



Santa Clara
First Baptist
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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Annual Report, Senior Pastor

Staff Updates

In 2008 our staff continued to change and grow. We began the year thanking **Marlies Almendarez** for her dedicated service to our children's ministry. She found it necessary to step down from her position due to family obligations but continues to worship in our church family. **Thank you, Marlies, for your love for the kids and your committed staff!**

God again provided for us a new Director of Children's Ministry from our own ranks. **Tammy Catterton** accepted the position and has provided her own unique blend of gifts and skills to our team (she challenges the rest of us to be more organized!).

Pastor Jennifer Hammar continues to add to her portfolio. A few months ago we decided to divide the diaconate responsibilities between us. She is now the lead staff for our Magnification, Maturity, and Missions work. I will continue to work in the areas of Membership, Ministry, and Management (Property and Finances). We hope this will give more concentrated pastoral attention to all areas of our church's programming and outreach.

During 2008 Pastor Jenny also was granted the opportunity of a three-month sabbatical experience. Upon her return I could sense a renewed energy and commitment to the task of pastoral leadership as well as a heightened knowledge of how God's church is operating in our country. That's exactly what a sabbatical should accomplish. It benefits both person and congregation, and the church should be commended for extending such a time to her.

I was also able to attend three helpful conferences this year. The **Worship Conference** at Willow Creek Community Church is always an inspiring and informative event. The **Leadership Summit** held in San Jose through satellite simulcast never ceases to challenge me and others to more committed effort in leading our church family. And finally, the **Reveal Conference** presented the latest findings on how Christians really grow as disciples of Jesus and what churches can do to effectively help the growth process along. Some of these learnings have already been incorporated into our church's ministries.

Renovation and Fundraising

It's taken us a long time to finally be ready to move ahead with our Renovation project. Over two years of hard work by the planning team and months of preparation by the fundraising task force have finally culminated in the launch of our Capital Fundraising Drive. **"Because It's Time"** couldn't be a better expression to describe our situation.

But, many are wondering, how could this be the time? We are experiencing the greatest financial upheaval in our country since the Great Depression of the 1930's. We have people out of work; our investments have drastically declined in value; there is a great fear among us concerning what the future could bring.

While I can certainly understand these concerns I also believe God is up to something. This timing is no coincidence! It's no coincidence that our planning has come to completion at just the same time the economy goes into the tank. It's no coincidence because God delights in showing forth His glory and this is best accomplished when He performs things that are beyond our human efforts.

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Case in point. The book of Joshua Chapter 3 tells us that God called His people to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land when the river was at flood stage! (Not at its normal height or when it was at its lowest.) Why then? Because God was going to do something miraculous. Those of you who are familiar with the story know that God caused an earthquake and landslide upriver at just the right time to dam the river's flow and allow the Israelites to walk across on dry land. This was no coincidence! This was God at work.

I believe God still shows forth His glory today. As we pray the campaign's signature prayer, "*Lord, what would You have me to do in this campaign?*" God will give us a trusting faith and a generous heart. With these supernatural empowerments we will make gifts and pledges far beyond what "normal" humans would do in our situation. We will follow the example of the Macedonians whom Paul wrote about in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NIV)

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

A trusting faith and a generous heart are products of God's work within us. May each of us go to Him in prayer daily and allow Him to perform this great work in and through us.
For His glory!

God bless you all,
Pastor Rich

Annual Report, Associate Pastor

The highlight of 2008 was my Sabbatical. The generosity of this church allowed me and my family to enjoy three special months together. While enjoying travel and fun with my family, I also had the opportunity to do some study. My Sabbatical study topic was experiential worship in the Post-Modern church. I worshipped in different settings, attended conferences, interviewed pastors, and read several books. The entire experience was eye-opening and wonderful. Most surprising was how few churches are using experiential elements in their worship gatherings. My conclusion is that EDGE is unique in its approach to worship.

During my Sabbatical, Jonathan Fung took on the preaching role. I'm thankful to he and others who stepped up in leadership during my absence.

Upon my return, we began a year-long series through Genesis at EDGE. The series has been a great opportunity to better explore the history of Genesis, and get a closer look at the ancestors of our faith. We continue to experiment with different forms of experiential worship. As always, I'm thankful for the flexible nature of our EDGE congregation.

In 2008 I continued to oversee the ministry of our Life Groups. We have begun monthly meetings for the Life Group leaders. These gatherings include prayer and encouragement for each other, as well as a training time. We have several Life Groups, but would like to see this ministry expand. Almost all of our groups are struggling with consistency from the group members. Increasing group commitment by the group members will be a priority in 2009.

In addition to EDGE and oversight of the Life Group ministries, I have continued to oversee the Children, Youth and IMPACT ministries as well. I have met regularly with the leaders through the year.

Blessings,
Rev. Jennifer Hammar

Annual Report, Diaconate Chairman

I usually try to find one or several scriptures that I feel summarize a particular year. 2008 was a challenging year for the diaconate and me personally. I think that a “theme” for the year was anxiety which leads me to the following scripture:

Psalms 55:22 Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

2008 began in a fairly positive fashion. There was a surplus of giving over expense for 2007. We decided to use this unexpected surplus for some much needed upgrades to the Fellowship Hall, and improvements to the church sign. We also had a special donation for a church van for the youth ministries.

Other positive points during the year:

Mary Ann Fairall began regular leadership training for the Diaconate at the end of our monthly meetings.

The Youth Director job description was finalized with Denise Stephens forming a search committee which completed an initial round of interviews.

The Capital Funds Campaign Committee was formed and began regular meetings in August.

Anxiety during the year centered on the poor economy and impact on resources’ available to support a church budget in 2009. The budget was a very difficult issue to address, while on one hand we knew that God would sustain us, we needed to be responsible stewards of our finances. Tied into this issue was the Renovation effort and expected cost.

Ultimately we proposed, and had approved, a budget that we feel would allow us to continue to move forward with our vision.

So 2009 should be an exciting year in the life of SCFBC – we are stepping out in faith with regards to our financial resources and commitment to upgrading the condition of our facilities.

During 2009 we will need to remember to keep our eyes and focus on Christ, and not the turmoil that might surround us. Focusing on Christ, Peter was able to walk on water. We can experience similar “miracles” in our lives and the life of the church – if we keep centered on Christ.

In His Name,
Steve McLenegan
Chairman - Diaconate

Annual Report, Maturity

The Maturity Department includes a great many of the efforts within SCFBC which could be called “Christian Education.” Efforts under the Maturity Department include Children’s Programs, Youth Departments, the Church Library, Sports Ministries, Sunday Morning/Afternoon Classes, and Small Groups, which meet during the week.

Elsewhere in this Annual Report, you will see reports for the Children’s Ministries, AWANA and Student Ministries (Youth).

During 2008, one of the overriding goals for the Maturity Dept. was the *development of more leaders within the congregation*, individuals who would be willing and equipped to lead programs and classes, including children’s and youth ministries and small groups. As part of that effort, church members were encouraged to attend the Willow Creek Leadership Summit in August as well as the Willow Creek Small Group Leaders’ Conference in September. Attendees paid most of their own expenses, benefiting from the expertise of the sessions and the time shared with other SCFBC attendees. Both of these activities are highly recommended for all of us to become more involved in living out lives of service within our church community. 2009 could be YOUR year to benefit from these trainings.

Beginning in Fall 2007 and during 2008, as Life Group Director, Jonathan Fung helped to move our small group ministries forward by renaming them “*Life Groups*,” and beginning to meet regularly with the Life Group leaders. During a full-day retreat as well as other support meetings, leaders prayed for their role as leaders and for their own Life Groups. Within our congregation, Life Groups are seen as groups who meet together regularly to provide members a better understanding of God’s love and to draw others to God through their relationships. Although we were not able to meet our goal to double the number of Life Groups during 2008, great effort was made to involve all church members and attendees in at least one Life Group meeting per week. The Life Groups’ descriptions are now part of SCFBC’s website. Life Groups meetings are listed on the Weekly Calendar of each Sunday’s bulletin as well as several times during the year in the *CELEBRATE*.

A full schedule of *Life Classes*, to take place during the traditional Sunday School time and before the EDGE service, has been a goal of the Maturity Dept. We thank Bob Smithson for faithfully leading the Christ & Science Study each Sunday in the Library. Sharon Cintas lead two “book study” groups about the parenting of teens on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. Pastor Rich and Pastor Jenny led classes on church membership, Christian basics and “Finding Your SHAPE.” Joel Robinson led a class about how to study the Bible. Despite these wonderful efforts, we have not had enough “leaders” to consistently offer the variety of Life Classes we would like to have available to our congregation. New leaders needed!

The Maturity Dept. coordinated with the pastors and Life Group Director Jonathan Fung to plan a focused series during *Lent 2008*. Based on the book, *OUTFLOW: outward-focused living in a self-focused world*, a number of Life Group leaders wrote weekly curriculum for the Life Groups, which paralleled the sermon series presented by the pastors.

The Church Library has been in a state of hibernation during 2008. For 2009, the congregation will have access to the library books as a group of individuals has dedicated themselves to connecting the books to readers within the congregation.

The outstanding effort of the Maturity Dept. this year has been the search for a *Director of Youth*. This effort began with a determination of need, development of a funding commitment, writing of a job description, posting of a position for hire, paper screening and discussion of and with candidates, and a “candidate weekend” for the chosen candidate. In the end, the committee and the candidate determined that this was not the job for him at this time. We pray for a successful conclusion to this search during 2009. Great appreciation should be given to the Search Committee members for their time, efforts and prayer: Jerry Cintas, Jesse Hawkins, Michelle Lasher, Tim McLenegan, Gladys McFarland, Mary Wong, Pastor Rich and I.

Denise Stephens,
Deacon of Maturity

Annual Report, Membership

Jesus said "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:35-36 & 40)

...look after orphans and widows in their distress... (James 1:27)

In 2008, loved ones went home to be with the Lord, and people moved away in addition to new members joining us through Baptism and Christian experience. The SCFBC membership total at the end of the year was 187. God wants us show His love as we serve one another. Here are ways the church did that in 2008:

Fellowship Fund Ministry: The SCFBC Fellowship Fund received a substantial anonymous donation to be used for counseling purposes, if you have a need like this notify either Pastor Rich or Pastor Jenny with the details, maybe this fund can help. Many have been blessed by the regular Deacon Fellowship Fund this year. If God puts it on your heart to donate, please write "Fellowship Fund" on your giving envelope.

Fellowship Refreshments: Thank you to Maxine Darknell and Michelle Lasher who graciously coordinate the Fellowship time for the Family Service and the EDGE Fellowship time respectively. Thank you to individuals and Life groups who participate. Maxine and Doris Smith also coordinate bereavement/illness meals when necessary.

Food Pantry Ministry: SCFBC gave away 127 sets of food bags in 2008, helped seven families with Thanksgiving dinner and four families with Christmas dinners. Six sets of food bags are ready for distribution in the office. Non-perishable food products are appreciated for this ministry and can be donated by bringing food to the office or placing it in the wooden box in the narthex – even one can make a difference. Do YOU have time to be a Food Pantry manager?

Good Samaritans Ministry: Maxine Darknell coordinates people who volunteer their time and talents to help other people. Some have given rides, cleaned gutters, fixed antennas, helped shop, cleaned and/or organized. Call Maxine Darknell if you need help with a small term project or if you are willing to help with this ministry.

Information Desk: Jane Bush and Kate Douglas regularly staff the information desk and give first time visitors a welcoming gift bag. Let your friends know that there is also church information on-line through the web site at www.scfbc.org - it includes the monthly "Celebrate", and both AM Family Worship and EDGE sermons. They will also see information about the Life Groups', various SCFBC activities and the church calendar. Call or email (davew@scfbc.org) Dave Wilson to make room reservations and get your event posted on the church calendar.

Manna/Church meal functions: Thank you to Adam Burdick for coordinating the Manna volunteers and providing meals for Easter, Quarterly Family Gatherings, Worship in the Park and other occasions this year. If you would like to get involved please contact Adam.

Prayer Chain Ministry: Betty Hastings coordinates the telephone prayer chain and Jim Lovelace coordinates the email prayer chain. Additional names are frequently added to the over 80 households on the list. If you want to be added to the email list, contact Jim Lovelace at deloys@aol.com with your request. It is a blessing to be able to pray for the needs of each other through this ministry.

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Volunteers: The office is looking for and willing to train volunteers for the following various projects:

- making and sending sermon CD's for shut-ins at the beginning of each week
- using the Microsoft Publisher to create the monthly "Celebrate" newsletter
- folding and sending the "Celebrate" on the last Thursday of the month
- making and cutting a supply of the registration cards
- managing the Food Pantry

Membership Team: These ministries would not be a success without the many volunteer hours you give throughout the year, thank you to those volunteers. You are cordially invited to join the membership team to visit shut-ins, help others, assist with the Manna meals, be on the prayer teams, assist our brothers and sisters in Christ, please call Jerri Cooper at 984-0908 or email at jerri@scfbc.org for more details.

Respectfully,

Jerri Cooper, Membership Deacon

Annual Report, Missions

During 2008 the Mission Department continued to build on many of the programs and outreach opportunities we had started from previous years.

In 2008 we sent out four missions teams. Our ninth annual trip to Limon, Costa Rica included: Joan Friesen and Jay Nordgaard, Danijela Tomic, Jerri Cooper, and Taylor Pearce. We also sent a team of 18 youth, mentors and adults to Mexico to do a VBS with a local church there. In addition, we had 2 teams go to Mexico to do construction on a school for orphans. One team had 23 people and the second team had 15 people. In addition, we sent a team of 7 people to go to Texas as first responders to assist with Hurricane Ike clean-up efforts.

SCFBC continued its outreach to our local community serving as host to LifeBuilders' Cold Weather Shelter Program. We had about 80 homeless men and women spent the night in the fellowship hall one weekend in January. Our guests were treated to hot meals, a warm place to sleep, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Because it was a harsh winter day of high winds and rain they stayed through the day instead of an early morning departure.

Over the summer we participated in CityTeam Ministries' Adopt-a-Student program. SCFBC members/attenders collected half a barrel full of new school supplies to help disadvantaged children in the bay area.

In late fall, members of the EDGE congregation coordinated an outreach activity of carrying dozens of bags of coats and blankets to San Francisco to distribute to the homeless.

Thank you to all of you who once again gave generously toward programs to spread the Gospel of Christ and provide relief to those in need. We received just under \$46,000 to support God's work locally, nationally and internationally.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>2008 Actual Giving</u>
Leo's Ministry		220.00
Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley	900	791.69
Correctional Institution Chaplaincy Ministries	\$1800	1583.37
CityTeam Ministries (San Jose)	\$3350	4501.01
New Hope Baptist Church/Limon School	2900	3011.92
EHC LifeBuilders	\$1980	1761.71
Redwood Glen Camp	\$2900	3,292.22
Regional Ministries	\$4725	4156.36
International Ministries	\$5850	5145.96
National Ministries	\$4725	4156.36
Seafarer's Ministry	\$2880	2628.40
ABSW Operating Budget	\$1575	1385.45
Gary & Mylinda Baits	\$1980	1741.71
Lauran Bethell	\$1980	1741.71
Glen & Rita Chapman	\$1980	1741.71
TOTAL	\$ 39525	37639.58
Special Offerings	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Actual Giving</u>
America for Christ	\$ 2,500	1,875.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 3,000	2602.00
World Mission Offering	\$ 3500	3309.50
Retired Ministers & Missionaries	\$ 1,000	569.00

Annual Report, Student Ministries

Jr High/High School

2008 was another fun filled year for the youth staff and students. Under the guidance of the 11 volunteer youth mentors, the groups had an action packed year full of fellowship, learning, and community.

One of the highlights of the year was the addition of a new member to God's family. **Victoria McGinnis** made a decision to follow Christ after her experience at the Winter Retreat. It was really awesome to see God work in her life over such a short period of time, as her first time in Reflect was the Wednesday before the Winter Retreat, and she accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior the next week after the Winter Retreat.

Our Jr High and High School worship bands continue to change, but still faithfully lead worship every Wednesday and Thursday night. **Jerry Cintas** leads the Jr High worship band on electric guitar with **Camille Cintas** on drums and **Carmen Cintas** on bass. The High School worship band is led by our newest mentor **Liz Poche** (a Reflect alumni), and consists of **Will Gregg** on bass, with **Jesse Hawkins** on drums. It is awesome to see the students using their musical abilities to glorify God, especially leading the entire congregation in worship as both groups did on Youth Sunday.

We have had many fun times together as we participated in: winter camps at Sierra Pines, summer camping retreats at Lake Berryessa, YouthQuake, mall hunts, laser tag, our annual Mountain Thrash, and many more fun events (a special thanks to the various families for the use of their vehicles over and over again, as well as the generous donation of the church van which we use quite often). For the third year, Reflect went on their **Mexico Outreach Mission Trip**. Seven youth (**Joseph Juarez, Cassie Harrell, Katrina DuBord, Wendy Gregg, Victoria McGinnis, Charlotte Gunn, and Matt Juarez**) challenged themselves by traveling to Ensenada, Mexico to host a Vacation Bible School (VBS) with *Rayo de Luz* in Colonia Libertad. These students, along with the high school mentors, and other adults had an experience of a lifetime, running a VBS in Spanish and working to repair the roof of the church. Most importantly we continued to build our relationship with Pastor Victor and his family.

The students continue to financially support two Compassion International children (Ariel from Honduras and Rafaela from Brazil). Additionally many youth spent their Saturdays building Bethlehem, and then participating in the church's largest outreach event of the year.

Our High School group, which meets on Wednesday nights, has an average attendance of 15 and our Junior High school group which meets on Thursday nights, averages over 19. We'd like to see both of these numbers increase next year and would like to see even more students be baptized into life long ministry. We were blessed this year with the addition of **Fion Cheng, Liz Poche, Amy Victorson, and Alexandra Brandon** to our expanding mentor base. We praise God often for this opportunity you entrusted to us. It is sheer joy to be here and a privilege to work with your youth and their friends.

The Youth Staff

Jerry Cintas	Jr. High Mentor	Jasmine Jackson	Jr. High Mentor
Fion Cheng	Jr. High Mentor	Christine Robbins	Jr. High Mentor
Amy Victorson	Jr. High Mentor	Liz Poche	High School Mentor
Danijela Tomic	High School Mentor	Sean Grizzle	High School Mentor
Alexandra Brandon	High School Mentor		
Andrew and Mary Wong		Jr. High and High School Mentors	

Annual Report, Worship

This has been a fulfilling year in the area of music and worship. We are committed to providing corporate worship opportunities in different styles to meet the needs of different people. We are also committed to facilitating worship experiences for the whole church family, crossing the boundaries of age and station in life.

EDGE Worship on Sunday nights continues to be an exciting ministry. Each week we see people with no previous connection to our church drawn to this service for its informal style and commitment to worship God in a creative way. I would like to thank everyone who serves in this ministry for their time, commitment and hearts for worship.

One highlight for the year again was “Worship in the Park”. It was a wonderful time of worship and did a lot for building a sense of community between the people of both services. Thank you to Adam Burdick and many other volunteers who fed over 300 people and the many people who brought friends and greeted people at the entrances to the park. All of your efforts helped to make a wonderful event for the church and community.

Sunday morning worship continues to be a mix of traditional and contemporary music. We feel that there is great value in both the richness and content of traditional music and the personal nature of contemporary worship choruses. The Shekinah! praise band continues to be thoroughly committed to worshipping our Lord and Savior. We have two teams who all have a heart to see the name of Jesus lifted up and serve faithfully leading us in worship through music. Those who run the slides and sound are the silent servants by allowing us to see and hear the words, music and sermon each week through their AV ministry. Thank you.

The choir ministered to us several times last year led by Susan Nguyen and grew in numbers under her leadership. Their voices helped deliver us into the presence of God as they sang praise to Him. Thank you to everyone who is committed to this important ministry.

From my perspective there is nothing more beautiful than to see God’s people glorify Him. We are created to worship and we will strive to provide a corporate experience that facilitates your worship of our Lord and King.

Sharon Cintas,
Worship Director

Annual Report, Children's Ministries

A year of change in the format and some of the programs for the Children's Ministry and a year of growth for the leadership.

We added the Kid's Worship segment to the Sunday morning program where the children learn not only songs, but the meaning and message of the song, the importance of praise and worship in their lives and how to practically apply what they learn to their everyday living. We also recognize birthdays, are learning the books of the Bible and the parts of the Bible and some scripture memory too.

We added 5 new members to the teaching team and now have a very stable and dedicated crew that is very dependable and dedicated to their ministry and the children. However, we are still in need of additional team members in order to reach my ultimate goal of a team (teacher/helper) in every class. We restructured some of the classes to meet the needs of the children and to best utilize the available workers.

We added monthly ministry meetings to our calendar for the leadership team which has helped us get to know each other and lets everyone have a more global view of the entire ministry, not just their class. This has enabled us to be able to prepare for Family Worship services, such as Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and VBS Sunday. It has also led to our ability to work together as one unit to provide a ministry-wide program during the 2009 Lent Season.

The children's ministry acquired about 40-50 chairs for free this year that we use during the Kid's Worship time.

We have doubled the volunteer staff in the Nursery with the ultimate goal of having 4 workers every Sunday during the Worship Hour – 2 for infants and 2 for toddlers. This is a continued work in progress, mainly in building the dependability and dedication of the volunteers.

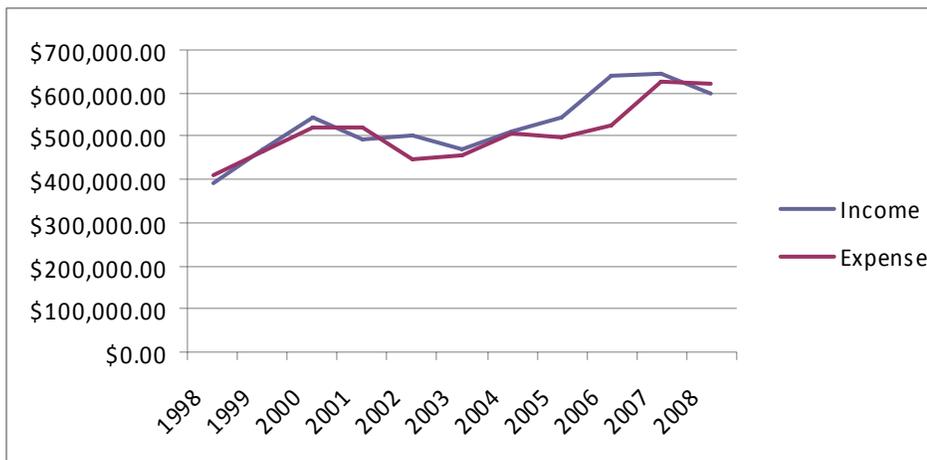
GOALS FOR 2009:

1. Continue to recruit additional teachers/helpers and spiritual growth and development of the leadership.
2. Growth in the number of children attending during Sunday School and Worship Hour.
3. Spiritual growth of the children resulting in professions of faith and baptisms.
4. Continued development of the programs that bring unity to the team and stability to the ministry.
5. Develop leaders and children who can duplicate themselves for more growth inside and outside the children's ministry.

Tammy Altizer Catterton,
Children's Ministries

Statement of Income and Expense

	2008	2007
Income	January -	January -
General Fund Income	423,218	428,071
Designated Fund Income	122,027	157,132
Memorials Fund Income	5,333	10,624
Missions Fund Income	49,427	48,998
	<u>600,005</u>	<u>644,825</u>
Total Income		
Expense		
General Fund Expense		
Payroll Ex-	244,051	221,739
Staff Ex-	50,267	40,684
Membership	3,457	2,720
Missions	11,349	12,510
Magnification	6,813	9,573
Property	84,208	78,740
Ministry	0	1,254
Maturity	30,953	34,783
Finance	13,843	13,912
	<u>444,941</u>	<u>415,915</u>
Other Funds		
Designated Fund Ex-		
pense	134,535	158,882
Missions Fund Ex-		
pense	44,037	50,384
	<u>178,572</u>	<u>209,266</u>
Total Expense	<u>623,513</u>	<u>625,181</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-23,509</u></u>	<u><u>19,644</u></u>



From 2002 - 2007, Santa Clara First Baptist Church was blessed with income that exceeded expenses for each calendar year. Such was not the case for 2008. Giving was down \$44,820 as compared with 2007 while expenses decreased only \$1,668. It is assumed this reduced income is due in part to the declining economy. The Board made a decision in early 2008, to set aside some of the income from 2007 for other needs. Part of this excess was used for new carpet in the Fellowship Hall and new plastic insert signs for the church sign. There was also a need to do much-needed maintenance and repairs around our aging facility. These expenses contributed to the loss for 2008.

Annual Report, Property

2008 was a very active year within the property dept. It was a very enjoyable year to see our property get some much needed repairs and upgrades. I cannot thank enough, all of the volunteers who gave of their time and talents to help keep our facilities in a good operating condition.

During 2008, the following was accomplished:

Fellowship Hall: This building got significant upgrades with the following items: Various doors were replaced. Old, non-working wall heaters were removed. The interior of the building was painted, including the Fireside Room. New carpeting was installed throughout! The kitchen stove got an upgraded “fire extinguisher system” installed which was required by the fire marshal. The kitchen also got a much needed new “food warmer” to keep the food fresh for our luncheons and dinners throughout the year!

Verizon Wireless: Verizon approached the church to install an antenna for their wireless service customers. Dave Wilson worked very hard to negotiate a good contract for the church to accept Verizon’s offer. No current start date has been established as of this writing for the work to start as it is dependant upon the “power” upgrade project which is being required by the City of Santa Clara.

Power Upgrade: The City of Santa Clara has required our church to “upgrade” the power supply coming into the church because of the current wireless providers (Sprint & T-Mobile). This is because all of the parties (Sprint, T-Mobile and SCFBC) are required to have their “own” respective electric meter. T-Mobile started their portion of the work without a permit and was “ordered” to stop work until plans and permits were in place!

A number of meetings were held with all of the interested parties to get all of the pieces together to make this project a reality. Plans were drawn, submitted to the city, revised, and then re-submitted for approval. No further update on this project is currently available. I expect to hear from the phone carriers soon to discuss project updates and scheduling of the project for 2009.

Church Van: A donation was made from 2 members of the church for the purchase of a church van. Jerry Cintas took the lead on this and found a late model, 15 passenger van to be used by the church for various activities and outings. Both Jerry Cintas and Andrew Wong have obtained the required “B” classification to drive the van with passengers. The van was used frequently on many different occasions.

Water Fountain: A new water fountain was installed near the playground.

Church Work Days: Many different projects were completed by a lot of volunteers!

Church Sign: The sign was given a fresh coat of paint by Adam B. and a new sign “insert” was designed and installed as well.

Renovation Plans: Numerous meetings and a “ton” of prayers went into the continuing work being done to get our sanctuary building upgraded to “modern times.” Final designs and changes were made in early fall and plans were submitted to the City of Santa Clara for approval. The plans were approved and a permit was issued in early Dec. 2008. More preparations and planning are ongoing for fundraising and support for this much needed project!

A Heart Felt Thanks: As 2008 closed out, I could not help but look back at what got accomplished during the year by SO MANY OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY! I did not mention all of the “little” things that so many of you do from day to day that “help” keep “God’s House” running! So, to all of you I give a very special “Heartfelt Thanks”!

Your Faithful Servant,

Mike Depew – Property Deacon

Annual Report, Magnification

Easter Decorations

Easter decorations were purchased and placed in the sanctuary for this year's Easter service with the intent of using them on an annual basis. Feedback was very positive, and the flower decorations remained on the cross through spring.

New Church Sign

As part of the spending of last year's budget surplus, the Diaconate agreed to install a new church sign insert on the playground lawn sign. Jonathan Fung coordinated with a graphic designer in Oregon, and Joe Lasher printed the sign at his company. Adam Burdick painted the sign frame black to better match the new design. The new sign was installed in November.

Greeters

Chelsea Trigg volunteered to be the head greeter for the morning and EDGE services, recruiting volunteers for both services.

Tim McLenegan,
Magnification Deacon