

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Auburn Presbyterian Church

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### **1Peter 5:1-4**

*" To the elders among you,  
I appeal as a fellow elder,  
a witness of Christ's sufferings and  
one who also will share in the glory  
to be revealed:*

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is  
under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;  
not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."*

**JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008**

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

### **By Ken Winter**

I wanted to share with you a “state of the Church” snapshot that I look at as I think about our 2008 Mission Year.

#### **In My Personal Ministry**

I am most excited about the personal discipling I am doing. I meet with three groups of men each week, as well as a couple of additional individual guys. We either study the book, *Experiencing God* by Blackaby and King in order to hear God's voice and obey—even when it's scary, or we are using a Life Transformation Group format (based on John Wesley's small group method, that is very personal and requires high accountability). I want to start taking the *EG* Discipleship Group men with me on ministry activities—hospital visits, and the like—so they develop into ministers, not just decision-makers who attend meetings. (This is one of the reasons we changed our administrative structure, getting more help from many of you so that our Elders can be free to pursue ministry with and for Jesus, as Ephesians 4:11-13 describes.)

So far, I'm working with men only (and soon two groups of women will start meeting together, also, led by women). I have let these guys know that as they develop the ability to hear from God, they will invite 2-4 others to engage in this same development process, led by God's Spirit. So we start slowly, but as the years come and go, there will be more and more opportunities to develop this capacity in more and more of our people. I will drop back to a single D-Gp, and begin reaching beyond our church membership to engage people in experiencing God, and cheer for those of you also building relationships with non-Christians. I am eager for that development, too!

#### **In Our Ministry Together**

APC has accomplished a lot in this last year. We had our first-in-a-long-time Leadership Retreat in October.

##### **Then, we said we were led to. . .**

- hire a Nurture Worker
- prepare and implement a “Development Plan” for our younger children

##### **And here's how we've done. . .**

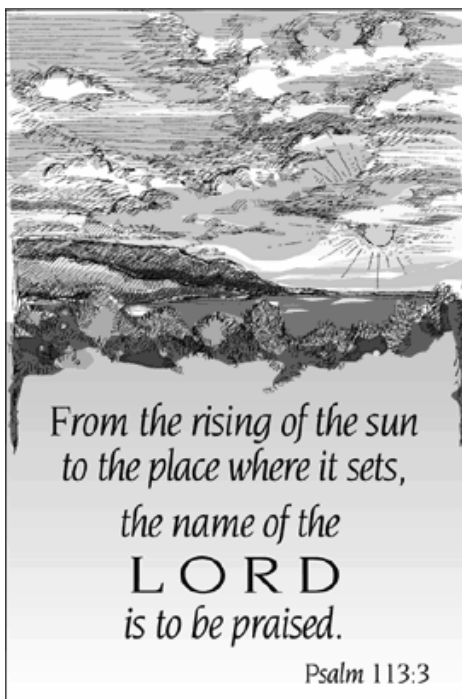
- Elizabeth Creencia now wears our APC apron with logo and greets our children and young families each week
- our Children's Education Ministry Team has developed this plan in our Sunday School cur-

- grow our “Extreme Team” Junior High group
- have youth serve in worship quarterly
- develop an APC High School Group growth plan
- become better disciples
- put on seminars to attract non-APC people to our campus
- develop APC University further
- consider two worship services
- new APC sign on Bell Road
- Judy Gough and others have pitched in to put on regular outings for our kids, to which they can invite friends
- not yet--must be coordinated with Sunday School schedules
- we will start saving budget money to hire part-time staff in Fall, 2009, as our kids reach High School age
- (see above) and, the ministries of some Life Groups
- beyond the Hymn Sing/Ice Cream Social (with paid entertainment) and Jim Martinez Concert and Trio Allegro Concert, (and upcoming Christmas Fair) we have hosted a Saturday seminar on “Making Conflict Your Friend”, one on “Peacemaking”, and “The Brain Gain”
- added APC 201 (“Beginning Bible”) led by Kim Douglass, and APC 301 (“Discover Your Fit”) led by Penni Smith; will again lead APC 201 (“Contagious Christian”) soon
- as seating becomes 80%, we will start a plan
- inquiries have been made to the County offices; a task force will be formed

And in addition to all of this, we developed some evaluation criteria now embodied in an “Event Plan” form (see elsewhere in this Annual Report) to help us pursue our priorities and let lesser things drop away, so we don’t kill ourselves. We (for the same purposes) have just developed a Master Calendar. Our Ministry Teams have developed their own “mission statements” to keep their work on track. And, oh yes, we’ve “moved into” our new administrative design (displayed in this Annual Report and soon to be on display in our Narthex/Lobby with photos of our Team Leaders and Mission Statements).

This is a LOT of change in one year! No wonder I’ve hardly touched my Doctor of Ministry studies! (That will change, pronto!)

It’s exciting to be part of this church that is steering toward a brilliant and faithful future, with and for Jesus our Savior and Lord.



## CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### By Preston Saunders

I know that this should be created around an annual concept, since it is an “Annual Report” but we have so much going on that I could write for days and not get everything written down. We truly are a busy church with wonderful people. Instead of trying to make this chronological in order, I am just going to roll through these emphasizing different aspects of our ministry as it pertains to the development of the congregation.

**Calendar:** We have always had a calendar. Last year, I sought out the help of GOOGLE.COM to create a rough draft church calendar. That concept calendar has now progressed into a more permanent calendar on our website. Penni Smith is widening our scope as a church to our community. She spends endless hours making sure that you are well informed, as a church body and that folks within our community know about APC. The calendar within the website is your way of knowing what is up next at APC. Go check it out!

**Events:** One of the many ways we are trying to widen our scope as a church is to see that the purpose of any event is to demonstrate the depth of the planning of that event and how each event will support the APC Vision and Act 2, Mission 1. With that in mind, we used the Trio Allegro event as our guinea pig and we had 17 people visit that had never been to our campus before. It worked, and our congregation took the challenge and looked beyond APC. That was great!

**The Follow-Up Team:** Actually, this concept started several months ago at Julie Edwards’ home when we got down to the business of Visitors and Outreach. Since that first meeting, we were able to create a simple follow-up procedure to personally thank those that had visited and invite them back for services. This is our first step in many steps as a means to help add folks to God’s church. Please pray for our Outreach and visitors as well as our follow-up team as we move forward with new ideas and ways we can get folks to our campus.

**Attitude Change:** 6 years ago, I came to APC because of Ken Winter. Ken has never changed his pursuit to be charitable and yet a wonderful boss. I do not want him to get the big head, so this is where you come in. Our congregation has changed me as a person. My ministering to others has grown and expanded. I have several friends outside of APC that are lost and without Christ and they need Jesus badly. That is my mission field for now. That is not all! Our church is transitioning in a very positive way.

God is working through our leadership as well as our church members to reach out beyond these walls; you can see that in our vision statement.

**Growing-up spiritually:** In our last report to the church, we all recognized we needed spiritual growth throughout our Ministry. Well, we now are reaping the benefits of that growth. Events that look beyond us, a Pastor with a vision, Elders and Deacons in Bible study groups and Ministry Leaders doing the work of the ministry.

**Ministry Boards:** You will notice that in our Narthex are bulletin boards. Those actually are our Ministry Boards. They are there so that you are able to see every ministry mission statement and a person's face to go with each ministry within APC. Not only that, but now you can invite your outside friends to see our ministry in its totality. This allows us a visual of Auburn Presbyterian Church.

**New Elder Leadership:** They may be old people, but they are new to us (just kidding!) They are new in their values, their stand on the Word of God and I am impressed with the renewed spirit each Elder has to see God is first in the things we do around here. God bless 'em!

**Organizational Chart:** Not only do we have a new calendar plan, but also we have an organizational chart that insures a position and a person in charge throughout our Ministry. This chart will be added as part of our Ministry Board visual.

**Answering Hard Questions:** One of the many things we did this year was our Leadership Retreat. At that retreat, we who are the leadership of APC had to ask ourselves some hard questions, like: Do we have a good picture of what Discipleship at APC will be when we have accomplished it? Do you know what you are going to do to become a disciple or to develop others into becoming disciples. These are real questions we all need to be asking each other.

**New Vision & Mission Statements:** I am sure Pastor Ken will talk a bit about this area so I will keep this short. We have everything in place for us to grow. Now we need each of you to consider you are growing up with us.

**A New Face for APC:** We have wonderfully gifted people at APC and with those gifts our creative staff is putting together a team of individuals that will create our next generation of face lifts to the bulletin, the chronicles and all things printed APC. We will ignite this team in September of this year. If you would like to be part of that creative team, please see me.

**Questioning, Evaluating and Looking Forward:** I like a team that questions. It is healthy, it is effective and it is just good all the way around. I am glad we have moved into a church slowly seeking God's will. "Never make a quick decision," an old guy (mature male) told me one time. It was my dad and I really try to keep to that notion. We have grown to know the difference and that is a milestone for us.

**A Reinvigorated Leadership Team:** If you have not yet noticed. It ain't the "Church of Ken" anymore. I cannot remember an exact date or time when it happened, but Ken is no longer the Holy Man! I know, and it is hard to take but Ken has a great staff and some wonderful leaders. Those folks take up the slack and make sure things happen around APC. It helps me to feel that I have a part in all that is APC.

**APC University:** No, it is not really a campus of thousands somewhere. However, it is a campus to thousands. We have a group of Teachers here at APC that are constantly teaching and instructing in gifts, the Bible, discipleship and spiritual growth. This is a primary feedlot for our education to a lost world.

**Healing Ministry:** Silva Stearn has spearheaded our Healing Ministry and God is widening her borders as well as ours with the Holy Spirit taking action on those in need. Listen, when God gets in the picture, look out! Keep praying for this important ministry as we expand in our healing ministry together.

**New Life Groups:** The Boomers is one of our new life groups. Recently Ken and I sat down with a church growth expert and he told us that our particular ministry needs an outreach to the Boomers of Auburn. We could be the key to reaching many people. With the wisdom of our congregation added to the excitement of the Boomers, we could have an exciting ministry right here! Think about it...

**Plateau:** They say you should always end on a good note. Maybe instrumentally, but our church has plateau. It is at a time when we really need to jump-start our ourselves. Renew, re-strengthen... those terms are used throughout scripture to remind us not to stalemate. If we are to grow in the future, we all need to participate. Everyone is a called child of God. Sorry, but when you got in God's army you cannot be discharged. The only way out is graduation and that comes later in life. Therefore, I urge you my brother and sisters in Christ to be strong in the grace of our God. To be unmovable and yet always abounding in the Lord. Sometimes all you need to do is stand, that is good enough. Other times you need God's armor, but just do... and keep doing.

## **Worship Ministry by Silva Stearn**

The mission of the Worship ministry is “to glorify God by helping people to draw closer to and deepen their relationship with God through a meaningful worship experience.” The ministry includes the prayer and healing ministries, as well as each of the functions that are so important in creating a worship experience that allows us all to celebrate our relationship with Jesus Christ weekly in Sunday worship and in other special worship events.

### **Prayer and Healing (Bessie Eichorn)**

Auburn Presbyterian Church prays. We have prayed in many ways in the past year:

Corporately during Sunday morning worship and in healing ministry intercession.

In small groups at Thursday noon in the Library, at the women's and men's Bible studies, in Life Groups and in other groups.

At meetings and special events.

Through the Prayer Chain.

Individually using APC's prayer calendar and Mission Yearbook.

On the National Day of Prayer in May, as we focused on prayer for our country.

Also this year Dan Prout, a Presbyterian minister and experienced instructor, conducted a seminar on prayer that was well attended and taught us to PRAY FIRST!

The Healing Ministry continues to minister to our congregation as well as to some from outside our church. A team of about a dozen people plans, prays and participates in “formation” (learning to be conformed to Christ) together in preparation for the ministry. In the past year we have moved from a dedicated evening healing service to offering healing ministry once a month following the Sunday morning service. This change has made the ministry more accessible, allowing us to minister to more people. Many of these have reported physical, emotional and/or spiritual healing and encouragement in their lives, and several have shared their experience through “God in my life” stories in writing and in worship. We are grateful for the wonderful ways God is showing His love and power in this ministry.

### **Worship Leaders (Silva Stearn)**

We are grateful for a dedicated team of people who serve APC by leading us in worship on Sunday. They have received guidelines and training and each prayerfully prepares for this responsibility to lead worship approximately once per quarter. We encourage you to show your support and gratitude to each of them.

### **Choral and Praise (Preston Saunders)**

One of the areas this year that has been so blessed is our Praise Team. God gave us some new musicians who have helped us to grow and expand our repertoire and aided us in developing an additional singing team. We now have Praise Team 1 and Praise Team 2. Katie Baker is Preston's right hand in our worship and he is especially thankful for her gracious gifts. She is our band director and leader.

We had Jonah our drummer for almost a year, but we lost him to a music tour. God bless him as he plays across the U.S. We also lost our back-up keyboardist, Ethan, who is now on tour. We hope to see him back in September.

We have changed some musicians around now to include Debi Ramos on back-up keys and Lois as our faithful violinist. She and the trio did a great job this year and we are looking for more next year.

Presently, we are still engaged in developing the choir and an accompanist for the choir. We have really struggled this year with the choir, with vacations, etc. They have held their own and we should be supporting their efforts. Thanks to all the consistent choir members.

I always try to stay ahead of things and I have a few great possibilities for our future with the music program. Please pray with me as we seek God's direction for our future.

### **Video and Audio (Bill Jackson)**

The video group consists of Kim Douglass, Steve Norman, and Bill Jackson, plus Bill Garcia, who assists when needed. In addition to the Sunday services and Saturday preparation, the team responds to other events and services that happen from time to time at APC. Because we need to clean the projectors from periodically, we frequently work with others to do any high wire acts in the sanctuary "while the ladder is out". We replaced a \$400 projector bulb for the first time last month.

Video is still looking for an additional Sunday morning operator and would love to expand into the area of "filming" the services and showing the services in the afternoon at nursing homes. We have available all the equipment needed to recreate an APC service anywhere in town, even without a TV to show it on. As always however, time and talent resources are the hardest to come by, so this further ministry idea remains just an idea. We are always interested in and accepting donated photography for use during service.

The audio ministry is an area that may only be noticed in the event that something goes wrong. This is a very infrequent event, thanks to the skill and dedication of Rob Roberts and Elizabeth Townsend, who ably manage the microphones, recording and recorded audio, sound levels and other audio tasks that are such an important part of our worship services and other events held in the sanctuary.

### **Ushers (Max Kane)**

Ushering is another of those responsibilities that is carried on so well and smoothly at APC that we often notice those who serve only if something happens to go amiss. The usher team does more than pass out bulletins and collect the offering. This dedicated team, led by Max Kane, prepares the sanctuary for worship, monitors during worship for issues that may arise or for people who need assistance, and makes sure the sanctuary is in good order after we've all left. They also ensure that we have the supplies and other items needed during worship, and keep an eye on the overall appearance of the sanctuary and the worship experience.

We encourage you to take a moment to thank the ushers for their quiet, consistent, behind-the-scenes ministry that helps our worship go smoothly.

### **Decorative Arts (Julie Edwards)**

The Decorative Arts group is responsible for the decorations in the Sanctuary, for evaluating decorative gifts presented to APC for their artistic merit and appropriateness, and for managing the space available to keep it attractive and neat. This is a very busy congregation, involved in many activities, so this is an ongoing challenge.

We decorate the church seasonally, change the banners periodically, creating new ones when required.

We are also involved with observing certain holidays such as Hanging of the Greens at the beginning of Advent, when we decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. We have provided palms on Palm Sunday, drapes for the banners during Lent, flowers for the old rugged cross on Easter, and special treats on Mother's Day and Father's Day. We maintain the liturgical colors on the Communion table.

Currently, we are in the process of making more space available for Mission, Membership and Christian Ed with new bulletin boards. Additionally, we have accepted a lovely watercolor painting from Bill Michel as an indefinite loan. The painting, on display for several weeks, depicts some of the difficult conditions that children of Burma experience. It will be hung in the hallway with an explanation of what the people of Burma have suffered under their brutal government.

Soon framed pictures of the Elders will be displayed in the narthex, with a graphic explaining the responsibilities of each Elder. This project has required coordination with Preston Saunders, Congregational Development and Jay Hansell, Building & Grounds chair. Other projects require help and support from various elders and ministry teams. We are grateful to each of them for their advice and assistance.

Members of Decorative Arts are: Susan Bruce, Dana George, Karen Luttinger, Betty Simon, and Julie Edwards, chair. We are grateful to Karl Simon, Jim Thompson, Norm MacLeod and all the other strong arms who do the heavy lifting.

## **Drama (Linda Thompson)**

Drama is a new area of emphasis on our Worship team and in our worship. Drama includes not only skits but also the incorporation of dramatic elements in worship to help us focus on God and His work in our lives.

During Advent various skits were performed for four Sundays in December and were developed to explain the meaning of Advent. Each skit included readings from Scripture delivered by readers in the congregation to emphasize the theme. The final skit was a pantomime focused on the Advent theme of Love.

One skit was performed during the Easter season which coincided with the study of The Case for Christ. The theme centered around trust in the reliability of Scripture with an emphasis on the importance of being Biblically informed.

For Pentecost Sunday the perspective was to create a sense of excitement about the receiving of the Holy Spirit, much as it might have been experienced on the first Pentecost. Various congregants recited Scripture from the audience, speaking over one another, in various languages; the sound of wind was heard; and red balloons were released symbolizing the joy of such an event.

During recent Mission/Ministry Fairs several people signed up to perform in dramas. Through prayer and persistence others have been recruited, but it would be wonderful to have a pool of willing and/or interested parties to participate in this fun activity.

## **Administration by Lynn Hartford**

Following the 2007 Leadership Retreat, each of the Ministry Team Leaders adopted a Mission Statement for their Ministry. These are used to guide them and their Ministry Teams in their activities. APC is indeed fortunate to have the talented leaders in each of these ministry areas who joyfully give their time in the service of our Lord.

### **Building and Grounds Ministry – Jay Hansell**

Jay thanks everyone who contributed to the many projects around APC this year. Because of you the fall and spring clean up was successful. The grounds have never looked better. The goal is to make the grounds easier to care for and to consume less water. The plants have been removed from the center island in the parking lot. This fall several drought tolerant native plants are going to be planted. In the spring the daffodils will return, they were left in the ground.

Much effort is being put into using less energy. New thermostats and adjustments to the heating plant reduced our March and April gas use by more than 10% giving us more money to do the Lord's work. On Sunday we consume more than 6000 watts of energy lighting the church. The plan is to cut our electrical energy use. Jay has ordered fluorescent bulbs that can be dimmed and dimmers for the Narthex and the library. The first step is replacing all the incandescent bulbs with fluorescent.

The big project was in June. The exterior of the sanctuary received a coat of paint. The stucco was repaired, and a sealer along with a coat of paint was applied. The porch rails were also painted. A winter storm blew the awning off the office porch. A new cover now replaces the awning and covers the entire porch.

The church is showing its age; it is getting much use and is requiring more maintenance. Jay is looking for two assistants to help keeping her beautiful. Please donate your time and talent!

### **Financial Management – Kurt Simon**

Auburn Presbyterian Church has had a challenging year financially in Mission Year 2008, which ended on 30 June 2008. We started the year in July 2007 with a tight expense budget and a challenge to increase our estimated income from \$277,000 to \$285,500 in order to balance the budget.

During the year, we had additional unbudgeted building maintenance expenses of almost \$8,000. We also hired a professional nursery worker, which added to the personnel budget. Consequently, although the Session managed expenses very well, the total expenses increased from the original budget of \$285,550 to \$297,301. Our total income was \$287,490 versus the aggressive original budget of \$285,500.

The net result is that we ended MY08 with a \$9,808 shortfall in the General and Building Funds, leaving a balance of \$23,894. In addition, we contributed \$7,788 to various Mission Funds, \$6,309 to the Deacons Fund, \$431 to the Kitchen Fund, \$260 to Memorial Funds, \$424 to Women's Ministries, and \$4,770 to the Youth Fund. These other contributions totaled \$19,982.

In MY09, we have a budget that includes the nursery worker for the entire year and allows for needed additions to each mission area of our church. Our expected income falls short of the needed expenses by \$21,211. This will leave us with a General Fund balance of only \$3,700 at the end of MY09. With God's help, we can make up the difference through achievable growth in the congregation over the next year. Hopefully, any special one-time contributions this year can be used to balance the budget.

There are plenty of reasons for praising God for the financial prospects of Auburn Presbyterian Church over the past year and the coming year.

### **Personnel – Mary Schug**

Part of our Ministry goals for this year was to hire a person to serve in the Nursery every Sunday. We discussed the reason for the position – to provide one person on a consistent basis to oversee our youngest church attendees, our babies and toddlers. Over the years concern has been expressed that this young population needed consistency and stability and the opportunity to bond with one person on a weekly basis. In addition, if we were to attract new families, we would want to insure them that their babies and toddlers, would be well cared for in a nurturing environment overseen by a loving and capable person.

After talking to some of the parents of toddlers and young children, we determined that we wanted someone with experience working directly with this age group, and who had strong recommendations from employers as well as parents of children which the candidate(s) had cared for or supervised. While early childhood education was desired, successful prior experience was determined to be most important.

We wanted to insure that parents could come to church early, and stay for coffee and fellowship after church, so the hours of 9:30 – 11:30 am were set as guidelines for the Sunday morning position. Additional time would be needed to prepare for each Sunday, including set-up and clean-up. It was also agreed to utilize this person for other church functions where child care was needed (after church meetings, potlucks, etc).

Elizabeth Creencia applied for the position and she met with individuals of our team, the team as a whole, and then with interested parents. She was chosen for the position because of her obvious love of children, previous experience, education, and desire to work in a church Nursery situation. In her short tenure, she has already proven to be a wonderful addition to our APC staff.

The Personnel Ministry is also involved in an oversight role for the APC staff performance reviews. In addition, the ministry conducts a pastor compensation review and makes recommendations to the Session regarding compensation increases.

### **Website – Penni Smith**

This last year, Auburn Presbyterian Church completely revamped the church website, [www.auburnpresbyterian.org](http://www.auburnpresbyterian.org). The newly constructed site greeted the world on August 16, 2007. It features a complete, animated menu structure, consistent appearance (including the use of our newly redesigned logo), and a lot more content than its predecessor. Behind the scenes, but no less important, the site incorporates some the latest design standards, including the use of templates, cascading style sheets, and compliance with coding standards. We even have a favicon.

The webmaster updates the site frequently to provide the latest event information, to document and highlight church activities, and to carry every sermon and issue of Chronicles. The site launched with 51 total pages, and now has 61 (with an additional 6 promotional pages that have since been retired

The mission of the website team is “to provide a timely, friendly, inviting, professional website that attracts people to our church, facilitates growth in Christ, promotes activities, and serves as a one-stop resource for our people.” The idea is to create a website that will help people learn about our church and feel comfortable with us before they even set foot on our campus. We also want our people to visit and use it to find out about activities and ministry opportunities and to access key resources.

The site even has a video of Pastor Ken at: [www.auburnpresbyterian.org/main/firsttime.html](http://www.auburnpresbyterian.org/main/firsttime.html).

Goals for the next year include:

- Creating or incorporating an interactive calendar
- Increasing the use of photos throughout the site
- Providing better and more thorough information on all areas and activities
- Adding links to a variety of good resources
- Developing a section on growing in Jesus
- Making sure each page is fully compliant with W3C and accessibility standards

The success of the website depends on everyone’s involvement. Please provide the webmaster with information on events, ministries, life groups, photos, favorite resources, and general ideas. The internet is a great tool for us to connect to our community and touch lives for Jesus.

## **Stewardship of Resources – Bill & Katie Garcia**

The Stewardship Ministry Team consisted of Bill and Katie Garcia, Lynn Hartford, and Judy Gough. Prior to stewardship campaign kick-off we sent out a survey to the congregation in an attempt to gather information on factors that motivate people to give. Most responded prayerful consideration was a major factor in the amount determined to pledge. Some indicated testimonials during the pledge drive were important. There was also a suggestion to keep the congregation informed on financial status of the church on a more ongoing basis and to talk about finances more often in general.

Our stewardship campaign theme for MY 09 was "God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Cor 9:7, and we tried to focus on pledging time and service to God along with the financial pledge. Service cards were sent out along with the pledge cards and an annual stewardship letter. Our pledge drive kick-off was Sunday May 25th and the campaign concluded on June 15th with a dedication of pledge and service cards during worship. Pastor Ken gave a "stewardship sermon" on the first Sunday, and Lynn Hartford gave a brief overview of the campaign. The following 3 Sundays we heard testimonials from Bill and Katie Garcia, Cotton Neufeld, and Judy Gough. The financial goal this year is \$245,000.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **by Ken Sherer**

Christian Education covers many areas within the scope of providing opportunities for every individual from birth through retirement to wholeheartedly develop a strong relationship with God. We consider Christian Education to be in the infancy stage of APC as there are multiple avenues to entice believers and non-believers to follow in Jesus' loving path. Maybe, just maybe, the world will know we are Christians by our love.

Christian Education ministries and the ministry team leaders are as follows:

#### **Nursery - Elisabeth**

Hiring a trained nursery school coordinator has been a blessing for APC and should attract many more parents of nursery age children to attend our loving church.

#### **Children's Education (pre-school Thru. 5th grade) - Theresa Voss**

Many changes have taken place in this program. The curriculum is specifically designed for each age group, therefore helping the children understand the benefits of following a Christian Life Style. Teachers are providing guidance to our kids. Most important - God is transforming our teacher volunteers so they are not just giving love to our children but receiving love from the kids.

#### **Junior High School (6th grade thru. 8th grade) - Kyle Jacques**

The Jr. High Teaching Team is very proud to announce that Sunday School attendance has grown 75% over the last two years. For the 2007-2008 year, we had a total attendance of 124 Youth. This growth has been accomplished through the creativity of our teachers and a strong curriculum which brings God's word into their everyday lives.

#### **Extreme Team (junior & senior high school) - Judy Gough**

The Extreme Team members are really motivated to increase the number of youth attending our sessions. They would like to invite two outside youth to attend their many exciting events. These events include bowling, roller skating, movie night pizza dinner, etc. They meet almost every Sunday from 6 PM to 8 PM. We are so proud of the attitudes of each extreme team member.

## **Adult Education**

We have had two very important workshops on Conflict that were well attended. Dr. Carol Visser and Rev. Mark Throckmorton held a three hour session on "Celebrating Conflict and Cooperation" and Penni Smith conducted a three hour seminar on "Resolving Conflict Biblically". Both of the workshops proved to be so valuable to individuals that you can look forward to many more such activities at APC.

## **W.I.S.E.**

W.I.S.E. continues to be very strong. Wise (Women in Search of Excellence) is a community Bible Study opportunity offered for women on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. Some women from APC participate. All are welcome.

## **Vacation Bible School (summer only) - Patty Markham**

Vacation Bible School is becoming more popular each year and the curriculum is outstanding. The volunteers are providing love, instruction and most of all guidance to the attendees. You may want to get involved. Not only will you be helping our children become better Christians but it will strengthen your relationship with God.

## **Bible Study Groups - Max Stevenson**

The Sunday morning Bible Study group is getting larger and better each week. Max has many ideas for future years to ensure we all have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable in the scripture.

## **Library - Bev Anderson**

The Library is becoming a means to enhance your relationship with God by checking out a wide variety of excellent materials and books. The church library continually tries to upgrade its collection. Several book and video sales have been conducted to raise money for new books and DVDs. Anyone that is looking for a certain kind of book is encouraged to tell the librarian so the collection can better reflect the needs and interests of the congregation. There are many worthwhile books on the shelves. Please take advantage of this resource.

Christian Education wants every individual within our community to witness the wonderful love that Jesus modeled so each of us will be loving, thoughtful, considerate and helpful human beings. Let us radiate Jesus' love to our neighbors, have a loving relationship with God and model such love as Christians.

## **FELLOWSHIP by Bob Ferber**

The fellowship activities at APC consist of five functional entries, reporting through Robert Ferber, the Fellowship Elder. Special events is chaired by Betty Simon and provides a range of services to support APC special events, such as the Martinez concert or the Trio Allegro event. Congregational Life, chaired by Eileen Ferber, provides a range of support services (mostly food) for regularly scheduled APC activities, such as Lenten Services, after church refreshments and the Anniversary luncheon. Women's ministries headed by Linda Thompson, provides ministry services that provide a number of opportunities for women to learn and grow in their faith. Keenagers, chaired by Peggy Ward, organizes activities, tours, restaurant outings, etc, of particular interest to the Seniors of our congregation. The Life Groups interface, chaired by Shirley Hartford, is in the process of setting up a coordination process that includes all of the APC Life Groups. Individual reports are below for each of these APC Fellowship support activities.

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE - Eileen Ferber**

*If this group has a mission statement, I am not aware of it. We feed the masses with fishes and loaves, so to speak*

- Sept. 16, 2007 Sundae Sunday – “fall into Fall gathering” after church provided Ice Cream Sundaes and fixings, root beer floats
- Dec. 2, 2007 Hanging of the Greens – provided cider, eggnog, finger foods
- Jan. 27 2008 APC Anniversary Luncheon  
Mexican theme and food, plus sheet cake
- Feb. 27, 2008 Supplied Lenten service refreshments –  
In February the team cleaned the kitchen and put things where they are supposed to be. We had a notice in the bulletin and in Chronicles asking life groups and others who help with coffee fellowship to be neat.
- June 1, 2008 Mission Sunday – Participated with tables for Cong. Life/Special Events and Christmas Fair. Supplied our own goodies. Four new sign ups for committee.

June 8, 2008 Trio Allegro – worked in conjunction with Special Events Team to organize, set up, serve, etc.

Sept. 7, 2008 Second annual Sundae Sunday. Will be same as last year.

We also help with Memorial Services when asked (none this year). We set up the coffee fellowship schedule, monitor and purchase kitchen supplies when needed and work with Special Events (most of us are on both teams). A **copy of the** coffee fellowship schedule through Dec. 2009 is attached. Those involved through the end of 2008 have the schedule.

Information on how to prepare coffee, etc. is on the wall in the kitchen, as is a list of where items are to be found and the names of those on the committee.

It is my recommendation that EACH TEAM be acknowledged on different Sundays, give a short talk about what they do and any other information they want to discuss with the congregation – a very short time – no longer than 5 minutes.

Eileen Ferber, Team Leader

Members: Irene Flack, Edna Brockway, Peggy Fleming, Chris Hansell, Karen Luttinger, Frances McLeod, Patty Markham, Bernice Olenick, Betty Simon and Susan Bruce. New sign up from Mission Sunday: Jean Hinton, Rusty Rea, Barbara Thompson and Paula Rothaug—have already sent them welcome/thank you notes.

### **Special Events—Betty Simon**

Special Events is a new ministry team which is in charge of coordinating large significant events. We work very closely with the Congregational Life Ministry Team, as well as the sponsor of the event, as there is often a fine line between which team takes the lead for an event and we often rely on a number of the same people.

The most significant event is the Christmas Fair which will be held on Saturday, November 15 this year. The Steering Committee for this event is: Susan Bruce, Eileen Ferber, Irene Flack, Dana George, Karen Luttinger, Patty Markham, Betty Simon and Sharon Winter. We have already prepared a large number of sewing projects which have been distributed to a number of members of our congregation. In addition, we are having periodic small group sessions in homes to work on crafts. The frequency will pick up as we get closer to the date of the event and we welcome any and all help from the congregation.

Our most recent event was the Trio Allegro Concert held in our sanctuary on Sunday, June 8. We were primarily responsible for food and logistics which included renting tables, chairs and linens for the event; decorations and food; setup and tear-down and cleanup. All went well with this significant undertaking and several members of the congregation willingly provided their support.

## **Women's Ministries—Linda Thompson**

Women's Ministry provided a number of opportunities in 2007 for the women of APC to gather, fellowship, learn, and grow. We are committed to the nurture and encouragement of our women in deepening their spiritual lives and enlarging their faith. All events were designed to accommodate guests and reach out to the larger community. Unfortunately WM did not succeed as much as we would have liked in this area. We have remained somewhat stagnant in attendance at our various gatherings ranging from 25 – 35 women on average.

In **February** WM hosted *Hearts and Flowers* Open house at the home of Maureen Sherer honoring our 60 something aged women. In **April** we presented a speaker luncheon with Linda Thompson, *Wherever You Go, There You Are*. Another Open House in **June** celebrated our oldest and dearest ladies hosted by Eileen Ferber in her home. The *Bits and Pieces Workshop*, at which guests could attend workshops in such subjects as Journaling, Prayer, Personalities, Mentoring, etc. was held in **September**. And, in December WM offered a fun fellowship evening for women with a *Giggles and Games Fiesta*. WM also held a raffle of gift baskets during December as a fund raiser.

As of December Women's Ministry had about \$1400 in their account. The funds enable WM to keep costs to guests down, offer some events at no cost and to provide scholarships to our events when needed. Women's Ministry retains this amount should a special need arise, or, as a speaker/facility retainer should we plan a retreat in the future.

Women's Ministry events are planned and coordinated by the Women's Connection team which includes an average of 4 – 5 women. The Women's Connection team would love to add new voices and encourages any interested women to attend meetings, usually held on the first Tuesday of each month. Besides planning, many ideas are shared, and each woman volunteers as much or as little as she can to a task. Sometimes she volunteers to find others who will help. WM considers itself a unique 'life group' as well as a working team. We often share devotions and always pray for one another as well as the ministry.

## **Small Groups—Shirley Hartford**

In order to get to know the members in each Life Group and learn what they do in their respective groups, I am making visits to each group. During this visit I hope to understand more fully how and what they do during fellowship and what and how they study the Word of God together.

My goal is to feature each group in future issues of the Chronicle. As a result, as members of our church learn about Life Groups, they may develop an interest in joining a group or perhaps may want to start a new Life Group. Already what I have learned is that there is a strong bond of friendship among the members of the Life

## **Keenagers—Peggy Ward**

The past year has been another busy and exciting year for the Keenagers, an organization for people 50 years and older. We meet once a month for a lunch program and fellowship to share the love of Christ for each other. Interesting programs this past year included the Simons' presentation on their trip to China, the Bowers trip to Australia, barbeques at the Hartfords and the MacLeods. There were also tours of the Sierra College Natural History Museum, and a program by Easley's Nursery. The Christmas meeting was at Marie Callenders'. We exchanged Christmas ornaments and sang Christmas carols.

Attendance has averaged 24 to 30 per month and in January, 2008, we began meeting at the Sizzler on Lincoln Way for regular monthly meetings.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT NOON**

The Women's Bible Study at Noon continued for a number of years doing a verse by verse study of the books of the Bible chosen. This year, the group studied through Hebrews learning a good deal about this book with the mystery author. The group was of the opinion that Paul was probably the author by the time the study was finished. This was the last study for this group as the group has disbanded with those in the group making a choice between the Women's Monthly Bible Study and WISE.

## **MISSION REPORT**

### **By Bev Anderson**

#### **LOCAL MISSION MINISTRY TEAM—Leader, Bev Anderson**

- The chief focus of this team is the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet where a sizable group of people from APC volunteer.
- We encouraged Acres of Hope by providing some funds provided by the Deacons.
- The ministry of What Would Jesus Do? was presented to the congregation.
- Bev participated in planning and attended the Interfaith Earth Stewardship Conference at First Congregational Church.
- Judy Gough organized the Mission and Ministry Faith held on September 29, 2007. In 2008, it went back to its usual place in May in concert with the Stewardship Campaign.
- In October, many walked in the CROP walk to raise funds for world hunger.
- October 23 was Seminary Sunday with Andrew Hoeksema, a senior student from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Berkeley preaching.
- The Local Mission Ministry Team Mission Statement developed at the Leaders Retreat was considered and some changes made.
- A tree was decorated and delivered to The Gathering Inn Christmas fundraiser “Splendor of Trees.” It was part of their auction.
- Christmas Angels from the Salvation Army were received and gifts purchased for children for Christmas.
- Youth took the Souper Bowl Offering which is split between The Salvation Army and The Auburn Interfaith Food Closet. \$259.51 was collected.
- Craig George, Mission Elder, reported that in April they the report said the highest number of people served in the history of the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet. 850 families or 2,519 individuals were served. A subgroup of the AIFC Board is reviewing what is given. It is hard to hold that much food in the space they have. The Post Office Food Drive helped a great deal. There is consideration of giving out the USDA surplus foods but this has to be kept separate and space is limited. There is also consideration of being open another day: Friday or Saturday is being considered. The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of founding of The Auburn Interfaith Food Closet will be a reception that is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5.
- Special Offerings: Peacemaking: ¼ to PEACE for Families Pentecost: 1/3 to Boys and Girls Club
- APC hosted The Gathering Inn on May 30 and June 27 with a sizable number of volunteers participating. Larry & Beverly Bower took the lead on May 30 and Judy Gough on June 27.

The Placer Caring Connection participated in planning and producing the first Faith Based Panel Discussion for social service agencies in Placer County with the Placer Collaborative Network on June 12, 2008.

### **WORLDWIDE MISSION MINISTRY TEAM —Leader, Bev Anderson**

- The chief focus of the Worldwide Mission Ministry Team has been Burma – the Free Burma Rangers, The Good Life Club, the demonstrations about the government killing its own citizens, the cyclone, and ongoing village destruction, injury and murder at the hands of the militia.
- Audio-Visual Presentation made on Peacemaking Sunday/World Communion Sunday, Oct. 7 asking for prayer for Burma presented by Gracie Michel, Bill Michel and Dean Ecke
- Children and adults gathered items for the families of Burma and filled Burma Bags
- Theresa Voss wrote a mission curriculum for Sunday School in June and July. This will be done again with a different curriculum in 2008.
- These filled two large suitcases and were taken to Chiang Mai where the Free Burma Ranges is located – 87 pounds
- Copies of the brochure for the World Day of Prayer for Burma were shipped to us from Chaing Mai in a unique box
- Gracie Michel asked to work with the U.S. Campaign for Burma in Los Angeles to facilitate celebrities supporting Burma on U-Tube and other media opportunities
- Auburn Presbyterian Church sponsored a Prayer Vigil for Burma in downtown Auburn on an Art Walk Evening with the local Buddhist community invited and participating. Other churches also came and joined in. Gracie flew in from Los Angeles and spoke at the Prayer Vigil
- Bryce and Phyllis Little, Coordinators of Mission to Spain, spoke on the Church Anniversary Sunday, January 27, and at the luncheon that followed. Each year, Congregational Life Ministry Team does the luncheon and Worldwide or Local Mission produces the program.
- Bill Michel made a presentation at the Church Birthday Celebration about the situation in Burma
- On March 9, Bill Michel and Dean Ecke made a presentation for World Day of Prayer for Burma
- Bill volunteers to speak about Burma in other churches if invited
- Letters were received from both Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Diane Feinstein congratulating us on our work on behalf of the people of Burma.
- Prayer was offered and requested for the people of Kenya and Vickie Winkler and her HEART ministry in particular

- A framed watercolor by Maung Maung, a well known artist in Burma was accepted for the church. Louisa, Esther Michel's sister, was awarded the painting during what may have been her farewell trip to Thailand and Burma. She carefully packed it and brought it back to give to Auburn Presbyterian Church in memory of her sister. Bill brought it back when he went to Los Angeles to attend an event Gracie organized for the U.S. Campaign for Burma. It was accepted for placement in the hall by the Deco Arts Committee.
  - Bill visited Opening Doors in Sacramento. This is an organization affiliated with Church World Service that helps resettle people immigrating to the United States. They said that they do not expect Karens as the U.S. State Department is not sending them to California as the cost of living is so high.
  - At the request of General Assembly, a banner was prepared and delivered to the Presbytery Office to be taken to the General Assembly meeting in San Jose in late June. It asked for people to Pray for Peace and Justice in Burma. Judy Gough and Dana George were the lead people in this project. Those churches that signed the Commitment to Peacemaking were asked to prepare a banner. APC is one of those. We give a portion of the Peacemaking Offering locally to PEACE for Families that operates the local shelter for women and children escaping violence. We also promote peace in other areas such as Burma.
  - Bill Michael and Pastor Ken met with Rev. Jay Olson, Mission Staff for the Presbytery of Sacramento to talk about how best to inform churches in the Presbytery about the situation in Thailand.
  - The church was asked to announce where people could send contributions for disaster relief in Burma.
  - Gracie Michel announced a call to missionary service in Peru. She will be there a year to two years. The Session and individuals have pledged to give support during her mission work. She hopes to leave in October with her funding in place. She will return from her summer ministry in Lima, Peru, leading a team of college students from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.
- Local churches and those in the Presbytery of Sacramento received the World Day of Prayer brochure by mail. Bill and Gracie spoke at a church in Watsonville.

## **Outreach Ministry by Ron Markham**

Outreach Ministry by design is to attract new followers of Jesus Christ.

This years efforts and resources have been directed toward advertising and publicizing activities of our various ministries. We attempt to get exposure for the church as a whole and for specific activities.

Gold Country Media continues to be a great ally in our ministry. In the Foothills Magazine, they provide a bi-annual publication that has wide distribution throughout the county. We use this magazine to get wide exposure for specific events. I believe this is a very useful tool.

We are well represented in the Auburn Journal. We are included in the local area vacation bible school display ad, the Christmas events page as well as the annual Easter Page. The Auburn Journal helps with the preparation of the specific ministries ads and provides special advertising rates .

Karen Luttinger performs a marvelous service to our church by writing the weekly article that appears in the Auburn Journal with a synopsis of the upcoming Sunday service. We are very fortunate to have someone of Karen's ability in our midst.

We made a decision to reduce the amount of advertising the various yellow page directories. We are maintaining our display ad in the SBC Yellow pages, but we reduced the exposure in the others to a one line entry under the Church heading.

Uptown Signs is still helping us with banners. Thanks to the Kopp family for their support and good work. They are fast, efficient and very helpful in their designs.

Family Night Out is an event sponsored by the City of Auburn Downtown Association for Family Oriented fun activities. For the past four years we have had a booth in this event. The emphasis has been to promote Vacation Bible School. This year we had a very successful event. The Garcia family and the Markham family distributed over 100 frisbees for the kids to color. While the kids were coloring, we had an opportunity to talk to the parents about VBS and the church.

Preston Saunders orchestrated a fine event for outreach in the Trio Allego Concert. Preston encouraged each church member to bring a guest to enjoy the concert.

## **Membership Ministry Team**

### **By Lynden Laird**

The Membership Ministry team greets people at the front door, welcomes newcomers and provides them with a temporary nametag and a visitor information packet, and introduces them to others in the church. We follow-up with a card and a phone call, thanking them for visiting and inviting them to return. When they do, we make them a permanent nametag.

Information on visitors is given to the Life Group Coordinator so new people can be added to Life Groups, and to Ellen in the office.

Weekly attendance is recorded and reported to Session and in the Chronicle.

People new to the church are invited to APC101 classes, and after class, are offered the opportunity to become members. The team arranges for facilities, documentation, food, and childcare as needed.

We assist the Clerk of Session and Membership Records Secretary in keeping rolls of active and inactive members.

The Membership Ministry team consists of Lynden Laird (Chair), Lois Laird, Cotton and Lynn Neufeld, Bob and Roberta Westbrook, Dave and Dorothy Shears, Beverly and Larry Bower, Lynn and Shirley Hartford, Bob and Edna Brockway, Ron and Patty Markham, Ralph and Mary Sutton, Peggy Fleming, Ginger Kane, Peggy Ward, and Debbie Gow.

## **DEACONS**

### **by Frances MacLeod**

The Deacons continue their on-going ministry of love and compassion. We have spent the past year mostly with 9 parishes. Each Deacon was assigned at least ten people to serve. They strive to develop close relationships with each one of their parish members. They do this by home visits, visiting, visiting at church functions, telephone calls, sending cards on special occasions etc.

Through the monthly Deacons Fund collections we provide our ministry in various ways including

1) Fiscal support to the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet and The Salvation Army: 2) ministering those in need such as emergency financial support for members: 3) providing assistance at memorial services 4) meals for the sick and, 5) spiritual support and 6) communion and extension communion.

We have made available a set of four short books entitled Journeying Through Grief through the first years of life, the books share formation at significant times. Members can request a set to send to family members and friends who have lost a loved one.

We now have a parish that consists of college age and working young men and women of APC. Dottie Stevenson very ably heads up this new parish.

This year, we have to make emphasis in providing communion for our house-bound members. In order to train call eligible people to extension communion we have instituted a system whereby an Elder and a Deacon will call on these people after church on each Sunday of communion and give them the sacraments. This has proven to be of great value to our house-bound church family

The current Board members have been: Frances MacLeod, Moderator: Dottie Stevenson, Vice-Moderator: Bill Garcia, Secretary: Karl Simon, Treasurer, Sue Eberle, Jennie Theobold, Chris Hansell . We are grateful for their devoted service.

**CLERK'S REPORT**  
**By Patricia Markham**

**Session Meetings:** 12 regular, 2 called or special meetings

**Congregational Meetings:** the Annual Congregational Meeting was held on July 15 2007. The Congregation approved the Pastor's Terms of Call. There was one additional congregational meeting held.

The stated Congregational Election was called on May 11, 2008 to elect Elder, Deacons and four at-large members of the Nominating Committee. The following officers were elected:

**ELDERS**

**Class of 2009**

Ron Markham  
Bob Ferber

**Class of 2010**

Silva Stearn  
Ken Sherer

**Class of 2011**

Craig George  
Lynn Hartford

**DEACONS**

**Class of 2009**

Karl Simon  
Bill Garcia  
Jenny Theobold

**Class of 2010**

Chris Hansell  
Ginger Kane  
Frances MacLeod

**Class of 2011**

Sue Eberle  
Dottie Stevenson  
Larry Bower

**Nominating Committee – Class of 2007-2008**

At large – Lyndon Laird, Katie Garcia, Julie Edwards, Steve Wolf

The Session and Member Record Books were not examined by Presbytery.

The General Assembly Statistical Report was prepared and submitted.  
Marriages Performed, 1; Baptisms Performed, 0; Members Deaths, 0.

**Officers of the Corporation – 2006-2007**

President: Ken Sherer  
Secretary: Patricia Markham  
Treasurer: Kurt Simon