

2024 LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

MAY 5, 2024

AGENDA

- I. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER
- II. APPROVAL OF 2023 LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE MINUTES
- III. REPORTS
 - LEAD PASTOR - DARRELL WHITE
 - MUSIC & ARTS - MIKE BEST
 - NEXT GEN - MADISON MAY
- IV. ELECTIONS
 - MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
 - *WILL THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS MEET IN THE ATRIUM DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE MEETING.
 - TRUSTEE
 - NOMINATING COMMITTEE
 - TREASURER
- IV. REPORTS
 - DISCIPLESHIP - LUCY KERNS
 - MISSIONS - JOE FOX
 - TRUSTEE - DIRK MYHR
- V. FINANCIAL UPDATE
 - OVERVIEW OF 2023 CHURCH YEAR
 - UPDATE ON 2024
- VI. MOTION
 - EMPOWER THE LBA TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE LCC FOR THE UPCOMING 2024-2025 CHURCH YEAR.
- VII. CLOSING PRAYER

PASTOR DARRELL WHITE
SENIOR PASTOR

As I look into this upcoming year, I am amazed that I have been at Cedar Valley Church for seven years now! For many of you, that is a very short period of time in comparison to how long you have called Cedar Valley home. But for me, seven years is a good starting point!

As always, this past year has been full of high points and not so high points. But I am reminded constantly to praise God when I am standing on the top of the mountain and praise him when I am knee high in muck as I walk through difficult valleys. God is good all the time! AND, all the time God is Good!

2023-2024

This past year showed some changes in our church staffing. Kathy White, who has been our Children's Pastor for 6 years stepped down. In turn, Pastor Maddie transitioned into overseeing both the children and student ministries. Her official title is NextGen Pastor. She will also be doing some work exploring a young adult ministry as well.

Kathy White also stepped down from being the director of our Happy Time Preschool and Daycare. I would like to thank Kathy for her endless hours and hard work she dedicated to this ministry. She was who God needed in that position through COVID and the transition years after. Our new director is Britany Barthel. She has a lot of experience at Happy Time and is doing a fine job in that position!

This past year we have created a new strategic planning team headed by Phil Kenealy. The purpose of this team is to help you and me share all this church has to offer to our community! In the next few months you will be hearing more and more about strategic happenings as well as opportunities you can utilize to help reach your ONE for Jesus!

One last item I want to touch on for this past year is the paradigm shift we began in our church budget. God has blessed Cedar Valley Church with a wonderful building that needs a lot of TLC! We have given it a lot for a few years now, but it needs much more! The bottom line is, we needed to find money within our operating budget to go toward maintaining the building in a way we have not done in the past. This year was the first step toward being able to fund our building while funding ministries simultaneously. We still have a lot of work to do. But our hope is that through strategic and accountable budgeting and growing our numerical influence on our community that this will be done as painlessly as possible.

2024-2025

As we look into the next church year there are a few items I am excited to see. Some of them are brand new, some are ongoing, while others are ministries we want to revitalize.

The ministry I am excited about revitalizing is our BE THE CHURCH. Jesus calls for us to serve and I love the idea of making service a staple in our schedule. Presently we have a service team in our 5x2 ministries and we work with Love INC and other organizations to come alongside those in need. But I am excited about scheduling a time where our whole church stops and focuses on serving others in one fashion or another.

Just so you know where my mind is, I desire to see service be a part of everything we do. If you are a part of a small group or Bible Study or youth or children - I dream of service as being a vital part of our DNA.

Another new opportunity we are jumping into is our new Christ-centered counseling ministry. Our own Pastor Lucy is heading this up and has a passion to help people through this journey we call life. If you have been thinking about seeing a counselor or have a loved one who is looking for a Christ-centered counseling scenario, let me encourage you to call and talk to Pastor Lucy.

I have a bunch of other things I am excited about, but one more for this report. I am excited about our continual local ministry partnerships as well as our partnerships around the world. God is moving in mighty ways through the ministries and missionaries we support around the world. You may not see it or participate in a real-time way but you are equipping and encouraging those ministries through your continual giving each and every week.

But if you are looking for ways to serve here, in the community you live, I encourage you to look into some of the ministry partnerships we have locally. There are opportunities to serve all over the Cedar Valley! So if you are curious I will be glad to talk to you more about it.

Thanks for taking the time to read and invest in your church! As always, if you have any questions I can help you with, call or email me. I will respond as quickly as I can! God bless!

LUCY KERNS
DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

Our Discipleship effort here at CVC is a full-on team effort, as you'll see in the brief snapshots below. My goal is to continue to set the discipleship table. What I mean by that is to continue to provide opportunities for you to grow in your relationship with Jesus. Ultimately, it's up to you but as long as the table is set, there's room for you. What is even better is the team of people who bring their gifts to the table to help facilitate, host, lead, co-lead, etc. We all have a part to play and I'm EXTREMELY grateful for the people around me to serve alongside.

Development Hour | Sundays | 9a | Room 123 | Led by Joe Fox and many others

- We meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the multipurpose room. Room 123. This past year we have had several teachers including Dave Lux, Chris Wendland, Joe Fox, Tom Berns, Pastor Lucy Kerns, and Melissa Fox. We studied Biblical Theology, the Book of Genesis, plus we did a 7-week study in Biblical Perspectives on Cultural Issues. This included such topics as Deconstruction of faith with guest teacher Jake Hering from Candeo, Sexual Behavior, Transgender Ideology, Cancel Culture, Science and Faith with guest teacher Dr. Stephen Riggs, and 'What is sexuality; what is a man; what is a woman'.
- We completed a 3-week series on prophecy watching and discussing messages from Pastor Gary Hamrick at Cornerstone Chapel. And we recently finished a 4-week series that Tom Berns taught on "Forever Changed". After that Pastor Lucy taught a class on Psalm 21 helping us take time to reflect on our walk with the Lord.
- Currently, we are discussing our way through a 4-week study on Forgiveness, being taught by Joe and Melissa Fox.
- Our class is open to adults of all ages with childcare provided. Attendance has ranged from 25-60 throughout the year.

Route 66 | Sundays | 9a | Room 120 | Led by Leon Nelson

- Studying the Wesley Quarterly Adult Bible Study. This quarter has been in the book of James.
- How many attend? 15 to 20 each Sunday.
- What have been some takeaways this year or ministry wins? James is right on - hard not to understand. We took head-on the values of life's trials, doing the word, having the power to be a blessing, the Gospel of the resurrection, etc.
- Anything you'd like to share (what's coming up?) It's possible to see we older adults grow in our faith.

Men's Ministry

- **Tuesday morning Bible Study | Led by Joe Fox and Mike Hewitt**
 - Teacher's are Mike Hewitt and Joe Fox. Prayer is led by Denny Schmitt. And Worship music is led by Jerry Gass and Pastor Mike Best.
 - Between 30-40 men gather at 7:00 am every Tuesday morning to sing, pray, and study God's Word. More than that, we gather to support, encourage, discuss, share our lives, and pray for each other. Our relationships extend far beyond this hour we spend together.

- This past year we have studied Galatians, 1 & 2 Timothy and we are currently in the book of Hebrews. We study the Word of God, verse by verse, listening to what the Lord has for each of us along with good discussion.
- We are an open group, and we welcome any man of any age who wants to gather in the name of the Lord.
- **Wednesday evening Bible Study | Led by Ephrain Acfalle**
 - We finished the Book of John
 - How many attend? 12 guys this season
 - What have been some takeaways this year or ministry wins? the win for me is the opportunity to meet with guys who just want to be in God's Word and grow and walk with others.
 - Looking forward to studying through the Book of Acts in the Fall of 2024.
- **Men's Breakfast | Third Saturday of the Month | Led by Ephrain Acfalle and others**
 - About 25 guys
 - We have guys come up and share their stories and how they came to Christ from a life of brokenness, Men sharing stories of Hope and a Life of transformation, we have a couple of Godly Men who share God's word from the Bible and how to apply it to our lives as men.
 - Our goal is to continue to create a place where men can get together, share a meal, be in fellowship, and help encourage and walk with each other in the good times and in the bad.

Women's Ministry

- **Women at the Well | Led by Karen Koeneke, Lynn Watson, Marcia Cunningham, Mary Nelson**
 - Average 80-85 in attendance each week.
 - 12 tables set. The ladies at each table become a small group, as they discuss the lesson, share prayer requests, and pray for one another each week. A highlight of our time is when the ladies share answers to prayer
 - Another blessing is the interdenominational mix. Many, many different churches represented. 28 women are from other churches!
 - Fall 2023
 - Discerning the Voice Of God by Priscilla Shirer
 - Spring 2024
 - When You Pray
- **Bible Study Fellowship | Wednesdays | Sept 6 - May 1 | Led by Jeanie Albers**
 - BSF is a community-wide bible study available to women. Children's programming is also included. The Waterloo Women's class studied the book of John in 30 lessons. Through our class held at Cedar Valley Church, two satellite groups in Waverly, and one online group, over 200 women and more than 35 children met Jesus through the gospel of John. Verse by verse Jesus presented Himself as God, the Son and humanity's Savior with a resounding call to saving faith. Jesus spoke powerfully, proceeded purposefully, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously. We all stood amazed by Jesus' love and truth-He is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is the only way to the Father.
 - In September, Bible Study Fellowship classes around the world will study the book of Revelation. Our Waterloo Women's class will be adding an in-person

evening discussion group option, held at Cedar Valley, Tuesday evenings at 7:00-7:50 PM.

- What's Next? Plan to continue being a host church for BSF for 2024 - 2025. Studying Revelation
- **Wednesday evening Bible Study** (Led by Heather Caraway, Jana Wiest, & Kristi Wendland)
 - Fall study was Women of the Old Testament.
 - Spring study was women of the New Testament
 - Around 14 different ladies came with an average of 8+ each week. Everyone voiced they did not want it to end and wished it would continue through the year. It seemed to be a place to share parts of each other's stories in a comfortable, and safe setting as we studied other women who overcame obstacles of their own. The ladies enjoyed it!
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J.O.Y. | Second Thursday of the Month | Led by Siong Hauptley

J.O.Y.

Just Older Youth 20 – 120 yrs+

Our purpose is to share Jesus, His Hope, Mercy, Grace and Salvation.

J.O.Y. meets the 2nd THURSDAY of the month - April – Dec, weather permitting. Everyone 20 years plus is invited to fellowship, make new friends and enjoy a nutritious meal together. We encourage, give a short message, testimony, and prayers. We welcome all dominations & honored to serve with Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodist, Baptist, etc...

The year 2023, we had 4 women coming to **J.O.Y.** & church who never attended church before. I met them in stores, restaurants and invited them to **J.O.Y.** and church. Our average attendance is now between 50-60 in attendance each month. Down from average 150 before COVID.

We encourage participation at the monthly events at CVC as well as outside events. Day Trips, craft classes, visit shut-ins, phone calls.

* The number attending is dwindling due to deaths, moving away, & assisted living. We NEED younger men and women to participate. We need 3-5 Volunteers to set up, take care of the kitchen, serve the meals, and clean up.

J.O.Y. is **NOT** - just for the older/elderly. It is for anyone desiring to fellowship and learn about God. We accept everyone just as they are, loving them into the kingdom. We especially would like participation from our own youth @ CVC to entertain & volunteer summer month events & volunteer to assist seniors with projects, ie; yard work, cleaning, moving, etc... (I'm dreaming – Right?)

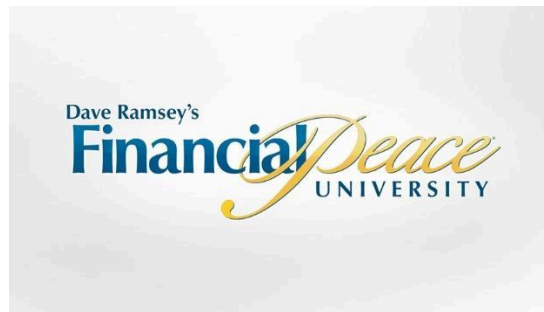
My prayer is God gives the increase in Health, Prosperity & Joy to our **Just Older Youth** and our attendance increases to 200 +

Submitted by Siong 4/24/2024

Alpha | Led by Lucy Kerns and other leaders

- Summer 2023
 - Our staff completed the Alpha Course in its entirety but in a shortened format. We found great value in going through the program together and are unified to continue offering Alpha courses.
- We had a Fall Alpha session with approximately 25 attendees (including leaders).
 - Fall Highlights
 - Probably 10 new faces that do not attend CVC. Some weren't the most consistent with attendance but still a win!
 - A few past attendees returned as table hosts/helpers which is awesome to see in leadership development.
 - Fall 2023 marked our **6th** completed Alpha course. Praise God as Alpha has been a significant ministry for those seeking after Jesus and taking next steps in their faith.
 - Took a strategic pause from offering Alpha in the winter/spring of 2024 to have other opportunities for folks to engage. (Financial Peace University, Mens / Womens Bible Study, Parenting Together).

Financial Peace University | Led by Randy Krusemark and Lucy Kerns



**Class of 2024 at Cedar Valley Church
January 24 – March 27**

Coordinators: Randy Krusemark and Pastor Lucy Kerns
22 Students in attendance

Lesson 1 – Budget and \$1,000.00 Emergency Fund

Lesson 2 – Debt Snowball

Lesson 3 – 3-6 Months of Emergency Fund

Lesson 4 – Steps 4,5,6, and 7

15% Investment to Retirement / College Fund / Payoff Home / Build Wealth

& Give

Lesson 5 – Wise Spending

Lesson 6 – Understanding Insurance

Lesson 7 – Build Wealth

Lesson 8 – Buy/Sell Your Home

Lesson 9 – Outrageous Generosity

Financial Snapshot at beginning:

What is your total non-mortgage debt?
Credit cards, student loans, car loans, etc.

\$537,491.78

How much “liquid” cash do you have available? \$385,279.34

Money in checking, savings, and money markets

How many open credit card accounts do you have? 48

Even credit cards with zero balance

Financial Snapshot After 9 Week Class:

How much non-mortgage debt have you paid off? \$35,834.99

How much money have you saved? \$72,411.00

How many credit cards have you cut up? 14

Has your charitable giving changed?

Little or no change

Giving substantially more

Giving for the first time

6

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Respectfully submitted,

Randy Krusemark

CVC Treasurer

GriefShare | Led by Sharon Greenway, Annette Crowe, and Angene Cronin

- Spring 2024 | Mondays | Feb 12 - May 6 | 4:30p - 6p
- GriefShare is a 13-week video class geared to come alongside those who have lost loved ones. This is our third class. This spring, there have been 10 of us who have met weekly. Our group consists of a mother and daughter, a father and his two sons, another daughter, and a wife. Most of the losses have been within the last two years, the most recent this last January. As we have gone through the weeks, those who were quieter in the beginning have begun to share more. We've even had a little laughter in the last few weeks. Last week, I asked the older lady who lost her husband if she felt the group had helped her. She said, "Yes definitely. It has helped." Also, I asked the oldest of the two boys if he felt the group has been helpful. He said, "Yes. It has helped to hear other people's stories." In our final class on May 6, we will be sharing photos of our loved one and then go out to eat after.
- Fall 2023
- Next session: Mondays | August 26th - Nov 25th

Parenting Together | Led by Lucy Kerns

- This course ran for 4 weeks on Wednesday evenings. April 3rd - April 24. Topics covered: Growing Your Child's Character, Being United, Discipline, Keeping Your Marriage Strong, and The Barometer of Marriage
- 2 couples and 1 drop in on the last evening.
- Facilitated by Lucy Kerns

Singles

- Social Night for Singles was held on Friday, April 26th. Hosted by Peg and Kim Witthoft. 5-10 in attendance. Great food and lots of laughs. Great entry point to see where this ministry goes. Thank you Kim and Peg!
- Goal for multiple gatherings throughout the year

Young Adults

- Young Adults party for ages 18-30. Hosted at Jeremy and Staci Yoder's house. The goal is to make this a monthly gathering to support this age group. Thank you Yoders for hosting!

Christ-centered Counseling | Led by Lucy Kerns

- Began offering Christ-centered counseling. Have had 2 appointments thus far and moving along.
- Counseling sessions take place in the "counseling corner" located in the prayer room.
- Slowly been getting the word out to other churches and counseling centers that we have a service available.
- All appointments are made through cedarvalleychurch.net/counseling and direct communication with Lucy.

Prayer Ministry

submitted by David Lux, May 2024

Various folks gather every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the prayer room throughout the year to praise and thank God, share personal testimonies of answered prayer, discuss issues and concerns the Lord places before us, and devote ourselves to intercession and prayer. On any given evening there may be 8-12 people present, with others who may not be able to come but nonetheless join in from their home. The gathering is open to everyone! Come to pray, whether it is silently, in quiet agreement with others who pray out, or to express your prayer aloud so others can agree with you. As one of our folks puts it, *"To be with other believers in prayer, there is a unity in seeking Him together."*

The gathering is an informal, yet ordered time. We often begin with a worship song or hymn, and then move into prayer. Someone typically gives direction for the evening, sharing from the Word of God as the Holy Spirit has led them, and proposing a particular prayer subject or focus. This serves as the rallying point of agreement in our intercession. The prayer focus may be directly related to current events or developments on a personal, local, national, or global level that call for urgency in prayer, such as:

- the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and revival in our midst, in our nation, and the Church world wide, for the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14)
- what God is doing globally and geopolitically in His harvest field (John 4:35, Matthew 9:36-38), particularly among Muslims and unreached peoples as the time of Christ's return draws ever nearer
- for Christ to be believed in, known, loved, honored, and exalted in our lives and the lives of our families, loved ones, and friends
- for the specific church ministries conducted among our the children, youth, women, and men
- for the blessing of God to be upon our families, our church and church staff, our communities, and our nation
- for our local and global Great Commission partners in their various ministries and particular circumstances
- for Christians and the church at large to be confident, encouraged, and steadfast in the Lord in these perilous times, and to understand His will as revealed in His Word (Ephesians 5:17, Colossians 4:12)

We also pray for the different personal concerns and issues of everyday life we face. As we are aware, we pray for those who are facing sickness, challenges, difficulties, trying circumstances, and sorrows.

In all this, we are intentional about coming into the presence of our heavenly Father in repentance and faith in the substitutionary, atoning death of Christ and His resurrection from the dead. God calls us to pray, and we rejoice in the total access He provides us through Christ to His throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).

Operation World exhorts believers to pray this way: *“At times, we may look up to Him in agony, but we must see our true position---looking down with Him, exercising the authority bequeathed by Him in the Great Commission He has given to every Christian. May we become intercessors with a world vision that pray Satan-defeating, Kingdom-taking, people-reaching, captive-releasing, revival-giving, Christ-glorifying prayers. Prayer changes not only people, situations and even the course of history, but it also changes those who pray!*

How motivating it is to know that God’s eternal purposes are linked to prayer in Revelation 5:8-9! *When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”*

What’s next

Summer Book Clubs - in progress

- The idea behind Summer Book Clubs is to provide low-key, easy to jump into opportunities with a wide variety of books and times. These clubs would be gender-specific, last 4-6 weeks, and be led in homes. Clubs would run from June - July.
- The goal is to have 4 clubs available for women, 4 clubs available for men, and 1 Independent Study Option that can be done independently or with a friend.
- Leaders of the book club decide how long the club lasts, day/time of meeting, communication, and discussion
- Book Clubs to be solidified asap with May signups.
- Participants are responsible for getting their own books.

Small Groups Fall 2024

- Desiring to do a small group push this fall. We don’t just grow by taking a series of classes like Alpha, Financial Peace, etc. We grow as we live and part of that growth is with people and growing together.
- Sermon-based small groups that run in seasons of no more than ten weeks.
- Group sizes: Couples 12-14 members, singles 8-12
- Opt out opportunity, guilt-free
- One service project during 10 week period
- We do not want to divide groups. If a group “gels” we want to foster that group.
- 2 to 3 “ramp-up” seasons for folks to get into groups
 - Fall (Sept - Nov)
 - Winter (Jan - Mar)
 - Spring (April - May)
- Breaks
 - December
 - Summer | June - August

Fall Ministries returning (some pending as we're working out details)

- Tuesday and Wednesday Men's Bible Study
- Men's Breakfast
- Women at the Well
- Wednesday Night Women's Bible study (pending)
- Alpha (Pending)
- Development Hour
- Prayer
- Singles
- Young Adults
- Other

Maternity Leave

- Baby Kerns is due July 20th. Planned maternity leave through Sept 14 (8 weeks) or Oct 12 (12 weeks)...length of leave TBD.

MIKE BEST
MUSIC + ARTS PASTOR

The primary goal of the Music and Arts Ministry is to lead us in corporate worship in our Sunday gatherings and one of the best ways to worship God together is by lifting our voices up in song. I love it when I find myself humming or whistling a song we sing together on Sunday mornings. It's a reminder of how music cements the song lyrics in our hearts in a way nothing else can. And our music and tech teams serve us in this way every week!

Sunday Teams

Worship Band: Each week a different combination of singers and players comes on Thursday night to rehearse the songs for Sunday. They also practice at home (and in their cars!) so they can lead us in worshipping God musically. They show up early for sound check and rehearsal on Sundays and help set up and put away some of the equipment. They do all this so they can provide a musical foundation for our corporate worship.

Tech Team: These volunteers serve "behind the scenes" but they are the people who make our services happen in the sanctuary and online. They mix sound, design and operate lights, switch cameras, and direct the projected images we see on the screens and on the streaming feed. Most of the time, we don't notice what they're doing but their service to our church is vital.

Numbers: This year we had 22 Worship Band singers, 31 Worship Band instrumentalists, 20 people who serve on the tech team, and 50 people who sang in worship choir at least once. Many of these people served in more than one place, so we had a total of 89 people who served on these teams in 2023-2024! That's about 30% of our total average attendance which is an unusually high percentage for a church our size; the last couple of years we had about 20% of our total average attendance involved at this level.

Events

Christmas Eve Service: This is primarily an outreach service, so we plan a variety of elements that will warm the hearts of visitors and church-goers alike. This year, we presented a "choir" that functioned more like the chorus of a Broadway show and created three tableaux where they performed "still-life" scenes before the service started. Our kids helped lead one song, the choir sang backup for the end of "Where Are You, Christmas?" sung by Heidi Best, and we got to sing a bunch of Christmas Carols and light candles at the end.

Good Friday Service: This was my third Good Friday Service at CVC, and we again presented a Tenebrae Service with readings (mostly scripture) and extinguishing of candles. We re-worked the readings to include a larger variety of people and each person read a character (or more). It was a powerful time of remembering the sacrifice Jesus willingly provided to us.

Easter Service: This is also primarily an outreach service, but unlike Christmas Eve, we try to make our Easter Service as much like our regular services as we can, but with a little added "umph." Our worship team and singers were joined by a worship choir and some horns, and then for the last song of the day, even more people joined the worship choir. It was one of my favorite Sundays so far in my ministry here at CVC.

Worship Intern: Jin Hahn has continued off and on to serve our church as a worship intern. He does a lot of thankless tasks like putting things away and cleaning. But he has also helped with projects and organization. He is such a blessing to me and though most of what he does isn't obvious to the whole church, he is blessing you all as well. And of course, having him play drums or guitar or bass in our worship team is always a treat!

Facilities and Equipment

Additional Cameras: Last fall, a group of donors enabled us to purchase three new cameras that match the two remote-controlled cameras we already had. The new cameras were installed and incorporated into our switching system this Spring and have enabled our streaming services on Facebook and Youtube to be more engaging and welcoming.

Streaming Mixing Room: One of the projects Jin has been helpful in accomplishing is moving our streaming audio mix into a room that's more acoustically isolated. This allows the person mixing to hear what it will actually sound like to the people joining us online. This project involved some problem-solving and more than a little dusty work running cables through the ceiling to the new room. But I'm thrilled with the increase in quality we've been experiencing in our live-stream.

Sets and Stage Dressing: What we look at on the stage is an important aspect of our ministry. The sets sometimes illustrate what our services or special events are about, and they provide a palette for the lights to shine on. This year 37 people helped build or paint the sets, many of those helped with more than one set! Each year, we have three major builds: a new set for Christmas, a new set for the year in January, and a set for VBS in the summer. And this year we also built two hanging logos for the SHINE Conference that can be used again in the future. Special thanks to Sue McCunniff for her design and leadership for our Christmas set, to Troy Caraway for his leadership and design for our VBS set, and to Heidi Best for designing and painting the planets for VBS and helping me complete the SHINE logos.

MADISON MAY
NEXT GEN PASTOR

This past year has been another season of transition for me. No matter what I am doing I am always learning something new and growing, and this year has been no different. This year I accepted the role of the Next Gen Pastor, which means that I oversee both youth and children's ministry. It has definitely been a learning curve, and I will continue to make mistakes and grow, but I have loved it so much. It has challenged me and stretched me, and I have learned more about God, ministry, and myself. I once again want to give a massive thank you to all of the volunteers who participate in any of my ministries, whether kids or youth. Thank you for helping me cast a wider net. I would not be able to do what I do without you!

Children's Ministry

Reflection:

We had an amazing turnout at VBS last year with 120 kids, and I was able to shadow Kathy and learn from her to be ready for this year! We had several kids commit and recommit their lives to Jesus this past year, with one of them even happening at kids camp! We have a teaching rotation on Sunday mornings which has been going very well. We have changed up our check in area for better functionality. Our Sunday mornings we have anywhere from 15-35 kids in the nursery and kid's church! We have been using a curriculum and have covered a variety of topics such as the Easter story, the miracles of Jesus, treasures in God, and many more! We have also had several kids take the next step in their faith with baptism. On Wednesday nights we have had an awesome team of volunteers come in and lead each and every week. They spent time teaching, singing, playing games, crafting, and developing bonds with these students! There were several nights where we had 30+ kids! Midweek kids also participated in Operation Christmas Child! It has been such a joy and honor to watch them grow closer to Jesus and learn what it means to follow Him! And it has also been amazing to watch the volunteers go above and beyond for these children week in and week out, I am so thankful for all of them! One time I came downstairs to help with midweek kids, and watched as they were able to easily recite the memory verse, and even previous memory verses. It just shows the dedication of our volunteers!

Looking Forward:

As we just ended midweek for the semester, we are now looking forward to what is coming up in the Children's Ministry here at Cedar Valley Church. We are in the middle of planning and getting ready for Scuba VBS 2024! We plan on hosting over 100 kids and are so excited for this outreach opportunity! The dates are July 8-11 from 9:30am-12:00pm, and we are still in need of volunteers and supplies! The week after VBS we have kids camp for the 3rd-5th graders, which we are also in the middle of planning, and have also just started the fundraiser! We are working on recruiting more volunteers for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. We are actively looking at different aspects to improve on, and are so excited to see how the Holy Spirit will continue to move in this ministry! We are already looking forward to next school year and are praying about where God will lead us with the lessons and how He wants the year to unfold.

Youth Ministry

Reflection:

Once again I want to take time to thank all of the youth group volunteers who have given their time to pour into these students. They have encouraged not only the students in their relationships with Jesus, but also my own! We have had some awesome things happen in youth ministry this past year! Our camps were both a big success, with both weeks having a prayer response that was meant to be 20 minutes, that turned into two hours long! I watched students pray for each other, but also for the leaders! We had many teens from youth group volunteers for VBS and in children's ministry! We had many events throughout the summer and had a lock-in in December! We had many students recommit their lives to Christ, and had several baptisms! We had more than 50 students total walk through the doors of Life Student Ministries this year, with an average of around 30 students a week. I was able to take a group of 9 students to the Follow Conference in Cincinnati in December, where I saw God break down barriers and bring students to their knees in conviction, grief, but also in love! We recently just had senior night, where we got to hear what God had done in the lives of the seniors through youth group. I watched as they shared with the younger students what they had learned over the years, and how God impacted their lives. We had students share their testimonies at different events, and saw God tear down their fear and anxiety! Another highlight this past year was the student band. We increased our size to have 7 people in the band at different times! They broke through their fears of being on stage in front of people, and God used them to lead their peers in worship, which was quite the sight!

Looking Forward:

As we enter the summer, there are some things that we have to look forward to! We will be having a youth Bible study this summer, more details to come. We will host different youth events throughout the summer, so stay tuned for more information about those. We are really excited for middle school and high school camp which will take place in June, and we are trying to fundraise as much as possible, as we believe we will have even more students and kids going to camp this year! The theme is SEEK, and we are hard at work planning and praying for those two weeks! We look forward to welcoming our incoming 6th graders to our youth events, then to youth group in the fall! I am also working on having more regular service projects for the students! We will also be in need of youth volunteers for the fall, so if you are interested, please contact Pastor Maddie! It has been such an incredible year of youth ministry, and it has been really awesome for me to see how God has also used the students to work in my life! I am so excited to see how God will continue to work in Life Student Ministries!

LOCAL MISSIONS REPORT
LAURA KURTZ

On behalf of the Local Missions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to serve our church and community in this capacity. Our current committee includes myself (Laura Kurtz), Kathy White, Teryl Edwards, Roger Montz, Kristy Rosanke, and Brian Hansen.

We are proud to be from a church that loves missions like we do. The last year has been a good one! Cedar Valley Church continues to provide financial support for Alternatives Crisis Pregnancy Center, Love Inc, One City, Heart Surrender Prison Ministry, Recovery Church, and Cedar Springs Camp, as well as gas and bus cards as a gap ministry of Love Inc.

In 2023, we made a commitment to launch and support the 5x2 mobile food pantry as a ministry of our church. This ministry had a successful first season and is in the process of evaluating how they can be most effective at serving the needs of those who need it most while also building relationships that encourage people to Christ. This ministry has been led by Brian Hansen and Linda Morgan and has had a quality team of CVC volunteers. Additionally, the ministry has expanded to include clothing items.

CVC hosted the sendoff and return for Wildwood Hills Ranch campers in June. Wildwood Hills Ranch reported that this week was a great success encouraging the kids from Waterloo and teaching them about the love of Jesus.

Local Missions Committee continues to partner with Pastor Lucy and Pastor Maddie to support outreach and discipleship opportunities hosted by our church adult and youth ministries, like Alpha and the Fall Kick Off.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,
Laura Kurtz

GLOBAL MISSIONS REPORT

SETH ARONSON

Thank you to all for the continued financial support from the CVC family through giving of tithes, offerings, Faith Promise and more.

This year the global budget was over \$60,000. This allowed us to provide monthly support for 12 individuals and families, as well as the Ranong Home boys, one time gifts to Samaritan's Purse, and Greater Grace Ministries.

Personal gifts were given to the Taylor's in Thailand, and Alfred Zekeh in Liberia.

The church body provided over 300 filled Samaritan Purse shoeboxes last year.

In November, Pastor Darrell ministered in Liberia and earlier this year a group did children's ministry in Thailand.

During the "Shine" conference, our focus was on equipping ourselves, discovering new ways to support our missionaries, and to bring more awareness to what we all can do to support and expand our missionary efforts.

In the coming months we will bring some changes in the way Missions are utilizing its funds to provide opportunities for people in the church to get involved in global missions, partnering with some of the missionaries that we currently support, and to visit them throughout the year. This will be rolled out over the next 18 months and then it will provide a roadmap for providing youth and adults to go to different short term missions together to see how we are supporting our missionaries across the world. This is very exciting!

We had the opportunity to provide increases to some of the younger missionaries with growing families and the economic increase we all face. We also added on some support for the Ryan Wynthein family as they head to Alaska to do a camping ministry.

We thank God for His blessings this year and pray that He will open our hearts to have a greater passion for missions and reaching the lost across the globe. Please let us know if you have an interest in serving with our team.

DIRK MYHR
TRUSTEE

I want to start off saying thank you to all those who have given their time, money, talents, and resources to help keep this facility up and running as well as it does. As many of you know our financial situation has been a concern and we did not have a high spending year. However, this did encourage us to sit down and really brainstorm how we can save money on projects without sacrificing functionality and longevity. With that being said we were able to knock off over \$50,000 from upcoming projects. The Lord has blessed us with the knowledge and resources to be good stewards with what He has given us.

As you know, this building does take quite a bit of upkeep and maintenance which equals time and money. I am happy to announce a step in the right direction, we were able to set a goal in the budget this year specifically allocated to building improvements. With this we are putting anticipated projects together to try and be more proactive when it comes to the facilities and infrastructure. This year we are setting aside 5% of the total undesignated giving to be allocated to building improvements. We plan on slowly increasing this to 10% over the next few years in order to be prepared for the coming years' needs.

2023 Completed projects:

- Parking lot & sidewalk repairs (S & E entrances)
- Sump Pump in the basement (HT side)
- South door monitoring and entry security system
- updated/additional interior directional signage
- Atrium windows (seal & clean)

2024 Current Projects:

- 5 Ton AHU on first floor north Epworth building
- Hot water boiler that heats both floors of the Epworth building
- New exterior (emergency exit) doors on SW corner of the building

Future needs:

- Parking lot repairs/replacement
- Building exterior wash/paint (possible color change), Caulk, Tuckpoint
- Exterior Facility lighting
- Roof sections that are coming to their end of life
- Shed/Garage Roof and floor repairs – New garage large enough to store our investment in vehicles in order to keep them out of the elements
- Start the process of replacing the 14 HVAC units that serve HT & North end of building
- Various needed interior remodels: carpet, ceiling, paint, restrooms, furniture, equipment

BRITANY BARTHEL
HAPPY TIME DIRECTOR

Happy Time Preschool and Daycare

Happy Time has been a ministry of Cedar Valley Church for over 30 years. We serve approximately 130 students and their families at Happy Time. From Infants through fifth grade, it is such a blessing to teach and watch each of them grow. Loving on God's children and being their home away from home is one of the greatest gifts that Happy Time takes very seriously with providing a welcoming and clean learning environment.

Within our program at Happy Time, students experience praising Jesus together as a group once a week during chapel. Within their classrooms the Bible stories are implemented through the week with videos, books, and activities.

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Happy Time are what we call our trike and bike days. Each age group from toddlers and up gets time to experience and learn on trikes and bikes!

Wednesdays in the summer months are our water day! This is an exciting day for staff and students to play with water tables and sprinklers on our small playground.

In the Summer months (June through August) Happy Time provides care to school age children. That program is what we call our Kool Kids program. We provide care for about 30 school-age children in the summer. Their days at Happy Time are filled with learning about God's love and worshiping him. As well as field trips around the Cedar Valley! Happy Time has been blessed to provide these services for many years!

Britany Barthel
Happy Time Director