



NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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New Life Community Church Annual Report 2009

Summary

In 2009 New Life Community Church grew spiritually, physically and in other ways as God surprised us with His plans and overwhelmed us with His graciousness. The new Activity Center has enabled us to expand and multiply our ministry options doubling our space and increasing our visibility in the community. The Lord has opened up new room for us to minister to teens in Prunedale in a way we never dreamed possible.

Our Ministries

Teaching

We began the year studying Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount in a series titled: ***"Power for Living in an Uncertain World"*** then spent the summer in a verse-by-verse study of the book of I Peter called: ***"Standing Strong in Life's Storms."*** In the fall we focused on what it means to be The Church, the Body of Christ in the series: ***"Experiencing Authentic Community."*** As we have studied these portions of God's Word there has been a marked increase in our faith and awareness of what a significant endeavor God has involved us in.

On Wednesday nights we discuss the Sunday morning message and make personal applications. Everyone contributes and we continue to learn more of the depth of God's Word. We have expanded our menu on Wednesday nights and this has become a great way for new people to get know others in the church in an informal setting.

Music

Music continues to enhance our worship experience each Sunday morning. **Jim Miller** leads our wonderful worship team. **Becky Miller** adds such depth with her endless harmonies. **Sten Strandberg** adds to the overall sound with his percussive bass and back up vocals. **Sandy Knight** keeps everyone on track with drums and percussion. **Gary Soucy** rounds out the group with mandolin, slide guitar, solid harmonies and back up vocals. **Mary Miller** adds her great energy on percussion from time to time as does **Tom Trammel**. **Hank Holley** even gets to join in the fun on guitar on occasions. We continue to be blessed by the quality of our worship experience led by our inspired worship team.

Children's

The addition of the Activity Center has provided much needed space to properly minister to our children. The rooms for large group and small group teaching, and craft space are wonderful. Having use of the playground across the parking lot has added to the flexibility of children's activities. **Taffy McMahan** continued leading and building the Children's ministry until she stepped down to move to Costa Rica for most of the year. **Billye Heath** has taken over as interim Children's Director. The team of Children's Church teachers and helpers has grown to include: **Julie Cheek, Elisa Aquino, Angie Bryant, Heather Leeder, Lauri Strandberg, Katy Strandberg, Danielle Soucy, Sandy Knight** and **Ann Holmes**. **Pat Strader** continues to coordinate our nursery providing lovingly care for the infants so their parents can participate in the worship service. The number and age range of the children has increased so plans are now being made to have two separate classes, one for the toddlers and pre-schoolers and another one for the older kids. **We need additional workers** to take one Sunday a month to help develop this significant ministry. **Finding the right person to give leadership as the Children's Director is a major need and prayer request.**

Youth

At the beginning of 2009 we were praying for the right leadership to relaunch a ministry to teens. The Lord answered our prayers in providing **T.J. Stokes** who has assembled a team including **Noel & Elisa Aquino**, and **Sean & Julie Cheek**. In late January they will be launching the *New Life Community Youth Mentoring Center* at the Youth Center by the Grange Hall. We have been given use of the building from 4:30 – 8:00 PM Monday through Friday for free. The Youth Mentoring Center will provide adult supervision for teens to get help with homework, mentoring, crafts, sports and a safe place to hang out. What an incredible answer to prayer! This is truly the realization of a dream.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry leadership council comprised of **Billye Heath, Barbara Holley, Becky Miller** and **Jane Swaites** led our Women's Ministry this year. Under their direction the women had a Spring Brunch in May and "Deli on the Deck" hosted by **Jeanne Rainwater** in June. For the Fall Brunch in October the women made scarecrows and 29 women attended the Christmas Tea at the Steinbeck House in Salinas in December. Some of our women also attended a women's retreat at Camp Koinonia with women from Salinas Valley Community Church. **Billye Heath** continued to teach the weekly morning Bible study and **Barbara Holley** and her team launched an evening women's Bible study in February. A number of mature women are now mentoring new believers and we are seeing spiritual fruit in this ministry.

Men's Ministry

The Men's breakfast has been meeting in the Activity Center using the new kitchen facility with the men making their own breakfast. **Rich Bradshaw** has

taken over the leadership and cooking from **Rich McMahan** and the men are using the “*Our Daily Bread*” as the basis for their discussion time together.

Hospitality Ministry

One of the real growth ministries this year was our Sunday set-up ministry for coffee and refreshments. For years **Billye Heath** took care of this and had helpers from time to time. This year it became a full blown ministry led by **Lauri Strandberg** that now includes: **Ann Holmes, Janet Barton, Janet Schmidt, Edna Cheek** and **Beth McGregor**. We appreciate so much the creativity these folks have brought to the task of making it easier for people to connect over food on Sundays.

Missions

Our church supported missionary, in Manipur, India; **Lunkholal Kipgen “Kip”** continues his work in extreme northeast India to 26 remote villages. He and his wife were blessed by a second baby girl this year and we paid the hospital bill to relieve the financial burden on him. What a blessing to extend the ministry of NLCC through Kip in India.

This year we collected 66 shoe boxes as part of Samaritan’s Purse “**Operation Christmas Child.**” These gift boxes were sent to disadvantaged children around the world affected by natural disasters or war. The blessing is indescribable as we spend just a little time and money to provide such an impact on young lives around the world.

Recovery Ministry

We are now host to three recovery groups from the community; one N/A group and two A/A groups that meet during the week in our facilities. This year we were able to realize the vision of starting our own 12-step Christ-centered recovery program. After much prayer and planning in August **Alan & Sally Boden** and **Marvin Swaites** launched our “*New Life Recovery Ministry*” that meets Sunday nights in the Activity Center. This “cross addiction” group has been a tremendous blessing to some in our church and the community.

Outreach

A major focus in 2009 was our outreach to the community. The Lord provided some unique opportunities for us to be a blessing to people in Prunedale.

We sponsored a Tee Ball Team in the Prunedale Little League this year. The Lord gave us responsibility of 11 five – six year olds called the “*Express.*” **T.J. Stokes** was the manager and was helped out by **Fred Moore, Hank Holley** and **Sean Cheek** in coaching the team. What a blessing it was to get to know the children and help them learn team work and discipline and develop relationships with the parents as well.

March brought our Rummage Sale, coordinated by **Marilyn Terry**, that enabled us to meet more of our neighbors and get rid of a lot of junk in our garages. This was a creative way to gain visibility in the community.

In May we went over to Elkhorn Elementary School as part of the Salinas-wide “Serve Day” by local churches. We repainted their playground and warning signs on the sidewalks, installed a drip irrigation system in a large planter box and painted the sides of the elevated playground area and courtyard planter boxes. **Taffy McMahan** coordinated this project with the school and the principal was delighted with the “face lift” we provided for the school.

The two Saturdays before Christmas we once again provided free gift wrapping for the community at the shopping center in front of Ace Hardware and next to Subway. We wrapped gifts for free and invited people to come to our Candlelight Christmas Eve service and regular Sunday worship. We wrapped hundreds of gifts for people and got to know a lot of our neighbors while having a great time together taking turns as wrappers and greeters.

The week before Christmas, through our friends at Starbucks, we were made aware of a family in need in Prunedale. The couple, who have custody of four grandchildren and two foster children, were looking at a bleak Christmas, while the husband is struggling with cancer. Along with members of the community we provided individual gifts for the family along with hundreds of dollars and a holiday dinner and food gift certificates on Christmas Eve. They were invited to Starbucks for coffee and were completely surprised by the unexpected outpouring of love. The event made the front page of the *Salinas Californian* newspaper on Christmas day and was also covered by KSCO radio.

Projects

Due to the faithful, dedicated work of our friend **Joey Silva**, the audio files and message notes of each Sunday’s message are available on our web site: www.newlifecommunity.net **Mike McMillen** has been of invaluable assistance as we record, transfer, edit and upload the files each week. The downloads of the audio and text files are on the “Media Page” of the website along with the archived files of prior messages and series. This is another outreach tool for the church.

We became aware that **Ann Holmes’** backyard had been neglected for years during her husband’s illness and passing a few years ago. **Jim Miller** led the effort to “tame the jungle” as we spent an entire day trimming, chain sawing and hauling debris away. This was a real witness to her neighbors and great time of working together.

Sean & Julie Cheek were able to buy their first home this year. **Rich Bradshaw** and **Marvin Swaites** went over and helped paint the entire interior of the house before the family moved in. On moving day a small army of volunteers got them

moved in one day and set up the furniture so the three boys could sleep in their beds the first night.

Special Events

There were a number of special activities for different segments of the church in 2009 including playing Paintball in June, the annual church picnic in July, outings to the Monterey Bay Aquarium in June and September. Grace Community Church hosted our church for lunch in March after the service. It was a good time to fellowship with other believers in Prunedale.

We organized our first “**Horse Party**” at Manzanita Park in November where folks brought their horses together for trail rides and rides for the children. Plans are underway for another outing to the beach in the first half of 2010.

Our **Christmas party** on December 13th was again a great time of getting to know new people in the church family. The pot luck dinner coordinated by **Barbara Sanchez** was tremendous and the “white elephant” gift exchange was a riot. These events are valuable for bringing our congregation together for fun and developing relationships.

Leadership Development

The leadership community meetings that are held quarterly bring all the ministry leaders of NLCC together for a time of planning, vision and philosophy sharing, coordinating and prayer. At our elders & wives annual planning retreat in June each person there committed to spiritually mentoring at least one other person.

Property

The addition of the Activity Center in January of 2009 enabled us to increase our ministry in countless areas. It now hosts our children on Sundays, the Wednesday night Bible study and dinner, along with the Men’s Breakfast on Saturdays, women’s Bible study on Mondays and Thursdays, the New Life Recovery Ministry on Sunday nights and other meetings throughout the week. It is difficult to imagine carrying on all these ministries without this valuable space.

In August we signed a new three-year lease on the Worship Center (the Activity Center is month-to-month rental). Knowing that we will need more space for our worship services we signed the lease with the agreement that the landlord would give us the room between the back of the Worship Center and the bathroom when needed for an additional \$500/month. That means we could knock out the wall and doorway to the coffee room and expand the Worship Center from the front to the back of the building. Using the extra room along with the current nursery and coffee area could add an additional 40-50 chairs to bring our seating capacity to more than 120. With this additional seating we could eventually move to having two Sunday morning worship services with “critical mass” in each one to provide a meaningful worship experience.

This next step in our growth would bring us to the point in the future when we will be able to purchase a five acre parcel and build our own building.

The Numbers

Attendance

Our Sunday Worship attendance for all of 2009 averaged **48 people** each week. During December 2009 and January 2010 we averaged **57 people** in attendance each week. On Easter Sunday we had 57 people join us for worship and three people indicated decisions to receive Christ. Our attendance continued to increase during the year with 73 people at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service including nine people recording decisions to receive Christ!

Membership

Ten new members were added to NLCC in 2008; **T.J Stokes, Janet Barton, Alan & Sally Boden, Cody McBride, Janet Schmidt, Adam Drake, Leo & Bonnie Caudill and Edna Cheek.**

Decisions for Christ

There were **22 recorded decisions to accept Christ as Savior** during 2009!

Baptisms

Five people followed the Lord in believer's baptism on Palm Sunday: **Rich Bradshaw, Marilyn Terry, Julie & Asher Cheek, and Zahara Smith.**

Other Transitions

As a church we had another marriage in September when **Amy Strader and Arnold Jaquez** were wed in San Juan Bautista. **Mary Stice** moved away to Washington State to be close to her family. In October our dear brother **Leo Caudill** went to be with the Lord. He touched many lives and the memorial was a real testimony to life of service to God, family and community.

Finances

New Life Community Church is committed to operating by faith in God's provision for our finances. We will never badger anyone to give nor will we ever have any kind of pledge program asking people to commit to give certain amounts regarding their regular giving. There is no outside entity financially supporting the church; it is sustained by the free will giving of our members and friends. In **2009** we had a total income of **\$98,358**; which was a **9% increase** over the prior year's giving of **\$90,484**. With the addition of the Activity Center our facility costs increased from **\$18,967** in 2008 to **\$23,094** this past year; a **22% increase**.

In 2009 our average contributions per month were **\$8,196** toward a budget of \$10,091/month (**Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 2009 is attached**). We praise God for the generous, faithful, consistent giving of the people and friends of NLCC. Our monthly need for 2010 to cover all expenses

and payroll will be **\$10,459/month**. We trust God to supply for all our needs through His people *“according to His riches in glory.”*

The Future

Facility

We have a plan to be able to expand our worship capacity when needed. The cost will be an additional \$500/month in rent. The elders believe we will be able to seriously consider this move when our weekly attendance averages over 60 people each week. The additional cost would necessitate a dramatic increase in giving each month as well.

Youth Ministry

The continued development of the New Life Community Church Youth Mentoring Center will be a major priority in 2010. We have an incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of teens in Prunedale through this center. As the center develops more and more volunteers will be needed to help the kids with homework, tutoring, sports and refreshments.

Leadership Development

Our current elders have each served two consecutive three-year terms. According to our constitution each elder (with the exception of the pastor) should take a one year break before serving another term. We are so grateful for these men's dedication in helping birth NLCC. We have been praying for the Lord to bring more spiritually seasoned, experienced men into our fellowship as potential new elders. Candidates for Elders are required to be members of NLCC. At the moment we see some encouraging development but recognize no one who is ready to step into leadership at the elder level immediately. Our Chairman, Marvin Swaithe, is now in his 70's and has pressing family concerns out of state. He will be stepping down from the elder board for a much needed break. Jim Miller and Frank Cardini are willing to continue on for another full term if needed but we need to vote on an exception to our constitution to accommodate that. As new elders are identified Jim and Frank will also be able to roll off the board for a year break.

Conclusion

2009 was a year of God answering our prayers in wondrous ways concerning our Activity Center, new ministry development and the provision of the new Youth Mentoring Center. Our attendance is steadily increasing and we believe that the Lord has now laid a solid foundation from which we can grow more explosively. Thanks for being a part of this incredible adventure God is leading us on!

Your servants for Jesus' sake,

The elders of NLCC



New Life Community Church
Balance Sheet
Year End 12-31-2009

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>	
Bank Checking Account	\$3,063.10
Total Current Assts	\$3,063.10
<u>Other Assets</u>	
Total Assets	\$3,063.10
<u>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Equity	
Net Income	\$(1,870.92)
Retained Earnings	\$(4,969.39)
Other Equity	\$9,903.41
Total Equity	\$3,063.10
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$3,063.10



New Life Community Church
Income Statement
Year End 12-31-2009

<u>INCOME AND EXPENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	
General Fund	\$95,718.00
Missions	\$ 403.00
Recovery Ministry	\$ 255.15
Benevolence	\$ 1,600.00
Pass Through	\$ 165.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$98,141.15
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Salaries/Housing/Medical	\$69,025.16
Bank Fee	\$ 331.17
Insurance	\$ 1,215.79
Legal/Professional Fee	\$ 25.00
Licenses and Fees	\$ 255.00
Supplies	\$ 55.49
Lease/Rental Building	\$23,094.35
Custodial	\$ 48.68
Building Repair & Maintenance	\$ 62.03
Furniture & Equipment Expense	\$ 60.74
Ads & Public Relations	\$ 188.56
Meals & Entertainment	\$ 34.95
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 688.23
Missions	\$ 912.00
Recovery Ministry	\$ 166.76
Benevolence	\$ 1,900.00
Tape & Book Ministry	\$ 25.00
Return Checks	\$ 270.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$98,358.82
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$ (217.67)