

Mission Report 2021:  
**Making All  
Things New**

*Our church family's  
year in review*



**georgetown**  
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# Making All Things New 2021

And He who was seated on the throne said,  
“Behold, I am making  
all things new.”

-Revelation 21:5

**God has been doing  
something new:  
do you perceive it?**

**We are more “on  
mission” than ever!**

**7  
baptisms**

**600+  
sermons, studies,  
devos, & articles**

**\$94,000+  
given to mission,  
community, &  
assistance**

## What a year!

Amid all the pain of 2020, we praised God for making “a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” for us (Isa. 43:19). Then 2021 began full of uncertainty. Yet, there was still one thing of which we could be sure: God is “making all things new” (Rev. 21:5). With this in mind, we set out to work with Him by making 2021 a year of renewal in spirit and relationship.

## Renewal in Spirit

*“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4-7).*

Seven times in 2021, we rejoiced with the angels in heaven as beloved family and friends of all ages, races, and backgrounds experienced washing and renewal as they were buried with Christ in baptism. First, Margaret Singleton’s grandsons **Tray and Kamyne Wilson** and **Christopher Jones** of Celebration, FL were baptized in April. Then Luis Chastain’s close friend and co-worker **Jason Clemons** submitted to Christ in the waters of Bird Bank at sunrise one Saturday morning in June. The rejoicing only increased when **Skippy Branham** was baptized into Christ later that month, followed in August by Vicki Keller’s daughter-in-law **Michelle** and grandson **Kyle Keller** of Great Falls, MT while they vacationed here. Much like Paul’s mission work in Ephesus led to the gospel’s spread throughout Asia in Acts 19, our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ is reaching near and far!

**Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)**



It is not a coincidence that this renewal occurred as we sought to experience a **stronger connection to God in study, prayer, and priority**. A major way we accomplished this was through adopting **Discovery Bible Studies**. Used to great results in parts of the world where Christianity is experiencing explosive growth, this approach stays within a single passage of Scripture, reading it twice, re-telling it, briefly discussing it, and then seeking to answer four questions: 1.) What does this tell us about **God**? 2.) What does this tell us about **people**? 3.) How will I put this into **practice**? 4.) Who needs this that I will **tell**?

The approach is simple, but the results are powerful. We first adopted this format for our Sunday evening Bible studies. While our children learn in their **One Room Sunday School** in the Fellowship Hall and our pre-teens and teens have studies led by **John Harrison** and **Luis Chastain**, our adults meet in the auditorium to practice a new (to us) praise song, bring heartfelt prayers to God for thanks, help, and leading, and then study the passage used in that morning's sermon. This enables us to go deeper in our understanding of God's Word and prepares us to live it out and share it in the coming week.

This approach has also allowed us to have more Bible studies going on than ever before. In 2021, there were Bible studies in barber shops and break rooms, members' homes and nursing homes, and yes, at the church building. The **Family Study** led by Dan Hager on Zoom even allows adults and children to discover God's Word together! These smaller group settings have produced deeper connections and more interaction from everyone there. Our groups have studied important and impactful topics, including the **Beginning of Life, Life of Christ, New Life, Life of a Disciple, Mission 1 Training: Following Jesus Daily, Foundations, Iron Man (Teen Boys), Becoming Sons of God, The Source**, and more. If you have not been involved in any of these studies, join one now and be renewed!

Because the opportunity for renewal is there: we had **over 600 different opportunities** to hear God's word in 2021. Out of those, **431 were posted to Facebook**, with each post **reaching 293** and **engaging 63 people on average**. Our [georgetownchurchofchrist.com](http://georgetownchurchofchrist.com) website also had **over 5,900 visits** from **4,300 unique visitors** in the U.S. (87%) and all around the world (13%).

<i>Sunday Sermons &amp; Bible Studies</i>	<b>101</b>
<i>Devos, Articles, &amp; Other Shares</i>	<b>330</b>
<i>Small Group &amp; Discovery Bible Studies</i>	<b>170+</b>



Our Sunday sermon and Discovery Bible Study series have included **Your Kingdom Come** (living a life where Christ reigns), **The Way, the Truth, and the Life** (learning from the real people in Jerusalem, Antioch, and Ephesus how to follow the Way of Jesus together), **Join the Song** (exploring how we experience God's presence, power, and joy by singing together), **Learning to Lead** (observing the wins and losses of some of the Bible's great leaders), **Practice What You Preach** (examining how Jesus not only preached history's most famous sermon but also lived it Himself), and **Real Relationship** (showing how God created us for relationship and makes us able to experience it in a way unlike any other).

Throughout 2021, we have had the opportunity to devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching from God's word daily. Watching our video devotionals first thing in the morning or listening to the audio podcast while commuting has become an important part of many of our daily rhythms - as well as providing an easy opportunity to share God's word with others. Series this year have included our **DiSCOVER Daily Devotionals**, **CANCELLED: A Biblical Perspective on "Cancel Culture"**, **DiSCOVER the Sermon on the Mount**, and the **New Life Series**.



**“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”**  
(Acts 2:42)

As our connection to God grew stronger, we **discovered new opportunities**. By learning to seek God’s kingdom reign and to follow the Way of Jesus like the earliest disciples did, we were led to meet for **special times of prayer and fasting** specifically over mission work opportunities. **Luis Chastain**, our newly appointed Missions Deacon beginning in February 2021, led us in investing more spiritually and financially in the advancement of God’s kingdom than ever before. Along with the dedicated service of **Tony Jordan**, our Community Deacon, and **Tim Lee**, our Benevolence and Financial Assistance Deacon, our church family actively worked with God to bring good out of so many bad situations at personal, local, national, and even global levels. Praise God!



**In 2021, we gave ourselves first to the Lord and then over \$94,000 in contributions to:**

- **Oasis Outreach: Putrela Children’s Home in India and Afghanistan church relief**
- **Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort**
- **Southeastern Children’s Home in Duncan, SC**
- **Palmetto Bible Camp in Marietta, SC**
- **Eastern European Mission: Bibles for the people of Eastern Europe and beyond**
- **Helping Hands of Georgetown: Food and basic needs for those struggling with poverty and crisis**
- **Loris Church of Christ in Loris, SC**
- **Other local support and financial assistance for those in need**



The launch of our **Primary Praise** class in September 2021 was another new opportunity we discovered upon concluding our **Join the Song** lesson series. Meeting every other Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., this class is teaching our K4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students how to read music, how to sing praise together, and why God is worthy of our praise from key Bible passages. While our approach to children’s education is different than it was before the pandemic, the learning that is occurring for those who participate is greater than ever!

Our sisters were blessed by an excellent year of monthly **Ladies Fellowships** where **Debbie Jordan** led them through *Sisters at Sea* by Jenny Harp. Then **Melody Skipper** developed and launched **Talk with Him, Walk with Her**, an 8-week program of Bible study, prayer, and a 2-mile walk around Kensington for our ladies. God brought renewal to many spirits through these creative ideas and the diligent effort that made them possible.



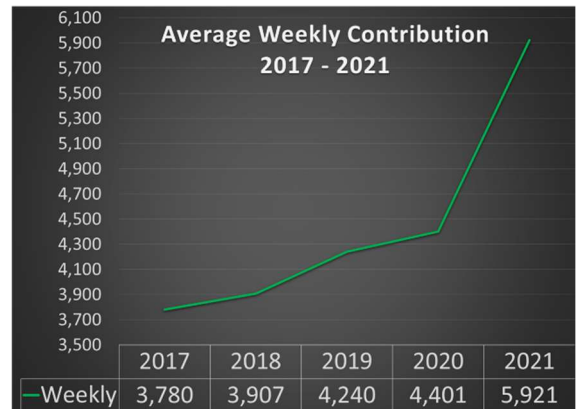
### **Our 2021 Servant Leaders**

<b>Elders:</b>	<b>John Harrison, Lance Justice, Jay McClary, &amp; Larry Sheehan</b>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<b>Jared Bardon, Luis Chastain, Tony Jordan, Timmy Lee, Nick McClary, Jerry Mercer, Steven Skipper, &amp; Brandon Valentin</b>
<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Dan Hager</b>



## Renewal in Relationship

Not only has 2021 been a year for renewing our spirits, it has also been a year for **renewal in our relationships**. So many of the exciting things we have seen God do this year were made possible by working with each other, including through our cheerful giving. While we budgeted for \$4,200, we actually received an **average weekly contribution of \$5,921** in 2021. This generosity was the greatest in our church family's history and supplied the "**seed for the sower and bread for food**" that God used to "**increase the harvest of our righteousness**" and through us "**produce thanksgivings to God**" (2 Cor. 9:6-15). Thanks be to God!



Yet, giving of our money was only one part of it. In 2021, we wanted to experience renewal in relationship by **forging closer bonds through how we worked together** - and did we ever!



In March, our children learned to serve like Jesus as they covered the sidewalks around **Tidelands Health Georgetown Family Medicine** with Scriptures and encouraging messages. They also labeled the **808 pounds** of food we **packed the pulpit** with that month for our neighbors in need with Scriptures. Creative efforts like this (as well as the short video of a diverse group reading the church's mission statement: **Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20**) are shining God's light!

Campers at **Palmetto Bible Camp** were once again blessed by the service of the **Harrisons, Jordans, Lees, and Skippers** this summer. In August, **Tony Jordan**, our Community Deacon, led us in loving our neighbors by helping to host a welcome back lunch for the teachers and staff at **Kensington Elementary**, where we supplied delicious desserts and skillful service. We also allowed DHEC to use our building for a **mobile vaccination clinic**.



Then when the coronavirus pandemic hit our area harder than ever, we **comforted our caregivers** by delivering goodies to **Georgetown Family Medicine** and by hosting a vigil outside of **Georgetown Memorial Hospital**. God's light shone bright as several local news stations eagerly covered this "good news". Through the creativity and hard work of **Kathy Taylor, Vicki Keller, Gracin Farwell, and Debbie Justice**, we also passed out many COVID care packages to family, friends, and neighbors isolating at home.

In November, we **packed the pulpit** with another **941 pounds of food** - again labeled with Bible verses by our children - to provide Thanksgiving meals to those in need...but we didn't stop there! Volunteers from our church family of all different ages saw Jesus as they served "**the least of these**" by preparing Helping Hands' warehouse and taking part in the distribution itself (cf. Matt. 25:31-40).



As we carefully navigated the ongoing reality of the pandemic, **Brandon Valentin**, our Fellowship Deacon, and his wife **Nia** led us in planning a fun **Easter Fellowship**, honoring **Father's Day**, and hosting a **July 4 Fellowship** during which we celebrated our 2021 college graduate **Kaitlyn Harrison**. We also were able to: have a powerful **Family Prayer Retreat** at PBC in May; host a **Lock-In** with our preteens and teens in July; honor our church elders on **Pastor Appreciation Day** and **Trunk or Treat** in October; and enjoy a great **Christmas Party** orchestrated by **Larry and Adell Sheehan** and **Pam Branham** in December.



**Jared Bardon**, our Security Deacon, demonstrated great leadership as he recruited, organized, and trained a capable group of brothers to help protect the flock during our assemblies. Many of our brothers were profoundly blessed in October by the **True Leader Retreat** with missionary **Bren White** that was organized for us at Garden City Chapel by **Nick McClary**, our Praise and Adoration Deacon. As Bren challenged our leaders and our whole congregation to **Look Up**, he set in motion a process of being led by Jesus that will continue to transform us. When we gathered for our **Men’s Prayer Breakfast** in November - our first since the pandemic began - it was to continue this process of becoming **Spirit-Led Sons**.

Throughout the year, we **worked together** as **John Harrison, Lance Justice, Jay McClary, Nick McClary, and Larry Sheehan** preached and taught God’s Word. We worked together as multiple brothers took turns **leading the Lord’s Supper** - some for the first time. We worked together as **Steven Skipper**, our Buildings & Grounds deacon, led us through the installation of new lights throughout the building and the selection of chairs for our auditorium. We worked together as **Luis Chastain** and **Lance Justice** joined Amity Chastain’s father **Greg Carpenter** to repair tile on the front steps, as **Wayne Phipps** repaired the teacher’s podium, and as **Skippy Branham** crafted a beautiful collection box for us using wood donated by the **Noofts**.

2021 also presented us with many opportunities to “**rejoice with those who rejoice**” and to “**weep with those who weep.**” We rejoiced at the birth of Lance and Debbie Justice’s grandson **Samuel Hickman**, the wedding of **Justin and Megan McClary**, and the birth of Brandon and Nia’s son **Xander Valentin**, showering them all with love along the way. We wept with the families of **Annette Lee, Tommy Mayfield, and Charlene Beaufort** as they fell asleep in the Lord. We also sought to show God’s love to the mourning **Alston, Bracy, Branham-Coker, Clemons-Squires, and Marsh-Liles families** through providing food or hosting funeral meals (or even funeral services, when needed). **Lannie Rouse** and our **Food Teams** were instrumental in providing this comfort. While we said farewell to **Lorna Thompson** as she moved to Myrtle Beach in 2021, we welcomed **Julia Brockington, Mark and Rebecca Barber, and Barry and Jenny Griffith** as they resolved to worship and serve with us.

As we sought renewal in relationship by working together, we also made 2021 a year where we grew in **sharing Jesus through every connection**. Letters, cards, and visits are going to inmates at **Georgetown County Detention Center** who are seeking the Lord. **Gwen Linen** is leading a Bible study with the residents at **Prince George Healthcare Center** where she works.

A major tool that became available to help all of us share Jesus with others was the **Verse Cards** created by the **Chastain family**. Throughout the year, they produced 13 different cards with a passage of Scripture, unique artwork, and an invitation to learn more about Jesus by visiting our services or website. Many members are using these to share God’s word with people we meet each day - cashiers, customers, co-workers, and others. By including these verse cards whenever we delivered a care package, took treats to a doctor’s office, or other acts of loving service, we ensured that a seed for the good news about Jesus Christ was planted. These efforts will only increase in importance as we continue to plant, water, and look for God to give the growth (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6)!



## **2022: Restore, Confirm, Strengthen, and Establish**

God did something new among us in 2021. Now as we look ahead to 2022, the words of the Apostle Peter seem especially appropriate. At a time when the brotherhood throughout the world was experiencing suffering, he wrote, “**And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you**” (1 Peter 5:10). As we transition from our own time of worldwide suffering into whatever comes next, we also need God to: **restore** people and opportunities we are missing; **confirm** the new things we have perceived and **strengthen** them moving forward; and **establish** us as individuals, families, and a church living for Christ. To Him be the power forever. Amen!