

**Church of the Beatitudes
United Church of Christ**

**2007 Annual Report
of
Church of the Beatitudes**

☞ God is still speaking,

MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION

Greetings and Joy to Church of the Beatitudes!

The Ministry of Administration is charged with the responsibility for business and support functions of the Church, such as personnel, stewardship, finance and property per the bylaws. All of those functions were faithfully addressed during 2007 and to date, in 2008. This Annual Report will share all of the various Ministries, Pastoral and Administration business that transpired last year. Therefore, I won't rehash the energies; instead, I will highlight a few of the significant issues that came before the Ministry of Administration in the course of Church life.

In my mind, adopting and implementing the Church of Beatitudes strategic plan process was huge! Enlisting The Alban Institute with Rev. Dr. Larry Peers as facilitator brought us together to shape a vision and, most importantly, a course of action for Church of the Beatitudes in the years to come. President Elect Carol Ann Vaughan served as chair of the planning committee, which worked tirelessly to bring Appreciative Inquiry dynamics into our core. Innovation teams have been formed and, with all of our good will and commitment, will bring true traction to this exciting process! Thank you to everyone who participated.

Another aspect of ever improving our Church family and providing the finest service to all folks involved with COB was commencing the Personnel Committee. With Sherri Shea as chair, the committee laid the groundwork for procedures and processes that bring focus and direction to our paid church professional staff. As a result, I am proud to acknowledge the selection of a top-notch office staff to take great care of the busy business at COB. Ken Porter is Director of Operations and has oversight over the whole deal. Ken has brought tremendous organizational and financial skills to the table. And, he has a pretty wicked sense of humor, as well! Barbara Wood is Communications Administrator and has big energy and passion for "getting the word out" to the congregation, no matter the subject. Linda Nilsson in Accounting, Marcia Lorona in Communications, Dawn Bailey as Secretary/Receptionist, Enrique Mendez as Head Custodian and Gilbert Escalante as a helper, round out this excellent Administration team. Sandy Marion is our Parish Nurse and exudes kindness and care with a great smile, always.

With feedback from the congregation and in consensus with the pastors, a Pastoral Relations Committee has been formed. The purpose of the committee is to strengthen and nurture the relationship between the pastors and the congregation. Southwest Conference Interim Minister Rev. Lark Hapke participated in the first meetings of the group to help outline the path of a successful committee and identify other congregations in the SWC that have experienced effective results. Mentioning Rev. Hapke, Lark will be moving on in her Ministry effective June 1, 2008. While Rev. Hapke has not settled on a "call," I am certain that her caring ways, deep faith and abundant spirit will be a blessing in her next service calling. Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer will succeed Rev. Hapke as conference minister.

As with any church body, the heart and soul are the people. What wonderful, creative, courageous and faithful people we have! Volunteers for church life service are vital to the mission and impact of our good work. The "nuts and bolts" of work performed in a "lay-lead" congregation is accomplished by—you guessed it—the congregation. Here's some special kudos to all volunteers; our COB choir is simply inspiring and intrinsic to the worship experience! Every Wednesday, they meet, sing and serve God. Confirmation, Library, Kitchen, Wedding, Flowers, Stewardship, Finance and 10 other groups I have forgotten, are sharing and serving weekly when no one is noticing. That precious giving is a joy to me.

My personal thanks to the MOA for their diligence and good faith during some challenging moments. Carol Ann Vaughan will be coming forward June 1 as Congregational President. Carol is passionate and gifted. We all can look forward to steady and faithful leadership with Carol's service. I will be moving to Immediate Past President while completing the four-year "Presidential" cycle. I will advise Carol Ann and hopefully, bring support and vision for our faith journey in the 2008.

It has been a privilege and an honor to be with you as President of COB. I will see each of you, I pray, on down the road.

Peace,

Lou Jennings
Congregational President

**Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2007**

Income

Tithes and Offerings	\$576,535.49	
Other Contributions	26,623.34	
Operating Income	<u>781,966.30</u>	
Total Income		\$1,385,125.13

Expenses

Ministry of Administration:		
Personnel/Salaries & Wages	\$550,903.02	
Personnel/Total Benefits	170,152.95	
Property & Grounds	195,280.83	
Support	81,088.28	
Stewardship	<u>1,310.51</u>	
Total Ministry of Administration		\$995,735.59
Ministry of Nurture-programs		\$13,036.29
Ministry of Worship-programs		\$32,168.67
Ministry of Education	\$1,901.54	
Adult Education	2,486.14	
Youth Education	4,279.63	
Child Education	<u>6,380.53</u>	
Total Ministry of Education		\$15,047.84
Ministry of Service/Outreach (Mission Support)		\$92,734.78
Ministry of Extended Care (Mission Support)		<u>\$22,999.92</u>
Total Expenses		\$1,174,723.09

Church of the Beatitudes
Balance Sheet
For the Month and Year to Date Through Dec 31, 2007

Assets

Operating Checking - Chase	\$ 8.28
Emergency Checking - Chase	\$ 2,025.00
Petty Cash	\$ 150.00
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 2,183.28
Designated Account -Chase Money Market	\$ 480,949.79
Investment Account M & I Money Market	\$ 23,267.45
M & I General Endowment	\$ 8,328,930.82
United Church Foundation-Designated	\$ 191,932.92
United Church Foundation - General	\$ 278,471.67
Total Fund Accounts	\$ 9,303,552.65
Accounts Receivable - CSO	\$ 668.83
Accounts Receivable - Salary Reimbursement	\$ 11,746.30
Accounts Receivable - Parsonage	\$ 100,000.00
APC Investments	\$ 3,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 115,415.13
Total Current Assets	\$ 9,421,151.06
Total Property, Plant & Equipment (net)	\$ 1,176,882.53
Total Assets	\$ 10,598,033.59

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 701.00
Accrued Expenses	\$ -
Due to Designated from Operations	\$ 671,018.32
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 671,719.32
Total Fund Principal	\$ 622,761.62
Other Designated Funds	
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 176,085.88
Restricted Funds	\$ 84,228.85
Endowment Funds - Restricted	\$ 8,808,181.44
Designated Funds - Temp Restricted	\$ 235,056.48
Total Other Funds	\$ 9,303,552.65
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 10,598,033.59

2007 STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership as of January 2007 915

Additions during the year:

Confirmation	7	
Confession of Faith	34	
Letter of Transfer	0	
Reaffirmation of Faith	0	
Total Additions		41

Losses during the year:

Death	28	
Transfer	0	
Other Removals	0	
Total Losses		28

Membership as of December 31, 2007

Baptisms in 2007

Children	6	
Adults	0	
Total		6

Weddings performed here in 2007 10

Church School enrollment end of 2007

Children (nursery–6 th Grade)	123	
Adults (18 and over)	200	
Total		323

SENIOR CO-PASTORS

Since we have been here, eighteen months now, we can see the building blocks grow. We came to build a team and a partnership in ministry, to invest ourselves in the growth and ministry of this congregation.

- **Staffing Plan:** beginning with Gallup Strengths training and coaching, we put together a staffing plan, calling a Parish Nurse, Sandy Marion, a Director of Operations, Ken Porter, a Communications Administrator, Barbara Wood, a part time Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lorona, and a second custodian Ernesto Mendez. We also lost a Business Manager, an Associate Pastor and a full-time Administrative Assistant. Overall, our personnel costs are under budget from when we began. Ted and I have shifted some roles with Nancy taking primary responsibility with Sunday services and Ted with Saturday night. Ted is primary with Senior High youth. We share visitation, member growth, small groups and Ministry support. Average worship attendance for 2008 through April 20 is 321 over the three services, a 24 percent increase over 2007. In 2007, 41 people joined the church, and we lost 28 through death.
- **Appreciative Inquiry:** with approval by the Ministry of Administration, we have been on a journey since fall 2007 with Larry Peers, consultant from the Alban Institute. This has been a highly participatory process, with a wonderful Strategic Planning Steering Committee chaired by Carol Vaughan. From Discovery to Dream stages, we are now in the Design stage, hearing from 10-12 Innovation Teams, which have goals for the future in areas from worship, finances, youth, young adults, welcoming, health and wholeness, spiritual growth, education, outreach ministries, LGBT, and facilities. The prioritizing of these goals on April 30 will be the focus of all of our mutual work.
- **Finances and Facilities:** We now have our accounting function on our ACS (Automated Church Software). We are grateful to the Beatitudes Campus for their many years of caring for our accounts. We look forward to greater efficiency with having our information in-house. Many repairs have been made on our buildings and grounds, and further work will be done when we have the comprehensive mission plan and know how we can best use our campus, our buildings and grounds. Buildings are aging and infrastructure, wiring, cooling, plumbing are in need of updating. We need to continue to invest in our future. The earnings from the Endowment Funds are allowing for that investment as we build the foundation for future growth.
- **Congregational Vitality:** Together with the Southwest Conference, we have had a Congregational Vitality team working with our welcoming team. We have new people in worship every week, at every service, and often at events like Taste & See. Follow up on guests includes personal notes, phone calls, and/or a pastoral visit, and an invitation to a Bridging Brunch, where new people meet current members and other recently joined members. Nametags and the Welcome Tent also facilitate new relationships. Our Communications Administration created event advertising that can be shared on email. Special events like the Scared Faithless concert, which we sponsored, continue to bring new people to see what we are all about. Most new people come to us after visiting our website.

We are grateful for all those who are so generously sharing their time and their resources. This ministry is a partnership. Church of the Beatitudes is and will continue to be a leadership congregation in ministries of justice, hope and peace.

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy Nelson Elsenheimer
Pastor Ted Elsenheimer

PASTORAL CARE DEPARTMENT BEATITUDES CAMPUS

The Campus Pastoral Care Department actively serves and nurtures the spiritual needs of the Beatitudes Campus community while providing worship, pastoral care, education and service opportunities. We seek to enhance a sense of purpose in residents' lives and foster increased religious and spiritual understanding across diverse faiths.

Our team includes Rev. David Weaver, Director of Pastoral Care; Rev. Bev Devine, Associate Chaplain; Rev. Sandi Anthony, Clinical Pastoral Education Chaplain Resident (through Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center's CPE program); and Judy Green-Davis, in the newly created half-time position of Chaplain's Assistant. In addition to our Pastoral Care team, we were assisted in this year's successes by many volunteer residents, staff and members of the church for which we are very thankful.

In each of our four main areas of focus, we had significant efforts this past year.

Worship

We continue holding five weekly worship services in addition to seasonal and memorial services. This year, we held two services for our Jewish community, a Passover Seder and a Purim celebration. During Lent, we added an Easter Saturday vigil and a labyrinth meditation day. We enjoyed our first Pet Blessing service, continued the tradition of a Blessing of the Hands service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and a Blue Christmas worship service. The residents are served in worship and preaching by all four members of the team.

Pastoral care

In the area of pastoral care, we provided Campus visits and strengthened our hospital visitation program. We organized bereavement groups and held resident coffees, providing resident and family counseling, grief counseling, and intervention in times of crisis. In addition to 600 residents, a significant dimension of the team's work is providing support, counseling and referrals to the 325 employees of the Campus.

Education

In the area of lifelong learning, we led two weekly Bible study groups. We also had outside speakers for our Interfaith Education series and for a series on Spirituality and the Arts. This month, we began a Christian Education series that addresses a variety of topics. In the area of education and spiritual fun, we offered classes in making collages and we produced several large papercutting wall hangings.

Service

This area of our work offers the most opportunity for expansion in the coming year. We held a very successful fall food drive to benefit the Westside Food Bank. We also organized a read to a child program for residents to share with homeless children at the New Day Center.

We anticipate many changes on the Campus as the first of our new residential buildings are completed and groups of new residents begin to arrive in September. We work as a team to plan and prepare for increased activities, cultural shifts, and some growing pains. We are excited about the future and the challenges it will bring to this vital and very active Campus!

Rev. David Weaver
Director of Pastoral Care

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

In January of 2007, our junior and senior high youth program was moved further into the Ministry of Education fold. Pastor Ted and Dana Bender recruited new youth leaders as part of our team, and those numbers continue to grow today. Sixteen senior high youth and three leaders went to the San Francisco Bay area for five days last summer working at a food bank, a homeless shelter, and with another UCC church in the Tenderloin District that does outreach for victims of HIV/AIDS. Starting in the fall, Dana began meeting with junior high youth every Sunday for conversation, fun, outings, etc. This group of young people are establishing bonds and making plans for an even more unified junior high program. Our church hosted Thanksgiving Alive, a Southwest Conference event with nearly 100 youth living at our church over the Thanksgiving weekend. Pastor Ted Elsenheimer, at the end of the year, has taken on the role of Youth Pastor nurturing our senior high group. There is great momentum in these areas!

Our children's programs continue to thrive with Arts Camp 2007 being the best attended ever (over 80 participants from the church and the community!). Vacation Church School was intergenerational and included a discussion of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the construction of a 'peace garden' behind the Youth Center, drumming circle, and climbing wall. We continued to use Seasons of the Spirit, a lectionary-based curriculum in our children's church school classes, but strayed from that curriculum during Lent with Jerusalem Marketplace, a hands-on 'Bible-times' curriculum outlining the events of the last week of Jesus' life. We ended this unit with an authentic Seder meal in Nelson Hall for all participating children. During Lent 2007, we also created a children's education piece to the Lenten soup suppers and, between that program and our Easter egg hunt, raised enough money to purchase a goat through Heifer Project International.

"Taste and See," a new Wednesday at Church program began in fall of 2007, offering Kid Zone to school-aged children, confirmation class, senior high youth meetings, and a myriad of classes including Yoga, Swing Dance, book discussions and study, Strengths Training, life skills and so much more, with childcare offered in our church nursery.

Adult education classes such as The Christian Story through Art and Discussion, Living the Questions, Worship is a Verb, and UCC 101 were also offered throughout this year.

In the year ahead, the Ministry of Education will be looking at ways to create more places of "entry" for youth and young families. We will explore our facilities, curriculum, and staffing to help make this a place where all are welcome to learn and grow in faith! We thank the congregation for their time and talent and for the opportunity to lead in these areas.

Faithfully submitted,

Dana Bender
Commissioned Minister, Christian Education

Susan Moeser
Chair, Ministry of Education

MINISTRY OF NURTURE

The Ministry of Nurture has three components: Welcome, Health/Caring and Fellowship/Small Groups. The 2007-2008 year has seen a huge growth in each component.

WELCOMING: Staff liaison is *Michele Mellott*. The red tent with refreshments after Sunday Worship services, more greeters, cold water on Sunday during the hot summer days, Bridging Brunch, are just a few new activities.

HEALTH AND CARING is now lead by our new Parish Nurse, *Sandy Marion*. Sandy provides both healthful and spiritual support to the congregation with individual and family health concerns. Sandy also assists the Pastoral Staff, with visitation. Sandy leads the Health Cabinet, Comfort Ministries and the Life Transitions groups.

FELLOWSHIP—*Pastor Ted Elsenbeimer* provides the staff leadership. The year began with the creation of an Event Planner to help with the many events throughout the year.

May

Memorial Day—an estimate of 350 people were served pie, ice cream and tacos. TOX ministries did an incredible job with the tacos, and the congregation donated 44 pies.

September

Open House

Saturday, a Spaghetti Dinner was served to 175 after the Saturday evening service. Sunday, we shared in the grazing event of the year. The idea was to showcase the church as a home. All church ministries including the Ministry of Administration were asked to provide a “menu” of what they offer within the church and representational snack foods. Also participating were the Boy Scouts with camping food, Brent Smith had chocolate for the soul, and Joanna Salonga prepared food from her native country, the Philippines.

October

A Thank You Reception was given to Pastor Deanne Hodgson for her faithful service to the Church during our transitional time. “Shower her with cards of thanks and special notes” was the theme. The reception included food and beverages.

December

The annual Cookie Walk around the Cross Tower drew a large crowd. Boxes were available to purchase for \$8 or \$10. The cookies were donated by the congregation and provided a wonderful variety from which to choose. Funds from this event were placed in a designated account and are used for memorial receptions.

May

Pentecost Weekend

The Rev. Dr. Bob Goss conducted a workshop on “A Church without Walls,” in the after noon. Saturday evening dinner was a potluck with each family bringing their favorite dish. Worship Service was in the spirit of Pentecost and fiery wind.

Mother’s Day and Festival of the Christian Family began with “Breakfast with your Family,” hosted by Beatitudes Men’s Group.

The Inclusion Coffeehouse had another successful season with six great jazz concerts. Two of the concerts were set in an art background with the Vistas Art Show last November and the Watercolorists of Arizona this April. The Swing Memories Big Band dinner/dance in February was a hit and even generated \$450 profit at the door. The concerts bring people to our church and even an occasional new member. The average group of attendees is 35 to 45, but no matter what size crowd, everyone has a great time because of the good music. We will continue next season beginning October 19, 2008. Make your plans to attend and bring a friend from your neighborhood to enjoy some of America's original art form, jazz.

Ministry of Nurture continues to support the Big Red Tent after-church refreshments. Each Sunday, members of Nurture volunteer to bake, serve or recruit others to help with the baking, serving and clean-up. The Big Red Tent and tables have become a social gathering place for all. The Ministry of Nurture is excited about the growing need for more refreshments and gives thanks to all for baking and partaking.

Members serving on the Ministry of Nurture in 2007-2008: *Nan Cayton, Ruth Crowley, Lois Elliott, Joann Hurley, Georgia Macdonough, Dave Mellott, Carol Morse, Jeff Morse, Marcia Nix, Barbara Pineda, Roberta Rauch, Karen Shannon.*

It has been a pleasure working with these members. They have continually volunteered to help whenever there was need. The area of fellowship seems to evolve around food. When serving a large group, it takes a great deal of planning and workers. Ministry of Nurture members have willingly provided that workers and have recruited others to help as well.

Many of the members serve on other groups within the church, and some have spent many days volunteering in both areas. I would like to express my gratitude to them and their undying dedication to nurture our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shannon
Chairperson, Ministry of Nurture

MINISTRY OF SERVICE

The mission of the Ministry of Service is to facilitate and encourage individual members of the congregation to engage in practical discipleship as they use their gifts and creativity to work toward a more just and peaceful world. The Ministry, as members of the congregation, serves as role models and coaches to help individuals determine how they can accept the “cost and joy of discipleship” as pledged in our covenant.

In order to focus on activities for the year, the Ministry adopted Goals and Objectives. The major areas were to raise congregational awareness of service as a core value, to identify service opportunities, to coordinate and provide information regarding service options, to recommend a budget, to identify current mission issues, and to establish working relationships with other UCC congregations, additional congregations plus community organizations. In addition, a Standard Operating Procedure for service projects was approved.

Grants were approved for the balance of the 2007 funds for Valley 1in10, Interfaith Worker Justice, Family Promise, funds for tracking software for the Campus of Care, funds for a wireless network system for the church, donation to the TOX ministry, support of the Metropolitan Men’s Chorus concert, Age Link, and CrossWalk America. Earlier in 2007, funds were approved for the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries.

The grant process was revised with the use of the same applications, but all grant requests for the 2008 budget year were due by March 1. A total of \$17,000 was approved for Community Grants and \$4,350 for Congregational Initiated Grant Requests. Grants totaling \$103,784 were requested. The Community Grant recipients were AIDS Network of Arizona (\$500), Family Promise (\$6,500), Humane Borders (\$1,500), Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (\$6,500), Valley 1in10 (\$1,000) and Open Table (\$1,000).

Ministry of Service strived to include all church members by offering hands-on projects for all to contribute to:

- 11,601 bottles of water were donated for the Heat Relief Program.
- Over thirty people volunteered on two Saturdays to help with the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Apache Junction.
- School supplies were collected for students in need at Maryland School.
- Many members contributed \$5 for the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive.
- Several members spent a Saturday helping to distribute water in the desert with a Humane Borders water truck.
- Many people helped to settle a refugee family from Eritrea by donating furniture, household items, clothing, food and giving time escorting the family to appointments, etc. The family is now living independently. The mother, Astire, is working at the Scottsdale Doubletree Hotel; and Alexander, the son, continues to work at Banner Good Samaritan in the afternoons and hopes to go to school in the mornings. Both girls are attending Central High School and doing well. Roger and Sherry Zollars spent many hours helping the family adjust to the ways of the USA. As Roger says, “We’ve helped a family to a new life, and they will probably all succeed in it.”
- Clothing was collected for the homeless through the City of Phoenix Winter Respite program.
- Many children from Maryland School had a happier Christmas when church members shopped for their Christmas presents after taking their name from the Angel Tree.
- The annual Palm Sunday Food Drive for Interfaith Cooperative Ministries was held. Several other food drives were held for other organizations.

- Many adults and children wrote a note to military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan, which were made into a Prayer Journal, forwarded to National who then forwarded them to military chaplains.
- The church sponsored a booth at the Phoenix Pride event. Some members helped the Pride organization, some worked in the church booth and some marched in the parade.
- The first Sunday cereal collections for Child4Education Ministry began in May with an Ice Cream Social after the 9 a.m. church service to promote the event.
- Three Public Forums are scheduled for May, one on Immigration and two on Health Related Issues.
- Plans are in process for an Adult Work camp to Nicaragua the end of July 2008.

Many thanks to Ministry of Service members: Dosia Carlson, Ryan Dehmer, Pastor Ted, Diane Fuller, Mickey Hahnenkratt, Tom Jones, Cathy Kim, Peggy Shively, and Susan Thompson-McHugh, Roger and Sherry Zollars, Ron Caputo, LeRoy Yager, and all of you who contributed to the various projects!

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Nelson, Chairperson

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

The Ministry of Worship seeks to support and create the worship experience for all members of the congregation by providing a variety of worship events and settings throughout the year. We believe the purpose of worship is to deepen our faith, praise God and remain disciples of Jesus.

The members are Gary Billings (chairperson), Linda Bear, Liz Bebo, Ken Felt, Eleanor Hofmann, Milt Kenin, Ed Mesert, Carol Stalzer and Frank Stalzer. Saturday Music Director Terry Smith was a frequent attendee. Our clergy sponsor is Pastor Nancy Elsenheimer. One of our cherished members, Carol Stalzer, passed away last June. Many of our subsequent events were purposely done in remembrance of Carol.

The Ministry of Worship continued its responsibility to schedule Scripture readers for the Sunday services. A special thanks to Liz Bebo for handling this. Dana Bender continued to schedule youth readers for the second and third 9 am Sunday services.

As usual, this past summer was quiet, peaceful and hot but Ministry of Worship remained busy for all the fall and winter upcoming events. A new memorable event came in September: Prayerful Paper Cutting, created, hosted, provided and trained by Alice Helen Masek. Alice has been doing this function all around the country. All church members were invited to attend and actually do the paper cutting. There were several massive cuttings that were done; they were hung in the Sanctuary, Chapel and Nelson Hall. The process was fun and rewarding, and I believe many of us cut our fingers. A huge supply of band-aids was readily available.

Also in September Ministry of Worship sponsored an Usher's Breakfast, hosted by Ken Felt. This was a thank you to those people who had been ushers within the last two years.

All Souls Sunday again used the Banners of Remembrance that were introduced the previous year. Small bells were given to the entire congregation. Other special services included World Aids Day, three Christmas Eve services and Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten season. The "Blessing of the Hands" segment of the Ash Wednesday service was quite touching and memorable.

During Lent, Ministry of Worship hosted soup suppers every Wednesday evening beginning Ash Wednesday until Holy Week. Every week there were many donations of soup from many of the members. There was always plenty of soup to eat, no one walked away hungry! Ministry of Worship members Ed, Milt and Gary were there each Wednesday during Lent to serve and clean up.

This year Holy Week was new and special. The Maundy Thursday service was called Tennebrae; a reenactment of the Last Supper. The readings of the destruction of Jesus and the physical hammering of nails in a Cross were tearful and moving. Good Friday included services, labyrinth in the Chapel and Easter Vigil in the Sanctuary. The Saturday service was similar to Good Friday, concept of darkness before the Resurrection. Then: Easter Sunrise Service (with a large attendance of 45 people!), youth sponsored breakfast in Nelson Hall, 9 am service and 10:30 am service.

The last comments to be made concern our appreciation of Pastor Nancy Elsenheimer. She has gone way over the standard "call of duty" and has contributed great support and ideas for the Ministry of Worship. No doubt, she will continue this process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Billings, Chairperson

WELCOME MINISTRY

This year has been a year full of fun and grace for me. I hope it has been at least half as fun for you! The points of activity that I was privileged to participate in the life of Church of the Beatitudes, United Church of Christ were:

Welcoming Ministries

This included meeting and entertaining questions from people interested in joining our church family. Lisa Grobe has been the leader on this team. She had many helpers throughout the year. And often that helper was you. Every one of us needs to be a welcoming force in God's kingdom. Thank you for doing your part. We had a net intake of 28 new members though we actually took in about 45 new people. There is a large list of people that are considered regular "attendees" of Church of the Beatitudes. They are not ready to step over the membership threshold. I hope you will continue to extend a warm welcome to them whether or not they decide to join. They should always be welcomed. Many of them are serving our church in very vital and generous ways.

Bridging Brunches

Please consider coming to a Bridging Brunch. These are brunches held on the first Sunday of every month. Visitors, old timers and newly joined people show up to these brunches. We talk about how to engage in the life of the church and answer deep theological questions. Pastors Nancy and Ted get to meet people face to face. Floyd and Shirley Ferner have been providing delicious lunches. Many stories have been shared and plenty of door prizes are always awarded, thanks to some kind and faithful angels. (Floyd and Shirley) There have been many helpers and servers for these brunches. Thank you all very much.

Welcome Tent

The big red tent where we all go for Sunday treats and refreshments! This ministry has increased considerably. Karen Shannon from the Ministry of Nurture has done an excellent job of getting hosts and hostesses for this wonderful welcoming endeavor. We have increased the opportunity for fellowship by giving people places to sit down, relax and visit with old friends and new ones. Thanks to everyone who has hosted the tent this year. You were fantastic. You have set the bar high!

Other ways that people have been welcomed have been by being offered an ice cold bottle of water on the hotter days when we come together to worship, being greeted by a friendly name tag wrangler at each service, and being encouraged to fill out the welcome slips.

There have been many events supported by the Ministry of Nurture that reside under the umbrella of welcoming ministries. These included but were not limited to the September Open House and Spaghetti Dinner, the Cookie Walk, and Scared Faithless. It takes a lot of planning to put on events like these. My hat goes off to Karen Shannon and her crew. They are awesome.

Seminary Student

This year you let me participate as a learning seminarian in your midst. Thank you. I enjoyed being involved with the Saturday worship team. I enjoyed being a part of Ted and Nancy's staff. Thank you for a wonderful year I will never forget. I learned a lot. My faith increased.

Michele Mellott

HEALTH CABINET

The Health Cabinet has completed the first year serving church members with the parish nurse.

Blood pressure screenings are done on the first and third Sundays. Nurses have screened from 50 to 60 persons; most continue to be women. As part of the blood pressure screening, the nurses and the parish nurse continue to provide counseling regarding medical conditions and medication questions. We are available to any member anytime they request our services.

Medical follow-up is provided for any member referred from the pastoral team. We have assisted several families this year.

On the second Sunday of the month, the Health Cabinet members provide a Healing Service with Pastor Ted and health cabinet members in the Bride's room. Any member or person at church is invited to participate.

The Health Cabinet oversees the medical equipment loan closet at the church. Donated items are signed out by anyone requesting them in the church office.

Many members also volunteer at the three Careways luncheons.

The Health Cabinet has arranged for influenza immunizations to be given at Church of the Beatitudes for the past 12 years. This year was no exception. Health Logic again provided the vaccine and supplies. Registered Nurses from the Health Cabinet volunteered their time to give the immunizations, while other members of the health cabinet and congregation registered people receiving vaccines. Immunizations were given before and after the Saturday evening worship service and from 8 am-12 pm on Sunday. Approximately 60 persons received their flu vaccine, conveniently, at these two clinics. Other vaccines offered were pneumovac and adult tetnus-diphtheria. The Health Cabinet is pleased to offer this service, but our vaccine provider will not have this service in the future. For this reason and the decrease in people requesting flu immunizations, we have decided to not provide the clinic at church. We will provide information and answer questions about flu immunization clinics that are available in the Phoenix area.

We have purchased new blood pressure equipment and a pulse oximeter for the Health Cabinet and our parish nurse.

Our goal is to provide more education on health matters and conditions to our members.

We are a group of nurses, educators, social workers, counselors a therapeutic clown and we welcome new members at anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Rauch

ARTS COUNCIL

A wide variety of art activities were a major part of the council's programming this year.

We continued our popular narthex art shows with six displays during the winter months, featuring artists from throughout the Valley.

We also displayed works of our own church artists in the library throughout the year. We are fortunate to have fine artists within our congregation.

"Art All Around Us" continued at the Beatitudes Life Center with a fall and spring session. The talks, with subjects on art and art history, are illustrated with beautiful slides. These talks are presented by docents of the Phoenix Art Museum.

The jazz concerts, held on Sunday evenings, have been very successful this year. We have been privileged to hear the best of the Valley's jazz artists.

Art has always been a part of this church since its beginning days in the 1950s. It is the plan of the council to continue this tradition with a wide variety of art for all to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Godwin
Chairperson, Arts Council

OPERATIONS OFFICE

My report on 2007 will be somewhat limited since I did not join the staff of the church until mid-November. We did take many steps in the last two months of 2007 that are bearing fruit as we move into the new year.

Dawn Bailey, our receptionist and office administrator, was placed on the church payroll in December. Until that time, we paid Manpower for Dawn's services and that was an expensive proposition for the church. We were able to pay Dawn a competitive salary with benefits and actually save money over the cost of her being on Manpower's payroll.

Church of the Beatitudes is a very busy place with over 50 activities, classes or events taking place in an average week. That is far more than one custodial person can handle so in December we hired Ernesto Mendez to work with Enrique to take good care of our campus facilities. The benefits of adding Ernesto were visible immediately as the buildings were kept clean and delayed projects such as shampooing carpets and stripping floors were carried out with very visible results.

In the financial area, I began a process to make financial reporting both more frequent and transparent. Weekly updates on income and attendance are now provided to the Ministry of Administration and the Finance Committee so everyone knows what is transpiring financially and there are no surprises. We began the process of doing all of the accounting in-house and not using the services of the Campus that will result in a financial savings for the church.

As we move into 2008, we will continue to work hard to properly maintain our campus facilities and find ways to make it look more attractive. We will also move forward in all areas of our financial planning and reporting so that the funds of the church are well managed and our financial status is frequently reported in an understandable format. There are many challenges ahead, but the future of Church of the Beatitudes is very bright as we work together to do God's work in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth H. Porter
Director of Operations

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

From the moment I started talking with the Personnel Committee, I knew that there was something special about Church of the Beatitudes. Since joining the staff at the beginning of December 2007, all my feelings were confirmed. I found a loving, caring and affirming congregation and staff, a commitment to mission, a welcoming spirit, a faith keeping and faith seeking people, an active engagement with families and children, a dedication to arts and music, and a whole lot of good “stuff” going on!

In the past five months, the Communications Department has supported worship, music, arts, fellowship and special programs to increase the exposure of our Church both internally and externally. We have been preparing collateral, writing information for the web, writing and distributing media releases, pitching stories to the media, developing and implementing marketing plans and consulting with ministries to develop an effective outreach. We have devoted a great deal of attention to ensure that the mix of media is appropriate for our audiences.

Each week, we prepare an average of six Orders of Worship and announcements – Marcia Lorona and Dawn Bailey, as well as our dedicated volunteers Neil Ward and Georgia Wood– are the heroes in this effort by formatting, printing, adding inserts and distributing them so they are ready to go on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, we have prepared memorial and wedding bulletins, once-a-month healing service bulletins, and all the special bulletins for Christmas and Holy Week. We ensure that the sermons are available online and in print, and mail them to our mailing list of people requesting them.

Our newsletter, *The Grapevine*, continues to be a primary source of information about our congregation, the ministries and our events. Ann Boal and her team of Grapevine workers are crucial in ensuring the newsletter reaches our congregation’s mailboxes. In an effort to decrease costs associated with printing, we are limiting the pages of the newsletter to a maximum of 12. A concerted effort is being made to increase our electronic readership. *The Grapevine* advisory board (Sherri Shea, Philip Johnson, Ed Mesert and Milt Kenin) and I are looking at ways to make *The Grapevine* more relevant and timely in the next year.

The Communications Department has supported many of the activities and programs at the Church with collateral, marketing and public relations – Narthex Art, Library Art, Taste & See, Library Book Sale, Inclusion Coffee House, Bridging Brunch, music programs (such as Scared Faithless, Hungry Hill, Monmouth College Chorale), Pride Parade, Hike Us Unite Us, Beatitudes Bunch, Arts Camp, Volunteer Week and Pentecost, to name a few. We keep the media informed on at least a weekly basis about the Church through releases, personal calls and pitches, providing the media with names of faith-based experts on current issues. We have been successful in obtaining several media mentions in the Arizona Republic and AZCentral.com.

The Communications Department has been the primary staff liaison to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee for Appreciative Inquiry. A large percentage of time has been successfully devoted to communicating information about Discovery Day, the AI Summit and the AI Innovation Team meetings in addition to planning and staffing the events. We have also played an important role in getting the Senior High Youth program re-activated, by providing support for calendaring, programming and providing communications expertise.

The Communications Department is in the process of preparing a strategic plan for the coming year, taking into account and supporting all the wonderful initiatives that have emerged from the Appreciative Inquiry Innovation Teams. With Terry Smith, our webmaster, we are researching ways to expand the Church’s presence on the web and create a dynamic website that will address the needs of all of our audiences. We are

developing a Speakers Bureau of Experts that will be expanded from a faith-based emphasis to a larger mission-based one. A communications audit will be done on all our materials. The use of online surveys and focus groups will be expanded. A Style Book will be developed so that all of our collateral uses the same conventions for grammar, punctuation, design, color use and identity. We will be exploring ways to leverage our message with the Southwest Conference and our sister churches.

The future is so bright for Church of the Beatitudes. The energy to move ahead is palpable, and the excitement within the Church family is boundless. I feel blessed to be part of this family.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wood
Communications Administrator

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dear Church Family,

We have had another exciting year for Children's music at Church of the Beatitudes! Since the time we meet together for our music program is the same as the school year, I am writing about the 2007-2008 season for the purposes of this report.

The **Cherub Choir** has been under the direction of **Su Rogers** for the sixty year in a row. I would like to say a special thank you to Su for this volunteer position that she has so consistently dedicated her time and energy to. Although it is always so much fun to see the Cherubs sing in church, Su's primary efforts with these little ones occurs each and every week as she meets with them to sing songs about God's love and our faith. Thank you, Su!

The **Children's Choir** has had another great year of music and worship as well. In past years, this group has consisted of first through sixth graders, but this year the sixth graders became a part of the middle school group, and we had only first through fifth graders in choir. The greatest challenge (and neatest blessing) this year was in having the majority of our participants in the lower grades. While the level of difficulty of songs had to be adjusted, the expectation of good expression remained high. But the most rewarding part of children's choir came in the lessons about love, acceptance, life and joy that we explored and discussed as we learned our music. In keeping with tradition, we were able to sing approximately once a month in the services since September of this year. In December, we produced another terrific Christmas Pageant, *Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs, and Fireflies*, which showcased the wonderful talents of our kids while sending the message that we must all be a part of sharing God's love. In our regular weekly meeting time, although we were very busy preparing music for the services, we also learned about musical qualities such as tempo, dynamics, form, and harmony, and we used some of our rehearsal time for fellowship and fun. We played many fun games, listened to various kinds of music and had snacks! Although we had up to 42 participants in the Children's Choir program this year, the consistency of children coming each week was very low, which made it difficult to learn our music. We are hoping to, with family support, improve in this area for next year. And, of course, we absolutely could not do what we do without our wonderfully consistent volunteer, *Jacque Bosworth!* I have never seen such dedication from one person. Thank you, Jacque, for being here for us each and every week. You are the best!

Finally, one of the highlights of this year was when the Middle School Youth took over one of the 10:30 worship services. From opening the service to leading music to the final benediction, they basically did everything but preach and serve communion. It was wonderful, and we hope to have many more opportunities to share the talents of the youth.

It has been a great year, and I am blessed to be a part of all that is happening at Church of the Beatitudes. Many Blessings to You All!

Respectfully submitted
Brenda Mulkey, Director of Children's

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Our congregation's senior high youth group is growing and vital. Attendance is up significantly since the beginning of the year, due in part to the efforts of Pastor Ted, the adult advisors, and the investment of the parents in encouraging our youth to belong and in making it possible for youth to be present at meetings.

The senior high youth are exploring new avenues to assert their commitment to our Church. They have begun a project to write to and support servicemen and servicewomen. They are exploring new fundraising efforts to support their desires to attend events such as The National Youth Event this summer in Tennessee. They are planning fun activities this summer such as float trips, bowling and the like. All are anticipating the confirmands joining the group this month.

Our senior high youth are looking forward to more active involvement in worship services, in deepening their own spiritual growth, and in doing so aiding all in that quest.

The senior high youth group needs the support, prayers and uplift of the entire congregation. We are becoming who we will be!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gallup

BEATITUDES CENTER DOAR

Beatitudes Center DOAR meets pressing needs facing older adults and their families. Our services are offered free of charge throughout our community. Together with tremendous involvement from Church of the Beatitudes, over 180 other churches and synagogues, and hundreds of volunteers and donors, we:

- Help **homebound elders** stay living in their own homes through volunteer services such as grocery shopping and transportation.
- Make it possible for children to stay OUT of foster care, by assisting the **grandparents** who are raising them.
- Support **people who are caring for their aging loved ones**.
- Work together with **faith communities** throughout the Valley. For example, 128 congregations have begun congregational health programs with our assistance.

A few service highlights: In 2007, volunteers provided over 38,000 hours of service to homebound adults. 2,290 days of respite were provided to grandparents raising grandchildren; and individuals received over 240,000 health interventions through participating congregational health programs. In addition to carrying out our core services, several initiatives began in 2007, as follows:

Sandra Leander joined our staff as Communications Specialist in August. She has prepared a comprehensive communications plan that will build awareness regarding Beatitudes Center DOAR. The goal is to involve more volunteers and supporters in order to serve more people!

Our Poinsettia Tea, Jazz Cabaret Benefit Concert and Auction, and Tour de Paradise fundraisers all grew. We greatly appreciate members from Church of the Beatitudes who attend and help to plan these important events. The number of corporations and foundations that supported us in 2007 nearly doubled over 2006—from 45 in 2006 to 89 in 2007. Still we did not quite break even financially in 2007. More financial support is needed to continue offering and growing our vital services!

We were selected to be part of the AZ Endowment Building Initiative, along with five other local nonprofit organizations. Through this 18-month initiative, we are establishing the groundwork for building a stronger endowment. Beatitudes Center DOAR's Legacy Circle was established in 2007 to recognize individuals who have included our organization in their planned giving. Twenty people had joined the Legacy Circle as of year's end and we are deeply grateful for their foresight and commitment.

Beatitudes Center DOAR was also selected to participate in a "Maricopa Models of Significant Service" initiative along with nine other nonprofits in the greater Phoenix area, in collaboration with the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and the National Council on Aging. In this project we are involving people aged 55+, with their many gifts and talents, into significant leadership positions within our organization.

Beatitudes Center DOAR was founded by the Church of the Beatitudes in 1981, and soon after became an interfaith nonprofit organization. Many church members are deeply involved in our efforts. If you would like to learn more about our mission of service, stop by our office on the southeast corner of the church property, visit www.centerdoar.org or call 602-274-5022. We warmly invite your involvement!

2007 Summary of Achievements

Beatitudes Center DOAR transformed the goodwill of 800+ volunteers, a diverse network of congregations and many financial supporters into services that changed the lives of thousands of people this past year.

VICaP Faith in Action—VICaP’s primary goal is to help homebound elders and disabled adults remain living in their own homes for as long as possible. VICaP recruits and trains volunteers in Phoenix, Fountain Hills, Glendale, Litchfield Park, Paradise Valley, Peoria and Scottsdale. In 2007 volunteers from 112 participating congregations and the community helped 749 homebound or disabled adults with 38,846 hours of shopping, business help, friendly visiting, friendly phoning, computer training, respite assistance, transportation, and/or home repairs, plus assistance in office operations. 188 new volunteers were trained. 4,862 one-way escort transportation rides were made to medical or social service appointments.

Nurse and Health Ministries Network —The Network assists congregations, health institutions, nurses and lay people of all faiths in developing and maintaining effective parish nurse and health ministry programs. The Network’s education, support and consultative services helped the greater Phoenix area become healthier in dramatic ways in 2007. A total of 240,500+ interventions (including health screenings, health education, referrals or personal health counseling) were provided by participating congregations to individuals living throughout the Valley. One hundred twenty-five congregations with established parish nurse programs or health ministries regularly interfaced with the Network. The Network presented six “Health & Wellness in Faith Communities” informational sessions throughout Phoenix; presented an annual conference; provided training through our Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course to 20 registered nurses; supplied continuing education to an average of 27 parish nurses per month; and served as an information and referral network in responding to over 2,500 phone and email contacts.

GENERATIONS – In an effort to make the journey easier for caregivers living in Maricopa County, nine caregiver support groups met each month and provided emotional and practical support to those 525 people caring for aging loved ones. “Un Descansito” Spanish caregiver forums supported 152 participants. Seven presentations were given to professionals or community organizations. In addition, 600 Caregiver Guides were distributed and 200 information and referral calls were provided.

Project GrandCare - Project GrandCare helps a growing segment of Maricopa County’s population—grandparents raising grandchildren. In 2007, 890 grandparents and professionals received information and referral services. Our Annual Grandparent University provided information and hope for 147 participants. Six support groups for grandparents meeting monthly reached 101 total attendees. Three social therapeutic outings (recreational events) and six social therapeutic meetings for grandchildren reached 150 total attendees. 2,290 days of respite were provided to 98 grandparents, with an added benefit of helping 141 grandchildren. Legal assistance was provided to 74 families (102 adults and 144 children). Numerous well-attended activities and outings were held throughout the year for these special families.

Elizabeth Brunstein-Banta
Executive Director

BEATITUDES CAMPUS

Always it is a challenge to sit before the blank computer screen and write this annual report for our sponsoring church. This year, that is particularly true.

The Beatitudes Campus is a vibrant ministry of the Church of the Beatitudes. On a daily basis, we serve about 600 individuals and their families. The majority of our residents, just over 300, live in our Independent Retirement Apartments. They have come to us in their later years, most seeking a sense of community in which to make a home. An additional 102 persons are served in our Assisted Living Program; these people need help on a regular basis with the things that most of do without giving it a second thought— preparing our meals, bathing, dressing, using the bathroom. Finally, in our Skilled Care Program, we provide nursing and health related services to about 125 people who have either a short-term need for specialized rehabilitation or a long-term need for ongoing medical care. The heart of who we are lies in the 600 residents.

But there is another body that makes up our community, too. We employ about 320 people who are committed to serving our residents and their families. They come to us from all walks of life and all corners of the world. At last check, we had employees from 27 different countries rendering care and opening their hearts at the Beatitudes Campus.

So, what makes this year so different? It has been a year of great preparation for us. The Beatitudes Campus is under redevelopment. We have been implementing a plan devised by our Board of Directors, most of whom are deeply rooted in Church of the Beatitudes. The purpose of our work, which includes both renovation and new construction, is to make sure we remain relevant for the next generations of seniors that will call the Campus “home.” At present, we have commitments from 200 individuals to join our community as residents later this fall and through the coming spring. We are working diligently already to help them feel a part of the family of people that are the Beatitudes Campus.

I'd like to invite all members of the Church of the Beatitudes to visit the Campus and see the difference your congregation has made to seniors in our community. You'd find all the services that one would expect in a retirement community: meals and activity programs, medical services, social services, and pastoral care. You'd also find things that might surprise you. You'd find yoga classes followed by computer classes, day trips to Sedona or to the casino. You'd find older adults actively engaged in life at every level.

When the Campus was envisioned by the early leadership of the Church of the Beatitudes, it was described as a place where people could live, learn and grow through all the days of their lives. We take great pride in knowing that the vision remains at the core of who we are today.

Peggy Mullen
Chief Executive Officer

BEATITUDES AGE LINK

Beatitudes Age Link continues work to uphold its mission of serving child and families from all income levels in a high quality intergenerational child development program. Federal assistance through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, individual subsidies for families through the Arizona Department of Economic Security and generous gifts to the Age Link Scholarship fund help to financially support the Age Link mission. Approximately 35 percent of the children attending Age Link qualify for some type of financial assistance. The Age Link Scholarship Fund supported \$15,000 in assistance to families in the past 12 months.

The program serves the community from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children ages 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten are served in twelve classrooms by teams of three teachers per classroom. Age Link employs a total of 42 including support staff, administration and the newly funded intergenerational coordinator position.

The program continues to be identified by the brand “Linking Generations.” The partnership of parents, grandparents, grand friends, young children, high school and college interns and Age Link staff provides a tangible illustration of uniting generations. This intergenerational component and Age Link’s NAEYC Accreditation set us apart from most other child development centers.

Age Link’s newest staff position was made possible this year through a generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Trust. The position of Intergenerational Coordinator is supported on a decreasing basis over three years. Age Link’s committed Board of Directors and staff in collaboration with Beatitudes Campus are responsible for securing funding to sustain the position. The Intergenerational Coordinator is responsible for coordinating connections between classrooms, Beatitudes Campus residents and multi-age volunteers from the community. Coordination includes the identification, processing, training and support of on-site volunteers and the continued organization and encouragement of growing relationships with Beatitudes Campus residents.

Professional development is highly regarded at Age Link. Three additional Age Link teachers completed Certificates of Completion in Early Childhood Education and Associate Degrees in Early Childhood Administration during the past year. Many Age Link staff continues their post-secondary education at local colleges. Age Link made a curricular re-commitment to the Creative Curriculum and the Developmental Continuum Assessment System this year. Three staff in-service days were dedicated to the training on the Developmental Continuum Assessment System, Individualized and Small Group Curriculum Planning and Partnerships with Parents. The entire staff also re-trained in the use of Child and Adult CPR and First Aide.

Age Link is fortunate to have an active parent support group who commit themselves to fundraising for discretionary classroom purchases and special school programs. The group also provides appreciation and recognition for the Age Link Staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ryan
Executive Director Beatitudes Age Link

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