

# 2011 Annual Report to The People of God of Joy Lutheran Church

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# AGENDA

## ITEM

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- A. Call to Order
  - B. Approval of Agenda
  - C. Devotion & Hymn
  - D. Approval of 2011 Minutes
  - E. Approval of 2011 Financial Reports
    - Report & Approval of the Audit Committee Report
    - Resolution of Options for addressing 2011 deficit: (printed ballot)
    - Resolution to provide emergency cash flow funds.
  - F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote on new Joy Constitution (printed ballot)
  - G. State of the Congregation - John Garrou, Chairperson
  - H. State of the Congregation - Pastor Christ
  - I. Audio/Visual Celebration of our 2011 Ministry
  - K. Adjournment, Closing Prayer & Benediction
- 

### Joy Lutheran Church Council — 2011

#### Executive Team

Chairperson — John Garrou  
Secretary — Terri Clark (staff)  
Financial Sec. — David Willis\*

Vice-Chair — Larry Mikeska  
Treasurer — Beth Horstman\*  
Pastor — Tim Christ

#### Leadership Team

Evangelism — Weldon Faucett  
FDIC — Tracy Posey  
Property — Mike Meyer  
Stewardship — Tim Work

Communication — Larry Mikeska  
JoyLife — Tammy Soward  
Social Ministry — Laura Cabato  
Worship & Music — Vacant

\*= Appointed Position

## Joy Lutheran Church

Unapproved Minutes from Congregational Meeting, Part 1, December 4, 2011

1. **In attendance: 47 voting members**
2. **Approval of Printed Agenda - Approved as written**
3. **Call to Order by John Garrou at 12:18 p.m.**
4. **Calling of Council Leadership: Laura Cabato, John Garrou, Tracy Posey - call for nominations.** Discussion. Motion for vote. Council stands as approved.
5. **2012 Proposed Ministry Spending Guide - Discussion and questions.** Motion to approve the 2012 Spending Guide. 33 in favor; 9 opposed.
6. **North American Lutheran Church actions (written ballot per NALC request)**
  - Ratification of "full-communion" with EECMY - paper ballot handed out - Discussion and explanation.
  - Ratification of NALC Constitution - paper ballot handed out - Discussion and explanation.
7. **"Sense" Motion on Joy Constitution & By-Laws - Continue with vote today for approval of new constitution.**
8. **First Reading and approval of the Joy Constitution & By-Laws as presented.** Discussion on Constitution and By-Laws. Change to by-law 13.04.01 to show Executive Committee to Officers. Motion to approve Joy Constitution and By-Laws passed with 3/4 votes.
9. **Annual meeting is recessed until Part 2, date to be announced.**
10. **Closed with Prayer & the "Our Father" at 1:00 p.m.**

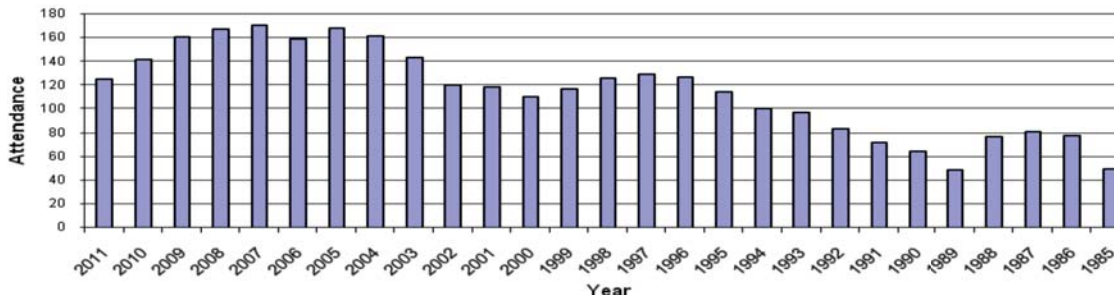
## Joy Lutheran Church

Unapproved Minutes from Congregational Meeting, Part 2, held January 30, 2011

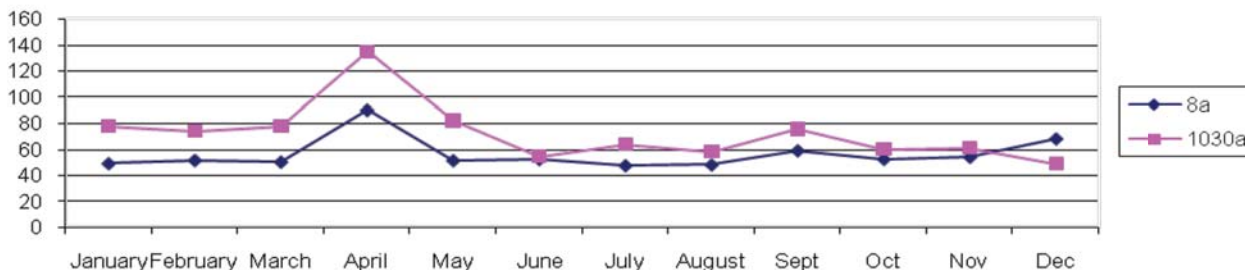
- A. In attendance: 58
- B. Approval of Printed Agenda - Approved as written
- C. Call to Order by John Garrou at 1:02 p.m.
- D. Devotion & Hymn lead by Pr. Tim Christ
- E. Approval of 2010 Minutes - Approved as written.
- F. Approval of 2010 Financial Reports - Not approved due to a correction on Savings Account with a total of \$239,088.85 and total of all Funds \$. Will resend a copy of the Financial Reports to the congregation.
- G. Presentation by Becky Ohm on SIM - Serving In Mission.
- H. Companion in Joy to the World, Pastor Joshua Ong, Church of the Living God - Video presentation and questions answered by Pr. Ong.
- I. New Business
  - **Resolution on Affiliation** - John Garrou read the resolution to congregation. Video presentation. Discussion. Pending a 2<sup>nd</sup> vote to sever from the ELCA and Synod Council Approval. Was stated the congregation opted to leave, this was intentionally left off. There is a requirement to be affiliated with another Lutheran body before leaving the ELCA. We will need to state to ELCA that we have the intention of joining the NALC or another church body. Revised resolution distributed. Motion by Fred to end the statement at 2<sup>nd</sup> vote to terminate relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Seconded by Lloyd Randel. Motion passes Motion to vote by Lou Gross to cut off discussion, seconded by Darin Mielke. Motion passes. Motion to join NALC passes with no opposition.
  - **Resolution on Disbursement of Benevolence** - John Garrou read the resolution to congregation. Discussion opened, no discussion. Vote called, no opposition, motion passes.
- J. Annual Report - no questions.
- K. Audio/Visual Celebration of our 2010 Ministry by Beth Horstman
- L. State of the Congregation - John Garrou, Chairperson.
- M. State of the Congregation - Pastor Tim Christ
- N. Adjournment, motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m. Meeting adjourned. Closing Prayer & Benediction

# Performance Stats

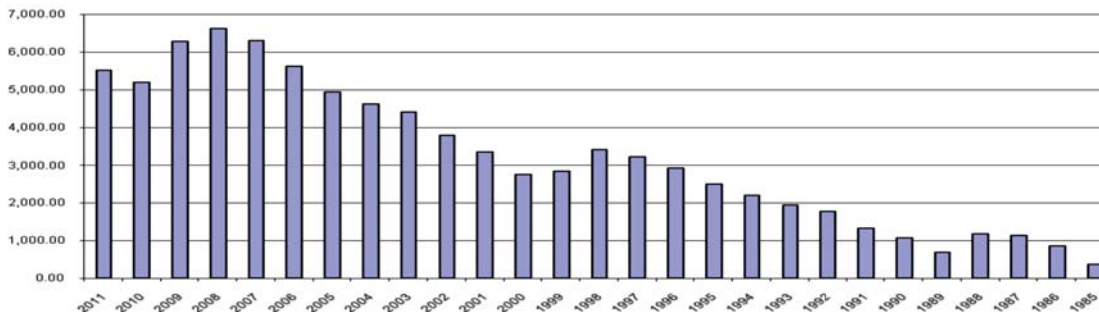
## Annual Average Worship Attendance



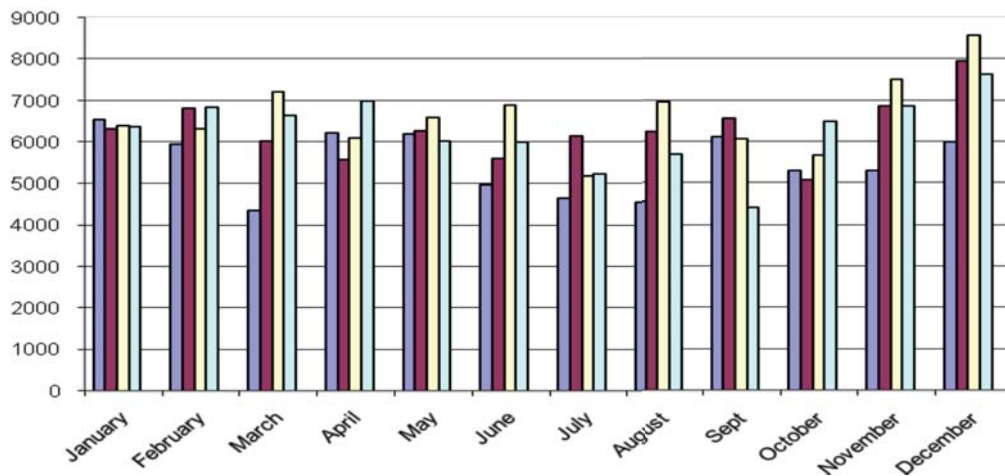
## Joy Worship by Service - 2011



## Joy Lutheran Annual Average Weekly Offering - General Fund



## Joy Average Weekly Offering to General Fund by Month - 2011 / 10 / 09 / 08



# PAROCHIAL REPORT

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**Membership January 1, 2011**

**Baptized: 364\***

**Confirmed: 332\***

**TRANSFERS OUT**

Peska, William & Hazel	05/30/11	2	2
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**RELEASED**

Carleton, Gregg & Irene	02/01/11	2	2
Lloyd, Mark & Lisa Garrett	12/18/11	3	2
Mayo, Sam & Michelle Katelyn, Kira, Shelby	12/18/11	5	5

**DEATHS:**

Schatz, Felba	11/15/11	1	1
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**NEW MEMBERS BY TRANSFER:**

Lloyd, Mark & Lisa Garrett	04/24/11	3	2
Scheffer, James & Jennifer Anna	04/24/11	3	2

**NEW MEMBERS BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Kelley, David & Nancy Christina, Christopher, Davey, Courtney, Paige Young	04/24/11	7	5
Sheridan, Gretchen	04/24/11	1	1

**CHILD BAPTISM:**

Garrou, Chloe	05/08/11	1	
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**CONFIRMATION:**

Timothy Hamner	10/30/11		1
Joshua John	10/30/11		1
Timberlake, Abigail	10/30/11		1

**Membership December 31, 2011**

**Baptized: 366\***

**Confirmed: 333\***

\* = Includes Associate and Inactive members.

# Church Council Actions 2011

## January

- Chair moves that the Resolution for Disbursement of Benevolence be presented to the Congregation at Part 2 of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Recommended by Laura Cabato to amend Resolution to show Parks Youth Ranch in place of Fort Bend Homeless Center. Seconded by Tracy Posey. Motion for amendment passes. Vote on Resolution for Disbursement - motion passes.

## February

- Close all Bank Accounts at Compass Bank - Resolution to close all savings accounts and checking accounts at Compass bank. The checking account will be closed after all checks have cleared. Moved by Pr. Christ. Seconded by Weldon Faucett. Motion passes.
- Open new accounts at Wells Fargo Bank.
- There is currently an account at Wells Fargo with approx. \$900 for Inter Lutheran group with St. Paul's and Peace Lutheran Churches. Would like to donate those funds to NALC.

## March

- NALC Process - Pastor process for roster. - All steps necessary for Pastor Tim has been completed. A letter will be sent by Bishop Spring to Bishop Rinehart following the Synod Council Meeting. A letter will need to be sent to the Board of Pensions indicating that Joy has changed to a Non-ELCA church body. Motion for Joy to change from an ELCA church body to a non-ELCA church body. Motion by Larry Mikeska, Seconded by Tracy Posey. Motion passes.
- Lenten Funds - To be used for purchasing bibles for the church and Parks Youth Ranch and yarn for Afghans. Motion by John Garrou to use Lenten Funds, seconded by Laura Cabato.
- Accounts have been closed at Compass Bank and have been opened at Wells Fargo. Will have direct deposit for payroll checks. Form will be developed for individuals receiving payroll who want to have direct deposit.
- The Inter-Lutheran funds will be left in a savings account for future mission work. Pr. Tim, Pr. Claude and Pr. Norm agreed upon this.

## April

- Motion by John Garrou to move Mexico, Previous Years Lenten funds and Fellowship Hall Renovation funds a total of \$4,229.23 to Cash Reserve. Seconded by Tim Work. Motion passes.
- Joy officially with the NALC. Pastor is rostered with the NALC.

## July

- Church envelopes - compared envelope prices between two companies and recommend going with Church budget envelopes. Motion by Mike Meyer to purchase offering envelopes with changes recommended by stewardship. Seconded by Laura Cabato. Motion passes.

## August

- Move to have the Men's bible study develop a policy for Baptizing a child and parental responsibility. Seconded by John Garrou. Discussion. Motion passes.

## October

- North Carolina Trip registration: Larry motioned, that those attending have registration and meals paid. Tracy seconded. Motion passed.
- Cookbooks - monies are currently in pass-thru - Motion to assign profits to Joyful Women, moved by Tracy, seconded by Larry: motion carried.
- Larry moved, Mike seconded to send 30-old LBW's to NALC mission in Corpus Christi.

## November

- Local Mission Funds 2011: Laura motioned, Tracy 2<sup>nd</sup> to recommend expending 2011 Self-directed Local Funds to the Oromo Church to be voted on by the congregation at the Dec. 4 meeting. In addition Larry motioned, Laura 2<sup>nd</sup> to recommend expending 2011 NA/Afri/Hispanic Funds to Shade Tree Ministries to be voted on by the congregation at the Dec. 4 meeting.

## Options for addressing results of the 2011 deficit

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Please refer to 2011 Activity Accounts Summary. Under the checking Account: Designated Funds — *Self-Directed Local Ministry* (\$8,835)<sup>1</sup> and the *N.A./African/Hispanic Ministry* (\$1,473.50)<sup>2</sup> has not yet been dispersed, due to the necessity of the cash flow deficit resulting from the congregation under-funding the 2011 Ministry Spending Guide.

At the November council meeting, the council passed a resolution to commit the *Self-Directed Local Ministry* (\$8,835) Benevolence Funds to the Oromo Christian Fellowship and the *N.A./African/Hispanic Ministry* (\$1,473.50) Benevolence Funds to Shade Tree Ministries.

What can, might or should be done?

Council arrived at three (3) options to place before the congregation:

1. Resolved that Joy Lutheran zero out the aforementioned designated benevolence funds without disbursement.
  2. Resolved that Joy Lutheran authorize disbursement of the aforementioned designated benevolence funds utilizing monies from the Capitol Fund Wells Fargo account.
  3. Roll over the aforementioned designated benevolence funds and challenge the congregation to make up the deficit in 2012.
- ❖ **Be it resolved** that Joy Lutheran authorize the use of Capital fund Wells Fargo account as emergency funds to maintain a balanced spending guide cash flow if congregational stewardship fails to fulfill their obligation to meet the expenses of the 2012 spending guide, for fiscal 2012 only.

# ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS

## Annual Pastoral Report

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To the disciples of Jesus at Joy,

It has been a challenging, joy filled and yet exhausting year of ministry together with you at Joy. During the course of 2011 we severed our relationship with the ELCA, became a part of the NALC, and have striven to follow our Lord in the midst of this radically changing landscape of affiliations and relationships. It has touched every one of our lives to a lesser or greater degree.

The challenges and outcomes of the past year have been numerous; persons with whom we shared ministry no longer present here with us, new disciples growing as they find their places as part of this community of faith, the normal impact of these affecting participation, stewardship, and ministry at many levels. I am grateful to, and encouraged by, all who remained faithful - regardless of the challenges - so that our ongoing ministry to the community we've been called to serve has continued as best as God has empowered us.

An unavoidable challenge faced your council leadership throughout the year in stewardship. Last year, we as a congregation, promised to provide at little over \$331,000 to accomplish our ministry. As a congregation, we failed to fulfill this promise, providing only \$294,035.18 for our ministry, 89% of what we promised. As a result I believe every council leader is deserving of a heartfelt "thank-you" from each of us for their yeoman's work of stewarding our reduced offerings to accomplish as much of the ministry we set out to do in 2011 as possible.

The council accomplished this by spending only 93% of what was promised. This did leave us with a deficit of just under \$15,000. This deficit was managed due to extremely prudent fiscal policies employed by the council, through the utilization of emergency funds remaining from years past, and not disbursing some be- nevolences we had promised which resulted in us being able to maintain a positive cash flow. However, it does leave us with some decisions to make as a congregation as we go forward. Council determined to provide at least 3 options for congregational consideration, as well as a resolution to authorize the leadership with some room to continue to manage cash flow in 2012.

These options and resolution were not arrived at lightly. The council takes their role very seriously and together have expended considerable prayer, thought, discussion and energy in seeking to faithfully guide the congregation. We pray that all of us will exhibit this same depth of prayer, thought and commitment to our mission and ministry as we contemplate these options as we move forward with our future ministry in 2012.

The other item for consideration is the 2<sup>nd</sup> vote on a new constitution and by-laws. Per constitutional rules, the new constitution and by-laws, having already passed a first vote, cannot be altered or amended for the second vote (the exception limited to grammatical and spelling corrections). Of course, once passed, it can then be amended as we see fit in the future as we proceed forward in our ministry.

It has been a challenging time to be Christ's Church! But it has been, and always shall be, an exciting time to be Christ's Church! I am certain that as we commit ourselves to follow Jesus, our best days continue to be before us, beckoning us onward into God's glorious and eternal future!

Your brother in Christ,

*Pr. Tim Christ, sts*

## Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Grace and Peace to you all. First and foremost, I would like to thank God for allowing me to serve Him here at Joy and I look forward to the coming years as we go forth in our mission of Joy to the world.

This past year was very busy for Joy as we underwent several big changes: starting the year as a charter member of the North American Lutheran Church, developing a new constitution and celebrating our 25th anniversary just to name a few.

Our 25th anniversary celebration was a success because of the time, talent and attendance of everyone involved. We all enjoyed great food, fun and fellowship and were honored to have Dr. Gemechis Buba as our special guest. We all look forward to another faithful and blessed 25 years.

Joining the North American Lutheran Church brought the disciples of Joy both excitement and stress. As with any change comes concerns and questions. During this time of transition, we need to continue to focus on our mission commanded to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At the same time, as members of the Body of Christ, we need to continue to be good stewards of the time and resources provided by our Lord. I pray for God's guidance and peace upon his disciples as we go into the New Year.

As we enter 2012, I am excited to see Joy continuing to be people of prayer and faithful worship, to study God's word and to serve people in the community and beyond. The fruits of the spirit are alive and well at Joy Lutheran Church.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their prayerful support and encouragement during my tenure on council. May God continue to bless Joy Lutheran Church and its disciples.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*

In Christ

*John Garrou,* Council Chairperson

## Communications

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This was a very exciting year in the life of Joy Lutheran Church. We became a charter member of the newly formed North American Lutheran Church. The national leadership of the NALC was expecting to have 100 member congregations at the end of the first year. That number grew to 200 and now at eighteen months there are over 300 congregations with 25 located in Texas.

My regular activities include:

- Submitting weekly information to the Fort Bend Herald newspaper with standard worship information and special activities that may be scheduled.
- Updating the Joy website weekly with the toolkit, daily devotions, and congregational activities including Ft Bend community activities that we support.
- Post the monthly newsletter to the website and update the weekly scripture readings for preparation of Sunday morning worship.
- Keep the Joy marquee sign current, (with much help from Helen Pittard) with scheduled activities and messages of inspiration.

- I email the monthly NALC and Lutheran Core newsletters to the congregation. If you ever want more detail on a particular subject presented, please contact me and I will make every effort to gather more information if available.

I want to say a big, thank you to our audio/video operators; Beth Horstman, James Goates, Matt Lyons & Kevin Loewe for their continued dedication. Their efforts are much appreciated. There is always a need for more audio and video volunteers. If you are interested in helping in this area, please contact me.

In August I attended the Lutheran Core Convocation, Theological Conference, and the NALC Convocation in Columbus, Ohio, as Joy's delegated representative. The NALC constitution and some resolutions were approved by the delegation and submitted to the congregations for ratification. These were presented at our Congregational Meeting, part one and approved.

If you have a question or comment about something, please let me know. I always appreciate your feedback at [lmikeska@swbell.net](mailto:lmikeska@swbell.net).

Thank you for the privilege to serve you this past year.

*Larry Mikeska*, Communications Chairperson

## **Evangelism**

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This past year, two Incredible Journey/New Disciple activities were planned, however due to a scheduling conflict, only one was conducted.

Thanks to my committee of one (my wife - Kathy) assisted by Debbie Mannella, JOY welcomed into our family the James and Jennifer Scheffer family; the David and Nancy Kelley family, and Gretchen Sheridan and look forward to serving them during the coming years.

Presently an Incredible Journey and New Disciple orientation is planned during March, 2012.

I would like to thank all of the Joy Disciples for their prayers and support for your council and me during the past year, which has been extremely busy and exciting due to the change to the NALC. Great things appear to be in our future.

*Weldon Faucett*, Evangelism Chairperson

## **FDIC (Faith Development in Christ)**

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### **Faith Development in Christ (FDIC) Annual Report for 2011**

The FDIC ministry covers a multitude of programming which includes teaching Christian education for Nursery ages 2-3 through high school, milestone ministries, Camp Joy, college age and young adult ministry, reaching out to the community and beyond and many other ways to live out our faith on a daily basis as disciples of Christ. These ministries within Joy give us the opportunity to intentionally deepen and build relationships with each other. We model FDIC after the 4 faith keys that were developed by the Youth and Family Institute.

These 4 keys consist of:

- ❖ **Caring Conversations**
- ❖ **Family Devotions**
- ❖ **Family Service**
- ❖ **Family Rituals and Traditions**

These keys not only strengthen the faith life of individuals and communities within households, they also serve as the means to strengthen congregational vitality through healthy, nurturing faithful homes. With this in mind, our goal is to get our faith life present in worship, in our homes and in our everyday lives. Recognizing awareness and acknowledging God's presence in everything we do deepens us spiritually and serves as a reminder that He is with us, always.

*Romans 8:38-39*

**Highlights from Adult Christian Education:**

- Adult Sunday school continues to help adults in their faith journey by modeling to our children and youth that we all continue to grow in faith by studying the bible.
- Adults are encouraged to attend Joy 101 and Joy 201.
- Financial Peace University classes held in the fall.

**Highlights from Sunday school:**

- *Growing in Christ*, a lectionary-based curriculum is the current educational program being used for Nursery ages 2-3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- For Rally day, we combined it with our 25-year anniversary celebration. We had a great time at St. Johns Anglican Church with face painting, sack races, photo booth, moonwalk, duck pond, and games.
- Commissioning service done at both services to commission the Sunday school teachers.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt/Scramble hosted by the youth for kids of all ages along with the annual Easter Breakfast done for the congregation and free will donations were accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

**Highlights from Milestone Ministry:**

- Graduates from Joy were celebrated in May and gifted with Laundry bags that had the Joy logo and a music CD/DVD combo called *ConGRADulations 5* from Interlinc ministries. We also featured a display of each graduate in the fellowship hall for the month of May.
- Beginning Confirmation worship celebration participants were presented with a bible cover.
- Reformation Sunday recognized 3 Confirmands, Abby Timberlake, Josh John and Timothy Hamner. Confirmation Banners were made by the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and presented along with a t-shirt.
- Baptism banners and faith chests are still given at new Baptisms. A new book for Godparents and a baptismal keepsake card has been added to help teach and encourage us to live out our baptismal promises.
- Sexual Integrity, True Love Waits milestone/purity ring celebrated in January 2011 with 8 young people committing to remain pure until marriage.

**Highlights from Sr. and Jr. High Ministry Team:**

- First Sunday of every month is "Coffee House" where the youth just hang out, eat and build relationships.
- Fellowship, servant and fundraising activities included Dune Restoration project, helped with Summer Sunday School and Camp Joy, hosted Easter breakfast, Astros Game and David Crowder concert, gift wrapping at Krause House with ice skating, and our Annual Christmas party.
- Graduation milestone celebrated for the grads that are ready to begin a new chapter in their lives. This year we included a display table in the fellowship hall. During worship, they were recognized, blessed and given a gift.

- Confirmation students on 3 teams with guides, Amy Cabato, Lori Hamner and Alan Schoppe. The parental support is awesome as they continue to prepare dinner for the group and encourage the kids to participate in servant and fellowship activities. Pastor Tim and Beth Horstman are the instructors.
- 2 youth attended confirmation camp at Luther Hill this year with adult sponsors Tracy Posey
- End of year Christmas party dinner for Jr. and Sr. High and parents hosted by the Timberlake's

#### **Highlights from College Aged Young Adult Ministry:**

- Thanks to Corinne Light for taking the lead on this ministry.
- Care packages sent at the beginning and end of the semesters and the goodies provided by parents and other disciples of Joy.

#### **Highlights from Camp Joy:**

- 27 children (approx. 70% non-members), 7 mini campers, 15 youth staff, great parental support along with 4 staff from Lutherhill made Camp Joy another successful event. This year's theme was "Love Wins".
- Used last year's schedule from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with the mini campers arriving at 5:30.
- Participants were asked to bring their own snacks and dinner was served family style with each dinner beginning and ending with a Lutherhill style blessing. Thanks to everyone on the entire awesome Kitchen Krew for coordinating and all the parents that helped out in various roles.
- The service project theme was "Erasing the Storm". Participants were asked to bring school supplies to be donated to an Elementary school that was in North Carolina on base at Camp Lejeune that was hit over the summer by deadly tornados. Each item donated yielded a pink heart to post in our cross display by covering up and erasing the storm and its damage photos by showing Christ's love.
- Kristen Canterbury came and gave a presentation on snake safety and had many varieties of snakes for the kids to learn about and touch and feel.
- We had the waterslide return again for a great splash day with Bon fire, s'mores and outside worship.

#### **Highlights from Summer:**

- Summer Sunday school theme this year was Inside out and Upside Down on Main Street, where Jesus makes a difference every day!
- Through the summer kids of all ages experienced God's Word at Parable Productions by acting out 5 parables on our main stage, had fun creating crafts with a purpose at Fun Factory that tied into each parable they learned, and enjoyed snacks at the Brown Bag Bistro to finish up the parable before moving on to the next. Through it all, they learned that Jesus turned His world inside out and upside down with His stories, and with His help they can make a difference in other people's lives too!

The words on the street we focused on and learned were gratitude is more important than whining, compassion is always in fashion, forgiveness has no limits, grace is always welcome and faithfulness always adds up! The kids really had a wonderful time over the summer and thank you to the leaders and parents that helped make it a big success.

#### **Faith Life in the Home Resources:**

- Lenten devotions this year was: Let God's people go daily devotions for Lent.
- Advent family activity was also held during SS this year in support of the "passing on the faith" model. Thanks to Martha Willis for the crafts for the kids. There were bead crosses, felt banners and Jesus mobile's with prayers.
- Advent at home family devotional advent wreath was Prayer and promises this year.

### **FDIC looking toward the future:**

- Institute Standard Operating Procedure for FDIC that will document different areas of ministry with in Joy to hand out for new members, and to have guidelines to adhere to.
- Incorporate some different types of training ideas and techniques for teachers and volunteers.
- Implement a children's ministry coordinator for Pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Recognize more milestones in faith.

In His Service,

*Tracy Posey*, FDIC Chairperson

### **Joyful Women**

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We were blessed to have able new leadership in Bible Studies as Denyse Bray led a study on The Trinity in the Spring, Becky Ohm led a video series by Gary Smalley titled "Hidden Keys to Loving Relationships" in the Summer, and Vickie Shoppe led the study of Acts in the Fall.

A trip was organized to view The Tabernacle Experience, an interactive replica of the Tabernacle with commentary on how Jesus fulfilled all of the Old Testament worship requirements.

Our annual Cookie Share was held in December with Kathy Behrman's dramatic presentation bringing us vivid "witness" stories from the characters surrounding Jesus at his birth, "The Journeys of Christmas". Many delicious cookies were brought and shared with those in attendance as well as Family Promise, Parks Youth Ranch, and disciples of Joy who are homebound.

The faithful ladies who knit prayer shawls continue to meet at Mugz on Fridays and have given away approximately 40 prayer shawls including ones to the VA, Parks Youth Ranch, and individuals.

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary Eva Randel and Kimberly Randel compiled and printed a new Joyful Women Cookbook.

Thanks to all the Joyful Women who participate in support of each other as we grow in knowledge and love of our Lord and reach out to others.

In His Service,

*June Tesch*, WELCA and Joyful Women Chairperson

### **Joy Life**

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Joy Life has had a joyful time this year bringing the congregation together for fellowship, food and fun. We were so blessed with such wonderful times spent together this year.

In January we started off the year at the Annual Meeting with a delicious Potluck meal. Thanks to all who helped serve and brought such great food to share. Lenten Soup suppers were very well prepared this year. We had such great selections of soups to choose from and great friends to enjoy them with. In 2011 we decided to redo our Joy Directory with Olan Mills. It has been so nice to have a pictorial church directory again that for everyone to have. Thanks to all who came out and had their pictures taken. A special thanks to Beth Hortsman who worked very hard pulling the directory together and a special thanks to John Garrou who designed the cover.

This year we celebrated Joy's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What a wonderful celebration we had in August combining with Rally Day at the Old South Plantation. Even though it was VERY HOT, we all had such a wonderful time reminiscing the past 25 years together and how incredible it was to have our very special guest speaker, Dr. Buba delivering a wonderful message to start our next 25 years together. A very special thanks to all the hard work of preparing such a great event. Special thanks to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning team, Kathy Gann, Beth Horstman, Laura Cabato, Doris Goates, Tracy Posey, Pastor Tim Christ, Kathy Fawcett and also a special thanks to Lindsey Strode for the pictures and to the Strode's for donating the Photo Booth for the day to capture some great pictures. The children had such fun playing all the games and in the Bounce House, the karaoke was great and the food was delicious. Thanks to "It's the Pitts Cookers for the delicious barbeque. This event was definitely a highlight of my year, thank you so much to everyone for making this a great day!

In December we finished off the year with bringing back the tradition of the Progressive Dinner. Thank you so much to our host house, June and Bob Tesch, Vickie and Allen Schoppe, and Kathy and Mike Gann. The houses were so warm and inviting with beautiful Christmas decorations and we are so grateful of their generosity to host the events. The food and fellowship were so great, thanks to all who helped and who donated such tasty food. We all enjoyed everything so much and look forward to continuing this tradition again next year. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and preparing for the true meaning of Christmas.

So thanks to all who have made this year so wonderful by helping Joy Life, it was a great year and I am looking forward to all of the things we can do in 2012 to celebrate Joy in our community and taking Joy to the World!

*Psalm 16:11 <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

*Tammy Soward,* Joy Life Chairman

## Property Report

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The year 2011 started with the replacement of one of four central air conditioning units and the cost was over \$7,000. Approximately half of the cost was made up through white envelope donations.

The last of the three large pecan trees was cut down in the Spring. The tree was struck by lightning the previous Summer and subsequently died from the damage and the drought. Several Joy volunteers helped in taking the tree down safely without incident. Mike Posey provided the manlift used to access the upper portions of the tree which was posing a threat to the neighbors property. The cost of transporting the manlift was the only cost incurred which was about \$500. The manlift was also used to take the aerial photograph for Joy's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure.

Later in September it was necessary to replace the window unit air conditioner in the Gathering Place. The unit was the original unit that came with the building. The cost of replacement was around \$350.

Due to the burn ban in Fort Bend County it was necessary to discontinue the practice of burning limbs and debris on Joy's property. The burn pile has been eliminated permanently and any future such debris will be bagged or bundled for the trash service to pick up just as it is done in most residential sub-divisions. Since the burn pile had become a dumping ground for persons unknown it was necessary to contract the debris to be removed at a cost of \$325. Franks Nursery removed the debris which included limbs, lumber, playground equipment with hardware, plexiglass panels and a car tire.

Thanks to all who helped in any way whether financially or with their time, talents or labor in keeping Joy's property an inviting and safe place to worship God in 2011.

*Mike Meyer,* Property Chairman

## Social Ministry

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### Feeding the Hungry

- **Fort Bend Helping Hands**, the local food pantry who also provides services such as gently used clothes and sometimes assists those in need with paying a bill. We have a cart in the entryway that collects food donations weekly. Debbie Mannella frequently delivers that food as well as picking up day old bread and taking it to Helping Hands. Rod and Laura Cabato represented Joy at their annual Helping Hands Gala, which is their biggest fund raising event. Matt Lyon's sent a donation. Contact Laura Cabato or Debbie Mannella for information on assisting with this ministry.
- **Crop Hunger Walk**, sponsored by the World Church Services. We had a good turn out with Beth Horstman, Kathy Gann, Kathy and Lindsay Strode, Tracy, Mike and Hayden Posey and Laura Cabato. There were others that were sponsors and gave money. We raised over \$1,000 again. Funds are used worldwide as well as a percentage used locally.
- **Fort Bend Family Promise**, a mobile homeless shelter for families in Fort Bend County. Joy doesn't have the facilities to house families so we participate by providing meals on the weeks that the families are in a motel. This was done one week quarterly this year. Joy Disciples fulfilled this by either food donations or money that was donated. Shirley Morris delivers the meals and money. Many of Joy's disciples participated, to name a few; Duane & Carol Boenig, Steve & Mary Budd, Rick & Paula Curry, Weldon & Kathy Faucett, Mike & Kathy Gann, James and Doris Goates, Beth Horstman, Crystal and Paul Kropf, Fred & Jill Kunzler, Ron & Corinne Light, Gene & Debra Mannella, Darwin & Bev Marvin, Betty McDow, Larry & Melissa Mikeska, Milton & Jeanette Richards, Pat Shipp, Dan & Kathy Strode, Bob & June Tesch, Everett & Shena Timberlake, and Sandra Wohlert. I am sure someone has been left out and I apologize but you can be sure that Christ knows. In December some of the Sr. High youth helped cook and deliver a meal. They were invited to stay and visit with some of those that they were serving. After the cookie share in December, cookies were also delivered to the families who were at the family shelter in Fort Bend County.
- **Shade Tree Ministry**, Joy works along side with St. Laurence Catholic Church. Meals are provided twice a week at two locations, one in Richmond and the other in Rosenberg for those who are outside hoping to get work. The ministry also provides rice, beans, tortillas, and jalapeno peppers that are packaged for them to take home. Items such as coats, heavy blankets, hats, shoes, and t-shirts are also handed out when available. During Thanksgiving, St. Laurence and Joy provided frozen turkeys and sides for dinners. Pastor Christ and Darwin Marvin loaded and pulled the trailer to distribute the meals with David and Martha Willis and others. David and Martha Willis deliver sandwiches and other food faithfully on Tuesday and Fridays. Bob Jahn has been helping also when Sue's health permits. Along with feeding the body they help to feed these people spiritually by providing dual Spanish/English Bibles, New Testaments, tracts and audio bibles in Spanish on mp3 players. The youth have taken interest in this ministry and have also helped to make peanut butter sandwiches occasionally. This actually led to many others getting together on Monday and Thursday evenings to prepare sandwiches and packaging rice, beans, and tortilla's to be delivered. Some of the people who have been faithful assisting are: Kathy & Weldon Faucett; Joyce Hopkins & Ewald Lopata; Tom & Chris Hubbard; Fred & Jill Kunzler; Lee Lindemann; Beverly & Darwin Marvin; Candace, Cameron & Aryn Rieder; and Bob & June Tesch. Again this isn't everyone to those I have missed - thank you. This ministry is about helping those who are trying to help themselves. Contact David and Martha Willis if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

### Caring for the Alone Ones

- **Bears, blankets and books ministry** (A Cozy Little Christmas) was supported again this year. The Fort Bend Family Services in Richmond established this ministry. The response to this was huge again this year and helped provide many items to the 300 children enrolled in this program.
- **Krause Center**: The Jr. and Sr. High also helped again with gift-wrapping at the Krause Center.

- **"Adopt a Family"**: This year we did something new with "Adopt a Family". We adopted 4 families this year with school age children in the Richmond area. Again the response was overwhelming. Not only gifts for the children were donated and wrapped, but also food and family gifts such as blankets, sheets and towels were given. The Sr. High students delivered the gifts. There was even a special appearance from Santa (thanks to Andrew Cabato).

### Sharing Christ in Our Community

- **It's the Pitts Cookers**, which Joy started to sponsor in 2009 held their annual Fish Fry and Fund-raiser Auction in August and was supported by many of Joy's Disciples. They had a record amount of money raised. They were able to buy animals for the 4-H and FFA youth with special needs or circumstances as well as assisting three wounded veterans and their families who are in need. It's the Pitts Cookers treated Joy with BBQ at Joy's 25<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary. Contact Pastor Christ or Beth Horstman.
- **Nursing Home Ministry** is lead by Joyce and Ewald Hopkins. They are providing joy to the residents of Brazos View and sometimes Richmond Health Care. They deliver Magazines on an ongoing basis, which is provided by Joy Disciples as well as others. Joyce has headed up many social events throughout the year, including birthday parties or celebrating special occasions. They frequently visit the rooms of those who don't make it to the other events. Crafts that Joyce make are also handed out as well goodie bags she puts together. June Tesch, Martha Willis, Jill Kunzler and other members of Joy also make visits to some of the residents.
- **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** is organized by Kathy Faucett. It is held once a week at Mugz on Hwy 359. They meet for fellowship and knitting of prayer shawls and other blankets. This year 14 lap shawls ere knitted, bless and delivered to the VA Hospital and given to Veteran's in need. 22 Afghans were knitted, blessed and given to the Parks Youth Ranch.
- **The Parks Youth Ranch**, which is a temporary shelter for homeless and troubled teens. As things have picked up with an increase of youth they were unable to provide an afghan for each youth but they bring about 10 or more at a time when they are completed. Money from the Lenten services and Social Ministry budget help with buying the yarn. Kathy and Weldon Faucett also delivered cookies from the Cookie Share from the Joyful Women December event. We continue to work with Linda Shultz the Executive Director.

### Sharing Christ beyond our Borders.

- We continue to provide assistance to the Big Heart Orphanage and Iglesia Luterana de Cristo Rey in Reynosa.

There have been so many ministries working to help those in need; all of them overlap FDIC, Evangelism, Joyful Women and Joylife. Joy's Disciples are working together to go forth extending Jesus' love by all ages in our congregation. We can do all things in Christ who strengthens us. (Para-phrased from Philippians 4:13)

*They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. 1 Timothy 6.18-19.*

*Laura Cabato*, Social Ministry Chairperson

## NOTES