

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Calvary Bible Church Family,

Psalm 95:2 says, *"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!"*
and Psalm 107:22 adds, *"And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!"*

For much of my Christian life, I didn't experience much joy in God through dutiful expressions of gratitude. I often mechanically "thanked God" for his blessings because it seemed like the right thing to do. Also, my dutiful gratitude did not help me see God's glorious mercy in Christ in fresh ways, and so it did not increase my joy. The Psalmist reminds us that true gratitude to God, as experienced in God's glorious deeds, is expressed in times of spontaneous praise. My problem was that I saw gratitude primarily as an obligation to be fulfilled. God had done something for me, so now I owe him gratitude. And once I said, "Thank you," my debt was paid, and I could move on to something else. But that's not how the Bible talks about true gratitude. In the verses above, it is clear that the Psalmist links genuine gratitude to visible expressions of joy. It is a response to God's presence with His people and a testimony to His powerful work.

On August 29, 2021, many of us were privileged to gather in the new Fellowship Center to express gratitude to God at the opening of our building expansion. It was a long-anticipated and remarkable moment in the history of Calvary Bible Church. Seeing the room full of God's people gathered to worship, grow, and serve God and one another for the advance of Christ's Kingdom was a testimony to God's faithfulness and kindness to His church. So many of you faithfully prayed and contributed to help fulfill the vision of meeting the space needs of our growing discipleship ministries. We were reminded that day that although many faithful servants at Calvary have sacrificed to see this project to the goal line, it is God who has brought this to pass. Because God did this, He alone is to be praised for His glorious work among His people.

Another moment for spontaneous joy was the opening of a new ministry season this September. Seeing over 500 people attend and serve during the new middle hour was a cause for thanksgiving and praise. There have been many such moments over the past year. As you review our Annual Report, I pray that it will give you cause to respond with thanksgiving to God for all he has done.



Senior Pastor Keith Doyle



WORSHIP:

Worship is the supreme purpose of man. We worship God for who he is and the great things he has done, chief among them is the salvation provided for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We experienced excellent teaching in our Sunday worship services. This past year, our Senior Pastor, Keith Doyle, along with other staff and elders, preached sermon series on “Foretold” (Christmas), “Dead Church: Reviving Gospel Community” (Acts 2), and “Hope for the Weary” (1 Peter).

Ross Martin, our Director of Worship, expanded the worship team and formed a choir that will sing once per month. Worship services continued to be offered online and in-person. Hundreds of congregants watched the services online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and our livestream continues to average over 200 viewers each Sunday. In-person numbers increased as COVID-19 numbers dropped.

We saw many new visitors on Sundays. Throughout the year, we hosted “Meet & Greet” receptions for newcomers. Keith and Kerry Doyle led these meetings, shared information about the church and its ministries, and answered questions from our visitors. We were blessed to have over 175 visitors attend these events.

Like most churches, we adjusted our health and safety protocols throughout the year. The early service (8:45 am) was set aside for those wearing masks. Seating capacity was reduced to encourage social distancing. The time between services was extended to allow for cleaning the Worship Center. Other parts of the facility were cleaned on Sundays and throughout the week to ensure that rooms were sanitized for FVCA classes and for ministry meetings.

The church held community gatherings between services and after the 10:45am service. When the weather got colder, the gatherings moved to the gym. Once the expansion was completed, it moved to The Hub. This provided the church family with a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. The fellowship that occurred led to the suggestion that we implement a three-hour ministry model. One of the changes made to implement the new schedule was to move the first worship service to 8:15am.



GROW:

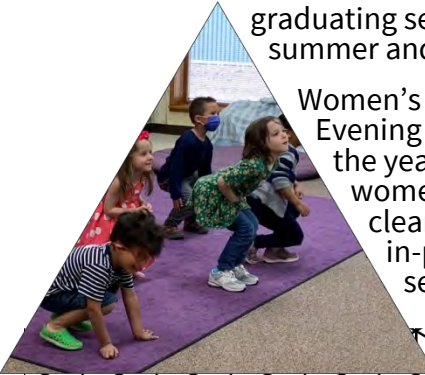
God intends for his church to grow into a living temple where Christ is present and exalted. We grow as we gather together to study God's word and encourage each other in our pursuit of Jesus.

The goal of all our ministries during the past year was to stay connected to our people and provide them with opportunities to grow.

Let's start with Children's Ministry. From March 2020 through August 2021, our Children's Ministry produced worship services for Kingdom Zone kids which aired on YouTube for those who could not attend in-person. "Agents of Acts," "Hey God," "Wise Kids Seek Him," "Books of the Bible," and "Who God Made You to Be" were some of the series featured. For children who attended in-person worship services with their families, sermon sheets and worship activities were created. Children's Ministry also produced an advent activity booklet and a Mother's Day video. During the year, first graders were presented with Bibles. In addition, there was a Child Dedication service and some children participated in Baptism services. Infants and toddlers began meeting onsite in the Fall of 2020, and preschool classes restarted in the winter. Our ministry for elementary students started up in June. AWANA began the year meeting virtually and resumed meeting in-person during the spring. Almost 150 kids participated in the hybrid program. Many students completed Bible memorization goals and were awarded scholarships to attend summer camps.

Our youth ministries, SWAT (high school) and C-Team (junior high), were among the first to meet in-person. For the first time in ten years, we sent out two SWAT mission trips. The first went to Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, and the second to Rainelle, West Virginia. SWAT students prepared take-home meals and served church lunches to earn money for the trips. SWAT also conducted a banquet for graduating seniors and participated in other events. C-Team held several events, including summer and winter retreats, a work weekend at Silver Birch Ranch, and C-Team Explosion.

Women's Ministry overcame the challenging lack of space due to construction. Tuesday Evening Edition and Wednesday Morning Bible Study were able to meet for most of the year, and the "Women's Morning in May" was attended by 100 women. Men's Ministry sponsored cookouts and spent a Saturday cleaning up our campus. The Men's Bible Study met online and in-person from October to May using the "CBC @ Home" sermon discussion guide.





Life Groups met throughout the year—some started online and switched to in-person later, while others met in-person the entire year. Eight new life groups formed throughout the year.



Precepts studies met on Monday and Thursday this year. New discipleship groups were formed. A number of individuals participated in these “D-groups” during the year. Brian Borke was tasked with relaunching a security team on Sunday mornings starting in September.



Four new ministries were formed: Legacy is for those over the age of 60. It is led by a team headed by Rob and Sue Strauss. A Young Adults ministry was formed and is being led by Michael Hansen. Hearts of Hope offers care and support for individuals who have experienced abuse. A new café team was formed to serve congregants once the expansion space opened.



A new organizational structure was introduced during the year. Steven Nichols was appointed as the Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation to oversee Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adults Ministry, Adult Equipping Ministry, Men’s and Women’s Ministry, and Life Groups. He will also oversee FVCA beginning in 2022. Eric Omdal was appointed Associate Pastor of Leadership and Campus Development. He is responsible for completing the expansion, directing the next Capital Campaign, building an intern program, and helping to identify and develop future Elders and ministry leaders. Eric will also work on recruiting volunteers and identifying and evaluating growth opportunities for CBC in the future. Carla Reed joined the staff to work with Eric on the next capital campaign. Josiah Rocke was appointed Director of Communications, Connections, and Systems. Sarah Amundson and Brandon Palmer report to Josiah. David Niemi was hired to provide support for Worship and reports to Ross Martin, our Director of Worship. Matt Anderson was appointed the Director of Missions. This is a volunteer role like that of our directors of Men’s and Women’s Ministry.

Ken Peterson, Director of Administration, assumed responsibility for care ministries (DivorceCare, GriefShare, counseling) until the church can afford to hire an Associate Pastor of Member Care. He continues to oversee the office support staff, facilities, human resources, and the church budget. Ben Wesley joined the Maintenance team, replacing Alex Kuhlow, who returned to the Philippines this fall. Julie Anderson joined the staff to assist with office reception and staff support, oversee Agape Fund requests, and support the Missions team. Tim Spranger became the volunteer leader for C-Team. He reports to Michael Hansen. Two individuals served as interns in the church office this past summer, Sydney Hovanes and Grant Swanstrom.

Fox Valley Christian Academy offered in-person classes to students for the entire school year despite the challenges of COVID-19. Joy Radford served as Acting Administrator from August through March and worked part-time through the end of the school year. Joe Pytleski replaced Joy as Acting Administrator after Spring Break. FVCA began a three to five year transition to classical Christian education in 2021. Additions to the school staff for the 2021-22 school year include Dan Wetzel, as School Administrator; Angela Menet, first grade; Donna Boyce, fifth grade; Brian Davis, Middle School; Dyson Webster, Teaching Assistant; Valerie Jongert, Teaching Assistant; and Dianne Conant, Kidstation.



SERVE:

As we serve one another, we reflect God's love. Jesus said the world would know us by the love we have for one another. We demonstrate this by caring for each other and serving those in need.

Joe Pytleski, who served as the Associate Pastor of Missions and Local Evangelism, accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor at Sturgeon Bay Community Church. We held a commissioning service for Joe & Christina on July 25. Elders from his new church participated in the service. We are grateful for Joe's service and his willingness to step in as Acting Administrator for FVCA. John Hartenberger has agreed to lead our local evangelism efforts.



DivorceCare, GriefShare, and Blended & Blessed all met during the year. Our new senior ministry, Legacy, planned a Trivia & Discussion night in July and a corn roast on Labor Day. New Commandment continued to assist widows, shut-ins, and other congregants who had special needs.

Our hospitality teams continued to serve newcomers and the church family. Ushers, greeters, and a new Welcome Desk team met to assist visitors, offer directions, and answer questions on Sunday mornings.

Jan Burwitz, our Parish Nurse, assisted many congregants, especially those who were shut-in or needed assistance in going to medical appointments. She also provided communion to the homebound. Our church counselor, Deborah Wetzel, met with congregants in-person and through telehealth.

This summer, we hosted a ministry fair. Forty-one ministries were represented. Congregants had the opportunity to learn about ministries and identify where they could attend or serve. Several hundred congregants signed up to find out more about these ministries.



SHARE:

We are called to share the good news of Jesus to the entire world. The strategy to accomplish this changes over time, but we remain dedicated to carrying out local outreach and global evangelism.

There were many opportunities to share Jesus with our local community. CBC volunteers conducted two outreaches that provided free oil changes and ministered to guests while they waited for their cars. Others from our church visited our neighbors on Rock Ledge Lane to give them gifts and invite them to join us at church services. John Hartenberger led a team to serve at the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation. John, Joe Pytleski, and others provided free coffee at a coffee shop in Neenah.

At Calvary, we extend the outreach of our local body by supporting missionaries. The pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for many of our missionaries. Some have not been able to get back to the countries they were serving in, while those who were able to stay in their host countries have been hampered by local regulations intended to control the spread of COVID-19. Several of our missionaries left the mission field this year: Les & Debbie Bowden, Tim & Sharon Thomas, Jim & Julie Marsh, and Allison Lucht. A mission trip to the Village of Hope in Zambia was canceled due to the pandemic.

Congregants also share God's love with our community by giving to the AGAPE Fund. This fund is administered by a committee composed of Julie Anderson, Denise Binning, Julie Hawkins, and Ken Peterson.

Requests from those in need are reviewed by the committee which determines the level of assistance we can provide.

Typical needs include rental assistance, utility payments, food, car repair, gas, and medical debt.



BUILD:

We have been blessed with property and facilities in order to build God's kingdom in the lives of people. As we develop these resources, we invest in current and future ministry opportunities.

For the past year, Boldt Construction has been working with subcontractors to erect and finish our new facility. Our construction team and aesthetics team worked hundreds of hours to ensure the new facility meets ministry needs. Pastor Eric Omdal has done an excellent job serving as the project leader for the church. By locking in pricing at the beginning of the shutdown, we were able to realize substantial savings on material costs. If we had waited until after the pandemic to build, the project would have cost substantially more.


During the summer, a team of volunteers led by Mike Edge and Bob remodeling our facility so the Children's Ministry could be together on the south side of the building. Another team started working on signage to help people find their way around the building. They have also designed external signage and are working on messaging for the new facility. Landscaping on the new facility was also completed.

Ministries began transitioning into the new space. One of the features of the new space is a café which has been open on Sunday mornings and plans to be open other times during the week. We are excited about the Youth Center and Fellowship Center which provide considerably more space for meetings and activities.

During this past year, our existing facility required significant investment as systems began to wear out. New heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) units were installed for the Worship Center. The Worship Center also received an updated house lighting system and new wireless microphones. In other areas, an air conditioning unit was rebuilt and a water heater was replaced. Additional systems will require replacement or repair in the years to come. We are tracking the age and expected replacement costs for these systems to help with future planning.



LOOKING BACK:



As we look back over the past year, we rejoice in the ways God has moved in our church family. Did you notice that we highlighted all this activity under some keywords? Throughout this past year, we have used the themes of WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, and SHARE to highlight what God has called Calvary Bible Church to do. These aren't new ideas, but they serve as a critical reminder of why the church exists. They are also an easy way to invite people to engage in the life of the local church and the growth of God's kingdom. BUILD is another theme that dominated our year: ministries impacted by COVID-19 had to rebuild, new ministries were formed and built volunteers teams, and, of course, our building expansion was under construction the entire year.

We pray that as you read this report, you too will exclaim "Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!"

LOOKING FORWARD:



As we consider what is already planned for next year, we are looking forward to having more opportunities to rejoice. Our top priority for the new year is to get all our ministries, old and new, functioning smoothly. Our remodeled children's rooms will be opening soon, and we are just beginning to use our new expansion. We can't wait to see what God does as we minister in these spaces. A second capital campaign begins in October accompanied by another opportunity to joyfully give and see how God uses our gifts to grow His kingdom. The Legacy ministry is hosting a major conference aimed to equip grandparents as key disciple makers in the next generation. This is truly an exciting time in the history of our church. Join us as we sow the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus and bear the fruit of righteousness that results when Christ is lifted up.



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