

To our dear SBC Community,

"Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith," we can look with gratitude on all He has done among us in 2021. Here are a few highlights:

- The Nursery relaunched
- Monday night Team Time opened with 31 kids - a great start!
- Awana opened to a packed crowd
- Becky began a ministry to equip and build women
- We held an Ash Wednesday Service, Good Friday gatherings in Elder and Staff homes, and three Easter services, each with Children's Ministry and Nursery!
- And look around – we're seeing many new people at SBC. Be encouraged!

Together we are taking seriously the command in Hebrews 10:25 – ***"Do not neglect to meet together ... encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*** We are building and blessing one another to be Christ's "Church triumphant."

In our February elders and staff meeting, Steve Orth reminded us of God's deep delight in answering our dreams, Kingdom dreams, "greater than even He did," and to reach for God's abundant plans and purposes. His insights reminded us of the abundant God we worship and serve. Pastor Steve encouraged us to trust in God's best timeframes for everything, and to carefully follow God's lead. And Nate rejoiced that we are growing stronger, again meeting indoors, continuing the Rooted series, and hosting several sermon-based Life Groups.

Bryan Stanton's worship ministry team is serving us so well, and we are deeply grateful for the solid 32-year Children's Ministry foundation Becky has handed off to us, where God is continuing to build and bless young lives and their families. Through this year the Lord has bountifully supplied our needs, and He is leading us now to do even more in 2022.

The Lord has given the elders a bold vision of "Kingdom dreams" for the year ahead at SBC. Randy voiced the staff and elders' unified commitment – "to offer attractive service to our community, where people are encouraged to stay, and to learn with us in growing personal relationships." Please pray with us to that end – God is at work!

There are always challenges ahead. Jesus said, ***"In this world you will have troubles,"*** and He quickly added, ***"But take heart! I have overcome the world."*** And so, as we walk together with the Lord, we do so by grace, in confidence and rest in His perfect will and way. We remain focused together on growing in the gospel, strengthening one another in Christ, and boldly proclaiming Him in our surrounding community – one that is eager for hope.

Thank you for your faithful service, support and supply all through this year. The elders are humbled by and grateful for your trust. We encourage you to continue in this work with us with your year-end giving, assured in the apostle Paul's encouragement to the Philippians, that "My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

We pray for you all, for a rich Christmas season of joy in Christ, and an abundant New Year.

In Christ, our life,  
The Elders of SBC

Ralph Milnik, Steve Orth, Don Broesamle, Randy Richter, Steve Osborn