



# Sunset Church

## 2023 Annual Report



# Table of Contents

Pastoral Message	2
Current Ruling Elders	6
Officers of the Corporation	9
Nominees for Ruling Elders	10
Report of the Clerk of Session	11
Financial Status	12
Financial Statements	14
Designated Funds	16
Building Fund	17
Missions & Outreach	18
Community Assistance	19
Ministry Stories	20

# Message from Pastor Steve

Dear Sunset Family,

**Our mission is to make disciples of all nations — who are being transformed into the likeness of Christ.** This is our mission because it is the Great Commission of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20). And we defined the word “disciple” the way the apostle Paul defined a disciple — someone who is being transformed from one degree of glory to ever-increasing glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The way we make and become disciples at Sunset Church is by encouraging one another to live out our **core values**.

**We create joyful and loving connections with Jesus and others.**

We want to see as many people as possible connect to Jesus. We also want to see everyone connect to the body of Christ. Our primary way of connecting believers together is through small groups. We long to see members and active attenders experience authentic relationships, belonging, and care through involvement in some kind of small group.

**We grow in Christ through spiritual practices.**

The three primary spiritual practices that we resource and support are worship, Bible study, and prayer.

We long to see everyone growing in Christ through both private and gathered **worship**. We have created a monthly “Sunset Church Worship Playlist” on Spotify to encourage personal worship. (Spotify includes the lyrics on most songs so you can sing along.) During my morning prayer times, I have included listening to the worship songs that we will sing in our upcoming services.

We long to see everyone growing in Christ through **Bible study**. Bible study continues to be one of the primary ways that people grow in faith. We highly encourage the study, reading, reflection, meditation, and memorization of the scriptures.

We long to see everyone growing in Christ through both private and gathered **prayer**. We focus on prayer as a church during the season of Lent. We encourage participation in our 24-7 Prayer Ministry. We encourage everyone to have a regular daily prayer rhythm. Our hope is that we all enjoy an ongoing, intimate, conversational relationship with Jesus through prayer. While we join Jesus in these three core spiritual practices, we do encourage everyone to explore the many other spiritual practices that help us grow in Christ (e.g., Sabbath, fasting, silence & solitude, thanksgiving, service).

**We serve others in love.**

We long to see everyone serving others in love. We have many opportunities to serve in our church or communicate ways to serve outside our church in the name of Jesus. We serve locally, regionally, and globally. Jesus came to serve and not to be served, and so we follow his example. Serving is a tremendous joy and blessing. Jesus says it is better to give than to receive.

**We share the Good News of Jesus.**

At Sunset Church, we do this in two primary ways. First, we share our **3-word testimonies** of how we came to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We long to see every member of Sunset Church write their 3-word testimony. We also share **Good News Stories**. At most elders and staff meetings, we ask the question, “Where have you seen God at work?” We long to create a culture that celebrates what God is doing.

**We have been working on creating long-term strategic goals related to some of our aspirational values.**

**We value investing in the next generation.**

Most people come to faith before the age of 18, so we deeply value investments in our children and youth. One of our 5-year goals is to see flourishing children and youth ministries.

**We value celebrating ethnic diversity.**

God's vision is a vision of an international, multi-ethnic church around the world. One of our 10-year goals is to have our congregation better reflect the ethnic makeup of the community within a 5-mile radius of our church.

I'm grateful to each and every member of Sunset Church who joins us in our mission. I love to imagine our church unifying around our mission, values, and goals. I imagine we would have a lot of Good News Stories to share. And speaking of Good News Stories, I would like to share some good news/highlights in my report.

**CELEBRATING HIGHLIGHTS (Oct 2022–Oct 2023)**

**GOVERNANCE:**

As the moderator of our Session of Elders, I'm happy to report that we completed our review of the Sunset Bylaws and the Session Policy Manual. We also completed the EPC Leadership Training Guide scheduled chapters which are required training for all current elders. We also completed the Senior Pastor Performance Evaluation process. And we enjoyed our annual Christmas party. (Thanks to Kent & Nancy Richards for hosting!)



## THEMATIC GOALS:

We pursued two thematic goals this past year. **Our thematic goal for Oct 2022-Feb 2023 was "Healthy Transitions."** (You can read about how we approach thematic goals by reading *The Advantage* "Chapter 2: Creating Clarity" by Patrick Lencioni.)

Below are a few of our defining objectives and the results.

### 1. Successful transition to Subsplash.

To save Sunset Church on financial giving processing costs, we transitioned away from PayPal to Subsplash for our online giving. This also allowed us to create our Sunset Church app, which has been a wonderful tool for communicating. I am grateful to Rick Noling, Karen Carroll, and Mai Anh Hall for their work on this transition.

### 2. Successful transition to Insperity HR group.

We considered transitioning from EPC Benefits to Insperity HR Group. After testing and evaluating this product, we decided not to change.

### 3. Successful Christmas Outreach transition.

After listening to the needs of our Christmas Outreach ministry partners, we transitioned to supporting the Beaverton School District through gift cards. We also added Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree. The latter two were so well received that we are increasing our partnership this upcoming year. I am grateful to Sheri Schlieff and Maddie Martinez for all their work on this transition.

### 4. Successful transition to a new Church Administrator.

I am profoundly grateful for our outgoing Minister of Administration, Rick Noling. He is an incredible blessing to Sunset. He gave us a one-year notice and helped support the transition to a new Church Administrator. And I am grateful to God for bringing us our wonderful new Church Administrator, Bob Thomas. He has already been an incredible blessing to our staff.

### 5. Successful transition for Youth Group to new space.

We decided to create a dedicated space for our youth ministry in the lower floor of the east wing. I am deeply grateful for Travis Cibolski who installed new sound systems in both the gym and basement. I'm also grateful for all the staff and volunteers who helped recreate the Kid's Town area to a youth group ministry space. I'm especially grateful to Nate Salinas and his father who helped paint that area.

**Our thematic goal for Mar-Sep 2023 was to "Increase Evangelism."**

### 1. Acts of the Holy Spirit: Adventures of Paul (Acts 13-28).

It was a joy to preach through the "Adventures of Paul" sermon series. It gave us an opportunity to learn from Paul how to share the Good News of Jesus.

### 2. Encourage the congregation to share the Good News of Jesus with at least one person during the sermon series.

During the "Adventures of Paul" sermon series, I challenged our entire congregation to share the Good News of Jesus with one person. It was wonderful to hear the many stories of how our congregation responded to this challenge. It was inspiring to see the various ways in which our congregation creatively shared the Good News of Jesus.

### 3. Encourage the congregation to pray for five people during the sermon series.

During the "Adventures of Paul" sermon series, I challenged our entire congregation to pray for five people to put their faith in Jesus. I am amazed that our congregation continues to pray for their five people well after the sermon series was completed.

### 4. Read and discuss the SharePDX Portland Evangelism Report with Staff.

The Luis Palau Association interviewed over 50 pastors in the greater Portland metro area about evangelism. They created the PDX Portland Evangelism Report based on those findings and their research. This report included "9 Key Findings" and provided practical ways to pursue evangelism. The staff read through and discussed this report in order to think through how they could increase evangelism in their area of ministry.

### 5. Teach the congregation about the Alpha Course.

A significant objective of this thematic goal was to successfully launch the Alpha Course at Sunset Church. We realized that in order for the Alpha Course to be successful we needed to teach our congregation about it. We tried to achieve this by creating the "Come & See" sermon series in order to introduce the Alpha Course.

### 6. Encourage the congregation to invite someone to the Alpha Course.

As part of our "Come & See" sermon series, we challenged our congregation to make invitations to others. We created a large poster board with the Alpha logo for people to attach a red sticker whenever they made an invitation as a way to inspire invitations. The hope was that by practicing making invitations, it might be easier for the congregation to invite a non-Christian to learn more about Jesus and the Christian faith through the Alpha Course.

continued on next page

# Message from Pastor Steve (cont.)

## 7. Train Alpha Leaders.

I am pleased to report that we have over 24 people who have volunteered to serve as a leader or host for our Alpha Courses. I am also pleased to announce that 11 of those leaders received formal training through the Alpha Ministry in August 2023.

## 8. Launch the Alpha Course.

I am grateful to Nate Salinas for taking the lead in launching the Alpha Course at Sunset Church on September 11, 2023. Praise God, there were enough leaders and participants that we needed to offer two Alpha Course meetings per week.!

## HR: NEW STAFF

I thank God for bringing us some outstanding new staff members (as well as returning staff in new roles\*). Each one genuinely loves Jesus and Sunset Church. They have each brought energy and passion for the ministry at Sunset.

- Church Administrator (Bob Thomas)
- \*Audio/Video Tech Assistant (Nick Lind)
- Internet Technology (AlwaysOnIt)
- Front Desk & Church Administrator Coordinator (Bobbie Woodruff)
- \*Finance & HR Director (Jessica Marshall)
- \*Interim Middle School Youth Manager (Carrie Peebles)
- \*Interim High School Youth Manager (Laura VanderGiessen)

I am deeply grateful for each one.

I am also profoundly grateful for all our amazing volunteer leaders and volunteers.

## HR: STAFF CONNECTIONS

In terms of staff management, over the last year we have met (at least weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly) with direct reports, and they have met at least bi-weekly with their reports. In addition, we have weekly ministry staff meetings and all-staff meetings for communication.

### • Staff Retreat

We had a wonderful staff retreat last year. Our goal was that it would be spiritually nourishing, restful, and fun. I believe we achieved that goal. Our guest speaker, Kelly Dickson, did an amazing job as we reflected on the orientation, disorientation, and reorientation themes in the Psalms. It was a great time to reconnect and pay attention to our spiritual life together.

### • Encourage Staff

We were happy to offer a very small token of our appreciation this year as a small thank you (e.g., Christmas gift card).

### • Staff Christmas Party

We enjoyed our annual Christmas party. (Thanks to Nate & Erin Salinas for hosting!)

## HR — PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS:

### • Job Descriptions & Task Lists on Google Drive

We completed the review and update process of all job descriptions and task lists.

### • Staff Performance Evaluation process (starting w/Job Descriptions)

I am pleased to announce that we are in the process of completing our annual performance evaluation process. We planned quarterly meetings for our process. First, we set and evaluated goals (Aug-Oct). Second, we reviewed our mission, pathway, and values (Nov-Jan). Third, we met for the mid-year goals update (Feb-Apr). Fourth, we reviewed our job descriptions and task lists (May-July).

## SERMON SERIES:

### • “Acts of the Holy Spirit: Adventures of Peter” (Acts 3-10) (Sept-Nov 2022)

We started the “Acts of the Holy Spirit” sermon series (May-June 2022). We followed up that sermon series up with a series on the “Fruit of the Spirit” (June-July 2022). It was a joy to preach through the “Acts of the Holy Spirit: Adventures of Peter” (Acts 3-10). It was wonderful to see how the Holy Spirit worked through the life of the Apostle Peter. The work of the Holy Spirit, in the book of Acts was the perfect book to be studying as the world witnessed the revival at Asbury College in Kentucky that spread throughout the nation and around the world. I really feel like the Holy Spirit inspired the decision to study the book of Acts at this particular time in the life of our church and in the life of our nation.

### • “Songs for a Savior” (Advent) (Dec 2022)

We took a break from our focus on the Holy Spirit in order to focus on Jesus during Advent. It was wonderful to look deeply at the songs that were sung surrounding the birth of our Lord and Savior. Each song brought fresh revelation about Jesus and helped us anticipate the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

### • “Acts of the Holy Spirit: Adventures of Paul” (Acts 9,13-28) (Jan-June 2023)

It was wonderful to join Paul on his three missionary journeys in the book of Acts. Paul's courage to share the Good News of Jesus and his cultural context was deeply inspiring. I was grateful we could all learn from Paul how to share

the Good News of Jesus with the world. As an extension of this sermon series, I hosted a spiritual pilgrimage on Paul's 2nd & 3rd missionary journeys to Greece and Turkey. It was wonderful to walk in the footsteps of Paul as we walked through the ancient city of Ephesus where Paul spent three years. We also climbed atop the Acropolis and Areopagus where Paul was on trial in the city of Athens. We also stood at the very spot where Paul was on trial before the Roman proconsul in the ancient city of Corinth. While on the trip I read *Paul: A Biography* by N.T. Wright. The book walks through Paul's life through the lens of the book of Acts. I was deeply inspired by his life of faith and how he changed the world through his witness to Jesus.

- **"Come & See" to introduce the Alpha Course (July 2023)**

One of our goals this year was to successfully launch the Alpha Course. We realized that in order for the Alpha Course to be successful we needed to teach our congregation about the Alpha Course. We tried to achieve this by creating the "Come & See" sermon series in order to introduce it. I wasn't sure how the congregation would respond to four weeks of video sermons with short in-person introductions and conclusions. But this series was well received, and I am grateful. Now I pray that we can all create an invitational culture at Sunset and that many will come to saving faith in Jesus through this evangelistic tool.

- **"How God Uses our Stories" (Aug 2022)**

Dr. Barb Feil looked at the stories of four people in the Bible and how, despite their past, wounds, inadequacies, and/or their pain and suffering, God used their stories. I am deeply grateful to Barb for the gift of this thoughtful sermon series. This series culminated in a special worship service where we got to hear three people from our congregation share how God has used their stories. It was one of my favorite worship services last year.

- **"Gospel of John" (Part 1: God Among Us) (Sept–Nov 2023)**

The Gospel of John is one of my favorite books in the Bible. John said he wrote this Gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). This Gospel is a call to believe in Jesus. The word "believe" appears over 100 times in John's gospel. We see the word in almost every scripture passage. In light of this call to believe, I felt this would be a perfect follow-up after our "Acts of the Holy Spirit"

sermon series that focused on the Holy Spirit and evangelism. Now we get to focus our attention on Jesus. In light of an upcoming presidential campaign and the culture of divisive politics, I thought that this would be a good time to focus on our one true good and reliable king, Jesus. I am planning on breaking this book up into various mini-sermon series along the way. Please pray with me as I hope many will come to saving faith in Jesus through this sermon series.

## HIGHLIGHTS AHEAD (Oct 2023–Sept 2024)

I would like to highlight a few of our long-term goals:

### 5-year Goals:

1. Flourishing children and youth ministries
2. Create a culture of joyful and loving connections
3. Well-equipped leaders functioning with joy

### 10-year Goals:

1. Reflect the ethnic makeup of the community (within a 5-mile radius of our church)
2. Be debt free

### Sermons

These are some of our upcoming sermon series plans that are subject to change as the Holy Spirit directs:

- **"Gospel of John"** (Sept 2023–May 2024)
- **"The True Light"** (Advent in the Gospel of John)(Dec 2023)
- **"Spiritual Practices"** (June–July 2024)
- **"Reconciliation"** (July–Aug 2024)
- **"Ephesians"** (Sept 2024–Mar 2025)

As you can see, God has been at work in wonderful ways, and there are many Good News Stories to share.

I am grateful for Sunset Church. I have a hopeful and optimistic view of our future.

God bless you always,  
Pastor Steve



**STEVE RUETSCHLE**  
Senior Pastor

# Current Ruling Elders



Rupa Devadoss

Rupa was born and raised in a small town in India and attended a church for 21 years where she was constantly taught God's Love. After getting her bachelor's degree, she decided to move to the United States to get her master's.

She is employed at Nike and lives near Sunset Church and has been attending here for over 10 years. She says she is very grateful to be a part of small group. You can also find her serving as an usher or in the children's ministry.

Rupa and her husband, Durai, have 2 kids, Daniel (11) and Andrea (8), and also two golden doodles. In her free time, you can find her hiking the mountains, sewing, or at the ocean.

"Be still and know that I am God" speaks to her heart and she truly believes, "Where God leads, He provides."



John Franklin

John and his wife, Staci, started attending Sunset in 2000, when their three sons were young and they were busy making up parenting as they went. Their sons were significantly impacted by the children's program and high school and middle school programs. Their youngest, Mitchell, served as an intern under Jason Wilkinson, before marrying his wife Molly. All three boys are married and John and Staci currently have five grandchildren. John has previously served for one term as a Ruling Elder at Sunset and has preached periodically. John and Staci have walked through life with their Sunset Care Group for the past 19 years.

John's career was largely with Young Life, serving for 32 years. The last 16 years he served in senior leadership, as the regional director for Young Life in Oregon and SW Washington, and then as the Senior Vice President for the Western Division. Since retiring from Young Life, he has worked for the past nine years as a Program Director for the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust. John's term ends in 2023.



Chris George

Since Chris and his wife, Jacki, began attending Sunset nine years ago, they have welcomed two boys to their family, Max (10), and Michael (8) to join their daughter, Kaylee (12). Chris is well-acquainted with the children's wing, spending ample time there picking up and dropping off his kids as well as volunteering in the preschool class where he learns just as much as he teaches. He has enjoyed watching his family grow at Sunset and is particularly thankful for the fellowship of the care group he's been part of for the past eight years.

Chris grew up in a Christian home and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at a young age. He is passionate about learning, growing, and strengthening his faith as well as the faith of all those around him. He has a heart for missions work, locally as well as internationally, and is excited about the opportunities that Sunset has to advance God's kingdom in the world around us. Chris' term ends in 2023.





John Griffiths

John was raised in the Catholic tradition and made a commitment to Christ when he was 17 years of age. Since then he has attended both denominational (e.g., Presbyterian, Episcopal) and non-denominational churches in the western U.S. and Ireland.

John and his wife, Patricia, started attending Sunset in 2005, when their son, Parker, was five, with their first involvement consisting of joining a care group. John has served on Sunset's pastoral relations committees, the technical team for the worship ministry, and has occasionally played guitar in the worship band. Most recently, he has served on Sunset's Denomination Task Force.

John's work life has taken him on a varied path through the National Park Service, the airline industry, Intel Corporation, and the Nature Conservancy, while also serving on public committees and boards. He currently serves on the board of a medical device company and on the Salvation Army's Portland Metro Advisory Board.

As he looks back, John views himself as the undeserving recipient of oodles of God's grace across his life. He enjoys teaching, reading history, hiking, playing classic rock guitar, and seeing God do the formerly impossible—though not necessarily in that order. John's term ends in 2023.



Bruce Hanna

Bruce has been a member at Sunset since 2007. He and his wife, Kathy, have been married for 49 years and have two adult children. In his professional life, Bruce has served as a teacher and administrator in public, charter, and Christian schools.

At Sunset, Bruce has served as a Sunday school teacher, Elder Search Committee, and Choir Member; at Kids Camp; with Helping Hands; and the Divine Design Ministry.

Outside of the church, Bruce serves on the Catalyst Ministries Board, a street ministry in Phoenix; and as a Gideon. In the past, he has served as Elder at Bethel Baptist Church and as a trainer for Crown Financial Ministries.

Bruce has a heart for evangelism, especially to youth. Placing the Word of God and sharing a word of witness is a top priority. He actively distributes scriptures to schools and hotels with the Gideons, as well as personally to people in the daily "traffic lanes" of life, thus fulfilling the Great Commission. In partnership with God, all glory is to God. Bruce's term ends in 2024.

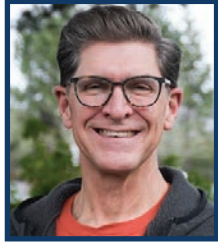


Kathy Hartrum

Kathy's experience with God began as a 10-year-old sitting at the base of a Ponderosa pine tree. She marveled at the coordination and intricacy in the minutia of an ant's tiny muscles as it walked across her knee contrasted with the magnitude of the sky and space. At that moment she realized there had to be a God and began a search to know Him. In her early 20s, Kathy deliberately decided to live her life "full-on-sold-out" to Jesus. That commitment has undergirded her career and personal decisions ever since. She retired from teaching in 2014, having held a wide assortment of teaching assignments in various settings and communities for over 35 years.

In the early 1990s, Kathy joined Sunset Presbyterian Church. For several years she served on the Women's Bible Study (GIFT) writing team. Kathy has been a member of Sunset's orchestra and served as a co-librarian for orchestra music. Currently she serves as a small group leader for Women's Bible Study, is a participant in the Jump for Joy ministry, has recently joined a Sunset care group and a group of mostly retired single Christian women.

# Current Ruling Elders



Randy Johnson

Randy, Lisa, and their two sons, Jordan and Miles, began attending Sunset in 2001, to be in community with their friends already attending Sunset. Their sons are both married, and Randy and Lisa have three grandchildren.

Raised in the Presbyterian church, Randy has attended many other churches of reformed theology and accepted Christ when in high school. He participated in music ministry in all those churches and currently serves as a piano player for the worship team here at Sunset. He has also participated regularly in the Food & Toy drive and community serve events.

Outside of Sunset, Randy has participated in other service for God's glory including a touring youth choir, a short-term mission trip to Mexico with Potter's Clay from Westmont College, and leading a study of creation versus evolution for high school students.

As a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for adult critical care, he was able to use his gifts of administration, knowledge, and mercy. Randy worked at Providence St. Vincent hospital for 40 years, retiring in 2021. Randy's term ends in 2024.



Kent Richards

Kent's family attends Sunset—which includes his wife Nancy, daughter Anne Marie, son-in-law Chris, and their young son Daniel.

While attending Sunset for over 40 years, Kent has been able to serve by leading the single's ministry, worship, and a middle school group in Wildfire; playing the trombone with the praise band and orchestra; singing in the choir; teaching Sunday school; ushering; and serving communion. Currently he is a Children's leader on Monday nights at Sunset with Bible Study Fellowship.

As a youth, Kent attended a weekly after-school program at Valley Presbyterian Church and went through confirmation during middle school. Kent gave his life over to Christ at Young Life's Malibu Club in Canada at College Prep.

He has had the privilege of serving as an active Elder at Sunset prior to the move to the current campus on Cornell. God's sovereign will has been lived out as Sunset has ebbed and flowed through the gradual sanctification process. Kent has always felt this house is "God's House." Kent's term ends in 2024.



Jennifer Um

Jennifer began attending Sunset seven years ago after looking for and finding a church where her daughters could learn to love Jesus.

She has been blessed to serve at Sunset in the Children's Ministry and Women's Bible Study. She has led small groups and Bible studies since her college years. She served as the president of her medical school's Christian Medical & Dental Society, and she has been on medical missions trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Nepal, and inner city neighborhoods in Philadelphia and Chicago. She previously worked as an internist at an underserved clinic in Connecticut. She currently practices adult and pediatric sleep medicine in Portland and Astoria.

Her greatest joy in life is leading her two daughters, Elie and Phoebe, in their walks with the Lord. She shares this journey with her husband John and her parents who live with them. She also has a heart for seeing individuals grow in their relationships with Jesus through the power of the gospel, church community, the spiritual disciplines and serving others. Jennifer's term ends in 2023.

# Officers of the Corporation



Chris George  
PRESIDENT

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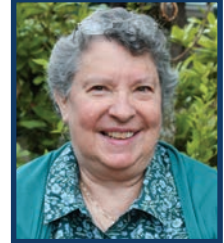
Chris' bio is on page 6.



Bruce Hanna  
TREASURER

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Bruce's bio is on page 7.



Kathy Hartrum  
SECRETARY

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Kathy's bio is on page 7.

# Nominees for Ruling Elders



Tricia Russell

Tricia grew up in the presbytery church following a family accident that left several of her family deceased. Her mom, a woman of faith, instead of running away, ran into the arms of God — taking Tricia and her two sisters along. Tricia has a very special place in her heart for all who serve in children's ministry because of the profound impact they make with young lives.

Moving to Portland in 2015, Tricia and her husband, Andrew, were eager to find a home church where their family could learn to love and grow in Jesus. They quickly got involved at Sunset, and Tricia has participated and served with the women's ministry on Thursday evenings. Tricia has also enjoyed many of the other wonderful women's events held at Sunset.

The Russells are involved with a small group that routinely meets to encourage and challenge each other in their individual walks of faith. Tricia is an encourager to those she meets, just like Barnabas. She is excited to encourage and pray for all who encounter Sunset through the many opportunities the church provides in hopes that people will see God's love and tender mercies through his ambassadors.



Steve Slotemaker

Steve and his wife, Meghan, and their daughters started attending Sunset in 2019. Their girls have participated in Sunset Kids and Sunset Youth. Their oldest daughter attends Sunset High School and will be enrolling in college in 2024, their middle daughter attends Westside Christian High School, and the youngest attends the French International School of Oregon.

Steve has built a career that combines two of his interests, investment management and philanthropy. He currently works for TIAA Kaspick, an investment management firm focused on managing and administering assets for large non-profit organizations. Prior to that, Steve worked for the Oregon State University Foundation in a development role. He has served on the board of The Dougy Center, Faithful Friends, and is on the capital campaign for the French International School of Oregon.



# Report of the Clerk of Session

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<b>Active Membership 10/1/22</b>	<b>671</b>
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Gains	
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Professions or Reaffirmations of Faith	4
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Total Gains	4
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Losses	
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Request	7
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Deaths	12
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Moved to Inactive Status	73
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Total Losses	92
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<b>Active Membership 9/30/23</b>	<b>583</b>
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<b>Baptisms</b>	
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Believer Baptisms	13
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Infant Baptisms	0
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Infant Dedication	2
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# Financial Status

Dear Faithful People of Sunset Church,

Thank you for your support as I've transitioned into the role of Church Administrator. There have been joys and challenges and through all of it, I'm so appreciative of this staff and this body of believers who love Jesus Christ and are called to His ministry. You are a blessing!

I wanted to make a special mention of Jessica Marshall, our Director of HR and Finance, who has been my right-hand partner in acclimating to all things Sunset and developing this report. Our team is here to support the ministry of Jesus Christ and the people of Sunset and are blessed to do so.

So let the fun begin! Here are the numbers . . .

### Revenue

Our fiscal year (FY) ran from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Total **operating revenue** (page 15), which consists largely of general giving and facility rental income, was below our budget and below prior year income. Below is a breakdown that describes revenue sources for fiscal year 2023:

	Actual FY 2023	Budgeted FY 2023	Prior FY 2022	Year-over-Year Change
General Giving	\$2,107,494	\$2,400,000	\$2,229,329	(\$121,835)
Facility Rental	\$211,479	\$175,000	\$125,227	\$86,252
Interest Income	\$12,072	\$0	\$1,005	\$11,067
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,331,045</b>	<b>\$2,575,000</b>	<b>\$2,355,561</b>	<b>(\$24,516)</b>

In addition to all of the Sunset adult, children, student, worship, and outreach/mission's ministry work that these funds support, we also use our building to support and host 25-30 different ministries and events from our community. This creates a service to the larger community and an additional revenue stream to cover facility and ministry expenses. External anchor groups and events include the Mustard Seed pre-school, the MissionConnexion conference, Llamados Church, and Portland Singing Christmas Tree. In addition, we host smaller international churches, college and high school graduations, concerts, the Red Cross, Beaverton School District, and so many other groups. God has blessed us with a building that brings thousands through our doors every month.

We also receive income for **designated** ministry events and activities (see page 16) that comes in the form of registration fees and special gifts for mission trips, children and student camps, women's retreats, memorial services, building fund reserves, and many other specific purposes. Total revenue through these sources in 2023 was \$626,854 and included \$202,000 in the form of a state tax refund which helped to fund some deferred maintenance projects.

**Expenses** for 2023 are outlined on page 15. All aggregate ministry and administrative expense categories remained below budget except building utilities expense. Utility expenses were

higher than the previous year by 28%. Electricity expense particularly has increased due to post-COVID building utilization, rate increases, and utility fees/taxes.

**Net Income:** We ended fiscal year 2023 with a net loss of **(\$97,207)** on a budgeted loss of **(\$141,730)**. The tax refund we received helped prevent a greater loss, and we don't anticipate any additional COVID or other related government funds in future years. This has led us to develop what we believe to be a conservative budget for 2024 as we think fully about how to best meet our ministry obligations and future long-term goals.

The **2024 Budget** is presented on page 15. We trust God to provide bountifully and immeasurably but are dedicated to a pragmatic budget approach based on trends and future expectations. This budget reflects revenue that will decline slightly from 2023 with expense adjustments and shifts that will result in a deficit for 2024 of **(\$103,400)**. Designated funds (page 16) are sufficient to absorb this deficit while we continue to work toward realigning future budgets to giving trends and the absence of government-related funding.

Our support team at Sunset is working on finalizing our annual goals that will revolve around:

- Developing a complete human resources process for recruitment, on- and off-boarding, and annual performance review and management.
- Security procedures for building access, event security and staff and volunteer training.
- Decreasing building and administrative costs through contract management and utilization control.
- Financial resource allocation to support Sunset's 5-year ministry goals.
- Increasing and simplifying facility use rental stream process.
- A 5-year capital optimization strategy that includes planned giving, debt reduction, and a facility maintenance schedule.

Thank you for the joy, love, and support you bring to Sunset!

Blessings,

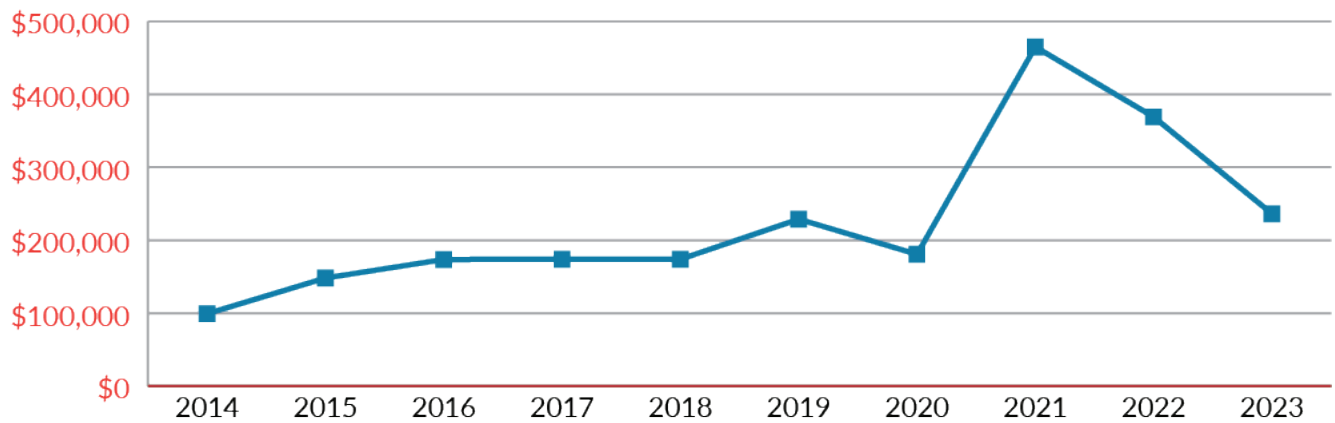


**BOB THOMAS**  
Church Administrator

## Operating Fund History

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Budget
Operating Giving	\$2,420,061	\$2,230,003	\$2,224,337	\$2,229,220	\$2,107,495	\$2,063,882
Building Use Income	\$233,258	\$152,663	\$120,755	\$125,277	\$211,479	\$237,569
Operating Fund Expenditures	\$2,562,831	\$2,294,228	\$2,140,284	\$2,437,887	\$2,454,147	\$2,316,119

## Yearly Operating Fund Balances



# Financial Statements

## Balance Sheet

Description	9/30/22	9/30/23
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Combined Checking Accounts	\$454,633	\$250,246
Savings and Money Market	\$750,117	\$836,256
Long-Term CD	\$29,957	\$30,801
State Unemployment Deposit	\$30,789	\$36,421
Accounts Receivables	\$0	\$4,693
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,265,496</b>	<b>\$1,158,417</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Cornell Road Land & Site Improvements	\$5,499,686	\$5,499,686
Cornell Road Building (includes parking)	\$22,325,172	\$23,356,475
Construction in Progress	552,973	\$0
Furniture & Equipment	\$1,506,089	\$1,514,983
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$29,883,920</b>	<b>\$30,371,144</b>
<b>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>(\$16,585,347)</b>	<b>(\$17,300,109)</b>
<b>Net Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$13,298,573</b>	<b>\$13,071,036</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$14,564,069</b>	<b>\$14,229,453</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Total Current Liabilities	\$10,264	\$0
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
Building Fund Loan	\$2,401,878	\$2,774,526
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,412,142</b>	<b>\$2,774,526</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$12,151,927</b>	<b>\$11,454,927</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$14,564,069</b>	<b>\$14,229,453</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Operating Fund	\$368,817	\$245,372
Designated Fund	\$432,032	\$355,124
Building Fund	\$433,859	\$526,871
State Unemployment Fund	\$30,789	\$31,050



## Operating Budget Summary

1 October – 30 September

Income	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Unrestricted Income			
Total Offerings	\$2,400,000	\$2,107,494	\$2,063,882
Facility Use Rental Income	\$175,000	\$211,479	\$237,569
Interest Income	\$0	\$12,072	\$12,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,575,000</b>	<b>\$2,331,045</b>	<b>\$2,313,451</b>

<b>Expenses</b>			
Adult Ministries	\$16,300	\$11,879	\$14,740
Children's Ministries	\$12,550	\$6,694	\$5,029
Student Ministries	\$20,500	\$12,888	\$14,944
Tech Arts	\$16,500	\$11,666	\$12,102
Worship & Music	\$19,000	\$15,714	\$13,620
Outreach Missional Team	\$164,120	\$153,952	\$29,570
Administration	\$219,500	\$195,873	\$146,980
Buildings, Grounds & Security	\$408,000	\$318,620	\$376,194
Utilities	\$226,000	\$290,742	\$303,679
<b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>			
Employee Wages	\$1,369,951	\$1,194,256	\$1,141,613
Employee Benefits	\$206,309	\$187,557	\$211,445
Contracted Services	\$30,000	\$30,847	\$26,400
Other	\$9,000	\$23,459	\$19,803
<b>Total Salary &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$1,615,260</b>	<b>\$1,436,119</b>	<b>\$1,399,261</b>
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$2,468,760</b>	<b>\$2,241,354</b>	<b>\$2,226,114</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,716,730</b>	<b>\$2,454,147</b>	<b>\$2,316,119</b>
Net Gain/Loss from Operations	(\$141,730)	(\$123,102)	(\$2,668)

# Designated Funds

## Fund Balances

Description	9/30/22	9/30/23
Financial Assistance Fund	\$20,188	\$21,464
Building Fund	\$433,859	\$526,871
Bereavement/Wedding Fund	\$17,604	\$22,153
Memorials	\$53,839	\$38,696
Mission Trips	\$0	\$1,487
Local Mission Project	\$76,139	\$76,019
Partners in Missions	\$0	\$15,611
Alaska Mission Project	\$89,189	\$83,408
Uganda Mission Project	\$68,593	\$25,280
Adult Ministries	\$1,400	\$2,740
Women's Ministries	\$28,722	\$37,693
Men's Ministries	\$29,032	\$25,026
Student Ministries	\$4,463	\$503
Student Missions	\$0	\$0
Children's Ministries	\$696	\$1,523
Operations	\$70,449	\$40,109
Outreach	\$2,507	\$3,522
<b>Designated Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$896,680</b>	<b>\$922,105</b>
Sunset Ministry Operating - Non-designated	Not Reported	\$236,313
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>Not Reported</b>	<b>\$1,158,418</b>

# Building Fund

## Activity Statement

1 October – 30 September

Description	
Beginning Balance 9/30/22	\$433,859
Income	
Building Reserve Income	\$155,826
Contributions	\$13,594
State Refund	\$201,462
Total Income	\$370,882
Expenses	
Loan/Administration	\$206,132
Miscellaneous	\$2,248
HVAC Repairs	\$44,177
Roofing Repair	\$4,579
LED Lighting	\$20,734
Total Expenses	\$277,870
Building Fund Balance 9/30/23	\$526,871

# Missions & Outreach

## Outreach Ministry

1 October – 30 September

Description	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Outreach Ministry Local			
Outreach Expenses	\$500	\$486	\$977
Treasures	\$500	\$481	593
Helping Hands	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
<b>Total Outreach Local</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>	<b>\$10,967</b>	<b>\$1,570</b>
Outreach Ministry Global Partners			
Christ. Veterinary Miss. (Shean)	\$4,100	\$4,100	\$4,100
CLIDE (Uganda)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Ethnos360 (Hedeen)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
InterVarsity / Focus (Riesinger)	\$16,900	\$16,900	\$16,900
Nations Ablaze Int'l (Manderfield)	\$8,550	\$8,550	\$8,550
OC Int'l (Witherow)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
People Int'l (Potter)	\$8,970	\$11,213	\$8,970
People Int'l (Tucker)	\$16,900	\$21,125	\$16,900
<b>Total Outreach Ministry Global Partners</b>	<b>\$105,420</b>	<b>\$111,888</b>	<b>\$105,420</b>
Outreach Ministry Miscellaneous			
Mission ConneXion	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Seminary Support	\$10,000	\$8,097	\$6,000
Student Interns	\$8,500	\$0	\$0
EPC – Denominational Fee	\$22,200	\$21,000	\$22,000
<b>Total Outreach Ministry Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$47,700</b>	<b>\$31,097</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$164,120</b>	<b>\$153,952</b>	<b>\$134,990</b>



# Community Assistance

## Activity Statement

1 October – 30 September

<b>Beginning Balance 9/30/22</b>			<b>\$205,482</b>
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	
Helping Hands	\$85,450	\$135,891	(\$50,441)
Pack the Pack	\$0	\$9,335	(\$9,335)
Christmas Outreach	\$4,955	\$242	\$4,713
Community Assistance	\$725	\$4,116	(\$3,391)
<b>Ending Cash Balance 9/30/23</b>			<b>\$147,028</b>

### HELPING HANDS

January–September 2023

- In the Clothes Closet, volunteers processed over **16,000 pounds of clothes and helped over 1,800 families.**
- In the Food Pantry, volunteers unloaded and stocked more than **140,000 pounds of food and served over 12,000 people.**
- In Pack the Pack, volunteers packed and distributed more than **900 bags and served 140 kids per month.**

Compared to last year (January–September 2022), the Food Pantry is serving an average of 85 more families per month. We anticipate the need to hold steady, if not slightly increase, if economic conditions remain the same.

The backbone of Helping Hands is our dedicated volunteers. There are about 80 volunteers who serve across the three ministries and have donated roughly 3,700 hours serving our community in 2023.

**A good news story from one of our clients: "I started coming a few months ago for food, and the change in my household was amazing! All of a sudden, we're not spending our last dollars on our food. My dad got to come visit for a weekend, and I actually had enough food to cook and feed everyone. It truly made me feel so blessed and happy!"** There are likely other stories like this that we don't hear about, but I wanted to share this as just one small example of the difference we are making in our community.

– Sarah Salove



On the following pages are  
**MINISTRY STORIES AND UPDATES**  
various ministry leaders want to  
share with you.

Join with them in prayer as we  
look expectedly at how God will  
work within each ministry for  
the coming year.

## Connection

It is one of our core values here at Sunset that we work to create joyful and loving connection with Jesus and others. **When we get back to the basics of relationship-building based on the true joy of knowing and being known, we see our community blossom and thrive in a way that is life-giving and regenerative.** We model this after the New Testament church in Acts 2:42 as they devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, meeting over a meal, and prayer.

Our Sunday morning fellowship time following the main worship service is a great example of creating joyful and loving connections. When we gather for coffee and donuts, it creates a space where both young and old can intermingle. We take time to learn each other's stories, share in joys and sorrows, and simply enjoy each other's company. Some of you stick around for quite some time chatting, and it truly brings great joy to witness that happen often. A shout out and BIG thank you to the Hospitality Team who does such a great job preparing for this meaningful time together week after week.

We are also on mission to create joyful, inter-generational, and all-church connection opportunities throughout the year. It is always great to start out the ministry year in September with our Fall Kickoff. It was so exciting to see an increase in attendance at this year's event. We hope next year is an even greater time

of connection! As we reflected on our 2022 Fall Kickoff and honed in on our priorities for 2023, we leaned more into the joy and connection aspects and just having the opportunity to be with each other. We chose to focus less on the Ministry Fair aspect and alleviated the toll on our staff and volunteers. It was simply fun to experience being together, playing games, winning raffles, dunking our chosen victims in the dunk tank, and watching the epic pie-eating contest.

Again, this year we will be having a Harvest Fest here at the church (which by the time this report is produced will have just happened). With a switch to holding it on the Saturday afternoon prior to Halloween night, we are hoping to have an even better turnout, but also allow people to be home on Halloween night — meeting their neighbors and fostering joy in their own communities. With activities for all ages, we hope many of you were able to join in on the fall fun!

Our all-church connection events have continued to draw more and more people. This is both encouraging and culture-building for Sunset Church. Christmas Eve is always a highlight for our community. We added a cookies and cocoa time, along with music, before the service last December. And we enjoyed a great crowd, despite the icy roads that day. In February, we had our Game Night and Cook-Off. We discovered some incredible culinary skills hiding in our midst, and those who attended were spoiled with yummy mac 'n cheese, chili, and brownies. All ages gathered throughout the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and Gym for a nice variety of engaging activities and games. Thanks to our Children's Ministry team for planning such a fun night for all.





At our Easter celebration this year, we saw even more kids and new families who came out for the egg hunt and breakfast before the worship service and kid's church. We had double the number of kids who checked in at the East Entry compared to last Easter, and that was awesome. I believe we did a better job connecting with our visitors that morning too. We look forward to doing it again for Easter 2024!

On a much more one-on-one level than these above-mentioned events, I have made the effort and offer to meet up with any new person coming to Sunset — to meet for coffee, learn their story, and see how we can get them plugged into the church. My primary purpose with these meet-ups is to give a loving and personal invitation for them to find their space, and their people at the church. Our opportunities include joining a small group, Women's Bible study, Men's Morning Watch, youth ministry, or serving at Helping Hands. The goal is to make a big church small. If you and I have never met up (whether you are a member, long-time attendee, or are new), please reach out to me! I would love to set up a time where I can hear your story. You can email me at [natesalinas@sunset.church](mailto:natesalinas@sunset.church).

Continuing with the focus on connection, Lynn Moore and I are partnering to facilitate quarterly lunch gatherings for people who are new to Sunset. Those gatherings are held just outside the sanctuary in the west lobby. Keep your eye out for the dates on those upcoming lunches if you meet someone new and want to invite them into connection.

### Small Groups

I'm pleased to report that we currently have 27 small groups regularly meeting, including four newly-launched groups. The small groups include Men's Morning Watch (open to all men) on Saturday mornings, Young Families Dinner (third Sunday at 5:45 pm), and Young Adults (Sunday 6-8 pm, includes dinner).

Lastly, I want to let everyone know that we have finalized or "made official" the rotation of training and celebrating our small group leaders. We do this each year in August (proceeding the fall season) and again in January (before the winter season starts). The small groups enjoy all kinds of rhythms — whether it be Bible studies, various curriculums, or discussion questions, all to help go deeper into the previous Sunday's sermon teaching topic. If you currently aren't involved with a small group here at Sunset but would like to know more, please contact [lynnmoore@sunset.church](mailto:lynnmoore@sunset.church) or find the list of open groups at <https://sunset.church/small-groups/>. We'd love to get you connected in this one way of making a big church small.



### Alpha

Following up on Pastor Steve's earlier mention of the thought and prayer that went into re-introducing Alpha at Sunset, I wanted to report some good news. We've had roughly 60 people, between facilitators and participants gathering between Monday or Thursday night, to go through the Alpha course. Meaningful conversations are happening, and we feel grateful for the early fruit we are seeing from the return of Alpha.

— Nate Salinas



## Sunset Kids

As we in Children's Ministry look back over our past year, we can't help but also look forward to what God has in store for this next year!

### Fostering a place of joy and community is our goal each week.

When the kids and leaders feel and share the love of Jesus Christ, the room lights up and I feel the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon our church. Children's Ministry is built upon this foundation as God shines his face upon each child that we have the privilege of serving. One great example of this is our weekly worship time with Nick Lind – it is truly ALIVE. We hear the kids ask (or yell!) every Sunday, "One more song, one more song!" What an expression of joy!

Being ministry leaders in Sunset Kids, we want you to know that we take very seriously the role we play in helping our kids develop their faith in Jesus in the short time we spend with them each week. We search each year for a curriculum that doesn't just teach them but *engages* them. We want them to not only hear Bible stories but also apply what they have learned to their everyday kid situations.

Thanks to Melissa Pearson, Director of Early Childhood, for building a solid foundation for the pre-k kids as this year they learn "God Made Me, God Loves Me, Jesus Wants to be My Friend." We want kids at this age to confidently know that they can trust Jesus and rely on him with everything in their young lives.

This year, the elementary-age kids are learning how to put on the armor of God as found in Ephesians 6:10-17. We have four cool, superhero-like characters (see photo at right) that help bring scripture to life so that the kids feel like they are part of the story. The Bible stories that they'll be learning each week focus on how to foster Christ-like behaviors and virtues. Another aspect of why I selected this year's curriculum is that the discussion questions at the end of each Sunday's lesson illuminate each Bible story in an effective way, enabling kids to better understand and relate to what they just learned.

### Kids Camp is always a huge highlight of our ministry year, and Kids Camp 2023 was no exception.

With 322 kids and volunteers here throughout the week, we had a great time with this year's theme of **Kingdom Seekers**. Kids were taught how treasures in the Bible are worth seeking out. Our daily Bible stories were about how we are made in the image of God, we are to serve others, that Jesus came to serve and redeem us, and how justice means loving our neighbors as ourselves.

The kids learned what **Love in Action** really means (see photo below – our Bible verse for the week), as one very tangible way to show love during the week of camp was with our mission project. The kids were encouraged to bring in our most needed food items for our Helping Hands Food Pantry. We had a friendly competition between Team Ketchup and Team Mustard, and then on the last day of camp, the two competing teams became Team Secret Sauce. Our kids did an awesome job as they collected 2,450 pounds of food, and \$686 was also donated to the Food Pantry to purchase whatever was needed. Our kids learned what food insecurity means and how they can make a difference!





Our entire team was excited to name a theme for this ministry year: **Multiply**. Referring to Jesus's telling his disciples in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The reason why we chose this theme is because we are looking forward to continuing to grow the Kingdom of God. Sunset Kids is a place where regular attenders want to invite their friends.

We are seeing more kids and new families come to Sunset every Sunday. It is great! And with growth, it means we need to expand into some additional classrooms, and honestly, that takes more volunteers to help us. After kids graduate from 5th grade, they often come back to volunteer in Sunset Kids. And the reason why . . . it is because they enjoy it so much and they feel at home. But we also need adults to serve alongside these young people, mentoring them as they blossom in leadership skills. We would love for you to join our team and get to be the hands of Jesus, blessing these precious ones and their families.



— Daphne Parker

Here are just a few quotes from our **awesome** volunteer team about why they love to serve in Sunset Kids:

**//**  
*What I love about kids' ministry is just the joy you can see on their faces. And how excited they are to be there and to be worshiping and learning about Jesus.*

— Maddie Baird

*I found a really strong community and a lot of rewarding time working with our kids.*

— Ben Baird

*We love giving back.*

— Mathew Scamahorn

*We want to help influence the next generation of our church.*

— Chris, Jacki, and Kaylee George

**//**  
*It is FUN!*

— Laurie Minucciani



## Sunset Youth

As many of you know, our youth ministry is in a transition period. We have started our search for a new Youth Director, but in the interim, we are excited to have a fantastic group of staff and volunteers serving our youth this year. Pastor Nate is leading us as interim director until we have a new hire in place.

Being in a transition period hasn't slowed us down. This summer, our middle and high school students went to camp! We sent 36 middle schoolers to MIX and 25 high schoolers attended MOVE. These were both amazing opportunities for our youth to both deepen their relationships with God and each other. They arrived home tired but stoked about their growing faith! We've kept the momentum going with the Alpha Youth series, doing middle school raffles, small groups, fun games, and theme nights. Our high schoolers voted to rename their group and have officially changed it to being called "Ablaze." Our Ablaze small groups are deep into a fierce competition dubbed "The Amazing Race" and

we can't wait to see who the ultimate champion is in the spring! We recently took 70 students and leaders to get lost in the Bella Organic Farm corn maze on Sauvie Island – the good news is that we also took 70 students and leaders home! All were accounted for! 😊

**Our focus for the middle and high school ministries is leaders developing relationships with students and students developing relationships with each other.** We are drawing from 1 Thessalonians

2:8, "... Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." We want our youth to experience the gospel and have it communicated in joy, action, and word. Our goal and prayer are to have a youth program that is real, relevant, relational, and relaxed. As we serve together this ministry year, we are prayerfully considering what this looks like each week.





As youth leaders, we are passionate about meeting students where they are and not just limiting ourselves to when we meet for youth group on Wednesday nights. For example, the middle and high school groups have launched Bible studies on Sundays. We started these studies so that kids who want to go deeper into the Word can, and those who have a conflict on Wednesday nights (due to sports or school activities) still have an opportunity to connect with their peers. Carrie has started to serve as a tutor with several of Beaverton School District's middle schools. Nate is beginning to join students at Westview High School's FCA and at Sunset High School for "Jesus Pizza." We are encouraging our small group leaders to be available and present in our students' day-to-day lives and share in the ups and downs of tests, sicknesses, friend issues, family struggles, sports, and questions about their faith.

The world is a confusing place for our youth right now.

**We are hoping to be a consistent, safe, and Christ-centered place for them to show up however they are.**

And not just a physical place, here within the church building, but a place of community where kids know they are loved and cared for by people who are authentic, genuine, and available for each one of them. Our prayer is to walk side by side with each of our students and have a front row seat as they make their faith their own.

– Carrie Peebles  
Interim Middle School Manager

– Laura VanderGiessen  
Interim High School Manager





## Local Outreach

### Christmas Outreach

During the 2022 Christmas Season, Sunset Church partnered with **three wonderful organizations** to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighborhood and around the world.

#### The Angel Tree Program through Prison

**Fellowship** connects children with their parents and the love of Christ through Christmas gifts. Through Angel Tree, we had the opportunity to purchase and deliver gifts to 93 children on behalf of incarcerated parents who might otherwise be completely separated from their children during the Christmas season. Along with gifts, we were able to provide discipleship materials for each child. This Christmas, we hope to serve 300 children and their families. Stay tuned for ways to get involved in the Angel Tree program this year!

Sunset Church packed and sent 102 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2022! **Operation Christmas Child** is a program through Samaritan's Purse which introduces children around the world to the Gospel through Christmas shoebox gifts. These shoeboxes were distributed to children along with discipleship materials and the opportunity to engage in Christian community. We will be collecting shoeboxes again this year throughout the month of November. Look for the displays in the children's ministry area again this year, and join us in supporting OCC as they engage around the world!

Finally, we partnered with the **Beaverton School District** to collect gift cards for families in need last Christmas. Your generosity provided local families with the opportunity to purchase the items that their family needed most during the holiday season.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** for sharing the love of Christ through these projects this year! We look forward to partnering with these organizations again this coming Christmas.



## Partnerships

Over the last year, Sunset's Outreach team has been working to build strategic partnerships with local nonprofit organizations that serve the most vulnerable members of our community. The heart behind these partnerships is two-fold; we hope to both support the work that each organization is doing and provide opportunities for our congregation to engage in that work through service. At this point, we have built exciting partnerships with six local organizations.

### Beaverton Resource Center

The Beaverton Resource Center connects those in our community struggling with hunger, housing insecurity, and poverty to local resources. Sunset Church partners with BRC to provide rental assistance and connect community members to resources like utility assistance and health care.

### Faithful Friends

Faithful Friends matches volunteer individuals, couples, and families as mentors to kids ages 6 through 9 in the Portland Metro Area. Their mission is to cultivate mentor relationships that inspire growth, resilience, and hope to transform generations through the power of friendship. Sunset Church partners with Faithful Friends to provide opportunities for our church to love and support children in our community through mentorship. This October, we joined with many other local partners to sponsor a lane during their annual Bowl-a-Thon event, which provides an opportunity for mentors, mentees, and their families to connect and build community over a fun afternoon of bowling!

### Catalyst Partnerships

Catalyst Partnerships builds hope, inspires faith, and nurtures community by bringing together useful resources and caring volunteers to meet the critical home repair needs of under-resourced people in our communities. **This past August, Sunset Church completed their first annual project with Catalyst. Volunteers painted the home of an elderly couple in our community who has lived in their home for 49 years. The project was a success, and we look forward to our next project with Catalyst scheduled for April 2024.**

### WakeUp Beaverton!

WakeUp Beaverton! strives to create a physical environment for racial, cultural, spiritual, and language-diverse communities, to distribute assets, resources, and to have spaces that provide educational opportunities and activities in partnership with the City of Beaverton and established community stakeholders. Sunset Church partners with WakeUp Beaverton! to collect, sort, and distribute school supplies to students in the Beaverton School District each fall.

### Portland Rescue Mission

Since 1949, Portland Rescue Mission has been tirelessly committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and despair in the lives of hurting people in need. Portland Rescue Mission's staff and volunteers provide a wide range of integrated services and programs to meet people at their point of need, along with providing a path moving forward with a focus on relationships and supportive community. Sunset Church partners with PRM by serving dinner each month at the Burnside Shelter. Additionally, we come alongside to support them each year during their matching campaign to support the important work they do.

### Union Gospel Mission

Through the transformative power of Jesus Christ, Union Gospel Mission opens life-changing pathways to people experiencing homelessness, hunger, addiction, and abuse. UGM's Search + Rescue team rekindles hope for people living on the streets by providing resources, consistent weekly contact, and prayer, and their Men's and Women's LifeChange recovery programs exist to transform lives and break people free from addiction and destructive life patterns. Sunset Church partners with UGM to support the hope and healing that they bring to those experiencing hardship in our community.

**We look forward to further collaboration with them as they open their new location in Beaverton, The Journey Home, sometime next year.**

To find more information on these wonderful organizations and our partnerships with them, please visit the Local Outreach page on our website: <https://sunset.church/local-outreach/>.



— Sheri Schlieff and Maddie Martinez

## Regional Outreach — Alaska Missions

**Once again, Sunset responded to the call from Alaska Christian College to send those willing to come to Alaska with open hearts, open hands, and a willingness to step into whatever God had called us to!**

What is Alaska Christian College (ACC)? ACC was formed over 20 years ago to address the unique needs of Alaskan Native students. The college provides a small staff-to-student ratio, Christian residential life, mentoring, academic support, and an emotionally safe environment in which to excel. The mission of ACC is to empower Alaskan Natives through biblically-based higher education and Christian formation to pursue excellence in character, learning, and service as followers of Christ.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to partner with ACC! The Sowers program, which is the volunteer team hosting program, is a crucial piece of the overall mission of ACC. Volunteer teams perform many of the construction, maintenance, and improvement tasks on the campus. By having volunteers serve in these roles, ACC can keep tuition costs as low as possible for students.

While the work is important, the relationships that are formed are even more of a blessing from the Lord! Relationships not only between our team members, but relationships with the Student Ambassadors, Staff, and other volunteer teams that we encounter along the way are a gift.

This year, Sunset sent a team of 16. Our team included newcomers, veterans, folks who knew each other, and some who had never met. The team had a great attitude and mindset and came together beautifully during our team meetings. We helped to complete many projects including electrical wiring, flooring installation, roofing, painting, and sewing.

### **Some of the highlights shared by our team include:**

- Being inspired by the staff, many of whom are volunteers, and their deep love for the students.
- Getting to know the Ambassadors and learning about their stories; hearing their powerful testimonies and understanding how impactful their stories are.
- The privilege of being able to pray with and for ACC and the students, during mealtimes, during an intentional daily pause with the sewing projects team, and in many other settings.
- The joy experienced working with folks from other teams and getting to know their stories.
- Seeing many of the different tasks done around the campus and contributing to a job well done!
- Hearing the miracle stories firsthand that help us to see the good work God is doing and better understand His plan for ACC.
- Daily updates home from each of our team members over the week that we hope encouraged you and made you feel as if you were with us!

The bottom line: If you want to be encouraged, please prayerfully consider joining a team and going on this trip in the future!

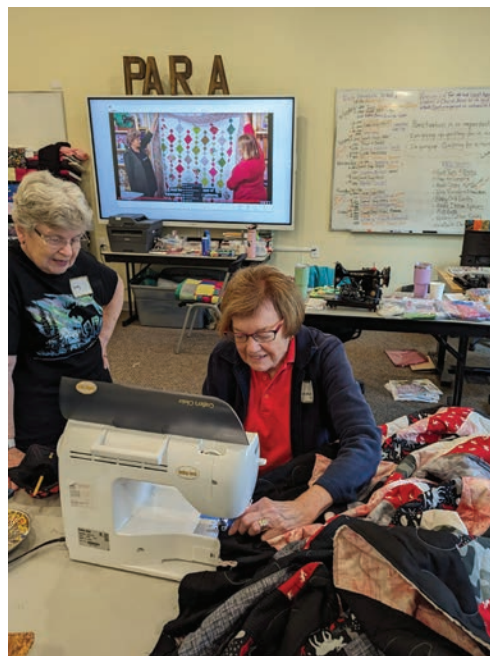




Our trip ended with a pizza dinner and team meeting where we shared our 3-word stories. Our team host, Campus Pastor, Christianne Salinas-Zeiger, shared her story with our team (as did others from ACC). It was an incredible time of relationship and community building. We also joined with another team on our final evening visiting the campus to share in dessert and a time to recognize and pray over the incredible staff and their families that serve at ACC. It was a sweet, (pun-intended) way to bring our time at ACC to a close.

**We are so grateful to our Lord for the opportunities that He has provided for Sunset Church to participate in ministry with the staff and students at ACC. We praise God for the incredible story of this ministry and look forward to continuing to work with them.**

— Sheri Schlieff and Maddie Martinez





# Global Outreach

## Sunset Missions Prayer Community

**As a church, Sunset supports eight Global Partners who are bringing God's Kingdom to people who have not yet had the opportunity to hear and know Jesus.**

### Sunset Gives

Your generosity enables unreached people across the globe to become disciples of Jesus Christ through church planting and discipleship, spiritual and community development, veterinary medicine and the gospel, Bible translation, creation of digital Bible resources, outreach to international university students and future leaders, schools that impact nations, and gospel partnership reaching indigenous people.

### Sunset Prays

You are invited to pray for the **Global Partners** online! On Sunset's website (<https://sunset.church/making-disciples-of-all-nations/>), you will find an introduction to what each Partner does and how God is at work (a Good News story with a prayer request as a guide for your prayers).



A small group meets every month (Sunset Missions Prayer Community or SMPC). These are some experiences as we pray together:

- "As I pray for them by name, the Global Partners feel like family to me."
- "I use the 24-7 email from Lynn Moore: Missions Prayer Update (with 2 bullet points per Partner) daily or when I only have a few minutes."
- "Each month, I always send my Global Partner a list of what we prayed about for them, including any Scripture verses."
- "Being a part of the Sunset Missions Prayer Community means that I get to show support to the Global Partner through a personal communication touch point, meet Partners in-person, and show that we as Sunset Church care."

As we pray for our Global Partners at Sunset, here is how God is moving in our hearts:

- "Praying for and connecting with our Global Partners shows God's plan for reaching out to people regardless of culture. I feel like I'm making a contribution to expand God's Kingdom."
- "Let's expand our Sunset missions program to send out more international workers!"
- "I want to get to know the Global Partners more; let's provide the same for the congregation."
- "I am thrilled when I hear the Mission Moment videos with a Global Partner! New people are coming to church, so they can hear them too."

### Sunset Goes to the Nations

**It is exciting to see so many ways that the Holy Spirit is moving through each Global Partner.**

To highlight just a few good News Stories, some of our Global Partners have:

- Trained and mentored indigenous Bible translators and church planters in Papua New Guinea.
- Hosted a marriage seminar in Uganda where couples for the first time apply God's Word in their marriage.
- Helped Zimbabwean pastors and churches to come together in unity, train leaders, and grow the church across Southern Africa and beyond.
- Participated in two Bible translations for Bangladesh, while learning team skills to become a Bible translation consultant.
- Gathered church planters across Central Asia to provide encouragement, perspective, direction, prayer, and member care in their task to reach Muslims.
- Rewrote the Muqaddas Kitob Bible program, enabling people from many Muslim unreached people groups to pursue their own deep study of the Bible.

- Strategized with the international advisory team to identify countries where the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students can have the greatest influence for advancing the ministry.
- Received the breakthrough registration for Destiny School, which offers Christian education for impoverished Colombian children to have an opportunity to know Christ.
- Came alongside Ugandans during a devastating famine and helped feed children and elderly and plant crops while sharing the gospel; God poured out His Spirit and 200+ people were baptized.

**God answers prayer. In the midst of cultural, political, spiritual, and physical challenges, our faithful Global Partners are making disciples of all nations!**

— Dave and Mary Camp  
— Mike and Gail Hildenbrand





## Women's Ministry

Change is in the air . . . a stirring of the Holy Spirit and excitement of new beginnings have been the backdrop for our Women's Ministry here at Sunset Church. The masks are off, **the sense of community is building, and unity and HOPE are the undergirding of our vision for this next year.**

Prayer has been a crucial component of all we do. As we have leaned into the guidance of our Lord, he has blessed us with encouraging women's events throughout the year and service projects that have reached the needs of many in our community and within our church community as well.

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study remains a strong ministry here at Sunset. We meet on Tuesday mornings and Tuesday evenings in person at the church, and we also have a strong presence via Zoom on Thursday mornings. Our current study is the book of Jeremiah by Melissa Spoelstra titled *Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*. In light of current world events, this has been challenging and life-giving at the same time. Through Jesus, we can dare to **hope!**

We will complete our fall schedule with three lessons on the Holy Spirit. The study of the Holy Spirit will take us all the way through Scripture, beginning with Genesis and ending in Revelation. Beginning in January 2024, we will be studying an in-depth study called *Brave and Beloved: A Bible Study for Women Exploring the Wisdom and Diversity of Women in the Bible* by Meredith Storrs. God's design for womanhood is not one-size-fits-all. We will look at the cultural context and learn when God's plan for humanity differs from the events and values of the day. We will close our studies for the year with 1-2 Peter: *Living in a Hard World* by Lydia Brownback. We live in a world of tension and Peter experienced this too, the tension that can rattle our faith at times and make one wonder if walking with the Lord is worth it. Walking with Christ is costly but totally worth it as Peter reminds us of Jesus's counsel. Come join us . . . we welcome you!

### Women's Retreat and Events

We held our 2nd Annual Women's Retreat in Cannon Beach at the end of September. We had 70 women in attendance to enjoy breathtaking weather and a space to meet Jesus, meet new friends, feel loved, and be seen and heard. We were blessed by the teaching and women's stories that were shared.

In lieu of an Advent women's event this year, we will be having a women's event on Saturday, January 6, called, "Epiphany." Epiphany means **hope** and **joyful revelation**. The magi had **HOPE** in the star that God placed before them. They followed that light of **HOPE** until they found Jesus, realizing that this infant King would save the world. We too will celebrate that day to follow the light of Hope that God has given us through Jesus. Watch our website for information as it becomes available ([sunset.church/events](https://sunset.church/events)). We hope to see you there!

Our desire for all Women's Ministry offered here at Sunset is to fulfill the Great Commission. Whether it be by studying His Word, attending an IF:Beaverton gathering, serving others, loving on Sunset Moms in the season of taking care of little ones, or exercising and worshipping together. Come join us as we unite under the banner of **followers of Jesus**.

— WBS Leadership Team





## Sunset Moms

**Sunset Moms has been and continues to be a place for moms to come and find community, encouragement, and a little breakfast and childcare.**

Sunset Moms is a community of moms with kids of any age and mentor moms who support us. It is this partnership that truly gives the group the power of inter-generational connection, support, and prayer. Sunset Moms is not only made up of moms from our congregation, but also largely supports moms from many churches and the community in the area.

We were encouraged throughout the last year and this year seeing new members join and find a group of their own. We have increased our ministry to homeschooling moms through volunteer Rona Friesen who is providing kids art lessons and activities for their kids who aren't eligible for childcare. This was an idea suggested by one of our members, and God saw fit to fulfill that hope!

Please join us in continuing to pray that:

- The moms who need connection find their way to us.
- God will provide the volunteers we need in childcare and leadership in the coming years.
- We are able to follow His lead to plan out a variety of speakers, tools, and inspiration.
- Most importantly, He would build a kingdom community through this ministry for Beaverton.

— Dania Behrens



## Sunset Worship

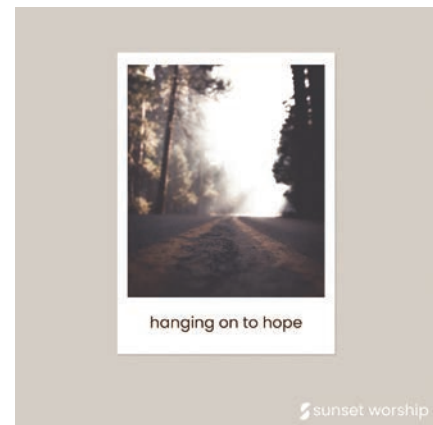


Sunset Worship released a worship album titled *Hanging On To Hope* on September 15, 2023.

The album features two original songs, two spoken word poems, and a new arrangement of an old hymn.

The songs and poems have themes of hope, humility, and trust in God during uncertain seasons. **We hope this creative expression of worship blesses you and helps you to experience the presence of God.**

— Phil Church



Listen here: [sunset.church/worship-music/](https://sunset.church/worship-music/)



OR

<https://distrokid/hyperfollow/sunsetworship/hanging-on-to-hope>



OR

Play the album from your favorite platform

 Spotify

 Apple Music

 Amazon Music

On this page, you'll find some excerpts of song lyrics and words from the spoken pieces on the album.

### Hanging On To Hope

by Phil Church, Mark Reed, and Matt Sparks

I know you've got me right where you want me  
I'm finding the beauty in letting go  
You will sustain me, you'll never fail me  
You are the reason I'm hanging on to hope...

### Dry Leaves

by Dania Behrens

Your promises are crafted from holy covenants  
Your promises are etched into the fiber of our being  
Your promises were never the leaves to begin with  
They are the water  
Washing away the temporary travesties  
Your promises -- a sea I can set sail on.

### Resurrection

by Dania Behrens

Today is the day of resurrection  
We get to be a part of that,  
Calling creation back,  
Restoring the masterpiece little by little,  
And it is good.  
Today is the day of resurrection  
So, I'm inviting God to swing wide the gates held tight  
Where I have believed the liar who told me  
God can't go there or wouldn't bother to.

### Repentance

by Phil Church and Tyler Clarensau

The generations will sing of all you've done  
Slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love  
A compassion that humbles hardened hearts  
Would you lead us to repentance?



## Prayer Ministry

Sunset is a House of Prayer for all nations. God has shown up several times in connecting people with prayer ministers. One week, a woman came up needing release from an addiction and was prayed over by a prayer lead who had wrestled with and overcome this same issue! One prayer lead shared that they prayed with parents over their daughter's brain tumor in June — reporting that the scans showed clear in July!

Another woman had a miraculous healing of her vertebrae. Her vertebrae, prior to a planned surgery, were “naturally fused” (actually supernaturally), averting her need for surgery. Also, the doctors were quite surprised. She was ecstatic. God be praised! God's goodness flows! What happens in prayer after the services on Sunday morning is only the tip of the iceberg!

**One hundred and twenty-eight hours a week, the team of Sunset 24-7 participants pray over the needs listed on a Weekly Prayer Update.** Different prayer topics are covered in each weekly update. One week per month is dedicated to the Mission Prayer Team led by Dave and Mary Camp with up-to-date prayer needs from our Sunset missionaries.

Come join us in our prayer adventure, and be part Kingdom building at Sunset. Contact Lynn Moore at [lynnmoore@sunset.church](mailto:lynnmoore@sunset.church) if you need help signing up for this prayer team.



The Prayer Room last Advent was much prayed over as we prepared for a new prayer experience. Each of the stations provided a chance to engage with prayer requests and answers, lament COVID loss, national shootings, prayers for personal healing, praises, and intercession. God answered our prayers for engagement as it filled with the petitions, intercessions, laments, praises, and prayers of so many! Just as Moses experienced God's Shekinah Glory in the tent set up in the wilderness, we felt God's presence in our Prayer Tent! Thank you to each of you for your involvement!

Learning about how to talk with our Heavenly Father is a life-long journey. During Advent, I led two small groups watching the new Pete Greig series *How to Hear God*. Each week we learned of a new facet in listening for God's voice in our prayer.

**Prayer is alive at Sunset!**

— Lynn Moore





# Notes About Financial Statements

## Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements as a whole are not presented fully in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Rather, they are designed to meet the informational needs of the congregation by presenting a comparison of the cash-basis budget with actual cash transactions. Statements of cash receipts and expenditures are on a modified cash basis; that is, receipts and expenditures are recorded as the cash transactions occur. Liabilities relating to lease obligations are not reflected on the balance sheet. These liabilities include leases on photocopiers.

### Fixed Assets and Depreciation

On December 31, 1981, the fixed asset records were established by estimating the fair market values of the land, buildings and improvements, and the furniture and equipment as a whole. Purchases after December 31, 1981, are recorded at cost; donations at estimated fair market value. Depreciation is not stated as an expense on the activity statement in this report. This non-cash item and accumulated result is reflected as accumulated depreciation on the balance sheet.

### Fund Balances

The funds indicate the net value of the church (assets minus liabilities). To better represent the activities of the church and to provide better management of the resources, the funds have been divided into several categories. The Operating Fund shows the liquid assets available for general operations of the church. The Building Fund shows liquid assets available for building projects. Designated Funds are temporary funds used for accounting purposes to better track the cash flow for specific activities or funds set aside bearing restrictions, such as money given for a specified purpose.

## Note 2: Liabilities

Property financing is currently with Heritage Bank entered into on December 28, 2021. The mortgage balance as of September 30, 2022, was \$2,774,526. The interest rate is 3.3%.

Notes on mortgage:

- 1) Mortgage matures on December 15, 2031
- 2) Mortgage has prepayment penalties during the first 3 years..

## Note 3: Missions

Sunset Church facilitates several channels by which parishioners may support missionary work. The purpose of this approach is to increase familiarity and interaction between the Church and the mission field. In addition to missions supported through the operating budget, parishioners have the opportunity to provide direct mission support through the Missions program.



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