



**HOSANNA LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR 2010

**THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011



Annual Report from Pastor John

As I look back on 2010 I begin to think of “the highlight moments” for me and for us as a congregation. What follows is a list that is not exhaustive, but paints a portrait of the beautiful things God has been up to with us this past year.

Nueva Vision, our new partner in mission: From the first phone conversation I had with Pastor Javier Manrique, I had a sense that God was going to surprise us with an opportunity to yoke with them and open our hearts and halls to their ministry. I will always remember the first meeting of the respective congregational leadership teams. It was a night of pure welcome and it felt so natural to be together so, within **a few short weeks**, they began to use Hosanna’s space for worship and ministry. To be honest with you, I can’t remember one time in my life where any congregation made a decision to do something of this magnitude in such a brief period of time. Another highlight of our shared ministry came at the Fall Festival, when Nueva Vision brought all that wonderful food! And we prayed out on the lawn, holding hands, singing for one another. I couldn’t help but think that this is an example of what God wants to have happen in the Kingdom. I am convinced there are more good things to come with our shared ministry.

Mission/Outreach: I continue to be amazed that, for a congregation our size, we support a vast array of missions and ministries beyond our walls. Here is just a short list: The African Initiative, Women’s Crafts, Free Trade coffee, Mulkey Scholarship Fund, ELCA Microloans, ELCA Good Gifts (animals and mosquito nets), Haiti earthquake relief, Camp Lutherhill, Ron and Heda Christ as missionaries in Botswana, Habitat for Humanity, NAM (Back-to-School, Christmas toy bags for children, food pantry, 200 turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas, \$1000 Covenant promise, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and more!), Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest, Joyful Life in the Woodlands (mission congregation), Port of Houston Seafarer’s Center (120 Christmas gift boxes!), Salvation Army, and our Companion Synod, Peru. And, last but by no means least, 6.5% of all general offerings were sent to the ELCA through our Synod office (approx. \$23,000.00)! Our gifts are making an incredible impact on people all over the world, and I simply thank all of you for your faithful generosity.

Church Council Leadership: I want to thank our leaders in this public document for the way they have taken the courage and insight to change some of the ways we do things here at Hosanna. I have been going to monthly Council meetings for 28 years and I can honestly say I have never experienced a one and a half hour meeting of Church Council...ever. And I have never walked away from a Council meeting as energized and hopeful for the future like I have this past year.

One Worship: On the first Sunday of June, we changed the Sunday worship format to one worship only at 10:00 a.m. as an experiment for the summer. During the summer, we listened to the many voices who gave us feedback regarding this change and it was overwhelmingly positive. So...we decided to keep it going through May of 2011 and will evaluate it then. My sense of things is that it has been helpful in strengthening our community of faith, but feel free to call me or email me if you would like to share any thoughts you have on this subject.

A Discernment Process Begun: I saved this highlight for last because it began in 2010 but the heart of it will take place in 2011. We will be working on discerning what our Core Values (Guiding Principles) are for our mission together. It is those values that support our present vision statement, “Growing to Serve and Praise the Living Christ” and define the way we move out from that vision. They give grounding to the “how” of the “what”. They describe what is most important to us and they flow from the most important gifts that God has given us in this place for this time. They will guide our decisions and everything we do as we move into this future God has in store for us. It seems a pretty simple process to go through, but it isn’t, and it will need all of our prayers and all of our input. I (along with all our leaders) promise to keep an open line of communication with the whole congregation as we move through this process.

Finally: I could go on in this report with other things, but I will close with a genuine word of “thanks” to God and to all of you for allowing me to serve as a pastor. I am grateful for the way our ministry continues to inspire me and help me to grow deeper in faith. I hope you know that my door is always open if you would like or need to talk about anything in this report or any other thing that is on your heart and mind.

2010 Annual Report to the Congregation From Nancy Agafitei, Council President

I thank the Hosanna congregation for the privilege of serving as president of the congregation again after 13 years of fulfilling other roles. One of the things that I was involved in during this interim period was developing the master plan for our facility expansion. In **1999**, a little over ten years ago, a group of leaders gathered and imagined that they were taking a balloon ride over Hosanna ten years in the future. Now, on the ground in **2010**, a little more than ten years after that meeting, I can see that the people of Hosanna have made many of those visions of the future come true.

In **1999**, in addition to the many improvements to our facility which we envisioned (and have achieved), we also imagined the atmosphere inside Hosanna's buildings: a place for people to gather all during the week, not only on Sundays; a place for applause, where accomplishments and efforts are recognized; a place for listening, where people show compassion; a place for crying, where people feel safe enough to share their deepest emotions; a place for laughter and joy; and a place for silence and quiet reflection.

In **2010**, I heard the laughter at the McConnell's 70th birthday party and the joyful gratitude at Nita Auer's retirement celebration. I feel the energy in the Nuevo Vision activities on Tuesdays and Saturdays. I have seen (and been the beneficiary of) the support that people have given each other in times of grief, job loss, or health crises. I have appreciated the acknowledgement given to members' service through the Servant awards.

In **1999**, we imagined ourselves doing intergenerational ministry: bringing young families to Christ; encouraging older people to mentor and support younger people; providing opportunities for people in all ages and stages of life to interact; and striving to pass on our values to our children.

In **2010** I see children learning through our children's church program, camp experiences, and the CREW mission trip to Washington, DC. I see our youth being actively mentored to serve in worship roles. I see youth sponsored in accomplishing Scouting awards, such as Emma Hartmann's Gold Award, and Daniel Wolf's Eagle project. I see teens helping with the children, and college students helping with CREW. I see support and learning and fellowship for seniors offered in the Wednesday Bible studies, for women in WELCA, and for men in the Men of Hosanna.

In **1999** we imagined ourselves doing holistic ministry, promoting spiritual, mental, and physical health. We imagined ourselves offering healing services and caregiving ministries, and providing access to our buildings for support groups.

In **2010** I see us providing Sunday morning opportunities for people to grow in discipleship and spirituality. I see us welcoming and sharing our facilities with the Nuevo Vision congregation. I see us providing healing and support through our Care Team, and through the service hours and donations we give to outside agencies like the NAM food pantry, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Habitat for Humanity, and the Seafarer's Center.

In **1999**, we communicated mainly through print and postal mail.

In **2010**, we still offer our print documents, but we also have a great website, monthly email Hotlines, weekly email Cyberlines, the Hosanna blog, and newest of all – a Facebook presence. All of these increase the ways in which we are able to stay connected.

We began **2010** with first quarter giving lower than predicted, and Pastor Boldt proposed a reduction in his salary and workload. The council expressed gratitude for his concern and his willingness to help, but declined to accept his offer. Thanks to the stewardship of the people of Hosanna, we have finished the year in good shape. We supported our Synod with regular benevolence, and surprised ourselves again and again with additional designated giving and with donations for a wide variety of Missions of the Month that have helped others all around the globe. Our Building Finance Team has aided our efforts by negotiating with our lender for a new lower interest rate for our mortgage.

What has not changed at Hosanna over the years is the faithful commitment of its members. I thank especially those who have been willing to serve as the Council leadership in **2010**: Outgoing members Tripp Smith, Sue King, George Posey, and Chad Greer; Incoming members Pat Gibbons, Valerie Oden, and Mark Chaney; and Continuing members: Brach Waldo, Jon Evans, Jan Dietzmann, Nickie Brooks, Pastor John, and Jeff Hartmann. I also thank our talented and dedicated staff, who provide the guidance and framework within which we all do ministry together.

So, what about **2020**? Let's get back in the balloon again and imagine ourselves floating over Hosanna in the next ten years. What will things look like after the next ten years? Pat Gibbons and the Mission Focus Team will be leading us as we answer this question. They will need your help as they begin the process of reviewing and possibly revising our Mission statement. Along with this goes the stating of Core Values that can help to identify who we are and aid us in making good decisions as we move forward. They will encourage us as we seek to "Grow to Serve and Praise the Living Christ."

Enjoy reviewing the many other activities of **2010** reported here in the pages of this Annual Report. May we grow together in the marks of discipleship in 2011!

- ◇ Pray Daily
- ◇ Worship Weekly
- ◇ Read the Bible Daily
- ◇ Serve at and Beyond Hosanna
- ◇ Relate with Others to Encourage Spiritual Growth
- ◇ Give Generously

– Nancy Agafitei

2010 Cantor Report -----Gay Zimmerman, Associate in Ministry

It is a joyful time at Hosanna as we gather for worship as one assembly. There are adjustments to be sure, but it is a glorious challenge. Worship preparation considers Hosanna's unique context, with the knowledge and understanding that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, we are connected to the whole church.

Part of Hosanna's context is an environment that encourages people of all ages, talents and abilities to accept their call to serve in worship. I wish to thank the many people with whom I have the privilege of serving:

Spiritual Life Team, who function quietly behind the scenes. In their various capacities, they prepare the worship space, train worship leaders and altar guild members, provide musical leadership, study, cut Christmas Trees, pour wine, move furniture, change banners and paraments, wash cups, train children – if it concerns worship, they facilitate it.

- **Altar Guild**, who carry out the duties surrounding the Eucharist and the Three Days.
- **Triduum Team**, who tend to the immense number of details surrounding Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil (called the Three Days/Triduum).
- **Cantors**, who provide leadership in worship by singing parts of the service which the assembly cannot, as well as providing the teaching element.
- **Sunday School Students**, who provide musical and worship leadership at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service.
- **Discovery Disciples**, who provide musical leadership at the 6:15pm Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday service, Easter Vigil and each fourth Sunday during the school year. They learn about the liturgy, learn to use their voices well and play a host of musical instruments to enhance the worship experience of the assembly.
- **Hosanna Choir, Singing Men of Hosanna, and Women's Chamber Chorus**, who *lead the people in their song*, and who often take care of any last minute worship problems that arise.
- **Wind, String and Percussion Instrumentalists**, who add an inspiring element to worship with drums, recorders, flutes, cello, marimbas, bells, tambourines etc.
- **Brass Ensemble**, who add majesty to worship several times a year.
- **Worship Mentors**, who teach children to greet, serve communion, usher, read and bring the gifts forward. The emphasis is to help them understand that as members of the priesthood of the baptized they have opportunities to serve God and God's people in worship. Mentoring Sunday is every fourth Sunday during the school year.
- **Worship Assistants**, children, young people and adults, who serve faithfully and reverently as crucifers, torchbearers, bookbearers, assisting ministers, ushers, lectors, communion assistants, greeters and coffee servers.
- **Flower Ministry**, who use their talents to beautify the nave, narthex and sanctuary to the glory of God.
- **Staff Support Team**, who support us with their wisdom, vision and encouragement.
- **Inreach Team**, who through listening skills, minister to members who are absent from our midst. One day perhaps all of us will understand ourselves as part of the Inreach team.
- **Salaried and Volunteer Staff and Nita**, who, with all of the people of Hosanna, live out their baptismal calling to serve Christ at Hosanna and in the world.

To God alone be the Glory

HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH
THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING, JANUARY 24, 2010

Growing to serve and praise the living Christ

The meeting was held immediately after the 11:00 am service and a great lunch. The Stewardship team supplied ham, rolls and drinks. The congregation members brought side dishes.

President Tripp Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Pastor John announced that the tally of gifts immediately after the 11 o'clock service was \$243,869. Pastor thanked Becky Wolf for doing such a quick count. Secretary Kennedy declared a quorum was present as seventy-one (71) voting members signed the attendance roster.

The minutes of the Thirty-Second Annual Congregation meeting held on January 25, 2009 were presented. A motion was made and seconded (Bob Dejmaj/Jim Sales) to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 20, 2009 Congregation meeting were read and motion was made and seconded (Bob Dejmaj/Pam Smith) to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried.

President Smith offered the 2009 Team Annual Reports for approval by the congregation. Motion was made and seconded (Nancy Agafitei/Chad Greer) to approve the Team Annual Reports. Motion carried.

Chad Greer made a motion to approve the slate of voting delegates/alternates to attend the 2010 Synod Assembly. Dale Bargmann seconded the motion. The delegates are, Pam and Tripp Smith. Nickie and Rodney Brooks were named as alternates. Motion carried.

George Posey took the floor to present the Financial Report. He reported that there was a cash balance of \$5,771 at the end of 2009. He also presented the 2010 Spending Priorities for the General Fund and pointed out that there was an opportunity to increase giving over the 2009 amount by 14.3% in order to meet projected Critical and High Priority spending for 2010. The First Quarter 2010 Priorities was also presented.

Pastor John opened For The Good of the Church and thanked everyone especially all of the leaders for their work. He thanked Bill Smith and Bob Dejmaj for keeping the church grounds in good shape and everything in working order. He also thanked the Altar Guild for their ongoing work.

Pastor made mention of his upcoming article for the February Hotline and how Hosanna should continue to move forward in mission. There will be a Leadership Seminar on February 27 and a follow-up in July with small groups. Pastor John gave the closing prayer.

President Smith gave thanks to both the old and new council members, he has worked with, for all of the gifts that they bring to Council and adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Maureen Kennedy
Secretary

HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION MEETING, September 19, 2010
Growing to serve and praise the living Christ

President Nancy Agafitei called the meeting to order at 11:34 am.

Secretary Kennedy declared a quorum present as fifty-three (53) congregation members signed the attendance roster.

Kennedy presented the minutes of the Congregation meeting of June 6, 2010. Pam Smith made a motion to accept the minutes and Dorothy Hohenshelt seconded. Motion was approved.

Pastor John updated the congregation as to the generosity and caring of Nueva Vision. The leadership of Nueva Vision and Hosanna will meet in October for the first time to discuss how to work together to help one another. N.V. members worked in the atrium and did a fine job of cleaning and tidying the flowerbeds. They also offered to collect and donate food for NAM.

Pat Gibbons of Mission Focus described the team's long term plans to make dreams a reality. She asked for the congregation's prayers and for us to keep our hearts open to the opportunity to serve and share the dream for Hosanna. She invited all to attend the next Mission Focus meeting on September 26, 2010 after the service.

Jan Dietzmann – Discipleship team has been working with Spiritual Life on Kid's Church. The curriculum will be tied to the Gospel with the older children leading.

Pastor John advised that he would be leading an adult class in "Discipleship". Sue Loudermilk will lead another adult class for eight weeks named "Spirituality in Worship".

Emma Hartmann, Anna Brown and Chelsey Oden, representing the Crew, described their summer mission to Washington DC. They helped to serve food to HIV/AIDS sufferers. They also had the opportunity to work with cancer patients. They, with Pastor John and Amber Walker thanked the congregation for helping to send everyone on the trip.

Mark Chaney, the new Finance Team Lead, advised on Fourth Quarter Spending Priorities and presented a plan to refinance the church mortgage with Amegy bank. This would result in a lower mortgage rate and ultimately, greater savings. In order to accomplish this, all accounts will be consolidated and moved to Amegy. Documents have been requested from Amegy and Amegy will advise. He advised that up to this point, Nueva Vision has had no real impact on electric consumption. However, the electric contract will continue to be reviewed and the search continued to find better values. He asked for a round of applause in absentia for George Posey for the great work that he has done during his term.

The meeting came to a close with the congregation sharing their thoughts and thanks for the Good of the Church. Thanks were given for the outgoing council members, President Tripp Smith, Katie Phillips/Lay Leadership, Sue King/Staff Support.

Dale Bargmann commented on the fact that the conference room is just that, a conference room as he has moved into Pastor John's old office and is sharing space with Becky Wolf and Sister Ann Marie. Pastor John has moved into Nita's old office. The newly donated computer is working just fine.

Pastor John thanked the congregation for their generous giving which is helping to keep Hosanna healthy.

Tripp Smith advised that the Bishop complimented Hosanna greatly on our outreach and that he is proud of Hosanna.

There is a link to a video of Nita's retirement party on Hosanna's website. Carly Oden was thanked for putting it all together.

Nita Auer gave the final thought For the Good of the Church. She stated, "There is no place like Hosanna".

Pastor John led the Lord's Prayer and the joining of hands.

President Nancy Agafitei adjourned the meeting at 12:18 pm.

Maureen Kennedy
Church Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Prepared by Jan Dietzmann and Amber Walker

Team Members: Jan Dietzmann (Team Leader); Sue Loudermilk (Adult Education); Valerie Oden (Children and Youth); Nita Auer (Inreach); Amber Walker (Staff Representative)

Open Positions: Camping Coordinator, Evangelism, Family Life and Nursery Supervisor

Children and Youth & Family Life: (Valerie Oden) Maria Tyrrell lead the confirmation class in collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The 2010 Buffalo Wing fundraiser was taken over by the Adult Choir to help them purchase special music for Easter. During Lent the CREW worked with the Sunday School teachers to present "A Journey to the Cross", which was exciting and fun for the children and adults. Discipleship helped coordinate a Family Maundy Thursday service and the Easter Vigil, where 5 children received their Lord's Supper Milestone. Our Annual Egg Hunt was smaller but still fun. The confirmation class stuffed over 1000 eggs with candy. On Easter morning the CREW hosted a breakfast that raised over \$600.

In May, Sunday School ended and the decision was made to not have summer classes. During May we celebrated 3 graduating High School Seniors. On May 19th the Discipleship Team prepared and hosted a Confirmation Banquet. 3 Youth were confirmed. The summer began with a shortened VBS program. We kicked off this year's VBS with a lunch shared by Nueva Vision. The congregation then worked with the children on service projects around the church. It was a new twist and a huge success. In June, 3 confirmands attended Lutherhill with Pastor John. Hosanna also sent 9 elementary campers to Lutherhill the 3rd week in June. In July, 4 CREW members along with Amber Walker and Pastor John attended a mission week in Washington D.C. The group spent each day working within the city with various groups such as The Salvation Army, United Cerebral Palsy, The D.C. Chinese Church and others. This was a unique and valuable experience. During the summer the Discipleship Team and the Worship Team met regularly with Pastor about weekly Sunday School and worship. The teams made a decision to include a 'Kids Church' time during worship and dissolve the Sunday School hour. The 9:00 am hour will be devoted to Adult Education and the Children's Choir.

The 2010 Fall has been busy. 'Kids Church' has been successful. The CREW and Confirmation kids have been helpful during this time and have served as youth leaders. We have approximately 20 children each Sunday. The kids participate in a lesson/music/games that are centered on the gospel. In September, we registered 5 confirmands and 7 elementary youth for Lutherhill in 2011. LYO began again with a Jr. High Retreat at Lutherhill in November. Hosanna sent 3 youth and 2 sponsors. During Advent we sent 5 fourth graders to Lutherhill for the Advent Retreat. This is always a highlight of the season. The children again had a tree in the Narthex during Advent and made a dove as the new Chrismon for 2010.

In December we were presented with a unique situation. Marquette Henderson, a student at TLU, requested a 1 month internship. Various teams met and voted to bring him on board for 30 days. This has been a benefit to our programs as well as to Marquette. He worked closely with Kids Church and the CREW.

Our Family Christmas Eve service was well attended by family, friends, and visitors. Jennifer Jackowski led the children's sermon and other young families helped throughout the service. This service continues to be a highlight and the congregation has really taken ownership of the worship. The children's choir sang during the service and was larger than in previous years.

Discipleship continues to provide Children's Worship bags for use during worship service and the children are then allowed to take them home for use during the week. Dorothy Hohenshelt has been helpful with this and it is still well received. 2010 saw the baptism of 6 infants who were each presented with a Faith Chest. These chests continue to be made by John Gabrielson, to whom we are grateful.

Adult Education: (Sue Loudermilk) This year's Adult Sunday School class has had 3 main topics of study. The first class was a study on the book, "You only Die Once-Preparing for the End of Life with Grace and Gusto" which lasted approximately 6 months. Two classes began in September. One class is being led by Sue Loudermilk, titled "Spirituality, an Invitation to a Closer Relationship with God," and the second class, "Discipleship - Being an Ordinary Radical" is led by Pastor John. Attendance has varied but averages 8-12 persons. We would love to have you be a part of this learning experience, so please join us in 2011!!

Evangelism: We continue to have a vacancy for an Evangelism leader. If this area is of interest to you, we would welcome you to our team! We continued having quarterly New Member Orientation Classes followed the next week with reception of new members. Our team serves lunch for the classes and then we have a reception on the Sunday the members are received. We held three new member classes this year and plan to continue in 2011. We also hosted the retirement lunch for our beloved Nita Auer who has served our team and Hosanna so well for many years. We will really miss you on our team! You can sit in and join us any time!

A nursery is provided each Sunday here at Hosanna and for special occasions. Bisi Tsenkova continues as our Hosanna Nursery Attendant and does a wonderful job. We made a few additions to the nursery and had 1 cleaning/re-organizing day.

The Discipleship Team wants to thank everyone who helped to make this a spectacular year of learning! We continually see God's handiwork in all that we do here at Hosanna and are excited about what God has planned for us in 2011! If our programs seem like something you would like to be a part of, please come join in on the fun! God's blessings to all!!

SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2010

I would like to acknowledge the many dedicated and talented members of the Spiritual Life Team with whom I have been privileged to serve during the past year. They are: Beth Chaney, Sister Anna Marie Flusche, Kelly Fontenot, Ann Hartmann, Richard Moehring, Jean Waldo and Associate in Ministry/Cantor Gay Zimmerman. Additionally, Debbie Rohla has provided invaluable support throughout the year.

2010 was a particularly active year for the Spiritual Life Team. Below are some of the highlights.

We celebrate what has been accomplished this year:

Bible Literacy

Spiritual Life Team member Kelly Fontenot and members of the CREW organized a multi-week Biblical literacy contest that was featured in the bulletin during the spring. The result was a cross-team, cross-generational collaboration that emphasized increased reading of the Bible church-wide. At the end of the contest two winners were awarded crosses made by John Gabrielson. Winners were Dede Capps and Susan Greer.

Unified Service

Members of the Spiritual Life Team were just one of the many teams that collaborated with staff members and the entire Hosanna congregation to form a single blended worship service from three distinct services. The Hosanna congregation is to be commended for its overwhelmingly positive support of this initiative that has expanded Hosanna's spiritual opportunities in the following ways:

1. a more connected congregation that now worships together for the first time in many years
2. time for adult education sessions prior to the service (of which there are now two)
3. children and youth worshipping with their families for significant parts of the service
4. enabling our worship leaders to be more focused and creative in preparing for a single service

New Worship Structure for Children

In conjunction with the Discipleship Team and Pastor John, a new structure for worship was developed for our children and youth. This new structure enables families to worship together for much of the service. It also provided an opportunity to undertake a new "Children's Church" curriculum that emphasizes the gospel teachings addressed in the service. One additional benefit is that the new structure allows the children to lead the assembly in worship every fourth Sunday, including music, acolyting, and communion.

Inter-team Dialogue

Jon attended several Lay Leadership meetings during the year to participate in dialogues concerning Hosanna's direction as it looks toward defining its purpose statement and defining principles.

Christ the King Lutheran Site Visit

Several members of the Spiritual Life Team visited Christ the King Lutheran Church, adjacent to the Rice University campus, on Saturday, November 13 to view their sanctuary and assess space usage. We met with Mark Mummert, organist, choir director and worship planner at Christ the King, who provided insight into the organization and functionality of their space. We addressed general space concerns as well as specific issues such as communion flow with an eye towards potential worship opportunities in Hosanna's sanctuary.

Christmas Tree-cutting Fellowship

On Saturday, November 27 at 3p.m., 21 members of the Spiritual Life Team and their families gathered at the [Old Time Christmas Tree Farm](http://www.ostc.org/) in seek of the ideal tree for Hosanna's sanctuary during the season of Advent. We were blessed to have several members of visiting IHN families join us in setting up the tree in the sanctuary. This fellowship event was promoted during the announcements prior to several services, on Hosanna's new blog, in the Cyberline, and in the weekly bulletins. All congregants were encouraged to join in this spirit-filled event. For more details, please see the Hosanna blog at: <http://hosannalutheran.blogspot.com/2010/11/advent-tree-adventure.html>

Spending Priorities

At various times throughout the year, quarterly and annual spending priorities for the Spiritual Life Team were submitted to the Finance Team and Council for their consideration. A strong effort was made to pare back spending needs to only those critical items for the 2011 fiscal year.

We look forward to the direction that our ministry will take us in the year ahead:

Worship Planning Sessions

Beginning in early 2011, we plan to establish a worship planning session that will focus on worship related issues. These adult education sessions will take place once a month on Sunday mornings prior to the service and will be lead by Cantor Gay Zimmerman. Spiritual Life Team members will attend as a way to inform our future planning for worship. This will also provide an opportunity to learn from and dialogue with other members of the congregation about worship.

Space Planning

The Spiritual Life Team will begin to explore possibilities for the enhancement of our sanctuary space in the coming year. This will be undertaken in the context of Hosanna's mission of Growing to Serve and Praise the Living Christ, as well as our forthcoming statement of purpose and guiding principles.

Review of Unified Service

An ongoing assessment of the unified service will be undertaken during the year to allow us to be responsive to new opportunities and areas in which we can improve on existing worship practices.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Evans
Spiritual Life Team Leader

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

TEAM: Staff Support

TEAM LEADER: Valerie Oden

TEAM MEMBERS: Angela Jones, Maureen Kennedy, Pastor John Boldt and Gay Zimmerman

Some of this year's highlights include:

- Staff birthdays and employment anniversaries were recognized and celebrated
- A thank you dinner on June 27th at Bill and Sue King's house for the Staff Support Team, Hosanna Staff members and their spouses. Bratwurst, Sauerkraut and German Potato Salad (a family recipe prepared by Pastor John) was enjoyed by all
- On August 29th, Staff Support along with the Discipleship Team planned a special luncheon celebration in honor of Nita Auer's retirement. The luncheon was well attended by members and old friends
- Performance appraisals were completed and 2011 goals were established for all paid staff positions
- Budget for 2011 was prepared and presented to council

It is a privilege and pleasure to support the ministry of Hosanna's dedicated staff. A huge thank you should be given to Pastor John, Gay, Amber, Debbie, Dale, Sister Anna Marie, Shelly, Maria, and Bisi for all their hard work and service. We look forward to working as a mutual ministry team with the members of Hosanna.

Thank you to my fellow team members for their hard work and service. Angela makes sure all staff members are remembered on their birthdays and employment anniversaries. Maureen worked diligently on the completion of background checks for all of Hosanna's paid staff. Each team member is vital to the success of our ministry.

Grace and blessings on our path,

Valerie Oden

Growing to serve and praise the living Christ Mission Focus Team Report

***"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
Hebrew 11:1***

Do we have the Faith to make changes that impact a Future we cannot see yet?

- ◆ **Purpose:** Build our Hosanna future as disciples in Mission utilizing our Mission Statement and using our Core Values to implement the plan. We will review the existing statement and core values to make sure they still represent our purpose and define the actions necessary to accomplish our future Mission based on the needs of our community locally, regionally and worldwide.
 - ◇ **Plan:** Listen, Innovate, Set Goals, Communicate, Grow, Lead, Think and Act with Diversity in Mind.
 - ◇ **View this as a Process** that requires us to be Passionate, Flexible, to Listen, Look forward and Dream.

Pastor John, our new President Nancy Agafitei and I have had numerous discussions on the best way to assist this congregation to plan for our mission future. The last half of this year has been involved with:

- communication of the purpose of the Mission Focus team to our congregational council (both new and old),
- invite Hosanna members to be part of the Mission Focus Team,
- began the review of the Mission statement and Core Values as it pertains to our mission for the Hosanna future and
- we have initiated a plan to bring all our teams and council together for a retreat to become one in Mission is in the planning stages.

I would like to also thank the Mission Focus Team for their vision and willingness to be a part of this future: Pastor John Boldt, President Nancy Agafitei, Dorothy Hohenshelt, Betty and Richard Dove, Mary Edmunds, Katie Phillips, Jeff Jackowski and Lois Heckart. **We will continue to welcome disciples throughout this process to be part of the vision.**

Prior to my assuming this opportunity Brach Waldo was the lead on Mission Focus and was gracious enough to provide his efforts and challenges below:

The first quarter of 2010 was occupied with budget concerns. Council labored over which items were critical priorities (those needed to keep the doors open) and which were lesser priorities. Council briefly considered a proposal to reduce pastoral care to a part time basis. Our goal was to look at ways to reduce spending.

On the Mission Focus team we chose to focus on our congregation's existing strengths rather than request money to start something new. The strengths we identified include Youth, Family Ministry, Preaching, Sunday School, IHN(Interfaith Hospitality Network), Men's Group, Crew, WELCA, Mulkey Scholarship, NAM Food Shelf, Habitat for Humanity, Music, Welcoming, and Worship. I know there are more.

We also looked into Synod and ELCA programs. One that interested us was "Good Gifts" which is an ELCA program. It allows individuals to give gifts to fight poverty. We ordered pamphlets which explain the program and distributed them ahead of the noisy offering which was designated to purchase mosquito nets. The financial picture has improved during the year and we feel encouraged about our new potential.

The efforts of your prior leaders have made it possible to begin the Long Term Planning for Mission Focus.

Pray for this Team, our purpose and for this congregation to become One in Mission for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Gibbons

Mission Focus Team Leader/VP

- ◇ **MATTHEW 25, 36, 40:** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

*. . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

Team Leader: Brach Waldo

Team Members: Darryl Brown, Earl Kemper, Beth Johnson

Calls to Service: Hosanna's delegates to the synod convention this year were Tripp & Pam Smith along with Pastor John Boldt, and Cantor Gay Zimmerman.

This is an even year so we received church council nominations for the Support Teams, as well as the president and vice president positions. Elected were:

Nancy Agafitei – President
Brach Waldo - Lay Leadership
Valerie Oden- Staff Support

Pat Gibbons - VP
Mark Chaney - Finance Team

We will be electing the Ministry Team positions in 2011.

Leadership Training: Our team continues to be guided by books we have studied or referenced in the past. These include: "Living Lutheran" by Dave Daubert, "Called to Lead, A Handbook for Lay Leaders", by Mark D. Johns, "Power Surge, Six Marks of Discipleship" by Michael W Foss, and my personal favorite; "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson, M.D. This last book is one approach for dealing with change. We recognize that change is inevitable in a living, developing organization just as it is in our lives. We hope to reflect Christ in our actions but also in our *reactions* to the change in our lives and in our church.

Encouragement: At the June congregational meeting Katie Phillips, representing the Lay Leadership team, presented servant awards to 15 people, along with crosses made by John Gabrielson, in recognition of "the gifts they freely share."

Conflict Resolution: We plan to review our resources in this area in the coming months.

The Lay Leadership Team is looking ahead to 2011 as we continue to grow the Leadership for Hosanna's future.

Annual Report from CARE Team - 2010

| <u>Organizations</u> | <u>Fellowship</u> | <u>Local Services Agencies</u> | <u>Congregational Care</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Women of the ELCA | Church Picnic | N.A.M. | Special Needs |
| Men of Hosanna | Fall Festival | Habitat for Humanity | Funeral Care |
| Seniors | | Interfaith Counseling | Caregivers |
| | | | Blood Drive |

The following reports are from the various areas of the Care Team. We have had a busy year, and we are looking forward to a busier 2011.

I want to thank everyone who has helped with Care Team activities, and I invite everyone to join us in this new year in our many endeavors.

Thank you.

In Christ's name,

Nickie Brooks

Local Agencies and Services

Northwest Assistance Ministries

- Paid Covenant of \$1200
- Collected 3500 Cans of food
- Collected 65 bags of toys for the Christmas Toy Drive
- Cash donation - Back-to-School Drive
- Cash donation - Survival Over the Summer

Interfaith Hospitality Network

- Provided meals, lodging, showers, and fellowship for 1 week every 3 months of the year
- Made 16 quilts to be given to families in the IHN program
- Made 7 lap robes for people in the hospital
- Made 20 chemo caps for cancer patients

Blood Drive

- Blood Drive for Hosanna members every 3 months

Habitat For Humanity

- Provided monetary support of \$1200
- Participated in workdays for home building
- Provided lunches for workdays

Outreach

- Boxes for Seafarer's Mission
- Interfaith Care Partners
- Coffee Project
- Donation to Lutherhill
- Garage Sale for 2010—Proceeds of \$6400 for NAM, Habitat and other outreach projects
- Donation to Hosanna Teachers of special-needs children for Christmas parties or gifts

Summary of Men of Hosanna Activities for the year 2010

January

Chairman Rollie Lund reported that 23 men and their guests showed up on Saturday, January 23rd for the annual men's group breakfast at Luby's Cafeteria. Pastor John Boldt opened the meeting with a breakfast prayer. After breakfast everyone had fun introducing each other at their tables. \$149 was donated to fund the Care Package project. The meeting was closed by the group praying the Lord's Prayer.

February

On Thursday evening February 18th 21 men and their guests enjoyed our annual Bar-B-Q dinner. After dinner, the men put together 40 Care Packages for our College Youth, those in the Military and our graduating High School seniors.

March - April

On April 2nd, 58 men, women and guests enjoyed the annual Good Friday Golf tournament at the Fox Creek Golf Club near Hempstead.

On Saturday April 24th, Head Chef Tripp Smith reported that the Men of Hosanna served brunch to 28 of Hosanna's Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (W.E.L.C.A.)

May

On Saturday May 1st, 20 men and guests of the Men of Hosanna met Cecil Streetman at Hosanna before daylight and took off for Galveston Island for a half-day fishing trip.

October – November

The annual Fall Classic Hosanna/Kinsmen golf tournament was held on Saturday Oct 16th at Jersey Meadows Golf course. 50 golfers and their guests enjoyed the great golfing weather and fellowship.

In October, The Men of Hosanna sponsored a thirty-day fund raiser to fill Christmas gift boxes for the Seafarer's Center. At the end of the thirty days in mid November, Hosanna had contributed \$2591.62. The North Central Houston Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gave us matching funds of \$855.23 bringing the total funds raised to \$3,446.95. This was enough to fill 120 shoeboxes with personal hygiene items and gifts. In addition, the \$300 that was contributed by the congregation from the October "Noisy Offering" was given to the Chaplain's Fund at the Seafarer's Center. Thanks to the congregation for donating the shoeboxes too.

December

The High School Confirmation class, with the help of the Men of Hosanna, packed all the boxes on Wednesday evening Dec 1st. The High School CREW wrapped all the boxes with Christmas paper on Sunday Dec 19th. Pastor Boldt and Bob Dejmaj of The Men of Hosanna delivered the 120 gift boxes to the Seafarer's Center.

On aluminum recycling for 2010, we've received \$306.25. Thanks Hosanna! This money was given to the Hosanna Care Team. They will use it for quilting supplies for quilts given to N.A.M Interfaith Hospitality. Thanks to Cecil Streetman, Jim Sales, Roy & Jacob Romijn for hauling the aluminum to recycling for Hosanna.

2010 Hosanna Women of the ELCA Year end report.

The board met monthly. The women of Hosanna met one time for a general meeting and subsequently enjoyed a **Valentine Breakfast, Spring Fling** brunch and the **Family Fall Festival in conjunction with the Care team.**

The Nueva Vision church provided the meal for the Family Fall Festival as a thank you gift.

The **bake sale** proceeds of \$525 were given to members of Hosanna through the Helping Hands fund. We provided lunches for **Habitat for Humanity** workers with the generous donation and help of Pastor Boldt, recycled eye glasses, donated cancelled stamps, recycled greeting cards and Yoplait yogurt tops, donated to **Leeza's place Alzheimer's education**, and sent Campbell Soup labels to the **Navajo Reservation School in Arizona.**

When you bought and/or gifted coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, nuts and cranberries, you partnered with **Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange** to help support farmers and their families in the US and around the world to obtain a fair wage. Our Hosanna monthly sales averaged \$190-\$220. Because of the rise in costs we have had to pass that cost on to the customers.

The **prayer shawl ministry** continues. Completed, blessed shawls have gone to members of Hosanna, relatives, neighbors and friends of Hosanna and to nursing home residents and MD Anderson patients. The letters of thanks we receive from recipients are heartwarming. In conjunction with this ministry we make **chemo caps and assemble chemo bags** for cancer patients.

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more information, contact Lisa.

Thank you Hosanna, for making 2010 a great year!

Lisa Kubricht, Judy Finger, Amy Adams, Joann Barron, Wendy Romijn, and Angela Jones

**The Seniors have had a busy and fun filled year.
The following summarizes our activities for 2010.**

January – Game Day & Potluck Lunch

February – Rob Landis Trio Concert

March – Tour of Islamic Dawah Center, The First United Methodist Church, Annunciation Catholic Church, and Catholic Chapel of St Basil

April – N/A

May – Tour of Rich and Infamous in Meyerland and outside River Oakes

June – N/A

July – Movie “Blind Side” and Potluck Lunch

August - Radio Music Hall

Sept - Painted Churches in Schulenburg

Oct – IMAX “Ring of Fire” and Tour of Whydah - Slave Ship to Pirate Ship Exhibit

Nov – N/A

Dec - Tour City of Bethlehem Live Presentation @ West Conroe Baptist Church.
Sr. Christmas Potluck dinner with Christmas carols and readings.

Anyone 50 or over is invited to join the Senior’s Group. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month unless there is a special event that takes place on another day. Some of our events do take place on Sat or Sun. Precinct 4 provides free bus transportation.

Nerisa McConnell Judy Rhodes Shirley Leach Lynne Coles
Cecelia Gabrielson

Fellowship YE 2010 Summary

Texas Thanksgiving

Hosanna has been celebrating a "Texas Thanksgiving" annually for 30 years. It is generally held around the first of November on a Saturday evening. Dinner is homemade chili with apple, pumpkin and pecan pie for dessert. After dinner, we play Bunco. Cost is \$5/person. Forty people attended in 2010.

Advent Workshop

Hosanna has been holding an "Advent Workshop" annually for 30 years. It is generally held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It begins at night with a devotional and Christmas carol singing. A total of 4 different Advent crafts are completed. Refreshments and cookies are served. Cost varies depending on the crafts. A total of 50 families participated in 2010. Three IHN families joined us this year for a very memorable evening.

Progressive Dinner

Hosanna has been doing a "Progressive Dinner" for more than 25 years. This event is generally held in early spring time. One home is used for appetizers. Different homes are used for dinner. Everyone gets together at one home for dessert. Recipes are provided to all cooks so main meal and desserts are identical. 36 people attended in 2010.

Nerisa McConnell

Sue King

STEWARDSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2010

We were blessed with beautiful weather to begin 2010, and that proved a huge advantage for us. 2009 ended with broken and burglarized air conditioners in the back of our building. However, by Easter Sunday, it was all back up and running better than ever. A fund was set up specifically to pay for new air conditioners and by mid-February, that fund had amassed \$24,010.22. Combined with our settlement check from the insurance company, we were able to pay Bates Air Conditioning the over \$35,000 for new units and locked rebar cages to prevent future theft. Cages were also installed over the other set of air conditioners to further deter theft. We also installed an alarm system with cameras which has proven interesting. We have many videos of wildlife in the area of the air conditioners.

After making it through another Houston summer with our new air conditioners, we hit the Houston winter, where, of course, our heaters failed. Bob McConnell quickly got on the phone with our friends at Bates, and soon, and about \$2500, later, the heaters were up and running, with some new thermostats. So far, my tenure as Stewardship Team Leader seems to be marked by climate control issues.

The 2010 Stewardship Campaign was “More Stories to Tell, Gifts to Share” extending the theme of the 2009 campaign. Hosanna is blessed with many varied and wonderful stories that make this such an interesting community of faith. Once again, the people of Hosanna responded generously, pledging \$246,944. As of December 31, 2010, contributions to the General Fund were \$354,514.

Susan Greer completed another highly successful year as Benevolence Team Leader and Mission of the Month coordinator. For the 2010 “noisy offerings”, the following funds were raised:

January – ELCA Microloans - \$644.54
February – Haiti Earthquake Relief - \$864.77
March – Lutherhill - \$819.10
April – Ron and Heda Christ Botswana Mission - \$740.00
May – Habitat for Humanity NW Houston - \$1,394.92
June – WomenCraft - \$657.83
July – NAM Back to School - \$711.87
August – LSPS TEEM - \$481.55
September – Joyful Life, Mission Congregation - \$868.98
October – Port of Houston Seafarers Centers - \$2,271.00
November – Salvation Army – \$712.37
December – Companion Synod in Peru (Sembrano Fund) – \$920.38

Susan is stepping down from her position as Mission of the Month coordinator and at this point, we are still looking for a replacement. I would be happy to discuss with anyone interested, what the position entails. Thanks Susan for your years of work and beginning this endeavor!

In October, and complete video inventory was done of the building and grounds. Photo documentation is now available should it be necessary for insurance purposes. The Stewardship team also appreciates the work of Nueva Vision in keeping our building and grounds in fine shape. The cooperative effort is working quite well from a property standpoint. We still have some projects ahead, like speaker installation, where we hope to work cooperatively with the members of their congregation.

For some time, there had been some “iffy” trees on our property. Trees that appeared could easily fall, and if done so at the wrong time could prove harmful to both body and property. The team looked into ways to cut these ourselves, or have it done affordably. Nueva Vision got involved and a workday was set up, until we realized no one had the proper saws. Finally, a neighbor of Pastor Boldt, gave us an estimate that we could not refuse, and now the trees are down and the grounds are much safer for everyone.

Following the thefts of the air conditioner copper and the lawn mower shed items in 2009, 2010 was relatively crime free. The local constables sometimes “hang out” at the back of our parking lot, and our community is encouraged to just look around, and be aware of our surroundings.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Stewardship team for their hard work and dedication to Hosanna’s mission and of course the facility. It is the “nuts and bolts” of Church operation, and they make everything run so seamlessly. Property: Bob Dejmaj (who was so instrumental in the air conditioning situation), Giving: John Gabrielson, Gary Hellner, and Beth Johnson, and Building Utilization: Diann Zweig. Finally, Pastor John Boldt has really been a great leader through these times and made sure I didn’t mess up anything too bad. I wish to thank him for his guidance and great attitude.

--Jeff Hartmann, Stewardship Team Leader

Hosanna Lutheran Church

Finance Team

Year 2010 Report To Congregation

First I would like to thank each of those members of the finance team who served in 2010. George Posey (Outgoing Finance Team Leader) Robert Brown (Financial Treasurer) Becky Wolf (Financial Secretary) Bill King (Insurance Administrator) Jeff Chestnut, Amy Adams and Mary Lou Reidy (Audit Team) and counters Amy Adams, Alysha Reed, John Finger, Debbie Welshons, Stan McVay, Brach Waldo and Diane Meier. My sincere appreciation goes to all existing and former members of our Team that made for a smooth transition.

Hosanna's 2011 Finance Team is as follows:

Council Member, Finance Team Leader - Mark Chaney

Financial Treasurer - Robert Brown

Financial Secretary - Becky Wolf

Insurance Administrator - * position open

Audit Team - Jeff Chestnut, Jeff Jackowski, Richard Dove

Building Finance Committee, Financial Chair - George Posey

Annual Covenant Program, Financial Liaison - Becky Wolf

Collection Counters

January, April, July, October - Amy Adams, * position open

February, May, August, November - John Finger, Debbie Welshons

March, June, September, December - Stan McVay, Brach Waldo

Alternates - Diane Meier, Skip Kennedy

The following financial reports are included for your review:

- 2010 Financial Summary (November YTD Spending)
- 2010 General Fund (spending priorities, income and cash balance by quarter)
- 2011 Priority Spending Recommendations ~ Annual
- 2010 Forward With Faith (capital building campaign status)
- Recap/Comparison of 2009 vs. 2010 General Fund Income

Highlights and accomplishments of 2010 Finance Team:

Refinance of mortgage

Reduction of mortgage balance

Ending 2010 with a positive cash balance

Goals for 2011:

- Realignment of Spending Categories
- Recommendation of placement of Audit Team under Council President
- Solicit participation of new counters to complete training
- Analysis of monies in Designated Funds to prevent funds from sitting unused
- Spending Priority templates for Team Leaders to annualize our forecasts
- Assisting in oversight of utilities contract analysis and re-negotiation

While 2010 has certainly been a learning process for me, I am honored to serve on Council as Finance Team Leader. With the assistance and guidance of George Posey throughout my assumption of my duties, I was able to begin grasping the financial state of our congregation and look forward to continuing the work that George has so generously and competently assembled to ensure our financial security.

We continue to grow and increase giving but, unfortunately, expenses continue to grow at a greater pace. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to meet our pledge to continue to grow our congregation to serve our dedication towards our ministry and our mission. While we have aligned and more realistically projected our spending priorities for the coming year, we must realize that it requires continual monitoring and analysis to keep spending within manageable limits.

Our “partnership” with Nueva Vision has, to date, been a positive impact on our financial bottom line. In addition, they have been a pleasure to work with and we envision new endeavors that will further benefit both parties mission and ministry. We are encouraged to see this result and look forward to an entire year of data to better judge the positive financial impact for Hosanna moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark M. Chaney
Financial Team Leader
Member of Church Council ~ Hosanna Lutheran Church, ELCA