul Taylor
Sandie Taylor
Jenny Blackmon Teixeira
Milton Terry
Wilma Terry
Abigail Ukwuani
Festus Ukwuani
Tim Ukwuani
Anne VanBronkhorst
David VanBronkhorst
Molly VanBronkhorst
Steve VanBronkhorst
Amy Van Gilder
David Van Gilder
Ruthella Van Gilder
Karen Van Gilder
Dan Van Gilder
Debbie Van Gilder
Melissa Vass
David Vicino
Debby Vicino
Michele Vicino
Bill Watkins
Rhonda Watkins
Jerry Way
Ann Weems
John Weems
Traci Weems
David West
Dawn West
Oliver Whipp
Rita Wigle
Kathryn Wilder
Kim Yost**

2007 Annual Membership Report
February 22, 2008

Active Members 2/25/07		178
New Members		
By Confession	+	4
By Transfer	+	0
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		182
Deceased	-	1
Lettered Out	-	2
Transferred to Inactive Resident/Non-Resident	-	0
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS		179
Inactive Members 2/22/07		95
Deceased	-	0
Transferred out	-	5
Dropped By Board Action	-	0
Transferred to Inactive By Board Action	+	00
TOTAL INACTIVE MEMBERS		90
53 Non-Resident		
37 Resident		
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		269 (ACTIVE & INACTIVE)
BAPTISMS		4
BABY DEDICATION		1

Respectively submitted,

Lynn Stepler
Membership Secretary

Associate Pastor Kelly Spitler

The sticker that I use as my return address label says “forever grateful” on it. I put that on there because I am forever grateful to God for his saving grace in my life and for His constant faithfulness to my family, our church, and me. He has blessed us even more than we could have imagined and He continues to do so.

The areas of ministry I have focused on include the following:

- Assimilation with Lisa Baldrige and our faithful ushers
- Women’s ministries with Luwana Cameron
- Young Adult ministries with Blake Dunlevy
- Recovery ministries with Dee Neff
- Pastoral care with all of GCN

I have also been working with our incredible Focus Group leaders who faithfully teach God’s Word every week. I am so blessed to have such great lay leaders in every area of ministry.

It was great to be a part of our first annual Young Adult Leaders Retreat last Memorial Day weekend. About 10 of us went away for the weekend to pray and talk about how to best reach young adults. It was so exciting to see these young adults, in their 20’s, so concerned over their peers. We are really seeing a movement of God’s spirit in our young adults.

It was also great to be a part of our women’s retreat last year. Annie Brown and her team prayerfully put together an incredible retreat. The Lord used that time to draw us closer to Him and to each other. The worship was so incredible no one wanted to leave.

A goal for the coming year is to help my areas of ministry get outside the walls of GCN and minister to our community. God is putting this burden on our church and I want to help make it happen. I am feeling drawn to Stewartown, a low-income neighborhood near us, and would love to see us reaching out to this needy area.

God continues to be my Savior and Lord. My daily times with Him give me strength, wisdom and direction. I want to continue to serve Him.

Kelly C. Spitler

Associate Pastor Terry Sweeney



“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19-20, *The Message*)

Those words of Jesus from *The Message* have defined what God has placed on my heart this past year-to share Him wherever I go and to be intentional in my sharing. I have been blessed to share Him in my local elementary school, Clearspring Elementary, through a Good News Club, at the Neighborhood Women’s Group held weekly in my home on Wednesday nights and in numerous doctors’ offices. Sharing ministry with others from GCN has made the women’s group and ministry at Clearspring Elementary a special blessing for me. Making my numerous visits to doctors’ offices a ministry outside the walls has also blessed me and amazed me at the opportunities with both patients and medical staff that God has provided me with to share Him and His love. I have truly been blessed to “Meet people where they are and invite them to follow Jesus.”

I have also been blessed to partner in ministry with a number of overseers and a staff that loves Christ and longs to share Him with others. I am so grateful to our LIFE Group leaders Gary Gillette, Lisa Baldrige, Dave & Molly VanBronkhorst, Greg and Laurilee Clugston, Bill Watkins, Lisa Sharp, Lynn & Fred Stepler, and Rebecca Carroll for their faithfulness to God and their groups. In addition, it has been a joy to continue to work with and equip ministry leaders as they faithfully serve God. Thank you to Rich DiMambro, Marriage Ministry Overseer, Sherrie Bayman, Prayer Ministry Overseer, Chris Harrell, Children’s Ministry Overseer, Kim Prestipino, Ministries Team Chair, Lisa Sharp, LIFE Groups Overseer and Lorraine Loy, Barbara Insley and Barbara Burr, our Prime Timers Overseers for your faithfulness in serving God and others. It has also been a joy to see Amy Van Gilder and Rebecca Carroll, our returning Live Nativity coordinators, once again bless our community with their leadership and coordination of the Live Nativity. Working with Pastor Ben, Pastor Kelly, Michelle and Sally is a daily joy for me as we work together in one Spirit and one purpose to advance His Kingdom.

I can hardly believe that I have completed the course of study and will appear before the Board of Ministry on March 4 to be interviewed for ordination. I thank you all for your prayers for me this past year and covet them as I continue to serve Him and you. I thank God for my family, especially my husband Frank, who truly is a blessing to me. I also thank Him for Brian, Allison, Dietrich, Hadley, Stella and Kevin and Ann, the family He has blessed me with. This coming year my hope and prayer is that I will daily hear His voice and follow and be His vessel fit for His use. My prayer is that it will be so for you as well. I look forward to the year ahead and seeing what God will do in His church as we share life and ministry together.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Terry ☺

Leadership Team Secretary Dave Dailey



It was a blessing to serve this year as GCN's Leadership Team Secretary. The Team Members work hard to see that they represent the membership well. They seek the Lord's guidance in the decisions of His Church, both through prayer and God's Word. The Leadership Team is exactly that – a Team working together to serve the Lord. It was a blessing to work with such wonderful servants of the Lord!

As in past years, the Team addressed a variety of topics including:

- Finances/Budgets
- Facility upkeep and repair
- Facility expansion and fund raising
- Leasing of the parsonage and church facilities
- Achieving the goals established at the Leadership Team Annual Meeting
- Pastoral Staff support/appreciation
- Staffing needs
- GCN Policies and Procedures
- Recommending renewal of Local Ministers Licenses, District Licenses & Church Staff

One of the major highlights for the Team included discussion and analysis of various options for building expansion including the procurement of additional property and the required fund raising. The payout of the mortgage for the current facility was encouraging in that regard.

Goals for the upcoming year include the efficient use of time for Lay Leadership across ministry areas to encourage active participation without overburdening leadership.

God was faithful in bringing new folks to GCN, while leading some to other places of ministry. Average attendance for of the Church Year (March 2007 – January 2008) was 298 total at the two Sunday morning services, and 278 total in Kids and Teens Sunday School/Adult Focus Groups.

Praise God for his faithfulness in the past year!

David Dailey

Finance Committee

Brad Chaney

GCN had a solid year financially. We always live within our budget, but we started with a more realistic budget than we sometimes have in the past, and our giving ran ahead of last year.

A continuing highlight is the generosity of GCN members. Our giving per person consistently is among the highest in our district. Further, people are great about responding to special needs as they arise.

This also has been our first year with a new accounting system. It's wonderful to have a system that we trust, and that readily gives us the information that we need.

This coming year, we hope to move forward on several fronts than involve finances: (1) to add a new staff member, (2) to continue to deal with some building repair needs that have accumulated, and (3) to run a capital campaign for renovation and expansion of our building and grounds. It will be challenging, and we are trying to combine realistic planning with stepping out in faith.

I am grateful for the many people who work in the background to make our financial system work: counting the tithes and offerings each week, seeing that each person's giving is faithfully and accurately reported, maintaining the books, writing checks, and preparing budgets. Sometimes we don't think of these activities as "ministry." But these people help the whole church to run. Without them, our ministries would be greatly handicapped.

Brad Chaney

GCN Budget for 2008-09

Budget Category	Budget Amount
Operating funds - total	\$667,946
Ministries (total)	59,575
Adult Christian education	2,500
Children's ministry	12,000
Church fellowship	3,000
Compassion/evangelism	1,000
Marriage ministry	0
Men's ministry	500
Ministries Team	14,050
Youth ministry (NYI)	7,500
Pastoral ministry	9,000
Prayer ministry	500
Primetimers (sr. adults)	700
Singles	0
Small groups	0
Women's ministry	1,200
Worship—music	2,775
Worship—sanctuary	3,850
Young adults	1,000
District Budgets	89,302
Property	218,190
Buildings	54,800
Grounds & transportation	12,550
Office/communications	36,600
Capital expenses	27,000
Mortgage	--
Mortgage reserve	87,240
Salaries/benefits/taxes	300,880

Financial Summary – 2007-2008

Total funds of all types at end of year	\$236,208
New Building Capital Campaign	94,883
Designated funds (total)	45,742
Growth Fund	13,654
Camp Scholarships	236
Kitchen Upgrade	7,168
NYI Activities	3,555
Stephens Ministry	8,237
Worship Team	108
NMI	4,578
Other bypass funds	8,206
Operating expenses (total)	95,583
Six Week Reserve	77,044
Property Reserve	9,253
Available undesignated funds	9,286

Budget Income	Actual income	Planned income for year	Year-end shortfall or surplus
Tithes and offerings	609,185	642,612	-33,427
Total income	626,014	667,719	-41,705

Budget Expenses	Actual expenditures	Budget	Year-end deficit or surplus
Church budget (operating funds) total	615,976	667,719	51,743
Ministries (total)	45,013	62,440	17,427
Adult Christian education	1,794	3,120	1,326
Children's ministry	15,447	15,600	153
Church fellowship	2,440	5,120	2,680
Compassion/evangelism	2,389	1,200	-1,189
Marriage ministry	295	900	605
Men's ministry	469	800	331
Ministries Team	1,427	4,240	2,813
Youth ministry (NYI)	4,659	13,300	8,641
Pastoral ministry	8,487	7,000	-1,487
Prayer ministry	-180	0	180
Primetimers (sr. adults)	536	480	-56
Singles	0	100	100
Small groups	747	3,200	2,453
Women's ministry	845	900	55
Worship—music	2,065	2,340	275
Worship—sanctuary	2,605	2,640	35
Young adults	988	1,500	512
Denominational expenses and gifts to organizations	87,854	85,867	-1,987
Property			
Buildings	68,333	85,900	17,567
Grounds & transportation	9,712	10,650	938
Office/communications	35,859	34,700	-1,159
Mortgage	44,027	44,100	73
Mortgage reserve	43,213	43,140	-73
Salaries/benefits/taxes	288,292	300,922	12,630

Office & Communications

Steven Kibby

It has been a privilege to serve on the Leadership Team this past year along with other members of GCN that love the Lord and care deeply for our church. It is always a joy working with our church staff. They are living lives that serve the Lord, their families, and our church body. Thank you to the many volunteers that continue to assist the office staff on a regular basis.

Some highlights from this past year include:

- A new electronic communication package has been set up that delivers messages to groups at GCN. It is currently being used to communicate to the teens and saves a considerable amount of money on postage
- The network server was replaced in July when the old server expired
- New finance software was installed and is being used by the finance team
- Regular computer monitoring and security updates were completed throughout the year assuring maximum system availability resulting in no outbreaks of viruses, worms or Trojan Horses

A couple of goals for this coming year include expanded use of the electronic messaging system to increase speed of message delivery, reduce postage cost, and enhance overall communication. In addition, the office copier needs to be replaced and is planned for this year.

Thank you to our church staff for their many hours of dedicated service to our church. I have thoroughly enjoyed my position as Office and Communications Overseer during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kibby



Building and Grounds

Steve Van Bronkhorst

I am pleased to report that the facilities we are blessed with are in good shape. We are working hard to keep up with the current maintenance and also implement a series of repairs and upgrades that will allow us to continue to enjoy the facilities God has provided to serve both our congregation and the surrounding community.

In the past year we have replaced the preschool wing roof, repaired water and mold damage in the parsonage, replaced damaged concrete sidewalks and removed the hazardous ramp to the trailer, and painted a couple of classrooms.

Facility improvements in the coming year that will be more visible will include;

- Painting the exterior of the parsonage
- Replacement of exterior siding
- Painting of some classrooms and hallways
- Partial replacement of the kitchen cabinets

Many things will take place that won't be so obvious;

- Insurance's renewed
- Use fee schedule implemented
- Property inventory taken
- Drainage and grading
- A/C units repaired
- Filters replaced
- and much more

I hope that others share my joy at the opportunities that the gift of having GCN facilities used to serve the Kingdom with a great place to worship, provide outreach and support for groups inside and outside the body of GCN.

In the last couple of years we have come a long way in addressing some issues that have not been prioritized in past years. This new year will bring a new mechanism to provide funding for some of the future building requirements. The Resource team proposed and the Leadership Team has approved the allocation of building use fees into the property reserve fund after meeting a \$5000 operating budget threshold. As we look forward to expanded facilities and the increased usage that is anticipated a long-term solution to maintenance and replacement funds for the building is important. We continue to work down a list of projects that for one reason or another were postponed or unfunded in previous years. The start of the capital campaign will add further clarity to the list. As the facilities age we either need to replace the buildings with new structure or increase the funding available to maintain and improve the facilities that we currently have. This year should bring further clarity to Gods plan for GCN's new building and with that information a plan for improvement of the existing structures can be continued.

In His Humble Service

Steve VanBronkhorst

Ministries Team Report

Kim Prestipino, President

At the beginning of the year we talked about our dreams for the ministry of GCN. A few of the many dreams that were voiced were dreams of unity, for us to be a people of prayer, and to be a relational church where everyone has a friend. I would say that the highlight of the year for me has been to see some of these dreams coming true.

Although there have been questions, concerns, and uncertainties around the idea of a building campaign, I have seen our church unite in an effort to move forward. I would credit this in large part to being a church body who prays together corporately as well as individually. Sherrie Bayman is our Prayer Overseer and she has started a weekly prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings in the sanctuary. I am certain that the building campaign as well as many other prayer needs have been a big focus.

In the area of relationships, we have been brainstorming in our meetings ways that all ministry areas could work together. For example, the youth group and the young adult group have a common interest to serve outside the walls of GCN. By working together, the teens would have needed chaperones, drivers, and mentors. We have also had young adults ministering to the teens at Deep Impact as well as different small groups providing and or serving the food.

Life groups continue to be a vital ministry which promotes friendship. Small group meetings encourage and enable deeper relationships than is possible at a Sunday morning service. Sunday School classes offer another opportunity for getting to know others better. These are just a few examples of many ways we as a church family are reaching out to one another as well as those outside of the walls.

Although I won't be returning as a member of the Ministries Team for 2008, I have been honored to have served in this way. I have been reminded that each one of us is a part of the body of Christ and all parts are needed to function. God calls each of us to be used by Him, to be a tool in His hands. There truly is no greater privilege than that. John 15:4-5 NLT says, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

All we are called to do is remain in Him and allow Him to produce fruit through us. There is a quote I remind myself of often which says, "God doesn't call the enabled, He enables the called." It is exciting and life giving to be used by Him, and I am eternally grateful for such a privilege.

In Him,
Kim Prestipino

Nazarene Missions International

Ruthella Van Gilder, President

What a challenge to serve my first year as NMI President! I would like to thank the NMI Council members who have worked along with me: Jim Clay-Vice President, Sally Fuller-Treasurer, Sandie Taylor-Secretary, Jean Dunlevy-Culpeper, Diane Leaman, Fred and Lynn Stepler, Eleanor Cunningham, Martha Bratton, and Kendra Neil. Many thanks to Mino Hatten, Katherine Fiore, Lorelei Irons and Cameron Irons, who joined us in planning Faith Promise Weekend. Strong support and encouragement were also received from Pastor Ben, Pastor Kelly, Pastor Terry, Sherrie Bayman, Heidi Chaney and Chris Harrell.

Your Faith Promise giving so far this year is 85% of the pledges made in February 2007. As you know, the mission work in the Nazarene church depends entirely on giving above and beyond our tithes and offerings. GCN paid \$63,880 this year to support Nazarene missionaries. This is 103% of our assigned share of the World Evangelism Fund. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to Faith Promise and other mission offerings. It will be exciting to see what the Lord has in store for us this year.

Prayer is very important in supporting our missionaries, Nazarene believers in other countries, as well as locations experiencing poverty, disasters and political unrest. When you spend time in prayer time for these issues, God is faithful. Needs are met and problems are solved that money cannot resolve. Be sure to check out the Prayer Mobilization Hotline at www.nazarenemissioninternational.org/prayer/pml/pml.html or call 816-444-PRAY

GCN mission projects this year include:

- Child Sponsorships –we doubled the number of kids this year. We support children in Pakistan, Kenya, India and Nicaragua.
- 20 backpacks and supplies were provided for Stewartown children
- Missionary visits: Daniel and Melissa Pape, volunteers in Manila
Karen Van Gilder, missionary returning from Poland
- Work and Witness team sent to the Philippines to work on the APNTS library. \$10,000 was raised for materials used in this project.
- Spring and fall trips to Fawn Grove warehouse to deliver 46 boxes of clothing and over 100 Crisis Care Kits that will be shipped overseas.
- Children raised funds for a car for Floyd Cunningham (new president of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila)

All of the missionaries mentioned by name in this report spent many years attending GCN as children and teens. How many of our current kids will be serving the Lord as missionaries and pastors 15 or 20 years from now? I pray there will be many.

I am trusting God to lead us in raising mission-consciousness, monetary support and prayer support for worldwide missions. He will be faithful as we trust him.

Ruthella Van Gilder

Youth Ministry

Angie Dunlevy

Since this time last year, our youth group has experienced many changes. The news that Pastor Robb & Amy were leaving GCN came as a surprise to the teens as well as the youth leaders. Our youth group also felt the loss of the 22 seniors that graduated. But, the good news is that we still have a GREAT group of teens in our youth group with many of them committed to wanting to grow in the Lord and to be there for each other.

I am thankful for all who have taken an active role in youth leadership especially the young adults who were a huge blessing this past summer when they stepped up and led Deep Impact. The teens (and other leaders) were encouraged, blessed, and felt the love and support by these young adults. Thanks to those of you who did that for a time. (Rebecca Carroll, Blake Dunlevy, Amy Van Gilder, Brian Van Gilder, and Kim Yost) It was appreciated more than you'll ever know.

Another encouraging highlight for the leaders and teens this year was having many adults come along side the regular Deep Impact Leaders and lend support on Sunday evenings by setting up, handling the food, cleaning up, and staying to the end of the evening. What a blessing that support has been!

I am especially thankful for the teachers who have guided and directed our teens week after week and year after year (Jenine Buntings, Mike Bradshaw, Patti Fitzgibbon, Kim Prestipino, Nick Prestipino, Jacque Strickland, and Kim Yost) as well as many other teachers who have faithfully given their time and talents in serving the Lord and our teenagers. My family is just one in many who have benefited from their faithfulness.

BIG thanks go out to Amy Van Gilder, Oliver Garrett, Traci Weems, and Alex Connell who led our teens this past summer on a mission trip to Mississippi. It was a positive experience for all who attended as they served those in need in the hurricane recovery area.

The teens experienced the winter retreat in a new way this year. It was separated by high school and middle school. Some highlights I've heard thus far were; "the speaker", "the zip line", "the skateboard park", "the band", "spending time with my friends", and "being stretched to grow". Thanks to all the leaders who chaperoned, drove, and loved on that group.

Please join in praying for new leaders to answer the call to be a part of youth ministry here at GCN. I can tell you that the time I've spent with the teens have been some of the most life giving moments for me. They truly are a great group of teens and I count it a privilege and blessing to have been able to serve in this area of ministry. I love those kids! Join me in continuing to pray for them.

Special thanks to Amy Van Gilder for taking on the NYI president role this year. She is a gift to me and will continue to be to our youth group this coming year.

In closing, I am especially excited for the 10 teens and 10 young adults who will be part of a team of 36 people serving on a mission trip this summer in Honduras. This is the area of ministry that God has called me to and I am daily enjoying the preparation for that trip. Please lift our team and especially the teens in your prayers.

In Christ,
Angie Dunlevy

Music Ministry

Dave VanBronkhorst

Highlights:

Major highlights in Music Ministry come every Sunday morning, when this congregation gathers to lead worship! “Isn’t it good to be in God’s house this morning?” Yes, it is! Whatever stresses and strains we arrive with, or whatever doesn’t go exactly as we plan, **worship happens**, and that’s our highlight!

Once again a willing group of singers came together during the Advent season, to present a Christmas musical called “*On This Very Night*”. The message of the music and the narrated text was straight-forwardly evangelistic: Jesus is born, the world will never be the same, and so – what difference does that make to you? The music of the presentation was a blend of “Mormon Tabernacle Choir” and “Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir”; quiet, sweet melodies, African rhythms, Southern Gospel “shouters” and narration with a British flair that brought Christmas to our hearts. Thanks to all who made it happen!

Goal for 2008:

The Worship/Music Ministry will continue to work with the Worship/Sanctuary ministry to maintain, improve and expand the capabilities and equipment that present our audio and video worship ministry. If GCN is going to thrive in this very contemporary locale, we must ensure that our worship music is speaking to teens, young adults and families.

Need:

We still need a regular piano player for the first service, or at least an occasional substitute! Christy is currently our principal pianist, and she is now regularly playing for both services.

Recommendation for Change:

GCN STILL needs a full-time Minister of Music, a pastor/musician, trained in Christian Music and worship leadership. Contemporary Christian music and worship is a complex, challenging profession. We have a great bunch of teens and adult volunteers, willing to be led. Laurilee and Christy work their hearts out for the Lord and for GCN, while caring for young, active families, but how long they can continue to do that is uncertain. Pastor Ben is carrying more of the load of music ministry than he should have to, and it diverts time and energy from his position as Senior Pastor.

My testimony:

This is the last year of my service as Overseer of Music Ministry. I have served in this position for seven years, and it is time to move on. Thank you for the privilege to serve. Thank you for the support and encouraging words you have given me. The greatest blessing of my involvement in this ministry has been to participate with you, the congregation, in the act of worshipping our loving Father God, and living Savior Jesus Christ. The second greatest has been working with Laurilee and Christy and all of the musicians who so faithfully give their time and their talents. Worship leaders, pianists and keyboardists, worship team vocalists, soloists and ensembles, choir members, adults, youth and children who have provided so many wonderful offertories and offerings in song – Thank You, and God Bless!

David VanBronkhorst

Prayer Ministry

Sherrie Bayman

Highlights:

An ABF focus course, *When God's People Pray* by Jim Cymbala, was taught in the Spring.

Pastor Ben taught for six weeks on prayer in the Fall using *Love to Pray* by Alvin Vandergrind as a resource. Alongside his teaching, an ABF focus course using the same material was held. Several LIFE groups used the material as well and devotional materials were available to all.

Following this initiative, a weekly prayer meeting was begun and has continued since November with an average attendance of seven people.

Two people continue to gather each Sunday morning to pray for those leading/teaching and those coming to worship that morning.

The email prayer chain process is going smoothly with the office staff responding quickly to requests to disseminate prayer needs. Prayer covered the Work & Witness trip to the Philippines.

Periodically there is extended prayer time in church services and in various meetings; all gatherings begin in prayer. We participated in the National Day of Prayer and will continue to do so.

Goal:

Increase awareness of the impact and importance of prayer. God has asked us to pray about everything. Encourage making worshipful prayer more central in our lives.

Need:

Some financial resources to cover teaching materials not paid for by the students.

Recommendations:

Jo Burrows will come alongside me to assist with this ministry; I thank the Lord for her!

Hold monthly all-church prayer nights, perhaps using a more focused agenda. Hold them on Friday nights to encourage participants who may be more available on that night. Continue weekly prayer nights the other three weeks of the month. Provide prayer request cards in the pews.

Lead another ABF focus class on prayer, perhaps a DVD-led course, *Prayer: Does it Make a Difference?* by Philip Yancey. Make materials available to LIFE group leaders.

Testimony:

As I pray and study on prayer, I am quicker to pray, in awe of the process of prayer, submitted to God's will and more peaceful in my life. I trust Him to lead me to pray according to His will and I know that the outcome will be best for the kingdom work I am here to do. We are to keep our eyes on heavenly things.

Sherrie Bayman

Primetimers

Barbara Burr, Lorraine Loy, Barbara Insley, Co-leaders

Our planning team of three met with Pastor Terry on a quarterly basis to explore fun, educational, and spiritual activities for the senior adults (55 and older) once a month. We scheduled them during the day from 11:30 am to about 3:00 pm. We always included lunch and provided \$5.00 per person to apply toward their lunch from our budget. This was very helpful for those with limited income.

A specific highlight of activities was when Karen Scott provided us with a Mad Hatters Party at the beginning of the year. We had a lot of laughter over the various hats that were created and are very pleased that she is willing to start this year with “Tropical Tickles” on February 26 at the church. Please come and enjoy our time together. This year we plan to explore new restaurant experiences and find some out of the way museums while weather is good, and during the winter months stay close to home and play games, tell stories, watch movies, etc. We may try longer all day trips, or even overnight and spread our wings toward Western Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

A big concern for our folks is having dependable and comfortable transportation for our excursions. Our goal is to find places that are easily accessible for everyone.

The three of us have deepened our friendship with each other and truly enjoyed the fellowship that we have with this group of very active folks. I think they have ministered to us more than we ministered to them. We are a blessed group.

Barbara Burr

Women's Ministry

Luwana Cameron

Women's Ministry has had a fulfilling year. We started 2007 off with a fellowship and craft get together. Due to the weather we had to wear our webbed shoes and put on our duck hats, but many of us made it and the event wasn't cancelled.

Finally, spring arrived and we celebrated the warm weather by having a luau. No, we didn't cook a pig in the MPR (thought about it) but we had a lot of food, dessert and fellowship. Most of the group dressed the part; some of the costumes could have been on one of those TV shows telling you what not to wear.

As spring turns into summer our focus also changes. We had the Women's Book Series. This year we did the book, "More", by Marilyn Anderes. For our first session Ms. Anderes attended and spoke. She also signed books at the end of the evening. Throughout the summer we had many newcomers present.

Summer now fades into fall and the absolute best thing happened, **WOMEN'S RETREAT**. About 80 of us went to Skycroft Retreat Center for a 2-day and 2 night stay. It was fabulous. Annie Brown planned the whole thing and she did a marvelous job. Peg Arnold was the speaker and many times there wasn't a dry eye. Many times during this weekend God was very much present.

The food was typical Skycroft food, but the relationships you made while eating together were everlasting. I encourage any one that has never been on one of these retreats to go. You won't come back the same!

What a wonderful year. I don't know how we'll match it but with the help and leadership of the women's team I'm sure we'll come up with something.

Luwana Cameron

Young Adult Ministry

Blake Dunlevy

I am pleased to report that the Young Adult Group at GCN is alive and well. The past year and a half has been an incredible testament to the goodness and faithfulness of our Lord. He has shown up time and time again, providing for all that we have needed. The Young Adult Group began to meet in April of 2006 and since that time we have continued to grow, both numerically and in spirit. I feel personally blessed to have witnessed the Lord's hand at work in this area.

Our leadership team has truly done a fantastic job of blazing a new ministry trail. They have been bold enough to ask the tough questions and humble enough to change direction when the situation called for it. I appreciate so much the time, energy, and brainpower that the Young Adult Leaders have put into figuring out the best ways to reach this generation. I believe that we have and will continue to see the Lord honoring their service.

Most of the events that we have held over the past year and a half have been geared towards forming friendships among the young adults. I believe we have been successful in that endeavor. We also have a weekly meeting time on Sunday morning that we call JOLT, which has seen a few different alterations in structure over the past year. During this time, though, we are mainly focused on how following Christ applies to our everyday life. We are given the opportunity to explore and express the thoughts and ideas that we have about life in Christ.

As we continue to look forward to what the future might hold for the Young Adult Group, we are not sure of the specifics, but we have seen a few themes popping up more and more within the group. The first theme seems to be that we need to get beyond the walls of our church and serve those in our community. We are seeing that the hearts of many of our young adults are turning towards those who are sick, poor and hungry. The second theme seems to be the desire to be taught. Our JOLT class is good but we are looking for more from our weekly time together.

As I said, the specifics are unsure, but the desires are there. I thank God for a group of young people who are searching for his will and open to his leading. Our team is currently praying and searching for people from the church body (both young adults and "seasoned" adults) that would be willing to join our team and share our vision of reaching the 18 to twenty-somethings for the Lord. In addition, if you have any thoughts or ideas about how we can get specific on our desires for the future, i.e., opportunities to serve the community, please come and talk to us.

All the glory should be given to God for his guidance and direction for our group, and all the credit in the world should be given to the people who have answered his call and faithfully served the young adults of our church. Thank you to Brian Van Gilder, Kim Yost, Patti Fitzgibbon, Traci Weems, Amy Van Gilder, Peter Hatten, James Stephenson, Kim Prestipino, Jillian Stanton, Katrina Martin, Rebecca Carroll, Natalie Bradley, Matt Fitzgibbon and Dan Watkins for being ministry trailblazers. We look forward with the great hope that the Lord will continue to bless the young adults of the Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene.

Blake Dunlevy