

ANNUAL REPORT

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Even though we have experienced precarious times in the life of our Santa Barbara area community, this has been a year of feeling even more “grounded” in my role of caring for kids birth through 18 years old, caring for their families and helping facilitate the mission work of our church. The following is a statement of numbers and a self-assessment of our assets, challenges and pressure points (issues of highest priority for helping the ministry to go forward) in my three most significant areas of care.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **By the numbers:**
 - Active Roster – total of 43 youth 6th grade through 12th grade
 - 22 High School students
 - 21 6th grade/Jr. High
 - Volunteer Leaders: 10
 - Avg. weekly unduplicated participation (including Wednesday night, Sunday, worship, Life group): 35
- **ASSETS**
 - Dedicated volunteer staff – An essential part of our care for youth/ families are the volunteers who weekly care and lead. Together we are shepherds for this ministry. I am profoundly grateful to our leaders.
 - An excellent space – We love our youth room!
 - A church that champions youth ministry – In 1984 the church invited me to come and start a youth ministry. This community of faith has been 100% supportive ever since
 - A welcoming community – Youth and families experiencing belonging
 - Robust spiritual growth programming: Life Groups. PAUSE and FRONTLINE SUNDAY – Our weekly programming gives places, leaders and curriculum for youth to grow in their faith
 - Service and ministry opportunities – Our desire is for our youth to learn the value of service, compassion and community involvement whether at Pershing Park, Unity Shoppe or here on the church campus
- **CHALLENGES**
 - Busy culture – Now, more than ever, we compete for the time of youth as they face a high volume of sports, arts, and academic opportunities
 - Impact of smaller pool in the children’s ministry in previous years – After a few years of plateau the pool is starting to grow in our grade school classes but has not quite reached us yet
 - Post-trauma environment – Though the sudden impact of the fire and mudslide are behind us, we still face many months of effect and then possible “triggers.” All this is in addition to school shootings and other high impact world events.
- **PRESSURE POINTS**
 - Outreach ministry to unchurched youth and families – Our youth ministry team is beginning to pray for how God would lead us in connecting with more youth who have not decided to follow Christ

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

- **By the numbers:**
 - Active Roster - total of 78 children birth through 5th grade
 - Volunteer Teachers/Leaders/Workers: 38
 - Avg. Sunday weekly attendance: 33
- **ASSETS**
 - Faithful volunteer/paid staff – This loving team of “shepherds” are excellent in the care and nurturing of our kids
 - Loving parents – Our parents are encouraging, supportive and great teammates in accomplishing the mission
 - Teachable teachers and helpers – Our team has shown openness to new ideas for loving and teaching kids

- Clear mission for teachers and leaders – Help kids to know, love and serve Jesus
- Partnering with Cliff Drive Care Center – We are “one” when it comes loving kids on the weekdays and the weekends
- A church committed to “growing young” – Our church strives to be “family-friendly” through programming, resources, training and caring for parents and children
- **CHALLENGES**
 - Busy culture – see above (with youth)!!
 - Post-trauma environment – see above (with youth)!!
 - Giving parents adequate resources – For every unique parent and kid, we long to offer referrals, writings, and training. While this is a worthy aspiration, it is also limited by the need for so many distinctive needs
 - Connecting even more with Cliff Drive Care Center families and helping them find a church home
- **PRESSURE POINTS**
 - Providing tools for discipleship in the home – We work hard to offer excellent teaching and care on the church campus, but we would desire to provide more encouragement and resources for parents to “teach as they go.”

MISSION MINISTRY – Global and Justice/Outreach (Local)

- **ASSETS**
 - Missionary care – through prayer, email, welcome home potlucks and more
 - Missionary giving – we continue to give well over \$100,000 to missionaries and projects on an annual basis
 - Healthy and vibrant local and global missions leadership teams – we are blessed with passionate, forward-thinking people on both the local and global fronts
 - A church committed to sending - A welcoming “front door” for would be missionaries and projects. Recently we developed application online to begin the conversation
- **CHALLENGES**
 - Missionary funding – There is always more we could do in the world of mission, both locally and globally, so this will still be a challenge.
 - The balance of supporting a wide array of missionaries and opportunities without over-burdening our church family – It is our intent for people to give only where they feel led even though there may be an abundance of opportunities given!
 - Communicating to the church body how we are already serving in our community and how individuals can get more involved. – Those who are serving in the community do so quietly and humbly, so it is challenging to celebrate how much we are doing. We want our church family to know the opportunities and give to the Lord through all of life.
- **PRESSURE POINTS**
 - Adding a few more younger adults to our Global Mission Leadership Team

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, Ministerial Education and Guidance Board for Free Methodist Church of Southern California, Lead Consultant with Ministry Architects for Youth and Children’s ministries, and director of youth ministry for Institute of Congregational Trauma and Growth.

I will never take for granted the blessing it is to be on staff at this wonderful church. This marks my 34th Annual pastoral report to you. Here my family and I have been nurtured, encouraged and challenged for all these years. It is a joy to walk with those who have known us from the beginning and those who have known us for a week. I look forward to another year ahead of journeying together as we see more people come to faith, grow in their faith and share their faith. May these words of the Apostle Paul inspire all of us, “So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT