

NORTHERN HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Our Goal: Northern Hills Christian Church exists to seek, find, equip, and send people for Jesus Christ.

Our Strategy: Encourage individual maturity through the **FOCUS** plan and implement congregational methods through the **SIGHT** plan.

Life in **FOCUS**

is a plan to emphasize the 5 Essential Elements for Christian growth.

Fellowship

“so in Christ we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others”

Romans 12:5

Outreach

“be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;
make the most of every opportunity”

Colossians 4:5

Christ-likeness

“Your attitude should be the same as that of
Jesus Christ”

Philippians 2:5

Unending worship

“offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and
pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of
worship”

Romans 12:1

Service

“Each one should use whatever gift he has
received to serve others”

1 Peter 4:10

SIGHT

Congregational Strategy



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Officers for 2024

Elders

Dave Baur (2024-26)
Jim Chandler (2022-24)
Martin Gleason (2022-24)
Steve Herlinger (2024-26)
Brandon Wilson (2024-26)

Trustees

Jim Stewart (2024-26)
Steve Stromberg (2022-24)
Dick VanBrocklin (2023-24)

Ministry Teams

Audio & Lighting - Andy Sorentino (2024-26)
Building & Grounds - Bill Katz (2024-26)
Fellowship - Don & Debbie Winkle (2023-25)
Finance - Jim Emerson (2024-26)
First Impressions - Steve Herlinger (2022-24)
Grace Meals - Kim Sorentino (2023-25)
Missions - Chris Rogers (2024-26)
Prayer - Lynn Seta (2023-25)
TAG - Beverly Zalar (2023-25)
Technical Support - Ed Reich (2022-24)
Worship & Music - JT Pel (staff)
Worship Support - Martin Gleason (2022-24)
Terry Hartley (2022-24)
Don Winkle (2022-24)

Officers

Church Clerk - June Herlinger (2024-26)
Financial Secretary - Kathy Stromberg (2024-25)
Assistant Financial Secretary - Barb Ruggles (2023-24)
Treasurer - Terri Frebis (2023-24)
Assistant Treasurer - Terri Stewart (2024-25)

Senior Minister

Northern Hills Christian Church is blessed to have experienced another full year of God's faithfulness and provision. As we mark the passing of 2023, we recognize God's goodness to us personally and as a church family. Even when there are challenges and hardships, we are constantly aware of the Lord's abiding presence. His Spirit works in and through us, giving us the courage and strength that we need along the way.

Our nation and its culture continue a downhill spiral away from things that please the Lord and honor Him. Matters that once marked our people as "one nation under God" are passing away. In their place, society is substituting independence from God and living for the moment. There is growing pressure on disciples of Jesus and faithful Bible-believing churches to modify and change to fit whims of a foundationless culture with its denial of the spiritual and obsession with the here and now.

There is a real temptation for us to feel sorry that we no longer live in a Christian nation where faith is easy and discipleship is respected and embraced. But let us remember that the church of Jesus Christ has always flourished most in times when the things of God were not respected or allowed. So being a disciple is more difficult than it was just a few years ago, and by implication, it appears will be even more difficult in the future. We trust that God is calling us to a radical faith in Jesus Christ that embraces the challenge of godly living in a fallen world. We believe that God can and will use us in ways that will honor Him.

We will continue to make the basics of Christian discipleship our constant aim. We will honor the truth of the Bible as the very Words of God. When we read, study, meditate, and memorize Scripture we are thinking God's thoughts and building our faith. We have and will continue to embrace the time-tested truths of the Christian faith, even when they defy the notions of a woke culture that has lost its way. No matter how popular or prevalent progressive ideology and theology may be, we choose to stand with the changeless truth of Scripture. We recognize that the call to faith in Jesus Christ is now a minority call, but we will honor the Christian faith as revealed in God's Word. Furthermore, we are more committed than ever to the call of the Great Commission to "make disciples." We believe that to be a New Testament church and faithful to our Master, we must disciple as many as we are able so that we can present every person complete in Christ at the end of time.

By virtually all measures, 2023 has been a good and encouraging year for our church family. As you read this report, I hope that you will take note of the significant level of commitment that our church family demonstrates. We have staff, elders, team leaders, and dozens of volunteers who serve the Lord with joy and gladness, give of themselves and their resources and do not expect praise or recognition in return. We are blessed to have people who step up and lead in ministry, teaching, congregational worship, service, and a host of other ways.

This report cannot do justice to the depth and scope of faith and obedience in our church family. What you will NOT find in this report is the names of disciples of Jesus Christ in our church who have given of themselves selflessly and anonymously. We have been blessed by the results of their faith and work but they have been careful to serve without notice. As your preacher I know about such people and I am proud to be part of a church with such depth.

You will also not read about the courageous faith of many in our church body as they faced struggles of every kind and did not give up. The past year has been a time of trials for many in our faith family. We have experienced what feels like an inordinate number of our people faced with challenges of health, family difficulties, job loss or related pressures, etc. Through it all, we have been blessed to see quiet,

determined faith at work. And just as importantly, we experience the love and service of church family who are there to help in any way they can.

In this report you will not read the names of our church family who gave of their resources in generous ways to fund the ongoing work of NHCC and the ministry of the gospel around the world. We have a church family who has been blessed and then makes it a point to be a blessing by generously giving what they have received. Only the Lord knows all the individuals and all the generosity that has been demonstrated!

Several specific achievements give evidence that 2023 has been a remarkable year. Let me share the most obvious:

- ⇒ We continued our ministry to Finneytown Elementary School with the Good News Bible Club every Thursday. We are presently working with 30+ different children (doubling in size from the previous school year). We have an amazing group of a dozen-plus volunteers that are part of this challenging ministry. This outreach has not only touched the kids, it has blessed the adults!
- ⇒ Bev Nichols has continued The Grands Bible Club once a month on Saturday. This is a chance for grandparents to interact with the elementary-age grandchildren on a spiritual level. Grandma and Grandpa spend time teaching their grandkids about God and His people. This ministry is now seeing over 30 in attendance each month!
- ⇒ Our financial giving for the year was up slightly (1%) - We have some financial challenges in our future (additional staff, repair and upkeep on an aging building, etc) but God is meeting our needs.
- ⇒ Per capita giving for the year was \$46.63 per person on Sunday. This is just shy of three times the national average for per capita giving for Protestant churches in America!
- ⇒ Our missions giving increased by 17%! Over 21% of our giving this year went to Missions. (10% is considered the goal for a healthy church).
- ⇒ Our average attendance increased by over 5%. This is the first growth in attendance that we have seen since the Pandemic and the largest gain since 2017.
- ⇒ We added a total of 13 new members for the year. Though bringing new members into the church has become increasingly more difficult, this was the most new members to join NHCC since 2017.

Looking ahead, our leadership is working to make sure that the best days of NHCC are yet to come. This is seen by our aggressive attempts to find and staff a Youth/Associate Minister who can equip us to reach families with children in the home. We are also concentrating more and more effort on developing small groups and house-based fellowship so that we have options if and when it is necessary for the church to be faithful in an atmosphere where we must adapt.

It is never lost to me that I would probably not be in the ministry if it were not for the love and kindness of this church family. Each and every week I am reminded of how blessed I am to work with exceptional leaders and fellow disciples. God has been and will be faithful. Thanks for sharing this journey of discipleship on the road that leads to our heavenly home.

“When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory!!”

By His Grace,

Kenneth J. Nichols
Senior Minister

Worship Leader

Thank you to all who are part of the Worship Team, and also the Sound Team and A/V Team. It was a great year of praise and worship.

Thank you also to all the new team members who joined us this past year; we're glad to have you. We've been blessed with a skilled and servant-hearted team. God bless our church family and all of the other ministries that our team members serve in at NHCC.

New Team Members:

- Welcome to all of our newest team members, we're thrilled for you to join us! It's been great singing and playing with you all this past year, and thanks to all our new Sound Team members and interns, as well. Thank you for your willingness to serve God's people.

Changes for the new year?

- One big change was the schedule of our midweek band rehearsals due to a job schedule change. We're praying for a smooth transition, but it will come with its challenges.
- There will be new songs introduced—at NHCC we do our best to choose songs that are Biblically based (Inspired by Scripture), and Doctrinally sound (echoing the Truth of God). We typically have a blend of revived hymns and contemporary songs.
- We thankfully have an abundance of vocalists. Some members are on an every-other-month schedule and some play weekly. We have a shortage of bassists, keyboardists, pianists, and drummers. Also, it would be helpful to the Sound Team to have more people train and intern.

Special Services

- Thank you to all who were a part of the Special Services this past year. These services included Resurrection Sunday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve. It was wonderful performing with the great band members and vocalists we have. We had some new revived songs and new renditions of songs that we learned. We're looking forward to the special services of this coming year!

Who We Are

- As always, we are a team who seeks to glorify God in the gifts He has given each of us and to give Him our best.

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.”

Romans 12:1

Respectfully submitted,

JT Pel

Children's Ministry

Thanks to all of our hard-working volunteers who helped to make 2023 a wonderful year. Children's ministry cannot happen without you!

Our Sunday morning classes continued for our children from babies through 5th grade. As well, I teach a 9:30am Sunday School class for our younger children. Many of our faithful staff returned to lead and teach during the second hour, and we also added a few new workers to our team.

Our What's Up Wednesday classes also continued with elementary children learning about a variety of topics and with a variety of gifted teachers. The children learned about God and Science, Worldview and Changing our World, Construction Projects, Art, Finding God in Nature, Bake through the Bible, and a special Christmas Project. One of our most successful projects was when the children learned about Ghana and created crafts and snacks to sell to raise funds for Goats for Ghana and the Graham family from Team Expansion. The congregation gave enough support to purchase 60 goats! It was a wonderful experience for both the children and the team in Ghana!

Our Grands Bible Club meets monthly on Saturday mornings. This is a special time for grandparents to be involved in passing faith along to their grandchildren. We share a time of singing, Bible lesson, crafts and lunch. Our attendance has grown steadily, and we had our largest group of 36 at our December club. We also have a team of fabulous cooks, who generously provide great meals for the families.

In the summer, we offered a baptism class for our young people. Two of our children, Cora Woods and Seth Browe, were baptized as a result of the class.

In June, we had Vacation Bible School back at the church building. We used a curriculum from a past VBS, Earthmovers, which had a construction theme. Once again, this was a rich experience with lots of different families involved. We averaged about 40 children and 50 adult helpers each night. It was a very special treat to have our missionaries, the Shaws, present to share with the children each night. As well, Lynn Seta and her team provided a great meal for the workers and their families before VBS. We had many new helpers join our team this year and many others provided support behind the scenes. In keeping with the construction theme, the children had a week-long project to build a flower box which they really enjoyed.

We began having Youth Sundays on the 5th Sundays of the year and have incorporated some of our young people in the Sunday morning worship service on those special days. It has been wonderful to see them growing and maturing and taking an active role in our services.

A special thanks to Brandon and Katie Wilson who have volunteered to host a monthly fellowship/lunch at their home. It has been a rich time of sharing a potluck meal, the joys and challenges of raising children, and developing deeper friendships. Their ministry has been a wonderful bonding time for our young families.

We launched the Good News Club at Finneytown Elementary School in 2023. Eight people began this faith walk in the summer of 2022, and we were able to kick off the club with a Christmas party in December. We consistently had 24 children from January to April 2023. When we resumed in October 2023, we added more children and workers, and we finished the year with 35 kids at the Christmas party. Nearly all of those are planning to join the weekly club in January 2024. We have a fabulous team of faithful workers and have added a few more recently with the increased numbers.

Children's Ministry (cont.)

Several children from Good News Club have visited services at NHCC and several attended VBS.

Ministry to our children is a sacred task. Many of our wonderful volunteers serve faithfully and often with little thanks or praise. It is an honor to work alongside you all to pass along faith to the next generation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Nichols



Elders

The Serving Elders for 2023 were: Jim Chandler, Martin Gleason, Don Winkle, Nathan Woods, and Herb Young. Once again, we had a positive working relationship with the Preaching Minister and staff which was a real blessing.

We continued with our efforts to shepherd the congregation in addition to managing the everyday affairs of the congregation.

We created a Search Team to begin looking for an Associate/Youth Minister. This is a much needed position at NHCC. It will take some burden off Ken and will help to build our youth group. As the year ended there was one applicant whom the Search Team recommended to the Elders for further consideration. We are currently very involved in this process. Please pray for these efforts as we strive to find the right person for this position.

Thank you to our staff for their dedication to NHCC and their service to our Lord. Thank you to our team leaders for their various roles.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Gleason, Vice Chairman (for Don Winkle)

Church Clerk

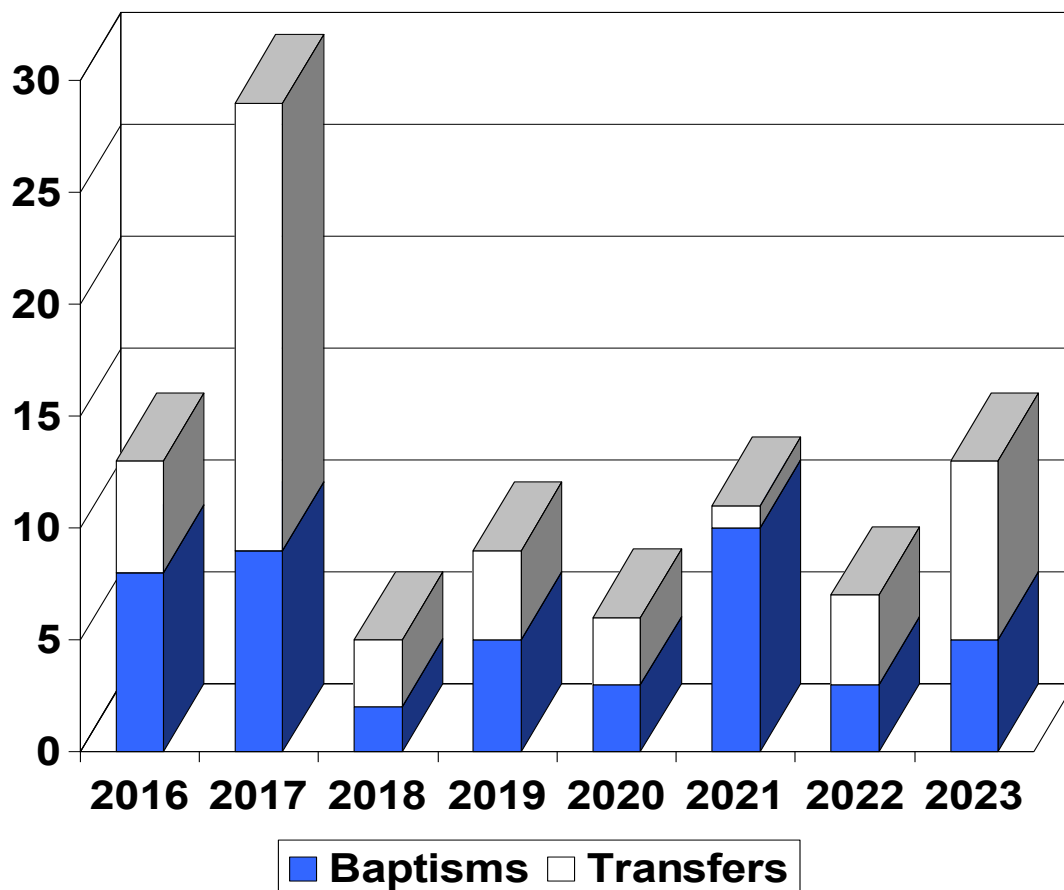
Added by Baptism:

Jake Knight
 Katie Knight
 Jim Webb
 Cora Woods
 Seth Browe

Added by Transfer:

Rodney Beavers
 Mary Beavers
 Jim Fields
 Christine Fields
 Vee Webb
 Joel Haskin
 Haley Haskin
 Carol Andrews

YEARLY ADDITIONS 2016-2023



Finance

*“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.”
Haggai 2:8 (ESV)*

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain,
for we brought nothing into the world,
and we cannot take anything out of the world.”
I Timothy 6:6-7 (ESV)*

The financial giving and support at Northern Hills Christian Church continues to embody the truths of the Scriptures shown above. We had another blessed year in 2023, with our giving pretty much consistent with the previous year. We continued to meet our budget and expenses while generously supporting our missionaries. The Elders and Ministry Team Leaders will continue to closely watch our spending to ensure we stay on budget as we plan for the future.

Goals and projects for 2024 include:

- By mid-year hire an Associate/Youth Minister
- Complete parking lot maintenance
- Upgrade auditorium stage lighting to LED

The Finance Team continued its traditional roles of establishing a budget, tracking contributions, and paying expenses/salaries, which constitutes the bulk of the team's work. Once again, the team of Terri Frebis, Terri Stewart, Kathy Stromberg, and Barb Ruggles did an outstanding job managing the income and expenses!

To take advantage of higher interest rates we invested a good portion of our savings in CDs and a money market account.

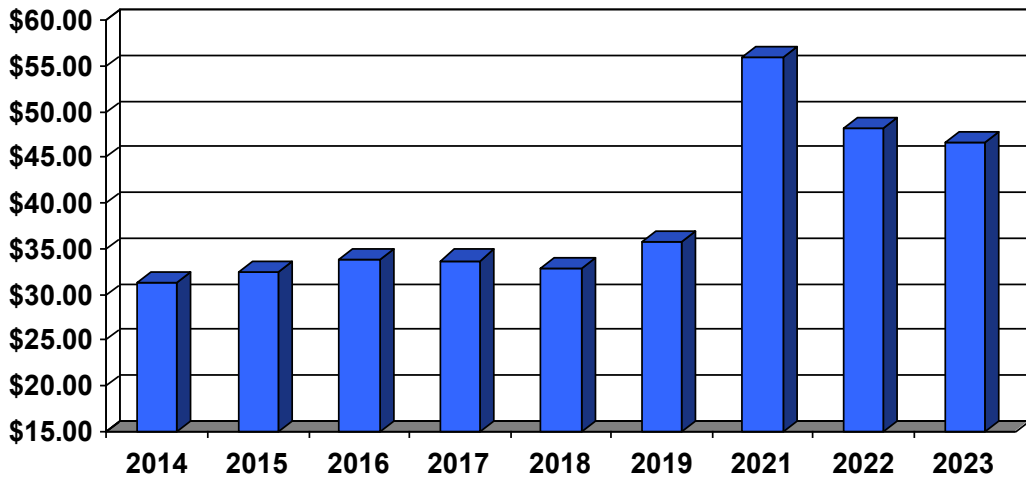
Each year in January we conduct an audit of our finances and processes. Auditors in 2023 were Ken Crebs, Ed Homan and Kathy Sample. The auditors reported that they "...reviewed the supporting documentation (for the various accounts)...to ensure proper accounting for the inflow and outflow of funds. No errors or discrepancies were found." Additionally, "...it is clear that the financial managers are conscientious in their efforts to ensure proper stewardship of the Church's resources."

I wish to thank all the members of the Finance Ministry Team for their dedicated support. In addition to those mentioned above, there were six teams that count the cash offering each Sunday, consisting of Dave Baur, Ben Browe, Rachel Chandler, Lois Craft, Linda Emerson, Terry Hartley, Kevin Kelly, Kathy Sample, Kathy Stromberg, Brandon Wilson, Herb Young, Beverly Zalar, and Mitch Zalar.

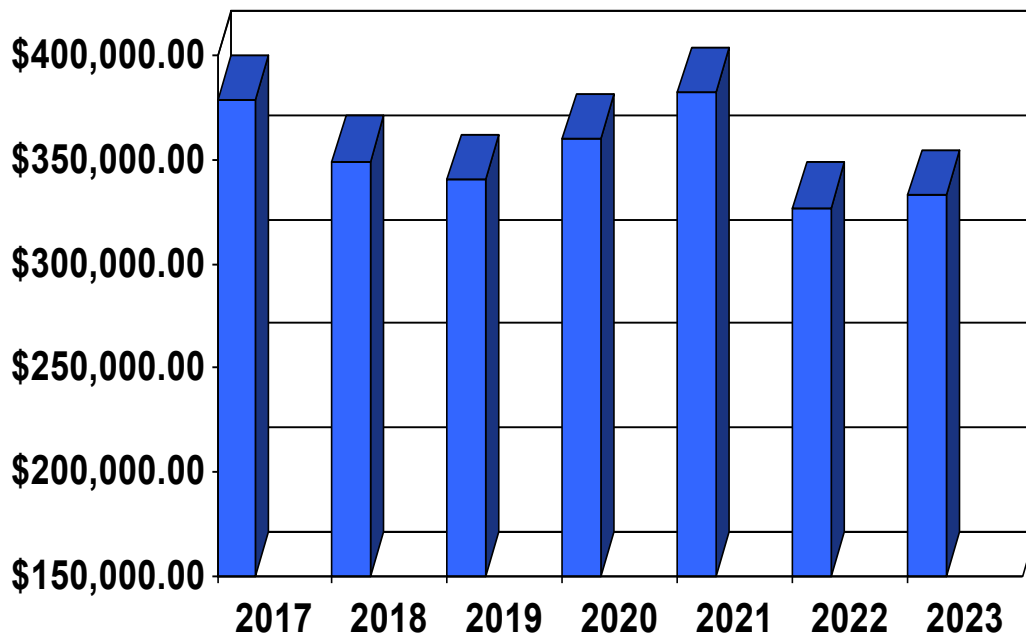
Respectfully submitted,

Jim Emerson

PER CAPITA GIVING
DOLLARS PER PERSON PER SUNDAY
2014-2023



TOTAL GIVING
2017-2023



2024 Budget

Team/Item	
Salaries	175,176
Taxes	4,928
Salaries & Taxes	\$ 180,104

MINISTRY TEAM BUDGET ITEMS

Adult Education	750
Building & Grounds	5,000
Children	3,000
Student Ministries	650
Evangelism	0
Fellowship	700
Worship Support	600
Worship/Music	1,500
Finance	600
Audio & Lighting	1,250
Grace Meals	400
First Impressions	300
Technical Services	600
College/Career Group	200
Touching All Generations	500
	\$ 16,050

SERVICES/SUPPLIES

Utilities	23,000
Contingencies	600
Insurance	13,650
Office Supplies	1,000
Postage	125
Office Equipment	3,500
Downstairs Pantry Supplies	175
Other	1500
	\$ 43,550

TOTAL YEARLY BUDGET **\$ 239,704**

TOTAL WEEKLY BUDGET **\$ 4,610**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Parking Lot Maintenance	6400
Stage Lighting Upgrade to LED	10700
	\$ 17,100

Treasurer's Report 2023

Opening balance 1/1/23

PNC General Fund	28,766.76
PNC Savings Account	174,522.21

\$ 203,288.97

Transfer of Youth Account

\$ 2,630.58

INCOME

Loose Offering	4,523.01
Current Offering	238,010.84
Interest Earned	1,339.15
Building Fund	8,440.00
Designated & Other Income	5,892.99

TOTAL INCOME 2023 \$ 258,205.99

GRAND TOTAL 2023 \$ 464,125.54

DISBURSEMENTS

Payroll Expenses	\$ 157,641.60
Operating & Service Expenses	\$ 95,986.77

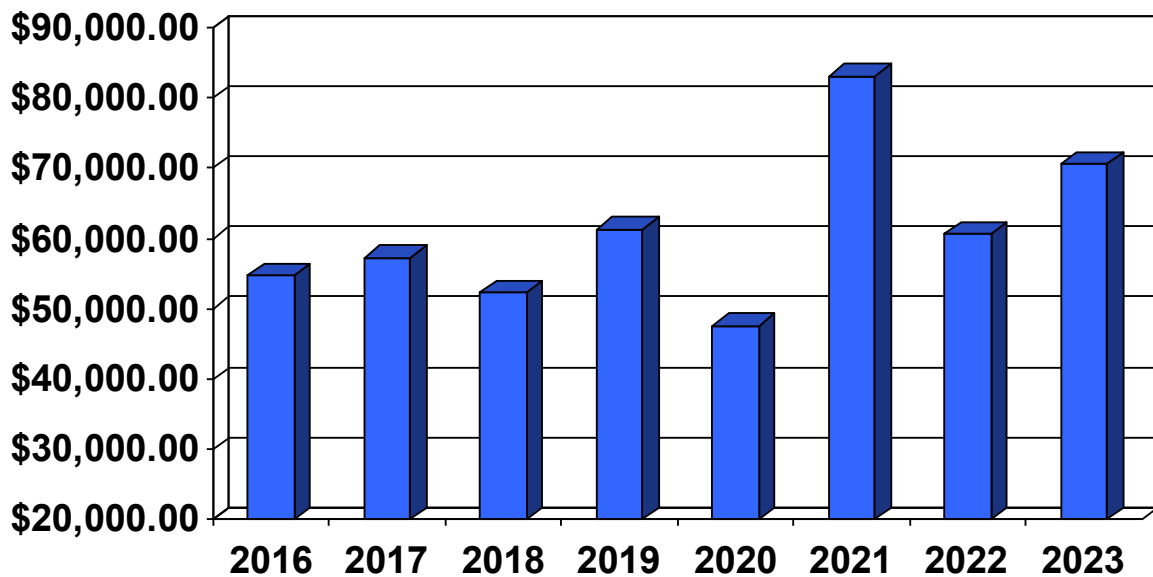
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 2023 \$ 253,628.37

Balance carried forward 12/31/23 \$ 210,497.17

2023 FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

	LOOSE	CURRENT	MISSIONS	INTEREST	DESIGN/SP	BLDG FUND	TOTAL
January	245.01	22,480.00	6,300.00	4.60	612.25	730.00	30,371.86
February	437.00	17,847.00	11,451.00	4.04	571.44	2,040.00	32,350.48
March	369.00	16,341.00	3,604.55	4.89	2,706.94	720.00	23,746.38
April	436.00	18,161.00	4,466.00	4.56	593.00	590.00	24,250.56
May	460.00	15,505.00	7,700.00	31.91	35.00	465.00	24,196.91
June	314.00	15,827.00	4,536.16	93.90	35.00	495.00	21,301.06
July	440.00	20,590.00	5,887.89	97.22	1,573.49	420.00	29,008.60
August	121.00	15,242.00	2,795.00	100.26	140.68	515.00	18,913.94
September	466.00	19,055.00	3,119.80	100.17	40.03	555.00	23,336.00
October	377.00	16,690.00	3,495.00	103.81	1,622.88	545.00	22,833.69
November	416.00	29,308.84	11,956.86	689.38	295.00	575.00	43,241.08
December	442.00	30,964.00	5,339.30	104.41	1,757.86	790.00	39,397.57
TOTAL	4,523.01	238,010.84	70,651.56	1,339.15	9,983.57	8,440.00	332,948.13

TOTAL MISSIONS GIVING 2016-2023



Missions

The Missions team serves to connect our congregation with the missionaries at home and abroad. Currently, Northern Hills Christian Church is the sending church for the Open Door Mission/Philippines and Zimbabwe Church Development/Zimbabwe. We also supported the Eden Project/Kenya and TREKS/China. In addition, we provided support for the Mountain Mission School/Virginia, and the Christian Restoration Association/Cincinnati.

Both the Open Door Mission and the Zimbabwe Church Development ministries are enjoying many successes in evangelizing their communities.

Participation in the Kroger Community Rewards program yielded approximately \$700. These funds were used for the overall support of the missions named above.

Due to regulations coming from the Kenyan government, the Ahadi Boys Home closed its doors at the end of 2022. Northern Hills Christian Church supports Mim Grooms in her involvement in the Eden Project which has a heavy emphasis on evangelism.

Also, Zina Siragusa and Chris Rogers led a group, on two different occasions, to Mountain Mission School. One trip delivered personal hygiene products for the students and the other delivered Christmas gifts for some of the students.

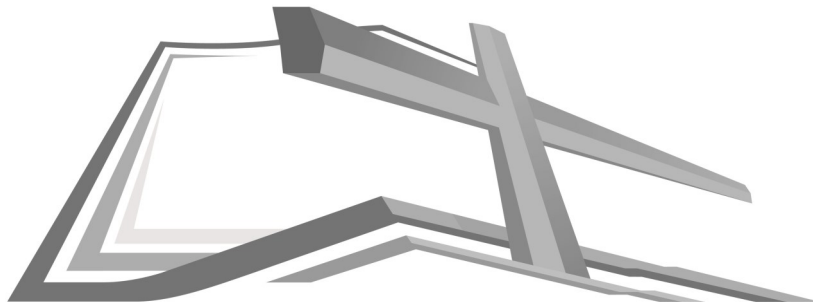
During the year, the members of our church gave sacrificially so we were able to send our missionaries more than \$25,000 in additional support. Some of these additional funds were used to support earthquake relief in Turkey, to purchase goats for Ghana, to help the Zimbabwe Church Development Ministry with its transportation needs and to make up for the loss of some of the monthly support, and to purchase Christmas gifts for the Mountain Mission School.

The Missions Team would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support as our congregation assists in the growth of God's Kingdom locally, nationally, and internationally. Please remember to pray for the success of the ministries we support and to continue in your participation in these missions' evangelism activities.

God is surely using our congregation to grow His worldwide kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin & Dot Gleason



Missions Finances

	Totals
Checkbook Balance	2,232.65
Week 1	14,983.87
Week 2	8,560.00
Week 3	15,780.00
Week 4	24,578.86
Week 5	6,748.53
Total Monthly Giving	70,651.26
Monthly Commitments	
Open Door Mission (Pels)	24,000.00
Ahadi Boys Home (Mim Grooms)	6,000.00
Mountain Mission School	4,800.00
Zimbabwe Church Development Ministeries	6,000.00
Team Expansion (TREKS)	3,000.00
Christian Restoration Association	1,320.00
Sub Total Checks	45,120.00
Other:	
Child Evanelism Fellowship - Designated	450.00
Open Door Mission (Pels) - Designated	940.00
Mountain Missions - Designated	1,430.00
Team Expansion (TREKS) - Designated	2,924.36
ZCDM - Designated/gift	1,760.00
Team Expansion - Goats for Ghana	3,612.00
Team Expansion - Earthquake Relief	4,040.00
Zina Siragusa - MMS work trip	500.00
ZCDM - Thanksgiving Offering	7,065.00
Zina Siragusa - MMS Christmas	314.27
Chris Rogers - MMS Christmas	138.25
Mountain Missions - Christmas	1,887.48
Other Checks Written	25,061.36
Total Checks Written	70,181.36
Checkbook Balance	2,702.55

Audio & Lighting

First and foremost, I want to thank the team for always being there and being willing to help. Gary Woods, Mitch Zalar, and Stacy Doose are always ready to jump in and help. All are a true blessing to have on the team.

We have begun the upgrading project for all the stage lighting and wiring. Stacy Doose is leading the project. We've gotten some pricing for LED lighting and presented it to the Elders and received the ok to start the project.

LIGHTING UPGRADES

Phase 1

In a late 2020 upgrade in lighting for the sanctuary, the pendant light bulbs (~300 watts) were replaced with LEDs (~25 watts). Adapters were installed to match the bulb bases. Spares of both the LEDs and adapters are in the maintenance closet. We gained some brightness to the audience.

Phase 2—Replace current stage lights. Power consumption savings: ~80%.

We have begun Phase 2 by purchasing a couple of lights that were recommended and temporarily hung them and compared the lighting strength to the current lights. Goal is to make sure the new lights will give enough brightness and adjustability to work with the live setting as well as the video feed. Those lights compared very favorably and we will probably add a couple more for the project. We are going to test another style of light in the very near future (target is mid January) and then hopefully decide the final types of lights to purchase.

Our adjusted goal is to cut the initial estimate substantially, but still have very good lighting for both live and video feed.

When Phase 2 is completed it should cut the cost of running the stage lights by around 80% since we are currently using quartz lights that run a lot of power and generate a lot of heat. The LED lights are much more efficient and generate much less heat.

Sound Seminar:

I am compiling material for a sound seminar for the current team as well as several church members who are interested in learning about the sound system. Since our mixing console is a digital device and has many "layers", at times it can be quite the challenge. So a refresher for the current team as well as a more in-depth look into the working will be a help to all.

The seminar will also include basic sound theory and basic microphone information that applies to all equipment. The goal is to present information that is current for the team members. Some of the previous material used in the past is outdated. Target for this is March or April.

The Audio & Lighting team requests that if anyone has any need to use the stage or auditorium, to make sure Andy Sorrentino is notified and can assign someone to assist. At the least, please contact Debbie Winkle and she will pass along the information to the team.

I also discussed the use of the auditorium and sound system with Don Winkle. The elders then came up with a new policy for compensation for the time of the Audio & Lighting team members. If one of the sound team is required to be present for a special service; funeral, wedding, vow renewal, etc.,

Audio & Lighting (cont.)

and the users do not pay some sort of compensation, then the sound tech can write their time up and submit it to Terri Frebis. She will then write the tech a check for \$20/hour. This covers the time from arriving on site, setting up, closing down the system, restoring the stage, etc., until they are leaving the site.

There is a standing open invitation to anyone with questions about Sunday Worship or Thursday evening rehearsals, how the system works, why we do things a particular way, why something seemed to not work, etc. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me directly after church, after or before rehearsal, or by phone or email (it's in the directory) and I'd be glad to answer any questions.

Please note that JT Pel, our Worship Leader, has informed us that rehearsal for the Worship Team will be on Thursdays at 7pm instead of Wednesdays at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Sorentino

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Team is responsible for the general upkeep of the church building, youth house, and church grounds.

Several projects completed during 2023 included the following:

Replacement of the air conditioner at the youth house,
Repair of the air conditioner for the upstairs classrooms,
Completed initial phase of parking lot repairs,
Repaired damage to youth house roof and 2nd floor ceiling,
Lawn equipment maintenance and lawn care,
Fire extinguisher and boiler inspections to meet insurance safety requirements, and general plumbing, electrical, and equipment maintenance.

Projects contemplated for 2024 include the following:

Parking lot repair completion including top coating and restriping,
Stage lighting conversion to LED lights,
Youth house plumbing and wall repairs,
Interior and exterior painting.

Thank you to all the team members who pitched in to help with repairs and the general upkeep of the building and grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Woods

Fellowship

The goal of the Fellowship Team is to provide activities where our members/visitors can get together for fun and fellowship. This year we held a Men's Breakfast, a Game Night, and Party of 6 Dinners. Each of the events were enjoyable and well-attended. We would like to repeat some of these events and add new ideas for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Don & Debbie Winkle

First Impressions

The First Impressions Ministry Team currently consists of Steve and June Herlinger. Our mission is to make a good first impression on our members and guests every Sunday morning. We try to set a welcoming tone each week by preparing the coffee bar and helping greet/direct first time visitors and children to their appropriate classrooms.

Anyone interested in joining our team, please contact Steve or June Herlinger.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Herlinger

Grace Meals

Grace Meals focuses specifically on providing for our church families when they are in need of a loving, home-cooked meal. This year we had 19 volunteers. We provided 15 meals for individuals or families who were recovering from illness, surgery, or having a baby. We provided weekly meals for Butch and Shirley Govreau over 42 weeks. We also helped with 2 funeral dinners.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Sorentino

Technical Support

We installed 4 new wifi access points: event center (new), hallway outside the library, classroom downstairs, and relocated and replaced the auditorium.

We installed a 24 port ethernet switcher in the electrical room and 2 5 port ethernet switchers in the auditorium and in the security camera room.

We installed a new TV with 25 ft hdmi cable for the library and a new ethernet outlet in the library.

We came in under budget for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Reich

Prayer Team

Our goal for 2023: Encourage the congregation to develop a deeper prayer life.

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions
with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind,
be alert and always keep on praying
for all the saints.”
Ephesians 6:18*

At the beginning of each month a Prayer Guide was placed in the bulletin and on the Welcome Center for those who wanted one. We also had a Prayer Presentation the first Sunday of each month. Our theme for the year was “God Is”. When we reflect on who God is, we are drawn to our knees in humble adoration of our Creator. In our very physical reality, we struggle to do this. It was our hope that reflections on Who God Is with a scripture, a reading from those who focus on writing about God, and a song that also tied into the “Who God Is” theme for the month would touch our hearts. Below is a listing of the themes and scriptures we used.

January - In Awe of God...Psalm 19:1-4...Song: So Will I by Hillsong United
February - God is Love...Mark 12:30...Song: God So Loved by We The Kingdom
March - God is Yearning For Us...Revelation 3:20...Song: First Things First by Consumed by Fire
April - God is Our Only God...Jude 25...Song: You Gave Your Heart Away by Paul Baloche
May - God is Ever Present ...Psalm 46:1...Song: Faithful by Eric Nieder
June - God is Faithful...Psalm 33:4...Song: Always by Chris Tomlin
July - God is Sovereign...Philippians 2:13...Song: The Lord’s Prayer (All Yours) by Matt Maher
August - God is Merciful...Hebrews 4:16...Song: Overwhelmed by Big Daddy Weave
September - God is Beautiful...Psalm 27:4...Song: Beautiful One by Jeremy Camp
October - God is Caring...I Peter 5:7...Song: God You’re So Good by Passion
November - God is Good...Psalm 34:8...Song: Gratitude by I Am They
December - God is Patient...II Peter 3:9...Song: Run to the Father by Matt Maher

Along with the monthly presentations and prayer guide, we invited the band, *Slightly Damaged*, to lead us in the ‘SING PRAISE’ concert on Saturday, November 4th. We invited several congregations and asked Ben Walker, Todd Jefferson, Titus Pel, and our own Ken Nichols to lead us in meditations and prayers as we praised God in singing. This was a big undertaking, and we thank all who participated, especially the members of the band who gave so much of their time and talents for this night. Thank You, awesome band: Pat Bishop, Carin Gleason, Eric Gnagey, John Pennington, and Andy Sorentino, with Stacy Doose on sound and Jim Frebis on slides.

Many thanks to JT Pel and those he leads each month in our worship. He worked with us on various songs, had to say no to some but always came up with a wonderful substitute. You are so appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Seta

TAG Team

There were 8 team members: Bev Zalar, Kim Sorentino, Lynn Seta, Linda Woods, Barb Ruggles, Gwen Rogers, Jane Pennington, and Melissa Witte.

This year's activities included:

- Sponsored "Ladies Night Out" monthly inviting all ladies of the congregation to fellowship as we have dinner at a different restaurant. This promotes closer relationships within our congregation.
- Gave Mother's Day gifts of cellophane wrapped large iced cookies to mothers in our congregation.
- Purchased a 9' pre-lit 4-section Christmas tree. Set up and dismantled the tree and decorations.
- Helped Grace Meals Ministry with numerous funerals, shut-ins, and sick individuals with meal preparing and delivering throughout the year.
- Purchased red poinsettias at Christmas to remember loved ones.
- Held Annual Women's Christmas Dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory. We had 35 women in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Zalar

Worship Support

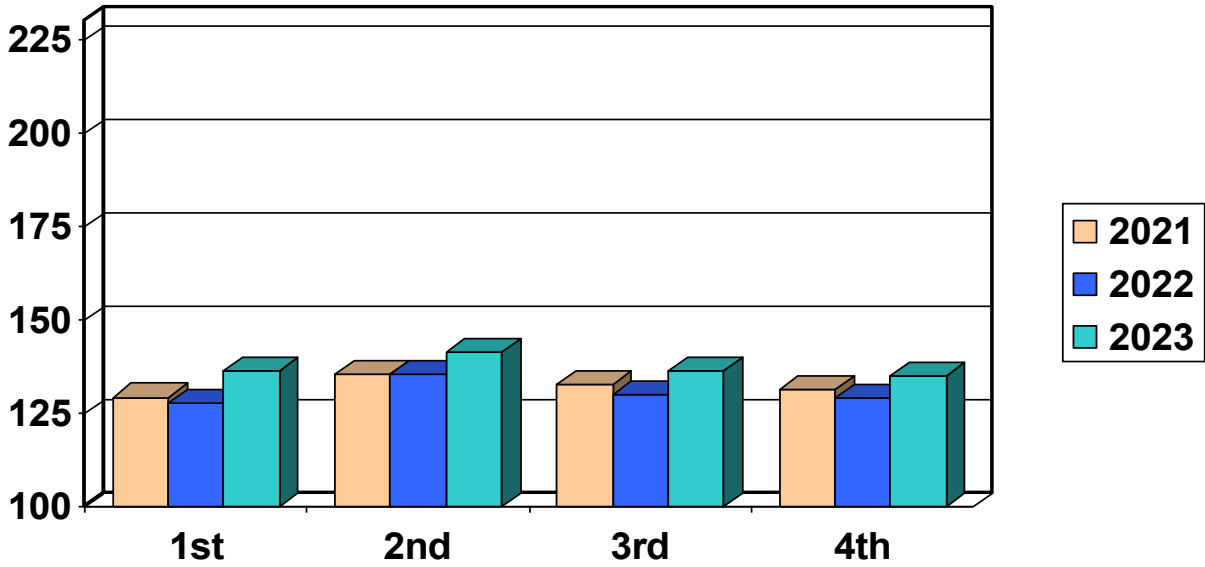
The Worship Support Team is responsible for scheduling communion preparation, maintenance of baptistry needs, and for scheduling speakers for the Call to Worship, the Communion Scripture Reading and Meditation, and the Closing Prayer. This year we recruited more volunteers for these efforts. The response to our recruitment was very positive. We certainly appreciate each person who volunteered for these important roles.

Thanks to Steve and Kathy Stromberg for ordering our supplies.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Winkle, Terry Hartley, and Martin Gleason

AM WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AVERAGE BY QUARTER



AM WORSHIP AVERAGE 1985-2023

