



*Celebrating, Proclaiming and Living
the Gospel together!*

2009 Annual Report

grace
San Luis Obispo

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2009 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 7, 2009

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2009 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 7, 2009

Agenda

Welcome & Opening Prayer	Kendall Mattina, Elder
Introductory Comments	Tim Theule, Lead Pastor
2009/2010 Financial Report	Todd Talley, Treasurer
Building on the Legacy Progress Report	Scott Morton, Elder Chairman
Prayer of Thanks	Wayne Brown, Elder of Finance
Affirmation of 2009/2010 Church Officers	Wayne Brown, Elder of Finance
Secretary: Jeff Mundorf Treasurer: Todd Talley	
Leadership Transitions & Introductions	Tim Theule, Lead Pastor
Many Thanks...	
Welcome Aboard...	
Where might the Gospel take us next?	Tim Theule, Lead Pastor
Closing Prayer	Ted Malley, Elder

Lead Pastor's Report

Tim Theule

I am a blessed man! What a joy it has been serving and leading the Lord's people, together with our faithful Elders and Ministry Staff, here at Grace these last 6 years. This year, like the previous, has been fruitful and full, filled with God's abundant blessings. Among the year's personal highlights are these . . .

- * Hearing and living the Gospel through the study of God's Word. (Galatians, The Gospel for Real Life, Genesis)
- * The completion, dedication and now continual use of our Founder's Hall and Early Childhood Centers.
- * Working with and caring for our amazing, consistent, diligent Staff Team.
- * The release and return of Pastor Ken to a 3 month Sabbatical.
- * The Gospel equipping of Ben Collins and Matt Esswein for ministry and seminary.
- * So much fun and fellowship during our Grace Summer Nights.
- * Serving our community through our 2nd annual Serve Day.
- * Your faithful living and giving to the work of the Lord at Grace in the toughest of economic times.
- * The energizing "welcomes" of ministry, as new folks have made Grace home, to offset the sad goodbyes of ministry as college students and families have moved away and relocated.

In these days, we are centering our lives and our life together around the Gospel, thinking about it and applying it in new and needed ways. These years have been so blessed!

With the blessings come a grave danger. The danger I face, and we face together, is getting comfortable and complacent, settling in, and, in the process, slipping into self-reliance and safe, smug security. I, and we together, need to guard against these dangers by bold, faith-filled risk-taking and outward missional ministry. In these days, amidst a culture that is rapidly changing around us, we need to stay alert, pray more and harder, and seek the Lord more passionately. We need to keep working the Gospel IN and working the Gospel OUT. As we do, I think the Gospel will push in at least these 5 directions. . .

1. Toward a more real, vulnerable and authentic Gospel life together. Everyone has got struggles. Everyone has got sin. No one has got it all together. Getting the Gospel should lead us to acknowledge and admit these things in ourselves and accept them in others. I'm praying for this!
2. Toward intentional Gospel leadership development. We must equip and challenge men and women to step up and into servant leadership here at Grace. Our vision is a growing, plural, rotational, intergenerational, Gospel-centered leadership.
3. Toward more and more often Gospel service of our community. Our Serve Days have been a great start, but my vision is that service of our community will become a lifestyle and a defining mark of who we are here on the Central Coast.
4. Toward a Gospel Covenant Commitment Together. Our leadership has been talking about some form of membership at Grace for years now. We still haven't tackled it, but it's still on our "radar" and a near-term priority. We like the idea of thinking about membership as "covenant commitment." Stay tuned for more!
5. Toward a Gospel multi-ethnic, multi-cultural community. God loves diversity. The Gospel unites diverse peoples. Grace is uniquely generationally diverse. My vision is that, in the coming years, we might also become more ethnically and culturally diverse. I'm not entirely sure how that might happen, but I've got a few ideas, and we want to explore it more . . . for the sake of the Gospel.

Personally, I want to keep stretching and thinking and walking by faith in Jesus. Thanks for your continued love and prayers for our busy six as we strive to balance multiple callings and schedules. Thanks for the joy of partnering in the Gospel with you. Because of and for the Gospel. . . Tim

2008/2009 Budget Review

	2007/2008	2008/2009	% change
Total Budget	\$1,230,804	\$1,230,804	0.0%
Total Income	\$1,185,520	\$1,183,683	-0.2%
Budget Shortfall	\$45,284	\$47,121	4.1%
Total Expenses	\$1,198,078	\$1,165,457	-2.7%
Total Surplus	(\$12,558)	\$18,216	

2009/2010 Annual Budget Summary

Acct	Description	2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Budget	% +/-	% of Budget
199	ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	\$85,050.00	\$68,708.00	-19.2%	5.8%
299	FACILITIES TOTAL	\$81,800.00	\$87,585.00	7.1%	7.4%
399	MISSIONS TOTAL	\$147,625.00	\$147,625.00	0.0%	12.5%
599	MINISTRY TOTAL	\$73,742.00	\$75,692.00	2.6%	6.4%
999	STAFF TOTAL	\$810,627.01	\$781,890.00	-3.5%	66.0%
899	CAPITAL / CONTINGENCIES TOTAL	\$31,959.99	\$21,500.00	-32.7%	1.8%
1000	GRAND TOTALS	\$1,230,804.00	\$1,183,000	-4.0%	100.0%
1025	MONTHLY AVERAGES	\$102,567.00	\$98,583	-4.0%	
1050	WEEKLY AVERAGES	\$23,669.31	\$22,750.00	-4.0%	

GIVING SUMMARY:

	2008-2009 Budget	2008-2009 Actual	2009-2010 Budget
Annual Giving	\$1,230,804.00	\$1,183,683.00	\$1,183,000
Monthly Giving	\$102,567.00	\$98,640.25	\$98,583
Weekly Giving	\$23,669.31	\$22,763.13	\$22,750.00

*2008-2009 giving includes interest in the amount of \$6,153.43

2009/2010 Annual Budget

Acct	Description	2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Budget	% +/-
100 ADMINISTRATION				
102	Advertising	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
104	Bank Charges	\$850.00	\$850.00	
106	Computer Upgrades	\$3,000.00	\$4,500.00	
108	Computer Support	\$6,400.00	\$6,294.00	
109	ACS	\$2,800.00	\$2,900.00	
110	DSL Internet Access	\$900.00	\$1,084.00	
112	Maintenance Contracts	\$32,000.00	\$23,000.00	
114	Copier Toner	\$16,000.00	\$8,000.00	
116	Office Supplies	\$13,000.00	\$12,000.00	
118	Postage	\$3,800.00	\$3,180.00	
130	Admin Staff Development	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	
140	Risk Management	\$300.00	\$400.00	
150	Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
199	ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	\$85,050.00	\$68,708.00	-19.2%
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	\$2,300.00	\$2,350.00	
210	Insurance Commercial FKA-Fire/Liability	\$14,000.00	\$12,500.00	
212	Insurance - Vehicles	\$1,800.00	\$2,000.00	
216	Maintenance - Building	\$9,900.00	\$9,900.00	
218	Maintenance - Elevator	\$450.00	\$485.00	
220	Maintenance - Vehicles	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	
221	Maintenance Contracts	\$5,100.00	\$6,000.00	
222	Transportation	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	
224	Utilities	\$34,500.00	\$34,000.00	
227	Seasonal Décor	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	
228	Landscaping	\$800.00	\$800.00	
230	1011 Pacific	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	
299	FACILITIES TOTAL	\$81,800.00	\$87,585.00	7.1%
300 MISSIONS				
308	Miscellaneous	\$1,165.00	\$205.00	
310	Missions Conference	\$7,500.00	\$5,000.00	
312	Missions Support	\$126,600.00	\$126,420.00	
314	Short Term Missions	\$9,360.00	\$9,000.00	
318	Agency Support	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
319	Adopt A People Team	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
320	Leadership Trips	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	
399	MISSIONS TOTAL	\$147,625.00	\$147,625.00	0.0%

**400-
700 MINISTRY**

	Welcome Ministries			
411	Pew Bibles	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
412	Welcome Sundays	\$500.00	\$500.00	
413	Welcome Bags	\$700.00	\$700.00	
414	Welcome Lunches	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
322	Radio Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
499	Welcome Ministries Total	\$9,700.00	\$9,700.00	0.0%

	Family Ministries			
214	ACE Kitchen Supplies	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	
514	Fall Kick-Off	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
508	Men's Ministries	\$1,000.00	\$2,200.00	
512	Women's Ministries	\$3,450.00	\$2,200.00	
513	Grace Summer Nights	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
514	Marriage/Parenting/Family	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
500	Family Ministries Total	\$18,450.00	\$21,900.00	18.7%

	Worship Ministries			
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	\$1,000.00	\$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	
699	Worship Ministries Total	\$13,150.00	\$13,150.00	0.0%

	Adult Ministries			
501	G3 Leader Training	\$600.00	\$600.00	
502	G3 Materials	\$600.00	\$600.00	
504	Adult Bible Fellowship Training	\$500.00	\$500.00	
505	Adult Bible Fellowship Curriculum	\$600.00	\$600.00	
506	Library	\$500.00	\$500.00	
510	Supplies	\$100.00	\$100.00	
519	Adult Ministries Total	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	0.0%

	College Ministries			
550	Activities	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	
551	Camping	\$600.00	\$600.00	
554	Hospitality	\$500.00	\$500.00	
555	Leadership / Development	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	
556	Materials / Supplies	\$300.00	\$300.00	
557	Outreach	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
558	Service Ministries	\$500.00	\$500.00	
559	WOW Week	\$900.00	\$900.00	
559.5	College Ministries Total	\$6,900.00	\$6,900.00	0.0%

	Student Ministries			
560	Activities	\$1,250.00	\$1,450.00	
562	Boy Scouts	\$392.00	\$392.00	
564	Camping Ministries	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
566	Evangelism / Outreach	\$500.00	\$500.00	
568	Fall Forward	\$2,200.00	\$2,000.00	
570	Hospitality	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	
572	Materials / Supplies	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	
574	Parent Ministry	\$250.00	\$250.00	
576	Service Ministries	\$700.00	\$500.00	
578	Student Leadership	\$700.00	\$700.00	
589	Student Ministries Total	\$9,592.00	\$9,592.00	0.0%

	Children's Ministries			
520	Awana	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	
524	Curriculum	\$4,400.00	\$4,000.00	
526	Educational Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
528	Miscellaneous	\$600.00	\$500.00	
532	Nursery Supplies	\$350.00	\$500.00	
534	Children's Choir	\$500.00	\$350.00	
536	Teacher Recognition	\$600.00	\$900.00	
538	Harvest Festival	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
540	VBS	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	
541	Child Dedication	\$300.00	\$500.00	
549	Children's Ministries Total	\$13,050.00	\$11,550.00	-11.5%
599	MINISTRY TOTAL	\$73,742.00	\$75,692.00	2.6%

999	STAFF TOTAL	\$810,627.01	\$781,890.00	-3.5%
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899	CAPITAL / CONTINGENCIES TOTAL	\$31,959.99	\$21,500.00	-32.7%
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1050	WEEKLY AVERAGES	\$23,669.31	\$22,750.00	-4.0%

Building on the Legacy Progress Report

BOTL Capital Campaign		
Total Pledges		\$2,232,751
Pledges Received by 05.31.09		\$1,432,485
Anticipated Pledges		\$730,000

1011 Pacific Purchase		
Purchase Price		\$2,062,500
Down Payment		\$700,000
Tenant Improvements		\$52,182
Amount owed on building (Marcia Adams note)		\$1,262,00

Annex Renewal Project		
Original Budget:		\$1,204,049.26
Project Extras:		\$169,827.61
Construction Cost:		\$1,373,876.87
Design Fees:	\$98,052.51	
City Permit Fees:	\$23,281.96	
Builder's Risk Ins.	\$859.00	
Flood Ins.	\$3,465.00	
Elevation Cert.	\$1,000.00	
Bank Fees	\$1,690.25	
Appraisal Cost	\$5,500.00	
Interest	\$24,766.79	
Final Cost:		\$1,532,492.38

Current Cash & Debt Positions

Current Cash:		
Operating Fund	111,454	
Operating Reserve Fund	100,000	
Maintenance Reserve	15,873	
In/Out 03 Funds	107,956	
BOTL/Building Fund	45,308	
Total Cash		335,283

Current Debt		
Long-term Annuity Payable	27,750	
Note Payable-Marcia Adams 1011 Pacific	1,362,500	
Annex Renewal Construction Loan Principal	127,517	
Total Debt		1,490,017

Anticipated BOTL Pledges	\$542,724
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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

This past year Grace Church has seen the impact of the current economic challenges. As a Finance Board we have worked with the Elder Board, the Staff and the other church boards and committees to move forward in faith for the Lord’s provision while being prudent to carefully steward our God given resources. As finance trustees we continue to see the Lord pour out his blessing on Grace Church through the ongoing faithful giving of His people and through unexpected gifts.

Over the last 12 months, we have seen continued giving toward our normal budget as well as toward our Building on a Legacy Campaign. Grace Church has also been blessed by a large financial gift from a donor who did not attend our congregation but remembered a kindness paid to her years ago by one of its members. We have seen many grow in their personal financial stewardship through the Financial Peace University and we are taking the initial steps toward a planned giving program. Finally, the Finance Board has welcomed Wayne Brown, Pat Rusco and Shane Williams as new members.

The responsibilities of this Board include:

BUDGETING

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

FINANCIAL CONTINGENCIES

- Make recommendations regarding periodic non-budgeted financial needs such as: Purchases of new vehicles and equipment, contributions to disaster relief

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

PERSONNEL

- Develop 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
- Manage donations received toward our building on a legacy campaign
- Develop policies and keep abreast of the financial aspects of facility use by outside entities

STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

- Keep the church body apprised of our corporate stewardship
- Continue to develop our stewardship education program and a planned giving program

FUTURE VISION

- Anticipate the possible future need for expansion, real estate purchase
- Plan for future parking needs
- Plan for future pastoral recruitment and difficult associated issues such as housing

Facility Trustee Board Report

Kathy Borland, 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 2008-2009

Facility

- Provided wheelchair access in the front and back of the sanctuary
- Painted the women's bathrooms in the SC bldg, and the 2nd floor administration bldg bathroom
- Decorated the space at the top of the stairs by FH (donated chairs, table and mirror)
- Dampers refurbished and a new thermostat installed to control heat and cold in the SC building
- Purchased new tables for the facility

Maintenance

- Numerous "fix-it" projects around the facility
- Update the facility survey maintenance list regularly

Safety and Security

- Track all incident reports
- Working with safety team to finalize policy and procedure
- Working on implementation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) that was donated
- Evaluating new alarm system installed as part of the ART project

Annex Renewal Project

- The entire facility was re-keyed as part of the ART project
- Annex Renewal project completed
- All unfinished items will be handled by the Facility Board

Tech Team

- New Cameras installed in the sanctuary eliminating the need for the video on the stairs
- Installation of wiring for the sanctuary and Founders Hall completed
- Developing policy and procedure for the DVD burner
- Resolved many issues regarding wiring and sound equipment in the SC building

Landscape Team

- Landscaping on Pismo and Osos has been re-done
- Tree planted in front of sanctuary window on Pismo

Interior Design/Seasonal Décor Team

- Sconces purchased and installed in the sanctuary
- Selected paint colors for bathrooms

Capital Projects Completed

- Re-surfacing courtyard stairs
- Remodeling the Green Room is in process

Annex Renewal Report

Jay Walter, Annex Renewal Team Chairman

Annex Renewal Project

Final Cost:	\$1,374,000
Completion date:	September 28, 2008
Contractor:	Topflight Construction
Architect:	SDG Architects

The project to remodel and refurbish the “Annex” continued construction during 2008. 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 called for some major changes to the floor plan, which helped 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 front of the sanctuary, the old kitchen was expanded to make it more usable, and the main stairway was relocated to reduce noise impacts as well as allow for better flow from the Osos St. entryway directly to the courtyard. New bathrooms were installed on the lower floor, which provided showers as well as full accessibility to persons with disabilities. The second phase of the project involved 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 was added to the classrooms and the Founder’s Hall, along with upgrades to the office/workroom for the Facilities staff. The Founders Hall was made into a large meeting room, with the ability to divide into two smaller rooms with a center dividing wall. This room has become a focal point of the church campus, with full use every weekend and throughout most of the week.

The project stayed very close to the original schedule, and has experienced a minimum number of unexpected changes. There were a number of changes that were made to the project as it was under construction which have added to the overall quality and enjoyment of the facility. The contractor and architect did an inspired job of collaborating to come up with fast decisions when needed. The ministry staff responded well to the need to be flexible, and the congregation has had the utmost patience, being relocated and moved as needed to accommodate the work. The project experienced a number of critical moments, when the best course of action was to pray and leave it in His capable hands. The final product has been nothing less than spectacular, but we would expect nothing less from the One who wanted it for his use in spreading the Gospel in San Luis Obispo!

Business Administrator's Report

Debbie Johnston, Business Administrator

Grace is a big, busy community of believers! We provide a huge variety of programs and services for every age/stage, from infant through elderly shut-ins. Details about each of these programs need to be communicated to those interested or involved. As a result, one of the administrative staff's largest roles is serving our ministry staff and facilitating communication within the church body, so we all know what's happening.

This year, we have tried hard to adapt to the depressed economy by holding down expenses and switching to a new communication model. We've intentionally reduced our printing cost by approximately \$10,000 by using less color and moving to a monthly Life @ Grace. We're finding electronic communication to be very useful. We're able to direct people to the website for additional details and event sign-ups. Our goal is to do better yet with the electronic media.

We have had a few changes to our staff this year. It began in June with Matt Esswein adding to his College Ministry Assistant duties and becoming our Facility Manager. He is leaving us to go to seminary in the fall, so this has been great leadership experience for him. Stephen Beckwith is working with Matt to become our new Facility Manager. We said good-bye to Robbin Mote after almost 13 years of service to Grace. She and Dan moved to Redondo Beach with a job transfer. We've rearranged her administrative responsibilities with our existing staff rather than replacing her position, to help hold our administrative costs down. The latest change in our staff has been the addition of Sarah Phillips as a receptionist. She comes in after school a few days a week to help answer phones and the door.

One of our bigger projects this year was the installation of our multi-zone alarm system. In conjunction with that, we re-keyed the entire facility. We had 100's of unaccounted for keys out there, and felt it was time to tighten our security a little bit. New keys and alarm fobs have been re-issued to those serving in an active ministry. This was a big job that I'm happy to have completed. Thanks for your patience along the road.

The addition of 1011 Pacific St. has added property management to our plate. This is new for Grace, but between the church staff and a great volunteer Parking & Property Acquisition Team, we're getting it done without paying a property management company. We are blessed to have the building fully leased with stable tenants who are patient with us as we learn to be good landlords.

Here are a few fun facts about 2008-09's communication:

• Around 500,000 pages printed	• At least 8,000 pieces mailed
• Over 58,000 emails sent	• More than 119,000 emails received
• 99,000 GraceSLO.org pages viewed	• Nearly 10,000 phone calls received
• 21,000 Visits to graceslo.org	• 1300 CD's, and Videos distributed
• Over 700 Welcome Bags distributed	• More than 7,000 books in our library

These fun facts may make you think that we are just running a fast-paced business here at Grace Church, SLO, but everything we do in the church office is to support 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

Corporate worship at Grace is a rich and complex tapestry – expressed in everything from classical musical forms to traditional hymns (presented in both traditional and contemporary styles) to a myriad of more contemporary expression. In addition, our corporate worship has been enriched through many talented members, serving the Lord and the Body in voice and with a wide range of instrumentation: orchestral instruments, contemporary rhythm and more unusual instruments surfacing this past year, like “Mandi-tar,” banjo and pennywhistle (even tuba). The reality of our multi-generational make-up has also been evident, with children, high school and college students, and adults of all ages participating in our choirs, worship teams and congregational orchestra.

Several leadership teams are under the umbrella of Worship: the Welcome Team, Technical Team, the Safety Team and Worship Board.

- The **Welcome Team**, led by Tom Forselles and Susan Wilky, has been an excellent serving opportunity for relative newcomers to Grace, as well as long time attendees. The objective of this team is to help create an atmosphere where people feel welcome at Grace. The team is a great mix, including college students, young adults and seniors, men and women. In the coming year we want to see women take on a wider role on the team which includes the role of “usher.” In addition, I would like to see more children (maybe with their parents) and youth participate on the Welcome Team.
- The **Technical Team** is chaired by Josh Erdman and includes a half dozen men who are committed to utilizing technology to assist us in our mission. In the past year, much audio visual work was done in the Founders Hall, and new video cameras were installed in the Worship Center. We continue to work to fine tune and improve quality, especially in the area of video projection. Another goal in the new year is to improve the video quality of projection in the Worship Center. Our broadest goal is to “wire” the entire campus, so that wherever one is, he or she has access to what is going on, whether it is originating in the Worship Center, Ministry Center or Founders Hall.
- The members of the new **Safety Team** are a presence on Sunday mornings and endeavor to ensure the safety of those who come on the Grace campus. Mark Ernstrom has provided excellent leadership, but the entire team has taken its role very seriously. As a relatively new ministry, the policies and procedures that guide the team are evolving and being fine-tuned. Mark and Jack Gould recently attended a workshop at a southern California church focused on this area.
- The **Worship Board** is where these teams intersect. The worship board is something of a sounding board and a point of coordination for these diverse ministry teams. The worship board also provides input in the area of music and the broader arts. In the coming year we plan to establish an area for the display of art, a first step in a goal to encourage gifted Christian artists at Grace. We look forward to a new dramatic production for Christmas this year *titled The Last Room*. Like the 2007 production *A Christmas Chronicle* it will utilize a wide range of artistic expression in telling the story of Redemption. We continue to explore ways to use the arts in more creative ways to celebrate, proclaim, and live out the Gospel!

Regardless of the varying roles described above, the goal of each of us is to do all “for the glory of God.”

Adult Ministry Report

Steve Leonard, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Living the Gospel in Growth Groups

Why do we value Growth Group ministry at Grace? Because we are radically committed to a ministry where the good news of Jesus Christ fundamentally changes people, their families, the Central Coast and the world. In a society where people increasingly long for deep relationships but have been hurt inside and outside the Church, small groups offer one of the best ways to develop friendships with Believers that go beyond the superficial. In these groups is a safe place to wrestle with the Bible together at a heart level. Growth Groups expand and deepen the prayer life of our whole Body as we pray for each other's concerns and those of the church. In other words, we value Growth Groups because they help people to know Jesus and know each other better.

This year we have begun a journey in our Growth Group ministry by encouraging Groups to take what they're experiencing inside the group and to show it outside their groups by serving together in the community. A number of our groups have served through baking for Sunday mornings, partnering with the AIDS Support network, visiting convalescent homes and more. It's been a delight to see relationships begun on Serve Day continued throughout the year by various Groups from Grace.

Recognizing the importance of team leadership for a ministry as large as Growth Groups, we have created a Coaching Team. This team will be helping in the development of an ongoing and self-sustaining small group ministry through their service in recruiting, training, supporting and promoting a vital small group ministry and it's group leaders at Grace. I'm delighted to welcome Ted Malley, Wayne Brown, Tim Arlen and Dennis Petersen to this strategic role!

In the coming year we are working now on the furthering of the outreach potential of Growth Groups and on raising up new and ongoing leadership to take Growth Groups into a mature ministry phase.

Adults Fellowshiping Through Bible Teaching

This past summer saw our transition to "The BIG ABF" in the 9:30 hour to maximize space during our Founder's Hall construction. We studied *Gospel Christianity* exploring the intersection between the good news of Jesus Christ and real life in areas like suffering, talking about Jesus with unbelievers, how the Gospel shapes our approach to work and family and more. In the Fall the Fellowships resumed and returned to what they do best. *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 Acts, Colossians & Deuteronomy) and topical series like The Apostle's Creed and *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*. Our ABF's continue to move toward team leadership opening up more spots to serve and be challenged.

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) 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

We started our year by getting away with the Student Leadership at a retreat center in Paso. There we spent the weekend preparing for the year ahead by reviewing our philosophy of ministry, planning and building team unity. We wrestled with the practical out workings of a grace-based ministry to collegiates through five foundational areas and identified the need to develop our outreach ministry to the college-aged community here on the Central Coast.

The Gospel (News, Grace not merit, Reversal of Weak and Strong)

We regularly remind ourselves that the Gospel impacts every area of our lives. By this we mean the Gospel brings transformation in our relationship with God (Worship), our understanding of ourselves (Identity), with one another (Community) and the outside world (Mission). Our attempts to flesh this out are listed below.

Gospel Worship (Priority of the Word, Prayerfulness, God's Holiness)

Sunday Mornings (among other places), we focus our time together on the teaching of God's Word, worship through song and prayer. In the Fall we taught through Paul's letter to the Colossians to focus on Christ Supreme. During the Winter we took the implications of the Gospel to "The Questions Students Ask" addressing issues from suffering to women in the Bible to the Bible's teaching about predestination and more. We're concluding the school year with a series through 1 John and the reality of "Living Truth and Love." In addition, our worship team led by Brendan Clark, has done an excellent job leading us in Christ-centered worship each week. Our Care Team, Lauren DuBridge, Kyle Naylor, Caitlyn Hitch and Jaimie Bughao, has also led our ministry in a weekly prayer chain focused on college requests.

Gospel Identity (Biblical Concept of Christ, Depth View of Sin, Acceptance and Righteousness in Christ)

We have cultivated students' Gospel Identity primarily two ways. First, is through the teaching ministry Sunday Mornings. In our "Christ Supreme" series we focused on our supreme problem—sin and the supreme solution in Christ for the believer and unbeliever alike. In 1 John, we focused on the command to love one another, based on the reality of God's love for us in Christ. We also sow the Gospel Identity seed through our training with student leadership. We have read *The Heart of Prayer*, by Jerram Barrs and have trained in *Six Steps to Encouragement* and *Six Steps to Talking about Jesus* published by Mathias Media focusing on group care and outreach respectively through a "learn by doing" training approach. These materials not only train in their focus areas, but also help ground our leaders in their gospel identity.

Gospel Community (Intentional Relationships, Atmosphere of Love, Authenticity)

Using the *Six Steps to Encouragement* curriculum, each of our student leaders paired up with other students in the ministry to study Scripture one on one for a five week study in Ephesians for the sake of building community. On a broader scale, In the Fall we hosted the annual Hoedown at the Kokkonen Ranch seeing 150 in attendance. For the third year in a row we also took approx. 45 students to Camp Lopez for our College Retreat. Our Outreach Team—Marci Newton, Tim Ulrich and Dustin Trone—did a fantastic job giving leadership to these events and more for the sake of developing our Gospel Community. And, as many know, our Care Team with Greg Johnson's help once again connected many students with "Grace Parents" through our Adopt-A-Student ministry.

Gospel Mission (Service, Evangelism, Concern for World)

Recognizing our need to intentionally move out into the community, Our Outreach Team (Ryan Cahill, Lindsey lunker, Bailey Hitch and Tim Ulrich) gave critical oversight leadership to our second annual Serve Day. Following on our goal from last year, we are sending our first short term mission team of 16 students to the UK this August to take the Gospel into the bars and pubs of London and Glasgow. Our vision is that this will provide a training ground to bring the gospel back into the night life of SLO college students.

Matt Esswein On a special note I thank Matt, our College Ministry Assistant, who has been an incredible "wing man" these past two years and who deserves a great deal of credit for much of what is listed above. Matt, we will miss you as head off to Covenant Seminary for the next step in your preparation for ministry!

Missions Report

Steve Leonard, Adult Ministries Pastor

Change. Flexibility. Challenge. Progress. These words are common to any who have been involved in missions. This year Grace Missions has lived these realities from the make up of the Missions Team, to the beginning of ministries to the realities of our missionaries in the field.

The Missions Team

We welcomed Jim Jeffrey as our new Missions Team Chairman, and I came aboard serving as Missions Pastor. We also welcomed four new members (Donna Jeffrey, Ryan Cahill, Bailey Hitch, and Tim Arlen) to the Team. Our Missions team is dedicated to celebrating, proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Central Coast and beyond through the evangelization and discipleship of all nations (currently supporting 34 missionaries serving with 17 missionary agencies!). Contact our Missions Team with input, questions, or feedback anytime at missions@gracelso.org.

Jim Jeffrey (Chairman)	Amy-Lynne Hilderbrand	Glenn Oden
Pastor Steve Leonard	Bailey Hitch (College Liaison)	Wayne Peterson (Elder)
Tim Arlen (Adopt A People)	Donna Jeffrey	Tom Phillips
Ryan Cahill (College Liaison)	Edna Mote (Correspondence)	Marti Warde
Travis Hasson	Stella Nuncio (Correspondence)	

What is Missions?

From His promise of the Seed to Eve to His promises to Abraham and to David to the coming of Jesus and His return in the renewal of all things, God reveals He is pursuing a renewed relationship with humanity. He has always sent (the meaning of “mission”) agents into the world as His ambassadors to create a people for Himself. That is missions. We are a people sent to tell a lost world His love.

Grace Missions is working to remind us what missions is and how God has made each of us ambassador’s of His love. Our Missions Conference hosted Brian Zuninga from NVision who gave us a two-evening encounter exposing us to God’s Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic components of world mission. Over 100 people attended the seminars, we heard a biblical vision for missions from Brian and Pastor Tim and we hosted a dozen visiting missionaries for mutual encouragement.

These special times only augment our regular opportunities to catch a vision for missions. Anyone can learn through Missionary of the Week, DWAPs (Dessert With A Purpose) with visiting and short term missionaries, our Grace Missions Blog <http://graceslmissions.blogspot.com/>, and more!

Adopt-a-People Team

Last year we introduced the idea of Adopting an Unreached People Group by Grace Church. Over this past year we formed an Adopt-a-People Team chaired by Tim Arlen to lead begin the legwork involved in such an enormous and exciting effort. Can you imagine, a group of people in the world right now who have not heard of Jesus in their language—that the Lord might be pleased to use us (and our children!) to tell them the Good News of Jesus Christ! The APT are praying and researching diligently in the preliminary stages of adoption. Pray for this team and the Lord’s leading in this adventure. Feel free to contact Tim Arlen (slotnt@aol.com), Wayne Petersen, Travis Hasson, Mike Allshouse, and Paul & Lisa Rutherford with ANY thoughts about this opportunity.

Grace Beyond

One of our goals is to start offering regular Grace sponsored short-term missions. To that end, we established a working policy for Grace Church short-term Mission Trips and are pleased to be sending a college team of 16 to the UK for front line evangelism this August. Additionally the following were sent out as short term missionaries this year: Rose Valliere, David Balderston, Ben Matthias, Bobby Cleath, Matt Brunelle, Jim & Donna Jeffrey, Armand Boutte, Arijaan Bulk, Tim Cleath, Tim Arlen, Allysa Johnson, Reba LeBlanc, Ross Newby, Ron & Cyndie Hamley, Rebekah Weeks, Esther Peterson, Timothy Steffens. On the full-time missionary front, we added Deron and Jessica Bauer (Bosnia) and Danny and Joan Martin (Mission to Unreached Peoples) as full time supported missionaries. We saw the retirement (and finishing of financial support) of the Miels. Finally, Dick and Carla Bartsch Completed their translation of the Meskwaki Scriptures and “retired” to the mission field in Asia!

It’s been a year of change, flexibility, challenge and progress indeed!

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

Though I've had the blessing of serving here at Grace for awhile, this last year was one of many firsts as I have stepped into my new role as Family Ministries Pastor. First of all, Judi and I had a great time of refreshment and renewal as we took a sabbatical over the 2008 summer. It was a great time of rest, personal time with God, quality time with family and time looking forward to my new role here at Grace.

Upon returning from my sabbatical I put together our Family Ministry "top ten" goals and objectives for this year of ministry. One of the objectives was to set up a Family Ministry Team, with the goal of being a catalyst for strengthening families, marriages, and nurturing children and youth's faith. Our initial team consists of Eric & Jen Collins, Kevin & Janet Hooper, Roger & Gwynne Moore, John & Dostal, Donnie & Stephanie Valliere, Aaron Barker, Mike & Kathy Ward, Jim & Kathy Smith, Paul Evangelista, Dori lunker, and Ken & Judi Peet. As a team we are asking the questions: What are key family issues? How are we currently meeting the needs of our families? How can we get to a point of depth relationally where we are asking one another the tough questions before things go bad? As we answer these questions we are seeing that family ministry should not just be another program we add, but rather an overlying rationale for all we do. As the family is God's core unit and parents are the core of the family, in all we program we should be asking the question, "How is this affecting our families?" Be looking and listening as our team is looking to prioritize some new family ministry opportunities to start in the near future.

Another one of the firsts was to set up a Men's Ministry Team to better serve and challenge our men. Our initial team consists of Jay Walter, Andy Gibson, Sean Cheney and Kendall Mattina. Our team's goal is to challenge men in their role of servant leader within the family, the church and the community by encouraging and fostering fellowship and growth centered on the good news of Jesus Christ. We want to encourage our older men to be mentoring our younger men within small bible study groups. We had our first two Men of Grace HUDDLES giving our men an opportunity to enjoy food, fellowship and the Word together. We also enjoyed, as men, a Beach Getaway, Hume Lake's Men's Retreat, and nights of softball and basketball.

We had our first "Getting to Know Grace" class letting some of our new attendees and young believers see how the gospel directs our statement of faith, mission and vision statements. We will be providing this class on an ongoing basis.

Another sweet part of my new role is to work with our Student Ministries Pastor, Todd Roughton, our Children's Director, Dori lunker, our Women's Ministry Director, Debbi Weeks, as well as our ACE leadership team. How fun it has been for me to come alongside these servant-leaders to exhort and encourage them as they serve diligently on our Ministry Staff Team. I also have the pleasure of helping lead our all-church events as well as our ministry to our Central Coast community. I hope you had the blessing of serving with us on our SERVE DAY just a few weeks back, and be listening for more ongoing opportunities to serve.

If you have any questions, thoughts or are interested in helping serve on our Family Ministry Team, our Men's Ministry Team, our ACE team, or in our ministry to our community, shoot me an email or give me call and let's talk!!

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

We have enjoyed another blessed year in Women's Ministries at Grace as we have endeavored to live out our Women's Ministries Focus Verse in the Central Coast and beyond:

"... and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24 & 25

Our Women's Ministry Board continues to work to provide a growing and quality ministry. We are working together as a team to build and implement a fruitful ministry. Our returning members include: **Lindsey Cheney, Jen Collins, Kristi Garcia, Cyndie Hamley, Suzanne Kelley and Jacquelyn Moses**. This year the board welcomed new members: **Tiffanie Ferrel, Susan Lindgren, Joy Newman, Judi Peet and Helen Rowan**.

The beginning of our year started off with a new and wonderfully successful program entitled *Arts of the Kitchen*, headed up by **Marti Warde**. The *Arts of the Kitchen* included making jam with **Kathy Chechopoulos**, desserts with **Joy Newman**, pickles with **Kathy Keil**, and pies with **Jewel Donatelli** and **Marian Floyd**. Thanks to each of them for sharing their expertise with us! We look forward to this summer's *Arts of the Kitchen*.

Women's Ministry has the distinct opportunity to provide meals to both families suffering illness and loss, as well as during the joy of welcoming a new little one. Many families have been the beneficiaries of the *Care Meals* faithfully coordinated by **Joan Martin**. The *New Moms Meals Ministry* continues to bless and encourage our new moms and their families. **Kari Mattina** and **Sandra Rhonda** stepped down after many years of faithful service in heading up the *New Moms Meals Ministry*. Taking over the helm are **Debbie Pinson** and **Jana Favalora**. **Joan, Debbie and Jana** are always looking to expand their lists of willing volunteers, so if you're interested in serving in this way please let them know!

Jacquelyn Moses continues to coordinate our *Ladies Salad Suppers* with support and coordination by **Cyndie Hamley, Liesl O'Brien, Priscilla Rynning, Marti Warde, and Brenda Williams**. We are thankful to this year's speakers that included **Joanie Steffans** (Grace missionary from Spain), **Sue Donaldson, Lorraine Maksoudian, Betsy Pollon** and **Karen Weaver**.

We recently completed a successful year of *Pearls of Wisdom (POW)* where we sought to fulfill our Vision Statement: "...that the women of Grace would become better acquainted with God's Word and thereby deepen their relationship with God Himself and that they would develop relationships with other women that would spur them on in the application of God's Word to their life." *POW* is our Thursday morning women's bible study and this year our study was Beth Moore's, "My Heart God's Dwelling Place." We are already looking forward to next year's study of the books of Romans and James where our own gifted speakers will be teaching. *POW* is coordinated by the faithful team of **Ruth Latson** and **Peggy Brown**. Special thanks goes to **Ceslie Patty** for coordinating our fabulous pre-school program for the third year!

Suzanne Kelley has continued to faithfully serve as our *Freed-up Bible Study* leader on Tuesday evenings. They, too, have been using the same Beth Moore study materials. This smaller, more intimate group has ministered to many.

The Women's Ministry team had the opportunity to join forces with *Heart of the Home Ministries* to bring the spring 'Refresh' Conference to the Central Coast in April. What a great opportunity to partner together with other believing women and to see beyond our own church doors.

I'm thankful and always amazed at God's handiwork and faithfulness in Women's ministry at Grace. I'm thankful for new programs and new women involved. As I look back at the plans that we had for this year many were realized in ways I couldn't have ever imagined. God's plans are much better than mine! I love to watch God make it all come together!

Student Ministry Report

Todd Roughton, Pastor of Student Ministries

WHAT?!?!? It's time for another annual report? Already? Where did the last 12 months go? It seems like I just did one of these and now it's time for another! Well, I'm going to try to give you a snap shot of where Student Ministries has been in the past year. God has used this year as a chance to build relationships. More and more I am getting chances to get to know more students. Through things like our Mexico trip and Hume Lake, students have opened up and let me in and I have let them in. It never ceases to amaze me the different places, situations and circumstances that God uses to develop these relationships. I've had more than one quick ride in the car turn into an incredible time of ministry. Mixing concrete in Mexico with a number of different students sticks out in my mind so vividly! God uses everything and anything and He continually reminds me of that.

As I think over the past year, there are so many things, big and little, that happened that I would love to share with you. Unfortunately space does not permit this. So, let me share one. The new year for us began pretty much heading south for our annual trip to Mexico. Now, I've been to Mexico many times before, and thought I knew what to expect. In reality, I had no clue what to expect. I was blown away at how this one week showed God working in so many different ways. I saw students who live comfortably in SLO work their tails off in a less than comfortable environment. I witnessed students wash each others feet...voluntarily! I saw a couple dozen adults come along side students and minister with and to them. Adults that aren't on my roster of volunteer staff. Just folks that love Mexico and want to serve. It was one of the best pictures that I have seen of the body of Christ working together as a whole and I was blessed to be a part of it. Last thing about Mexico...I was humbled to see our people honor Pastor Ken, as this trip marked the close of his time in Student Ministries. Students and parents alike used this week to thank him for the effort he had put forth on behalf of the Gospel. I was encouraged by that, watching our people and watching Ken. It was indeed a sweet time.

I can't think over the past year and not think about our volunteer staff. We have people on staff who love students, plain and simple. They want to spend time with them at church and away from church. They want to see them grow and mature in their walk and aren't afraid to call them to the standard that Scripture has set before us all. Working with students is not an easy task, yet these folks are committed, on top of their daily lives and responsibilities, to our students. They have been a great support and encouragement to me and I couldn't do what I do without them. God has put together such a unique group of people, each with their own special gifts that they bring to our Student Ministries table. And the Lord is adding to this number! It's an awesome group of people that I am honored to work with!

What about the future? Well, the next year will look different for sure! We are saying goodbye to Ben Collins, who has not only been our jr high director for just about 3 years, but has graciously walked with me through my first year here at Grace and helped me in ways he will probably never know. We are in the process of looking for the man that God has to lead this ministry and excited about where he will take it.

Personally, it's been a good and challenging year. It was definitely marked by the passing of my father in law. It was humbling to watch him live out his last days, honoring Christ the whole way. The kiddos, Ashlynn now 6 (going on 18) and Jeremy at 4, are loving life and living it to its fullest! Summer has her hands full with work, kids, school, preschool, and me! She continues to serve our family faithfully and tirelessly.

I am so excited about what God has planned out for us in the next 12 months! What will He do? I have no idea, but I am certain that it will be good, awesome, and honoring to Himself! What a ride!!!

Jr. High Director's Report

Ben Collins, Jr. High Ministry Director

As I reflect on this past year, I'm struck by God's evident hand in the Jr. High ministry. God has provided: incredible opportunities for ministry, awesome Jr. High Staff to serve and lead the students, and a great group of students to minister to! Simply stated, God has done it all, and I'd like to take some time to highlight God's work in the Jr. High ministry.

We kicked off the summer with Hume Lake and we took 59 students and staff up there for a whole week of camp. Hume provided some great opportunities for our staff to develop deep and lasting relationships with our students, a chance to really unite our 7th and 8th graders, and a sweet time of spiritual growth for the students. On top of all of this, the Lord was also gracious enough to bestow the team championship upon some of our students from Grace (quite a feat to say the least!)☺. The Lord blessed our ministry, by bringing a few students into the ministry that had just moved to the area, and it has been an absolute thrill to see how quickly they all became part of the family of the Jr. High ministry. Fall Forward was another great weekend of preparation for the school year as we ended our summer at a high point! We had a sweet opportunity to travel up to Hume Lake for our Winter Camp this last year in January! Our experience was sweet, wet, snowy, glorious and jam-packed! The Lord was definitely at work in our big events this last year as they provided a great chance for students who might be opposed to coming to a weekly Jr. High ministry event, to come and hear the good news of the Gospel!

With the beginning of school classes, we also began our Sunday Morning classes as well in the Jr. High Ministry. The 7th graders studied Philippians and 2 Timothy and were led by: Hallie Helbert, Ashley Ernstrom, Jed Miille and Jordan Rossi. The 8th graders were led through a study on John, Case for Christ and the Beatitudes throughout the school year by a great staff including: Jenny Ernstrom, Megan Boragine, Josh Ernstrom, Erik Ernstrom and Justin Hooper. These Sunday Morning classes have been designed to engage the students in discussion in order that they might learn to think critically and deeply as they consider the truths presented to them. The fruit from this piece of ministry has greatly encouraged my heart and caused me to rejoice throughout the year.

As well as getting our Sunday Morning classes rolling, we also stepped into a series in Romans for our Wednesday Night Bible Study. The first eleven chapters of Romans paints a glorious picture of the Gospel, which is then followed by the practical, day-to-day, minute-by-minute application of the Gospel to our lives in the remaining chapters of Romans. Our series on Romans has been inspiring for both the students and me. God has raised up some wonderful people to minister on Wednesday Nights including: Alice Turpin-Johnson, Danielle Snyder, Carissa Jansson, Ashley Ernstrom, Sharon Cumberland, Justin Hooper, Dan Snyder and Jed Miille. Wednesday Night Bible Study has served as a great atmosphere for new students to hear the Gospel, and as a fun place to come and be equipped for living a life that glorifies our great God!

Praise be to our great and glorious Lord who fills our gaze and causes us to seek to proclaim His excellencies in all things!

Children's Ministry Report

Dori Iunker, Children's Ministry Director

We spent this year praising the Lord for our newly remodeled Early Childhood classrooms! What a blessing they have been! The beautiful new rooms have allowed us to spread out and separate children by age making much more comfortable and less crowded classrooms which in turn made for happier children! Our Children's ministry is currently serving over 300 children and we seem to have new faces popping up each week!

Our Mission in Children's Ministry is to teach children to celebrate, proclaim and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Central Coast and beyond! We are committed to both "age-integrated" and "age-segregated" learning. To put it another way, we're committed to encouraging parents and children to worship and learn together by attending our worship services together. (Visit our web site to listen to our vision for Family Worship!) At the same time, we're committed to an excellent and multi-faceted Children's Ministry where children learn, grow and have fun in settings that are geared for them.

Tammy Arlen, our Nursery Director, has done an outstanding job running two new nurseries this year! We continue to have an annual baby boom celebrating 16 babies born or adopted into our church family this past year and 16 children dedicated to the Lord.

Children's Choir (Joyful Noise and His Image) wrapped up it's fourth year with Kristi Fuller and Grace Van Doren doing an amazing job teaching our 1st-6th 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! Kristi has done a great job and we give her a huge thank you as she moves on with her teaching career after graduation! Grace has graciously taken on this new opportunity to work with some of the younger students next year.

Erik Ernstrom did another remarkable 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!

We are bringing back Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer!! It will be held June 29 – July 3 from 9:00 am-12:00pm for children K-6th grade. We are really excited to have a VBS program after many years without one so invite the kids in your neighborhood! Thank you Penny Malley, Jenny Nelson and Patsy Wetzel for getting this organized!

Looking forward to the year ahead, I am excited to work with Ken in the fall offering parenting classes for our families here at Grace. We will be offering classes for all stages from infants to teenagers and every stage in between!

We will also 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 Kodak Kar Rally. Dinner will be provided for \$2.00 but your friends will eat for free! In addition this year, we will have our annual 4th of July picnic, the Family Campout at San Antonio Lake (Oct. 9-11), and our huge Fall Kick-off (Sept. 20). Are you ready for this much Grace family fun together?

Speaking of family, I have been married to my wonderful husband Larry for 25 years. We have been blessed with three children, Lance (21), Lindsey (19), and Luke (14). Over the past two years we have felt called by the Lord to take in foster babies and have been blessed with two whom we have loved and cared for. We are waiting and praying for our next arrival this summer!

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!