

# Mount Vernon First Church of God

## 2020 Celebration of Ministry



*“Be still and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”  
Psalm 46:10*

## PASTOR DAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Wow! What a strange, unprecedented, and challenging year in the life of our church family! Between the Coronavirus global pandemic, the shutting down of worship services, restrictions on the numbers of people who can gather together, face masks, social distancing, and all the subsequent rhetoric, arguing, and conspiracy theories, it'd be easy for us to become distracted and discouraged. To become overwhelmed with all the changes happening in our society and world. To lose sight of who we are and whose we are? What we're about and why? To wonder where is God in all of this?

The answer; he's right here for, and with, and above, and in us! **"God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). "The Lord Almighty is with us" (Psalm 46:7). "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10). "I will never abandon you" (Hebrews 13:5).**

Because God is sovereign, because he created everything that exists, because he stands outside of time, because he never changes, and because he desires our highest good, we need not fear, need not be afraid, regardless of whatever happens in the world around us. While none among us would choose difficult times, the truth is our faith grows and is strengthened more during times of challenge and change than during the easy, comfortable times in our lives. That's why James encourages us with these words, **"Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4).**

So, in the midst of these difficult and challenging times let us continue to **"Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2)** as we live for him, as we share the good news of the gospel, as we grow up into ever increasing spiritual maturity, and as we shine brightly into the darkness that is this world.

Blessings,

## **Worship Annual Report 2020**

It has been my privilege to serve, alongside Pastor Dan, as worship planner and Praise Team coordinator for the last two years at the request of the Planning Council. During summer and fall months, Rosemary Latham willingly picked up responsibility for one Sunday a month along with keyboard accompaniment. What a significant blessing for us all! Deb Oakes prepared worship segments for video recordings during the months of closure related to COVID-19. Thanks so much, Deb!

Few people know the important role Jeanne Mellen plays in our music ministry. Every few weeks she files song sheets used during prior Sundays. This allows worship planners to quickly locate music sheets needed each week. Without this organizational piece, the music library would be basically unusable. Your help, Jeanne, is important and appreciated.

For me, one of the best aspects of this leadership responsibility is working with praise team members. What an awesome group of faithful folks! It's inspiring to meet with them each Sunday at 9 a.m. to rehearse and pray together. It's been great having Josh King and his drums join the team. Sound and computer technicians show up an hour early as well to set up and make sure everything runs smoothly. We are indeed blessed as a congregation by the musical gifts and technological skills of these members of our church family.

While planning worship services is a new experience for me, I have discovered it to be satisfying and energizing most weeks. I am appreciative of the patience and support received from Pastor Dan and the congregation as a whole. Please know that your suggestions are always welcome. And be sure to let me know how you would like to be involved whether it is reading, singing, playing an instrument, drama, or something like designing theme displays. Volunteers are needed most Sundays but especially for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Kennard

## CHURCH PLANNING COUNCIL

2020

The Church Planning Council exists to provide overall direction to our church family and pastor as we do “community” together. To that end we create, host, plan, and participate in a number of fellowship activities as we attempt to spend time together as a church family. Among this year’s activities were:

January – Pot Luck Lunch  
February – Pot Luck lunch  
March – Closed due to COVID  
April – Closed due to COVID  
May – Closed due to COVID  
June – No Fellowship Activity  
July – Warsaw Campmeeting  
August – No Fellowship Activity  
September – Church Campfire (modified)  
October – Hymn Sing & Ice Cream  
November – Annual Business Meeting

With our Christmas Eve “Candles, Carols & Communion” worship service on Thursday, December 24 still to come.

Rev. Jane Kennard continues to serve as our primary worship leader, planning our weekly music and worship services with Rosemary Latham also planning and leading during the summer months.

ReviveOHIO continues as an ongoing monthly event as we join together with numerous Knox County churches for monthly outreach opportunities.

Chair- Pastor Dan  
Vice-Chair – Jan Reynolds  
Secretary – Dorothy Mize  
Trustee – Brian Day  
Christian Education – Jane Kennard

Youth – Bob DeVinney  
Worship –  
Ratified – Dorothy Mize  
Ratified – Jan Reynolds  
Ratified – Miranda Smith

## Board of Christian Education 2020

For most of us, 2020 falls into two categories: before COVID-19 and after (sort of) COVID-19. The need to transition to online worship for several months due to the virus meant discontinuing educational ministries Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

With the start-up of Wednesday classes and Children's Church in August and September, we are back on track. However, challenges continue, especially those related to participation and leadership. Attendance (11-13) in the Wednesday adult Bible study group remains about the same as prior to the virus shut-down. The youth and young adult group functions with less than 5 participants. Hide n' Seek Club for elementary age children averages 2-3. Currently, 1-2 preschoolers are showing up on Wednesdays with parents of the children providing oversight. While Barbara Day keeps tabs on the nursery, there are no babies at this time needing this ministry.

### **PLEASE NOTE THE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY THIS SITUATION PRESENTS:**

1. With adult volunteers to lead a simple session for preschoolers, the parents of these children could attend the adult Bible study. *This is a huge ministry invitation placed in our laps!* One of the families is unchurched, needs our love, support, a chance to get to know other adults and learn about the gospel.
2. Hide n' Seek Club has ample room for more children to enjoy memorizing Scripture and learning ways of applying to their lives. Again, this is huge!
3. Ditto for the youth/young adult group!
4. Ditto for the adult Bible study group!

As teachers and leaders ourselves, we are committed to the educational ministries of this congregation. We would love to see spiritual and numerical growth emerge in these arenas of teaching and learning for all age levels. We believe God desires the same. Let's embrace this current situation to make a difference!

Progress made on the upstairs children's and youth areas is so encouraging and beneficial. The attractiveness of these facilities adds incentive to invite others to join the classes happening in those spaces. Many, many thanks to the Trustees, Pastor Dan, Jill, and the super volunteers who put time and work into making this a reality.

Speaking of volunteers, the following individuals provide "over the top" consistent leadership and care.

*Children's Church:* Jill Shriver and Brian Day

*Adult Bible Study:* Doug Kennard

*Hide n' Seek Club:* Deb and Dan Oakes

*Youth/Young Adult:* Bob and Michelle DeVinney

*Nursery:* Barbara Day

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kennard and Jill Shriver (Co-chairs)

# Report from Children's Church

November 2020

Hope! Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Prior to the pandemic hitting in March the children had been learning about "What is God like?" And each of these characteristics gives us hope!

God is Almighty

God is the Alpha and Omega

God is Awesome

God is Compassionate

God is the Deliverer

God is Exalted

God is Faithful

God Forgives

God is Glorious

God is Gracious

God Guides His People

God Heals

God is Holy

God is our Hope

He is the One in whom our expectations are centered.

We continue to learn about God, care about each other and talk about ways we can make a difference. Sometimes this is through storytelling, drawing, reading scripture, dancing and singing.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Last but not least is a HUGE thank you to those who gave of their time, energy, talent and treasure to make our space beautiful. We are most grateful and appreciative!

Blessed,

Jill Shriver

## Board of Trustees report

November 2020

Hello,

I would like to start by thanking all the members of the congregation for their faithful support throughout this crazy and trying year. We could not have accomplished what we did this year without all your prayers, financial support, and your valuable time that was donated to do what was needed to complete the maintenance and make the improvements to our church facilities.

One of the biggest improvements was the completion of the remodel of the upstairs children's church and youth areas. These improvements will allow us to provide a safe and inviting area to help grow these 2 ministries. Above the monies that were provided was the time and labor that was given to help complete such a task and the trustees would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all who gave time, money, and prayers to accomplish this task.

Another big project was our church yard sale and again we would like to thank all those who donated items and their time to make this a huge success.

Last but not the least was the great turnouts we have had for our church workdays where numerous repairs and improvements have been done to help maintain the church facilities. The help with the cleaning, electrical, plumbing, mechanical repairs has greatly helped us with the upkeep of the facilities that the Lord has provided us with.

In closing I would ask for your continued support as we move forward, and the members of the board would ask for your continued prayers as we work to use what God has given us to be a positive influence too our community.

Regards,

Brian Day

Chairman, Board of Trustees

## 2020 Annual Treasurer's Report

This year has seen many changes to our way of life and our way of worship. We have been forced to adapt and God has continued to be faithful in blessing our church. Though dealing with a global pandemic, your faithfulness in giving of tithes and offerings has provided more than we estimated coming into the year. We not only met our financial obligations for the year, but we were able to renovate our Christian Education building, and continued our investment in evangelism through the Warsaw Campground ministry.

Coming into 2020, we had an expected income through tithes and offering of \$120,000. As it stands today, we have received \$118,027 in donations to our General and Building Funds, and we are estimating that we will receive upwards of \$123,500 by the end of the year. In addition, we were able to take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program loan offered by the Small Business Association, which provided \$11,500 in funds needed to pay our employees during the time of shut down. This loan has been 100% forgiven as of the report date.

As of October 31, 2020 our account balances are as follows:

General Fund Balance-	\$60,129.26
Building Fund Balance-	\$14,452.22

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to our church, and I pray that God will continue to bless us as we seek to follow his will.

Sincerely,

Josh King  
Treasurer



## First Church of God - 2021 Operating Budget Worksheet

Estimated GF Beginning Balance	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Budget Item	2020 Budget	2020 Estimate	2021 Proposed
<b>INCOME</b>			
General (tithes & offerings)	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
Loan Principal		\$ 450.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$ 120,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 135,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 125,000.00</b>
<b>Estimated Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 165,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 175,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Community</b>			
Kitchen Supplies	250.00	150.00	250.00
Fellowship Activities	375.00	250.00	250.00
<b>TOTAL Community</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>Discipleship</b>			
Children's Ministries	400.00	50.00	300.00
Youth Ministries	600.00	50.00	600.00
Adult Ministries	100.00	50.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL Discipleship</b>	<b>\$ 1,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>Evangelism</b>			
Advertising (Website)	500.00	500.00	500.00
Warsaw (SEO Campgrounds)	2,820.00	2,820.00	2,820.00
Warsaw (youth meals)	500.00	500.00	500.00
Southeast Ohio ministers			250.00
<b>TOTAL Evangelism</b>	<b>\$ 3,820.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,820.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,070.00</b>
<b>Service</b>			
Benevolence/Funerals	\$ 250.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 600.00
<b>TOTAL Service</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ 425.00</b>	<b>\$ 600.00</b>
<b>Worship</b>			
Guest Speakers	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00
Supplies/Licensing	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL Worship</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>

Budget Item	2019 Budget	2019 Estimate	2020 Proposed
<b>Personnel, Property &amp; Finance</b>			
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 400.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 400.00
Copier Maintenance	400.00	220.00	400.00
General Maintenance	3,000.00	2,500.00	3,000.00
Insurance	6,710.00	6,715.00	6,800.00
Grounds (lawn/snow)	400.00	150.00	400.00
New Equipment	400.00	270.00	400.00
Office Supplies	1,200.00	750.00	1,200.00
Parsonage	500.00	900.00	500.00
Taxes & Fees	1,500.00	1,300.00	1,500.00
Loan Payment	12,360.00	12,360.00	12,360.00
Loan Principal Payment	-	450.00	-
Utilities			
Columbia Gas	5,900.00	5,000.00	5,900.00
Electric	5,800.00	4,000.00	5,800.00
Garbage	1,050.00	1,050.00	800.00
Sewer & Water	600.00	1,100.00	1,800.00
Telephone & Internet	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
<b>TOTAL Property</b>	<b>\$ 42,320.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,985.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,360.00</b>
Staff - Pastor - Gross Salary	47,500.00	47,500.00	47,500.00
Staff - Pastor - Pension	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Staff - Pastor - Utility Allowance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Staff - Pastor - Professional Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Staff - Secretary - Gross Wages	\$ 6,240.00	\$ 6,240.00	\$ 6,240.00
Staff - Custodian - Gross Wages	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,020.00
Payroll Service	\$ 532.00	\$ 532.00	\$ 532.00
Employer Share of Taxes, <i>Secr &amp; Cust only</i>	800.00	800.00	800.00
Worker's Compensation	300.00	240.00	300.00
<b>TOTAL Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 68,392.00</b>	<b>\$ 68,332.00</b>	<b>\$ 68,392.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Personnel, Property &amp; Finance</b>	<b>\$ 109,780.00</b>	<b>\$ 107,317.00</b>	<b>\$ 111,752.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 118,007.00</b>	<b>\$ 113,612.00</b>	<b>\$ 119,322.00</b>
<b>NET - Income/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,993.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,838.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,678.00</b>
<b>Estimated General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 31,993.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,838.00</b>	<b>55,678.00</b>

## First Church of God - 2021 Capital Budget Worksheet

<b>Estimated BF Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 18,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,000.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>
<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Estimate</b>	<b>2021 Proposed</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
General	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ -
CE Renovation		\$ 1,700.00	
Parking Lot		\$ 400.00	
		\$ -	
<b>TOTAL Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$ 600.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Estimated Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 18,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
CE Renovation (\$6,516 restricted)	\$ 8,650.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,650.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET - Income/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (8,050.00)</b>	<b>\$ (7,500.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Estimated Building Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 9,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>

### Checking Account Balances - October 31, 2019

<i>General Fund</i>	<b>\$ 60,129.00</b>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<b>\$ 14,452.00</b>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b><u>\$ 74,581.00</u></b>

### Loan Balance - October 31, 2019

**\$ 56,812.00**

## **2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING BALLOT**

Please circle either "yes" or "no" to ratify EACH person/proposal.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2 YEAR TERM)**

YES NO Josh King

YES NO Doug Kennard

YES NO Roger Mize

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (2 YEAR TERM)**

YES NO Joyce Chapman

YES NO Michele DeVinney

YES NO Debbie Stadler

### **CHURCH PLANNING COUNCIL (3 YEAR TERM)**

YES NO Tondi King

### **CHURCH TREASURER (1 YEAR TERM)**

YES NO Josh King

### **2021 PROPOSED BUDGET**

YES NO I approve the 2021 Proposed General Fund Budget of \$119,322.00