

## **Christian Education Team Report**

Christian education at Buhler Mennonite Brethren Church occurs in many settings and through numerous modalities. Infants and toddlers are lovingly cared for during worship services. Pre-school, elementary, junior high, high school and adults have Sunday school classes available to them for learning and fellowship around God's Word. Through Children's Church, Wednesday Night Clubs, College and Beyond (CAB), Vacation Bible School, Youth Camps and Bible studies, students and adults of all ages have experienced learning and spiritual growth. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of willing volunteers, who give of their time and energy, many have been blessed by the ministry of teaching and service.

While the host of volunteers who serve our congregation continue their faithful service, there seems to be an ongoing need for additional help. This has been particularly true for our children's ministries. It is our prayer that our members will be in on-going prayer regarding ways and means to share their spiritual gifts in some area of Christian education.

In addition to recruiting volunteers, the Christian Education Team is committed to addressing concerns such as how best to acquaint and communicate what we can offer through our Christian Education Program. We continue to find ways to access technologies which can enhance our learning and spiritual growth. We are very mindful of cultural influences and desire to maintain a program that is directly aligned with Biblical truth. The heart of our Christian Education Program is to share that truth with the correct blend of grace and conviction as we individually align our lives in obedience to the Jesus we serve.

We request your prayers for the spiritual growth of our congregation and for the people who will be blessed by our ministries. Our desire is to invoke God's Word and Spirit into the lives of children and adults who worship at Buhler Mennonite Brethren Church.

### 2009 Christian Education Team

Pastor Ken Adrian, Pastor of Discipleship & Family Ministries

Pastor Chuck Taylor, Youth Pastor

Paula Eigsti, Chairwoman

Dave Hiebert, Adult Supt.

Linda Mishler, Primary/Jr. Supt.

Sarah Friesen, Children's Church, Supt.

Van Heitkotter, Beginner's Supt.

Deidre Schmidt, Wed. Night Clubs, Supt.

## Deacon Team Report

The Deacons had five specific responsibilities in 2009:

- 1) To lead a shepherding group
- 2) To assist pastors with communions, baptisms, and worship service
- 3) To manage the church's Benevolent Fund
- 4) To help provide soul care for the congregation
- 5) To assist with the weekly SMRC bulletin distribution

Our congregation is divided into ten shepherding groups that are each led by a deacon couple. We lift those in our groups up in prayer and want to be available to help and care for them in times of need.

We are available to assist our pastors with both membership classes and baptisms. There were no baptisms in 2009.

The deacons were able to help a number of families and individuals in 2009 through the giving of the congregation to the Benevolence Fund. We want to thank the congregation for their generous support to this ministry. This allows the church to help meet needs within our church family and the surrounding community.

In 2009 the deacons served four communions. It is always a great blessing to be able to come to the communion table together as a family of believers, remembering what God has done for each one of us.

In 2009 the deacons continued to assist in the weekly bulletin distribution at SMRC. This continues to allow the deacons to connect with SMRC residents from our church family. The deacons distribute the bulletins on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends of each month.

We also want to acknowledge a deacon couple that has retired from the deacon team as 2009 came to a close. A very warm and heartfelt thanks to Lee and Kelly Pankratz for their time that was given in service. May the Lord richly bless them.

The Deacon Board is in the discernment process of finding a replacement deacon couple for recommendation to Church Council.

Deacon Team:

Dale & Jody Anderson  
Gene & Jeanette Krenzin  
Gaylen & Judy Banz  
Tom & Paula Eigsti, Secretary  
Dave & Rhonda Hiebert

Sid & Paula Perry, Vice-Chair  
Randy & Jan Roberts  
Darren & Heather Schmidt  
Jake & Liz Schmidt  
John & Elaine Ratzlaff, Chair

## **Decorating Committee Report**

The Decorating Committee appreciates your help in making our church an attractive place to worship. Thank you for flowers donated in honor of birthdays, anniversaries and loved ones. We reserve Lilies for Easter and Poinsettias for the Christmas Season for you to purchase in memory or in honor of loved ones. Thank you for being willing to participate.

2009 Decorating Committee:

Elaine Franz, Chair  
Stephennie Schmidt  
Stephanie Unruh  
Andrea Fisher

## **Evangelism/Missions Team Report**

The Mission/Evangelism Board would like to thank each person that has supported the projects they have sponsored throughout the year. We want to especially thank Jane Regier for so faithfully sending cards to our missionaries. Thank you for taking the time to sign the cards, your response has been tremendous. These cards are an encouragement to those that are ministering in places outside of Buhler. We also want to thank Cheryl Goertzen who has presented a missions emphasis to our Sunday School children monthly, along with Sara Lambert.

This past year we were able to assist several people in missions, such as Lauren Pauls, to a Student Mobilization Program in Panama City, Florida and Taylor & Elise Wedel to Romania. We also assisted financially with the Ride for Shane Rogers' project, and the Wednesday Night Clubs kickoff activity. It was also our privilege to send 6 college students to the Urbana Missions Conference.

The computer that is on the missions table is being used to keep you current on pictures and information from our missionaries. It is also available to Skype our missionaries.

During this past year we have also processed in detail the Missions Giving Challenge. The MGC was initially set up as a praise offering following the building of the Family Life Center. Throughout the past 7 years there has been a general shift in how our congregation is contributing to missions and ministries outside of our church. This has been reflected in the fact that non-budgeted giving has stayed consistent, however the amount that has been designated toward the MGC has decreased significantly. This shows that people are giving to ministries for which they have a passion. We have discussed this matter with the Church Council and with their guidance and approval, we are recommending that we discontinue the Mission Giving Challenge Fund.

The rationale being: The Mission Giving Challenge was initially set up as a praise offering following the building of the Family Life Center. A total of \$234,517 has been given over the past 8 years, this truly has been a praise offering. However, throughout the years there has been a significant decline in funds specified to the MGC. This past year \$4,185 was given compared to years past: 2002-\$5,213; 2003-\$93,712; 2004-\$54,129; 2005-\$30,392; 2006-\$21,975; 2007-\$14,531; 2008-\$10,380.

Since contributions to the MGC Fund had been declining, the Mission Board featured each ministry in the bulletin consistently over a 3 month period. The gifts did not significantly increase; therefore, we feel the funding has served its purpose. You are encouraged to continue to support any of the organizations that were supported by the MGC Fund. Details are available in the church office.

Throughout the years people have faithfully continued to give to ministries within and outside the church. Through the exposure to many of these ministries, individuals have personally taken it upon themselves to support and become involved with these ministries. People continue to give generously and we are in no way discouraging the act of giving to missions and ministries outside of our church. Any money's that have or will come in during 2010 for the MGC will be funneled into the church missions program.

The Mission/Evangelism Board continues to process different evangelism tools and mission opportunities. We covet your prayers and your suggestions.

Mission & Evangelism Board:

LuWanda Schroeder, Chairman

Ken Pauls

Ken Siemens

Cheryl Goertzen

Darrel Grubbs

Dixie Wedel

LeRoy Friesen, outgoing member

## **Library Committee Report**

124 books were added to the church library in 2009. 67 were donated and 57 purchased with money received from the church, fines, donations and card sales. A number of family movie DVD's have been added.

We have finished categorizing and labeling the adult books. They have been put on the computer and a hard copy of the books, alphabetized by AUTHOR and TITLE is available.

Greeting cards for all occasions are available in the library. They are reasonably priced and carry a good Christian message.

Library Committee:

Marlene Rempel, Chairman

Michelle Dick

LaVerna Richert

LaVerne Richert

## **Rest Home Program Committee Report**

The Sunshine Home Worship Committee has enjoyed presenting worship services for the residents every third Tuesday of the month. Residents from Independent & Assisted Living as well as the nursing residents have enjoyed services presented by committee members.

We would like to thank those who have joined us to make these evenings special. Several 20/20 groups have offered their talents, as well as the Choir singing their Christmas Cantata and Easter service songs. Special music was provided by Delores Friesen, Collin Schmidt, Perry Finkle, Denise Heizelman, and Marlene Rempel.

Rest Home Program Committee:

Jody Anderson, Chair  
Kay Grubbs  
Sara Hunt  
Nick Rempel  
Herb Richert

## Spiritual Gifts and Ministries Report

Buhler Mennonite Brethren Church hosted a Red Cross blood drive on Jan. 7. We had 33 donors. Donors were from our church, the community, and many Buhler High School students. Many thanks to Linda Mishler for giving of her time to organize these blood drives. We are also grateful for the many volunteers from our church and the National Honor Society who helped put on this event.

As we look toward the MCC sale in April, we want to thank our members in advance for volunteering their time in many ways.

We are replacing members on teams as they are brought to our attention. We are prayerfully seeking someone to organize the Red Cross blood drive.

The Spiritual Gifts and Ministries Team would like to thank all of those who have accepted positions of service within our church.

Spiritual Gifts and Ministries Team:

Dale Anderson  
Judy Banz  
Renay Neufeldt  
Paula Perry  
Arlyss Schroeder  
Gilbert Schroeder

# SUNSHINE MEADOWS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

## “STATE OF CAMPUS ADDRESS”

### HIGHLIGHTS FOR PAST YEAR:

- 1) Census through the year was excellent. The census was recorded as the best in 10 years.

	<u>10 year Avg.</u>	<u>2009</u>
Campus	90.34%	94.91%

- 2) During the year we reached 1343 days (3.7 Years) of safety without lost time on the job due to work related injuries. This reflects well on the Worker’s Compensation premiums.
- 3) Total Skilled Nursing days in 2009 was 1154 compared to 1638 days the year before. Revenue from skilled days was down by \$165,000. The difference was made up in less turnover and more revenue from the private pay sector. From all our skilled nursing, we are able to send 20% of the patients back to their home or apartments after their outpatient therapy services.

- 4) Staffing has gotten better this past year. In the Nursing Department, they covered 98% of all their positions throughout the year without agency. When a shift was short, coverage took place by PRN staff, regular staff that received the SOS Bonus or Care Coordinators filled in. Currently we average 127 employees on the roster.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Total staff turnover	43.3%	52.4%

- 5) Our reimbursement from Medicaid Program did pick up in 2009 for a couple reasons: One is because our Care Coordinators are doing a great job capturing all the acuity levels which increases the Case Mix Index. The higher the CMI the more we get reimbursed. The other reason is because the rates have increased due to an inflation adjustment.
- 6) The benefit from the Tax Credit Grant has been a real blessing this past year. We received two additional credits at the end of the year: 1 for \$15,000 and another for \$50,000. This increased our total to \$380,000 raised in the 18 month period of time. We will be able to do more enhancements where before we wouldn’t be able to. We are planning to complete our wireless emergency call system, purchase a couple new lifts to replace older ones and add more High/Low beds to our inventory.

### CHALLENGES FOR 2010:

- 1) Adjusting to the 10% Medicaid cut will be one big obstacle to overcome. Our revised budget reflects that we are preparing for the revenue shortfall.
- 2) The Legislators are giving serious consideration to implementing a Provider Tax on Nursing Facilities. This tax is a pass through to the private pay resident. Price tag could cost the Home an additional \$72,000/year.
- 3) Staying on top of the Neighborhood Remodel/Safety Campaign will take extra time to accomplish. Trying to raise an additional \$220,000 in contributions over the next couple of years will be challenging our fundraising efforts.
- 4) Some new Federal/State regulations are coming down the pike. Fully understanding the new regulations and implementing them is always a challenge.

*“Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and do not forget all His doings. His loving kindness is from time indefinite toward those fearing Him.”*  
Psalms 103: 2 & 17

## **Trustees Team Report**

The Trustee Board is again glad to serve in a church that is as generous as ours. This year because of budgetary needs we have purposely put a freeze on all major spending and church purchases. However, we are continuing to update equipment in our Multi-Media Center as need arises. We are also implementing a voluntary work program and work day events. These voluntary programs will allow everyone to participate as well as help maintain and beautify our church. There are small projects for individuals and larger projects for groups. If you are willing to participate please contact one of the Trustee Board members or office for more information. We are always willing to listen to your suggestions or answer any questions.

Trustee Board:

Dayul Dick, Chair  
Mark Classen  
Daniel Friesen  
Mark Schroeder  
Dwight Wedel  
Lloyd Yutzy  
Ed Zahn



Women of Worth continue to encourage women of all ages to become involved in activities planned throughout the year. Fellowship, spiritual growth & outreach are priorities with each activity. We seek the Lord's guidance as we plan our events, and it is our hope that He is glorified through each one.

This year we felt a need to go a different direction with WOW. We felt a change was in order and we decided to try small groups during the year along with some of our traditional events. Small groups encouraged more interaction at events and have more personal contact.

We offered the following small groups:

- "Cut & Paste...Making Memories" - Scrapbooking
- "Food for Thought" - Cooking Class
- "Off the Beaten Path" - Discovering Kansas
- "Bits & Pieces" - Playing Games
- "Ladies of Literature" - Book Club
- "Knitting 101" - Learning to Knit
- "Wow Gals" - Service Projects
- "Zumba" - Exercise Class
- "Girlfriend Movie Night" - Movie & Dinner
- "Tea & Latte" - Devotional & Fellowship with the younger set
- "Half Pintz Playgroup" - Group Activities with kids & mothers

We still had our Fall Salad Supper - Danny Oretli was our guest speaker with a wonderful inspirational story & music on September 22, 2009.

New Years Cookies were made at the Buhler Frolic in October.

All Day Peppernut Baking in November.

Wedding Showers were hosted by WOW & there were numerous ones.

In addition, this year we acknowledged the new babies in our church with donations of wet wipes or diapers for each newborn. They were collected in the foyer in a baby bed. This has been quite successful.

Fund raisers allow us to give generously to our missionaries, short term mission trips, & provide wonderful opportunities for scholarships when needed for our events. Bible Studies provide opportunity for growth & fellowship.

WOW Leadership Team:

Vicki Adrian, Jane Balzer, Laura Bretz, Jocelyn Busick,  
Sara Lambert, Penny Moore, Paula Perry, Laurie Willison

## Worship Team Committee Report

2009 was another busy year for our Worship Committee, and all those involved in our Worship Ministry. We continue to be blessed in our church with many gifted musicians, and those who give of their time to enhance the worship services of Buhler MB. Beginning with Easter in 2009 and ending with the Christmas Holidays, a number of special events were held at our church, as well as our weekly Sunday morning worship services. Our Praise Team and Praise Band continued to lead us throughout the year, with the Choir adding to the overall enrichment of our Worship services.

With the Resignation of Pastor Fulmer in August this year; the worship committee assumed leadership of his duties. These responsibilities, such as scheduling, coordinating preludes and offertories, special music and technical ministries, were divided among the committee members and others in our Church Body. By trusting in God and his sustaining power we have seen a relatively smooth transition in this area.

Some of the events that took place this past year were as follows:

- 1) Our children blessed us several times with musical programs throughout the year, most notably on Palm Sunday, Harvest/Thanksgiving Festival and Christmas.
- 2) A number of special guests and individuals from our church body provided special numbers throughout the year.
- 3) Our special event Sundays were well received and much effort was given to make these very special. These included: Palm Sunday and Easter Services; Mother's Day and Father's Day with Men's and Women's Choirs; our Worship in the Park service in June; the Harvest/Thanksgiving Festival in November; and the Advent and Christmas services in December.

Thanks to all who helped with the worship services this past year, including musicians, choir, and orchestra members, praise team and praise band members, and our fine tech crew. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we lead worship throughout the coming year.

Worship Team Committee:

Darrel Grubbs, Chairman  
Brian Brubaker  
Linda Classen

Laura Rhoden  
Josh Tolle  
Denise Heizelman

# Church Council Report