

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 15TH - 16TH, 2022 // 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 STEP

On 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 also to 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.**

WE WANT TO BE INTENTIONAL WITH GROUPS

We encourage people to not only be in groups but to be in and lead groups that are intentional about **reaching people, discipling, and multiplying** into more groups.

- If you want to start or attend a group, please email karl@experiencecc.com so we can help with training and getting people involved.

DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS (101)

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 **January 18th**. You can sign up on the app or website.

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP (201)

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 ECC app and click on **Home > Development > Discovery Groups** to get started.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

- **Experience Finance:** Starts **February 6th**. 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 **February 1st**. Sign up on the 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, **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)** 2021 **Shelbyville:** August 2021

- **MIT Program:** Our residential training program to launch more churches around the state.
- **The Network:** A central hub that supports all campuses and future church plants.

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); More can be found on the app.

FINANCES - HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

Total for all campuses: 2021 Income: **\$8.3 Million (budget was \$6.3)**, 2022 Budget: **\$8.3 Million**

- Because we have 3 campuses, MIT, and a hub we call "The Network," our budget is more in-depth.
- **Total Administration:** \$2,549,052 (30.7%) (Salaries and benefits), **MIT:** \$378,000 (salary and benefits), **Other administration:** \$311,133 (Sheriff, police, CPA, maintenance, etc.), **Mortgage: What's a mortgage?** (Feb. 15th), **Benevolence:** \$2,500,000 (**30% overall**) Extra \$400,000 given to monthly highlights, **Ministry Expenses:** \$411,000, **Operating Costs:** \$562,936, **Repairing things at campuses:** \$530,000 (Roof, HVAC, carpet, covered entrance, misc.), **Woodbury Campus:** \$556,962, **Shelbyville Campus:** \$349,981

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% of pre-COVID numbers. **We're being careful not to let size be our only success metric. We want to grow with integrity through discipleship.**
- **Baptized almost 300 in 2021:** We also want to do this based on knowledge, not just emotion.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

- Life Groups, DBS Groups, Following Jesus, Authentic Discipleship, Preparing for Marriage

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY SERVICE

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 in the community as a serving and giving church.**

THE FUTURE

WITH THE BUILDING PAID OFF...

We are able to up our benevolence to 30%, and it will climb annually with an **eventual goal of 50%**. This is us using our money in a way that really honors God!

- We will be able to **plant more churches.**
- We can make some things **more accessible and efficient at our current churches.**

WITH A HEALTHY CULTURE...

By depending heavily on the Word, authentic community, and serving the city, we are culturally in a good place to reach the lost and mature each other in our faith.

- **Please consider getting involved in our discipleship process!** When we are on the same page and growing in our faith, we are more equipped to reach the lost.

WE HAVE TO COMMIT TO THE MISSION OF GOD!

We must not only continue to be a Matthew 28:19-20 church (**disciple, baptize, and teach**), we must constantly strive to be the brightest light in our communities as possible!

- **The world needs the local church now more than ever!** We are sitting in a place to have more freedom to minister than we ever have!

WHAT NOW?

- Commit to the foundations of our faith: **attend church weekly, pray, listen, read the Word, and obey and apply the Word.** > Get involved in a **small group.** > Find a place to **serve** in the church or outside of the church. > Commit to **praying and fasting** for our city, state, nation, and world.
- We need to be willing to **be discipled and commit to being a disciple-maker.** We must not only be willing to learn and be held accountable, we must be willing to teach and hold others accountable.
- We must be **contributors.** This isn't just finances, but time, talent, and energy.

THIS IS ALL FOR HIS KINGDOM!

- God is blessing this community and lining things up for us to see some huge things happen!
- We must stay humble, diligent, focused, selfless, hungry, and expectant because **you and I are invited to be instrumental in God's Kingdom advancing and people's eternities changing all over the world!**

People need what we've been exposed to, and it is our calling, command, and hopefully desire to present Jesus to a hurting and dying world.