

Scott Laird
Associate Pastor
Annual Report for 2023

The title Associate Pastor means multiple things depending on the day, but the three primary areas I oversee are Worship, Kids Ministries and 9AM Classes.

Worship

This year I was reminded of the relationship between worship and The Great Commission. The Great Commission is where Jesus told us to,

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” (Mark 16:15)

Obviously this is super important, in fact a lot of churches make it their central focus. But the central focus of the church should actually be worship. Our God is worth more than anyone or anything else in the universe - he is worthy of all our worship. But true worship results in missions, because when we spend time worshiping God, he imparts his heart to us - and his heart is to love the world. So when we love God first, we end up loving people too. So missions begins in worship and missions also ends in worship — because it's through missions that we bring others to the Lord so they can worship Him with us for eternity.

As John says it in Revelation 7:

9 “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

In this passage we see that worship is the central activity of eternity. It involves people from every nation. When we worship God on earth, we align ourselves with what's happening in heaven. Jesus told us to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, and one key way that can happen is through our worship, as we welcome the atmosphere of heaven to earth.

I'm so glad that PCF has always emphasized worship, and I'm so blessed to be able to serve in this key area. But I can't do it alone. I currently have 30 people giving of their time and talents to make worship possible each week. The volunteer list includes musicians and singers as well as sound, projection, camera and lighting technicians - they are all equally important parts of the worship team. My sincere thanks to all of them for their devotion and dedication to this crucial ministry.

In 2024 we are going to be connecting with some other area churches to put on monthly worship nights. PCF will be hosting these area worship nights in March and June.

Our God is worthy of all our praise and even though music styles and technology change over the years, worshiping Him will always remain our central focus. May God always be glorified, honored and praised above everything that goes on here at PCF.

Kids Ministries

In Matthew 19 we read that,

“people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

Our job in PCF Kids is to help bring kids to Jesus each week so he can touch them.

We currently have 67 volunteers helping bring kids to Jesus. Some of them help with check-ins, some work with infants, some with toddlers, some work with pre-school kids, some work with elementary school kids and some with middle school kids.

In particular, I want to thank Eileen Brittain for investing every Sunday in our 2-3 year olds. I also want to thank Gerry and Joyce Koch and Julie Conner who have been serving tirelessly on alternating weeks with our 4-6 year olds. These folks are the backbone of our kids’ ministry.

This year we put together an additional team to support them. We created a new team to minister to the 3-4 year olds. This has freed up Eileen to focus on 2 year olds and Koch’s and Julie to focus on 5-6 year olds. Many thanks to our new team of teachers and helpers for stepping up and making this possible. Thanks also to Lisette for all she’s been doing to help set up and equip this new team.

The creation of the new room for 3-4 year olds involved getting some new furniture and moving our nursery. We also did some work in the Library to make it a nicer place for nursing moms. Many thanks to Jeff Ludwick for painting several rooms and many thanks to everyone who helped with the room shift. Thanks also to Emily Nichols for continuing to do a great job as our nursery coordinator.

This year we also launched a new ministry to ages 7-11. It’s been on our hearts for several years, and in 2023 it finally felt like it was time to give it a try. Our once a month Kids’ Church service for ages 7-11 has been exciting. Having more time with this age group means we can go deeper into teaching about worship and we can spend more time pastoring them through our small group discussion and prayer times — and there’s also more time for fun. We have an amazing team of helpers for this age group and the ministry has been well received by the kids. So a big thank you to everyone on our

team. I'm looking forward to seeing what the Lord wants to do with this ministry in the days ahead.

Another big event for the kids this year was the kids' musical. Many thanks to Joyce Sampson - I believe this marked her 23rd year as our director! Joyce has been so dedicated to this ministry - sowing into the lives of so many kids. We can't thank you enough for all you've done!

But after much prayer and discussion, the tough decision was made to take a break from doing the musical in 2024 so we could focus our energies on our monthly kids' church service. To provide an outlet for those kids who love to sing, we asked Ceresa Kozlowski to put together a kids choir which was well received at Christmas time. Hopefully we will be hearing more from them in the days ahead. We are prayerfully moving forward, asking the Lord to show us the most effective ways of ministering to our kids in the days ahead.

A final kids ministry highlight of 2023 was VBS. *Treasure Quest* was a big success. Thanks again to our many dedicated volunteers. We hosted over 100 kids and raised money to continue the Deep Well project for Peter Midodo in Kenya. The well had been dug last year but this year our offerings went towards the purchase of a tank, tower and solar panels.

Sunday Morning Classes

Matthew's version of Christ's Great Commission tells us to:

"Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them." - Matthew 28:19

Our 9 AM Sunday morning time slot has continued to be a very fruitful avenue for discipleship. We are excited to have the Cultivate and Ironmen groups continuing, along with Jr. Bible Quizzing and John Camiolo's Class.

For the adults, Jeanne Burns, Shelley Wojtaszczyk and David Kays offered 9AM classes, along with the Pastors and Elders who lead their annual church Membership Class and Kathy Wypij who taught on spiritual gifts. We also formed a child care team to enable parents with little ones to attend these classes. A big thank-You to all of you!

In closing

I want to thank God for enabling me to serve again this year. And I also want to thank my wife and family, our church leadership team and all of you for your love and support.

God Bless You all!

Scott