

BRIDGES CHURCH  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2022**

Church Mission/  
Vision Statement

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## A Letter From Our Pastor

Bridges Family,

This year, we are doing something new. This year we are presenting the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023, to you, our church family, in advance.

Coming out of Covid, it is time to do new things. This year we want to approach our budget as an act of faith for all of us. This year we want to take a step of faith, together, as a church family.

This year, we are doing something for the first time; we are including the mortgage as part of the budget instead of starting a new Capital Campaign. It is time for us to walk by faith in a new way.

In addition, we took out a \$50,000 no interest loan from Waypoint Church Partners to replace the HVAC system in the Worship Center. The air conditioning shut down last year, and it can no longer be repaired. This loan is to be paid back over 7 years. It too, will be added to the new budget.

The addition of these two items, the mortgage for our facility and the loan, will increase our financial needs in a significant way, and the information contained in this packet will help illustrate that.

Our Stewardship Team and I are asking you to prayerfully consider giving above and beyond in this coming fiscal year.

On Sunday, April 3, the first Sunday of the new fiscal year, we will be receiving a special Faith Offering, above and beyond our normal giving to start the new fiscal year off well and as a step of faith in God's ability to provide. It would be great to see an outpouring of generosity that day as a testimony to God's goodness.

God has been very good to us as a church, always. He has always provided everything we have ever needed. He is faithful, always has been, always will be.

On the Journey,

Patrick Norris

Pastor, Bridges Church

*Faith shows the reality of what we hope for;  
it is the evidence of things we cannot see. - Hebrews 11:1*

# Faith Goals

## Goals

- Faith Step: Increase our budget by 27% to include the mortgage, the no interest HVAC loan from Waypoint Church Partners (84 month term) and an increase in our missions budget. Rather than continuing to do a series of capital campaigns until the mortgage is paid off, it has been decided by the Finance Team and Elders to move the mortgage payment and the no interest loan into our budget. We are including these monies in our general budget as a family would.
- Faith Step: Increase our missions offering by 59%. In the past we tithed 10% of our offerings to missions and outreach. This year, we will be tithing 10% of our total income which consists of all donations and rentals.
- Faith Step: Faith Offering. For the month of April, we are asking you to give above and beyond your regular tithe as a first step of faith for the coming year. Our goal for April is \$72,000.00.

# Year in Review

## MISSIONS UPDATE

Reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a priority of Bridges Church, both in financial support and in actively engaging with others within our sphere of influence.

In 2022 - 2023, Bridges is taking a step of faith by increasing our Missions support from 10% of our offerings to 10% of our total income which now includes rental payments from organizations that meet in our facilities. This will increase the monies given to missions substantially and allow us to do even more in seeing people come to Christ.

### **Bridges Outreach:**

Motivated by the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, Bridges is on mission to help people discover a life changing relationship with Christ.

Through the Covid pandemic, many of our efforts to reach the world have focused on making our worship services available online, opening up new opportunities to build relationships with others who otherwise would never be able to attend our services in person. A lot of energy and attention has been spent on upgrading the technology needed to make this possible and in training those who make it all work. God is working in the lives of many in other states and around the world, as they experience encouragement and equipping through worship and the teaching of God's Word through Bridges online.

In this past year, even with Covid limitations, we were able to have several outreach events including our first Vacation Bible School in the new facility and a Memorial Day Party for the community. These events and others brought new people onto our campus, giving us a chance to get to know them and start new relationships.

Now that the pandemic is starting to subside, we hope to step up our efforts to be on mission for Christ, returning to an emphasis on personal invitations and individual 1 on 1 connections in sharing the Gospel. In 2022 - 2023, we are focusing on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas to have everyone who calls Bridges home to ask, "Who's Your One?" and then "Invite Your One" as we all strive to fulfill the mandate of Jesus to reach the world in His Name.

# Year in Review

## MISSIONS UPDATE CONT.

### BRIDGES SUPPORT:

As part of our mission to reach the world for Christ, Bridges also has active financial and relational partnerships with the following organizations:

#### **BRIDGING THE GAP: (<https://www.btgwinstonsalem.net>)**



Missions starts at home, right here in our community, and Bridging the Gap is the ministry arm of the church. As a nonprofit, Bridging the Gap is able to create partnerships within our community to serve our community in tangible ways with the practical love of Christ. Bridging the Gap consists of several ministries including a Food Pantry, a Backpack program that provides weekly food to students at Old Town Elementary, and a Clothes Closet that not only provides clothes to those in need but also helps fund the other ministries. In 2022 - 2023, the Food Pantry, after 10 years of monthly food distributions, will be taking a step of faith by moving to quarterly food distributions in partnership with other churches in our community, creating new relationships to help even more people. Each year, hundreds of families receive food, clothing, and other necessities as expressions of the love of Christ through the efforts of scores of volunteers at BTG.



#### **IN THE GAP: ([inthegapministries.com](http://inthegapministries.com)) Founded by Robert & Liz Crews**

In the Gap exists to help the Apache people discover who Jesus is and to learn to follow Him. Serving in Globe, Arizona, the In the Gap team has dealt with several Covid related issues over the past 2 years, but now in 2022, things are beginning to open up. Building relationships with the Apache people is their key strategy for living out the Gospel, and they have seen multiple people give their lives to Christ over the years. Recently, in response to a need on the reservation, the team has begun making bunk beds for those families who do not have this basic necessity. It is our hope that in the future, we can continue to take missions trips there to help serve In the Gap as Covid trends continue to move in the right direction.

# Year in Review

## MISSIONS UPDATE CONT.



### **INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP – Kevin Boyd: ([intervarsity.org](http://intervarsity.org))**

Kevin focuses on helping university students and churches engage with Scripture in the Carolinas and nationwide. Through his efforts, Bridges was able to connect a student at the North Carolina School of the Arts to InterVarsity and begin an outreach Bible study on the campus there. Kevin has been instrumental in helping to train Small Group Leaders and build the Small Group Ministry here at Bridges Church as well.



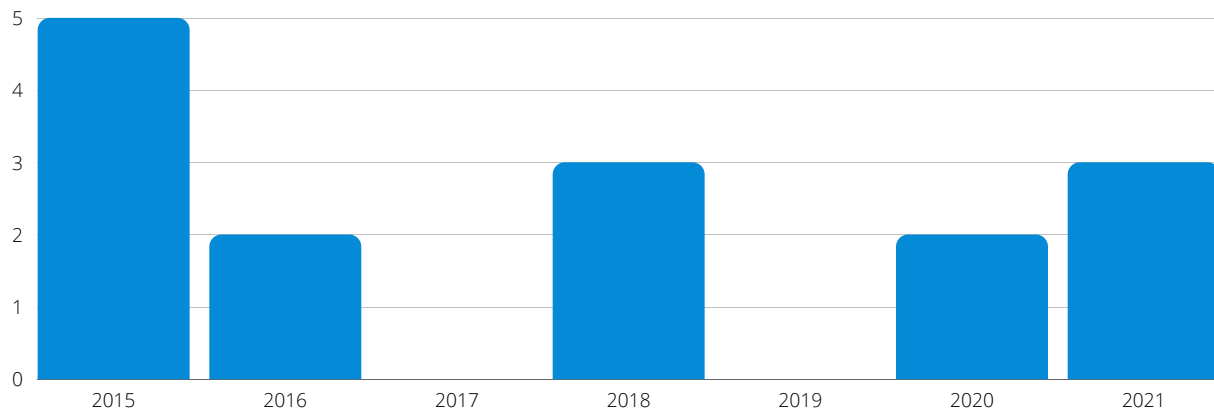
### **WAYPOINT CHURCH PARTNERS: ([waypointchurchpartners.com](http://waypointchurchpartners.com))**

Waypoint helps plant new churches and support existing churches in the Mid-Atlantic region, from Maryland to South Carolina. In 2021, through Waypoint support, two new churches were launched: Canvas Church led by Kevin & Maia McNeil in Goldsboro, NC and The Table, a multisite campus of Woodland Hills Christian Church in Abington, VA. Through 21 in 21, an international initiative, Waypoint raised money to launch 5 churches, 1 in Washington DC to reach internationals living in the area, and four other churches each committed to planting 5 more churches in strategic nations in the world – Moldova, Nepal, Ghana, and Mexico. Over the years, Waypoint has assisted Bridges through guidance and counsel at key points in our history and continues to be a strategic partner in helping our church navigate an ever changing world that desperately needs the Gospel.

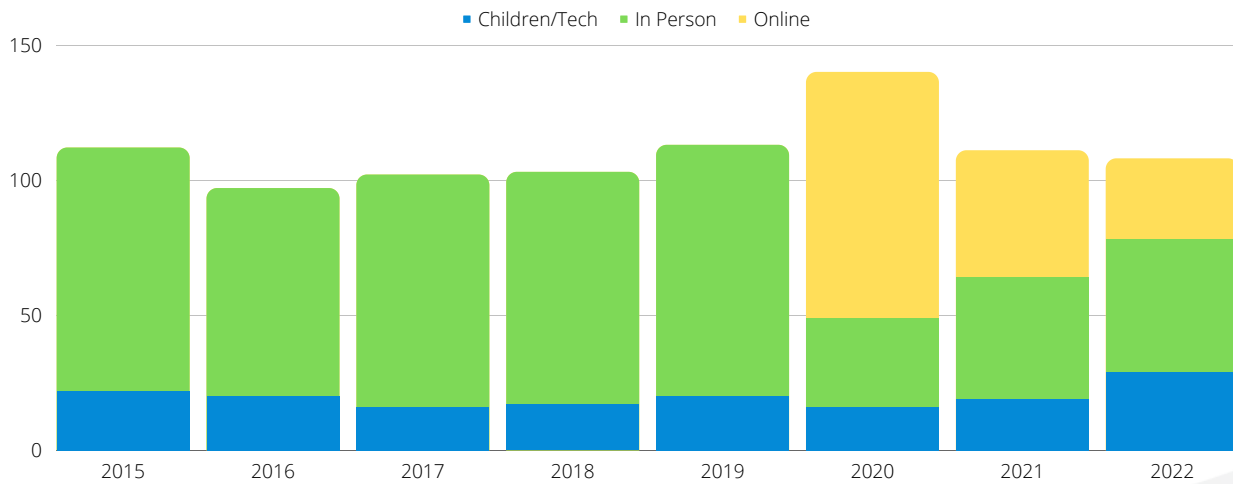


# Year in Review

## Baptisms

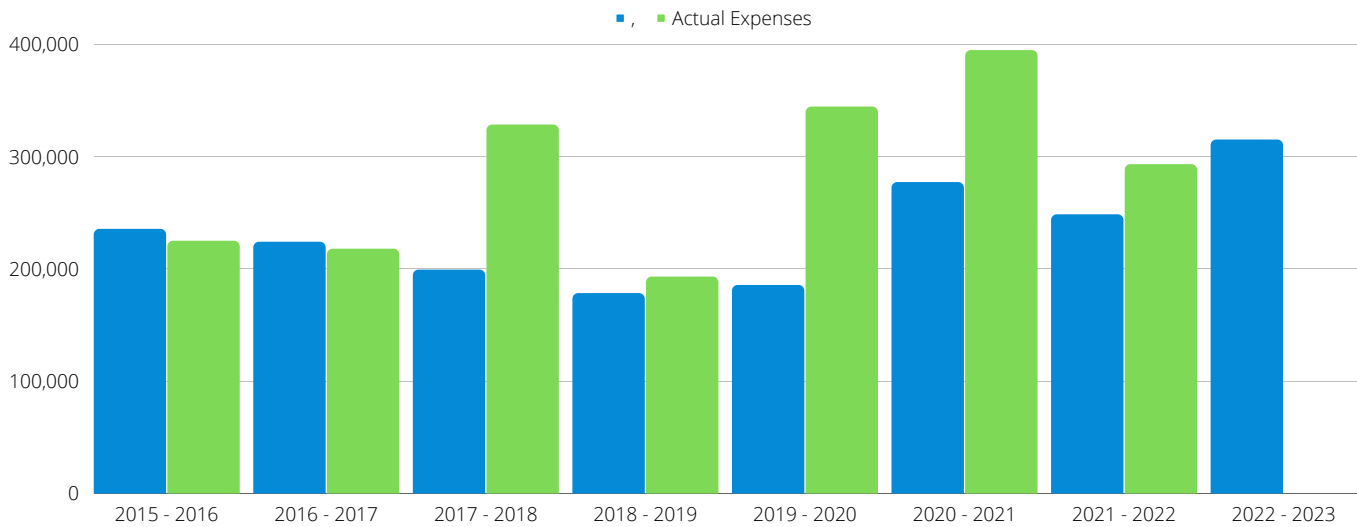


## Weekly Attendance

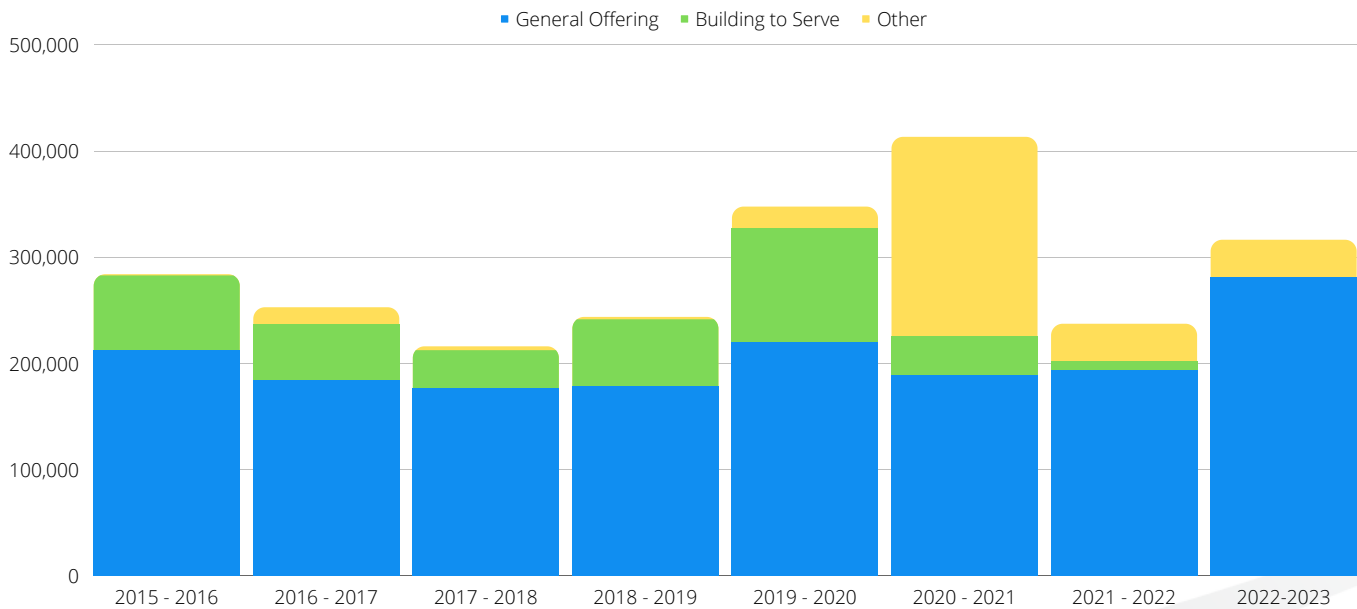


# Financial Overview

## Budgeted Expenses vs. Actual Expenses

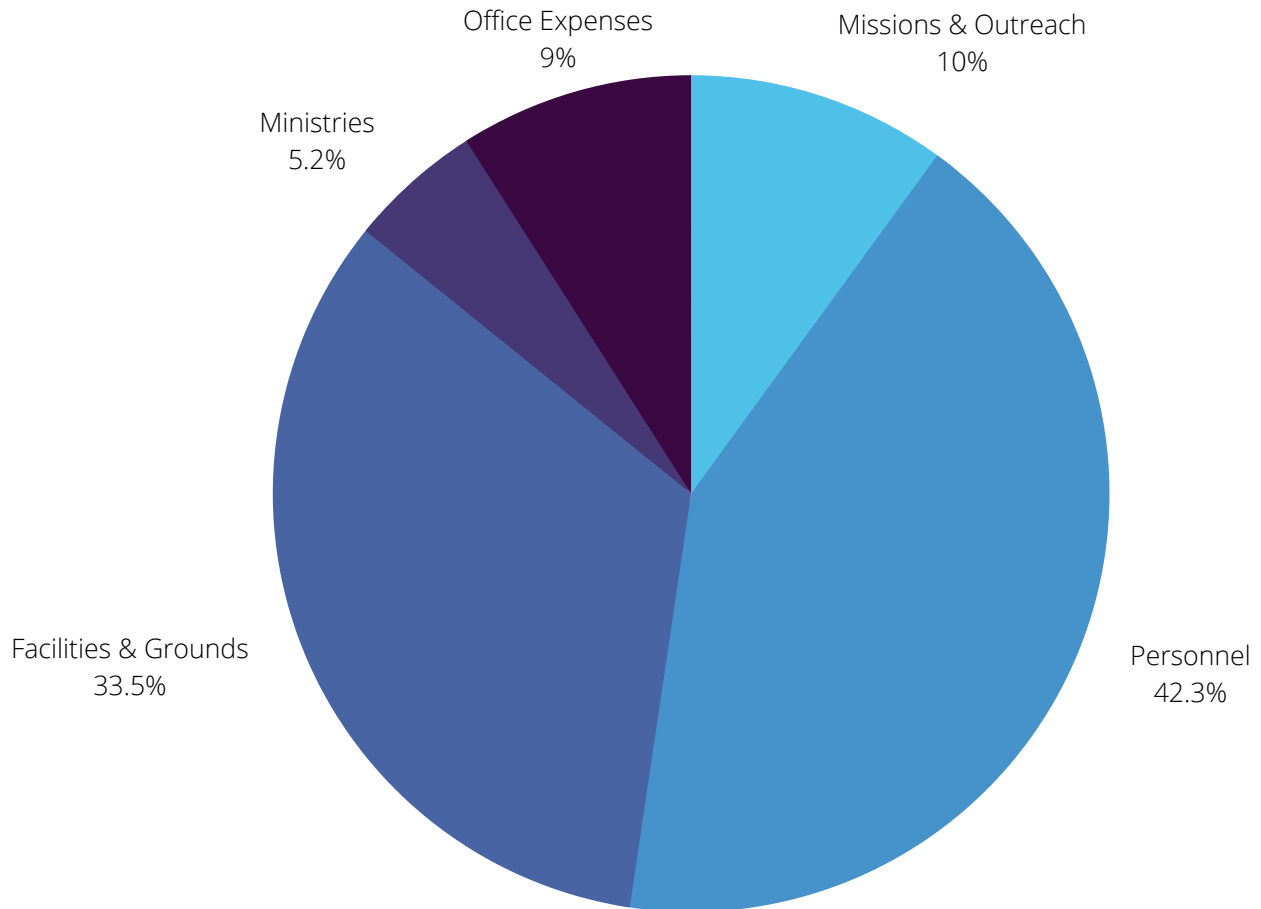


## Breakdown of Income



# Financial Overview

## 2022-2023 Budget Proposal:



**Missions we support:** Intersarsity, In the Gap, Waypoint, BTG, Community Outreach

**Ministries:** Discipleship, Family Ministry, First Impressions, Ministry Teams, Worship

# Ministry Highlights

## FAMILY MINISTRY

We have had an exciting year in Family Ministry at Bridges Church. Here are some of the highlights:

**VBS** - We had our first VBS in many years last summer and had had a great time engaging with kids PreK-5th grade. We had an encouraging turnout from kids in the community that we had never met before. We are looking forward to VBS Summer 2022!

**Sunday mornings** - We were able to get back to in-person Children's Ministry about a year ago. It has been encouraging to have kids back in the building and even joining us virtually online. We have also met several new families over the course of the year and have enjoyed getting to know them.

**Summer Intern** - Aiden Essick, a student at Great Lakes Christian College studying Youth Ministry, interned with us in July 2021. It was a blessing to be able to work with her and help equip her for future ministry opportunities.

**Collide** - This is our students local missions trip week where we mix in service projects and fun local activities. We had a great group of students participate from rising 6th graders to graduating seniors. We worked on several projects around the church facility, but we were also able to serve some local organizations like King Outreach, Multiply Farm and Bridging the Gap.

**Graduation** - Speaking of graduating seniors, we had 3 amazing young people graduate high school in June 2021. We are excited to see what God has in store for them over the next several years.

This upcoming year we are excited to explore some new and intentional ways to serve and equip parents to parent the next generation. We are also hopeful to open our nursery again on Sunday mornings because of the growing number of young kids in our Preschool. We have an incredible core of dedicated volunteers who serve regularly, but we are in need of additional volunteers to open the Nursery.

We are excited to continue ministering to kids, students and parents as we have over the last year but look forward to implementing new ideas and ways that we can better serve our families at Bridges and in our community.

~ Jacob Harden, Family Minister

# Ministry Highlights

## SMALL GROUPS

As many of you know, small groups are a vital part of Bridges Church. Our primary gathering for worship and instruction of the Word is Sunday mornings. But some would say that small groups are where people really “do life together”.

We currently offer 6 small groups that regularly meet each week.

- Sunday mornings during 2nd service – Evander Woo and Brandon Peak co-lead in the counseling building on site.
- Sundays at 5:30pm – Patrick and Stacey host at their home.
- Tuesday nights at 6:30pm – Brandon Peak leads the group that meets in the Ministry Center.
- Wednesday mornings at 11:00am – Joanna Meadows leads a women’s group that meets in the Ministry Center.
- Thursday nights at 6:30pm – Jacob Harden, Jonathon Jarvis, and Alan Palmer co-lead the young adult group that meets in the Worship Center.
- Saturday mornings at 10:00am – Sherry Knupp and Ellen Tucker co-lead a women’s group that meets in the Worship Center.

There are about 50 people who meet in these groups each week. That’s a really good portion of our body. That said, if you are not yet plugged into one of these groups, we strongly encourage you to give it a shot. Email us at [info@bridgeschurch.net](mailto:info@bridgeschurch.net) if you have any questions or are curious about which group might be right for you.

At the moment, all small groups are studying through the book of Galatians until around Easter. Beyond that we will be gearing up for some ideas over the summer to offer key training on financial stewardship.

For the fall semester we are prayerfully considering a few “elective” small groups that will be set up based on core areas of our faith and devotion – more of getting like-gifted folks together to build one another up for more effective service.

We are excited to see what God does this year at Bridges. Not just in small groups but throughout the church and as the church in our community.

~ Brandon Peak, Volunteer Connections Director

# Ministry Highlights

## WORSHIP TEAM

We have seen some change in the last year, but the team is in a great place. Every one of the volunteers on the team come to our gatherings with a willingness to serve. They come with a drive to do their best, not just because it is something to do, but because it is something they are doing for the Lord. The band members have such a sincere heart when it comes to worship and they have shown week in and week out that they are willing to serve. They are consistent and strong leaders that help bring our congregation into a place of genuine worship for the Lord. People off the stage make me smile just as much. We are the only church I know of in the area that is doing the level of online production that we do for multiple services on Sunday. Everything we post is Live. That is not easy to do. Tech is not easy to do, but this team makes it look easy. Even with holes some weeks, we have been able to create an alternate option for people in the age of COIVD.

So what is the Worship and Tech Team? We are responsible for creating a space on Sunday mornings for people to engage in worship. Whether it is in person or online, our goal is to lead a distraction-free gathering so that the congregation can focus and engage with God. The worship team is responsible for the music aspects of our services. The Tech Team is responsible for running the in-house displays (both audience and stage), running sound (both in-person and online), and switching between camera feeds and display feeds for the online audience.

We have been through a lot in the worship and tech team in the last year. In 2021, we introduced worship nights to the church. Our goal was to provide a place for people to come and worship the Lord specifically through Song and Prayer outside of our normal Sunday services. We also were able to add several new parts to our tech booth. We added new lighting, a new display system, and brought on several new volunteers.

Some things that I am looking forward to in the next year are getting worship nights going again. With the right promotion through social media and word of mouth, I feel we could really see the culture of Bridges become a culture that longs to come together as a body and worship the Lord. Some other things I am excited to see are the ways the Worship and Tech Team can help other ministry groups this upcoming year. Another thing that I look forward to in the next year is advancing our stream of media production. I would love to be able to use the content we create on Sundays throughout the week on social media. This is something that could be effective in not only growing Bridges but growing the Kingdom as well.

~ Carson Brown, Worship Leader

# Testimonials

“ My name is BRANDON PEAK. God’s faithfulness in the past is what gave me the confidence to move my family from Florida to North Carolina at the onset of a global pandemic in the spring of 2020. Fun timing! But as He revealed not just where he was moving us to...but who He was moving us to, my faith was strengthened. He’s called my family to Bridges Church and individually, as of a few weeks ago, called me to be a volunteer on staff as the new “Connections Director.”

My heart has long been for studying God’s Word with other people in a meaningful, intimate way. Historically, the small group environment has been the most fruitful for this passion. With the help of the staff and Elders, I’ll be helping to equip, organize, plan, and assist in the small groups throughout the church body, and be a familiar face that encourages members and visitors alike to explore ways to plug into what God is doing at Bridges.

To do all this, and not go too insane, God was calling me to rely on Him once again in another big way. He moved me to reduce my hours at my day job. I’ve gone from full salary to hourly part-time so that one day per week can be freed up from work. My wife, Danelle, and I felt sure in the Spirit that God had plans for us to be involved in a more committed ministry. And so...we are trusting Him for provision, wisdom, balance of priorities and are reminded that He will guide our path through this transition time. That said, please keep us in your prayers. We know that God’s got this. But that doesn’t mean that our enemy is going to make it easy. We’re looking forward to one day telling the story of how the Father worked out this chapter and season of living for Him.

”

# Testimonials

“ My name is CINDY BOWMAN. I am a mother of four children, three grown and one at home. I have been coming to Bridges Church for about three years. My husband and I had gone to several local churches, but it took me until after my husband passed away to decide to attend Bridges Church. I felt so welcomed and cared about and I knew in my heart it was perfect for me and daughter. My young daughter, Hailey, attends the youth group and I go to adult small groups that help me grow in my faith.

I have not had it easy in the last year, but my faith has seen me through. The friends I've made here support me, help me and are there for me. This last year I was diagnosed with kidney cancer and the leadership and elders prayed for me; my small group prayed too. I felt completely at peace knowing so many were there for me and supporting me. Praise God when the surgeon removed my kidney, all the cancer left with it! This was a miracle and I know God has more for me to do in this life. I am so thankful for God hearing all the prayers.

I was baptized as a baby but since I did not make the choice, I've talked with Patrick about joining Bridges Church and being re-baptized. My dilemma has been that I cannot get any water in my ears because of all the ear surgeries I've had. But Patrick told me that if I wanted to do this, God would find a way, and He has. God has given me a way to be submerged! I have special earplugs made so that I can keep most of the water out. I believe God answered my prayer to make this happen. I can show others that I am fully declaring that I love my savior, Jesus Christ, and giving myself fully to God.





# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Going through two years of a pandemic has felt like a long pause, or more like a reset, in the life of Bridges Church. But now it feels like a small breeze is beginning to blow, new life is coming, doors are beginning to open, and there is a new hope.

We are praying for a Resurgence - a revival, a resurrection, a new vibrancy in the life of Bridges Church and all who are part of the Bridges family. It's time to begin moving forward as a church - to be on mission, build new relationships and new partnerships to reach our community and help people grow in Christ.

Here are some things to look forward to in the upcoming year:

- Quarterly Outreach Events beginning with two in April.
  - Family to Family Food Distribution at Old Town Elementary - April 9. Showing our community the love of Christ in partnership with New Church, Trinity Church, Frontiers Church and our nonprofit, Bridging the Gap.
  - Easter - April 17 - We're asking each person to invite someone for this special day, and we're gearing up our social media strategy to reach even more. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the world changing event we want everyone to know.
- New Discipleship & Ministry Opportunities - Brandon Peak is joining our staff as the volunteer Connections Director. He will be working to help people get connected and to discover and live out ministry opportunities based on their giftedness and calling. Look for new opportunities to grow in your walk with Christ as he begins to implement new initiatives in the year to come.

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE CONT.

- **New Fellowship Opportunities** - This coming year we look forward to getting everyone together to share meals, to experience fun and impactful events designed to build relationships, and simply get to know each other better after the isolation that came with Covid and to use our campus and Fellowship Hall more to facilitate these events. Look for regular, life giving and relationship building things to come this year.
- **New Mission Opportunities** - We live in a world that desperately needs a Savior, and we have been entrusted with the Good News they need to hear. A trip is already in the works to go to Eastern Kentucky to serve there and other missions trips are in the planning stages. Look for more opportunities to serve our community through our strategic partnerships being built with other churches and our nonprofit, Bridging the Gap.

On top of all of these things, we will continue to build on what we are doing - impactful Worship Services filled with spirit and truth, Small Groups that connect you to God & others, and Ministries that impact others for the kingdom as we continue to **LEAD PEOPLE TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS AND SERVE THE WORLD.**