

Report of the
Bishop

Synod Assembly Report of the Bishop
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
Written March 20, 2008
The Reverend Claire Schenot Burkat, Bishop

*So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. – Acts 1:6-9*

As I complete my second year serving as bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, I continue to live into the challenge, opportunity, and awesome responsibility of being a witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ. For this call from the Church of Jesus Christ and for the people of God supporting, guiding, and affirming my leadership as I grow in this position, I am grateful to Jesus Christ, and dependant daily on God’s mercy and guidance. Only by the extraordinary grace and power of the Holy Spirit and the collective wisdom and experience of synodical leaders, generous gifts, and extensive resources of our Church is this possible.

There have been challenges this year, to be sure, yet God has blessed us with gifts and passion to engage the mission Jesus has given us, to be witnesses to his glory and love across Southeastern Pennsylvania and globally:

- We are in the midst of an exciting strategic planning project (the second phase of which will kick-off at our Assembly) that has engaged many leaders – rostered and lay – and stimulated creative thinking about how we respond to God's call to mission here and now.
- Our congregations' council presidents and vice-presidents are networking regularly, building relationships and sharing ideas in ways that will strengthen the ministries of our churches as well as our shared synodical ministry.
- My fall conference conversations were well attended, and we are seeing increased interest and involvement in our common ministries in many areas.
- We are learning how much we can do globally through our involvement with our Tanzanian companion Synod's Sebastian Kolowa University College, which opened last fall with the support of the financial gifts, prayers, talents and hard work of so many of our people.

In the coming year we will continue to face challenges, fiscal pressures and discouragements. Yet I am convinced that if we focus on our central calling from our Lord, to be his witnesses to the amazing work he is doing in, through and around us despite our challenges, God will provide the grace and power necessary to the task. Here are some of the key events and issues we have worked with this past year:

Synod Assembly May 2007

The 2007 Synod Assembly had the theme: *Living in God’s Amazing Grace: Thanks be to God!* As it was my first time presiding at our Synod Assembly, I leaned heavily on **Pastor Lloyd Sheneman**, our parliamentarian, **Pastor Ray Miller** our secretary, and **Pastor Larry Smoose**, our chairperson of Reference and Counsel, for help and guidance.

The atmosphere and mood of the assembly was celebrative, respectful, and thoughtful. It was clear to me and to those who attended, that the mission of the church and the partnership we share in the Gospel here in SEPA was of primary importance to our people, and the highest priority for our life together in Assembly. The Bible study led by **Dr. John Hoffmeyer**, the ELCA report and personal testimony of the **Reverend Raphael Malpica Padilla**, and the worship services, especially the Saturday morning worship led by the **Rejoicing Spirits Ministries**, were a joy and a blessing for all who attended. This is truly living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks be to God!

Summer 2007

Synod Office Flood

Sadly, there was no time to celebrate the successful completion of the Synod Assembly weekend or even to rest the Monday following, as I received an emergency call that our Synod office was severely damaged by flooding caused by a broken pipe in the kitchen. The Grace Church and Synod Office insurance company was contacted immediately and a restoration company was contracted to begin the clean-up. The following week, because the air quality was still wet and putrid, and while the fans were blowing noxious material into the air, I made a decision to close the office for the health and safety of our Synod staff. The office was officially closed for six days. Many meetings had to be relocated to other sites, and time working from home was encouraged during this period. All the members of the Synod staff suffered through a very undesirable work situation with good humor and a resilient attitude.

Resignation of the Reverend Dr. Gemechis Buba

When he was called in the fall of 2006, **Dr. Gemechis Buba** assumed the Mission Director position along with shared synod staff responsibilities for the three Philadelphia Conferences. In addition, he was being called on by our Church wide Outreach Office to consult with African Nationals all over the USA. It became clear by the summer of 2007 that this job description was too extensive for one person. The Church wide office in Chicago made an offer of a full time position for mission outreach among Africans residing and immigrating to the US. I received his resignation from the SEPA staff with regret, but also with thanksgiving for his time among us. Pastor Buba will remain on our roster and pledged his continuing support for all our outreach efforts.

Call to the Reverend Patricia Davenport

I am pleased to welcome the **Reverend Patricia Davenport** to our Synod Staff as our new Mission Director. A gifted mission developer, pastor of Spirit and Truth Worship Center, an active member of the MCCP of Philadelphia, of AALA, L.I.F.E., a member of the Black Clergy, and a faithful servant of God and to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Pastor Davenport was called by the Synod Council September 15, 2007 to the position of Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Outreach and Mission Development. Pastor Davenport assumes the work of the Mission Director, and as a pastoral staff member, relates to the three Philadelphia Deans and the Conferences they represent: Northwest/Olney, Central, and Northeast Philadelphia. She will be installed at the 2008 Synod Assembly, as her call is to the whole Synod. We are truly blessed to welcome her as she takes on this synodical call.

Deans

Critical for the effective functioning of the new Synod design is the support and work of the ten Deans of our Synod. In addition to monthly meetings with the synod staff to discuss

congregational transitions, mobility for rostered leaders, and current issues facing leaders and congregations, we meet at an annual overnight retreat in June for scripture and prayer, for worship and time reflecting on and discerning God's direction for our work. This year we said goodbye to four deans, whose terms were ending: **Pastor John Dougherty, Pastor William Welther, Pastor Ed Kane, and Pastor Kay Braun.** We welcomed **Pastor Ellen Meissgier, Pastor Paul Sorcek, Pastor Kevin Hilgendorf and Pastor Vicki Hall.** Deans serving in 2007-2008 are:

- **The Rev. Tim Poston, Central Conference**
- **The Rev William Mueller, Chester Conference**
- **The Rev Christopher Franz, Delaware Conference**
- **The Rev Ellen Meissgier, Lower Montgomery Conference**
- **The Rev Paul Sorcek, Lower Bucks Conference**
- **The Rev Kevin Hilgendorf, Northeast Conference**
- **The Rev John Saraka, Northwest/Olney Conference**
- **The Rev Carolann Hopcke, Upper Bucks Conference**
- **The Rev Paul Neff, Upper Montgomery Conference**
- **The Rev Vicki Hall, Interim Ministry Dean**

Church wide Assembly

The tenth Biennial Church wide Assembly was held Aug. 6-11, 2007 at the Navy Pier in Chicago. The theme, "Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks be to God!" was the same as our 2007 Synod Assembly. Approximately 2,000 people participated including 1,069 voting members. The following voting members represented SEPA Synod: **Bishop Claire Burkat, Ms. Patricia Robinson, Synod Vice-President, Ms. Carin Smith, Mr. Joe Kovatch, Dr. Addie Butler, Sister Sally Kerr, Ms. Karen Santiago, Pr. Laura Ingersol, Pr. Timothy Poston, Pr. Susan Ericsson, Pr. Marcia Bell, Mr. Brian Eisenhart, Mr. Alex Jenkins, Mr. Tom Salber, Mr. William Bleam, Mrs. Barbara Dietrich, Pr. Eric Shafer, and Pr. Susan Lang.** **Mr. Ron Coolbaugh assisted us with the hospitality suite, and Pr. Ray Miller attended as Synod Secretary.** Highlights included:

- Presiding **Bishop Mark S. Hanson** was re-elected on the second ballot.
- **Mr. David Swartling** was elected Secretary on the fifth ballot. Mr. Swartling, a Seattle attorney succeeded the **Rev. Lowell Almen**, who has been secretary since 1987.
- The SEPA Synod presented Pr. Almen with a lovely stained glass framed document of the Synod Assembly recognition motion from our May Assembly.
- The Assembly encouraged restraint in discipline of congregations and leaders who call otherwise qualified candidates for ministry in mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same gender relationships. This gives some "breathing room" while the Sexuality Task Force develops a social statement to address this and many other issues at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Visit to North Eastern Diocese of Tanzania

At the end of August, I made a trip to Africa to visit our global companion in the North Eastern Diocese of Tanzania. Tanzania was surprising, inspiring, energizing and overall a wonderful and memorable experience! **Joanne Carlson** coordinated a very comprehensive itinerary to all parts of the Diocese with **Dean Mwamboza**, Joanne's counterpart on **Bishop Munga's** staff. We visited eleven parishes that are partnered with eleven of our Synod congregations and ten social ministry institutions. At every parish I brought greetings, gave a message or homily answered

questions, prayed, gave the benediction, and signed many guest books! At every district I met with the pastors who gathered for discussion and conversation. I preached at three worship services, attended an eight hour choir festival, and laid two cornerstones. The highlight of the visit for me was the privilege of baptizing sixteen children on a Monday night! I had some private time with Amanda Grant who is living on the campus of SEKUCo, working on our behalf as a 2007-2008 faculty member and assisting in the development and coordinating of curriculum and staffing. She has been very well received and is a blessing to both Synod and diocese. We are very blessed and privileged to be matched with such a faithful and courageous companion Synod. I would say the pairing of the North Eastern Diocese of Tanzania and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod is a match made in heaven.

Fall 2007

Fall Conference Conversations

In September and October I hosted nine leader conversations in every conference of our synod. In order to encourage missional leadership on a congregational level, I designed a Top-Ten list of characteristics for vital congregations for use by councils and other key leaders. This congregational self assessment can be found on our Synod website at http://www.ministrylink.org/view_article.aspx?id=532.

Council Presidents and Vice Presidents Gathering

A vital and important connection that we are encouraging is the cooperation, participation and collaboration of the elected lay leaders of our congregations. The third meeting for council presidents and vice-presidents was held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia on March 1. Approximately 80 lay leaders attended. Plans are underway to address several of the opportunities and concerns presented. We will gather twice a year, September and March, and in-between by e-mail and an internet collaboration network.

Opening of SEKUCo

In October, ten people from the SEPA Synod traveled to our Companion Synod in Tanzania to participate in the opening of **SEKUCo, the Sebastian Kolowa University College**. Congratulations, blessings, gifts, prayers of thanksgiving and shouts of joy were sent along with our travelers from the entire Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod on this most miraculous occasion, as God brought to fruition the dream of opening a university geared toward the training of teachers and leaders for special needs children and adults. **Susan Pursch**, chairperson of our synodical SEKUCo Coordinating Committee, has been the sharer of this dream from the very beginning...two years in the making. Others from our synod who traveled across the world to join in this enormous celebration were: **Ms. Joanne Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Vision and Events; Ms. Susan Pursch, Chairperson of SEPA Synod SEKUCo Coordinating Committee; Pr. Mark Singh-Heuter, Chairperson of the SEPA Synod Tanzania Companion Synod Ministry Team; Ms. Paula Campagna, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lionville; Ms. Tracey Beasley, Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia and member of Synod Council; Ms. Marcia Hougen, St. John Lutheran Church, Melrose Park; Pr. Dyan Lawlor, Mr. Bruce Waechter, Ms. Janet Waechter and Ms. Linda Breckenridge, all from Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Ambler.**

I want to acknowledge the visionary leadership of the **Rev. Dr. Anneth Munga**, Provost of SEKUCo, who was the prime motivator in the development of the university. I am pleased so many in our Synod have been inspired by her dream and I give thanks to God for all of the

congregations, groups and individuals of our Synod who have contributed much to support this new venture. We are proud of our sister in Christ, **Amanda Grant**, who so generously has dedicated herself to helping to set up the infrastructure on which the foundation depends. This adventure in faith has greatly enhanced the already strong sense of partnership and connection between the Synod and the Diocese. For what has been accomplished, and for the tremendous outpouring of time, talent, and treasure, we give God the glory!

As we celebrate the building of this inspired university, we are all also praising God for building up the people in unity and as living stones for God's purpose. Together—those who have dreamed and planned, those who have built and renovated, those who have supported and sacrificed, those who will teach and those who will learn—have laid a foundation on which new dreams can be built. May God bless the Diocese and Tanzania for generations to come!

Installation of Three Pennsylvania Bishops

In October I attended the installations of three ELCA Pennsylvania bishops in Region 8:

- Bishop Kurt F. Kusserow Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
- Bishop Robert L. Driesen Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA
- Bishop Penrose Hoover Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

This year, two of our Synods in Region 7, Northeastern Pennsylvania and Metropolitan New York will elect new bishops. Please pray for these synods, that the transitions of leadership and the witness of the ELCA may be grace-filled and mission-driven.

Winter 2007-2008

Action to Move to LTSP

In November, a special Synod Council meeting approved a proposal to renovate the chapel at LTSP and move the synod offices to the seminary at Philadelphia. Ms. Janine Niwinski and Mr. Richard Reimet have been working tirelessly to address all the logistics and concerns this move will involve.

Adoption of Strategic Planning Process

After the approval of the move to LTSP in November, the Synod Council approved a two-phase strategic planning process for 2008. The first phase of the visioning and missional assessment process was a huge success. On Saturday January 12, 2008, at **Trinity Lansdale**, and on Sunday afternoon, January 13, 2008, at **Reformation in Mt Airy**, **Rev. John Mueller Nowell** of Church Innovations and **Rev. Mike Regele** of MissionInsite led two identical six-hour gatherings to launch Phase 1. Nearly 200 synodical leaders—lay and clergy—attended and participated. At the February FLY event (Fellowship for Lutheran Youth) I led a workshop designed for youth that abbreviated the format but gained valuable insights from a group of our committed synodical teenagers. As I write this report, we are preparing to finish Phase 1 as a group of key synodical leaders will be reviewing the input from the January & February sessions on Missional Principles, examining the 10 best practices for Robust Church development, and designing a skeletal structure of Principles and Priorities for our mission work here in SEPA Synod.

Phase 2 will begin with an interactive presentation and challenge from **Dr. Kelly Fryer**, President of A.R.E. (A Renewal Enterprise), at our Synod Assembly. At an overnight retreat

planned for June 23-24, 2008, the Deans and a Renewal Team working closely with A.R.E. will design the nine Conference evenings in the fall, and coordinate the plan with the Mission Fair on October 18, 2008, and the Bishop's Convocation on November 17-19, 2008.

My Mother Almeda Schenot

Once again, I was faced with a death in my family. My mother Almeda was diagnosed with inoperable cancer on November 16. By the grace of God, **Dick Reimet** and **Pat Robinson** were with me when I received the call from her doctor. She was lovingly cared for at Paul's Run Lutheran Retirement Home and has since claimed her baptismal promise. **Almeda Schenot** died in Christ, January 3, 2008. The Service of Resurrection was held January 8, 2008, at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion where I am a member. My father Malcolm died only one year ago on December 18, 2006. In addition to losing my father and mother, this year I also lost my former mother-in-law Hilda Burkat, and a dear friend Dr. Terry Johnston. As difficult and grief-ridden as this year has been for me personally, I am so very grateful for the outpouring of love and support from the Body of Christ. My faith in Jesus Christ and the promise of resurrection for us all strengthened me. The prayers, cards, visits, and calls were sincerely appreciated and gratefully received by me and my family.

Trinity Pleasant Valley

On Wednesday January 21, 2008, while **Pastor Greg Shreaves, Pastor Serena Sellers, Pastor Susan Lang** and I were at the Region 7 First Call Theological Retreat in Malvern PA, **Ms. Rhonda Smith**, a member and volunteer at Trinity, Pleasant Valley, was shot and killed in the Trinity church office. The activity and prayer appeals regarding this horrific tragedy were immediately posted on MinistryLink, and an extensive synod support system was set up through a variety of synod partnerships. Here are some highlights of the support activities and response to this horrific event:

That very day January 21, 2008, I was able to pray with and speak with **Pastor Gregory Shreaves** at the Retreat Center before he left to meet with the police. **Pastor Sellers** immediately went to the hospital to be with the victim and her family while she was still alive.

Thursday January 22, 2008, **Pastor Carolann Hopcke**, Dean of Upper Bucks, **Mr. Robert Fisher, and Pastor Serena Sellers** met with the council at 8:30 a.m. The prayer service was held at **Trinity United Church of Christ**, our ecumenical partner church as Trinity Lutheran Church was now a crime scene. Bob Fisher coordinated the press conferences and media coverage; Pastors Sellers and Hopcke began working with the leadership on crisis control and next steps. I attended and spoke at the impromptu worship service at Trinity UCC Church, and spoke with the press. Pastor Shreaves and members of the church gave several press and television interviews. *Their witness of God's grace and help in time of trouble, and our resurrection hope even as we face evil, was clear and compelling.* Friday, January 23, 2008, the **Upper Bucks Conference** planned and led another prayer service for the community. As difficult and traumatic as this incident was, all the teams of our synod, all the crisis resources, and all the pastoral care givers were ready to go. The coordination was immediate and effective. Pastor Greg Shreaves and the council of Trinity were supported and guided by a host of partners in ministry. **Ms. Julia Menzo** and **Pastor William Rex** of **Lutheran Disaster Response, Pastor Susan Lang**, a congregational consultant, Pastor Serena Sellers and Bob Fisher, Synod Staff, Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Dean, and numerous pastors from Upper Bucks Conference, and lay leaders stepped up to help.

Prayers and bulletin inserts were provided for synod Sunday services, and **Presiding Bishop Hanson** wrote a pastoral letter to be read the following week at Trinity. As the police investigation continues, a smaller team comprised of Serena, Susan, Julia, Carolann, and Bob is working with the pastor and congregation for long term support, guidance, and pastoral care. Even as so many partnerships sprang into action in a variety of ways, there were many things we learned from this experience. The SEPA Synod will convene a small task group to review the processes and procedures to develop a more detailed trauma response plan.

Emmaus Road

At our February Synod Council meeting we heard a report and recommendation regarding an exciting and courageous new adventure in ministry as Christ Lutheran Church in Levittown and Trinity Lutheran Church of Fairless Hills seek to blend their ministry into a new faith community called Emmaus Road. Using Luke 24:13-25 as the metaphor and guiding purpose for their calling, we were introduced to the mission, vision, core values, and practical application of this missional enterprise. Pastor Nancy Wiseman and Pastor Eric Oxley shared this vision on behalf of both congregations at the Synod Council meeting.

Oversight and care

This winter and spring several situations arose involving congregations and rostered leaders in our Synod that required an extraordinary amount of careful oversight and pastoral care. I cannot share the specifics because of confidentiality concerns. I am grateful to many who have provided expertise and support in these matters.

Appreciation and Gratitude:

For all those who work in and through the Office of the Bishop here in Norristown and across the five-county region, I am deeply appreciative. It is apparent they are witnesses to God's amazing grace and activity in the Church and in the world.

For our Director of Operations, **Janine Niwinski**, who has organized my work and schedule, and deftly handles all the day to day aspects of this extensive operation, I give thanks and kudos.

The Program Staff—**Ms. Joanne Carlson, Ms. Molly Beck Dean, and Mr. Robert Fisher**—have carried the mantle of our three programmatic priorities, Global Vision, Youth and Young Adult ministry, and Mission Interpretation. They have demonstrated commitment, giftedness, and a vital witness for our Lord Jesus Christ, as they equip the saints for the work of ministry.

The Pastoral Staff—**Pr. Larry Hand, Pr. Patricia Davenport, and Pr. Serena Sellers**—are stretched and challenged to lead significant synod priorities (Leadership, Evangelical Outreach and Partnerships) while at the same time each working with three deans to accomplish the work of the synod and the ELCA on a local level.

Ms. Peg Cameron, Business Manager, continues to be a faithful steward of our resources and office accounting, in order to bless our church for years to come.

The Synod office could not operate if it were not for our dedicated and faithful administrative staff: **Ms. Judy Koenig, Ms. Cynta Outterbridge, Mr. James Gadsden, Ms. Jessica McAllister, Ms. Ginny Bailey, and Ms. Debbie Perez**. All hands, skills, and gifts serve to

work together to serve our synod graciously and willingly, because of their great love for Christ and His Church.

In 2007 we said farewell to **Ms. Laura Kalemkarian**, and **Ms. Betty Anton** who served us well in the areas of Youth Ministry and Leadership. This year marks **Bob Fisher's 10th**, and the **5th anniversary** of **Ginny Bailey, Molly Beck Dean and Janine Niwinski** serving on Synod staff! Please congratulate and bless them when you see them, and thank them as I do for their witness and service to our Lord.

I would like to express my thanks to the Committee of Deans, who tirelessly ministered to our leaders and congregations even as they also serve in their own parishes. My appreciation and blessings for the support, guidance, and affirmation I have received are extended to the **Synod Council**, and especially to the Executive Committee: **Ms. Patricia Robinson**, Vice President, **Rev Raymond Miller**, Secretary, and **Mr. Dick Reimet**, Treasurer. Grateful appreciation also to **Rev. Brian Cox, Mr. Robert Hensil, & Ms. Janet Neff**, who served on the Executive committee in 2007.

These and other volunteers bless our work and make it possible for us to share ministry broadly, deeply and faithfully.

For this very exciting, exhausting and energizing year of ministry...

For the calling from our Lord to be witnesses of God's activity among us...and

For the privilege we all share in the Gospel Mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I give thanks, praise, and glory to God on behalf of all the saints of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod!

With and in Christ,

Claire S. Burkat, Bishop

Secretary's Report

DEATHS OF ROSTERED LEADERS

The Rev. Theodore L. Fischer

Pastor Fischer died April 23, 2007. He was born June 4, 1915.

Pastor Fischer graduated at Muhlenberg College in 1936 and LTSP in 1940. Ordained on May 22, 1940, he served Nativity, Philadelphia as Assistant Pastor until 1942 then took a call as pastor of Transfiguration, Pottstown until 1952. He then served as pastor of Good Shepherd, Philadelphia until 1963 when he was called to serve as the Executive Secretary of the Board of Home Missions for the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod, LCA until 1966. In April of 1966 he was called as Pastor of St. Peter, North Wales until 1981 when he retired.

Upon retiring, he was the assisting pastor at Emmanuel Souderton, visitation pastor at Upper Dublin, vice pastor at St. James, Chalfont, Faith, Montgomeryville, Resurrection, Horsham, St. John's, Phoenixville, and Family of God, Buckingham. Following the sudden and unexpected death of Bishop Lawrence Hand in 1990, Pastor Fischer served as the Synod Administrator from March 1990 until May 1990.

A service of the Resurrection was held at St. Paul, Telford, on April 28, 2007.

The Rev. Willard I. Hackenberg

Pastor Hackenberg died October 10, 2007. He was born January 9, 1912.

A graduate of Wittenberg College in Springfield, OH, he was ordained on May 20, 1936. Pastor Hackenberg served Reformation, Toledo, OH until 1938 then Christ, Detroit, MI until 1945, Trinity, Canton, OH, until 1961 and First English, Tiffin, OH until 1965. He was then called as pastor of Resurrection, Havertown where he served until his retirement on November 30, 1977.

Pastor Hackenberg served on the Board of Directors of Wittenberg University, as Chair of Religious Interest of Wittenberg University, Chair of the Committee on Church Mission for the Synod of Ohio and was a member of the Advisory Board for both the Canton and Tiffin OH Salvation Armies. He also served on the Advisory Council on Naval Affairs of the 4th Naval District from 1946 – 1961.

A service of the Resurrections was held at Old Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia on October 16, 2007.

The Rev. Ralph L. Alderfer

Pastor Alderfer died December 22, 2007. He was born February 24, 1920.

A graduate of Muhlenberg College in 1941 and Mt. Airy, Philadelphia in 1941, he was ordained on June 25, 1944 and called as Pastor of First Lutheran, Lock Haven, PA until 1947. Until 1950 he served three congregations in Urban, PA. Until 1952 he served churches in Forks and Easton, PA, then was called as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church of Spring City, Spring City, PA until 1966. From 1966 to 1985 he served as pastor of Zion, Spring City, until his retirement in April 1985.

A service of the resurrection was held at Zion, Spring City on December 27, 2007.