



## **Annual General Meeting**



## **Lead Pastor Report**

When health officials first talked about two weeks to flatten the curve, that's what most of us prepared for. And here we are two years later.

In year two of the pandemic, we continued to see changes and cancellations happen. And while we again had to cancel some events such as Trunk or Treat, Bethlehem Live, and Dinner on the Grounds, we were able to celebrate Christmas Eve in person with five services. Albeit with a much smaller crowd than in previous years.

Since we last met in person, we have welcomed over twenty new families into our Cornerstone Family, including many with no recent church connection.

We averaged 137 folks in our combined services in the 42 weeks that we were permitted to have in-person gatherings.

This year we celebrated baptisms, baby dedications and weddings and provided a place to remember family members and friends lost to death.

We have seen community groups begin to use our facilities again, with two elections, three blood donor clinics and numerous community groups ranging from the Kingswood Ratepayers to Hammonds Plains Baseball.

Angela and I have prayed specifically for each family at Cornerstone multiple times over the past twelve months. If you have received an email saying that we prayed for you, rest assured that we prayed for you and each member of your family by name. The email may have been a cut and paste, but the prayers weren't.

I have found one of the biggest challenges has been staying connected to our church family and the challenges presented in pastoral care. Since March of 2020, hospital calls have been limited to designated caregivers. I never realized how much I would miss visiting and praying with our Cornerstone family when they were in the hospital.

Kingswood Kids closed its doors at the end of June, and there have been blessings and challenges with not sharing space.

I am excited about the future of Cornerstone and our impact here, near and far away. I am convinced that there have been and will continue to be people in heaven because of the faithfulness of God's people at Cornerstone.

At the district level, I now serve on the District Board of Administration Executive as District Secretary and continue as District Director of Global Partners. As DDGP, I serve as the liaison

with district missionaries and district churches and challenge our churches to develop stronger financial ties with Global Partners. In December, I was able to represent the district in Egypt as the Wesleyan Church of Egypt celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In this year of constant change and “Pivot,” the staff has rallied well to change how we can provide the best pastoral care and worship experience possible for our church family.

Thank you to our staff and ministry partners, who do an awesome job of making sure everything comes together the way it’s supposed to and to the Cornerstone Family, who have faithfully supported us financially and in their prayers this past year.

Of course, none of this would be possible without all the help, support, prayers, and encouragement that I receive from Angela.

***Stay Safe and Stay Blessed***  
***Pastor Denn Guphill***

## **Cornerstone Youth**

### Cornerstone Youth

Cornerstone Youth saw, on average, twenty-two students and leaders every Wednesday night this past year. We have thirty-four students that are engaging with our Wednesday night program regularly. We’ve also been having regular Sunday Night Sr. High youth ministry with six students, thanks to amazing leaders Chad and Lynn.

One Conference looked a little different last May, but we are so thankful that we were able to take part in this conference. We all tuned in to the streaming conference and were able to chat with each other as it was happening while we were all following Public Health’s protective measures.

When we were not able to meet in person, we were able to stream our lesson and game time on YouTube which we came to call Youth Tube time.

Following the lesson, we were able to continue to engage with students throughout the week on our group chat platform, Discord. This online platform has been a great tool for students to get to know each other outside of youth nights and Sunday morning and has also provided a space where students can share their prayer requests with each other and get prayer for the things that are going on. This online community has been a wonderful tool.



The Kingwood University youth rally was a casualty of Covid this year, but we were so pleased to be able to have a Kingswood Student come and share a lesson with our sr. high students.

Our fundraising efforts have been a great success with our number one fundraiser being your donated bottles and cans. This often allows us to provide snack for our students.

Thanks to an anonymous donor and some hard work by Lynn, Ed, and Chad our youth room in the Windgate building is becoming one of my favourite spaces in the church building. Having space that our students can call their own and make their own has been great for them.

We have experienced some leader turn over through the last few years and covid has made it difficult at times to ensure we have enough leaders to run our ministry. I'm so thankful for Lynn, Kristen, Chad, Ed, and Jackson who all stepped up and served when and where needed. Truly, we couldn't provide this ministry without them.

This year as we look forward, we're expecting more in-person youth rallies, much more fun activities together and deeper conversation as we plunge into our small groups.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Pastor Stefan Gilbert***

### **Cornerstone Music**

Cornerstone Music is made up of some amazing people spread across our two locations. At least 42 individuals are involved in Cornerstone Music. They are playing an instrument, singing, live streaming, projecting lyrics, mixing sound, and helping to plan our services and take them to the next level.

At Cornerstone, we like to introduce new music yet this past year we decided to slow that down considerably and only use the bank of songs that we had established. Since many people were watching online, we felt introducing new songs would not be as beneficial for everyone watching. We stuck to the "Cornerstone Classics" and only introduced a handful of new songs that we felt would be easy for everyone to learn and we introduced songs that we felt the church needed because of the message in the song.

Thank you to all the Cornerstone Music members. You sacrifice your time and give of your talents to make Cornerstone services excellent. I'm so grateful to serve alongside of you as we worship together.

## Cornerstone Music Top 20

1. **Build My Life** by, Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Pat Barrett, and Matt Redman
2. **Graves Into Gardens** by, Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, and Tiffany Hammer
3. **Raise A Hallelujah** by, Jake Stevens, Jonathan Helser, Melissa Helser, and Molly Skaggs
4. **Evidence** by, Ed Cash, Ethan Hulse, and Josh Baldwin
5. **Great Things** by, Jonas Myrin and Phil Wickham
6. **Holy Spirit** by, Bryan Torwalt and Katie Torwalt
7. **10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)** by, Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman
8. **Great Are You Lord** by, Leslie Jordan and David Leonard
9. **Living Hope** by, Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham
10. **Goodness Of God** by, Ed Cash and Jenn Johnson
11. **How Great Is Our God** by, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves, and Chris Tomlin
12. **More Than Conquerors** by, Rend Collective Experiment
13. **This Is Amazing Grace** by, Josh Farro, Jeremy Riddle, and Phil Wickham
14. **Angels We Have Heard On High** by, Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick
15. **Build Your Kingdom Here** by, Rend Collective Experiment
16. **Follow You Anywhere** by, Brett Younker, Kristian Stanfill, Jason Ingram, and Phil Wickham
17. **Here For You** by, Matt Maher, Matt Redman, Jesse Reeves, and Tim Wanstall
18. **O Praise The Name (Anastasis)** by, Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher, and Marty Sampson
19. **Anthem** by, Ricky Jackson, Phil Wickham, Ran Jackson, and Josh Silverberg
20. **Blessed Be Your Name** by, Beth Redman and Matt Redman

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stefan Gilbert, Assistant Pastor

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Pastor Stefan Gilbert***

## **Pastor of Family Care**

### **CS Kids'**

This past 2021-2022 church year has been a year of challenges but also a year of triumphs. It has been a year of evaluating, a year of intentionality in our programming, a year of strategic changes in our Children's Centre facility and a year of returns on previous investments. It has

been a year of spiritual growth in the children of Cornerstone which has been evident in our weekly interactions.

In May and June, we were still online only. Once we went back to in person services in July, we continued to make all our curriculum available online through our Cornerstone website but discontinued the personalized Intro videos that Julie King and I had been doing for the previous 15 months. With in person programming and many volunteers unavailable over the summer it was no longer sustainable long term.

July also started with one of the most exciting events in the life of Kids' Ministry. We were able to baptize 4 of our children after many delays due to Public Health restrictions. It was a wonderful way to start summer and in person services again!

Also, once July arrived and Kingswood Kids had closed their doors, I took on the task of going through all the equipment, supplies, resource materials, etc we had inherited from them. This was a somewhat daunting task but was wonderful to have done! After sorting and combing both KWK's and CS Kids' resources I was able to restock what is now the Children's Ministry supply room off the preschool room. Other cabinets in the Children's Centre are organized, labelled and ready for easy access with everyday supplies that are used by our leaders. This is a major improvement and a tremendous asset in planning and implementing our kids' ministry programs!

In September, when we continued with one service instead of two, we were able to offer Nursery and Club 56 again. Volunteers were returning and we were able to offer small groups with our Grade 1-4 groups. In mid-December, changes to Public Health guidelines meant, once again, we couldn't offer a staffed nursery, the preschool class or have small groups.

Throughout the winter months as volunteers returned, we were able to start offering our preschool group and our nursery restarted at the end of March. Currently we are looking for a few more volunteers so we will be able to have the children in their small groups once again after our large group worship and story time.

In spite of these starts and stops, I have been blessed this year as we have had, at one time or another, 47 volunteers in Kids' Ministry at our Gatehouse location. This was up from 27 last year! I am so very, very appreciative of every one of you, Volunteers! You are amazing! The thing that has excited me even beyond that is that of the 47 volunteers 22 of them are teens or preteens and 18 of them have grown up as part of our CS Kids' program. That is an awesome return on Cornerstone's commitment to investing in Kids Ministry!

This past year, we have averaged 28 children between our two locations and have had 70 children participate in our kids' ministries.

This year we have been very focused on helping the children hide God's Word in their hearts. In February we launched a Memory Verse Challenge. The children memorize the verses and receive points that can then be used on the last Sunday of the month in our Prize Store. As well, they have been given a prayer journal so they can keep track of the things they are praying for. There has been so much excitement around this new endeavor. The children are learning their verses every week and they are developing the habit of praying which is a true-life skill. It has been wonderful to see how they have stepped up to this Challenge.

We also were able to hold our Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt this year! This was an Easter Egg Hunt with a purpose. Each egg the children found had an item inside that helped them learn the Story of Jesus. I had amazing helpers and it went off without a hitch.

I have also had the privilege of participating in a 7-week Kid's Min Cohort with other Children's pastors from across our denomination which has been very informative and inspiring. Along with this I have been meeting with some of the Children's pastors from our own district via Zoom to encourage and support each other in these unusual days of Kids' ministry.

These are a few highlights of the past year but the greatest for me is when I hear the children telling me the things they know about God, how they are so happy that He is always with them, that they are praying...These are the reasons we do what we do and will keep doing what we do to the best of our ability with God's help.

### **Women's Ministry**

While not as active with events as some years, we were able to hold our Ladies' Christmas Night in December! It was so wonderful to be able to gather together again with the 24 ladies who were able to attend. I was joined by a great team of ladies who planned and put this event together.

As an extension of Women's ministry, I also did one wedding and one funeral in December both of which came out of connections with ladies who have been part of Cornerstone.

The Wednesday evening and the Thursday morning Bible studies started off the fall in person and then in January we went to online until April when we have been able to meet in person again.

This past year we have had an average of 6 on Wednesday evening and 7 on Thursday morning with a total of 25 ladies who have joined us for at least part of the year.

In the fall our study was “Meant for Good” by Megan Fate Marshman and then since January we have been studying the book of Acts which has been both challenging and exciting to take a deeper look at the early days of the Church.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve at Cornerstone!

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Pastor Marilyn Mansvelt***

### **Cornerstone in Action**

This year Cornerstone has OUTDONE themselves in giving to Missions, missionaries, our village partnership, and to those in need.

We were able to give above and beyond to our Kenenday Village Partnership. Which allowed World Hope to put in latrines, a deep borehole well, a secondary school, and to keep up with the seed and livestock program. The village also got to experience The Jesus Film being shown and the Gospel explained by the local Wesleyan evangelist.

It is through the generosity of people within Cornerstone that we are able to impact so many lives both locally and across the Globe.

Beyond our village partnership, we also were able to give to the following people and organizations.

#### **Global Partners Missionaries CWC supports - from Gen'l Funds:**

- Carl/Maya Gilles - French Missions
- Robin/Yoko White - Japan
- Bob/Brenda Bagley - Africa
- Nathan/Sarah Moss - Closed location
- Amplifying Leaders
- Ghana National Church Share
- Haiti National Church Share

#### **Local Missions**

- Ronald McDonald House
- Feed Nova Scotia
- Souls Harbour Rescue Mission
- Halifax Chaplaincy (Angel Tree Project)

- Open Door Centre - HEY (Helping Exploited Youth)
- Archdiocese Halifax - Homeless Shelters

### **Other Missions/Relief Organizations we supported this year**

(General Funds, Designated or Missions)

- World Hope - Recovery Centre (Anti-Trafficking)
- World Hope - TAP (Mother's Day/Father's Day)
- World Hope - Earthquake Relief
- World Hope - BC Flood Relief (Salvation Army)
- World Hope - Hope for Ukraine Fund
- Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child (Shoeboxes)
- Samaritan's Purse - BC Flood Relief

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Pastor Deborah Gilbert***

### **Cornerstone Windgate**

This past year was our first full year of being open. With the continuation of Covid and dealing both with additional shut downs along with the Omicron variant created challenges for people to attend church and this made for a challenging year.

Despite all the challenges, we have a number of things to celebrate: we saw new people check out Windgate and some stick with us. We also saw a number of people step up in new roles in serving.

The biggest win that I want to celebrate is the core team of people that continued to serve sacrificially every week that we were able to have church. With the challenges that we had throughout the year, it was easy to get discouraged at times, but team members kept coming out. We had some small numbers at times but our core team kept coming and pushed through the challenges (like the week we started church with more musicians on the stage than people in the congregation).

Throughout this last year Julie King, our Kids Ministry director, navigated the challenges of the ups and downs really well. Julie and her team did a great job running a weekly program and adjusted each week as the situation demanded, leading a program that engaged kids with the gospel. In addition to weekly program, the kids had a Fall party to invite friends, put on a

Christmas program and had a Christmas party. One of the key highlights for the kids was the Easter egg hunt.

With the hope continuing to stay open, we are looking forward to making the coming year a chance to continue to develop as a site. We are looking forward to creating opportunities to connect with each other and grow as a Cornerstone site.

**Personal areas of Responsibility:**

- General leadership at Windgate site
- Weekly staff meetings
- Regular meetings with Julie King
- Non-voting member of leadership team
- Preaching team
- Supporting the different Windgate leaders

***Respectfully Submitted***

***Pastor Rob McDowell***