



First Calvary

BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2008

PASTORAL REPORT

To consider the past is to consider the hand of God. God has been very active in our assembly over the last year. We do well to praise Him for His works of grace that exalt His name and are good for us.

We desire to be effective in ministry. This is a foundational truth of our existence. We exist to serve people. We believe that God has called us to fulfill responsibilities. These responsibilities normally come in the form of people. Where by God's grace we helped people, we rejoice. Where we failed, we turn to God asking for opportunity to try again.

Measuring the effectiveness of ministry is not an exact science. Our ultimate measure can be found by examining our own individual lives. Are you walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5)? Are you growing in grace (2 Peter 3:18)? Are you fulfilling the two great commandments (Matthew 22)? As a church do we reject the complacency, cold-hearts, and dullness toward God that churches in Revelation 2-3 displayed? The answers to these questions will indicate our effectiveness in ministry. This past year's highlights include:

In General: 100+households (235+people) call First Calvary Baptist Church home. We hosted our second *Truth Weekend* with Dr. Greg Mazak thinking together how Christians change, the doctrine of progressive sanctification. For the third year we held a well attended Good Friday service. We held our annual Ladies Conference with . We continued Prayer & Praise Wednesdays during the summer months. Numerous families attended family camp at Northland Camp & Conference Center. A group of teens took a short-term missions trip to Ireland. We hosted *Sunfish Lake Days* celebrating 50 years of incorporation for our town. Many men and women participated in weekly Bible studies. Our ladies traveled to Door County, WI for the annual *Ladies Heart Conference*. We shared in joint services with our sister church, Southside Baptist. We began two new adult groups to fulfill responsibilities to people. Our Young Marrieds' Class has flourished since beginning in April. Our College Singles' group provides structure for ongoing ministry. We committed to a one-year internship with Sam and Alyssa Brown who desire to learn from us as they head toward pastoral ministry.

Children's Ministry: Understanding God's intentions and His desires for the family, our church actively pursues opportunities to come alongside parents and children to help them have a family that honors God and obeys the biblical commands. The two most important ways we do this with our children sixth grade and below are the Sunday School hour and mid-week ministries. The programs are taught by willing and capable laymen who seek to disciple and evangelize the children of our church and community.

Those who served by teaching children's Sunday School in 2008 were Pat McDonald (3-5 yr. Olds), Elizabeth Lucio (K-2nd Grade), Tim Nelson (3-6th Grade Boys), and Monica Nelson (3rd-6th Grade Girls). Brian Anderson served as the Sunday School Superintendent.

- Plan activities that integrate teenagers with parents,
- Integrate teenagers with the entire church body, and
- Equip parents for everyday family ministry.

Our Junior Church program ministers to our younger children through third grade during the morning worship service. Teachers on a rotating basis included Pastor Chris and Julie Juvinall, Sheila Scheele, Pat McDonald, Julie Sadek, Katie Huntington, Shelly Waits, and various college students during the summer and winter break. During 2008, Rich Scheele accepted the responsibility to oversee the scheduling of Children's Church workers and serves as our Children's Church Leader.

Jim Pierce oversaw the AWANA program and many of our members served in this vital ministry.

Throughout the year there were several activities that sought to evangelize and disciple the children of our church and community. Those activities included the Winter Carnival, AWANA Grand Prix, Backyard Bible Clubs, Summer Camp at Camp Chetek, and the Sunday School Christmas Program. The week of summer camp was an exciting week of growth in the lives of the kids who attended. Our Backyard Bible Club ministry gave the teens and adults an opportunity to be involved in the lives of local children through games, crafts, and teaching opportunities. Many new children were brought to these clubs and heard a clear presentation of the Gospel.

Youth Ministry: The youth group ministry of First Calvary Baptist Church seeks to provide a program that comes alongside the parent's of our teenagers to help them raise their children to love and serve the Lord. We view youth ministry as a partnership between the staff and parents. Therefore, we believe that there are at least four essential components that must be implemented if we are to develop a successful youth ministry. The youth ministry must:

- Be considerate of family schedules and needs when planning the calendar,

The year of 2008 brought several exciting opportunities for outreach, discipleship, service, fellowship, and worship. There was at least one activity per month and one Afterglow per month. Routinely, the youth group meets twice during the week – Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. During these times, we fellowshiped with one another through playing games and snacking on food, praised God through singing, and learned more about God by studying His Word together. Four mature Christians teach our teen Sunday School classes, Brenda VerWay (junior high girls), Sherri Carpenter (senior high girls), Jim Pierce (junior high boys), and Grant McGraw (senior high boys). Grant McGraw, Donald Oviatt and Tina Oviatt were added as Youth Staff this past year and are a tremendous help to Pastor Chris and Julie on Wednesday nights and during activities.

In February, First Calvary Baptist Church hosted the second annual Parent-Teen Conference. We were blessed to have Mr. Jeff Kahl (Camp CoBeAc) as well as many additional good speakers who challenged both parents and teens in their walk with the Lord. During 2008, the teens were also able to take a mission trip to Ireland, be involved in summer camp at Northland, attend a youth rally at Chisago Lakes Baptist Church, play paintball, and take advantage of many activities which involved fellowship, service, evangelism, and worship.

We firmly believe that one of the best ways to disciple teens and prepare them to be the next leaders of the church is to involve them in ministry opportunities where they work side by side with faithful laymen. This has been done several times throughout the past year. On any given Sunday you will find teens involved in the ministries of our Sunday Morning Worship service. Several of them helped with the audio and visual components of the service, sang in the choir and provided special music, ushered, and helped in Junior Church.

LEADERSHIP FOCUS

In the past year, our pastors and deacons worked hard to focus our attention on current ministry needs and future ministry opportunities. Led by our pastors, our 2008 deacons were Bob Bernier, Harold Carpenter, Tim Nelson, Donald Oviatt, John Sunderland, and Bruce Zschokke.

The Steering Team continued its ongoing work. The team was given the responsibility to initiate a Master Site Plan and to accomplish some short term objectives. In the last year our church installed a lawn sprinkler system, upgraded the lawn and prepared the open area west of the driveway (affectionately referred to as the West 40) for ministry use, paved the gravel parking lot, and built a garage. The budget for these projects and for additional architectural work was set at \$65,000. Of the \$65K, \$55,000 has been spent. Approximately \$2,100 on the lawn, \$12,400 on the sprinkler system, \$24,700 on new paving and parking lot maintenance, \$13,100 on the garage and \$3,500 on architectural fees.

We have additional grass seed to use as needed to touch up the lawn. The sprinkler system is in place and working well; it doesn't appear to need any water treatment, but we are watching that aspect. The paving and crack filling have been completed and appears to be holding up very well. The 3 ½ stall garage work is ongoing with the electrical and siding remaining to be completed; the cold weather and some very heavy work schedules for the volunteer labor prevented completion, but most of the cost has been incurred with paint being the exception. A dumpster enclosure will also be built. We are grateful for the labor and participation by so many members; in addition we want to recognize Dion Rozumny and Mike Books for the labor, materials, equipment, and expertise that they contributed above and beyond the average. There were many others who also contributed significant expertise and labor. Thanks to all of you who helped.

The Master Site Plan is progressing. A Ministry Vision Team formulated what facilities are desired for the long range: a sanctuary with a large foyer, education wing, ministry building, gymnasium, fellowship area, and associated parking, also development of the "West 40" and beyond, including a pavilion and walking path. Currently the Steering Team is evaluating what each of the facilities may look like, where they would be constructed (a proposal is before the congregation for input), and what the priority of need is. Current consideration places the education building with renovation of the current building to provide more

worship area as the most probable priority. Phasing of expansion and construction are anticipated.

PEOPLE

17 adults were added to our church membership, and 13 were dropped. Our adult membership is 103 (see list).

4 people made public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism.

Many of our young adults are attending college (see list).

STAFFING

Our staff work in a wonderful office environment. Rev. Mike VerWay has been our senior pastor since December, 2000. Rev. Chris Juvinall has been our assistant pastor since February, 2006. Pamela Waller has been our administrative assistant since December, 2004. Cindi Schmidt became our custodian in August, 2007. Sam Brown became our pastoral intern in June.

MISSIONS

Led by Harold Carpenter, our Missions Committee members were Yvonne Anderson, Karen Priebe, Cindi Schmidt, Kevin Trandem, Shelly Waits, Gary Waller and Bruce Zschokke.

Throughout the year, our church hosted a number of our supported missionaries or candidates. These included Jeremie and Damaris Dodeler, missionary candidates to France; Steve and Brenda Faucette, missionary candidates to Montreal; Roberto Coelho, supported missionary to Brazil; Dave & Pat Christenson, supported missionaries to Mexico; Edgar Mitchell, supported missionary to Canada; and Solomon Raju, supported missionary to India.

Our church voted to add Chadrashekar and Irene Eda to our supported missionaries.

Each October we hold our Missions Emphasis Month. Missionaries Beni Costea, Bill and Tamra Branks, and the Rocque family from Brazil along with Central Seminary professor Dr Jeff Straub promoted the theme: *The Gospel Begins With Go*.

In March the committee compiled a report concerning the support levels of our missionaries. The report concluded that our missionaries are experiencing a 25-35% support reduction due to the dollar's decline against the Euro or due to inflation in the country they serve. All emphasized God's faithfulness and how grateful they are for FCBC's continued support. Taking this report into consideration, our church

approved the following to help our missionaries maintain their current ministries. \$3500 of carry over funds was divided based on known needs. Kettlewells, Brewers, Abu-Abis, Parrows, Gutierrez, and Bukers received \$500 in additional funds. Coehlos and Chapmans received \$250 in additional funds.

Our Albanian missionaries, Norm and Mary Brewer and their children, began a "Teaching English" project. Our Sunday School raised over \$800 for the purchase of textbooks, office supplies, shipping costs and class awards to promote interest among the children. The Brewers report the ministry has received enthusiastic

response among Albanian contacts, and they are thankful for the gift and state the contacts are opening opportunities to present the gospel.

A designated gift of \$850 for individual missionary needs was distributed to Dr Chelli's Bible School (\$400 toward a rice bill), to Bukers (\$250) and Brewers (\$200). You can designate funds for specific missionaries and projects approved by the church, even some we do not support financially.

FACILITIES

In addition to the numerous items completed under the direction of the Steering Team, the following is a short list of projects and repairs made to the properties of First Calvary Baptist Church

Major repairs made to furnaces, fire suppression, and air conditioning units.

Painting of select education rooms.

Lawns mowed

Many repairs and fix ups that may not be noticed because they were fixed before we had time to know they were broken.

All this was done by many hands. July 12, 2008 was a highlight. That day at least 65 people came for our church work day. It was a day of great accomplishment and bonding.

In 2009 we will have more opportunities for ministry as our building ages and our ministry opportunities expand.