

Staff Report - Jake Elliott, Director of Worship and Communications Coordinator

March 11, 2018

After a year and a half of being on staff, I am very pleased with the life of the worship ministry and am excited for the ways it is growing and adapting to reflect our congregation. In August of 2017 I came on full time, adding communications coordination to my position. Being full time has allowed me to give more time and energy to the worship ministry and the addition of the communication responsibilities has been a good fit as the two jobs inform each other and have much overlap. This new combined position has created some great opportunities for my growth as a ministry leader. I feel very encouraged by the way our church engages with worship in humility and joy.

Worship (Music) Ministry

- **Volunteers:** There are currently 36 volunteers on the worship team. This includes instrumentalists, vocalists, hymn leaders, and band leaders. Keeping in line with our strategic plan focus of creating a worship culture that is multi-generational, the ages of team members range from 20-80.
- **Band Leaders:** We currently have 4 band leaders: myself, Ed Song, Amanda Elliott, and Marco Ulloa. Each volunteer leader is given two Sundays each quarter to choose the music for the opening worship set in our service, and run the band rehearsal that week.
- **Looking back:** These are the things to celebrate from the past year:
 - **New soundboard:** the sound system is made up of many parts, the brain of all those parts being the soundboard. Last summer we sold pieces of our system that were outdated and purchased a new soundboard that suits the size of our church perfectly. We moved from using two analogue soundboards to one digital board. It has made running sound for our worship services much smoother and has given us more control over creating a sound that is ideal for our musical worship.
 - **Other equipment/special updates:** our speakers are now mounted to the front pillars; we have stage monitors (a sound necessity for the musicians on stage), and I have worked with several people to remodel our sound room.
 - **Young Adult Worship Night:** Pastor T.J., Pastor Nikki, and I have hosted a monthly worship night for young adults. These worship nights have averaged 5-15 young adults from FMC and from other local churches, including Hope Community, SB Community, Montecito Covenant and Ocean Hills. Going forward, these events will not always be centered around musical worship, but will take other forms that will encourage young adult fellowship, which will periodically be in musical worship.
 - **Hymn Sings:** we have had three Sunday evening Hymn Sings at which 10-25 people have gathered to sing hymns from our hymnal by request. These are scheduled to happen on a quarterly basis going forward.

- **New music:** Between the four leaders, we have taught four new songs in service: *Jesus* by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Osigus, *Lion and the Lamb* by Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring, *I Surrender* by All Sons and Daughters, and *Scandal of Grace* by Joel Houston and Matt Crocker. (CCLI License #140488) This does not include the new songs sung for ministry in music, retreats, and young adult worship nights.
- **Looking Forward:** These are the things coming up to get excited about!:
 - **Worship Conversations:** serving a similar purpose to a ministry's team (e.g. men's team, women's team) Worship Conversations is a time allotted for members of the worship team to have dialogue about various elements of the ministry. We had our first meeting on February 1st. The first focus of this group will be to gauge the effectiveness of our current pool of song selections, and organizing those selections into categories that will give worship leaders a helpful reference when selecting music for a worship service.
 - **First Annual Worship Retreat:** later this week, the whole worship team will gather together for food, fellowship, prayer, some ministry discussions, to worship together, and hear words from Joel Patterson, 13-year worship director at Westmont College. I am so excited for this as it will be the first chance for our large team to come together and celebrate our goals for the future of the ministry.

Communications Coordination

- **What it is:** This position includes preparing graphics for announcements, Connection Central, the weekly newsletter, bulletin insert, and external advertising.
- **In the works:** Pastor Danielle, Pastor T.J., and I work in close collaboration on all of our communications as a church (and for CDCC). We are constantly working on streamlining our communication of church events, community events, and other opportunities. Later this year we will be receiving a style guide from Ben Johnson, who specializes in company and church branding. This will bring more coherence to our visual communication. Our branding and our platforms for communicating online are a significant part to how we present ourselves as an organization in the community.
- **Other:** Being in the main office, I also am on a rotation with the pastors to lead weekly chapel for the CDCC preschoolers, help with Senior Lunch, and attend to those who come into the office throughout the week.

I feel so, so blessed to have a position on staff at this church. The uplifting atmosphere of the work place, the security of having a network of caring and wise leaders and volunteers, the teamwork of laity and clergy representing a large variety of skills and knowledge, the support of the congregation, and the unique opportunity to use creativity, my knowledge of music, and my passion for Jesus' love in my job, is often astounding to me. Thank you for being the body of Jesus and for making this good work possible through your giving.