



# Cornerstone

## Baptist Church

**One Church....Multiple Sites**

**Annual Report 2023**

**Cornerstone Baptist Church  
Annual Report 2023**

**Table of Contents**

**Minutes from Last Year's Annual Meeting**

**Pastor Phil's Report**

**Pastor Dana's Report**

**Pastor Gordon's Report**

**Pastor Tyler's Report**

**Pastor Winston's Report**

**Pastor Mike's Report**

**Pastor Hannah's Report**

**Child Abuse Prevention Policy**

**2023 Cornwall Kids & Families Report**

**Nursery Report by Laura Baker**

**Cornerstone Kids Report by Amy Mayo**

**Family Ministry Report by Laura Baker**

**Elders Board Report**

**Missions Report**

**Kits of Kindness Report**

**Celebrate Recovery Report**

**Women's Ministry Report - Cornwall**

**Cornwall Facility Committee Report**

**John Bartlett's Report**

**Church Records Information**

**Cornerstone Baptist Church Annual General Meeting**  
**February 11, 2023**  
**Held at Cornerstone Cornwall**

We had a great attendance for today's meeting. For the second year, we offered the option for those unable to attend the meeting to take part through Zoom.

Moderator for Meeting - Matt MacLeod

Agenda:

- Annual Reports
- 2023 Elders Board (Motion)
- Staffing Additions
- Ministry Space Issues
- Budget
  - 2022 Review
  - 2022 Surplus Allocation Vote
  - 2023 Vote
- Action Items:
  - Formation of a Pastoral Search Team
  - Formation of a Cornwall Building Committee
  - Formation of a Montague Ministry Space Solutions Team

**Annual Reports**

There were no questions on 2022's Annual Report.

**2023 Elders Board (Motion)**

David Reid described the process of how Elders are chosen and presented.

David made the following motion:

I, David Reid, move that the following Elders Slate:

- David Reid, Joel Ninaber, Kimberley Jelley, Amos Baker, Peter Ross, Matt MacLeod (Cornwall)
- Valerie Stewart, Douglas Brown (Stratford)
- Matt Poole (Montague)

Become the next board of Elders at Cornerstone Baptist Church

Motion seconded by Mark McGuire.

Vote was passed with 100% approval!

## **Staffing Additions (David Reid, Pastor Phil and Pastor Gordon spoke into this)**

### Pastor of Connections & Care

Cornwall is averaging about 670 people. Another Pastor is needed – Dana and Phil are unable to keep up with connecting with everyone.

Action Item: A pastor search team will be created to seek out someone to fill the role of Pastor of Connections & Care.

### Operations Manager

There is lots of activity in the building throughout the week. Not only is cleaning required, but also maintenance upkeep. As Wanda Newson retired in early 2023, after 13 years of serving (thank you, Wanda!), Jon Levy has been hired as custodian.

Action: The Operations Manager role has been approved within this year's budget and Jon Levy will continue in this role.

### Ministry Director (Director of Stratford Ministries)

Another staff person is needed in Stratford; this role would help connect, equip people and provide outreach opportunities and complete various projects. John Bartlett is the obvious choice after spending the past three summers working at Cornerstone Stratford. A government grant can cover funding for 50% of a full year for this position. We're so excited to have John join the ministry again!

The hope is that this will become a pastoral position. Stratford giving would need to increase for this to occur.

## **Space Issues/Additions (David Reid, Pastor Phil, Pastor Gordon, Pastor Tyler & Joel Ninaber)**

Montague – There has been significant growth in Montague. They have knocked down as many walls as possible to make the building more usable. At this point, new space is needed. Pastor Tyler asked for prayer as they seek to take the right strategic steps.

Action Item: A "Montague Ministry Team" will be created to work through options for the next couple of years.

Cornwall – A very similar story to Montague – huge growth, lack of space. We want to recognize the growth and want to stay in step with it. The Elders are moving to create a building committee and have spoken with several architects about moving forward. We don't want to just have a quick fix, we want to plan ahead well. Sable Arc is a local company that already has our building plans and have been brought forward to have them draw up conceptual plans to be hopefully presented at our meeting in May or June (cost of this is 25,000).

Action Item: A Cornwall Building Committee will be established shortly.

**Budget (Mark Jelley & Klaas De Boer)**

God is at work in our midst! Our giving went up significantly from last year (2021 – 957,041; 2022 – 1,242,248). Last year we had our largest deficit and 2022 brought our largest increase. Every quarter increased over last year, but the fourth quarter saw a substantial increase.

Our 2022 giving results vs. budget summary was blown out of the water, as Cornwall saw an increase of 47%, Stratford 43% and Montague 33%. Our expenses were managed very well last year and the result was a surplus of 247,993.

It was noted that Stratford has a surplus in giving for the first time and Montague is not far behind!

Motion:

I, Mark Jelley, move that Cornerstone Baptist Church receive the 2022 Financial Report and allocate the Surplus as presented.

<b>Distribution of Surplus</b>	
<b>Missions/Refugee Sponsorship</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>United in Mission</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Crandall University</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Acadia Divinity College</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>“Dream Stage” Renderings (Sable Arc)</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Stratford Lights and Roofing</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>Cornwall Capital</b>	<b>26,960</b>
<b>Montague Capital/Prep for Air Conditioning</b>	<b>15,311</b>
<b>Contingency Fund</b>	<b>65,754</b>
<b>Salary Fund</b>	<b>19,968</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,993</b>
<b>* Contingency Fund would be brought up to 100,000</b>	
<b>* Salary Fund would be brought up to 50,000</b>	

Seconded by Jon Levy. Motion Carried.

2023 Budget Summary

Klass presented our 2023 budget. We are projecting an increase of 10% in giving. (\$1,011,000). Expenses are estimated to be \$1,045,462.

Motion:

I, Klaas De Boer, move that Cornerstone Baptist Church accept the 2023 Budget as presented.  
Seconded by Donna Younker/Wanda Newson. Motion Carried

Meeting was closed in prayer by David Reid. Minutes taken by Pam Cullingworth

## Pastor Phil's Report

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Gal 5:25). If there is a year where these words ought to ring true of our ministry this is it! The last 20 years of ministry here at Cornerstone have been filled with ups and downs, challenges and changes, excitement and frustrations (#covid19) and through it all, God has been faithful. Looking out into what’s coming, I can see how God has been preparing us over the past year. Never before has Cornerstone, across all three sites, been so “healthy”. God has been bringing people and families to all three sites (which is a blessing we can’t ever take for granted). God has been raising up wonderful lay leaders across all three sites (which is a key aspect to our collective ministry growth). God has been growing our hearts as it relates to our financial generosity, which has allowed the ministry of 2023 to naturally grow. As I look back at our shared ministry together in 2023, it is clear that God has been up to something big and with each day that passes, the picture gets a little more focused.

At the coming AGM, we will walk through the direction that we see God leading us into. These items have significant implications for all three sites (I will outline them briefly below so you can process before the AGM arrives).

- Cornerstone Cornwall – we still need to work through the ongoing ministry growth and space issues we are facing in Cornwall. We will be bringing some clear next steps for Cornerstone to talk about and vote on as it relates to the building expansion for Cornwall.
- Cornerstone Montague – Pastor Tyler and some of the Elders will be sharing some exciting news regarding a potential merger between our Montague Site and the Montague Christian Church.
- Cornerstone Stratford – Pastor Gordon has already shared the news regarding his new position at our CBAC head office and we’d like to share with you some of the ideas we are working through to ensure the ministry of our Stratford site continues to grow.
- Cornerstone Baptist Church – The Elders Team, across all three sites, is asking you to pray and help discern whether or not, given all that is outlined above, we are entering into a window of time that would see our one church, three sites model, shift into just three churches, who will always have a close ministry relationship in the years ahead.

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Gal 5:25). Never before have these words hit so close to my own heart. It is my prayer that you join us as we seek the Lord’s face together as we desire to keep in step with the Spirit more than anything else.

In Christ, Philip

## Pastor Dana's Report

Charles Dickens famously introduced his literary classic, 'A Tale of Two Cities' with the sentence, "It was the best of times, It was the worst of times." Dickens could well have been describing my 2023: A year rife with experiences of both gains and loss that I could never have predicted in a million years, but also one in which the Good Shepherd has never been more present. God is So Good!

In no particular order, noteworthy highlights of 2023 include:

- The Ecclesiastes series, which drew everyone's gaze upon the Author and Finisher of our faith, reminding us that true purpose, meaning, identity and fulfillment are found exclusively in God.
- Watching and revelling in the number of Cornerstone musical worshipers of every age and stage grow at all three sites, as they so graciously and generously steward their God-given gifts to benefit His Kingdom.
- Taking a Cornerstone band to Moncton to facilitate musical worship for the annual Convention was a tremendous blessing that the Lord allowed me to participate in when I needed it most.
- Being asked to lead worship at the weekly CR meetings was an incredible gift, positing me as a recipient of lyrics that the attendees sang into, over, and across my life.
- The occasions in which I had the privilege of playing with "Winston and the Bishops", primarily with teens whose passion for Jesus is off the charts, were timely and fed my spirit.
- Participating in the Blue Christmas service which Pastor Mike and the Care Team quarter-backed was a rich and memorable night of both grief and healing.
- Being a part of a Monday night Life-Group who will never know how much their influence and friendship demand that I press in to Jesus. This is a priceless gift that every Christ-follower should be so blessed to have.
- The bitter-sweet loss of a number of close friends - Bitter in the hole that their absence has left, sweet in the knowledge that not only are they no longer suffering, but that one day we'll be reunited at the foot of God's throne.
- I continue to pursue (and thoroughly enjoy) my online MA degree in Christianity and the Classics from Knox Seminary in Florida, currently concluding a New Testament Survey, after which I only have three classes remaining.

In conclusion, I have never appreciated the Leadership Team, Elders, and Cornerstone Family as much as I have in 2023. You have consistently, authentically, and lovingly manifested Christ to me and my family. The multiple ways in which you have provided love and support have enabled me to keep my head above water, despite the foe's very best attempts to kill and destroy. Largely due to your ministry, I am experiencing life to the full. I am truly blessed and humbled to be a part of what God is doing in and through the Cornerstone Family.

Humbly in Christ, Dana

## Pastor Gordon's Report

As 2023 began, we were already seeing some fresh momentum and anticipating some new directions at Cornerstone Stratford. For the first time, we saw Stratford fully meet its income target, by 2022 year-end! This progress allowed us to consider adding another staff member as the ministry continues to expand quickly, which coincided well with the availability of John Bartlett who had served with us for four summers already. In April, John came on full-time as the Stratford Director of Ministry and it has been amazing to see how quickly his presence has made an impact in coordinating new ministry and involving new people.

In the Spring, we launched a mini capital campaign to make our space more welcoming, by raising funds to purchase permanent sanctuary seating. People responded to the opportunity with generosity and we were able to also set up a small group area with couches as well. Our stage curtaining also got developed further to enhance the look of our stage.

Penny Ching retired after a remarkable run leading our children's ministry. Her faithfulness in serving in this way has literally impacted a generation of our young people! As we had been seeing a growing number of children attending regularly, we decided to divide the grades 1-6 into two programs and three capable women came forward to take on the children's leadership from infant to grade 6: Janet Neill, Tania Lee Allen, and Sharon McKearney.

For July and August, another year of Canada Summer Jobs funding allowed us to bring Hunter Hamilton on board to support events and community outreach initiatives such as the Green House. For the second year in a row, we hosted a "Neighbourhood Party" that drew a good crowd despite being a rainy day. This event is a great invitation for people in the community, and we also see lots of great things happen as the congregation works together to host this event. The summer activities helped enhance connections and relationship building, particularly among a growing crowd of several dozen newcomers to Canada arriving from various countries in Latin America. By the Fall, a Spanish Bible Reading Group was launched on Tuesday nights which has been a wonderful place of community for many.

The Fall also saw several new initiatives for young people in our church. You'll want to read John Bartlett's report for more about how teams were coordinated for SuperMix (Grades 4-6) and the Hangout (Grades 7-12) were launched, with incredible response from volunteers to lead and young people attending. In November, with so many newcomers to Canada in the congregation as well as in the neighbourhood, Grace Sun helped launch the English Conversation Group with a good turnout of volunteers hosting conversations to practice speaking English.

December saw another successful Women's Advent Tea organized by a capable team of women, with donated items going to Open Door Outreach, and a Songs and Sweets night that drew a great crowd for music, food, and a great time together. By year end, our Sunday morning attendance had officially doubled from where it sat when I began as Stratford's site pastor 5 years before. Our Christmas Eve services hit a record 200 people between the two services and I



invited the Latin America families to join my kids and me for dinner at my home Christmas day, with over 30 people joining us. Reflections like this represent some of the incredible beauty of what God is up to in Stratford and in people's lives, and it's amazing to see.

As I write this report, the announcement has been made about the shift in my role, where I'll working with our broader Baptist family at the CBAC as well as continuing to serve at Cornerstone Stratford in a limited capacity. We're in a time of significant change and with that comes new opportunity to be attentive to and join in what God is doing in Stratford, and I'm glad to be part of it going forward.

We've seen a lot of growth in my 5 years at Stratford, but I've always known it's not about me, or John, or even the many dozens of volunteers who invest of themselves so generously to serve us all. It's like Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." I know that God still has many good things in store and I'm excited to see how the ministry of Stratford takes shape as it continues to grow in this coming year.

Rev. Gordon Dickinson, Stratford Site Pastor

## Pastor Tyler's Report

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians

This past year has been a stretching journey for us at Cornerstone Montague, where God has brought us from a place of searching for what's next, to surprising us with an incredible opportunity. Halie and I are more excited than ever about serving in this town and walking with people as we seek to follow Jesus together. We love the people God has placed in our lives.

This year has been significant for us as we've been working through discerning Halie's sense of calling in ministry and through the support of our Elders we were excited to be able to bring her on staff as the Montague Site Ministry Coordinator. We are encouraged by the affirmation Halie has received in taking on this role.

Throughout last year, we've been working through a process to determine what to do about the growth that we've seen at Cornerstone Montague. With our weekly attendance at 120, we have been quickly outgrowing our space. At our AGM in 2023, we moved to create a Montague Site Strategic Planning Team to explore the best way forward. After this team meet three times from March-May we determined a larger facility was needed, and that in the meantime, an interim solution would be sought. We explored rental possibilities in the greater Three Rivers area, but decided that a move to two Sunday morning services would be our best option.

While the Growing Together campaign was not successful in raising the funds required for building a new facility, I began to have a sense that God was up to something bigger than just a new building. Through a series of "providential" events, I came to realize that Paul and Elizabeth Miller, the pastor at Montague Christian Church, had been praying about the idea of a merger with Cornerstone Montague. While I was initially resistant to a similar idea proposed early in our Strategic Planning process, God graciously led me along a trail of "holy breadcrumbs" and a growing sense that this might be God's bigger thing that He is inviting us to do: to demonstrate the reconciliatory heart of the Kingdom of God in Montague through the merging of two churches together to become a new church together.

At our AGM we will be talking about the larger implications about what this means for Cornerstone as a whole and our direction as one church becoming three. There's a lot ahead (!) but I've never been more excited and expectant about the possibility of what God is up to and how we can join Him in His work in our communities.

For the Kingdom, Tyler Proude  
Montague Site Pastor

## Pastor Winston's Report (Tech Report)

One of my highlights in writing a year-end report is revisiting my reports from previous years and reflecting on all the events that unfolded in the life of our church family and in my personal journey as a pastor here at Cornerstone throughout the year. In 2023, we took our first step back to “normalcy” after navigating through years of challenges, including restrictions and the aftermath of a hurricane, Looking back, it feels like a year of re-establishing our rhythm, and as the song says “the rhythm is gonna get you”.

The rhythm of the past year has been a testament to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, whose commitment has been instrumental in the smooth operation of our week-to-week meetings. A special thank you goes out to the crew members who have not only learned to run but have excelled in managing our sound and live stream services: Heather Dickenson, Ethan Johnston, Ryan Johnston, and Adaberemchi Aja-Onu (AA). Their invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication have been essential to the success of our ministry in the church.

Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the team responsible for running the computer slides each week: Suzette Norton, Natalie MacKenzie, Jane MacIssac, and Keith Goddard. Their meticulous attention to detail ensures that the visual elements on the screens align seamlessly with the content being presented, enhancing the overall worship experience for our congregation.

While technology has undoubtedly enhanced our services, it is the individuals behind the scenes who truly make it all possible. We acknowledge that technical glitches can occur, but we appreciate the hard work and expertise of our tech team, without whom our operations would face significant challenges. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to serving our church community.

I once again had an opportunity to speak a few times this summer. I spent a week as the camp speaker at Camp Tulakadik in New Brunswick speaking to a group of kids ages 10-14 about “Fear”. I grew up working in camp ministry and it was great to be back in a camp setting sharing about the love of Jesus. I also had the chance to preach here in Cornwall and I continued a sermon I started on the Fruit of the Spirit. If you desire you can listen to my sermon on Joy [HERE](#).



I had the privilege of participating in the church sanctuary transformation for our Christmas Eve Service once again. Todd and Sheryl Neilson's creative vision brought a fresh perspective to the foyer and sanctuary, creating a truly immersive experience. With the help of a dedicated work

crew and worship team, they worked tirelessly to bring the message of a Light shining in the Darkness throughout all our Christmas Eve services. If you missed the service, you can watch the recording here for a glimpse of the transformative experience on our YouTube page found [HERE](#)



Throughout this past year, we have increasingly utilized QR codes as a convenient tool for quick access to information. As the acronym suggests, QR codes stand for "quick response," allowing individuals to simply open their phone's camera app, scan the code, and be directed to the intended destination. As we conclude, here is one final QR code for you. If you are interested in joining our tech team or would like to connect over coffee to discuss life, feel free to reach out to me via email by scanning the QR code below. Thank you for your continued support and engagement!



## **Pastor Mike's Report**

We thank God for you all the time and pray for you. While praying to God our Father, we always remember your work of faith and your acts of love and your hope that never gives up in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Much thanks and gratitude need to be expressed to start off this report. Janine, Chloe, Abi, Joanna, and I have been overwhelmed with the love and welcome we have received by all of you. Your graciousness, kindness, care, and welcome have truly been a blessing to us, so thank you very much.

I get what Paul is saying at the beginning of Thessalonians. I began here in July and have greatly enjoyed meeting many of you and getting to know you better. It has been a joy to watch many of you exercise "your work of faith and your acts of love and your hope that never gives up in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Finally, I want to say thanks to: Natalie, Peter, Emily, Yohan, Amy, and Hilda for their contributions to this report. It is very much appreciated for the time taken to submit these reports. With that being said, let's go ahead and jump into the report.

### **Life Groups**

Knowing that many of you are doing life together in one of the many Life Groups being hosted and led by a wonderful group of people is exciting. It's exciting to hear how the Spirit is using these groups to build community and friendships as you share and study and learn together.

"And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day approaching." Here, Hebrews 10:24-25 exhorts us to do exactly what Cornerstone life groups provide the opportunity for: considering one another, gathering together, encouraging each other.

I attend a weekly Sunday night life group, and week after week I see more clearly the benefits and blessings of such a group for everyone involved. There is much to be said for Sunday morning services, for teaching and corporate worship and chats at the coffee bar, but for me, Sunday night is when I get the chance to really get to know the members of my group, to dive more deeply into Scripture, to ask good questions and to engage in thought-provoking discussion.

Life groups extend the twofold blessing of helping us connect with other people our age and bringing us into contact with Christ followers from completely different seasons and walks of life, creating a community here today that anticipates Revelation 7:9, when a vast multitude

“from every nation, tribe, people, and language” will stand before the throne of the Lamb together.

What are the benefits of attending a life group? Here, again, we find a vast multitude, but to name a few: fellowship, learning, discussions that challenge us, an opportunity to ask questions, and of course, not least of these, delicious food enjoyed together around a table. I love life group, and I am thankful for a church that paves the way for such important and life-giving opportunities.

Respectfully submitted by, Natalie MacKenzie

### **Grounded Café**

Exceptional coffee! Excellent service! That sounds like the beginning of a commercial for a specialty coffee place, but it simply describes what happens every Sunday morning at the Café. What a team they are and what an amazing blessing to have access to good coffee and good conversation available each Sunday morning.

With the continuing rise of attendees on a Sunday morning, Cornerstone’s Grounded Cafe Ministry was busy and thriving in 2023. In between the two Sunday morning services, the Café was open weekly, creating an atmosphere of warm hospitality and encouraging fellowship between the two large masses of people.

Beginning the year with our small barista team of four, along with the Ross family, we sought to add to our volunteer roster. After announcements for a search of barista volunteers was added to the weekly church email in the Autumn, more people began coming forward expressing their desire to help. All in all, we gratefully trained and added six baristas to the team.

After Jon Levy was hired as Operation’s Manager, he quickly accomplished having an electrician hired to come and upgrade our breaker panel. This afforded us the freedom of plugging both coffee brewers into the same outlet without the breaker tripping. An extension cord was no longer required.

Many new and necessary purchases were made to allow for serving hundreds of people on a Sunday morning and through the week. We invested in:

- two Cambro Insulated Beverage dispensers (capacity ¾ gallon)
- two water dispensers (capacity, 2 gallon)
- two milk servers (capacity, 1L cartons)
- several monogrammed aprons
- three garbage cans

Special thanks to Peter MacLean who secured donations from McDonald's, Tim Hortons, and Robin's (twice) for large donations on behalf of the church. These donations, in large, provided for our café needs and helped keep expenses down, but did not wholly supply what we needed all year long. Peter Ross was able to secure a donation of Starbucks Coffee every 6 weeks throughout the year and we were able to make purchases to keep the Café stocked weekly with cups, lids, stir sticks, sugars and syrups, coffee, tea and dairy.

In September, Winston MacEachern showed me how to utilize 'Planning Center: Church Management Software' for scheduling baristas. It proved to be a helpful tool. A handful of our trained Grounded Café baristas chose to serve in the Café for the Ladies Christmas Tea and Christmas Eve services.

The year ended with a Christmas party for baristas hosted in our family home with the purpose of extending appreciation for the dedicated, reliable, and excellent service in the Grounded Café in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by, Peter and Emily Ross

### **Care Team**

Many prayers have been offered, many cards have been sent, many texts and calls have been made, and many visits have been attended by the Care Team in a concerted effort to make sure that those who have been hit hard by life are loved and remembered and cared for.

The Cornerstone Care Team focuses on the following:

- We receive information regarding those in our church family who need care. Within the team, additional information will be shared to support the church family.
- We contact/approach/care for the individual(s) through emailing, sending cards, offering meals, or visiting them.
- We serve in church events such as the Blue Christmas Service.
- When in need, we support events related to individuals who pass away. The care team will contribute food items for the event.
- We pray for the church family as prayer requests are being shared.
- When we hear about people in need, we will share it with Pastor Mike and the team so that proper care can take place.
- We focus on connecting people and making them feel connected.

Personal benefits of being on the care team:

- We get to know the church family on a deeper level.
- We get to learn how we can pray for individuals and their family's specific needs.
- We get to learn what the church needs in general and specific ways.
- We have met members of the congregation which we may not have otherwise met in a church of this size".

Respectfully submitted by, Yohan & Amy Kim

## **Welcome Team**

A handshake, a smile, a greeting, a welcome will be something that will be offered to you as you enter the building on a Sunday morning by the Welcome Team.

Luke 5:5 "...But, because you say so, I will..."

God wants us to be servants willing to seek His specific plan for our life and to do whatever He calls us to do. If you like meeting people, this is a great opportunity for you!

Our 'Welcome Team' serves our faith community whenever needed, Sunday services, funerals, etc. What does it look like?

We welcome everyone with our smiles, a handshake, or a hug. We support and encourage one another. If anyone has specific needs, we will assist them or if a family with young children arrives, we direct them to the 'Children's Registration' desk. When the sanctuary begins to fill, we also assist with seating. In service, we participate in gathering the offering as well as serving Communion.

We are easy to spot by our T-shirts that say, "Welcome to Church"! The very first time I came to Cornwall Cornerstone Church in 2018, the welcome I received felt like I 'belonged'. "God doesn't necessarily call the equipped, He equips the called".

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to serve.

Respectfully submitted by, Hilda Kennedy

## **Christmas Hampers and Gift Cards**

This year, Cornerstone had the privilege of gifting food and presents to 11 families through the local schools, as well as providing Christmas hampers and gift cards to 50 wonderful families in our community. The following is a breakdown of how the money was used to provide, help, and care for others.

School Support	\$3,500.00
Walmart Gift Cards	\$2,900.00



Superstore Gift Cards	\$3,300.00
Tim's Gift Cards/Flowers	\$ 542.50
Christmas Hampers (Donated and Delivered) 40 x approximately \$100 per hamper	\$4000.00
Total gifted amount	\$14,242.50

Respectfully submitted by, Mike Hamilton

## Pastor Hannah's Report

Many of the leaders I have talked to who have been involved in youth group have shared with me that they feel 2023 has been our best year yet!

We have seen exponential growth in the number of students who attend as well as leaders on Friday nights. It is not uncommon to have 130-140 here on Fridays. Our leadership team now consists of around 40 people, all who come to lead in areas of their giftings: hospitality, connecting, small group leading, leading games, welcoming, teaching, leading worship, cleaning up, and so much more. These leaders deeply love Jesus and are so instrumental in investing in our next generation. I want to say a huge thank you to Jon Levy as well who has been doing his academic internship with us this year and has been so crucial in sharing leadership over this ministry.

Our worship ministry continues to be a highlight, with students involved in leading worship, and being trained on sound and tech on Fridays. We were also blessed again this year to have Jolene Willis give leadership to the youth orchestra band. I can't describe to you the awesome moment it is to come before youth on Friday and the whole building is full of music played by students who are using their gifts to honor God in this way.

We've had a year of several fun and special events. In the spring, we had a Good Friday worship night which was a powerful evening of encountering Jesus. In June we attended One Conference, the largest gathering of teens in Atlantic Canada. We brought over 60 students and leaders from PEI to Moncton and had a great time worshipping Jesus! In July, we brought a group of students to Quispamsis for Tidal Impact, the largest youth local missions event in Canada – we had an amazing week of serving Jesus and growing together in Christ. In September, we hosted a great youth retreat at Camp Seggie and walked through the book of James with over 100 students from across the island.

God continues to do something special in the lives of teens here on the island. I want to thank our church family and all the adults who pour into, pray over, and serve our teens! A special thanks to Leah MacLeod for giving leadership over our teen girls' class. The teens are a vital and vibrant part of our church family and it is a blessing to serve them and watch them grow in their love for Christ and their neighbors!

Pastor Hannah

## **Policy for Child and Youth Abuse Response and Prevention at Cornerstone Baptist Church**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Children and Youth Abuse Response and Prevention Policy is to outline the principles undergirding the Church's efforts and intentions in this matter, and to provide general direction for the Church's leaders and individual members.

### **Definitions:**

In this policy, the following words are defined as follows:

- a. "Abuse": Maltreatment of a child or youth, including sexual, physical, emotional, social, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect or any other form of harm.
- b. "Child/children/youth": An individual or individuals as defined in and by the child protection legislation in the province in which the Church is located and operates.
- c. The "Church": Cornerstone Baptist Church, in Cornwall, Stratford and Montague, PE.
- d. "Personnel": The word "personnel" is used in this policy as a generic collective term. The personnel include any and all persons who do work or performs services on behalf of and at the request of the Church. Personnel may include lay and ordained persons, employees, volunteers, students, interns, contractors; people working on a part-time, full-time, temporary, permanent, seasonal, casual, paid, or unpaid basis, or others.

### **Scope and Application:**

This policy will apply to each and every program, service, and activity organized or run or sponsored by the Church, including those organized, run, or sponsored jointly with another church or organization. Every individual who is involved with such programs, services, or activities – whether or not he or she is a member of the Church – is subject to this policy. Likewise, each official office or body of the Church – e.g. the Board of Elders, the Trustees, Church committees, etc. – is also subject to this policy and must abide by it.

### **The Plan:**

1. All persons desiring to work with children/youth through any ministry (current or future) of Cornerstone church, must first meet the following qualifications:
  - o Must be a regular worshipper with Cornerstone Church and recognized as part of our church community.
  - o Upon request, authorize a criminal record check, and a Working with Vulnerable People background check. A record involving any abuse of children will, in all cases, disqualify the individual from working with children or youth through this Church.
2. At no time will children or youth be left in an individual's care behind closed doors or in an isolated and private location.
3. All classrooms will be modified so that, if there is no other way to view the room easily, a window will be installed in the classroom door.

4. Efforts will be made periodically to inform the congregation of the dangers of child abuse and to remind them of the importance of strict adherence to this policy.
5. Individuals who work with children and youth will be reminded of the importance of avoiding potentially compromising situations in which an allegation of abuse could be made.
6. We will strive to ensure that parents are made aware of the precautions being taken to protect their children. Parental consent forms will be used for all special activities or events, and for any event which requires an overnight stay.
7. In the event that any allegation of abuse of a child or youth is made, it will be reported immediately to the appropriate police authorities and to an Elder or one of the Pastors.
8. Any incident in which there is a concern for the safety or well-being of a child under the care or supervision of our Church will be taken seriously and may be investigated.
  - Interests and well-being of children and youth are paramount: The Church will never compromise its obligation to promote and protect the well-being of children and youth by putting the interests of any individual, or its own interests, ahead of those of a child or youth who has made an allegation, disclosure, or report of abuse, or who, it is suspected, has been abused.
  - The individual accused will be immediately suspended from his or her position, in particular from any and all ministries and church programs, services, and activities that involve children and/or youth, pending the outcome of any investigation by civil authorities and any later internal investigation.
  - The Church will seek to maintain confidentiality of information in relation to any allegation, report, disclosure, or suspicion of abuse, subject always to the need to protect children and youth.

(Pastor) \_\_\_\_\_ .....

(Clerk) \_\_\_\_\_

(Elder) \_\_\_\_\_

(Elder) \_\_\_\_\_

(Elder) \_\_\_\_\_

(Next Generations Pastor) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS the Church is to be guided in the matter of response to and prevention of the abuse of children and youth—as in all matters—by the teachings of Jesus Christ as articulated in Holy Scripture,

WHEREAS the Church is under a special obligation, mandated by Our Lord Jesus Christ, to watch over and protect children and youth,

WHEREAS the Church recognizes that the risk of abuse is a real and present danger

to the wellbeing of children and youth,  
WHEREAS the Church is required to abide by applicable municipal, provincial, and federal law and regulation,  
WHEREAS the Church is morally, ethically, and legally obligated to take prudent, reasonable, appropriate, and effective measures to respond to and prevent abuse of children and youth, abuse perpetrated by people who may or may not be members of the Church and who may or may not be acting on its behalf, on church premises and properties, and/or in church programs, services, and activities, wherever they take place,  
WHEREAS the Church recognizes that it has moral, ethical, and legal obligations to the youth and adults who care for, teach, run programs for, or in other ways assist children and youth, as well as obligations to the Church itself, to protect it and them from false and spurious allegations of abuse,  
We, the members of this Church, solemnly agree to adopt the following Policy for Child and Youth Response and Abuse Prevention, effective immediately and dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

### **2023 Cornwall Kids & Families Report**

2023 was an amazing year in the space of kids and families for Cornwall! In 2023, we had several Sundays with over 200 children attending and over 150 committed volunteers who minister to our children weekly so they may know the love of Christ. Angela Richard led many successful and fun Supermix nights, and as you will read in Laura's report we hosted some amazing events that significantly blessed the children and families in our congregation. I want to express my great thanks to Laura Baker, Amy Mayo, and Noelle Neilson, as well as our super amazing volunteers, who sacrificially give their time and energy to this important ministry. Thank you for your prayer and support of children's ministry at Cornwall that we feel on a daily basis! Celebrate with us as you read through these reports about what God is doing in the life of the children of Cornerstone.

Hannah Bartlett

### **Nursery Report by Laura Baker**

We had an awesome year in the nursery, this ministry to parents truly would not be possible without the team of amazing, caring and dedicated volunteers! We have a team of about 50 volunteers throughout a month who care for between 20-35 children (infant - age three) on a Sunday morning.

We have had some really amazing junior volunteers start serving in the nursery this past year and they have been such a blessing of excitement and fun for the toddlers! It's truly a blessing to see our older elementary age kids' willingness to serve and their contagious enthusiasm to be a part of this ministry!

As numbers continue to grow, we made changes to our space to allow for more room and stations to play. We will continue to try and make the best use of our spaces in the coming year as anticipated numbers continue to grow.

We are thankful for all the moms and dads who trust their children with our team on Sunday mornings and we pray that it will continue to bless others as it does us!

### **Cornerstone Kids Report by Amy Mayo**

Cornerstone Kids Church includes children ranging from Preschool through to Grade 6. This portion of our church family averages around 170-180 kids per week, and occasionally climbs up around the 200 mark. Getting to know these kids of all ages, and their families is a true blessing! A few exciting updates in our Kids Ministry over this past year include: prayerfully choosing "The Gospel Project" curriculum for our weekly lesson plans, updating our Elementary space classrooms for small group time, renovating our Club 5/6 space, and revamping our check-in system to one station for all ages.

Our leadership team includes Pastor Hannah Bartlett, Laura Baker, myself (Amy Mayo), and Noelle Neilson. It's amazing to serve as a team, alongside each of our faithful volunteers! Each week, with two regular church services, we organize around 22 volunteers to lead and serve in our children's groups. This ministry would not be possible without each one, who serves once or twice per month, and also some who serve weekly. Whatever amount of time that fits your calendar is a blessing to our kids! We love opportunities to show appreciation to our volunteer team, and especially enjoy giving a "thank you" gift at Christmas or sharing a special meal together.

In describing the heart of this ministry, I'd like to share a beautiful verse found in Luke 18:16(NIV): "But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is a privilege to

help these children meet with Jesus, experience God's love, and grow in their daily relationship with Him. Each week consists of a large group time led by a point person, with game time, worship, and a Bible story; then each grade has small group time with their leader to further discuss the Bible lesson, and participate in an activity together. It's a joy to build relationships, and welcome each child to Kids Church with this theme: "You belong here!"

We want to thank our church family for your prayer and support, and we ask you to continue in prayer for God's love, joy, and peace to be present in each of our lives throughout this year! To God be the glory- He's doing great things!

### **Family Ministry Report by Laura Baker**

We have had such a fun year in Family Ministries! Some of our favorite events from this past year include:

In March, we had a family pizza and games night; we had lots of families out and it was a great time to just connect and get to know each other!

Through our Easter season, we hosted a party for our kids preschool to grade 6 and had Emily Ross in to share a beautiful story and message about what Easter is all about. The children grew in friendships through a variety of games and crafts during our morning together.

We created a resource for families to do together during the week leading to Easter, each day the families were able to read a passage from the gospels to discover what Jesus was doing the week leading to his death and celebrating his resurrection and all that means for us!

In May, we had an amazing group of volunteers collaborate together to offer parents a night out! This was very well received by parents and the kids had a wonderful time playing games and watching a movie together. We did a draw to bless one of the registered couples with a gift card for their night out!

We hosted a kids camp (very similar to a VBS program) in August and had around 150 kids out each day during the week. This was a huge success, but it wouldn't have been without the amazing volunteers who helped organize all that needed to be prepped before the week began. A group of ladies who prepared delicious snacks for the kids each day, a group of volunteers who turned the church into a jungle as per the theme of our week! Marcel West brought in his equipment and organized the games for the week - the kids loved this! We had so many volunteers who gave of their time all week to lead the kids in games, crafts, activities and ultimately to show them the love of Jesus! One of our favorite parts of the week was hearing

the kids all worshipping through song together in the sanctuary while dancing and having fun! This was Cornerstone's first time hosting a summer program like this in a long time, but we were so encouraged by the amount of people who supported this event and are already planning our kids camp for summer 2024!

Later in the Summer we had a great day at the Cornwall Carnival, we saw so many families come out from the community and this was just a great day that created opportunities to invite family and friends in and connect together in community!

As we moved into the fall, we spent some time revamping our elementary spaces for Sunday mornings. The classrooms have now been updated to create a warm environment where our children can enjoy small group time Sunday mornings. It's been great to see that these updated spaces can now be used for life groups and other weekly small groups throughout the week as well!

We hosted a 'trunk or treat' event on Halloween and had a great turnout again this year! Families were able to enjoy an hour together walking around collecting treats and still had lots of time to go into their own neighborhoods!

A thankfulness resource was also available for families to work through during the month of October, which has just been a simple way to encourage our children to thank God for the everyday people and moments in our lives that we might otherwise take for granted.

As we entered the Christmas season, we wanted to offer our families a resource that felt accessible during the busy season, so we created an 'Advent Art Journal', the children were able to use art to explore some of the themes of advent and discuss some simple truths together as a family.

We also put together an event for kids to come to a 'Birthday Party for Jesus!' This was a super fun event, we had lots of kids come out and through crafts, games and lessons celebrated the joy of Christmas while remembering Jesus' birth. We even had cupcakes and sang 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus together!

It has been such a joy to see so many new families being enfolded into our community this past year. We look forward to continuing to create environments where families can connect, learn and grow together through all stages of family life!

We are so thankful for the church community, who so willingly give their time, gifts and resources into events for children and families. It's a beautiful example of what God's family looks like and we are so thankful for you all.



## Elders Report

It is with a high level of excitement and eager anticipation of the things to come for Cornerstone that I write what will deliberately be a brief report on behalf of your elders. This year more than ever is shaping up to be a very significant year at all of our sites, so looking forward to the year ahead rather than backwards over this past year seems the most appropriate response.

All three sites have seen unprecedented growth in attendance, generosity and in the vibrant ministries that are occurring. The number of children and youth that are being engaged at all of our sites is mind boggling, and carries with it unique volunteer and staffing needs that we have had to see developed. Particularly in Cornwall, our facility is clearly being strained beyond its ability to be able to accommodate our ministry needs and dreams. We will all have to come together to determine our next steps so that our ability to respond to God's leading isn't stymied.

We are really looking forward to sharing in more detail how things that we were not even anticipating have been coming into place. Rest assured that your pastors and lay elders and finance team and ministry leaders have been working hard to discern the course of this pivotal year.

I would like to thank Kimberly Jelley for her service on the Elders Board; she will be stepping down at this time due to significant roles in other ministry areas and supporting her aging parents. Her heart and commitment to all that she does is evident to all of us.

Thank you for supporting our Community Care Fund, that brought in over \$36,000 to help those in need in our congregation and our communities. This practical support does much in conveying God's practical love on your behalf.

We do not take our leadership responsibilities lightly, and we strive to serve our amazing God and you well with the discussions that we have and the recommendations that we bring for your consideration. This year, in particular, will likely be one with extra meetings, actually weekly meetings recently, so please remember us in your prayers. To state it clearly, our goal is that we lead you well so that we all have ample opportunities to grow in our faith both as individuals and collectively. May your relationship with our Lord and Saviour be an intimate and grounding one as you live your best lives in 2024.

In Christ, David Reid, Elders Board Chair

## Missions Report

The mission ministry at Cornerstone is focused on raising funds for our partners and encouraging church members to engage in serving personally and prayerfully. The funding support we are able to give depends entirely on what comes in through our special offerings at Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and one in June specific to Camp Seggie junior staff. Here are some of the highlights from 2023.

At Easter, we did an overview of Cornerstone's mission ministry and the scheduled plan to raise funds through our special offerings, and during this time we made an appeal for more people to join the team. During the pandemic, I ended up carrying a lot of the mission ministry leadership and this year we've been trying to organize our team in a new way. We've begun concentrating our individual team to act as the main contact for each of our partners and from that communicate a mission update to the church by email. By focusing in this way, we hope to be able to stay current with the needs and accomplishments to facilitate greater engagement in practical support and prayer.

In April, Compassion arranged a "virtual visit" to the Child Development Centre that Cornerstone helped to launch in El Salvador. Meeting some of the people and learning more about the ministry was exciting, as well as humbling, to recognize the significant need that remains. The CDC currently has a waitlist with many children in the community still not able to participate. At the moment, one of the best ways for us to lend further support is to continue encouraging the sponsorship of children through the CDC, which we planned to do in 2024. Compassion generously invited me to join a pastor's vision trip to see their ministry in action; unfortunately, this wasn't the right time for me to travel. If someone is interested in coordinating a church team to visit El Salvador, that is now a possibility. We haven't been able to organize a church mission trip since immediately before the pandemic, though our trip fund has been able to support our youth involved in Tidal Impact, as well as several individuals pursuing their own mission opportunities.

In June, we held our special offering in support of Camp Seggie's junior staff from Cornerstone. There were 13 junior staff from Cornerstone who received funding in addition to many others who served on staff in other capacities. Facing tremendous setbacks due to facility damage from hurricane Fiona as well as leadership changes, the camp board and others rallied an incredible effort and Camp Seggie was able to host a fantastic summer of ministry. As a church we're looking at new ways to increase our support in the coming year.

At Thanksgiving, we made a general appeal to support our mission partners and promoted various needs for prayer and engagement. It's also great to see when other ministries in the church find ways to support our local partners; for example, the women's Advent Tea that collects needed items, and other collection times at Christmas that were organized for various needs.

At Christmas, we focused on raising funds in support of refugees, in Lebanon through CBM's Shared Hopeful Gifts campaign, and locally through our own refugee sponsorship fund. Our refugee sponsorship team has struggled without someone coordinating it currently, so I've tried to keep that functioning and making progress. (If you have an interest in serving in this way, please let me know!). In 2023, we began to facilitate a yearlong sponsorship for a man from Eretria that is about to come to a successful conclusion, and we have completed the application for another family from Iraq to be reunited. For that family we are acting primarily as the administrative partner in cooperation with CBAC, and we are holding the family's sponsorship funds in trust. For several years we have also been working with another family here in an attempt to reunite them with family; the viability of this sponsorship is under real consideration as it has seen numerous setbacks over multiple years.

Globally, we have continued support in Lebanon through CBM. We've often shared about the team leaders in that region, Elie and Mireille Haddad, and in December it was announced that Elie would be retiring as president of ABTS, which is strategically situated to train leaders throughout the Middle East North Africa region. This will allow them to increase their role as team leaders in the MENA region.

As the year came to an end, the Ghiz's returned to Lebanon for a new chapter of ministry. With this transition, we decided to keep our mission work in Lebanon focused on our partnership with CBM and not to continue as formal financial supporters, but to encourage those in the church who want to support them individually to do so. Early in January 2024, we hosted Joe Bridi, one of CBM's field staff in Lebanon, for a lunch with our church staff and mission team as he visited various churches in Canada. A sharp and capable guy, I recorded an interview with Joe that is available on our Cornerstories podcast and was shared by CBM for churches across Canada.

I've already mentioned some key areas in need, and as I reduce my time commitment at Cornerstone this year to begin serving at CBAC, we will need others to rise up to lead in new ways. If you've read this far, perhaps you would be interested in helping in some way to lead our church in this incredible mission ministry? Let's continue to pray that the mission of God would be faithfully fulfilled by us in the ways God has called our church, personally, locally, and globally.

Gordon Dickinson, Stratford Site Pastor/Mission

## **Kits of Kindness Ministry**

Kits of Kindness was launched through Cornerstone's Missions Team in October 2020. It began as a response to food insecurity many school-age children face across our province. These students have access to food support programs during the week, but the hunger gap is real on the weekends. Over the past couple of years, our numbers of students and schools have significantly grown.

How it works is simple. School administrators identify students in need and relay their numbers to us. Kits of Kindness volunteers shop for food, organize donations, pack bags, and then deliver these bags to schools each week. Schools then give these bags to those in need at the end of the week so that no child goes hungry over the weekend.

All three Cornerstone sites continue to be involved in Kits of Kindness, and provide Kits to 27 schools across PEI. Kits of Kindness feeds approximately 375 students across our province weekly.

The schools we currently serve are:

Glen Stewart Primary, Stratford Elementary, Montague Consolidated, Southern Kings Consolidated School, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Englewood School, Eliot River Elementary, Miscouche Consolidated School, Morell Consolidated School, Morell High, Belfast Consolidated, Vernon River Consolidated, Parkside Elementary School, Elm St. Elementary, Queen Elizabeth Elementary, Somerset Intermediate School, O'Leary Elementary, Queen Charlotte, Birchwood, Sherwood Elementary School, Spring Park Elementary School, St. Jean Elementary School, Gulf Shore Consolidated School, Westwood Primary School, West Kent Elementary, Homeschool family and West Royalty Elementary School.

Kits of Kindness is a way for everyone at Cornerstone to become involved. The packing team meets every second Tuesday morning with over 20 volunteers who set up and pack kits while sharing in some laughter and fun. A committed team of 16 individuals deliver the Kits to each school. Anytime anyone arrives at one of our sites, they can drop off non-perishable food items in the Kits of Kindness bins. Some Cornerstone families sponsor a student for a year with a monthly donation to the Kits of Kindness ministry. We've seen other individuals and organizations across our province becoming involved by offering food and financial support. The Women's Institute of PEI partnered with us again this year by knitting mittens for each child who received a food bag. It has been truly amazing to see what God is doing and how He is faithful to provide even as this ministry grows!

We know hunger goes beyond physical symptoms; it also impacts a child's social, emotional, and academic well-being. The Kits of Kindness team regularly receives feedback from schools about the difference these bags are making in these children's lives, meeting their physical needs and giving them the incredible sense that people they don't even know care about them.

One administrator recently wrote: "You are all appreciated more than you know! Thank you for supporting our families this way - it is making a big difference in their lives!"

Schools have been overwhelmed by your generosity, and we, as a church, have been humbled by the need. The response from the Cornerstone community has been amazing, and we are so thankful for your tremendous support.

As we seek to feed as many children who need it, we pray that these children and their families will feel encouraged and supported and see the heart of the church and the love of Jesus in action.

Cyndi Proude

### **Celebrate Recovery Ministry**

Cornerstone Recovery continues to be a blessing to individuals within our church family as well as others from our greater community. This year we have shifted to a small group model where 3 separate groups meet and work through the Celebrate Recovery material at their own pace. Cornerstone Recovery continues to be as much a ministry to all of the volunteer facilitators as it is to the participants. The facilitators and participants who show up each week are bravely choosing to face these struggles and open their lives to have God heal and provide more helpful ways to meet their needs. We have served an average of 30 individuals in our current and last offering of CR.

Cornerstone Recovery has been a blessing to so many lives and has proven a real opportunity to build up and support those within our church family at the same time as reaching into our community to do the same. We thank the church for all of the support that has brought this ministry to life. Your prayers and support as we continue the next few months is greatly appreciated.

Leah MacLeod

## **Cornwall Women's Ministry Report**

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone, but we have so much to celebrate! 2023 was our first year "back to normal" where we didn't have to rely on zoom and other online platforms to meet and we were able to introduce some new and exciting ministries!

Our Women's committee consists of a group of women who gather to meet once every few months to discuss ideas to present to the women of Cornerstone Cornwall. Our main focus is to celebrate/facilitate events that give opportunities for outreach, community, social and discipleship while lining up with our goal: to have a Word-filled ministry with many different entry points to help women as they go along their discipleship journey. We strive to enable women to recognize their gifts and to use these gifts within our church body and in missionary work in their community, all the while bringing glory to God.

During our meeting each July, we aim to have all events, curriculum and programs chosen for the following September-June. In 2023, Autumn Tremere, Heather Reid, Jenine Gosbee, Natalie MacKenzie, Cyndi Proude, Erin Stretch, Shannon Reid and myself (Lindsay Andrews) sat on the committee.

Ultimately, we are put in place for you - all the women of Cornerstone Cornwall, and long to offer programs that you want to be part of and where you continue to grow in your walk with the Lord. If you ever have any questions, suggestions, feedback or ideas, please reach out to someone on the committee. We are always looking for ways to grow and to offer opportunities that appeal to all women - regardless of age or stage of life, to come and feel love, community and overall fellowship with other women of faith.

We have so many exciting things to celebrate in the Women's Ministry for 2023 as we see current ministries grow and new ministries introduced!

- The Prayer Group meets every second Monday and doesn't even stop for holidays! Many women have been prayed over and for within this ministry and we are so thankful for Sheila Barnes' consistent leadership. Any prayer requests can be sent to [prayer@cornerstonebaptist.ca](mailto:prayer@cornerstonebaptist.ca).
- Mom's Group went into its 8th year in 2023 and continues to flourish under Erin Stretch's leadership. In the Fall of 2023, they read a book called Humble Moms and had the overall theme of being "Moms led by Jesus' Ways" based on Psalms 25:8-9 with 34 women in attendance. Moms group runs for two eight-week sessions each year.

- There were 6 moms/families supported with meals in 2023. It has been a gift for families to be seen and loved in these spaces of their lives. Many great new friendships were also formed! We are so thankful for Jenine Gosbee as she pays close attention to those pregnant bellies to ensure all new moms are cared for under this ministry.
- 2 bonfires occurred in 2023, one in July and one in August. On average 15-18 women attended each, varying ages and different women for each one. We did a few worship songs around the fire and a small devotional which was really enjoyed by all! It was a great way for many new faces to become familiar faces!
- For Advent season in 2023, the committee decided to try something new and offered a one-night advent event where testimonies, worship and resources were all shared all focused around the theme of hope. Over 100 ladies were in attendance and 75 study books were sold!
- Breakfasts are always a big hit and we are so thankful for Autumn Tremere, Beth Haley and their team who arrive very early to prepare us a delicious meal! Also to Loretta Anderson & Robyn Wright who were willing to share their story with us.
- We held two retreats this year. One in January under the leadership of Jenine Gosbee on the theme of surrender. The other was in October under the leadership of Wendy Morrison on the theme of Sabbath. Both retreats were a blessing to the ones who attended with a special time of reflection, teaching and fellowship.
- 2023 brought Cornerstones sixth Womens' Conference led under Heather Reid and Amy Nicholson. Rather than the video IF conference, a live speaker from Focus on The Family, Merrie Eizenga, challenged us to embrace the Four Seasons of our lives as they present and allow God to work through the struggles and celebrations of each season. We had over 100 in attendance and it was a great weekend for all who participated.
- Beautiful You was another successful event with over 80 dresses given away for free. It's always such a gift being able to see the smile on these girls' faces as they say "yes to the dress"!
- We had one Bible study in 2023 that worked through the first 12 chapters of the Gospel of John. There were over 75 registered for this study that was created by our own women of Cornerstone and included beautiful artwork by Rebekah Gough!

New ministries offered in 2023 were:

- Women's Leadership Training
- Work-out with Caroline
- Common Ground
- Flourish Mentorship program

A big thank you to each and every person who came together to help with all these different ministries within the Women's Ministry umbrella. For the people who gave up their evenings to sit on committees, to come to the Church early in the mornings to provide food for events, for those who spend countless hours preparing for studies and creating curriculum so we can all learn and grow together. And thank you to the leaders of Cornerstone who have been so supportive of this ministry and have allowed it to grow and expand beyond what we thought it would. We are so excited for what 2024 has in store for us and cannot wait to share more details in the coming months.

Lindsay Andrews

### **Facilities Committee Report – Cornwall Site**

The primary work of the Cornerstone Facilities Committee is to meet and schedule routine maintenance to the church building and grounds. The Committee appreciates members of the congregation who lend a hand during the Spring and Fall work days and at other times as needed.

Significant projects completed in 2023 included:

- Purchase of a new church lawnmower for volunteers to use
- Roof, soffit and shingle maintenance (Damage from Fiona as well as aged roof material)
- Additional heat pumps installed through Green Initiative program
- Kitchen renovations to accommodate larger commercial appliances
- Replacement of sanctuary carpet
- Painting of Sanctuary
- Parking lot maintenance – minor resurfacing and smoothing work
- Insurance work completed after Fiona



In addition, routine maintenance completed during the Spring and Fall includes:

- Cleaning of sanctuary projector filters
- Replacement of light bulbs and cleaning of fixtures
- Emptying of canisters for the central vacuum units
- Cleaning of filters in the five mini-split heat pumps
- General clean up of yard (Spring)
- Staking parking lot areas for snow clearing (Fall)
- Testing emergency lighting units (Fall)
- Replacement of ceiling tiles
- Checking exterior lighting
- Other cleaning or repair work as needed

On behalf of the congregation, we would again like to thank the members of the Facilities Committee (Chad Gibbons, Ryan Johnston, Wendy Morrison, John Bell, Kendall Schurman, Corey Tremere, Phil Woodworth and Bob Younker) for their work efforts. In addition, a special thanks to Chad Gibbons for taking the lead on grass cutting again this past year with his team of volunteers from the congregation and Wendy Morrison for taking the lead on landscaping with her team of volunteers.

For 2024, the committee has welcomed Ron Tomczak and James Charter. We appreciate their willingness to help and welcome others to the committee who can offer assistance for special projects as they are announced.

Ryan Johnston, Chair, Facilities Committee – Cornwall Site

### **John Bartlett's Report**

#### Spring & Summer

Shortly after starting in the Spring, I organized a number of Church Family events before going into the summer. One being a Worship Night involving some gifted worship leaders from Montague and another being a Church Family BBQ which brought out a large portion of the congregation.

Hunter Hamilton and I organized and led our Greenhouse Yard Party events. These events were geared towards Family Outreach over the summer and kept us connected with families who tend to be traveling otherwise. Mei-Ling and her two daughters Arden & Aria, in addition to

Robinson, Yurany, and Sarita Charry were two significant newcomers to Canada families who got connected. They have both become integral parts of the church family - The Charry's especially have been a part of starting a Spanish Small Group, and warmly invited over a dozen Latin American families from Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and Chile.

Hunter also played a significant role in helping set up for the Neighbourhood Party which collected donations for Kits of Kindness. We experienced heavy rain, yet despite this we had over 150 attend, more than last year when it was sunny. There were a number of positive connections with folks from the community and another handful of couples and families who have gotten plugged in after attending. This event also involved large volunteer teams which helped integrate and help folks get to know each other.

I joined Hannah for Tidal Impact in the Quispamsis area. The sermons I preached preceding and following Tidal Impact were likely the most powerful and garnered the greatest response I think I've ever experienced. Our youth enjoyed the experience and it was awesome to get to really know and disciple a select few from our youth group.

### Fall & Winter

The Hangout for grades 7-12 has been a large area of passion and excitement for me. I'm thankful to Pastor Gordon for discerning this was the right time to build a ministry for students. It's a great crew of youth, and our most recent trip involved 7 unchurched students one of our youth invited. We have a core 10-15 kids who attend regularly and have now had 30 different youth attend at least one Hangout event. The discussions around Youth Alpha, who Christ is, and having faith have been significant and been very energizing to the team as well. We have 8 leaders involved which has additionally been a huge win and a great way to involve some folks serving as part of the church family who haven't served in other capacities. I'm looking forward to giving them opportunities to participate in Summer Serve and an island-wide youth event Hannah has been planning in conjunction with partnering youth pastors and churches.

I completed my Exit Interview in the CBAC process, which means I'll be working towards going before the Ordination Council this coming August. Pastor Micah Linkletter and I have been meeting and preparing my statement of faith and building a Committee from the church to provide me with constructive feedback and encouragement.

In the fall, we had an initial Supermix event which I've continued in a quarterly fashion around Thanksgiving. It's been a good opportunity to welcome some of the grade 7-12 students to come alongside and start to think of themselves as leaders. Small groups started and ran, including a Guitar Club. As the fall went along, I helped support primarily through communications and tech needs.

Sports Nights Fall Volleyball was a great success. This organically became a largely inter-denominational group of young adults and adults from across our local communities. We've had folks come from as far as Summerside and Montague and just about everywhere in between. Central Christian Church, Faith, Christian Reformed Church, Cornerstone, First Baptist, Montague site, Stratford site, Cornwall site, among a handful of others from different congregations have been in attendance. We regularly had 40-50 present, including a number of newborn babies.

The Christmas season went well. We had a small winter coat drive and promoted CBM's gift catalog. There was a Songs and Sweets Night which turned out about 100 of our congregants. The Christmas Eve Services were quite full and we received a lot of positive feedback from attendees.

### Other Projects and Areas of Oversight

We've been able to recruit a number of other folks to the Welcome team and I've put together a handful of quick videos to help with onboarding new recruits (about basic principles to help folks feel comfortable). We have Care Groups that I've been updating with Lorna and we now have 6 regional areas of folks the church is broken down into. I had an initial meeting with the Care Contact Team and plan to do two or three times a year. I additionally set up a free course called Sanctuary on the topic of mental health which consists of eight 25-minute video sessions over the course of a year. Created Workflows around Next Steps, Baptism, Membership, Adding folks to Care Groups, and Serving in Leadership using People Center to help regulate and increase rate of follow-up for new attenders and visitors of the church.

With Laura Baker's eye for creating beautiful spaces, we created a Small Group Space in the sanctuary for Small Groups and meetings to use on a regular basis. Additionally, some updates to the Foyer and creating a mission focus in the cafe. I've been able to set-up Planning Center for the Stratford site and we are shifting the volunteer teams onto this platform to help be able to organize teams. I set up a Kids Check-In Station which we started using to increase the safety of children in attendance and improve follow-up with families.

I've continued to be involved as a small group leader for grade 9 & 10 boys at Cornwall Youth on Fridays with Hannah. I'm encouraged by the depth and discussion I've been witnessing in these guys this past year in particular and feel encouraged by my own skill level in leading and guiding discussion. I'm thankful to the congregation of Stratford and Pastor Gordon for allowing me to be able to participate and continue to serve alongside Pastor Hannah.

## Cornerstone Records Information - 2023

### Number of Baptisms for 2023: 36

#### April 9/23 - Montague

Édouard Robillard  
Angela Davis

#### April 9/23 – Cornwall

Graceyn Baker  
Carissa Zettle  
Emmie Zettle  
Jude Muncey  
Chloe Muncey  
Stephen McLaine  
Heather Patricia

#### April 30/23 - Cornwall

Tahlia Gibbons  
Austin Dunn  
Cassie Dunn  
Maya Currie  
Lola Wren Currie  
Corbin MacKinley

#### June 25 - Cornwall

Joanna Hamilton  
Sarah Gosbee  
Diane Callbeck  
Lexi Rooney  
Boni Cross  
Darius Cross  
Bethany Robblee

#### July 23 – Montague

Mary Scheepers  
Marlene Giersdorf  
Alan Collings

#### September 10 – Cornwall

Freya Gallant  
Amelia Gallant  
Davy Schlesinger  
Marcel West  
Danielle MacLean  
Lily-Ruth Neill  
Cory Stevenson

#### October 8 – Stratford

Sarita Charry  
Walter Proctor

#### December 17 – Cornwall

Chelsea McLeod  
Antwaun Rolle

**Cornerstone Membership as of December 31, 2023: 197**

**New Cornerstone Members in 2023: 20**

February 7/23

Tara Thompson  
Emily Ross  
Peter Ross  
Ron Tomczak  
Judy Tomczak

March 23/23

Alan Mills  
Mary Mills  
Kevin Raymer  
Jack Thomsen  
Marilyn Thomsen  
Norma Miller

March 27/23

Heather Dickinson  
Daniel Grant

May 30, 2023

Ruth Clark

June 8, 2023

Faye Crossman  
Rod Crossman

November 26/23

Brenda Smylie  
Tom Muirhead  
Sarah Hilborn  
Kevin Hilborn

Removed Membership

Louise Smith, May 2/23

Members who Passed Away in 2023

Beth Constable  
Greg Larsen  
Betty Griffin