

**community**church  
of east gloucester

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**YEAR  
2023**



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7 Chapel Street | Gloucester, MA 01930

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## INTRODUCTION

Take a good look at God's wonders—  
they'll take your breath away.

**Psalm 66:5**

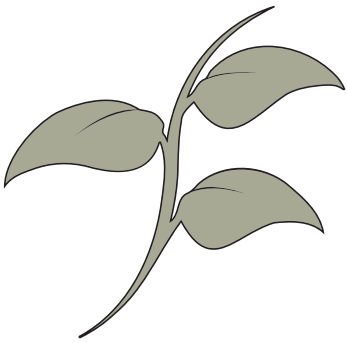
Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report for Community Church! This document has an important purpose. Its entire purpose is to bring glory to our God as we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ and His work in our lives and in our world as we look back over the past year.

Part of the way we celebrate is by looking at the numbers. They tell a story. They're important. The Annual Report has all the details about our budget, our church's giving and expenses, and our projections for the coming year. Once again this year, we celebrate a God who has moved through his people to meet all our budgetary obligations for the year, and who has even seemed to start laying a foundation for the years to come. Glory to God!

But the other way we celebrate is by telling the stories of what God has been doing among us as a church. From baptisms to outreach events, from small groups to Lobster Trap Tree Lightings for Gloucester's 400th anniversary, this report contains story after story of God's faithfulness, love, challenge, and empowerment as He has moved in our church. Glory to God!

So read on! We join with the psalmist in inviting you to, "take a good look at God's wonders -- they'll take your breath away." Thank you for your participation in our church, your faithfulness to God's call on our community, and your partnership in the work of the Gospel to which He has called us!

*Pastor  
Tim*



# leadership

at community church





## ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP

Community Church has five main groups of leaders that work in their various roles to lead our church and to facilitate our mission: to exalt God; to equip His church; to extend His grace in Gloucester, the surrounding communities, and around the world; and to enjoy His presence.

### OUR ELDERS

Community Church is governed by a board of elders. Informally, the role of the elders is to create the best possible environment for everyone at Community Church to use their gifts to build up the body and bring glory to Jesus Christ. They are a group of people that come from diverse church backgrounds and life experiences, but who find unity in their commitment to Christ and their commitment to serve and lead Community Church. Our elders are brought before the congregation on an annual basis for reaffirmation at the Annual Meeting. Even as the lead pastor carries specific leadership responsibilities, he is understood to be a fulltime elder. The elders meet every other month, and on an as-needed basis, to address matters of doctrine, direction, church discipline and staff development. Additionally, every elder is a member of the Leadership Team (see below), working together with that team to pray for our church, and to lead the church on a day-to-day basis. This year, our elders were: Dean Sidell, Chris Love, Cory Ward, Steve Zacchigna, and Pastor Tim Bushfield.

### OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team is the main leadership body that oversees and supports the day-to-day life and ministry of the church. This team includes men and women who have been identified as having leadership and shepherding gifts to serve the church as a whole, in addition to any specific ministries in which they might be involved. The

Leadership Team meets monthly to evaluate and discuss vision implementation, ministry direction, and upcoming events. They also discuss things like potential teaching directions and shepherding needs in the church community. The team spends time praying together over our church and for individuals in our body when we meet. In addition to the monthly meetings, people from the Leadership Team are also involved in shepherding in smaller groups and in one-on-one situations where compassion, discipleship, or shepherding is needed for a season.

This year, our leadership team included: David Broberg, Jacqueline Broberg, Emily Caren, Katie Madden, Amanda Matczynski, and Matt Nilan.

### OUR DISCIPLESHIP LEADERS

Throughout the history of the church, discipleship has been the primary mechanism for growing followers of Jesus. Rather than being a one-size-fits-all ministry, discipleship exists as a beautiful variety. Some choose to meet in pairs. Others may form triads of three. Still others meet in larger "small" groups of up to ten. Regardless of the form, the goal is to move ever closer to Jesus as we grow in relationship, study God's word, pray, and serve together.

This year, David Broberg continued to serve as our interim Discipleship Coordinator as our church began a formal hiring search process to find a new Associate Pastor of Discipleship, following Pastor Jake Brook's call to full time military chaplaincy. Throughout the year, David continued to meet with small group leaders and other disciple-makers in our church to equip and encourage them as they've continued the work of making disciples who are following Jesus and growing in relationship with Him.



# ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP

## OUR MINISTRY TEAMS

At Community Church, with our distinctive of collaboration, we do as much of our ministry as possible in teams. Our ministry teams are made up of volunteers who pour their hearts into making our church community a dynamic, growing place of worship and growth. From our children's ministry leaders to our worship teams, and from our Men's Ministry to our VBS crew, these men and women serve faithfully and tirelessly to build up the body of Christ. This is a dynamic group of people, and there are often changes in these teams from season to season as people step in and out of ministry roles. But they serve as a key element within our leadership structure at Community Church, and we are so grateful for all their hard work and dedication to their ministries and to each other.

## OUR ADMIN TEAM

We have a team of people who work behind the scenes to support the various ministries of the church from a facilities and financial standpoint. The Executive Admin Team consists of the Chair of the Admin Team (Dean Sidell); the Lead Pastor (Tim Bushfield); along with the Treasurer (Amanda Matczynski); the Collector (Emily Bell); the Bookkeeper (Bill Woodson); Human Resources (Marianne Peterson); the chair of FIT, our Facilities Improvement Team (Russ Webber); and our Ministry Coordinator (Katie Madden). They work to implement the congregationally-approved budget throughout the year, and together they provide the much-needed administrative support that keeps Community Church running and engaged in significant, life changing ministry.

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

In partnership with these five main groups of leaders in the church, we have a staff team that works together to support and invest in all of the above leaders, as well as providing concrete and consistent leadership among those teams. This year, Tim Bushfield continued in the Lead Pastor role, with Matt Nilan serving as a full time Associate Pastor, including his ongoing work with our YouthCenter ministry and Worship Teams. Katie Madden continued in her role as Ministry Coordinator, serving for 30 hours per week, and we were blessed with additional staff filling the following interim roles: Emily Caren as interim Children's Ministry Coordinator, David Broberg as interim Discipleship Coordinator, and Michael Mitchell as interim Community Life Coordinator.

Together, these teams cover all the bases of church leadership and provide a concrete collaborative leadership environment that legitimately equips and empowers members of Community Church as we all strive to use our gifts to build up our local part of the body of Christ.



## ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP

### LEAD PASTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2023

There are times when I feel like my life is Nazareth. As in, “Nazareth! Can anything good come out of Nazareth?!” (John 1:46). If you haven’t been a part of our church until more recently, you’ll know we’ve had many hurdles to overcome as a church, and I personally continue to have hurdles to overcome. There are three such hurdles I’d like to mention here: the quest for our next Associate Pastor of Discipleship, our new partnership with Revival Church for the Nations, and the miraculous ways the Lord refuses to let me withdraw from my Ph.D. program. In these three stories, I’ve seen evidence of God’s miraculous and exciting work that has all taken place in the midst of hardship, of being overwhelmed, and of feeling like I don’t have the personal resources to get the job done. I have felt like a backwater town, like Nazareth, wondering if anything good can come of all this. Turns out, for followers of Jesus, it can.

#### The Quest for an Associate Pastor

As a church, we’ve been on a seemingly endless quest to find and keep an Associate Pastor of Discipleship, ever since 2015 when we sent Justin Frank to pastor a church up in Augusta, Maine. In those eight years, we’ve had at least that many people on staff with us, either full time or part time, in various roles from coordinators to chaplains to interims to associate pastors that — for one reason or another — have not worked out. For most of these people, their time with us has been an opportunity for mutual growth as the candidates decided that pastoral ministry was not a good fit for them, and as we’ve refined the kind of person we sense the Lord is calling us to seek. They have been long hard years. Nazareth. Sheesh.

But, I want to say a special “thank you” to those who have been involved in this revolving door of a hiring process; to those who have volunteered their time and energy and discernment and prayer through their participation on one of the Hiring Teams (or all of the Hiring Teams). You have all been such a behind-the-scenes blessing, serving in an unseen and rarely appreciated role. I’m so grateful for your partnership, the partnership of the elders and the Leadership Team, and honestly, the faithfulness of the church at large through these years. We’ve seen God not only help the church survive these years, but even thrive through these years, bringing new people and families to our community, and empowering Christ-centered living and real spiritual growth as we’ve loved one another and loved our city.

I’m also super excited that the Lord has led us to the final stages with Dana Olson as potentially our next Associate Pastor of Discipleship. It has been a longer hiring process this time around, with much harder decisions along the way as we have sought to follow the Lord’s leading over what we might have seen as the more convenient, obvious, or easier choices we could have made as a Hiring Team. I’ve known Dana for many years, and I am so grateful that someone of her wisdom and maturity, giftedness, and love for the Lord might be joining our staff team this year. I invite you to continue





## ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP

praying over this process, and specifically for Dana and her family as this process moves forward in the coming weeks. Look at that: something good coming out of Nazareth after all!

### A New Partnership with RCN

One of the most significant partnerships we've ever taken on in my 20+ years of service here at Community Church happened this year as we formally welcomed Revival Church for the Nations to share our facility and our gospel mission here in the city of Gloucester. RCN is a Brazilian-Portuguese-speaking church that has been here in Gloucester for over 20 years, and at the end of 2022 they lost their worship space. Through a connection with our summer VBS program, our church prayerfully considered what it would mean to partner with RCN and to share our facility with them on a permanent basis. From the elders and Leadership Team, to our Sunday School teachers and YouthCenter leaders, our whole church rose to the invitation and excitedly affirmed what God seemed to be doing: making even better use of the resources He's entrusted to us, and partnering with a people group in our city with whom we've historically (and embarrassingly) had very little contact. In January of this year, we welcomed them to 7 Chapel Street as their new church home. "Bem vindo à sua nova casa!"

Working across a language barrier and working with those of different cultural values has been eye-opening, and it's been such a rewarding experience to open this partnership with them. To meet and pray with Pastor Antonio and Maria, asking for God's blessing on this partnership was one of the most special moments in my years of ministry — even though I had very little idea what they were praying! It's been so good to work with their sound tech team and their worship teams to integrate our sound systems. It was magical to intentionally include them in our Cape Ann Worship Nights — to the point of inviting their worship team to lead a worship set, and also ensuring we had Portuguese lyrics on screen for the worship songs led by other teams. Our Easter Sunrise service was so special as Michael Mitchell shared (and had each sentence translated into Portuguese) so that we could celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together on the back shore. Pastor Matt even was the speaker at their youth conference. We continue to look for ways to actively partner and share in the mission of the Gospel here in Gloucester. And as of the writing of this report, I currently have a 275 day streak on DuoLingo as I attempt to learn Brazilian Portuguese. I still have no idea how to speak it, and they talk way too fast for me to understand them, and I only know words like "apple" and "house" and "kitchen", but someday I want to be able to pray with our brothers and sisters from RCN and understand them as they pray! It's just another glimpse of how God has been on the move, even in times of transition, to bring glimpses of His kingdom all around us, if we're open to taking risks for His glory. It could have been a grumbling, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth," kind of experience. Instead, living "in Nazareth" has once again proven to be a blessing and an encouragement!

### The Miraculous Salvage of a Degree

Lastly, I wanted to share some miracles with you. Yes, our God is a God of miracles, and He still does them in our day and in our time.

I have been in a Ph.D. program since 2015, studying collaboration and preaching (based on the



## ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP

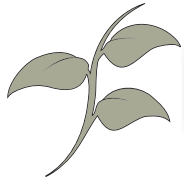
preaching team model we developed here at Community Church). But that same year, we said farewell to two different staff members, and kicked off eight more years of staffing turnover, global pandemics, military deployments, more staffing turnover, and then my diagnosis with Long Covid. Through these years, I have kept pushing my studies off — my priority calling has always been to our church before my studies, and these were once-in-a-generation issues that we were facing as a church; and if my capacity was limited by my health, my first responsibility was to our church family. So I tried to withdraw from my program multiple times, and was talked out of withdrawing multiple times by my advisor, Dr. Scott Gibson. But at the end of this past year, it became apparent to me that I would not be finishing the degree. My period of registration had expired; to continue would mean paying full tuition all over again to the tune of \$15,000 per year (after having already finished paying for the degree). And I had a secondary advisor across the pond at London School of Theology who wanted me to redirect my project into his own area of expertise (after eight years going in one direction, he wanted me to virtually start over to align with his own research field). So I filled out the paperwork, and was about to withdraw, when I got a phone call.

**Miracle #1:** I was known personally to the Director of Research at LST even though I'm a distance-learning student working in the United States through a partner institution (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) and under an American advisor (Dr. Scott Gibson). I should have been no more than a student number in a database to anyone at LST; yet Dr. McFarlane called me personally while I was having the oil changed on my Mazda.

**Miracle #2:** He broke through my perfectionism. After he solicited the full story of why I was withdrawing from the program, he said that he could tell I was working at a high level and that I wanted to produce an excellent Ph.D. project. He countered with this: "How would you feel about submitting an adequate Ph.D. instead of an excellent one?" He was suggesting that I try to salvage the work I've already done to get a degree, rather than withdrawing because I couldn't do the kind of work I wanted to do. It was a distasteful proposal that I needed to be open to.

**Miracle #3:** He found me money. I told him that financially, the school's policy on restarting payments at full tuition rates was a deal-breaker, and that I could not afford to continue. Within 48 hours he called back to say that LST had issued a decision that they could not waive my tuition, but that he had secured a bursary from a little known fund at the school that would cover my expenses for one year if I just cleaned up my project and submitted it. My final year has been completely paid for.

**Miracle #4:** He changed my secondary supervisor. I outlined my concerns about my secondary advisor and his desire to redirect my project towards his own area of research (this same secondary advisor also happened to be the president of the seminary). Within a week, I received another phone call telling me that not only had my former secondary supervisor withdrawn from my project (based on a lack of alignment with his area of expertise) but that the Director of Research himself had agreed to be my secondary supervisor to personally help me salvage the work I've done and to help me get the degree.



## ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP

Miracle #5: He volunteered to hand-select my defense panel. He also expressed such solidarity with my salvage efforts that he said he'd look to assemble a defense panel that would understand my goals as a doctoral student and that would be at least sympathetic to the idea of salvaging a degree from years of interruptions that were far beyond my own control. So when I have to defend my dissertation this coming summer, it will be before a panel of people who understand the special challenges I've faced and who will be able to give me direct and targeted feedback to bring my project to where a Ph.D. can be awarded.

I have called these things "miracles" because these things just don't happen in academia. Working towards a Ph.D. is definitely a "living in Nazareth; Can anything good come out of Nazareth" kind of experience. But in spite of the setbacks, the interruptions, the deployments, the pandemics, and my own Long Covid diagnosis, something good has come out of Nazareth. London School of Theology is taking a personal interest in seeing me finish my Ph.D. In response, the elders and the Leadership Team have agreed to give me the three months after Easter (April, May and June) to dedicate to finishing my dissertation, with the goal of submitting it on June 30, 2024 and defending it sometime before Christmas.

I'm starting to like Nazareth again. What at first seemed like years of hardship, of interruptions, of instability, of being overwhelmed, and health issues have turned into a story of our God's faithfulness towards us as a church, towards our city as we forge new gospel partnerships, and to me personally as He invites me to finish the work on my dissertation that He called me to all those years ago. Maybe you're feeling like you're living in Nazareth, and that nothing good can come from any of it. Hang on. You just never know what God can bring out of backwater places...

Grateful to be partnered  
With all of you,

Tim Bushfield  
Lead Pastor



# ELDERS' REPORT

## 2024 ELDERS' REPORT

2023 at Community Church closed with a service centered around God's Glory and recognizing the ways in which God works in our lives to reveal and manifest His glory, as well as the ways in which we as believers can show His glory to others as we walk through this life in faith. We were also reminded that our plans and expectations mean very little when reflecting on what is possible with a great and glorious God.

2023 began with Community Church celebrating the Brooks family, as we sent Jake and Leah and the girls into full-time ministry as an Army Chaplain, and with Tim beginning to transition back into pastoral ministry while still dealing with the effects of long covid. In the midst of all of this change God was in control and continually faithful. David Broberg agreed to continue in his role of Discipleship Coordinator, Emily Caren continued her work and ministry with Sunday School and Nursery programs in her role as Children's Ministry Coordinator, and Michael Mitchel came on staff as the Interim Coordinator of Community Life. Tim Bushfield, as Senior Pastor, Matt Nilan, as Associate Pastor and Katie Madden, as Ministry Coordinator completed an incredible staff team of gifted, dedicated servants working to come alongside all of those in the congregation, to work to equip us to serve, to exalt Christ and to extend God's grace to each other and to an unbelieving world. God has blessed Community Church with an amazing staff, and we are so thankful for each one of them.

In the spring, the Elders formed a Hiring Team to begin the search for an experienced associate pastor to join the team at Community Church. The

Hiring Team consisted of the Elders, members of the Lead Team, and two members of the congregation. The position was posted internally and externally. The team received several applications, held interviews and prayed through each applicant, seeking God's guidance for the person He has selected for this important role. As we closed the year, the Hiring Team was excited to submit Dana Olson to the Lead Team as its recommendation for the position. Dana comes with significant experience, a heart for serving God, and a calling to ministry at Community Church. We look forward to completing this search and filling out the staff team in 2024.

As we enter 2024, the Elders will also experience some change in our membership. This fall Steve Zacchigna and his family moved to CT to be closer to family. Steve and Rachel have been a dedicated part of Community Church for many years. We will miss them very much and know God will bless another congregation with their service. We are also pleased to announce an addition to the Elders at Community Church. David Broberg has been part of Community Church for many years, serving on the Lead Team, teaching Sunday Morning Seminars, preaching, and serving part time as the Coordinator of Discipleship. We look forward to David's insights and participation on the Elder Board.

One of the many impacts of the various transitions at Community Church and Tim's long covid is that his Doctoral work was both delayed, and in many cases, put on hold. In 2023 all of the various deadlines and resources had run their course, and it became clear that Tim would likely need to give up his doctoral work. But, God had other plans. In what was nothing short of a series of miracles (see details in Tim's report) God provided both a time extension and the financial resources for him



## ELDERS' REPORT

to finish his doctoral work in 2024. We are very supportive of making sure Tim has the appropriate time to complete this work in 2024, and we look forward to the many ways God will use his work in the future.

Annual Reports are often opportunities to cast a new vision, a new direction or exciting new initiatives. What is in store for Community Church in 2024 is somewhat of a glorious mystery, but we can be sure that God is in control, that we are here to serve him by equipping one another, by exalting Him, by extending His grace to each other and to an unbelieving world, and by enjoying his presence, both individually and collectively.

In His Service,

The Elders  
Tim Bushfield  
Chris Love  
Dean Sidell  
Cory Ward





## LEAD TEAM REPORT



The Lead Team spends much of its time and energy on the tyranny of the immediate. This isn't a bad thing. The present moment is full of needs for prayer, for places to serve, for new people to welcome and get to know. The demands of now could consume all of the attention of the team, but there is a need to look ahead, to plan, and to anticipate what's next. Annual reports don't just appear out of thin air (though Katie Madden continues to excel at organizing the disparate threads that make up each year's report, and Marc Nicastro jumped in to help design and produce this year's final publication). Annual Celebrations are not improvised events. Each season requires forethought and preparation. Still, the team spends precious little time looking back at where we've come. Fortunately, the team takes good notes (Thanks, Amanda! We promise we'll stop typing in the minutes without permission..next month!) Looking back at the minutes for 2023, certain big changes and recurring themes became clear:

The first is prayer! Requests come to the Lead Team from a wide variety of sources and with different levels of confidentiality. The Lead Team is committed to prayer for the church in general and in specific ways, both inside and outside of meeting times. Prayer became such a large part of

the meetings, that we decided to set aside several meetings a year to focus on prayer. The first such meeting happened this past May. The first half of the Lead Team meeting would be held jointly with the Foundations Prayer Team. Together, the teams held up the needs of the church and the community. Eighteen people packed into Katie Madden's condo for a time of prayer, organized around the ACTS prayer format (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication). Different members from LT and Foundations Prayer led through each section, with others joining in. It was awesome! The teams joined up again in September and prayed through the various ministries of the church. The Lead Team and Foundations Prayer plan to continue this practice of joint prayer meetings.

Secondly, this has been a year where the Lead Team has been asked to consider and pray over some weighty decisions. The church continues to look for an Associate Pastor of Discipleship since Jake Brooks became a full time chaplain with the Army. The Lead Team has had a big representation on the hiring team and has been joined by the elders and members of the church. As of the writing of this report, the hiring team seems close to finalizing a new hire.



## LEAD TEAM REPORT

Lastly, back in late 2022, a pair of churches approached Community Church about the idea of renting our space to hold their worship services. After much prayer and discussion, the Lead Team, along with the Elders, entered into an agreement with Revival Church for the Nations (RCN), a biblically-based, Portuguese-speaking church congregation. We have been sharing space with RCN since this past April. The churches have explored various opportunities to come together, including for the Easter Sunrise Service and the pancake breakfast that follows. It has been exciting to catch a glimpse of the ways that God might use our two churches' shared place and shared love of Him to His glory. We look forward to seeing where God will take us in the future.

Perhaps that's an appropriate takeaway from this year's Lead Team: anticipation. Whether in prayer for the needs of the congregation, for the ministries of the church, for the pastor of discipleship, or prayer for what God is going to do next in and through those who love him in any language here on Cape Ann--we get to anticipate that a God who has shown himself to be faithful will continue to reveal his grace, love, and provision.

**-Chris Love, elder**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



# SENDINGS

## ZACCHINGA FAMILY



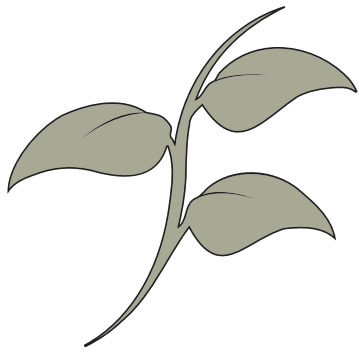
Praying for the Zacchingas as they headed out for CT to be closer to family.

## CHAPLAIN PARTNERS: JAKE BROOKS & MICAH BAKER



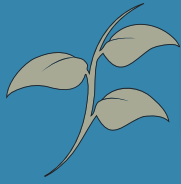
Praying over the Brookses & Micah before sending them back into their respective ministries.





**exalt**





# PREACHING MINISTRIES

## 2023 SERMON SERIES



### January 2023 - Lord, teach us to pray

We started this year's preaching sitting at the feet of Jesus, asking him the same question the disciples asked: "Lord, teach us to pray." We spent four weeks diving deep into the Lord's prayer and were reminded that our God is a good Heavenly Father who delights to meet with us in prayer, and delights to give His unshakable Kingdom to us as we seek it.

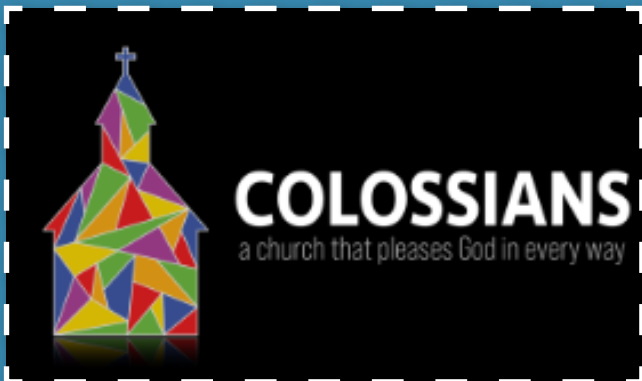
### Winter 2023 (February-April) - Twist Parables

During the winter months, we were studying the parables of Jesus: the surprising stories told by the Master Storyteller himself. These are stories about common, everyday things, but they also have a kick to them -- a twist -- where there's some aspect of the story that jumps out at the listener, saying, "Hang on, that's not the way the story is supposed to go." They invite us to wrestle with what they mean and raise questions in our own hearts about what it means to love and follow Jesus.



### Spring 2023 (April-June) - Colossians

There's a line in the first chapter of Colossians, in Paul's opening prayer for the church in that city. He prays for wisdom and for a knowledge of God's will so that they may, "live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way..." We spent the spring together in the book of Colossians looking at the kind of church that pleases God in every way, and seeking to take these deep biblical truths and live them out in our own day and time.





# PREACHING MINISTRIES

## Summer 2023 (July-August) - Pointing to Jesus: a Summer in the OT

It is easy to say that the whole Bible points to Jesus, but it can be hard to see exactly how it does so when you're smack dab in the middle of the laws of Leviticus. We spent this summer in several of the 'not-so-obvious' places in the Old Testament, discovering how they point to and prepare us for Jesus.



## Fall 2023 (September - November) - WDWDWWD?

Don't we want our lives filled with meaning and purpose? The same thing goes for our church. If we don't pause to reflect on our community practices, they can become flat, dead, routine -- just going through the motions -- when instead, Jesus invites us into the full life of biblical community! Each week during the fall, we looked at a different "what we do": gathering, worship, Sunday school, discipleship, sending, and more. We studied the Scriptures together to find their biblical basis so that we could understand together Why Do We Do What We Do and live out this understanding to bring glory to God.

## Advent 2023 - Come Lord Jesus

We can get too comfortable in this world, thinking this world is all there is, and that this world is our home. It's not. And I'm glad it's not. Look at the headlines; look at the brokenness around us; the darkness that has settled on the earth; the alienation and enmity all around us; the sin and brokenness within us. If this is all there is, then there is no hope. But for the People of God, Advent is not just a time of looking back with nostalgia to when Jesus entered the world. It's a time of looking forward to Jesus coming back again just as he has promised, when he will make all things new. Advent is when we long with hopeful hearts for that day when there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. In that way, we can identify with the Old Testament people of God who longed for the Savior to come; we as the New Testament people of God long for the Savior to come again. We focused on the



stories of Jesus healing the blind man (no more darkness); Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well (no more thirst); Jesus healing the crippled man lowered through the roof (no more brokenness); and Jesus healing the leper (no more separation). We told stories to capture our imagination with the idea that a day is coming when Jesus will come back and, yes, make all things new. Come, Lord Jesus.



# WORSHIP TEAMS

## WORSHIP TEAM 2023

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Peter Crossman     | Jocelyn Love    |
| Katie Castelluccio | Tim McCollum    |
| Jeremiah Bushfield | Jane Herrmann   |
| Rachel Mitchell    | Craig Herrmann  |
| Julie Dillard      | Nate Williams   |
| Novalee Jones      | Andrew Nicastro |
| Mike Orié          | Ben Guest       |
| Amanda Matczynski  | Dean Sidell     |
| Jakub Matczynski   | Matt Nilan      |
| David DeSouza      | Tim Bushfield   |
| Abbey Ytzen-Handel |                 |

Many of my favorite moments leading worship at Community Church are actually the unique occasions, different from our Sunday morning worship services. Many of our members have been a part of worship teams for several years at this point. We work together well and really enjoy these special times where we get to use the musical gifts God has given us. Some of the events this past year included hosting the Cape Ann Worship Night, Vacation Bible School, the Women’s and Men’s Retreats and the Lobster Trap Tree Lighting. The tree lighting in particular was a meaningful event for me since I hadn’t participated in it the past few years, and this year was also the 400th anniversary of Gloucester’s settlement. What a privilege to lead the entire Gloucester community in song and bringing the joy of Christ’s birth to such a fun local tradition! And it’s also important to mention that we don’t do this alone. Each and every one of you is a part of worship and the collective church bringing our praise as an offering to God. Thank you for joining with us in worship!

Psalm 100:1-5 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**- Katie Castelluccio**



“As a team we looked to put into practice habits that would help us be in prayer and devotions as a team and to be present during rehearsal. I found this to be so beneficial to not stressing or being distracted as we rehearse or play. It could be a back-to-back session of lifting the name of God up and singing our praises to him alone. What a joy it’s been this past year to worship as one body!”

**- Peter Crossman**





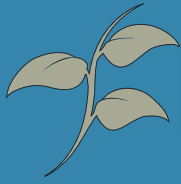
# WORSHIP EVENTS

## ADVENT | CHRISTMAS EVE | CHRISTMAS DAY



## LENTEN GIVING PARTNER





# WORSHIP EVENTS

## HOLY WEEK

GOOD FRIDAY



## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



PASSOVER SEDER



MAUNDY THURSDAY



## SUNRISE SERVICE KIDS' CONGO LINE







## WORSHIP EVENTS

### CONCERTS OF PRAYER

A few years back we made a decision to make it an intentional rhythm to include regular time for sharing and testimony across the year. We continued in that rhythm with a sharing Sunday in the Spring, testifying to God's faithfulness and a concert of Prayer and gratitude in the Fall. It is important as the people of God to stop and remember, and proclaim the testimonies of Who our God is and what He has done!

### CAPE ANN NIGHT OF WORSHIP

We had the privilege this year of hosting one of the Cape Ann Nights of Worship in the spring. As we gathered with several of the other area churches' worship teams and congregations, what made this year particularly notable was that it was the first bi-lingual night of worship. We had the opportunity to co-lead a worship set with several members of our sister church, The Revival Church for the Nations (who shares our church building) trading off verses in English and Portuguese. What an amazing picture of the Kingdom of God. Major shout out and thanks to Jane Herrmann who meticulously translated hundreds of lines of lyrics into Portuguese to make this possible!



### SUNRISE SERVICE EASTER WORSHIP

Resurrection Sunday Sunrise Service was particularly beautiful this year. Not only was the sunrise stunning (see picture) but the gathering was a beautiful picture of the Kingdom of God. We worshiped with our brothers and sisters at the Gloucester Assemblies of God church as well as our Brazilian brothers and sisters from the Revival Church for the Nations. Pastor Jim Williams and Michael Mitchell together brought the Word, and it was translated line by line into Portuguese as we together worshiped the risen Lord! Our amazing pancake crew woke up extra early and made even more pancakes to make sure all of us were well fed! ued in that rhythm with a sharing Sunday in the Spring, testifying to God's faithfulness and a concert of Prayer and gratitude in the Fall. It is important as the people of God to stop and remember, and proclaim the testimonies of Who our God is and what He has done!





## CONNECTION MINISTRIES

### GREETING MINISTRY

Throughout the month of July, we had to cancel several beach outings on Sundays due to rainy weather. However, on the days when the weather was good, several people took on the role of “host” and planted the Community Church flag in the sand on the other side of the bridge at Good Harbor beach. As a result, our church family showed up! It was amazing to see the turnout every Sunday, and everyone had a lot of fun playing in the sand and water. If you flag it, they will come!

Last summer, Community Church participated in the Summer Block Parties organized by the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce for the very first time. We set up a tent and a table next to local businesses in downtown Gloucester and had the chance to meet our neighbors. Marc Nicastro had some awesome armbands made with Scripture verses written on them. All the kids loved them! It was an excellent opportunity for us to share the Gospel and offer water to the people on Main Street.

Summer picnic celebrations were a wonderful way to connect with each other after Sunday services and spend some quality time together over a meal. Every month, we set up tents and tables and enjoyed a delicious meal under the sun, weather permitting. This gathering is a fantastic opportunity for us to enjoy each other’s company and celebrate our faith during the summer season. It is definitely one of the highlights of our summer!



### NEWCOMERS' LUNCH

At this year’s connection lunch, we met many new people who have since become familiar faces at Sunday services. Several individuals volunteered to prepare soups for the lunch. The event was an excellent opportunity for people to connect and listen to stories from those who have recently joined the community. Seeing God moving in our community and feeling His calling every year is truly wonderful.



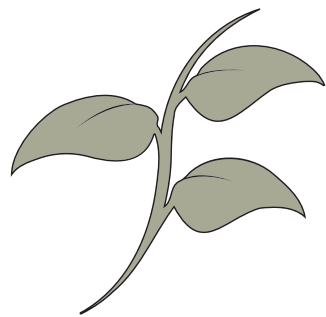
# CONNECTION MINISTRIES

## SUMMER PICNICS



## SUNDAY NIGHTS AT THE BEACH





**equip**







# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## NURSERY



Our nursery team has been one of the most consistent and steadfast groups, with a dedication to love on, play with and entertain our youngest church members. With a large group of babies born in 2022, we had our hands full! Our littlest ones have sung songs, read books, learned to crawl, enjoyed a bottle, and played with trains, cars, dolls, and balls this year.

A joyful moment was just a few Sundays ago, when one of our toddlers told his mom exactly what he was going to do in nursery and even told her that she could go to church so he could play! He even reminded her to take off her shoes as he took his off before heading right into the nursery where the team he had grown to love was waiting for him.

## KIDS' CONNECTION NIGHTS

The Connection Nights began in the fall of 2022 from a prayerful place of inviting the families of the city to have a place for children to connect with each other outside of Sunday mornings. Together this spring, we got excited for our VBS program and learned the songs so we were ready for Jesus to move! In the fall of 2023 we kicked off the school with the return of Kids Connection Nights, with a name change from VBS Connection Nights, while still inviting our VBS families back to join our church family once a month on Friday evenings. Sandy Jones and Nichole Lehr have been amazing leaders, with a creativity that outshines the kiddos' excitement to be together. On the second Friday of each month, between 19 and 41 kiddos have joined us for games, songs, and Bible lessons. It has been astounding to see kindergarteners and fourth graders and our middle school helpers memorize Scripture in just two hours!

As a small aside, I have had the joy of leading games with these kiddos each Connection Night. I have absolutely loved the laughter, joy, and energy our kids have. In December, we did a scavenger hunt through the church for each character of the nativity so that we could then tell the story of Jesus' birth. I thought I was fast, but have you ever tried to race a group of kids from the sanctuary to the nursery? I lost. Until the kids realized they needed to slow down to actually find the characters, rather than just sprint from room to room. We found them all, shared the miraculous story of Jesus coming to the broken world, AND played more games together.

- Emily Caren



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our committed teachers have spent time in Scripture with our preschool through fifth grade students, going deep into the history of the Israelite people. We've studied God's heart for his people and how his plan is greater than the brokenness of sin. The stories of David and his desperation to be in touch with God as he becomes king through the Psalms, and the wisdom of Solomon recorded in Proverbs, brought us into the summer. Throughout all of 2023, we studied the Kings of Israel and the prophets who guided them back to God, leading right up to the exile of Babylon. Our lessons will continue this winter of how God still had a plan for His people through exile. One of our favorite lessons of the year has been the story of Isaiah and the prophecy he spoke about the coming Messiah. A second grade student said, "I know who the Messiah is! That's Jesus" during our Sunday morning lesson about Isaiah. This is just one short

story about God's work in the hearts of our kids, and it's important to remember that we were once these kids too.

We took a brief hiatus this summer to invite our second graders and up into the service to learn from our preachers how God can move in our hearts and lives. They were able to go into each service with a sermon journal to take notes, draw, and to focus on the questions asked throughout the sermons. Two of our fourth grader parents said that their students listened more than they expected to the sermons and had questions for them at home!





## YOUTH CENTER



What a year it has been. From snow camp at the start of the year, to the final minutes of our Christmas party - it has been a year of stepping into new places, and continuing to find the Lord faithful to meet us in all of them, doing what only He can do. There were many times this year that the Lord showed up in ways that only He could. It gets me fired up and excited to continue to serve and be part of what He is doing. I want to share just a few of these with you:

As you'll read in more detail later in this report, one of the ways we saw the Lord show up was around Burnham's summer field days. I honestly had no idea what to expect when we first showed up at Burnham's Field. Would people even come? The idea started with three of us around a kitchen table, a couple of basketballs and footballs, and the desire to provide a space to reach out to students and families in the heart of our city. That was it. As the idea grew we were presented with the opportunity to partner with The Open Door to provide meals and snacks for the students and families who might come. It seemed like a no-brainer and smooth sailing...until I was introduced to the world of FDA food safety protocols, and procedures, and training, and safe handling requirements, and unannounced Board of Health

site supervisions and evaluations that would be part of it! What started as just an idea to play pick-up basketball downtown, now seemed like much more than I had capacity to process or physically do. After talking with The Open Door, and still only having a team of just a few of us, I remember one morning distinctly praying something along the lines of "Lord, I don't know how we are going to do this, we need more help." A few hours later, I got a knock on my office door, and Nikki Lewis walked in and said something along the lines of "I don't know much about it, but I feel like the Lord wants me to talk to you about those field days, I got this image of being on the sidelines serving water or something like that. So I came right over to ask how I can be a part of the team." The Lord answers prayer. The team grew considerably, and because of it, across the summer, we had the privilege of meeting and sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus with families who we otherwise would not have been able to meet.

Across the spring and fall we saw more and more students inviting their friends, and those friends inviting friends, to come hang out at YouthCenter on Friday nights. Our first ever Cereal Night, annual Missing Leaders' Scavenger hunt downtown, and biggest ever Pumpkin Chuckin' events provided spaces for students to invite new friends and check out YouthCenter. From those bigger events we got to welcome many new students into the regular weekly Friday night hang outs! And here we find another awesome God story:

One new student who we first met at Pumpkin Chuckin' this year, came back to Friday night YouthCenter a few weeks later. At that Friday night, I remember personally feeling particularly weary and preoccupied with details that probably don't matter all that much in the long run. Then while we were sitting in a small group circle, this student





## YOUTH CENTER

began asking questions out of the blue, about sin, brokenness, Jesus, and the Gospel. The student shared that they had never been to church before, never held a Bible and had never prayed, but they were beginning to understand how we are lost in darkness, but Jesus is the light that comes to rescue us. It was amazing! Other students began chiming in in response to the questions, sharing scriptures, and by the end of the night we got to share the gospel with this student, give them a Bible and pray with them. It was a small picture of a much needed reminder, that all of this is the Lord's. He's got this, and He is so good.

This past year also marked the second half of Olivia Washburn's youth ministry internship. During her time on staff with us, Olivia was in charge of all of the weekly happenings of Friday night YouthCenter. Everything from communications, preparing and teaching talks and games, to equipping the leader team. At the end of May, Olivia graduated from Gordon College and headed back up to her home state of Maine to serve individuals with physical disabilities. This fall we also bittersweetly said so-long to Chachi (you probably know him as Steve) Zacchigna, who after serving as a Youth leader for the last six years, moved down to Connecticut to be closer to family. I am so thankful for both Olivia and Chachi, for their willingness to use their gifts and time for the Lord and the benefit of these students, and for the joy it was to serve alongside them both!

At the close of this year, I am continually thankful for the privilege it is to get to continually see the the Lord moving in students' lives; And I didn't even mention all the students who publicly proclaimed their faith in Christ through baptism this summer, served on a youth worship band for the first time this fall, and stepped up to serve and lead in Sunday School across the year when most needed! Our

students have a hunger for the Lord, and a desire to serve Him and His people. And I am continually in awe and humbled that I get to be a tiny part of helping them do that. I am in awe that this is my job. What a gift.

God is good, and I am wholeheartedly excited for whatever it is He has for YouthCenter in 2024.

**For His Glory,  
Pastor Matt**







## YOUTH CENTER



This summer we wanted to provide an opportunity for a deeper youth experience, so we decided to partner with our Vacation Bible School team. The VBS week was set up so our youth could serve as a part of the program and bless the rest of our VBS staff. We spent time in worship, small groups and having some fun together. We began each morning with breakfast, worship and a devotion. Then we served the children and leaders of VBS. After VBS we had lunch and free time. Then the afternoon began with worship, a talk led by Pastor Matt Nilan, and small groups led by Matt, Cory Ward and Dana Olson. The rest of the afternoon we did some more fun activities too. We spent one afternoon at the beach, swimming, playing soccer and ultimate frisbee and just hanging out with each other. We did a scavenger hunt on Bearskin Neck in Rockport, which was rained out half way through its first day, so we finished it the next day! We also had a movie day just to cool off and relax.

Our theme for the week was "Abide", taken from John 15:5.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

We wanted to encourage the youth to abide in Jesus and find our strength in Him. He is the source of everything, and when we are rooted in Him, joy and love pour out and allow us to serve others.

We told them that during VBS, it was all about the kids and not about the youth, but that Fueled was all about them, the youth themselves. They were able to lean into that and truly serve all day with joy and make an impact on the VBS community! This allowed them to then be present in the afternoon as they worshiped and played and did life together.

I asked my two children who attended what they remembered about Fueled, and they remembered what I hoped they would: Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, and we need to wholeheartedly serve others and be present for them, knowing we can renew ourselves in Jesus.

Looking back on our lives, we can often find moments or periods of time that really connected us to Jesus and launched our faith. We pray that Fueled was one of those times for our youth and moves them one step closer to Jesus.

- Cory Ward





## YOUTH CENTER



Girls' Group has been an amazing thing to watch grow. Girls who were mostly acquaintances have come together over the past year-and-a-half as close friends. Friends who can have conversations about seeking God in their lives, struggles with being a Christian in non-Christian environments, and navigating relationships. Even as new girls have joined the group, they have been seamlessly welcomed with open arms.

As the girls have studied the Word together, their ability to share their knowledge and interpretations has been incredible. Rather than a classroom setting where few to no one speaks or shares an opinion, the girls are comfortable sharing their thoughts in a judgment-free place. They actively seek prayers from one another and check on each other's lives. It has been such a blessing watching God grow friendships rooted in faith for these girls.

- Emily Glover

The highschool guys continued to meet consistently on Wednesday nights at the church to dig into God's Word. Wednesday nights quickly became a beautiful mixture of honest sharing, deep questions, time in God's Word, and a plethora of fart jokes and correlating sounds. (Youth ministry is a beautiful thing.) A highlight from this year was when, after going through a 12-week discipleship essentials course, the guys hung out with Dave Broberg (our Discipleship Coordinator) who walked them through what it means to seek out 'people of peace' as a way to actively and intentionally share the Gospel with others around them.

"Over the years, YouthCenter has been an amazing part of my life. Not just a group, but a family of positive, caring, loving, fun, and encouraging people. It has shown me what a family that is not blood-related, but Christ-related, is all about. I feel safe and loved by these people. I look forward to Friday nights at YouthCenter. It is an amazing environment to learn about God, and for new people to learn about Him and to talk about life and share challenges in a safe place. I love YouthCenter, and I thank God for it!"

- Nate Williams, high school senior







# DISCIPLESHIP

## SMALL GROUPS

There is a reason why small groups are one of the most fundamental avenues of discipleship at Community Church of East Gloucester. Simply put: Jesus disciplined in small groups. Sure, he taught the crowds; of course, he preached to the multitudes. But then he would gather his group of disciples into a home, around a table, along the path to dig deep. In these small group settings, of course he would dig deep into his teachings and the Scriptures; but, he would also dig deep into their lives. Jesus gathered people together in deeply intimate settings where they could truly be known and know one another. In a setting like that, things that were hidden in the dark reaches of people's lives could be brought into the light. In a setting like that, grace and forgiveness could overflow. In a setting like that, people from all different walks of life could become sisters and brothers as spiritual family. In a setting like that, lives could be changed by the good news of God: that God sent Jesus to save sinners. In other words, small groups were not simply a means to an end. For Jesus, small groups of Jesus followers was Jesus's vision and practice for making the nations into disciples.

The stories collected here are a powerful testament to the sometimes subtle, sometimes life-altering discipleship taking place within the small groups of Community Church of East Gloucester. They represent a beautiful cross section of the hundreds of stories that could be shared from the many people who regularly gather during the week to study God's Word and apply it to their lives.

- David Broberg

## SUNDAY MORNING SEMINARS

Sunday Morning Seminars held this year involved two great studies. The Spring Seminar, titled "How to Read the Bible," was facilitated by David Broberg. This was a fantastic series that helped us comprehend stories from the Bible and recognize themes and connections throughout. Many thanks to David for this wonderful class!

The Fall Seminar, "Love in Chaos," was presented by author Bob Goff. This video series allowed us to understand what it means to love in a world that sometimes feels extremely difficult. This seminar drew good attendance each Sunday, and many great conversations and fellowship were enjoyed throughout the series. Sunday Morning Seminars will resume after the New Year!





## DISCIPLESHIP

### MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S STUDY

Earlier this year, during a season of transition, I relocated to the North Shore to be closer to my fiancée. For some time, we were searching for a church to call home. After months of visiting a variety of churches, we came across Community Church through a Bible study my fiancée, Julia, was attending. We visited for a time and soon after knew this was where God wanted us for this season.

Since leaving my previous church, I was desiring deeper connection with fellow believers, so I began to seek out a small group that I could join. One Sunday, I specifically prayed that God would facilitate the right conversations with the right people for me to learn more about small groups, and through God's providence, David Broberg approached us after service that Sunday. As the coordinator for small groups, he was precisely the person I needed. What a swift answer to prayer!

I shared my desire with David to learn more, and he provided a comprehensive overview of the church's small group offerings and how I could get involved. He then introduced me to David Nicastro, the leader of the Monday night men's Bible study. We exchanged contact information, and since then, I've been attending weekly, feeling truly blessed by the experience.

Joining the group has allowed me to forge meaningful friendships, participate in deep studies of God's Word, and even attend the yearly men's retreat. God's goodness and love has been made so real to me through His people at Community

Church, and I am grateful for the abundant ways in which He has blessed me through the relationships I've formed with others. I have received double my portion thanks to God.

A heartfelt thank you to David Broberg and David Nicastro for their servant hearts and to all the incredible men I've met this year who have poured into my life. You all have such an impact on the lives of others and are truly acting as Jesus's hands and feet. Keep faithfully serving the Lord because through you all, lives are changed and guided towards Jesus, His love, and the power of the Gospel that breaks down all barriers. I eagerly look forward to seeing how I can continue to grow at Community Church.

- Kevin Booth





## DISCIPLESHIP

### WHEN THERE IS NO WAY

Our God is an intentional and creative God. His ways are above our ways (Isaiah 55:8). God provides for our needs and satisfies our desires in ways we don't expect. This happened for us when we moved from Gloucester to Wenham. We had been praying for a larger apartment and job for me on campus at Gordon College so I could earn some money while caring for our twins from home. But really, my desire was to stay home with the twins without another job. But how could we make that happen in the expensive North Shore? There was no way! For months we brainstormed and prayed, and applied to jobs; opportunities came and went. We continued to pray. Then, Nathan's director proposed a plan to give Nathan a promotion and affordable housing for being on-call at Gordon. God provided a way for me to stay home when we thought there was no way (Isaiah 43:16-21)—a better way that we could not have thought of ourselves!

God continued to hear the longings of my heart, even when I didn't think to pray about them. I wanted to continue to be involved in my small group, which I've been a part of for 9 years. But with the twins (and us) figuring out their bedtime routine and needing attention in the evening, hosting seemed too hectic. Nathan's small group meets on the same night, so for both of us to be able to attend elsewhere, the best we could think of (without paying a babysitter) was alternating every other week. There was no way (that I could think of) that I could be consistently involved.

Then, one Monday night, my group needed a place

to meet. Desperate for adult interaction and time in the Word, I volunteered. And it was hectic for me, and I don't remember any of the conversation about the Bible, but the ladies loved seeing the babies, and it worked. Now since then, the twins have gotten into a bedtime routine. They are asleep by the time people arrive, and I can enjoy sweet fellowship with my sisters in Christ in my cozy cabin in the woods.

In recent days, when I have found myself thinking through a problem anxiously, or bitter about an interaction with a loved one, I try to recall these stories, remembering that God is at work in our lives, making a way when we think there is no way!

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- Janelle Wolters







# DISCIPLESHIP



## FRIDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY

When Sandy Jones told me about re-starting the Friday morning women's Bible study, I was all in. Having recently transitioned careers from higher education, a job and world I had known for almost a decade, to starting my own financial planning business, I found that most of my evenings were consumed with work prep and overall balancing starting a business with having a young family. It became a difficult season to find additional evening time for much else, including a weekly Bible study. Having been involved at one of Community Church's Monday night women's studies for years, I missed the weekly rhythm of gathering, reading the Bible and praying, and I was quite lonely and missing community.

Our little Friday morning group has been such a gift in this season. I had already dedicated Fridays to be with James Christian, so the study easily fit in with my schedule, and with the added blessing of childcare, I knew I could easily dedicate the time to be intentional in the Word with some amazing women friends. The study is simple, having daily time in Word using Women Living Well study material, online blog and weekly videos and we gather at the end of the week to discuss how God

has met us throughout the week. It has been such a sweet time of discussion and prayer. I'm so grateful to have this study and for Sandy and Deanne to bring back a morning Bible study option that has long blessed the women and moms of Community Church.

- Jacqueline Broberg



## TUESDAY NIGHT DISCOVERY STUDY

Between having children and the covid years, we had not been part of a small group for a few years. Before that, Amanda and I were always the younger couple of the group, learning and sharing with those that have been married for a while and had kids. We learned a lot. And now it seems the roles have switched and we have the Baes coming to the chaos that is our home before bed time to give them an idea of what "bliss" truly looks like. It's been great to share about all different parts of life relating to the scripture we're studying. Or just what we feel like talking about over a beer and potato chip pairing on a given night. We've all grown together and helped one another through difficult seasons of life. And we feel safe bringing these things to the table. My weeks certainly feel more complete when we get together.

- Jakub Matczynski





## DISCIPLESHIP

### BIBLE STUDY BROUGHT ME TO COMMUNITY CHURCH

I got connected to Monday night Bible study through a friend from college. It was my first Bible study as a fairly new Christian, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of women to introduce the concept to me. I had never met such genuine, loving people. That isn't to say joining this new group didn't come with its challenges. It was hard acclimating to a group of people that already knew each other so well, most of which attended Community Church together. I also found myself fighting the enemy's voice to "stay home" many times, whether it was because I was tired from a long day of work, or because I didn't want to make the drive from Swampscott. But each week, God gave me the push I needed to keep going. And I'm so glad He did. As time went on, friendships grew, and I realized the immense value of surrounding myself with faithful believers on a regular basis. Through this group, I've been stretched, inspired, and have seen many prayers answered.

I still attended a different church during my first year at the Bible study. Eventually I felt God calling me to move on from that church, and to look for a new one. I did this with the help of my fiancé Kevin, and the process definitely took longer than expected. We wrestled with what we wanted from a church as we visited different congregations each week. After visiting many lovely churches, we still couldn't find a church that felt like "home". In the back of my mind, I kept thinking of my Bible study, and how these women must have been a reflection of Community Church. I saw these women—humble, faithful, and rooted in the Word—

and knew that their church body and leaders must have had the same attributes. So after exhausting all of our local options, we decided to check out Community Church—and we never looked back.

My Bible study brought me to a church that was anything but just a building. We were welcomed by the kindest group of people. They saw we were new and instantly made it a point to get to know us better. I'm certain God placed me in that Bible study years ago, knowing that it would one day lead me to the church family I have today. We love you guys!

- **Julia Serino**





## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Campfires and dinners and treats... oh my! 2023 brought a year of creativity, connection and community for the women of Community Church. Our year began on a sweet note! In February, Katie Madden hosted us (in her new condo!) for a chocolate night. Over fun conversations we played with chocolate, laughing and taste testing along the way. A reminder that we are never too old or too busy to simply make a mess with our friends. In March we hosted an IF:Local for the annual IF:Gathering conference, hosted by Jennie Allen and simulcasted live across the world. Cozy in the sanctuary with a good ol' Gloucester snow storm on the radar, women worshiped, prayed and soaked up wisdom as speaker after speaker preached God's word.

Over the summer we hosted two events: Fireside Chats and an Indoor Picnic. Summer in Gloucester is like no other, how blessed we are to be here! With beaches to sit on and waves to catch, we set aside one summer night for campfires. With Joanna, Pam and Cindy as our gracious hosts, women were divided into groups of 6 - 8 and sent to their "mystery location". My favorite part of intentionally choosing smaller gatherings is that it allowed everyone's story to be heard and everyone to be seen. We ended the summer with an impromptu

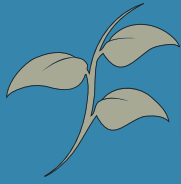
indoor picnic at the parsonage after our walk on the Boulevard was rained out. With blankets and camp chairs we had sweet conversations and played card games, simply enjoying each others' company on a dreary summer night.

October brought more rain as we headed north to Temple, NH for our annual retreat! But the rain didn't stop us from having a great time, even providing an opportunity to dance in it. Dana Olson guiding us to time with the Lord, Katie Castelluccio and Amada Matczynski leading us in worship, Deanne Leavitt orchestrating amazing meals. More than 20 women joined us. Being there with women I love, and who love me just the way I am, provided a level of soul rest I didn't know I needed.

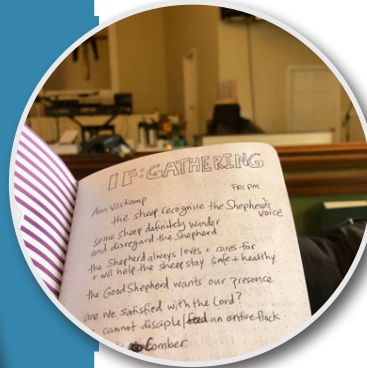
Our year ended with Night of Thanks. This was a highlight of my year, not just as a member of the Women's Ministry but the year as a whole. The image of a mirror and the theme of "I am who you say I am, not who the lies are telling me I am" was strong on my heart as we planned Night of Thanks. Stepping 1,000 miles outside my comfort zone, I offered to be the speaker for the night. With an answered prayer for peace and Dana cheering me on (and proofing my write up for hypocrisy) I was able to share the message I so wanted to share. Thank you to all the women in attendance who listened and supported me. That was an adventure I'll never forget.

**- Emily Bell and the Women's Ministry team (Joanna Bushfield, Katie Castelluccio, Rachel Mitchell)**





# WOMEN'S MINISTRY





## MEN'S MINISTRY



It's hard to believe that 2023 is over already. The past year has been a blur for many reasons — the turmoil seemingly in all corners of the globe, the lightspeed pace that life seems to take, the never-ending to-do lists — but because of those reasons, it is more urgent than ever that we continue to connect with our brothers in Christ and help ground each other to our true calling in the world.

This continues to be the major focus of Men's Ministry at Community Church: To cultivate and maintain relationships with men in our community — whether they are deeply invested in our church, at the fringes, or looking beyond to our neighbors, coworkers, friends or family — to point toward Jesus as we walk alongside each other through life here.

As in past years, the team hosted several events throughout the year, including bowling and game nights, bonfires, hikes and a men's breakfast. The aim with each event is to offer a low hurdle for men to gather in a setting at times outside church — which may be more inviting and less intimidating for some — enjoy each other's company, talk about life, and how Jesus fits into all of this and where He may be calling us.

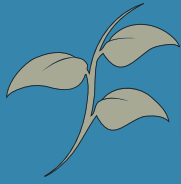
A highlight of the year is always the annual Men's Retreat at New England Frontier Camp in Lovell, Maine, in November. In many ways, as everyone begins to look ahead to Thanksgiving and the holiday season, this is the capstone of the team's year and an event that we try to build toward thematically in the months leading up to the retreat. It is a treasured time of fellowship and renewal for the team and many others who faithfully attend each year.

This year's theme was our "Identity as Men of Christ". The team plans the teaching and discussion session and also incorporates prayer, worship in song and times of reflection. More than 20 men spent the weekend of Nov. 17-19 together considering how the world around us influences our identity, what our true identity is as children of God created in His image, and how we go from here to live our lives differently in light of those truths and disciple others.

The Men's Ministry team continued to be in a season of transition this year as some members had to step away due to changing life circumstances, and we were successful in recruiting new members to take their place in the first half of the year. We appreciate the 2023 team's commitment and effort as we look forward to the energy and new ideas in the year ahead.

**- John Castelluccio and the Men's Ministry Team (Bill Baumer, Peter Crossman, Jake Holscher, Michael Mitchell)**





# MEN'S MINISTRY





## FOUNDATION PRAYER



"I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me." Psalm 120:1

"I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth."

Looking back on this past year we have seen God's movement in our midst. There have been many answers to our prayers. God is so good! No doubt we are in a battle, a spiritual battle, and we need the Lord and His strength, His equipping with His armour. Ephesians 6:10-18

There have been a couple of significant changes that have taken place this past year in the area of prayer within our church.

The first significant change is that a prayer ministry team was started and offered prayer to people who came forward during the last set of worship songs and after the end of the worship service. This was usually available at every worship services. This was staffed by members of the Foundations Prayer Team and the Worship Prayer Ministry Team.

This new ministry has had a significant impact in peoples lives. It has opened the door in giving people an opportunity to invite God into their lives and situations and to let them know that we care

and God's cares about them, and that His Spirit is working. We would like to thank Pastor Matt Nilan for his help and leadership with getting this new prayer ministry started.

The Foundations Prayer Team met on Sunday mornings before the community worship service and before Sunday morning Seminar when that was scheduled. We went over any prayer requests that we were aware of and brought our requests before the Lord Jesus and prayed God's blessing over our church.

The second significant change was incorporating the Prayer Teams to be included in the Church Leadership Meetings for praying together with the Lead Team at the start of their meetings. After the prayer time, then the Prayer Team would leave the meeting so the Lead Team could conduct their business. This inclusion of the Prayer Team was very significant in that it brought us together and showed the value that the Lead Team placed on prayer and the ministry of the Prayer Team.

We also prayed for any prayer requests that had come from our church's website or prayer requests that came from the filled out cards in the pew racks. We thank Katie Madden for forwarding those requests to us.

We had numerous requests for prayer this past year, and we saw God at work in people's lives. There has been healing, both physical and spiritual, comforting in losses and grief, deliverance from evil oppression and forgiveness, salvation with folks coming to know Jesus, all those who were baptized, kids coming to Youth Center and bringing their friends, the Burnham field outreach Ministry on Wednesday mornings, and for those needing perseverance in hard and difficult circumstances. Those who gave birth (including the twins) and





## FOUNDATION PRAYER

all the parents. Those who lost loved ones and those caring for aging parents and loved ones. We also prayed for our missionaries, our church ministries, Amirah and the pregnancy care centers, and those who we know in jail.

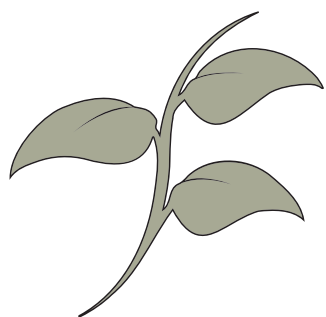
Lastly, we tried to call the church to prayer in every season of the year or when there was an urgent need. The most recent call to prayer was on November 20th, initiated by Nikki Lewis. This was truly a blessed time of calling out to God and bringing before Him Israel and the hostages and the war on Hamas and the Middle East, and those caught in the middle, as well as our own country. We also had a call to pray last January 26.

We are desiring to do this on a monthly basis as our world is increasingly getting darker spiritually, as we wait and anticipate our LORD'S return.

I personally want to thank each member of the Foundations Prayer Team and Worship Prayer Teams.

David Nicastro, Laura Figurido, Nikki Lewis, Dana Olson, Bob and Betty Cannon, Nathan and Janelle Wolters, Deborah Michel, Pamela Curtis, Roxy Nilsson.

**- Respectfully submitted by Ron Nilsson.**



**extend**





## GLOBAL OUTREACH



### VOLCANO ISLAND

We have regular communications with our friends serving on “Volcano Island.” Because of the danger of the gospel being spread in this area of the world, this mission is on the “Top Secret” and confidential side. They continued leading a team conducting Bible translation into the local language and church planting in a part of the world where there are few Christians, less than 1%. They will be moving to Tanzania in 2024, where they will continue their translation work and ministry to the islanders but will also be helping prepare both African workers and new members of their organization for missions among African peoples. We pray for their continued safety as they navigate difficulties in language, culture, and consistent results. May the seeds continue to be planted for later reaping by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you to Ron and Roxy Nilsson for being their Champion.

### MATT PELLETIER

Mat Pelletier is working full-time at South African Theological Seminary; Kayle is working part-time teaching a freshman course on studying the Bible, as well as homeschooling their three younger children. They are still awaiting action on their request for a work permit renewal, so we are praying that God would move on the hearts of those in the government there whose approval is needed to make that happen. We are praying for Calvin to adjust to high school and exams and for the health of Molly, Liam, and Oliver as they continue on this Great Commission journey. Thank you to Sara Martin for being the Pelletiers’ Champion.





## GLOBAL OUTREACH



### JOHN & MARY JEAN TEMPELHOFF

John and Mary Jean Templehoff have been long-standing global outreach partners of Community Church, working with Campus Crusade, and doing HIV prevention Ministry in South Africa, mainly in the region of Durban. 2023 marked their final year as official partners with us as they prepared to enter retirement. Mary Jean passed away in October 2023, after a long battle with breast cancer. John and Mary Jean were married for 57 years and spent 50 years in ministry in South Africa. The Templehoffs have left a legacy that will continue to affect generations as they have spread the Gospel and Christ's love to all they knew.

### LEON & REBECCA STEVENSON

Leon and Rebecca Stevenson continue leading Mack Ave Community Church in Detroit, Michigan, where their vision is to see communities transformed both physically and spiritually, starting with their own community. MACC Development is an amazing initiative of this church that is the hands and feet of the church and exists to seek the holistic revitalization of Detroit's 48214 zip code block by block, neighbor by neighbor. We pray continued health, hope, and protection over the entire Stevenson family, Leon, Rebecca, Shiloh, Laelle, Ezra, Elisha, and Ava. Thank you to Joanna Bushfield for being the Stevensons' Champion.





## GLOBAL OUTREACH



### MICAH BAKER

Chaplain Micah Baker worshiped with us in-person on the same Sunday in November as the Brooks. Micah is currently assigned to the Air National Guard Readiness Center outside Washington, D.C., providing support to commanders, chaplains, and Religious Affairs personnel. Micah has more than 20 years of history with Community Church, having attended while he was in seminary. He asked us to pray for him to stay rooted in Christ and also for wisdom for how to provide God's light in a culture that is increasingly hostile toward God. Thank you to Julie Dillard for being Micah's Champion.



### JAKE BROOKS

Jake Brooks, our former Associate Pastor of Discipleship, now serves in full-time military chaplaincy with the Army in Fort Johnston (previously Fort Polk), Louisiana. He regularly cares for the soldiers and meets them where they are at, whether it is during physical training, long field exercises out in the woods staying in tents with no showers, and wherever the deployments lead them, Jake spiritually stewards the soldiers as Jesus calls him to. Leah leads a Bible study and is very involved in the Protestant chapel at the base. The Brooks continue to be a large part of Community Church, as Leah and their three beautiful daughters visited during our VBS week, and Leah served as a crew leader and was an integral part of VBS activities. Jake, Leah, and their girls visited again in November, and Jake spoke about Colossians 4:3-6 and walking through the doors God opens to share the gospel. We pray love and protection over the entire Brooks family, Jake, Leah, Ella, Amelia & Gracie. Thank you to John and Emily Glover and their family for being the Brooks' Champion.





## LOCAL OUTREACH



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS this summer was a highlight of the year with over 100 kids and youth joining us for Rocky Railway VBS. As a leader, something that was personally inspiring was to see how the youth really stepped up to guide our kids through each station and have meaningful conversations with them throughout the week. In my group (yellow), both Trey and Isaiah really embraced their roles with the preschoolers (despite being hesitant initially) and had the kids laughing, singing, dancing, and sharing their hearts. I'm so grateful to be a part of this team and to see how months and months of planning comes together to create a purposeful week for these children, leading them to Jesus

- Rachel Mitchell

This summer the Power of God truly pulled us through the last week of July at Community Church's VBS! We had a ton of awesome campers, a huge crew of helpful teens and youth, and the best staff of dedicated and mission-minded folks. I'm sure we had many behind-the-scene helpers and supporters as well! I served with the youngest group, the yellow team, and I specifically chose a photo of us towards the end of the week in our Bible lesson. Sometimes that can be one of the trickier rotations for young kiddos, but I love that each and every kid was listening closely to our teacher, Emily Bell. But as I continued to look deeper in this photo, I also saw the four youth helpers joining hands with the littlest ones and leading the way, paving the path for students to learn about and come to love Jesus. I believe this ministry both to and for our kids is one of the most important kinds of discipleship our church can participate in. Vacation Bible School is a great labor of love, and we praise God that he always provides the volunteers, campers and all the supplies we need. We give him all the glory!

- Katie Castelluccio





## LOCAL OUTREACH



Two things stuck out to me the most from Rocky Railway VBS this past summer. This photo of Esther represents the way I saw God moving in the youngest kiddos. Esther did join Mike on stage, but initially, just from the most hidden spot in the back row. By Thursday, she was up front, helping Annette lead worship! On it's own, her bravery would be enough. But watching the youngest girls in our church (Esther, Emberly, Suzy, Everlee, and even the Brooks' youngest girls) come together and start to form friendships that resemble the friendships that have formed within the older girls in Youth Center, was such a thing of beauty. I cannot count the number of times that week I was left speechless watching these little ones.

The other way that I saw God at work during VBS was via the Amazon Wishlist. I know, this sounds completely ridiculous! But as we created the Wishlist, we had some items that we thought of as "far fetched dream items". I should know by now, that God uses this amazing church family to always provide for VBS! We didn't just get every item we asked for, but those "far fetched dream items" were THE first ones delivered! At one point, when Fueled became a reality, we realized that we were going to need quite a bit of food to

feed 35 teens, so we added lots of snacks to our Wishlist. Over and over, our Wishlist was cleared. I am SO incredibly thankful for the way this church supports VBS! You encourage us so deeply, with the way you provide supplies, the way you step up to serve the children, and the ways you help VBS families feel welcome at VBS Sunday. Thank you, CCEG for loving so many children through VBS! May God get all the glory and may lives continue to be changed!

- **Melanie Ward**







# LOCAL OUTREACH







## LOCAL OUTREACH

### AMIRAH

The Amirah partnership continues to gain traction as we are in our third year as a church partner with this most worthy cause. There are approximately 10 individuals within our church community who serve in a volunteer basis when called by Amirah Staff to help re-home a woman in the ever-changing Rapid Rehousing Program. Thank you to the Amirah Partnership Team and Ministry for leading this collaboration.



### BURNHAM'S FIELD DAYS

This year we saw an amazing need for youth connection in inner-city Gloucester once the school year was over and summer was upon us. We met the kids where they were at, in the center of Gloucester, where our biggest park, Burnham's Field, resides. The Wednesday Field Day was created, and volunteers showed up that first Wednesday not knowing what to expect. We brought a flag football kit, soccer balls, basketballs, wiffle ball kit, an inflatable gaga pit, crafts, and snacks. Fifteen kids came that first day once they saw the setup complete.

Each Wednesday we shared a theme/word of the day, that could easily be remembered by the kids, and a prayer to Jesus. This theme could then be applied once they left the field day and went back to their everyday lives. Themes like forgiveness, love, purpose, courage, endurance, kindness, and joy in the midst of hurt, were important for us to present to the children. A few weeks into the field day, The Open Door partnered with us and provided free lunches and snacks for every child. The popularity of the field day grew, until the final field day where we had reached 150 children, and a bounce house was donated by The Open Door, as well as pizza and ice cream for everyone. God presented an amazing opportunity for us to build the field day, and He most certainly brought the children to us.



### OPEN DOOR

We continue to serve local community organizations here in Gloucester and around the North Shore area. Community Church members, Rachel Orié and Marc Nicastro, serve at The Open Door. Thank you and others for your servant hearts with The Open Door. Our prayers for The Open Door are that the necessities for life-sustaining nourishment would continue to be poured upon The Open Door, so that these items can be enjoyed by those in need in our local communities.



## LOCAL OUTREACH

### COASTAL CLEANUP

The Coastal Cleanup event was rescheduled for October this year, due to a forecasted storm on its original weekend, which made it a bit colder. However, many people still showed up to clean the beaches. Teams gathered at the church on Saturday morning and listened to Tim as he welcomed and explained our responsibility as stewards of God's earth. The teams then went out to Niles, Stage Fort, Rocky Neck, and Brace Cove and recorded collection of 872 items, out of which 500 were cigarette butts alone. Together, they removed nearly 185 lbs of garbage from the beaches.



### ACTION BACKPACKS

Our congregation has once again teamed up with the Orthodox Congregational Church of Lanesville and other churches on the Cape to collect various items to fill backpacks to be distributed by the Action homeless shelter and Amirah, Inc, who provides resources to women who have been victims of human trafficking. It is wonderful to see the commitment and generosity from everyone to support this ministry!



### LOBSTA TRAP TREE LIGHTING

Leading the city in Christmas carols was extra special as we got to celebrate Christmas AND the 400th birthday of Gloucester with the biggest tree yet, right on the water at Solomon Jacobs Landing. The Lobster Trap Tree lighting continues to be a way to serve and celebrate with our city, but even more so, it is an awesome excuse to hang out with each other, and have a heck of a lot of fun together doing it!

### BLOCK PARTY







## LOCAL OUTREACH



There have been some major changes this year with Amirah. However, a constant is that the Amirah Partnership team continues to meet every few months for fellowship, fun and prayer. We are a family united in a desire to care for these women, and our time together is special.

The first half of the year the team continued with familiar home-based opportunities. Members of the Amirah Partnership Team were able to volunteer in the home and make connections with both Amirah staff and guests. There were nights of fellowship and prayer in late winter and early spring at area churches that members from our team attended. Moving into the Easter season, Amirah was the church's Lenten Giving Partner, and the prayers and financial gifts from Community Church blessed the ongoing work and ministry of Amirah. This spring at the annual Amirah gala, team members volunteered to assist with set up, check in, and break down, while one of our own team members, David Nicastro, was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award! The spring rounded out with a team favorite—Move for Amirah—a national campaign to raise funds for

the organization by getting outside and moving, running, walking, climbing, biking, kayaking, etc. It is around this time, mid-year, that the group found out that the safe house on the North Shore would be closing and this change from a centralized safe home model, would transition into an independent living model for Amirah clients, and this would change how we as a team support Amirah.

In the words of Amirah's Executive Director, Mary Speta:

*"We are the only organization in New England offering this unique 2-year residential opportunity to women, and it is an important program, proven to be effective. We will be transitioning out of our safe home model, and we have partnered with PEHT (Partners to End Human Trafficking) to make this happen. PEHT is an organization in CT that operates a transitional safe home, and they will be taking over operations of our CT safe home while we focus our efforts on developing Rapid Re-Housing in New England. They are well-positioned to take over the operations of the CT home and continue to support women through that model. Rather than duplicating services, we are partnering to expand all options for sex trafficking survivors in New England.*

*As part of this strategic move, we will also transition out of our long-term safe home model in Massachusetts and concentrate our resources and our team on Rapid Re-Housing and our Community Resource Center, where we served more than 100 women last year. You may be wondering, what happens to our participants in our safe homes? We have invited them to come with us! They will be able to transition into our Rapid Re-Housing program over the coming months. You'll also continue to recognize our staff, as the team you have worked alongside in our MA home will be staying with us."*



## LOCAL OUTREACH

Since the North Shore home closed in late spring, volunteering efforts have completely focused on finding, storing, sorting, and delivering furniture to the apartments acquired in the rapid rehousing program. David Nicastro, Ashley Feleen, Brian Moore and others from Community Church have collected, organized storage space, and delivered furniture to the new sites.

As a Church, please pray for good, useable furniture to be donated to Amirah in order to present to the women so they can feel proud about owning it. We pray for the continued success of the Rapid Rehousing Program and that God continues to bring many more women out of the dark life of trafficking, exploitation and prostitution and into the light and arms of Jesus Christ so the real healing and transformation can begin.

The Team, Ashley Feleen, David Nicastro, Deanne Leavitt, Debbie Morel, Giovanna Torres, John Glover, Nikki Lewis



The vision of Burnham's Field Days began as a 3v3 summer basketball league, utilizing the courts at Burnham's Field. To our surprise, God morphed it into something much more inclusive for all children. One slogan I've always leaned on is, "show me." Words mean very little without action to coincide. Being a living epistle of the gospel is an important aspect of Christianity, and that's exactly what the Burnham's Field Day crew accomplished this summer. Hundreds of kids throughout the summer arrived at the field early to participate in flag football, soccer, basketball, gaga ball, HECO stix, arts & crafts, water fights, and, of course, Ben's Bubbles. The Open Door provided snacks each week, and during that snack time the message of Jesus was shared. Every person was a valuable member to the success each day. Thank you to those who actionably lived the Bible at Burnham's Field Days - Matt Nilan, David Nicastro, John Nicastro, Michael Mitchell, Laura Figurido, Andrew Nicastro, Dan Muise, Ben Guest, Nikki Lewis, Nate Williams, Journee Enos, Shep Means, Maureen Means, Rachel Orié, Janelle Wolters, Kristie Nicastro, Joan Larsen and Kelly Galante.

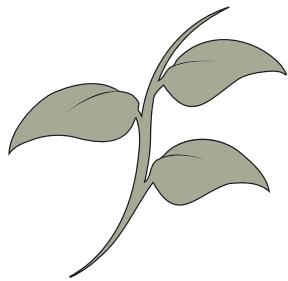
- **Marc Nicastro**





# LOCAL OUTREACH

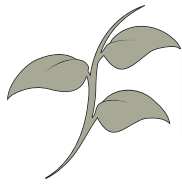




# **community** life





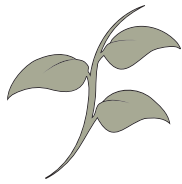


# BIRTHS



**SHILOH & EZRA**  
TO NATHAN & JANELLE WOLTERS





## DEATHS

### **NANCY J. (RUSSELL) ARNOLD**

**April 24, 1939 - April 8, 2023**

Nancy was a longstanding member of Community Church who will be deeply missed by this church community, as well as by her family and friends. As cited in her obituary, "Nancy was passionate about people of all ages - forging deep and meaningful relationships over the years, eventually retiring at the age of 81. Nancy was a woman of incredible faith, who epitomized grace. She was a voracious reader, loved to travel, and was always looking forward to her next trip. She and John enjoyed a beautiful trip to Hawaii together, but by far, her greatest trip was to Israel, The Holy Land, in 2016."



(excerpt from obituary, retrieved from: <https://obituaries.gloucestertimes.com/obituary/nancy-arnold-1087428827>)

### **MARY JEAN TEMPELHOFF**

**October 22, 1943 - October 27, 2023**

As one of Community Church's global outreach partners, "Mary-Jean was a faithful partner in ministry with her husband, John, serving for 54 years with Campus Crusade. Mary-Jean was the founder of Mother's Who Care, which positively affected generations of moms and kids around the world. Mary-Jean traveled extensively around the world with John and enjoyed the respect and love of their many ministry supporters."

(excerpt from email from John Tempelhoff, 10/28/23)



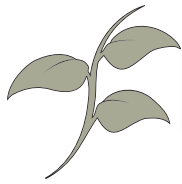
### **RICHARD FIGURIDO**

**March 20, 1971 - March 30, 2023**

Rich began attending Community Church earlier this year, and we had the privilege of walking alongside him during his final days, along with his extended family and friends. As his obituary noted, "Rich loved children and was always eager to help them. He volunteered his time to make a difference in their lives, and he cherished the children in his own family. He was an incredible father, and the way he lit up when he talked about his kids was a testament to the depth of his love for them." We mourn with Rich's family and friends for his loss and were grateful for the chance we had to know him.



(excerpt from obituary, retrieved from: <https://www.lyonsfuneral.com/obituaries/Richard-Figurido/#!/Obituary>)



## DEDICATIONS



in order from left to right

**Ezra and Shiloh Wolters**

**Esther and Amira Orie**

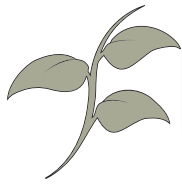
**Anna, Eevee, and Beren Ytzen-Handel**

**Suzy and Leo Matczynski**

**Emberly and Beth Mitchell**

**James Christian Broberg**





# BAPTISMS



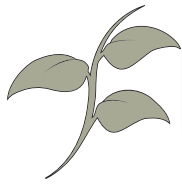
**GARFIELD ZEITLER**



**TREY BUSHFIELD**







# BAPTISMS

**AINSLEY THERRIEN**



**LILEEN MITCHELL**

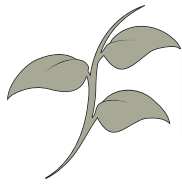


**DELILAH GLOVER**



**EMILY ORCUTT**





# BAPTISMS

**JOURNEE ENOS**



**GRACE OLSON**

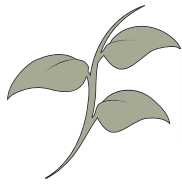


**CASHTON JONES**



**MACKENZIE BURKE**





## MEMBERS

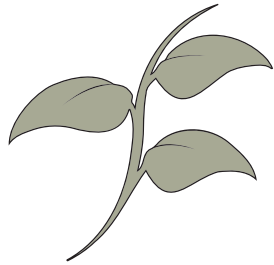
Karen Andrew  
Anthony Andrew  
Wendy Antrim  
Caleb Bae  
Morgan Bae  
Emily Bell  
John Borge  
Jacqueline Broberg  
David Broberg  
Joanna Bushfield  
Timothy Bushfield  
Betty Cannon  
Robert Cannon  
Emily Caren  
John Castelluccio  
Katie Castelluccio  
Peter Crossman  
Pamela Curtis\*  
Laura Figurido  
Benjamin Guest  
Ashley Gullett  
DJ Halbett  
Shannon Halbett  
Hannah Hartman  
Craig Herrmann  
Donna Hilton

Ron Hilton  
Dan Hughes  
Heather Hughes  
Sandy Jones  
Albert Jones  
Susan Kelly  
J. Tae-Jin Kim  
Ingrid Kinnunen  
Rusty Kinnunen  
Paul Leavitt  
Deanne Leavitt  
Nichole Lehr  
Nikki Lewis  
Chris Love  
Jocelyn Love  
Katie Madden  
Briana Mann  
Sara Martin  
Audrey Mason  
Amanda Matczynski  
Elizabeth Maurer  
Kristin Mello\*  
Debby Milne  
Skip Milne  
Michael Mitchell  
Rachel Mitchell

Brian Moore  
Joanna Moore  
Deborah Morel\*  
Joan Moynihan  
David Nicastro  
Jordan Nilan\*  
Matt Nilan  
Ron Nilsson  
Roxanne Nilsson  
Dorothy Norcross  
Michael Orié  
Rachel Orié  
Kim Sawyer  
Daren Sawyer  
Dean Sidell  
Pam Sidell  
Drew Sidell  
Abby Stroven  
Marianne Swenson  
Cory Ward  
Melanie Ward  
Russ Webber  
Janelle Wolters  
Nathan Wolters  
Bill Woodson  
Sally Woodson

\*Indicates new member  
in 2023





# **administration**





## 2023 ADMIN REPORT

God has provided a team of people to serve the ministries of Community Church behind the scenes and in a way that provides process and order and allows Community Church to fulfill its obligations as a non-profit in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and under the rules of the IRS.

As we close 2023 we want to thank Bill Woodson for his many years of service as the church bookkeeper. He has been faithful in paying bills on time, balancing bank statements, and helping to provide the appropriate separation of duties throughout. He is working with Pamela Curtis and Deborah Michel as they have stepped up to take on this role moving forward. We are thrilled to welcome them to the Admin Team.

As you can see from the financial reports, God continues to bless Community Church through the generosity and faithful giving of each of you as members and part of our congregation. As outlined at the December Budget meeting, with the addition of the RCN rental income, we are completing this year with a surplus. In an effort to conservatively plan for the future and not depend on 100% of the rental income, the Lead Team has decided to only include \$20,000 of the rental income in the 2024 budget. This increase will help cover the additional expenses related to the rental and allow us to reserve a balance that can be used to bridge the gap should the situation change in future years.

Another area of oversight for the Admin Team is the use and care of the facility. We are blessed to have a church and parsonage facility that is unencumbered, allowing us to maximize our investment in our people. Russ Webber heads up our Facility Improvement Team (FIT). Coordinating contractor work, organizing workdays and volunteer workers, and performing many projects himself, Russ spends a good part of his day off on

Mondays at the church making sure we take care of this important asset properly for His service. We also want to thank Nikki Lewis, who serves as our sexton, cleaning the church each week in preparation for worship, youth center, small groups meetings and so much more.

This year, under Russ's leadership and direction, the following projects were completed:

### **Church Building**

- Purchased and mounted projectors to the ceiling in the sanctuary
- Installed permanent wiring for the sound system
- Upgraded electrical wiring for the stage area
- Annual inspection and maintenance of the basement pump system
- Replaced the fellowship hall dehumidifier - under warranty
- New larger [7'x10'] YouthCenter shed was purchased and built by the church family
- Tree in the back corner of the church property was removed, in coordination with our neighbor's request
- Lighting upgrades to second floor office for RCN's pastor
- Annual Fire Detection and Alarm System Inspection
- Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection
- Annual Kitchen Stove Ansul System Inspection

### **Parsonage**

- Patched and painted interior walls and ceilings on first and second floor rooms, hallways and stairways
- Upgraded numerous ceiling lights with LED fixtures
- Repairs to leaking roof, found when patching and painting was being done
- Dishwasher replaced
- Garbage disposal replaced



# 2023 ADMIN REPORT

The 2024 budget is a reflection of the mission and priorities of Community Church. Our greatest investment is in people, with almost 65% of our budget as compensation and benefits. We invest in each area of our mission to Exalt, Equip, Extend and see an Enjoyment of God's presence in all the ministries of Community Church. We also endeavor to give 10% of our resources through outreach and support.

In His Service,

The Admin Team:

Tim Bushfield: Lead Pastor

Katie Madden: Ministry Coordinator

Amanda Matczynski: Treasurer

Dean Sidell: Chair

Russ Webber: Chair of FIT

Bill Woodson: Bookkeeper

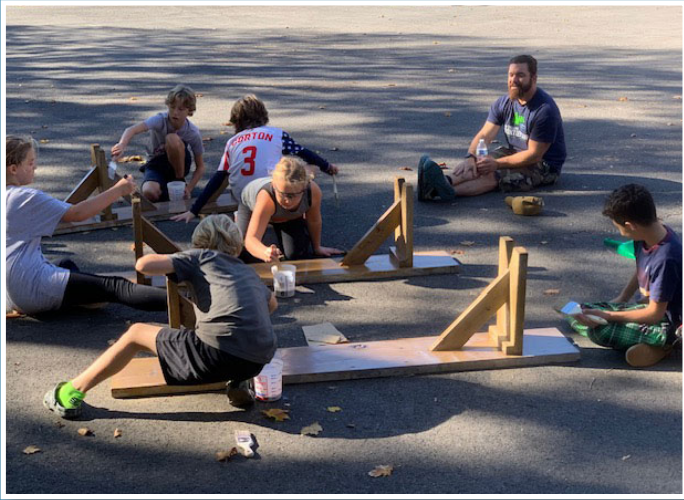
Emily Bell - Collector

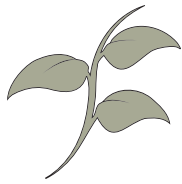






# 2023 ADMIN REPORT

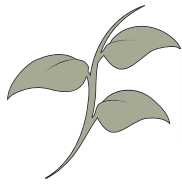




# ADMIN ANNUAL REPORT

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Community Church of East Gloucester			
2023 BUDGET REPORT AND PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET			
	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Proposed Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Operations</b>			
Regular Giving	315,000.00	339,482.45	328,000.00
Regular Cash	10,000.00	15,042.85	14,000.00
One time giving	10,000.00	5,650.00	500.00
Misc. Income	300.00	0.00	300.00
Building Use	300.00	50,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>335,600.00</b>	<b>410,175.30</b>	<b>362,800.00</b>
<b>Designated</b>			
Elders Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Designated Giving	0.00	530.00	0.00
Health Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Missions - Special	2,000.00	2,083.15	2,000.00
<b>Total Designated</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>7,613.15</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Housing Value	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Rent/Housing Value for Parsonage	<u>18,000.00</u>	<u>18,000.00</u>	<u>18,000.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>372,600.00</b>	<b>447,788.45</b>	<b>399,800.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation			
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>260,000.00</b>	<b>230,935.60</b>	<b>285,000.00</b>
<b>EXALT</b>			<b>9,200.00</b>
Worship Ministry	2,500.00	2,731.45	2,000.00
Preaching Team	650.00	0.00	700.00
Preaching Honorariums	600.00	200.00	1,000.00
<b>Connection Ministries</b>			
Fellowship Dinners/Supplies	4,000.00	5,423.20	5,000.00
Printing and Signage	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>EQUIP</b>			<b>15,725.00</b>
Small Groups			
Curriculum Materials	300.00	0.00	450.00
Sunday Morning Seminar	400.00	0.00	500.00
Womens Ministry	450.00	989.65	750.00
Mens Ministry	350.00	559.54	500.00
<b>Youth Ministry</b>			
YC General Expenses	1,500.00	1,949.10	3,875.00
YC Trips	1,510.00	2,851.23	2,100.00
<b>Childrens Ministry</b>			
Nursery General Supplies	200.00	192.32	300.00
Nursery Childcare	250.00	0.00	250.00
Sunday School	1,500.00	194.73	1,500.00
Pastors Discipleship Fund	1,500.00	3,825.52	4,000.00
Pastors Resources	1,500.00	1,206.11	1,500.00

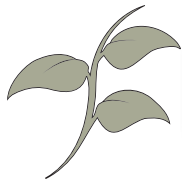


# ADMIN ANNUAL REPORT

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Community Church of East Gloucester			
2023 BUDGET REPORT AND PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET			
	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed Budget
<b>EXTEND</b>			<b>124,660.79</b>
<b>Global Outreach</b>			
Go Partners Support	16,200.00	14,105.53	16,000.00
Special Missions Funds	2,000.00	2,083.15	2,000.00
<b>Local outreach</b>			
Special Events	250.00	0.00	400.00
Vacation Bible School	3,000.00	2,795.20	3,700.00
Elders Fund Support	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Ministry Support</b>			
Telephones and Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equipment Purchases	2,500.00	2,600.00	2,000.00
Website, Sound, and Streaming	9,000.00	14,508.07	12,000.00
Church Technology and Networking	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Photocopier Expenses	2,500.00	2,090.16	2,000.00
Office Supplies	1,400.00	1,408.05	2,300.00
Printing and Publication	400.00	48.00	400.00
Gifts of Appreciation	2,000.00	1,600.00	1,648.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	974.40	500.00
Designated Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Facility</b>			
Church Utilities - Gas	3,800.00	3,261.75	6,261.75
Church Utilities - Electric	3,400.00	2,638.42	4,638.42
Water and Sewer	4,000.00	3,112.62	4,112.62
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>			
Church and Parsonage	12,500.00	25,999.95	20,000.00
Maintenance Special Projects	2,000.00	0.00	2,500.00
Cleaning Supplies	500.00	138.21	500.00
Snow Removal	1,300.00	360.00	1,300.00
Trash Removal	900.00	1,010.24	1,400.00
Insurance	13,800.00	15,693.00	16,000.00
<b>Reserves</b>			
Building Reserve	7,500.00	17,500.00	20,000.00
	<b>372,160.00</b>	<b>367,985.20</b>	<b>434,585.79</b>
2023 Rental Income		-40,000.00	40,000.00
Surplus / Loss	440.00	39,803.25	5,214.21
<b>Year End Giving</b>		11,676.00	
Unaudited Year End	440.00	51,479.25	5,214.21





# ADMIN ANNUAL REPORT

## BALANCE SHEET

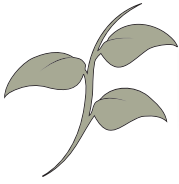
Community Church of E. Gloucester

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL	
	AS OF DEC 31, 2023	AS OF DEC 31, 2022 (PY)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1020 Santander Bank Money Market	9,882.15	9,882.15
1050 Santander Bank Checking	512,307.40	417,621.20
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$522,189.55</b>	<b>\$427,503.35</b>
Other Current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$522,189.55</b>	<b>\$427,503.35</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$522,189.55</b>	<b>\$427,503.35</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Current Liabilities		
1345 Sunday School Special Giving 2008	0.00	0.00
1500 Restricted Funds - Current	27,100.02	13,500.00
1600 Building Contingency Fund	46,210.79	46,210.79
1610 Technology Reserve	3,921.00	3,921.00
1620 Church Growth and Building Fund	78,835.00	78,835.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$156,066.81</b>	<b>\$142,466.79</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$156,066.81</b>	<b>\$142,466.79</b>
Long-Term Liabilities		
1300 Restricted Funds - Long Term	0.00	0.00
1305 Betty Wentworth	19,260.00	19,260.00
1315 Susan B. Mailman	12,500.00	12,500.00
1320 Sarah Curtis	10,559.00	10,559.00
1325 Gleaners	2,000.00	2,000.00
1330 William Goldwaithe	1,000.00	1,000.00
1335 Memorial Fund Gifts	125.00	125.00
1340 Parson-Lane Principal	527.00	527.00
1341 Parson-Lane Interest	0.00	0.00
<b>Total 1300 Restricted Funds - Long Term</b>	<b>45,971.00</b>	<b>45,971.00</b>
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$45,971.00</b>	<b>\$45,971.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$202,037.81</b>	<b>\$188,437.79</b>
Equity		
3000 Opening Bal Equity	0.00	0.00
3900 Retained Earnings	239,065.56	194,950.71
Net Income	81,086.18	44,114.85
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$320,151.74</b>	<b>\$239,065.56</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$522,189.55</b>	<b>\$427,503.35</b>





# ADMIN ANNUAL REPORT

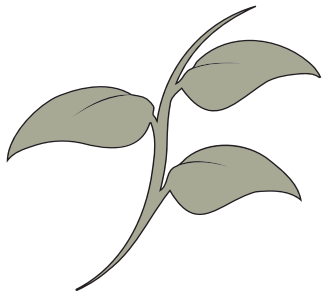
## COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Community Church of E. Gloucester

Year End Collector's Report

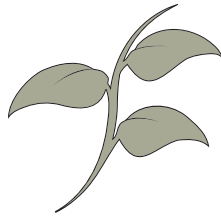
January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
1-Operations	
4000 Regular Envelope & Check	339,482.45
4010 Regular Cash	15,042.85
4120 Year-End Giving	11,676.00
4125 One-Time Giving	5,650.00
4910 Misc. Income	
4851 Building Use	50,000.00
<b>Total 4910 Misc. Income</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>
<b>Total 1-Operations</b>	<b>421,851.30</b>
2-Pass Through	<b>8,234.27</b>
3-Designated	
4180 Missions - Special	2,083.15
4600 Designated Gifts	530.00
<b>Total 3-Designated</b>	<b>2,613.15</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$432,698.72</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$432,698.72</b>
Expenses	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$432,698.72</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$432,698.72</b>



# **appendices**





# mission&vision

## Our Mission

We understand that the “mission” of the church — every church — comes from God as he has revealed it in the Bible. Accordingly, the mission of our church is aligned directly to this unchanging and universal call to churches everywhere. Community Church exists:

to EXALT God, to EQUIP His people,  
to EXTEND His grace into the world  
and to ENJOY His presence.

These “four E’s” define us and guide us as we invest our time, energy and resources into life together as a church. Our mission should never change, because it is a statement of purpose that has been revealed in Scripture. Even as we discuss vision below, it is important to see that who we are, and our overall purpose as a church is not changing at all.

## Our Current Vision

In this season, we believe we are being called to recognize that we are a part of the larger city of Gloucester and the many other cities represented as we worship together on Sunday mornings — cities into which God has intentionally placed us. Our current vision is:

Making disciples  
for the glory of Christ  
and the good of the city.

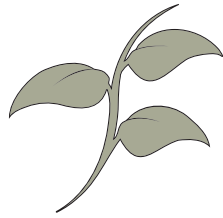
We are being called outward into the city to love and serve our neighbors in tangible and concrete ways precisely because of the God’s love for us in Christ Jesus. We are being called to work for the good of the city.

Yet, even as we head outward into the city, we will not settle for mere voluntarism or activism; we are focused on the glory of Jesus, and understand our calling to share the good news about Jesus in clear, relevant and meaningful ways. We want to celebrate Jesus and bring Him glory. So we work for the glory of Christ.

Bringing these two ideas together, we also recognize that the highest good for our cities is for our neighbors, coworkers, family members and friends to have the opportunity to meet Jesus and to respond to His saving grace, which brings Him great glory. In this way, we work for the glory of Christ and the good of the city.

To accomplish all of this, as a church we need to be making disciples — people who are following Jesus with their whole lives as we participate in our neighborhoods, as we serve in our cities, and as we love and serve those around us. So we invest in equipping the church for worship, for growth, and for sharing the love of Christ in tangible ways by making disciples and learning together how to follow Jesus more and more in all areas of our lives.





# distinctives

## Our Distinctives

As Christians, we share a common set of beliefs with millions of believers throughout history and around the world. We also recognize that we have certain distinctives, or core values, that help us maintain our identity and carry out our mission and vision together. Our distinctives are:

**Grace | Equipping | Participation | Collaboration | Sending**

### Grace

We believe grace should govern all relationships. Therefore, we extend grace to one another for the sake of unity, growth, and witness; and we extend grace to unbelievers with the hope that they may experience redeeming grace.

### Equipping

We believe it is the duty of the church to make disciples by training Christians for life and ministry. Therefore, we desire to help every believer to identify their gifts, to develop their abilities, and to equip them for effectiveness in ministry.

### Participation

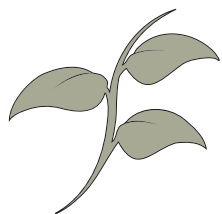
We believe that every Christian is called to ministry and uniquely gifted to build up the church and engage the world. Therefore, we invite every believer to cultivate a lifestyle of ministry and provide opportunities for participation in ministry.

### Collaboration

We believe that ministry and church leadership should be a group effort. Therefore, we embrace collaboration at every level of ministry and leadership to ensure that multiple perspectives are creatively brought to bear on our ideas, decisions, and ministries.

### Sending

We believe that all Christians are sent into the world to serve the spiritual and practical needs of their neighbors for the sake of the gospel. Therefore, we communicate the gospel in relevant ways to people in our community and partner with those who are active in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.



# doctrinal statement

*As a church we accept these areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. However, as a non-denominational church, we recognize that we are part of a larger body of Christians and denominations. We desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is with integrity based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue that hinders the ministry to which God has called us.*

**THE SCRIPTURES** - We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God, and that it is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks. (2 Tim. 3:15,16; 1 Peter 2:2)

**THE TRINITY** - We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Duet. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; Mark 12:29; John 5:17-30)

**Jesus** - We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His complete and perfect humanity. We believe in the virgin birth, in His sinless life and His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal, future return to Earth in power and glory to rule over the nations. (Isaiah 7:14; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Acts 1:9-11)

**Humanity** - We believe that man and woman were created good and upright in the image of God, but that they voluntarily sinned by disobeying God and thereby were alienated from God, and incurred both physical and spiritual death. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation. Because of the fall, each person's nature is corrupted, and they are thus totally unable to please God. (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 5:12-19)

**Salvation** - We believe that regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to salvation, and His indwelling presence necessary for the living of a Godly Christian life; and that it is only by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ that people can be saved. The salvation of all who believe is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justified them in His sight. (Luke 24:37; Rom. 3:23; 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7)

**The Holy Spirit** - We believe in the Holy Spirit as a person, separate and distinct from and co-equal in the triune Godhead with the Father and the Son. He is sent to dwell within the heart of each child of God, to comfort and to lead into all truth. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 2:4; 10:44-46; 15:8,9)

**Jesus' Return** - We believe in the victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to judgment and condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life. (Matt. 25:26; Mark 9:34-38; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8)

**The Church** - We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body, which is composed of all people, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement. (Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23)

**Ordinances** - We believe that Christians are to be baptized, and are to partake in the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. (Matt. 29:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:20-29)



## application for membership

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

As a believer in Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as Savior and Lord of my life, and having been baptized, I would like to become a member of Community Church of East Gloucester. I have read and understood the church's doctrinal statement, its statement of mission and vision, and its distinctives, and I choose to partner with the Community Church according to these documents as they represent the direction and efforts of this church.

I am a regular attender of Community Church and I commit to contributing my time and energy to the church by using the gifts and abilities the Lord has given me to support the ministry and work of the body. I commit to a lifestyle of extravagant generosity which includes giving to the church as a declaration of God's rule over all areas of my life and as an expression of thankful worship for the Lord's provision.

I willingly submit myself to the leadership of the church in matters of Christian faith and practice, asking the church as a community to keep me accountable to the faith I profess. I commit myself to growing in my relationship with Jesus Christ toward Christian maturity for the glory of God. Should my lifestyle cease to be consistent with a growing, maturing faith, I ask the church to intervene with love and grace in matters of church discipline.

I recognize that I have the opportunity to meet with a member of the leadership team to discuss any questions or concerns about the church before signing and submitting this application, and that I have taken advantage of that opportunity if it was necessary.

signature: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please do not include my contact information in the church directory.

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you so much for your interest in and commitment to our body at Community Church. Please give this signed application to one of the leadership team members, and we will review and act on it at one of our upcoming meetings. If you have any questions about the church or any of the statements on the following pages, please contact the leadership team. A full copy of the Church's by-laws is available upon request. To contact a member of the leadership team, call the church or email them at <leadteam@eastgloucester.org>, or speak to one of them on a Sunday morning.

# Congratulations!

You've read through the ENTIRE annual report and made it to the very last page! We hope you were encouraged by the stories and pictures you encountered along the way. We hereby invite you to present this ticket to anyone on the Leadership Team to be redeemed for a free coffee/tea/beverage-of-choice with that Lead Team member at a mutually agreed upon location and date.