

Pastor's Report

“And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was the Son of God!’” (Mark 15:39)

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)

Church life, or at least our preaching life, in the past year has been these two themes: (1) in Mark, the discovery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God in His cross and resurrection and (2) in Genesis, the glory of the goodness of God in creation and His purpose for our life in this good world.

These two themes, drawn together through the preaching in Mark and Genesis, do shape our goals and prayers in the life of the church. We continue as those “preaching Jesus Christ and Him Crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). We do so with a view to God’s goodness – now shown toward us as sinners – filling our lives, our families, our church, our world.

These themes define, briefly, *where we’ve been* and *where we’re going*, Lord-willing.

Where we’ve been in 2022

The center of church life in 2022 continued to be the worship of God. Worship is our mountaintop experience, our move upward to Eden. As elders, we labor to make this central in church life. I’m particularly thankful for the labor of presiding of our ruling elders – a labor of love for the sake of the church.

Active church life unfolded in our first full “new pastor, post-COVID (largely)” year. As pastor, life largely consisted of morning preaching, evening teaching, midweek Bible study prep, intermixed with discipleship and counseling with people across the church. Denominational life continued to present many challenges, but the Lord has sustained.

It seemed that church life from the summer on became defined by large hospitality events in the church.

- VBS in June saw our church building taken to outer space; so many worked to serve and encourage the youth of our church and community.
- Late August saw the election of Scott Hoover and Mike Mellinger and their ordination in late September. We are so thankful for their readiness for active service in the church!
- In late September we enjoyed the fall retreat. In early October, the church was asked to host an *ad hoc* presbytery meeting. The church was enabled to provide a warm and joyful welcome to a presbytery facing some real challenges.
- In November, we hosted the annual Thanksgiving Psalm Sing.

All this full time of hosting gave great opportunity for the church to work together, build relationships, and serve the broader church. A huge thank you to those who worked so hard to make it happen.

Each of these activities draw strength from and live in purpose toward that glory of Jesus Christ in the cross and resurrection (Mark 15:39) and the goodness of God even toward sinners (Gen. 1:31).

Space fails to thank all involved in church life, but a particular note of thanks is due to Lisa Shoop and Jenny Erney for their continued faithful service in the office. They keep the pastor, and the church, moving in so many details.

Our communicant membership grew by five over the year; our baptized membership dropped by one; total membership now stands at 137. We're glad for the many new families (Goldeys, Girard, Taylor, Gaskins, Carr, Monica and Carlos, Ford) that have joined and the life they bring to the church. The baptisms of the newly adopted Schulz girls were a particular highlight of the year.

Just a brief note from the Hart family: we continue to rejoice in the Lord bringing us to Columbus. The kids love life here; Orlena enjoys serving in the church. We are glad in the Lord!

Where we are going, Lord-willing.

As a church, we long to be headed in the direction of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified for all of life. We long to experience His goodness in this created world.

This remains our true north – now the question is, “How do we see this come about?”

For the year to come, this, we pray, means a few things:

- A continued centrality of encountering God in the Word and in worship. Our church's strength is only in Christ; we will find our hope there.
- A continued desire to develop relationships within the church. We've increased our focus on visitation and hope that continues.
- A continued exploration of new officers. We see possibilities for growth in our deacon and elder numbers and will seek to train and disciple to that end.
- A consideration of future opportunities presented to us with the resources God has provided. With our mortgage paid off and God's remarkable provision for us as a church, we have resources we need to think wisely about how to steward in our labor as shepherds in the church. Pray for us, and talk to us, with your thoughts, concerns, and questions. May all our decisions be in the direction of the glory of Jesus Christ in this world.

Joel Hart, along with the session

Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church								
	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	Total	2022	Spend	2023
						Budget	vs Bud	
Giving Income								
General Giving - Columbus	91,632.06	65,339.59	68,905.03	110,867.37	336,744.05			
Designated Giving - Columbus	5,398.00	1,622.32	2,483.42	2,912.42	12,416.16			
Other (Grants, Fees)	6,364.00	8,189.97	200.00	622.00	15,375.97			
Interest Income	22.98	28.17	28.22	30.20	109.57			
Total Giving Income	103,417.04	75,180.05	71,616.67	114,431.99	364,645.75			
Net Income								
	32,248.95	-8,573.61	19,351.80	38,657.62	81,684.76			
Net Cash Balance (Unreserved Funds)								
Operating Fund (<i>Checking</i>)	57,127.00	20,298.00	42,058.06	45,587.41				
Seminary/Bible Training Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	12,881.34	14,381.34	14,759.34	14,763.34				14,763.34
Higher Education Scholarship Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	6,000.00	4,500.00						
Roof Repair Fund - <i>Reserved</i>	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00				85,000.00
Building Fund <i>Reserved</i>	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00				175,000.00
Non-Restricted Savings	46,419.00	103,030.64	107,152.60	145,310.41				
Total Overall Cash Fund Balances	297,427.34	317,209.98	338,970.00	380,661.16				
Total Non-Restricted Cash Funds	103,546.00	123,328.64	149,210.66	190,897.82				
Expense								
Ministries								
Christian Education (incl. WBS)			185.78	125.40	311.18	1,000.00	31.1%	1,000.00
Church Listings	520.00				520.00	550.00	94.5%	550.00
Youth For Christ					0.00			1,000.00
Digital Ministry	815.46	179.85	837.48	254.83	2,087.62	3,000.00	69.6%	3,000.00
Evangelism/Outreach	138.12	10,000.00		875.92	11,014.04	5,000.00	220.3%	5,000.00
Benevolence/Gifts	369.69	125.56	3.99	76.23	575.47	500.00	115.1%	500.00
Fall Seminar	2,300.00	14.88		740.00	3,054.88	4,000.00	76.4%	4,000.00
Fellowship	64.83	721.69	628.85	924.00	2,339.37	3,000.00	78.0%	3,000.00
Pulpit	450.00	211.00	465.00	225.00	1,351.00	1,500.00	90.1%	2,000.00
Higher Education Fund Scholarship Expense		1,500.00	4,500.00		6,000.00	6,000.00	100.0%	6,000.00
Mercy	9,095.52	79.34	528.79	12,829.24	22,532.89	10,000.00	225.3%	15,000.00
Clarity	1,200.00			1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	100.0%	6,000.00
New Song					0.00			4,000.00
RP Missions & Ministries	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	26,000.00	26,000.00	100.0%	26,000.00
RP Witness Subscription				1,280.00	1,280.00	1,000.00	128.0%	1,300.00
Biblical Training Scholarship Expense	249.00		1,122.00	1,496.00	2,867.00	2,000.00	143.4%	3,000.00
Session Ministries			1,258.92	905.52	2,164.44	2,500.00	86.6%	2,500.00
Vacation Bible School	88.00	1,098.99	77.18	273.37	1,537.54	2,500.00	61.5%	2,500.00
Youth Memory Work Scholarship		893.93			893.93	750.00	119.2%	1,200.00
Youth Ministry/College & Career	33.04				33.04	2,000.00	1.7%	2,000.00
Youth TFY/Echo/Short Term Missions		348.36	1,795.81	105.97	2,250.14	2,750.00	81.8%	2,750.00
Total Ministries	21,823.66	21,673.60	17,903.80	27,611.48	89,012.54	76,250.00	116.7%	92,300.00
Synod & Presbytery								
Presbytery Assessment	3,210.00				3,210.00	3,210.00	100.0%	4,600.00
Synod Housing		744.24			744.24	1,000.00	74.4%	1,000.00
Synod's Assessment		7,076.00			7,076.00	6,000.00	117.9%	7,100.00
Presbytery Meetings				1,236.56	1,236.56			
Total Synod & Presbytery	3,210.00	7,820.24	0.00	1,236.56	12,266.80	10,210.00	120.1%	12,700.00
Columbus Reformed Presbyterian Church								
Senior Pastor	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21	Total	Spend	vs. Bud	

