

*Annual Report*

2023



**SHUSWAP  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**



***We exist to  
declare and demonstrate  
the transforming power of  
the gospel.***

# SCC BOARD REPORT

*Unto you, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in you; Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me forth in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you has been my hope all the day long. Call to remembrance, O Lord, your tender mercies, and your loving-kindnesses, which have been from of old.* Psalm 25:1,4,5

## **The Board of 2023**

Twenty-twenty-three was an active year for the board. Three of us were new to the board and so we were thankful that Fellowship Pacific trainers were brought in at the end of April to teach us about board governance, our gospel mandate and our responsibility, accountability and authority as members of the board. In December of 2022, Shuswap Community Church entered a season of change with the conclusion of Ben Hall's time as our Lead Pastor. In response, the board requested and Pastor Andy graciously accepted taking on additional responsibilities. In this past year he has been such a blessing to both the board and the staff through his day-to-day support in carrying the Church through this period of change. Thank you Andy!

## **Transition**

Since Pastor Ben's departure, we have frequently used the word "Transition" to describe the season in which we find ourselves. This season has allowed us to reflect on who we are as a Church. With our mission statement at the forefront; "We exist to declare and demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel", we have dug into the natural next question: What does our commitment to this mission look like, specifically for the next season of SCC? This led us to the decision to evaluate the multi-site model our Church had developed. The SCC Board created an Evaluation Team selected from members of the four SCC campuses. They gathered information from across the campuses and from staff, via a congregational survey and town hall meetings. They then wrote a report for the board which reflected their findings and included recommended changes. The report recognized that the multi-site model had not encouraged the development of leadership at the local level. The report proposed a change to the model that would lead to the autonomy of each congregation. After reviewing the report, the SCC board drafted four motions. The first three motions introduced changes to our bylaws that would allow the campuses to take steps towards autonomy. That was done by shifting the Church from being defined as SCC Central to being defined as the Salmon Arm Campus. These motions each passed with strong support (84% to 91% in favour) at a special business meeting on November 15th. Having the Church structure better defined by the first three motions allowed us to move forward with the fourth motion to "elect a search team to identify a candidate for the role of Lead Pastor of Shuswap Community Church". We will return later to the progress of the Search Team. Since the Special Business Meeting each of the campus pastors has assembled a local team to assist with the process of moving towards autonomy. The timeline for each campus will look quite different depending on the unique circumstances of each.

Throughout the whole model evaluation process, the Evaluation Team and the Board heard that

1. SCC should press on ahead with Redemption Counselling in some form and

2. The fledgling Chase campus should continue to be supported as a Shuswap Community Church (Salmon Arm) church plant.

### **Redemption Counselling**

Redemption Counselling, from early on in the year saw a drop in the number of appointments as compared with the previous year (January to August – 528 (2023) vs 695 (2022)). The board, with an eye to the long-term sustainability of Redemption Counselling and in concert



with the changes to the Church model, decided to down-size the counselling centre staffing. This resulted in the difficult decision to eliminate the role of Counselling Pastor, filled by Richard Magill. The decision was made with an eye to bringing the ministry under the charge of the next Lead Pastor. In the interim, Heather deVries continues as before to provide administrative support. The board and Pastor Andy give oversight. Our contract counsellors continue to offer counselling. With a desire to move the ministry of Redemption Counselling forward toward sustainability, the board has initiated a committee composed of board members, staff, contract counsellors and congregants to clarify a vision and strategy for Redemption Counselling going forward.

### **Chase Campus**

As the Church body has recently been made aware, Pastor Spencer Coers resigned his position, leaving the Chase ministry, on February 15th. Spencer served SCC for a total of 12 years, he was loved by his people and will be missed by the whole of SCC. The void is felt most heavily in the life of the Chase campus. However, in the midst of the void, there is a vision to move forward. Their newly formed leadership team has been working together with the SCC board to create a plan for the ongoing health and continued development of their congregation. Shuswap Community Church continues in its commitment to see the Chase congregation planted.

### **Lead Pastor Search Team**

The Search Team has been busy. In dialogue with the board and staff, the Search Team has written a Lead Pastor job description and a Church profile which are posted on our website. These will also be posted on various Fellowship websites (Pacific and National). They will continue to process and vet each application as it comes in. The committee requests your prayers throughout this process.

### **Plan to Protect**

The board continues to take seriously the need to protect the children, youth, those with disabilities, and the vulnerable who attend our Church and its ministries from abuse. Each member of the board has their Plan to Protect Leader training up to date. Shuswap Community Church hosted a Plan to Protect Training session on September 17th for its staff and volunteers. Many thanks to Heather deVries for coordinating this training and her commitment to protecting the vulnerable.

### **Financials**

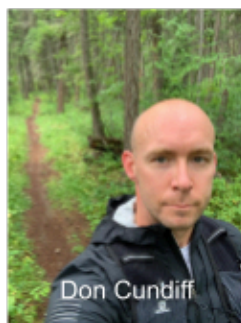
On the financial front. On the one hand, revenue from Redemption Counselling saw a drop, and giving in the Sicamous and Chase campuses did not see the gains anticipated. On the other hand, we saw some generous giving in Salmon Arm and Sorrento, allowing us to finish the year with a

surplus. We also had a generous gift come in which was directed to our missionaries. This allowed us to give to each of our missionaries a larger-than-before Christmas gift..

We end the year very thankful for God's goodness to our Church. We are excited about what the next years holds. But, mostly we remember that through the changes "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Philip Baskin  
On behalf of the SCC Board

Special thanks to:  
Vince Meraw  
Daryl Neufeld  
Steve Kalf  
for their service on the board, as their terms have come to an end.





# SCC EXECUTIVE PASTOR REPORT

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*Transition.* By now you may be growing weary of hearing that word, but alas I must beg your patience because *we ain't finished yet!* However, is not all of life transition? Indeed, the Apostle Peter addresses his audience as “sojourners” (1 Peter 2:11); we are but temporary residents in this world. Albert Brumley’s old hymn reminds me that “this world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through”.

In 2023 we had to deal with one of the most significant and foundational issues for any church: identity. Before a pastoral search could begin, we needed to answer some important questions. *Who are we? How did we get here? What, precisely, would we be asking a new pastor to lead?* Ultimately, the decision was made to move away from a multi-site strategy and establish each campus as a fully autonomous church with strong local leadership and a locally contextualized vision for discipleship. While multi-site was certainly part of SCC’s identity, we must remember that it is simply *one kind of strategy* towards the church’s primary mission of making disciples (Matthew 28:19). Times change and sometimes plans must change as well. As Coach John Wooden said, “If we fail to adapt, we fail to move forward.”

Now that this important phase of our unique transition is complete, we find ourselves at the beginning of what would be considered a conventional transition for most churches as the pastoral search for Salmon Arm moves into the foreground. Is change on the horizon? Of course it is, because it always is; it is just a matter of one’s proximity to the horizon.

I am incredibly grateful for a faithful and dedicated group of board members as well as the diligent and supportive staff members. I am most grateful for God’s faithfulness and his provision. In terms of the things most easy to count such as money and attendance (or as some say, “nickels and noses”) we have been blessed with abundance in 2023. However, we must be careful since often the things easiest to count are not necessarily the most important. *Is the gospel being preached? Are lives being transformed? Are disciples being made?* To this mission we seek to be faithful in 2024.



**Heather deVries**  
Ministry Assistant

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve SCC for these last eleven years. When I reflect on, not only the past year, but this longest continuous stretch of my ministry career, I am filled with a broad range of feelings: gratitude, joy, surprise, love, contentment, humility, doubt, frustration, and regret. But that’s life, isn’t it? And thinking about the future leads me to sense an equally wide spectrum of emotions. Thank you for the grace you’ve shown me through it all. Would you join me in praying for 2024 and beyond, that God’s kingdom would come and his will would be done.

Andy deHoog  
SCC Executive Pastor

## IMMERSE

Immerse is a unique competency-based theological education (CBTE) program offered by Northwest Seminary & College in partnership with Fellowship Pacific and local churches. Students in this program can complete either a Master of Arts in Biblical Leadership (MABL) in 2-3 years or a Master of Divinity (MDiv) in 4 years through an apprenticeship-style program. A mentor team including members from Northwest Seminary, Fellowship Pacific, and the student's local church provide oversight to ensure that each student is achieving mastery of each prescribed outcome in the program.

As a church, we have chosen to participate in Immerse as our primary leadership development program, particularly for those pursuing vocational ministry. To date, eight SCC students have graduated from Immerse and are serving in various ministry capacities. Currently, there are two Immerse students at SCC: Carson deVries and Zach Hall.

If you or someone you know is considering a call to vocational ministry and would like to know more about Immerse, please contact Andy deHoog, [andy@aplacetobelong.ca](mailto:andy@aplacetobelong.ca). More information can also be found on Fellowship Pacific's and Northwest's websites: [www.fellowshippacific.ca](http://www.fellowshippacific.ca) or [www.nbseminary.ca](http://www.nbseminary.ca)







# CHASE CAMPUS

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When I reflect on the last year at the Chase campus I have a mix of emotions. Over the year we have faced several challenges but have also seen God work in some pretty amazing ways. As the year kicked off and the transition process at SCC rolled out we in Chase entered into a season of our own transition. The church was slowly but surely growing and we were seeing new families move to the village and come to church. Our

Lifegroup was starting to build a sense of community and after years of discipleship, many people were taking on more responsibility and leadership in the church. We had young people from our church rise to the challenge of leading our youth group. We had people sign up to host and facilitate our Bible studies, and Retro Sunday school class. New musicians and members were also added to our music and set up teams. There was an exciting buzz around the church but something else was stirring too. As we talked with people about the church a subtle shift was beginning to take root. SCC Chase was growing up.

People were no longer viewing SCC as a “church plant,” but rather everyone began talking about, “their church.” SCC Chase was becoming a rooted, integrated, and engaging part of the community of Chase. God promised to build His church and I don’t think it is a coincidence that as SCC as a whole entered into a season of transition God was at work getting His little Church in Chase ready for what was yet to come.

My youngest son is in grade 1 this year and he loves reading. One of his favourite books is, *Horton Hears a Who*. In that story, as Horton, the elephant is advocating for the speck of dust that houses the city of the Who’s, he says, “A person’s a person no matter how small.” I believe that a church is a church no matter how small. With this revelation coming to light and the direction of the transition process becoming more and more obvious we began to look towards the future of our little church in Chase. As we moved God met us along the way. The journey though was not without a detour or two along the road. As summer hit and the forest fires rolled out through the area our church was affected



in many ways. From cancelled outreach events to cancelled services to even almost cancelling a much-anticipated church wedding the impact was seen and felt by many. We had people evacuated from their homes, people worried about family members, people caught behind roadblocks, people who couldn’t go to work. Through it all our church loved one another well, rallied to support one another as best as we could and we prayed with and for one another regularly, just like any church would in times like these.

When September came out of the ashes came beauty. SCC Chase moved into a new and exciting season of rebirth. Early in the fall we were approached by another church in town that





was closing its doors. They offered us the opportunity to take over their facility and equipment. After some church meetings, a whole lot of prayer, and a couple of sleepless nights, our church decided to move out of the Community Hall and into our new home. After countless volunteer hours cleaning, renovating, and painting SCC Chase has a new, more permanent, home in the community. We flung open the doors on December 1st and hosted a community-wide open house. We welcomed all to see our beautiful little storefront space, right on the main street which now serves as the gathering place and launch pad for our beautiful little church. At our fifth anniversary service in October, we were able to call up 3 individuals from our church onto the Leadership Team in Chase. Since rising to the call they have all gone above and beyond in helping to lead, shape, and care for the people of the church. The leadership team quickly got to work and began crafting a new mission, vision, and values for our church. This renewed vision is what will lead and guide the ongoing work of SCC Chase into the future. SCC Chase exists to help the community of Chase discover the gospel through loving each other as Jesus does. As we pursue this mission we want to see 10% of the community of Chase engage regularly with the local church and we want everyone at SCC Chase to have the opportunity to experience and express the love of Jesus beyond Sunday mornings. As we work towards this end SCC Chase will be devoted to: the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, Breaking of Bread, and prayer; a set of values shared by the early church found in Acts 2:48. The church has grabbed hold of this new direction and is moving forward with excitement and anticipation. The future is bright for SCC Chase and I do not doubt that God will continue to build His little church in Chase because a church is a church no matter how small.

At the beginning of this update I mentioned that this year was filled with a mix of emotions and after reading the things above that might come as a surprise. As the year went along God was so clearly at work in His little church but in my heart I was beginning to feel like my time as a pastor at SCC was again coming to an end. As the demands of my family life morphed and changed, the transition

process reached its conclusion and God began to raise up leaders in Chase it became apparent to me that now was the time to step aside. All good things come to an end and I believe it is time for me to move aside and make room for the next person to come in and continue the work that my family and I began in Chase 6 years ago. I have and always will cherish the last six years that I was able to serve the people of Chase and SCC as one of their pastors. I want to thank you all for your prayers, words



of encouragement, and support over that time. I know we couldn't have done it without them. Moving forward I want to encourage the church to continue to pray for your leaders and all of the SCC Campuses as they navigate the new challenges ahead. I don't know where God will lead us in the future but I do know that God is working in my life and His church and if God is working we don't have to be worried.

With all Brotherly Affection,  
Pastor Spencer

# SALMON ARM CAMPUS

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## Adult Ministries

“Hello my Friends!”

So it's report time again, wow time is sure waiting for no one! I asked someone what had he been up to last year, he responded with, 'same old, same old'! I'm not certain if he was saying the same old 'boring job' or ? he never followed up on that statement. My friends, I could not be more thankful and content for the ministry I have here. Firstly, allow me to enlighten you as to why my ministry is so enjoyable! The staff at SCC are such an encouraging group and SO helpful. And just to let you know – they are totally committed to Jesus Christ in serving you.

What a joy to jump out of bed to start the day with them – Praise the Lord! So, what have I been up to this past year? My part time job which includes visitations to 20-25 homes weekly may sound like a lot but access to visit them all is not always possible. There is an opportunity to leave them with a printed copy of our weekly SCC update. For those who are housebound but have been in our church for years they are so thankful that we are still making contact with them and they love to be kept updated!

I have also been busy visiting our hospital, Bastion, Raven Hill, and other nursing homes to pray with and encourage our folks there. Once a month we have a chapel service at Piccadilly Terrace with my support group – Janet (my wife) and Bill Henderson (guitarist and song leader). I joyfully continue to do pulpit supply for the Mara Church. As well as end of life ministries and funerals as needed. Janet and I facilitate a 'Prayer for Revival' gathering every Wednesday at the church from noon to 1pm – come and join us – everyone welcome! Once a month there is a Worship time for seniors. We sing hymns, have a sharing time and prayer. We enjoy a variety of guest speakers. And for those of you who would like

to join us, we now have a beautiful chapel thanks to our staff who worked so hard to clean out, paint and reorganize our new space! We want to say thank you and that we truly appreciate you all! “And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me. Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come.” Psalm 71:18



Yours for a Revival,

Pastor Laurie



## Children's Ministry

I am so thankful for God's grace this past year as I have seen Him prove Himself faithful time and time again. Any of the ministries in our church require a deep well of faith and children's ministry is no different. This past year we have seen a number of new leaders and teachers stepping up to serve in this vital ministry here at our church. The children of our church are the future leaders, teachers, torchbearers for the gospel of Jesus Christ and we want to be about the business of equipping them to be those passionate followers first and foremost. One really encouraging trend that I have seen here in our church

is the regular attendance of young families. We have seen a swell of nursery graduates moving into the Preschool-Kindergarten class! Praise the Lord for young families that want to raise their children in the church.

In Children's Ministry we have ministry happening every Sunday and each Wednesday during the school year. On Sundays we have been going through the Gospel Project Curriculum with the Children. This curriculum tells the Big Story of Redemption and how Jesus can be seen throughout the pages of scripture, beginning in Genesis all the way through to Revelation. Children will see that they are sinners in need of a Saviour! And that their Saviour is calling them to a life of worship and service to their King. Every week we are singing scripture in the form of fun children's songs! What a great way to remember God's word throughout the week and to equip kids for the world that they live in. We also have three scripture memory packs available for parents in equipping their children during the week. SCC Kids time on Sundays might sound loud every now and then because we use games, crafts and activities to engage children in a fun and impactful way with the Gospel! This noise is a blessed sound to the ears!



On Wednesdays we host an After School Kids Club here at the church! This is a great way for us to reach children who would not regularly come through the doors of a church. I am so encouraged when children invite their friends to Kids Club! The past two Kids Club I have seen one of the Children invite two of his friends! Wow! This is the youngest in our church doing Kingdom work! Please pray for this valuable outreach to our community.

Another Outreach that we do in the first week of summer is our Soccer Camps! We regularly get close to 100 kids each summer who not only enjoy soccer but hear the transforming power of the gospel! This is also a great way for you to be involved in Children's ministry even if you are unable to do so on a regular basis.

I am so thankful for all of the people who choose to serve selflessly for the sake of the gospel that Children here may hear and know Jesus. Teachers, leaders, and helpers are a beautiful picture of what the church can be. I am also so grateful for the parents who have entrusted their children to us each Sunday and Wednesday. We are here to come alongside them and encourage them as the primary disciplers in the lives of their children. And I have really enjoyed getting to know you all as a number of groups and get togethers have arisen during the year. Let's continue this rich fellowship and encouragement as we grow together!

Dave Yeo





## Ministry Assistant

As Christians, the church as a community has a shared three-fold mission:

- Worshipping God
- Discipling believers
- Sharing the gospel with the world

These are the key components of the Great Commission as presented by Jesus and by their very nature can only be fulfilled in the company of others (Matt. 28:18-20). In fact, God did not call us to silos of isolated effort, rather to community for maximum impact. *Dr Shelley Hogan*

My area of ministry is Connection and Community. These elements were addressed by many events throughout the year and by encouraging our church family to connect in a variety of ways through serving.

BBQ's and Soup and Bun lunches for newcomers were wonderful ways to show hospitality and care for those attending SCC. A great way for a newcomer to get connected is to chop and stir with the kitchen team, hand out bulletins at an outdoor service or wield a staple gun to decorate at Christmas.

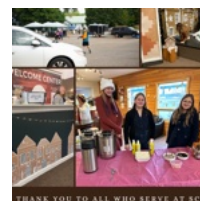
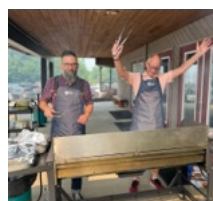
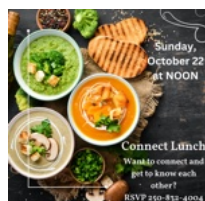
Our Coffee Team continues to shine on Sunday mornings, providing caffeine and friendly faces every week. My team of volunteers are a faithful bunch, and the team has remained the same throughout the years, with a waiting list to be on the regular rotation!

Our section hosts work as a covert team that creates connection and welcome in their respective sections, almost functioning like a small 'church within a church'. They don't have a schedule or name tags, but you can tell they are at work, in their gifting. Very rarely do you see anyone standing by themselves in church or the foyer. Nothing warms my heart more than seeing two people huddled in a section after the service in prayer or planning to get together during the week.

Another of the Connection methods is our Salmon Arm Weekly newsletter.. Full of People to Know from our congregation, worthwhile things like a devotional or video, and a calendar of upcoming events, this has been such a rewarding project to work on weekly. We just published our 150th edition!

A Women's Prayer and Worship Night in September was very well received and Heather deVries and I are planning on another soon (February 21).

Sandi Kutyn





## Worship

God has been our help through a year of many changes and adapting in the Salmon Arm campus!

I am currently a part time employee of the church paid for 15 hours a week. The focus of my role is: to coordinate the service details & schedule the worship, tech and Sunday leadership teams for our Sunday gatherings; to attend staff meetings and act as the liaison between the volunteers and staff; to disciple and build into leaders and team members; to set vision for our gatherings: I try to lead in such a way as to keep the big picture of why we do what we do on the forefront: it is our aim to glorify God and enjoy him together through our worship.

### Some highlights of this year:

- Rich times of fellowship & growing with our Worship Leadership Team. Our team consists of Troy deVries, Jen Honecker, Levi Peterson, Brayden Harder, and myself.
- Beautiful art for every sermon series created just for our church by Murphy
- Lots of amazing volunteers! There are 34 people serving on our teams. Still praying for more drummers and tech team members.
- Our amazing staff office space. I am thankful that we have such a great place to work as a staff team with great windows and great workspaces. I often think of how thankful I am for those that gave to make our office a reality.
- A personal highlight was that I graduated in April with my Masters of Biblical Studies. This was a huge accomplishment for me and has helped relieve some pressure in my schedule.
- I was able to take a sabbatical with my husband Ryan and be gone for 6 weeks in the summer and things carried along smoothly because of our dedicated team. We have great leaders, great volunteers and extra help from Carson deVries, on our ministry interns who I have had the joy of working with this year.
- There was a lot to celebrate with our Christmas Eve services. There were over 1200 people who heard the gospel clearly and celebrated Christ's birth with us.



*Ministry Intern Carson deVries, Christmas Eve Team, Worship Leadership Team*

Thank you for trusting me to lead this area of our church. Thank you for your kind encouragement and support week by week. Please continue to pray for me.

For His Names' Sake,  
Leah Campbell, Salmon Arm Worship Director



## Youth

I continue to be thankful for great volunteer youth leaders who serve faithfully in our Jr. and Sr. Youth ministries week in and week out. We have a great team who really care about our students and our church and want to be committed to their local church which in turn sets an example for students coming up. I really believe we are in a healthy rhythm in that regard and that excites me.

I am also thankful for our Immerse students Carson De Vries and Zach Hall who have been learning and leading in various ways as they prepare for ministry.

In winter/spring 2023 in our Sr. Youth ministry we walked through a series entitled “Truth Matters: Confident Faith in a Confusing World” where students were given some tools in defending their faith and seeking the truth. We wrapped up the year in the Book of Acts before the summer break. In the fall we began a series entitled “Knowing God’s Truth” which is an introduction to systematic theology. These have been helpful series to teach from to help students see how Christian doctrine is practical for everyday life. I pray that they will continue to see this to be the case and have a place to turn for the questions they are faced with as they seek to follow Jesus and make Him known. At Jr. Youth, we have been in the Gospel of Luke looking at what it means to be a servant of Jesus.



We have enjoyed the opportunity to get out to Sunnybrae Bible Camp for their Jr. and Sr. Youth retreats as well as some other fun events throughout the year as spaces to connect and grow in relationship with one another.

It remains incredibly encouraging that new students continue to come to our youth ministry throughout the year and get the opportunity to hear the gospel and why it matters. It has been a highlight to hear and answer great questions about the faith and provide a space to learn and grow. I am thankful that new students can be evangelized and encouraged by their friends to follow Jesus. I am thankful that students from our church can be discipled, can grow in their gifts and have a place to be equipped with truth so they can be a light in the world. I am thankful that we get to be a part of all of this. Please pray that we will be effective in our mission.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Kevin  
Salmon Arm Youth Pastor







# SICAMOUS CAMPUS

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2023 was quite a year! It did not go as I would have planned, but am glad we have a sovereign God who directs our steps. In January 2023 the idea of campuses becoming churches was unexpected but I am confident that God has led his people to the right decision. I will miss the weekly meetings but will continue to bug my brothers for coffee. I have enjoyed being at the board meetings and admire and love my brothers and sisters around the table. They all serve the Lord well by leading our church. The pastors and leaders of SCC are all good hearted and committed servants of our God. I have really enjoyed the unity of our church staff the last few years and especially during covid. What a blessing it was to come to elders meetings and sense God's Spirit bonding us together and getting us through.

SCC had the vision to get behind the purchasing of the Hub property and in two years we have whittled down the mortgage to around \$188 thousand. We have been bounced around from school to hall to the Hub yard for church services and the fatigue of not having a permanent home is showing in our church's attendance. However, we are still moving full steam ahead with our outreaches and giving. This is a rebuilding phase and I am sure that God's people will pay the Hub off by 2025 and then we can get going on a building.

Personally it was a joyful year with the birth of Magnolia Annie Ellis which propelled Sandra and I into grandparenthood. It is wonderful. It has also been a challenging year. One week after I became a Grandpa I got the news that my heart needed repair and, thankfully without a heart attack, I had stents put in for three 80% blockages. I have less coffee cream and more exercise and am currently enrolled in the Cardiac Rehab Program. Pray for me as I adjust my lifestyle.

I spoke at Sunnybrae Bible Camp and the new Mountainside Bible Camp, in Fernie. It was great having fellowship with Pastor Mel Reimer who started this new camp and the man who had the vision to start the SCC Sicamous Campus in 2008.

We have formed a leadership team for Sicamous to lead the process of becoming an autonomous church called Sicamous Community Church. I look forward to getting our churches together for joint services in the future.

I appreciate, so much, the leadership of Pastor Andy deHoog for his hard work over the last year. It has not been easy and I thank God for him. I also thank the Lord for Kim Freckleton, our Youth and Administrative Director in Sicamous who is an invaluable asset to the Sicamous Church and without whom I could not do my job. God has given me Sandra, my wife for the last 33 years and she is such a treasure to my soul. I am grateful for the way she keeps me in line and loves me. I will miss Spencer Coers! I am so proud of him and Rachel having done such an amazing job of planting the church in Chase and loving the people there and serving us all so well. Good job, guys!

I thank God for the fifteen plus years of being pastor here. I am addicted to changed lives and am seeing God work in people's lives to lead them to Jesus. Please continue to pray for Sicamous.

—Bob Evans SCC Sicamous Pastor



## Youth & Administration

It is exciting to look back on the year behind us and reflect on everything God did that we sometimes miss. I am always encouraged looking back through photos to see the consistency of faces showing up weekly and new faces too.

We continue to feed upwards of 75 high school students (3/4 of the high school) at Hot Lunch on Mondays at The Hub. We have been slowly rebuilding this ministry in the last 2 years that I have been back. During covid they would grab their food and leave, however, we are finally seeing students gather around the tables & couches to eat and mingle. It's always nice to have the opportunity to sit and chat with them, once we're FINALLY done serving first, seconds and sometimes even thirds!

Last year we had 2 students graduate & become adult leaders in our youth ministries. There is just something about walking with these students throughout their school years and then having them choose to become leaders in those same youth ministries once they graduate. It has been very cool to have them lead in a different capacity building relationships and seeking God's direction as they lead and grow in their own faith and leadership.

There are so many stories that I could share but one I will focus on is about a student in our youth who we will call Joe. His home life is anything but positive, he struggles in school, and yet he keeps showing up at The Hub,



connecting with our student and adult leaders, learning more about God the Father (very important part) who loves Him and cares for him no matter what, even if the example he has of a father may not ever show that. He continues to surprise me with his deep and thoughtful responses to the questions.



He has taken home a Bible and he might never admit it, but I do believe he is reading it. Considering this is the kid in grade 5 who was the constant distraction and just asking to be kicked out, it has been so encouraging to see this change. Each week he gets to connect with us at the Hub, to learn more about God, and his behaviour and attitude reflects that. Please pray for him as we continue to navigate how to best love and serve him at The Hub and outside. Pray that he would make that decision to follow Jesus with his whole life.

Lastly, I am so thankful for all our amazing volunteers who continue showing up each week to serve and love the students in Sicamous. I am so excited to see what God has in store for us this year at The Hub. May all that we do be glorifying Him!

All the best, Kim Freckleton





# Sorrento Campus

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2023 was a fantastic year of seeing God bring an increase in many areas of SCC Sorrento, and showing us a little more clearly day by day to what and where Jesus is leading us to as a group of believers. I know the next statements are both random and incomplete. I know I can not name everyone who has put their hand to the plow in Sorrento this year. I know that I can never list all the things that Jesus is doing for us.

So this is a celebration, a remembrance and a prayer of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, and Jesus leadership. I am forever thankful for the opportunity to be here at Shuswap Community Church and excited for the journey we are on to establish ourselves as a church on our own.

1. Stabilized attendance numbers
  - a. Our weekly numbers show a very steady attendance pattern. About 55-60 on an average Sunday morning. I would expect this trend to result in a sustainable attendance increase, and an increased reach into the community via Gospel ministry. If everyone was to attend church on a Sunday morning that calls Sorrento their church, we would see 100-115 people attending! Our regular attendance base is growing!
2. We have piles of kids, launched Sunday morning kids church
  - a. One of the ongoing realities with meeting at the Sorrento Memorial Hall is the lack of classroom space. It is not uncommon for us to have 10-12 kids under the age of 11-12 at church on a Sunday morning. This has led to developing a regular Sunday School program that can adapt and adjust on a week to week basis as needed.
3. Regular group going to the Gleaners
  - a. Another regular endeavor that has been well received is a group that goes to the North Shuswap Gleaners on a weekly basis. The willingness to drive out to Lumby and serve cutting up veggies is something that many of our men in particular look forward to and enjoy. It is a great point of comradery and service as they literally work to feed the nations.
4. Friday morning prayer and breakfast
  - a. Economics has caused the closing of The Home Restaurant in Sorrento, but the men's prayer and breakfast is still going. We have a small, but committed group faithfully praying each Friday. 2024 will see us developing a plan to hopefully increase attendance, and shift a bit toward some times of teaching and discipleship with this group.
5. Small groups are still going, but we need more!
  - a. Small Groups are running, but this is an area that we need to continue to increase. We have a few established continuing groups, but spearheading a few new groups in the



young families area is much needed. I am thankful for the group we do have, and the leaders and hosts that put time and effort into them.

6. Our junior and senior youth are participating with the Salmon Arm ministry and that is good.
  - a. We have continued to have our senior and junior youth attend the ministry run in Salmon Arm under Pastor Kevin. The kids are well cared for there, and as they all attend schools in Salmon Arm it is easier than trying to duplicate a ministry here in Sorrento that is already healthy and strong in Salmon Arm.
7. Samaritan's Purse Shoebox ministry
  - a. As we have several very committed folks in the Samaritan Purse ministry attending here in Sorrento the opportunity to head to Calgary to be part of the packing warehouse in December was had. This year Sorrento saw a packing party for boxes that was well attended and our little campus sent out almost 200 boxes!
8. We have developed a stable group of preachers to share the load in Sorrento
  - a. Over the past couple of years it has become clear that sharing the burden of preaching in Sorrento was needed. As such we have developed a system for 'testing' young preachers and moving towards actually having them preach on Sunday mornings. As the year of 2023 comes to a close we have 4 additional preachers Pastor Steve can call on and another 2-3 possible options in the process of testing and training. It is a good thing to raise up preachers and test them for the edification of the body. These men who have answered (or are on the schedule) in 2023 (and 2024) include: Pastor Steve, Daryl Kroeker, Phil Baskin, Micah McLean, Nolan Fulcher, Sam Cook, Carson deVries, and Peter Yoon.
9. Potlucks!
  - a. We have continued to have regular (about every 5-6 weeks) potlucks at SCC Sorrento. It is amazing to see the people mixing together over a meal. This is something that has been very well received and that we will continue with in 2024.
10. 2023 Sorrento giving!
  - a. One of the very exciting continued developments in SCC Sorrento has been the healthy increase in giving. God is at work calling people to support Gospel ministry financially and that has even led to a strong 2023 that ended with a surplus of over \$6000.
11. More baptisms!
  - a. We saw 4 more baptisms this past year in the lake on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Lord willing we will continue to see people walk faithfully into the waters of baptism for years to come!
12. Pastor Steve's ministry involvements

- a. Salmon Arm Office Hours
  - i. Pastor Steve will maintain Wednesday hours at the central building until June 2024. At that point Pastor Steve study will likely move back to his home until a location for the Sorrento church office can be found.
- b. Sorrento Memorial Hall Board
  - i. Pastor Steve continues to sit on the hall board as they push for renovations and upgrades to the building with input as to what the church needs as it progresses.
- c. Redemption Counselling contract counsellor
  - i. Pastor Steve will wrap up his role as a contract counsellor at the end of Feb 2024. He will continue to provide pastoral counselling through the ministry of the Sorrento church.
- d. Salmon Arm Silverback and HMI chaplain, BCHL Player Advocate
  - i. Working with Hockey Ministries International during the hockey season Pastor Steve provides pastoral care and leads two chapels a month. Also the hockey league uses chaplains as safety advocates to help with issues that may happen in the context of being on the Silverbacks. In addition Millar college has allowed for a field ed student to work alongside Steve in the ministry, so this is an additional mentoring dynamic.
- e. Simeon Trust preaching workshops
  - i. Previously Pastor Steve has attended preaching workshops in Alberta. As Simeon Trust has expanded into BC this will mean being part of planning meetings and workshops in both Calgary (March) and Surrey (October).
- f. Millar Graduate Program
  - i. Pastor Steve has entered into the Masters of Biblical Studies starting in January 2023 with plans to be finished by 2026/7.

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