

Faith Discovery Church

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
FISCAL YEAR 2020



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Pastor's Report - 2020

Ministry in the year of COVID

Writing this report, I am tempted to say, "We made it." The End. What a year. After the tumultuous year before that included the closure of our Christian School and restructuring of our debt, I had hoped that 2020 would bring us opportunities for renewal.

We were laying plans to start a worship experience focused on the needs of those in recovery from addictions. Our first organizational meeting was held in mid-February. Then ... churches closed along with most everything else in the world.

But, we pivoted to digital ministry as quickly as possible.

- Our website was rebuilt, and a new online giving platform was put in place by our able Administrative Assistant, Melina Zagra.
- Laura Deeney, along with several amazing volunteers, invested hundreds of hours in making our first completely online Vacation Bible School!
- And, from the first, Worship was available online for those who wished to join virtually.
- The food pantry team, headed by Pat Padgett, never missed a beat, staying open and making substantial quantities of groceries available to dozens each week, a tangible reminder of God's love.
- Brian Schubert and his volunteers waited eagerly to reopen The Vault to teens down-town and finally did in the first week of September, but sadly, had to close again recently. They will be open very soon.
- I took my daily devotional - "*CoffeeBreak With The Word*" - from just a written blog to a daily video which has found wide acceptance in the community.

Awana, Youth ministry, and some of our Small Groups were able to restart in September, too.

Most of all, many of us re-learned an old truth- being a Christian is not the same as being 'churched.' We needed to practice our daily spiritual disciplines - prayer, Scripture intake, service, giving, prayer - to stay strong. I am grateful that while church attendance has been meager, the sense of connectedness has not wavered. I pray that our collective witness will fulfil our mission -

To Make a Measurable Difference for the Kingdom of God.

2021 will be a year of new challenge as the church seeks a new pastor, as I will retire from my position as your pastor on or about 12/31. I am not leaving ministry and hope to be able to continue to serve the Lord at FDC.

Please make prayer for wisdom and clarity in the work of the Search Committee and the Leadership Team a daily part of your petition, that the Lord will bring the right person, full of the Spirit, to provide pastoral care for us for years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to love and lead, to teach and counsel, to serve you as an under-shepherd of Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the flock of God. I ask your prayers for my steady effectiveness, that I would have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

In His service,
Pastor Jerry Scott



2020

Kids registered: 32

Staff:

Commander: Laura Deeney
Cubbies: Caroline Grish, Tricia Lisk
Sparks: Nancy Lisk, Bruno Deeney, Juanita White
Truth and Training: Colleen Roth, Bob Roth, Pastor Jerry Scott, Dee Anema
Games: Steve Grish
Opening Worship: Caroline Grish
Large Group: Michelle Canada, Josh Canada, Juanita White, Dee Anema
Store Coordinator: Theresa Radline

Our 9th year of Awana ended abruptly in mid-March as we followed local school and government protocols regarding Covid19. Thankfully our last in-person event, the Awana Grand-Prix, was held just prior and our kids were able to race the cars they spent so much time creating. In the months to follow I attempted a few online lessons and stayed in touch with families via e-mail and mailed notes, activities, and encouragements. With so many changes in school and work patterns it became clear that weekly online participation was not an attainable goal. However, we were able to end the year with a virtual awards ceremony and Pastor Jerry and I spent an afternoon hand delivering certificates and trophies and ribbons to each child- what a joy it was to see their excitement and reconnect after so long apart!



Year 10 started up in September (with masks and space adjustments and some extra cleaning) and so far, we have had the steadiest weekly attendance since year one! Our leaders have brought the same joy and enthusiasm and love each week and continue to make Awana a place that kids love. As always, it is our prayer that the children who attend Awana will clearly understand the life-changing good news of the gospel and that they will take that knowledge home and share it with their family and friends.

With gratitude,
Laura Deeney

(virtual) VBS



2020

"The Cast"

Director: Laura Deeney

Opening/Closing/Music: Becca Anema

Bible: Theresa Radline/ Loretta Zagra

Imagination Station: Michelle Canada/ Nancy Lisk

Snack: Darlene Miller

At the beginning of 2020 it seemed as if our Rocky Mountain freight train had come loose, jumped the track, and left us stranded on a jagged edge far from the mountain-top experience that we anticipate each summer. As it became clear that large, in-person events were not going to be possible in July, we cancelled our traditional VBS and began to think and pray over what might be possible, if anything, to reach the kids of our church and community. That led to much reading, digging, planning, shifting... and then re-shifting on my part.



Through God's grace and a dedicated, dedicated, DEDICATED team we were able to put together our very first online VBS that was filmed in July and premiered on Facebook and YouTube the first week in August. Families signed-up online. Donations came in to fund our pared-down endeavors. Former leaders sent video messages. Volunteers packed bags full of hands-on fun. And kids drove by to pick up those bags as we greeted them with songs, giant Bible buddies and lots of love. We prepared supplies for the 75 kids that signed-up, but through the reach of Facebook we know that many, many families had access and opportunity to hear the songs and lessons each day. And we were blessed as we received pictures of kids participating in their homes!



Such a BIG thank you goes out to Theresa, Loretta, Michelle, Nancy, Darlene, and Becca for preparing joyfully and going way out of their comfort zones to meet the times and bring gospel messages to the kids on the other side of the camera lens! We certainly missed having the kids here, but in all circumstances, we are standing together knowing that "Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!" We are planning one more trip on the Rocky Railway this summer as we reassemble our team and plan to connect with our community with this outreach on July 5th-9th.

With joy,
Laura Deeney

Food Pantry Ministry

It has been a different year in the Food Pantry ministry in many ways. We have manners of ordering, receiving, and distributing food.

Ordering each Monday or Tuesday on the computer (which I'm getting better at), picking up labelled U-boats of food (Thank you Diane and Fred Belverio and Chris and Fred Landsky), and distributing food (Thank you Karen Stull, Gayle Imbimbo, Rheta Spinks, and our newest volunteer, Pastor Jerry).



I have been able to still pick up from Clinton Shop Rite, Von Thun Farm Stand and Woolf's Pruduce Stand. Caroline Grish has picked up Panera Bread each week.

Through all the changes and modifications, we were able to give food to 4,432 families in 2020.

Thank you for the support and volunteers who made it possible.

- Pat Padgett

Grounds Ministry

Well, it's hard to believe, but even our grounds ministry was affected by COVID-19 somewhat. For the first time in many years, we were unable to have a Spring Workday. Hopefully, we can have one this year.

Fortunately, we were able to continue with some sense of normalcy as the season went on. With that in mind I'd like to thank Dennis White and Vince Crisafi for their dedication every week. The grass never seemed to stop growing this year and they kept up with it perfectly. Every time I had a little project to do, they were always right there to help. You guys are the best.

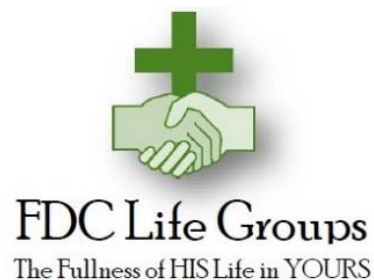
I also want to thank Pastor Jerry for keeping the gas cans filled all season. Thank you very much.

Once again Jeremy Stull kept our machines running smoothly. Our mowers are getting older and he does an incredible job of keeping them going.

Another person that I need to recognize is Jacob Deeney. He took it upon himself to fix our oldest weedwhacker. It hasn't worked in a couple years and he took it home and figured it out. That was a big help to us. Thanks so much.

Even though it's winter, spring will follow, and things will start to get back to normal. If you are looking for something to be involved in, maybe consider looking into the Grounds Ministry. There is always room for you, and we'd love to have you. If you have any questions, please look me up.

Bob Miller



2020 Annual Report

This past year presented us with great challenges, hasn't it? But I am grateful that our trust is in Jesus and He never fails us. While we were "stuck inside", some Life Groups continued to meet via Zoom and others chose that time to refresh and renew.

When we were given the option to meet in-person again, Wednesday night Bible Study, Men's Group, Women's Group and one Community Life Group began meeting again, giving people the opportunity to commune together to grow spiritually and encourage one another.

While the year didn't exactly pan out the way we would've liked, it has given the leadership time to reflect and research future opportunities that will hopefully be presented in the coming year to the congregation.

In Him,
Theresa Radline
lifegroups@faithdiscovery.com



Men's Group

As with other ministries, the Men's Group was affected by COVID-19. We didn't meet much at all during the spring as we followed the guidelines set by the state. We finally did get together in the early summer and it felt good to see everyone again. One advantage of having a smaller group is being able to meet outside and keep everyone safe. Unfortunately, we also had to cancel a couple events (Valentine's dinner and Older Men Olympics). Hopefully, both will be back this year. We'll let you know.

As far as the group itself goes, we average around a dozen guys consistently at our meetings. We have moved our meetings to the Fellowship Hall as we have found it easier to stay socially distant. When possible, we like to meet outside as well.

If you can make it, we meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Follow the church website for times. The focus of the group is to provide a time and platform for guys to come together for support, prayer, and encouragement. We encourage relationship building and cultivate friendships while having a coffee and donut or even a slice or two of pizza. It's a laid-back group and everyone is there for each other. If a guy feels like God has laid something on his heart, he then has the opportunity to share it. That's a special time.

So with that in mind, the invite is always there for any guy who is looking for an opportunity to get to know some other men in a different way, or even if you are just in need of encouragement or prayer we are here. Give it some thought. As mentioned, keep an eye on the church website or weekly bulletin.

Bob Miller and Basil Imbimbo

Music Ministry Report

Despite the challenges of 2020, the FDC music ministry has remained vital. By the grace of God, the team has continued to answer the call and provide support for corporate worship. Due to our pre-pandemic on-line infrastructure, we were able to continue our ministry through March, April, May, and June. I'm very thankful we were able to have a service every Sunday through the shutdown.

Each Sunday morning, the music ministry team meets at 9:30 to prepare the selected worship set. We begin by praying for the service. It is our goal to be under the control of the Holy Spirit such that He can minister to the needs of the congregation. We hope you sense the Spirit moving in the FDC worship service whether in the sanctuary or at home. If there's a song you'd like us to sing in the worship service, please let me know.

FDC's Worship Team

Singers: Christine Harrison, Darlene Miller and Walter Nesbeth.

Percussionist: Ralph Anema.

Keyboard: David Bishop.

Others who have contributed to the team in 2020 include: Emily Marcello, Jessica Mason (Volk), Mike Martinez and Mike Bryan. Thank you to all these contributors for their service to FDC's music ministry. I know from those with whom I have spoken, the congregation appreciates your efforts.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the FDC community with this wonderful group of people. There is no better place to be than in the center of God's plan for your life. Since 1989, I've been confident that He wants me here at FDC (WAG). This has been a challenging year, and like all of life's challenges, this one comes with a choice: *Run toward God or run away*. I know from experience; my faith is not blind. A careful examination of life tells me clearly: When the choice is made to run toward God, He is faithful to meet the challenge and carry us through.

Submitted by David Bishop

Sister Strong Ministry

Sister Strong has fourteen women committed to studying a life of complete surrender to God using Laura Story's book and study guide. Although most of the group was able to meet in person in September and October, the past two months the number of women gathering in the church Café has dwindled due to Covid concerns and time conflicts. Only six of us met the week before Christmas to fellowship and study, but two new women have expressed an interest in joining us for the first time at the January meeting.



We keep up with one another online and touch base in person as we are able. The plan is to continue meeting at 7:00 PM on the fourth Friday of each month in the Café, wearing masks and sitting at tables or on benches spaced six feet apart for social distancing during this Covid era. We will be moving on to a new study topic after the Laura Story curriculum is finished in February.

Juanita White on behalf of our **Sister Strong** Ladies

"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer." Romans 12:12

Hello FDC Family,

Thank you for your continued support of the Vault Youth Center and the many teens that come by for fun, food and fellowship. 2020 was full of unexpected circumstances for everyone and every ministry of the church has been affected in some way.

The Vault traditionally follows a schedule similar to Warren Hills. We closed with school in mid-March and re-opened with the schools in September. With schools having closed once again in early December, The Vault has once again closed. We are planning to open again once our local schools reopen. I keep in touch with many of the teens and their families and they are ready and willing to return as soon as we open again. I've actually been encouraged with messages from many of them who have told me how much they miss The Vault and how big a role we play in their lives. (Without exaggeration I get messages everyday asking if we can open and when we'll be back.)

Apart from the continuous need for more volunteers we are ready to open again as soon as schools go hybrid. We had been limiting the number of students who could come in to 10, require masks, and have other safeguards in place.

I can't thank you enough for your continued support, financial or otherwise. Would you believe that this summer we will Celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the opening of The Vault? I look forward to being able to open again soon and to a much brighter 2021. Feel free to call or email me anytime to discuss any questions or concerns regarding The Vault. God Bless you all.

Brian Schubert
The Vault Director
SCHUB2@GMAIL.COM
(908)-763-6620





FDC YOUTH COVID STYLE!

Well, as all of life this year has been full of challenges, ministry is no different. We started the year off as normal as ever, looking forward to a great 2020, and then life changed. However, the students'

ability to keep their enthusiasm and to overcome, has encouraged me, and brings joy to my heart, and for that I am thankful.

As much as COVID has done its best to derail us, we have been able to keep meeting. Via Zoom at first, and then, in the fall, back in person. In February, twelve of us were able to attend a youth retreat at Tuscarora Conference Center called "Tundra" with an excellent speaker, music, and fun. A kayaking trip on the Delaware, hiking around Merrill Creek (finishing in the dark), a walk through a cemetery (a lesson on life and death) and a Christmas party, were some of the events we were still able to do.

Our meetings still run the same - some fun, some food, and some food for the soul. Some of the things we studied: a book called Forensic Faith by J Warren Wallace, helping students make a case for their faith using forensic evidence to prove the truths of the Bible. The life of Jesus as seen through the gospels, and we are now reading through The Sermon on The Mount, Matthew 5-7, Jesus teaching his disciples and us.

None of this would be possible without help - Brian Schubert's commitment, dedication and love for the youth is evident in all that he does and I am ever grateful. Many thanks go out also to Gail David and Theresa Radline for their heart and for stepping in when needed.

HELPING STUDENTS OWN THEIR FAITH!

Garry Hollenbeck

10:16 AM
01/19/21
Accrual Basis

Faith Discovery Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2020

	Dec 31, 2020
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
FDC Payroll	500.00
PNC-Awana	1,456.35
PNC-Vault	3,161.14
PNC - General	52,737.52
PNC Benevolence	11,619.11
Total Checking/Savings	69,474.12
Total Current Assets	69,474.12
Fixed Assets	
33 Brass Castle Rd.	2,000,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	2,000,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,069,474.12
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Paycheck Protection Loan	30,700.00
Payroll Offset	
403B	560.00
HSA payable	534.86
Medical ins payable	-349.79
Total Payroll Offset	745.07
Total Other Current Liabilities	31,445.07
Total Current Liabilities	31,445.07
Long Term Liabilities	
AG Financial	447,561.72
Total Long Term Liabilities	447,561.72
Total Liabilities	479,006.79
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	1,581,459.32
Retained Earnings	-17,313.78
Net Income	14,986.05
Total Equity	1,579,131.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,058,138.38

10:26 AM

01/19/21

Accrual Basis

Faith Discovery Church
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions- Restricted	79,585.10
Contributions- Unrestricted	254,558.05
Miscellaneous Income	1,226.53
Rental - Building	<u>18,465.60</u>
Total Income	353,835.28
Expense	
Advertising	725.16
Benevolence	7,423.20
Church Ministries	28,202.70
Church Van Expense	344.50
Debt Service	34,221.45
Equipment	4,431.02
Family Fellowship Center	345.00
Food Pantry - N.W.C.	2,414.59
Insurance	16,108.65
Janitorial	744.56
Licenses and Permits	420.00
Maintenance	15,904.52
Miscellaneous	950.02
Missions- Pledges	20,550.00
Missions-Restricted	38,826.48
Office Supplies	2,782.64
Pastoral Provision	3,998.32
Payroll	123,814.17
Payroll Expenses	10,266.89
Postage	1,212.62
Special Speakers	350.00
Utilities	<u>24,812.74</u>
Total Expense	<u>338,849.23</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>14,986.05</u>
Net Income	<u><u>14,986.05</u></u>