



## Annual Ministry Report 2021-2022



## FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

In Matthew 20 the wife of Zebedee came to Jesus asking that her two sons, James and John, be granted the honor of sitting next to Jesus when he came into his kingdom—one on the right hand and the other on the left (21). Jesus said (22), *"You don't know what you are asking."* Sadly, we often don't know what we are talking about!

When the others heard this request, they were indignant at the audacity of their fellow disciples (24). Jesus said, *"Whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to **serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (27-28).

Thinking of the world's point of view, Jesus said in Luke 22: *"For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves"* (27). It is our Savior who thus provides a perfect pattern for us to follow.

Albert Einstein once said, "It is high time that the ideal of success should be replaced by the ideal of service." Jesus would say *"Amen"* to that!

But at the last supper, the disciples still had not embraced the message. No one would take the servant role and wash the feet of others—until Jesus did so. I'm sure they were shocked and a tad embarrassed. *"Do you understand what I have done for you? .... I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"* (John 13.12-15).

South is in need of servants. I praise God for the many who have faithfully served over this past year. These are the great ones! Both staff and lay leaders have done a superb job of being used by God to advance his work in this place, and without their dedicated service, nothing of eternal significance could be accomplished. Thanks team!!

However, some ministries are understaffed and the faithful are becoming the weary. I trust in 2022 we will see a revival of the serving heart—the spirit of Christ. Where are you serving?

Don't forget the wonderful promise Jesus added to his challenge—*"If you know these things, happy are you if you do them"* (John 13.17) Blessing comes by serving!

*Make me a servant, humble and meek  
Lord let me lift up those who are weak,  
And may the prayer of my heart always be,  
Make me a servant, like Thee.*

We have experienced (endured) another year of slow Covid Recovery in our world. I am extremely thankful for the progress that has been made and the privilege of serving in this amazing place.

With Gratitude to God,  
Pastor Don Denyes





## CHURCH-WIDE MINISTRIES

In Acts 2:37-47 we find the record of the response to the first preaching of the Gospel by the apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost. It teaches us what it really means to live together as Christ's people—those who have repented and believed, have been baptized, who now belong to Him and to one another, and begin to live the new life together, devoted to the apostles' teaching, gathering for worship and fellowship, caring for one another, and carrying out the Great Commission. This is the pattern and paradigm for every faithful church, and it's what we are called to as a congregation as well.

Every year, our annual reports provide an opportunity for our South Church family to have a summary of the various ministries carried out in the life of our church, as we aspire to live out this biblical vision and sacred calling. One of the special blessings of our life and ministry together this year was the ordination of Keith Sova, our pastor for small groups, to the ministry of the gospel. We thank the Lord for the blessing of Keith and Kate and their family, and we are grateful for his continuing ministry in teaching, preaching, counseling and leading.



It has also been a time of transitions. Travis Parks has taken the lead in our college ministry, and Pastor Neil, who has had such a fruitful ministry for so many years with students, increasingly turns his focus to one-on-one discipling of men in our church family. We're also thankful for Carol Boruta's years of service, coordinating our library, and are glad to see David Anderson take on that role. In addition, Marilyn Wagner has effectively enriched our Legacy Ministry for our 'senior saints'. We continue to prayerfully consider how we can re-tool and rebuild our Chosen Ministry in the future, matching an updated plan with the right team of those devoted to serving developmentally disabled adults.



Not every ministry in our church has a specific section in this report so I want to highlight two of them. Our GriefShare Ministry, led by Tami Rakestraw-Warren, Jackie Hudson, and Don Cooper, continues to be a very real help to many, including a number of folks from outside our church who have experienced seasons of deep grief and loss. Also, we're glad for the leadership Rick White is providing for our Helping Hands Ministry. We've clarified and focused its role in providing assistance in targeted ways (e.g., assisting our senior saints through projects like providing a needed outdoor handrail for outdoor steps, assisting with landscaping work, and helping in a move to a new home).



Behind the scenes, our ministry assistants (listed on the staff page) are key to the success and effectiveness of the pastoral team. Once again this year I'm happy to commend Trevor Harrison and his excellent team in their work of caring for our facilities and grounds (including the hard work of Ron Kooistra and George Scarlett), and

continued on next page

## CHURCH-WIDE MINISTRIES continued

Dave Seal does excellent work as our Business/Finance Coordinator. We also appreciate Becky Piper's work coordinating the kitchen, including for the Wednesday evening meals as well as the team who ministers to so many by providing the funeral meals. Brian Hudson did a great job this year as 'commissioner' for the South golf league.

Other significant events included hosting the Fellowship of the Word/Word-Partners pastors' conference and the annual retreat for our own pastoral staff in August. The theme for that retreat was also the focus of the Equippers seminar that Pastor Keith and I presented—"Christian Faithfulness in a Strange New World"—as we seek to navigate the turbulent currents in our rapidly changing culture with both grace and truth. It was also a blessing to share in fellowship in special events with Mount Zion All Nations Bible Church.

After a very challenging couple of years dealing with the pandemic, it's heartening to see more and more of our members and friends returning to services in person, and we are thankful for the Lord's enabling his people to be faithful in giving throughout this period as well.

And so I end this report where I began, returning again to the record of the Book of Acts, thanking the Lord for 34 people being baptized and 21 becoming new members this past year. May what was said of the early church in Acts be increasingly true of our church, as Luke gave his own 'reports' in passages like Acts 12:24, "...the word of God continued to spread and flourish." May God's Word and the gospel spread from us to many others, in our own lives, and in our church life together. May it abound more and more, leading us deeper into a true knowledge of him, for his glory, and for our eternal good.

*Doug Phillips, Executive Pastor for Ministries*

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

Addressing the Athenians, Paul said, *"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth...made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us..."* (Acts 17:24, 26-27). We keep this truth in mind when thinking about outreach here at South. God has strategically placed each of us in our neighborhoods, work environments, schools, clubs, etc. with lost people "that they should seek God." When it comes to evangelism, the one-to-one, relational approach is the main way God draws people into his kingdom! It's encouraging to see a growing number of South people being intentional in their relationships for the purpose of evangelism. I praise God for that!

continued on next page

## OUTREACH MINISTRY continued

To supplement this main approach, we at South have continued to host outreach ministries like Christianity Explored and Life Explored both in groups and with individuals. We also endeavored to reach all the households in our 48917 zip code by partnering with Saturate USA. A gospel track (Two Ways to Live), a Jesus film DVD with corresponding weblink, and a South Church brochure were in each packet distributed. While we couldn't reach every home before running out of time when the snow began to fly, we are looking forward to finishing up those neighborhoods this spring. Our prayer is that those receiving these packets would read them and come to faith in Christ—the results of which we may not see until eternity!

Christianity  
EXPLORED

Saturate  
48917

Speaking of prayer, the evangelism prayer meetings continue to meet at the church on Tuesdays at 9 am and on Zoom on Wednesdays at 7 am. They are dedicated exclusively to praying for revival in our church, city, state, country, and world. While these kinds of prayers are also being offered in ABCs, Growth Groups, Bible studies, and the Wednesday evening prayer meeting, everyone is invited to join with us Tuesdays or Wednesdays for these focused times of intercession.

Another meaningful outreach ministry has been our continued strategic partnership with our sister church, Mount Zion All Nations Bible Church. Certainly, Covid has prevented us from doing all that we had hoped but we were able to co-host Praise Fest and exchange pulpit ministry. We at South were also able to finish the book study *Woke Church* which clarified a biblical approach to addressing the problem of racism.

The Faith Stories shared on Sunday mornings are also part of the way we build spiritual connections. In the past twelve months, our congregation has been blessed to hear the true-life accounts of what it looks like to follow Christ through any circumstance, even the toughest ones. Thank you to all who have been willing to share their spiritual journeys.

As always, if you are interested in reaching your friends and neighbors and family members for Christ, I'd love to assist you by supplying resources and by helping in any way that I can. Rico Tice has written an excellent book entitled *Honest Evangelism* which I recommend for equipping and inspiring people who want to share the good news of the gospel. Our "Scaffolding the Gospel" card equips you with a strategy for reaching those who are not yet followers of Christ that God has placed in your life. I'd also love to meet to pray with and for you.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Tim Van Loh, Pastor for Outreach



## WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Each week, we gather together to make much of our Lord and to love one another. That is why we meet together.

During Covid, we were meeting in the Worship Center combining all our resources into one service. But then as folks began to return on Sunday morning, we started making adjustments to the schedule. Back in September, after Labor Day, we ended our combined service and launched a 3-service format with two Creative services and one Balanced service. However, soon after, by February 2022 we decided to start a new chapter in our service schedule by changing to the service format we have now, with one Balanced service at 9:30 and one Creative service at 11:00. So far, this seems to be working well. As more decide to return, we will be watching and evaluating future adjustments to our weekly schedule.

Back in September 2021, we put SouthFest on hold to host another PraiseFest. Musicians from Mount Zion All Nations Bible Church and Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, along with our own from South, presented worship music on the east side lawn of our church building. Folks from all three congregations were present. It was another wonderful time of music and prayer. At this point we do not have a date for the next PraiseFest, but, Lord willing, SouthFest shall return in September 2022.



As we projected last year, our newly improved website was launched and has been live for several months thanks to the hard-working efforts of our church webmaster, Andy Luce. Besides layout, menu, and design changes, a new web store for sermons and services was added, as well as an improved smart phone interface. Ethan Simpson, our Audio Visual Coordinator, has worked hard to improve our web service broadcast, repairs on some audio visual needs in our classrooms, and other technical improvements related to our two worship spaces. The Student Ministry Center has been undergoing a much needed upgrade with its audio and projection screens. We are thankful for Lance Burke who has voluntarily assisted Pastor Joel and Pastor Nick in managing student volunteers in the Student Ministry Center audio visual department. Coming soon in the Worship Center, we will be installing two brand new LED screens to replace the current front projection screens we have now. These new screens will be virtually the same as the single LED screen in the Chapel. Lord willing, this project will be completed by mid-summer. We are grateful for all of these upgrades and improvements.

## WORSHIP MINISTRIES *continued*

Right before Covid, we completed the building of our church barn on the West side of the church. There have been a handful of faithful volunteers working over there every day. I am very grateful for folks like Rob Beckon, Cliff Shooltz, Rick Spitzer, Helen Flowers and especially our volunteer Shop and Warehouse Manager, Tim Morris. There are always church-related projects going on over there. If you would like to stay apprised of what is happening in that regard, sign up for our periodic email newsletter, "The Barn Memo", at [southlife.org/newsletter](https://southlife.org/newsletter).

Events are starting to come back as folks continue to be comfortable with returning to church. The Kingdom Rock Choir (3rd - 7th graders) presented "Three Wee Kings" at Christmas and is planning their spring musical presentation, and hopefully, Lord willing, all our Christmas and Easter services and events will come back, as appropriate, during this next ministry season.

I am thankful for all the volunteers that make our ministries possible, and I am very grateful for the honor of leading and planning the services each week. May the Lord be glorified by all our efforts as we strive to honor Him in our service and love for one another.

Let us be thankful,  
*Corb H. Felgenhour, Pastor of Worship Ministries*



## GROWTH GROUPS

*Colossians 3:14-15 says, "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."*

There is much to be thankful for from this past year. For one, I am thankful that the Lord has called us into one body where His peace rules our hearts. There is no other organization on the planet like the local church—the local expression of the kingdom of God. No other organization brings people together from such varied backgrounds as the local church. Truly, God has blessed where He gathers His people around His word, living in and among them by His Spirit.

I'm also thankful for the ways in which our Growth Groups embody putting on the love of Christ. There have been countless ways over the course of the past year that our Growth Group members have reached out to love and care for those in their groups. Although there have been challenges—disappointments, conflict, unmet expectations—the Lord has grown us in the ways we address those challenges so that we better reflect the love of Christ.

Finally, I'm thankful for the ways in which our groups continue to grow. This year, we have seen two new groups form. We have seen existing groups extend greater hospitality in welcoming new people into their groups. And we have seen God use that hospitality to further His kingdom in our midst. My prayer for next year is that God would continue to be faithful to us and that we would respond to His grace with gratitude and obedience—ready to observe all that He has commanded.

In Christ,  
*Keith Sova, Pastor for Growth Groups*





## CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

We are ambassadors of Christ. We represent the King who sends us. We are the look on his face, the touch of his hand, and the physical representation of his grace. We make the King visible to others.

The Connections Ministry helps integrate people into the life of South Church. There are many ministries at South that help connect people with a closer walk with Christ and connecting with God's people. We seek to serve in our community, homes, workplaces, schools, and globally.

Our staff was happy to return to Simply South after a year and a half break. Simply South occurs three times a year and is for anyone who is new to South. We enjoy a brief lunch and time of introduction to our pastoral staff. It's a great opportunity to introduce some of the ministries and ways new individuals and families can get involved at South Church and continue to grow in their faith with Christ.



One of the best parts of being the Connections Director is the privilege of interacting with new people who walk through the doors of South Church each week and receiving the many prayer requests that come in through the website, connection cards, and emails. When we are isolated and disconnected, we are vulnerable. In community, we uphold each other and help build resilience. We are able to help point people to the hope that is in Christ and help them see that God is the God who sees and hears our prayers and provides hope and grace in our difficult times. This past year we received over 267 prayer requests. It has been an honor to pray for each one.

NEXT STEPS		CONNECTION CARD	
SIMPLY South		Please tear off this card and place in the offering plate, or hand it to a greeter at any exit.	
HOPE EXPLORER		Or complete form online at SouthLife.org/CC	
The Membership COURSE		Service: <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced 9:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Creative 11:00	
BAPTISM		<input type="checkbox"/> Evening 6:00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
RSVP for Events		<input type="checkbox"/> First-time guest <input type="checkbox"/> Returning guest	
Use the tear-off portion of this card and check the events you'd like to attend.		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Member	
You may also register online using:		<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	
		Name _____	
		Street Address _____	
		City   State   Zip Code _____	
		Phone _____	
		Email _____	
		Age Group: <input type="checkbox"/> 13-18 <input type="checkbox"/> 19-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 <input type="checkbox"/> 56-65 <input type="checkbox"/> 66-75 <input type="checkbox"/> 76+	

Jesus is King,

*Kelly Sites*  
*Connections Director*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We are praising the Lord for another year of ministry to children in uncertain and changing times. Last April, we were still taping our Kid's Connection and broadcasting weekly for those who were not in person. We opened classrooms on April 11 with our Pre-K through 5th grade in restructured classrooms with masks, social distancing, and lots of sanitization procedures in place. We give thanks for the parents who brought their children during this time and for our faithful teachers who taught in challenging circumstances. Even then, we were still seeing visitors which we praise God for!



May brought the end of Awana at Home and we were thrilled to celebrate with the kids who participated and the 93 who completed their handbooks. We were blessed to have a team of ladies who corresponded with the kids and sent them encouragement through cards and calls. We were not wanting to do another year of VBS at home so we tried something new—a night VBS. Destination Dig was held in the Worship Center with songs, skits, and wonderful Bible teaching. We came to unearth the truth about Jesus and learned to seek Him with all our hearts! Kids started and ended the evening with fun games and activities outside. Praise the Lord for 148 kids (24 unchurched) and the 40 workers who served. In July, classrooms were opened for nursery through 3-year olds.



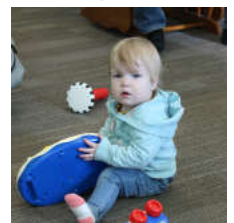
Fall brought the return of in-person Awana which was very exciting! Did you know that it takes approximately 70 adults to run Awana each week? September also brought the return of the Kingdom Rock Choir on Sunday nights and we are thankful for the 4 adults and 3 teens that serve in that capacity. They presented "Three Wee Kings" in December and all who attended were blessed and reminded of the birth of Jesus our King. Fall ministry was especially challenging with Covid and the need to shut down classrooms from time to time, but we are thankful for the flexibility and understanding by all involved.



In January, our Awana kids enjoyed their annual Grand Prix. Besides the 77 who raced cars, the highlight is always the sharing of the gospel to those who come to view the race. We have seen some new families both on Wednesdays and Sundays!

Please continue to pray for our 100 families who attend, for those who faithfully teach the children, serve them, and who take care of them in the nursery. It takes so many to make this ministry happen and we say, "To God be the glory!"

*Kathy Risch, Early Childhood Director*  
*Heidi Cheney, Elementary Director*  
*Callie Risch, Nursery Coordinator*



## **JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY**



What a year! Although we were still in the midst of Covid protocols for much of 2021, the leadership at South made it possible for us to begin meeting again in person...and it was awesome! While it wasn't quite the same as pre-Covid, the fact that we could gather together, face to face (even masked) was incredibly important for our students and volunteer staff team. More than ever before our students realized just how important gathering together as a community is. In some ways that is a Covid blessing—it reinforced the importance of corporate worship and the fellowship of believers. Our students needed to be together, and I praise God for his direction during this time, and the relationships we built with students through this difficult period.

We were able to have a fall retreat this year at Grace Adventures for the first time in two years. Luke Cyrus came from Savannah to lead us in worship for the weekend together and it was a great time singing together and hearing from God's word as our speaker taught our students from the story of Zacchaeus. We found a lot of outdoor ways to connect with students throughout the summer of 2021.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our students, adult volunteer staff, and Jr. High ministry! We felt them uniquely and covet them.

*Joel Wayner,  
Lead Pastor of Student Ministries, Jr. High*



## **SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY**

We are praising God for a great 2021-2022 ministry year! Much of this year involved returning back to a "normal" schedule of ministry. We will not soon take for granted the privilege it is to meet and gather in person.

While some events still had to look differently, we were able to meet again regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights to spend time together in God's Word. We also spent time together on Sunday evenings around the bonfire sharing faith stories and fellowshiping. We were able to go away on our fall and winter retreats again, as well as our junior/senior overnight trip.

This past year we also had the opportunity to serve in some unique ways, which included helping senior saint church members around their homes and delivering holidays treats to those in need of some encouragement. It is exciting to see students eager to jump in and serve wherever there is a need.

I pray that the many lessons God taught us throughout the Covid season would not be forgotten. I am thankful that God has continued to provide the Sr. High ministry with adult leaders who are passionate about investing in students and seeing them grow in their relationship with Jesus. I appreciate your continued prayer and support as we partner together in equipping the next generation of believers to follow Christ.

*Joyfully serving together in Christ,  
Nicholas Nagy, Sr. High Pastor*



## COLLEGE MINISTRY



As we launched into the fall semester, one of the verses we prayed was John 4:35-38. Jesus told his disciples, *"Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest...so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."* After limited access to new students last year, there would be freshmen and sophomores open to getting plugged into a ministry and loving community. To reach them, we hosted a grill out at the Villa the first week of classes. What a joy to see our returning students and leaders eagerly love and move out towards new students to get them connected with us.

In the fall, we studied passages from the Gospel of Luke pointing us to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Meeting bi-weekly for large group gatherings to study God's Word together also helped us catch a heart for God and his vision for the world. Jared Currie, a missionary from South, spoke and was a highlight for everyone. In October, at our Fall Retreat, we dove into the book of Philippians with a friend and mentor of Travis', heard several student faith stories, and baptized a student. Getaways like this are crucial for bonding and deepening relationships. But sleep is something that is often missing from these weekends.

This spring, we took our Spring Break Trip to Florida, and it was exciting to take several non-Christians with us. In Villas, we ate meals together, studied the book of Ruth, hung out, had spiritual conversations, and deepened friendships. Our guest speaker taught us to "Live by Faith" in surrendering everything to Christ and his mission. Baptizing three women in the Atlantic was another highlight as they declared their faith in Christ. The women dove into the book of Titus, some men dove into Ephesians, and other men worked through a course in biblical manhood called "Noblemen." Several students have been praying for and reaching out to international students and even host a meal monthly in the Villa for those they meet.

We praise God for what he has done as we saw several students trust Christ for salvation, and others draw closer to him and labor for Christ in the lives of others! Thanks for praying for us and partnering with us in reaching, discipling, and equipping college students!

*Travis and Laura Parks  
Matt and Shannon Delap  
Neil Odgers*



## MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Ministry at South is focused on encouraging men to live lives worthy of God's call by building into each other's lives as we work together as faithful servants.

Men *Learn* God's Word through numerous weekly Bible studies. We are currently conducting six studies, five of which are meeting in person.

Men *Serve* together inside and outside the church through visiting shut-ins, being marriage mentors, serving meals at Volunteers of America, and helping widows, elderly, and others who at times need help with a project at home that they cannot do themselves. Helping hands was restructured at the end of 2020 to include a Men's Ministry facilitator to work alongside pastoral staff for accomplishing its objectives.

Men *Relate* together as they build into each other's lives. Bonfires were held last year for building fellowship and will continue in 2022. We also partnered with Camp Barakel for our Men's Huddle and look forward to working with them again this year.

Monthly men's prayer continues and meets in person. Men's Ministry provides a weekly email of encouragement available to every man at South. We welcome all men to join us in learning, serving, and relating with one another as we become the men God has called us to be.

Respectfully in service,  
*Mike Winter, Men's Ministry Director*



MENS MINISTRIES

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We are thankful for the opportunities to minister to and through the women at South as we have eased back into face-to-face times of learning and serving.



### Highlights:

- In the past year 21 Bible Studies have met to study God's Word together. We are so thankful for our faithful Bible Study facilitators who led groups this year: Terri Bettinger, Darla Daughtery, Eileen Ellis, Rhonda Franck, Tami Harrison, Dawna Kilgore, Becky Phillips, Carolyn Riley, Amber Sattler, Pat Schaible, Carol Senard, Marilyn Wagner, and Jan Zanetti.
- A Wednesday evening class and an Equippers session was led by Kim Dalman and Kimberly Sutter training women to have a strong theological base for building into other women through mentoring relationships.
- A spring Women's Conference was a day filled with practical Bible teaching where women—unapologetic and unshakeable in their pursuit of Christ—came together to know Him more. In addition, several of our leaders were able to travel to The Gospel Coalition Women's conference in May.
- "Unexpected" is our annual fall event where you never know quite what to expect. It was an evening filled with lots of laughter, a hymn sing with Corb and Carol Felgenhour, a great speaker, and an opportunity to serve disadvantaged children by bringing Christmas gifts for Youth Haven Ranch.
- Visions of Christmas, an outreach evening for women included a drama by Jessica Doerr, music by Carol Felgenhour, amazing desserts, and sweet fellowship.
- Call to Prayer continues to meet monthly to pray for our church, community, and world. Care Groups ministered to the needs of young mothers, widows, and cancer patients/survivors along with individual counseling and mentoring.
- I am thankful for the vision and tireless work of our amazing events team: Robin Ross, Jen Wagoner, Carolyn Riley, Ellen Smith, Katie Hubbard, Lisa Iverson, Sue Warner, Susan Delp, and Terri Bettinger.



To find out more about Women's Ministry at South visit [www.southlife.org/ministries/women](http://www.southlife.org/ministries/women).

Joyfully submitted!

*Becky Phillips, Women's Ministry Director*



## LEGACY MINISTRY

Legacy events this year were blessed with nice turnouts, fun times together, and meaningful spiritual discussions. Seniors were inspired this Memorial Day at our Patriotic Picnic. In June, we gathered for a Hymn Sing and Supper. July and March afternoon movies featured the true stories of Moses and Ruth as portrayed by Sight and Sound Theater. In August, our Sweet Summer Evening Picnic was well attended and featured a barbershop concert. In September, we traveled to Turkeyville for a musical dinner theater presentation about the faith story of Johnny Cash. In January, we invited a speaker to help us be wise as serpents, opening our eyes to the scams targeting senior adults.



Phone-a-Friend events continued to bless. In February, the Covid spike still loomed large so we connected by phone. Our goals: to check in on people, see who was doing well & who was struggling, and to let people know their church remembers and loves them. *One caller said, "I am sure it blessed many people this week and hopefully fosters a continued desire for people to connect ongoing."*

Legacy senior adults and our youth ministry interacted this year. The youth reached out with service projects, homemade delivered goodies, and valentines. *One senior said, "I wanted to let you know how special it was receiving an envelope containing handmade Valentines from the Student Ministry! Talk about a gift of love. They brought joy to my heart, a smile to my face."*

Legacy seniors engaged in a crucial ministry of prayer and support using our weekly prayer update, which provides funeral information and prayer needs. In addition, upcoming events and birthdays are highlighted, giving people further opportunities for meaningful fellowship.

We look forward to continuing to connect in 2022-2023!

*Marilyn Wagner, Legacy Director*



## **SOUTH CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOARDS**

### **Trustee Board**

Brent Granger, Vice-Chair  
Ken Granger  
Steve Kallman, Secretary  
Rex Hansen  
Curt Peterson  
Darin Thelen  
Doug Vaughn, Chair  
Doug Phillips, Pastoral Liaison

### **Deacon Board**

Nico Berroa  
Kam Bradman  
Jack Brown  
John Cheney, Vice-Chair  
Mark Dalman  
Eric Doerr  
Jeremy Foco, Secretary  
Roger Gray, Chair  
David Kallman  
Fred Nose  
Bill Patrick  
Dan Sutter  
Don Denyes, Doug Phillips,  
Tim Van Loh, and Keith Sova,  
Pastoral Liaisons

### **Mission Board**

Lynn Bishop  
Greg Eckels  
Melissa Gray, Vice-Chair  
Ruth Hultquist  
John Oldham, Secretary  
Rick Peterson, Vice-Chair  
Jeremy Rook  
Don Denyes and Tim Van Loh,  
Pastoral Liaisons  
Mark Dalman, Deacon Rep  
Nancy Bassett, Missions Ministry  
Assistant

### **Deaconess Committee**

Pat Cannon  
Debbie Dunckel  
Cheryl Granger  
Connie Norman  
Anne Park  
Connie Potter  
Sue Quiroga  
Donna Rinkenberger  
Helen Rosier  
Robin Ross  
Chris Stiles

### **Deaconess Life-Time**

Elaine Andrews  
Saundra Bittel  
Carolyn Esch  
Lois Freeman, Vice-Chair  
Beth Miller  
Janet Oxendale  
Edna Post  
Luella Rolfe  
Sheila Rynbrandt, Chair  
Carol Smith

### **Christian Education Council**

Beth Kallman, Chair  
Anthony Veltri  
Melissa Wilson  
Darin Thelen, Trustee Rep  
Jack Brown, Deacon Rep  
Lynn Bishop, Mission Rep  
Keith Sova & Doug Phillips,  
Pastoral Liaisons

### **Church Treasurer**

Bob Chapman

### **Church Clerk**

Marilyn Oldham

## TRUSTEE BOARD

We thank the Lord for another year of tremendous blessing for South Church. We have begun to see a return to normalcy in many areas of our services and ministries. This has been accompanied by the need for financial investment into these areas.

Due to the continued faithful giving of our church family and the wise use of our resources by the church staff, we have been able to see our giving exceed our expenditures. For the new fiscal year, we are pleased to have a budget that needs to increase by less than 2% in spite of the tremendous inflation we have seen over the past year. We pray for God's continued leading.

Respectfully,  
*Doug Vaughn, Chair*



## DEACONESS COMMITTEE

The members of the Deaconess Committee are privileged to assist the deacons in the spiritual life and work of the church.

Our responsibilities are adjusted for Covid restrictions:

- Encouraging individuals who are homebound or in assisted living or nursing homes through over 650 telephone calls, 72 visits, and the sending of over 3,208 scripture filled cards for encouragement and for all holidays.
- Facilitating a church-wide prayer chain—praying for the church staff, work of the church, and our missionaries.
- Encouraging widows through the “Never Alone” support group. This group provides social opportunities and monthly lunches (when the restaurants are open).
- Providing love and encouragement to women with cancer through the “I Will Survive” support group. This was done through calling and sending cards of encouragement or taking meals.
- Provided and served a catered holiday brunch for the “Grief Share” support group.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Lois Freeman, Vice-Chair*



## DEACON BOARD

We have an amazing God. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He loves us and is at work in and around us whether we are experiencing a storm of life or are in a moment of tranquility. The circumstances of life do not define God nor do they thwart His plans. Psalm 139 reminds us that God knows our ups and downs, and He is not surprised by the circumstances of life. We can find peace and joy in those difficult moments of our days because we serve the God who knows us and cares for us.

It has been a joy to serve with this group of deacons and to see God at work in our lives and the lives of those in South Church. We have been through a year of tremendous change and have felt deep sorrow with the loss of many in our church family. It was easy at times to find ourselves asking why, but it is comforting to know that God is in control and that He loves our church family more than we could ever love them. I look forward to one day in glory being able to see, from God's perspective, how the circumstances of these past two years all weave into a tapestry that pointed people to Jesus Christ and allowed others to see God for who He is.

As we continue to progress towards a more familiar "new normal", we would encourage our church family to take the time to be still and reflect on God. Invest time into getting to know God, growing in your love for Him, and being in awe of Him. We should focus our eyes on Him rather than being consumed by our schedules and the circumstances of life. Thank you for praying for us and showing the deacons grace while we grow in our love for God and learn to serve Christ and our church community. We praise God for what He is doing in South Church and the Lansing community, and we lean on Him for the wisdom and strength to do His will and proclaim the Kingdom. May Jesus Christ be praised both now and forever more.

Respectfully,  
*Roger Gray, Chair*



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope." (NASB). Indeed, it is through the study of the Scriptures that we can receive our best hope, so sorely needed during these days.

The Christian Education Council has focused this year on encouragement of the Adult Bible Communities (ABC's), helping to train the leaders of the ABC's and Growth Groups, the South Library, and Equippers.

Our Equippers classes this year were: How to Study the Bible, Life Explored, Christian Faithfulness in a Strange New World, Technology in the Light of the Gospel, Living Free in Christ, The Ways of the Alongsider, Dynamic Impact of One to One Ministry, God's Heart for the Nations, and Womens' Discipleship Training. We are grateful to all those who led these sessions.

We hosted a Bible Exposition Training Seminar in January which was geared for our leaders and taught by Pastor Keith. Those attending were able to enjoy luncheon and a morning snack together. We also hosted a Breakfast Open House in September for those attending our ABC's, which was held in the Commons. The Open House was initiated to welcome everyone back after being locked down for so long because of the pandemic.

After many years of serving as South's Library Director, Carol Boruta has decided to retire, and we are so appreciative of her dedicated service. The decision has been made now to include the South Library under the guidance of the C.E. Council, and David Anderson has graciously agreed to be our new Library Director.

David and his crew have been working to make the library a little more focused on books to aid in studying the Bible, highlight more books by way of Facebook book reviews and pastoral book recommendations, and are looking forward to making the library more accessible through online resources. A building addition and enlargement of the library are also in the works.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the hard work and support of Pastor Keith to the Council. His wisdom has been invaluable. We are also thankful to all the members of the Council.

In His Service,  
*Beth Kallman, Chair*



## MISSION BOARD

While the events of the world around us continue to present many challenges, the work of the gospel moves on, uninterrupted. In fact, the work of the gospel often seems most evident where the trials are the greatest. The Covid pandemic continued to disrupt life and work for our missionaries and partner organizations. We have seen great suffering in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Haiti to name a few, and most recently the great tragedy of war in Ukraine. Yet, in all of this, the opportunities for ministry have also been great. Our missionaries and partner organizations have stepped up in amazing ways. Through it all, God is very clearly at work, and lives are being eternally changed.



The year has been marked by challenges and great need, but it has also been marked by much great news and triumph. It has been our privilege to partner with our many missionaries and partner organizations to support their work. As a Mission Board we are often challenged by the many needs, but God has continued to faithfully provide resources in amazing ways.

This year we have been privileged to support 56 missionary individuals or families, 9 retired missionaries, and 16 organizations. This includes our own Jacob and Charis Doerr who left to go to the field in January.



We were once again able to hold our annual missions conference in person, "Our Unstoppable God", with Ron Cline as our keynote speaker. The 16 missionary units (couple, family, or individual) who participated brought great energy and passion. South's people participated with great enthusiasm. Driven by the many needs in the world, we laid out a very broad conference project to:



- Pray
- Project: Fund a Bible translation project in Senegal and provide resources for relief efforts in Myanmar
- Partner: educational/support needs of our partner CFPM orphanage in Thailand
- Prepare: to support Afghan refugees in our area.



South's people responded with an incredible \$80,000, enabling us to fully address all of these needs. Additionally, South is now hosting its first Afghan refugee family.

Other ways that the congregation has given generously this year is with \$10,440 for the spring Baby Bottle Campaign, divided between the Greater Lansing Pregnancy Center and Shared Pregnancy agencies. After conference, the church collected 243 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

continued on next page



## **MISSION BOARD continued**

For Missionary Christmas, we were able to distribute \$23,124 to our missionary families. In March, the Mission Board sent \$10,000 to the Czech Republic (Rick Gascho) to assist them in housing Ukraine refugees.

Missionary Care Groups (MCGs) have continued to be an effective way for the people of South to engage with our missionaries. MCGs have been a great encouragement to our missionaries and provide opportunities for our congregation to connect more personally with the work of missions. Some of our groups have used Zoom and other technologies to meet with their missionaries. Some groups are gathering for prayer, and others are using email to keep group members apprised of important events and needs. Currently over 316 units (couples or individuals) participate with one or more of our 43 Missionary Care Groups. We have eight missionaries with NO group, so we need a coordinator to help start building each of these groups. We encourage everyone to consider participating in one of our Missionary Care Groups. To sign up, contact John Oldham at [john\\_oldham@comcast.net](mailto:john_oldham@comcast.net) or use this QR code.



Other ways you can be involved in missions at South include:

- Mission Focus which meets the 4th Monday of most months for lunch, a time of prayer, and hearing from a missionary.
- Missionary Work Circle made 40 hospice quilts, 8 shut-in quilts, 25 baby quilts for Shared Pregnancy and Pregnancy Services, 2 child quilts for the Afghan family, and 18 quilts for the conference missionaries. They look forward to fully resuming meeting soon.
- Being connected individually with a missionary.
- Sponsoring a CFPM child in Thailand. We have sponsorships available at \$35 per month. If you would like more information, please pick up a brochure on the missions wall.
- Short term mission trips started again with our Mexico team in November 2021. More short term trips are being planned for later in 2022, and we encourage all members of our congregation to consider participating in a short term mission trip, either by going with a group, or by providing financial and prayer support to one of our teams.

Thank you for your continued partnership in missions. Please join us in continually praying for the work of the gospel and for our missionaries and our partners, both locally and globally. Pray also for South's Mission Board as we continue to make difficult decisions to support that work.

*Rick Peterson, Chair*

## **MISSION FOCUS** guest speakers:

April	Brad & Amber Jones
May	Jacob & Charis Doerr
August	Dave & Diane Ford
September	Mark Criss (City Rescue Mission)
October	Mission conference missionaries
February	Jacob & Asse Wilson
March	Tom & Lisa Engelsman



Mission Focus started meeting again, with everyone bringing their own lunch. Those who came enjoyed time with the missionaries. With the homegoings of Cas & Detta Wesolek, Mission Focus took the months of November—January off to regroup. In February, we had a small attendance and in March, started serving lunch again and attendance has started to grow again. All are invited to come and have lunch with a missionary during our meetings on the 4th Monday of most months!

*Nancy Bassett, Interim Chair*

## **SOUTH STAFF**

### **Pastoral Ministry Team**

Don Denyes, Senior Pastor  
Doug Phillips, Exec. Pastor for Ministries  
Tim Van Loh, Pastor for Outreach  
Corb Felgenhour, Worship Ministries  
Neil Odgers, Equipping  
Keith Sova, Growth Groups  
Travis Parks, College Ministry  
Joel Wayner, Jr. High Ministry  
Nick Nagy, Sr. High Ministry  
Kathy Risch, Children's Ministry  
Heidi Cheney, Children's Ministry  
Kelly Sites, Connections Director  
David Seal, Finance & Business

### **Facilities Ministry Team** (part-time)

Pablo Avelar  
Jordan Bassett  
Tim Bassett  
Jeanne Randall  
Rick Rushton  
Jacob Wilson

### **Ministry Support Team**

Trevor Harrison, Facilities Manager  
Ethan Simpson, Audio Visual Coordinator  
Nancy Bassett, Ministry Assistant  
Pat Cannon, Ministry Assistant  
Jessica Doerr, Ministry Assistant  
Joshua Linsley, Ministry Assistant  
Sara Sogoba, Ministry Assistant  
Marilyn Wagner, Ministry Assistant  
Andy Luce, Webmaster (part-time)  
Robert Paquette, Night Facilities  
Shannon DeLap, College Women (part-time)

### **Nursery Ministry Team** (part-time)

Callie Risch, Nursery Staffing  
Ruth Hultquist, Nursery Facilities

### **College Ministry Interns**

Peter Farris, Maddy Hanks,  
Jacob Hoskins, Sam Kowalski,  
Ethan Lau, Hannah Schecklman,  
Bonnie Stolt

## Sunday Morning Sermon Series

[APR - MAR] HEBREWS - Consider Jesus

[DEC] First Person Narrative - Heli, the Father of Mary



## Other Speakers @ South

Pastor Keith Sova

Pastor Doug Phillips

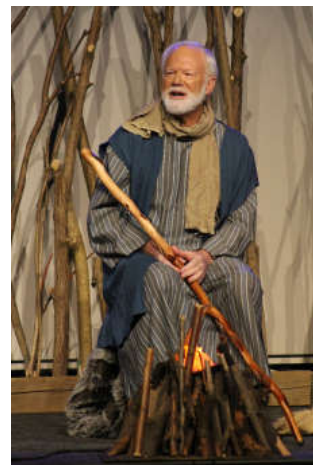
Pastor Tim Van Loh

Pastor Royce Evans - Professor at GRTS

Paul Davis - President of ABWE

Mark Awabdy - South Global Partner

Ron Cline - Mission Conference (virtual)



## Summer Evening Speakers

Dean Mathis - Capitol Ministries of Michigan

Maurice Scruggs - Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church

William Wagner - Salt and Light Global (SLG)

Daniel Khoury - Middle East Evangelical Church

Mark Awabdy - South Global Partner

Jared Currie - South Global Partner

Paul & Martha Davis - President of ABWE

Marcus Leman - South Global Partner

Levi McClendon, III - Mount Zion All Nations Bible Church

Mike Winter - Christian Business Men's Connection (CBMC)

Keith Sova - Pastor for Growth Groups

Doug Phillips - Executive Pastor for Ministries

Neil Odgers - Pastor for Discipleship

Nick Nagy - Senior High Student Ministry Pastor

Tim Van Loh - Pastor for Outreach

Travis Parks - College Pastor





