

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 28TH - 29TH, 2021 // VISION SERVICE

A SIMPLE VISION

"To lead people to Christ through **authentic worship, authentic community, and authentic community service**"

THE VISION STATEMENT OF GOD

As Jesus was ascending back to heaven, He looked at His followers and shared His vision for the church. Jesus tells us in Matt. 28:19-20 to go and **disciple, baptize, and teach** people to do all the things Jesus has told us to do. This sounds simple, but it takes the entire NT to show us how we're to accomplish these core objectives.

WORSHIP GATHERINGS

A COMMITMENT TO CORPORATE WORSHIP

From the birth of the Christian church in Acts 2 all the way through Revelation, the NT tells us to corporately worship as a church body (Heb. 10:24-25, Matt. 16:18,18:20, Col. 3:16, Eph. 4:11-13, Rom. 10:17). **Corporate worship brings us closer, activates joy, reassures us, and tunes us into focusing on God.**

A COMMITMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

Our church will always have a strong commitment to expository teaching. **Studying verse-by-verse prohibits us from skipping the hard topics and it puts the Bible in the proper context.**

- This method helps **comprehension**, creates a **love of the Word**, and **grows Christians much faster.**

COMMUNION, PRAYER, AND QUESTIONS

We end every service with **communion** in order to bring every lesson back to Christ. This is a great time to repent and reflect. We offer **prayer** for anyone who may need to confess or ask for spiritual help. We always invite people who may not believe yet to **ask a pastor questions** and possibly move forward.

NEXT

AN EASY AND INFORMATIVE NEXT STEP

The 2nd Monday of every month we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about The Experience to come and take a tour, hear my story, hear the church's story, and take their next step in the process. This is where I get to meet a lot of you and you get to learn a little more about me and this place.

COMMUNITY

GOD IS COMMUNAL, AND WE SHOULD BE TOO

The Trinity shows us that God is communal, and if we are made in His image, we are to also be in community. The church has always met corporately on the weekend and in small groups during the week. **Small groups foster accountability, deep discussion, friendships, intergenerational mentors, and support.**

DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS (101) & AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP (201)

Following Jesus is a 7-week intro to the Christian faith that covers **prayer and worship, the Bible, baptism and communion, the Holy Trinity, the church, how to share our faith, and discipleship.**

- Next group starts September 28th. You can sign up on the app or website.

Authentic Discipleship is a 12-week group that goes into practical and effective ways to make disciples that make more disciples. The next group starts Jan. 25th.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

This is a personal, simple, and effective tool to put disciple making into practice. Download the app and click on **Home > Development > DBS** to get started.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

- **Experience Finance:** We will offer Financial Peace Sep. 15th, but starting next year we will do our own curriculum focusing on budgeting, debt, and handling money biblically.
- **Preparing for Marriage:** For couples that are engaged and participate at The Experience starting Sep. 7th. Sign up on website or app.

SERVING

SERVING OUR CITY

5000 (our homeless ministry) has been consistently feeding and ministering, **Stepping Stones** (homeless women and children) stays with us twice a month, **Embrace Grace** single women with unintended pregnancies, **BAR Ministry** on the square and **Reclaimed** (jail ministry).

THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE!

We do a lot outside of the church, but we also have a lot to do inside the church to serve each other and visitors.

- Please see us at the Connection Corner after service and sign up for **ECCO, Production, Hospitality, Emerge, Medical Team, and all of our other great opportunities!**

MISSIONS

OUR STATE

Murfreesboro: February 2009 **Cannon County:** August 2017 **Crossland (Antioch):** Online 2021

Shelbyville: August 2021 **Our MIT Program:** This is our residential 1 year training program to launch more churches around the state in areas that need it the most.

OUR NATION

Church at the Well, Burlington, Vermont **Hope Church,** Delmarva, Delaware **City Church,** Albany, New York **Grace City,** Boston, Massachusetts. These relationships have been hard during COVID, but we feel like aiding churches in the Northeast is something we are called to do.

OUR WORLD

El Salvador: King's Castle that ministers to hundreds of elementary age kids **Uganda:** Tara Henson working with street kids, teaching FJ, and training pastors **Southeast Asia:** Toffer and Becky King **Mentor Leaders:** Togo and Haiti **Arabic Ministry (local)** sign up on app **More on the app**

FINANCES

HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

2021 Budget: \$6.3 Million Income YTD: \$5.2 Million Predicted 2021 income: \$8.2 Million

Administration: \$1,900,000 (30% of \$6.3 and 23% of \$8.2) Salaries and benefits **Other administration:** \$290,000 (4.5%) Sheriff and Police dept., maintenance team, CPA, taxes, and childcare **Mortgage:** \$240,000 This should be paid off at the beginning of the year. This frees up \$2.88 million annually. **Benevolence:** \$1.6 Million (25%) **Ministry Expenses:** \$411,000 **Operating Costs:** \$403,980 Utilities, printing, building repair, insurance **Savings:** Anything above projected giving **Woodbury Campus:** \$492,000 **Crossland Campus:** \$35,000 **Shelbyville Campus:** \$239,630

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I do not know who gives at this church. Whether one believes tithing is a NT thing or not, it is impossible to argue that Christians should not financially contribute to the mission of the church.

- **If we're going to advance the gospel, it will take not only time and effort, but also a financial commitment.**

HOW ARE WE DOING?

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

Worship Nights have been great and we have one coming up. **Weekend services** are at about 75-80% of pre-COVID numbers. **We're being careful to not let size be our only success metric.** **We want to grow with integrity through discipleship.** **Baptized 169 YTD:** We also want to do this based on knowledge not just emotion.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

LifeGroups: Though we have over 100 groups, many groups aren't properly connected to Karl. We want to make sure more can get connected, but we need your help. **DBS Groups:** 30+ groups that meet using app content. **Following Jesus:** 394 YTD **Authentic Discipleship:** 118 YTD We are giving more away than we ever have to non-profits, community projects, and benevolence. Though we always need more help, serving in the church and with non-profits is going well. **We are very proud that we've established a great reputation as a serving and giving church.**

DISCIPLE MAKERS

SIMPLE AND EFFICIENT

Our mission has always been to **lead people to Christ, disciple, teach the Word, baptize, and equip.** **We welcome ALL people into these doors, but we will not relent on Biblical principles.**

- **If you're not looking to grow intimate with God and get your hands dirty changing your world, you'll hate this place.**

OUR "RALLY CRY" FOR THE REST OF 2021

Our main focus for the rest of the year is to **streamline everything we do to focus on making disciples of Jesus that make more disciples of Jesus.** **We must be hyper-focused on prayer, fasting, obedience to the Word, serving our communities, and sharing the gospel.**

A TREE WILL BE KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT

We have seen the ramifications of the pursuit of self over the pursuit of God. We have seen the results of casual Christianity and a genuine lack of desire to love and reach the lost. To the eye that wants to see, the hood of society, culture, and the church has been lifted and the engine is broken.

NOW MORE THAN EVER

We need to seek and **strive to do what glorifies God, not what glorifies us.** We need to commit to the **Great Commission:** disciple, baptize, teach. We must **mature current believers** and equip them to make disciples with love and truth. We must be honest and straightforward. This has to be a **transparent and safe environment for anyone who enters it.** We need to **love the lost**, regardless of how uncomfortable and messy that gets. We need to **reshape the reputation of God and the church** in our society. We need to **be at church, in community, reading the Word and obeying** what it says, **praying, fasting, serving, and giving** now more than ever because life is becoming increasingly difficult. Not only us, but **those around us need the Gospel and the church because so many are drowning in darkness.** Making disciples that make disciples.