ANNUAL REPORT	2021	



"BE SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S FLOCK THAT IS UNDER YOUR CARE, WATCHING OVER THEM - NOT BECAUSE YOU MUST, BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE WILLING, AS GOD WANTS YOU TO BE; NOT PURSUING DISHONEST GAIN, BUT EAGER TO SERVE; NOT LORDING IT OVER THOSE ENTRUSTED TO YOU, BUT BEING EXAMPLES TO THE FLOCK. AND WHEN THE CHIEF SHEPHERD APPEARS, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF GLORY THAT WILL NEVER FADE AWAY" (1 PET 5:2-5, NIV).

# Greetings from your Pastoral Leadership Team

We are privileged to serve here as your pastoral leadership team (PLT). 2021 has been another year of so many unplanned and unprecedented things, and yet you have been flexible and God's church continues to be firmly built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Reading through this report, you will discover the many ways God has been active in the many ministries of MBC, it's an exciting time for us and we are thankful.

We have enjoyed rich times in the word together this year. We started the year with a new "Dignity" series, examining the value of every single human life as created in the image of God. We continued next by looking closely at some of God's most amazing Promises. After Easter, we studied expositionally through the letter to the Hebrews and discovered how Jesus is "Greater than" all! This summer we put the pieces of a puzzle together through a worldview series called "The Story of Reality," engaging the big questions of life through the lense of the book of Colossians. We examined these issues through the lens of culture, movies and other relevant media that surround us with messages each day, filtering our answers through the word of God. This past fall we went through the epic story of the book of Exodus, "Out of darkness and into the hands of God," reflecting on the story of Israel's redemption and recognizing that their story is our story. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." (Ex 20:2) God's word remains rich and real, and we are committed to bringing scripture to our body as a steady diet and nourishment for your soul.

This year we have been privileged to publish a devotional on Proverbs this year, as well as a new spiritual formation curriculum. We have seen spiritual growth through our adult ministries, Stephen Ministry, and had several successful outreach initiatives, including a very special 9/11 Memorial Service for the 20th anniversary of this tragic event. We've also enjoyed our Hare-raising Easter Party, our annual Trunk or Treat event, and our brand new Winter Village event, each featuring about 400 people from our community coming on campus to be loved on. This summer, we also enjoyed our first ever Big Tent Worship night, a fall suffering seminar featuring Dr. Jim Owen, and our yearly Summer Adventure program which included 11 brand new professions of faith in Jesus Christ. We praise God for this impact for God's kingdom!

We have also enjoyed (3) Underground Sessions in 2021. In March, we tackled the challenging question of race and the surrounding issues of our day. In August, we had a special Underground Session with two of our World Partners: Jayson Casper and Amoon Sharon. They did a wonderful job outlining the nuances in conversations between Christians and Muslims. Finally, in November we hosted Greg Koukl from Stand To Reason and discussed his book, "Tactics." This provided some helpful training on sharing our faith in a world that is hostile to us. The Underground Sessions continues to be a vehicle both for outreach and training our people to engage the culture with wisdom and courage.

Due to the pandemic, we gave some serious thought to digital outreach. Our team rose to the challenge both creatively and substantively. As such, we have enjoyed an expansion of our digital outreach on our website and social media platforms. These increases in presence have included: weekly pastor's videos, Facebook prayer times, podcasts recordings, and sermons. In fact, our sermon page has garnered over 5,000 unique visitors this year. Indeed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed beyond our walls... even in the digital sphere. Next year, we are excited to expand to YouTube and see how the Lord can use us to share the Good News.

God has been faithful to MBC. We are still waiting for "normal" to resume in our world, but we are moving forward with what God has for us today. We are looking forward with great hope and much faith, trusting in the one who holds us in the palm of His hand.

Thank you for your faithful giving and serving together with us at MBC. Let us continue to grow together, "Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Eph 4:13, NIV).

The best is yet to come,

#### **Pastor Dave Hentschel and Pastor Bob Erbig**

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# Board of Elders

## Looking Back

Calendar 2021 continued to present logistical challenges as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, it also presented the opportunity for the MBC leadership to constantly seek the Lord's direction on how to most efficiently and effectively serve our church body and reach our community, both local and abroad.

As a result of the most recent church wide survey we focused on:

- Reaching non-Christians
- Serving our community
- Strengthening our corporate worship experience
- Establishing a clear path to discipleship
- Improving our sense of belonging
- "Growing Young" by building our late teens/young adult population both in numbers and spiritual vitality

## Looking Ahead

We are currently in the process of refreshing our strategic plan and will be sharing that in more detail in the coming months, however major components will include:

- Continued campus upgrades particularly in Fellowship Hall with a new conference room, a podcast recording studio, an interactive missions hall and a more user-friendly space to connect
- An upgraded and renovated nursery
- An upgraded Wi-Fi system to support digital outreach
- Spiritual formation initiatives to reach our community and the next generation
- Continued missions focus locally (Feeding Hands) and abroad (Pakistan)
- Creative Underground Sessions to create a forum to deal with issues facing the Christian community

We are excited about what God has done at MBC and what he will do in the future. We are also extremely thankful to the congregation for your generosity, which gives us the ability to accomplish so many God honoring initiatives.

## **Co-laboring in Christ:**

Darren Hernandez, Chair Doug Hulin, Vice Chair Roy Garms, Treasurer Craig McLaughlin, Secretary Jeff Callender Gregg Force Mike Ginese John McCarthy Bob Muller Hock Ng Bill Ohnsorg Jim Romaine Pastor Bob Erbig Pastor Dave Hentschel

# Elder Search & Election

## **Elder Search & Election**

This year's nominating committee members are: Jim Flood (chair), Laura Garcell, Barbara Smith and John Drew. Hock Ng served as liaison between the committee and the Board of Elders. Our Elder candidates include 6 men who have faithfully come forward to serve. There are 3 men who will serve a first 3-year term (Glen Homa, Hector Garcell, Rick Splinter), 2 men who will serve unexpired 1-year terms (Paul Achenbach, Jan Torgrimsen), and one who will serve a second 3-year term (Doug Hulin). The team is presenting these nominees for election to the Board of Elders. Please pray for these men and their families as we consider them for this critical leadership position. We would also like to thank the following Elders who have served on the board and are stepping down: Gregg Force, Roy Garms, Mike Ginese, Bill Ohnsorg, and Jim Romaine.

#### Paul Achenbach (1 year term)

Paul is a lifelong resident of Bernards Twp and has been married to Esther for almost 24 years. They have 5 children and have been part of the MBC family since 2009. Paul is currently active in the Men's Class on Sunday mornings. In the past has been involved with the MBC Choir, MBC Kids, and served as an Elder from 2013 to 2019.

#### Hector Garcell (3 year term)

Hector Garcell was born in Elizabeth, NJ and accepted Christ in college. He has been attending MBC since 1990 and his wife, Laura, since 1981; becoming members in 1993. Hector and Laura have 2 daughters, Emma, at Coastal Carolina University, and Kayley, a senior at Watchung Regional HS and committed to Messiah University in the Fall. Hector has served on the A/V team, Music Camp, HisKids, and volunteers at various MBC events and serving opportunities. He is a sales engineer for AT&T and enjoys woodworking, photography, and camping.

#### Glen Homa (3 year term)

Glen Homa and his wife Liz live in New Providence and have been attending MBC since 1998 and became members soon afterward. They have four children: Jordan, Liberty University graduate, Courtney, High Point University graduate, Benjamin, a senior at Grove City College, and Jonathan, a sophomore also at Grove City college. They have all participated regularly in youth group and church ministries and events and more recently at Ben's wedding to Danielle in December. Glen served as a member and chair of the finance team, participated in many small groups, Bible Study Fellowship, and has served in the youth ministry. He teaches high school and has been an active leader in Boy Scouts for their local troop in New Providence.

#### Doug Hulin (3 year term)

Doug Hulin began attending MBC in 2013 and became a member the following year. He has served as part of the MBC worship team as well as within MBC's Adult Education program. Doug surrendered to Christ as a teenager and is grateful for God's continued work in his life in the years. He currently works in technology for NBC Universal. He and his wife Juran live in Basking Ridge. They have been married since 2009 and are the proud parents of two boys, Jackson (11 - drums) and Brandon (9 - guitar).

#### Rick Splinter (3 year term)

Rick grew up in Wausau, WI, and graduated the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Electronics and Optics. He has worked for Alcon Labs since 1992. Rick accepted Jesus in 1977. Both Rick and his wife Cathy have been attending MBC since 1992 and became members in 1993. Rick has served in several ministries including Men's, Choir, and the Finance team since 2011. He currently co-leads a small group with Jim Romaine, and participates in various prayer and study groups. Rick and Cathy reside in Chatham and have 2 adult children who live in NJ. Rick and Cathy enjoy reading, hiking and traveling, and spending time with their 3 grandchildren.

#### Jan Torgrimsen (1 year term)

Jan is recently retired after 50 years working in construction management and estimating. He lives in Basking Ridge with his wife, Judy. They have 8 grown children and 13 grandchildren. Jan became an MBC member over 30 years ago and has been active in several small groups, Sunday School classes and church activities. Jan and Judy married at MBC 11 years ago and both are active with the Missions Team. Jan has been to Senegal twice on short term missions trips, serves monthly at Market Street Mission, volunteers at Feeding Hands food pantry, and participates in BSF. Jan and Judy enjoy reading, bicycling, hanging out at Ocean Grove and travelling.

# Adult Ministries

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." (Rom 12:9-13, NIV)

Our Adult Ministry continues to be a source of great blessing and spiritual growth at MBC. Our discipleship coordinator Henry Freire stepped away this year to focus on his Ph.D. studies and MBC thanks him for his excellent work and investment over the last few years. Here are a few highlights from 2021:

### **Adult Education Highlights**

- Men's Class: This was taught by Paul Auchenbach and Larry Blakeman, going through the book of Psalms and Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, averaging attendance of about 12 people. They have creatively incorporated the Owl technology to allow for remote participation.
- Tactic's Class: Pastor Bob led a new Monday evening course in the Fall featuring the work of Greg Koukl, culminating in hosting him for a live event which equipped our body to share our faith conversationally with grace, skill and tactfulness.
- Growing Disciples Class: Jack Kraus has been doing an excellent job teaching through the book of Jeremiah in the Fall and Winter, their class is also using the Owl remote learning technology to create a hybrid environment.
- Women's Connect Class: This class has been an opportunity for informal fellowship Sunday mornings for our women.

## Small Groups - Highlights

Our small group ministry is an important and vital place of both relational connection and spiritual formation. This ministry continues to grow, focusing on process and application of the Sunday morning messages.

- 157 participants attending small groups
- 11 different groups
- 3 new group leaders
- New spiritual formalion workbook initiative

God has been good. Thank you especially to our committed, godly adult ministry leaders at MBC.

### Pastor Dave Hentschel

# Adult Ministries

## Women's Ministry

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 40:10 reflects the focus of the Women's Ministry this past year. The leaders of the five small groups weekly reflected on Scriptures that pointed the ladies to trust in the Lord, persevere during these difficult times, care well for those around them, and establish friendships that spur them on to godliness and grace. Each leader has dedicated their time and talents to serve, for which we are very grateful!

Our Retreat Committee (Sue Turner, Lenore Tosi, Heather Wenzel, Denise Midthassel, and Jenn Dowden) stepped out in faith to trust God to create a place to meet with Him. Fifty women will be heading to Lancaster, PA, with the hope of restoring their connection with God, with others, and with themselves.

We are so thankful for our time together! If you are a woman, take a step of faith and join us for the spring!

Grateful for the body,

#### Jenn Dowden

Women's Coordinator Linda Clark Cyndi Cudworth Ruth Grose Sharon Lima Gail Loehr Lisa Kiel Chris MacBurney\* Kimberly McLaughlin\* \*Group Leader \*\*Retreat Committee Denise Midthassel\*\* Sue Philhower\* Linda Rigdon Irm Smith\* Lenore Tosi\*\* Sue Turner\*\* Krisana Ukritnukun\* Heather Wenzel\*\*

### Men's Ministry

In a time where many men do not have close friends they can rely upon, the Men's ministry is trying to address that need. We hold activities throughout the year to bring together to encourage each other in their walk of faith. We hold 3 or 4 breakfasts each year that feature a speaker or panel who challenges us in some aspect of our lives to be the men God calls us to be. Covid disrupted this schedule; however, we look forward to resuming these breakfasts in the coming months. Prayer with Joe continues to meet Wednesday mornings at 6:15am to pray for our church and its leadership. "Brothers in Prayer" pairs men to pray for each other.

Watch for details and announcements for future events and a chance to meet other men of the church, deepen relationships with friends, and join in on a few games or activities, such as a night at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark.

Please contact me if you would like more information or would like to propose an event.

#### Bob Muller Men's Coordinator

# Worship Arts

#### "Count your blessings; name them one by one."

MBC has so many reasons to be thankful! God has blessed us with the privilege of gathering together in the name of Jesus each week. One of the ways that brothers and sisters respond to His goodness is by opening our lips to proclaim His wondrous deeds in the midst of the congregation through singing.

We are so thankful that God has provided such excellent Bible teaching at MBC. Through the reading and teaching of His Word, the Holy Spirit produces, in us, a desire to worship God. We are thankful for the provision of a stacked team of talented musicians and singers who are passionate about The Lord Jesus Christ and delight in using their God-given abilities to be a blessing to MBC.

2021 has been a tremendous year of growth and exciting collaboration for Worship Arts at MBC in the following ways:

- Two experienced new team members have joined the Worship Arts Ministry.
- We held our first Big Tent Worship Night outside in August with the largest acoustic band in MBC history made up of both existing and possible future Worship Arts team members.
- A choir of carolers led by a brass quartet belted out the Good News at MBC's Winter Village.
- MBC Worship Arts team members continued the rockin' jolly tradition of providing music for the Senior's Christmas Luncheon.
- Our very own MBC Worship Arts team delivered not 1...not 2...but 3 musically stunning Christmas Eve services.
- God provided an inspiring new keyboard that is second only to the heavenly host...and it's RED!
- It's a blessing to be a multi-generational congregation. We continue to enjoy the expansion of MBC's Sunday Service repertoire by incorporating a mix of both modern and traditional worship songs.

God is truly the giver of good gifts and He is faithful to provide for His children. We are excited for the weekly opportunity to increase our reverence toward God and to develop deeper relationships with one another. Holy Spirit, as we continue to sing of your goodness through 2022, impress these words upon our hearts:

"Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire." Hebrews 12:28-29 (New Living Translation)

In Christ Alone,

### John Bonaventura Director of Worship

# **Production Team**

Production ministry has been able to bless more than just the people inside our doors at MBC by being able to get our sermons, underground session, and other discussions out of our doors and into the people's homes. Our team continues to learn new skills and improve upon our weekly streaming needs to provide a high quality production of our events. God has also blessed us with the resources to create powerful atmospheres for those in person and those virtual. Here are just a few highlights from this past year below.

#### Highlights from 2021

- Underground Sessions
  - o Virtual and in person Underground Sessions
  - o All virtual Underground Sessions held in YFMB basement
  - o Streamed Underground Sessions to YouTube for greater audience
- Personnel
  - o Hired a new video and content producer Tim Youtkus
  - o Kayley Garcell excels in sermon content production and stage designs
  - Walter Loehr continues to provide expert consultation and innovative ideas to provide high quality production
- Resources
  - Created a MBC YouTube page with weekly content being uploaded
  - o Produced first video podcast
  - o Training videos for ministry leaders
- Pro presenter 7 upgrade
  - o Seamless Livestream
  - o Lyrics overlay
  - o Control lighting program through Midi
  - o Stage TV for teaching during sermons

## Looking Ahead in 2022

We are excited to see the Lord use our ministry to continue to break down barriers and spread the gospel message to more and more people as our ability to expand continues. As it says in Acts 1:8, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

### Johnny Graves

Production Manager

# MBC Kids

# "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14

#### 2021

As the world continued to walk through unknown territory, MBC Kids pressed on towards our goal of bringing God's Word and Christ's love to kids. A huge thank you to our amazing MBC Kids Team who persevered through teaching on Zoom and adapting to new ways of teaching and serving in person. Plus, we re-launched our nursery and preschool classes, bringing our MBC Kids Team to almost 70 people, including almost 20 teens!

#### **Attendance Stats**

- Highest number since returning in person: 65 kids on Dec 5
- Average attendance in Fall 2021 reached 67% of our average prior to COVID
- 8 new families started coming regularly

#### Sunday mornings

- Nursery/Preschool
  - o Spring-Summer: re-opened in person at the 10:45amo Fall: Back to in person at both services!
- Elementary
  - o Winter/Spring: 9am on Zoom; 10:45am in person
  - o Summer: in person at the 10:45am
  - o Fall: Back to in person at both services!
- 56ers girls and 56ers boys
  - o Winter/Spring: Zoom classes
  - o Fall: Back to in person classes at 9am!

#### Curriculum

- Preschool: God's Unfolding Story
- Elementary and 56ers girls:
  - o Winter: Dig In, Foundations of Faith
  - o Spring: Walk Thru the Bible
  - o Summer: Life.Church video lessons
  - o Fall: Dig In, The Life of Jesus
- 56ers boys: Old Testament

#### Quotes from the kids

- "I love talking to my friends and coloring."
- "I like the Linda's and the Bible Study."
- "Really nice teachers. Fun experiments and crafts."
- "I love the games, and the video is nice too"
- "The Lindas are kind, fun, humorous, generous and patient. I like the fun experiments we do, and I like my classmates because they're cool and funny."

#### Hare-Raising Egg Party

- Even without a traditional egg hunt, the kids did not leave with a lack of FUN or CANDY!
- We had a petting zoo and pony rides!!!, crafts and an Easter movie, and 7 game stations with prizes
- 117 families, approx.. 400 people total
- 45 volunteers

# Summer Adventure: Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus

- Back in person!
- Stations included: Bible Discovery, Imagination Station, Crew Connections, and Ship Rec Games & Snack
- Reinvented the check in/check out process to a drive up & drop off system
- 114 kids, 50 volunteers
- 11 kids accepted Jesus!

#### Trunk or Treat

- 18 trunks decorated
- Crafts, snacks, and real life princesses and superheros! (thanks to 4 of our teens)
- 84 families, approx. 300 people
- 24 volunteers

### **Rachel Rickershauser**

Dir. of Children's Ministries

#### Lenore Tosi MBC Kids Ministry Assistant

# MBC Teens & Young Adults

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy

Connected. One word that many use to describe the usefulness of their phone. They feel connected to their friends, the news, the sports world and so on. If you were to take that away they would feel lost, lonely and unaware. As important and useful a phone may be our connectedness to that is far inferior to being connected to God.

Our vision for this year is that our students would feel more connected to God, whether it be through worship, community, prayer or rest. We pray that our students at the end of this year can look back and see how connected they are to God now than before.

#### Highlights from 2021 MBC Teens

This year has consisted of many incredible memories being made over times of worship, discussions, retreats, serving opportunities and much more. Here are just a few of our highlights from this past year:

- Car wash raised \$1,466.76 for Market Street Mission by washing 100 cars
- Painted one First Choice location and refreshed the outdoor campus of another
- Served at Feeding Hands food pantry
- MBC campus clean up
- Baptisms? NUMBERS COMING SOON
- 58 people on fall retreat
- A high of 46 students on a Wednesday night
- Welcomed 3 new youth leaders

As we look forward to the year ahead we know that God holds the future and that God provides the growth for our students. We are blessed with many great youth leaders that pour their heart and soul into these students to help cultivate growth in their spiritual lives. Even amidst tumultuous times we have seen God work more now than ever and know he will continue to speak to us today. We honor and remember our beloved long time serving youth leader Glenn Gallacher. He represented Christ in all that he did especially in his love for the next generation. He is greatly missed by his youth family and has played a significant role in many lives that have gone through our youth ministry.

#### **MBC Young Adults**

God has been moving through the young adults in the area and has given us multiple exciting opportunities to support and minister to many. This season of life can often lead to loneliness, insecurity and doubt as many changes happen to one's life. Our prayer is to be a place where they can feel a sense of belonging, feel encouraged and somewhere they can turn to for hope.

One exciting initiative this past year was a young adult small group led by Sue and Clive Turner, going through the Cultivating the Christian Life workbook. As they meet weekly they are able to spend time in prayer, discussion and spiritual growth.

What started off as a small group meeting at the home of Ed and Sharon Williams eventually moved to another Williams home, that of Ed and Margaret Williams. God has moved us to shift to a larger gathering that incorporates a time of worship, messages and fellowship where community is found.

God is leading us as we seek to love and minister to the young adults in our area. We are just a vessel for the great plans God has for them.

#### **Johnny Graves**

Director of Youth & Young Adults

# Little Footprints Learning Center

Little Footprints Learning Center (LFLC) exists as a ministry to nurture a love of learning in the children, prepare them for success in their future academic lives, and to build relations with families in the community by sharing God's truth and love. Additionally, the staff strives to provide a caring Christian preschool environment so that children will know God in a personal way; grow and develop strongly in all areas (cognitively, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally), and be able to express this knowledge in their daily lives.

#### Highlights from 2021-2022

Do not fear. God's Word tells us over and over again to not fear. So with boldness of Spirit, much prayer and wearing our clear plastic shields (part of our armor of God the past two years), LFLC opened its doors once again this September to full classes and waiting lists as the COVID pandemic continued. "The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24. There is no spoiler alert here...God did do it! We have remained open and are blessed to welcome and touch 52 little ones for Christ! We have added three new teachers. this year and we thank God for bringing each one into this small but powerful harvest field. Heather Giegerich, who is herself a parent of an LFLC graduate, is the new 4/5 year old assistant in Kate Clarke's room, taking the place of Nancy Rossman. Sarah Ginese and Kristen Galardi are teaching our 2 1/2 year old class that meets on Monday, Wednesday with Thursday mornings just added in January. Beth Nash has returned to teach our youngest 2- year-old class that meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. God is good! He is faithful! He is worthy of our praise! Amen!

As in the previous year, we have had to be careful with class trips outside of school as well as inviting special visitors in. We are so thankful to have had a school wide trip to Wightman Farm in October as well as a visit from Fire Fighter Cash and Officer Jasina, much to the delight of the children. At the last minute, our in-person Christmas Pageant had to be cancelled but was later videotaped (thank you Johnny!) and sent home for in-home viewing. We continue to draw pictures for our friends at Fellowship Village and sorely miss our in-person visits as when the very young are paired with the elderly you can see God at work caring for all His children. There are still many fun days ahead this school year with our Valentine's Day and Easter parties, watching chicks hatch from eggs, Mom and Dad special days and so much more. We have had to be flexible and creative, but the joy and love of Christ permeates it all! We have learned how to make lemonade from lemons.

We are so blessed to be a part of the MBC body of believers that desires to make a difference in the lives of children by providing a Christ centered education. Regardless of the ability to pay, every child is welcomed and loved unconditionally. Our Sponsor a Child Scholarship Fund is a result of the congregations selfless giving and generosity. It continues to impact needy families (seven families this year), showing them love in action. There are no words that can express "thank you" enough except when we one day hear "Well done, good and faithful servant" from our Lord.

## Looking Ahead to 2022-2023

LFLC is a hidden treasure in the Basking Ridge area. As such, we will continue to strive to be a school of excellence and a beacon of light in our community. God willing, we will be able to welcome parents and visitors into our school building as well as resume our Fellowship Village visits next September. We anticipate full classes and replacing our second 4-year-old class with a second 3-yearold class. Our State license is due to be renewed in 2022 and I will strive to make sure that we are in compliance with the Office of Licensing and receive our new license later this year. "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8. God continues to bless LFLC with qualified, anointed staff, an abundance of precious little ones and a church body that provides for its needs. We are blessed abundantly indeed! As always, we covet your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we seek to honor Him. It is our prayer that all of the children and their families will grow in Christ and become a moving force for good in our community and nation.

To Him be all the glory!

# Kathy Dolbier

# Communications

MBC's Communications team, led by Marc D'Agusto and Heather Wenzel, strives to develop and implement essential strategic messaging throughout all ministry areas by utilizing all of our media outlets to communicate and cultivate connection at our services and events. In 2021, we continued to increase our virtual productivity to support each ministry area's efforts to stay in touch with their people.

- MBC Unhindered (captured stories and photos of our folks going above and beyond to help others in time of crisis)
- Enews Bulletin (weekly in place of paper bulletins)
- Weekly Pastors Video
- Underground Sessions publicity and registration
- Summer Adventure promotion
- Hare-raising Egg Party promotion
- Trunk or Treat promotion (graphics, banner, advertising, drone footage)
- Winter Village promotion
- Seminar registration & promotion
- Sermon Series Designs & Development: Promises of God, Greater than, Story of Reality, Exodus & Cultivating the Christian Life

We continue to standardize policies and streamline procedures all while developing new campaigns to communicate initiatives to our church family as well as to our community. These include high quality designs for ministry cards, social media campaigns, sermon message slides, video production, drone footage, campus signage and event banners, and postcards for MBC's many ministries and events.

2022 promises to be an exciting year for MBC Communications as we bolster our brand messaging, boost our social media presence, build up our website and manage our new MBC YouTube channel. We will continue to use our current communication channels such as Praise & Prayer, Enews, various social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), Push notifications and our in-service presentations. A special thanks goes to Heather for her tireless work of running the main office and managing the day-to-day Admin and Communications resources where she helps support website updates, weekly enews distribution and diligently monitors all incoming channels consisting of: <u>prayer@milling-</u> <u>tonbaptist.org</u>, <u>communications@millingtonbaptist.</u> <u>org</u>, and <u>support@millingtonbaptist.org</u> and much more. Her initiative allows people to receive a quick response to their concerns and questions by directing their inquiries to the appropriate person rather than to a mass email box.

We continue to spend a significant amount of time designing and expanding a user-friendly online and campus communications experience. This provides opportunities for people to register for events, childcare and volunteering. Realm provides all members and regular attendees access to the most current church information including: member contact information, communication among ministry groups and online tithes and offerings, from wherever they are with just a few keystrokes.

We do all of this with the purpose of fostering a sense of belonging and community as we serve the body at MBC.

#### Marc D'Agusto Director of Communications

# Heather Wenzel

Communications & Information Manager

# **Missions Team**

#### 2021 Highlights

The Missions Team is committed to making a difference by empowering people to embrace God's missional mandate to love and serve our neighbors around the corner and throughout the world. Our commitment is demonstrated by supporting World Partners (29) in 16 countries around the globe, as well as strategic local (5) and international (3) ministries. All of which are focused on meeting people where they are and ministering to both their spiritual and physical needs.

The effects of the pandemic lessened in 2021 but continued to impact our World Partners and their work around the globe. In addition to ongoing support, MBC was able to provide for World Partners unanticipated expenses as well as provide funds for:

- Repairing a building used by the New City Kids ministry in Jersey City
- Breakfast and lunch for ELL summer camp in Bernardsville
- Starting a childrens church school in a village in Pakistan
- Feeding Hands to help them recover from the flood in Raritan this past summer

The country of Senegal continued to be a focus area and, while trips to Senegal did not take place due to the pandemic, MBC was able to support multiple initiatives there by providing funds:

- To help build a Wolof church in the capital city of Dakar
- For the ITES Timothy Training program that trains rural pastors in Senegal
- To Continue building of an auto repair shop to provide job skills for Senegalese

The Missions Team continued to meet by Zoom with many of our World Partners allowing the Team to catch up on their ministries, families and lives as well as deepen our relationships with them. For the first time since the pandemic started MBC was also blessed to have face-to-face visits with 5 of our World Partners. In addition, MBC increased our commitment to protecting the unborn by paying for a RN in the New Brunswick center opened by First Choice.

#### 2021 By the numbers:

The Missions Team provided prayer, financial support, hospitality, and friendship to 29 World Partners and 3 international organizations as well as 5 local organizations.

We were able to have 5 World Partners visit in 2021 and we were able to connect with 6 World Partners via Zoom.

### Larry Blakeman (chair)

Jan Blakeman Roberta Dening Bob Erbig Roy Garms Jeri Romaine Jim Romaine Jan Torgrimsen Judy Torgrimsen Kathy Wilford Paul Wilford (Elder Liaison)

# Administration & Connection

#### Dear MBC Family,

2021 was a year filled with unusual challenges as all of MBC's ministries continued to adjust to serving and ministering amidst the uncertainty and limitations brought on by the global pandemic. It was also a year of unique transitions and numerous things for which we can be grateful.

At the top of list has been our congregation's faithfulness. Your encouragement and generous financial support have been critical to us finishing the year strong and beginning the new year with hope.

Just below that, is an Elder Board that has continued to guide and direct the overall vision of our church with wise counsel. The formation of our excellent Elder Search Committee from a cross section of our congregation is grounds for believing that this hope is well founded as additional Leaders step forward to pilot the church in the years ahead.

Pastor Bob's and Pastor Dave's faithful service as co-lead Pastors continues to inspire the staff and church family in the ministry work for which we are called. It has been their unique giftedness and faithful service of our staff that has enabled us to transition so smoothly.

In a year when loving your neighbor meant staying away, we prayed as a church like never before to remain connected and to look for new and creative ways to develop an even stronger more vibrant church. We adopted a new awareness to guide us in this transformation in the days ahead. We vow to keep the gospel at the center, to grow as a community, to form everyday missionaries for their callings, and to seek the rise of a gospel movement through our outreach initiatives.

#### Facilities:

2021 was a year that required rapid and relentless consideration of where best to deploy our resources for strategic impact. In addition to progressing in our plans to begin construction on our new ministry center, we began to ask "How do we emerge transformed"? That meant moving the entire embodied life of the church — from Sunday worship, to Small Groups and Ministry meetings, to Children's and Outreach ministry to the virtual worlds of Vimeo, Facebook, YouTube and Zoom. A considerable upgrade to our campuswide technology network allowed us to continue to engage our community of and avoid the isolation that has hampered so many for far too long.

The continued vigilance with which we maintain our 3 campus buildings and 4 residential properties continued to be a priority. Proper maintenance, upkeep and improvements of these assets have allowed us to continue to enjoy increases in property values and maintain flexibility should a reallocation of resources be desired or become necessary.

Some of our more notable accomplishments this past year include the complete renovation of the main office area, including the bathroom, the lobby, the office itself, the ministry mailbox area and server and supply closets. We also began updating what has historically been known as Fellowship Hall. This space has now undergone a complete water remediation overhaul. This project will serve as a catalyst for a complete renovation of the downstairs area in 2022. This newly-designed space will continue to serve as "Overflow", but will also include office space, a podcast and recording studio and conference room, a new "Missions Hall", a quiet/study area, and a coffee/café' space. Upgrades to lighting, and audio/video equipment and a completely renovated Nursery space will also be part of this upgrade. You should be excited!

#### Human Resources:

The Lord was faithful to provide us with both stability and growth in our staff. It is the engine that makes our ministry go. Amid a painful and unexpected year, the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord never ceased... and neither did your staff. Time and again, we saw his new mercies each day. We should all be thankful for those with whom we get to labor alongside. I know I am! As we look ahead, we look with hope, for we know the same faithful God who was with us in the past goes with us into the future. Praise be to God.

#### IT & Infrastructure:

Over the course of the last year, MBC also continued to build greater functionality into our technology platforms as we looked to deliver even more creative and innovative worship, programming, and activities. Despite the challenges of serving our community in the midst of a pandemic, we continued to offer hope and healing through our weekly worship, online classes, and Care Ministries for those struggling from loss and fear. Our MBCKids and Youth Ministries provided opportunities for children and students to gather to process life and learn about God's love. Much of this was accomplished because of increased investment in technology and a staff that adapted many of their job descriptions to meet the new needs of the church. We will continue to seek new applications that will enhance our sense of togetherness, provide for greater user functionality and increase safety and security across our network and physical spaces.

#### **Connections:**

Is it simple for a new family or individual to become incorporated into the life of our church? This question needs to be answered with an emphatic "YES!"

There is a creational need for all humans to feel a sense of belonging to God and to those around them. This human need for relationships and community means that congregations should be experts at involving people and building up their relationships with one another. We must develop not just programs, but a culture that helps people feel valued and loved. We need to consider the disconnect that causes many people to miss out and leads to inactivity. We need to fill the gap by creating methods for engagement and service that we can apply. We will build bridges to aid our newest guests and members in building community and finding a genuine sense of belonging among the congregation. We will be developing 3 carefully designed strategies to make this a reality for all who call MBC home in the months and years ahead. I look forward to overseeing this process and making it a priority for us as a church. Stay tuned!

2021 was a year filled with incredible challenges. We have spent significant time and energy rethinking our future given both the larger cultural changes impacting churches and the trauma to our body caused by the pandemic. We continue to believe the best is yet to come and that God is preparing to do extraordinary things through us. We know the future will be different than the past, so we are in the process of reworking our Strategic Plan to reflect the next chapter of our life together. Despite all the changes and challenges of this past year, we have seen over and over again the faithfulness of God. This should give us enormous confidence and hope for the future as together we communicate the timeless truth of God's love found in the reconciling work of Jesus.

In light of your perseverance, resilience and Christlikeness this past year, we are confident that by God's grace MBC will be the healing community that God longs for us to be. In a year marked by uncertainty, the resounding refrain for us in 2021 was Lamentations 3:22-23. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

How faithful He was! How faithful He will continue to be!

Thank you for praying, serving, giving, worshiping and communing with us in 2021!

Warmly in Christ,

Scott Rajoppi Sr. Director of Administration & Connections

Dave Rzewnicki Facilities Manager

Sue Turner Financial & Donor Relations Manager

#### Heather Wenzel

Communications & Information Manager

# Care Team

Our MBC care team led by Bob Klemme and Pastor Dave meets the third Wednesday of every month, we are busy gifting our body with cards, gifts, flowers, books, and various forms of help and encouragement all year. One of the key missions of the Care Team is to reach out to people in our church body who are facing a challenging time and may or may not have a strong support system around them. We want to step in to let them know that we are there to help them in a variety of ways. One of the exciting initiatives during this year was a personal visitation effort to some of our shut-ins and senior members with a gift gesture. This was very well received!

We are blessed with a compassionate and experienced Care Leadership Team, which now includes three new additions: Dave Palmer, Kim McCarthy and Nancy Bonaventura. They have amazing, giving hearts and a passion to minister to others. We are also fortunate to have over 70 volunteers, who help make it happen! Thank you to so many who have formally and informally extended your hospitality to someone who can benefit from this. We are truly blessed to participate in this ministry with all of you. Thank you to each of you who step up, in so many different ways.

13 team members
3 new team members
30+ Advent and Easter visitations
70 + caring congregants
100+ Hot meals coordinated
ar one another's burden

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2)

In His continued care,

# Bob Klemme, Pastor Dave & the MBC Care Leadership Team

# Stephen Ministry

2021-2022 has been yet another challenging year. As a team we have mastered zoom meetings during these Covid times. During this time we have said goodbye to several of our Stephen Ministers. Some moved away and others have taken some time to deal with life. February 2022 begins our third class of trainees. We continue to learn more and reach out to our congregation allowing God to always be the cure-giver.

- 1 God, Who is the cure-giver
- 4 Leaders trainers & supervisors
- 6 New trainees
- 12 Stephen Ministers the care-givers
- 18 Care Receivers members & friends being supported
- 60 Hours of continuing education & supervision
- 1,200 Hours of care provided

Bruce Corke Pastor Dave Hentschel Carrie Isler

# 2021 Leadership Teams

#### **Care Leadership Team**

Lee Barnes Nancy Bonaventura Tony Iannacone Gary Isler Bob Klemme Linda Kuebler Kim McCarthy Verna O'Neil Dave Palmer Irm Smith Cathy Splinter Dave Springer Janet Streem

#### **Elder Board**

Darren Hernandez, Chair Doug Hulin, Vice Chair Roy Garms, Treasurer Craig McLaughlin, Secretary Jeff Callender Gregg Force Mike Ginese John McCarthy Bob Muller Hock Ng Bill Ohnsorg Jim Romaine Pastor Bob Erbig Pastor Dave Hentschel

#### Terms Ending in 2023:

Jan Torgrimsen\* Hock Ng Jeff Callender\* Paul Achenbach\* \* eligible for reelection

#### Terms Ending in 2024:

Bob Muller Craig McLaughlin Darren Hernandez\* John McCarthy\* \* eligible for re-election

#### Terms Ending in 2025:

Doug Hulin Hector Garcell\* Glen Homa\* Rick Splinter \*eligible for re-election

#### **Finance Team**

Paul Achenbach Larry Blakeman, Secretary Renate Garms Roy Garms – Elder Liaison Jim Pacetti Kim Radha Scott Rajoppi – Staff Liaison Rick Splinter Allen Ukritnukun

#### **Little Footprints Board**

Kathy Dolbier, Director Liz Homa Joanne Lavender, Co-Chair Julianne Lavornia Bob Muller, Elder Liaison Jeri Romaine, Secretary Lenore Tosi, Co-Chair

#### **Ministry Leadership Team**

Marc D'Agusto Bob Erbig Johnny Graves Dave Hentschel J. Scott Rajoppi Rachel Rickerhauser

#### **Missions Team**

Larry Blakeman, Chair Jan Blakeman Roberta Dening, Treasurer Bob Erbig Roy Garms Mike Ginese, Elder Liaison Jeri & Jim Romaine Judy & Jan Torgrimsen Paul Wilford Kathy Wilford, Secretary

# Membership Roll Report

#### Received

Amy Dernier Matt Dernier Karen Frazzano Kristie Gall Ruth Grose Heather Huber Ken Huber Delia Kang Stan Kang Clive Turner Sue Turner

### Active to Non-resident

Lee Barnes Linda Barnes Mary Barnes Maceo Hemingway Rosalie Hemingway Hank Hertenstein Kerry Porter Tom Porter Aimee Welch Steve Welch Zach Welch Caleb Wong Mary Wong

### Active to Dismissed

Diana Caruso Monica Moberly Luanna Palazzolo Philip Palazzolo Dawn Yendrick

### Deceased

Glenn Gallacher Bob Lee Julia Moore

#### **Births**

Zoe Christeen Erbig Judah Luke Graves Julia Moore Elias Michael Ukritnukun

#### **Baptisms**

Matt Dernier Cory Dziedzic Karen Frazzano

### **Church Membership**

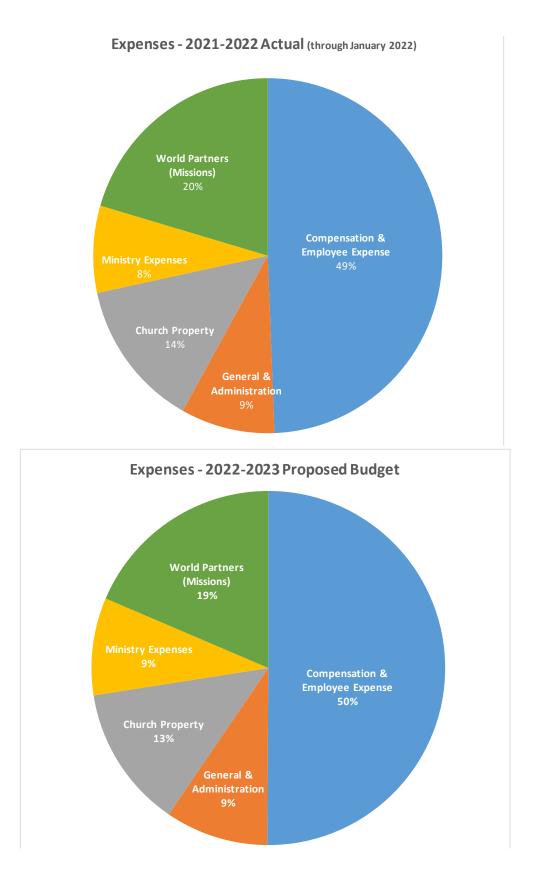
As of 3/01/2022: 246

# FYE 2022-23 Proposed Budget

Total Budget	\$1,277,531	\$1,603,100	\$1,765,500	\$162,400
Total LFLC	\$130,832	\$161,500	\$157,419	(\$4,081)
LFLC Other Expenses	11,149	23,100	23,000	(100)
Little Footprints Learning Center Compensation & Employee Expense	119,684	138,400	134,419	(3,981)
Rental Properties	\$36,339	\$42,000	\$47,000	\$5,000
Total MBC	\$1,110,360	\$1,399,600	\$1,561,081	\$161,481
World Partners	227,052	264,500	290,000	25,500
Youth Ministry	9,680	15,150	17,350	2,200
Worship Arts Ministry	2,377	9,425	7,850	(1,575)
Production Ministry	17,780	25,250	25,200	(50)
Women's Ministry	1,424	2,550	4,300	1,750
Welcome & Assimilation Ministry	10,596	15,650	15,000	(650)
Outreach Ministry	11,372	15,100	18,050	2,950
Communications Ministry	13,708	19,000	20,320	1,320
Family Ministries	1,445	3,100	3,050	(50)
Adult & Men's Ministries MBC Kids Ministry	9,973 9,672	12,900 15,050	13,700 14,100	800 (950)
Church Property	150,269	201,350	203,136	1,786
General & Administration	96,587	125,775	146,900	21,125
Compensation & Employee Expense	548,424	647,800	782,125	107,325
MBC BUDGET				
	FYE 3/31/22 Actual Exp as of 1/31/22 [1]	Current Budget 4/1/21 - 3/31/22	Proposed Budget 4/1/22 - 3/31/23	Budget Difference

(1) Actual expenses through Jan 2022.

# Expenses - 2021-2022



# World Partners Budget

International World Partners with WorldVenture	NOTES	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
M.& D. Bannon - International Recruitment		3,000	4,000
B.& M. Columbine - Senegal		12,000	13,000
Y. Danfa - ITES Director, Senegal		4,000	4,000
L. & R. Grudda - Senegal		6,000	7,000
Faith Hampton - Austria	(d)	0	4,000
G. & A. Harkins - Senegal		12,000	12,000
M. & M. Hunt - France	(d)	0	3,000
K.& K. Laverman - Japan		8,000	8,000
A. Livingston	(d)	0	3,000
D. Muenzenberger - Philippines	(d)	11,000	11,000
D.& E. Parmer - France		0	1,500
G. & L. Renner - Kenya	(e)	2,000	2,000
M. & K. Schaff - Walk Thru International		5,000	5,000
K. & B. Sellers - Hungary		7,000	7,000
J. & S. White - Ukraine	(a)	15,000	16,000
E. & T. Yee - Indonesia	(d)	0	5,000
Total WorldVenture Commitments		\$85,000	\$105,500

# World Partners Budget cont'd

Other International World Partners	Notes	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
IDEAS Agricultural Development - (TB)		9,000	9,000
IDEAS Community Development - (J&JC)	(a)	15,000	15,000
C. & J. Hanover - Asia (CRU)		6,000	6,000
D. & S. L (CRU)		6,000	7,000
D. & E. MacLean - Germany (Crossworld)		7,000	8,000
D. & B. Bocsa - Romania (Josiah's Venture)		4,000	6,000
C. Hoernig (Operation Mobilization)		1,800	1,800
B. & P. Schraut - Austria (Trans World Radio)	(a)	13,000	13,000
T. & A. Vosters - Cambodia (World Team)		3,000	3,000
CFA Church Association (Senegal)		4,000	4,000
WV - EBCT Missions Team (Senegal)		4,000	4,000
Cambodian Dorm Project		2,400	3,600
Total Other International Commitments		75,200	80,400
Total International Commitments		\$160,200	\$185,900
Domestic World Partners	Notes	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
A. & G. Sharon (Missions Door)		5,000	6,000
M. & R. Hemmingway - Newark, NJ (Calvary Bible Chapel)	(a)	12,500	12,500
T. Mittuch (CRU)	(b)	6,000	6,000
L. & G. Williams (CRU FCA)		5,000	5,000
C. & J. Watkins - PA (Disciplemakers)	(b)	6,000	8,000
J. Violi - Penn State (The Navigators)		7,000	7,000
L. & R. Raughley - Newark, NJ (World Impact)		5,000	7,000
Feeding Hands		4,000	4,000
First Choice Women's Resource Center - Morristown, NJ		3,000	3,000
Kingdom Cars		3,000	3,000
Market Street Mission - Morristown, NJ		3,000	3,000
City Relief		3,000	3,000
		62,500	67,500
Total Domestic Commitments			
Unallocated Fixed Commitments		5,800	0

# World Partners Budget cont'd

Discretionary Items	Notes	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
Contingencies		\$9,500	\$9,600
Youth Mission Trips		3,000	3,000
Honorariums and Travel		3,000	3,000
Publicity and Promotions		500	500
Total Discretionary		16,000	16,100
Total World Partners		\$244,500	\$269,500
Analysis of Proposed Fixed Commitments		Support \$	Support %
International Ministries		\$185,900	73%
U.S. Ministries		67,500	27%

#### Total Fixed Commitments

Ministry Initiatives	Support \$	Support %
First Choice Nurse	\$20,000	0
7 Pakistan church schools	0	10,500
Feeding Hands Refrigerators	0	10,000
	\$20,000	\$20,000

253,400

100%

#### Notes

(a) MBC member

(b) Former MBC member or attendee

(c) Resigned, Retiring or Deceased

(d) New WP

(e) Post-Retirement travel allotment

Vision:

### "Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full." (Luke 14:23)

We believe God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as an act of profound love to secure us a seat at His table.
Therefore, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we embrace others by passionately proclaiming and sacrificially demonstrating the gospel.
We envision a Christ-centered community filled with intergenerational relationships, exemplifying intentional spiritual formation, and unleashing unprecedented compassion on our community and world.
As a result, we want to see God's table expanded for His glory.



# **Core Values**

## 1. Gospel Centered:

We believe the Gospel is the core of everything. God has given everything for us so we are called to give everything for Him. Therefore, we respond to His great love by extending grace to everyone and giving Him first place in our lives.

(Rom 5:1, 12:1-2; Gal 2:20, 3:1-4, 5:1-15; Eph 2:1-10)

## 2. Biblically Grounded & Culturally Relevant:

We engage the culture AND remain doctrinally pure. This is our calling: to contextualize the timeless message of the Gospel for our generation. (1 Corinthians 9:19–23; Acts 17:16-34; 2 Tim 3:16-17).

## 3. Passion for the Mission of God Locally & Globally:

We desire to reach our world and love our neighbor. (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 10:25-37; Gen 12:1-3). We also believe the church should reflect the diversity of its community, ethnically and demographically. (Eph 2:11-22)

### 4. Intentional Spiritual Formation:

We pursue deliberate discipleship while being dependent upon God for true spiritual formation. Growth is slow and non-linear where the Spirit of God shapes us into the image of Jesus. (1 Thes 5:23-24; 2 Pt 3:18)

## 5. Authentic Community:

We strive to be merciful and accepting. We also don't shy away from hard conversations that may hold each other accountable. We believe it's OK not to be OK, it's just not OK to stay there. (Heb 10:19-25; Eph 3:14-21)

### 6. Servant-Leaders:

We believe a fully engaged follower of Christ is a servant-leader (Mark 10:35-45). Every member is a minister. Every Christian has been given spiritual gifts to be discovered, developed, and deployed. (Eph 4:1-16)

## 7. Strong Families:

We want to build strong families and be a place of restoration, care and support for those without a family. In a world where we have seen the breakdown of the family impact our society in negative ways, we believe in the importance of resourcing and building strong families with intentional support for both healthy marriages and godly parenting. (Eph 5:21-6:3; Prov 22:6)



MILLINGTON baptist church

# Notes

# Notes

