ANNUAL REPORT
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March 7, 2021

It has been a year of "relentless innovation" amid a historic pandemic, yet God has not changed. He has been our Rock, our Deliverer, and our Light for the way forward. Our pastoral team's commitment to trust Jesus, to care for one another, and be the best teammates possible has buoyed me in the moments of determining what was effective and what needed to change.

In this thirty-seventh report to you, I am honored to share some of the highlights, including ministry initiatives that have been working and then ideas for the future. May they inspire you, affirm your unwavering support and offer you ways to continue praying for the days ahead.

YOUTH MINISTRIES
What is working
• "PAUSE" – We have been meeting under the tent on Wednesday nights for spiritual growth, teaching, prayer, and fun along the way.
• High School Life Groups – Some have been meeting outside, off and on, depending on COVID cases’ status.
• "Scripture of the Day" texts – I have been sending these out 4-5 times a week as a source of encouragement and staying connected.
• DEEP DIVE Bible Study for high schoolers – Four high schoolers and two leaders have joined together over Zoom to study the timely book of Job.
• Pastoral Care – We have been intentional about connecting with and caring for students on our care list via calls, texts, emails, postcards, sometimes in-person.
• Integrating youth into worship – I have continued to work with Pastor Jake to keep our youth connected in leadership, or some have been sharing their Psalm 23 "makeover" as well.
• Postcards to "missing" youth – This is a great way to "shake it up" and give our youth some real mail!

Ideas for the future
• New DEEP DIVE topic and group – We will be looking at this after the Job Study ends.
• Hot Topic corner – Zoom – There are a lot of passionate topics surrounding us. This could be a space for those who would like to process.
• More intentional care from youth leaders to youth – Building on what we have already been doing.
• Service event – Perhaps an outdoor distanced service event will be in our future later in the spring.
• Special event – One potential offering may be a hike, also later in the spring.

CHILDREN
What is working
• "Children's Moment" – From the beginning of HOME CHURCH, we have offered this special part of the service for children and "children at heart." Thanks to our Children's Moment team: Mark Bates, David Schulte, Maddy Schulte, Nancy Ranck, Christa Jones, Pastor Nikki, Pastor Jake, Pastor Doug, and Stefanie Williams
• 'Tuesday Times" – In place of the regular Sunday morning program, we have been offering weekly teachings online for both Pre School and Elementary based on our standard Sunday morning curriculum. Thanks to our teaching team: Kim Faulkner, Christine McLain, Stefanie Williams, Nancy Ranck, Mark Bates, David Schulte, Maddy Schulte, and Pastor Doug
• Bulletin – Weekly, we have been offering age-appropriate bulletins to go along with the sermon scripture. These are emailed to all our families and available at our in-person service.
• Occasional coloring sheets – During some seasons, we have offered more detailed and themed coloring pages for the adventurous color-ers!
• Advent activities – Our church offered people of all ages the opportunity to put together an Advent wreath. Along with this, we were able to recruit families to light candles and do readings from home for online Sunday morning services. Also, thanks to a great delivery team of Daisy Moschitto and Nancy Cole, we were able to drop a great Advent "calendar" off on the doorstep of every family.
• Occasional parent resources – Early in the pandemic, we offered a lot of help via email and then paced ourselves in providing timely blogs, etc. to encourage our parents through this challenging time
• Quarterly Parents News – In non-pandemic times, we put out monthly Parents News. With less on the calendar, we have trimmed back to quarterly.
• Lent Activities – For this Lent, we delivered a "Lenten Adventures" workbook to every doorstep. Additional resources will be offered as we get closer to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter

Ideas for the future
• "Sunday's Cool" thoughts – We will be considering either in-person or online options for our annual six-week "Sunday's Cool" offering to Kindergarten through Fifth graders.
• Monthly prayer calendar – Presently, I am looking at options for sending a monthly/daily prayer calendar for parents and children to use.
• CDCC Elementary chapels/CDCC Pre School chapels – I am working with Jenny Yznaga to develop chapels based on the Fruit of the Spirit to begin in late February. These will be led by pastors and CDCC teachers.

MISSIONS
What is working
• Global Missions Leadership team monthly meetings – We have continued to gather via Zoom, pray for our missionaries, and dream of ways to continue raising awareness among our church body.
• Monthly promos – We are still active in welcoming our missionaries and projects to present their ministries throughout the year. Keeping their names and faces in front of our people is critical to financial and prayerful support.

Ideas for the future
• Diversity on Missions Leadership Team – We are recruiting more people to join the Global Missions Leadership team of all ages and more people of color. We want this team to represent our church body and the nations.
• March for Missions – This is a promotional we began a few years ago but stopped last year when the pandemic started. Over the four weeks of March, we intend to offer our people the opportunity to collect money in a bank, to hear stories, and be inspired to support our worldwide movement.

MINISTRY TO THE WIDER KINGDOM OF GOD
In addition to the many other ways, I serve our church through preaching, visitation, weddings, funerals, etc. I also have opportunities to contribute to and partner with these ministries: Coordinator for Santa Barbara Area youth leaders network, Free Methodist World Missions (coaching a pastor in a Creative Access country), Writer for Interlinc (helping youth leaders maximize music and media across the nation), Lead Consultant with Ministry Architects for Youth and Children’s ministries, and a senior advisor for youth ministry at the Institute of Collective Trauma and Growth.

Thank you for the ways you had embraced Nancy and me as young 25-year olds when we arrived to the present where we are now grandparents! We continue to find strength, wisdom, and vision through your prayers and encouraging words.