



Dear Bethel Members and Friends;

2009 has been a year of **Challenge** and **Change!** Yet, in the midst of all that has transpired over the past 12 months, God's presence and power has been revealed over and over again. Here are some of the key highlights:

- In spite of the significant economic downturn that impacted church income (down 10%) we were able to raise over \$53,000.00 to replace the leaky roof over the sanctuary and maintain our ministries and benevolences that support important programs in our community, in the Synod, and ELCA!
- With the departure of Pr. Rick Sherrill following a very strong 8 + year ministry we have secured the services of Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann whose expertise and leadership continues to guide us into the future as we examine what kind of leadership will help Bethel move forward.
- In the midst of the sudden resignation of Bethel School Principal Christine Stroud at the beginning of the school year, the school staff, the parents, the School Board, and everyone involved with BLS stepped forward and continued to strengthen this important ministry of our congregation. Through their continued efforts and with the leadership of newly hired Principal, Marion Abney, BLS is poised to expand into the coming decade!
- After nearly 2 ½ years of change in our financial system and office staff, we have developed a significantly more efficient and effective financial structure to support our entire ministry no small thanks to Parish Administrator, Fara Brock.

All of this demonstrates how God always provides everything we need in abundance especially in the face of challenge and change!

2010 looks to be a year of increased **optimism** and **hope** as we set the direction for Bethel's ministry through Pastoral leadership, facility improvement, and expanded ministry to more effectively represent Christ in all aspects of our work. And, of course, it is that Hope above all hopes – the one born in Jesus Christ – that propels us into a new decade of service and faith that we can fulfill our mission that “Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.” AMEN

Pastor Randal J. Pabst
Lead Pastor

Financial Update

In the past year, Bethel's financial staff made tremendous progress in producing accurate and timely reports. The CPA firm that consults with us established procedures that our staff now executes on their own. A special thanks to finance committee member Laurie Bryson who volunteers her time and financial expertise on an ongoing basis to ensure the numbers are correctly handled.

FY'09: Giving to Bethel's general fund for the fiscal year that ended last August 31 came to \$790,290.62. This is 11.7% below the original budget of \$895K, and 7% below the \$850K January revision. Income from usage fees, interest, and other sources brought total church income to \$794,270.67. Church cash expenses, excluding fee-based events, were held to \$810,376.16, or 9.4% below the original budget. Fee-based events (such as Youth trips and the Labor Day retreat) cost \$7,269.57 more than fees paid to support them, bringing the net cash loss for the year to \$23,375.06. Even though ordinary income was negative, the church's fixed assets grew by over \$80K during the year, mainly due to donations for a new sanctuary roof (\$50K) and Youth van (\$30K).

FY'10: The yearly budget passed at last August's congregation meeting calls for \$800K in cash expenses and \$810K in giving to the general fund. From September through December 2009, giving was on track (thanks to a huge December) while cash expenses were almost \$13K (5.4%) below budget. Giving in January was 15.8% below budget, so the staff will continue watching expenses.

Dave Tribby
Financial Officer

Bethel Ministry Highlights 2009

Discipleship

Chair: Dave Denny

This year at Bethel we took part in the ELCA-wide Book of Faith initiative. Beginning last Spring, we offered a very successful three-week primer course on how we got the Bible. Then, this fall, we enjoyed a seven-week course in which we sampled each of the major sections of the Bible using the Book of Faith methodology. For each text, we examined the historical background, literary structure, Lutheran theological message, and devotional value. Building upon this approach, we are embarking upon a six-week study of the Lord's Prayer during Lent, applying our new Book of Faith skills. Future plans include a Book of Faith study in either Genesis or one of the Gospels. Bethel will also be the site of a Book of Faith training session for the Santa Clara Parish community. Joining the Sunday morning faculty this year was Alan Radig, a great addition to the Book of Faith team. Anyone else interested in leading a future Book of Faith session, please contact Dave Denny at Davedenny@sbcglobal.net.

Worship & Music Ministry

Chairs: Janice Martinson and Jean Teed; Music Director: Norita Hoegel

The active engagement of each and every one of us in Sunday morning worship enriches our lives and the community we serve. Please consider the following:

- Adult, Bell and Seraph choirs rehearse weekly and provide special music at scheduled worship services.
- Drama Ministry and creative video add unique worship elements.
- Wake Up Worship meets periodically to integrate visual, dramatic and musical expressions into worship.
- Thanks to all who already serve to make the worship services vibrant: musicians, visual arts folks, audio/visual producers and operators, altar guild, ushers, greeters, deacons, students, youth, staff and active worshippers.

Building & Grounds (“Men of Monday”)

Chairs: Tom Cole and August Colandrea

- Instrumental in promoting the sanctuary roof replacement (leaks now eliminated).
- Completed lamp replacement and transformers in all buildings to reduce electrical bill.
- Completed solar project to reduce electrical bill (significant reduction results).
- Promoted new siding on sanctuary outer walls to reduce painting costs (completed)
- Completed new HVAC systems for sanctuary to increase efficiency to reduce cost.
- We all enjoyed learning new techniques (plumbing, electrical, carpenter work) and enjoying coffee and goodies with the quilters. All are welcome to join us—no experience necessary.

Youth Ministry

Chairs: Molly Schrey and Mark Evashenk; Youth Director: Tom Hoegel

- “Rage Against the River” (Apr 15-19) Sr. High traveled to Fargo, ND/Moorehead, MN to aid in flood cleanup.
- Purchase of 28 seat bus to replace old 15 passenger van (Spring 2009)
- Common Ground (Sr. High Music Group) Northern Tour (June 12 – 21)
- Wildside (Jr. High): Rock N Water Summer Adventure (June 14 –19)
- Sr. High National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (July 21 – 27)
- Middle School Youth Gathering in Southern CA (Nov 19 – 22)
- Local service projects: Stand Up for Kids, Second Harvest Food Bank, City Team's Adopt-a-Family.

Stewardship

Chairs: Angela Brown and Chris Freckmann

Focus: We are on a continuous spiral path with Christ at the center, each of us are an important piece of the puzzle. Members decorated a puzzle piece to symbolize this. We highlighted how members' financial and time contributions benefit those at Bethel, our community and our world.

Mission Outreach

Committee: Dale Jones, Lois Brouillette, Deirdre Lum, Ed Fox, Jackie Jones, and Cherie Mingst

In 2009, we continued our outreach locally by serving breakfast at the San Jose Family Shelter, sorting food at Second Harvest, building houses with Habitat for Humanity, delivering groceries and turkeys to the Lord's Pantry, collecting clothes for First Immanuel's clothing closet, giving worldly possessions to the Junque Sale, giving gifts to foster children through Help One Child, and walking in the CROP Walk. On a national level, we wrote letters for Bread for the World. On an international level, we continued to offer our backs and our support to our friends at Esperanza in Mexico, and to our brother and sisters in the Kikarara parish in Old Moshi and the New Life Band in Arusha, Tanzania. We sold fair trade products for artisans around the globe. In 2009, we began a new ministry at West Valley Community Services (formerly Cupertino Community Services), serving dinner to homeless men here in Silicon Valley. To all of you who took part this year and made outreach ministry successful, we give you our thanks. To anyone who is considering becoming involved, our job is not done, there is plenty yet to do. We welcome you!