

2015

# Annual Report



**SOUTH LANSING**  
**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
SEEK. STUDY. SERVE.

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# **Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**

## **South Lansing Christian Church**

### **January 25th, 2015**

The annual congregational meeting took place during SLCC's Storyboard gathering on January 25, 2014. The theme for the evening was "connecting our community to God's story, one person at a time." During this time we took a look back at 2014. We then looked forward to 2015, casting vision for what we planned to do.

Annual reports were handed out during our Storyboard meeting and were provided on our website. The attendance for this gathering was 107.

Submitted by,  
Jennifer Batdorff  
Administrative Assistant

# 2015 Leadership Teams

## Elders

elders@seekstudyserve.org

Mike Blakely  
Colin Brown  
Jim Hobbs  
Chris Long  
Dick Novello  
Joe Seaton  
Frank Weller

## Deacons

deacons@seekstudyserve.org

Daniel Batdorff  
Anthony Beattie  
Justin Beachamp  
Mark Blakely  
Scott Bunnell  
Ben Cohoon  
Ken Coulter  
Pat Greathouse  
Benjamin J Hobbs  
Paul Lundy  
Tim Palmer Jr.  
Jeromy Tompkins  
Jon Walker

# 2015 New Members

## Baptisms

Todd Brown  
Amanda Brown  
Catherine Coulter  
Derek Adkins  
Cheryl Adkins  
Michael Linsemier  
Leanne Woodworth  
Brayden Woodworth  
Lorie Kirk  
Steve Vollmer

## Membership

Dennis Bingham  
Jenny Bingham  
Doug Sheldon  
Julie Sheldon  
Bryan Tarrant  
Joy Tarrant  
Ann Kriven  
Patti Bossee

# MISION, VISION, AND VALUES

## Core values

### **God's Story**

Jesus is the beginning and end. Revealed in His word, God invites each of us into His story and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, enables us to bear witness to that story and invite others to enter into it.

(John 1:1-5, Revelation 22:13, Psalm 145, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21,)

### **Grace**

The grace God shows us is reflected in our relationships with others.

(Ephesians 2:8-9, Colossians 3:12-14)

### **Community**

We do life together, intentionally building relationships that shape us into the image of Jesus Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 2:8, Acts 2:42-47)

### **Others**

The church is not about me, what I want, my comfort, or my preferences. Because lost people matter to God, we engage people who are far from God, intentionally investing in the next generation.

(Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Matthew 24:14, Romans 10:14-17)

### **Generosity**

We are extravagantly generous with our time, our talent and our treasure. We never look more like Jesus than when we are giving.

(Proverbs 3:9, Mark 12:41ff, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:6-11)

## Vision

We are connecting our community to God's story, one person at a time.

## Mission

We help people write the next chapter in their faith story by creating environments where they can seek, study and serve God.

# 2015 Congregational Letter

I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who has blessed South Lansing Christian Church in many ways. His grace and wisdom has given its leadership all that was necessary to shepherd about 300 worshippers here at South on any given Sunday last year. It is true that some have come and gone, but the overall number remains fairly static. What does that say to you? How are you and others going to petition our Father God on behalf of your leaders? Can God allow the church to be more responsible in 2016? More than numerical growth, will this year be the year for vast spiritual growth at South? Are you going to commit yourself to getting as close to God as you possibly can and along the way, help another to do likewise? Well, we are here to help you write the next chapter in that faith story. Are you ready for continued growth in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving? Then, I submit to you that we express our faith in God to provide all of us with more unmerited favor and humility to act this year.

The year began with participation on a committee to recommend a Young Adults Minister candidate. You now know him to be Walter Neuenschwander. The year ended as plans for the ordination of Bryan Tarrant were finalized. My wife Gail and I saw many of you at the Foodbank serve opportunities, greeted and prayed with you in the back of the auditorium and at Guest Services. What a joy it is to fellowship on Wednesdays with the Adult Bible Fellowship group! Moreover, we've grown spiritually! We've heard your stories of faith in finances God's way. We've seen your helping hand lift up a brother or sister in need of prayer and encouragement. Praise God for accepting the monthly Discipleship disciplines such as "PBJ" "MAP"'s and "P3". As we begin a new year, your leaders are excited about your input on the church's health in the Missional Readiness Index (MRI) online survey soon to come.

Your elders want to challenge you to be fully submitted, Spirit-filled Christ followers. How can that happen? Oversimplified, the first step is to create an environment that fosters spiritual growth. The second step is to follow a discipleship model that Jesus used with His disciples. We believe that we are constantly developing the environment and learning more about how Jesus lived His life to God's glory. If you are not in a small group, we encourage you to ask, find or create one! Whatever you do, live life in a small group.

Many opportunities for small group discipleship are available. The groups may be diversely located around the Greater Lansing area but they do share several components. All groups seek God through His Word, pray, serve and care for others. Whether you desire fundamental teaching about what we believe or fellowship with young couples with children, Men's Groups, book studies or even online discussion with elders, we challenge you with the opportunities. A small group guide is refreshed every quarter and available at Guest Services and online.

Please pray for God's lavish prosperity on the fellowship we have at South Lansing Christian Church. Pray that the Lord would raise up small group leaders. Pray for new groups on finances, relationships and spiritual growth. Give God glory for the wisdom to be good stewards of all that He blesses. May we pray in faith, serve with zeal, give with gladness and reach out in love.

Grace and peace-

Joe Seaton

Chairman of the Elders

elders@seekstudyserve.org

# A Word From Our Senior Minister

My favorite television show of all time is *The West Wing*. Writer Aaron Sorkin – who is a genius in my book – used the stories of *The West Wing* to challenge the political positions of his viewers. I'd be lying if I said his stories of the White House senior staff didn't affect my opinions on some issues. But what really inspires me (I've binge watched the entire series a half dozen times) is the idealism of the characters. They want to make the world a better place.

President Josiah Bartlett best characterized that hopeful optimism by his frequently asked question, "What's next?" Whatever happened – good or bad – Bartlett always gazed at the horizon expecting a brighter future.

What's next?

For Janet and Norm it was finding South Lansing Christian Church. They were invited for Friend Day last October, and they've been growing their faith ever since. For Mike and Susan, "What's next?" meant putting their marriage back together after it was shattered by an affair. South is helping heal their marriage. What's next for Randy meant becoming a leader. He was challenged to step up and lead in 2015 – a challenge he eagerly embraced.

"What's next?" for Steve, Laurie, Todd, Amanda, Catherine, Derek, Cheryl, Michael, Leanne, and Brayden after giving their lives to Christ and being baptized.

***In 2015 our church helped a lot of people figure out "What's next?" by helping them write the next chapters in their faith stories.***

What's next for our SLCC? We're going to devote most of 2016 to answering that question.

Answering, "What's next?" begins by establishing where we are. Next month we will evaluate our church's health by asking each of you to complete the ***Missional Readiness Index***, a comprehensive survey that will evaluate seventy different attributes of our church's health.

After we determine where we are, we will determine our destination (where God wants us to go), and then we will write a new three-year strategic plan (a map to get there). Like ***Connect***, the strategic plan that guided us from 2012-2015, this new plan will help us prioritize our pathway for the next three years.

Nearly ten years ago I asked God, "What's next?" His answer led me to South Lansing Christian Church, and my life was changed. South isn't done partnering with God to change lives; in fact, we're just getting started. As 2016 unfolds we will continue to help people write the next chapters in their faith stories. And I am incredibly grateful for your partnership in that mission.

Frank Weller  
Senior Minister  
frank@seekstudyserve.org

# A Word From The Associate Minister

It is hard to believe that I just completed my 15th year as a minister here at South. Life was much different 15 years ago. Wikipedia had just become a website. Apple iTunes was brand new. The iPod wouldn't be born until October, 2001. We only dreamed of iPads as we struggled to get our PDAs (personal digital assistants) to sync correctly. We primarily used phones with cords, but not to charge them. Our church met in the old building on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. Palmer would come by my office regularly to say, "Hello!" back then. He would tell some bad jokes and ask how I was doing. There was something special about those visits—a man who had served these people for decades, checking in on the young ones who were leading now. He had such a love for this place. Even though he's gone now, he's still alive in this place, in you...in me.

Back then I was in charge of youth and worship. I was fresh out of seminary, so I thought I new more than I really did. I quickly began to learn that that was not the case. The youth group then taught me about splat ball and Statewide, amongst other things. In the process, I began to learn their stories....and, we began a journey of life together.

We have done a lot of living in 15 years. We built a new building. Some of us had kids. We watched way too many college students come to us from MSU and GLCC, grow up, and move away to new lives. We've endured tragedies like 9/11 or the death of children gone too soon. We shared grief with one another as we celebrated the lives of loved ones whose story here here on earth has ended. We've laughed and celebrated this and that and served those around us, showing God's story to so many people. In all things, we've learned to trust that God is good.

One of my seminary professors used to say, "You haven't ministered to a church until you've been around long enough to see some born, some married, and some buried." I don't think his statement had anything to do with the job of ministry. Rather, its about the story. You can't do life together without a common story. You can't have a common story until you spend time with one another, side by side, enduring pain, joy and whatever else the journey throws at you.

It is in those moments when ministry happens. You get the privilege of ministering and doing your job. What you don't realize is how much you are being ministered to in the process. You all have helped shape me into who I am. My prayer is that I have helped shape you. Thank you for the journey thus far. I look forward to what lies ahead, for the stories we will write together, and for the good from God that we will get to experience!

Worshipping Him with my life,  
Wally

# Young Adult Ministry Report

2015 was a great year to be a student or a young adult at South Lansing Christian Church! While our ministries - both Thrive and Modified - continued to experience significant change, God continued to be faithful and to bless our young adults.

At Modified, we ran many of the same events this year as in years past. We took a healthy group to Statewide and talked about living a set-apart Christian life. We sent eighteen students and five adults to CIY MOVE this summer at learned about God's presence in our lives. We spent a weekend this fall on the campus of Great Lakes Christian College for Fusion and wrestled with seeking God. Modified continued to meet weekly over the course of the year, but with some significant changes to the way we do things. We shifted our schedule and much of our focus to small groups at Modified, so that students could grow in community with each other and with their small group leaders.

A highlight of our fall was Michael choosing to be obedient in baptism, and the discussions among our students sparked by his action. That really sums up Modified this year. Through many the changes, the things that remained the same, and the rhythms of ministry, God was glorified as students continued to seek him and as they found their place in God's Story.

2015 was a great year for Thrive. Our small gathering of six to eight young adults meeting for lunch on Sunday afternoons grew into a healthy ministry of twenty or more meeting weekly on Sunday evenings. We held a few events, like our summer and fall kickoffs, designed to reach out to new people, and we went on a camping retreat to Cheboygan State Park in August. Overwhelmingly though, Thrive grew because of the intentionality of our young adults in inviting their friends and carrying on the vision. I am proud of them for their Kingdom focus.

I also am excited about how well our young adults are plugging into our church. The Kingdom of God is best represented among us when we reflect its diversity, coming from many different backgrounds and ages groups, serving and growing together. Thrive young adults engaged in many different areas of our church this year. We see them in Kids City, at The Flood, at Modified, in the Monday men's group, in Sunday morning worship, serving at Serve25 events, and more!

I am thankful to be a part of South Lansing Christian Church, and I am thankful for God's faithfulness to our students, young adults, and church this year. I look forward to seeing him continue to work among us in 2016!

Grace and Peace,

Walter Neuenschwander  
Young Adult Minister  
walter@seekstudyserve.org

# The Flood & Kid's City Ministry Report

**Transitions are inevitable.** As a dad I know that my family is in one of three places: just getting through one, dealing with one or heading into one. I thought my daughter would be an infant forever, but I was wrong. After a while, she transitioned into a rolling stage, side over side wherever she wanted to go. That didn't last because she learned to crawl, now she's standing and at some point, I'm thinking she'll learn how to walk.

**Transitions can be good.** Alli and I thought that we would have to do everything for our son, forever. Yet, after almost four years, he can do all sorts of stuff without our help. Without my assistance, he put on his boots today. (Sure, they were on the wrong feet, but they were on!) Fitting his own footwear lets us leave the house 7 minutes earlier!

## ***Transitions are inevitable!***

Walter Neuenschwander joined the staff as our Young Adults Minister.

I had the privilege of taking on The Flood and overseeing the Middle School Ministry.

January 4<sup>th</sup> a new class for K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade debuts: The Power Station!

In early June 5<sup>th</sup> Grade grads began attending the Flood!  
By fall it was clear that the Power Station was so large that they outgrew their space in Kid's City!

At the end of 2015, four of the long-term Flood staff had left. One to missions, one to another state and two others to focus more on their family.

## ***Transitions can be good!***

Though it has been a busy year, it's been a great year. Walter's oversight of Senior High and College Age ministry has built a stronger community in and between these groups. My involvement in Kid's City helped create a stronger connection between graduating 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and The Flood staff. Some of the dedicated Flood volunteers lead in Kid's City as well to help kids make the leap to the next stage.

## ***Transitions mean growth!***

The most difficult part of 2015 has been leading and recruiting teams for Kid's City and The Flood. We've seen a lot of Kid Builders and Flood volunteers join and leave over the last twelve months. Our mission is to ***“help people write the next chapter in their faith story”***. How can we help them write the next chapter of their faith story? ***By helping them grow in this chapter and walking with them as they transition to the next***

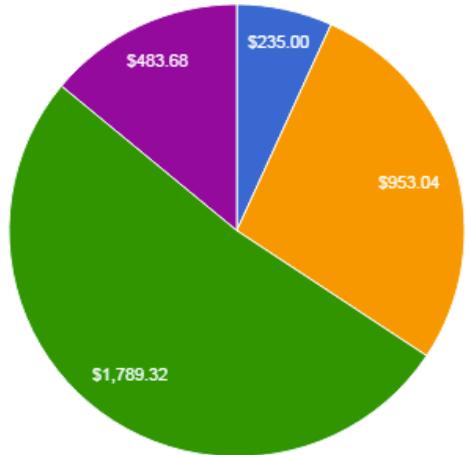
Josh Antonopoulos  
Children's Minister  
josh@seekstudyserve.org

# Deacons' Report

We continued our Deacon on Duty program, in which one of us makes sure the various Sunday morning ministries are staffed and running smoothly with an additional focus on security in Kid's City. We also continued as quick response muscle, helping people move, doing yard work for those who couldn't, and other simple blessings.

The Blessing Buckets continued strong this year. Over fifty one hundred dollars was collected and distributed to individuals and families in need. We love partnering with you to bless someone in your life. You can find a categorized breakdown of the ways we've blessed people here:

Transportation	\$235	6.79%	
Medical	\$0	0%	
Food/Clothes	\$953.04	27.54%	
Rent/Utilities	\$1,789.32	51.70%	
Other	\$483.68	13.97%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,461.04</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	



As always, we are ready and willing to serve. You can submit a Blessing Bucket request right in the orange buckets or you can speak to one of the two Deacons on Duty each Sunday, identified with orange lanyards.

Serving Him,

Benjamin J Hobbs  
 Chairman of the Deacons  
[deacons@seekstudyserve.org](mailto:deacons@seekstudyserve.org)

# Seek Ministry Report

It has been another great year for the worship ministry. We had some significant changes that we facilitated, while continuing lead as best we can.

This year in the worship ministry we added and subtracted to our numbers. Throughout the year we saw some of our team move away. One notable was Larry Morris, who helped run sound and visuals. As always, God was generous enough to help us fill the holes that people left. We have added some new sound and visuals people to our team. In addition, we continue to add new musicians and singers to our team. As with all of our team members, they make leading the worship ministry a joy.

One of my goals as the worship minister here at South is to help engage our area churches in worship. This year we facilitated two events: Good Friday and the International Day of Prayer. Both times of worship were positive for us as a church community to gather. I plan to continue on with my goal of gathering us as a larger church people. We are not individuals making up individual churches. We are one body, making up the church, a gathering of people who live out God's kingdom as one.

In April, we were blessed to receive monies from the 30 Pieces of Silver Offering. With that money we were able to upgrade our projector. It is a huge improvement to the previous unit. This year we hope to complete our visuals upgrade with a screen and possibly a confidence projector in the back of the room.

The final major thing we did in 2015 was a change in our worship order. We moved announcements and offering to the latter part of the worship gathering. This allows for us to have a better flow in our time together. We also, from time to time, have started using video openers. The whole purpose of our changes is to help us as a people engage together to worship and focus on God—who he is, what he has done for us. We will continue to fine tune what we do.

In 2016, we have some big goals. We plan to continue to grow our ministry by adding new people in the band, in our praise teams, and in the A/V booth. It is my personal goal to also help train the Next Generation to lead worship. You will begin to see others leading more as the year progresses. This isn't because I don't want to lead—I love getting to lead each week. I simply want to help share and train others to lead. We should all be helping others to follow behind us.

We also plan to continue upgrading our systems. Our sound and lighting systems will be 13 years old in April. That is old for electronics. This year we hope to do some reconfiguring of our sound system. This will include a new digital sound board, relocating some speakers, and adding some acoustical treatments to specific areas of our auditorium. This will bring clarity to our sound. We will also begin to investigate what lighting changes/upgrades we need to make and begin writing an upgrade plan.

As I said earlier, the SEEK ministry would not function without quality people who serve along side me. Without our volunteers, I would be lost. A special thank you to the Browns for coordinating communion, to Joy Baade for coordinating my worship teams, and Ben Hobbs for coordinating the AV people.

# Evangelism Report

**Purpose: We CONNECT with the broken and lost, communicating by our words and actions how God's story can transform their story.**

The evangelism events had a little trouble with the rain this year. Between raindrops we held a campfire, got soaked at the carnival and partnered with the men's group for Spring Training.

If you haven't been to one of the campfires, WOW are you missing out. The men have gotten permits, wood, and hot dogs. We fellowship and sing which always adds up to a great time. We usually have a couple of guitars, a harmonica, and an occasional banjo and violin to accompany the beautiful voices around the fire. What a great event to invite a friend.

The Backpack Carnival was doused with a heavy downpour this year. The team of volunteers was undaunted though. Again, this year we partnered with Meijer, Cornerstone Community Church, and a team of volunteers to give away back packs and supplies so generously donated by our SLCC congregation. What a blast! We quickly moved everything inside and managed to giveaway over 60 backpacks full of stuff. We took some surplus over to the kids staying at the Magnussen Hotel, North Elementary School, and those who couldn't make it the day of the carnival. What a blessing to all involved and a HUGE thank you to all who participated for whom without we wouldn't have been able to staff games and setup and tear down with such precision.

Spring Training was a 4 part series over 8 weeks that involved the men's group studying the book Walk Across the Room. Special guest Jake Boss, baseball coach, gave an inspirational talk and led one week. We want to condense this down into a Saturday and along with 3 other seminars hold quarterly events for the congregation to bring a friend and get involved with.

There are also other ideas in the works that are discussed every first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. Come join this open group and see how to get involved. Or, you can contact Collin Brown at 517-256-6128.

Has Jesus has filled you with a desire, compassion and love for others? Come be a part. It is exciting to watch it in action.

Collin Brown  
Evangelism Team Leader

# Discipleship Report

## **“Challenging everyone to be fully-submitted, Holy spirit filled followers in God’s story”**

What a great year Christ followers at South experienced in 2015. What a fellowship we had in small groups! At Serve 25 projects. In worship, singing. Way to go, Men’s groups! Worship Him for Women’s ministries!

As you acted and interacted within various groups, it was our prayer that your group would challenge one another to submit to Christ. As leaders, we challenged ourselves to submit to 12 disciplines. Now, the Discipleship team challenges you! Participate in one of many small group opportunities. Start a small group! The committee on groups at South (COGS) will help you. We believe that within a small group setting, people will spiritual grow. The challenge of the month helps the church to focus on a spiritual discipline. For example, “PBJ” is a prayer, bible, journaling discipline focused on during the month of April. Have you heard people talking about FAT Christians? You know, Faithful, Available, and Teachable Christians are they who by their example challenge us to submit to Him. One discipline for each month is our challenge to the church.

As we devote ourselves to those principles found in Acts 2:42, let’s use small groups to help drive our spiritual growth. Let’s challenge one another to grow as we study, pray, serve and care together. Permit the discipleship disciplines to prompt your growth. If it’s prayer, try “PBJ”. Ask any of your leaders to tell you about “PBJ”. If you are challenged by teaching, then study with someone from the 101 Spiritual Beliefs curriculum. Lead a Discipleship small group. As you know, the church devoted themselves to the discipline of fellowship. Devote Sunday Mornings for gathering at the church building.

If any discipline you adhere to this time forward, cling to the discipline of prayer. Be devoted to it and challenge others by your commitment. May this year be the year of prayer at South Lansing Christian Church. We challenge you to “pause and pray” when you hear a need in someone’s conversation. Journal your prayers and petitions as “see that the Lord is good”. Get deep in prayer with your small group. “Devote yourself to...prayer”.

Faithfully submitted by,  
Joe Seaton  
Discipleship Team Leader

# Next Generation Report

I would like to begin by recognizing the staff at SLCC, and more specifically acknowledging Josh Antonopulos and Walter Neuenschwander for their efforts and personal investments in the success of the activities of the Next Generation team at SLCC during 2015. The most important asset we have at SLCC is people, not a great plan or special agenda. Josh and Walter invest their lives for the advancement of God's mission and purpose, and for that I am grateful.

As we had a staff change at the beginning of 2015, we also had some rearrangement of ministry to students; infants-8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade-young adult. The Next Generation Team supports "Kid's City", "The Flood", "Modified", "Thrive", "Reveal", "Oasis" and "Parents Lab". These ministries are tools to advance the mission of the Next Generation Team banner: We Connect with the next generation, investing in their lives, igniting a passion to make God's story their own.

Some of the major goals of the Next Generation Team since 2012 have been to; bring better visibility to ministry through communication and advertisement, invest in the parent-student relationship and improve ministry to young adults ages 18 - 25. This is some of what has happened in ministry in response: A texting service was added at SLCC to better communicate in a manner that is generationally relevant. Our SLCC website has been updated to better serve as a communication portal for children and youth activities and the "Oasis" tent was added to the church gathering to bring visibility and a connection place for students and staff on Sundays. The goal of our first "REVEAL" parenting seminar, titled "Technology and Youth Culture", served as an educational and informational event for parents, guardians and ministry workers to be better equipped to lead young people in an era of rapidly advancing technology. Currently, Josh and Walter are planning "Parents Lab", a connection event for parents and staff to discuss their partnership in raising up the next generation of Godly adults. The young adult's ministry "Thrive" was birthed out of a vision our team had to better engage Christians ages 18-25, which is currently growing rapidly.

A special thanks to all "Southies" who invest their time, talent and resources in making God known to the Next Generation. You are a blessing! Submitted by

Chris Long  
Next Generation Team Leader

# Prayer Ministry Report

Year-by-year we see the consistency of God's faithfulness. Many prayers have once again risen like incense before the throne. They have been received and countless saints at SLCC are thankful for His hearing, his compassion, his healing and His favor. We also experienced, although brief, increased times of prayer during worship. These are well received by the congregation and hopeful that there is more to come.

We continued the Prayer Guide through 2015 and pray it been a blessing for you by helping us to grow in both our understanding and God's call to prayer while joining us in unified prayer. We also spent more time praying for the oppressed and persecuted, Missions, and evangelism as lawlessness, violence, and increased pressure comes to bear on the saints around the world. We also concentrated our focus on prayer for the Church as we see increasing complacency and the acceptance of secular ideas within churches today.

As 2016 rolls out the **CORE SERIES**, we see leadership taking a larger role in instruction and leading us to go deeper in prayer. We look forward to furthering our understanding of prayer and the vital and singular roll prayer plays in the life and maturity of the believer. The Prayer Team believes we need praise and petitioning prayer based on Scripture together. In this unique setting, as unified believers, we lift Him up while listening for His voice and His leading. All great renewal begins with humility before God together. We have also seen that all great revival and spiritual renewal begins with sacrificing of time, placing Him first above all other things, and entering His Presence with praise and passion. We believe that much of the Western Church lukewarm because if it. We need to press in **together** and let the Holy Spirit fill us with the promised power and boldness we see in the book of Acts.

**Our** heartfelt prayer is that we will honor the conditions and reach out for the promises of **2 Ch 7:14**.

Blessings to all,  
Tom Houlihan,  
and the SLCC Prayer Team

# Men's Discipleship Ministry Report

The men's discipleship ministry has continued to reach out during 2015. Our numbers have grown with new men stepping up to lead groups. Martti Siltanen now leads one of our Monday night groups. Some of the things the men's groups have participated in this past year are:

**A group picnic with family members**

**Chili cookout**

**Cleaned children's play area**

**Chair's ministry**

**Guest Services**

**Walk across the room Built mentoring relationships**

**Campfires**

**For 2016 we hope to continue expanding on everything from 2015, plus we would like to:**

**Add a 3<sup>rd</sup> group on Monday evenings**

**Serve the community and the unsaved**

**To advertise on are social media**

**Expand the Play area**

**Plan for a pavilion**

**Continued focus on helping men write the next chapter in their personal story**

**Be available to serve the needs of others**

**Be open to God's plan and will as a group and in our personal lives**

We are open to men, from all churches. We share life experiences, both positive and negative, plus study what God wants for us in our weekly groups. We help one another and others as brothers, through the Word and the Holy Spirit. We hope to be more like our teacher, Jesus Christ, as his disciples.

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Submitted by  
Men's Discipleship Ministry

# Women's Ministry Report

Our Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Bible studies have continued throughout this past year. We have many other women involved in a weekly or bi-weekly Bible study.

Our Saturday morning Bible study time seem to dwindle during late 2014 into early 2015. We took a break to reassess where we wanted to go. As we were sad to see this particular group disband, we were excited as we saw God leading us in a new direction. One of our areas that we focused on is the next generation. We wanted to bring multi-generations together on a regular basis. And also, the best way to communicate with our women.

In October 2015 we held our first "Coffee and Dinner with the Girls" event. We had approximately 35 women attend. There were ladies in their early twenties and up some in their late seventies, to early eighties. It was a great night of fellowship and sharing. We were led in a devotion and worship time focusing on filling our cups in order to be prepared to minister to others. Dinner and coffee were served by our men's ministry. They also cleaned the kitchen and tore down the room we used! We thank them for their great service to us.

We will continue to do this on a quarterly basis throughout the upcoming year.

It seems we hear that "I don't know anything about the events", so we set up a Facebook page for women. We regularly post scripture, words of encouragement, prayer requests or announcements about what's happening in our ministry. This was set up in September and we have had a good response from this mode of information.

Our page is called WALK—Women Actively Living for the King.

Continuing with the multi-generational idea we will be holding a craft day Saturday, January 23, 2016. We plan to have other events throughout the year that will connect us as a whole group.

Our annual ornament exchange party was another fun event in December 2015. Lots of good fellowship and of course, great snacks!

We pray and ask God's blessing on this group as we continue to connect with one another and with Him.

Women's Ministry Team  
Gail Seaton  
Patti Johnson  
Rose Blasen  
Melissa Young  
Betty Allen

# First Place 4 Health Report

During 2015, SLCC continued to provide a year round First Place 4 Health ministry for women. First Place 4 Health is a Christ-centered program that involves developing a closer relationship with the Lord in order to make the lifestyle changes He desires. One of our theme verses is from Matthew 6:33, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

We completed a one year partnership commitment with 88.1, The Light, radio station. Our local class numbers rose slightly. We received multiple phone calls and emails inquiring about our classes. We offered two daytime classes and two evening classes in 4 different church locations in the greater Lansing area.

We offered three-12 week classes and a 6 week summer class. Our classes are open to all women regardless of where they are in their faith journey.

We hosted the annual FP4H Michigan training event at SLCC on October 17, 2015 and had 26 women attend. Our theme was the, "How To and the Heart, Too" of the FP4H program based on Psalm 139, "Search me, O God, and know my heart." We had seminars on "How To" Get the Most Out of Being a Balanced 4 Sided Person and "How To" Get the Most Out of Your Exercise Routine and Nutrition. We received a "Heart, Too" Challenge, which focused on Jesus having our hearts in order to make lasting lifestyle changes. We had special guests that shared their testimonies and music. Our greatest attendance for this event came from the Greater Lansing and Detroit areas. We had a new leader emerge and began praying about starting a new class in Holt. We connected women looking for a class in the Detroit area with those leaders.

Our Tuesday AM class at SLCC enjoyed using "Kids' City Park." This all purpose room has allowed us the space to hold both our strength training classes and our FP4H class. We would like to thank Jennifer, Brian and Terry for helping us with room set-up every Tuesday!

We continue to offer strength training classes with a certified personal trainer every week at SLCC in Kids' City Park. These classes are open to women of all exercise levels.

Our goals and prayers for 2016 are:

\*\* God would be glorified in all we do

\*\*Our leaders and members would choose to put Christ first in their lives and experience lasting lifestyle changes

\*\*Develop more leaders for their personal growth and for serving in ministry

\*\*FP4H would be used as an outreach in our community

\*\*All our classes would be filled to capacity

\*\*God would make His plans evident for beginning new classes. Praising God for a new class that began in Holt during January 2016!!

In Christ,  
Marilyn VanDyk

# Missions Ministry Report

2015 was an incredibly excited year for the Missions team, as we were able to help fund a short term trip to Chile for a group of our people. In addition, the Angel Giving Tree was another great success and you all went above and beyond in specifically supporting our nee ministry partners in India, Sidd and Sangs. We did unfortunately did have to stop support of H.O.M.E., as Shelley Gilpin's health declined and required the mission to be closed. We will continue to pray for her wellbeing.

Going into 2016, we are very excited to be having Walter leading a group to the Dominican Republic for the first time! I am also happy to announce adding Meredith Hobbs with Pais Movement in the UK and Sidd and Sangs as new ministry partners in India this year. We have entered our third and final year of support for Christ's Church Albany, and they have continued to make an incredible impact in their community, and I am very proud that we were able to help them get started.

For 2016, our list of partners is as follows: Domestically - Great Lakes Christian College, His House, Rock Lake Christian Assembly, All Nations Christian Church, Christ's Church Albany, CIY, Mechanical Ministries, and Intentional Impact Living. Internationally - Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, Abby Weller with UNOH in Australia, Meredith Hobbs with Paiz Movement in the UK, Sidd and Sangs in India, Isaias Gabriel with GO Ministries in the Dominican Republic, Habbacuc and Liz Diaz-Ramos with Urban Action Ministries in Chile.

In His service,  
Mark Blakely  
Missions Ministry Chairman

# Property Ministry Report

2015 was a good year for the Property Team. We began the year with the purchase of a plow truck and a snow blower, both by generous donations. These two items help us keep our parking lot and sidewalks safe, while allowing us to save money from having outside companies do snow removal.

In early spring, the Green Team was established. Headed by David Williams, our Green Team facilitated a campus beautification day. Small groups and individuals were encouraged to “Adopt and Island” for the year. Those small groups and individuals then continued to maintain their designated areas on campus. Needless to say, the property looked beautiful all summer!

The year was not without some challenges, though. In January, our sprinkler system developed a leak in one of the main junctions. The repair was expensive, but covered by monies from our yearly savings. This summer an air conditioning unit needed leveled. In the fall, we did a wholesale change of light bulbs in our auditorium.

As we look to 2016, we are excited to see what God has in store. We expect the Green Team to keep the outside looking awesome. We expect our amazing volunteers to continue doing an awesome job maintaining our facility.

We do expect to have a few large repairs. Our facility will turn 13 years old in April. With that age to a facility, there are always maintenance needs (Repairs are one of the main reasons our Finance team is diligent in saving \$500 every week). Already this year we’ve had to repair two furnaces. In the coming months we will be addressing more issues. There is another leak in our sprinkler system. We have two sensors in our HVAC system that need replaced. We also have some roof repairs to make so we can quit battling leaks around some of the air intake hoods.

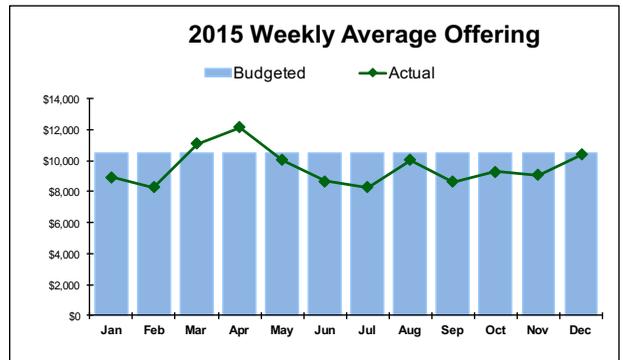
The blessing for our Property Team is the amazing volunteer staff. Brian Athy and Terry Rountree graciously serve throughout the week keeping the building clean and fixing things that break. In the summer they handle all the lawncare. Ken Coulter keeps the parking lot free of snow and handles the maintenance on our plow truck. David Williams coordinates all of the volunteers on the Green Team while spending countless hours using his landscaping gifts wonderfully.

# Financial Report

At the beginning of the year, we set a weekly goal of \$10,531.68 in tithes and offerings to cover our budget for the year.

2015 has been a challenge financially. Offerings have not been to the level that we need to fully fund the budget set for the year. We also had two unexpected repairs to our facility. In January, our sprinkler system developed a leak in one of the couplings. The repair was \$5000. We also had to change out all the light bulbs in the auditorium this fall. That repair was \$2000.

The unexpected repair of the sprinkler system was a catalyst for the finance team to return to saving money for the future. We were unable to do this in 2014. We were committed to not repeat 2014. As a result, we saved \$21,500 over the course of 2015 and paid for the above unexpected repairs. We exceeded our goal of \$26,000!



Giving was down overall this year. Our average per week offering was \$9,569. We only had two months where we averaged more than our need. One of those months included Easter, when the offering historically larger than normal. At the end of the year we took in \$497,712.06 in tithes and offerings.

Over the year we had \$523,350.05 in spending. We did everything we can to keep expenses down. Nonetheless, we had an actual shortfall of \$25,637.99.

Even with our own struggles, you all were generous. In the fall we partnered with other churches and a generous donor to send \$42,000 to Haiti for supplies. We gave \$2,285 to our friends in India for flood relief AND we collected \$1,310 for the projects on Angel Tree.

In 2016 we have some more repairs to make on our facility. We have some roof issues that we need to address. Our HVAC needs a couple new sensors to properly work in the summer. Our sprinkler system has another leak. These are all things that happen as a building ages.

We ask that each of you take time early this year to fast and pray for our church finances. Pray that God continues to challenge us to be generous. Pray that we all will be faithful to give on a regular basis so we can address the unexpected expenses while continuing to help people write the next chapter in their faith stories. Pray that God will provide.

Thank you to the people who serve on our team: Dan Batdorff, Ben Cohoon, Rudy Cadena, Dick Novello, Randall Willard, and Wally Lowman.

## 2015 EXPENDITURES

Seek	\$3,650.13
Connect	- -
Study	\$5,443.39
Serve	\$43,809.98
Youth	\$5,713.75
Children	\$7,583.00
Fellowship	\$3,652.65
Office	\$14,497.86
Facilities	\$154,464.87
Staffing	\$257,071.54
Operations	\$5,962.88
Savings	\$21,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$523,350.05</b>

# 2016 Budget Explanation

The Finance Team has been hard at work setting up a new budget for 2016. Our projected yearly budget is on the next page. As we did last year, we will be doing a quarterly evaluation of the budget to keep a close eye on where we are financially. This helps us keep the congregation informed. It also helps us distribute some of the larger expenses that will happen this year.

We plan to provide a quarterly giving update to each giving family. There will be two parts to that update. First, we will provide a spreadsheet that shows the inflows and outflows of money for each quarter. We will do our best to provide a clear explanation of that spreadsheet. Second, we will include an individualized statement of each family's personal giving.

On the proposed budget, you will see that the weekly need is \$10,524.72. That is not much less than last year's weekly need of 10,531.68. We understand that it is still almost \$1000 above our average weekly giving for 2015. The struggle we have every year in setting a budget is twofold. One, we want to fund ministry. Additionally, we want to be sensible and save some for the future. Through this budget, we plan to fund ministry. We also plan to save \$500 a week for emergencies and improvements. Our facility is aging. More unexpected repairs will be needed in the future as time passes.

Our challenge to you is to help us make up the shortfall we had last year. We spent roughly \$25,000 more than we took in last year. How can you be generous right now? We have done well last year to reach out to others in need. How can we fortify our own ministry?

We also want to challenge you to help us meet or exceed our weekly giving need this year. The \$1000 a week split between our 140 family units works out to an extra \$7 per week per family unit -- about \$30 per month. We want to challenge each family to consider increasing their giving by this much or more to help us do ministry. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully given over the last few years.

Please take time to fast and pray about your giving commitment. Pray that we as a church will be faithful to God as his stewards. Pray that God will provide. Fast and pray about your personal commitment.

There are many ways to give at South.

1. We take up a weekly offering during our worship gathering. We also have the Blessing Buckets in the lobby at that time.
2. You can give online via our website. Visit [www.seekstudyserve.org/give](http://www.seekstudyserve.org/give) and click on the appropriate button. You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. You can easily set up a monthly, bi monthly or weekly gift via your debit card or your checking account and help us do ministry!
3. Use our App. Search the Apple app store or visit the Google play store for South Lansing Christian Church. Click on the GIVE button and follow the prompts.

If you have any questions about the budget, you can talk with one of the finance team members or email us at [finance@seekstudyserve.org](mailto:finance@seekstudyserve.org).

## 2015 - 2016 COMPARISON

MINISTRY AREA	2015	2016	CHANGE
Seek	\$ 4,770.00	\$ 4,390.00	\$ (155.00)
Connect	ALREADY FUNDED		-
Study	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 5,600.00	-
Serve	\$ 52,250.00	\$ 54,950.00	\$ 1,500.00
Youth	\$ 8,925.00	\$ 10,505.00	\$ 1580.00
Kids City	\$ 9,560.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 1440.00
Guest Services	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,860.00	\$ (40.00)
Office	\$ 14,420.00	\$ 14,356.00	\$ 436.00
Facilities	\$ 143,293.84	\$ 144,642.09	\$ 1,471.33
Salaries	\$ 275,564.25	\$ 267,375.25	\$ (8,189.00)
Operations	\$ 2,864.50	\$ 4,606.90	\$ 1,742.40
Savings	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 547,647.59</b>	<b>\$ 547,285.24</b>	<b>\$ (214.27)</b>

## 2016 BUDGET SUMMARY

MINISTRY AREA	YEARLY AMOUNT	WEEKLY AMOUNT	Budget %
Seek	\$ 4,390.00	\$ 84.42	0.8%
Connect	ALREADY FUNDED		
Study	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 107.69	1%
Serve	\$ 54,950.00	\$ 1,056.73	9.8%
Youth	\$ 10,505.00	\$ 202.02	1.9%
Kids City	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 211.54	2%
Guest Services	\$ 3,860.00	\$ 74.23	0.8%
Office	\$ 14,356.00	\$ 276.08	2.7%
Facilities	\$ 144,642.09	\$ 2,781.58	26.4%
Staffing	\$ 267,375.25	\$ 5,141.83	48.8%
Operations	\$ 4,606.9	\$ 88.59	0.8%
Savings	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 500.00	4.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 547,285.24</b>	<b>\$ 10,524.72</b>	<b>100%</b>