

## What this booklet contains ...

1. Overview
2. Why we are here
3. Who we are
4. Recap of our last Ministry Plan
5. July'07 - June'08 Ministry Plan
6. July'07 - June'08 Budget
7. Opportunities

### Overview ...

What an exciting time it is for Beechwood Church! The Lord is moving in us and among us, and it is amazing to watch His plan for Beechwood unfold. First and foremost we would like to express our *thanks* and *praise* to God for his blessings poured out upon Beechwood Church. We acknowledge Jesus Christ as the head of the church, and attribute any success we have had - or ever will have - to His grace and provision. Amen.

Directly following is a brief summary of the journey the Lord has taken us on during the past 18 months. It does not by any means encapsulate all of what the Lord has done in that time, but it gives a hint at the amazing story that continues to unfold in our midst ...

- November 2005 - introduced our vision, mission and values.
- January 2006 - established a process for long-range planning.
- May 2006 - after considerable prayer and discernment, four primary long-range plans were identified. Additionally, the congregation approved the Executive Elder role to allow for effective long-range planning.
- Summer 2006 - Eric Peterson (Youth Ministry) and Tracy Kerley (Worship & Music) came to Beechwood. Both have been instrumental in moving the church forward.
- July 2006 - Hugo Vasquez accepted our offer to lead a church plant for Latino people in North Holland. Iglesia Alas De Aguila is up and running!
- April 2007 - The "Opportunities" journey is underway! At the time of this printing the results are unknown, but we believe in faith that God's people will honor His call to partner with His church to move forward in mission and ministry according to His will.

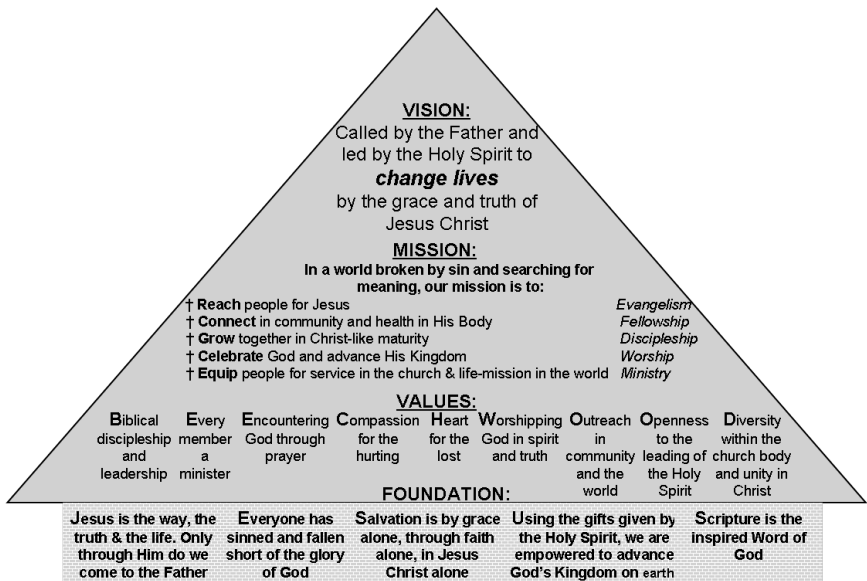
# Why we are here ...



Beechwood church places its faith in a fixed, eternal foundation: Jesus Christ. Building on an eternal foundation, our vision - our dream – is to **change lives** by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

Our mission supports our vision and includes five components: Evangelism, Fellowship, Discipleship, Worship, and Ministry.

Finally, nine core values encompass a broad spectrum, but in combination they are uniquely ... **BEECHWOOD**.



# Who we are ...



Beechwood Church  
...Changing Lives...

Beechwood Church is located in Holland, Michigan. Beechwood is committed to reaching people in our church, community, nation, and world with the life changing truth of Jesus Christ. We are passionate about making our vision a reality, and know that the only way that can happen is if we surrender our will to the Lord's ... which we do freely and with great joy.

## Our Ministry Staff:

- Jim Lankheet, Senior Pastor
- Eric Carpenter, Evangelism & Discipleship Pastor
- Bo Mircea, Children's Ministries Director
- Eric Peterson, Youth Ministry Director
- Tracy Kerley, Worship/Music Director
- Mike Gafa, Executive of Ministry Support
- Marv Beukelman, Care Pastor (part-time)
- Carolyn Raar, Care Pastor (part-time)
- Hugo Vasquez, Church Plant Pastor of Iglesia Alas De Aguila

## Our Consistory:

- Doug Peterson, Elder thru '08/Consistory Vice-President
- Bob Gray, Deacon thru '07/Deacon Chairperson
- Barb Bredeweg, Elder thru '09
- Denise Bakker, Deacon thru '09
- Nancy Benedict, Elder thru '09
- Jim Geschke, Deacon thru '08/Treasurer
- Mike Ellis, Elder thru '08
- Jack Hendricks, Deacon thru '08
- Wendell Guth, Elder thru '07
- Kevin Jones, Deacon thru '08
- Tom Hill, Elder thru '08
- Mary Scheerhorn, Deacon thru '07
- Len Pilon, Elder thru '09
- Dan Trap, Deacon thru '07
- Duane Vandenbrink, Elder thru '07/Consistory Clerk
- Kevin Walker, Deacon thru '09
- Gary VanLangevelde, Elder thru '07
- Clare Weber, Deacon thru '09

## Our Executive Elders (all eligible for re-election after initial term):

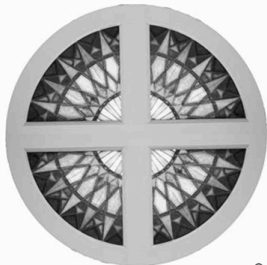
- John Arnold, thru '08
- Barb Slagh, thru '09
- Phil Winter, thru '07

# Recap of Our Last Ministry Plan...

## BEECHWOOD CHURCH

### MINISTRY PLAN

July 2006 - June 2007



*Where lives are changed by the  
grace and truth of Jesus Christ!*

† Several ministry leaders shared from the heart about what God is doing in their ministry.

† A primary focus was on improving the breadth and depth of each ministry area so that as a church we could be more effective in realizing our vision. Thanks to the Lord's provisions and many committed 'member ministers', we believe that our ministries are indeed healthier.

† We presented an *annualized* operating budget of \$1,354,775, which represented a 4.4% increase over the previous operating budget.

† We reported *additional* (non-budgeted) gifts totaling \$151,968 to missions and ministries.

† An update of long-range planning progress and next steps was provided.

† A detailed explanation of proposed By-Laws changes enabled the congregation to approve the changes at our congregational meeting on May 25, 2006. This was a significant step for allowing the church to move forward with long-range planning.

## July'07 – June'08 Ministry Plan

As you read through the individual ministry plans that form our overall Ministry Plan, we encourage you to reflect on what God is doing in your life and how He might be leading you to serve. God has crafted each of us in a unique and special way, and we are all equipped to be ambassadors for life change in Christ to all we serve.

### **Children's Ministry:**

What does Children's Ministry "look like"? It's children who are awed by the Bible stories they hear for the first time. It's children who experience amazing growth while in catechism. It's teachers who devote themselves to sharing Christ with children. It's mentors and prayer partners being salt and light for kids. It's about ... *changed lives!*

Here are some key components of our Children's Ministry:

- Celebration Faith Builders ... a vibrant Sunday School experience!
- Bridge Faith Builders ... to build youngsters into disciples.
- Sunday Nursery ... where little ones find love and care from dedicated helpers.
- Wednesday Nights (Cadets, Gems, Choirs) ... where growth & fellowship are constant!
- Vacation Bible School ... an unbelievable and unforgettable faith experience.
- Children's Catechism ... where kids experience amazing growth in their walk!
- Special Activities & Events ... fun *and* Christ-centered.
- Sports Camps ... physical exercise and lots of fun - cool!
- Kids Hope ... a ministry that truly changes young lives.

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Changing lives by reaching people for Christ and growing them in their faith.
- Making ourselves more accessible in various ways to our surrounding community.
- Creating a culture of openness in which we joyfully serve our visitors and incorporate ministries like KidsHope into the everyday life of our congregation.
- Pursuing excellence in all programs; it is possible that we will have fewer programs but a more effective ministry.

## Student Ministries

Like all ministry focus areas at Beechwood, our vision is to see *changed lives!* Specifically, we focus on life-change amongst students in Middle School and High School (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades). These years are hugely important in the faith formation of people - going from a childlike faith to a more mature and growing walk with Christ. We have a "purpose-driven" philosophy of ministry which covers five areas: Evangelism, Outreach, Discipleship, Worship, and Fellowship.

Here are some key components of our Student Ministry:

- **LIVEWIRE** - Our middle school student ministry - All five purposes exist in this ministry, but our primary focus is on fellowship and discipleship.
- **ROOTS** - Our high school student ministry- All five purposes are covered with fellowship & discipleship as key components.
- **Small groups** - We offer small groups for students who want to go deeper in their walk with Christ.
- **Mentoring** - A program for students who want to know more about the basics of the Christian faith. One-on-one with a mature Christian mentor from Beechwood!
- **Outreach events** - Approximately 6 - 8 events per year that encourage students to bring friends, meet new people, and show that Christ followers have a lot of fun!
- **Service projects** - There are a number of different service opportunities offered throughout the year to allow students to serve and grow and recognize that "the call to Christ is the call to serve!"
- **Retreats** - We offer a few spiritual retreats each year for students to get away and grow in their relationship with God and one another.
- **Mission Trips** - Each year we plan mission trips to different parts of our nation or world. We share the love of Christ in practical ways and grow in our own walk with Christ.

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Focusing on students being "sent-out". Rather than just learning about following Christ, we'll challenge kids to DO IT!
- Connecting more with the person and work of the Holy Spirit for "empowered" ministry.
- Blurring the lines between age groups - more connection with the body!

## **Young Adult Ministry:**

The Young Adult ministry is a vibrant place where biblical truths are examined in light of what's happening in the world around us. From the tragic to the frightening, to the cosmically hilarious, we explore tough issues that face Christians and what our response should be to those issues.

Here are some key components of our Young Adult Ministry:

- Small group gatherings ... where deep connections are formed with God & each other.
- Various events ... that inspire, entertain, equip, and disciple (a great combination).

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Continuing our approach of being invitational and reaching deep into our community.
- Relevant ministry that is theologically sound and practically valuable.

## **Young at Heart (Senior Ministry):**

The Young at Heart Ministry is made up of folks who are at or near retirement age (though we welcome anyone who is younger as well). We enjoy praying, studying, eating, and being in fellowship with one another. It is truly a group where people love and care for each other.

Here are some key components of our Young at Heart Ministry:

- Weekly dinner on Wednesday afternoons ... a great meal, and the price is right too!
- Service projects (International Aid and others) ... because we know serving others reflects our love for the Lord.
- Various events ... that you won't want to miss!

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Reach out to include in this group not only folks who have been with Beechwood a long time, but others who have come in at a later time, or newly retiring people.
- Continuously strive for deep connection with Christ and one another.

## **Prayer Ministry:**

The Prayer Ministry can provide the under girding, or foundation for the total Beechwood ministry. It is absolutely essential and vital to all that the church does. Nothing should be initiated without prayer, and certainly nothing can be accomplished without it. Prayer will enable us to achieve our highest potential in serving Christ at this time and place.

Here are some key components of our Prayer Ministry:

- Email Prayer Chain
- Daily Prayer Time at 11:30 a.m. (with staff and all who are in the building)
- Healing Prayer Team
- People for prayer stations at worship services
- Sunday Morning Prayer Meetings
- Prayer Warriors
- Wednesday Evening Prayer Sessions
- Telephone Prayer Chain
- Quarterly Prayer Happenings

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Making prayer a foundational aspect of our wholeness ministry.
- Broader & deeper participation in prayer opportunities after worship services.
- Enabling all of our children and youth to have a dedicated prayer partner who prays for them daily.
- A continued striving to make sure that individually and as a Body we pray at all times and in all circumstances.

## **Worship & Music:**

Worship is about entering *God's* presence. When we enter *God's* presence, *God* can have his way with us and shape our lives according to His plan and will.

The worship team seeks to encourage our members and guests to deepen their walk with Christ, either through participating in a musical group or absorbing the praise and worship that springs forth from others. Our hope and prayer is that by sharing Jesus Christ to all we encounter, lives will be changed by His grace and truth.

Here are some key components of Worship & Music:

- Children's Choirs ... that bless kids, the congregation, & God.
- The Bridge & Celebration Worship Teams & Bands ... that bring us into His presence.
- Summer Outdoor Worship ... in *God's* natural sanctuary!
- Summer Traditional Worship (8:30 am) ... a wonderful time of worship in the summer.
- Worship Choir ... which does all types of music — gospel, classical, hymn arrangements, anthems, a capella, and more - all done well and all in a spirit of worship.
- Handbell Ministry ... amazing sounds that glorify *God*!
- Seasonal Choir/Outreach Concerts ... special programs like Christmas, Independence Day, and more.
- Drama Ministry ... as needed for services & events.
- Leadership Development ... at all times and always for the glory of *God*.
- Team Building/Teaching/Appreciation Events/Birthday Card Ministry.

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Launch a new worship service in fall 2007 to complement the existing Celebration and Bridge services.
- Continue striving for worship expressions that inspire each person to worship *God* with all of their heart, soul and mind.
- Continue to hold Community Concerts, including outdoor concerts in the summer.
- Do everything we can to bless all who are involved in worship & music so that they can in turn bless *God* and others by using their gifts and talents in worship of the Lord.
- Begin a tradition of holding annual Worship Choir Retreats.

## Evangelism and Outreach:

True and lasting life change begins when someone crosses the line of faith and begins a new life in Christ. Evangelism and Outreach at Beechwood Church focuses on folks in our community who have not yet crossed that line of faith. But we also focus on life change within believers that inspires them to embrace and live the great commission to go and make disciples.

Here are some key components of Evangelism and Outreach:

- Alpha ... an outreach program that seeks to lead people to Christ in a non-threatening, thoughtful environment, and to begin the discipleship process for them.
- The Bridge ... was started as a worship service for people who are less comfortable in traditional church settings. The Bridge continues to grow and bring visitors.
- Becoming a Contagious Christian ... is designed to equip people with the desire and skills to lead people to Christ.
- The Mugging Ministry ... started last year and provides personal follow-up with an easy smile, small gift, and a welcome brochure to first-time visitors.
- Our Assimilation Team ... consists of Greeters, Ushers, and Welcome Center attendants who seek to make all who enter our church comfortable and valued.

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Formation of an Evangelism & Outreach Team. The time is right to form a team of lay leaders who think holistically and are passionate about evangelism. The team could bring forth new and bold initiatives and programs, such as ...
  - Power or Listening Evangelism - a form of evangelism based on a theological perspective of 'The Kingdom of God', with emphasis on gifts of the Spirit.
  - 'Becoming a Contagious Church', emphasizing styles of personal evangelism that God has given us, and how to unleash these styles as a unified church body.
  - Servant Evangelism, where 'Random Acts of Kindness' are the norm rather than exception, and where various needs of our community are addressed through special classes & events. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) parenting, marriage, financial planning, healthy relationships, etc.

## **Discipleship and Spiritual Growth:**

Beechwood believes wholeheartedly that small groups are an essential component for experiencing life change in Christ. From studying God's Word to sharing and praying together, God uses community to transform us into truth and grace filled people. In small groups we experience deeper understanding, increased knowledge, and authentic fellowship. And while each of these elements is important, it is the dynamic combination of these and other elements that gives small groups a special place in the Christian life.

Here are some key components of Discipleship & Spiritual Growth:

- Small Groups ... which have increased this past year in both breadth and depth.
- Small Group Leader Training Events.
- Core Classes ... such as 'Contagious Christian' and 'Network' that provide opportunities for people to grow in their walk.
- Alpha ... an outreach program that also serves as an excellent discipling tool.
- Women's Ministries ... where retreats never fail to bring forth life change in women.

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- An emphasis on Christ at the Center/The Kingdom of God. A great place to focus our discipleship focus is on helping people embrace Christ as King and prioritizing his Kingdom: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." Mt. 6:33
- Holding various 'Catalyst' Events ... which would provide much needed refreshment and encouragement for small group leaders and members, and serve as entry points into the church.
- Taking our Men's Ministries to a higher level. God is already moving us in this area! We envision a Men's Ministry Team that plans and executes momentum building activities such as breakfasts, golf, fishing, etc ... maybe even a retreat!
- Enhancement of Present Discipleship Ministries. We will continue to recruit small group leaders and promote broader participation in small groups. Training our leaders will be emphasized stronger, as will emphasizing the need for and benefits of having our members involved in core classes.

## **Missions:**

In support of our vision, one of the five purposes that form our mission statement is to "Reach people for Jesus", and one of the nine core values that we hold is "Outreach in community and throughout the world" (ref. Acts 1:8).

From this we are able to formulate a Mission Support Statement of Philosophy, which is to *"Be witnesses for Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth - so that lives are changed by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ."* Each and every mission or ministry we support aligns with our philosophy and endeavors to bring forth life change in Christ for those they serve. While Beechwood has a long tradition of supporting ministries and missions, we believe the Lord is calling us to move deeper into partnerships with all of the ministries and missions we support.

Here are some key components of Mission Support:

- RCA Missionary support (four RCA missionaries).
- Non-RCA Missionary Support (Timmers and Spoolstras).
- 'External' Missions/Ministries (many!).
- Congregational Missions/Ministries (various).

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Sending more Adult Mission Teams to the RCA Missions supported by Beechwood.
- Creating a Mission Tuition/Scholarship Fund (to help those who require assistance).
- Implementing a Mission Training Program.
- Encouraging people to share testimonies about their mission experiences.
- Further development of mission resources (people, funds, reference materials, etc.).
- Successful implementation of our newly introduced Mission Support Team.
- Helping to cultivate passion and energy throughout our congregation for missions.

## **Congregational Care:**

Beechwood's Congregational Care Ministries reach out to all who are in need. Beyond meeting physical needs, we strive to bring authentic wholeness to people. Everyone involved in the various care ministries understands their vital role as God's ambassador. We meet people where they are at, and we do all that we can to help people center their lives in Jesus Christ - no matter their circumstances - so that their lives can be changed in Him.

Here are some key components of our Care Ministry:

- Care Elder Ministry...made up of compassionate people who care for others.
- Small Group Care Associates ... who ensure that all in small groups are cared for.
- Helping Hands Ministry ... a wonderful ministry that provides transportation, meals, building projects, and more to people in need.
- Counseling Assistance Ministry ... a referral ministry that assists people struggling with emotional or mental health challenges.
- Pre-marital Counseling ... to help couples prepare for a healthy, Christ-centered marriage.
- Christian Aid ... which assists people in need with short-term financial aid.
- Families Victorious ... a nurturing environment that helps those who are struggling with addiction to find healing and wholeness.
- 'Other' Support groups (Transitions, Cancer Support, First Place).

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Continuing to meet the emotional, physical, relational, and spiritual needs of those we minister to *while* helping them to place Christ at their center.
- Communicating care opportunities more dynamically.
- Fully developing a Wholeness Ministry and integrating Care as a component of it.
- Developing and launching a life coaching ministry, as well as a more robust mentoring ministry.

## Ministry Support:

Each area within Ministry Support is dedicated to supporting, equipping, and helping to unleash the 'front-line' ministries of Beechwood Church. 'Ministry Support' is a mixture of staff and member ministers who work together in areas such as administration, office support, buildings & grounds, bookkeeping, technology, audio/visual support, decorating, communication, and much more. Since each of the front-line ministries of the church are geared toward bringing forth life change in Christ for many, by extension each area in ministry support is also geared accordingly.

Here are some key components of Ministry Support:

- Administration/Office Support ... our office staff works in tandem with member ministers like Allie Wiersma and Bert VonIns to meet our administrative needs.
- Buildings & Grounds ... we have a big building and a lot of property, both of which get used *a lot*. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Borgman, together with Frank Beltman and our Men's WorkBee, Ray Dams, Jim and Dorri Geib, Larry DeKraker and many others, this area is in good hands.
- Technology ... Bill Hoekstra does wonders with our computers and network, and Ginger VandenBrink is sprucing up our website in a big way.
- Audio/Visual team ... a group of dedicated people who work diligently to support our worship services and various events.

Here are some primary areas we will focus on this year & beyond:

- Define an optimal approach for office support and implement accordingly.
- Refine our website, including making audio and/or audio/video files available.
- Create a viable means of capturing - and unleashing - member gifts and talents.
- Strive at all times to manage actual expenses in accordance with the budget approved by the congregation.
- Continue to intentfully steward the building and grounds so that it is used often and in support of our vision.
- Develop a Beechwood Church brochure, and assist ministry leaders to develop ministry-specific brochures as needed.

## July 2007 - June 2008 Budget

The consistory is proposing a June 2007 - July 2008 operating budget of \$1,394,728 in support of the Ministry Plan. A summary of the budget is shown below and represents an increase of 2.9% over our current budget. The consistory believes the budget is appropriate, attainable, and Holy Spirit led.

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>Current Budget (JY'06 - JU'07)</b>	<b>Proposed Budget (JY'07-JU'08)</b>	<b>% change from current budget</b>	<b>Line Item Explanations / Comments</b>
<b>Office &amp; Administration</b>	\$32,750	\$35,700	9.0%	Adjustment based on actual printer/copier costs
<b>Children's Ministry</b>	\$11,100	\$12,950	16.7%	Increase from necessary improvements to Wednesday evening Gems/Cadets programs
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	\$22,750	\$20,000	-12.1%	Slight decrease based on revised approach in youth ministry
<b>Adult Small Groups</b>	\$5,300	\$5,300	0.0%	No change
<b>Evangelism &amp; Outreach</b>	\$23,500	\$20,500	-12.8%	Decreased to reflect lower advertising expense
<b>Mission Support</b>	\$41,500	\$30,000	-27.7%	RCA Mission Shares increasing from \$5,200 to \$5,700 ... 13,000 moved to Church Planting Long-Range Plan (support for Iglesia Alas de Aguila)
<b>Congregational Worship</b>	\$16,400	\$18,650	13.7%	Increased to match needs
<b>Congregational Care</b>	\$16,600	\$16,600	0.0%	No change
<b>Young Adult Ministry</b>	\$5,000	\$4,500	-10.0%	Slight decrease
<b>Belonging Ministry</b>	\$14,500	\$13,500	-6.9%	Slight decrease
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	\$162,970	\$164,600	1.0%	Slight increase due for procuring new tractor & mower
<b>Debt Retirement</b>	\$225,000	\$210,000	-6.7%	Slight decrease based on new loan terms combined with capital campaign goal of debt reduction
<b>Denominational Support</b>	\$70,785	\$71,978	1.7%	Slight increase based on rise in membership & increased cost
<b>Wages &amp; Benefits</b>	\$706,620	\$770,450	9.0%	Rising insurance costs, additional administrative position @ 30 hours/week, additional intern position, slight increase in hours for interns, cost-of-living adjustments, and first-time pension contributions for a few employees completing their first year of service.
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,354,775</b>	<b>\$1,394,728</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	

Beyond the general budget, Beechwood members generously support many missions & ministries! In 2006, Beechwood members contributed \$165,590 to 'designated' missions & ministries!

# *Opportunities*

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TAKING THE NEXT STEPS ON PURPOSE

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*"Be very careful, then, how you live ... making the most of every opportunity ..."*  
*Ephesians 5:15-16*

God has blessed Beechwood Church in amazing ways! In 2001, we began worshipping in a beautiful new sanctuary. In 2003 we grew in faith and understanding while going through '40 Days of Purpose'. During that time small groups became the norm at Beechwood rather than the exception. In December 2005 we released a new and bold vision statement: *Called by the father and led by the Holy Spirit to **change lives** by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.* In February 2006 we launched a process to begin long-range planning, and after several 'congregational connections' to gather input from members we discerned four primary long-range plans - cyclical church planting, enhancing our outdoor worship area, establishing a family camp, and implementing a wholeness ministry. These long-range plans were ultimately approved by the congregation in May 2006. One of the long-range plans - cyclical church planting - quickly became a reality as Iglesia Alas de Aguila, a church plant for Latino folks in North Holland, held its inaugural service on April 29, 2007.

Throughout this time your leadership team has been praying that God's will would be revealed to us and that we would have the courage to act on it. We believe that God has given us **Opportunities** that He deeply desires for us to act on. And so with great expectations, we chart forward believing with everything we have that saying "yes" to the Opportunities God has set before us will bring forth life change in Christ for many.

The **Opportunities** capital stewardship campaign will be ongoing through the next three years. We invite all who desire to see lives changed by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ to get involved in **Opportunities**. Contact the church office or any of our leaders and we'll be happy to share the vision behind **Opportunities** and where you might plug in to be a part of this exciting journey of faith.