



Annual Report of the Congregation 2023

Annual Report respectfully compiled,
Tai McGee, Church Administrator
January 2024

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Staff

Senior Pastor	Mark Inouye
Church Administrator	Tai McGee
Director of Children and Family Ministries	Chris Neely
Director of Student Ministries	Tracy Mueller
Youth Assistants	Kyle and Sarah O'Connell
Big Wood School Director	Kim Piggins
Worship Director	Mark Mueller
Worship Leader and Associate Pastor	Sean Martin
Treasurer	Deb Dimant
Receiving Treasurer	Josette Stellers

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Church of the Big Wood Mission Statement

We are a community of people,
from every walk of life
and every part of the country,
called together through the love of God
and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Through the enabling of the Holy Spirit
we are pursuing the purpose of
making disciples
in authentic community
for the sake of the world.

Pastor's Annual Report 2023

Dear Church of the Big Wood Family,

As I prepare to enter my tenth year as pastor, and look back over the past year, I'm drawn again to the verse I quoted in our stewardship letter last fall (Ps. 9:1) in which the psalmist proclaims:

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

I'm drawn to this verse because it is a perfect description of the document you are reading. This might surprise you, given its less than exciting title: *Annual Report of the Congregation 2023*.

Don't let the title fool you. For while on one level its information might seem a little "corporate" and "dull" - budgets, statistical data, financial reconciliations - on a deeper level what you'll find is an exciting testament to the "*wonderful things*" we have seen God do in the past year.

For in this report you'll see that church attendance continue to rise, up 24% this past year on top of the 49% from the year before. You'll read about the ongoing health of our adult small groups, with 13 groups meeting this fall of which at least 10 are continuing to meet. You'll see a record of baptisms - including two adult baptism - which point to God using us to reach the unchurched. You'll see that our preschool ministry serving around 90 children and their families in Jesus' name, many of them without a faith background. Volunteer opportunities in our church and community have been expanded, with many of you serving in a variety of different areas. Children and youth involvement continues to grow, up on Sunday morning 21% from last year on top of the 74% from the year before. We have supported mission work in Zambia, local organizations like the Hunger Coalition and the Blaine County Charitable Fund, and scholarships for preschool families with need. There was the Tuesday Night Music Club, our MOMS group, youth retreats, a Family Camp, backpacking trips - and I could go on to fill many pages - but the point, I think, is made - God has done "*wonderful things*"!

You will also see there are some challenges we need to overcome. Last winter's huge snowfall and some building damage due to it, along with high inflation, caused some budget overruns. In addition, giving to our operating fund was less than had been budgeted, leading to some budget cuts in 2024 and the need for us to monitor our spending closely for the rest of this year. At the same time it is important to say that 2023 was at the same time a testament to this congregation's generosity - with combined giving to our operating fund and special capital campaign being more than in any year since I've been pastor.

All of these are not just statistics and numbers - but point to God's work in the lives of particular people. Which is why I like the psalmist, "*thank the Lord with my whole heart*" for all His "*wonderful deeds*." I'd invite you to do the same!

Peace,

Mark

2023 Annual Report of the Session Church Officers

ELDERS

Class of 2024

Mark Westman
Gary Peterson

Class of 2025

Chrissy Field
Todd Harmon
George Kirk
Jerry Mitchell
JoAnne Morrical

Class of 2026

Steve Dawson
Doug Dickinson
John Dimant
Mark Mary

DEACONS

Sharon Bockemohle, Chrissy Field, Cassie Jones, Carrie Kotara, Cindy Kirk and Suzan Stommel

Thank you to all of you for serving.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership - December 31, 2022 169 98 Women, 71 Men

Gains:

New Members 3 1 Woman, 2 Men

Letter of Transfer 0 0 Woman, 0 Men

Losses:

Deaths 0 0 Women, 0 Men

Letter of Transfer 0

Membership - December 31, 2023 172 99 Women, 73 Men

Baptisms: 4

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Morrical
Clerk of Session
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for Adult Ministries and Small Groups

The Small Group ministry was set up very well by the last elder, Jennifer Halverson. Attendees of our church have the information and opportunity to join a small group at their fingertips with the brochures located in the church pews. Typically, they are updated every 6 months. A census of small group participation in April 2023 revealed that 47% of our regular and affiliate church members are connected in a small group. The December 2023 Adult Ministry session report reveals feedback from nearly all of our small groups, revealing passion, ideas, sharing and a lot of love coming from each group. Our Fall congregation-wide small group study of "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" was excellent. Right Now media continues to be a worthwhile and excellent resource for all of our small groups as to content. rightnowmedia.org

The brochures and the church website now include opportunities to volunteer to lead a small group and there is a point person to connect people (me) as suggested in last year's report.

Last year, the annual men's breakfast in August was a big success with 75 participants there to gather and listen to the founder of Powder Magazine. We also had our first Family Camp in years in September, a large undertaking but well worth it for all who attended. In 2024, additional attention to a larger variety of activities for men and women will be discussed and hopefully implemented. That would include a women's retreat and perhaps a couple's retreat. I have many ideas for men's activities. We have a Small Group committee of three men and two women. Perhaps in 2024, an Adult Ministry committee is a good idea as suggested in last year's report.

Faithfully submitted,
Douglas S. Dickinson
Elder for Adult Ministries and Small Groups
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for the Affiliates Ministry

We had a great turnout for the Affiliates Dinner on August 16 of last year. Thank you to Ed and Jane Springman for their hospitality of welcoming everyone into their home.

Stay tuned for more information regarding the summer affiliates dinner for 2024.

2023 Annual Report for the Big Wood School

Big Wood School had a phenomenal 2023! With the core of our amazing teaching staff having been with us for well over a decade, we are a well-oiled machine. It has been thrilling to have all of our wheels back to full rotation and our engines at full steam ahead!

This year, we re-established all of our unique Big Wood School events and made them even bigger and better than ever. The Back to School Rock Party, Pumpkin Patch, Family Feast, Christmas Show and Cookie Swap, Gallery Walk, Spring Spectacular Open House, and End of the Year Barbecue and PreK Graduation were some of our best attended events in recent history and all went off without a hitch. The parents were very appreciative to have these opportunities to come together as a school community and to build relationships with other members of our school family. And the children were thrilled to show off their many talents through the arts and the kitchen.

Another enhancement made this year was to our Christian curriculum. Our brilliant, passionate teacher, Miss Linley, felt called to revamp our Bible lessons. She added elements designed to ignite a spark to bring Jesus and the Bible to life for our students in their daily lives and in the hearts. It has been beautiful to see how each teacher has incorporated these themes into their weekly plans. Every week they display images and art from those lessons on a board in our main hallway for all to see and enjoy.

We were once again recognized with the Gold Medal for the Best Childcare Provider in the Valley and with a Bronze Medal for Best Private School in the Idaho Mountain Express' Best of the Valley! We are humbled by this honor and appreciate the love and support we constantly receive from our community.

As the clock struck 8:00am on Open Enrollment Day for the 2022 - 2023 School Year and Camp Big Wood 2023, we received over 120 applications in just the first hour! With some crafty restructuring of our classrooms, we were able to accommodate almost all of the families seeking a spot in our school. For the new school year, we welcomed more first-time families than ever before and made room for 50 students between the ages of 18 months and two years old. The need for childcare/school for that age group in the Valley is huge, so we were proud to be part of the solution.

When asked what made 2023 at Big Wood School special and unique for them...

Miss Candace, Lead Teacher in the Chipmunks, said, "the Family Feast! It was such a magical time for the school family to come together and share a meal."

Dean, Wilder, Wyatt, Matteo, and Harland, five year old preK students, said "all the Dress Up Days and other special days when we get to wear costumes and play games like Musical Chairs and give Valentine's." (It was SuperHero/Princess Day when I asked the question.)

Miss Cathy, Lead Teacher in the Chickadees, said "how welcoming the Church members and staff have been to me upon returning to Big Wood after seven years."

Miss Bertha, Lead Teacher in the Butterflies, said "the chance to be a part of a Bible Study with MB and Cindy and the love and support I was shown from my coworkers after I suffered injuries from a car accident."

Miss Morgan, Lead Teacher in the Wolves, and Miss Emerald, Aide in the Chickadees said "the ability we have to explore our town and be out in the community during our field trips on our three buses."

Miss Susan, Lead Teacher in the Sharks, said "the artistic freedom we have been given as teachers to tap into our individual passions to inspire kids."

Bode, five year old Chickadee, said "Fun Food Friday! We get to eat together and try new foods."

Miss Jessica, Lead Teacher in the Tiny Turtles, said "that my two year old students are learning to pray and give thanks. Hearing Gus recite 'Thank you for the stars that shine. Thank you of these friends of mine. Thank you for the moon and sun. Thank you God for all you've done.' warms my heart."

Miss Nicole, Lead Teacher in the Kind Cats, said "the family support and gratitude for the work that we do."

Miss Jane, Aide in the Wolves, said "the magic of the holidays! The Christmas Pageant was so amazing and brought so much fun and excitement to the season."

Rudy, five year old Shark, said "that we get to read stories and do Church!"

One of the biggest compliments I receive is from perspective parents after I give them a tour of our facility is that it feels like such a happy, warm and welcoming place. Our strides to create that atmosphere have hit new heights in 2023! Our goal and hope for the coming year is to continue on this trajectory by continuing to make Big Wood School a place where all feel God's love and grace and can be a part of a loving, supportive, inclusive community in the Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Piggins

Big Wood School Director

January 2024

Jerry Mitchell, Big Wood School Elder

2023 Annual Report for Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds had a very active 2023 with many projects completed and an on-going list of projects to focus on for 2024. This couldn't have been accomplished without the support and assistance of many people on The Session, The Building and Grounds Committee as well as many others within the church body with the list being too long to name individually. This support and guidance are greatly appreciated as this is my first year on Session and in this role. Here is a summary list of the major accomplishment for 2023:

- Capital HVAC Campaign for the flat roof replacement as well as the replacement of two HVAC units. We successfully replaced the flat roof above the entrance lobby and the HVAC unit on this roof.
- Updated the heat tape on the roof to help prevent ice dams/leakage.
- Spent a significant amount of time and effort fixing and enhancing the heating system for the school. We made significant progress, and the system is operating much better than the previous year.
- The Sensory Room at the school was remodeled with the removal of some old bookshelves as well as new paint.

- The front parking lot was crack sealed and resurfaced during the summer.
- On-going efforts by many for the regular "Do It Yourself" projects/issues that surface at the school and the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Mary
Building and Grounds Elder
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for Children and Family Ministries

Before I jump into this year's report, I want to remind you of our Family & Children Ministry purpose statement as found below.

We believe that it's our role, as the Family and Children's Ministry, to come alongside families, through relationships, and to:

- *Introduce children to Jesus Christ through our fun and interactive Sunday morning experience.*
- *Help children and families to fall in love with Jesus by seeing and experiencing Him through relationships with our volunteers and staff.*
- *Help children to grow in their faith by introducing them to everyday ways to follow Christ.*
- *Equipping, empowering, and encouraging parents to be the primary presenters of the Gospel in their children's lives and to help them to develop homes where Christ is the center of their family.*

Our nursery ministry thrived this year with an increase in nursery-aged children as the year progressed. We love seeing families grow and add to our nursery roster. Of course, none of this is possible without our volunteer team. Our volunteer team is small but faithful and has years of experience loving on the youngest and most tender members of Big Wood Kids. In addition, there were two or three all-star teenagers who were faithful to show up regularly to help our adult volunteers with childcare. We are so grateful for our nursery team!

For our older preschoolers and children through 5th grade, we continued our fun, interactive Sunday morning experience that we simply like to call Big Wood Kids. We kicked the year off with a 12-week lesson called Route 66, A Road Trip Through the Bible, where we dove into God's word and why his word is important in our lives. Other topics that we explored were: why Jesus came to earth, how we're called to share Jesus with others, the Lord's Prayer, the life of Joseph, God's power, parables of the Bible, why we don't have to be afraid, and why Jesus' birth still matters today. Every week, children were challenged to live out Jesus' love in their lives by following him and sharing his love with others.

Average weekly attendance in Big Wood Kids increased by 10% to 22 children throughout the year with a high of 84 on Easter Sunday, also an increase over 2022. Once again, we saw our highest attendance in the last quarter of the year.

Since many of our children are involved in ski teams, sports, dance, music lessons, etc. and parents are overwhelmed with activities, we considered how we could support those activities and not add to the stress. As a result, we implemented a new strategy this year of hosting Family and

Children's Ministry events on Sunday mornings, when families were already here. This new strategy proved to be successful and we experienced a higher level of attendance at our events than ever in the past. Events included holiday parties, Scream & Shout: School is Out, Good Friday Night, and our staples such as the Rock Party, Galena Day, Palm Sunday Celebration, Easter Egg Hunt, Redfish Lake Day, VBS, and our children-led Christmas Eve service.

We continue to make great strides in integrating our Big Wood School families into our Sunday morning services and children's events, and have seen an increase in attendance amongst many of these families. Of course, this is not possible without the cooperation of Kim Piggins and her staff at the preschool. Thank you Big Wood School staff!

Once again, VBS was a huge success with an average of 86 children in attendance for the week. This year, the theme was Ready, Set, Move: Follow Jesus Here, There, and Everywhere. Again, this week doesn't happen without so many volunteers who sacrifice their time, resources, and lots of energy. So, a huge shout out to all of you who helped decorate, donated food, cardboard boxes, and game supplies, led a team for the week, led a group of children, and to those who helped clean up.

Finally, after a long hiatus, we were particularly excited to once again host Family Camp. This year's camp was held at Camp Perkins in the beautiful Sawtooth Mountains. Forty-two people representing 17 families enjoyed an amazing weekend of fun, food, and relaxation. The theme was "Together" and the focus was on how important it is for us to gather together. It was so fun seeing families from all walks of life become like family.

2023 was an exciting year for our ministry and we are excited to continue that momentum into 2024.

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11 (ESV). We want families to experience the joy of living in Christ!

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Neely
Family and Children's Ministry Director
Chrissy Field, Elder
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for the Deacons

The list of Deacons are as follows: Sharon Bockemohle, Chrissy Field, Cassie Jones, Cindy Kirk, Carrie Kotara and Suzan Stommel. In addition, the following served on our Deacons committee: Al Oliver, Ed Northen, Brooke Kennaugh.

Coffee Hour continued to provide an important mission on a weekly basis, and we were able to add 10 new volunteers during the year to offset the departure of some others. We transitioned back to our pre-covid process which was happily received by the congregation. Communion setup is also in the process of shifting back to the pre-covid method.

Some of the events that were supported by Deacons this year were:

- All Church Picnic was well attended by congregants.

- Annual Rock Party attended by the Big Wood School parents, students, and many of our congregants. The turnout of parents exceeded expectations.
- Hanging and Un-hanging of the Greens.
- Our meal train ministry, led by Cindy Kirk, has provided countless meals to families within the church community who have landed on difficult times due to illness, mobility issues or any of several other challenges.
- This year, the Deacons ministry has increased its focus to extend beyond the walls of the church and to demonstrate its commitment to be "For the Valley".
- Provided daytime and overnight staffing for the county-wide homeless shelter sponsored by the Hunger Coalition and Blaine County Charitable Fund during the cold winter months of 2023.
- Set-up and provided 33+ volunteers for a temporary daytime shelter at CBW Commons facility in Hailey during Spring Break when the county shelter was closed during the daytime.
- Provided volunteers for The Advocates "seasonal swap".
- Provided the volunteer team for the American Legion annual Veterans Day dinner.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Wood River Land Trust "Big Wood River Clean-up".
- Ongoing participation in a new interfaith community group, Wood River Interfaith Council (WRIC): aiding the impoverished and the homeless.
- In 2024, we are expanding our community outreach by providing a robust team of volunteers and sponsoring the valley's "Empty Bowls" event, with proceeds going directly to Blaine County Charitable Fund.
- Going forward, our goal is to continue to provide opportunities for the congregation to get involved in our community as we live out being "For the Valley".

Respectfully submitted,
John Dimant
Deacons Ministry Elder
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for the Design Team

The goal and mission of the Design Team is to create a warm and welcoming environment at Church of the Big Wood.

In addition, our goal is to keep things organized, uncluttered, and updated.

Over the past five years we have spent time and resources updating our entire church and school facility, a necessary project since our building was constructed 20 plus years ago. We have completed approximately 90 percent of the upgrades.

Future projects include improved interior signage, new carpet for Family and Children's Ministry, and redoing our music room.

We are responsible for the interior design and decoration of the church and meet as necessary with painters, plumbers, and flooring professionals. We partner with the Building and Grounds personnel to keep our facility functioning well.

Highlights this year include:

Painting Tai's administrative office and Tracy's Youth Ministry office.

Redoing the Sensory Room in the Big Wood School which included removing books and book-cases, adding more colorful foam flooring, painting the walls, and purchasing new educational activities. We purchased new book bins, sorted through all the existing books, and decided which ones were worth keeping. Under the advisement of Helen Morgus, children's librarian from The Community Library in Ketchum, we purchased new books. All this work was done with the help of Mark Mary, Building Elder, Jerry Mitchell, Big Wood School elder and Charlene Hart, church volunteer.

We completed our update of the 'Cry Room' in the back of the sanctuary. It is now known as the Family Room and has supplies, toys and fun art for young ones and their families to enjoy.

We also oversee decorating for events such as Good Friday services, purchase lilies and palm fronds for Easter, tulips for Mother's Day, summer flowers for our outdoor pots, Fall decorations and Christmas decorations.

Respectfully submitted,
Chrissy Field
Design Team Elder
January 2024

2023 Annual Report of the Finance Committee

Current Financial Health

Members and friends of the Church of the Big Wood have been extremely generous over the years, which has allowed the church to maintain and grow its mission. While cash and investments held by the church declined in 2023, these balances remain healthy today. It is the opinion of the finance committee that existing reserves are sufficient to support another, much smaller, deficit in 2024.

2023 Annual Report of the Finance Committee

As expected, the church experienced a financial deficit in 2023. The overall deficit was \$86,000 compared to a budgeted loss of \$78,000. However, the Operating deficit in 2023 was \$144,000, while reserves for major maintenance generated a net positive of \$58,000.

Total donations exceeded budget by \$71,000, which includes \$132,000 raised during a summer capital campaign. Excluding the capital campaign, offerings for general operations came in \$61,000 under budget.

General operating expenses in 2023 total \$950,000 compared to a budget of \$910,000. Spending on buildings and grounds was significantly more than budgeted as we had to cope with the extra costs due to an extraordinary snow year. Youth ministries expenditures exceeded budget

as the church continued to expand programming in this area. In particular, the church allocated additional funds towards a youth mission trip.

2024 Budget

The 2024 budget anticipates a general operating deficit of \$37,000 compared to the actual 2023 deficit of \$144,000. This improvement is driven by higher budgeted offerings and lower budgeted expenses. The biggest budgeted increases in expenses are anticipated for the children's ministry and for cost-of-living adjustments for staff. The biggest reduction in budgeted expenses is expected from building and grounds due to recent capital improvements and a much milder winter season.

Session would like to express our deep appreciation for the support that the church has received this past year. This support has allowed the church to provide all its usual services and to fully support the church's Missions donations and the Agape Fund, which provides much needed help to families in the valley. In addition, the church continues to fund the Commons in Hailey, which is of great benefit in the church's outreach to youth in the valley and other ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Westman
Finance Elder
January 2024

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Income			
Total 4001 · Operating Donation Income	757,780.92	818,756.00	850,000.00
Total 4008 · Adult Ministry	936.00	650.00	1,000.00
4009 · Building Rental Income	4,175.00	1,500.00	4,000.00
Total 4013 · Youth Ministry	13,841.00	5,400.00	10,000.00
Total 4014 · Children's Ministry	4,240.00	2,000.00	4,400.00
Total 4017 · Interest Income	24,259.22	15,000.00	24,000.00
4019 · Flowers	15.00	0.00	0.00
4040 · Hailey South Campus	100.00	0.00	0.00
Total 4000 · Income	805,997.14	843,306.00	893,400.00
Total Income	805,997.14	843,306.00	893,400.00
Expense			
Total 5000 · Administrative Expenses	615,055.61	611,739.00	606,690.00
Total 5100 · Adult Ministry	2,897.73	2,400.00	2,700.00
Total 5200 · Building & Grounds	122,612.47	101,500.00	111,800.00
Total 5300 · Children's Ministry	15,342.12	16,500.00	25,650.00
Total 5400 · Hospitality/Cong Care	9,625.34	9,050.00	8,000.00
Total 5500 · Missions/Outreach	75,778.25	81,875.60	85,000.00
Total 5900 · Worship/Music	24,400.71	24,125.00	27,545.00
Total 5950 · Youth Ministry	44,931.06	28,450.00	37,650.00
Total 5980 · Hailey South Campus	38,995.54	34,734.00	25,235.00
Total Expense	949,638.83	910,373.60	930,270.00
Net Ordinary Income	-143,641.69	-67,067.60	-36,870.00

Church of the Big Wood

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023

\$(000)

Item	2023	2022
Cash/Investments - Operating	280	416
Cash/Investments - Maintenance & Other Restricted	214	143
Cash/Investments - Kendall Presbytery	160	160
Land	1,300	1,300
Church Building	5,651	5,651
Manse	579	579
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,519)	(3,326)
Other Assets	461	445
Total Assets	5,126	5,368
Current Liabilities	(20)	(37)
Long Term Liabilities - Kendall Presbytery Settlement	160	160
Total Liabilities	140	123
Net Assets	4,986	5,245

2023 Annual Report for Church Missions

The Overseers of the Missions at CBW are tasked with the privilege of "Touching the World for Christ". We accomplish this with our support of local, national, and international missionaries. This past year, we were blessed by the generosity of the congregation and given a budget of \$75,778. This is based on prior giving levels and equates to ten percent of the total CBW budget. During 2023, overall CBW giving was on par with our budget.

We, as a committee, also established a "reserve" fund. This was to be available to support any missionaries that feel God calling them after our budgets were set and to have available in the event of a shortfall. Last year, with the generosity of the congregation, we were able to support the following missions:

Locally

1. **Youth Ministry (\$8,023)** This fund supports our youth missions over and above the Youth Ministry Budget. This year, these funds went towards the Mission Trip taken to Austin, Texas.
2. **SONDance Retreat Center (\$1,000)** This donation was used for helping maintain Mike and Teri Higgs' retreat center that helps ministers and missionaries heal, restore, and reignite their passion for the calling the Lord has placed on their hearts.
3. **Global Community Partners in Boise: (\$4,800)** Nick and Laura Armstrong (son-in-law and daughter of John and Jan Newcomb) work to build a bridge between the Church and the Nations at our doorstep in Boise, Idaho.
4. **The Big Wood Pre-School (\$10,069)** This money was used for scholarships to the preschool for families that cannot afford the entire tuition. For some families in our community this is the only exposure to Christ their child may have and financially they were not able to afford the tuition.

5. **The Agape Fund: (\$48,516)** George Kirk and Doug Dickinson manage this fund. It goes to help people who are in need of immediate financial aid (i.e. housing, utilities, food, medical treatments and medicines) to alleviate short-term cash flow strains due to illness, layoffs, medical issues, etc. This amount is about double what we've distributed in prior years, for obvious reasons, and your generosity towards this fund have led us to seek out community partners to more effectively put this fund to work.
6. **The Hunger Coalition (\$2,000)** The money is used to help feed the hungry in Wood River Valley.
7. **Ketchum Community Dinners (\$1,000)** This money was used to help stock and support our community's efforts to feed our food-challenged with free meals served on Wednesday nights at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Miscellaneous Fund

Reserve Account: This account was established to be available for missionaries seeking support throughout the year or new missions that might arise. Due to your generosity, we were able to contribute to other missions such as Wood River Hospice, Suicide Prevention Hotline, and the Orphan Network.

Internationally

1. **Northrise University: (\$8,500)** Located in Zambia, the money was used to sponsor four students for one year at this Christ Centered University and to help with Campus construction.
2. **Mapalo Orphanage (Give Hope for Life): (\$8,500)** The money went for the general fund of the Orphanage and Academy to help with meals, teachers, and providing basic healthcare for approximately 350 students.
3. **Living Water International: (\$4,400)** Currently at work in 18 countries around the globe, partnering with communities to provide critically needed clean water, along with sanitation and hygiene training and education. In addition to clean water, LWI focuses on "Living Water", provided only by Jesus Christ all with and through the local church, transforming lives both physically and spiritually.
4. **Christ In Youth: (\$4,400)** "We call youth to Christ and into a life of Kingdom work through His Church." Through your support of CIY, you would be: sending teen and preteen students to events where they will encounter Jesus and learn what it means to be Kingdom workers, helping to reach teens and equip youth leaders in Europe. We are currently working in Ireland, and God is opening doors for further expansion into several countries in northern Europe, helping create digital content that initiates God-centered conversations for youth ministries in several countries.
5. **Free Wheel Chair Missions: (\$500)** \$79 gets one manufactured and delivered wheelchair to over 91 developing countries.

As a missions committee, we want to encourage those whom the Lord has placed a call on their heart, to join us in prayer for these amazing servants of God, and their success in their missions. To find out more information about these missions, please contact anyone on the missions committee: Doug Dickinson, George Kirk and Pastor Mark Inouye.

Respectfully submitted,
George Kirk
Missions Elder
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for Personnel Committee

Big Wood School

Kim and the Staff continued to have a very successful year supporting the children and their families and our Church Vision. We have had the highest attendance of families and new families over the past decade. The school program is currently filled and a large number of applications are awaiting openings in the program.

Kim's leadership continues to draw support from the families and staff. The organizational challenges last year have been mute and the current staff have implemented our educational program in an excellent manner.

Youth Ministry

Tracy, Kyle and Sarah continue to attract increasing numbers of youth to the Commons in Hailey. I have gone by the Commons on a number of occasions last year and saw a room full of youth engaging in a number of activities and enjoying the food treats. Also, the number of annual events continues to attract many of these students. Even on a VERY chilly RedFish Lake Day on June 24, 10-12 families were in attendance

In highlighting the annual increasing youth attendance at Church and the Commons, I remember that it was only a few years ago that concerns were raised about the use and cost of the Commons due to low attendance and activities. Well, those days are now in the past and Tracy, Kyle and Sarah have done a wonderful job of bringing "Christian Life" to the Commons and the Youth that they serve.

Music Ministry

Mark and his musicians have continued to enhance the experience of our Worship Services. The more that I have "experienced" our musical group, the more I have appreciated Mark's leadership given the amount of "rotating musicians" he has to conduct on a weekly basis. Given the difficulty of that role having to frequently orchestrate numerous musician changes, I want to give Mark and the many musicians a standing ovation for their contribution to our sermons and the vitality of our church. (PS- I played the trumpet for 12 years in Elementary, High School and College and I can say from experience that frequent changes of musicians are not an easy conductor task).

Family and Children's Ministry

Chris and the staff have continued to support our vision of "For The Valley". The number of annual events have continued to grow. The appreciation of the parents is really encouraging. While in attendance at a number of the events, I have been aware of the appreciation that the parents, children and youth have for the specialty events that have been designed and implemented by the staff and volunteers.

Congratulations to all!

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Peterson
Personnel Committee Chair
January 2024

2023 Annual Report for Student Ministries

On a cold, snowy night in early January, our youth gathered around and debated the plot lines of some very legendary 80's Rom-com movies. The theme for the weekend was "Higher Love" - we had just completed a relay game which involved blasting Whitney Houston's song by this very name. The discussion moved on to love. 1 John 4:10 says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." How do these love stories compare to God's love? What does it mean to love our neighbor? How does this love drive our friendships, relationships, teams and families? Fuel Youth ministry's goal this year was to walk alongside our youth. We focused on building community and creating an environment where youth know they are valued, heard, and most importantly, loved.

We held twenty five youth nights in 2023, played 14 games of Ultimate Frisbee, went through 2,000 nerf darts, and ate over 1,600 slices of pepperoni pizza. We held five retreats: Winter Snow-jam, Sr High Ski retreat, Splash Bash, Summer Backpacking, and a Fall Boise Escape. We inflated 31 beach balls for our beach party, we had 23 Seniors graduate this past May and donated 348 diapers to moms in need in the city of Austin. We packed 218 Operation Christmas Child boxes this November (with a church in Boise) and welcomed 26 new students over the course of the year. Of all the things we could count and list in a year's time, one thing is for certain: God's love for us cannot be measured.

Some key things to celebrate this year:

Kyle and Sarah's continued help leading Fuel, retreats and Sunday School. They are a key component to Fuel and we are so blessed to have them.

Our shift to one Sunday Fuel meeting with split teaching according to age group has been a big success and we are better able to use resources.

Sunday School engagement and participation on Sunday Mornings has continued to grow.

The Commons youth hang continues to grow and has been a great outreach to the high school and middle school.

Special thanks to Troy Thayer for his volunteer service driving the bus each week.

Thank you to Renee Kuross, Monica Miller, and Wendy Petzke for providing weekly snacks at Fuel and the Commons.

Thank you to Brayan Astuhuaman for help at the Commons.

Thank you also to Julia Petit, the Martins, and Jhon Yallico for volunteering at Fuel events!

We are looking forward to what God has in store for this next year and continue to praise Him for His faithfulness.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Mueller
Director of Student Ministries
January 2024
(Todd Harmon, Student Ministries Elder)

2023 Annual Report for the Worship Committee

Heading into 2023, the worship ministry team's goals were to expand the participation in worship leading and within our music ministry. In short, to grow our "bench". We hope you agree we've made significant strides. A few notables:

- We have turned the Commons into a rehearsal venue in Hailey;
- We have added to the number of participants for Sunday worship, both out in front of the congregation and behind the scenes with our technical team;
- The "Tuesday Music Club", led by Chip Booth, was launched at the Commons in Hailey, twice a month, for anyone wishing to participate in making music.
- A large ensemble of musicians and vocalists got together for the Christmas Eve Family Service and the reviews are that we Rocked It!
- Perhaps most importantly, our Sunday worship attendance has grown markedly, surpassing even pre-pandemic levels!

Wendy Eklund continues to lead our greeter and usher ministry. Our deacons are preparing monthly communion and we have transitioned back into coffee and donuts following Sunday worship!

For 2024, look forward to special music for Easter and an even bigger undertaking for Christmas 2024, as well as continuing to engage more people in the worship, music and technical teams. And through these things, that all in our worship attendance would be impacted by the Holy Spirit!

Shalom!

Respectfully submitted,
George Kirk, Worship Elder
(Mark Mueller, Worship Director)
January 2024