

Colleyville Presbyterian Church - Annual Report for 2022

January 23, 2022

Opening thoughts: Gratitude for God's kindness and my love for our church. -Stability -Faithfulness
-The means of grace -The opportunity to be known and loved -A place to grow in holiness, wisdom, love

Brief overview of 2020-2021

- Public Worship suspended March 22-May 3, 2020
- Two (and sometimes three) services from May 10, 2020-August 29, 2021
- One service - Sept 5, 2021-present
- Sunday school - October 3, 2021-present
- Pastor Josh Sabbatical - May-August 2021

From my annual report in January 2021:

“As many of you know, I am weary right now for a whole host of reasons. I would deeply appreciate it you would begin to pray, even now, that the Lord would use this year as a period of refreshment and renewal in my life that I might be able to serve the church even more faithfully in the years to come. I think the further I get into a life of ministry, the more I realize how completely dependent I am on God's grace, mercy and renewing presence in order to be the servant of Jesus that I am called to be. I need his grace in order to be renewed. Please pray for that renewal.

As I look forward to 2021, my sense is that our primary calling as a church is to continue to be steadfast, especially in the areas of Worship, Prayer and Service. Here's what I mean:

- 1) *Worship*. My desire is for us to continue to be steadfast in our Lord's Day worship in 2021, both in person and at home. I have no doubt that this is central to our calling as a church, not only because of the way in which the Lord serves us and molds us as we gather in his presence each week, but also because our worship is a faithful public witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus each Lord's Day. Each Sunday we proclaim the good news of Jesus for all to hear. As we proclaim that good news, those who need to hear it will come. Sunday worship is where everything begins and the source of all the good that flows out of our congregation. Let's continue to be steadfast in our worship.
- 2) *Prayer*. I have already spoken about how encouraged I am regarding how our church has grown in prayer in the past year. My sense is that the Lord will call us to continue to grow in our life of prayer together in the coming year, and I look forward to exploring creative avenues for us to continue to mature together in this fundamental Christian practice. I know that further blessing awaits us as we learn more and more what it means to pray.
- 3) *Service*. This past year, the Lord has been teaching us in new ways what it means to serve one another, and I'm confident that will only continue. In the coming year, there will be Lord's Day services to be supported, the sick to be ministered to, babies to be celebrated, the lonely to be visited, visitors and strangers to be welcomed into our homes, etc. etc. No matter what the next year brings, I am certain that opportunities for service will abound. My hope is that all of us, as the Lord provides opportunity, will continue to embrace new forms of service to one another. And I'm confident that we will find, in that service, what it means to abide with Jesus in life and peace and joy. For even he came not to be served, but to serve.”

—Reflection on my own emotional/spiritual state now and our sabbatical this summer

—Reflection on Worship, Prayer & Service in 2021. Gratitude for staff & officers, faithful members, God's kindness.

—Looking ahead to 2022: Continued focus on Worship, Prayer, Service (and Steadfastness). Report on practice of morning prayer. Hopes for the year to come.

“The church’s mission is, in the first instance, simply to be what the Lord says she is: the family of the Father, the body of Christ, the temple of the Spirit. The church’s vocation is to be a communion of disciples, each dwelling in each as they dwell together in the God who dwells in them. The church’s vocation is to proclaim the gospel, teach the commandments of Jesus, baptize converts and their children, break bread, encourage and correct.”

“Mission starts with liturgy. Liturgy is the time and place where the church gathers as the city council, the ekklesia of God, an assembly of the heavenly city. As the real men and women and children with real bodies and souls gather for worship and disperse from worship, heavenly life comes to earth. Having tasted the good things of the age to come, the church goes out to share those goods in the marketplace. The sanctuary, the place of worship and communion with God, is the center of the world.” - Peter Leithart

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11: *Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.*

1 Thessalonians 5:13-25: *Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

My “vision” for 2022 - Worship each Lord’s Day. Preach the Scriptures. Read the Scriptures. Study the Scriptures. Administer the Sacraments. Continue to learn to pray together. Be faithful. Be who we are. Aspire to live quietly, grow in Christ, serve others. Trust the Lord will bless our labors.

—Note on attendance chart, and the “reshuffling” of the past two years. Praying and trusting that the Lord will continue to send us new families.

2021 fiscal year numbers - Overall giving: \$386,188; Overall expenses: \$397,142 (Budget: \$403,464)

Note on December giving: \$62,214.

Current financial status: \$120,116 in General Fund; \$10,429 in Deacon’s Fund; \$249,000 in other funds

2022 Budget total: \$420,272 (4.2% increase over 2021). *See financial giving chart.*

2022 Budget changes: Increases to outside giving, staff salaries (including an increase of our office manager’s hours from 20/week to 25/week). Addition of GA line item (\$2500).

-\$42,339 (10%) of our budget is directed to foreign & domestic mission works: GRACE, Human Coalition, ACT for Justice, North Texas Presbytery, Southwest Church Planting Network, Wes & Jami Baker (Peru), Eric & Allison Pyle, Bradford & Christina Green (RUF at TCU), Justin & Kathryn Smith (RUF at UNT), Graham & Sarah Purcell (Russia), John & Ellen Buerger (Bulgaria), Doug & Masha Shepherd (Ukraine).

-\$305,427 (73%) of our budget is directed to church staff expenses (Pastor Josh, Pastor Patrick, Donna Cornell, Naomi Martin, Rachel Vendsel, Linda Pritchett & third party accountant).

A COLLECT FOR COLLEYVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful: Sanctify our congregation by your abiding presence. Bless those who minister to us. Enlighten the minds of your people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bring wandering souls back to the knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast to the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul. Guard those who are strong and prosperous from forgetting you. Increase in us your many gifts of grace, teach us to welcome the stranger into our fellowship, and make us all fruitful in good works. This we ask, O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR OUR PASTORS

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock: We ask you to bestow upon your Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance, and strengthen and lead our pastors to spend and be spent for the sake of the Gospel, and make them holy and loving servants and shepherds of the flock for whom you shed your most precious blood. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

O God, you desire that all people be saved and come to knowledge of the truth: Prosper all those who live, preach, and teach the Gospel at home and in distant lands, especially Wes & Jami; Doug & Masha; Eric & Allison; Bradford & Cristina; Justin & Kathryn; Graham & Sarah; John & Ellen; protect them in all perils, support them in their loneliness, sustain them in the hour of trial; give them your abundant grace to bear faithful witness; and endue them with burning zeal and love, that they may turn many to righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

“As the clouds gather, as the thunder begins to roll, as the deluge crashes down, we’re called to continue the often-imperceptible work of building the ark of Jesus. With our lives scripted by the Scriptures that reveal the Christ, we cling to the apostolic gospel, gather to break bread, share our material and Spiritual gifts, offer a continuous sacrifice of prayer and song...As we do these things, we preserve the treasures of the past and, by the alchemy of the Spirit, transfigure ancient treasures into new. When the storm is over and the flood waters recede, we’ll have and be the seeds of a new creation. We’ll flow like living water to fertilize the wasteland.

If you’re a Christian, *that’s* what you’re doing. Your life may not look like a big deal. You’re kind to your neighbors, serve your brothers and sisters in church, gather each week to receive God’s Word and God’s Bread. You train and teach your children as disciples; you love your husband or wife. You’re an honest and productive employee, an attentive employer, an entrepreneur or bureaucrat in a well-established institution. You do and make, but no one notices.

Maybe you’re the pastor or leader in a church. You preach and teach, lead worship, and preside at the Lord’s table. You visit the hospital and the homebound seniors of the congregation, baptize and catechize the children of the church.

You feel invisible, but that’s an optical illusion. You’re participating in the biggest project imaginable. You’re joining with millions of others to build the self-building ark of Jesus. Through your witness and labor, a new world is taking form. You’re fighting the battle of the ages. You’re constructing the city of God among the cities of men in order to transform the cities of men to become more like the city of God. *Nothing* is small in the kingdom of Jesus.

There’s nothing to fear. We live in joy and expectant hope. Jesus is in the boat, and He calms the seas. The Carpenter of Nazareth will pilot his ark until it rests on a new Ararat, a new Eden, the garden-city where the river of life flows.” - Peter Leithart