

Lead Pastor's Report

Submitted by Erin Bird

For the first time ever (except for the outdoor baptism service on Aug 15), Riverwood worshipped every Sunday in **one location** for an entire calendar year. What a blessing!



Despite such consistency, **2021 was a year of change.**

Just as river levels and river banks fluctuate, we saw a number of changes, many of which can be seen in the reports found in this Annual Report. But here are a few more that need mentioned:

- We celebrated **6 baptisms**, the most in a calendar year yet!
- After 5+ years of faithful service as our Environment Coordinator, **Laurie Albright** stepped down due to her health. I am SO grateful for ALL Laurie did, and will sorely miss her leadership.
- We saw the Lord quickly provide some leaders to fill the gap left by Laurie's absence. I'm grateful **Cheryl Badura** agreed to lead our Clean Team. I am also thankful **Bridget Pavelec, Anna Johnson, Jodi Shaffer,** and **Cheryl** agreed to form a Decorating Team. (We are still looking for a point person for the Café. Interested?)
- As you can see in the *Financial Report*, **giving was below budget.** While "sort of" planned (due to our new facility), this was a first for Riverwood.
- As you can also see in the *2021 Numbers*, Sunday attendance as well as Growth Group **attendance was down.** Again, this was a change from the trend of previous years.
- Two **doors opened at Wartburg** for me: Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Wrestling Team's "Foundations" devotional

There is **one thing I know won't ever change:** our commitment to the gospel, your spiritual growth, and inviting the spiritually disconnected to find and follow Jesus!



Elder Team Report

Submitted by Matt Townsley



James 5:14 says, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." Each Wednesday morning, the Elder Team begins our weekly meeting by praying over the requests shared via email or *Connection Cards*. We believe the most important thing we can do as elders is lift up your prayer requests every week. Whether you joined us in person, online, or are thinking about reconnecting with the Riverwood family, we invite you to continue sharing your prayer requests.

Many of you know we are nearing the end of our three-year lease in our current building. By the time you read this, the Partners will have voted on whether to pursue purchasing the building. This decision was preceded with many hours of prayer, number crunching by the Finance Team, and conversations with the Riverwood family. While our church is much more than a 'building,' having a permanent welcoming place to invite the spiritually disconnected to find and follow Jesus seems to be a needed step for our ministry in Bremer and Butler counties.

Finally, thank you for your generosity in 2021. Many of you sacrificially gave your time and talents, while others stepped up in new ways. As we enter a new year, our pathway will continue to be to Gather (online & in person), Grow (Bible study and Growth Groups), Give (finances, influences, skills, and time) and Go (share the Gospel and be a blessing to the world). We look forward to a new year and praying people we know would find Jesus for the first time.

2021 Annual Report



**RIVERWOOD
CHURCH**

Presented January 23, 2022

Worship Report

Submitted by Jake Epley



Another year has come and gone, but what a year it was! The Worship Team was so blessed to spend an entire year in our new building and put it to good use. 😊

Last year, we welcomed several new members:

Mackenzie Barth (keys, vocals), Max Pavelec (keys), Veronica Gregory (cajón), Jeremiah Steggall (sound), Nate Laun (sound, projection), and José Lavariega (honorary electric guitar). We also instituted Worship Leadership Development (which is geared towards discipling team leaders into a more pastoral role). Sam Shaffer, Michelle Chavez, and Anna Post are the first to help start it. 🙏

In 2021, we made several changes and improvements as we continued to settle into our new location. We installed a back “confidence” monitor in the Worship Gathering space, service monitors in the Lobby and Nursing Mothers room, a new iMac at the sound table, and ceiling speakers in the lobby and nursery – all of which could not have been accomplished without Nate Laun, Erin Bird, Salem Bird, and the guys from Integrate AVL. 👍

In 2022, we will continue our Worship Leadership Development, giving our leaders have more opportunities to lead. Also, we will upgrade our presentation software. And lastly, if we have any burgeoning drummers, I'd love to talk to you soon! 😊

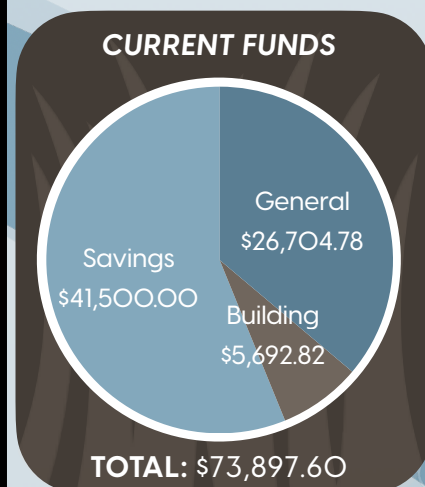
All that being said, I'm looking forward to serving you all in this new year with new opportunities to praise God together, share His love with one another, and witness about His mighty works to our community! ❤️

Financial Report

Submitted by David George of Church Plant Solutions

Bottom Line: You had a net loss of \$19,269.88 for the year.

- That amount included Non-Budgeted Building Fund Expenditures which totaled \$12,895.92.
- However, there is \$5,692.82 in the Building Fund.
- Budgeted expenses were \$15,330.90 more than general income.
- However, you kept expenses to \$13,118.49 under budget.



All in all, I'd say it wasn't a great year financially, but it wasn't horrible either. Your income was down, but you did a good job mitigating your expenses. You paid your staff, improved your building, and gave away over \$15,000. That is worth celebrating!

2021 Numbers

Gather

- Worship Gatherings: **42** (↓ from 57)*
- Online (estimate): **13** (no prior data)
- Kids Creek: **24** (↓ from 26 in 2019)
- **TOTAL: 79** (↓ from 83 in 2019)

Grow

- # of Growth Groups: **3** by Fall 2021 (↓ from 4 in Spring)
- Avg # of People in Groups: **26** (↓ from 34)*
- Baptisms: **6** (↑ from 1 in 2019)

Give

- First-Time Guests**: **14** (↓ from 35)* = \$70 to Compassion Int'l
- **\$5,000** to Northside Neighborhood Church in North Minneapolis
- **\$2,040** given for 2021 Christmas Impact Gift to Compassion Int'l
- **Over \$16,250** given in total to other ministries and the less fortunate

*Comparative data from 2019. No data recorded for 2020 (take a guess as to why!)

**Family Units who filled out a Connection Card or sent an email

Kids Creek Report

Submitted by Bridget Pavelec



In 2021, we had over 35 different kids walk (or crawl!) through our doors and learn about Jesus' love for them. We also had 25 volunteers faithfully serve these kids. It was a year full of God's fruit and growth!

Our Elementary started the year with *Buck Denver* asks “What's in the Bible?”. The kids gained so much foundational knowledge about the Bible and how it all connects to tell one redemptive story. Because we will finish this series in the Spring, we have started the search for a new curriculum that will further our kids' understanding of Jesus and His plan for their lives.

Preschool and Nursery shared the same room for the majority of the year. In October, Preschool moved to their own room and began learning how the Bible is God's true story and how every story is about His rescue plan. Also in October, new ceiling speakers allowed our Nursery volunteers to hear the worship service.

We implemented a digital check-in system which freed up space and time amid the morning rush to get kids checked in. Although it had its hiccups, it became a wonderful tool.

I am so thankful I get to lead an amazing group of volunteers and minister to your children alongside you. It has been a joy to watch these kids grow in their love of Jesus. Please pray for the team who will be selecting our next curriculum. Pray also our children will understand the gospel and follow Jesus by being obedient to God and loving others.

KIDS CREEK