

Lead pastor 2019 AGM report

2020 began with a great deal of hope and anticipation about what God was going to lead our church through in the upcoming year. The growth of our church family, the expansion of our Discovery Day Camp community, and the incredible impact of our church outreach events were all reason to expect even more likeminded stories for the upcoming year. Our church welcomed two staff members on board in new capacities with Colleen DeViet being hired as our part-time custodian/property manager and Kyla Humphries moving from part-time to full-time as our administrative assistant with additional duties as our financial secretary. The filling of these positions has greatly increased the effectiveness of all our staff and volunteers. It is such a joy to work with a fantastic team who are all pulling for the same goal: to build a church where Jesus Christ is the center-disciples who are being built up and encouraged to follow him.

But as with any plans, we realize that they are in the Lord's arena. As the Scripture says, *"You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail."* (Proverbs 19:21) COVID changed everything in March with the church services needing to be moved to an online experience for several months.

So how did our church handle it? In one word: faithfully. The pandemic was tough on everyone, including our staff. We were caught in a rush of activity when things first changed in March, but praise to God, everyone pulled together as we switched to online services with great success on March 22. I could not have been more pleased with the team that has taped, edited and produced high quality services throughout the past several months. The Audio/video team has grown in size with a number of highly dedicated volunteers joining. I have heard from a number of people about how thankful they have been for our church online worship service experience. We pray to continue to keep this strong in the months ahead.

The Lord's provision was also evident as our church was able to run summer Discovery Day Camp this summer. After a great deal of uncertainty and changing rules, the camp eventually launched in July at about a 35% capacity. This was a miracle considering the original

restrictions where we had to cancel Spring camp and refund 920 summer camp registrations. We give God thanks for the opportunity to reach many boys and girls for Jesus and teach them of his rescue plan – the best plan for their lives. Several children made first time decisions for the Lord and we pray for their follow-up this upcoming year.

Our church also decided that we were not going to allow COVID to stop us from producing a quality Christmas program this year. Throughout the spring and summer, much work was put into the writing of a Christmas film script starring our very own kids. The amount of work that went into directing, costume and set design, filming and lighting, etc. is almost too much to count. We are so thankful for the dozens of people who stepped into this effort and helped accomplish the filming in spite of challenging circumstances. As of right now the filming is all but finished, but there is a huge amount of editing to be done. We look to premiere the film in December and plan a wide launch. You should be very proud of your church in this regard. It will be an effort that will create memories for a lifetime and bring the gospel into hopefully thousands of homes.

Of course, we couldn't do everything that we planned. The designs to upgrade the facility (Envisioning 2020) will need to be put on hold as the uncertainty of COVID is still in front of us. But we are thankful for this: the church body has stepped up to give: and these funds are being put to very important use. With givings exceeding last year's amount by a healthy margin we were able to keep our commitments to staff, purchase needed A/V equipment, and continue to reach our community for Christ without disruption in resources. Thank you so much for your faithfulness during this time and keep up the great work! Please pray for the finance team as we seek to make the camp financially solvent as well. There are grants to come, subsidies to apply for, and budgeting for next year. Pray that we will not be in the red in this area as COVID dramatically affected the finances of this ministry.

This fall we have begun bible studies for the men, women, and in the later fall – the young adults and marrieds. We are asking God's provision for

these groups to grow and thrive. We are also asking for your help in launching the youth group again as pandemic protocols allow.

In addition to all this, there are membership classes being planned for the middle to end of October. The beauty of membership is that we have the opportunity to dive into a deeper level of commitment to the community of believers in Jesus here at our church and support the future growth of the body. We pray that you will prayerfully consider all the opportunities that this presents as we seek God's plan in growing our membership base.

Again, thank you for all your prayers, service, and the giving of your financial resources to the Lord's work here at Centerpoint Church. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. I leave you with this challenge from our Lord as we persevere in serving him: *"Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name."* (Hebrews 13:15)