



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SAGUARO CANYON CHURCH

Saguarocanyon.org

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LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT

This year was an exciting year for SCC. We had a lot of beautification projects and improvements to our campus. We studied Nehemiah (A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP), the Book of James (AN UNDIVIDED HEART), and we just finished our Parables of Jesus According to Luke series.

We saw numerous people get baptized and become Members of SCC.

BAPTISMS	NEW MEMBERS
Ella Beversluis Michael Bersen Aneira O'Shell Camryn Orth Connor Dunaway Carrie Oppman	Lori Rice Brian & Kathy Clark

I am looking forward to next year as we see continual growth and movement forward as a church. I hope to see many more people come to faith, get baptized, and launch into ministry.

In Christ,

Shannon Huetter

Lead Pastor

SAGUARO CANYON CHURCH

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Ministry

This year we made the switch from the Gospel Project to the D6 Curriculum, which has a greater focus on foundational teachings. We also held our Easter Egg Hunt again this year! We had an incredible amount of donations and it was a great success! More volunteers signed up for the ministry this year, but if you are interested in volunteering we still have needs in **ALL positions** especially for teachers and helpers in our older kids classroom (Grades 1-5).

Youth Ministry

This year the Youth went on our first ever Mission Trip! It was such an incredible time pouring into the kids in Chinle, AZ which is in the heart of the Navajo Reservation. Our Youth got to experience an incredibly different culture and different form of evangelism. We launched our Youth Worship Team in Dec. last year which is being led by Scarlet Houk. In the beginning of this year the Youth tackled a college level study of creation and worldview. They got to see many arguments for the Biblical understanding of the world. We are currently doing Old Testament studies until the end of the year.

Community Groups

Our community groups are doing well. Leaders are encouraged to pursue balance in their community groups (God's word, Relationships, Openness, Worship through prayer, Trust & Hospitality: G.R.O.W.T.H.).

We have multiple groups throughout the week and on Sunday afternoons as well. They are led by strong servants and impact many lives. One of our groups volunteers at the Gospel Rescue Mission on the last Monday of each month to serve and clean up dinner.

A Tuesday night group in Vail began this year and God is moving mightily in the people and leaders. A woman from this group started another service opportunity at Gospel Rescue Mission on Sunday afternoon once a month.

First Impressions

The exterior paint and lobby makeover are great improvements to our church and are very welcoming to visitors. Our greeting ministry is doing well, and people are excited to come and be a part of our first impression ministry. Greg & Maritza are the greeting coordinators and are doing a wonderful job.

Care & Prayer Ministry

God has brought a wonderful team together for this ministry. We have had multiple meetings throughout this year, and they are all on the same page when it comes to responding to situations within our congregation and their loved ones; or even those outside our church who need love and benevolence.

Jason Tuell and his family are making the move to another state over the next months, so he is stepping down as coordinator. Brandon Keena has taken up the role of coordinator and is passionate about the ministry.

Our next meeting on October 27 will discuss Holidays: Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas dinner and or presents, and perhaps even some visits to those without family in town for the Holidays.

The Holy Spirit is moving in these ministries and people are responding with praise, Bible study, and inviting others to church and events.

Men's Ministry

Our men's ministry is getting stronger and stronger. A purity group has been added on Wednesday evenings. As for our accountability groups, we have two groups on Monday nights, one on Tuesday morning, and one on Wednesday evening.

We are looking forward to our men's retreat on Mt. Lemmon November 1-3. We have over 20 men going as of 10-21-2024.

There is a men's text thread that is used throughout the week to encourage one another and ask for prayer or help. Many of our men serve our Lord in the many different ministries we have at Saguaro Canyon Church.

Women's Ministry

In January we kicked off our Titus 2 mentoring program. Approximately 24 women are currently involved in meeting together regularly to support one another in friendship and faith. This was a ministry that I had prayed about implementing for about 2 years. Women are added as they show interest.

A small group of about 10 of us went and served at the Feed My Starving Children event. We had a great time serving together!

In the Spring we held our first Swap Meet women's event. This free event was really successful and many women have asked if we will do this again. People brought gently used things ahead of time and we organized these into tables in the worship center. We served a beautiful table of food like a tea party and Janice Deardoff gave her talk on Seasons of Life. We had several visitors who came and participated in the event and heard the gospel. We raised around \$350 toward our women's ministries. Everyone shopped until they dropped!

Weekly Bible studies started in January and have continued all year long. The Tuesday and Wednesday studies continue to grow momentum. Our first study was Acts, then Jonah, and now we are in the middle of Ephesians. We continue to grow deeper in Christ and fellowship with one another. At the end of each Tuesday night study we enjoy our potlucks and semi-fabulous prizes.

In September we held our women's retreat at Holy Trinity Monastery. Our theme was Bridging the Gap. It was really powerful and inspiring, highlighting having a missional mindset with our family, community and internationally. We had 43 attendees mainly from our church. Thirteen women served on the retreat leadership team making decisions together in their area of expertise. Our speakers this year were Susie Degan, Janet Hale, Nancy Rogers and Lara Huetter. We had 7 table hostesses who led discussion questions and nurtured each woman at their table. Our amazing worship team leader was Wendy Harding. Some of the things we enjoyed together were mug swap, watercolor paintings, playing games, dancing to the cupid shuffle, daily devotions, learning about how to care for our aging parents and outdoor activities. We will go back next year at the same time.

December 7th we will be holding a Women's Tea - A Peace of the Pie. Advertising has just started. This will be potluck style with Alivea A. leading us in Christmas songs, Lori Rice sharing her talk, and 7 table hostesses will decorate their own lovely themes for their tables. We will have some games and prizes. We are offering childcare so that women who need it are not limited and can come enjoy and relax. We want to set the precedent that we value young moms too!

Worship Ministry

In 2 Chronicles chapter 5, as the ark is brought into the temple and the priests and musicians begin to sing and play, the presence of the Lord showed up as a cloud in such a powerful way that the priests could not even perform their service. While it would be wonderful if that were the situation each week at church, that is not a consistent biblical pattern that is established. So, no smoke machines or light shows to try and artificially create that atmosphere! What we do want is an atmosphere where we gather

to worship God in spirit and truth with genuine humility and passion at Saguaro Canyon Church. Disingenuous worship is prohibited in Scripture, and there are instances of God's swift justice on those who practice ungodly methodology. As such, we are committed to being genuine in our desire to worship and praise our King and will not be employing current trendy entertainment-oriented methods in our attempts to bring people in or attempt to hold on to them. Nevertheless, we are committed to excellence and execution in our musicianship, and more important, in our spiritual growth and maturity.

I believe we have seen both over the last year. There has been improvement in the quality of both musicality and in-depth spiritual growth with those involved in the Worship. We have been able to take willing people of varying experience levels and talent, train them with patience, and incorporate them into worship without compromising the overall quality.

We are also looking forward to begin having several of the youth worship team members begin transitioning into the adult worship ministry as well as continuing with the youth ministry worship.

We currently have 30+ people who are involved in some capacity in the Worship and Audio/Visual ministries. We are also continually and actively recruiting to include more who feel called to use their gifts in worshipping the Lord.

In the audio/visual ministries, we consistently make an effort to keep costs down and below budget as it pertains to equipment. I don't feel we need to buy something simply because it's the latest 'cool' gadget. If we can make something last longer and it works, to me that is good stewardship. However, we will probably need to make some equipment upgrades in the next year or two. Specifically in the areas of lighting (replacing lamps and bulbs), upgrading our stage keyboard, and replacing earphone monitors, in addition to making sure our wiring, cables, and wireless mics are all up to date.

Operations

This year has been packed full of changes around our campus, I want to thank all those who contributed with their time and donations to help improve the beauty of our Church. I believe our greatest improvement was the repair and whitewash of the adobe brick. The change looks amazing and has completely upgraded the look of the campus. I am thrilled to know the bricks are now sealed and secured for the next 5 years. With the help of volunteers from the congregation we remodeled the foyer of the Worship Center and changed the paint scheme for the interior and exterior of the church. We upgraded the courtyard with new tables and umbrellas providing more shade and comfort for Sunday gatherings, our guests and community groups. We are continuing to make needed facility repairs and upgrades around campus. This past year we replaced the second HVAC unit for the Worship Center as well as the units in the courtyard bathrooms. The roofs for our office and youth building were both repaired and resealed and we did a mini remodel of the rental home behind the church. This year our campus Safety team attended CPR/AED and first aid training. Lastly, the replacement of the shade sails in front of the Worship Center is still on going, however we have contracted the install and have approved permits to begin work in the coming months.

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Luke 5 Adventures Tucson

Our L5A Tucson Scripture verse for 2024 was 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Our goal was to let all those involved in our ministry know they are valued and have God-given gifts and talents. We have seen this Scripture in action via the blessings we have seen our ministry expanding--in volunteers (Sherpas), Hikers, and donations. We reached a milestone of 100 hikes this year in October! We hiked 112 hikes in 2024, where our Hikers and their families enjoyed being in the midst of God's Creation that they would have otherwise not been able to access!

Given our ministry is designed to share the unconditional love of God and be a light to those who need to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior and/or grown in their relationship with Him, we have Sherpas (volunteers) and Hikers and their families who are not Christian and may never step foot in a church. Our continued hope and desire is those who are Christian in our ministry cause those who are not to see "something different" in us, and by the Holy Spirit quickening, allow us to have spiritual conversations with them and invite them to church. Speaking of church, we have two events each year—a celebratory dinner to thank all our Sherpas (volunteers) and another to celebrate everyone involved in L5A Tucson (Sherpas, Hikers, Donors, Supporters), which are held at Saguaro Canyon Church. This allows those who do not know Christ to visit a church sanctuary in a non-threatening way. We had a Sherpa attend a service recently, which was a blessing for us to witness and we are praying he continues coming!

We are in the midst of becoming a standalone nonprofit, which means we will no longer be using SCC's EIN number for tax-deductible donations or have a SCC "dba" bank account. We will continue to be a mission ministry of SCC, as one of the L5A chapter requirements is to be associated with a church body. As part of our nonprofit process, we have completed our L5A Tucson Bylaws and Policies, which have been approved by our initial L5A Tucson Board members.