



# Annual Report of the Congregation 2021

Annual Report respectfully compiled,  
Tai McGee, Church Administrator  
January 2022

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## **Staff**

Senior Pastor .....	Mark Inouye
Church Administrator .....	Tai McGee
Director of Children and Family Ministries .....	Chris Neely
Director of Student Ministries .....	Tracy Mueller
Big Wood School Director .....	Kim Piggins
Worship Director .....	Mark Mueller
Worship Leader and Associate Pastor .....	Sean Martin
Technical Ministries .....	Scott Eichel
Treasurer .....	Deb Dimant
Receiving Treasurer .....	Josette Stellers

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## **Church of the Big Wood Mission Statement**

We are a community of people,  
from every walk of life  
and every part of the country,  
called together through the love of God  
and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Through the enabling of the Holy Spirit  
we are pursuing the purpose of  
making disciples  
in authentic community  
for the sake of the world.

## Pastor's Annual Report 2021

Dear Church of the Big Wood Family,

Over the past two years as our world has continued to struggle with the ongoing pandemic, I've been asked many times, "How are things going at Church of the Big Wood?" As I've pondered this question this week, what has been ringing in my head are the words of Psalm 136:

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever!" (Ps. 136:1)*

Here the psalmist expresses gratitude to God not just once, but over and over - in fact, twenty-six times in twenty-six verses! And it is such thanksgiving that wells up in my heart as I look back over these past two years. This is not to minimize the hardships some of us have gone through because of the pandemic. Covid has impacted our jobs, our schools, and has left the future uncertain. Many of us have been sick - some of us seriously. We've lost loved ones and are grieving because of it.

Yet in the midst of it, there is also much for which we can give "thanks to the Lord" - here's a few things for which I'm particular thankful:

**For the Church of the Big Wood Congregation!** I've been reminded of what a special and unique group of Jesus' followers God has brought together here at this church. Some of you are full-time residents, others are part-time affiliates. Some of you are long time Idahoans, others are newer to the state. You've come from many different places, and from many different church backgrounds. Yet God is knitting us together into a faith community, I believe God is using in some wonderful ways!

**For the Church of the Big Wood's Staff!** God has brought together a remarkable team to serve together here at the church - people who are incredibly gifted, hard working and (most importantly) who love Jesus and want others to come to love Him. Thank you to our Church Administrator, Tai McGee; our Big Wood School Director, Kim Piggins; our Director of Student Ministries, Tracy Mueller; our new Director of Worship Ministries, Mark Mueller; and our new Family Ministries Director, Chris Neely. I consider it a privilege to serve with you all!

**For the evidence of God's Work!** Even in the midst of the hardship of the pandemic, we are seeing signs of God's hand working. Worship service attendance is up - we are close to (and sometimes higher than) pre-pandemic numbers, with a number of new people joining us, many of them families with children, with some of them being new to the faith. Our online streaming service continues to provide access to services for those who need to be cautious because of the pandemic, as well as to those who are just curious about who we are - we have between 90-150 views online each week. Our junior high and senior high youth groups continue to thrive; again, with many students coming from unchurched homes. December saw us with more kids in our children's Sunday School than at any other time in recent history! Our preschool is ministering to nearly 100 children (at or near capacity) - remarkable given the disruptions of covid! And all of this is possible because of the remarkable generosity of this congregation - this past year has exceeded any previous year for giving to our Operating Fund.

And these are just a sampling - I could have filled pages and pages with more things for which I am thankful. And you'll find many of them in the pages of this report. And so, for all of these blessings I invite you to join me and ...

***"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever!"***

Peace,

Mark

## 2021 Annual Report of the Session Church Officers

### ELDERS

#### Class of 2022

Dave Bjerke  
Jeff Howes  
George Kirk

#### Class of 2023

Katey Dahlstrom  
Chrissy Field  
Jennifer Halverson  
Penny Thayer

#### Class of 2024

John Martinson  
MB Mitchell  
Susan Stommel  
Mark Westman

### DEACONS

Sharon Bockemohle, Chrissy Field, Cassie Jones, Cindy Kirk, Penny Thayer (official Members)  
Carrie Kotara and Suzan Stommel (unofficial members)

Thank you to all of you for serving.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership - December 31, 2020 169 95 Women, 74 Men

#### Gains:

New Members	5	3 Women, 2 Men
Letter of Transfer	2	1 Woman, 1 Man

#### Losses:

Letter of Transfer	2	1 Woman, 1 Man
Death	7	2 Women, 5 Men

**Membership - December 31, 2021 167 96 Women, 71 Men**

Baptisms: 0

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzan Stommel  
Clerk of Session  
January 2022

## **2021 Annual Report for the Adult Ministries**

Small Group development for CBW continues to be an ongoing goal of Adult Ministries. A task force was formed. I sent out a series of questions before our first meeting to get us thinking. What are the goals of this ministry? How do we convey to our congregation the importance of being in a small group? How do we make it easy to find and join a small group? Are you willing to lead a small group? What kinds of small groups are necessary? The first meeting was a good start with different ideas and lots to think about in the direction this ministry might take. My goal was to come out of the first meeting with one concrete idea on moving forward. We decided on a survey to get a feel for the need for small groups at CBW. From the limited number and responses received, the general feeling was that interest was high both for short and long term bible studies especially with women. Learning and studying God's Word, fellowship, prayer, and community were considered to be important. I also felt that small groups are better able to know the needs of their members. During the last couple of years that has been a challenge for the larger church community. My feelings are strong about the importance of bible focused small groups that know and pray for each other on a regular basis. Small groups will strengthen and build our church community. However, easier said than done and the application process is still being discussed. Leaders to host small groups are a key element.

A men's breakfast was held in September where Carson Palmer was the speaker. The breakfast was very well attended with several men from other church families attending. Thank you Phil Doerflein and your small men's group for hosting.

Our Fall Focus was well received with many members joining a short term six-week study.

Looking forward, I see the need for a point person that can easily plug new and old members and visitors into small groups and areas in the church to serve.

A woman's retreat should be planned when circumstances allow.

Adult ministries needs a team. It is a big and very important ministry. If you are interested, please let me know. I guarantee you will be blessed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Halverson  
Elder for Adult Ministries  
January 2022

## **2021 Annual Report for the Affiliates Ministry**

Again in 2021, Covid complications prevented much of what might otherwise have happened in the Affiliates Ministry. With fewer affiliates visiting the valley and those that were here, however briefly, in the most vulnerable age group, multiple gatherings – large or small – seemed inadvisable.

That said, a brief summer's lessening of Covid concerns did allow us to gather for our annual affiliate dinner. Don and Judy Oliphant graciously opened their beautiful home and garden to a surprisingly large crowd of affiliates, which allowed us at least a small bit of contact.

Affiliates used Zoom in 2021 to attend worship services and small groups. The Affiliate Team, which in addition to myself includes my wife Lisa and Sara and Steve Dawson, kept in touch via regular newsletters and a year-end Christmas card.

The affiliates bring a unique energy to the life of our congregation at CBW and it has been my pleasure to serve as their elder.

Humbly submitted,  
Dave Bjerke  
Elder for Affiliates  
January 2022

## 2021 Annual Report for the Big Wood School

2021 has presented many unique challenges for Big Wood School, but I couldn't be more proud of how we have navigated through them all and always maintained our commitment to being a school "FOR THE VALLEY". Our mission statement, *"The Big Wood School is a community of welcoming and nurturing educators, dedicated to ministering Christ's love and grace as we encourage each young person in his/her spiritual growth and provide professional guidance to develop each child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. With the school, home and church working together, we become the anchor for effectively preparing students for life."*, continues to be at the core of all we do. And 2021 was certainly no different in that regard!

We were finally able to fully integrate the use of technology into many of our processes this year. For the first time, we held Camp Big Wood and Fall 2021 enrollment completely online. Because of the influx of new families to the valley and the increasing popularity of the school, dozens of parents stayed up until the clock struck midnight on Registration Day to ensure that their children secured a spot in our program. Contracts and fees were all managed online, making our registration process much more efficient and streamlined. We also established our Brightwheel app for check-in and check-out, as well as messaging throughout the day and health checks in the morning. When I needed to get an important update or reminder to the parents, this method became our most effective tool!

This fall, we attempted to bring back our after care program from 4:00pm - 5:30pm daily, but staffing proved to be challenging from the get-go. With most of our school staff already working 41.25 hours+ a week, additional team members were necessary to be able to operate for those extended hours. Unfortunately, I was only able to piece that together for the first three months of the school year. With the closing of the after care program, we decided to reopen our Hailey Bus Service, providing rides home from school Mondays through Thursdays. The bus departs when school closes at 4:00pm and delivers the riders to their homes. This has really helped our Hailey families by saving them time on their commute. We also once again provided a Spuds Bus for our little skiers to be able to return to school after participating in the Sun Valley Ski program.

This year we went to great lengths to modify some of our favorite signature Big Wood School events to be able to bring them back to in-person, while maintaining our pandemic protocols and keeping social distance. Gallery Walk, PreK Graduation, Family Feast, and Christmas Carols and Cookies are just some of the special events that we were able to host for our families in 2021. Rather than one big all-school event, we broke each down into three or four smaller

group gatherings. These were times that we were able to welcome our families back into the building and feel a real sense of community!

Holyn Martin rejoined the school staff this Fall and reworked our Christian curriculum into a program that we have titled "Immerse in the Verse". The students are introduced to a new Bible verse weekly and our lessons are constructed around the verse. If they are able to successfully memorize the verse, it's a trip to the Treasure Box! Our staff now consists of eighteen dedicated, nurturing, passionate educators that each bring something special and enriching to the classroom and our students' lives.

God continues to do amazing things here and makes the impossible possible. With the grace of God and the overwhelming generosity of our congregation, we have been able to continue our efforts to fulfill our mission in this valley. We strive to keep Him at the center of all we do and trust the rest will fall into place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Piggins  
Big Wood School Director  
January 2022  
(MB Mitchell, Big Wood School Elder)

## **2021 Annual Report for Building and Grounds**

The parking lot has been chip sealed and new paint applied to parking spaces.

Signs have been installed at the entrance and exit of the parking lot to make traffic flow better.

A new furnace is being installed replacing a 17-year-old unit.

Fresh signage in the church front was installed.

New carpet was installed in the River Room.

Annual maintenance and window washing accomplished.

A new handyman is engaged. He has completed most assigned tasks to date.

Waiting to have pews re-upholstered.

Various tasks completed to satisfy insurance company requirements.

Inspections completed of heating and a/c equipment, sprinkler heads, thermostats, etc.

Various maintenance tasks completed or underway at the Manse.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Martinson  
Building and Grounds Elder  
January 2022



## 2021 Annual Report for Children and Family Ministries

In 2021, while still amid the pandemic, Sarah Jones and Hollyn Martin, our Co-Directors for Family and Children's Ministry, carried on.

In the Spring, they were able to paint and decorate three rooms dedicated to Children's Sunday school. The rooms are located upstairs in our church building and are referred to as the Big Wood Kids Treehouse.

In the Summer, they held a very successful Vacation Bible School and were able to accommodate 120 children. The Big Kids, ages 6–11 years old, attended in the morning and the Pre-Schoolers, ages 4–5 years old, attended in the afternoon. This created several smaller groups which became a very effective way to teach and engage the children.

Sarah and Hollyn also created Family Outreaches such as Valentine's Day Basket Surprises and Leprechaun Tag.

They built a strong team of volunteers and supporters, then God had other plans. God called Hollyn to take a full-time position at our Big Wood School where she is using her gift and talents to engage the little ones, including designing and building a new sensory room. God impressed upon Sarah to make a shift to her young family and their needs as well as to other work opportunities that successfully use her skill sets. Sarah remains engaged in our Family and Children's Ministry, she fills in for Tai as our Office Administrator and she is a member of our church Design Team. We are pleased and privileged to have both these women involved in our School and Church activities and outreach.

Their departure opened the door for a new Director of Family and Children's Ministry. In October 2021, Chris Neely came on board. CBW'S Vision is to reach families with children at home and Chris has been well-received. You can read about Chris' background, focus and goals for the Ministry here:

*In 2015, after a long career with AT&T, God called Chris Neely and his family into full-time ministry with Young Life in Salt Lake City, Utah. Over the next few years, Chris and his family got to experience the joys and trials of following God's call in a very unique and challenging environment. It was at this time that God opened the door for Chris to join the staff of K2 the Church in Murray, Utah as their children's ministry director. Having spent over 30 years leading and serving in both children's and student ministry, Chris has a huge heart for sharing Christ's love with children and their families. So, it's no surprise that he loved seeing kids experience Christ's love in real and tangible ways while at K2. It was a joy to help grow that ministry and lead an amazing team of staff and volunteers who have such huge hearts for children and their families.*

*In June of 2021, God surprised Chris and his family by opening a new door, an opportunity to move to their favorite place ever, the Wood River Valley. Little did they know that this was just a stepping stone towards God's ultimate plan to bring Chris on board at Church of the Big Wood as their Family and Children's Director. Chris loves knowing that he can live out God's calling for his life every day in such a beautiful place. More than that, Chris is excited to take on the challenge of helping to bring God's kingdom to earth through the lives of families in the Wood River Valley.*

*Chris' vision for family and children's ministry is simple:*

*It is our role, as the Church, specifically the Family and Children's Ministry, to come along side families, through relationship, and to:*

- *Introduce children to Jesus Christ through our fun and interactive Sunday morning experience.*
- *Help children and families to fall in love with Jesus by seeing and experiencing Him through relationships with our volunteers and staff.*
- *Help children to grow in their faith by introducing them to everyday ways to follow Christ.*
- *Equipping, empowering, and encouraging parents to be the primary presenters of the Gospel in their children's lives and to help them to develop homes where Christ is the center of their family.*

*Chris and his wife, Star (an Idaho native), have five children and one daughter-in-law. Star is a fourth-grade teacher at Alturas Elementary in Hailey. Chris and Star's older children live in Austin, Texas and Colts Neck, New Jersey and their three younger children live with them in the Wood River Valley. Chris and Star understand how important it is for parents to have a loving and encouraging support system through the church when raising their children. This is why Chris is so passionate about reaching and building relationships with parents in the Wood River Valley.*

*You can stay up to date on our weekly teachings and happenings by following Big Wood Kids on our social media sights:*

*Instagram: @bigwoodkids*

*Facebook: Big Wood Kids*

Respectfully submitted,  
Chrissy Field, Elder  
Chris Neely  
Family and Children's Ministry Director  
January 2022

## **2021 Annual Report for the Deacons**

Although the Deacons Ministry had a challenging year, we tried to provide opportunities for connection with church members and others in our community.

The list of Deacons are as follows: Cindy Kirk, Carrie Kotara, Sharon Bockemohle, Chrissy Field & Suzan Stommel.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, we were not able to host weekly coffee hour after church on Sundays for the first part of the year. As conditions improved, in May we re-booted the coffee hour fellowship. During the warm summer months, we hosted on the back patio. As it began to get cooler, we moved to the front of the church where the sun provided warmth at that time of day. In November we purchased two standing propane heaters and used them for the coffee hour, as well as, for check in/out at the preschool. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to re-connect with others during this time.

On July 11, the Deacons and other members of the congregation hosted the Annual All Church Picnic on the back patio and the river lawn. It was very well attended and enjoyed by many.

In October, the Deacons assisted with the coordination of a memorial service for Bunny Manus. The team was exceptionally supportive and the service was beautiful. It was a privilege to have been a part of honoring a wonderful member of our congregation.

For most of the year, we have not been permitted to offer communion to shut-ins and residents at our local senior care facilities. Hopefully, we can re-start this practice in the coming months.

At the end of the year, as an additional effort to create connection, Cindy Kirk, Carrie Kotara, Katey Dahlstrom, Dave & Lisa Bjerke, Penny Thayer sent Christmas cards to all church members. It is hoped that this outreach was well received and we plan to send cards next year as well.

Moving forward, we are always looking for ways we can provide opportunities for community building, compassion & support to those in need. We look forward to continuing to host coffee hour, the annual summer all church picnic and bringing back events such as Dinners for 8, the Spaghetti dinner for the preschool, chili cook off/hanging of the greens, etc. If you know of anyone that would like to be a member of the Deacons Team, please send me their contact information and I will reach out to them. We have lots of room to grow this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Thayer  
Deacons Ministry Elder  
January 2022

## 2021 Annual Report for the Design Team

The goal and mission of the Design Team is to create a warm and welcoming environment at CBW.

In the Spring of 2021, we assisted Sarah and Hollyn (Family and Children's Ministry Co- Directors) with the creation of three dedicated Sunday School rooms. They are upstairs in the church building and are called the Big Wood Kids Treehouse.

The Design Team completely redid the River Room with new paint, carpet, window shades (for napping children), console tables, stools, storage benches, artwork and other accessories. Many thanks to a generous donor to our church who made this possible!

We worked with the Worship Team to decorate for Christmas and then to put it all away.

We continue to clean out closets and reorganize.

The Design Team also provides flowers for the communion table and outdoor flowers and decorations.

The sanctuary has been painted, a new shade has been ordered (it will be installed soon) and the pews will be reupholstered in early spring.

The Design Team also participated, along with John Martinson and Sarah Jones, on the For The Valley gift bag outreach

Respectfully submitted,  
Chrissy Field  
Design Team Elder  
January 2022

## 2021 Annual Report of the Finance Committee

### Financial Health

The generosity of those who support Church of The Big Wood has enabled the church to continue and expand its outreach in the valley. The church finances are in good health with good banking balances and will allow the church to continue all of its existing programs as well as add new programs that are designed to bring more people into a relationship with Christ.

### 2021 Donation Income

Total income for the year was \$854,168 which is \$127,768 more than the budgeted \$726,400. In addition there were other gifts for the year of \$159,680 which includes bequests and both restricted and unrestricted gifts.

The Big Wood School is operating at a breakeven level despite the effects of Covid.

### 2021 Expenses

Total ordinary expenses for the year were \$794,638 which is \$23,256 more than the budgeted \$771,382. In addition, there were other budgeted and non budgeted expenses of \$94,081 which includes both major and minor facility upgrades and maintenance projects.

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Operating Donation Income	811,458.03	690,000.00	778,756.00
Adult Ministry	1,178.00	500.00	1,000.00
Building Rental Income	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,250.00
Youth Ministry	4,725.23	0.00	0.00
Children's Ministry	12,162.62	3,000.00	0.00
Interest Income	76.53	0.00	0.00
Missions (Agape)	6,325.00	0.00	0.00
Flowers	0.00	500.00	0.00
Misc. Income (Reimbursements)	42.83	0.00	0.00
Hailey South Campus	15,800.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>854,168.24</b>	<b>726,400.00</b>	<b>812,006.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Administrative Expenses	520,627.65	508,415.12	539,678.80
Adult Ministry	1,982.25	1,500.00	1,500.00
Building & Grounds	89,157.62	95,484.00	91,645.00
Children's Ministry	14,976.11	16,500.00	16,500.00
Hospitality/Cong Care	4,852.11	7,100.00	7,100.00
Missions/Outreach	81,122.73	60,000.00	77,875.00
Worship/Music	17,963.55	18,979.00	23,207.00
Youth Ministry	29,910.99	31,500.00	31,500.00
Hailey South Campus	34,045.46	31,904.00	34,985.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>794,638.47</b>	<b>771,382.12</b>	<b>823,990.80</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>59,529.77</b>	<b>-44,982.12</b>	<b>-11,984.80</b>
<i>*rolling Agape Fund</i>			<i>50,914.00</i>

## 2022 Budget

Session has adopted a budget which anticipates operating donation income of \$778,756.

Session would like to express our deep appreciation for the support that the church has received this past year which has allowed the church to not only to provide all of its usual services but also to fully support the churches Missions donations and the Agape Fund which continues to provide much needed support to families in the valley. The church also continues to support the Commons in Hailey which is of great benefit in the church's outreach to youth in the valley and is now being used to support other needs such as adult Bible studies.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Howes  
Finance Committee Elder  
January 2022

## 2021 Annual Report for Church Missions

The Overseers of the Missions at CBW are tasked with the privilege of "Touching the World for Christ". We accomplish this with our support of local, national, and international missionaries. This past year, we were blessed by the generosity of the congregation and given a budget of \$69,000. This is based on prior giving levels and equates to ten percent of the total CBW budget. During 2021, overall CBW giving exceeded budget by a fair amount. This resulted in an additional \$21,000 being allocated to Missions.

We, as a committee, also established a "reserve" fund. This was to be available to support any missionaries that feel God calling them after our budgets were set and to have available in the event of a shortfall. Last year, with the generosity of the congregation, we were able to support the following missions:

### Locally

1. **Youth Ministry (\$5,048)** This fund supports our youth missions over and above the Youth Ministry Budget.
2. **SONDance Retreat Center (\$1,000)** This donation was used for helping maintain Mike and Teri Higgs' retreat center that helps ministers and missionaries heal, restore, and reignite their passion for the calling the Lord has placed on their hearts.
3. **Global Community Partners in Boise: (\$4,800)** Nick and Laura Armstrong (son-in-law and daughter of John and Jan Newcomb) work to build a bridge between the Church and the Nations at our doorstep in Boise, Idaho.
4. **The Big Wood Pre-School (\$10,000)** This money was used for scholarships to the preschool for families that cannot afford the entire tuition. For some families in our community this is the only exposure to Christ their child may have and financially they were not able to afford the tuition.
5. **The Agape Fund: (\$14,164)** George Kirk and Jennifer Halverson manage this fund. It goes to help people who are in need of immediate financial aid (i.e. housing, utilities, food,

	<b>Jan - Dec 21</b>
<b>5500 · Missions/Outreach</b>	
<b>5500.2 · Outside Missions</b>	
5501 · Cole Missions (Armstrongs)	4,800.00
5504 · Mapalo Orphange	10,000.00
5505 · SONdance Retreat Center	1,000.00
5509 · Hunger Coalition	5,000.00
5510 · Living Water	5,000.00
5511 · Life Water	5,000.00
5521 · Northrise University	10,000.00
5524 · Free Wheelchair Mission	500.00
WR Hospice	2,000.00
Suicide Prevention	700.00
Orphan Network	1,000.00
5526 · Reserve/Misc	5,910.00
<b>Total 5500.2 · Outside Missions</b>	<b>50,910.00</b>
<b>5500.5 · Church of the Big Wood Outreach</b>	
5506 · Ketchum Community Dinners	
<b>Total 5506 · Ketchum Community Dinners</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
5523 · School Scholarships	10,000.00
5527 · Agape Fund	14,164.31
5960 · Missions - Youth Ministry	5,048.36
<b>Total 5500.5 · Church of the Big Wood Outreach</b>	<b>30,213.00</b>
<b>Total 5500 · Missions/Outreach</b>	<b>81,123.00</b>

medical treatments and medicines) to alleviate short-term cash flow strains due to illness, layoffs, medical issues, etc. This amount is about double what we've distributed in prior years, for obvious reasons, and your generosity towards this fund have led us to seek out community partners to more effectively put this fund to work.

6. **The Hunger Coalition (\$5,000)** The money is used to help feed the hungry in Wood River Valley.
7. **Ketchum Community Dinners (\$1,000)** This money was used to help stock and support our community's efforts to feed our food-challenged with free meals served on Wednesday nights.

## Miscellaneous Fund

**Reserve Account: (\$5,910)** This account was established to be available for missionaries seeking support throughout the year or new missions that might arise. Due to your generosity,



we have spent **\$3,700** on other missions such as Wood River Hospice, Suicide Prevention Hotline, and the Orphan Network.

## Internationally

1. **Northrise University: (\$10,000)** Located in Zambia, the money was used to sponsor four students for one year at this Christ Centered University and to help with Campus construction.
2. **Mapalo Orphanage (Give Hope for Life): (\$10,000)** The money went for the general fund of the Orphanage and Academy to help with meals, teachers, and providing basic healthcare for approximately 350 students.
3. **Living Water International: (\$5,000)** Currently at work in eighteen countries around the globe, partnering with communities to provide critically needed clean water, along with sanitation and hygiene training and education. In addition to clean water, LWI focuses on "Living Water", provided only by Jesus Christ all with and through the local church, transforming lives both physically and spiritually.
4. **Life Water Ministry: (\$5,000)** This amount will help sponsor a Village Water Project for an underserved community in rural Africa. This would include sustainable water source serving up to 300 people as well as sanitation and hygiene training with an emphasis on sharing the Gospel through partnerships with local churches and church planting organizations.
5. **Free Wheel Chair Missions: (\$500)** \$79 gets one manufactured and delivered wheelchair to over 91 developing countries.

As a missions committee, we want to encourage those whom the Lord has placed a call on their heart, to join us in prayer for these amazing servants of God, and their success in their missions. To find out more information about these missions, please contact anyone on the missions committee: Jennifer Halverson, Pastor Mark Inouye, George Kirk and Tedde Reid.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Westman  
Missions Elder  
January 2022

## 2021 Annual Report for Personnel Committee

Covid once again created significant obstacles last year with the school. Kim had to anticipate the implementation of a State Wide law requiring the possible reduction in class size by 1/3. In order to avoid the crisis that a reduction of 1/3 of the students after the school year began would have on the students and parents, she recommended making the reduction before the school year began to help avoid the crisis that the change would have after beginning the year with full enrollment.

The effect of the change required a restructuring of the school budget due to the decline in tuition as well as Compensation issues with the Staff. Per Kim's recommendation to maintain full salary compensation for the Staff and Aids, Session agreed to support the "full Compensation" recommendation. We believed that it was the "Right thing to do".

Throughout this effort, Kim and her Staff were absolutely excellent in their planning, coaching and implementation of the steps required to ensure a transition to this unexpected set of events. Further, the school currently has a waiting list for potential students. They have created an EXCELLENT reputation in the Valley that has gained confidence with many new families bringing their children for enrollment and also beginning to attend Church services.

### **Personnel Changes**

Hollyn Martin transferred to the preschool staff and now works with Kim.

Sean Martin has agreed to serve on an interim basis during the year and will preach on Sundays up to twelve (12) times.

Mark Mueller has moved to full time Worship Director. He will assist Tracy with the Youth Ministry for the time being.

Tracy Mueller has assumed the Youth Director role full time. Currently there is an opening for a ½ time Youth Associate working for Tracy. Mark is assisting her until the ½ time position is filled.

Sarah Jones has decided to spend more time with her family. She will continue in a part-time role pending her availability.

### **New Family & Children's Ministry Director**

Following the Church Vision presented last Spring by Pastor Mark, Session began a planning process to more fully understand the area we needed to address to help fulfill the Vision. During the 4 months of discussion and planning, a new Staff role titled Family and Children's Ministry Director was approved. This role serves as an active outreach to the Community with a program effort that includes the families and children.

Chris Neely was hired into this new position. He is a life long Christian with years of experience serving youth, children and families. God's role in bringing Chris, his wife Starr & family to us has been evident in that they moved here last year from Utah. Chris introduced himself to Pastor Mark months before we had even considered this new Ministry role. When we began to identify the job role for the position Pastor Mark remembered his meeting with Chris and provided his name to the Session Nominating Committee. Not only did the Lord provide us with the right candidate, he also provided a "new local" who had purchased a new home in the valley and could assume the responsibilities immediately. What a BLESSING!

### **For The Valley**

I participated with Pastor Mark, Dave Bjerke and George Kirk discussing and planning for expanding the Vision into the Valley. We opted to remain focused on families and children and the "unchurched" families as an initial step in the development of this Vision. We decided to limit the number of activities in the first year in order to provide the resources and planning necessary to succeed in our efforts.

We also recommended a focus on Bible Study groups' as we developed a waiting list of members and attendees seeking participation in these groups. This activity will have Session's full attention this year.

### **Staff Benefits**

We arranged to have medical insurance reviews between our insurance agent and the Staff to review new options that are available to them. These meetings were started in the Fall 2021 and have concluded per my knowledge.



## **Covid**

We had an outbreak over the holidays after a children's retreat. Chris Neely and family contracted the virus and are currently recovering. Chris should rejoin us this week.

## **ECO National Gathering**

The convention is February 1, 2, 3 in Highland Park, TX. Currently the staff and I are planning on attending. I have been appointed as a Commissioner for the purpose of voting on ECO policies. Currently there has not been a cancellation of the event due to Covid, however that option is still under consideration depending on the situation in the Dallas area and availability of transportation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Peterson  
Personnel Committee Chair  
January 2022

## **2021 Annual Report for Student Ministries**

The Winter Season of 2021 started wonderfully with some of our highest attendance of the year. Youth were still engaged in online learning and only attending school twice a week. The community, emotional and spiritual support Fuel offered during this time was essential after the hardship of 2020. We held special events like Tarp Sledding and Extreme Hide and Seek. In February, we took the Junior High on a Retreat to Camp Perkins and, because of the protocols in place, we were able to gather safely and had a great time. Fuel teamed up with the Children's ministry for the Leprechaun Chase in March. April and May cruised right along with events like Bubble Soccer, Bowling at Sun Valley Resort and a scavenger hunt game through the neighborhoods in Hailey titled Bigger or Better. We celebrated and said goodbye to eight seniors as they graduated in May as well as our long time youth assistant Jhon Yallico as he began school at Boise State. Jhon, thank you for your heart and service!

The highlight for Fuel youth came at the beginning of summer when we were given the opportunity to lead worship on June 6th. The youth band led songs with the help of Mark, and we had a special skit performance for the message complete with a children's sermon. We were so proud of each and every youth who shared the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was an amazing opportunity for leadership and personal growth for all of us. Thank you to everyone who supported and encouraged us to participate and share that Sunday.

We took a trip to Stanley at the end of June which included white water rafting and an overnight campout in the Sawtooths. It was a quick summer trip but full of great memories. We cooked meals over the fire and spent time jousting each other on Lake Perkins. We finished our trip with archery, rock climbing and star gazing. Youth continued to attend the Commons on long summer days throughout July. August included several backyard BBQ hangs where we shared a meal together and played some outdoor games into the evening before school started in September.

Mark started the transition to full time Worship Leading in the fall of 2021. He has still been very much a part of Fuel nights every Sunday as we search for someone to replace him. We met several times for Fuel at Hop Porter Park near the Commons as late summer gave way to fall. It was a great space to meet outside without masks but not always the ideal place for uninterrupted

Bible study. As October approached and the days became shorter, we met at the church in Ketchum. We began a high school girls Bible Study on Tuesday nights at the Commons in November. We finished the year with a Fall Retreat to Salt Lake City, a Turkey Chase in collaboration with Family Ministry and a Christmas Party with a gift exchange.

We are excited to add to the Youth Ministry team in 2022 and we pray for God's faithfulness in the year ahead.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Mueller  
Director of Student Ministries  
January 2022  
(Katey Dahlstrom, Student Ministries Elder)

## **2021 Annual Report for the Worship Committee**

2021 and the ongoing pandemic led to continued changes in worship at Church of the Big Wood (CBW).

Most notably, the worship leading position that was being shared by Mark Mueller and Sean Martin has become the full-time position for Mark Mueller, who has transitioned away from his duties in youth ministry. Sean has been retained as a substitute worship leader and preacher for 12 Sundays per year, for those weeks that either Pastor Mark or Mark M. might be away.

Our tech and sound leadership position has also changed hands, from being so capably led by Jay Cutler over these past years to the capable hands of Scott Eichel, the technical director with the Sun Valley Company.

As the pandemic has continued to impact our in-person worship we have continued to upgrade and improve our live-streaming equipment and capabilities. Our objective is to make the live stream experience as close to in-person as possible, as we continue to believe this medium will reach a broader audience. Towards this aim, we are purchasing dedicated lap-tops and an additional camera for the tech team.

We continue to look to expand our technology team. If any of you would like to participate in the ministry, please let Mark Mueller know. Training is readily available.

Our usher ministry is being capably led by Wendy Eklund, and our deacons, led by Penny Thayer, continue to provide and prepare our monthly communions.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, with the Worship Leader position now again being full-time and occupied by Mark Mueller, we will be expanding the breadth of participation in the Worship Ministry. We had over fifteen people at a kick-off gathering in November who have expressed interest in participating in leading worship. If you are interested, please let Mark M. know. Mark is now able to look further ahead in the worship planning and will be integrating more and more people into Sunday participation, as well as to continue to improve the spirit of the presentation. In hopes of furthering a fellowship amongst those participating, Mark is looking to integrate a regular weekday rehearsal into the mix (to take some of the pressure off of Sunday morning), to

be prepared further in advance, and to allow the Holy Spirit to more readily flow through those leading our Sunday worship.

We continue to pray for the pandemic to recede, so that our congregation can once again attend Sunday worship worry-free. In the interim, we hope to continue to improve our live-stream, to make the on-line experience as authentic as possible, to expand our participation in worship leading, to create an intimate fellowship amongst the worship leading team, and to engage and connect with our congregation by emanating the Holy Spirit!

Respectfully submitted,  
George Kirk, Worship Elder  
Mark Mueller, Worship Director  
January 2022