



more

Annual Business Meeting Celebration

2021



## Dear First Alliance Family,

This time of year is always a special one. There is just something about thinking over the last 12 months, remembering all that has happened, and recounting the ways we have seen God be faithful to us. As our staff has worked to put this report together and

the Annual Business Meeting Celebration itself, we have been reminded of the journey God has taken us on together, and **we have a lot to be thankful for!**

The theme of this year's Annual Business Meeting Celebration is **MORE!** It is based on the Apostle Paul's prayer to the Ephesians when he says, "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" (Ephesians 3:20). This last year has been full of God's faithfulness and provision. But we believe there is still MORE.

Now we know that in some cases MORE is not always better. Who wants more stress, more isolation, more water damage to your house or more losses for your favorite basketball team? You get the point. But when the Apostle Paul says that we can pray to a Heavenly Father who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, we can trust that he is able and wanting to bring about a favorable "more" for his children.

But not just more... Immeasurably MORE! The Apostle Paul didn't have to qualify this MORE with the word immeasurably, but being inspired by the Holy Spirit he did! God saw fit that by adding immeasurable to the more we never let ourselves try to box in his loving ability in our lives and in our church. We can't measure it. His ability is without measuring capacity—that is what the Apostle Paul is saying. This is a total game changer when it comes to how we see our present and our future.

Because we have a God who wants to be known as a Heavenly Father who can do immeasurably MORE, we walk into the future together with eager expectations.

**With anticipation we believe:**

- MORE God stories will be written on the hearts and lives of the people of FAC.

- MORE love will be experienced in our relationships with one another as we continue to connect in smaller groups.
- MORE people will give their lives to Christ as they hear the message of the gospel for the first time.
- MORE of our young people will develop a love for God's truth.
- MORE prayers will go up by this church for our local and global partners.
- MORE generosity will be shown as we know "freely we have received, so we freely give."
- MORE creativity will be experienced as we think of how we can contextualize the gospel in our ever-changing culture.
- MORE spiritual gifts among us will be utilized, strengthening the FAC family.
- MORE healing will take place in the mind, body and spirit.
- And MORE people will be walking through our front doors at our church because they will be drawn to the unique work that God is doing among our FAC family.

Because we have a God who wants us to see him as a Heavenly Father who can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, let us not go into our future being limited by our past, our circumstances or our emotions, but let us be defined by our God who is for us, this God of the immeasurably MORE!

Imagine if together we believed and expected the immeasurably MORE to be part of our experience in the coming year. I say, let's be that church!

Grace and Peace to you... and I love being your pastor,

*Paul W. Smith*

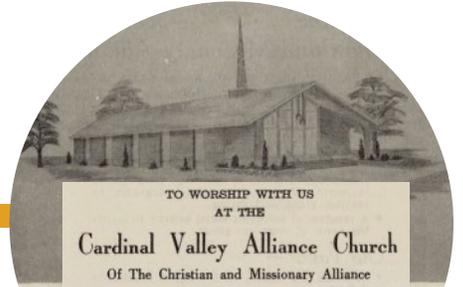
# OUR HISTORY



In **1949**, George Breaden began a series of tent meetings on the corner of High Street and Ransom



In **1956**, the congregation officially organized as the Walnut Street Alliance Church.



In May **1965**, the church became Cardinal Valley Alliance Church.



In **1974**, the property on Old Higbee Mill Road was available, but financing was not. Several members of the congregation took out personal loans to help pay for the property.



Ground was broken for the new building in 1978. The first service to take place on the Old Higbee Mill Road site was on Easter Sunday, **1979**.



In **1990** a new Church Family Fellowship Center was added to the facility.



The church went to two services in August, **1992**.



**1992-2017**, 4 churches were planted out of FAC.



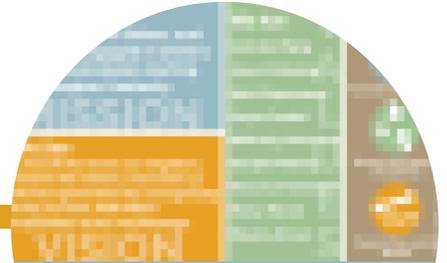
A building project to enhance our Children's Ministry facilities, as well as expand and update our Atrium was completed in **2008**.



In **2016** we celebrated 60 years as a church and a commemorative stone was placed at the front entrance.



In July **2018** we welcomed a new Lead Pastor, Paul Smith. A new chapter began!



In **2019** our Mission, Vision, & Values were established and Pastors of Up, In, & Out were hired. We moved to 3 services and livestreaming due to COVID-19 in 2020.

# MEET OUR LEADERSHIP BOARD NOMINEES



**Cindy Absher**

*Non-elder, 2-year term*

I have attended FAC commutatively for over 30 years.

I love the way that people care for, support and encourage each other. I love the encouragement to become a part, getting involved has been such a growing experience for me.



**Paul Nesselroade**

*Elder, 2-year term*

I have attended FAC first as a student, from 1985 – 1991; and then again upon return to central Kentucky, from 2002 until now.

I am appreciative of FAC because through its ministries my family and I are regularly instructed in, challenged, and given opportunities to grow in our relationship with Jesus – through Biblical preaching and exhortation, and through supporting ministries such like Sunday School programming and Youth Group. In brief, we are strengthened by this Christian community.



**Tricia Calvert**

*Non-elder, 2-year term*

We have been attending FAC almost 23 years!

What I love most about FAC is that the Bible is preached, I am encouraged to grow in my faith to be more like Jesus, and am challenged to live out His Word by loving and caring for others. I especially like the missional emphasis to reach the marginalized and lost both locally and abroad.



**Daniel Rehner**

*Non-elder, 1-year term*

I have attended FAC for 15 years. Since my Senior year in High School.

I love the fact that coming into FAC feels like family. Even though there are still many people I have not met, everyone I meet is genuine in getting to know you on a personal level.



**Steve Ellison**

*Non-elder, Treasurer, 2-year term*

Caryn, my wife of 48 years, and I have been attending FAC for about three years after moving here from Indiana.

I still remember the very intentional welcoming we received the first day and first several months from the people here. We also value the use of scripture, sound teaching and challenge to grow we find in so many aspects of the work of FAC.



**Susan Sallee**

*Non-elder, Secretary, 1-year term*

Our family has attended FAC for almost 6 years now.

I love our church because it teaches The Word of God and for the relationships that we have through being involved in youth group, bible study and life group. We are so thankful to God for FAC, it's Godly leadership and amazing church family.



**Jason Groth**

*Elder, 2-year term*

My family has attended FAC for 9 years.

I love how our FAC family loves Jesus! I love how our church provides opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages. I love the way our church commits time to both listen and speak to God and the priority that is placed on prayer in every aspect of church life.



**Jonathan Waterman**

*Elder, 2-year term*

I've attended First Alliance for almost 4 years.

I love the community at FAC and the intentionality. There are so many different ways to get involved and the church is very welcoming.

# MEET OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES



**Claire Hanssen**

I've been at FAC for 20 years.

I love our faithfulness to God's true Word and the span of generations represented in our body.



**Eva Tsang**

We have been with FAC for 30+ years!

I am grateful that FAC is the place where I can grow, both in...

- knowing & loving God;
- loving & being loved by this community!



**Mark Hendrix**

I have been attending FAC for about 6 years.

What I love about FAC is that it is well represented by each age group. I have always taken that as a sign of a healthy church.



**Eric Walroup**

We have attended church at FAC for 7 years.

I love the family atmosphere. We have gotten to know and become friends with people of all generations.

## Returning Board Members

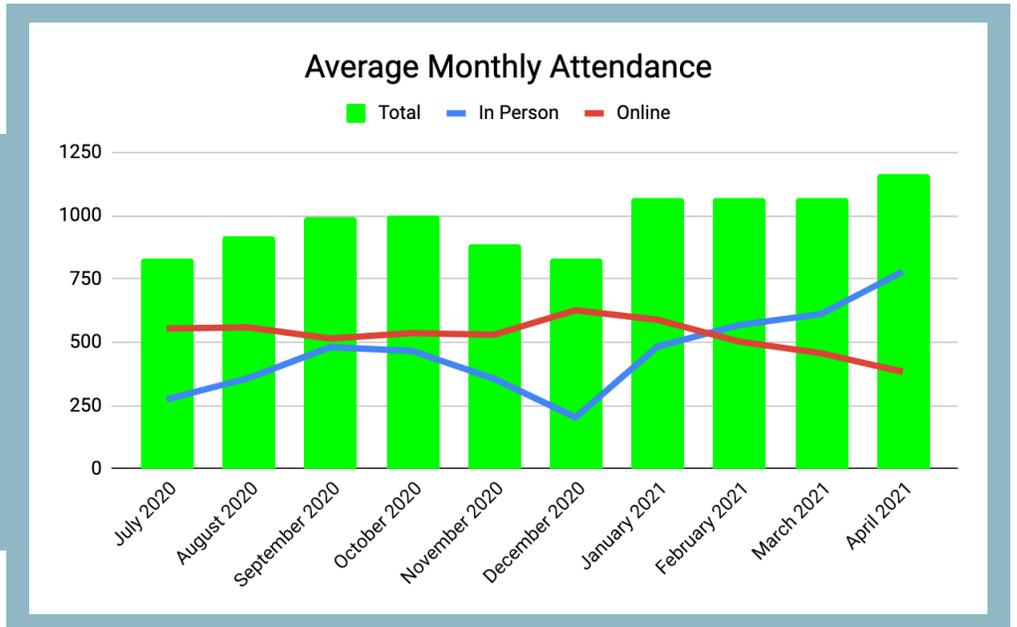
Damon Mazza  
Todd Banus

Tim Woods  
Amy Long

# FAC By the Numbers

In person attendance includes everyone in the building on Sunday mornings, including children and adults.

Online attendance includes our estimate of how many people are watching us on Sunday mornings via faclex.tv, Facebook, and YouTube. While there is no industry standard for measuring online attendance, our research provided a method that we have been using consistently since we began live-streaming our services in June 2020.



Membership  
**300**

Life Groups  
**21**

Baptisms  
**15**

**We Will**  
Love God, Love Others, and  
live fully engaged in Christ's  
Great Commission starting  
in Lexington, Kentucky  
**MISSION**

**We See**  
A church that loves our neighbors,  
reaches the nations, and raises up  
the next generation by courageously  
living out new, faith-filled  
expressions of our rich heritage.  
**VISION**

**We Are**  
God-Glorifying  
Jesus-Following  
Spirit-Empowered  
Prayer-Fueled  
Biblically-Grounded  
Disciple-Making  
Resource-Generous  
Mercy-Moved  
Mission-Driven  
**VALUES**

**We Move**  
**UP**  
Towards God in Worship  
**IN**  
Towards each other in  
Discipleship  
**OUT**  
Towards the world in  
Mission  
**STRATEGIES**



## Zeke Friedeman • Worship Pastor

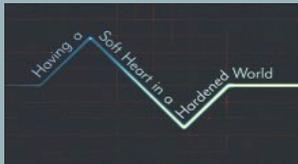
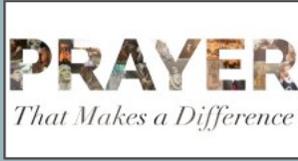
It's been an amazing first year of ministry and life at FAC! I'm truly thankful and honored to lead and worship alongside of you every week. Last year at this time, we were beginning the journey of streaming our services online, learning how to operate new equipment, praying for (lots of!) new volunteers, and excited/anticipating to be worshipping in-person again. Now, a year later, we're enjoying the ability to worship together each week both virtually and in-person, we've been blessed with DOZENS of new volunteers (thank you!!), and have experienced Jesus' presence through worship over and over again. I love serving a church that loves to worship! Thanks for showing up each week with the expectation of participation.

On a personal note, I want to say thanks for being so welcoming to me and Ali this past year. Your encouragement, kindness, and conversations before and after services have made us feel loved and welcomed. Having a church family who supports us means a lot!

Thankful to be at FAC and excited to continue to worship and grow together this next year!



## Special Services



Top Left: Christmas Eve service. Bottom Left: Maundy Thursday service. Top Right: Palm Sunday. Bottom Right: Baptism Sunday

## Bethany Laue • Guest Services Coordinator

The Guest Services Team is committed to serving our congregation and guests through greeting, ushering, cleaning, serving coffee and so much more—whatever it takes to welcome and care for everyone who walks through our doors. This past year saw many changes for our team and required some creativity! We practiced loving people from six feet away by smiling with our eyes as we greeted people at the door and holding outdoor events like a drive-through ice cream social and refreshments in the parking lot.

At the end of March, we held several rallies where we celebrated our incredible Guest Services and Cleaning Teams and welcomed and trained new volunteers. These rallies helped us prepare for Easter Sunday, where we brought back the coffee bar for the first time in over a year at the new 8:00am service. We also had donut holes available to add a little sweetness to post-service conversations.

The Guest Services Team has seen God's faithfulness as we have navigated the changes and pressures of doing church in the COVID era. We are especially grateful to Lilly Lintemuth, who served as our Guest Services Coordinator this past year before moving on to a new profession. I am so excited to step into this role in her stead. We continue to be amazed by our faithful volunteers, their love for the Lord, and their love for First Alliance.



This Year's Sermon Series



## T Wright • Executive Pastor of Discipleship

This past year has been both extremely challenging and incredibly rewarding. We've had limitations that have forced us to reimagine how we disciple our people, but as a result have seen growth in some unexpected places and through unexpected mediums. I have been extremely pleased with how all of our various ministry leaders have adapted to the challenges that have arisen due to the pandemic. I also think it's safe to say that we all look forward to times in the future when gathering together comes without restrictions and we are free from the limitations we are currently experiencing.

As for the new additions to the discipleship efforts at FAC, we introduced a handful of new classes (NT Introduction, Atonement, Breaking Through to Spiritual Maturity, etc.), new ministries (Freedom ministry), and experienced growth in many areas (College, Young Professionals, Life Groups). As we move into the fall, we have plans to expand our offerings in adult education, men's ministry, and others. I'm excited about what we have planned and the new things we will be adding to our yearly rhythms.

As always, if you want to lead, teach, mentor, disciple our people, there is room for you to be a part of that here at FAC. And a huge thanks to all of those who already do!

## Susan Scott • Director of Women's Ministries

What a year for women's ministry at FAC! We are in awe of the way God moved us into new territory and provided. Moving from last year's first ever online Bible study, our



women's group completed four more studies: the study of the book of Ruth, the Sermon on the Mount, Elijah, and Fear and Faith- each study having virtual as well as flex (in-person) options. In each study a leadership group supported our 15-18 small group leaders by providing resources who led a total of over 100 women for

each study. Service projects included Natalie's Sisters toiletries; Alliance Women's projects; praying for and financially supporting our two TCK's; praying for the Middle School retreat; providing and serving lunch and dinner for the High School retreat; praying specific requests for Young Lives. Our Christmas event adjusted to providing a resource for a Christmas caroling package online. The women's retreat was an IF Gathering which had 106 women in person or virtually where we supported our Alliance Women's projects as well as Illuminations, an organization desiring to give the Bible to a people group who have never had access to the Bible in their language.

## Heather Smith • Director of Communications & Connections

### Communications

Our communications team, made up of Carly Kuss, Chris Davis and myself, have served the FAC family through our website and app, weekly Connector, Wednesday video emails, Engage quarterly magazine, special productions like Christmas connects, baptism service videos, welcome/announcement videos, and more! All of these support the many ministries of FAC by providing information, inspiration and invitation. We continue to utilize FACLEX.TV each week for our Sunday services livestream and NextGen ministries recorded programming. This allows those worshipping from home, both here in Lexington and our international workers on the field, to stay connected and encouraged.

### Connections

**LIFE Groups:** 250 group members have been part of FAC Life Groups this year! Care and discipleship happen best in community, and our FAC Life Groups prove it! Many groups

moved to virtual meetings through COVID-19 and are now slowly resuming in-person meetings. Well done leaders!

**Affinity groups** are a new addition to our groups option this summer. We are excited to see how it goes!



**Ministry Fair:** We held our traditional August ministry fair virtually on [faclex.com](http://faclex.com) this year. These videos remain on our website to provide quick access to ministry explanations and opportunities.

**LAUNCH:** This new experience is for those newer to our FAC family in hopes they get connected with our staff and each other. We welcomed almost 50 adults to the inaugural events! We look forward to continuing this ministry as our new iteration of Meet and Greet under Guest Services.

## Jessica Freeburne • Coordinator of Congregational Care

At First Alliance Church we believe care happens best in community. **When there are more sensitive, on-going or critical needs our Congregational Care ministry is here to support you!** This past year we continued to lovingly and creatively care for our body in many ways! We activated a **Care Call Team**, during the Covid season, in which a team of individuals reached out to Boomer aged folks in our congregation to regularly connect by phone. We've supported those who have experienced loss this past year by providing **Grief support books**. We've provided numerous **Christian counseling referrals** and provided financial

assistance for counseling. Our **Sunday Prayer Team** is preparing to relaunch on Sunday mornings. The **Prayer Bulletin** and **Prayer Team** have faithfully supported our congregation, and local and global partnerships, through the ministry of prayer. The generosity of the **Benevolence Ministry** has allowed us to provide various forms of assistance to those in difficult life circumstances. Lastly, the **Meal Ministry** has provided meals for many who've faced unexpected illnesses or physical challenges. We are grateful to God for the kindness and generosity of our FAC family to support one another as the body of Christ!

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

## Children's Ministry • Tim Davis

God continues to impact children and families at FAC! This happens each week through teachers, leaders, and caregivers who love Jesus and understand the crucial activity of the church discipling its children and families (Deuteronomy 6:4-11).

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept over the country, we shifted gears to continue teaching, encouraging, and staying connected to kids and families. We hosted several church-wide events to help keep people connected; you might have driven through and grabbed a popsicle at our Ice Cream Social, played a life size game of I Spy during Treat Street Drive Thru, or baked cookies and listened to the Christmas story with us during Dough Holy Night. We also brought the fun to families with Operation Drop 'N Fun, bringing goodie bags full of tools to help kids and families stay plugged in to Jesus.



After nearly 6 months closed, our nursery and preschool ministry was able to reopen in September! Our group of energetic, fun, and, most importantly, kid-loving volunteers has been integral to our reopening process, making sure families felt safe returning to in-person worship. It has been a joy to welcome kids back into our spaces, and to continue to nurture and teach them in the name of Jesus.



Our elementary ministry, like everyone else, enjoyed new adventures by providing online content for kids and families as the pandemic continued last year. As we were able to re-open our spaces in August, our teams jumped back into action with enthusiasm to welcome kids back and encourage them in their walk with Jesus. We've been able to resume our favorite Sunday activities like small groups, large group worship, and project time.

We are thankful to be back together and excited for what God has in store as we look ahead to the next school year here at FAC Kids!

## Middle School Ministry • Tanner Fouts

Wow! What a year in FAC Middle School Ministry. Despite everything going on, we've been able to do so many things. Everything from Giant Human Foosball, target practice with water balloons and giant slingshot, to a massive color war in the rain—We did it all! In our classrooms we dove head first into Scripture with challenging lessons and even brought a few of them to life. We recreated the Tabernacle to close our series on Exodus and set us up on the right path for Easter.



This year would not have been possible without our remarkably faithful leaders: Aaron Bullock, Ben Gerken, Carrie Mungillo, Cheri Fouts, Cindy Absher, Dan Danford, David Brown, Isaac Brown, Katie Mitchell, Laura Brown, and Phyllis Danford. These individuals sacrificed a lot to ensure that this year was not only possible, but worth remembering for our middle schoolers.



We had 4 baptisms: Katie Absher, Emma Allender, Isaac McKinney, and Margaret Wilson.

## High School Ministry • Dan McPherson



Not surprisingly, 2020-21 has been quite an up and down year for FAC Youth! We have weathered the storm of masks, social distancing, Zoom, and all other COVID related setbacks and still had an encouraging year. Even with a drop of in-person attendance, between Sundays and Wednesdays we have still seen about 100 students walk through our doors each week which is phenomenal! Students have grown in their faith, taken on leadership roles within the larger church body, and several accepted Jesus for the first time and got baptized which is so awesome!

Our team of 20 volunteer LIFE group leaders have faithfully served amidst

pandemic-level difficulties and continued leading students to the feet of Jesus with vulnerability, compassion, and love. It is so fun to do ministry alongside this group of people. They are the pastors of their small group and FAC Youth is better because of them!



Despite the hurdles, we have experienced God's blessings in new and exciting ways and are so thankful to partner with Him in serving the high schoolers of FAC!

## College Ministry • Zeke Friedeman

We're excited about what God is doing in the lives of college students at FAC!

This year, we've seen so many new students walk through the doors of First Alliance for the first time and get connected in various ways throughout the week!

In August, we re-launched FAC college by doing monthly worship nights where we enjoyed fellowship, prayer, singing, and a message from several different FAC staff members. In January, we started meeting weekly for a meal and Bible study and have seen great community and spiritual growth come out of that group.

We're excited for continuing in a weekly rhythm of meeting this fall as we continue to walk with our students as they grow closer to Jesus. If you are a student and haven't gotten connected, contact me and come join us in August! If you're not a student but would like to be involved, shoot me an email and we'll get connected. Your prayers for FAC college ministry are appreciated!



## Missions • Zach Meerkreebs

### Covid-19 Relief

In this last year we have had the joy of being resource-generous to our city, local partners, and sister churches within the C&MA. Here are some highlights of our participation in relief work during this global pandemic...

- Approximately 150,000 meals given away to families struggling with food insecurity and front-line workers in Lexington 3 hospitals.
  - Our church provided multiple car-loads of non-perishable foods for multiple months to feed the children and families that our local partners care for.
- \$15,000 given to other C&MA churches in our district, the Ohio Valley District of the C&MA, to help lighten the load during Covid difficulties.
- We have offered soul care and pastoral counseling to missionaries and partners as they deal with fatigue, disappointment, and an ever changing landscape.



### Partners

We have prioritized partnering well within this difficult Covid-19 season by praying with, resourcing, and encouraging our local and global partners. Both our global missionaries and partners in leadership have needed unique care and we've had the joy to walk alongside them in precious and effective ways.

- **New Partners-** YoungLives, our new local partner who cares for and evangelizes among teen parents in Lexington and surrounding areas, was officially established as a local partner and will launch their ministry in the fall of 2021
- **Celebrating Partners-** We have celebrated and finished our season of partnership well with FATEAC, a seminary in Ivory Coast, this year. They have accomplished their goal of self-sustaining ministry and we bless them as they equip ministry leaders for the African Church.



### Events

#### Global Impact Weekend - Nov. 7 & 8

We had the joy of hosting Tim Meier, C&MA's V.P. of Development, during this year's Global Impact Weekend as a part of our "UnFinished" series at the end of 2020. This series culminated in the "Here, There, & Everywhere" offering which led to 100k plus going to the Great Commission Fund and global workers around the world.

#### Local Impact Weekend - May 1 & 2

This new event gave opportunity for our church to be activated for missional living and Gospel impact right where they live. Through intercessory prayer tours around the city, serving projects, and a simple Sunday morning gift, we have great momentum to having a meaningful Gospel presence in our city and neighborhoods.

# Finances

## Beyond the Budget

July 2020-April 2021

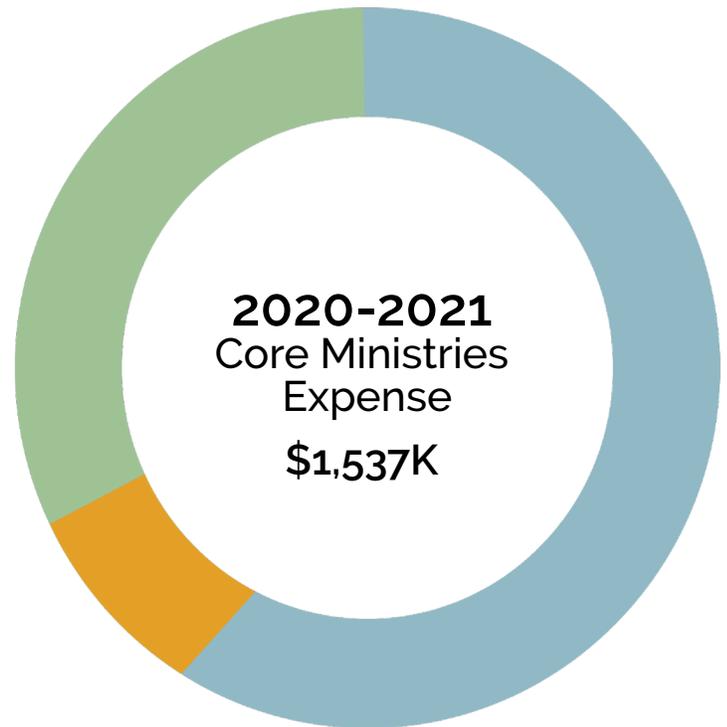
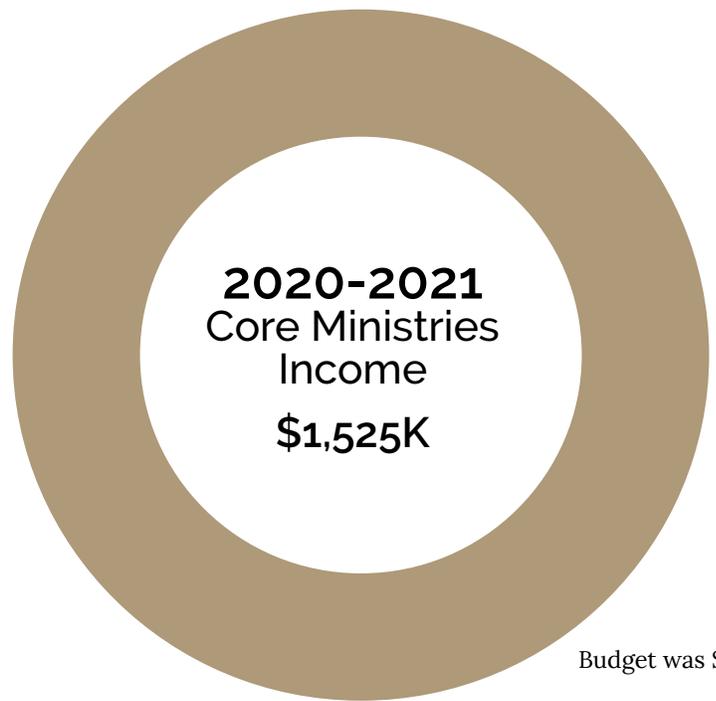
Giving to Our Neighbors and  
the Nations

*In addition to your generosity to the Core  
Ministry Fund, you gave:*

- \$210K to the **Here, There, and Everywhere** fund which was used to reduce our mortgage debt (\$105K) and to invest in the Great Commission Fund of the Alliance (\$42K- *which was matched nationally to have an impact of \$84K!*), in our Alliance International Workers (\$42K), and in our local ministry partners (\$21K).
- \$140K specifically designated for Alliance Missions, including the **Great Commission Fund, Compassion & Mercy Associates, and Alliance International Workers** from FAC to support the work of spreading the gospel in word and deed around the globe with the Alliance! (*This was above and beyond the Here, There, and Everywhere GFC gift!*)
- \$20K for benevolence, allowing us to bless many local families with basic needs such as housing, food, and health care!
- \$4K for local ministry partners doing compassionate kingdom work, including Natalie's Sisters, and projects we did for Wellington Elementary School.
- \$71K designated specifically to reduce our mortgage (*on top of the Here, There, and Everywhere mortgage reduction portion! And not including the Paid in Full offering taken in May 2021!*)

**Total Giving**

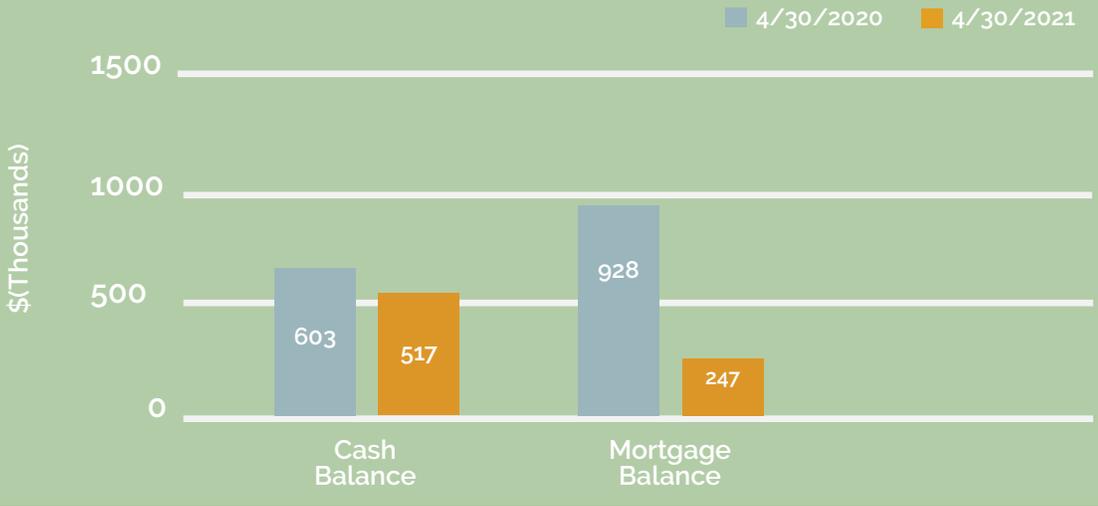
**\$2.1M**



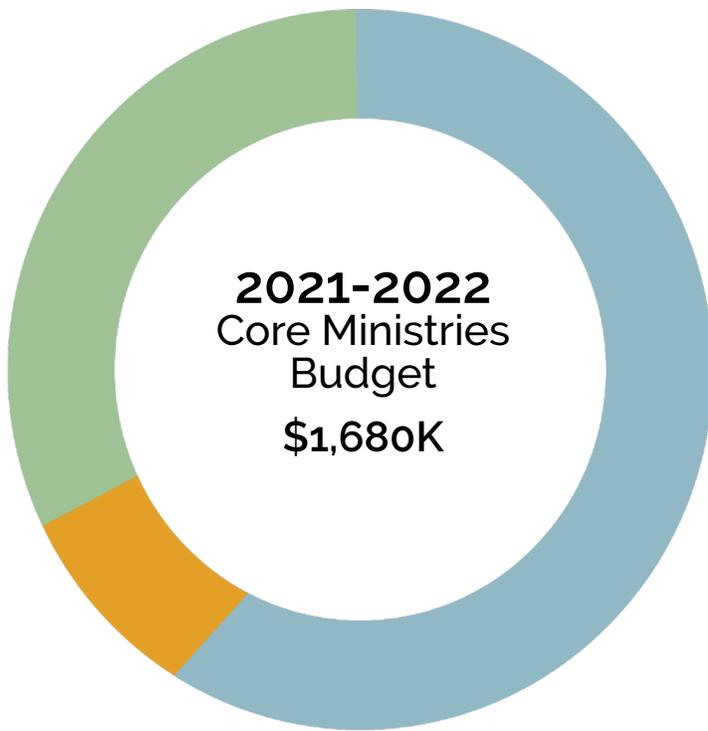
Salaries & Benefits	\$983K
Operations	\$462K
Ministry Investments	\$92K
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,537K</b>

Note: 2020-2021 income and expenses are full year estimates, with actual results through April 2021.

# Assets & Liabilities



- Cash Balance is down due to investments in sanctuary livestreaming equipment and outreach for local partners.
- Mortgage Balance is down due to designated contributions to debt reduction; Here, There, and Everywhere gifts; and cell tower lease sale proceeds. Paid in Full gifts are not represented due to timing of the printing of this report. We expect the mortgage balance to be \$0 by July 2021.



Salaries & Benefits	\$1,055K
Operations	\$424K
Ministry Investments	\$191K
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,670K</b>

- For more financial details see the financial summary document located at [faclex.com](http://faclex.com) under the annual meeting tab, and be sure to listen to the Treasurer's Report in the Annual Meeting recording at or after 6:00pm, June 13, 2021.
- Core Ministry Budget total reflects \$10K in banking fees for online giving, not accounted for in Operating Expenses.

## Thank You!

While this report is focused on the period from July 2020 through April 2021, we cannot help but pause and comment on the year 2020. COVID-19 rocked the world in many ways and yet God used His people's generosity to demonstrate His faithfulness to His Church. **Total giving in the calendar 2020 was the highest in our church's 65 year history!** Giving dropped off a little in the early months of 2021, March and April saw improvement, and the fiscal year, in the face of cultural, medical, and political uncertainty, has been encouraging. Your giving toward the Core Ministries fund allowed us to accomplish all that you have read in the previous pages of this report. We reopened our building in June 2020 and have really seen the facility rocking since early April 2021. We are excited about the Paid in Full offering and becoming debt free because of the additional opportunities to invest in ministry and serving those who need to know our Savior! *We ask everyone who calls FAC their home church to participate in giving this year. We really need everyone in order to accomplish all God has for us.*

To God be the glory for our Resource-Generous congregation!