



NORTHBRIDGE CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Dear NB Family -

After a couple of years seeing our church family impacted by isolation and distancing, it seemed like we needed a year to slow down, re-group, and reconnect with one another. In essence, that is what we have done this past year.

I was talking to a friend with military background about all of this, and he said that sometimes "retreat" is not running from the enemy, but rather, it is a strategic military tactic. He explained that instead of aggressively advancing and spreading your troops out farther and farther from one another, it can be wise to re-trench and re-position, so that you can better occupy the ground you have.

Because the COVID pandemic left our church family spread out and less connected than ever, this past year, instead of bold outreach initiatives, we put our primary focus on "engagement" - helping people find their way back into community and a posture of spiritual growth. In order to do this, we concentrated on a few key ideas:

1. Highlighting the Value of the Church - Through our series *The Bride* and *The Original Jesus Revolution*, we re-discovered a theology of the church, recaptured the dream of Jesus for what the church can be, and reminded ourselves why church matters.

2. Habits and Rhythms - The disruption of our routines and the growing invasiveness of technology has made us all realize that we need to re-think how we arrange our lives. More than ever before, we need to implement thoughtful habits and practices that fill us with life and form us into the image of Jesus.

3. Intentional Spiritual Growth - A new inventory was created to help everyone locate where they are on their spiritual journey and how to identify a next step. This led many people to join a group, participate in an Essentials Class, serve with a Common Cause, or venture out on a missional experience.

While these were our main priorities, we also saw 100's of families joining in on our first Trunk or Treat event, 66 students heading out for a winter retreat, 128 NB women coming together for the Embrace weekend, many men from NB and STUDYS Ministries uniting for an event to grow as godly men, 17 people going on one of three different global mission trips, and 18 people proclaiming new faith in Christ through baptism. We definitely increased engagement!

And in February, our "Habits of the Household" weekend with author Justin Earley helped us all to see the unique challenges young parents face today and the need for an intentional set of habits that help form families into lovers of God and one another.

Toward the end of our ministry year, we took a congregation-wide survey that had over 500 responses to gauge where we stand. We made some interesting discoveries:

- Approximately 40% of our congregation has joined NB in the last 3 years
- Over 2/3 of our adults are not actively involved in serving or missional activity
- Over 50% of NB is now comprised by families with pre-K and elementary kids

Now that we are re-engaging with one another again, we turn our focus to mobilizing each person into the mission of Jesus. Our fall kickoff series is called "North Star" helping each person find their true calling from God in the season ahead. We long for everyone to know the joy of being part of something bigger than themselves and seeing God use their lives!

Our upcoming ministry year will also be marked by a new program for young families to experience together called "Fam Jam". Our hope is that this will provide practical help for parents while also cultivating a community of young families who together are going against the grain of culture by building intentional habits and rhythms into their homes.

The new budget proposal (attached) reflects these plans, but it also reflects a reduction in expenses - Staff expenses down \$76k, Missions lessened by \$10k. We now have the smallest staff we have had in seven years. We fell short of our general offering goal this past year, probably for a few reasons. Inflation impacted many families, and the generous outpouring from the NB family for our inclusive playground, along with our Christmas offering and our mission trips, likely drew some funds away from our general offering. We hope that as many of our new families get "engaged" in growth and ministry, we will see a corresponding growth in our offerings. Please pray that we will meet and exceed our budget this year.

When I think about where we were pre-COVID, it's clear that we have experienced significant change - in our ministry programs, our congregational make-up, and our pastoral team. After a year of "retreating" and "re-engaging", it feels like we are better connected and ready to move forward with the mission of Jesus in a way that fits the cultural moment in which we now find ourselves. Can't wait to see what this new year holds and to experience it all together with you!

With Anticipation,
Pastor Mark Albrecht



TREEHOUSE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

The playground team from NorthBridge has been hard at work gathering community partners and overseeing the ground construction of a playground that will serve our entire community. In May 2022, we hosted a kickoff event to introduce the playground to our whole community. This created awareness all through Antioch and beyond, and it generated great excitement among the special needs community. Where there have been some equipment delays out of our control, the playground is still underway and we hope to have it open to the public this fall with a dedication in 2024.

REVENUE / CONTRIBUTIONS	FY2022 BUDGET	FY2023 BUDGET	FY2024 BUDGET
General Offering	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 1,310,000
Special Offering (Christmas Eve)	34,400	40,400	40,000
Savings and Wesleyan Investment Account - Interest	600	12,600	38,000
M173 Contribution to Mortgage	0	0	0
Facility Rental/Use Fees	0	1,000	2,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,335,000	\$ 1,419,000	\$ 1,409,000

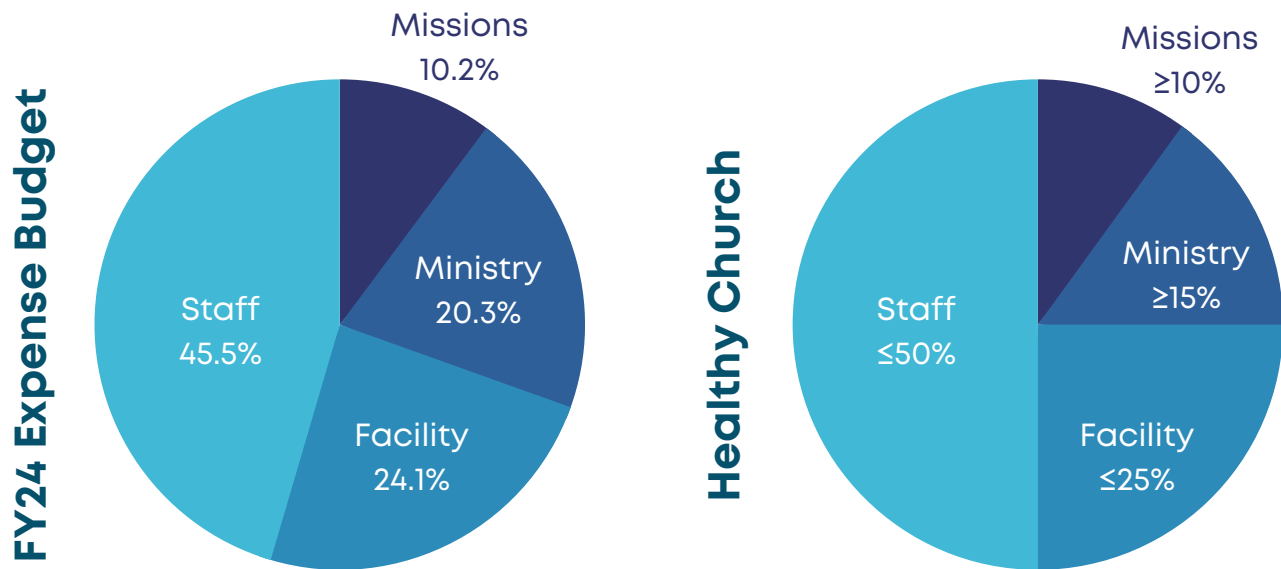
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- We raised an additional \$222K for the Inclusive Playground
- We gave away our \$43K Christmas offering to a local, regional, and global ministry partner
- We distributed over \$13K in Benevolence funds
- We spent less than budgeted and our realized deficit will be \$25K vs. the \$54K that we were budgeted to have this year
- We collected \$27K in interest on our savings and Investment Account

OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE:

- General Operating giving was down this past fiscal year by 10% from what was budgeted and has 0% growth from last fiscal year
- Our mortgage balance on the building is \$3,438,739.00
- Expenses and the cost of doing business have risen significantly

NB FY23 BUDGET vs. "Healthy" Church



EXPENSE	FY23	FY24	CHANGE
Office	\$106,000	\$ 115,000	8.5%
Outreach	\$ 35,000	\$ 38,000	8.6%
Missions & Benevolence	\$ 139,000	\$ 143,500	3.2%
Discipleship	\$ 25,500	\$ 20,500	-19.6%
Leadership & Development	\$ 32,500	\$ 25,500	-23.1%
Programming & Worship	\$ 42,500	\$ 45,000	5.9%
Family Ministries	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	0.0%
Staff	\$ 716,500	\$ 640,500	-10.6%
Facility	\$ 337,500	\$ 339,500	0.6%
TOTAL	\$ 1,476,500	\$ 1,409,000	-4.6%

Child Dedication



Trunk or Treat



Funtastic Fridays



Worship Nights

Senior Assist 2022



Nigeria & South Africa Missions Trips



First Bible



Women's Events



Habits of the Household



MOPS



Senior Sendoff



VBS 2023



Student Retreat





It has been our tradition at NorthBridge to express our joy and thankfulness for Jesus by investing our Christmas offering in the greater mission of Jesus.

In 2022, we gave our Christmas offering to a local, regional and global mission. All three of our Christmas offering recipients had an opportunity in front to them and we wanted to light way forward for them as they continue to make an impact in their unique mission. God has given us so many gifts in the form of compassion mercy, grace, and kindness. We wanted to take the opportunity to give those gifts away.

LOCAL MATTHIAS ACADEMY

Matthias Academy is just 10 minutes north of NB and serves adults with mild to severe disabilities, specialized medical needs, behaviors, and mild to severe autism from Illinois and Wisconsin. Their program is designed for adults to learn, work, and socialize with tailored activities to meet individual learning levels. They needed additional transportation as enrollment has drastically increased. Our gift helped Light the Way as we contributed to the purchase of a transit van giving them greater access to recreation and activities in our community.



REGIONAL REDEMPTION CHURCH

Seven years ago, NorthBridge supported the planting of Redemption Church, a regional church in Belvidere, IL. After establishing a core church family and enduring multiple meeting places they were given the opportunity to purchase an older church that was no longer flourishing and make it their new permanent home. NorthBridge is part of network of churches known as Converge. Many churches in this network contributed financially to help them purchase their new church. Our gift helped Light the Way as the Redemption church family was given the funds needed to have strong start in this new chapter of impact in their community.



GLOBAL ZEMA

ZEMA prepares and equips the next generation of African leaders to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were seeking funds to invest in future indigenous pastoral leadership by sending students to theological training at Union Bible Institute.

Our gift helped Light the Way as leaders were equipped and returned to their communities to teach, lead and expand the reach of ZEMA's mission.



BAPTISM

An outward
symbol
of an inward
reality.

NOV '22

Barbara Stubbs
Connie Gilbreath
James Gilbreath
Noelle Pratt

JUNE '23

Cassie Cruz
Tiffany Gilbreath
Carmen Kurzynowski
Tracey Lowe
Nicolette Moore
Jadyn Roberts
Caiden Schmalig
Patricia Steward
William Steward
Danielle Williams
Hunter Williams
Paul Williams
Paige Wilson

