

Jon Schuerholz - Executive Pastor 2023

2023 has been a difficult year for me and my family and it impacted my work performance. Esta and I greatly appreciate your patience, love, and support during this season. Some of the struggles have been church issues some personal issues. Trusting and praying 2024 is a fruitful year for GOD's Glory here at Cornerstone Church.

Some of my regular activities for 2023 were:

- I met with Sam and Colton for weekly spiritual formation.
- Chaired the Elders meetings on average twice a month. Working through "Things Unseen" by Mark Buchanan.
- Attend and help coordinate our weekly Monday Prayer Meetings.
- Chaired our weekly staff meeting.
- I was a member of our preaching team.
- Met regularly with seven men at least bi-weekly in a disciple-making role, as well as many others less formally throughout the year.
- Leading our Cornerstone Men's group on Thursday nights
- My wife and I hosted a small group in our home.
- Met regularly with four pastors for mutual encouragement.
- Taught four membership classes.
- Served as a board member on the Niagara Gospel Mission and worked with the executive director on human resource issues.

Less Regular Activities:

- Worked on transitioning our Impact Sports position from Vinh Nguyen's resignation to hiring Louis Shakkour.
- Did a teaching on the history of Israel and our response as Christians.
- Taught at three Christ Together pastor meetings.
- Served on the Finance Committee.
- Chaired the Missions Committee.
- Served and chaired the Facility Team.
- Served at the church Picnic.
- Was able to spend a week in Swaziland in Southern Africa. Taught five times and encouraged a missionary family.
- Counseled married couples and couples preparing for marriage.
- Performed a wedding for a Cornerstone couple.

- Lead Funeral services.
- Attended a Pastor training for four days in the Fall.
- Esta and I planned leadership gatherings (June and October) including an overnight retreat. These involved prayer, training, and goal setting.
- Participated with regional North American Baptist Meetings.
- Served on two boards in the ordination process of Colton Lackey.
- Many meetings and was asked to do a training for church leaders because of the accusations of Jane Doe.

Last year's Goals/Objectives for 2023:

- See fifteen more individuals engaged in personal disciple-making that are not now. **(A few more not as many as fifteen.)**
- Lead our church through a healing process and at the conclusion to the investigations. **(We have made progress but still have some way to go.)**
- Come up with a plan and begin implementing it to restore our congregation's good name in the community. **(We have begun to have outreach activities and use social media to promote our church again. We have also added new families.)**
- Meet and work with three men through training material, who show Elder potential. **(Meeting with two.)**
- Come up with a plan to tackle three major facility issues. **(Not done.)**

This year's objectives 2024:

- Help to integrate three new families to the church.
- Improve our Men's Ministry.
- Sell the Land.
- Come up with a plan to tackle three major facility issues.

I hope to continue to serve GOD and you into the foreseeable future. Trusting GOD that HE is powerful enough to use me to please HIM and bless Cornerstone.

Jon Schuerholz

Matthew Pfeil – Associate Pastor 2023

Looking back at 2023:

- Preached on a regular basis, ranging from 1-2 times per month
- Served as an elder
- Worked with several other churches and ministries with different focuses:
 - NAB Pastors Fellowship – meeting every other month with pastors from the Rochester/Buffalo area for encouragement and edification
 - Christ Together – a part of the leadership team that works toward collaborating with pastors from the Northtowns of Buffalo
- Met with several men for various reasons:
 - Accountability
 - Counseling
 - Discipleship
- Met with multiple couples for counseling
- Have been a part of Thursday morning men's Bible study and Friday morning accountability group
- Provide premarital and marital counseling to several couples
- Oversaw Greeter ministry, recruiting and training several new greeters
- Oversaw small group ministry
- Led invocations for Grand Island Town Board meetings
- Serving on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the Town of Grand Island
- Met with baptism candidates
- Manage Planning Center, the platform our church uses for database, registrations, small group/Bible study sign-ups, check-ins for youth group and children's ministry, and church directory
- Made visitations to hospitals and shut-ins
- Connected with the community through Grand Island soccer (as a parent), Niagara County Volleyball Club (as a coach and parent), and the Grand Island High School volleyball programs (as the girls varsity volleyball coach and parent of a girls JV player)
- Volunteered at Impact Flag Football as a referee
- Lead small group that includes 6 families from Cornerstone Church
- Served at Niagara Gospel Mission for 3M ministry and service projects
- Attempt to shepherd the flock during a difficult and unprecedented season of ministry, which included:
 - Managing social media platforms to filter inappropriate content

- In-person meetings with people
- Email and messaging with people
- Phone calls with people
- Hosted a men's breakfast with special guest speaker
- Managed our social media accounts (Facebook page, Facebook groups, and Instagram)
- Communicated on a regular basis (typically every week) to our church via email updates that included announcements and sign-ups/registrations
- Volunteer for Jerusalem Marketplace
- Planned, prepared, and ran a sand volleyball league; the league consisted of 10 teams, over 100 people, from different churches and the local community; this also included recruiting referees and other volunteers
- Ran a youth volleyball clinic during the summer for 40+ 6th-12th graders
- Helped lead through a very difficult season of our church

Goals for 2024:

- Make our small group ministry more visible, accessible, and numerous
- Read 12 books
- Strengthen our Bible studies

Donna Linenfelser - Children's Ministry Director 2023

Sunday Discovery Island:

- We continue to use The Gospel Project on Sunday mornings and the kids are growing in their knowledge of the Bible. I continue to be amazed at how much they learn.
- I am continuing to offer Bible Studies for kids. I have opened it up to kids from 3rd-8th grade and we have 17 children interested in coming on Sunday's right after church January-April.
- This year I have been faced with a bit more recruiting than I have in past years, as we have had three teachers step down. The LORD will continue to provide.

Discovery Island Kids Club:

Kids Club is a jewel for children's ministry. We have a very committed team of leaders, and they really pour into the lives of the kids from September-May. Last year, we started out with very high numbers (around 120) and lots of excitement, but we did lose many kids during the year - ending the year with around 80 kids. Those that stayed had a great club year! This year we started off with a good number of kids (around 90) and have felt very encouraged that the community is sending their kids...and we are having a wonderful year.

Jerusalem Marketplace:

For the past two years we have held Jerusalem Marketplace the week before Easter while the kids are on Spring Break. This is a kid's version of the Passion Week in a VBS type experience. In 2024, Grand Island schools have off the week after Easter – Jerusalem Marketplace will be a new experience of what happened after the resurrection through Pentecost.

Summer JAM VBS:

This past summer we held a VBS at the Lighthouse Women's and Children's ministry in Niagara Falls. The turnout was smaller than we had planned for with sometimes only having 20 kids show up. We will be brainstorming with Joanne Lorenzo again this year to see how we can encourage the neighborhood kids to come. We plan on running this VBS for four days in the beginning of August.

Assistant and Training:

- In January 2023 we hired Michelle Giambra as my assistant and she has done an amazing job helping me, Cornerstone Church, and our children's ministry. She has a ton of energy and creativity and has been a huge asset.
- January 2024, Michelle and I are both heading to Florida for a children's ministry conference. We are so appreciative of this opportunity.

Volunteer Appreciation:

This spring we will have a volunteer appreciation night at church. The last time we had an appreciation event was in 2018 and I am looking forward to "thanking" all my volunteers with an appreciation event.

Cornerstone Child Protection Training:

As we continue to do all we can to make sure that Cornerstone is a safe place, this past year I became certified as a "Trainer" for Plan to Protect. I plan on having training for our volunteers in January and February of 2024.

Family Services:

This past year, and continuing in 2024, we are incorporating more family services - landing on one per quarter. I think it's working well. I'd like to see the vision for it be clearly communicated as a time where kids see the adults in their lives worshipping the LORD and hearing from his Word, but also for the adults to see the children - those that need to be taught and molded and prayed for. I believe these services can be a nice combination of a regular adult service and a children's service.

Colton Lackey - Youth Pastor 2023

Average weekly attendance:

- Senior High: 20 students a week
- Middle School: 27 students a week

80 individual students on our roster of kids we've regularly seen this past year

Youth Group Nights:

Youth Group nights have been great this year. We reincorporated worship at both HS and MS doing one song a week. We also added a time of public Scripture reading, which a student leads each night. Attendance has been quite the same as we have a clear group of core students. The High School students have blossomed in many ways this year, the spiritual growth has been incredible to witness. Middle School has been operating great as well. This year we walked verse by verse through Romans, which was a fruitful teaching series. We are starting James in the new year.

Baptisms:

We saw 6 students baptized this year (Tanner Hawley, Leah Hurley, Zach Vinkle, Grayson Rastelli, Hannah Rastelli, and Josie Jackson). This was a great encouragement to all. Each student made a very credible confession of faith and shared their testimony with the church upon their baptism.

Bible Study:

We have continued High School Bible Study this year. Something new we have done is separate the guys and girls. The boys are going through Acts, and the girls are going through Genesis. This has been a great success and I believe it has been the most impactful part of our youth ministry.

Discipleship:

I meet with two young adults in our congregation and have been for the past year. I am not currently meeting with any students one-on-one but am searching for opportunities. However, our HS Bible Study has been a great personal disciple-making tool for our students.

Middle School Option:

Middle School Option continued as normal this year; we are postponing Middle School Option for the time being as we want students to engage with our summer camp memorization program which involves doing sermon notes during our Sunday

gatherings. We will re-evaluate after June. My prayer is to have students engaged and a part of corporate worship with the adults on Sundays.

Retreats/Events:

- Winter Retreat WLD Ranch – February
- Winter Comps (Partner Event with other Youth Groups in WNY) – February
- NTS Camp – July
- 8 Days of Hope - July
- Mission Campus (See You at the Pole Event) - September
- Reverb - November
- Christmas Cookie Decorating and Party - December
- Youth Leaders hosted a few various small group parties throughout the year.

Serving Opportunities:

We had a few serving opportunities this year, 3 of our serving activities were fundraisers for NTS camp (Serving Boba Tea at Impact Celebration, Babysitting Night, & Church Workday). We served 4 full days with 8 Days of Hope, we had 15 different students join us. During Christmas, we decorated and made cookies to contribute to Feed the Falls with the Niagara Rescue Mission.

Preaching:

This year I was more involved in the preaching rotation. I spoke on 11 Sundays at Cornerstone, once at Niagara Community Church. This year I intentionally devoted more time to my sermon prep and communication skills. I feel that I grew a lot as a speaker this year and am seeking to continue to develop more as I hope to be preaching regularly in my future ministry.

School/Ordination:

This year I completed my BA in Christian Thought and Practice in April. Following that I spent May-August pursuing and studying ordination through the North American Baptist Conference. In October I enrolled at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I am pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with a focus on Greek and Biblical Theology.

Young Adults Study:

I help oversee and guide our young men's small group. This year we went through the book of Romans and Ephesians; we have about 8 young men regularly in our meetings on Sunday.

2023 Goals:

- Finish School and become a Pastor. (Successful)

This year I completed my BA in Christian Thought and Practice from Kairos University (Sioux Falls Seminary), and I was ordained in August through the NAB Conference.

- Read 10 books. (Successful)

I read 27 books this year. Lots of Christian literature and classics.

- Provide a weekly Bible reading plan with students. (Successful)

We are starting a Bible reading program for students to earn money for their summer camp. This plan will take any student who participates through the entire New Testament.

- Help cultivate a stronger prayer culture in our youth ministry. (Successful)

This is a tougher metric to evaluate, overall, I do believe our students' willingness and participation in prayer, specifically corporate prayer has improved, but I believe we still have a lot of room to grow in this part.

2024 Goals:

- See 5 students get baptized, also continue to encourage our older students to attend our membership class and become members as a next step.
- Complete 8 or more seminary courses
- Develop some type of next-step teaching/development for Middle School Students.
- Train up a student or young adult, with the intention of providing teaching opportunities for them at youth group.

Sam Eichel - Music and Arts Director 2023

A large focus for me in 2023 was to reincorporate some of the great songs of the Christian faith and introduce new songs that hold deep theological truths. This included a lot of reading and digging into the reason we sing in church, looking into the commandments in Scripture surrounding worship, and discerning which songs fit into those criteria. This led to re-introducing several hymns, as well as 5 contemporary songs.

I completed a few tech projects (with some assistance) this year to make some much-needed upgrades. The largest project was the replacement of our Sanctuary dimmers, which control all the stage lights. Our stage lights were creating lots of noise and feedback, and replacing the dimmers reduced this significantly. Other projects included researching, buying & installing new speakers and cables for both the DI room and Sanctuary, as well as setting up new TV's in the Sanctuary & DI room.

2023 also consisted of many extra events that fall outside my normal weekly obligations. The most notable events were:

- Preparing and teaching 4 lessons at youth group
- Help coordinate & run tech for:
 - 2 church events (Impact closing rally, Women's Christmas event),
 - 1 wedding (Kody & Victoria Elinski), and
 - 4 funerals (Kathy Asbach, Nicole Richard, Concetta Desimone, Kathy Jakab)
- Audio/Visual demonstration with homeschool co-op

For spiritual development, I met weekly with one of our young adults. We finished 1 Samuel this past year and started going through the Gospel according to John, which we are continuing throughout this year. I also attended the Ligonier Conference at Redeemer University in Hamilton, ON, which was a great weekend of Bible teaching & spiritual encouragement.

Goals from 2023

- Continue to develop my guitar, bass & vocal skills - **successful**
- Disciple at least 1 more young man/group of young men - **semi-successful**
I met with a young man weekly for a couple months, but it eventually fell through. I also approached a youth student about meeting, but he declined

- Teach at least twice this year, whether it be Teaching Tuesday or teaching for Youth Group - **successful**
I prepared and taught 4 youth lessons in 2023
- Recruit at least 1 volunteer for worship team (could use a drummer, bass player or electric guitar player) - **successful**
Recruited Adam Vinkle for drums, Noah Poczciwinski for keys/drums/video
- Type up a written document on my philosophy of ministry through music to help myself more clearly define my role & purpose - **not successful**
Though I did not type up a document, I did spend much time this year reading about proper Christian worship and the significance of worshipping corporately through music

Goals for 2024

- Read at least 10 books by well-known Christian authors
- Make greater efforts to connect with people in our church that are not part of my normal circles
- Recruit a vocalist, electric guitar, or bass player for the worship team
- Attend at least 1 professional development event for worship leading or audio/visual

Sue Robertson - Office Manager 2023

Office Duties:

- Assist staff, elders, deacons, and ministry leaders as needed
- General office tasks: copies, email, purchasing supplies, mail, and deliveries
- Maintain Facility Use Calendar - schedule building use and activities
- Manage door lock schedule and alarm system
- Timesheets - communicate with Jamie regarding hours
- Design graphics for sermons series, announcements, ministries
- Print weekly sermon notes and announcements

Children's Ministry:

- Print and organize monthly curriculum

Areas of Service:

- Sundays – set up & prepare coffee in café each Sunday
- Deaconess/Called2Care – Hospitality Coordinator and staff liaison
- Coordinate Funeral lunches and Meal Trains as needed
- Help organize quarterly Acts2Nights
- Prepare communion each month

2023 Highlights:

- Church Picnic – helped organize the Church picnic and purchase supplies, helped Deaconesses in serving food and cleanup.
- Joined Tracey Shickluna's summer bible study.
- Acts2Night – served along with the Deaconess group to organize, set up and clean up events.
- Women's Breakfast - served along with the Deaconess group to organize, purchase food and décor, set up and clean up event.
- Women's Christmas Event – served along with the Deaconess group to organize the Lifeway simulcast and serve breakfast. Was a wonderful morning of worship and teaching.

2024 Goals:

- Work on improving my whole health. Mind. Body. Spirit.
- Complete a year-long bible reading plan and it's podcast.
- Reorganize the office space.
- Complete the Missions Wall in the café.

GOALS FROM LEADER RETREAT – NOVEMBER 2023

MAKE DISCIPLES CONTINUOUSLY

DISCOVER

- Gospel presentation and invitation in messages, urging people to make a decision to follow Jesus (ex. Ladies Christmas Outreach)
- Video testimonies of people's spiritual conversion and growth.
- Begin to promote Cornerstone and activities to our community. (ex. 4th of July Parade, Christmas Eve services)
- Search for new ways to utilize church resources (ex. gymnasium) to connect with community.

DEVELOP

- On-ramps to transition people from outreach to church attendance to small groups to discipleship relationship(s).
- Go outside of our comfort zone and usually "circles" and connect with people whom we do not know yet on Sunday mornings.
- Make small groups more visible and easier to connect with.
- Continue corporate worship events that combine services (ex. Acts 2 Night, Church Picnic).
- Intentionally position ourselves in community events to connect Cornerstone with the community (ex. attend volleyball match).

DO

- Pursue ways to provide intergenerational service opportunities.
- Video recaps of past service projects and opportunities (ex. 8 Days of Hope, Lighthouse Ministries).

DEPLOY

- Promote and publicize mission partners, including how our church is currently partnering with and supporting ministries.