

ANNUAL REPORT



CEDAR HILLS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 2019

State of the Church: Growing Good

"I am confident of this, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion..."
(Philippians 1:6).

Last night I heard a testimony about God's faithfulness in a time of personal crisis. When this individual encountered trauma, she discovered that God provided comfort, support, and hope through the community around her. Friends at Cedar Hills acted like family, wrapping their arms of love around someone in need. Thanks be to God!

While this testimony was one person's story, it could be repeated countless times. God's goodness, experienced through the hands and feet of a loving community, becomes real as we live out our lives of faith together. This is one of the many "goods" that God is growing in us and through us.

God is good and God's faithfulness endures forever. God makes and keeps promises. God finishes what God starts.

For 60 years our congregation has experienced God's goodness in times of joy and trauma. Thanks be to God!

As we plan for the future, we do so with confidence knowing that God's love never changes. The truth and certainty of God's unchanging character provides stability in times of change.

This is the foundation of our faith. *"Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever"*
(Hebrews 13:8).

The Lord be with you,
~ Pastor Kent



Disciples making disciples in the everyday stuff of life

Because God loves us, we love.

We love God deeply.

We love ourselves properly.

We love our neighbors boldly.

Because we love, we grow missional communities

Gospel: Life in Jesus.

Community: Life together.

Mission: Life reaching out.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
mind, soul, and strength,
and love your neighbor as yourself."*
(Matthew 22:34-40)





Cedar Hills Congregational Meeting Agenda

November 3, 2019 – 12:10—12:30 PM

Purpose:

Inspire the congregation with God's vision for Cedar Hills.

Inform the congregation about current state of ministry at Cedar Hills.

Affirm Elders, Deacons, and the budget for the coming year.

Welcome and Prayer - Lois Deerberg

Approval of 2018 Minutes as Distributed—Gary Mills

Cedar Hills Bright Spots—Pastor Kent

Financial Reports – Alan Brockette

1. *Ministry Impact*
2. *2019 Financial Overview and 2020 Budget*

Affirmation of 2020 Budget—Lois Deerberg

Affirmation of Elders and Deacons—Lois Deerberg

Thanks and Closing – Pastor Alan



2019 was a year of transition for Journey Student Ministry.

Jeremy Van Genderen wrapped up Spring Ministry at Cedar Hills in May, and headed off to Allison, IA to assume the lead pastor role at Trinity Reformed Church. Jeremy set a great foundation for volunteers to continue Youth Ministry over the summer, including Lead the Cause evangelism and discipleship training in Chicago. The search for a new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry culminated in August with the hiring of Steve Poole!

Mission Statement: Students transformed by a growing relationship with Jesus.

Key Elements:

1. Gospel-minded
2. Discipleship-based
3. Intergenerational relationships 5:1

What can you do?

Teenagers today need to know they belong to a community that is passionate about loving people. Join the leadership team, mentor a teenager in their faith, attend some of their events to cheer them on, or invite youth to work beside you in your ministry.

~ Steve Poole

Director of Youth & Young Adults



Worship & Media Ministries

When I think about the last year, I think about the spiritual journey we've been on in worship. Do any of these topics ring a bell? *King. Just Love. First Love. Transformation Vocabulary. Just Love Transforms. Margin. Life is. Grow the Good.*

This year, we learned vocab to help us in our quest to transform the Corridor, intentionally becoming disciples who make disciples in the everyday stuff of life, in those places we already exist!

And then we shifted our focus to the baby in the manger... a King, but not in the sense of glitz and glamor and pomp and circumstance, but in hay and animal smells in a tiny village.

We learned what Biblical love is, the role of love in our spiritual growth and how to extend love to our neighbors. We were challenged to fall in love again with our Lord, returning to that 'first love', and then letting the power of love transform us!

We learned white space is good, that we are prone to fill our lives with so much stuff and that we need to dial back and get back to God as first place in our time and priorities. We learned of the abundant life promised to us in John 10:10. What is life? Life is... Jesus! And now... Grow the Good. There is so much happening at Cedar Hills. We're asking: "How can our building and our ministries continue to be a blessing to our neighborhood and our cities for another 60 years?"

And then the songs! O the songs! Together we learned "Let Justice Roll", "Boldly I Approach Your Throne", "Build My Life", "New Life", and "Here For You"; and our kids wowed us again and again with "Wherever You Lead Me".

2019 has been quite the journey for us! The joys, the sadness, the victories, the defeats... and yet we can declare with confidence, "GOD IS GOOD!"

~ Leah

Director of Worship & Media

Children & Family Ministry

With such a blessing of flexibility and grace from our families, the children's ministry has undergone quite a few changes. But we think, with the help of our families, we have found the "special sauce," and are reestablishing our focus around the necessity of Family Discipleship. Before we move-on, let me explain what we mean by the term Family Discipleship:

In simplest terms, being a "disciple" of something means that you are buying into and embodying all that a specific leader is instructing. The addition of the "-ship," is suggesting that you are a "disciple" for a given amount of time. In Christianity, that leader is Jesus Christ and the amount of time he requests, is for the rest of your life. Therefore, Family Discipleship means that together as a family, whatever that looks like, we have committed to being life-long followers of the Lord, Jesus Christ. We see family discipleship in a three-fold approach: 1) **Gospel**, 2) **Community** and 3) **Mission**. Practically speaking, this means, that discipleship, as a family and as an individual, we must desire to be more gospel-fluent, as well as experiencing and serving in community as much as possible.

While it's a joyous task to walk with Jesus, and follow him wherever he may lead us, it can feel incredibly difficult and can actually be quite scary. Unfortunately, we can't say that Jesus won't make you uncomfortable, but we believe that the church is meant to be the extended family that comes alongside you in this journey! Here's a brief look at how we think that the church can come together with your family on this adventure:

Gospel: Sunday Classes, Providing Resources, Explorers Children's Worship

Community: Parenting Together, Missional Communities, Monthly Events

Mission: Family Discipleship, Monthly Events, Monthly Supply Drives

~ Kyle French
Director of Family and Children's Ministry

"I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches"

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Jesus told the allegory of The Vine at the Last Supper. He promised to make us fruitful. When Jesus abides in us, and vice versa, the result is the interpenetration of his life with ours. But how does this actually work?

Jesus showed his disciples what "abiding in him" means by washing their dirty feet. Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I have done? . . . I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:3-16). We are inspired to serve each other "just as" Jesus served us.

Jesus teaches that we "will do the same works" he did--because "if you ask anything in my name I will do it" (John 14:12-14). Note the source of the disciples' Christ-like deeds: Jesus will do it!

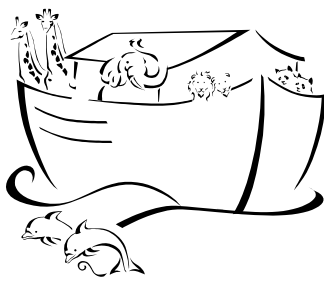
"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. . . . You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" (John 15:12-16)

It's because we are chosen by Christ that we can imitate him. Disciples have only one task: to abide in the vine, obeying Jesus. Whatever we need to love one another will be given to us.

Jesus' called his first disciples to learn the Christly lifestyle by being "with him." Today, Jesus reveals himself through you and me. Our church fellowship is where we "abide" in the vine and learn the ways of Jesus.

"They'll know we are Christians by our love."

~ Alan Crandall
Pastor of Care



Noah's Ark Preschool

Leslie Clauson served 16 years of service to Noah's Ark. She retired at the end of May 2019. We ended the 2018-2019 school year with 46 students.

There has been a decrease in numbers for several years due to the free 4-year-old preschool offered in the public schools. We continue to offer a quality Christian-based program and are blessed with an outstanding staff. I would like to acknowledge Jan Fick's 25th year as a Noah's Ark Teacher last year. We have a staff of six. Jack Fick, Lead Teacher of the 4-year-old MWF (26 years), Lori Larson, Assistant Teacher of the 4-year-old MWF (13 years), Matt Houghkirk, Lead Teacher of the 3-year-old MWF, Darlene DeVries, Assistant Teacher of the 3-year-old MWF, Lorri Anderson, Assistant Teacher of the 3-year-old T/TH (5 years) and myself, Lead of the 3-year-old T/TH, and Lunch Bunch MWF (7 years).

Our board members for this school year are Allison Johnson (Deacon), Melissa Oberembt, Carrie Campbell, Sarah Lewis, Mellany Davis, Justina Conrad, Jan Fick, and myself. They are a dedicated volunteer group that supports our school and meets monthly.

A budget was submitted for the 2019-2020 school year that was approved by the board, which includes a donation to the church in December of \$7,500. We anticipate ending the year with a very slight profit. We have eight church families who send their children to our school this year. Our current enrollment is at 48. We continue to recruit more students to fill our last five remaining spots.

~ Kris Crowther
Director of Noah's Ark Preschool



Connection and Communication

As I write this I've been on staff for 6 months. We have a few new missional communities and are spending a great deal of time on the foundation for communication, before we get to more obvious steps like altering our website. There is something more pressing I want to tell you about.

My primary focus has been on relationships with my colleagues. Please allow me to share some tidbits with you. I've never met someone who has such ability to use both sides of their brain as Leah does. She is gifted at moving from the artistic right side to the logical left and we all benefit from this, every day. Jennifer upholds the welcoming reputation for our entire church with how she responds to the constant needs of our church family and those not yet in our church body. Her methodical habits keep us all on track. Kyle is adept at using his eye for design in creations for visual appeal both in print and digitally. His creations are often sought out by other leaders. I had the privilege of living with the Poole family and have quickly become familiar with Steve. I can say that he and Cathy are wired for drawing in youth with their hospitality and wisdom. Any teen would be blessed by a friendship with the Pooles.

Alan has a gift of having Biblical words of wisdom at the ready. Many a time, I've seen Alan turn a difficult situation into loving encouragement in a few short sentences. Most people I talk to point to Alan and Jan's ministry as being central to their feeling of being drawn to the church. Kent is the best leader I've ever worked with. The new staff get to be the beneficiary of years of Kent growing in leadership ability. He is not doing this job for the status or esteem. Kent is clearly in this role because of his love for God's people. Kent offers insight and encouragement at just the right times, so that we can all carry out our vision for our ministries with autonomy and hope.

~ Lindsey Ungs
Connection & Communication Architect

2019 Statistics

Nov 2018 - Oct 2019

New Members: (55)

*Ben Drzycimski

*Max Penk

*Kara Van Genderen

Ryan Arhus

Mario & Tameka Armon

Jim & Kelly Beavers

Melanie & Shaun Boots

Matthew & Shannon

Constant

Carol Mangrich

Chad & Kylene Dunham

Kyle & Alisse French

Carmen & Luke Gronewold

Martha Krejci

Bruce & Virginia Petrzalka

Dave & Karen Roberts

Travis & Tiffany Schmidt

Prince & Aline Tschombe

Hilaire Tschombe

Karl & Lindsey Ungs

* = FaithQuest student

*Tate Joens

*Ethan Strecker

Gwyn & Harriet Aarhus

Ron Alexander

Richard & Marilyn

Beauregard

Amanda & Stephen

Colbert

Shanon Davison &

Ryan Dohlman

Debbie Erenberger

Trudy Greaser

Carolyn Harvey

Brian & Katie Kroeze

Ken & Lauren Palmersheim

Gary & Sue Sager

Patrick & Kimberly Teply

Frankline Tschombe

May Tschombe

Baptisms: (10)

*(Patty) Patricia Bray

Briar Davis Dahm

Maci Lynn Kroeze

Aiden James Schrader

Rowan John Scott

* = adult baptism

Brynn McNee Corrigan

Leo Gerrit Kroeze

Eddie Lynn Palmersheim

Kenneth Witt Palmersheim

Josie May Teply

Missions

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

We are the kind of people who reach out. We live in the middle of a large and growing mission field in Eastern Iowa known as the corridor. Every one of us has a call to bring transformation to the corridor by sharing the gospel in word and deed. We also reach out through partnerships with local and regional ministries like Open Hands Food Pantry, Matthew 25, Safe Families for Children, Family Promise of Linn County, Bridgehaven, Mission of Hope, Salvation Army, Power of Women and Children, Geneva Ministries, Cru (Katie Smith), Lakeview Camps, and the Gideons.

We reach out globally through partnerships with individuals and organizations that spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. We support Linda Deboer and Chinese Family Fellowship (International Student Ministry), Beth Larson reaching the Czech Republic (church planting), John and Becky Leverington in Turkey (Olive Tree Counseling), Jeremy and Susan Beebout in Niger, Africa (RCA missionaries), Andy Smothers in Bahrain (RCA missionary), Words of Hope (Radio Broadcast), Blessman Ministries in South Africa (Days For Girls).

Thanks for your support and participation in 2019. Your giving allows us to continue our mission of outreach locally and globally.

~ Pastor Kent & Missions Team

Nov 2018 - Oct 2019

New Members: 55

Baptisms: 10

Total Members: 650

Annual Budget Summary	2019	2020	% change	change
STAFF TOTAL	\$452,293	\$493,729	9.2%	\$41,436
PHYSICAL PLANT TOTAL	\$201,182	\$195,529	-2.8%	-\$5,653
RCA ASSESSMENTS	\$51,358	\$55,841	8.7%	\$4,483
MINISTRY TEAMS				
Support Team	\$71,848	\$68,615	-4.5%	-\$3,233
Consistory	\$1,200	\$1,200	0%	\$0
Discipleship Team	\$40,800	\$37,140	-9.0%	-\$3,660
Service/Hospitality	10,200	\$7,510	-26.4%	\$2,690
Worship Team	\$17,206	\$16,352	-5.0%	-\$854
Outreach/Missions	\$40,970	\$42,120	2.8%	\$1,150
MINISTRY TEAM TOTAL	\$182,224	\$172,937	-5.1%	-\$9,287
TOTAL BUDGET	\$887,057	\$918,036	3.5%	\$30,979

Thank You for your gifts!

- Our ministry is funded by the generous donations of the congregation. Every gift matters and we appreciate it.
- Additional giving will be used to fund additional missions.
- We give thanks to those who are able to make extra year-end gifts. These funds allow us to begin the new year on solid financial ground.

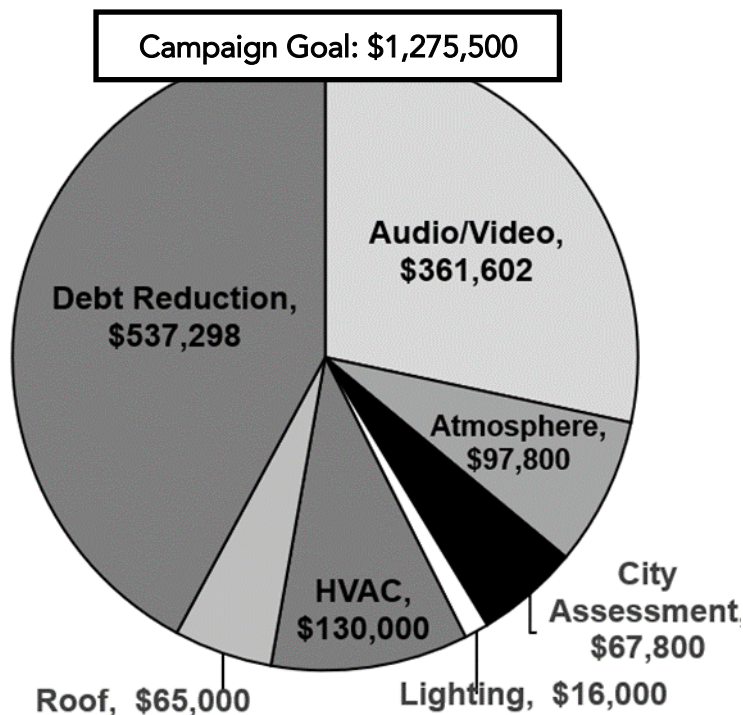


GROW THE GOOD

2019 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Over the next few weeks, you will hear more about our "Grow the Good" Campaign. By funding critical facility upgrades and significant mortgage reduction, the campaign will position Cedar Hills to reach even more people with the good news of Jesus Christ than ever before.

We are blessed to have such a flexible and reliable facility. Though it's still in great condition, with nearly 15 years of heavy use, it's time to prepare for some major upkeep work with a three-year capital stewardship campaign. In the immediate term, our audio/video system in the worship space is in desperate need of replacement. The system has lasted long past its expected life and is currently maintained using used parts we find on the Internet! When you enter the gathering space, hallways, and classrooms, I'm sure you've noticed how worn and stained the carpet is and how banged up some of our walls have gotten over the years. Plans are underway to update these rooms and prepare them for another 15 years of service. We also want to plan for future needs, which include roof replacement and new heating/cooling systems. We'll also raise funds to reduce our remaining building mortgage and cover the city tax assessment for the street and sidewalk updates in our neighborhood. More info at the Capital Campaign table in the Gathering Space.





Cedar Hills Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2018 – 12:15 PM

Purpose: *Inspire the congregation with God's vision for Cedar Hills. Inform the congregation about current state of ministry at Cedar Hills. Affirm Elders, Deacons, and the budget for the coming year.*

Worship Songs and Prayer - Leah Carolan

State of the Church Report: Presented by Pastor Kent, President of Consistory. Hebrews 13:8—Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Pastor Kent spoke of change and being in flux. He outlined 4 goals:

1. *One Church doing life in community. –an all-church experience creating unity.—enhancing oneness through community.*
2. *Many Places—doing life on mission. –training missional community leaders. –adding project management to assist in growth.*
3. *Following Jesus by doing life-on-life. –growing disciples who make disciples in small groups. –Living life together, practicing forgiveness, repentance, and confession.*
4. *Transforming the Corridor—grow welcoming- “Starting Point” and “Open Table.” –Grow Generosity-exceed budgets in 2018 and 2019.*

Approval of 2017 Minutes as Distributed—Lois. MSC to approve the minutes of last year.

Financial Reports – Allison Johnson

1. *Ministry Impact—18-20 ministry teams including some new , such as Family Promise.*
2. *Family gatherings*
3. *Community and Missions.*
4. *Outside Clubs and Organizations—over 15.*

2018 Financial Overview and 2019 budget—Bruce Boldt 1. *Priorities include staff, building, missions, and outreach.* 2. *Budget Management—aligned to giving, dollars spent are closely managed, major repairs are not included, reducing debt.* 3. *Total budget is \$887,057, decrease by 4.2 %.* 4. *Challenges and opportunities include: roof, carpet, HVAC, Flooring, classrooms, city assessments. Cedar Hills depends on giving from congregation. Giving is a calling from God: teaching, worship/ music, time, monetary gifts. Colossians 3:17*

Affirmation of 2019 Budget—voted and MSC—approval of the budget (122-3).

Affirmation of Elders and Deacons

Elder Nominees: Robin Joens, Gary Mills, Bruce Crowther

Deacon Nominees: Josh Oberembt, John Davidson, Mel Dahm

MSC to affirm the nominated Elders/Deacons and Jeremy Van Genderen as Elder (122-1).

Thanks and Closing – Lois thanked the retiring Consistory members and Pastor Alan closed the meeting with prayer.

~ Respectfully submitted by Deb DeHaan, Clerk/Elder