

*Gaithersburg  
Church of the Nazarene*



*Annual Report*  
*2009 - 2010*

## Ben Spitler Senior Pastor

Gratitude: “A feeling of thankfulness and appreciation.”

Privilege: “A special advantage or benefit not enjoyed by all.”

When I’m thinking straight, those are the two words that come to mind when I think about this past year and all the years we’ve been in at GCN.

The things that **I’m grateful** for run the gamut, from something as everyday as a hot shower to my salvation made possible by the atoning sacrifice of my Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ. Looking back on this past year, here are some of the things I’m especially grateful for in the context of our life and ministry together at GCN:

- In tough economic times that don’t seem to be going away, I’m grateful for our **giving**. We’ve exceeded our giving goal for the year and had good responses to special offerings and opportunities that have included mission giving, relief efforts in Haiti and the capital campaign.
- I’m grateful for the **ministry passion** that is stirring in so many of you that produces care for each other within the fellowship, service to kids and to senior adults in our own backyard, some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere in the country of Honduras and that’s just the start.
- I’m grateful for the quality of **worship and teaching** that we have together that is strengthening faith and equipping us for life and ministry in Jesus’ name.
- I’m grateful for the **diversity** of ages and backgrounds in our fellowship.
- I’m grateful for a hard working, Spirit-filled **pastoral staff**—Kelly, Terry and Brian are the best!
- I’m grateful for solid **lay leadership** that has a heart for God and His church and wants to see us be about the ministry that God has for us.
- I’m grateful for the **support** so many of you give me, for your patience and kindness and generosity and prayers.
- I’m grateful for a **district** that encourages spiritual growth and innovative thinking.

I’m especially grateful for Kelly. I honestly don’t know how she has managed to be such a good wife, mom, neighbor, daughter and pastor all these years. But she has. And she does our taxes to boot! I couldn’t be more grateful than I am for Becks and Abby. I’m loving this time in life and sharing life with them. Neither Kelly or I are looking forward to losing them both to a university campus this fall, but are grateful for the young women they’ve grown up to be and the opportunities that are out in front of them. I’m grateful for the ways God seems to be working in my extended family. I’m grateful for my health, for my home and for the hope I have that if I lost absolutely everything, I’m still rich in the blessings God has in store for me in heaven. There’s so much!

It’s a **privilege** to have gotten to pastor this church for this long. I recognize that, indeed, very few pastors have enjoyed that benefit. My hope is providing good leadership for the church in the coming year, to pastor the flock, to preach the Word and to grow deeper in my love for God and His people. Please pray for me to that end.

Thanks to all who are doing their part in the Body of Christ. May God bless the world through us and bring more and more people, young and old, to a saving faith in Christ through the life and ministry of this church!

Sincerely,

*Ben Spitler*

## Kelly C. Spitler Associate Pastor



God has been so good to us! I love Him and want to serve Him to the best of my ability. This is a big year for us! Ben and I will celebrate 25 years of marital bliss, Abby graduates from Gaithersburg High School and heads off to college (Mt Vernon Nazarene University), and we celebrate 24 years of ministry here at GCN! It seems like just *yesterday* Ben and I were *unloading our tiny u-Haul over at Brighton Village Apts.* Where do the years go?

Even after all these years I am still glad to be married to Ben and I'm thrilled we are still at GCN! I love worshipping with you and miss it when we are away or snowed out. Our extended church at Montgomery Village Nursing Home has been such a blessing. Ben and I go with a team from GCN twice a month to lead worship services there. We have grown to love the residents and enjoy seeing Christ work in their lives. Our Nursing Home Team has grown close as we eat, worship and serve together.

Our church has been reaching out to Stewartown for a number of years by donating backpacks to them. The Lord has been laying on my heart a burden to minister to them in other ways as well. This summer we did a week long Sonshine club at Stewartown Apts. We taught about 20 kids Bible stories, songs, crafts and games. But God wanted us to do more. So, Jenny Schafer and I with some great teen helpers lead Sonshine clubs twice a month at Stewartown and it's been exciting to see those kids grasp who Jesus is and what He did for them. Also, this year we ran a thrift shop for the residents there to help provide gifts for their families.

I continue to head up our ministry at the Gaithersburg HELP pantry. We have 2 teams that volunteer every month to provide food for those in need right here in Gaithersburg. I really appreciate the commitment of those volunteers. We have ministering through Gaithersburg HELP now for almost 25 years!

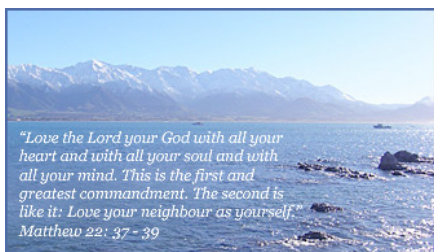
I have enjoyed working with Lisa Baldrige and the WINGS team in the area of women's ministries. We have a great team who long to serve the Lord by ministering to women. Dee Neff and I have done Women's Recovery Group for many years and felt led to use a different format this year to reach out to more women. Lisa B, Dee and I have been leading a women's book study on Wed. nights and that has been very well attended.

I still love doing pastoral care calling in homes/nursing homes and hospitals. Pastoral care is probably my favorite ministry here at GCN. I love it when the Lord uses me to bring some peace, hope and joy in a tough situation.

I have been working with a great group of Focus Group Leaders who faithfully teach God's Word weekly here at GCN. We are so blessed to have the quality of teaching that we have here at our church! We ran a Parenting Teens class last spring which was very well attended and brought in quite a few folks outside of GCN. Financial Peace University has been very well attended and has proved to be a great way to reach outside our walls. May God bless you as we serve Him this year!

*Pastor Kelly*

## Terry Sweeney Associate Pastor



These words of Jesus capture my journey as a Christ follower this year. My first priority has and always will be to continue to grow in my love of God as I daily spend time with Him and as I yield my heart to Him. Second, my desire is to grow in my love walk with my neighbors. As Jesus points out in the parable of the Good Samaritan, that means everyone, and I am thankful that His presence within me and all of us makes that a possibility in our lives.

This year it has been a joy to be able to continue to love those in my community through the Wednesday Night Women's Group that meets weekly at my home. I am thankful to have Pam Ferinde, Darlene Owen and Lisa Sharp as part of the leadership team for that group that includes 16 women. Each of us has grown in our love for God and for each other as we have studied Christian books together and prayed together while enjoying one another's encouragement and presence. In addition to this group, this past summer I worked with a great team which provided ministry to children in our community through a Sunshine Club at Moyer Park. I am thankful to Heidi Chaney, who helped to write curriculum for the club and purchased and organized all materials needed for this ministry and the Sunshine Club ministry at Stewartown. I have also continued to be blessed by being a part of a Good News Club at Clearspring Elementary School. This year we have 39 children enrolled and a team of 5 adults and 5 teens/preteens helping! Together we have seen a number of children come to faith in Christ as well as grow in their walk with Him. For me, it just doesn't get any better! It is a joy to have 8 children right from my own neighborhood attend. My prayer is that their new found faith will touch the hearts of their parents and others in their families.

In addition to my community ministries, I have been blessed to share ministry and support to the Children's Ministry Team, Kim Henry and Lisa Ashley (Nursery), Heidi Chaney (Preschool), Eric Stein (Kids Church), Rhonda Watkins (K/1 Sunday School), Chris DiMambro (2/3 Sunday School), Abigail Ukwuani (4/5 Sunday School), Mary Lou Bane (Children's Quizzing), Sandy Harrell (Music), Chris Harrell (Ministry Outside the Walls) and Katherine Wilder (Member at Large) and to the overseers of several ministry areas including Life Groups, Molly VanBronkhorst, Prime Timers, Barbara Burr, Lorraine Loy and Bertie Lambert, Church Fellowship, Jim Garrett and Prayer, Sherrie Bayman. It has been life giving to me to share ministry with such a great group of people, and I thank God for them and their desire to use their God given gifts to serve Him and His Church. Teaming with a great staff, Pastor Ben, Pastor Kelly, Pastor Brian, and Sally has been truly a joy in my life. It has also been a blessing to work with Dan Watkins, who previously led our Youth Ministry and both Sarah and Michelle, who provided great administrative help. Together we pray, plan and lean on God, trusting that He will lead us and help us we serve Him.

This year I have also been blessed to serve our district as TEAM Day coordinator. Sharing that ministry with Sherrie Bayman has been a joy. It has been a blessing to be involved with coordinating TEAM Day, a day which is totally focused on equipping the church. Serving as Spiritual Director for an Emmaus Retreat in the fall as well as a speaker for the Westminster Methodist Women's retreat this past spring have provided additional opportunities to encourage women in their spiritual journey with Christ.

This coming year I am looking forward to continuing with ministry here at GCN and outside the walls as the Lord leads. I am thankful that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His ministry. Having my family's support, especially Frank's, is such an encouragement to me. It is also a joy to have welcomed a new grandchild, Max Patrick, Brian and Allison's son and Dietrich's, Hadley's and Stella's brother. Frank and I are also anticipating the birth of a new granddaughter who will be welcomed in early June by our son Kevin and his wife, Ann. The faithfulness of God never ceases to bless me! "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

*Pastor Terry*

## Brian Schafer Youth Pastor

I am forever grateful for the blessing and privilege of serving Christ and His Church. What a humbling honor to serve such wonderful people here in Gaithersburg. Jenny and I have felt extremely welcomed, and I feel affirmed and encouraged that this is the place where God desires for us to be.

### Ministry Activity

I believe at the root of Christianity is this idea of relationship. Building good, godly relationships has been what I have strived to do over these past months. Specifically, I have been intentional about building relationships with the teens and their families, and also encouraging and fostering relationship between each other. From having teens over to our home for s'mores, to having organized sledding times, to being there for teens in "crisis," to District Festival of Life (a talents/gift showcase for teens), our youth ministry has been focused on relationships.

Some concrete examples of this taking place have been the start-up of separate guys and girls small groups. Thanks to the initiative and calling of Laurilee Clugston and Barbie Barwell, a teen girls' small group designed for discipleship and spiritual development was started back in September. A teen guys' small group, led by Darrin Cave, Jim Painter, and myself started at the beginning of February.

Deep Impact has continued strong these past months, and this is another facet of the youth ministry that encourages relationship. The Deep Impact time has served as a ministry that points to the other, deeper parts of the youth group: Wednesday night Bible Study and Guys'/Girls' Small groups.

A part of this emphasis upon relationship has been the simultaneous emphasis upon serving others (just as Christ serves others). In addition to teaching a series at Deep Impact specifically focused upon this, we have also actively *gone out* and served. Some examples of this are: November Service Project Day to both a house spruce-up in a low-income area of D.C. and serving at the Frederick Rescue mission; Baby-sitting Night, which consisted of both providing childcare for busy parents, and provided a time when the teens and children could help sort through the shoes for "Soles for Souls;" raising \$450 for a house for Jacobo, an 18 year-old pastor in Honduras.

### Evidence of God's Faithfulness Today

I believe I have learned more about myself as a person in these past 7 months than I did in the previous 4 years combined. I have learned that I *need* others for spiritual support and to stay strong in my walk with God. I have learned that ministry, while a *great* thing, does not trump my relationship with my partner for life and best friend, Jenny. I have learned that relying on others for support needs to take a concrete form. For me, that "concrete form" has been a men's group with four other youth workers in the area. Through that, I have been challenged to seek God, not even just daily, but minute-by-minute. I pray that this growth continues to be a life-long transformation!

### Hopes for the Coming Year

My main hope for this year is that I love the teenagers and families of teenagers of GCN with the selfless love of Christ. One way that this loving of teenagers is played out is by encouraging and empowering *others* to participate in this love. My hope is to work towards building a solid team of youth "shepherds." I do not want to be the only one doing youth ministry here (and I'm not!). I believe, in some form, we *all* must do youth ministry. I hope to empower and encourage teens to step up and take on a leadership role, both in the youth group, and in the church, as a whole. I hope to see youth ministry not just as something that takes place on Sunday night and during small group times, but as something that takes place each day, by someone in our church. I long for nearly *all* the people of GCN to view themselves as a part of the "youth ministry gang," because we are all so involved in the life of at least a couple of teens each. I hope to see the guys and girls small groups continue to flourish, and for young servant-leaders to continue to be shaped and transformed by the God who is all about New Life. May it be so!

In Christ,

*Pastor Brian*

## **David Dailey** **Leadership Team Secretary**

It was a blessing to serve this year as GCN's Leadership Team Secretary. It has been a busy year. The Team Members work hard to see that they represent the membership well. They seek the Lord's guidance in the decisions of His Church, both through prayer and God's Word, and are always willing to freely give advice as they feel led. It's always amazing how God can lead individuals with different backgrounds and opinions to such unity to go in the direction He leads us. It is a blessing to me and strengthens my faith to see the obedience and love of the leaders God has given our church.

We are also thankful as a Leadership Team for a God that provides for our needs. In tough times for the budgeting and operations of our church, we have been able to take the financial positions that take the most faith. The Lord has provided as we have been able to meet these budgets and challenges.

The Leadership Team started off approving the hiring of a great new youth pastor. Later, we debated a cell tower leasing proposal. Despite an early difference in opinion, we came together in support of the decision not to pursue it. One major focus at the end of the year was approval of plans for the first phase of building expansion, which was strongly approved with open discussion by the congregation. There was much excitement in the Leadership Team for this project and the support it received from the Church.

As in past years, the Team addressed a variety of topics including:

- Ministry focus
- Missions
- Finances/Budgets
- Facility upkeep, repair, and expansion
- Cell Tower proposal
- Upgrade of the parsonage for the youth pastor
- GCN Policies and Procedures
- Recommending renewal of Local Ministers Licenses, District Licenses & Church Staff

A goal for the upcoming year will be to manage the many issues involved with starting construction on the new building. Also, we will continue to strive for the most effective ministries, with the goal of leading others to Christ and discipleship of those currently in their walk with the Lord. There will also be some changes to the meeting structure of the leadership, so we pray God will continue to allow for effective leadership in this new structure.

God was faithful in bringing new folks to GCN, while leading some to other places of ministry. Average attendance for the first 11 months of the Church Year (March 2009 – January 2010) was 282 total at the two Sunday morning services, and 288 total in Kids Sunday School/Adult Focus Groups.

*David Dailey*

**Finance Team**  
**David Beall**

This year has been a challenging year for the finance team as we have tried to develop more discipline and define policies for some of our financial procedures. Being new to the job this year I had a lot to learn. I had hoped to be a lot further along with a financial policies and procedures manual by now. It looks like this is going to be something we will still be working on in 2010.

It has been a pleasure working with the finance team this year, Lisa Gruber, Sally Fuller, Nick Prestipino, Dave West and John Weems. Many of them have more experience and wisdom in church finance than me and their collective wisdom has made the job much easier. I also appreciate the work that Sally Fuller and Kendra Neil do in maintaining the donor database and also for the many counters that spend 1-2 hours each week counting and reconciling money. John Weems as head counter takes care of this and makes it look easy but I know it is a huge responsibility.

As the fiscal year comes to an end, I am approaching the new year with a sense of optimism and a strong faith that God is blessing our church on many fronts including our stewardship and giving. I believe that how we spend our money and time is a strong indication of how strong our faith really is. You have heard the adage "what we believe is what we do and anything else is just religious talk". I think that is particularly true of how we treat our finances. As Christians we believe that we are only stewards of the money that God has entrusted us with and that it really belongs to Him. It has been a blessing to see how so many of you have responded with hearts of love and compassion throughout the year when presented with a need. I believe that you will continue to do that in the coming years.

*Dave Beall*

## Operating Budget for 2010-2011

Operating Income			
	T&O	\$643,197	
	Rental	\$10,000	
<b>Total Operating Fund Income</b>			<b>\$653,197</b>
	<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$291,683</b>	<b>\$291,683</b>
	Building	\$77,525	
	Building Capital	\$5,000	
	Grounds/Transportation	\$12,000	
	Mortgage/New Construction	\$90,000	
	<b>Total Property/Grounds</b>		<b>\$184,525</b>
	Office/Comm	\$32,000	
	Office/Comm Capital/Equity	\$6,000	
	<b>Total Office/Communication</b>		<b>\$38,000</b>
	District Assembly	\$1,500	
	District/HQ Allocations	\$86,000	
	<b>Total Allocations/Gifts</b>		<b>\$87,500</b>
	Adult Ministries	\$3,500	
	Adult CE/Groups	\$3,000	
	Children's Ministry	\$14,100	
	Compassion/Evangelism	\$900	
	Ministry Council shared funds	\$1,575	
	NYI	\$12,914	
	Pastoral Ministry	\$9,000	
	Worship	\$6,500	
	<b>Total Ministry</b>		<b>\$51,489</b>
<b>Total Operating Fund Budget</b>			<b>\$653,197</b>

**Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene**  
**I. Operating Fund Budget vs. Actual**  
March 2009 through January 2010

												TOTAL	
	Mar 09	Apr 09	May 09	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Mar '09 - Jan 10	Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	64,922	48,637	55,982	45,465	48,395	60,521	49,223	56,456	74,489	77,818	67,980	649,888	598,763
<b>Expense</b>													
<b>Total A. Ministries</b>	718	1,298	2,447	4,509	3,337	2,448	3,807	4,107	2,822	5,313	2,403	33,209	42,163
<b>Total B. Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	23,080	23,688	20,021	25,468	30,264	22,723	28,296	19,887	19,368	45,089	21,362	279,246	289,796
<b>Total C. Budgets &amp; Gifts</b>	1,032	5,247	15,760	8,500	7,825	8,319	8,319	8,319	8,319	8,319	8,325	88,284	88,240
<b>Total D. Property &amp; Office</b>	16,791	19,412	13,080	15,116	11,305	11,550	14,008	12,350	14,782	17,018	18,237	163,649	178,145
<b>I. Operating Fund {ex} - Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	
<b>Total I. Operating Fund {ex}</b>	41,621	49,645	51,308	53,593	52,731	45,043	54,430	44,663	45,291	75,739	50,327	564,391	598,344
<b>Total Expense</b>	41,621	49,645	51,308	53,593	52,731	45,043	54,430	44,663	45,291	75,739	50,327	564,391	598,344
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>23,301</b>	<b>-1,008</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>-8,128</b>	<b>-4,336</b>	<b>15,478</b>	<b>-5,207</b>	<b>11,793</b>	<b>29,198</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>17,653</b>	<b>85,497</b>	<b>419</b>

**Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
 As of January 31, 2010

	<b>Jan 31, 10</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
America's Christian CU	25.00
Damascus Community Bank	250,095.52
Checking Account	269,683.21
Charles Schwab	60,624.45
Sandy Spring CD-32	43,449.60
Sandy Spring CD-33	28,046.29
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>651,924.07</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>651,924.07</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
I. Rental Security Deposits	3,000.00
II. SUSPENSE	19.50
Total III. Annuity	640.00
V. GENERAL Receipts In/Out	
A. Nazarene Comp. Ministries	1,000.00
Total V. GENERAL Receipts In/Out	1,000.00
VI. NMI Receipts In/Out	
A. Honduras	
Expense	-53,937.78
Income	73,958.41
Total A. Honduras	20,020.63
B. Alabaster	13.99
C. Compassionate Ministries	1,684.90
F. Work & Witness Travel	829.85
Total VI. NMI Receipts In/Out	22,549.37
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	27,208.87
<b>Equity</b>	
I. Operating Fund {eq}	146,090.62
II. NMI {eq}	500.57
III. Property Reserve {eq}	47,484.13
IV. Designated Funds {eq}	
A. Camp Scholarships {eq}	90.00
B. Kitchen Upgrade {eq}	3,156.10
G. Memorial {eq}	6,625.00
H. Stephen's Ministry	3,715.52
Total IV. Designated Funds {eq}	13,586.62
V. New Construction {eq}	417,053.26
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>624,715.20</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>651,924.07</b>

## **Nazarene Missions International** Ruthella Van Gilder, President

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> report to GCN as NMI President. What a challenging time! I would like to thank the Pastor Ben for his encouragement as well as the NMI Council members, who served this year: Jim Clay-Vice President, Sally Fuller-Treasurer, Gail Jacobs-Secretary, Mino Hatten, Jean Dunlevy-Culpeper, Fred Stepler, Barbara Burr, Cindy Blackmon, Martha Bratton, Laura Coombs, Lisa Sharp and special thanks to my husband, David, who served on the NMI council and gave me support and encouragement.

Prayer is very important. We especially prayed for needs in Honduras, for APNTS during the Philippine typhoon and flooding and for Haiti during the current earthquake crisis. When we spend time in prayer, God is faithful. Needs are met and problems are solved that money cannot resolve. Be sure to check out the Prayer Mobilization Hotline at [www.nazarenemissioninternational.org/prayer/pml/pml.html](http://www.nazarenemissioninternational.org/prayer/pml/pml.html) or call 816-444-PRAY

GCN mission highlights this year:

- **Child Sponsorships** through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries –GCN supports 4 children, who live in Pakistan, Kenya, India and Nicaragua.
- A donation to **Missionary Health Care**, given in honor of Sally Fuller
- Missionary visits: Barry Carney, Dr. Floyd Cunningham
- Hosted District NMI Training Day at GCN on June 6
- June's **Honduras** mission trip was cancelled because of political unrest. However, Lisa Sharp & Matt Cavalier traveled to Honduras in October and Dave & Angie Dunlevy went in January. Money raised and supplies collected by GCN were delivered to our Honduran friends.
- Campbell Soup labels were sent to the **Sun Valley Indian School** in Arizona.
- Teens raised over \$400 to complete a Honduran parsonage for Pastor Jacobo.
- 42 boxes of clothing and bed linens and 30 Crisis Care Kits were taken to the NCM warehouse in Fawn Grove, PA, to be shipped to needy nations.
- Letters and gifts were sent to our **LINKS** missionaries, the Crows, serving in Sri Lanka and the Gardners, serving in East Africa.
- Faith Promise giving of over \$58,000 (85% of the Faith Promise commitments made 2/09). Faith Promise supported projects mentioned above, as well as: Nazarene missionaries in 150+ countries; World Mission Radio; Alabaster offerings for building hospitals, schools and churches; Bible schools and seminaries.
- Special offerings taken on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and after the Haitian earthquake were used for feeding refugees in Sri Lanka (NCM), Haiti earthquake relief (NCM) and Pastor training in Honduras.

Friends, I thank God for his mighty goodness and saving power in my life. And I thank you for your faithfulness in giving to missions. We must continue to trust God to give us the desire to help make disciples in the nations. He is faithful and we can trust him as we seek his will for Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene.

*Ruthella Van Gilder*

## **LIFE Group Overseer Molly VanBronkhorst**

LIFE Groups at GCN” connect 10 to 14 people together to enjoy each other and to encourage each other’s walk with Christ as they *pray* for each other, *study God’s Word* together, *apply* it to their lives, *love* and *serve* one another and others outside their group.”

I believe this is where Christian Life happens – in small groups gathering in Jesus’ name. I’ve been part of such groups – growth groups, prayer groups, Bible study groups, therapy groups, social groups, covenant disciple groups – all gathering in the name of Jesus since 1970, when the Holy Spirit led me through a door that opened this exciting world of connecting in small groups as Jesus modeled with his disciples. Because of my openness to walking into the room to explore the concept of “Ten Brave Christians” my life is changed, my marriage is changed, my family is changed, my ministry is changed, my attitude is changed and my heart is changed. Yes, Jesus changed my heart and then placed me where I could continue the process of becoming more whole, more connected, and more peaceful and optimistic in life!

GCN now has twelve LIFE groups for men, women, couples, singles, young, and mature years. New groups are currently being prayed about for young married couples and an additional group for couples/singles with children. Approximately 152 people, couples and singles, are being served by the LIFE group ministry. Of course others are connected through friendships, FOCUS groups, Bible study, ministry teams, missions. Pastor Terry Sweeney, who pastors the LIFE group ministry, and I have a heart for seeing each person at Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene connected in a life-giving way.

Joining Pastor Terry and me to “serve the Lord with gladness” \* \* are Gary Gillette, Greg and Laurilee Clugston, Dee Neff and Pat Kane, Lisa Baldridge, Bill and Rhonda Watkins, Sean and Angie Willeford, Brian and Rebecca VanGilder, Gail Jacobs and Sally Fuller, Fred and Lynn Stepler, Rick and Donna Gallagher, Steve Zahm, David Beall, Rich and Chris DiMambro, Barbie Barwell, Jenny Shaffer, and Laurilee Clugston, and Darrin Cave and Pastor Brian Shaffer.

Keeping meetings to a bare minimum – one, a celebration – party! and two coffees for small groups of LIFE group leaders, one in January and one in September/October, making phone calls, and publishing a newsletter three times a year promises to keep the LIFE group leaders connected and informed about resources, training opportunities, and church community life.

The first set of Coffees produced appreciation for small group gatherings and provided many stimulating ideas for future growth and service. Stay posted!

\*\*\*“Shout for Joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship (serve) the Lord with gladness;  
Come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”  
Psalm 100:1 – 3

*Molly VanBronkhorst*

## PrimeTimers

Barbara Burr, Lorraine Loy, Bertie Lambert, Co-Leaders

Our planning team of three met with Pastor Terry on a quarterly basis to explore fun, educational, and spiritual activities for the senior adults (55 and older). We scheduled monthly activities during the day from 11:30 am to about 3:00 pm. We always included lunch and provided \$5.00 per person to apply toward their lunch from our budget. This was very helpful for those with limited income.

We did include events farther away that required longer rides such as traveling to Lancaster, PA for a performance at the Sight and Sound Theater and a tour of the State Capital in Annapolis, MD. Local trips included a visit to a glass blowing factory and lunch at The Music Café in Frederick, MD.

This year we plan to explore new restaurant experiences and find some out of the way museums and enjoy a picnic at Quentin's while weather is good, and during the winter months stay close to home and play games, tell stories, watch movies, etc. We found that the longer trips are too difficult for some of the seniors so we will stay closer to home this year so more folks can enjoy the fun and fellowship. Please consider joining us throughout the year.

The three of us have deepened our friendship with each other and truly enjoyed the fellowship that we have with this group of very active folks. I think they have ministered to us more than we ministered to them. We are a blessed group.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Burr*

## **Prayer Ministry**

### **Sherrie Bayman, Overseer**

#### Highlight

- Supported the National Day of Prayer
- Focused prayer for mission trips
- Revitalized the Mighty Pray-ers, encouraging enrollment and publicizing monthly prayer dates
- The e-mail prayer chain process continues to go smoothly thanks to the office staff.
- Periodically there is extended prayer time in church services and in various meetings.

#### Goal

- Increase awareness of the impact and importance of prayer.

Need: none

#### Recommendations

- Encourage corporate prayer
- Reintroduce the ACTS “guideline” for prayer in groups and individually.
- Offer another ABF class on prayer

#### Personal Testimony

The power of prayer cannot be measured. When we turn to the Lord with sincere hearts, truly seeking his will rather than our own, he responds with loving kindness and blessings. It all starts with him, it is not about us. Scripture urges us to keep our eyes set upon things of heaven; when we do that the things of this earth grow strangely dim.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

*Sherrie Bayman*

## Samuel Sierra Ordained Minister

*“I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you. And here is how to measure it—the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends.”*

**John 15:12 -13 NLT**

Shortly after returning to the Northern Virginia Area from completing an assignment in New York City, I began to pray for direction as to the church I would join. Since 1988, I have been a member of only one church; Christian Fellowship Church where I also worked as a pastor for fourteen years. In the M.A.D. Church of the Nazarene roll call, my name was found under the Washington National membership. The time spent at Washington National was as an Interim Pastor and never considered myself a member. Therefore, upon returning to NOVA I did not believe God was directing me to join National. On October of 2008, the Lord answered my prayer and simply but strongly dropped Pastor Ben and GCN in my heart. I know its 32.3 miles from home but here is where I am to be at this time, so here I am since *“obedience is greater than sacrifice.”* We have received nothing but love and kindness and have been embraced as old friends who have come back home; we are so very thankful.

The year two thousand nine was a year I will not soon forget. It was a time of stretching, growth, pain, failures and successes. For example, my wife’s sister Dee Dee died my daughter Diana got her LMSW, and my son Sami got married with a wonderful girl from Pittsburg. I was tested in ways I had not been before and it was very painful. Although it seemed like a dark night to my soul, the Lord sustained me and helped me through in a miraculous way. Many things simply fell away and I was not the same man, Glory to His Name!

My primary areas of gifting are Preaching, Teaching and Counseling. I am a Barnabas encourager with a passion for healthy families who loves working under the radar. Before I left for New York, I had been developing my own counseling practice, preaching and doing seminars on various topics throughout the Metro area. Moreover, after returning, I simply picked up where I left off. God has been faithful in providing me many opportunities to serve in the areas of ministry that enflame my heart; loving, healing and declaring His principles for healthy living.

In two thousand nine the Lord gave me a vision for a ministry I call **“A Partnership for Wellness.”** Aside from growing the counseling practice in Reston, Virginia, I am outsourcing my abilities and collaborating with pastors that are bi-vocational, who are unable to neither provide counseling nor have a counseling ministry. By collaborating with them and meeting their counseling needs, I am also able to develop healthy, friendly, mentoring relationships while providing guidance and healthy feedback. By the grace of God, the vision has taken off and Real Life Counseling is now connected with five churches while the practice grows. I also have some Revivals, weekend Retreats and Seminars, Preaching assignments, and will for the second time teach an accredited one-week’s course on Breaking the Cycle of Addiction at an International Bible College.

My sincere desire is that God would use me here at GCN to work alongside a pastor I love and deeply respect, Pastor Ben. Love and grow with all my wonderful brothers and sisters and glorify God together as we spread the Love and Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for allowing me to minister in your midst!

*Samuel Sierra*

**Lisa Sharp**  
**Local Pastor**

**2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.**

I look back on another year of ministry and service at GCN with my local pastor's license in complete amazement at the faithfulness of God who really does give us everything we need for life and godliness, as we respond to His call and seek to really know Him. I celebrate that it is His power and His call that directs and empowers us to serve Him.

This past year God has continued to sharpen my focus in the area of missions and to bless my opportunities to serve in His kingdom. 2009 was a very challenging year for the Honduras Leadership team, as the political (and environmental) instability in Honduras caused us to cancel/reschedule our plans significantly. On my fourth attempt, I was able to travel with a min-team, led by Bob Prescott, to Honduras for a week in October. We had the opportunity to visit Pastor Maximo in El Sauce, who is the Nazarene pastor that GCN has begun to partner with, and to visit all 6 of his church plants. We were able to provide children's ministry at each of these sites, as well as participating with showing the Jesus Film in some really remote and challenging locations. We delivered critically needed medical supplies and infant formula to Santa Barbara and provided school supplies to a new school.

God has continued to bless and grow the Ladies' Sunday School class that I am privileged to lead, and our neighborhood women's group that meets weekly at Pastor Terry's house. I remain amazed at what God does with our little offerings of our own "loaves and fishes" as He multiplies and uses them to grow and nurture His church.

My goals for the coming year are to maintain my current level of involvement in ministry to women and to grow in my areas of responsibility in missions. I will be leading the medical mission aspect of our 2010 Honduras mission trip in June. And I have felt led to step up to the opportunity to lead the GCN NMI Counsel. I am certain that this will be a very challenging and growth-promoting experience and definitely covet your prayers as I hope to help lead the GCN missions focus in the direction that God is leading GCN.

I am so grateful for all the support and encouragement I have received from the GCN pastors and Board, and from all of you, as you have allowed me to continue to pursue the calling to service that I believe the Lord has placed on my heart. Please keep praying that God would lead me and use me however He wants to, and that I will become the person (and especially the mother and friend) that God created me to be. And I am praying Romans 15: 5-7 for us at GCN: for **"... endurance and encouragement ... and a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God"**.

*Lisa Sharp*

**Kelsey Rosario**  
**Local Pastor**

My ministry activity for the past year has not been quite what I would have liked it to be. This was my first year actually being a leader in the youth group rather than as a teen coming to meetings. It helped me to really get a hands-on feel of what youth ministry is from a completely different perspective. I regularly attended Deep Impact throughout the fall months, but have not attended much this past winter.

Currently, my walk with God has been difficult - in poor decisions I have been making and in my behavior. I know I'm not where I should be. Romans 7:15 is probably the best verse to describe how my walk with God has been. I have not been relying on His strength to help me through and have been trying to do everything on my own. I have felt unworthy of His grace and have made it an excuse to slack off in my faith.

My goal for the coming year for ministry is that I become more involved, not only in youth ministry but with young adults and with the church as a whole. I know there are many opportunities available for me and I plan to utilize all that is around me to do take advantage of them. My hope and goal for my walk with Christ is to really rely on the Lord and know that His grace is enough for me. I have a call for youth ministry, and though my faith may not be as strong as it should be, I know that call is still firm in my heart. I plan to pray for God's will for my life to be stronger than ever, knowing He walks beside me and that I don't walk alone.

*Kelsey Rosario*

## **Tim Ukwuani**

### **Local Pastor**

This past year has been a very memorable year for me. I have met great people and made new friends that I will have for a lifetime. This year has also been a year of learning for me, especially with ministry. I have learned more about people and how to reach them in their different environments and situations.

As I graduated high school I started to see the world from a different point of view and realized it was time to start taking my ministry considerations more seriously. This past summer, I once again was at the district children and pre-teen summer camp. This year was different from other years. I served a dual role as a senior counselor during the day and a junior counselor by night. It was a very good learning experience for me. Looking back on it, I could have done a few things better but glad I was given the opportunity to serve. After camp, I went off to Liberty University for school. Upon arriving at Liberty, I thought I had an idea of what to expect. Once again, God surprised me. I faced a lot of obstacles my first semester, but overcame them and thank God for it. I began to discover a lot of things about myself and things about me that needed to change. I also learned a lot of things from my professors including things about the Christian worldview and the bible. I am very glad I chose to attend Liberty. While at Liberty I have been part of a prayer group called The Rush. This group was started by my Resident Assistants (RA). I have started growing close to one of my RAs, Ben Taylor. He has been able to give me sound advice and discipleship. I have also been able to form a friendship with my Resident Director (RD) Tyler McClure who is also a godly man.

My goals for this year are to get started on what God wants me to do, which is to lead my generation back to Christ. One way I plan to do this is through my internship I have acquired this summer through the Southern Baptist Convention. Will be in Epping, New Hampshire as a summer youth intern at Providence Baptist Church. I will be assisting the pastor with the teenagers of the church as well as some worship duties. I will also be working at a summer camp the pastor does in the state of Maine for a week. At the camp, I will be working with the boys and speaking to the boys as well as leading worship. Another way I am working towards God's call on me is through music. There is a boy by the name of Luke who lives across the hall from me. Luke has a miniature-recording studio in his room, and he his helping me record an arrangement of the song Lead Me to the Cross. I am very excited about this project, and when I am done will be sure to provide GCN with a copy of the song! Luke and I plan to make a CD during out time at Liberty God willing. I also want to run track for Liberty next year as well God willing.

If there is one thing that I would say to the church body, it will be nothing is impossible with God. Do not get caught up in what this world says you should things and or how things are supposed to be run. God is beyond all that. Instead listen to what God has to say and do it! No questions asked! I have noticed something that my father told me one night; that here in America, us Christians believe the bible is the word of God, but for some reason do not have the faith of believing the benefits God has bestowed upon us for trusting in Him. We tend to over analyze the bible and limit God when it comes to his power. Just put a little faith in God and see what happens. As Susie Shellenberger once said to our youth group a few years ago, "you do the 1% and let God take care of the 99%".

*Tim Ukwuani*