



*making fully devoted followers of Christ*

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# AT A GLANCE...

*Kids*



*Community*



*Mission Trip*



*Stories*



*Sports*



*Outreach*



*Updates*



*Finances*







# A NOTE FROM JON

As I reflect on this past ministry season, it's overwhelming to consider the many 'ministry wins' we witnessed! But simultaneously I was reminded that only in heaven will we see the 'full scoreboard' as only the Lord knows the motives of our hearts and sees the unseen service of His people! And so, with our limited perspective in view, we want to celebrate the many ways we've seen His grace @ work in us and through us this year - 'grace sightings'!

**A COMPELLING THEME: DISCIPLE** - following Jesus together!

This year we chased the question - What's it mean to be a disciple? This led us into a greater understanding of our identity and calling as followers of Jesus! Our hope is that each of us was equipped and encouraged to take our 'next step' as we follow our Lord with increasing surrender! Paul paints the picture of our pursuit this year - He (Christ) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me (Colossians 1.28-29).

**An ENERGIZING DIET...**

In September, we launched our '21-day ONE LIFE initiative', with a focus on reaching our unsaved friends. We were challenged to pray like Jesus in our 'praying like' series. Then as we relived the story of Ruth, we discovered how to live in His shadow! As we celebrated Christmas, we unpacked the question - Why did God become human? In January we were equipped to make the most of our trials through our 'CORE WORK' series. We learned to practice the way of Jesus as we worked our way through the gospel of Mark. In our 'CRAVE' series, we were challenged to live on the Word of God! Then we listened in to the teaching of Peter as we studied his 1st letter. He is so faithful to grow us up through His Word!

**A DREAM SESSION** together...

We gathered in a variety of contexts, January through March, to dream together about where the Lord may be leading us in the next 3-5 years! We asked questions like: Where does God seem to be already at work among us? What are the pressing needs in our church family and community? How can we maximize the resources He has given us to multiply our impact? A big takeaway was to continue to pursue our mission with a renewed focus on creating healthy, Christ-centered, Bible based, love-fueled small groups who are living on mission! As the Lord adds members to our church family, we want to be intentional about creating avenues for healthy community to happen!

**A BIG INITIATIVE...**

To help us accomplish this vision, we were led to add a Pastor of Discipleship to our staff! We began to pray for the Lord to lead just the person we need to oversee our discipleship process. We're excited to see how He will provide!

**A BEAUTIFUL TEAM...**

THANK YOU for being a part of our church family! His grace is flowing through you in ways that are transforming lives for the good and bringing Him glory! Thanks for sharing His love, for risking relationships, for spending your time in ministry, for giving sacrificially to advance His kingdom, and for pursuing sweet unity as a team!

**ALL FOR HIM!**

With love,  
Jon





# UPDATES

## Compassion Team

Our Compassion Team supports a number of efforts to relieve suffering both locally and around the globe. From food pantries to orphan care, financial assistance and housing for those in need, our Compassion Team helps serve those less fortunate.

This year our team set up their first Care Community. Care Communities walk alongside foster parents or adoptive parents as they navigate the many challenges of adoption/foster care. These groups provide respite care for parents, additional support for children, and a variety of other ways to encourage and champion these families.

## 60+ Group

The primary purpose of this group is to create an environment for them to connect, not only with each other, but with our church and community.

This past year they loaded up into vans at Christmas time and went to numerous local places to see Christmas lights after enjoying dessert in the Fireside Room.

Then in August they had a great time at Greg & Kim Herald's for their yearly Pontoon Rides & Dinner event! Over 50 people attended!



## Trailview

Trailview Church has made some significant progress this year.

They've grown both spiritually and numerically. They began supporting some missions endeavours and made changes to their building. Currently, they're in the process of looking for a pastor. 4 families from West Bridge have been invaluable to the success and launch of Trailview Church. The Humphreys, Clines, Browns, and Segers have invested so much time, energy, prayer, and love into this congregation. We're excited about some potential partnerships in the next year as well as utilizing their building more effectively and paving their parking lot. Once the new pastor starts, (hopefully by Jan 2025) they will be set up to make an immediate impact in Trailview and the Lebanon community. Please continue to pray for this congregation.



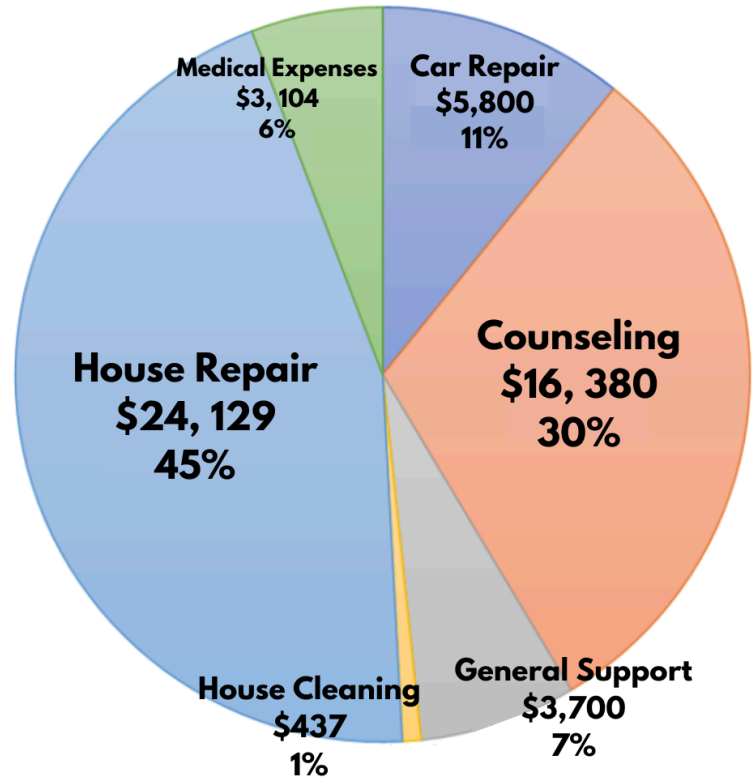


# FINANCES

## Deacon Fund

The Deacon Care Team assists the Elder Leadership Team by providing and coordinating care for people in need. Funds donated through the Deacon Fund are used to help provide temporary assistance such as food, shelter, Christian counseling, medical care and other needs for members and regular attenders of the West Bridge family.

During this ministry year, over \$24,000 was donated to the Deacon Fund. Combined with existing funds, this was used to help meet several financial needs for 15 families. The chart to the right provides a summary of the types of needs that were supported.



## Giving

We are so blessed here at West Bridge! We have a congregation that's not only willing to give of their time and resources, but also give financially. The ministries we support here and around the world can only happen with your help!

23-24 BUDGET

**\$1,490,762**

23-24 OFFERING TOTAL  
[Undesignated giving]

**\$1,544,555.15**

END OF FISCAL YEAR  
NET CASH

**\$415,192.51**



**BALANCE: \$251,362.27**



# OUTREACH

## Thanksgiving Offering

TOTAL GIVEN: \$163,250.01

ABOVE TARGET: \$60,250.01

For over 45 years our church has collected a special offering during the Thanksgiving season.

We have been blown away by your generosity each and every year!

These are our recipients from 2023:



**Eddie & Sara Ferguson**



**Bethesda Outreach**



**HS Summer Mission Trip**



**Casa de Gracia**

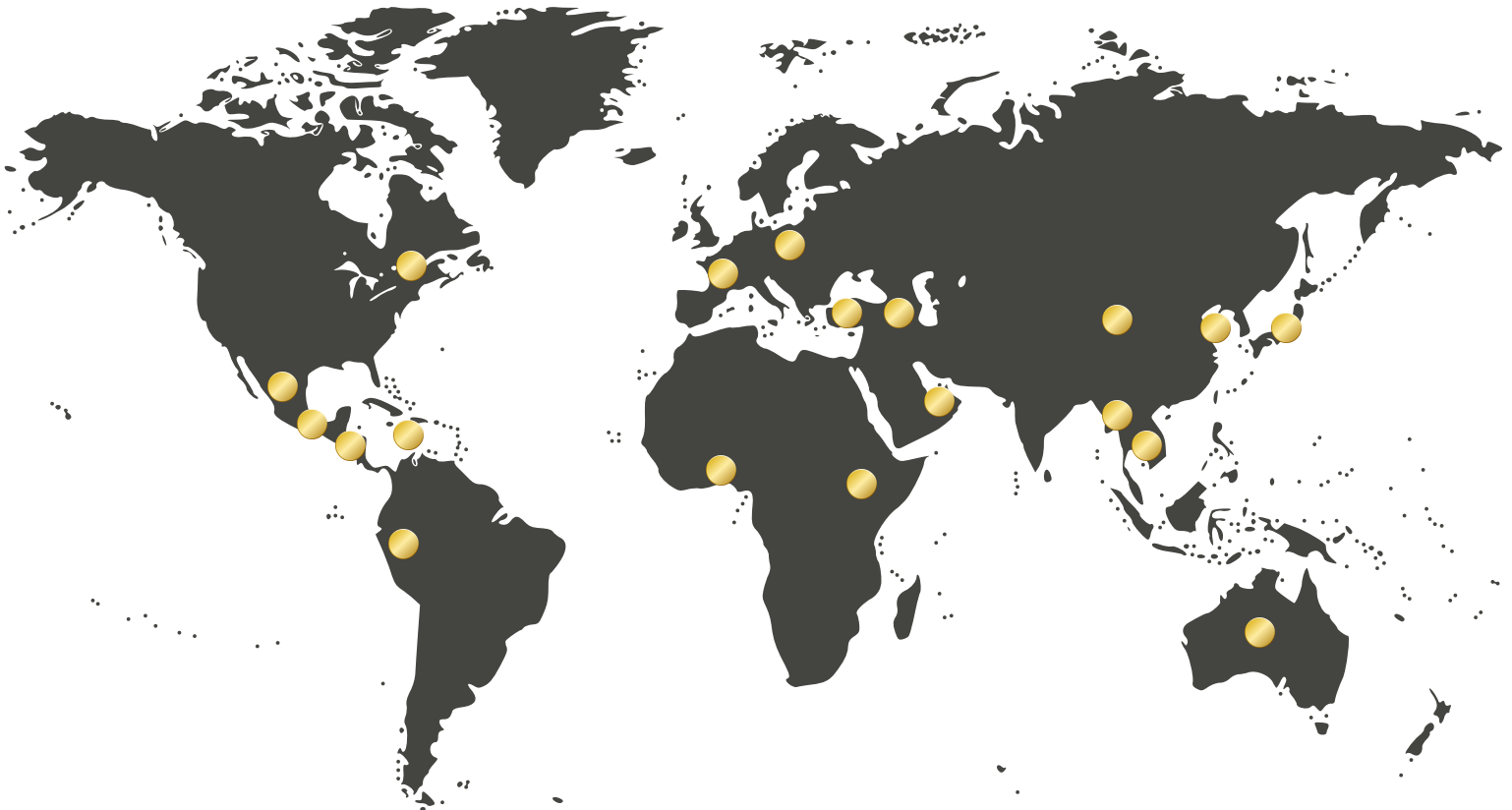


# World Vision: Chosen

It was our first year to participate in CHOSEN through World Vision. To see over 132 children in Uganda find sponsorship from our church family showed us the amazingly generous people we have at West Bridge!



## Global Church Planting



We have 16 missionary teams serving in 20 countries around the world. Your consistent prayers and financial contributions allow them to serve church planting endeavors. If you'd like more information on how to pray for our missionaries, contact the church office to be put on a missions email list.





West Bridge Kids' Ministry continues to grow spiritually as well as the number of families in attendance. On average, we serve over 130 kids 0-4th grade each Sunday.

We also continue to grow our volunteer team as we serve more families. We have 50 adult volunteers and 20 student volunteers serving our kids on Sunday mornings. Several people from our congregation stepped up over the summer to fill gaps during both services. What an encouragement to see couples and individuals step out in faith and obedience to serve the next generation!

Our Milestone Classes continue to offer parenting support through different phases of child development. Those classes previously took place on Sunday after church ( 1 per quarter), but this past year we moved them to Sunday morning during the 9:00 hour and found that to help several more families to participate. We also found that this helped many families take a 'first step' or 'first time participation' in an activity/event outside of Sunday service attendance.



**Sunday Mornings**

**Summer Camp**

**Family Night**



**Winter Camp**

**Bible Reading & Memory Verse Challenge**

**Milestone Classes**







**84 ADULT VOLUNTEERS  
+ 50 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS  
+ OVER 300 KIDS**

*Best Day Camp to date!*



## **2nd Grade helper Rhonda English says:**

I was sitting alone pondering "What am I here for?" and feeling distant from the years I had served my Lord with grade school children. Satan was pulling all his mental and physical tricks on me and I was starting to crumble to his efforts to discourage me. When a little girl started "small talk" much beyond her young years. After speaking of her family, she then turned the conversation to herself and what she had learned from camp so far. Without hesitation she said she knew she had not talked to God about believing in him, and needed to, but wasn't sure how. I told her she could talk to her Heavenly Father just like she talks to her daddy. He will hear her and know her feelings and thoughts. I asked her if she wanted to tell him that she wanted him to forgive her for her sin and that she believed he came into our world to die on the cross for her sin because he loved her so much. And she said "Yes, thats what I want to do!" Keira then spoke the words to Jesus and believed He saved her and would always be with her.

*"My Lord never fails me."*

## **1st Grade Teacher Lindsay Agan says:**

A first grade boy wanted so badly to go up the inflatable wall but was very afraid. I told him I'd walk down with him and be sure to find a way out if he needed to, but I knew he could do it. When he got to it he was so brave and climbed up and was be able to go down the slide! Afterward he was so proud of himself and how he related it to the story that morning of not being fearful. He said,

*"I didn't have to be afraid because I knew God was with me and He would help me!"*





## Mom's Group

This group of moms as a collective has a heart after God, encourages one another in truth, and is a safe space. After joining this group, I have personally witnessed God's faithfulness, provision, and goodness in my own life and others alike - I gained sweet friends, a deeper desire to be rooted in scripture, I try to focus on the good news of grace rather than my own shortcomings, and so much more. I specifically have loved gleaning from seasoned "mentor" moms who see me where I'm at, have been there themselves, and can lift me up while helping me set my gaze and reliance upon the Lord amidst it all.

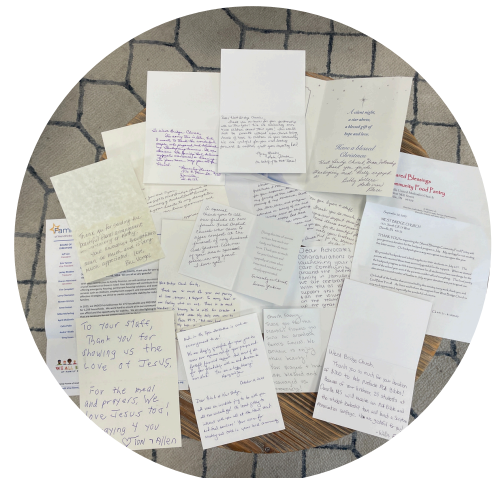
*Taylor Callahan*

The start of the West Bridge Mom's Group is what ultimately brought me to West Bridge Church as a young mom without much of a community. Now after having been a part of this group for several years, I have grown and benefited from it in more ways than I could have imagined. Not only has it blessed me with an amazing community of women to share in the motherhood journey with, it has also been a huge piece in the growing of my faith as a newer christian. The way the women in this group share the knowledge and wisdom of the word of God through so many possible scenarios of motherhood has helped me tremendously to better know my God and ignited my passion to raise my kids pointing them to Him.

*Jessica Barker*

## Our heart

The heart of our church shows through not only in our members and attenders but in our community! So many thank-you notes are received each year, from those who have lost loved ones, those who have rented the facility, to those who have had our members be the hands and feet of Jesus. THANK YOU for all you do! We see you, and more importantly the Lord sees you!







# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## *5th-8th grade*

This year, our 5th-8th grade ministry had several students commit to taking next steps in their faith as well as numerous outreach events with easy invites for students to bring friends as we seek to reach people far from Jesus. We had the opportunity to see countless students grow in their faith with taking tangible steps and many students taking the step of baptism. Our weekend retreat at One Voice was a pivotal trip where students deepened their understanding of Jesus and Scripture, strengthening their faith in a lasting way. We continue to see a deepening in the faith and maturity of students. We are so thankful for our team of 20 adult volunteers who serve faithfully every week by pouring into students.



**Bible studies**

**Sunday Mornings**

**Summer parties**

**Father/Son Hiking Trip**

**Guys/Girls Nights**

**One Voice**

**Sunday Nights**







This year, our high school ministry was marked by great growth in students becoming more fully devoted followers of Jesus. Every single week the students are led by fellow students through our student band, followed by teaching directly out of God's word. One of the sweet things is seeing high schoolers catch a vision for the importance of gathering together to fellowship, sing, and hear God's word taught. In addition to that, we had a great group of students engaged in weekly Bible study (where they even had homework ha!), exploring Genesis in the fall and joining a prayer group in the spring. We had multiple outreach events, one of the highlights being a 3-on-3 tournament that brought in over 80 people, most of whom were not connected to our church.

We celebrated many baptisms and saw numerical growth as well as growth in depth with many students taking bold steps in their faith by sharing Jesus with friends and committing to church membership. We are incredibly grateful for our 14 faithful adult volunteers who serve each week, pouring into students through small groups and fostering an environment where their faith can be strengthened and grown.



**Bible studies**  
**Sunday Mornings**  
**Guy/Girls Nights**



**Summer Trip**  
**Small Groups**  
**Day Trips**





# JAMAICA 2024



## *High School Summer Mission Trip*

The highlight of the year was a 9-day mission trip to Jamaica, where 40 students and 10 adult leaders served alongside the churches in Jamaica. Despite a hurricane that came through that week, I believe this was the most effective international trip we have done as a group. Students led daily VBS at Mt. Stewart Baptist Church and Oasis. There were countless students who had gospel conversations with the Jamaicans, and 10 Jamaicans professed faith in Christ for the first time. Additionally, we were able to assist with very tangible items related to the hurricane that had come through.

One of the most memorable moments was our final night as a group. What began as a debrief and recap of the week, turned into an impromptu testimony and song night. Many students shared their stories of how they trusted Christ and committed to following Him wholeheartedly.

Upon returning home, our students displayed a renewed devotion to Jesus, and it was especially inspiring to see our seniors investing in younger students through Bible studies and mentoring.





# VOLUNTEER STORIES

So I started working with Silas when he was in 2nd grade. He struggled with making it through the entire class time without needing a break in the Special Needs room. He especially didn't like large group because the music was loud and it was a large group environment. Many times the goal with him was to help him make it through small group and see how much of large group he could make it through before he went to the Special Needs room. Towards the end of last year (3rd grade) he not only could make it through small group with little problems, he made it through large group and even went up front with his peers to help lead worship! This was a HUGE step for him and I was so proud of his growth. It's been fun to see him settle in and have great days with his class.

Leslie Olajimbati

I serve in the 2's room, so when I read the Bible story, if I have even half the kiddos sitting on their circle on the rug listening, I consider it a win! I try to start each time off by holding up the Bible and saying, "This is the Bible. The Bible is true. The Bible is God's word, and God always tells the truth. What do we know about the Bible?" Then I encourage the kids to say, "The Bible is true!" with me. I shared at our children's ministry training that some of the kids are getting it and repeat "The Bible is true" with me. A mom of one of the 2 year olds spoke up and said her child repeats it at home too. I was very encouraged by that! I told the group I'm not going to attempt to explain the triune God to the 2's and some of the other 7 core truths we teach in Children's Ministry are hard for them to understand, but they're getting this one. And as Kimmy and Lyndsay pointed out, by the time the kids get out of elementary, they'll know them all and then with Kyle and his team of leaders in youth ministry, they'll have an even deeper understanding of God's truths.



Kim Martin



Brad & Michelle Legan have been grilling hotdogs and hamburgers and passing out popsicles for the past 4 years during our Softball season at Ellis Park. They give selflessly and generously for several hours each week, creating a welcoming atmosphere and a place to hang with friends and even inviting those who are walking by to join us.

A couple summers ago they had the idea of planting corn in our backyard to help supply the local food pantry, the community in general and serve our church family. We enjoyed this corn (and their grilling expertise) at our August Member Meeting (300 ears!). They froze over 200 quarts for Shared Blessings, and passed out and delivered over 50 dozen in the husks.

We love these two and are so thankful for their willing hearts and physical effort to serve our community and church family without hesitation.



## *Girls Volleyball League*

This Spring, we launched our very first ever Girls Volleyball League at West Bridge Church! After seeing an opportunity for outreach to our community, we moved forward in faith that God would provide not only the coaches for the league, but also the players. And He sure did! 20 ladies from our church stepped up to not only help the girls grow in their volleyball skills, but also share the hope of Christ and good news of the Gospel with them over the 8-week season. And by God's grace, we had 85 girls participate! This means we had 85 girls who heard the message of God's love for them and were encouraged and prayed for by their coaches consistently through the 8-week season. Praise God! Please continue to pray that the seeds of truth planted this season will be watered and will grow in the days to come, all for His glory!



## *Theology Class*

We were excited to offer a class for kids and their parents covering some basic theology: The Theology of God, the Theology of the Bible, and the Theology of Salvation. Through teaching and hands on activities, the kids worked with their parents to learn and reinforce some basic theological truths of the Christian Faith.

**We had 25 families participate in a 3-week class on Sunday evenings.**







GLOBAL 6K  
FAMILY NIGHT  
BIBLE STUDIES  
SOFTBALL LEAGUE  
TRUNK OR TREAT



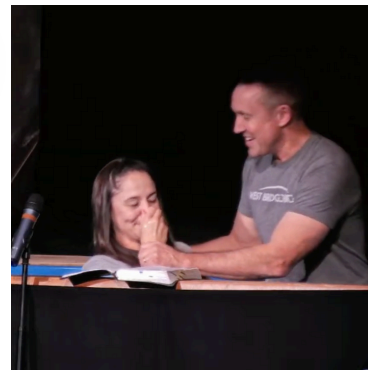
2  
salvations



28  
\*5 new this year!  
small groups



17  
baptisms



MEAT NIGHT  
ALL CHURCH WORK DAY  
WORSHIP BY THE FIRE  
BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
KITCHEN RENOVATION



39  
new members