

Scott Laird
Associate Pastor
Annual Report 2020

My report is about the three main areas I serve in:

Worship

Through all the challenges of 2020, my heart has been to keep the fire of God's presence burning here at PCF through our worship. At the beginning of the year, when we were all still able to meet together, we had several full worship teams going and God's presence was burning like a bonfire.

Then in March, when we could only have a maximum of ten people in the building and had to go to online services only, we pared things down to two small teams, and God's presence felt more like a candle burning in each home.

When we moved to outdoor services in the summer and then to two indoor services in the fall, we were able to start expanding our worship teams again and God's presence started to feel more like a campfire.

But whatever form our worship has taken this year, the fire of God's presence has continued to burn. The flames have not gone out. I am grateful to all my team members — some who graciously stayed home and others who faithfully came when called on. I so appreciate all of you for the various ways you served and sacrificed this year. I pray that the fire of God's presence will continue to burn brightly among us in the days and years ahead.

Kids Ministries

At the beginning of the year we were looking at ways to improve our Sunday School and expand our kids ministries. Those plans were cut short in March and for months there was no Sunday School or PCF Kids.

But another thing that happened at the beginning of the year was that God had given me Colossians 3:1: "set your hearts on things above." As the year unfolded, the events around us confirmed that we did indeed need to look above this world and fix our eyes on Jesus. So I felt led to move forward with a virtual VBS based on this theme. Many thanks to those who helped me make this possible. Though we greatly missed the excitement of being all together, we still had a lot of fun making the videos. Virtual VBS could never replace actual VBS, but it does have its benefits. One benefit is number of people reached. Judging from the number of views we got on Youtube, we reached more kids with our virtual VBS than we would have with our in person VBS. Another benefit was that having people do the VBS activities together at home helped bring some families together. Parents got involved with their kids and I heard from a number

of families who were blessed. One last benefit of virtual VBS is that it is still available online. When you do VBS in person, you might forget the lessons you learned after a few weeks, but with virtual VBS you can go back at any time and watch the videos again so the message stays with you.

Once we got back to indoor services in the fall, we rebooted our kids ministries on a small scale. What we are currently doing is essentially Sunday School during the sermon of the second service. Our volunteers may be few, but they feel called to be there, and they have a great heart for kids. I want to thank Dawson and Makayla Gallagher, Rich and Rhonda Howe, Gerry and Joyce Koch, Julie Conner, Eldon and Mary Jane King, Eileen Brittain, Ashley Ameis, Emily Nichols and also all of our nursery helpers for making this possible. We are praying that we are able to continue and increase our kids ministries in the days to come.

Sunday Morning Classes

We started out the year with an Acts to Revelation series but had to stop before we got very far. This was disappointing, but I found that not having to prepare for classes freed me up to assist Pastor Jeff in adapting his sermons for use in our Care Groups, which went over well.

We have not felt to reboot our classes at this time, as the Sunday morning schedule is too tight with two services. But I am glad that we were able to arrange some special sessions so we could at least finish the membership class that had been started in March.

Closing

On a personal note, God has used 2020 to bring me into a deeper relationship with him and a clearer focus on his Word, his kingdom and prayer. Being home a little more has also deepened my relationships with my wife and family. Losing our ability to meet all together as a church has also deepened my appreciation and love for all of you.

In closing, I want to thank my wife for her support this year and thank all of you for standing with us as we navigated our way through the challenges of 2020. God has been and will continue to be faithful!

Scott