

LAKEVIEW CHURCH
1821 SHERIDAN ROAD
ZION, ILLINOIS 60099

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

WORSHIPING GOD AND SERVING
TOGETHER AS A LOCAL BODY OF
BELIEVERS, WE SEEK TO KNOW CHRIST
AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN, SO THAT HE
WILL BE GLORIFIED IN US AND WE WILL BE
PERFECTED IN HIM.

Les Martin

Teaching Pastor

Jim Ulrich

Associate Pastor

Craig Anthony

Director of Music Ministry

LAKEVIEW CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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STAFF REPORTS

SENIOR PASTOR - 2008

If 2007 was “**preparation**” and 2008 was “**come with us**”, surely 2009 ought to be “**let’s get it done.**” The Biblical illustration that comes to my mind is Nehemiah. The parallels should not be difficult to see. Nehemiah had heard a report that told of the sad condition of his beloved homeland. But what could he do? He was far away with a full agenda serving a foreign master. But he could not get the need out of his mind. So he prayed, fervently, in repentance but also in hope that God might hear and make a way for Nehemiah to do something toward securing his land for the glory of God and the good of his people.

The story continues with Nehemiah’s meeting with the king, the providential work of God in the king’s heart to grant time off and safe passage and even funds for the material needs of the project, a midnight examination of the ruins, run-ins with and ridicule from the opposition, a lack of workers, the danger of sabotage, problems with some who believed themselves too important to work, too much rubble – but with persistence, hard work and consistent confidence in the Lord, they got it done. In 52 days the project that had impossible stamped all over it was completed. They got it done because they had a mind to work. They got it done because, in their words, “the God of heaven will make us prosper and we his servants will arise and build.” They got it done because they worked together. They got it done because they found solutions to the challenges standing in their way and they found encouragement in the task they were completing. They were not overwhelmed in the enormity of the project, but rather found joy in the progress of the work. They got it done!

We have a job to do. It involves closing in the circle (which includes developing the fellowship, securing the safety of our families, developing workers and leaders, teaching and mentoring and monitoring the roles of family members, learning together how to build up in the presence of real danger, staying confident when it would be so easy to be intimidated or discouraged, etc.). It is a huge job, but one to which God has called us and one He is ready to equip us to accomplish – if we are willing to trust Him and get busy. The other half of the job we have to do involves expanding the circle; that is bringing in more and more into the circle. We have not done that very well, but it is part of the task. Theologians call what I am talking about the edification of the saints and the evangelization of the world. Now, I am not suggesting that we will complete the task in 52 days or even in 365 days. There is a sense in which the job before us will never be complete until Jesus comes. But He calls us to be hard at the process and to make progress. In the words of Paul as he looked over his life which was about to come to an end, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Last year, Pastor Jim and I began meeting with a few men, developing a leadership team for a new men’s ministry. We are not done, but the project is underway. **Please pray about this ministry.** This is without a doubt a key ministry necessary for developing strong families, which in turn will result in creating a strong fellowship. It is early in the process but a good foundation is being laid.

Slowly we are developing a ministry of small groups. This provides a structure for community and accountability to occur in an accelerated fashion. I pray that all of us will make an effort to be part of a small group where we can encourage each other and bear each other’s burdens and grow together in the things of Christ. If the parts (the small groups) that make up this ministry are strong, the church will be strong. It is interesting that when Nehemiah was building the wall around Jerusalem, he had the people working on the section of wall that was nearest to their own homes (in some cases it was one of the walls of their home). It made sense that one would want the wall strong where he and his family lived. But there was a wider blessing. Since all the people were doing the same thing,

all of the people were safer and more secure because of the work of each small group of builders! That is a great picture of what we are trying to accomplish. Let's get it done!

Before we can complete the task, it is necessary to see where we have been. As already mentioned, last year we got a good start on men's ministry. The women's ministry has been exciting and encouraging as women of all ages are involved and making a contribution in each other's lives. The small group ministry has remained about the same, but there is the promise of some good development this year with a couple of groups ready to begin within the next few weeks. The ABF's are well attended and filling a need, but this ministry needs to be expanded. We are looking for a couple or two to help develop this ministry. Maybe you are one of those people. The children's Sunday School program has dedicated and motivated teachers, but the number of students is very small. If our own church family regularly supported the children's Sunday School, it would be good for the children, good for these families, and a great encouragement for our teachers. We also need to be reaching beyond our own families to our friends and neighbors and co-workers, inviting them to our fellowship. One of our families moving away soon, made reference to the people in the community in southern Illinois where they are relocating. The remark was made that the people are very friendly and everyone, early in the conversation, invites them to their church. What a novel idea! Surely we ought to be able to do that – and some of those invited just might show up! May we have a mind to work so we can get the job done!

2008, like most years in ministry, flew by. Immediately after each Sunday, it is like starting all over again. There is a new sermon to research and write, a new Bible study to complete, a new ABF lesson to write, a new MTI course to prepare, meetings to attend, agendas to develop, visits to be made, correspondence to answer – and every week it starts anew. And if something did not get done the week before, it screams for attention the following week. I never feel like I spend enough time in prayer and after every lesson or sermon I wish I had a few more hours to make it better. Don't misunderstand. I love the challenge and I can't think of anything else I would rather do, but sometimes the mind and spirit become weary and maybe a little stale. Pray that your pastors do not become weary in well doing, and that what they do will be to God's glory. Sometimes the routine of ministry comes to a screeching halt. That happened to me in March when Bob Vincent passed away. Though we had some differences in how we viewed certain points of theology, he was my friend and a great encouragement to me. We shared many experiences together. It was very hard to say good-bye.

I continue to be grateful to the Lord for His grace. He has given me a wife and family that loves me and supports me. He has graciously given Karen and I grandchildren who are a pure delight to our hearts. He has surrounded us with many who pray for us and provide encouragement and counsel. Our lives are rich in Christ and rich in His people!

Looking ahead, if the Lord allows, I hope to travel to South Africa and be an encouragement to the ZEMA staff and hopefully a blessing to the Amazioni. I also hope to return to Kenya in the near future to encourage Paul and Rodah and if the Lord allows, minister to the students and church leaders in that African nation. If you think about it, pray concerning this as well.

If we belong to Christ, we have the assignment to “occupy until He comes.” There is more to that assignment than just sitting and waiting. There is much work to do, but with God's help, together we can get the job done. Like Nehemiah, there will be problems and pressures, but if we trust the Lord and have a mind to work, we can do the job. Are you ready?

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Les Martin

ASSOCIATE PASTOR – 2008

Another year has come and gone which means it's time to take a few moments to reflect individually and as a church body on how we have progressed in our faith, in our walk and in our service to the Lord. In John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress", a common question that is shared between fellow travelers as they meet along the way; "Where have you come from and where are you going?" Bunyan's main characters, Christian and Pilgrim respond that they are on their way to the Celestial City. However, along their journey they encounter challenges and trials and missteps but they never lose sight of their ultimate destination. I would like to use this as the backdrop to my reflection and assessment of 2008, Where have we come from, and my thoughts for 2009, Where are we going.

Personally, 2008 was another year of growing into my position as a pastor. Regardless of the ups and downs I experienced throughout the year, I consider myself abundantly blessed to be able to serve the Lord in this capacity. My normal day (if there is such a thing) begins with the reading of Scripture and praying with my wife, Lisa. Then, when I enter my office I attempt to organize my duties, both daily and long-term, around what is written in Acts 6:4 - "...giving my attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word." Following this scriptural principle I focus my energies on ministries that will help build a strong foundation for years to come. This can be an overwhelming goal, but I feel it is both necessary and critical to our individual and corporate spiritual growth and maturity for us at Lakeview.

As I reflect back on 2008, I am pleased about where we have come from and where we are going. There are several ministries that have grown over the past year focusing on equipping men and women of all ages to grow in their spiritual maturity. These ministries share several things in common, primarily: the study of the Word, learning, sharing and growing in community, becoming open and accountable to like-minded Christians, praying supporting and encouraging one another to grow in faith and obedience to Christ.

We see this in our Youth Group where the Sponsors and I continue to teach and expose our students to the Word of God. We provide time for break-out groups to help the students make the connection between what is written and how they live. We also challenge them to live in a manner consistent with what they say they believe. Our goal is to help them become leaders and models for both the younger children and their peers and to develop godly characters and leadership skills that they can bring with them as they move from Jr. High and High School to young adulthood.

With the goal of equipping men and women of all ages, the next stop is The Journey. Our Friday night Bible study and fellowship provides a wonderful place for our young adults to learn to live out their faith with their peers. Along with studying, discussing and applying the Word to their lives, these young adults are encouraged to serve the church. The Journey is a place where they get support from their peers and guidance from Lisa and me as they face the challenges of making life decisions while standing firm in their faith.

2008 also saw growth in our adult discipleship ministries. Several women come together twice a month to study God's Word at the Women's Challenge. During the course of 2008, the WINGS committee offered several well received workshops centered on the Parables. Both of these ministries provide women the opportunity to come together for study, prayer, worship, support and community.

In the Fall of 2008, Lakeview kicked-off its Men's Ministry. The men of Lakeview now have a place to come together to learn, grow and encourage one another. We are stressing the importance of men committing themselves to the reading and studying of the word, along with developing a dynamic prayer life and to no longer walk alone.

Our small group ministry at Lakeview is still in its beginning stage. In 2008 we had three small groups active at Lakeview; two adult and one student (lead by Sarah Clark). The only thing I want to highlight regarding small groups is that this is where true growth will occur. I have seen this firsthand (in Lisa's and my life), and have heard it from the testimony of others that small group has been a catalyst for growing in faith, becoming connected, and learning to serve each other and the church. If you have not yet become involved in a small group, I would encourage you to make that one of your goals for 2009. You will be truly blessed.

This is just a sample of the many good things that have occurred over 2008, which tells me that Lakeview is on an upward trajectory, but we still have a long way to go. There is still much that I desire to see happen here at Lakeview but as my calendar is becoming filled to capacity, there now becomes a greater need for people to come forward to lead. There are needs for ABF teachers, small group leaders, Deacons, older men and women becoming mentors to our younger boys and girls, and the list goes on.

One ministry that is being well served by dedicated volunteers is the Children's Ministry, but to-date, it is lacking an overall guiding vision and dedicated oversight. We as a church have been blessed to have a dedicated group of leaders and volunteers who devote their time and energy to insure that these ministries continue. Chris and Bob Thompson are teaching the Sr. High on Sunday morning as well as Chris' continued dedication to Adventure Club. Our Sunday school teacher's (see Sunday School report) , nursery workers, lead by Deb Scoggin, and our Children's Church team headed by Deb DePuy, week after week devote their time and resources to insure our youngsters learn about and are exposed to God's truth and love through Bible lessons and caring people.

And while these leaders and volunteers are doing a wonderful job, I believe that our children's ministry would greatly prosper if we had someone to take the leadership of this ministry, working alongside me, to help set a vision and dedicate time to oversee and develop this program and promote it. Can you be that person?

So "Where are we going?" The answer to that question will be up to all of us. The raising up and equipping of the congregation is of central importance in my eyes and I hope that you will join me in 2009 by taking advantage of every opportunity to grow in your faith and serve our church. As you look forward to 2009, do not simply set goals for your personal, financial and work lives but also set goals for your spiritual lives, because we all know that that it is only what we do for the Lord that has any eternal value.

Each of us will have to determine what we will view as important in the upcoming year. I would strongly suggest that the strengthening of our individual walk, the building-up of our marriages, the guiding and instructing of our children, using and developing our God given skills and gifts to grow and support the local body, must take first priority. Each of these will take commitment and sacrifice but the results will be worth it. Consider arranging your schedules so that you can take advantage of the many opportunities this church has to offer, because one year from now, I hope and pray that God will have done a mighty work in Lakeview as His children of all ages live in a manner worthy of the calling you have received.

As I look forward to 2009, I will continue to follow the “Ministry of the Word” as my compass. As I allocate my time and resources I will continue to focus on providing opportunities for you and me to grow in our faith, walk, obedience and maturity. I ask for your prayers as 2009 unfolds with its challenges and blessings.

And as always, I would like to thank Lisa for all the support she has provided me over the past year. Before the day begins to the closing of the day, I know her prayers support me and her heart and love for the Lord provides her the wisdom to help me as we minister together, I am blessed!

So with help from our God and all of us working together, I am looking forward to another exciting year at Lakeview Church.

To God Be the Glory, Your Co-worker in Christ,

Pastor Jim Ulrich

MUSIC MINISTRIES DIRECTOR – 2008

Never ask me for directions!

For some reason, I have not been blessed with a good sense of direction. Those that know me well rarely give me directions using street names or North/South instructions. I am definitely a landmark-guided driver. So as I look back at the trip called 2008, I'd like to highlight some of the 'landmarks' that have been valuable to me on this road called Music Ministry.

The Worship Choir season began in September, and since then we have been participating in the Sunday morning service on a weekly basis. This group of diverse people has remained a constant joy and encouragement in my life. In the day and age of Adult Choirs disappearing in churches, it is always uplifting to see a church with a growing thriving choir ministry. I hope that this example will be a model to the next generation at Lakeview. Even when the days are long, I look forward with anticipation to the practice and gathering times of this special group.

One significant time in this ministry was our Christmas Program, "The Christmas Song". Our music ministry grew in numbers during this time as we added new voices to the choir, and younger musicians added their instruments in the orchestra. Unfortunately it's around this time when the pressures of the holiday season and schedule changes galore can sometimes push our final look and listen to our program on the back shelf until we perform it that night. I was blown away by the end product musically, but more so, I was moved by the way our various characters expressed their 'song' to our Lord, and how challenged we all were to sing our song daily to our King.

Thank you to the instrumentalists, singers, and technical staff that I work with each week – It is a joy to serve with a group who humbly and skillfully serve to glorify God. To see the magnitude of your commitment and your willingness to use your talents consistently each week makes everything run so smoothly. But more than anything, to be able to serve the Lord with people who deeply love and follow Him is more joy that I could ever ask for in this ministry.

It is an honor to serve in this ministry with a wonderful staff, and an encouraging family. Thank you for serving Him with me!

The Bottom Line is this: If our 'destination' throughout the year is to grow closer to God, what do we need? A spiritual GPS? We need Jesus. We need Him and His Word. Psalm 40 tells us that God gave us a song – a song of praise – but he did not tell us what it sounded like. In fact, He did not say that many will hear the song and their lives will be changed. He said that many will SEE and their lives will be changed.

Psalm 40: 1-3

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD."*

Now that's directions that anyone can clearly understand, and naturally follow as a life changed by Christ.

As we start this New Year, with a new 'destination' in mind, we will remember that worship is giving God the glory that He alone deserves. While music and worship are not the same thing, God has created a unique relationship between them. Scripture shows us the vital role that music plays in the worship of God. Psalm 66:2 says that we are to "sing the glory of His name, give to Him glorious praise." I have learned that music is a gift from God designed to develop and deepen our relationship with Him.

I am honored to be a part of the Music Ministry of Lakeview Church. Music is at the heart of what I give to the Lord as my offering. I am thankful for His call on my life to serve Him in this way. I pray that the music that this church produces will bless you as you listen. Mostly, I pray that it will do much more than that – I pray that it will equip you to worship with all your lives the one true living God.

Sing to the Glory of His Name!

Craig Anthony

MINISTRY REPORTS

MISSIONS REPORT - 2008

It was intentional that the annual missions festival was moved to January from the usual late fall event that it had traditionally become. To begin the year with a focus on missions and our missionary families would honor the importance of the commission that Jesus gave us and put missions and our missionary families at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers at the outset of the year. The theme, "Faithful through the Ages" was our way of remembering how God has worked in our church through missions. Our challenge came from Hebrews 13:7-8, "Remember your leaders...and imitate their faith...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." We remembered and recognized the many, many missionaries that Lakeview has supported through the years. We were privileged to have at our Festival the very first missionaries that Lakeview supported over 40 years ago, Steve and Jan Peterson (Brazil). Also attending was Dave and Lolly Erdel (Ecuador), Donna McDowell representing ZEMA, and our own Ralph Trantham and who shared God's faithfulness to them and to share with us God's faithfulness to his people in their mission work.

We witnessed God's working when Paul Mbandi wrote us explaining that there was an immediate financial need in order for him to pay for a much needed vehicle; a vehicle that would make it possible for him to continue to travel throughout the region, visiting churches, holding conferences and the like. When the missions committee heard of the need, \$10,000 and needed in approximately 3 months time, the missions chairman, for one, had to admit that it sounded like an insurmountable amount. God silenced our doubts and God's people responded to meet the financial need and in less than 2 months time. We serve a great God!

Experiencing answered prayer in the case of the Mbandi's, the Lakeview church family would be asked, again, to trust God to work. We learned during the summer that our beloved Nathan and Amy Moser and family would be returning from Spain. The economic pressures experienced around the world ultimately affected their ability to continue living and working in Spain. The Moser's are actively seeking additional financial support in an effort to return to Spain. We want to encourage and support this young family and look forward to God making a way for them to resume their role in Spain, very soon. The missions committee thanks God, in advance, for the way that he is working in the lives of the Moser's and the hearts of the Lakeview Church family as we wait on God to work this out.

In January we held the annual Acorn Bank breaking program. As expected, the young boys and girls of our Sunday School were up for the event, taking careful aim with the hammer and breaking bank after bank. It's was a fun event for everyone that participated. In 2008 the missions committee opted to "retire" the Acorn Bank and replace it with "Treasures In Heaven". Treasure chest banks were made available to everyone at Lakeview, to fill throughout the year with coins that will be collected in early 2009. For this first year, the proceeds of the Treasures In Heaven bank program will be going to the three young sons of our missionaries to Kenya, Paul and Rodah Mbandi. The scripture for this new missions program is Matthew 6:19-21. It is our hope and desire that over the course of the year and the years to come, the young boys and girls (and adults as well) will come to understand this scripture and make it a part of their lives.

The missions committee strives to strengthen our awareness of the various church supported missions with Missionaries of the Month focus in the church bulletin. In addition to the focus in the church bulletin, we invited and heard from representatives of the two local mission outreach programs, Child Evangelism Fellowship and also CareNet. God is not only at work around the

globe, but actively in our immediate area. We praise God for the many workers and volunteers that are having a positive impact in the lives of those in our local community. We're also grateful for the growing relationship Lakeview is nurturing with ZEMA, through its director, Mike McDowell. Mike came to Lakeview this past summer and spoke of the ongoing work of ZEMA throughout Africa.

For the second year in a row, the missions committee sponsored Operation Christmas Child, a program that is part of Samaritan's Purse. The church family responded by filling 88 shoeboxes for boys and girls, an increase over the previous year when we collected 57 filled shoeboxes. We prayed that 88 boys and girls would hear of and learn about Jesus for the first time, as a result of the Gospel messages included with the shoeboxes. We are thankful for the response from the Lakeview church family.

We continue to add content to the mission's page found on the Lakeview Church website, www.lvchurch.org. It is our plan to continue to add information and photos to the website that will make it a learning tool and center of communication to and from our missionaries via posting of their newsletters and emails to us. Better communication will lead to familiarity and knowledge so we can better pray for and support our missionaries.

As we near the end of the year, it is our prayer just as we started the year, that we would "Remember our leaders...imitate their faith", because "Jesus Christ IS the same yesterday, today and forever" (emphasis added). What a privilege to serve Jesus Christ. We're humbled and grateful for this opportunity.

Submitted on behalf of Jan Chase, Julie Gates, Pastor Martin, Shelley Martin, Peter Saenim and Ralph Trantham,

In His Service,

Cindy Graeff

SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES – 2008

Lakeview Church currently supports the following missionaries:

In Brazil, Steve & Jan Peterson serving with Word of Life

In Ecuador, David & Lolly Erdel serving with World Partners

In Kenya, Paul & Rodah Mbandi, teaching at Scott Theological College serving with Missions Afield.

In South Africa, Tim and Luann Kuehl serving with ZEMA

In Spain, Nathan and Amy Moser serving with World Partners

Lakeview supported missionaries in Turkey through World Partners.

Due to where they serve, their names are withheld for safety and security reasons.

Lakeview Church also currently supports the following local ministries:

Child Evangelism Fellowship

CareNet Pregnancy Center

LIBRARY – 2008

Lakeview Church's Christian Library Ministry continues our work to provide a variety of resources for every age group of our congregation. Its mission is to serve the spiritual needs of our people by providing up-to-date Christian resources in the form of books, CD's and DVD's to strengthen our faith and understanding of God. The library has a wide variety of Christian resources to assist both young and old in their continued development of their faith.

Library resources include a Christian Reference Section, Christian Educational resources, devotionals, biographies, and books related to Christian Living. There are several individual and series novels of inspirational/romance and historical fiction. The library also has a selection of Christian children's books for all ages and reading levels. The library offers audio and video tapes of each week's Sunday service.

Over the past year, this ministry has been headed by Heather Carvajal and a group of dedicated women who devote their time to insure the library remains a useful resource for our Lakeview body.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY REPORTS – 2008

ADVENTURE CLUB - 2008

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

Affecting lives for Christ

Each week numerous volunteers gather together to share the gospel message with boys and girls Kindergarten through 6th grade. We have been called to invest in a handful of children's lives for the sake of Christ. This calling is no small feat. It is a ministry that comes with great responsibility. A responsibility that each of us realizes must affect our personal walks with Christ – our testimony of the power of Christ in our lives in order to effectively impact those we come in contact with weekly.

We, as laborers for Christ, have been challenged to grow and mature in our relationship with Christ. Each volunteer, whether young or old, has been asked to attend the Sunday worship service. Each volunteer, whether young or old, has been asked to make a commitment to regularly attending Sunday School, Small Group, Bible Study, and/or Youth Group. Each volunteer, whether young or old, has been asked to commit to reading their Bible on a daily basis. Each volunteer, whether young or old, has been asked to pray for one another. Each volunteer, whether young or old has been asked to bring glory to God in personal conduct. And some may ask...

WHY? . . . Because we must..."Lead by Example."

*"In everything set them an example by doing what is good.
In your teaching show integrity, seriousness." ~ Titus 2:7*

As a result, we as a ministry team added an important component to Adventure Club. Volunteers have agreed to take turns quoting memorized scripture as part of the weekly announcements. We, along with the clubbers, take turns reciting sections of scriptures before the entire club. The clubbers and leaders have been nervous and apprehensive, but we have watched each other grow as we take our turn(s) to share scripture we have memorized – encouraging one another.

The theme for 2007-2008 was "Exploring the Universe of God's Promises". The following individuals were actively involved with this ministry from January - May:

Chris Thompson, Director

Pastor Martin, Co-director/Teacher

Volunteers: Dave Martin, Kathy Christianson, Dan Stanley, Dan Lucy, DeAnn Kight, Shirley Upchurch, Chris Hall, Laurie Clark, Mary Clark, Leslie Stanley, Shelley Martin, Tim Hanson, Jeff Stanley, Crystal Hall, Janis Chase, Judy Larson, Erika Willkomm, Julie Scott, Rita Lucy, Regina Ingram, Gloria Jackson, Judy Davis, Geneva Stanphill, Wanda Smith, Lisa Isaac, Blythe Anthony, Monica Clark, Jean Bowie, Diana Palinca, Dan Lucy, Bob DePuy, Gene Chase, Woody Ingram, John Clark, Sylvester Marinca, Dustin Lucy, Elisa Trantham, Charlotte Matson, Jackie Hamlet, Pete Saenim, Jeanetta Lambert, and Chelsea Thompson.

High School Volunteers: Wesley Burgmeier, Kenneth Pickett, Deondria Robinson, Corin Lucy, and Cameron Stewart.

Junior High Volunteers: Jakob Willkomm, Lesly Ingram, Daniela Ingram, Madison Thompson, and Caity Lucy.

The average attendance on Wednesday evenings was 56, with a high of 64, and a low of 44.

Special events that occurred were Every One Every Word, a Sections Contest, the annual Grand Prix - "Time Machine Cars", the Pancake Breakfast, the Secret Pal Party - "Fireman" with firefighter, Chris Arnold, as our guest speaker, Closing Ceremony, 6th grade miniature golf and ice cream outing, and a Mystery Dinner outing for those who joined one of the achievement clubs.

The theme for 2008-2009 is "The Champion's Journey". The following individuals were actively involved with the ministry from September - December:

Chris Thompson, Director

Pastor Martin, Teaching Pastor

Volunteers: Kathy Christianson, Geneva Stanphill, Erika Willkomm, DeAnn Kight, Shirley Upchurch, Chris Hall, Charlotte Matson, Dwayne Lucy, Gerry Bell, Rob Kight, Leslie Stanley, Jeff Stanley, Tim Hanson, Crystal Hall, Dana Martin, Judy Larson, Rita Lucy, Regina Ingram, Gloria Jackson, Judy Davis, Jeanetta Lambert, Kelly Burgmeier, Monica Clark, Blythe Anthony, Lisa Isaac, Jean Bowie, Diana Palinca, Dan Lucy, Tim Stanphill, Todd Burgmeier, Dave Martin, John Clark, Sylvester Marinca

High School Volunteers: Jakob Willkomm, Wesley Burgmeier, Robert Lambert, Daniela Ingram, Erica Robinson, Madison Thompson, Sara Pieczykowski, Deondria Robinson

Junior High Volunteers: Haley Burgmeier, Alec Pratt, Adam Lambert, Caitly Lucy, Riley Isaac, Anja Willkomm, Lesly Ingram

The average attendance on Wednesday evenings was 57, with a high of 66, and a low of 51.

Special events that occurred were Every One Every Word, Bring a Friend Contest, "Make a Treat and Eat" Family Night, and Jesus Birthday Party Family Night.

Submitted by,

Chris Thompson, Director

2008 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Son Harvest County Fair – Growing the Fruit of the Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Lakeview’s annual VBS (Vacation Bible School) outreach was held during the week of July 14th – 18th and our theme was “Growing the Fruit of the Spirit”. During the week we focused on five of the fruits (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, and Kindness) with the goal of helping the children understand what each fruit meant and how it was to be lived out in their lives. They were taught that the best way to grow these fruits and develop these Christ-like attributes is to know Jesus and follow his example.

During the course of the week we had children from over 35 different families and upwards to over 50 attendees every day. To help us share and teach our message, we were visited each morning by: Auntie Opal, Annie, Uncle Zeke, TC and other characters from down on the Farm. A special thanks to Pastor Martin for working with this unusual cast of characters.

In addition to our teaching time (thank you to all of our classroom teachers), the kids were given time to work on crafts, play games, grab a snack, and have some fun singing and dancing to songs that reinforce our theme of Growing the Fruit of the Spirit. Song’s such as: “Good Fruit”, “God’s Love in Me”, “I Got Peace” and many more. With the risk of singling out a few volunteers by name, I would like to give a special thank-you to Haley Burgmeier and Madison Thompson, along with their choreographer Angie Arthur, for the wonderful work they did leading the music portion of VBS.

We finished the week by bringing in a petting-zoo filled with baby farm animals. The kids loved it and even the adult volunteers got a kick out of it. Thank you to the congregation for your generosity to help make the Petting Zoo possible. We then closed out our VBS Week with our annual Church Picnic and Pool Party. The picnic was opened to all and was well attended by over 160 people consisting of church family, VBS attendees and many new faces. This is a wonderful way to showcase our church’s warmth. Then there were over 110 people who hung out at the pool to take advantage of a warm evening and continuing fellowship.

VBS is an event that could not take place without the many hours of preparation by numerous helpers. I want to thank my leadership team: Dana Martin, Dee Kight and Shyrl Marerro, for their suggestions, assistance, work, guidance and to Blythe Anthony in helping to make a smooth and seamless year-to-year transition. While I cannot name everyone, my heartfelt thank goes out to all of you who supported this year’s VBS in the various roles of teaching, decorating, music, games, crafts, administration, nursery coverage, snacks, prayers, financially, and on and on. Our VBS week is a great week because of the great people who gave up time to be a part of this important outreach.

While we may never know the full impact of our VBS outreach program, I believe we are doing a faithful work and in His sovereignty, He will use the seeds that we planted in order to bring glory to His name.

Faithfully Submitted,

Pastor Jim Ulrich

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 2008

I would first like to recognize and thank all who devote their time on Sunday morning, along with time during the week to prepare for Sunday, in order to instruct our children in the way of the Lord.

Our classes are staffed with the following teachers:

Debbie Scoggin	Nursery
Roma Kerley	Pre-School Age
Dianne Jenkins, Gene Chase and Dan Scoggins	Kindergarten/1st
Teri Franklin and Chris and Christy Arnold	2nd/3rd/4th
Shelley Martin and Wanda Smith	5th/6th
Dave Martin, Craig and Blythe Anthony	Jr. High (7th and 8th)
Bob and Chris Thompson	Sr. High (Freshmen – Seniors)

We have had a really great year in Sunday School. We have gained two new teachers, Chris and Christy Arnold, who rotate teaching with Teri Franklin. The bus ministry has come to end on Sunday mornings for the group we affectionately call 'Gloria's kids'. The number of kids that come has decreased to one family of four girls. They have moved closer to the church and come regularly. They have even been walking on their own to class! We have loved getting to know them and they are learning so much of the basic Bible stories and foundations of our faith.

The biggest blessing this year to see all the kids grow in their knowledge of who God is and what he has done for them. We have continued the same discipline strategy as we incorporated last year and we are happy to report that there has been little need for it. The classes have become more structured and the kids have really responded positively to that. There has been a noticeable growth in the kids understanding of biblical truths and in camaraderie among the students.

Pastor Jim is still heading the ministry and we have appreciated his patience, attention to our needs, and guidance through everything. As a team we meet once a quarter to discuss and share idea of how we can improve this ministry. However, to really see this ministry truly grow and develop, we are looking for some to take on the role of the Children's Sunday School Director. We are also in need of volunteers to serve as substitutes and we are looking for someone to serve in the kindergarten and first grade class as a teacher for every other week. If you share with us the love for these kids and want to see them exposed to God's Word, please strongly consider joining us in this ministry. It truly is a joy to serve the Lord and our children in this capacity.

All of the teachers have been extremely dedicated to this ministry and committed to using their gifts for God's glory. It has been a great year and we are looking forward to what God has store for us in 2009. Sunday School is a vital part that will help the kids draw closer to God and continue to develop strong relationships with Him. Please continue to pray for all the volunteers involved and for the kids.

God Bless You!

Shelley Martin and Teri Franklin
Sunday School Teacher Representatives

CHILDREN'S CHURCH – 2008

Another year in Children's Church ran smoothly. Happy children played and joked with the junior high and high school volunteers. During their time, they also heard Bible stories from gracious adults who gave of their time to teach them the ways of the Lord. Parents picked up their kids at the end, who were filled with stories to tell them on the way home.

At the end of this year, I resigned as Head of the Children's Church Department. Rachel Dube' will be taking over and will keep a watchful eye over the department. May the Lord bless the year to come and for what it has in store.

In Christ,

Deborah DePuy

STUDENT MINISTRIES – 2008

Another year has come and gone, another cycle in youth ministries completed only to start again with our new seventh graders.

The success of moving the youth group to Sunday evenings can be seen clearly in the relationships being built between the young people and between the young people and their sponsors. The luxury of time has allowed relationships to grow and nurture each week as we continue to see the young people forming a community, one that cares about each other and celebrates each other's successes.

Sunday evening is planned to give the young people a more intimate worship experience with their peers. An age appropriate lesson time allows for learning and questions! The high school young people break after teaching time into small groups to allow for practical application and sharing part of the trials and tribulations of being a teen-ager in today's world.

This year saw more changes, with the addition of a high school girl's small group outside of Sunday night. Game nights, featuring floor hockey and halo dodge ball quickly became a regular addition to our activities. Others include a fearful night featuring our own Fear Factor, winter and summer break-a-ways, a trip to the corn maze and hugely successful lock-in rounds out our year.

A special thank you to the families that hosted our House-2-House season this past summer; a new feature had our sponsors bringing a short devotional along with our hosts. The young people are appreciative of the opportunity to meet you.

Our Youth Group would also like to thank everyone who has so graciously provided money to our Youth Group Scholarship Fund. Over the past year we have promoted various fundraisers such as: Family Portraits, Rummage Sales, Dinner at Culvers and a few other events that you have faithfully supported. Thank you for your generosity.

I'm certain I've forgotten something important in the year, but I will close with a simple but sincere THANK YOU to the sponsors, worship band and everyone who helps make this ministry work.

Submitted by:

Tom Rich

MINISTRIES FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY – 2008

In 2008 we continued to offer several special events that provided opportunities for those in our church family to get together for fun, community and relationship. We kicked-off the year in the Spring when over 60 of us went to a Cubs game. Then to close out our VBS week we hosted an “All Church” picnic and Pool Party where 160 people attended the picnic and over 100 people, young and old, swam and related the night away. As Tom Rich commented in his report, House-2-House was a time when our students got to spent time and were introduced to several of our church families. To close the year out, a small cadre of brave men, women and children attended our annual Fall Hay Ride where the cold and rain kept many of the less adventurous home.

Communication:

To bring our church family closer together, there was a concerted effort to take advantage of the three primary means of communication available to us at Lakeview: Email, the Church Newsletter and the Church Web-site. I have received from many of our Lakeview family positive feedback as to how much they enjoy receiving information on a regular and at times, almost immediate nature, regarding events and issues dealing with our church. I believe that communication is vital for us to grow at a church, so I plan to continue to work to improve Lakeview in this area.

I want to thank Rob Kight, who is the Editor of our monthly Newsletter. For those of you who have watched our Newsletter evolve over the past year, you will agree with me that Rob has done a wonderful job in making it a quality publication.

I would also like to thank Sarah Gates who has put in countless hours updating and modifying our web-page so that our web-site is becoming a very useful tool for all of our ministries.

In-Reach:

The best and most caring ministry for the church family is for each of us to expand our individual reach in 2009. Consider how to get to know those in our church family with whom you do not have a close relationship. We all have our close friends and confidants, however, our body will only grow stronger when our personal network of relationships widen. So during this upcoming year, challenge yourself by seeking out someone from our congregation whom you don't really know, and get to know them by opening your home, sharing a cup of coffee or a meal, or just simply sharing in a conversation. Let us all make an effort to deepen our ties to one another.

Submitted by:

Pastor Jim

ADULT MINISTRY REPORTS – 2008

WOMEN'S MINISTRY – 2008

The goal of the **WInGS** ministry (Women in God's Service) is to encourage fellowship and spiritual growth among the Lakeview ladies. In 2008 our efforts were centered on the parables of Jesus. Workshops were held on a quarterly basis and keyed off of Matthew 13 and Matthew 25. The first workshop on March 1st examined the parable of the sower. That study continued in May, with a second workshop honing in on the good soil. The October 18th workshop looked at the parable of the talents. Finally on December 6th, we focused on the author of these parables, Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Throughout the year, the **WInGS** committee was blessed to have women from the congregation share their knowledge and facilitate many of these discussions. We are extremely grateful to Cindy Graeff, Shelley Martin, and Chris and Chelsea Thompson for stepping forward to teach. Sarah Gates has also graciously provided music on many occasions.

An ongoing study, the Women's Challenge, was hosted by Lisa Ulrich twice a month. During the spring women read and discussed "*Holiness: The Heart God Purifies*," by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. The book of Joshua was the focus of the latter portion of 2008.

Fellowship could also be found at the Women's Breakfast Club. Coordinated by Rhenda Pilarski, a lively group met at El Lago restaurant on a monthly basis.

Another social outing was enjoyed by a group of Lakeview women in April. **WInGS** sponsored a day trip to the Taste of Home shops in Greendale, Wisconsin.

On September 19-20, five members of the **WInGS** committee traveled to Merrillville, Indiana, for the District Leadership Conference for women. The group took part in seminars and discussions, and made connections with other women in the district. The entire committee also met with Sara Scantlin, the District Coordinator for Women, on two separate occasions this year.

A number of service projects were organized by **WInGS** in 2008. Birthday cards to Lakeview women were handmade and sent out each month, care packages were sent to all college students for Valentine's Day, and meals were provided for families with new babies. In addition **WInGS** distributed gifts to the congregation for Mother's Day and Father's Day, and sponsored a Diaper and Baby Wipe Drive for Carenet Family Resource Center.

The women who faithfully served alongside me on the **WInGS** committee this year were: Blythe Anthony, Kelly Burgmeier, Julie Gates, Shyrl Marerro, Dana Martin, Rhenda Pilarski, and Lisa Ulrich. I feel extremely humbled and blessed to work with such a wonderful group. They love the women at our church and have a great desire to glorify God with their labors. We hope you get to know Him more and feel His love through our efforts.

In Christ,

Erika Willkomm

ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS - 2008

Our Adult Bible Fellowship's (ABF) offerings are designed to provide individuals an opportunity to grow in their knowledge and love of God by studying His Word and sharing and growing with their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It is also an opportunity for attendees to prepare their hearts, minds, and spirits prior to entering into corporate worship on Sunday morning.

Currently there are only two ABFs offered on Sunday mornings at 9:30. They are well attended with an average of 45-50 adults per Sunday. But that leave at least an equal number of adults who do not participate in a Sunday morning study. So it is our hope that in 2009 we will be able to expand our ABF offerings. We hope to get those with likeminded interests to come together and spend an hour on Sunday morning helping each other to grow in faith, strengthen one another's walk, build relationships all while preparing for Sunday morning worship.

So strongly consider how you can help build and take advantage of Sunday mornings in 2009.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (“THE JOURNEY”) – 2008

“The purpose of this ministry is to provide an environment where young adults can strengthen their personal faith, develop godly relationships, and discern a God honoring direction for their lives.”

With almost two (2) years of “The Journey” behind us we are beginning to see this group taking a solid form. There was much transition over the first couple of years, with many people coming and going, but Lisa and I expected that. But over the past 6 months or so, we noticed a consistent core group of young adults making Friday night at our house their place to be. Wonderful!!

Over the past year we completed our study of 1st Peter and then undertook the study of two books of the Old Testament. We began with Leviticus, which was both challenges and instructive and then continued on with the Book of Judges. Needless to say, when you study these two books questions and discussions abound. It’s been both a challenging and a very rewarding time. I am also pleasantly surprised by the number of times someone will make a reference to something we studied in Leviticus.

While much of my time is spent on in the teaching of the text, history, theology, doctrine (I have to be very sharp and on my toes with this group), much of the application and life learning has come about in the sharing of the Journey members. I am always amazed at the astuteness of these young adults. There are times when I feel as if my teaching fell completely flat, yet, when it comes time for them to share, it never amazes me at what they picked up and how they can apply these truths to their lives.

Of course the teaching and sharing is only one aspect of the night. There is always the hours spent afterwards in our kitchen, on our sofa’s, at our table, drinking tea, coffee, soda, eating pizza, chicken-nuggets, pizza bites, cake and cookies..., asking questions, discussing their life situations, laughing, joking, seeking direction and advice for their lives, to insure that they are following God. This is what we do at the Journey – we help equip young adults, by both the study and application of God’s Word. While it is imperative that the truths of scripture and foundational theology is taught, it is just as important to teach them how to apply God’s truth in their daily living.

As a final note, we made one change this year in that “The Journey” is now open to all young adults; ages post-high school to upper-twenties, single and married.

We look forward to another year of growth and spiritual maturity in our young adults. We ask for your prayers and support for this ministry as God works through His Spirit in the lives of these young adults as they seek to grow in their faith and service to God in Christ.

In Him,

Pastor Jim

MEN'S MINISTRY - 2008

In 2009, the Men's Ministry Leadership Team is Encouraging all Men to make the Reading of the Bible and Prayer a Daily Practice

Our men ministry in 2008 began with its two core events, the monthly men's breakfast and our Men's Theological Forum (MTF). The monthly breakfast continues to be a time of relationship building as a group of men, ranging between 10–20 men, meet and share a meal at a local Zion restaurant. Our Men's Theological Forum began its ninth year of reading and discussing various books, but due to a lack of participation our summer MTF meeting was our last – at least for now.

In January, Pastor Martin and Pastor Jim met to begin praying, discussing and planning for a more robust and well rounded Men's Ministry to begin here at Lakeview. We began by reading various books on Men's Ministry to help us to formulate a plan to build a solid ministry from the ground up. After several months of meetings, we called upon some men to come along side up to become the Men's Ministry Leadership Team.

Graciously four men took up the charge and slowly but surely, over several months, the Men's Ministry Leadership Team work together on setting a Vision and developing a Mission Statement and Objectives to help guide and direct this vital ministry. These men are: Chris Arnold, Woody Ingram, Dan Litwiller, and Tim Stanphill. The outcome of these meetings resulted in the following Mission Statement and three Key Objectives.

Mission Statement: “The Men's Ministry at Lakeview Church exists to teach, encourages and develop men to be Christ-like in all aspects of their lives (personal, home, work, church and community.) There is to be no part of our lives where our faith, our relationship to Christ, will not impact.”

Key Objectives

1. **Character** – Teaching and encouraging men to be men of total Christian Character. In our thoughts, speech and action, where in private or in public, our life is to reflect a Christ-like character.
2. **Leadership** – To develop all men to be godly leaders in all areas of their lives; their home and church, in their workplace and community.
3. **Relationships** – To encourage men to develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with other men in order to be accountable and seek support as they grow in character and leadership. To provide them with opportunities to interact with other men in various activities, which will promote the development and growing of these friendships.

Our Foundation: The foundation of our ministry is Christ and upon that foundation are the two pillars of Scripture and Prayer.

In 2008 we had 3 meetings with the goal of getting this ministry off on the right foot. The first meeting was a “get to know you” meeting. The night consisted of a presentation of what Lakeview's Men's Ministry is all about, ice-breaker discussions, and of course, food.

The goal of our second meeting was to convict, motivate and encourage men to become “readers of the Word”. We want all men to become committed to the Reading, Studying, and Applying the

Word of God to their lives. We also presented some Bible study techniques to help them in their reading times.

The third meeting was committed to Prayer, with the goal for men to develop a consistent and thriving prayer life. We learned that: We **Must** Pray, We **Can** Pray, and We **Will** Pray.

We then left 2008 with this challenge: To team up with at least one other man who will hold you accountable to the daily reading of the Scripture and daily prayer.

As we move into 2009 we realize that our Men's Ministry is in its early stages. However, we trust that as we continue to impress upon men their god given responsibility to be leaders in their homes, in the church and in their community, we will see wonderful things happen in the family's and at Lakeview in the years to come. Please pray and do whatever you can to support this ministry.

For His Glory Alone,

Pastor Jim

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TREASURER'S REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2008

January 1st - December 31st, 2008

Cash Balance On Hand: 12/31/07

Investments	88,635.20	
Savings	2,879.21	
Checking	<u>71,994.82</u>	
		\$163,509.23

Income: January - December 2008

Contributions	364,445.80	
Miscellaneous Income	33,348.76	
Iglesia El Buel Pastor Rent	2,040.00	
Memorial Fund	4,943.64	
Investment Income	<u>2,305.80</u>	
		<u>\$407,084.00</u>

Sub-Total **\$570,593.23**

Expenses: January - December 2008

Expenses	\$397,935.12	
Tax Liability	<u>\$324.98</u>	
		<u>\$398,260.10</u>

TOTAL **\$172,333.13**

Cash Balance On Hand: 12/31/08

Investments	120,341.00	
Savings	2,879.21	
Checking	49,257.51	
Dec 2007 Adj posted 1/08	<u>(144.59)</u>	
		\$172,333.13

2009 APPROVED BUDGET

Expense Type	2008 Budget	2009 Budget
Base Salary	177,991	177,993
Business Expense	3,000	3,000
Workman's Comp	2,148	1,966
Pension	3,192	3,372
Benefits	8,130	8,228
Employer Share Social Security/Medicare	13,622	13,617
SALARIES	208,083	208,176
Children	7,825	7,750
Student Ministries	8,075	8,150
MTI	600	600
Curriculum	5,600	5,400
Music	4,900	4,900
Library	700	700
Men's Ministries	600	800
Women's Ministries	1,450	1,450
Adult Discipleship	300	300
MINISTRIES	30,050	30,050
Undesignated	3,000	3,000
Peterson	2,100	2,100
Erdell	7,560	7,560
McDeavitt	3,000	3,000
Loshbough	200	200
Kuehl	2,400	3,600
Paul Mbamdi	12,000	12,000
Nathan Moser	8,400	10,000
Missions Exp	200	200
Child Evangelism	600	1,200
Care Net Pregnancy	1,200	1,200
Missions Conf	200	200
Missions Misc	200	200
MISSIONS	41,060	44,460
Denominational Expense	18,388	18,707
Maintenance/Janitorial	8,000	8,000
Office/Church supplies/equip	22,000	22,000
Utilities	30,000	32,000
Building Insurance	5,000	5,000
Conference/Staff Training/Seminars	2,000	2,000
Flowers/Cards	1,000	1,000
Kitchen Expense	2,500	2,500
Vehicle Exp/Insurance	3,000	3,000
Special Events/Speakers/Decorations	750	750
Misc Expense	2,000	2,000
CHURCH EXPENSE	94,638	96,957
GRAND TOTAL	373,831	379,643

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES – 2008

DESCRIPTION	ORIG. COST	SQ. FEET BUILDING	SQ. FEET LAND	LIABILITIES	ASSETS
LAND OWNERSHIP - 5 parcels - Sheridan Rd & 19th St.	\$33,000.		40,705	None	244,230
(A) Lot numbers 6-7-8-9 & 10 - 151' x 271.37	3,300.		4,071	None	24,426
(B) Vacated Alley - 20' x 135' & 10' x 135.69	9,500.		16,283	None	97,698
(C) Lot #12 - 120' x 135.69	8,800.		12,550	None	75,300
(D) Lot #11 - Block 27 98.17 x 135.05			14,994	None	89,694
(E) Lot #5 104 x 135.69					20,000
(F) 10021 W Winthrop Ct					10,000
YOUTH CHAPEL BUILDING					
(A) Original building	28,000.	9,832		None	\$646,000
(B) Building addition and improvements	130,000.			None	
GARAGE	10,000.	720		None	\$20,000
PERSONAL NOTE – Pastoral Home –				None	\$8,600
SANCTUARY BUILDING	355,000.	18,920			\$1,686,000
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Youth Building				None	116,900
New Sanctuary				None	305,000
VEHICLES - 1 Van				None	3,000
CASH / INVESTMENTS 12/31/2008					172,333
GRAND TOTAL AS OF 12/31/2008				None	\$3,519,181

Note: All Asset Values are estimated with the exception of "**Cash / Investments 12/31/2008**".

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 2008

MEMBERSHIP - 2008

Membership Total (Active & Inactive)	133
Membership Active	109

CHURCH STATISTICS - 2008

Baptisms	3
Baby Dedications	4
Funerals	6
Weddings	2

AVERAGE TOTALS - 2008

Sunday School Average Attendance	93
Worship Service Average Attendance	204

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