
2022 ANNUAL **REPORT**



FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DEAR FOURTH CHURCH FAMILY

On New Year's Day I enjoyed the rare treat of sitting with my whole family in worship. My heart was filled with thankfulness, for my family yes, but also for the warm and caring family we know as Fourth. To sing and pray in the midst of the congregation brought joy to my soul. Sitting under God's word, I could not help recalling how good God is to us as a church and how privileged I am to serve as her pastor. I hope reading this annual report will bring you joy and gratitude as you reflect on all the Lord has done in our midst in 2022.

Last year was certainly one of transition and change. We moved from three to two morning worship services at the same time we moved out of the Sanctuary and into the Upper Room for worship. Most experts say that a church can only handle one major change at a time. You showed your commitment and love by acclimating to two significant changes in the rhythm of our church life with grace and patience. We all eagerly look forward to the day when we will worship together in our new Sanctuary again but are so grateful for God's gracious provision of the Upper Room in the interim.

Within this report you will find statistics and information about the ministries and mission of Fourth throughout the past year. While important, they convey only a small piece of all the Lord is doing in and through you. As you read about many activities, ministries, programs, and service projects, understand that it is impossible to communicate in an annual report all the unseen acts of love extended and all the quiet prayers whispered on behalf of Fourth and her people.

As I reflect on the past year, it is heartening to remember that God is faithfully writing Fourth's story and each of us is a vital part of it. Please join me in prayer that as this new year dawns, we will experience a fresh movement of God's gracious Spirit, growing, maturing, and unifying us in gospel mission for his glory.

Together in his grace and for his glory,

Dr. Todd M. Smedley, Senior Pastor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP	4
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP	5
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	6
COMMUNITY GROUPS	6
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	7
COUNSELING	8
DEACONS	9
FOURTH FELLOWS	10
MEN'S MINISTRY	11
MISSION DMV	14
MISSIONS	16
MUSIC	20
SPECIAL BLESSINGS	22
WOMEN'S MINISTRY	24
YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY	25
YOUTH MINISTRY	26

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON SERIES

Morning Worship

- The Gospel of John | April 18, 2021–May 1, 2022 | 55 sermons
- 2 Corinthians | May 22–October 9 | 21 sermons
- “Texts That Transformed Lives” | October 23–November 20
- Advent series: “Hope Is on the Way” | November 27–December 18

Evening Worship

- The Heidelberg Catechism | January 23–November 20
41 sermons | *The series will continue into the new year.*
- “Summer Sunday Nights” continued this year from late May through July. After the evening service each week, we lingered for fellowship and treats from different dessert food trucks.
- On Sunday evening, July 12, we welcomed Rev. Kevin Twit, RUF Campus Pastor at Belmont University and founder of Indelible Grace Music, and his son Cooper for a *Hymns and Stories* hymn sing in the Upper Room.

Visit 4thpres.org/resources for sermon audio.

Indelible Grace Hymns and Stories with Kevin and Cooper Twit



A Festival of Lessons and Carols, December 11



Sunday Morning Worship in the Upper Room

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

“My understanding of the Bible has deepened because of [Dr. Norris’] exposition, and my life enriched by his friendship!”

Joel Rogers

NEW MEMBERS

- This year we received 78 new church members by profession of faith in Christ at our New Members Receptions on March 23 and October 26.
- Thanks to the elders and their wives whose participation and leadership helped make the New Members Classes possible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Thank you to the 18 volunteer teachers and 66 volunteer Pastor's Class table leaders who contributed to the 17 classes taught over the course of this year.

EVENING CLASS VIA ZOOM

January–March

“The Biography of a Christian”

Dr. Robert Norris. Participation averaged 78 screens.

SUNDAY CLASSES

January–April

- 1. 9:30 Pastor's Class | The Book of Daniel**
Dr. Robert Norris, Dr. Scott Redd, and Phil Greendyk
- 2. 11:00 Pastor's Class | Romans 1–8**
Dr. Robert Norris and Mike Domenica
- 3. Confessing Christ**
Dirk Rankin and others
- 4. Bible Overview (New Testament)**
Robin King and Kent Talbert

- 6. How We Got Our Bible**
Dr. Robert Norris

- 7. Man Overboard: The Book of Jonah**
Rev. Ron Meyer and Newlin Morgan

- 8. Meet Your Officers**
Led by elders and deacons

- 9. Parenting With a Plan**
Ralph Miller and Newlin Morgan

- 10. The Attributes of God**
Mike Domenica and Jeremy Williams

April–July (some partial semester)

- 1. Between God And Satan: The Temptations of Christ**
Dr. Robert Norris and Todd Lowe
- 2. Bible Overview (New Testament)**
Robin King and Kent Talbert
- 3. Confessing Christ**
Dirk Rankin and others
- 4. Continuing to Build Your Marriage: A Review for Every Age and Stage**
Zack Koutsandreas
- 5. Cultural Apologetics**
Rev. David Frerichs and Dr. Todd Smedley

September–December

- 1. From Tragedy to Triumph: Studies in the Book of Job**
Dr. Robert Norris and others
- 2. Apologetics: The Christian Worldview**
Brad Jefferies
- 3. Confessing Christ: Calvinistic Methodists of Wales**
Dirk Rankin and others
- 4. From Shame to Glory**
Kathryn Chamberlin

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It has been my joy to serve as the Interim Director of Children's Ministry since February 1 and as Director since November 1. I'm thankful to step into the role those before me have established with love and care.

Fourth's ministry to children has been a beacon of light to thousands of children over the years. We have an excellent curriculum, a child protection policy that helps us effectively safeguard the approximately 120 children under our care, and a catechism program that teaches 150 questions over a three-year period.

NEW ENDEAVORS

- The **Memory Zone** opened October 2 as we invited children to come to the Children's Library to recite foundational Bible verses. We are encouraging families to participate together so that the very youngest can come alongside older brothers and sisters, all memorizing the same verses together.
- The **Hymn of the Month** is an effort to "guard" the great hymns of the faith by helping our children come to know them and love them. We've begun teaching from our list of 36 hymns on a three-year-cycle. The hymns range from old to modern, but all are doctrinally rich, gospel-centered, and God-exalting. Currently, the children sing when they gather to learn catechism and during Children's Church.
- The **Welcome Team** now includes children in 2nd–5th grade who arrive 15 minutes before the 8:00 or 11:00 a.m. worship service, take their "post", and — with bulletins in hand and a parent nearby — greet those arriving for worship. The children get to serve the Lord in his house, on the special day he has appointed, and the adults who receive their greeting get a sweet reminder of God's grace at work in the generations to come.

- We deliver the **Moses Basket** to parents of new babies as the Lord adds precious gifts to their family and our church family. The basket contains a few goodies as well as a Hug-A-Bible (yes, there really is one).

None of this happens without God's people hearing his call to serve and follow. We give thanks for the many members of Fourth who serve so tirelessly.

Jean Bronson, Director of Children's Ministry

COMMUNITY GROUPS

In 2022, we had 17 community groups gathering from February through April and September through November for fellowship and conversation about how to apply to our lives the Scripture preached on each preceding Sunday morning. These groups continue to be a place where church members can grow in grace together, love and serve one another, both giving and receiving mutual encouragement and accountability in Christ.

Heartfelt thanks to the group leaders and hosts who gladly open their homes and carry this vital ministry forward.

"The members of our community group have a very strong desire to learn more about God's Word and crave the discussion that occurs when we meet together."

*Mike Looney,
group leader*



Rev. Tommy Myrick shares a gospel message at the Family Christmas Eve Service.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

"The dissolution of my marriage was a devastating blow. My usually cheerful disposition got replaced by indescribable sadness and anguish ... The combination of videos, reading material, and daily homework in the context of a supportive team of leaders and peers was the balm that my soul needed."

A DivorceCare participant

AVERAGE PARTICIPATION

9

DivorceCare

5

Blended Families
(couples)

13

GriefShare

The Congregational Care ministry seeks to support the spiritual well-being of the family of Fourth throughout the seasons of life.

ACTS OF COMPASSION

Camille Weithers coordinated this ministry to those with medical needs that provided meals to four households.

BABY FOOD

Elaine Sledgister coordinated this ministry to new mothers, providing meals for five households.

BLENDED FAMILIES

LED BY MARTIN BURKS

Blended families meet monthly for a light dinner, discussion, fellowship, and support.

DIVORCECARE

LED BY DAVID

AND ELAINE SLEDGISTER

With spring and fall sessions, this 13-week Bible-centered support group provides hope and healing from the pain of separation or divorce.

GRIEFSHARE

LED BY MARTIN BURKS

AND TINA LONG

This support group runs spring and fall to afford a place of comfort and healing for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

YARNS FOR HOPE

Women gather monthly to create useful items for church-related ministries.

Yarns for Hope members create gifts for Fourth ministries.





**Fourth members
Jessica and
Kevin Schick
serve as
Co-Directors of
the Counseling
Ministry.**



COUNSELING

“While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.” —Luke 24:15

Professional and licensed Christian counseling has been a part of Fourth's ministry to the community for over 36 years. In 2022, Licensed Clinical Counselors Kevin Schick and Jessica Schick served 150 clients with a total of 1500 counseling sessions completed. Common concerns were anxiety, depression, relationship struggles, trauma, grief, and general mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Fourth counseling is currently located at:
Kensington Therapy Center
3717 Decatur Avenue, Suite 1
Kensington, Maryland 20895

DEACONS

The Deacon Board is grateful that the congregation continues to strongly support our scripturally mandated mission through prayer, referrals, and financial gifts. We meet and pray with those who have requested assistance from the church or those whom a congregant or pastor refers to us. In discerning how best to distribute deacon funds, our guiding principle is that we are part of the larger church effort to make disciples. For believers, we seek to alleviate hindrances to walking with God. For the unchurched, we seek to make Christ's love well known and understood.

As things have opened up in the wake of COVID-19, we have returned to regular board meetings and also to in-person meetings with those who need help. A new moderator, Debbie Roberts, will begin her term in April. Please pray for a smooth transition and that the board will be effective in serving God's purposes here at Fourth.

Wyatt Hardiman, Fourth Deacon Board Moderator

THANKSGIVING BAG MINISTRY

We provided 142 Thanksgiving Bags, which reached about 550 people. The number served included those involved with Fourth ministry partners Cornerstone School, Samaritan Inns, Star of Bethlehem, and YoungLives. We also served recently arrived Afghan families and recipients of our church-wide Food Drive as well as Fourth members, attenders, and others in need of encouragement during the Thanksgiving holidays. Thank you to all in the congregation for your help with nominations.

"Just wanted to take the time to thank you and Fourth Presbyterian Church for your gracious donations to our tenants in the Long Term Recovery Program. It has been a trying time for some of our tenants since the pandemic and the gift bags and food cards were a big help for those who received them."

Long Term Recovery Staff at Samaritan Inns

NUMBERS OF NOTE

615

People assisted, including 550 who received assistance via the Thanksgiving Bag Program

\$98,000

Distributed in assistance

65%

Percentage of assistance distributed to care for Fourth congregants

15%

Percentage distributed to care for the unchurched, largely through Thanksgiving Bags

300

Approximate number of notes written to those facing unusual and difficult circumstances

20

Elderly or ill congregants with whom deacons kept in regular contact

"I am a person with no family this holiday season so things like this uplift my feelings. I am so thankful for people like you and your church."

Thanksgiving Bag recipient at Samaritan Inns

Lynn Huff, Jinny Szabo, Carol Bowis, and Kato Gilbert prepare Thanksgiving bags in November.



FOURTH FELLOWS

The third class of Fourth Fellows arrived in late August and quickly bonded over Welcome Weekend activities. After a week away for an orientation retreat, the fellows launched into their weekly rhythm of worship, work, study, and service.

The challenges of “starting well” after college — finding or starting a new job and getting established in a meaningful community with a church home and new friendships — are real. Fourth Fellows offers a structure to help navigate these and other challenges. Our work placement and host family teams help the fellows find meaningful jobs and wonderful families to connect with.

For some fellows, their host family is the first Christian household they have been a part of; for others it is an opportunity to learn how a different Christian family functions. Hearts and minds are shaped through weekly seminary classes, one-on-one mentoring with a seasoned church member, and weekly service both inside and outside the church (at Fourth Youth Bible studies and at Cornerstone School).

Rev. David Frerichs and Jennifer Redd, Co-Directors

“One of the best parts about fellows has been the consistency with which I’ve been compelled to be involved in the church. Not only on Sunday mornings, but in random meals and events throughout the month that make me feel truly welcomed by and a part of this local part of the body of Christ.”

Jeremiah Beeler, Fourth Fellows

NUMBERS OF **NOTE**

22 Colleges Represented

18 Host Families

40 Meals cooked and enjoyed together

552 Volunteer hours served at Cornerstone School

54 Students served through Fourth’s youth ministry, per week average

“It is a privilege and a joy to see Fourth Fellows alumni continue to attend and serve weekly in the church and in the community, as well as receive stellar reviews from employers and coworkers.”

Jennifer Redd, Fourth Fellows Co-Director

“Hosting a fellow is a great way to become ‘others-focused.’ It is like exercising a muscle — a little uncomfortable, but also joyful and rewarding. The more you exercise giving and serving, the more you want to do it.”

Kato and Doug Gilbert, host family



Men gathered in December at the last Men's Breakfast taught by Dr. Robert Norris.
(above: Douglas Frechtling and Dr. Norris)



“Rob’s vision of the Men’s Breakfast at Fourth Church, many years ago, has been a steadfast staple of good food, fellowship, and the word of God. It has blessed my life and the lives of countless men who have attended over the years.”

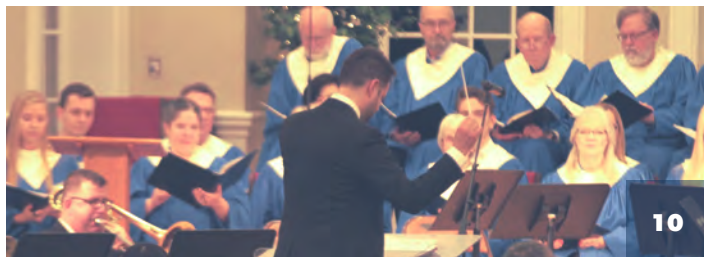
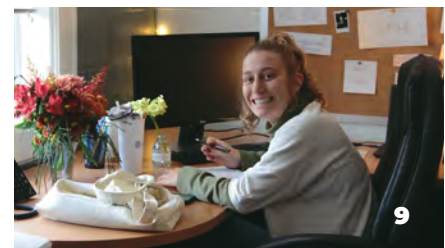
Bob Langston

MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry of Fourth Presbyterian Church exists to help men grow in the Lord Jesus Christ by studying the word of God in fellowship with others. As Dr. Robert Norris retires, we give thanks to God for his long and faithful investment in this ministry.

EVENTS

- **Tuesday Men's Breakfasts** resumed this year for praise, prayer, and fellowship over a hearty morning meal as Dr. Robert Norris taught on *The Life of Moses*. Average attendance 30–40.
- **Men's Conference and Brunch** | Saturday, November 12
Dr. Todd Smedley taught the 130 men gathered in the Upper Room from Proverbs 8–9 on *The Wisdom of the Ages for Living in a Warped Age*.
- **Men's Proverbs Study** (online)
“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” —Proverbs 27:17
Each week, 10–15 men gathered online for an informal study of Proverbs, led by Steve Liston and Richard Morris.
- **Men's Retreat** | March 11–13
Dr. Robert Norris taught the 137 men gathered at Sandy Cove Retreat Center on what it means to be *Faithful Men in a Pagan World*.



1. Tony Parker & David Frerichs on mission trip to Romania in May
2. Marjorie Koutsandreas & Sarah Kimbrough's English Class
3. Women's Christmas Dessert: Speaker Susan Yates, Joanne Kemp, & Marty Johnson
4. Vacation Bible School
5. Youth Thursday Breakfast Club with Mr. Kokulis

6. Bella Rexford & Lilliana Antonio at New Members Reception
7. Fellows at National Fellows Conference in North Carolina
8. Jen Smedley at Vacation Bible School
9. Youth Intern & Fourth Fellow, Gabbi Hickley
10. Ted Bickish conducts at Lessons & Carols
11. Claire Flores & Julia Warker at Young Adults Fall Retreat
12. Young adults at New Members Reception



- 13. Scott Redd & Karl Heiser at Young Adults Fall Retreat
- 14. 10th grade girls Grade Hangout
- 15. Charlotte Redd with children at Vacation Bible School
- 16. Tommy Myrick & Clay Stevens at New Members Reception
- 17. Middle schoolers at Summer Camp
- 18. ICC Eurasia trip in October (see p. 17, 19)

- 19. High School fall hike
- 20. Vacation Bible School
- 21. Maji Eligwe at New Members Reception
- 22. October Serve Day
- 23. Dr. Todd Smedley with choir before Lessons & Carols
- 24. Tim M., Michael Klitsch, & Zack Koutsandreas at Missions Conference

MISSION DMV

As we complete our second year, we are thrilled how the Lord has blessed Fourth with opportunities to love and serve our neighbors in Jesus' name. We began a new ministry in Afghan Resettlement, expanded our joint Fourth ministry initiatives, conducted two successful all-church Serve Day events, awarded \$75,000 in grants to our Mission DMV partners, and integrated more gospel sharing into our activities.

HIGHLIGHTS

We helped strengthen the ministries of our partners and directly assisted families in need by providing volunteers, board representation, financial support, and material items through drives and collections.

Serve Days

February

Nearly 50 volunteers served at Central Union Mission by cleaning dorms, providing administrative support, staffing the prayer station, and serving lunch and dinner. Dr. Todd Smedley led an evening worship service for all the men in the overnight shelter.

October

Over 80 volunteers served at Samaritan Inns, Central Union Mission, Camp Bennett, and Rockville Women's Center. We landscaped, painted, cooked, cleaned, and received volunteer training.

Samaritan Inns

Nearly 40 volunteers regularly participated in this ministry partnership.

- Quarterly worship service for clients/residents in treatment
- Monthly dinner fellowship with residents of Huff House Women's Transition Program
- Monthly meal drop-off for Clark Inn Women with Children Program

Rockville Women's Center

Four volunteers were trained to staff the Helpline and field calls from prospective clients. One on-call administrative volunteer is now serving as well.

YoungLives

- Nine volunteers provided childcare to children during club meetings and camps.
- Special Blessings provided meals for club events.
- 500–700 diapers were delivered each month.
- Children's Ministry stuffed 280 Easter eggs for 45 children of teen moms.

Cornerstone School

Fourth Fellows mentored students every Friday as readers to kindergarteners, buddies to middle schoolers, and helpers during lunch/recess. Fourth volunteers participated in the Cornerstone Partner relationship-building program and provided pro-bono architecture and facilities management advisory services.

"What an amazing contribution you are making to families in need. As someone said yesterday, 'Everyone at Fourth should see this' — the organization, thoughtful attention to detail, and just the sheer scope of your kindness and effort and of the generosity of the church members."

A Special Blessings parent after working at the Collection and Food Drive

Volunteers from Fourth serve at Samaritan Inns, freeing the ministry's staff to tend to other needs.



“I am very grateful for everything I received ... I am very happy that I found you in difficult days, despair, and distance from my family and now you are with me.”

Afghan refugee

Afghan Resettlement

Volunteers provided dedicated, ongoing support to seven newly arrived families:

- **Ministry of presence:** developed caring, Spirit-led relationships through meals, fellowship, and outings to parks/zoo/playgrounds; mentored in areas of cultural awareness and day-to-day coping.
- **Life skills:** provided employment assistance, driver education, English language instruction and proficiency, child tutoring, and immigration processing related assistance.
- **Material needs:** provided funds for necessities; provided clothing, food, furnishings, and other provisions through the generous giving of Fourth members.

Food Drive and Collection

Fourth responded to 12 monthly food drives/collections, providing food, clothing, and household items for area families in need, our missionaries Jose and Shari Cuesta's ministry in Baltimore, and the Afghan families under our care. The drive has recently been expanded to include residents of Samaritan Inns.

- 393 drop-offs
- 9,577 diapers
- 940 food bags
- Average of 12 volunteers per month

Christmas Toy Drive

Over 100 toys were collected to help children in low-income families have a special Christmas through our partnerships with Central Union Mission and YoungLives. Our Women's Ministry and Yarns for Hope both got involved in this Fourth tradition.

Larry Huff, Mission DMV Committee Chair



Collection & Food Drive



Children at Samaritan Inns on Serve Day



Sarah Thatch drops off a "Fellowship Meal" at Samaritan Inns.

“I [want to] express Cornerstone's gratitude for your partnership grant to further our mission in Southeast DC. What a blessing! Because of your generosity, [people] across our region continue to have the benefit of Godly fellowship, mentorship, and adventure ... This could not happen without you.”

Cornerstone School leadership

"A big thanks to you all who pray and give sacrificially to enable us to work here ... We sometimes feel overwhelmed by the need we see all around ... Still, we also sense the grace that your prayer support brings."

Fourth missionary

"I am so thankful for your TLC and continued interest in my care. I live in a retirement community of many former missionaries and pastors. I know no other person who still has the active involvement of their supporting churches as I do!"

A senior missionary

RCE General Manager Ovi Martin with a family from the ministry's poverty prevention program

MISSIONS

“I love that they teach God’s Word.”

Level 3 English student from El Salvador

English Class students point out their home country at the International Potluck Dinner in December.



Rev. Corey Gray with Prosper Nongnide of Wycliffe Bible Translators

The Missions Ministry of Fourth exists to advance God’s kingdom worldwide through gospel-focused teaching, training, outreach, and mercy ministry. We support individual missionaries and partner organizations through financial and other means, with priority for least-reached people groups. The Missions Committee works to keep the congregation aware of and engaged with those we support and continues praying for them and for those who are yet unreached with the gospel.

Fourth’s work in missions encompasses many avenues of ministry including theological training, mercy ministry, church planting, translation, evangelism, and ministry to children and youth.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Annual Missions Conference** in March celebrated God’s Providential Care for His People. Starting in 2023, missions conferences will be held in the fall.
- The **Disaster Relief Fund** sent money through organizations and missionaries that we regularly support to help displaced people in Ukraine (\$20,000) and flood victims in Pakistan (\$10,000).
- We revised our **missionary retirement policy** to better care for the individual needs of our senior missionaries, those over age 70, who are either retired or continuing in ministry.

MISSIONS TRIPS AND TRAVEL

- Two groups from Fourth visited **Romanian Christian Enterprises (RCE)**: A mixed-age group of 17 helped build a house for a resident named Albert, and college students helped with RCE’s annual camp.
- In the summer, the Youth Ministry’s high school seniors worked with an EPC church and a school in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, while the eighth graders returned to Wilmington, Delaware, to serve with UrbanPromise.
- In October, I traveled with some of Fourth’s elders to the annual International Christian Community Eurasia pastors retreat in Teisendorf, Germany.

MISSIONARY CHANGES

- Jackie B. (formerly in Southeast Asia) married Paul M. and they will begin work in Central Asia.
- Nicole married Feo with continued ministry in Southeast Asia.
- Bob and Esther Genheimer left Botswana to return to the United States.
- Bob and Marcia Arnold (retired) took a short-term mission trip to Mali.
- Dave and Kathy Lanham (retired) took a short-term mission trip to Senegal.

PARTNERSHIP CHANGES

- Dr. Robert Norris visited South Sudan, where our partnership experienced a dramatic renewal as God opened the door for preparations to launch the long-planned seminary following 20 years of war and uncertainty.
- The International Training Institute was dissolved.
- Sheepshead Bay Church (former church plant) closed and merged with Resurrection Clinton Hill in Brooklyn, New York.

Janie Randell, Director of Missions

NUMBERS OF NOTE

45

Active missionaries in 25 countries

16

Americans working in foreign countries

8

Nationals working in their own countries

11

Living in the US with worldwide ministry

11

Missionaries focused on the U.S.

8

Partnerships with organizations

13

Missionaries in closed countries

3

Partnerships in closed countries

LOCAL MINISTRY

The **Alpha** ministry hosted two sessions with a total of 17 attendees, and 38 attended the Alpha Reunion Fellowship in September. The **Beta** follow-up group continued meeting monthly with an average of 12 attendees each session.

“Thank you for everything! I love you, teacher!”

Level 2 English student from Afghanistan

ENGLISH CLASSES

65

Adult students

20

Countries represented

6

Class levels

11

Volunteer teachers

10

Volunteer conversation partners





ROSE Women's Foundation at Pitch Competition for women entrepreneurs



Gregg and Kim Vurbeff, Dan and Nancy Painter, and Ken and Janie Randell at the International Christian Community Eurasia retreat in Germany

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before the throne..."

Revelation 7:9

Missions Banquet



Fourth's Romania team tours the city of Arad.



Tony Parker and David Falcone with a student from RCE

"It was my great pleasure to meet the teachers and friends yesterday. I cannot tell you how much difference you have made [with] my mom. She and our family are truly blessed to have your love and attention."

Daughter of a Level 2 English student from China


David Falcone, Zeke and Marit Frerichs, Tony Parker, Katherine Bloomer, and Maji Eligwe prepare to clean up a house that burned.



Okanos and Ensfields at Missions Banquet



(L to R): Skip Gnehm, Steve Liston, Dan Painter, Mike DiGena, Janie and Ken Randell at ICC Eurasia retreat


A group of children's choir members, mostly young girls, are lined up and smiling. They are wearing red robes with white collars and some are wearing face masks. They are holding black folders or songbooks.

"Thank you again for the beautiful music Fourth Strings provided for our potluck dinner. Our students and their families were truly amazed by their talent ... It was lovely to see so many Fourth families [dining] with our students, and I know that was much thanks to the families involved in your ministry."

Maria Korossy

Children's Choir lines up to sing on November 22

MUSIC

A large group of people, including children and adults, are performing in a choir and orchestra. They are wearing blue and red robes. A conductor in a black suit is standing in front of them, facing away from the camera. The background shows a church interior with large windows and a Christmas tree.

"The music was wonderful this morning. Thank you, Mary, for the wonderful atmosphere you create in this ministry that is a blessing to the musicians for sure, and to our congregation."

Rev. Ron Meyer

Ted Bickish conducts choir and orchestra at Lessons and Carols in December

MUSIC

This year continued to be one of post-pandemic rebuilding for our choirs and instrumental ensembles. By the grace of God and despite ongoing COVID-19 concerns, we were able to maintain a high level of activity and even add new opportunities to our program. To help smooth the **transition to two services** after Easter, the Sanctuary Choir sang at both the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services the first few Sundays, but now primarily sings at the 11:00 a.m. service.

"Lessons and Carols tonight was so pure and beautiful... Thank you."

Jo Domenica

- **Sanctuary Choir** continued to gather for rehearsal on Thursday nights and minister in song Sunday mornings.
 - ◇ Participated in the three Easter services on the final day services were held in the Sanctuary before renovations began.
 - ◇ Invited singers to participate in Summer Choir three times throughout the summer.
 - ◇ Seven new members joined the choir in the fall.
 - ◇ A group visited Asbury Village to sing for the residents in October.
 - ◇ The choir led the Festival of Lessons and Carols and participated in the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.
- Wonderful volunteer musicians from our congregation have offered **special music at the 8:00 a.m. service**, along with the High School Choir and Children's Choirs.
- The **evening service** is blessed with a dedicated group of volunteer instrumentalists and singers who help lead worship under Wyeth's direction.
- The **Children's Choir** grew in numbers and Sunday service participation.
- This fall, we restarted our **High School Choir** under the leadership of Wyeth Duncan, and the group has grown to 14 members.
- **Ring Forth!** and **Bells of the Trinity** continue to flourish under Mary Clark's leadership and have played for services throughout the year.
- The **Fourth Orchestra** has played for services on a regular rotation and had strong numbers for the Advent Carol Service.
- **Fourth Strings** has also flourished under the leadership of Susan Fuller and Briannah Steele with regular participation in Sunday services.
- Our one-day **Summer Music Camp** provided a great opportunity for 30 children to try out Fourth's musical offerings and then participate in Sunday services the next day.
- I'm thankful for the faithful and competent work of administrative assistant Erin Jones, which enabled all of us to do the work of the music ministry in an efficient and organized manner.

We look forward to our return to the Sanctuary and pray we can continue building on the robust participation we saw in 2022. We're grateful to partner with the church body as a whole in the proclamation of the gospel.

Ted Bickish, Director of Music

PARTICIPATION

47

Sanctuary
Choir

13

Bells of
the Trinity

11

Ring
Forth!

21

Fourth
Strings

10

Children's
Choir

14

High School
Choir

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

HIGHLIGHTS

- It was my joy to join the Fourth staff as Special Blessings Coordinator in July.
- Sunday School classes moved back into the church building in September, and **Chime Choir** practices resumed.
- Serving others was a priority as we prepared a meal for YoungLives, helped with three Food Drives, and joined with the Team in greeting on Sunday.
- Six students (middle school through adult) attended **in-person Sunday School**, and another joined via Zoom. Sessions featured 12 lessons on dependence and eight lessons on faith. Each class provided opportunities for participants to pray for one another.
- Monthly online meetings for the **Dads' and Moms' support groups** welcomed 13 parents from Fourth and as far away as Maine for book discussion, mutual encouragement, and prayer. The group finished *Sharing Love Abundantly in Special Needs Families: The Five Love Languages for Parents Raising Children with Disabilities* and are now looking at *Abiding in God's Presence*.
- Involvement in **Young Adult Zoom gatherings** continued to grow, with 12 people enjoying fellowship via online music, fun, and games. Several participants attend local churches which do not have special needs ministries. Missionaries Melinda Lyons and John Thar led an interactive session with Sunday School students via Zoom during the Missions Conference.

Tricia Han, Special Blessings Coordinator

*Special Blessings Chime Choir after
participating in the service on December 18*



“Our family started attending Fourth the weekend that in-person worship stopped due to COVID-19. We worried about our ability to connect with the church community. Then, I discovered Special Blessings on Fourth’s website. The leaders responded to my inquiry right away and encouraged me to join the mothers’ group. What a blessing from the Lord those wonderful ladies have been to me.”

*A mom participating in the
parent support group*

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

*Women's fall hike at
Harper's Ferry*



*Fellowship before Generation-to-
Generation (G2G) Bible Study*



We are grateful that 2022 brought us a little closer to a pre-pandemic normal!

HIGHLIGHTS

- We held two Wednesday morning **G2G (Generation-to-Generation)** Bible study groups and continued offering Zoom groups.
- Four **Women's Circles** met monthly in person in homes, and we heard rave reviews about their study of *Aging with Grace* by Sharon Betters and Susan Hunt.
- *Spring*: 100 women gathered at the Marriott in Chantilly, VA, for a **one-day retreat** with guest speaker Ellen Vaughn and testimonies from three Fourth women: Suki Dicker, Abigail Myrick, and Betsy West.
- *Summer*: Approximately 35 women took part in our weekly **Book Clubs**.
- *Fall*: **G2G Bible Studies** met in person at church on Wednesday mornings, taught by our own pastors and teaching team. Thursday night Zoom group continued, largely for women unable to come on Wednesday mornings, and we added a new Monday evening in-person group. Approximately 100 women attended weekly.
- *Winter*: The year concluded with a **Christmas Dessert**, where 140 women gathered in the Upper Room to hear from speaker Susan Yates, create Christmas centerpieces, compete in a Christmas trivia game, and sing Christmas carols. The evening ended with a bouquet of roses given to Jean Bronson, in recognition of her many years serving as Director of Women's Ministry.

Rebecca Sparks-Korossy
Interim Women's Ministry Coordinator

*Ruth and Naomi
Luncheon for widows*



*Jen Biddison and Kathryn
Chamberlin at G2G*



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

The Young Adults Ministry provides a place to connect with others who are in their 20s and 30s and offers pathways into the broader life of the church. Fourth Fellows are a subset of and vital participants in this larger young adult community.

As I reflect on the past year in the Young Adults Ministry, I think of roots and fruit – being rooted in love (Ephesians 3:17) and bearing the fruit of the Spirit (John 15:1–7) as we abide in Christ and his word. Please join me in thanking God for the ongoing establishment of rootedness and fruitfulness among the young adults at Fourth.

ROOTS

- The Young Adult Sunday School class, which did a deep dive on Wisdom Literature during the first semester, and just finished a study of 1 Peter.
- A fantastic retreat in October with Dr. Scott Redd, where we journeyed through the Psalms of Ascents and enjoyed great times of both solitude and fellowship.
- Monthly ‘roundtable’ community dinners and Second Sunday lunches.
- A variety of small group Bible studies meeting weekly to dig deeper into God’s word.

FRUIT

- Serving in the church by teaching Adult Sunday School and Children’s Church, serving on committees, connecting with elderly church members, making meals for those in need, and more.
- Serving in the community by being conversation partners for those in English Classes, caring for refugees, volunteering at Cornerstone School, serving single moms through YoungLives, and working with excellence to serve others in their jobs in nearly every sector of government as well as private industry.
- Several young adults have joined church staff and are devoting their full energies to Fourth’s various ministries.
- Participation in global missions, as many young adults served on an intergenerational work team at Romanian Christian Enterprises (RCE) in Arad, Romania.
- Committing to one another in love – 2022 included several weddings and engagements, numerous deepening friendships and saw many young adults making the commitment to become members of Fourth.

Rev. David Frerichs

“I’ve loved the 9:30 classes – the group facilitation, conversations, and applications.”

Young Adult class participant

NUMBERS OF NOTE

60

Attended Progressive Dinner in September

45

Attended Young Adults Retreat in October

175

Hours of service with Mission DMV (serving Central Union Mission, YoungLives, Afghan resettlement program)



Informal Prayer and Praise



Young Adults Fall Retreat at Camp Wabanna



YOUTH MINISTRY

“The Lord is working through our youth leaders at Fourth in pointing our kids to the wonder and wisdom of Scripture. My kid comes home from Bible study almost every Wednesday with heavy questions on his heart and a better understanding of who Christ is calling him to be.

Parent of a middle schooler

“We deeply appreciate the partnership with the youth ministry as we teach and pray for our children to walk faithfully with the Lord.”

Parents of a middle schooler

Rising high school seniors on summer missions trip to work at Christian School in Puerto Rico

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry is enjoying a fresh infusion of new leaders and students. As all four full-time staff members and two Fourth Fellows interns have come together over the past six months, the team has continually emphasized sharing the gospel with students by consistently knowing and

pursuing them. We do so by relying on God's Spirit, teaching God's word, praying for one another, and fostering fellowship. With an awesome group of Sunday School teachers and Wednesday Bible Study volunteers, our Sunday morning

and Wednesday evening deep dives into Scripture are how we make, form, and send our students as disciples of Jesus.

On Wednesdays, leaders meet for dinner, fellowship, teaching, and training before we

discuss the next chapter in Matthew with our students. Afterward, there's a time to hang out with one another, as we enjoy pizza and fellowship together. As we are called to be formed, we also are formed to be sent. One emphasis during our times of discipleship is to realize and understand what it means to reach out to others. The Youth Department is finding new and exciting ways to include more students and reach out to those not already part of what we're doing. Leaders both teach and model how to do so, as our desire is for our covenant children to bring the good news of Christ's love to those around them.

Our verse for this school year is John 13:35: "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Our hope and prayer is that's what sets this youth group apart, that anyone who walks through our doors would be greeted, and welcomed, and would experience the true love of Christ by seeing how we love God and one another. We know this is possible only through the finished work of Christ and the power of his Spirit who lives in us.

Rob Henneberg, Director of Youth and College

"I'm no longer reminding my kids to get ready on Wednesday nights, they're reminding me! I'll never forget the discussion I had with my child after Bible study one night talking about how love and justice agree at the foot of the cross."

Parent

NUMBERS OF NOTE

130

Attended Summer Camp

81

Attended Fall Retreat

54

Average attendance at Bible study, October and November

42

Bible study and Sunday School leaders and teachers, 6th-12th grade



Genna Repich leads a group game at Fall Retreat



Youth Summer Camp in June

"Our son had a hard time making it to events and plugging into the middle school group. When [Middle School Coordinator] Clay took an interest in him and invited him and some of his friends to hang out after school, his outlook on the youth group changed. Attending Wednesday Bible study is a priority for him now. He's asking to read the Bible with us at home. We're extremely encouraged that he considers himself a member of the Fourth youth family."

Parents of a middle schooler



Delighting in God's Glory • Demonstrating His Grace • Declaring His Gospel