



Annual Report

2020

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Adult Ministries

Equipping Hour

Maranatha's Adult Equipping hour meets in the Commons on Sunday mornings. If you are not attending a Bible study, I would encourage you to consider one of our adult equipping classes.

Bible study and discipleship help us to grow deeper in our worship, love others well, and become a greater witness. It is important for us to learn more about God's Word and how to apply it to our lives. Our equipping classes are designed to help us grow in the Lord. We like to provide both practical applicational classes as well as Bible studies.

Life2Life Groups

Small groups are important to the life of our church and for Christian growth. Jesus' life with the disciples shows us how discipleship and spiritual growth occurs in community. Groups are not just for community though; they are for community that results in sanctification. Jesus wants us to be disciples who are growing and encouraged to live as a witness.

Christian community is a place where you can connect with other believers. One of our primary purposes is to help people develop authentic and transparent Christian relationships, as well as encourage your spiritual growth. As we walk together as believers, Christian community is a place where we can share experiences, pray for one another, and become more focused on Jesus Christ's work in our lives.

We know that discipleship is an important aspect of our spiritual growth. We want to see people move from sitting in proximity to one another to being in community and fellowship with one another. Joining a group can become a significant catalyst for your spiritual growth while encouraging you to live out your faith as a witness.

As we have focused on EvangelismSHIFT, it is our desire to see the culture of our church grow, encouraging one another to live as witnesses in our everyday lives. We are focusing on Life2Life discipleship groups. These groups typically consist of 4-8 people. Life2Life is designed to teach the biblical foundation and provide practical tools and accountability to help you grow in your Christian walk as a witness, encouraging you to further develop your lifestyle of being a witness in real-life relationships where God has placed you.

There are 18 sessions designed to help you on your journey to develop a lifestyle of a witness for Jesus. If you would like to know more about getting involved in a Life2Life discipleship group, please get in touch with Pastor Greg or contact the church office.

Greg Forseen

Children's Ministry

January to March 8

- Sunday School offered for 3 -year-olds through 6th graders in the Annex and Commons buildings. We were thankful for our teachers: Maureen Barker, Nicole Herr, Rachel Connelly, Sara and Jeremy Von Thun, Andy Drzycimski, Alex Junk, Ryan Legge & Scott Noll and check-in helper, Jill Wilson.
We bid a thankful and fond farewell to Maureen Barker who has taught children faithfully for many years at MBC.

March 15 - July 19

- All in-person children's ministry activities paused due to the pandemic/stay-at-home orders. For several weeks, Scott Noll provided "Sunday School Snackpack" as an at-home supplement for the kids.

July 20 - July 24

- A 5-Day-Club (taught by students from Child Evangelism Fellowship) was offered for kids at our church on the front lawn. Teaching, games and songs were enjoyed by all in attendance and one child gave their life to Christ!

September 13 - November 8

- Sunday School returned for our children. While we had very small attendance, we are thankful for the kids that were with us weekly. Our teachers for this school year include: Betsy Brown, Nicole Herr, Mindy LaHay (preschool assistant), Rachel Connelly, Sara & Jeremy Von Thun, Scott Noll & Jill Wilson (Commons check-in desk).

November 15 - ?

- We are back to no Sunday School for now, but "Sunday School Snackpack" is working on a reboot...

Maggie Noll

Community Outreach

The mission of Maranatha's Community Outreach is to show Christ's love in practical ways to the Taylor neighborhood and seek to share the Gospel of Christ with those we serve (1 John 3:18, 23).

This is the eighth year that Maranatha has had a Community Outreach ministry. We have two main ministry platforms: Abundant Life food distribution and Cedar River Academy (formerly Taylor Elementary). As with many aspects of Maranatha, COVID greatly impacted Community Outreach.

This year at Cedar River Academy, we held drives for both winter hats, gloves and mittens and school supplies. We welcomed the staff back to the new 2019-2020 school year with our Annual Bake-a-Blessing. The Bake-a-Blessing looked different due to COVID because the school could not accept any homemade goods and all items had to be individually wrapped. So, we dropped off store-bought, individually-packaged items; and we hope that next year we can return to the more personal home-made goodies. Because of COVID the school also held off on it's Healthy Families Night in the spring and the Back-to-School picnic. So, there was no need for us to supply volunteers to these events as we usually do. The Taylor Neighborhood Association also suspended meetings due to COVID. Moving forward, we would like a new volunteer to be the point person to the school for volunteer events and attend neighborhood meetings as Amy Meyer stepped down from this position this year.

Abundant Life Food Distribution met monthly this year. The distribution occurs on the 3rd Sunday of each month and helps alleviate food insecurity of the last week of the month. We have a core group of volunteers who serve monthly, and families in the congregation have adopted food items they supply monthly. Each month we are able to offer them fresh produce, bread, milk, eggs, cheese, cottage cheese, one meat, and healthy, non-perishable options, as well as build relationships and praying with them.

Throughout the past year, we have really seen the families begin to open up and share intimate details of their lives and even reach out mid-month for additional prayers. Each family has a prayer partner from the church who gets monthly prayer requests from the distribution. Throughout the peak COVID months, we had them fill out an order slip and pre-packed their groceries and delivered them contact-free to their cars. It was so good when we were able to welcome them in to do their own shopping and to get to visit with them in person again! We will not be having a Thanksgiving soup supper because of COVID, but we will still be sending home the trimmings for a Thanksgiving meal as well as a family advent devotional. We hope to be able to resume the soup supper again next year. We continue to pray for open doors to build relationships and to share the Gospel!

Amy DeLay

Deacons

The year 2020 will be memorable for all of us for its many unexpected challenges and obstacles. Through it all, it is my sincere prayer that you have felt God sustain you and lift you up. As I reflect on the year, there are two things that stand out as clear evidence of God's miraculous power through the storms. First is that our annual giving was sustained very close to our 2020 needs; somehow through all the hardship you were able to give generously and for that I thank the Lord and you! Second, the storm caused only manageable damage to the Sanctuary and other buildings. I was prepared to see our stained glass windows shattered along with the trees on Third Avenue, but that was not the case. Amazing Grace indeed!

In summary, here is a sampling of accomplishments conducted by the deacon board this year. All of these were accomplished by extra generous gifts by members of the body. Thank you!

- Repaving of the Commons parking lot. This monumental task marks a key accomplishment in the sound maintenance of our exterior grounds.
- A new video booth in the sanctuary to conduct the online video streaming of our service.
- A major stage renovation, increasing the floor size and new carpet (the era of red carpet is over!).

You can learn about the Deacon's efforts and plans by reading our monthly minutes which are posted at the bulletin boards throughout the church, or by contacting one of us directly. The men serving as deacons in 2020 were Ryan Legge as Chairman, Chris Gates as Treasurer, Fred Strutton as Secretary, Neil Happel, Jeff Tuohino, and Jeff Spicer.

"I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2) May Jesus the Messiah be your constant comfort, and God our Father be your guide and refuge!

Ryan Legge

Elders

Serving on the Elder Board with me this year were: Marv Junk, Dale Krohse, Michael Moore, and Rick Long.

As we're all acutely aware, 2020 has been an interesting and challenging year for everyone. The Elder Board was certainly no exception in this regard. As we started the year, we assumed our major focus would be on our top two Elder Initiatives: Evangelism and Worship.

The Evangelism Initiative had - and continues to have - as its focus the EvangelismSHIFT (E-Shift) program, which is just now being rolled out to the full body. While the pandemic had an impact on our ability to do face-to-face meetings with the E-Shift team (mostly based in Australia), we were able to modify the plan and continue the sessions virtually. This allowed the Elders and the larger E-Shift leadership team to complete all 18 sessions and be properly prepared for the second stage of this process. The Elders are definitely excited about where this Initiative will take us and are looking forward to how God is going to use E-Shift and Maranatha Bible Church to impact this community for Christ.

The Worship Initiative focused primarily on enhancing both the consistency of the worship experience as well as the leadership available to the Worship Team by beginning the process of identifying and bringing on board a Worship Pastor. To that end, a Job Description was completed and a search committee was formed. While the pandemic didn't have as big an impact on this effort, in the end this effort was not successful. There were a number of reasons for this and the Elders had a good, open and honest discussion with the search team about this. In the end, a new path forward on this initiative has been laid out and is being communicated to the body.

While all this activity was going on surrounding the Initiatives, the pandemic reared its head and threw every aspect of our lives into a direction we had never expected. Since the initial data on this virus and the proper reaction to it seemed to be changing on a daily basis, the Elders spun up a Corona Virus Response Team (CVRT) which was made up of two Elders (Tim Countryman and Rick Long), two Deacons (Chris Gates and Ryan Legge - later replaced by Neil Happel) and two staff (Aaron Telecky and Greg Forseen). This team was charged by the Elders with handling the proper shut down of the church building, keeping the off-site worship process working smoothly and then working the transition of getting the building open again when appropriate. In my humble opinion, this team performed remarkably under extremely challenging - and ever changing - circumstances. It was an honor to serve on this team with these men. When the building was again opened up (albeit under modified conditions) this team disbanded and handed control back to the Elders. The challenges in this area are not over, however, and the path to 'normal' is still not clear.

Since the year 2020 didn't have enough challenges already, we then dealt with the news that our Youth Pastor for the past 17 years, Thad Joyce, was being called by God to a different focus of ministry and would be leaving Maranatha. It was with a heavy heart and yet untold amounts of gratitude for his years of service that we accepted Thad's resignation. During a number of brainstorming sessions with the adult leaders, a plan was devised for using the E-Shift Life2Life materials that will allow the Student Ministry to continue engaging our students in a meaningful way and allow the Elders time to develop a new long-term plan for Student Ministry at Maranatha.

Elders

(continued)

Finally, as we all know, the citizens of Eastern Iowa now have a new word in their vocabulary: derecho (although we all seem to have slightly different pronunciations). Fortunately, the church property itself weathered the storm pretty well. While we did lose a number of branches off some trees and had some damage to several areas of the sanctuary and crosswalk roof, this was minor compared to some of the other damage suffered in Eastern Iowa. We had several families with extensive (and in some cases, catastrophic) damage. While it was saddening to see the loss suffered across this community, it was very gratifying to see the people of God respond in a selfless and outwardly focused way. Work crews were organized to clear debris, support was raised to provide relief, and we even opened our Commons building to the community for use as a charging and cooling station (once industrial sized generators were provided). This was God's family at it's best and the best part is that it happened spontaneously rather than via direction by the church leadership. This is a mark of a family that cares deeply for each other. God is at work at this church and in the community.

In closing, I want to say that it has been a privilege to serve as an Elder at Maranatha Bible Church the past 6 years. God continues to use this body in amazing ways and I have been in awe of how he continues to surprise us. But I can also honestly say that after serving as Elder Chair in the uniqueness that was 2020, I am very much looking forward to a time of rest.

Tim Countryman

Library

HEADLINE: BRANCH LIBRARY OPEN IN THE COMMONS

In early 2020, when we began to stay home because of the Covid-19 mandates, puzzles became a popular item. Today, there are more puzzles than ever before in the Commons. Please feel free to take and work. You do not need to return them. Pass them on to others. Please feel free to check out books just as you would at the Library across the street. **Only one request – if you check it out in “the branch” please return it there.**

MAIN LOCATION: Maranatha's Library continues to reside in the “Red Room” in the Annex. We have an excellent collection of books, books on tape and DVDs for the whole family. I've been to several other church libraries and we can be very proud, not only of our space but also our collection. There are several white sheets laying about on the shelves that show you how to find what you're looking for. Non-fiction starts on the east wall with Biography and continues on the south wall with the rest of our titles – Christian Living, Family, Marriage, Prayer, Women's' Issues, Theology & Doctrine are just a few of the sections.

While the Library still suffers from “TIME” .. if you'd like to use the Library and have time to peruse the collection, perhaps you could come early before the morning services or stay a few minutes after the service ends at noon. The rush to get from Sunday School classes to worship almost prevents library browsing between services.

For those of you who are new to Maranatha, our library is for member use only. Our Library is self-service and all materials may be checked out for three (3) weeks. When you take the card out of the book, put today's date on the card (even if the card says return date) then your name. File the card under the appropriate label in the little gray card holder, i.e., Audio, DVD, Youth, Fiction, Non-Fiction.

We try to keep the white board up-to-date with late returns. There is a late return fee of 25 cents per week. If the white board isn't up-to-date, at least you'll get a note in your mailbox if you have materials out beyond the check-out period.

WHERE DOES OUR BUDGET COME FROM?

We utilize the budget provided by Maranatha for the purchase of new books & DVDs. We also make use of the money that accumulates from late fees and from books sold on Amazon. Feel free to donate your used books & DVDs, making sure any non-fiction books are 1) under 15 years of age, 2) that there is no writing in the book, and 3) that there are no blanks to fill in.

MEMBERS ONLY

In the past, we have requested that **ONLY** regular attenders of Maranatha Bible Church check out materials from our Library. We will continue with that policy simply because it is too difficult to track down materials checked out by people who do not regularly attend. Please pass this information along to your children as they often encourage young people that they bring to church to check out books with them.

THANK YOU for your patronage of the library. Please feel free to request a title that you'd like to see in the Library. I am blessed to serve the Maranatha Bible Church family by keeping our library up to date.

Helen Hunter

Meals Ministry

November 2019—October 2020

The meals ministry is designed to assist an individual and/or family when a need arises related to an illness, surgery, birth, death, or any personal crisis. Meals are provided by the church body until the family is once again able to manage. Because each need for assistance is unique, there is no designated number of meals set for any given circumstance.

This past year we were privileged to provide:

-  15 meals due to surgeries
-  15 meals due to new babies
-  3 meals due to deaths

Although this is an unseen ministry by most, it is a vital opportunity to reach out and show the love of Christ within our body. If are not already participating, but would like to, please contact me. You do not need to be a gourmet cook. If you prefer to make a meal, that's wonderful, but providing a pizza will do just as well.

Kathy Kalous

Men's Ministry

By just about all standards, this year has been a banner year for calamities and the bizarre. It has been our goal for several years now to have a quarterly Men's Event, generally a Saturday breakfast. Needless to say, due to the pandemic, we have not been able to have these gatherings.

That being said, we have been able to continue our small groups (with only mild interruptions) via zoom, and now more recently a combination of zoom and social distancing in-person meetings.

Briefly, Andy's Saturday group plans to continue their study of Acts. Ron's Wednesday morning group as of this writing is planning to resume meeting in October when Ron returns from Colorado. Our Friday morning meeting with Pastor Aaron, is continuing our on-going praying time based on the Psalms. We pray for our church needs as well as any other needs brought to our attention. And finally, my Wednesday evening group is just completing our Old Testament study comparing the ministries and miracles of Elijah and Elisha.

We encourage all men to consider joining one of our groups. Our goal is to encourage each other, and grow together through our studies, while keeping one another accountable. And as always, just to be clear...by definition this is for *men* only...sorry no girls allowed.

Ted Biderman

Missions

Maranatha continues to support 14 missionary families as well as 4 local mission organizations. Many financial resources, as well as countless prayers, go out for each and every one of these people and groups on a regular basis from our church. As the Missions Committee, we are honored to be engaged with our missionaries and mission organizations to show them how much we love them and how we will continue to be their prayer partners.

For obvious reasons, in 2020, we did not sponsor any missions trips this year; but we pray that God will open back up those opportunities in the upcoming year. Reporting on those trips is usually the bulk of the highlights for our report, so instead we'll focus on two other major events this year: Missions Super Sunday and the fruits of our prayers/giving.

In past years, we have relied on events like "But God" and "Jehovah Jireh" as ways to bridge our budgetary gaps to ensure we can financially support keeping our missionaries in the field. We greatly appreciated the Elders' support and leadership of these efforts, and this year was the first time we tried out the Missions Super Sunday. Our first of two Sundays was unfortunately cancelled due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. But we came back in September with a missions-focused worship, highlighting two of our homegrown missionary families (Joel & Rachel Watters and Matt & Emmerie Moore), as well as a message titled "Supporting Missions During a World Pandemic". We want to not only maintain our church's emphasis on missions going forward, but we're praying that our Super Sunday, as well as upcoming Super Sundays in 2021, will grow our congregation's interest and their hearts towards furthering our missions.

Here is a small sampling of the fruits of our financial support and prayers for our various ministries:

Alan & Melody Pieratt are helping about 8,000 people keep body and soul together with COVID aid.

Ken & Marla Drowley at Ebenezer Glenn Orphanage are caring for 71 children, and started a music program for all teenagers in the community as an outreach program to learn to play instruments.

Dan & Mary Lu Coventon purchased video equipment to record weekly prayer times for unreached people groups (a different group each month). **Heartland YFC** – 469 lost teens have been in

conversations with staff and volunteers, and six students have said yes to Jesus. **Nate & Rochelle Dell** were able to feed 6,000 people during the COVID lockdown, worked to build a house for a single woman in need, and they meet with the Waorani to read His Word on Sunday mornings. **Jim &**

Connie Turek graduated 40 students from the Ethnos360 Missionary Training Center, and the students are now heading out to reach the least-reached with the Gospel. **Nathan & Valerie Bunting**

helped prepare 21 new Missionary Kids to join the world of missions, and they welcomed back and helped several families adjust to life back in the States. **Kathy Knight** has mentored leaders who

love to lead worship, sing loudly, and play with passion for our God. **Fred & Donna Aljets** saw 18 children accept Christ at their VBS's. **Bridgehaven** launched a new ministry to help those facing a terminal pregnancy diagnosis. **East Iowa Bible Camp** saw 78 first-time decisions for Christ.

In closing, the Missions Committee would like to enthusiastically thank Perry and Jane Schoff,

Heidi Moore, and Brian Watters for their many, many years of service to the Lord on Maranatha's Missions Committee. They each have rolled off of the committee this year, but their faithful service and leadership over the years has left the committee with a continued focus on keeping our church focused on missions going forward. Our current committee consists of Marilyn Pribyl, Wayne & Amy Meyer, Beth Telecky, and Therese Mefferd. We are always welcoming to anyone else who feels led to be part of this fun committee!

Wayne Meyer

Missions Budget

<u>Missionary</u>	2020 <u>Yearly Support</u>
Bridgehaven	510.00
Kathy Knight, CRI	3,060.00
Alan & Melody Pieratt, CRI	6,120.00
East Iowa Bible Camp, Director	1,020.00
Ebenezer Glenn Orphanage	4,590.00
Equipping Youth	510.00
Dan & Mary Lu Coventon, IHS, Farthest Horizons	4,080.00
Heartland Youth for Christ	3,060.00
Joel & Rachel Watters, Intervarsity	4,080.00
Community Outreach, MBC	300.00
Jim & Connie Turek, Ethnos360	9,180.00
Nate & Rochelle Dell, Reach Beyond	6,630.00
Kyle & Carrie Eipperle, SEND, Int'l	9,180.00
Jack & Louanne Ryon, SIM	5,610.00
Fred & Donna Aljets, Tabernacle Children's Ministries	5,100.00
Matthew & Emmerie Moore, Tentmakers Bible Mission	6,630.00
Sarah Pisney, World Venture	3,876.00
Nathan & Valerie Bunting, Wycliffe	2,040.00
John & Becky Leverington, Wycliffe	<u>300.00</u>
Missionary Support	75,876.00
Discretionary Fund	<u>4,890.00</u>
Total	\$ 80,766.00

Nursery

Last year we had an increase in more volunteers and families utilizing the facility. An elder would pray with us and share God's Word before the start of each Sunday School hour.

January, we established volunteers to assist with the "check-in/check-out" process. The Nursery was shut down along with the rest of the church in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We reopened in September.

I have stepped aside as nursery coordinator and Liz Sanders and Abigail Parry have answered the call to serve as Nursery Coordinators.

I sincerely give thanks to our Lord for the many volunteers who use their gifts of service, exhortation, helps, wisdom, and mercy to make the Nursery a blessing to all who enter! We have a wonderful group of volunteers who serve joyfully! A familiar face throughout the years is Katie Noll who continues to serve in any way needed for this ministry. What a blessing she has been to work with.

May God be Praised!

Adrianna Tuohino

Pastor's Report

Perhaps the best verse to summarize 2020 at Maranatha is one we studied together back in February: "Consider it all pure joy, brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials" (James 1:3). And wow, have we encountered some very unusual trials this year; and yet I believe we have been able to see the Lord at work in each one, even if we haven't reached their conclusion just yet. For instance, we can give thanks to God for:

- The launch of *EvangelismShift* which we anticipate will equip many of us to live as effective witnesses for Christ and also enable us to improve our disciple-making endeavors.
- The establishment of an online ministry for our weekly worship services as a result of the Covid-related restrictions on meeting together in the spring and early summer months.
- The team of adult volunteers who are shepherding our student ministries following Pastor Thad's departure. Sunday morning and Wednesday evening gatherings have provided an opportunity to care for our students and also involve more of the church family in their activities.
- His great financial provision for our ministries in a time when many churches are seeing a decline in giving. All of our needs are met, several special projects have been completed and our Missions Super Sunday more than covered the budget gap for our missionaries.

At the same time – and as always – we must continue to walk by faith in many respects as we continue to seek the Lord's direction or provision for:

- Our need for a worship pastor. Progress is being made, but the position is not filled yet.
- Our need for a student ministries pastor. This will be a top priority for the elders at the start of the new year.
- Our desire to more proactively and effectively shepherd each member of the Maranatha family and also welcome new attenders into the life of our church.

Of course, there is much more that could be said, but this provides a glimpse of where my prayers have been, and will continue to be centered in the year to come. Let's continue to seek Jesus together even more deliberately in 2021 and trust Him to lead us according to His good and perfect plan.

Pastor Aaron

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministry at Maranatha exists to lead women to maturity in Christ by giving them opportunities to grow in their faith through Bible study, fellowship, and relationships.

Our theme for June 2019 through June 2020 was **The Spiritually Healthy Woman**, and we got a good start with a pool party, a day retreat and a lovely Christmas brunch. As we headed into 2020 we continued this theme by enjoying our annual February IF:Gathering - an event that was quite encouraging.

When the pandemic hit mid-March, everything shut down and our spring events had to be put on hold. We did our best to be encouraging to one another – Beth Telecky offered several zoom gatherings and we all waited, hoping for a quick movement of the virus. It did not move quickly, but several months, we decided to meet anyway to see each other and to try to plan ahead. So we met at the end of June, and talked about our thoughts for the coming year, but nothing could be planned since we didn't know the duration or intensity of the virus. We did decide that **RESTORE** would be a theme that would certainly fit the times.

In September and October, several hikes and play dates were organized and enjoyed, but the virus and the weather complicated plans.

Also, a transfer of leadership for the team came this summer. Deane Watters, after serving as team leader for nine years, passed the position to Breanna Messer. We are all looking forward to the time when we can gather and enjoy fellowship and times of growth once again.

Psalm 23:3 reminds us that He is the only one who restores my soul...We can rest in Him and wait for the "storm" to pass.

Team members this year were: Beth Telecky, Breanna Messer, Brenda Kelly, Deane Watters, Maggie Noll, Tara Wade, Barbi Holub and Kari Box.

Deane Watters

Budget

2020

2021

Income

4030 Total Income \$ 480,000 490,000

Expenses

6000 Payroll 310,010 270,961

6100 Missions 54,001 54,000

6200 Youth Ministry 11,000 11,000

6250 Children's Ministry 4,100 4,100

6260 Library 200 300

6270 Adult Ministry 4,100 4,100

6271 Women's Ministry 1,500 1,500

6275 Men's Ministries 500 1,000

6295 Nursery 300 600

6300 Elders 10,250 3,000

6350 Worship 1,000 2,500

6360 Hospitality 1,000 1,000

6400 Building & Grounds 45,500 50,000

6450 Insurance 12,350 18,000

6500 Office 15,500 16,000

6600 Deacons 14,500 14,500

Reserves _____ 12,000

Total expenses \$ 485,811 \$464,561