



*Celebrating, Proclaiming and Living  
the Gospel together!*

## **2008 Annual Report**

grace  
San Luis Obispo

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# 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, June 8, 2008*

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# 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, June 8, 2008*

## Agenda

Welcome & Opening Prayer	Wayne Brown, Elder
2007/2008 Reflections	Tim Theule, Lead Pastor
Leadership Transitions & Introductions	Scott Morton, Elder Chairman
Many Thanks...	
Welcome Aboard...	
2008/2009 Annual Budget Report	Todd Talley, Treasurer
Affirmation of 2008/2009 Church Officers	Scott Morton, Elder
Secretary: Jeff Mundorf	
Treasurer: Todd Talley	
Annex Renewal Progress Report	Jay Walter, ART Chairman
Reflections on the Eve of a Sabbatical	Ken Peet, Pastor of Family Ministries
Thanksgiving Prayer	Kendall Mattina, Elder

# Lead Pastor's Report

## Tim Theule

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ . . . Romans 16:25*

I'm in a mode of reflection! This summer is a significant one for me – a “summer of 5s.” Not only am I looking back on 5 years of ministry year at Grace, but I'm also turning 40 this month and will celebrate 15 years of marriage to my amazing wife, Susie, on August 7<sup>th</sup>. I think all that calls for some sober life-reflection! Who am I? Where am I? What's next?

I, like the Apostle Paul, am more convinced than ever that it's the gospel that God uses to establish and transform our lives. I can see that happening in my own life and I can see that happening in the lives of you, His people here at Grace! This is why I am more committed than ever to our *celebrating, proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Central Coast and beyond*.

I am astounded that God, in his grace, has not only given me the privilege and pleasure of participating in His work, but also of seeing His work. I don't deserve either, but he has graciously given me both. Thanks be to God!

Though I've tried to ease up just a little this year, in light of the break-neck pace of the last few years, the 2007/2008 Fiscal Year has been another full and eventful one. Ministry just doesn't stop! Thankfully, God never stops His work.

My personal highlights of **this year** include the Grace Summer Nights, the Family Campout, Fall Kick-Off, the great progress of the Early Childhood Center/Founders Hall Renewal, purchase of 1011 Pacific Property, Serve Day, the Men's Getaway in Malibu, the giving of a surprise “big gift” by a woman who never attended Grace, our ongoing Galatians series and so much more.

Stepping back from **the last 5 years** and thinking about the “bigger picture,” I realize that I am thankful to God for these 5 dimensions of Grace Church, among many others:

- 1. Our inter-generational life together.** I love it that my children are growing up in a church where young and older worship together. I love it that families are welcome and worshipping together in Sunday services. I love it that college students are connected and integrated into life at Grace across our ministries and through family adoption. I love it that we value and appreciate our generational strengths and differences.
- 2. Our strategic place of ministry.** Downtown. In a college town. An amazing and growing campus. Grace is a very dynamic place. I like that. Never a dull moment. Always something and someone new. Right in the middle of the action. Always a chance to serve and make a difference in our surrounding community. We have a responsibility to serve and make a difference in our surrounding community.
- 3. Your care for those who lead and serve you in ministry.** You have loved our family! We feel like we can be real and who we are. Our children are thriving in this community. This is a gift and, sadly, not very common in ministry. You follow our leadership. You respect your God-appointed elders. You encourage me! You love us despite our weaknesses and failings.
- 4. Our unity in and commitment to the Gospel.** I feel like we're together. . . of one mind and striving together for one Gospel purpose. I don't take our unity for granted, because I know what happens in other churches. I believe that the Gospel has brought us together and the Gospel will keep us together.
- 5. Your spirit of sacrificial service.** You get it! You give. You serve. You sacrifice. . . for the sake of Christ and the spread of the Gospel. You don't expect “the professionals” to do all the work. When there is a need, you fill it. We are functioning as the body of Christ is supposed to function, not perfectly, but consistently better and better.

Serving as your pastor here at Grace has changed my life. I am a different person than when I came to you. As I look back, I give thanks to God for his sovereign grace in directing our steps to the Central Coast and to Grace. Thank you!

As I look forward, I wonder what's ahead. The Lord knows! I sense the Lord is stirring in my heart and I believe it's time for a fresh vision that will take us through and beyond the next 5 years. Stay tuned! In the meantime, let's get through this present economic downturn by serving and trusting the Lord together.

## 2007/2008 Budget Review

	2006/2007	2007/2008	% change
Total Budget	\$1,230,804	\$1,230,804	0%
Total Income	\$1,193,253	\$1,185,520	-1%
Budget Shortfall	\$37,551	\$45,284	21%
Total Expenses	\$1,104,700	\$1,198,078	8%
<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>\$88,553</b>	<b>(\$12,558)</b>	<b>-115%</b>

# 07/08 Total Giving to Grace

General Fund	\$1,185,520
BOTL Vision	\$858,650
Benevolence Fund	\$43,988
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$2,088,158</b>

# 2008/2009 Budget Preview

	07/08 Budget	07/08 Actual Giving	08/09 Budget	%change over budget
Total Budget	\$1,230,804	\$1,185,520	\$1,230,804	0.0%
Ave. Monthly Giving	\$102,567	\$98,793	\$102,567	0.0%
Ave. Weekly Giving	\$23,669	\$22,798	\$23,669	0.0%

## 2008/2009 Annual Budget Summary

Acct	Description	2007-2008 Budget	2008-2009 Budget	% +/-	% of Budget
199	ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	\$74,010.00	\$85,050.00	14.9%	6.9%
299	FACILITIES TOTAL	\$82,650.00	\$81,800.00	-1.0%	6.6%
399	MISSIONS TOTAL	\$147,625.00	\$147,625.00	0.0%	12.0%
599	MINISTRY TOTAL	\$77,192.00	\$73,742.00	-4.5%	6.0%
999	STAFF TOTAL	\$808,327.00	\$810,626.98	0.3%	66.9%
899	CAPITAL / CONTINGENCIES TOTAL	\$41,000.00	\$31,960.02	-22.0%	2.6%
1000	GRAND TOTALS	\$1,230,804.00	\$1,230,804.00	0.0%	100.0%
1025	MONTHLY AVERAGES	\$102,567.00	\$102,567	0.0%	
1050	WEEKLY AVERAGES	\$23,669.31	\$23,669.31	0.0%	

### GIVING SUMMARY:

	2007-2008 Budget	2007-2008 Actual	2008-2009 Budget
Annual Giving	\$1,230,804.00	\$1,185,520.00	\$1,230,804.00
Monthly Giving	\$102,567.00	\$98,793.33	\$102,567.00
Weekly Giving	\$23,669.31	\$22,798.46	\$23,669.31

\*2007-2008 giving includes interest in the amount of \$ 16,686.79

## 2008/2009 Annual Budget

Acct	Description	2007-2008 Budget	2008-2009 Budget	% +/-
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### 100 ADMINISTRATION

102	Advertising	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	
104	Bank Charges	\$600.00	\$850.00	
106	Computer Upgrades	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	
108	Computer Support	\$6,060.00	\$6,400.00	
109	ACS	\$3,000.00	\$2,800.00	
110	DSL Internet Access	\$850.00	\$900.00	
112	Maintenance Contracts	\$25,300.00	\$32,000.00	
114	Copier Toner	\$13,000.00	\$16,000.00	
116	Office Supplies	\$9,000.00	\$13,000.00	
118	Postage	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00	
130	Admin Staff Development	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
140	Risk Management	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	
150	Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,400.00	\$1,000.00	
<b>199</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,010.00</b>	<b>\$85,050.00</b>	<b>14.9%</b>

### 200 FACILITIES

204	Custodial Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
208	Insurance - DOT/EPL	\$2,050.00	\$2,050.00	
209	Insurance-Umbrella Policy	\$2,250.00	\$2,300.00	
210	Insurance Commercial FKA- Fire/Liability	\$10,600.00	\$14,000.00	
212	Insurance - Vehicles	\$1,450.00	\$1,800.00	
216	Maintenance - Building	\$13,000.00	\$9,900.00	
218	Maintenance - Elevator	\$1,500.00	\$450.00	
220	Maintenance - Vehicles	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
221	Maintenance Contracts	\$6,600.00	\$5,100.00	
222	Transportation	\$900.00	\$900.00	
224	Utilities	\$30,000.00	\$34,500.00	
226	Interior Design	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	
227	Seasonal Décor	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
228	Landscaping	\$800.00	\$800.00	
<b>299</b>	<b>FACILITIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$82,650.00</b>	<b>\$81,800.00</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>

### 300 MISSIONS

308	Miscellaneous	\$1,165.00	\$1,165.00	
310	Missions Conference	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	
312	Missions Support	\$123,960.00	\$126,600.00	
314	Short Term Missions	\$12,000.00	\$9,360.00	
318	Agency Support	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
<b>399</b>	<b>MISSIONS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,625.00</b>	<b>\$147,625.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

### 400- 700 MINISTRY

	<b>Welcome Ministries</b>			
410	Welcome/Visitation	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	
411	Pew Bibles		\$1,500.00	
412	Welcome Sundays		\$500.00	
413	Welcome Bags		\$700.00	

414	Welcome Lunches		\$1,000.00	
420	Community & Mercy Ministries	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	
430	Flowers (Bereavement/Illness)	\$600.00	\$0.00	
214	ACE Kitchen Supplies	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	
322	Radio Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
514	Fall Kick-Off	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>499</b>	<b>Welcome, Fellowship, C&amp;C Total</b>	<b>\$26,300.00</b>	<b>\$9,700.00</b>	<b>-63.1%</b>

	<b>Family Ministries</b>			
214	ACE Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	
514	Fall Kick-Off	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	
508	Men's Ministries	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
512	Women's Ministries	\$0.00	\$3,450.00	
<b>500</b>	<b>Family Ministries Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,450.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

	<b>Worship Ministries</b>			
602	Outside Musicians	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
604	Licenses	\$600.00	\$600.00	
606	Music	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
607	Children's Music	\$300.00	\$300.00	
608	Special Programs (Christmas/Easter)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
610	Misc. Publications	\$250.00	\$250.00	
612	Pulpit Supply	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
613	Piano Tuning/maintenance	\$300.00	\$300.00	
614	Tape/CD Ministry	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	
616	Tech Ministry	\$600.00	\$600.00	
618	Worship Supplies	\$600.00	\$600.00	
619	Christmas Parade Float	\$500.00	\$500.00	
<b>699</b>	<b>Worship Ministries Total</b>	<b>\$12,650.00</b>	<b>\$13,150.00</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

	<b>Adult Ministries</b>			
501	G3 Leader Training	\$500.00	\$600.00	
502	G3 Materials	\$400.00	\$600.00	
504	Adult Bible Fellowship Training	\$400.00	\$500.00	
505	Adult Bible Fellowship Curriculum	\$300.00	\$600.00	
506	Library	\$500.00	\$500.00	
508	Men's Ministries	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
510	Supplies	\$100.00	\$100.00	
512	Women's Ministries	\$3,450.00	\$0.00	
519	<b>Adult Ministries Total</b>	<b>\$6,650.00</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>	<b>-56.4%</b>

	<b>College Ministries</b>			
550	Activities	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	
551	Camping	\$700.00	\$600.00	
554	Hospitality	\$500.00	\$500.00	
555	Leadership / Development	\$1,200.00	\$1,300.00	
556	Materials / Supplies	\$550.00	\$300.00	
557	Outreach	\$1,450.00	\$1,500.00	
558	Service Ministries	\$300.00	\$500.00	
559	WOW Week	\$800.00	\$900.00	
559.5	<b>College Ministries Total</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>	<b>\$6,900.00</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

	<b>Student Ministries</b>			
560	Activities	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00	

562	Boy Scouts	\$392.00	\$392.00	
564	Camping Ministries	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
566	Evangelism / Outreach	\$750.00	\$500.00	
568	Fall Forward	\$1,800.00	\$2,200.00	
570	Hospitality	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
572	Materials / Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,100.00	
574	Parent Ministry	\$250.00	\$250.00	
576	Service Ministries	\$700.00	\$700.00	
578	Student Leadership	\$700.00	\$700.00	
580	Transportation	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	
589	<b>Youth Ministries Total</b>	<b>\$12,592.00</b>	<b>\$9,592.00</b>	<b>-23.8%</b>
	<b>Children's Ministries</b>			
520	Awana	\$1,050.00	\$1,600.00	
524	Curriculum	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00	
526	Educational Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
528	Miscellaneous	\$600.00	\$600.00	
532	Nursery Supplies	\$350.00	\$350.00	
534	Children's Choir	\$500.00	\$500.00	
536	Teacher Recognition	\$600.00	\$600.00	
538	Harvest Festival	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
540	VBS - Family Conference	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
541	Child Dedication	\$0.00	\$300.00	
549	<b>Children's Ministries Total</b>	<b>\$12,200.00</b>	<b>\$13,050.00</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
599	<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,192.00</b>	<b>\$73,742.00</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>
999	<b>STAFF TOTAL</b>	<b>\$808,327.00</b>	<b>\$810,626.98</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
899	<b>CAPITAL / CONTINGENCIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,000.00</b>	<b>\$31,960.02</b>	<b>-22.0%</b>
1000	<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,230,804.00</b>	<b>\$1,230,804.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
1025	<b>MONTHLY AVERAGES</b>	<b>\$102,567.00</b>	<b>\$102,567.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
1050	<b>WEEKLY AVERAGES</b>	<b>\$23,669.31</b>	<b>\$23,669.31</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

# Building on the Legacy Vision

Total Pledges	\$2,234,078
Pledges Expected by 05.31.08	\$1,094,171
Pledges Received by 05.31.08	\$1,207,333
Giving Ahead of Expectations	\$113,162

# Finance Trustee Board Report

## Jeff Mundorf, Finance Trustee Chairman

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1

The Finance Trustee Board continues to hold fast to this truth. In this past year, we have had the joy of being financial stewards during a time of great growth at Grace. We have seen the Lord provide for the renewal of our Annex, the acquisition of the 1011 Pacific Street property, the hiring of Todd Roughton, our new youth pastor, and the transition of Ken Peet to family ministries.

In addition to these great changes, our ongoing responsibilities include the following:

### **BUDGETING**

- Develop annual budget in close liaison with the pastors, elders, facilities board and Grace Church ministries
- Oversee income and expenditures throughout the budget cycle
- Track trends in giving, attendance and expenditures to anticipate future needs

### **FINANCIAL CONTINGENCIES**

- Make recommendations regarding periodic non-budgeted financial needs such as: purchase of new vehicles and equipment, contribution to disaster relief, provision for unexpected financial needs of our missionaries, provision for benevolence relief to those in our Church Body

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

- Develop and update necessary policies and procedure for the many activities that take place at Grace Church

### **PERSONNEL**

- Developed and maintain a comprehensive employee manual
- Keep abreast of changes in employment law
- Develop a comprehensive system for classifying, reviewing and promoting staff and employees
- Develop well defined job descriptions
- Review, update and maintain employee benefits such as health insurance and COLA

### **INSURANCE AND TAXES**

- Review insurance needs and address as necessary
- Oversee compliance with statutes regarding Grace Church’s status as a tax exempt entity

### **FACILITIES**

- Work with the Facility Board regarding the financial aspects of facility maintenance and development
- Ongoing work on the Building on the Legacy Campaign and work with the Annex Renewal Team regarding the renewal of our annex
- Work with the Parking and Property Acquisition Committee on issues related to parking and to the 1011 Pacific Street property
- Develop policies and keep abreast of the financial aspects of facility use by outside entities

### **FUTURE VISION**

- Anticipate the possible future need for expansion, real estate purchase
- Continue to address our parking needs
- Plan for future pastoral recruitment and difficult associated issues such as housing
- Partnering with 890am to provide a stewardship education classes beginning this fall
- Develop a planned giving program
- Keep abreast of current economic trends and how these may affect Grace Church

# **Facility Trustee Board Report**

## **Evan Chechopoulos, Facility Trustee Chairman**

The Facility Trustee Board seeks to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and the Grace Church body through responsible stewardship of all church-owned property and assets. Through God's abundant blessing we enjoy a unique community location and desire to maintain a high degree of excellence in relation to our representation to our community for the Glory of God. We pray for wisdom in leadership as we move forward to facilitate the growing ministry needs of our church body.

The Facility Trustee Board oversees all aspects of the facility including buildings and grounds. The Facility Trustee Board has been diligent in prioritizing maintenance projects and authorizing the work to be done by Craig Hughes (Maintenance Staff) or obtaining bids from local vendors. Several teams (listed below) report to the Facility Board for oversight and continuity.

### **A review of property improvements and projects for 2007-2008**

#### **Facility**

- Completed addition of sprinklers under sanctuary
- Completed addition of fire alarm doors in CE building
- Repaired roof over tower (sanctuary entrance)
- Added ladder rack in back of Ministry Center to store and secure our ladders
- Added cages around ceiling lights in Ministry Center to reduce bulb replacement costs

#### **Maintenance**

- Numerous "fix-it" projects around the facility
- Replaced broken windows around facility
- Established paint maintenance contract to touch-up areas as needed
- Replaced failed sump pumps and problematic toilets
- Adding seam sealer (paint) to extend life of existing roof

#### **Safety and Security**

- Reviewed incident reports and made corrections as necessary
- Replaced damaged exterior fire sprinkler cover plates
- Installed battery backed emergency exit lights in sanctuary
- Established Security Team and initiated plan for securing facility (alarms, sensors, keys)

#### **Annex Renewal Project**

- Provided guidance and oversight to areas outside of Annex Renewal Team (ART)
- Coordinated activities in support of Annex Renewal Project

#### **Transportation Team**

- Replaced failing van with a newer 12 passenger van
- Repaired trailer to extend its life and service to Grace

#### **Tech Team**

- Ongoing improvement and maintenance of all tech related services
- Replaced pastor Tim's wireless microphone and aging sound mixer
- Supported Annex renewal by moving baptismal wiring, sound connections, and equipment

#### **Landscape Team**

- Coordinated landscape maintenance for Pacific property

#### **Interior Design/Seasonal Décor Team**

- Finalized master paint plan and color matching scheme for complex
- Finalized colors for interior of Christian Education building

#### **ACE / Kitchen Team**

- Multiple items to facilitate a clean and safe working environment

# **Annex Renewal Report**

## **Jay Walter, Annex Renewal Team Chairman**

Project budget: \$1,200,000  
Target completion date: September 14, 2008  
Contractor: Topflight Construction  
Architect: SDG Architects

The project to remodel and refurbish the “Annex” began construction at the end of October 2007. After much discussion and Prayer, the Pastors and Elders gave the go ahead to start the project, relying on God’s providence to see it completed. Tim Ronda’s SDG Architects designed the remodel, and Dave McCoy’s Topflight Construction was hired for the project, which was slated to take almost one year to complete. The first order of work was to move the existing classes out of their rooms on the lower floor, in anticipation of the demolition that needed to be done. Volunteers removed carpet and drywall to expedite the work, and Dave and his crew set to work, removing and rearranging walls and reorienting the hallways that serve the lower floor. The remodel part of the project calls for some major changes to the floor plan, which help tie it to the sanctuary and the courtyard and highlight the entry off Osos St. as a primary access. There is a new accessible entrance being built to serve the sanctuary, from the front, the old kitchen was expanded to make it more usable, and the main stairway has been redesigned to reduce noise impacts as well as allow for better flow from the Osos St. entryway directly to the courtyard. New bathrooms are being installed on the lower floor, which will provide showers as well as be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. The second phase of the project, which is currently underway, involves the renovation of the upper floor classrooms, with a widened hallway and better insulation for noise and climate control, and the renovation of the Founder’s Hall. Air conditioning will be added to the classrooms and the Founder’s Hall, along with upgrades to the office/workroom for the Facilities staff. The Founders Hall, for many the former home of the gym and Awana activities for their children, gave way to becoming a temporary staging area for materials coming onto and leaving the project site. At the same time, it is set to undergo a transformation of its own, being made into a large meeting room, with the ability to divide into two smaller rooms with a center dividing wall. This summer will start the final push to complete all of the work in time for Fall Kickoff weekend.

The project has stayed on schedule, and has experienced a minimum number of unexpected changes. The contractor and architect have done an inspired job of responding to the need to collaborate and come up with fast decisions when needed. The ministry staff has responded well to the need to be flexible, and the congregation has shown their appreciation for the work underway, even pitching in as volunteers. All as we expected of course, when we leave the project in His hands!

# **Business Administrator's Report**

## **Debbie Johnston, Business Administrator**

The administrative staff's largest role is serving our ministry staff and facilitating communication within the church body, so we all know what's happening. We are a very busy community of believers and we provide a huge variety of programs and services for every age/stage, from infant through elderly shut-ins. Each one needs to be communicated to those interested or involved.

We use almost every form of communication to coordinate and publicize all of our church activities: phone, community advertisement, postal mailings, emails, printed hand-outs, websites, blogs, audio CD's and cassettes, video DVD's and VHS tapes. The administration staff creates most of these items every week.

What did this look like over the last year? Here are a few fun facts about 2007-08's communication:

- Around 750,000 pages printed
- Over 5,200 emails sent
- 96,000 GraceSLO.org pages viewed
- 19,000 Visits to graceslo.org
- Over 500 Welcome Bags distributed
- At least 10,000 pieces mailed
- More than 130,000 emails received
- Nearly 10,000 phone calls received
- 1400 CD's, Cassettes and Videos distributed
- Ads in the local Newspapers, Yellow Pages and banners over Marsh Street

We oversee our church body's use of our campus nearly every day of the year. Everyone knows how busy our campus is during Sunday services and classes, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. Here's just a small sample of our other on-campus ministry events throughout the week:

- Women's Conferences
- Awana meetings
- Board & Leadership Team meetings
- Grace Summer Nights
- Thanksgathering, Missions Dinners
- Homeless Overflow Shelter
- Bible Studies
- Parenting Seminars
- Weddings & Showers
- Prayer gatherings
- Special All-Church Events
- Welcome Lunches

Four years ago our church leadership decided to better engage our community by opening our facility for broader use by community groups. The administration staff coordinates the community's use of our facilities, and we're definitely meeting our goal of being a church engaged in the community. This past year we had over 30 different community groups using our facility, most on a regular basis. Here are just a few of the organizations that held their events at Grace Church this past year:

- Chamber of Commerce
- SLO Youth Symphony
- Central Coast Bible Institute
- Boy Scouts
- Lifewater International
- Mozart Festival
- Central Coast Children's Choir
- People's Kitchen Food Prep
- Perspectives Course
- Opera Camp

Our administration staff is responsible for all the day to day business operations of the church, including accounting, contract administration, human resources and employment law, insurance and a myriad of other details necessary for an organization our size.

It might be tempting to look at all of these communication, facility and business administration details as if they were just like running a business. That would miss one important point: we're a church, a nonprofit, and an organization that is purposeful about everything we do supporting ministry. Each of these activities is intended to enable us as a church body to *celebrate, proclaim and live the Gospel on the Central Coast and beyond!*

# Worship Ministry Report

## Al Streder, Pastor of Worship

The summary word I used in last year's report was *team*. This year the word that came to mind was *diverse*. The groups under the umbrella of Worship are quite diverse in what they do, but what unifies these seemingly disparate groups is purpose.

**Expressing worship and praise** at Grace continues to be varied and eclectic, both in our corporate worship and special programs through the year. Our college worship team led a night of prayer and praise in January. In March we gathered for a hymn sing and then a week later the Westmont Chamber Orchestra and Worship Team ministered to us. Praise and worship in all of its myriad expression is pleasing to the Most High, when we offer Christ-centered, biblically grounded praise and worship wholeheartedly and to the best of our ability. We have made excellent progress in the past year involving our college students in all church worship. There has been a wonderful spirit of cooperation and desire to work together, something that we will continue build on in the coming year.

In the **Worship Board**, much discussion has taken place over the past year or more about the arts and where they fit in life in the Church, and we stepped out this year with the Christmas production *A Christmas Chronicle*. We used a wide range of artistic expression in telling the story of Redemption, including drama, visual art & video, and dance, along with the usual choral and orchestral music. It was an effort that involved over ninety people – from children to seniors. It included people who are very new to Grace and those who have been around for years. It was a wonderful collaboration and received great response from those who attended. We continue to explore ways to use the arts in more creative ways to celebrate, proclaim, and live out the Gospel!

The **Welcome Team** continues to blend the previously independent ushers and greeters together into one team. Susan Wilky assumed a very active role in scheduling and coordinating team members, along with Tom Forselles, to provide excellent direction and structure for the team. With a great mix, from college students to seniors and every age between, the Welcome Team is warmly welcoming those who enter the Grace campus.

The **Technical Team** works to harness available technologies to enhance our efforts to celebrate and proclaim the gospel. The team of Dan Matthias, Evan Chechopoulos, Andy Gibson and Al Streder, is chaired by Josh Erdman. As our Annex Renewal project continues, the "Tech Team" seeks to anticipate how to use technologies (computer, audio-visual, internet, etc.) to the fullest throughout our "renewed" campus, whether it be in the Worship Center, the Ministry Center, Founder's Hall, classrooms/meeting rooms throughout the campus, or the day-to-day work in the offices. Work on the media booth has been ongoing this past year and equipment is being added to enhance our visual (including video) capabilities in the Worship Center.

A new group that will be called the **Safety Team** will address both issues of safety and security on the Grace campus, especially on Sunday mornings. Mark Ernstrom and Wayne Lyons will co-lead this team. An informational meeting took place earlier this week, and we plan to have the team in place some time this month.

The preceding paragraphs describe diverse groups with very different tasks; yet, they all have a part in the corporate worship at Grace. Some are in the background, while others are up front. Those who have the more "modest" roles are no less necessary or valued; indeed, they are very important and highly esteemed (see 1 Corinthians 12:14-26). And so, these varied groups with their very different roles work together to facilitate worship and service at Grace. In whatever role we play, our goal is to do all "for the glory of God."

# Adult Ministry Report

## Steve Leonard, Pastor of Adult Ministries

### Living the Gospel in Growth Groups

“Can we keep our group together over the summer?...No one wants to stop...We love this stuff!” Each summer our Grace Growth Groups break to refresh our Leaders and to allow the soil to “lie fallow” for a short season for renewed growth in the new ministry year. *This* year, I am receiving emails like this from some of our leaders whose groups love being together so much, they simply don’t want to stop.

If you’re new to Grace, *Growth Groups* are small groups of 6-12 adults and college students who meet weekly for 10 weeks to study the Bible, pray and develop caring relationships with each other. Growth Groups are one of the best settings for adults of all ages to create lasting friendships and experience the discipleship process here at Grace. This year we have averaged just over 21 groups quarter and are running just under 200 participants.

In the coming year we will continue with our discipleship emphasis through care, prayer and study. Going forward our Growth Groups will also further mobilize ourselves into the community through ongoing service opportunities. Through Serve Day, hosting the Overflow Shelter, dedicated individuals and other means, we have been building relational bridges with our broader community on the Central Coast. We envision Growth Groups continuing as a missional ministry where we live the Gospel with believers and unbelievers alike. This means Growth Groups will become a vehicle for us to be a church in the community, for the sake of the community.

Theologian and author J.I. Packer says this about small groups, *“Small groups have proven themselves over and over again to be a spiritual powerhouse...I go around telling people that if they’re not with the whole congregation on Sunday AND in a small group somewhere during the week, their Christian lives are unbalanced.”* I think that’s why so many say things like, *“This is what church is supposed to be like,”* *“I can be vulnerable,”* *“I never feel judged or ashamed to share anything,”* and *“We have the best group!”* Our vision is for everyone to experience this kind of relationships and discipleship in Growth Group in 2008-2009!

### Adults Fellowshiping Through Bible Teaching

*Adult Bible Fellowships* are mid-sized adult groups that meet on Sunday morning for adult fellowship, biblical learning and application. The various Fellowships (2:42, Heritage Builders, Harvesters, Living Stones and the Bereans) have spent time in Bible book studies (such as James, Luke & Deuteronomy) and topical series like *What Jesus Demands from the World*, *The Disciplines of Grace* and *Don’t Waste Your Life*. Our ABF’s continue to move toward team leadership opening up more spots to serve and be challenged. The Big event has been our transition to “The BIG ABF” in the 9:30 hour to maximize space during our Founder’s Hall construction. We are studying *Gospel Christianity* this summer as a complement to our Preaching series in Galatians. Come by and see what’s happening in the Ministry Center!

### Grace Connections and You!

Ever need the phone number or email address of someone in the congregation? Now, all you have to do is go to the church website ([www.graceslo.org](http://www.graceslo.org)) and click on the rolodex to go to Grace Connections! Once you’re there you can look up contact info, see pictures of people, look up available small groups and more! We have been working hard to develop this resource as a one stop solution for congregational information. This summer we will be putting tools in that will allow you to sign up for Growth Groups, join an Adult Bible Fellowship, or sign up to serve. If you’ve never been on, or if it’s been a while—check out Grace Connections online to see how easy it is to get connected!

# College Ministry Report

## Steve Leonard, Pastor of College Ministries

Our College Ministry seeks to *celebrate, proclaim and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the college-aged community on the Central Coast and beyond*. We began in the Fall focused on Gathering/Outreach, moved to relational & group development in Winter Quarter and culminated our school year with an emphasis on serving. Summer affords the opportunity to mix things up as students return home (some departing and others returning) and use the time short-term missions, fun days as group and leadership development.

Because of our commitment to leadership development, we have developed a ministry model that provides real ministry experience as they lead. We coach our students as they serve their peers and beyond. To accomplish that this year we focused on four areas of ministry—Sunday Morning, Care, Events, and Outreach—which I will explain below.

### **Word and Worship**

Sunday mornings are where we create a welcoming environment for anyone 18-25 to hear clear, relevant Bible teaching, engage in age-appropriate worship and connect with the big group. We have made great strides this year as Brendan Clark and the worship team have lead us in Worship—both in college ministry and for a few all church events. Our teaching series provide a complement to worship service (we desire to see all our students engaged across the whole multi-generational church spectrum). This year we covered Ecclesiastes, “Is Life Meaningless?”, an evangelism series called “Into the World: Salt and Light in today’s world,” and a doctrinal series on the Bible, “What’s Up with the Word?” Additionally, Our College Ministry Assistant has been teaching more and more this year and growing in his ability to handle the Word.

### **Adopt-A-Student, Prayer & Communication**

Our Care Team has been putting together a number of ministries to help us care for a 150-student ministry. They have recently created a Student Communication Board for posting housing, jobs, etc. We now have a robust college prayer chain email each week and they have been working on plan to serve students in crisis. The strongest part of our student care ministry is Adopt-A-Student in which over 30 families and 50 students have been linked up due to the leadership of Greg Johnson, an Adult Mentor, and the Care Team!

### **Square Dancing, Lots o’ Pizza & A Getaway**

Every year our Event Team helps us welcome new college students by participation in Cal Poly’s WOW Week (over 1500 Fall Kick Off Invites handed out!), Pizza in the Park to get to know our church and the annual Hoedown at the Kokkonen Ranch (150 students). In Winter, we went to Lopez Canyon Campgrounds for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual College Retreat. We had around 60 students there growing in there relationships with each other as we focused on “Between You and Me” and Jesus’ command to love one another from John 13:35.

### **Serve Day and More**

Without a doubt, the most ambitious project this was led by the college Outreach Team with other adults in our church who comprised the Oversight Team (Ryan Cahill, Lindsey Iunker, Tim Ulrich, Matt Esswein, Ted Malley, Tim Arlen, Kirt Collins, Pastor en & Pastor Steve). On Serve Day we lived the Gospel on the Central Coast by visiting 27 locations with 310 volunteers in Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, SLO & Atascadero serving 5 different schools, handicapped infants, seniors in retirement homes, several homeless shelters, an animal shelter, active duty military, AIDS patients, cops, firefighters, and more!!! The organizations feedback has been overwhelming—characterized by comments like, “The ebullient attitudes of each member of our serve team were just moving. It was truly an honor to be 'graced' with their presence.” Beyond Serve Day Our Leadership Team went through the @ Ways to Live: to Know and Share the Gospel evangelism training and spent a Sunday afternoon sharing the gospel at Pismo.

# Missions Report

## Danny Martin, Pastor of Vocation & Missions

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the Grace Church family this past year. I provided vocational counseling to about 40 individuals, helping many to choose occupations or college majors in line with their giftedness and interests. Many considered missions as an alternative for the first time as a result of our time together.

And many are going! During the past fiscal year, we have approved 32 short term missionaries in addition to our first long term workers since I've come here. Rona Lee has served on an annual basis the past 2 years in Spain and Turkey, and is going through the process of elder approval to become a full-time Grace Church missionary. She will soon be going to China for a longer-term assignment through WEC.

And Deron and Jessica Bauer are applying to become Grace Church's long term missionaries to Muslim students in Bosnia through the ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

We have built a very healthy Missions Team under the chairmanship of Tom Phillips. One of our primary functions is to maintain relationships with the 34 missionary families that we currently support. We've instituted term limits in order to maintain long term direction for the Mission's Team while also seeing the benefits of new insights from our new additions. Many thanks to Tim Cleath for his many years of leadership to this team!

During our Missions Conference last January, we invited Rev. Dana Ostby from Indonesia to challenge us regarding the idea of adopting an unreached people group. A task force is being formed to take us through the process of deciding which group to adopt, and then creating practical ways for our congregation to get involved in their evangelization.

I will be resigning here to accept a different position as of July 15. You may remember Rev. Peter Xu who spoke at last year's mission conference. He is the spokesperson for a 60 million member network of Chinese believers. I will be Peter Xu's assistant, helping him implement his vision of sending Chinese missionaries throughout Asia. I will help him develop a Board of Directors, raise money for the project, find staff and an office, and then train and send Chinese believers who want to serve in missions.

Joan and I are planning to remain here at Grace Church for now and hope to also become long term Grace Church missionaries as we embrace this new challenge from the Lord and Pastor Xu.

**Missions Team Members:** Amy Hilderbrand, Danny Martin, Edna Mote, Glenn Oden, Leon Maksoudian, Lindsey Iunker, Lisa Richardson, Marti Warde, Matt Esswein, Paul Richardson, Tom Phillips, Travis Hasson, Wayne Peterson

### Short-term Missionaries

Erica Spano, Chicago Urban Program	Jessica Reed, Angola, Africa
Brian Morrish, Mariupal, Ukraine	Rachel Ellis, East Asia
Danielle Regan, Focus on the Family	Cameron Carter, Caracas
Tim Arlen, Egypt, Syria	Donny Valliere, Thailand
Joan Lozano, Peru	Matt Brunelle, Bogata, Columbia
Tim Cleath, Ndola, Zambia	Ron & Cyndie Hamley, Guatemala
Grainger Family, Africa	Armand Boutte, Philippines
Katie Herbst, Uganda	Cassie Atkinson, Philippines
Becky Avilla, Philippines	Ryan Cahill, Santa Monica
Cami Grey, Romania	Jazmine Harvey, Bogata, Columbia
Bailey Hitch, Mexico	Caitlin Hitch, Mexico
Nicky Jensen, SLO & Woodleaf Camp	Stephanie Johnson, Haiti
Lindsay McIntosh, Philippines	Jenny Nelson, Philippines
Marci Newton, France	Michael Steffens, Florida

# Family Ministry Report

## Ken Peet, Pastor of Family Ministries

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*  
*Ephesians 3:20-21*

### **LOOKING BACK:**

As I think back to 1980 when Judi and I first started working with high school students here at Grace I in no way imagined or planned what God has blessed us with these last 28 years. Certainly all glory goes to Him, the Author and Perfecter of our faith!!!

God has used this church in huge ways to deepen my faith and love for Jesus. What a huge blessing to have been mentored here at Grace by guys like Corey Melia, Deane Keller, Jamie Barr and now Tim Theule. And God has used many of you also to sharpen me in my faith. Thank you!!

Being here as long as we have, Judi and I have had the blessing of seeing many, many students come through the doors of Grace Church. And I continue to thank my God for each of them as he continues to bring them to remembrance. To now be serving kids of kids that went through the youth group years ago is a sweet blessing most pastors don't get to enjoy. To experience first hand the baptisms of many youth has certainly been a highlight of my time serving as Youth Pastor. And times in Mexico, at Hume Lake, in the "Mud Bowl", at a "fro-yo" night, at a Fifth Quarter, at Fall Forward, or on the tennis court will always be remembered and cherished as fruitful blessings from our Lord and Savior. Yes, what an incredible blessing to see many tennis players and their families come to Christ over the years!! And to also see many of our students who are now full time pastors or in missions...people like George Bonsangue, Shant Abadjian, James Barr, Stephanie Hicks, Jennifer Peet, Josh Loesche, Ryan Valliere, Ben Collins (well, it's like being full time for Ben!!) and more. And as I think back we have been so blessed here at Grace to have served alongside so, so many gifted and sacrificial youth staff who have passionately loved, challenged and mentored students.

These last months, since January, have been a time of transition as I've spent time with Todd Roughton, our new Pastor of Student Ministries, helping and encouraging on the back side as he has come on board. I've spent time with Dori lunker, learning more of what our Children's Ministry looks like. I've also spent time dreaming and developing my new job description as Pastor of Family Ministries.

### **LOOKING FORWARD:**

As God has been faithful in the past I am confident he will also be faithful in the days to come and I am excited and look forward to the challenges and blessings ahead. I am very thankful for the opportunity to be our new Family Ministries Pastor here at Grace.

I am very excited for the opportunity the elders are giving me to take a sabbatical, beginning June 23rd. I trust that the LORD will use this time in my life to refresh and renew my own walk of faith, enrich my marriage, visit other Family Pastors and give direction as to what my new role as Family Ministries Pastor should look like.

When I return to my desk in mid-September I look forward to continuing to serve the body here at Grace in new and different ways. I would love to see us, as a church, move more and more to a point of depth relationally, where we can encourage and build up one another in an environment of openness and sharing.

As Family Ministries Pastor I am excited to be able to work closely with both Dori lunker and Todd Roughton in our children's and student ministries. I also look forward to opportunities to encourage and challenge families to grow in Christ centeredness. My new position will give me opportunities to help lead our all-church events, develop ministry to our men of Grace, as well as to build up our marriages and parenting skills. Be thinking about how you might want to help serve our families and let's talk once I get back from my sabbatical!!!!

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*  
*Philippians 1:4-6*

# Women's Ministry Report

## Debbi Weeks, Women's Ministry Director

*"In Women's Ministries at Grace, it is our desire to create places where women can grow in their relationships with Christ, one another and the lost. We do this by providing opportunities to study and apply God's Word, to serve and enjoy sweet fellowship as we open our hearts and encourage one another."* -Women's Ministries' Mission Statement

We have enjoyed another blessed year in Women's Ministries at Grace as we have sought to serve the women of Grace! Our Women's Ministry Board: **Lindsey Cheney, Jen Collins, Kristi Garcia, Missy Grant, Cyndie Hamley, Suzanne Kelley, Jacquelyn Moses, Katie Nugent, Laurie Potratz** and **Marti Warde**, has continued to work to provide a growing and quality ministry. We are working together as a team to build and implement a fruitful ministry. We are saddened to say good-bye to **Katie Nugent**, but rejoice with her and her sweet family as they move out of the area soon for a new job opportunity. Thanks, **Katie**, for your faithful service to the women of Grace.

This year the WMB launched a new ministry to moms of young children. "Park days" began last fall and relationships have begun to be built. This ministry meets bi-weekly at **Lindsey Cheney's** home and offers a non-threatening way for women to reach out to others in the same stage of life.

We're delighted this year to have the Care Meals Ministry headed up by **Joan Martin** and the New Moms Meals Ministry headed up by **Kari Mattina** and **Sandra Rhonda** to be moved into the Women's Ministry arena. Meals have been provided to many families suffering illness and loss as well as during the joy of welcoming a new little one.

**Jacquelyn Moses** stepped up to coordinate our Ladies Salad Suppers this year. The theme for this year was "Love thy ..." where we focused on different aspects of loving those around us. Along with **Jacquelyn**, a wonderful small group of women have stepped up to help put the Ladies Salad Suppers together, they are: **Katie Ernstrom, Robbin Mote, Liesl O'Brien, Priscilla Rynning** and **Brenda Williams**.

This school year the Pearls of Wisdom (POW) Thursday morning Bible Study used Beth Moore's Daniel study materials. POW continues to be coordinated by the gifted team of **Missy Grant** and **Ruth Latson**. **Peggy Brown, Sue Donaldson, Kimber Edwards, Sharon Ernstrom, Missy Grant, Cyndie Hamley, Kathy Keil, Denene Klosterman, Tessa Krill, Ruth Latson, Suzette Lyons, Linda Matthias, Kari Mattina, Shay Peck, Laurie Potratz** and **Liz Young** served this year as our small group leaders (the heartbeat of this ministry). What a blessing to have **Ceslie Patty** coordinating our fabulous pre-school program We're looking forward to another exciting time of digging deep into God's Word together in fall as we study using Beth Moore's A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place materials.

**Suzanne Kelley** has continued to faithfully serve as our Freed-up Bible Study leader on Tuesday evenings. After finishing Beth Moore's Living Beyond Yourself study the women are now studying from Beth Moore's Daniel study as well. This smaller group enjoys the intimate setting and **Suzanne's** warm hospitality. If you're interested in this study they're always happy to add others to the group. Our Healing Hearts post-abortive ministry under the direction of **Suzette Lyons** continues to be available to all women seeking forgiveness and healing from abortion

Our annual Women's Conference was held in the end of April and this year we had our own women as our keynote speakers: **Sue Donaldson, Laurie Potratz** and **Liz Young**. **Cyndie Hamley** and her conference team did a wonderful job of providing a conference that challenged and encouraged the 108 women in attendance. Workshops were led by **Peggy Brown, Sue Donaldson, Missy Grant, Cyndie Hamley, Jacquelyn Moses** and **Ceslie Patty**.

As we look ahead to the next year some of the ideas that are on the Women's Ministries Board members minds are: Freezer Meal Preparation Nights, a Swap Event for children's items, a Parent's Night Out, a Spiritual Growth Retreat and a "The Arts of the Kitchen" series. There are a lot of possibilities and a lot to look forward to!

There is a place for everyone and we would love to have you come be a part of Women's Ministries at Grace! My goal for this year is to have new and different names in this report next year, so if you'd like to get involved - let me know, we'll find a place for you!

# **Student Ministry Report**

## **Todd Roughton, Pastor of Student Ministries**

As I started the 24 foot long Budget moving truck on December 31<sup>st</sup> and began driving north on the 126, I must say, I was a bit afraid. Afraid for a few reasons. I was leaving the only church I had ever worked for. My wife was leaving the only church that she had attended and had been there for 20 years. We were leaving a place where we had great relationships and going to a place where we knew no one. So, as we drove, we fought back tears, sometimes unsuccessfully, but more importantly, we prayed. We had already seen God's hand in our transition even before we left Santa Clarita and were looking forward to seeing Him continue to work in this precious time. When we arrived at our new home, there was a ton of people I didn't know standing in our driveway ready to help unpack our two trucks. And unpack they did! What took us about 10 hours to load, took about an hour to unpack. To us, that was God's hand. The students and adults that were there worked so fast that we almost couldn't keep up with them. As my friend and I were gassing up the trucks to take them back, we were laughing at each other, shaking our heads in disbelief at how fast everyone worked! We knew based on that, that this was going to be a great place!

So...what have the past 5 months looked like? Fun and lots of work! I have spent much time trying to remember names (sorry if I forgot yours...I'm still working on it ☺) and develop relationships. Pastor Ken has been an amazing support for me in the past months and I could not have done it without him! He has been such a positive resource for me and has allowed me access to his knowledge and love for this church. It has been a joy to watch him transition out of Student Ministry and into Family Ministries. He has done it with much grace and excitement. I have also been blessed to get to know Ben Collins, our jr High director. Ben is an amazing young man! He genuinely loves jr highers! And he isn't like your typical jr high guy. He loves to have fun with them and do all the silly things that make jr high jr high. But, his priority is the Word of God. What an encouragement it is to me, and should be to you, that we have a man who actually preaches to our jr highers week in and week out. I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside Ben and watch as the Lord continues to lead him! Other folks that you need to know about are our volunteer staff. They are A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!!!! Their faithfulness and desire for our students is so cool to watch. These are people who just love students and want to see them grow in their relationship with Jesus!

Another thing that has been a blessing to me is the Youth Board. Mike and Kathy Ward, Connie and Jay Walter, Jim and Kathy Smith, Greg and Erika Sabosky, Dan and Robbin Mote, Craig Hughes and Kevin and Janet Hooper make up the board. I am very happy to tell you all that David and Ceslie Patty are our newest members to the board! We are all enjoying getting to know each other and figure out how we will work together. They have come alongside me as a strong support in this time of transition and desire to be a voice for me as well. They know much of what is taking place in Student Ministries and are a wonderful resource for me and for you!

Now, the next question is...where do we go from here? The general answer is some new and some old. The question I get the most is "What are you going to change?" I'm not sure! What I can tell you is that I desire to continue to have the ministry entrenched in the Word. Know that things will begin to look a little differently. If anything that happens raises a question, please don't hesitate to ask me! I would love to be able to talk to any of you about what's happening. The Youth Board has also expressed their desire and openness to talk with any of you that have question about things going on in Student Ministries.

Personally, WE LOVE IT HERE! It is hard for me to not get emotional when I think about the last 5 months and what God has done in the life of my family. I love watching Ashlynn and Jeremy run around campus like they have been here for years. I love the fact that it takes us forever to leave because Summer is chatting with different ladies. It makes me so thankful to be here! I look forward to the years ahead and how God is going to use us at Grace and Grace in our lives!

## **Jr. High Director's Report**

### **Ben Collins, Jr. High Ministry Director**

Where did the year go!? I can't imagine being a teacher in Children's ministry and only having one group of kids for a single year! I'm having a hard enough time with two full years, but I praise God for those two years. The Lord has been at work bringing in and building up students faithfully and all to His great glory. Let me do my best to wrap this year up in one page (impossible!) and to look ahead to this upcoming year.

Our special events from this last year began with another great time at Hume Lake where many students put their faith in Christ and we really bonded as a whole group. Fall Forward brought us together and sent us into the school year strong and united this last fall. Our Winter Camp this year was actually back at the snow!!! Amazing I know! This time was such a highlight for me, the intimacy there is still clear in my mind. Pastor Todd also came and taught the Jr. High that weekend, and I think those hours in a warm, stinky, snow surrounded cabin were priceless relationally for the students and for Todd. I'm super excited to announce that we are looking to take our students up to Hume Lake next year for our Winter Camp! This fun and freezing weekend will be a step into what we hope to become a standard for our Winter Camp experiences in the future. One of the most exciting outcomes of this past year has been the response of our out-going 8<sup>th</sup> graders to serve on our Mexico Mission Trip 2008! There will be many green hammers down there this year and I can't wait to see what the Lord will do in those student's hearts (keep us in prayer!). I'm looking forward to another jam-packed-Hume highlighted-fun at Fall Forward Summer 2008!

All of these events wouldn't go anywhere without the staff that the Lord has raised up to glorify Himself in the Jr. High ministry. Our Sunday Morning Staff includes Erik and Jenny Ernstrom, Josh and Ashley Ernstrom, David Dyk, Jed Miille, Alice Turpin-Johnson, Hallie Helbert, Megan Boragine, Justin Hooper and Jordan Rossi. These staff have been faithfully preparing lessons from Philippians, 2 Timothy, John, The Sermon on the Mount, The Case for Christ and many more! Our Sundays have been absolutely fabulous times that the students and staff both enjoy as they dig into God's word, develop relationships and become equipped and challenged for their lives as followers of our great savior Jesus Christ.

Our Wednesday Night Bible Study has been sweet sweet sweet! The Lord has brought Josh and Ashley Ernstrom, Sharon Cumberland, David Dyk, Jordan Rossi, Justin Hooper, Alice Turpin-Johnson, Jed Miille and Dan and Danielle Snyder to this ministry to lead in our small group lesson reflection times, put games together, crowd control (speaking the truth) and just love the students. The Lord led me to pursue a super practical study of His word in the Fall as we addressed everyday issues for the students ranging from music to parents to shopping to friends through the application of God's word. This series brought us up to the new year where I felt led to take classic OT Biblical accounts, find their meaning and make it meaningful for the Jr. High student. I started with an ambitious Goal to jump around and make it all the way up to Job by Summer... well we are in Exodus 20! Praise God though, starting in Genesis 1 I just found I couldn't just skip over so many passages with so much goodness waiting to be uncovered. I have found this series challenging yet so impactful. My page is up, so much more to say, please remember these students and staff in your prayers and let us praise God together for the incredible work He has done and will continue to do.

# Children's Ministry Report

## Dori Junker, Children's Ministry Director

What an incredible year of growth and a stretching! With our remodel well underway, we have been busy making 267 children and 56 teachers fit into two buildings and a park as we wait for our beautiful Early Childhood Center to be completed! The teachers have done an amazing job focusing not on the discomforts of being a little squished, but on keeping Christ the center of everything they teach our children. We continue to keep God the hero in each Bible story and keep reinforcing a God-centered world view in all that the children learn. We have continued to impart to the children a vision of God, who He is, and who we are in relation to Him. They are learning a strong foundation of doctrine and truth and are becoming Biblically grounded. In other words, we have held to our vision even while we have been tested!

This past year we celebrated 24 babies being born or adopted into our church family and 28 children were dedicated to the Lord.

Children's Choir (Joyful Noise and His Image) rapped up it's third year with Solina Lindahl and Grace Van Doren doing an amazing job of teaching our 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders how to give worth back to God through song and how to humbly lead the body of believers in the praise and worship of our Lord! Solina will now pass the baton on to our new Joyful Noise Director, Kristy Fuller! We will miss you Solina! Thank you for your faithful service and welcome Kristy!

We also said good-bye to our wonderful and faithful Nursery Coordinator, Jeannett Gibson. Jeannett's life was filling up with caring for her new baby Henry! Thank you Jeannett for all you have done! I am excited to welcome Tammy Arlen to the team! She has taken the position of Nursery Coordinator and is doing an incredible job. Tammy has been at Grace with her husband Tim for five years. They have been married for 27 years and have six children.

Erik Ernstrom did an amazing job as our Awana Commander this year! We had over 100 kids participate in Awana! Over fifty children completed their books so far, and altogether the children memorized over 4,000 verses! The Grace Awana kids took 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Bible Quiz, they raised \$470 for their Adopt-A-Clubs, 250 cans or boxes of food for the Food Bank and they made 80 Christmas cards for people without families!

Looking forward to the year ahead, we have many opportunities to come together as a church family. This summer we encourage everyone to "bring a friend and neighbor" to our Grace Summer Nights, each Tuesday in July. We will be heading off to the Mustang Waterslides, Port San Luis Beach, Square-Dancing at a Hoedown and having a Wild & Crazy Talent Show. Dinner will be provided for \$2.00 but your friends will eat for free! In addition this year, we will have our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic, the Family Campout at San Antonio Lake (Sept. 5-7), our huge Fall Kick-off (Sept. 21), and the Harvest Festival (Oct. 31). Are you ready for this much family fun together?

Speaking of family, I have been married to my wonderful husband Larry for 24 years. We have been blessed with three children, Lance (20), Lindsey (18), and Luke (13). Our church family and the community rallied around us, prayed for us, emotionally and financially helped support us as our son Lance was almost killed in Iraq last September. God in His sovereignty chose to save and heal him. We rejoiced with the body of Grace and gave thanks to the Lord for his mercy! I am so very thankful for the preaching of God's Word, for the understanding of doctrine, and to be Biblically grounded for when these days of testing came. I don't know how people endure suffering without the Lord and without His Word! This is my vision and mission for all of the children in my ministry!

Our children's ministry newsletter called "Children of Grace" is mailed quarterly and designed by our very talented Kari Mattina (thank you Kari). It is filled with important dates and helpful parenting tips. Let me know if you are not receiving a copy and would like one! It is an honor and a blessing to assist parents in their responsibility for bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Please contact me if you have questions, if you would like counseling or help with parenting, or if you feel the Lord leading you to get involved in this exciting ministry! You will truly be blessed!